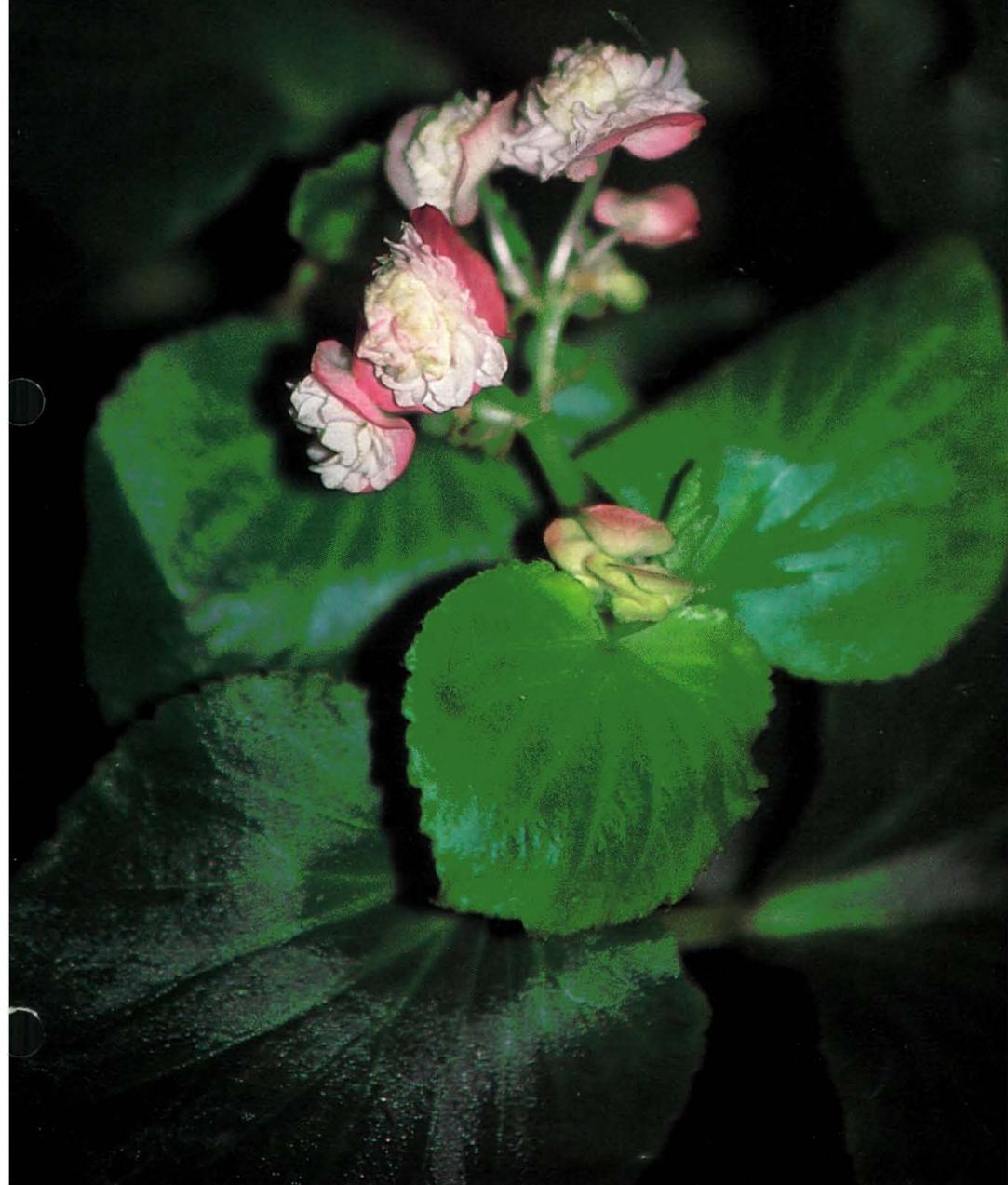


July/August, 1991

# The BEGONIAN



# 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:**

**Semperflorens** are the landscape stars of summer, begonias that will grow in any part of the country, in shade or sun or in between, and live up to their name of "everblooming". Usually they're seen in masses; but an individual flower may be a beauty too, as proved by photographers Lorra Almstedt (front) and Mary McClelland (back).



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**“Exploring the World of Begonias”**  
**ABS National Convention 1991**  
 September 12-15  
 Old Colony Inn  
 Alexandria, Virginia  
*Watch for your invitation!*

# An Experiment and a Tale

by Francis Michelson

Back in the early 1970's I tried an experiment that might be of interest to growers with many varieties of begonias. With scissors, I removed all of the male blooms and all of the open female blooms from a *B. listada* in a three gallon container. *This left only the unopened and therefore unpollinated female blooms.*

The plant was left outside under the shade of trees so that only the bees would pollinate the blooms. I had at that time in my Miami garden honey bees and blue-green bees, and lots of varieties of begonias. We used every available semi-shaded spot on elevated benches to hold begonias.

When the seed in the bee-pollinated blooms ripened I planted some. You would be surprised at the different kinds that came out of these crosses. One beautiful and different plant I named B. 'Helen Michelson', and another 'B. Osceolla'. This latter one had beautiful pink, white, and yellow spots; I lost it later on, but it was a beautiful plant. Another from the same batch of seeds was quite odd, with every leaf a different shape: some lance shaped, some lobed, others heart-shaped. This begonia I called B. 'Weeki Wachee', after a town and springs here in Florida. It was a really crazy leaved begonia.

Some begonias have interesting histories. For instance, *B. herbacea* grew for seventy years in Europe, was lost to cultivation, and then was brought to the United States by Robert Wilson. I always liked the story of B. 'Hazel's Front Porch'.

One of my begonias had an interesting history, too. I crossed *B. peruviana* onto *B. fernando-costae*. My wife and I were going on a vacation in the mountains of North Carolina, and I asked a neighbor, Mrs. Brown, if she would collect the seed for us when it ripened. I told her that if the cross was good I would name it after her. She collected the seed, but I gave her a hard time: I forgot and locked all the outside gates when we left. Her son got two step ladders, she climbed the fence to check on the mother plant, and saved the seed. She was a conscientious and good friend. There is a picture of B. 'Lorene Brown' in the Thompsons' Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide (on page 9 in the color plates).

*Francis Michelson's hybrid B. 'Withlacoochee' won the Alfred D. Robinson Medal in 1986. The Michelsons live at 1291 9th St., Orange City, FL 32763.*



## Quick!

**Check your mailing label! If it says 7/91 or 8/91 your ABS membership is about to expire. Please renew - we don't want to lose you!**

## Don't Forget two important dates

### July 12:

deadline for submitting names for ABS top awards. See March-April issue, p. 61.

### July 21:

votes for ABS officers must be in. See p. 147, this issue. Please vote!



## Aura of Begonia Magic

A Daisy Farm with begonias! Incredible - but true.

Text and Photos by Thelma O'Reilly

Tim and I attended the 1988 World Bromeliad Conference in Miami, Florida. Helene and Charles Jaros, also attending, asked me to set aside one morning for a "special treat" they knew I would enjoy. My curiosity about this venture prompted several questions that went unanswered.

It was extremely hot and humid when we left the hotel. I suspected we were headed for a begonia, orchid, or bromeliad nursery. When Charles told me our destination was "Daisy Farm" I was astonished. I hope I hid my disappointment over leaving a luxurious, air-conditioned hotel to visit with daisies.

The entrance path to Daisy Farm was lined with shrubs and trees. As the path turned my eyes fell upon shrub-sized specimens of Begonias 'Little Brother Montgomery' and 'Star Frost'. I was speechless. Both specimens were at least four feet by four feet, densely leaved, and growing in the ground. They were the hors d'oeuvres to a delicious feast of begonia magic.



Tim & Ann Anderson, almost dwarfed by canes

The path widened as we approached the plant houses. Here we were welcomed by Ann and Tim Anderson, owners and operators of Daisy Farm, which they established in 1973.

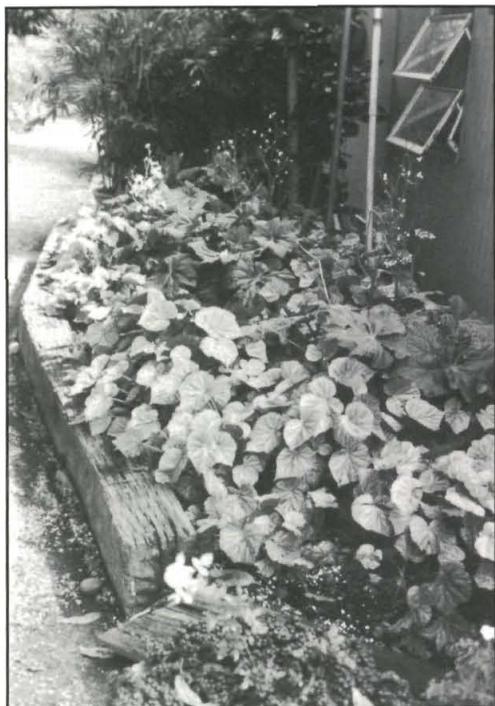
The first structure on the right was a riot of colorful baskets, including Begonias 'Christmas Candy' and 'Charm', and New Guinea impatiens plants.

I was captivated by the scene at the left side of the path. A low begonia planting extended along the base of a vine-covered wall. In several areas the begonia rhizomes crept up the wall, covering the vine and creating its own living wall (see back cover **Begonian** May-June 1991). Tim identified it as B. 'Brown Jewel', a Paul Lowe cultivar with brownish-green leaves splashed with silver.

The next few hours were spent touring the well-landscaped farm which included shade and poly houses overflowing with begonias, orchids, bromeliads, ferns, and rare tropicals. Tropical plantings also bordered walkways, paths, and secluded nooks.

Bits of magic appeared unexpectedly as we lingered along paths graced by handsome specimens hanging high and flourishing in unique containers above and at ground level.

The tour ended at a small, secluded pool surrounded by rare tropicals and interesting topiary in the foreground of the Anderson residence.



The aura of magic was everywhere, especially in the huge houses overflowing with hundreds of beautiful begonias staged on benches and hanging overhead.

I was enchanted by Begonias 'Mary Bucholtz' and 'Gene Joyner', both new to me. Another newcomer was B. 'Frankie Pinder'. All are Paul Lowe cultivars and still rare on the West Coast. A lovely scene I recall was a giraffe topiary under a canopy of phalaenopsis orchids and *B. rex* cultivars. And I shall never forget the lush, huge specimens of *B. U177*, *B. U192*, and *B. maculata* (*B. U078*).





B. 'Ann Anderson'

In one plant house my eyes were drawn to a cane-like specimen towering above the other begonias. It was over five feet high, with an abundance of pretty, bright pink flower clusters. Medium to large-sized, shallowly lobed, green leaves were overlaid by a silvery-pink iridescence reflecting through from the deep red undersurfaces of the leaves. Tim shared the following story:

In 1986 he purchased mixed cane hybrid seed from the ABS Seed Fund. This eye-catching begonia was his favorite of several hybrids raised from the seed. He named it Begonia 'Ann Anderson' in honor of his wife.

After he took cuttings for me to test, we examined several more attractive hybrids from this seed batch. Two of my cuttings grew into an attractive plant which bloomed in the fall of 1990. The brilliant pink flowers are stunning. B. 'Ann Anderson' is distinctive, easy to grow, and hardy, surviving my 22 degree cold spell in January, 1991.



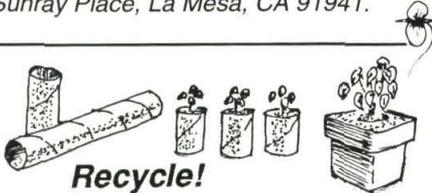
The aura of Daisy Farm still lingers, and I dream of returning, hopefully in 1992. If you are traveling to Florida, do not miss an opportunity to visit Daisy Farm, meet the hospitable Andersons, and enjoy their Begonia Magic.

*Thelma O'Reilly has worked for ABS in many capacities. Currently she serves as director of the U# project for the Nomenclature Committee. Her address is 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 91941.*

#### Author's Note

Checking back issues of the **Begonian** for Mixed Cane Hybrid Seed listings, I feel certain that the seed purchased by Tim Anderson was the seed I sent to the Seed Fund which was listed in the Sept.-Oct. 1986 issue, p. 126.

Marge Lee and I collected the seed pods from her garden. I cleaned, packaged, and mailed the seed. Members who raised interesting hybrids from this offering might like to know that the mixture contained seed from the following begonias: 'Carolyn Collman', 'Di-Erna', 'Honeysuckle', 'Kristy', 'Lana', 'Petaloons', 'Pink Jade', 'Pink Slate', and 'Silvermist'.



#### Recycle!

Cardboard tubes make starter pots.  
Transplant tube with plant. - Rubidoux  
Begonia Gazette



## High Humidity Begonias

by Bill Voss

One day in the late 1970's I received in the mail a group of begonias I had ordered. Among them was *B. brevirimosa*. I was new to growing begonias, other than the wax begonias of childhood.

I was at a loss as I watched the three plants of *B. brevirimosa*, in pots, disintegrate before my eyes. I made a panicked call, and Millie Thompson advised me to get them into humidity of 70% or higher. As most of the leaves were gone already, she also advised me to make some leaf cuttings as a backup. I soon had over 30 new plants and a better understanding of the needs of *brevirimosa* and other begonias that require high humidity.

Many of the distinctive looking begonias require a higher level of humidity than our air conditioned and heated homes provide. This is especially true for begonia species such as *bogneri*, *chlorosticta*, *serratipetala*, *Symbegonia* U012, *versicolor*, U089, et al. Placing them on a tray of moist pebbles is not a workable solution as it is for many other begonias; their humidity requirements are greater. Perhaps this is why so many of them are difficult for us to find.

If you are up to the challenge of raising these beautiful and unusual begonias, you must keep them in enclosed atmospheres. The container can be anything: a large terrarium, bubble bowl, plastic sweater box, or a clear plastic 3 liter soda bottle. Sales at discount stores or yard sales can keep prices low if you are looking for a terrarium or bubble bowl.

Growing in terrariums is different from growing in a pot or in your garden. Because water does not drain out, adjusting the amount of water is a challenge and overwatering is easy to do.

In some of my containers (especially in soda bottles and sweater boxes) I deal with this problem by growing the plants in pots to allow for better drainage. However, if the plant is to be grown for show, you should be aware that pots are not usually allowed in contained atmosphere classes.

In most bubble bowls and terrariums I place a layer of perlite in the bottom for drainage, add a soilless mix, and plant in the mix. Charcoal is also recommended, to keep the mix from going sour.



One of the author's high humidity habitats

Some of the begonias like their roots to stay on the dry side while others do well in a moist soil. To satisfy them all I basically use two different mixes. The drier mix is a 50-50 mix of fertil mix (a local brand name) and perlite (this is also my standard cutting mix for most of my begonias). The more moist mix is ProMix bx (usually sold in large amounts to commercial growers; your nursery or garden center might order it for you) with more perlite added.

Some begonias, such as *breviramosa*, will grow taller than 3 feet high. There are some tall aquariums that are excellent for them. I grow *exotica*, *breviramosa*, and *serratipetala* in a large plexi-glass aquarium 28" high, with a heating cable in the soil as they like the warmth. I also use the moist mix. I never let their roots get dry (this can happen with a heating cable). They appear to thrive with roots on the moist side. Leaves that fall will root quickly.

For *Begonias bogneri* and *chlorosticta* I keep the soil on the drier side. I also reduce the light level and use no heating cables. *B. versicolor* also does well in a cooler environment.

*B. bogneri* has been known to collapse suddenly, without warning; this happened to me when I had it in a heated terrarium. The leaves fell limply from the plant. I quickly removed it and placed it in a cooler sweater box. It came back in about a month. This revival was probably possible because the plant was several years old and its base was large. A young single plant that hasn't clumped would probably have just melted down and been lost.

Symbegonia U012 is another plant that thrives in a cool and moist atmosphere with reduced light. It does well for me in a curtained east window or off to the side of fluorescent lights. I don't grow it directly under the lights. I keep its roots moist. This duplicates its native habitat in New Guinea, where it grows above the 5000 ft. level, near streams or other water sources, and is always shaded.

Imitating the plants' natural environment is one of the keys to finding success in growing these begonias. Read the begonia books, find out where the plants grow in nature, and try to imitate their environment as much as possible. If the habitat is unknown, try different growing methods; observe the plants closely - they'll let you know quickly if they're happy or not.

As backups for failures, take cuttings. Share your cuttings with other growers or botanical gardens as this is another good backup to prevent losses from being total ones.

Locating some of the more exotic begonias can be a challenge. The ABS Seed Fund is a great way of getting seeds for these types of begonias inexpensively. As you get to be a proficient grower, maybe you can help get others started by supplying seed to the Fund.

Two projects are underway to make unusual begonias easier to locate:

1. Under the direction of the ABS Conservation Department, Kit Mounger and Kingsley Langenberg are compiling a list of the begonia species grown in this country by ABS members, botanic gardens, and nurseries.
2. Kingsley and Frank Green are attempting to list all of the begonias grown by our members, species and hybrids.

These projects should be a big help in finding out which begonias are available and where. As you get better at growing some of the rarer begonias, share your list (addresses at the end of this article).

Once you have mastered growing in a contained atmosphere you'll find the plants require less attention on a daily basis than those in pots or your garden. Because the amount of watering and daily care needed are reduced, the high humidity begonias often can be put in decorative glass containers and placed in an office or other areas where humidity is not ideal for begonias.

Try growing some of the difficult begonias, and help keep them from being lost to us. It's a job you will find enjoyable.

---

*Bill Voss likes a challenge; he grows all the begonias mentioned and hundreds of other varieties at his home at 3805 Louise Ave., Chantilly, VA 22021.*

---

Help find out where the begonias are. Send the list of species you grow to:

Kit Mounger

Rt. 1, Box 319

New Johnsonville, TN 37134

OR to:

Kingsley Langenberg

2141 N. Bonnie Brook Lane

Waukegan, IL 60087

Send list of all begonias you grow, cultivars & species, to Kingsley OR to:

Frank Green

102 Richardson Rd.

Ashby, MA 01431



## Garden tools of the '90s

 Listed  
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Columbus, OH 43214  
**1-800-833-6868**

**HYDROFARM – EAST**  
208 RT. 13  
Bristol, PA 19007  
**1-800-227-4567**

In our May-June 1990 issue, Lynda Goldsmith wrote "Call Me Fred", a compilation of memories and anecdotes by friends of Dr. Fred Barkley. Scott Hoover was collecting in Thailand and Malaysia when Lynda wrote to ask for his input. The following article was written in April, 1990 after his return.

## I Remember Fred

by Scott Hoover

In 1973 ABS awarded me a research grant to collect *Begonia* in Colombia. This was my first *Begonia* collecting expedition, and the grant was given partly because Dr. Fred Barkley recommended me to the Board.

The three months spent in Colombia were successful in terms of gathering germplasm, herbarium specimens, and some natural history data on *Begonia*, and at the very end of the trip I had the opportunity to travel for several weeks with Fred.

It was at the end of August, 1979, that I met up with Fred in Bogotá and we travelled by bus to Medellín. He had taught at a university in Medellín before going to Northeastern University and was extremely well versed in collecting *Begonia* in this most rich *Begonia* country.

Though Fred had come to Colombia to do herbarium work, he could not resist the temptation to go search for *Begonia* in the wild. He just wanted to get into the field and find some wild plants. Off we went into the mountains around Medellín, and within a very short time a species was located in a cow pasture, near a stream. And what semi-aquatic species are we all familiar with? None other than *B. fischeri*.

My recollections of Fred Barkley from this trip 18 years ago are nostalgic still. He was a most gentle man, very soft spoken, and, having learned the ways of Latin America, he had seemingly endless patience. Throughout a travel experience that, in a sense, was one of the most difficult I ever had, Fred just accepted every disruptive situation with the calm of a monk - whereas I was ready for the shrink's couch.

After finishing the collecting work in Colombia, we flew to Panama City, then on to San José, Costa Rica. Here we visited an herbarium, where Fred did some more work. From San José to the north we

traveled by Tiki bus until reaching Honduras, where I believe Fred had more work in Tegucigalpa. He suggested I go look for *B. popenoei* around Lancetilla, so I took a beat-up train to San Pedro Sula and found Lancetilla, along with the worst mosquito problem I've ever encountered in the tropics. I returned to Tegucigalpa and Fred suggested I visit the Mayan ruins of Copán, where I might find some other species of *Begonia*. So off I went, by bus.

It was this visit to Copán that gave a new dimension to my life's work. I remember hemming and hawing about traveling to Copán, and Fred explained the value of visiting such an archaeological site. Had it not been for Fred's insistence, I might never have become so interested in visiting archaeological sites. This was definitely Fred's greatest impact on my life, since now the landscape art I create in my business is strongly influenced by such sites and the cultures they represent. The extra bonus of the trip to Copán was finding 2 different species of *Begonia*, one of which was *B. incana*.

After leaving Honduras we continued on the God-forsaken bus trip to Mexico City, with Fred at complete peace and harmony with himself. There we separated, Fred returning to Boston and I to Colorado Springs. I very much appreciated the opportunity to spend 2 weeks with Fred Barkley, and will never forget his guidance.

---

*Scott Hoover has continued his visits to the tropics: Ecuador, Malaysia, Thailand are among the places where he has collected begonias. His next expedition will be to Indonesia.*



# Begonias in Broccoli Boxes

by Barry Mann

With many thanks to Myra Morley  
for introducing the concept.

Is your greenhouse, plant room, or lath house full? Do you need to produce extra plants for an upcoming show-sale? Do you want to put down leaves and cuttings? Do you have young plants finding it hard to grow in your normal conditions? Do you just want to try something different? Here's a space-saving idea: try growing in a styrofoam container. You'll be amazed how well it works.

Photosynthesis - "a putting together by light" - is the basis for all green plant growth. In the presence of sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water, photosynthesis occurs to produce plant sugars that serve as food for the plant. During the night (with no sunlight) the plant respire, giving off 15% carbon dioxide, 45% oxygen, 17% hydrogen, and 23% other elements.

In a contained atmosphere such as a terrarium, the oxygen and hydrogen combine to form water vapor, which is visible on the inside of your terrarium. This water vapor along with the other elements and the next day's sunlight combine to provide plant sugars and therefore growth.

The use of a broccoli box as a terrarium has many applications and advantages. These boxes are available from fruit and vegetable stores, usually at no cost; they are used for conveying fresh broccoli on ice to the stores, and are made of thick Isolite foam. These boxes hold up to sixteen 3" pots. Other types of styrofoam containers will work, as long as the lid is translucent.

For photosynthesis to occur each box must receive sunlight, so the boxes must not be stacked. I have boxes in a position that receives full sun for about 10 to 11 hours in summer and about 7 hours in

winter, and our conditions vary from 35°C plus in summer to sub-zero frosts in winter. In winter the boxes should be placed on the ground, as cold air circulating below the box may slow root growth.

Growing in broccoli boxes offers several advantages. They save space, can be placed in full sun, are bug proof, require less water and less frequent fertilizing, and are insulated, rendering them weatherproof.

## DO:

Wash the box thoroughly

Water only when the inside of the lid is dry

Place a small weight on the lid (these boxes are light and a small gust of wind could find your neighbors enjoying the fruit of your labor)

Check frequently and remove spent leaves

## DON'T:

Do not line the box with anything (paper, plastic sheeting, etc.)

Do not paint the box or do anything to reduce the sunlight penetration

Do not over fertilize (about every 8 weeks is sufficient)

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This article first appeared in the February, 1991 issue of the Journal of the Australian Begonia Society.

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*Barry Mann lives at 49-51 Goddards Rd., Yamanto, Ipswich, Queensland 4305, Australia. He and his wife Dot captured Best in Show honors at the Queensland Begonia Society show in March.*



# A Fascinating Group

by Virginia Carlson



What class of begonias owes its existence to one plant found growing in the sheath of an orchid imported from Assam, India in 1856?

The answer is the Rex Cultorum group. A Belgian commercial horticulturist saw the plant and bought the orchid for 10,000 francs, which was an enormous sum of money. In two years, he had introduced *B. rex* commercially, to the great excitement of all who saw it. Its hybridizing possibilities were exploited by crossing it with other species from Asia. *Begonias xanthina*, *palmata*, *griffithi*, *rubro-venia*, *robusta*, and *tenera*, all rhizomatous species with interesting surface textures and colors, contributed to the background of our modern rexes. Some of these species seem to be extinct today. Has anyone ever seen *B. xanthina*? The rex species itself, *B. rex* Putzeys, was not seen again in the wild until recent times.

The rexes are characterized by their colorful leaves and rhizomatous habit of growth. In 1981, when the Thompson's *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide* was published there were 545 cultivars, all

tracing back to these early crosses. There are probably thousands of varieties now, and most of the leading hybridizers have been fascinated with the rexes.

Why all this fascination? The prospects of finding some new color patterns, leaf shapes, or unusual surfaces has spurred on rex lovers.

Leaf colors among the rexes vary from white to silver, lavender, pink, red, black, and various shades between. Attempts to breed these color patterns into other types of begonias, such as the shrubs, have not been very fruitful. Flowers are mostly pink, borne on spikes, usually in the spring.

A mutant rex with spiral leaves appeared in 1883 in a cross made by F. Nemeček. There are now sub-classes of small, medium, large leaved, and upright rexes, all with spiral or non-spiral subdivisions.

Rexes like warm temperatures, around 70°F, with an only slightly lower night temperature. They go dormant in winter if allowed to get cold. Their demands for light

are best met with indirect light, or sunlight only in the early morning. Many greenhouse growers put them under the benches. Under fluorescent lights they are gorgous.

They also like high humidity, a condition difficult to control outside except near the beach. Many need terrarium conditions in dry climates, but requirements vary. I have been most successful with B. 'Curly Purple Stardust' inside during winter and outside in summer. If there is too much humidity, however, leaves rot, and over a period of time the rhizomes will rot also.

Watering is also different for the rexes. A good rule is to keep the soil moist, but not let water get on the leaves. They need frequent fertilization; I recommend half-strength fertilizer every two or three weeks except during periods of dormancy.

Rex begonias resent over-potting and should only be repotted when the plant is in active growth and the roots fill the pot. Repot only into the next largest size pot. Some upright varieties need staking; some grow in baskets, cascading down the sides.

Propagation of rexes is easy. Use rhizome tip cuttings, or cut leaves into wedge-shaped sections, each having a vein running through the tip. These can be inserted in moist potting mix (7 parts perlite and 1 part peat moss works well for me). Place the wedges about an inch apart, cover the container to preserve humidity,

and place under fluorescent lights at room temperature. They should root in about 3 weeks, and can be transplanted about 6 weeks later.

Many of the growers in our branch use a potting mix with the following composition: Sunshine or LGM potting mix, 1 part; LGM leafmold, 1 part; orchid bark (for good drainage), 1 part; small perlite, 1 part. If you are confused by formulas like this, think in terms of 1 gallon each to make up a 4-gallon batch. For smaller amounts, use a quart of each. This can be stored in a bag or covered plastic box, moistening as needed.

The mixture above provides no nutrients, and plants in it must be fed at least once a month (or with every watering if you use 1/10 strength fertilizer, or a constant feed). A slow-release fertilizer may also be used, according to the manufacturer's instructions. For good color, some growers add blood meal or "manure tea".

Begonias are heavy feeders, and when growing quickly can be foliar fed every week. Follow the manufacturer's directions and spray leaves with fertilizer, feeding only when the soil is moist.

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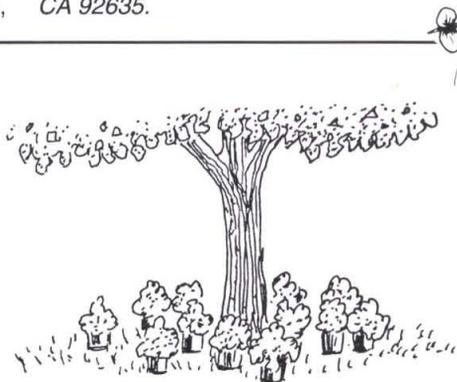
*Virginia Carlson is editor of the Orange County Branch newsletter, Begonias, Begorra!, where her article first appeared. Her address is 1137 Highland, Fullerton, CA 92635.*

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## Save Water!

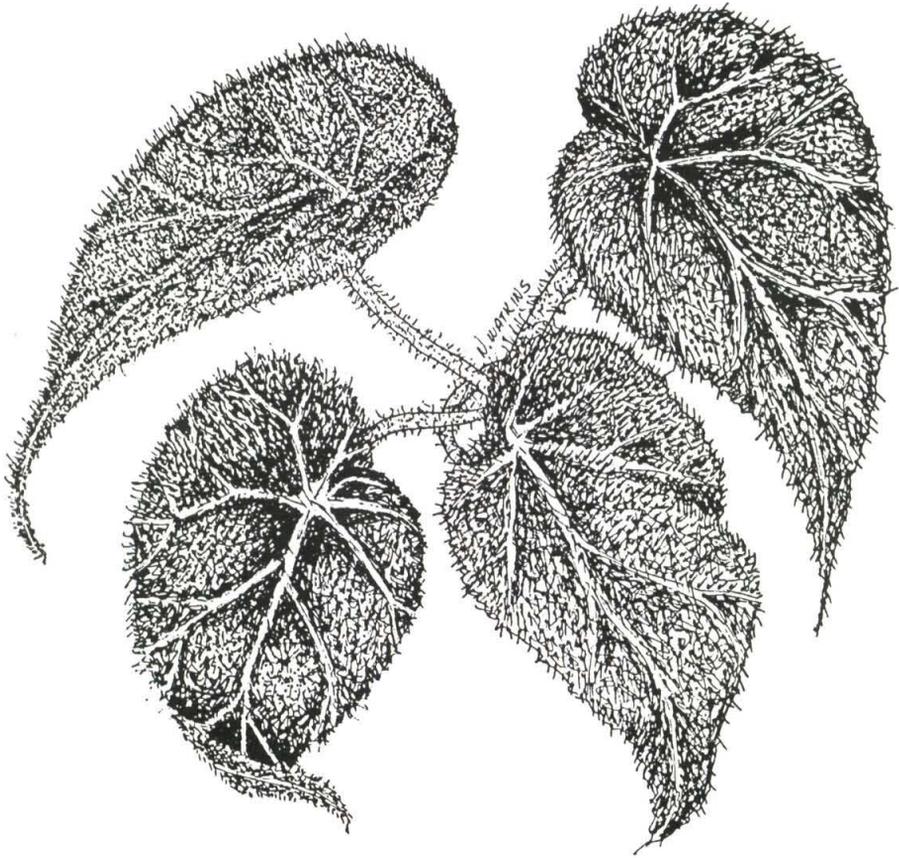
Group your begonias under trees:

- \*Shade helps retain moisture in the pots
- \*Pots help retain moisture in the soil
- \*Any excess water from the pots will water the tree
- Santa Barbara Branch



SPOTLIGHT ON:

*Begonia decora*



drawing by Nanette Watkins  
text by Mary Weinberg

The word “decora” means elegant, and distinctive foliage makes this a truly elegant begonia. It is a beautiful and unusual plant for a terrarium. It is a dwarf plant, with very compact growth attaining a height of only six inches.

*B. decora* was discovered in Penang, Malaya in 1892 by O. Stapf. It is rhizomatous, with a short, fleshy, creeping, hairy rhizome. Leaves are medium-sized, ovate, acuminate, cordate, and dentate, dark maroon with lime green veins and minute elevations. Except for the veins, the entire leaf is covered with magenta plush-like hair. Flowers are large and pink. The male has four tepals, the female five. Blooms appear in the spring on 3 to 5 inch peduncles.

## CULTURE

**Humidity:** *B. decora* requires very high humidity, and can only be grown in a terrarium, or in a humid greenhouse.

**Light:** *B. decora* likes bright light. I have my container under lights, at the end of the tubes so that it will retain its beautiful coloring. If you use natural light, be sure you place your container in indirect light where sun cannot touch it.

**Growing Medium:** For *B. decora* I use unmilled sphagnum moss which has been soaked in very hot water, then squeezed to remove excess water. The moss should then be chopped into small pieces (1 or 2 inches in length). Mix in perlite (1 part perlite to 5 parts moss).

Mike Kartuz suggests pouring a very weak solution of diluted fertilizer over the moss before squeezing out all the liquid.

After planting *B. decora* in your container, leave the container top partially open for one or two days; this will allow the excess moisture from the top of the growing medium to evaporate, and there will be less chance of mildew or root rot.

**Water:** when the container has been closed, condensed moisture collects on the glass and runs down into the growing medium. Repeating this cycle eliminates the need to water. If too much moisture collects on the glass partially remove the cover of the terrarium for a day, then replace the top. This should correct the moisture problem - if not, the procedure may be repeated.

Plants can be kept in a closed environment for at least two seasons before changes become necessary.

This article first appeared in the Chicago Begonian in May, 1987.

Writer *Mary Weinberg* lives at 1527 W. Highland Ave., Chicago, IL 60660.

Artist *Nanette Watkins* is the daughter of *Olive* and *Daniel Haseltine*.

## Woodriff Honored

The Royal Dutch Bulbgrowers Association has awarded the DIX-COIN Award, their highest honor granted in hybridizing, to longtime ABS member Leslie Woodriff of Fairyland Begonia & Lily Garden, McKinleyville, California.

Woodriff's many begonia hybrids are well known to ABS members, and his B. 'Orange Rubra' won the Society's Alfred D. Robinson Medal in 1954.

## IN MEMORY

**Hilda Laipple** is remembered as an excellent grower, a long and faithful member, and a good friend of all. Our deepest sympathies go to her family. She will be sorely missed.  
-The San Francisco Begonian



## 1991 NATIONAL CONVENTION SEMINARS AND SPEAKERS

by Carrie Karegeannes, Seminars Chair

A star cast of long-time begonia growers will lead us in "Exploring the World of Begonias" in Alexandria, Virginia, Sept. 12-15. All have given years of service and contributed generously to begonia knowledge - and enjoyment.

### Banquet Speaker

Dr. Tracy McLellan, botanist and ABS first vice-president from Chapel Hill, NC, is back from three months exploring in Africa and will speak on "Magic Begonias and the Wild Coast" Saturday night. Tracy examined a variety of forms of the tangled *B. dregei* group in their native habitats - and fell in love with the country. She returned with specimens and photos of exciting finds.

Dr. McLellan has taught at the University of California Santa Barbara and North Carolina State University. In addition to her U.S. education, she studied at the Botany School of Oxford, England. In 1990 she was the first recipient of Southwest Region's Dr. Fred A. Barkley Research Grant, and has contributed articles to the **Begonian** as well as to botanical journals. Her photography has illuminated her articles, talks, and past convention seminars. She has also collected in Trinidad in past years.

Three seminars Friday afternoon and three Saturday morning will precede the banquet:

### Friday, Sept. 13

2 p.m.

Thelma O'Reilly

"Time, Toil, Triumph - U-Numbers!"

Thelma O'Reilly from La Mesa, CA, is in charge of the Unidentified Begonia Species Project for the Nomenclature Department. Long in demand as a speaker and

show judge, Thelma will share her struggles in researching the "U's", her results, and and her photos of some of the unidentified species ABS has introduced into cultivation. She not only grows and studies begonia species, but enjoys collecting in the wild.

Member of the Nomenclature Department since 1979 and co-director 1979-1981, Thelma has held many national ABS chairmanships, including the Members-at-Large and Awards Committees, and served as a Research Committee member. She has won all the top ABS awards - the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award in 1980 for literary contributions and the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service in 1987; her *Begonia* 'Universe' won the Alfred D. Robinson Medal for outstanding hybrid in 1974. Thelma also is active in the Bromeliad, Tropical, and Succulent Plant Societies.

3 p.m.

Rudolf Ziesenhenn

"Experience with Imported Plants"

"Mr. Begonia" from Santa Barbara, CA has been a busy ABS member since 1935, contributing freely to others as expert grower, show judge, speaker, author, and serious student of species. Tireless Nomenclature Director for many years and currently president of the Santa Barbara Branch, Rudy also holds the three top ABS awards - the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award (1959) and the Dyckman Award (1980); his *Begonia* 'Freddie' was the second hybrid to win the Robinson Medal (1946). He pioneered the point system for judging begonias and helped prepare the first show classification guide.

Rudy has described and published numerous new begonia species, introducing them to cultivation and using them to develop outstanding new hybrids. He is author of many articles on begonias, such as his present series on begonia anatomy.

4 p.m.

Millie and Ed Thompson  
"African Species in Cultivation"

Acclaimed as authors, photographers, and lecturers, the Thompsons of Southampton, NY, will share their special interest in the unusual African species. Best known for the indispensable Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide, they also have written the earlier Thompson Begonia Guide, many magazine and newspaper articles, and edited branch and Eastern Region newsletters. Their Living Museum held some 1900 begonia species and cultivars before it was donated to the New York Botanical Garden.

Millie has served ABS as Research Director, Classification Committee Chairman, and **Begonian** contributing editor. She is currently third vice-president, and nominee for second vice-president for 1991-1992. Ed and Millie both have headed branches and given judging seminars across the country.

Millie and Ed were awarded the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award in 1977, the Dyckman Award in 1988, and a President's Citation in 1982. Among other awards are the Garden Club of America's Sarah Chapman Francis Medal for literary achievement, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Silver Medal for horticultural service, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Certificate of Merit.

## Saturday, Sept. 14

9 a.m.

Jack Golding

"Seeking an Identity -  
Tracking the Unknown"

Another generous expert, author, and award winner, Jack Golding of Cranbury, NJ will tell of his adventures and his methods in pinning down the identity of elusive species through the use of begonia keys, botanical literature, herbarium specimens, and live plants.

Jack is co-author of the Smithsonian's massive Begoniaceae: Illustrated Key and Annotated Species List. He has written articles for the **Begonian**, **Phytologia**, and

other periodicals. Popular speaker, seminar leader, and show judge, he is famous for his landscaped indoor begonia garden. He has lectured at Hebrew University and for horticultural groups in Israel as well as in the U.S.

Jack is a member of the ABS Nomenclature Department and nomenclature editor for the **Begonian**. He has been an ABS vice-president, president and newsletter editor of the Knickerbocker Branch, and was one of the founders of the Indoor Light Gardening Society's New York branch. In 1978 he was awarded the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award and in 1988 a special ABS certificate for Begoniaceae.

10 a.m.

Mary Bucholtz

"From Prop Box to Show"

A meticulous grower who enthusiastically and effectively shares her horticultural methods, Mary Bucholtz of Jacksonville, FL will give us some of her secrets to healthy begonias and handsome show plants. She is past president and an active member of the Jacksonville Branch, secretary of Eastern Region, member of the Awards Committee, and nominee for third vice-president for 1991-1992. A senior judge, she has participated in leading judging courses in several states, as well as delighting seminar audiences at regional conventions.

Mary is a contributor of **Begonian** articles, and her culture tips are frequently quoted in "Round Robin Notes." Her begonias and her photography win blue ribbons at national shows, and she collects begonia, especially majolica.

11 a.m.

Hugh McLauchlan

"A Garden in Scotland"

Hugh McLauchlan, who comes to us from Glasgow, Scotland, has regaled us with begonia lore and charmed us with striking photos at national convention banquets in Miami and San Francisco. He says that he has learned so much from visits to gardens in this country that this year he will talk about a garden in Scotland.

Vice-president of the Scottish Begonia Society and champion grower of Tuberhybrida begonias, Hugh has served as president of the Bishopbriggs Horticultural Society, near Glasgow, and as photographer and lecturer for the Scottish Society. He is a popular speaker in demand on two continents. We are fortunate to have him with us again.

Our last seminar will be Sunday morning, before the tour.

### Sunday, September 15

Kelton Parker

"Begonia Species Bank"

Kelton Parker, Curator of Begonias at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens in Texas, has many years of horticultural experience and is happy to be working now with his favorite plant family. In building the begonia collection at the Garden, he has focused on creating a species bank to help preserve these often endangered begonias. His talk will cover the species in the collection, their care, and the records the Garden is producing on each plant.



**Moving?** Don't forget to let the Membership Chair know so you won't miss an issue!

## Show News Around the Country

At the *Miami Branch Show* "Begonias, Florida Style" April 20-21 at Fairchild Gardens **Charles Jaros** won Best of Show with B. 'Sunburst' (96.7 points) and Sweepstakes with 21 blue ribbons in a large field of 208 entries. Best Florida Hybrid shown was B. 'Tom Ment', exhibited by Alma Crawford (96.4 points).

Interesting features of the show were the division for Best Begonia grown by a non-member, won by Patricia Matthews' *B. carolineifolia*, and an educational exhibit, "Begonias and Self-watering Containers", mounted by the Ft. Lauderdale Branch.

Winners at the *1991 New York Flower Show* included **Sue Hessel**, 1st in the Cane Class with B. 'Corliss Engle' and 1st in the Shrub Class with B. 'Ginny'; **P.H.B. Frelinghuysen**, 1st in Rhizomatous, under 3", with *B. bowerae*; and **Phil Seiden**, 1st in Rhizomatous, over 3", with B. 'Hocking Trocadero'.

The **Knickerbocker Branch** won The House Plant Award for their display, truly a group effort. Ethel McCullum made a "Mary, Quite Contrary", the central figure. John Farina, Miriam Friedman, Jim Fryer, Sue Hessel, Tim Last, Phil Seiden, Vanessa Young, and Adele Zemansky provided plants for the display, which was landscaped by Miriam Friedman; backdrops were painted by Karen Dahle, aided by Jim Fryer, Hedy Froh, and Peggy Vilke; Allison Edwards painted props, Margi Forest made labels, Dot Hively had aprons silk-screened with the ABS logo; Iris Hall, Jim Fryer, and Ira Rappaport provided transportation for plants. Vanessa Young lined up sitters for the booth; showing up almost every day were Christine Boyd, son David Boyd, and John Farina.

A special touch was provided by Howard Berg, who wrote a booklet, Begonias, An Elementary Guide, sold at the show.

## COMING EVENTS

**July 20-21:** Westchester Branch Show & Sale, Fox Hills Mall, Culver City, California.

**July 27-28:** San Francisco Branch Show & Sale at Tanforan Shopping Center, San Bruno, California.

**August 17:** Orange County Branch presents "Begonia Fiesta" at home of Elda Regimbal, 3117 San Juan Dr., Fullerton, CA. Refreshments 2-5 p.m., dinner served 5-7 p.m.; plant auction, door prizes. \$7.50 donation; to reserve send check to Mary Sakamoto, 14332 Yorba St., Tustin, CA 92680 by Aug. 10. For more information call (714) 525-7061.

**August 23-25:** San Francisco Branch participates in San Francisco Flower Show.

**September 7-8:** Sacramento Branch Show & Sale, "The Begonias of California - A Tribute to California Hybridizers" at Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. For more information, contact Show Chair Adeena Kalal, 6043 10th St., Rio Linda, CA 95673.

**September 12-15: American Begonia Society National Convention**, Old Colony Inn, Alexandria, Virginia. Theme is the "U" numbers. Convention Chair is Barbara Nunes, 6025 Greeley Blvd., Springfield, VA 22152. Packets have been mailed - watch for yours!

**Nov. 11-13:** National Arbor Day Conference to Promote Trees for Energy, Lincoln, Nebraska. Call (402) 474-5655 for more information.

1992

### April 3-Oct. 12 Ameri-Flora '92

International Floral & Garden Exposition, Franklin Park, Columbus, Ohio. United States' first international floral event, commemorating the Christopher Columbus Quincentennial, with gardening exhibits by 30 nations including Japan, Monaco, Italy, Spain, UK, Bahamas, Canada, Dominican Republic.

*Deadline for next issue is July 15*

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### Save Water!

Waiting for hot water? Catch the flow in a watering can. - South Bay Branch

# Begonias Down Under

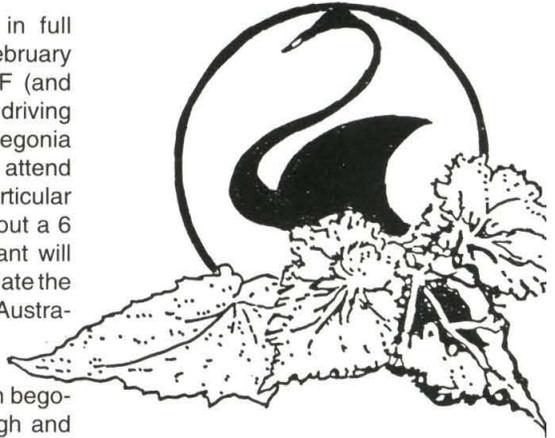
## 2nd Australian Begonia Convention

Imagine tuberous begonias in full bloom in March, in a land where February temperatures had soared to 117°F (and stayed there for weeks). Imagine driving 150 miles, one way, to attend a begonia meeting, or traveling 4275 miles to attend a convention. Imagine craving a particular begonia, importing it, and waiting out a 6 month quarantine, hoping your plant will survive. You're beginning to appreciate the difficulties of growing begonias in Australia.

Given the problems, Australian begonias might be expected to be tough and rugged (they are) and stringy, undersized, and homely (they definitely aren't). Somehow, Australian begonia growers have produced large, smashingly lovely, vigorous plants, with an enormous variety of both species and cultivars (some of them Australian hybrids, some imported). The most delicate of rexes, the tallest of canes, the fanciest of the crested rhizomatous types, the most finicky of species, all are represented in abundance.

Adelaide, South Australia was the site of the first Australian convention in 1988. The second was held in Perth, Western Australia March 29-April 1, 1991, hosted by the Begonia Society of Western Australia. The second convention followed the pattern established by the first: excellent and informative seminars each morning, a lunch buffet, and garden tours in the afternoons. Mornings and afternoons featured tea and scones, a most delightful tradition.

The gardens on the tours were chosen carefully to show different growing conditions and different types of begonia collections and interests, each garden reflecting the individual tastes of the owners.



One interesting strand connected most of the gardens, however: the lot (or, in some cases, acreage) was given over totally to growing begonias and tropicals. There were lath houses, ferneries, greenhouses, shade-cloth covered pools, open beds, shaded beds, raised beds, covered patios and decks, often aviaries, but no grass. The advantages go beyond beauty and not having to mow. The plants provide privacy, and shade from the often blistering Australian sun; retain moisture; and block noise from neighbors and streets. The effect is of a cooling, private rain forest just outside the door.

There were gorgeous begonia displays at the hotel, but no judged show and no sale. This meant no hustle, no strain, no sleepless nights for workers, no strained tempers, and a spirit of cooperation rather than competition prevailed. The tours and luncheons, along with a welcoming cocktail party, banquet with musical entertainment, Sunday evening barbecue, and post convention nursery tour, allowed for a lot of visiting and swapping of begonia lore.

In the Land Down Under, begonia societies are headquartered in the largest city of each state. Society members may be regular (in town or nearby) members, or designated as "country" or "out of radius", meaning they're too far away to attend meetings regularly. Newsletters are important, to keep far-flung members in communication, and tend to be lengthy - magazines, really, loaded with cultural information.

While there has been communication and much cooperation between the various societies, there was until this year no central organization. One of the objectives of the 2nd convention was to set up a central organization. Thus deliberations among the elected representatives of each of the Australian begonia societies were foremost on the business agenda, and by the end of two days of meetings the committee had organized the Association of Australian Begonia Societies, elected officers (see Directory Update), and appointed chairmen. Goals include publishing a magazine six times a year, organizing a collecting expedition to Papua New Guinea, establishing a registry of Australian hybrids. The Board is very interested in cooperating with the American Begonia Society, especially on preserving begonia species; there is already a lot of cooperation between our seed funds.

In 1992 Ballarat Botanical Gardens (near Melbourne, Victoria) will be celebrating their 40th Begonia Festival, a pageant of tuberous begonias lasting several weeks, and Association members will be congregating for the festivities. Another all-Australia Begonia Convention is scheduled for 1995.

Under shadecloth at the home of Lyla Kilpatrick, president of the Begonia Society of Western Australia



photo by Bruce C. Boardman

American Begonia Society members who attended the convention found friendly folk, a beautiful country with strange and wonderful flora and fauna, lovely Australian begonia hybrids, and a chance to see and talk about begonias with knowledgeable begonia lovers. Watch for a spate of articles about Australian hybrids, growers, botanical gardens, nurseries. It was a phenomenal experience. Our only complaint: once is not enough. We're planning on returning.

## “Begonias, Oklahoma Style”



photo by Carl Shires

Oklahoma is an arid land of windswept prairies, blazingly hot in summer and freezing in winter. It makes headlines and the national news several times a year with its deadly tornadoes. Does this sound like begonia habitat?

For everyone who attended the Southwest Region Get-Together hosted by the Barkley Branch of Oklahoma City May 3-5, the answer has to be a loud “Yes!” A beautiful and enormous show was dwarfed only by the size of the sale.

Top show honors among the 263 begonia entries went to North Haven Gardens for a bonsai treatment of *B. 'Lacey'* that took Best In Show; to Dorothy Caviness, who won the “Showing is Sharing” trophy with 57 plant entries, Best Species with *B. crassicaulis*, and Best New Introduction by Hobby Grower for *B. 'Black Joker'*; and to Effie and Howard Clemens, who won Sweepstakes with 11 blue ribbons. The Best SWR Hybrid in Show was the Asmussen's *B. 'Billie Maree'*, grown by Don Miller.

Winners in the Artistic Divisions (which had 16 entries) were Gene Salisbury, Photography, best artistic photo; Laura Kirby, Art, for her oil painting of *B. 'Irene*

*Nuss'*; and Barbara Yowell, Crafts, for her china plates painted with tuberous begonias. It should be noted that Ms Yowell's painting was done of tuberous begonias grown by Ann Salisbury of Tonkawa, an astonishing horticultural feat in Oklahoma.

Nor is it only Barkley Branch members who grow begonias, Oklahoma Style. A Sunday tour took us to see begonias in the rainforest environment of the Crystal Bridge, a covered mini-jungle complete with stream and waterfalls in the heart of downtown. It was fascinating to tour not only the lush exhibition space but also the mechanical apparatus that keeps the rainforest going in the temperature extremes of Oklahoma City and the tiny greenhouse where the tropical plants on display are raised.

That's not all. Barkley members Mary Ann and Archie Butler served up the hospitality that Southwest Region prides itself on - there were two hospitality rooms, both with full tables. The Begonia Boutique manned by Pam Lee featured lots of begoniana; especially popular were tote bags and T-shirts with a silk-screened design by Chuck McGough of Dallas Area Branch. ABS Bookstore Director Anita Ruthenberg added to the begonia-mania with a full selection of books and materials.



Sweepstakes winners  
Effie & Howard Clemens  
photo by Carl Shires



Begonias by the waterfall  
in the Crystal Bridge  
photo by Tamsin Boardman

Seminars were by Tamsin Boardman (Begonias Down Under, a report on the 2nd Australian Begonia convention) and Kelton Parker, Curator of Begonias at Fort Worth Botanic Garden, who brought lists of the plants under his care, samples of the paperwork and photographic records maintained on the collection, a generous offer to share plants and information on request, and a plea for preservation of the begonia species.

At the banquet Saturday night, Don Miller was honored with SWR's Mae Blanton Award for Service. The Marguerite Vernon Award went to Ann Salisbury and Maurice Amey. The Dr. Fred A. Barkley Research Grant was awarded to Dr. Kathleen Burt-Utley of Tulane University for her work on the taxonomy of Mexican and Central American begonias. An auction of special plants, artwork, and needlework closed the evening in a spirited manner; proceeds went to the Barkley Branch and to the Barkley Research Grant.

Special thanks must go to Linda and Mike Clemons, co-chairs for the Get-Together, whose leadership and planning made it all look effortless and fun, and to Kathylnn (classification & entries) and Merrill Calvert (placement), whose expertise contributed so much to the success of the show. Rosemary Cronk and Miriam Steiniger handled registration and the loaded "goodie" bags.

A full weekend of seeing begonias, buying begonias, talking begonias, reading about begonias, learning about begonias - what more could begonia nuts want? Well, obviously, more of the same! Astro Branch of Houston, Texas, will host the next SWR Get-Together, "Astronomical Begonias", in a radically different climate next spring. They invite you to come on down!

# BULLETIN BOARD

## ABS News

### Elections

The Nominating Committee reports the following slate for ABS officers for 1991-1992 (candidates' branch affiliation is noted in parenthesis):

President

Jeannette Gilbertson (Palomar)

1st Vice-President

Carol Notaras (San Francisco)

Gene Salisbury (Barkley)

2nd Vice-President

Millie Thompson

3rd Vice-President

Mary Bucholtz (Jacksonville)

Russ Richardson (Atlanta)

Secretary

Ingeborg Foo (Palomar)

Treasurer

Eleanor Calkins (Palomar)

Ballots will be mailed **June 17** and must be received by **July 21**. **Please vote!**

---

### Resignation:

Many thanks for years of dedicated service to Business Manager **John Ingles, Jr.**

### Appointments:

**Mary Bucholtz** and **Patrick Vacca** have been appointed to the Long Range Planning Committee.

---

### Save Water!

Water with ice cubes. There's no run-through and it cools the roots.

- A.D.

Robinson Branch



### Expedition

**Scott Hoover** plans a collecting trip to Indonesia, possibly in October of this year. He would like for someone to volunteer to help raise funds for the trip.

### Postage Increase

The recent increase in postage fees will affect ABS members in two areas:

#### 1. Back Issues

Individual copies of back issues of the **Begonian** will cost \$2; postage will be \$1 per issue, or \$5 for 6 issues.

#### 2. Begonian

Cost of First Class delivery of the **Begonian** will increase from \$5 to \$6 (a total of \$21, including the \$15 for dues).

Cost of postage to Canada & Mexico will also rise from \$5 to \$6 (a total of \$21, including the \$15 membership).

Cost of membership and postage for Foreign Surface delivery will rise from \$19 to \$25.

Members receiving the **Begonian** by third class mail or by foreign air mail will not be affected by the postage increases.

### About Back Issues

Back Issues Chair Betty Tillotson has received all the back issues now, and is ready for your orders. Her address is 3912 Wildrose Way, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Betty can also provide current overprints of the **Begonian** to branches wishing to give them away at shows. The branch pays only postage costs for these.

**Looking Back:** perusing back issues, Betty Tillotson noted that in 1939 the **Begonian** sold for 15 cents an issue.

## ***In the News...***

"Pollinating Begonias" by Elaine Ayers appeared in the Winter, 1991 issue of Hobby Greenhouse.

Several members requested information on ordering Lorra Almstedt's article on begonias. A very limited number of copies of the February 1991 issue of American Horticulturist are available through the American Horticulture Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308. Cost is \$2.50.

## **Directory Update**

### **ABS**

#### **New Director, Southwest Region:**

**Gene Salisbury**, P.O. Box 504, Tonkawa, OK 74653

#### **New Presidents:**

**Garden Grove Branch: Ed Vogel**, 9811 Oma Place, Garden Grove, CA 92641.

**Mae Blanton Branch: Martha Curry**, P.O. Box 1232, Weatherford, TX 76086.

**San Miguel Branch: Thelma O'Reilly**, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 91941.

**Jacksonville Branch: Ed Harrell**, 1628 Broward Rd., Jacksonville FL 32218.

**Orange County Branch: Anne Jones**, 11357 Darcy St., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.

#### **New Address:**

**Edalee Harwell**, president of **Alfred D. Robinson Branch**: 1055 Benecia St., San Diego, CA 92110.

#### **Changes in Meeting Places/Times:**

**Long Beach Parent Chapter**: 3rd Thursdays, 1 p.m., at Huntingdon National Bank, 9025 Artesia Blvd., Bellflower, CA.

**Rubidoux Branch**: University of California, Riverside Botanic Gardens.

**San Miguel Branch**: 4th Saturdays, in members' homes.

**Tampa Bay Area Branch**: the 3rd Wednesday in homes of members.

## **International:**

New President of the **Queensland Begonia Society** is **Elsie Paton**, 35 Daisy Road, Manly West 4179, Queensland, Australia.

At the Second Australian Begonia Convention in Perth, Western Australia in March the **Association of Australian Begonia Societies** was formed.

Participating societies are the Begonia Society of Western Australia, the New South Wales Begonia Society, the South Australia Begonia Society (the group formerly named the Australian Begonia Society), and the Victorian Begonia Society.

Chairman of the Association is **Kevin Handreck**, 2 Birdwood St., Netherby 5062, Australia.

## **Attention, Branch Officers!**

The ABS Branch Directory appears in the next issue. Please update your branch listing - notify editor Tamsin Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262 of changes by July 15.

### **BEGONIAS**

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## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Patricia Sage, Round Robin Director

When a novice grower breaks all the rules and grows prize-winning begonias in spite of it, the successful, experienced grower is always the first to advise, "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

Fortunately, there is more than one "right" way and certainly there are "right" ways that have yet to be discovered. That's why Round Robins serve such a wonderful purpose. In the Robins, observations of what does and does not work are shared and the novice grower becomes an "old-hand" in no time at all.

Currently, there are several Robins "on hold" waiting for more members, as well as a few trying to become established for the first time. Anyone interested in the following Robins, please contact your Round Robin Director: Gesneriads - All California - Beginners - Specific Growing Requirements - Begonia Memorabilia - Organic Growing - African Species - Asian Species - Pollinating the Species - Trailing-Scandent.

A compilation of samplings of Robins for various methods used in solving problems common to all who grow begonias are noted here:

### Mildew

Eastern General Robin's Dora Lee Dorsey of Tampa uses and recommends a brand name Rose and Flower Dust. Midwest Growers' Frances Hurley of Chicago uses Lysol. Elaine Ayers of Canes Flight #13 uses a powdered form of sulphur, with no odor, that can be obtained in any drugstore.

Also from Flight #13 Margaret Coats related an innovative idea: "I have good air circulation in my greenhouse. Have one 24" high velocity fan in upper corner of one end and another 24" one in the upper corner of the other end. This winter I put

one large air cleaner/ionizer at one end of my greenhouse, one large one at the other end and two small ones on each side, midways. I have had absolutely no mildew this winter, and I had it so bad last winter. I only sprayed one time, when I put the plants into the greenhouse last fall, so I feel they had to do some good."

Southwest Growers' Mae Blanton used a preventive treatment by dusting sulphur all around the greenhouse, everywhere but on the plants, even in the watering can. No mildew in the greenhouse this year. Has anyone tried cinnamon or baking soda yet?

### Virus

Elaine Ayers of Flight #13 advises that "Plant virus has been around for quite a while, but growers are just starting to recognize it on begonias. I just hope that begonia growers don't go crazy over it like a lot of orchid people have, throwing out our whole collections only to discover that the plants were infected with a fungus (wilt). As for me, I use sterilized soil, sterilized tools, and keep a clean greenhouse. I do use a lot of clorox and good air circulation. A good healthy plant is less prone to develop disease."

### Noteworthy Observations:

"If it were "Begonias" instead of oil in Kuwait we'd have nothing to worry about."  
- Mildred Swyka, Flight #25

"... one has to be one's own best friend at times..." - Rhodora Buss, Flight #25

*To join a Round Robin, write:*

*Patricia Sage  
Round Robin Director  
1635 Lanoitan Ave.  
National City, CA 91950  
USA*



## CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND NOTES

July-August, 1991

Diana H. Gould, Seed Fund Director

Germination times for this issue's selections range from 6-67 days, so please be patient. Unless otherwise noted, these selections have been offered in 1989 and 1990. Sorry about the repeats!

The Seed Fund thanks **Roberto Brin, Michele Cole, Jackie Davis, Lynda Goldsmith, Jan Goodwin, Jake Hafer, John Howell, Doug Jensen, Naomi Lynch, Karen Myers, Joy Porter, Linde Saksen, Pat Sage, Masuo Yamada, Johanna Zinn**, along with our anonymous donors and the international exchanges, for making this offering possible.

### Notes on Seeds Offered:

*Hillebrandia sandwicensis* (Hawaii) requires terrarium care. It has large, green leaves with green petioles. Its rhizome *must* be set above the soil, and it is very slow-growing. It requires shaded conditions with only a few hours of eastern sun. It needs well-drained mix, and temperatures in the mid-70's. To prevent loss, it is imperative that at the transplant stage you use 1/2 teaspoon of common lawn soil (alternatives are leaf mold, or dead sphagnum moss) per 4" pot as a contaminant. Most Hawaiian species require a symbiotic micro-rhizome rela-

tionship to grow and this species is NOT an exception.

### Thick-stemmed

*B. dichotoma* (Colombia/Venezuela) has large, bare green leaves with white flowers in late winter. *B. malabarica* (India) has medium, hairy, green leaves with fragrant bluish-pink flowers (and this time, it IS *B. malabarica*!) *B. ulmifolia* (Venezuela) with elm-shaped bare leaves and fragrant white flowers is the tallest growing in its group. *B. valida* (Brazil) has large, medium-green bare leaves and fragrant white flowers; it grows very tall and looks stately. *B. guaduensis* has leaves that are small, bare, slightly puckered, smooth, and leathery, and white flowers tinted pink. *B. parilis* has long narrow bare medium green leaves and white flowers.

Botanists consider *B. sartorii* to be the same as *B. sarcophylla* (Mexico); it has large, bare, dark green leathery leaves with red edges, and white flowers.

### Trailing-scandent

*B. convolvulacea* (Brazil) has medium-sized green, waxy leaves with greenish-white flowers in spring. *B. kisuluana* (Angola) is an epiphyte with woody stems, rose petioles, medium-green waxy leaves with a

red midrib on top and a pale green reverse, and has heavily rose-tinged small white flowers in spring. *B. loranthoides* (Tropical Africa), also epiphytic, has thick and leathery, medium, dark-green leaves with red undersides, woody stems, pink petioles, and pink-tinted white flowers in spring. *B. thelmae* (U009; Brazil) has small green leaves with red midrib and white flowers and often requires terrarium care.

*B. U115* (Panama) requires high humidity, has green leaves with red undersides, reddish stems and petioles, and it even has reddish-pink flowers. *B. U115* has been identified as *B. multinervia*, but the grower finds his plant to be somewhat different.

### Shrub-like

*B. acutifolia* (Jamaica) has small green bare leaves that are pointed and toothed and white flowers that are tinted a deep pink. *B. arborescens* var. *confertiflora* (Brazil) has large, bare green leaves and pink flowers. *B. dietrichiana* (Brazil) has small, bare green leaves and white flowers.

*B. dominicalis* (Lesser Antilles) has small bare green leaves and greenish-white flowers. *B. fernandocostae* (Brazil) has large, wide, hairy green leaves and

white flowers in fall.

*B. setosa* has been identified as *B. fischeri* var. *fischeri*; it has small bare leaves and bright pink flowers. *B. fischeri* var. *palustris* (Brazil) has small, green, bare leaves with white, rose-tinged flowers (resembles a semp).

*B. fuchsoides* (Venezuela/Colombia) has small, green bare leaves and red/orange flowers. *B. humilis* var. *porterana* (Brazil) has medium bare green leaves and white flowers. *B. listada* (Brazil) has small hairy dark green velvet leaves with yellow-green midrib and hairy brown stems, white flowers, and may require terrarium care.

*B. lyallii* var. *lyallii* (Madagascar) has a reputation in Australia as spectacularly beautiful! The Thompsons report its flowers as white with a pink border.

*B. metallica* (Brazil) has wide, green hairy leaves and pink flowers from summer to fall. *B. olsoniae* (Brazil) has distinctive velvet textured dark green leaves and light-pink flowers; it often requires terrarium care. *B. paleata* (Brazil) also has distinctive foliage with beautiful, shimmering dark-green leaves and white flowers.

*B. taiwaniana* (Taiwan/China) has medium-sized green leaves and grows to 2 ft. *B. taiwaniana* var. *albomaculata* (China) is a species without a description. *B. tonduzii* (Panama) is a low-growing species with glossy, dark green leaves 1 1/2" x 3-4", bright

pink flowers, red peduncles. *B. U008* has small round green hairy leaves and its flowers will turn rose when it is grown in strong light.

*B. U029* has been identified as *B. 'Mystique'*. Its fimbriated flower tepals are white with pink flush at the tepal margin; leaves are pleated when young. However, this plant grows true from seed. *B. U062* (India) is the "Red One!" This species has red stems, petioles, and leaves when grown in strong light; otherwise, the leaves will be dark green with silver splotches on top and red underneath. Flowers are pink. Prone to powdery mildew.

#### Semperflorens

*B. schmidtiana* (Brazil) is a compact, small soft green hairy leaved species with pale-pink flowers. *B. subvillosa* (Brazil) also has small, green hairy leaves and pink flowers; it requires high light. *B. subvillosa* var. *leptotricha* (Paraguay) has small green hairy leaves and white flowers.

#### Rhizomatous

*B. cardiocarpa* (Central America) has medium green leaves, pink-tinted white flowers and grows erect. *B. carolineifolia* (Mexico) also grows erect, with large green compound leaves and pale-pink flowers with dark pink spots in spring.

*B. circumlobata* (China) is another erect-growing species with large green compound leaves; leaf undersides are red. Petioles are

red with white hairs, and winter flowers are pink.

*B. conchifolia* (Costa Rica) has small green leaves (as in miniature), a creeping growth pattern, and pink-tinted white flowers in winter. *B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* (Central America) has medium green leaves with a distinctive red spot where the leaf joins the stem (see article, May-June **Begonian**, p. 98).

*B. crispula* (Brazil) requires terrarium care; it has distinctive foliage with medium green leaves, puckered surface, creeping growth pattern, and yellow flowers. Seed sent in as *B. dayi* hort. is described as having medium thick, waxy-green leaves with black top veining, green petioles, and greenish-white flowers in late winter. This is probably *B. glandulosa* (please refer to article and photos pages 62-63, March-April 1990 **Begonian**); However, the top veining is black rather than the usual reddish brown or chocolate.

*B. diadema* (Borneo) has an erect rhizome, green leaves, and fragrant pink flowers in spring.

From Mexico and Central America come several varieties of *B. heracleifolia*: var. *longipila*; var. *nigricans*, with large parted leaves and pale pink flowers; var. *pyramadillo*, with large green velvety leaves with grey-green markings, maroon undersides with light green veins, and a small hairy collar surrounding its maroon petioles at the leaf

juncture to set off its medium-pink flowers; var. *sunderbruckii*, with large green parted leaves and pale pink flowers.

*B. hydrocotylifolia* (Mexico) has small green leaves, creeping growth pattern, and rose-pink flowers.

*B. manicata* var. *aureo-maculata* (Central America) has large green leaves variegated with yellow, and pink flowers. Also offered is a form of *B. manicata* known as 'Crispa', with a crested edge.

*B. nelumbifolia* (Mexico & Central America) has large green leaves with red veins (yes, this is another *nelumbifolia*, and please specify whether or not you want the red veined species). *B. quaternata* (Panama) has large green leaves and white flowers.

The begonia which has been known as *B. richii* hort. has been through several names. As *richii* it graced the cover of the July, 1969 **Begonian**; information inside indicated that it does not readily set seed by any pollen but its own. Later it was classified as *B. macdougalli*, which since has been corrected to *B. thiemei* (the name given at its first description). This begonia from Mexico has giant, compound green leaves and greenish white flowers.

*B. rotundifolia* (West Indies) has small roundish green leaves, a creeping growth pattern, and light pink flowers. *B. roxburghii* (India & Burma) is erect-growing with green leaves and fragrant white flowers. *B.*

*versicolor* (China) requires terrarium care; it has distinctive foliage, velvety surface, light-green leaves with deep red/brown veining, medium sized leaves and large pink flowers. *B. U033/leprosa* (China) has medium green broadly cordate leaves 3 x 3 1/2", satin finish, reddish color, crisp texture, and pink flowers.

#### Cane-like

*B. albo-picta* (Brazil) is a low-growing species with green leaves and greenish-white flowers. *B. albo-picta* var. *rosea* hort. is a green leaved cane with rose-pink flowers. *B. angularis* (Brazil) is tall growing with green leaves and white flowers.

*B. corallina* (Brazil) is tall growing with green leaves and spectacular coral flowers. *B. dichroa* (Brazil) is low-growing with fragrant orange flowers. *B. lubbersii* (Brazil) is low-growing with green leaves and fragrant white flowers.

*B. macduffieana* (Brazil) is an easy-grower with green leaves and red to red-orange flowers. *B. maculata* (Brazil) is a moderately tall species with dark green leaves spotted with silver spots and a red undersides, and soft pink flowers. *B. maculata* var. *wightii* is similar with white flowers. *B. U031* (Brazil) is tall with large spiral leaves, red undersides, and white flowers.

#### U #s and unknowns

*B. U067* (Nicaragua) has manicate leaves with rippled margins, finely edged in red, and large clusters of pink

flowers in early spring. *B. U074* (Philippines) requires terrarium care and is prone to powdery mildew; it is also a creeper, with small leaves that are variably spotted with silver depending on light level, and has a brownish surface as a frame for its tiny white flowers.

*B. U049* has been tentatively identified as *B. juliana*; the March-April 1986 has a color photo on the cover and an article on U049.

There is little data on *B. U060* beyond the fact that damping off is a problem with the seedlings. It is from Costa Rica and Peru.

*B. U245* has been identified as *B. maynensis* (**Begonian**, July-August 1990). It comes from Ecuador and Peru.

To close out the species offerings, we have mixed species and mixed tuberous species.

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In addition to the species selections, we also offer hybrids: mixed canes, semps & Frillies, rexes, shrubs, tuberhybrid, rhizomatous, and Mickey Meyer selections.



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*B. acutifolia*

*B. albo-picta*

*B. albo-picta* var. *rosea* hort.

*B. angularis*

*B. arborescens* var. *confertiflora*\*

*B. cardiocarpa*

*B. carolineifolia*

*B. circumlobata*\*

*B. conchifolia*

*B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimaculata*

*B. convolvulacea*

*B. corallina*

*B. crispula*

*B. diadema*

*B. dichotoma*

*B. dichroa*

*B. dietrichiana*

*B. dominicalis*

*B. fernando-costae*

*B. fischeri* var. *fischeri* (*setosa*)

*B. fischeri* var. *palustris*

*B. fuchsoides*

*B. glandulosa* (*dayi* hort) (identity in question)

*B. guaduensis*

*B. heracleifolia* var. *longipila*

*B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans*

*B. heracleifolia* var. *pyramadilio*

*B. heracleifolia* var. *sunderbruckii*

*B. humilis* var. *porterana*

*B. hydrocotylifolia*

*B. juliana*\*

*B. kisuluana*\*

*B. listada*

*B. loranthoides*

*B. lubbersii*

*B. lyallii* var. *lyallii*\*

*B. macduffieana*

*B. maculata*

*B. maculata* var. *wightii*

*B. malabarica*

*B. manicata* var. *aureo-maculata*

*B. manicata* 'Crispa'

*B. metallica*

*B. nelumbifolia* (red veined)\*

*B. olsoniae*

*B. paleata*

*B. parilis*

*B. quaternata*

*B. rotundifolia*

*B. roxburghii*

*B. sarcophylla* (*sartorii*)

*B. schmidtiana*

*B. subvillosa*

*B. subvillosa* var. *leptotricha*

*B. taiwaniana*

*B. taiwaniana* var. *albomaculata*

*B. thelmae*

*B. thiemei* (*richii* hort)

*B. tonduzii*

*B. ulmifolia*

*B. valida*

*B. versicolor*

B. U008

B. U029/'Mystique'

B. U031

B. U033/'leprosa'

B. U049/'juliana

B. U060

B. U062\*

B. U067

B. U074

B. U115

B. U245/'maynensis'

B. mixed species

B. mixed tuberous species

\*extremely limited supply

## Hybrid Seed

50c per packet

B. mixed canes

B. mixed semperflorens

B. mixed Frillies

B. mixed rexes

B. mixed rhizomatous

B. mixed shrubs

B. mixed tuberhybrid

B. mixed Mickey Meyer crosses



## AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

Happy Birthday to Monterey Bay Area Branch, 20 years old in March, and to Santa Barbara Branch, 51 years old in May!

Long Beach Parent Chapter's 59th birthday celebration was held in January with Rudy Ziesenhenne as speaker, Margaret Ziesenhenne as honored guest, and ABS president Jeannette Gilbertson cutting cake and installing officers. The photos of the party (below) were sent by Vivian Hill. Our Parent Chapter's birthday is also the birthday for all of ABS, and each year we're all invited to the party. They'll be planning something special for the 60th.



Esther and Hans Ewoldsen's home, Ewoldsen Knoll, has been the location for many Monterey Bay Area branch picnics. The Knoll and its natural beauties were featured in a television special on the Big Sur area, past and future. The Branch has a copy of the video.

San Francisco Branch newsletter editor Herbert Bloom promised that an upcoming program would be really "in": "interesting, intriguing, informative, intelligent..." Here's to all our programs measuring up to the "in" standard!

Conservation minded? A concern with conservation of water and recycling of resources appears in many of our newsletters. Programs on drip irrigation, mulching, and using "grey water" have been presented across the country, and several newsletter editors provided tips on recycling (some of which appear scattered around this issue).

The B-Line, newsletter of the Alfred D. Robinson Branch, recommended two recent publications. Sunset featured a 32 page section on saving water (month not given), and Organic Gardening (May/June issue) had a 10 page color section on the important beneficial insects and mites of North America. Editor Lois Donahue added, "I was crushed to learn how many I've stepped on over the years, thinking they were the villains."

Terry Hicks of Rubidoux Branch uses wasted heat and makes her stove work while she sleeps. Here's her simple method: she grows begonias from seed, placing them on the windowsill during the day. At night she just moves her seedlings to the stove top, where a bit of bottom heat from the pilot light keeps them warm all night. Now isn't that clever? A hot water heater would work, too.

Interesting methods of pest control pop up. Martha Curry, writing in the SWR Begonia Leaflet, recommends Toad Power: keep a toad or two in your greenhouse. She has several, all healthy - "so they must be eating something. I hope it's slugs!"

From the Rubidoux Gazette comes a no-cost way to eliminate slugs: save a pan of discarded egg shells, bake them in a slow oven until they become light brown and brittle. Let cool, and lightly crush with the back of a spoon or mallet, then sprinkle the eggshell pieces around the edges of your garden (or pots). The sharp edges of the shells cut the soft bodies of the slugs.

The same newsletter reported studies at Washington State University on transplanting: 90% of plants moved in the morning survive, compared to 60% of those moved in the evening. Why? Because plants are full of moisture in the morning; by evening their leaves have been losing moisture all day. When transplanting, remember to water the plants *and the soil they will be moved to* thoroughly.

Baking soda continues to be recommended as a mildew treatment. Unfortunately, no one seems to agree on the recipe! Newsletter recommendations have ranged from 1 teaspoon to two tablespoons per gallon of water - a big difference. Using too much can be tragic, as the following excerpt from the Members-at-Large newsletter, The Mallet, indicates:

"...I have to chuckle at the discomfiture of a fellow begonia grower (who shall remain nameless) who figured that if a little soda was good, more would be better...He found out the hard way that this ain't necessarily so...when he just pitched a handful of soda into his watering system and got a GH full of defoliated begonias. I don't think any permanent damage was done, but his collection is, as a result, less than lovely at the moment. Like a convention of Mexican hairless dogs. This is a cautionary tale, not a put-down of an old and valued friend. I've done a lot of dumb things in my time."

So that we all can avoid the greenhouse full of bald begonias, will someone out there look into the proper amount of baking soda to add to a gallon of water when treating begonias for mildew? Before winter gets here, please.

Knickerbocker Branch went all out at the New York Flower Show in March. Besides mounting an award-winning display, they had handouts, talked to passersby, sold a booklet on growing begonias. One handout had membership information, and a promise of a free begonia for every new member. The planning paid off; their April meeting was mobbed with visitors and new members, and members had to scramble to provide enough chairs for seating and enough cuttings for the hands-on program.

Editor Esther Nagelberg of the Palm Beaches Branch newsletter found the answers to some begonia questions in a New York newspaper, "Newsday". In the article "Beauty of Begonias" Margaret Roach interviewed Len Marino of the New York Botanical Garden:

**Q.** Why are the undersides of many begonias red-leaved although the upper surfaces are green?

**A.** The normal photosynthesis cells are clustered on the top surface while anthocyanin is the pigment stored underneath, causing the red color.

**Q.** Why are there so many hairs on the leaf surface of many rhizomatous begonias?

**A.** Hairy leaves help conserve moisture, deter insect pests, and shade the leaf by mediating the amount of light that hits it.

**Q.** What causes silver, metallic spots on so many begonia leaves?

**A.** The spots are caused by needle-shaped crystals that exist in the cells of the leaf.

There's always so much more to learn about begonias. From the second answer above, we can suspect that hairy leaved begonias will prove more heat tolerant. The third answer may suggest an avenue for discovering why the colors of rexes don't turn up in other types of begonias.



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## Help Available from ABS



**Begonias won't behave?** Horticultur  
Correspondent Mae Blanton (118 Wildoa  
Lake Dallas TX 75065) will answer que  
tions on growing begonias.

**Want to form an ABS Branch?** Dougl  
Hahn, 7736 Stonehill Dr., Cincinnati O  
45230 will send you a list of members  
your area, and help you get organized.

**Isolated from other begonia growers**  
Join the Members-at-Large Committe  
Send a stamped, self-addressed legal-siz  
envelope to Kit Mounger, Rt. 1, Box 31  
New Johnsonville TN 37134 for the MA  
newsletter.

**Want to make begonia friends all ov  
the world?** Join a Round Robin. Conta  
Pat Sage, 1635 Lanoitan Ave., Nation  
City CA 91950.

**Giving a program? Writing a paper**  
Research Librarian Lorra Almstedt may b  
able to locate the facts you need. He  
address is 1965 Celeste Lane, Fullertc  
CA 92633.

**Can't find books on begonias?** AB  
Bookstore has them!

**Need programs for your branch?** Slid  
Librarian Dan Haseltine, 6950 W. Nelsc  
St., Chicago IL 60634 can recommend  
program or two (small rental fee and pos  
age). Speakers Bureau Chair Muriel Per  
2843 N. "H" St., San Bernadino CA 9240  
can help you locate a speaker.

**Branch libraries** are entitled to a compl  
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Overprints of the **Begonian** to be give  
away at shows are available to branche  
for cost of postage. Contact Tamsi  
Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 7626;

## ABS Bookstore

\*\*\*New\*\*\* Index to the **Begonian**, 1941-1989

by Pat Williams, Australian Begonia Society \$7.50 (inc. postage)

An indexed guide to articles, including culture, anatomy, nomenclature, hybridizing, and a list of all the begonias mentioned, their photos, drawings, and feature articles. Quick and easy reference guide. Texas residents add 7 1/2% sales tax.

### 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:

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

#### **BEGONIA CUTTINGS AND PLANTS.**

Send \$1 for expanded 1991 list. Kay's Greenhouses, 207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221.

#### **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. Foreign orders \$5 additional for shipping via Surface Mail.

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

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**VIDEO:** "GROWING BEGONIAS - THE EASY WAY". Veteran Begonia grower shows how in this 30 minute VHS video. \$13.95 plus \$2 S&H to Garvid Productions, P.O. Box 66038, Portland, OR 97266.

**WANTED** plants or cuttings: any *Lepisto* rex; 'Rosalie Wahl'; 'Jeanne Fleetham'; 'Denton L. Cole'; *cathayana*; *xanthina*. Gloria Quinn, 234 Tallant Dr., Houston TX 77076-3626; (713) 692-3424.

**ROTARIANS** - For information on the new International Fellowship of Gardening, write to: **RIFG**, PO Box 704, Glenview IL 60025.

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 17, 1991

The Board of Directors Meeting was held on March 17, 1991, at the Arboretum, California Polytechnic, Fullerton, California. There were 15 members present.

President Jeannette Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

Aims and Purposes were read by Eleanor Calkins.

Eleanor Calkins reported that as of February 28, 1991, balances were \$5,819.93 in checking accounts and \$41,223.84 in savings for a total of \$47,043.77.

Minutes were read and accepted with one correction: "Arlene Ingles asked Jeannette Gilbertson to give the report."

### Committee Reports

Back Issues - Houston Knight will take the back issues to Sacramento on March 18. Prices for individual copies were set at \$2 plus \$1 postage; postage for 6 issues will be \$5.

Bookstore - balance Dec. 18, 1990 \$291.82; sales, \$180.68; expenses, \$407.29 (includes reproduction costs for Buxton Checklist, \$274.22); balance Feb. 28, \$65.21.

Branch Relations - a new branch is forming in the Portland, OR area.

South Bay Branch was asked to insert a provision in their Constitution requiring all members to be members of ABS.

Business Manager John Ingles resigned.

Conservation - Scott Hoover is asking for someone to be a fundraiser for his next trip to Indonesia. Dr. Traci McLellan reports her Africa trip was a success.

Judging - since the 1990 convention there are 13 new judges, 1 judge advanced to Junior and 1 to Senior. Judging schools have been held at Buxton and Potomac Branches. There will be judging schools at the Southwest Region Get-Together and at the National Convention. Mailing & copying costs are about \$100.

Special Projects - Margaret Lee and Thelma

O'Reilly recommended changes in the Guidelines for National Conventions and Annual Shows; all were accepted.

Public Relations - 8 new members joined through ads in horticultural magazines.

Long Range Planning - Mary Bucholtz and Patrick Vaca are new members of the committee.

Membership - As of Feb. 28, 1991: 83 Life Members, 135 Institutions, 1,421 dues paying members.

Effective immediately, postage for 1st class delivery of the **Begonian** in the US, Canada, & Mexico will be raised from \$5 to \$6, and foreign surface costs from \$19 to \$25. This is an increase in postage, not dues; third class and foreign air deliveries are not changed.

Nominations - officers proposed:

President, Jeannette Gilbertson\*, Vista CA  
1st Vice-president, Carol Notaras, San Francisco, CA, and Gene Salisbury, Tonkawa, OK.

2nd Vice-president, Millie Thompson\*, Southampton, NY

3rd Vice-president, Mary Bucholtz, Jacksonville, FL, and Russ Richardson, Chambliss, GA  
Treasurer, Eleanor Calkins\*, Escondido, CA  
Secretary, Ingeborg Foo\*, Vista, CA  
(\*incumbent)

The slate was accepted as presented.

### Branch Reports

Buxton Branch participated in the New England Flower Show; exhibits designed by Frank Green won awards and gold medals.

San Miguel is studying the "U" numbers and Rudy Ziesenhenné's Begonia Notes.

Whittier participated in the February Home & Garden Show. Orange County, South Bay, and Palomar will be holding shows.

The next Board meeting will be held on Saturday, June 22, 1991, at the home of Rudy Ziesenhenné in Santa Barbara.

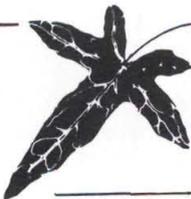
Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingeborg Foo,

Secretary

Note: Minutes are condensed because of space limitations; any member may order a copy of the complete Minutes from the Secretary.



## 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.

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## ELECTED OFFICERS

President . . . . . Jeannette Gilbertson  
410 JoAnn Circle, Vista, CA 92084

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

First Vice-President . . . . . Tracy McLellan  
575 Pintura Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Second Vice-President . . . . . John Howell  
129 Trillium, San Antonio, TX 78213

Third Vice-President . . . . . Millie Thompson  
P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968

Secretary . . . . . Ingeborg Foo  
1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083

Treasurer . . . . . Eleanor Calkins  
910 Fern St., Escondido, CA 92027

## APPOINTED CHAIRMEN & DIRECTORS

Awards Committee . . . . . Rudolf Ziesenhenne  
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

Begonian, Back Issues . . . . . Betty Tillotson  
3912 Wildrose Way, Sacramento, CA 95826

Book Store . . . . . Anita Ruthenberg  
1016 W. Arlington Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76110

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

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

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund . . . . . Diana Gould  
(see Seed Fund listing for address)

## Conservation Committee

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

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

Conservation Advisor . . . . . Melba Schultz  
603 Chauncey, San Antonio, TX 78216

Convention Chairman . . . . . Barbara Nunes  
6025 Greeley Blvd., Springfield, VA 22152

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

Horticultural Correspondent . . . . . Mae Blanton  
118 Wildoak, Lake Dallas, TX 75065

Judging . . . . . Maxine Zinman  
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Long-Range Planning . . . . . Kay Tucker  
207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221

Members At Large . . . . . Kit Mounger  
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Research Librarian . . . . . Lorra Almstedt  
1965 Celeste, Fullerton, CA 92633

Round Robin . . . . . Pat Sage  
1635 Lanoitan Ave., National City, CA 92050

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

Slide Librarian/Co-Chairman . . . . . Daniel Haseltine  
6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago, IL 60634

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Speakers Bureau . . . . . Muriel Perz  
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