

100X

July/August, 1992

The BEGONIAN



The BEGONIAN

ISSN 0096-8684

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.

The Begonian is published bimonthly by the American Begonia Society, Inc. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the society, its officers or the editor. Contents, except where labeled otherwise, may be reprinted without limitation, provided credit is given to "*The Begonian*, magazine of the American Begonia Society."

Membership (subscription) \$15 annually, \$21 first class mail, also Mexico and Canada. \$25 foreign surface mail except Mexico and Canada, \$35 overseas air mail. Added member, same household, \$2. Consult membership secretary for sustaining benefactor, life membership dues. U.S. currency only. Back issues (current volume) \$2.50.

American Begonia Society—P.O. Box 231129, Encinitas, CA 92023-1129

Membership—Subscription, dues, circulation inquiries, and address changes: John Ingles, Jr., 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617; (707) 764-5407.

COVER PHOTOS

Front - B. 'Lois Burks', a "Captivating Cane" photographed by Don Miller.

Back - Kit Jeans Mounger photographed her creative use of a small space for outdoor propagating of begonias: zip-locks on a shingle wall.

IN THIS ISSUE

Convention 1992: Seminars 124

Correction 145

Articles

Begonias in the Serra do Mar 125

Begonias: for the Birds! 127

Meeting Plant Friends in Mexico 129

Another Tale of B. 'Glennis Crouch' 131

Birth of the Begoniac 132

Looking for Begonias, Finding Begoniacs 133

Spring in Guadalajara 135

Eureka! 136

Begonias Astronomical 139

Who, Me? 143

Safe & Sane Pest Management 147

Regular Features

In Memory 134

Show News 141

In the News 143

Coming Events 144

Bulletin Board: ABS News 145

Awards

Elections

Directory Update

Conservation News 146

Seed Fund Notes 148

Seed Fund Listing 151

Round Robin Notes 152

Around ABS 154

ABS Minutes 157



"Captivating Cane"
B. angularis
Brazil, 1820
drawing by
Mary Weinberg

Quick!
Check your
mailing label - if
it says
7/92 or 8/92,
your member-
ship is about to
expire. Please
renew! We
don't want to
lose you!

"Captivating Canes"

ABS Convention August 19-23, 1992

Anaheim, California

Orange County Branch, Hosts

1992 National Convention Seminars

by Thelma O'Reilly,
Seminars Chair

"Captivating Canes", theme of the American Begonia Society's Annual Convention and Show, play an important role in the seminar presentation by five of our most knowledgeable begonia hybridizers, growers, and award winners. The sixth seminar presentation is a spell-binding tour of one of the world's most intriguing continents.

Friday, Aug. 21

2 p.m.

Bruce Boardman

"A Captivating Continent - Australia"

ABS' most talented tour guide shares highlights of Australia and its ABS members and their begonias.

3 p.m.

Irene Nuss

"Creating Captivating Canes"

California's "Cane Queen", whose dedicated hybridizing skills have created many of the handsome cane-like cultivars grown world-wide, shares secrets with attendees.

4.p.m.

Mabel Corwin

"Cultivating Cane Begonias"

A talented grower, hybridizer, and award winner whose success in each endeavor draws visitors from near and far to her beautiful begonia garden.

Saturday, Aug. 22

9 a.m.

Don Miller

"Newcomers from the Southwest"

Don is a skillful grower whose expertise is sought to evaluate new hybrids and whose efforts prove the adage that "Everything is bigger and better in Texas."

10 a.m.

Joan Coulat

"Growing for Showing"

A superb begonia grower reveals the techniques that result in her prize-winning reputation.

11 a.m.

Michael Kartuz

"Legacy of Cane Treasures"

Respected long-time professional begonia grower, hybridizer, and ABS supporter shares the family background of begonias that have stood the test of time.

FREE DRAWING!

An added attraction for seminar attendees is the opportunity to be a winner at the end of each seminar!

Notice:

Plants entered in the Show at the National Convention under Division O, Travelling Begonias, may be entered in pots up to 5". Terrariums are also permitted. Plants must have travelled at least 400 miles.

BEGONIAS IN THE SERRA DO MAR

SÃO PAULO STATE, BRAZIL

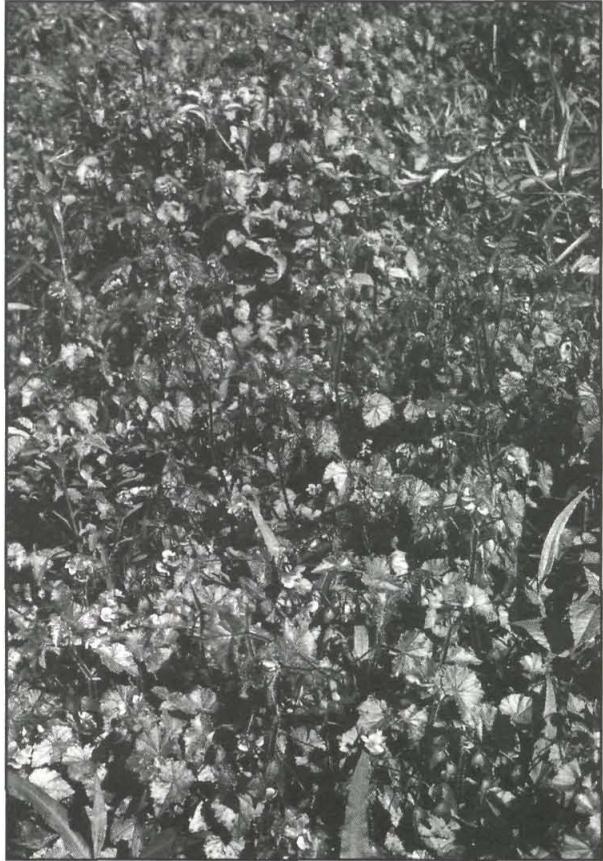
Photographs & Text by Jacques Jangoux

Part 1

Good surprises don't happen often, especially with respect to the environment. However a happy surprise awaited me in November, 1991, in the State of São Paulo. I was there to photograph the Atlantic Forest in the Serra do Mar, the mountain range that runs parallel to the coast in southeastern Brazil. It is one of the world's richest begonia regions.¹

There I found that the State of São Paulo is REALLY doing something toward the conservation of this magnificent ecosystem! It has set up several extensive reserves: some are restricted to research, while others are open to ecotourism, with trails, lodges, and camping areas. The local population is actively employed in various tasks, from administrative activities to lodge operation to guides and park rangers. GIVING JOBS IN CONSERVATION-RELATED ACTIVITIES is the key, I believe, to successful conservation.

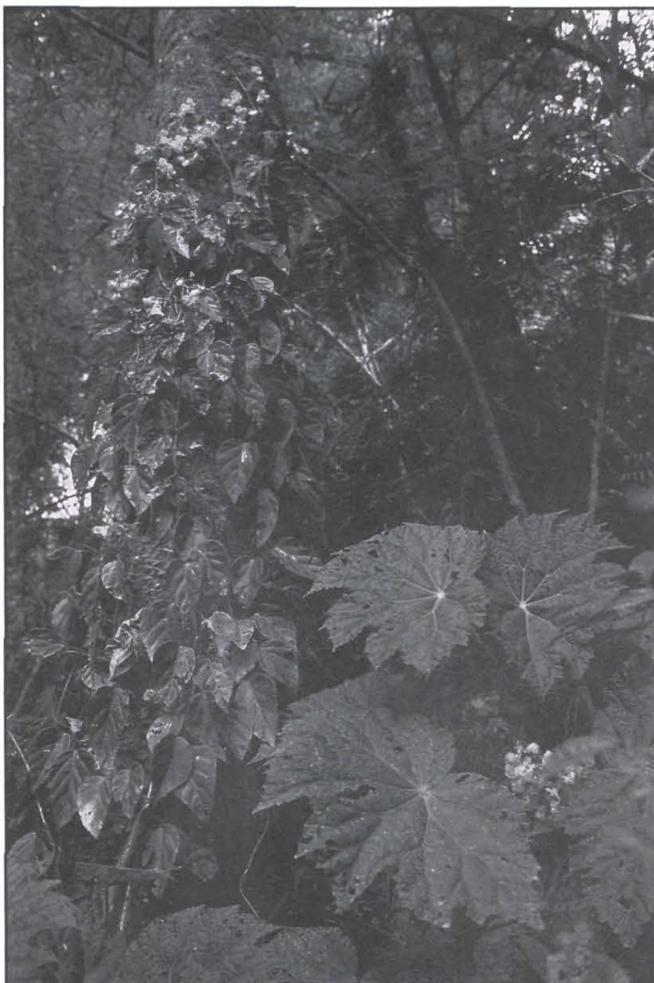
I visited two of these parks open to tourism, PETAR (Parque Estadual Turístico do Alto Ribeira) and Fazenda Intervales ("Between the Valleys" Farm). In them I found several begonias, pictured in this and



B. fischeri: A hairy variety of this highly variable species. Stems are reddish; flowers pink. This dense stand was found at a wet location next to a vegetable garden at Intervales.

subsequent issues. I was able to identify *B. convolvulacea*, *B. fischeri* and *B. cucullata* in the field.

Back in the city of São Paulo I went to the Botanical Institute at the Botanical Garden, where I examined the dried specimens in the Herbarium. There, with the assistance of Sandra Jules Gomes da Silva, a graduate student in botany at the University of São Paulo who specializes in *Begoniaceae*, I was able to recognize *B. capanemae* and *B. radicans*.²



At Intervalles: on the left, *B. radicans*, climber of trees, with abundant coral flowers. To the right is *B. capanemae*, a sturdy plant with scaly stems and petioles.

NOTES:

1. For more on Serra do Mar begonias, see **BEGONIA SAFARI IN BRAZIL, Begonian**, Jan-Feb 1989 issue.
2. Another graduate student, Eliane de Lima Jacques, studies the *Begoniaceae* of the State of Rio de Janeiro at the Rio de Janeiro Federal University.

Four of the species photographed remain unidentified. I later sent photographs to Dr. Dieter Wasshausen at the Smithsonian Institution. We await identification.

Jacques Jangoux is a Belgian botanist and free-lance photographer who specializes in the rainforests. His address is Rua dos Timbiras 1375 Apto 1001, Batista Campos, 66.000 Belém, Pará, Brazil.

Begonias: for the Birds!

by Howard & Effie Clemens

Have you noticed that birds are attracted to begonias? Some for feeding, some for roosting, some for nesting, and some for nesting and roosting. Chickadees and hummingbirds have at times searched for food among our hanging baskets of semps on the back patio, and wrens have roosted among our baskets of semps on the front porch; both wrens and cardinals have nested in baskets in the greenhouse and on the patio.

One night early last March, when we were rescuing our hanging baskets from an impending cold front by bringing them inside, a wren zoomed by our ears and landed on a clock. We were as startled as she, and we were relieved when we lured her outside by turning off the houselights and turning on the porch light. She flew towards the light, and out she went.

Even more interesting to us have been the nesting adventures of wrens and cardinals. We have had three cardinals and two wrens build nests in our hanging begonias.

Toward the end of April, 1991, along came Jenny Wren into the greenhouse. She took up housekeeping in a prominent hanging basket in the middle of the aisle, about four feet above the floor. B. 'Lady Frances', a double pink semp, was already in full bloom and groomed for the Southwest Region Show, and seemed to accommodate Jenny in every way.

But while this combination of a wren and a semp in our greenhouse was indeed flattering, it was not convenient. If we thoughtlessly burst into the greenhouse Jenny would flutter downward as if wounded, and become lost among the potted begonias on the bench. It quickly

became evident that we should only enter the greenhouse shortly after sunrise, when Jenny had left for her morning outing. Once, we dared to peek into the nest with its long curved tunnel and with the help of a flashlight we saw five eggs. It was just a couple of days before the begonia show.

What to do now? Lady Frances must stay home with Jenny. Alas! There went our best chance for a blue ribbon. Something always happens to your best begonias.

But that was not all. Two nights before the show, we discovered a few long strands of dead plant material in the hanging basket next to Lady Frances. It was a white-flowering cane. By noon the next day a pair of cardinals had a nest almost built.

Another show begonia for the birds! This was certainly too much! Reason must prevail! If the cardinals could build a nest in less than a day then they could build one in a different site just as fast. They could build it even faster if we provided the nesting material. So we removed the original nest, and laid it on the lawn nearby. And the cardinals built their second nest the following day, using the same materials. Our cane made it to the show.

In early July we were sitting on our patio one evening and about three arm-spans away we saw a lady cardinal fly into a hanging basket of B. 'Medora', stay a minute or two, create a little commotion as she shaped her nesting material with her body, and fly away. Then Mr. Redbird took his turn, and there was no mistake: a second cardinal nest was on its way. The nest was built, four eggs were hatched, and four young were fledged.

We were there one evening for the lift-off of the number four baby. The ugly little fellow climbed up on the top branch of the 'Medora' and stayed there for an eternity. It was his first view of the outside world and he seemed uncertain about the next move. Mother and father took turns flying to the youngster and chirping as only anxious parents can chirp, then flew a short distance away in the direction they wanted the nestling to go. Daring drama all the way! Was the little guy going to give it a try, or was he going to be pushed out of the nest?

He wasn't pushed out of the nest, but he was coaxed away from his begonia home. He took off flapping his wings, and made it all of four feet past a hanging basket of semps, changed his mind, turned around, and landed in the semps, disappearing into the foliage. Mother was on the edge of the basket before you could blink an eye, and told the baby over and over again a message which we assumed was full of praise and assurance. Then she fed it, darkness fell, and all was quiet. The little guy, I'm sure, caught the first flight out the next morning.

One week later, at the other end of the patio, in a hanging basket of 'Pinafore' sport, a pair of cardinals repeated the performance. We watched it all. This time the last little guy did not make the flight to

the althea bush which his parents were trying to set up. His downward flight landed him on the lawn. Mother and father immediately came to the rescue, and herded him into a nearby flower bed, where he spent the night.

It appeared to us that one pair of cardinals fledged one brood and four or five weeks later fledged another in a similar basket at the other end of our patio. Cardinals are known to have serial broods.

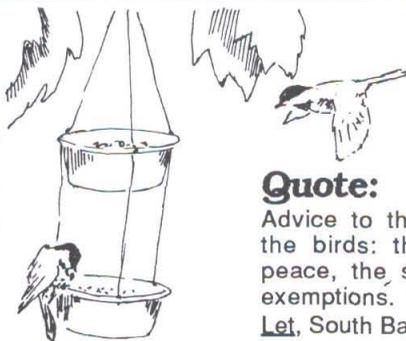
It is now August and Mr. Carolina Wren is piercing the airways with his calling from the top of his favorite perch. He has something to crow about. He is out-crowing Mr. Cardinal these days. When I saw the wren with food in its mouth, perched on top of the garage gable, I suspected a nest in one of the eighteen hanging baskets of semps below. A peek at the basket in the corner gave me my answer, and I quickly retreated. I think everything went well the next few days, because Mr. Wren kept up his crowing. In fact, once he answered my call some twenty times before I declared him champion.

Of all the begonias that were judged by the birds, only two were ribbon winners at the Southwest Region Show. Obviously, the birds and the judges have a different point scale. Is there anyone...for the birds?

Howard & Effie Clemens live at 1621 Cruce St., Norman, Oklahoma 73069. Even with Lady Frances left at home with the birds, they won Sweepstakes at the 1991 Southwest Region Get-Together.

Recycle!

Make a bird feeder from used margarine tubs. Put a few small drainage holes in the bottom (a heated ice pick works well). Then put three holes in the top edge, and tie three strings (about 1 ft. long) to the top holes. Fill the tubs with sunflower seeds, peanuts, nut pieces, or small bits of fruit.



Quote:

Advice to the wise: protect the birds: the dove brings peace, the stork brings tax exemptions. - Begonia Leaf-Let, South Bay Branch



Meeting Plant Friends in Mexico

by Thelma McRae

When I was a junior in high school I read a book about the famed archeologist Edward Herbert Thompson and the "City of the Sacred Well", Chichén Itzá on the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico. The book told about the ceremonial center at the *cenote* (well) and Mr. Thompson's efforts to discover the secrets hidden under the murky waters. It sparked my imagination, and my determination to read further and perhaps someday visit this now famed archeological site.

In March of this year, forty-some years later, I finally made it. I participated in a two-week archeological tour of the Mexican states of Yucatán and Chiapas.

A bonus to this trip was the abundant flora of the area. Now I know why Mexicans use such vibrant colors: color is all around them!

At the caves of Balancanche, surrounded on the surface by an arboretum containing native trees and plants of the Yucatán, a rock wall had been installed on the surface above the shallow first part of the cave, and the wall was absolutely crawling with night-blooming cereus. There were a number of orchids in the trees, and I was told that one, a lovely large white with a yellow throat and extremely frilly edges, is endangered because the plants are smuggled to the United States and crossed with that large lavender-purple orchid that I wore to my senior prom. Kudos to the Yucatecans in their efforts to preserve the flora of their state.

The dessert to this sumptuous two-week feast for the eyes was finding rhizomatous begonias growing in the wild - masses on hillsides, out of temple walls, just wherever they felt like it. When I think

of the care I give to my favorite B. 'Madame Queen', and I almost stepped on a begonia, perhaps a distant cousin of hers, at the site of Kohunlich, growing right in the pathway. This was a rhizomatous begonia with shiny, round, 2 to 3 inch leaves, in full bloom, and I found several of these same begonias around the site, our first stop at the beginnings of the rain forest.

As we began entering the rainforest area I saw with my own eyes evidence of what we've all been hearing about - the clearing of the forest in order (in this case) to raise beef cattle. We're not talking about poor Indians burning and clearing, but a lucrative business - as evidenced by the lovely haciendas on the cattle ranches, on thousands of acres of cleared rainforest. However, I find it hard to condemn the people of another country when we've done the same thing here.

Further on at the site of Palenque, early in the morning with the eerie sounds of howler monkeys setting the scene, we climbed the Temple of the Sun and wandered the extensive site and found *B. heracleifolia* in bloom everywhere.

Another plus to this trip was introducing the other fourteen members of the tour to the plant I love so much. It wasn't long before I'd hear even those who couldn't grow a hangnail shouting, "Thelma, is this a begonia?" or "Here's one!" I fear our archeologist didn't quite appreciate the distraction of some of us looking down when we should have been looking up!

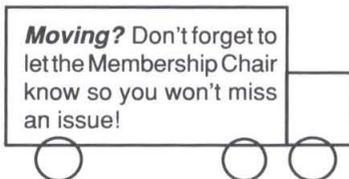
Intellectually, all of us begonia folks are aware where our begonias originated (at least the general climate and topography), but I can't express the feeling of finding them scattered here and there, kind of like poppies in California. I've known and loved these many-faceted plants for over 20 years, and kind of by-guessed and by-goshed my way along, but now, after feeling like Stanley and Livingston in the rain forest, I have to know more!

I resisted the temptation to smuggle back little pieces of rhizome in my bra for two reasons: 1) California has enough problems with white fly, apple maggots, killer bees, Jerry Brown, and bad juries, so it doesn't need me to bring in another nasty disease or pest; and 2) who knows, the X-ray machines in the airports could have picked me up as a likely candidate for a mammogram and I might have ended up in jail.

Incidentally, in various private gardens all along the way, I saw many potted canes, lots of the good ole "angel wing" everyone's Grandma used to grow; maybe a 'Hannah Serr'; and I recognized several *B. luxurians*. (Mentioning *luxurians* brings to mind the time, about fifteen years ago, a deputy sheriff knocked at my door and told me he'd received a report that I was growing marijuana in my back yard. We had this ditsy neighbor...I thought it was hilarious; the deputy was not amused at having his time wasted.)

The American Museum of Natural History sponsored the trip I took. They offer many similar ones. I recommend them to anyone, especially if you don't mind sweating buckets: the humidity is out of sight! However, a lovely couple from Hayes, Kansas, a neat lady from San Francisco, and I discovered a great replacement for the salt lost - a margarita in a salt-rimmed glass in the evening.

Thelma McRae lives at 5471 South Libby Road #15, Paradise, CA 95969 with begonias, cats, and an occasional raccoon (see p. 143).





Another Tale of B. 'Glennis Crouch'

by Dorothy Mann

Reference: **Begonian**, March-April 1987
Begonian, September-October 1987

I have for many years had B. 'Essie Hunt' (*B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* x *B. manicata* var. *aureo-maculata* 'Crispa') and had on occasions read the articles regarding this plant throwing back to a variegated form and this variegated form being registered as B. 'Glennis Crouch'.

After many years of producing new plants from leaf cuttings of my parent B. 'Essie Hunt', I was thrilled recently to find one new plant putting up a variegated leaf (in utter excitement I snapped it off. However, the rhizome survived, and continues to produce only variegated leaves) whilst continuing to maintain the same shape and growth habit as B. 'Essie Hunt'.

Could it be that I have added a B. 'Glennis Crouch' to my collection???

Dorothy Mann and her husband/fellow begonia nut Barry live at 49-51 Goddards Road, Yamanto, Queensland, Australia. For an idea of their growing abilities, see "Show News."

Note: Mae Blanton's variegated B. 'Glennis Crouch' won the Alfred D. Robinson Medal in 1990. It is a slow grower, but grows well and reproduces easily in its native Texas. Growers in southern California report it is next to impossible to grow there. It will be interesting to see how it fares in Queensland.



Birth of the Begoniac

by Barry Mann

I remember well
how it all began
a Sunday drive
we had no plan
We stopped for lunch
along the way
Then into a nursery
we did stray
I told the assistant
we've just come to look
but a box of begonias
home we took

O'er the next few weeks
we watched them fade
and wondered about
the mistakes we'd made
with most now dead
and the others dreary
dying of kindness
seemed a popular theory
was it too much water
or too much sun
or perhaps the fertilizer overdone.

We thought before
we would buy some more
a trip to the library
should be in store
through all the shelves
we searched around
but never a book on Begonia was found
there were books on Roses, Ferns, Orchids
and such
but a book on Begonia
now that's asking too much

Then one day
we chanced to find
an advertisement
of the classified kind
a Begoniac
with plants for sale
come in and buy
or sent by mail
at Mulgowie Street
now that's not far
quick lock the house
hop in the car

We met this man
Bernard Yorke his name
there's many a hybrid
has brought him fame
and as we drove home
at that day's end
with boxes of plants
and books he'd lend
I wondered what fate
might hold in store
one thing I knew
we'd be back for more

Now we read those books
both night and morn
until as Begoniacs
we were born
born to a group
with one common goal
the love of begonias
that's etched in their soul
for once you are hooked
on this wonderful plant
then you're hooked for life
of this I can grant

Well the years have passed
and our interest grown
as has the list
of the friends we have known
those we have met
with their smiling faces
and others we write to
in far away places
and as I look around
for someone to thank
I think of that man
from Sunnybank.

The last line refers to Bernard Yorke, who lives at 24 Mulgowie St., Sunnybank, Queensland, Australia. Barry & Dorothy Mann live at 49-51 Goddards Road, Yamanto, Queensland, Australia. Their begonias no longer die; their B. 'Flamingo Queen' recently won Champion Begonia (equivalent to our Best of Show) at the Association of Australian Begonia Societies convention, and their begonia garden was featured on Australian television.

Looking for Begonias, and Finding Begoniacs

by Richard King

"One bunch of Begoniacs is just like the next bunch of Begoniacs," Maurice Amey said.

"Begoniacs are the same the world over," he added.

I had never attended an ABS show before, and this was his way of encouraging me to go to the Southwest Region Get-Together in Houston.

"They're just like the people here in the Dallas Area Branch - some of the nicest people and just about as crazy, too."

I heard what he said, and yet I didn't know what he meant until a couple of days later when I made a business trip to Huntsville, Alabama.

On my way to Huntsville, I had some free time after work. Even though it was mid-January I thought I would go to a local nursery to see what Begonias they were growing. I had grown accustomed to Begonias being available year-round in some of the better nurseries in the Dallas area.

Even before I got something to eat, my first stop was at the largest nursery in town. Surely they had some Begonias. When I asked, though, I got a funny look from the lady working there and was informed, "Begonias are annuals; we won't have any for several more months." I quickly realized she was not a Begoniac.

When I got back to the hotel, I called the Huntsville Botanic Garden to find out if they had any Begonias, or knew of a nursery with any. The lady there was not a Begoniac either. She had the same answer as the one at the nursery.

I was beginning to get discouraged when I thought to look in the Yellow Pages under Greenhouses. I found the largest ad and gave the company a call. To my delight the man who answered said, "Yes, I have six or seven large plants. I am saving them to make cuttings." I got directions on how to get to his place the next day. He might be a Begoniac.

The next day during a long break between business meetings I headed out. The greenhouse was located just outside of town, and it was a great day for a drive in the country. As I parked in front of his office, my first impression was disappointing. It had been a nice drive, though, and I got out to look around. I went into the office, and then on out through the back door. No one seemed to be around. I made my way between the junked cars and piles of broken pots toward the closest greenhouse. As I went through the door, I was greeted with a broad smile and warm "Howdy."

When I asked about Begonias, he said, "Let me show you, they are kind of scattered around amongst the greenhouses." First he showed me a large pot of B. 'Medora'; then a huge B. 'Erythrophylla' in full bloom, growing in the ground under a bench; and next a hanging basket full of the tall Begonia known as *coccinea* hort. In the next two greenhouses he showed me several others, unlabeled, that we couldn't possibly identify. I thanked him for letting me look around, and he thanked me for stopping by; then he hurriedly excused himself.

In just a moment he was back, with cuttings from every Begonia he had. He was a Begoniac! I thanked him again, and went happily on my way back to the business meetings.

After my last meeting I was on the way out and ready to head back to Dallas when I spotted a Begonia in a lady's office. I couldn't help myself. I went to the door, knocked, and introduced myself as a visitor from Dallas interested in Begonias. She smiled proudly as I complimented her on the lovely Begonia. She told me how a friend had given it to her when it was quite small, and how "ugly" she thought it was. She had even put it out on the back porch "hoping it would just die." Instead it thrived, and with a little care transformed itself into a large beautiful basket. Before I left, she handed me her scissors and said, "Help yourself." Another Begoniac!

It was then I understood and believed what Maurice had been telling me. Begoniacs are all very much alike - some of the nicest people in the world. I was ready to go to Houston for **Begonias Astro-nomical!**

Richard King lives at 1809 Greenway Dr., Plano, TX 75075. He did go to Houston, taking with him one seedling to enter in the show. His 10-month-old B. dregei, grown from seed collected by Dr. Tracy McLellan in Africa, won a blue ribbon.

LAURAY of SALISBURY

Begonias, Gesneriads, Orchids
Cacti & Succulents
432 Undermountain Road, Rt. 41
Salisbury, CT 06068 203-435-2263
Usually open daily, 10 am - 5 pm
1992 Catalog \$2.00

IN MEMORY

Frances Fix died April 1 after a long illness. With her husband George, she was a founding member of Southwest Region and Dallas Area Branch. Their home, garden, and greenhouses were on tour during the 1984 ABS Convention. Frances is remembered by family and friends as a friendly, spunky lady with a wide smile. She was an avid golfer, loved travel, and was active in charitable enterprises. Our deepest sympathy to George.

It is with sadness that we learned that long-time member **Norman Tillotson** passed away in April. Our hearts go out to Betty Tillotson on her loss. - Sacramento Branch Begonia Leaf

May McKnight, long-time member of Southwest Region and the Mae Blanton Branch, died May 7. She was a National Garden Clubs Master Judge as well as an ABS judge, and her garden and her begonias were legendary. We miss her beautiful smile, her infectious laughter, her sense of humor, her talents with begonias and with a needle, her warmth and love, and know she is gracing a better, happier place.

"Schultz-Instant"

The Natural Way to Bug-free Plants!

the NATURAL PYRETHRINS Insecticide

Available at leading Garden Centers and Plant Departments
Garden Clubs: SEND FOR OUR FUND RAISING OFFER
Schultz Co. 14090 Riverport Drive, Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Spring

in

Guadalajara

by Lee Van Epps

There are many statistics I could quote about Guadalajara. The city just celebrated its 450th birthday, as it was founded by the Spanish in 1542, just 50 years after Columbus. There are now almost five million inhabitants here, with the numerous municipal problems that always seem to occur...but enough of that, today it is spring! It is mid-March.

The mornings are crisp, the days warm, and the thousands of Jacaranda trees are covering the city with a blue glow. At this 5,300 ft. elevation in central Mexico, the air is cool and dry. A challenge for begonias!

Of the twenty-four begonias that I purchased in 1990 at the ABS Convention in San Antonio, Begonias Olé!, twelve have survived. The tender ones I probably should not have brought, but how could I resist trying them?

The sturdy survivors are: Begonias 'Flamboyant' (the rhizomatous one), 'Boomer', *maculata*, *albo-picta*, 'Looking Glass' (barely hanging on), 'Di-Anna' and *valida*.

The thriving begonias are a surprising variety of types: like B. 'Panasoffkee' (or is it U009?) Anyway, my 'Panasoffkee' is in my atrium with lots of light and humidity, and growing in a wall pocket like a weed! My small start of B. 'Erythrophylla' is now huge; it must be three feet across, and is in full bloom. I have it outside, under a canopy, so it gets lots of light and some morning sun. Love it!

Another happy plant is B. 'Madame Butterfly', a beauty now in bloom. I'm trying to use M. Butterfly in some pollinating projects that are ongoing.

However, the stars in my garden are two rhizomatous begonias, B. 'Ebony' (Don Asmussen's masterpiece), which I now have flourishing all over the place, and the five-star rated *B. thiemei*. Someone at the Convention told me it gets very large, and mine has exceeded all expectations regarding size. Large? It is more like immense. The largest compound leaf is over 24" across, the whole plant is more than 3 feet tall and sprawls all over, and the flower peduncle rises over 5 feet high with a second peduncle on the way. The flowers should open in a few days. During a storm last summer the whole plant was blown over and broken in two. The larger half is the one blooming now, but the other is also on the way to becoming gigantic. Love it, too! Maybe the reason *B. thiemei* is doing so well here is because the species is from Mexico.

The rhizomatous begonias seem to do the best for me here. I'll keep trying with others, too. Maybe I'll run across the perfect begonia at the plant sale at the Anaheim Convention in August. I hope so. See you there!

Lee Van Epps lives at Calle Dos 54, Colonia Seattle, 45150 Zapopán, Jalisco, Mexico. Watch for him in August!



Eureka!

Text and photos by Mary Bucholtz



B. 'Phil Ormes'

On a recent visit to Palm Beach, Florida, I had the pleasure of having the first personal tour of a collection of new cultivars developed by grower and hybridizer Paul P. Lowe.

Well, Paul has done it again! Using *B. aconitifolia* as the seed parent and *Symbegonia sanguinea* as the pollen parent, an interesting cross, he has given us nine new cultivars.

Eight of these cultivars show the undulating, Superba-type leaves, complete with silver markings, we love in the *aconitifolia* hybrids. They also have in common an ovate or ovate-oblique leaf blade with acute apices and cordate base. Heights range from eighteen to twenty-four inches at maturity as the plants approach their first blooming season. All have pink flowers so far.

Here's a rundown on these latest Superba-type beauties:

B. 'Teal Wing' is named for the green-winged teal duck. It is easy to understand why. The color of the leaves is a rich, subdued green - teal blue. Leaf blades are lobed with undulating, slightly dentate margins.

B. 'Phil Ormes' (photo above) has a cleft leaf blade with a slightly undulating margin. Color is bright bronze, showing a fine-edged burgundy margin; the back sides of the leaves are the same burgundy. A prominent red dot appears at the leaf base.



B. 'Peter Riccobono' (above) has a lobed leaf blade with a very slightly undulating margin. Venation is prominent. The leaves are satin green with a hint of bronze, covered with a scattering of medium-sized silver-white spots. The leaf margin and undersides are a deep blood burgundy. There is a faint red dot at the leaf base.



B. 'Debbie Kennaway' (above) has lobed leaves with undulating margins that are a soft green with small, light silver spots.

B. 'Greg Ostaffe' (below) has a cleft leaf blade with undulating margin. Color is a dark waxy green, deepest at venation and fading to a bronze-chartreuse. This cultivar has a prominent red dot at the leaf base.



B. 'Ralph Nelson' (above) has a lobed leaf blade with undulating margin. Leaf color is a soft emerald green, heavily streaked and spotted with silver. The red dot at the leaf base is almost lost among the prominent silver markings.



B. 'Norm Kennaway' (above) has bright green lobed leaves with soft splashes of silver.



B. 'Adam Kennaway' (below) has lobed leaves with soft undulating margins in a medium-bronze color with silver speckles. There is a faint red dot at the leaf base.



The ninth cultivar, B. 'Naomi Lynch' (above), would be classified as cane-like, intermediate. It shares the ovate leaf shape, acute apices, and cordate base, but differs in other respects. The leaf blade is lobed with a slightly undulating, angular margin. Venation is deeply set. The leaf blade is a crisp yellow green.

Inflorescence is just beginning to appear. Having studied the plants' growth habits, Paul is certain we can expect large umbels of blossoms.

Way to go, Paul! This is one reason begonia growing is so much fun. Our collections do not remain the same. Hybridizers are always taking us down new and different begonia trails.

Mary Bucholtz lives at 2411 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207. She is 3rd Vice-President of ABS and a Senior Judge.



Begonias Astronomical

Southwest Region Get-Together 1992



Best in Show: *B. crassicaulis*, exhibited by Naron & Barbara Stewart.
Photo by Eleanor Calkins

Whole galaxies of begonias and a universe of fun made for a terrific Get-Together in Houston, Texas May 15-17. Hosts Astro and Satellite Branches and co-chairs Tom Keepin and Helen Spiers created a fantasy of begonias for participants.

A big sphagnum world globe covered with begonias (in all the appropriate geographic places) greeted us outside the door to the hotel, and begonias were found everywhere, with arrangements distributed throughout the lobby, restaurant, and grounds.

Star-studded seminars started Saturday morning, with Don Miller shaping bonsai begonias; his discarded cuttings were avidly sought. Naomi Lynch followed, giving her secrets for success with seedlings. Her record-keeping amazed the audience as much as her seedling knowledge. Kelton

Parker took us on a tour of the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens and its begonia collection, and discussed the begonia research going on there. Handouts included the species list and a list of literature in the library. Kelton urged us all to visit and to use the collection.

The show was out-of-this-world, and definitely out of the show room! There were a large number of special exhibits: Asmussen hybrids, Stewart hybrids, Southeast Asia species, yellow-flowering species, conservation, a computer program on begonias, and even a heavenly rainforest, complete with topiary animals, constructed in the lobby by our host branches. These, with the artistic entries and a special display by North Haven Gardens, were distributed over the lobby and spilled over into a hastily-acquired room across from the Begonia Boutique.

Stars at the show were Naron ("Stew") and Barbara Stewart, Best of Show and Best Species in Show with *B. crassicaulis*; Don Miller, Sweepstakes, with 10 blue ribbons; John Howell, Showing is Sharing, with 39 entries. Best Artistic Exhibit went to Gloria Quinn for her tablecloth decorated with painted begonias. Best Southwest Region Hybrid was won by Charles McGough for his B. (*dregei* x B. 'Nokomis') x (*dregei* x 'Vodka') cross, grown in bonsai form. A special award given by Mike Golub for the Best Asmussen Hybrid in the show went to Virginia Kettler for her B. 'Snow Cap'. Fourteen Cultural Awards were presented by Show Chairman Marge Lee.

The sale was inter-galactic: it overwhelmed the room, and sale plants were held in donors' rooms, cars, under the show and sale tables, and brought in continuously during the weekend. The sale committee, headed by Ann & George Fletcher, worked calmly on, and, somehow, all plants were priced when the doors opened Friday at 5 p.m. - whereupon universal pandemonium ensued.

Imagine a "Milky Way" that included cheeses, cold cuts, fruit (fresh blackberries to kill for!), and lots of baked yummys, all surrounded by friendly faces talking excitedly in begonia-ese, and you've pictured the Hospitality Room. It, too, overflowed into the hall on a number of occasions. Kudos to Hospitality Chair Billie Jean Minot and her committee of Satellite Branch members.

The decorations committee chaired by Estelle Sullivan created a celestial banquet scene Saturday night, with starry balloons the highlights of the centerpieces at each table. Beautiful, too, were the tables for the judges' breakfast and luncheon, with appropriately named begonias as gifts for each judge: B. 'Universe', B. 'Galaxy', etc.

The banquet had individual stars, too, with Maurice Amey winning the Mae Blanton

Service Award; Miriam & Erich Steiniger winning the Marguerite Vernon Award; Tamsin Boardman winning the first-ever Begonia Ambassador Award from Astro Branch and Peter Lloyd winning the "Super Special Service Recognition Award" (also from Astro Branch, for contributions from a non-member).

Southwest Region's Barkley Research Grant was awarded this year to Dr. Smith at the University of Illinois for graduate research in food dyes from plant sources (*B. 'Richmondensis'*).

Master of Ceremonies Bruce C. Boardman had a fine time interweaving tales of General Sam Houston, the Comanche Indians' begonia raids, and Houston Knight's dancing partner, as the Banquet speaker tried in vain to get through the flooded streets to the hotel.

Alas, the heavens remained open on Sunday for the tour: we saw Mercer Arboretum and the many begonia plantings there through mist and downpour. The begonias looked happier than we did! There was, nonetheless, a great feeling of camaraderie, and much sharing of umbrellas. Lunch (southern fried chicken, black-eyed peas, cole slaw, cornbread) was enjoyed in Tom Keepin's greenhouse to the sound of rain on the roof. During the drier interludes, we dashed out into the garden to admire the tropicals and begonias planted in profusion throughout: lovely, lovely, lovely.

"Begonias Astronomical" really was an out-of-this-world experience! But even heavenly gatherings come to an end, and we departed, tired but happy, to look forward to next year's Southwest Region Get-Together in Fort Worth, Texas.

Quote:

"All that we have to do of good on the earth, is to cultivate it." Voltaire, quoted in the Palomar Planter



Show News Around the Country

Addition to the May-June "Show News": **Jerri & Miike Eubank** won over a large number of Novice Division entrants in the *Dallas Area Branch Mini-Show* in March: two of their entries tied for first. We apologize for the glitch that omitted their names in the last issue.

At the *Barkley Branch Show* in Oklahoma City April 4-5 **Ann & Gene Salisbury** won Best of Show over a large field of 194 begonia entries with B. 'Cachuma'. **Dorothy Caviness** took the "Showing is Sharing" trophy with 67 entries, and **Kathlyn Calvert** won Sweepstakes with 11 blue ribbons. **Laura Kirby** won the Artistic Division with an oil painting of B. 'Lucerna'.

Cultural Awards went to **Ann & Gene Salisbury** for B. 'Cachuma' (97 points) and B. 'Cajon Valley' (95); **Kathlyn & Merrill Calvert** for B. 'President Carnot' and *B. thelmae* (96 pints each), B. 'Corliss Engle', B. 'Christmas Candy', and B. 'Yakagura' (95 each); **Diane Horne** for *B. manicata* var. *aureo-maculata* and B. 'Cathedral' (96 each) and B. 'Tiger Kitten' (95).

Knickerbocker Branch members who scored in the competitive section at the *New York Flower Show* included **Sue Hessel**, with Begonias 'Sophie Cecile', *oxyphylla*, and an unknown hybrid, and **Tim Last**, with *B. juliana*.

Palm Beaches Branch Show winners were **Jean Resen**, Best of Show with B. 'Withlacoochee', and **Charles Jaros**, Sweepstakes, with 7 Division winners. Other Division winners were **Maxine Bennett**, **Esther Nagelberg**, and **Jean Resen**. The show was held March 28-29 in conjunction with the Palm Beaches Garden Club.

Miami Branch held its show April 11-12 at Fairchild Tropical Gardens. Best of Show was B. 'Ginny', exhibited by **Anne Fergis**, which scored 97.8 points. Her *B. aconitifolia*, with 97.5 points, ran a close second and took Best Species. Sweepstakes was won by **Charles Jaros** (is that name beginning to sound familiar?) with 28 blue ribbons: The competition was fierce: 15 plants scored above 95 points.

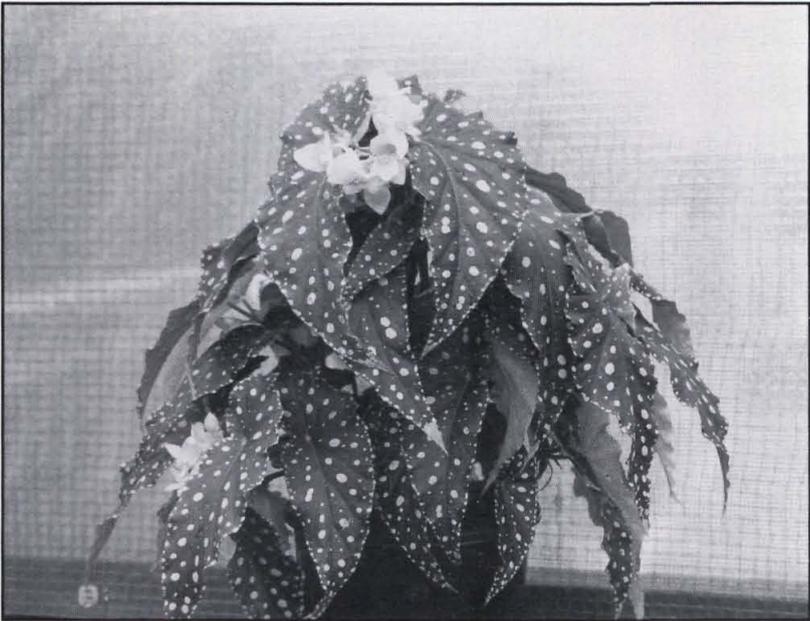
Besides Fergis and Jaros, Division winners were **Alma Crawford**, **Jennifer Kellum**, **Marilyn Goldstein**, **Wanda Cochran**, **Edythe Ropeik**, and **Clara Bada**. Daisy Farm Nursery won the commercial division with *B. soli-mutata*.

Rubidoux Branch members winning Sweepstakes in the *Riverside Community Flower Show* were **Bertha Haldeman**, Begonias; **Terry Hicks**, Bromeliads; **Belva Stewart**, Cacti; and **Jessie Balmer**, Decorative Potted Plants.

and Around the World

At the convention of the Association of Australian Begonia Societies in Ballarat in March the Champion Begonia was a hybrid by Ross Bolwell, B. 'Flamingo Queen', grown and exhibited by **Dot & Barry Mann** (see next page for photo). Division winners included the Manns, with 5 other firsts and 6 seconds; **Alex & June Baker**, with 3 firsts and a special award; **Enid Henderson**, with 3 firsts; and **Christine & Paul Rosenthal**, **Isobel & Sel Crossley**, **Joan Young**, and **Ruth Littlemore**, each with firsts.

(continued, next page)



B. 'Flamingo Queen'
photo by Barry Mann



Members of the Queensland Begonia Society at the Association of Australian Begonia Societies Convention in Ballarat: from left, back: Barry Mann, Jack Street, Isobel Crossley, Peter Henderson, Sel Crossley, Enid Henderson, Val Anderson; front (seated): Averil Thompson, editor of the Queensland Journal, and Dot Mann, winner of Best Begonia award. Photo by Averil Thompson.

Who, Me?



"Cats and their Begonias" (page 112, May-June) prompted Thelma McRae to write:

I also have cats among my begonias, but I bet not too many growers are privileged to have little masked critters putting their plants at risk! The raccoons have only broken one pot, and that was about six months ago. I thought I'd cleaned up all the shards, but apparently they've squirreled away the pieces to play with because every once in a while I find a piece of the same ceramic pot on my deck. The "Who, me?" picture was taken immediately after I heard the crash of the pot.



In the News...

Elsie Paton, President of the Queensland Begonia Society, and her garden were the stars of "Growing Begonias in the Backyard," a program in the "Burke's Backyard" series on the Australian Broadcasting Co. It seems ABC has discovered begonias! Mrs. Paton joins **Dot & Barry Mann**, also of the Queensland Begonia Society, whose garden was featured on ABC a few weeks earlier. Stay tuned, as we find out who's next!

Wanda Macnair, Barbara Nuñez, and John Ingles, Jr. were interviewed at the 1991 Convention by Mike Klingaman for an article in the Sun Magazine entitled "A begonia is a begonia is a begonia...don't be so sure." Mike's initial confession:

"To me, begonias are boring. But what do I know? I buy my bedding plants at K Mart."

His visit with our luminaries and some of the begonias we love convinced him that:

"Obviously, discount stores have done begonias an injustice. And so have I."

(continued, bottom of next page)

Coming Events

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.

July 11: Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch Garden Tour and plant Sale at home of Pam Hantgin, 94 North Santa Rosa St., Ventura, CA. Tour hours are noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call (805) 648-1530.

July 18-19: Westchester Branch 11th Annual Show & Sale at Fox Hills Mall, Sepulveda Blvd. & Slauson Ave., Culver City, CA. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. July 18, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. July 19.

July 25-26: San Francisco Branch Show & Sale at Tanforan Shopping Center.

August 1: Kevin Handreck, President of the **Association of Australian Begonia Societies**, will present a slide program on "Begonias in the Rainforests of Malaysia" at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. There will be a reception in his honor at 2 p.m. preceding the program. Sponsored by the **Mae Blanton and Dallas Area Branches**.

August 16: Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch will host a **Garden Tour and Potluck** at the home of Mona Hicks, 1592 Bedford Dr., Camarillo, CA. Potluck at 3 p.m., and tours will follow. For more information, call (805) 482-6234.

August 19-23: American Begonia Society Convention 1992, "Captivating Canes", will be held at the Inn of the Park, Anaheim, California, with the Orange County Branch as hosts.

Deadline for next issue is July 15

In the News...

(continued)

John Howell is writing a monthly article on begonias for Horti-Bull (the horticultural bulletin for the Mens' Garden Club of San Antonio, Texas). The articles discuss the various types of begonias and how to grow them, and list begonias that will be available as sale plants or door prizes at the monthly meeting (yes, John donates the plants, too).

Tom Keepin and **Helen Spiers** were the featured guests on Brenda Smith's gardening radio show in Houston, Texas. They discussed begonias and promoted the *Southwest Region Get-Together*.

"Flowercade", the big annual show by Fort Worth, Texas area garden clubs, had a special display this year by **Kelton Parker** on the Begonia Species Bank at Fort Worth Botanic Gardens.

"Beguiling Begonias", an article by Brenda Beust Smith in the May issue of Gardens, encouraged gardeners in coastal Texas to try cane-like, shrub-like, rhizomatous, and trailing/scandent begonias outdoors all year. Prominently mentioned were **Astro Branch** and the **American Begonia Society**.

BULLETIN BOARD

ABS News

Awards

July 1: deadline for submissions for ABS top awards. You know someone who has worked hard for ABS - reward that dedication by submitting a nomination. See May-June issue, p. 103.

Elections

July 21: ballots must be in
July 22: ballots will be counted

Ballots were mailed June 16; if yours has not arrived, contact President Carol Notaras.

CORRECTION

Credits for the article "Some Begonias of Malaysia" in the last issue erroneously named Phil Wright as editor of *Begonia Australis*. Peter Sharp edits *Begonia Australis*, and a wonderful job he does. Philip Wright is president of the Victorian Begonia Society.

Pacific Horticulture

The color illustrated quarterly
for keen gardeners

\$12 a year

(\$14 Canada & Mexico,

\$16 elsewhere)

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

DIRECTORY UPDATE

New Presidents:

Dallas Area Branch - Pam Lee, 1424 Holcomb Rd., Dallas, TX 75217

Rubidoux Branch - Terry Hicks, 4243 Kathy Ave., Riverside, CA 92509

Sacramento Branch - Siegfried Hoffman, 10 Stampede Ct., Sacramento, CA 95834

Tampa Bay Area - Dora Lee Dorsey, 8110 N. Edison Ave., Tampa, FL 33604

Potomac - Johanna Zinn, 4407 Jensen Place, Fairfax, VA 22032

Alamo - Leora Fuentes, 13747 Wilderness Point, San Antonio, TX 78231.

Additions:

Address for **Albert Palacios**, President of **South Bay Branch**, is 16216 S. Grevillia Ave., Lawndale, CA 90260.

To contact **Connecticut Branch**, write National Director **Priscilla Beck**, 312 Shewville Rd., Ledyard, CT 06339.

Change of Meeting Place:

Rubidoux Branch is now meeting in the Conference Room at University of California, Riverside, Botanic Gardens on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

ATTENTION, BRANCH SECRETARIES!

The next Branch Directory comes out in the September-October issue. Please send in an update: the name and address of your President, and date, time, and location of your meetings. Deadline is July 15.

CONSERVATION NEWS

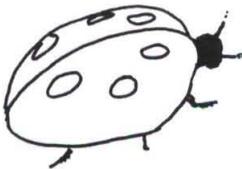
Integrated Pest Management

In summer begonias and their owners go outside. Outside they find "critters" of all kinds: some delightful, like butterflies, some not-so-wonderful, like mosquitoes.

On the next page you'll find a re-print of a handout from the 1987 ABS Convention in Long Beach. It's by Horticulture Instructor Jean Natter, and concerns Integrated Pest Management - dealing with plant pests in the safest way possible. Note that it's termed "management," not eradication; one of the goals is to get rid of pests without harming the beneficial insects.

Try the suggestions. Start with the safest method first, and give it time to work. Be patient; it takes a while to restore the balance found in nature. Member Kay Jennings of Fort Worth, who persevered despite damaged leaves, now boasts that the neighbors envy the healthy plants in her pesticide-less garden. They can't believe her garden has far fewer pests than theirs. Added benefits are the presence of birds and butterflies, and finding an occasional good guy like the praying mantis.

Copy the handout, and give copies to your friends. Using the safest possible methods will benefit their health, too.



Quote

"...at the outset of the synthetic insecticide era, when the nation used roughly 50 million pounds of insecticides, the insects destroyed about 7% of our preharvest crop; today, under a 600 million pound insecticide load, we are losing 13% of our preharvest yield to rampaging insects." - Robert van den Bosch, The Pesticide Conspiracy (Anchor-Doubleday, 1980); quoted by Wayne Hooks in National Gardening (March-April 1992, Letters)

Mildew - Possible Control?

Organic Gardening (May-June 1992 issue, p. 16) reports "...many fungal diseases can be controlled with common anti-dessiccants (or antitranspirants, also called ATs.)" See the article for an explanation of how they work. Products mentioned were Sun-shield (all organic), Wilt-pruf, Vapor-gard, and Cloud Cover.

Recipes

The following are two delectable homemade treatments to be prepared just for uninvited guests in your garden or greenhouse. Don't consume them yourself, or offer them to ladybugs, praying mantis, or your other good friends in the insect world.

Garlic-Pepper Tea

Put 2 bulbs of garlic and 2 cayenne or habanero peppers in a blender 1/3 full of water. Liquefy, then strain. Add enough water to make 1 gallon of concentrate. Shake well before using; add 1/4 cup of concentrate to each gallon of water in the sprayer. - Howard Garrett, "The Natural Way", Dallas Morning News, May 22, 1992.

Garlic-Pepper Tea with Cigarette Butts

Put 2 or 3 cloves of garlic, 1 Tablespoon ground cayenne pepper, and the nicotine from 2 or 3 cigarettes (without the filter) in a blender. Liquefy, strain, and add to a gallon of water. Use within 2 or 3 weeks. Kit Jeans Mounger

Note: from Howard Garrett's column, we pass on this tip: "Spider mites hate seaweed." Mix liquid seaweed and water, and spray every three days for nine days.

SAFE AND SANE MANAGEMENT OF INSECT PESTS

A handout by Jean R. Natter, Horticulture Instructor, Cerritos College
for the 1987 ABS Convention

**Integrated Pest Management uses all possible means of control,
but always starts with the safest methods.**

Some of the possible strategies:

1. resistant plants
2. cultural control:
 - a. healthy plants
 - b. proper environment (temperature, light, soil, air, water, fertilizer)
 - c. hose (harsh streams of water; periodic mists)
 - d. hand picking
 - e. control of ants (ants will fight off beneficial insects)
3. barriers and traps
 - a. sticky yellow traps (e.g., against whiteflies)
 - b. sticky bands against ants
 - c. "moats" (snail defense: stands with legs in water)
4. natural enemies, "the three Ps"
 - a. what they are
 - 1) predators
 - 2) parasites
 - 3) pathogens
 - b. how to use them*
 - 1) naturally occurring
 - 2) collect your own: release, feed, water them
 - 3) purchase & release
5. pesticides
 - a. soaps
 - 1) liquid Ivory for dishes: up to 2 Tablespoons per gallon of water
 - 2) Safer's Soap: use according to label instructions
 - b. botanical derivatives: nicotine, pyrethrums (NOTE: some are highly toxic to people and pets)
 - c. dormant oils
 - d. traditional pesticides (NOTE: most damage the natural enemies more than the pests; malathion is particularly hard on beneficials)

Several Common Pests and their Natural Enemies

aphids

ladybugs (ladybeetles)
lacewings: in S. California, only the young are predators
syrphid flies: the young are predators
Cryptolaemus montrouzieri
Aphidoletes aphidimyza: a tiny fly - the young are predators
Aphidius "wasps": parasites; convert aphids into tiny tan blimps
several fungus diseases: pathogens

mealybugs

you - using alcohol swab or spray
Cryptolaemus montrouzieri
lacewings

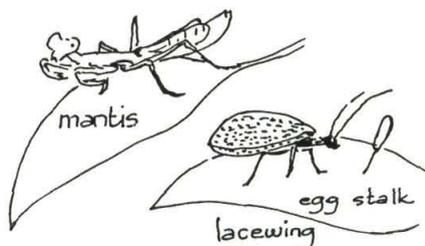
mites

lacewings
beneficial mites: predators

whiteflies

lacewings
Encarsia formosa: parasite of young whiteflies; for greenhouse use

* recommended: Wm. H. Jordan,
What's Eating Your Houseplants?



CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND NOTES

July-August, 1992

Diana H. Gould, Seed Fund Director

Germination times for this issue's selections range from 7 to 61 days, so please be patient.

The Seed Fund thanks **Ed Bates, Cynthia Bishop, Roberto Brin, Michele Cole, Jackie Davis, Lynda Goldsmith, Jan Goodwin, Jake Hafer, Mickey Meyer, Joy Porter, Pat Sage, Phil Seiden, Lloyd Van Epps, Elmer Wagner, Johanna Zinn**, our anonymous donors, and the international exchanges for making this listing possible.

The 1991 Convention Listing is still available. The 1992 Convention Listing will be available on or about August 1st, 1992. Either or both will be sent free of charge with all seed orders, or you may request it by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Seed Fund Director. Once the '92 is ready, the '91 will no longer exist.

As your seeds grow, PLEASE check the mature plants against the descriptions given in the Notes. IF THERE ARE ANY DIFFERENCES PLEASE NOTIFY THE SEED FUND DIRECTOR. THANK YOU!

Notes on Seed Listed:

Rhizomatous

B. fenicis (Philippines) has large dark green, glossy, broad, heart-shaped leaves with serrated margins that have tiny points at the nerve

endings. Flowers are pink. *B. hemsleyana* (China) is both slow to germinate and slow to grow, and it is very particular about the attention that it receives. Its rhizome is joined at or below soil level, and its leaves are peltate and pale-green. Its flowers are sparse, fragrant, and light pink, and it blooms in winter.

B. hypolipara (Honduras) looks exactly like the photo on p. 160 of the Thompsons' Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide. It is classified as large-leaved (6"-12" at maturity) with a creeping growth pattern, has profuse white flowers with rose-pink edges, and blooms late winter-early spring. Leaves are green, textured. *B. imperialis* var. *smaragdina* (Mexico) requires terrarium care. This species has very distinctive pustular-type foliage, very large leaves, and is very beautiful and showy with or without its white flowers.

B. manicata (Mexico) has waxy-green leaves, erect growing rhizomes, and soft pink flowers. *B. manicata* var. *aureomaculata* (Central America) has large green leaves variegated with yellow, and pink flowers. *B. manicata* 'Crispa', also found in Central America, has medium-green crested leaves.

B. masoniana (China) is nicknamed "Iron Cross"

because of the dark brown cross marking on its medium-green, pebbly-textured, slightly hairy leaves. It is classified as large leaved, distinctive foliage, and has profuse fragrant greenish white flowers from April through summer. *B. palmata* (India, China) has distinctive foliage, requires terrarium care, and has medium-sized, medium-green leaves and light pink flowers.

B. paulensis (Brazil) has large medium-green, roughly surfaced, puckered leaves, pale green stems, and creamy white flowers. It requires higher humidity and light. From the Russian collection comes *B. pustulata* 'Argentea' with distinctive pustulate leaves with silver markings (it has also been known as *B. pustulata* 'Silver'). Its white flowers appear in summer. Terrarium care is required.

B. xanthina 'Pictifolia' is yet another gift from the Russian collection. The seed was collected in the Himalayas. *B. xanthina* is described by Hooker as "leaves large ovate denticulate and angular not dilate-serrate, petiole hairy, cyme and ovary nearly glabrous, flowers yellow". The variety we offer, *B. xanthina* 'Pictifolia' is described as having silver spotting on the leaves and yellowish-white flowers

tinged with rose; Hooker notes, however, that it was cultivated in gardens and thus may possibly be of hybrid origin. It requires terrarium care, and has distinctive foliage.

B. U074 is a very small-growing begonia also requiring terrarium care, and very prone to mildew. It comes to us from the Philippines, is a creeper, and its small leaves are variably splotched with silver, depending on light level. Its brownish surface creates a frame for its tiny white flowers.

B. U106 and B. U107 (Panama) both require terrarium care, have medium-green, shallowly lobed cordate leaf blades and margins with red hairs. Their petioles are pale-green, and they have white flowers. They should be comparatively grown with B. U154, also offered, which, to date, has a very similar description.

B. U118 has been tentatively identified as *B. urophylla*, although growers of this seed are reporting differences. B. U119 has smaller leaf blades than B. U118 and has been compared with B. U194, also offered; yet, again, the growers of the Seed Fund seed are reporting differences.

B. U150 is reported to be another form of *B. heracleifolia*. Please send your descriptions of this species to the Seed Fund.

B. U158 and B. U159, both collected in Panama, are, again, very similar in ap-

pearance; B. U158 has shallowly lobed medium-green leaves approximately 5" x 3". B. U172 (collected in Trinidad) produces a rhizomatous plant with bright green, lobed, ovate leaves with sparse brown felting on the underside. Flowers are large and white.

B. U193 (Panama) has medium green leaves approximately 7"x7", many drip points, and large white flowers. B. U194 (Panama) has been tentatively identified as *B. urophylla*.

B. U201 (Panama) has marginally serrated green leaves 4" x 6" with three prominent drip points. Flowers are white. It is thought to be very much like *B. plebeja*.

B. U205 has large lobed green leaves with red undersides and pink flowers. (photo, **Begonian** May-June 1992, p. 97). B. U249 (Panama) has pale green, hairy leaves and white flowers. It has been tentatively identified as *B. filipes*. B. U258 (Mexico) has large, medium-green leaves that measure 7", long internodes, and grows to a height of 1 meter. B. U286 (Panama) has pale green leaves, and white flowers in winter; B. U287, also from Panama, has the same description but is thought to be a different species.

Trailing-scandent

B. convolvulacea (Brazil) has medium-sized waxy green leaves and greenish white flowers in spring. *B. fagifolia* (Brazil) has small medium-green leaves with

rough surfaces and white flowers.

Shrub-like

B. cubensis (Cuba) has very small waxy leaves and white flowers. *B. edmundoi* (Brazil) has small bare medium-green leaves and greenish-white flowers. *B. metallica* (Brazil) has small glossy closely-set medium-green lobed leaves and white flowers. *B. odorata* came in with the Russian collection. Originally collected on Guadeloupe in the Lesser Antilles, it has medium-sized bare leaves and fragrant pink flowers. *B. olsoniae* (Brazil) is one of the most beautiful of all the shrubs, with distinctive velvet-textured dark green leaves and light pink flowers; it requires terrarium care.

B. peruviana (Peru) should not be confused with *B. juliana* or B. U049; it has narrow, hairy green leaves and pink flowers. B. U062 (India) is one of the most striking of our shrubs, sometimes known as "the red one from India" because it has red stems, petioles, and leaves when grown under the correct light levels; otherwise, leaves will be dark brown with silver splotches on top, and red underneath. Its pink flowers are an added attraction to its already striking beauty, but do beware of powdery mildew!

B. U134 (Colombia) may well be *B. holtonis*; see description, Nomenclature Notes. Please advise of your experiences with this

species. B. U162 (Venezuela) has medium-green branching stems, growing 4"-6" and then turning woody with age. This species has dark green leaves with undersides that are light green flushed with red. Its petioles are tannish-green, and its flowers are white flushed with pink, creating a vivid contrast to the dark-pink ovaries. This species may be *B. meridensis*.

Cane-like

B. maculata (Brazil) comes to us with the Russian collection and is known to be a moderately tall species with dark green leaves spotted with silver spots; leaf undersides are red. It has soft pink flowers. B. U031 (Brazil) is a tall cane with large spiral leaves, red undersides, and white flowers.

Thick-stemmed

B. U163 (Venezuela) has medium-green ovate leaf blades 6" x 9", green petioles, and small white flowers. It may be *B. dichotoma*. B. U188 (Peru) has large hairy very sticky green leaves and white flowers; it has also been known as "Chavez 1701."

Semperflorens

B. U151 was collected in Panama, and may be *B. subvillosa*. B. U257 (Panama) has rounded green leaves and rose-colored flowers.

No description

B. petasitifolia (Brazil; thick-stemmed).

Rhizomatous *B. pustulata* 'Argentea' is another new arrival from the Russian collection. It arrived without a description, but we do know it has very distinctive foliage and requires terrarium care.

Two trailing-scandent species, *B. glabravar. cordifolia* (northern South America) and a variety of *B. mazaе*, came with no description. Shrub-like B. U252 and B. U262 are still lacking descriptions.

Unclassified

B. domingensis, *B. estrellensis* (MAY be a shrub, has red stems; dark green, very narrow leaves with red undersides; is a very elegant species), *B. filipes*, *B. pubescens*, B. U029, B. U169, B. U246, B. U263, B. U268.

Nomenclature Notes

B. U254 came from the Russian collection as *B. acetosa*. See the **Begonian**, 56:228-232, Nov-Dec 1989 for a discussion of nomenclature. B. U254 is a low-growing rhizomatous begonia with roundish dark green leaves covered with tiny silvery hairs, creating a velvety appearance; its leaf underside is also red with silvery hairs. Petioles are reddish and hairy. Flowers are white. Terrarium care. Seed is listed as B. U254.

B. macdougalli is a synonym for *B. thiemei*. *B. thiemei* (Mexico) is rhizomatous and has giant green compound leaves. Seeds are listed as *B. thiemei*.

Another synonym for *B. thiemei* is *B. richii* hort. Plants from this seed are described as having giant compound leaves with red margins and greenish-white flowers. Seed is listed as *B. thiemei* 'Richii'

B. foliosavar. amplifolia is a synonym for *B. holtonis*, a shrub-like begonia with white flowers; it forms long, gracefully arching stems at maturity. Seed is listed as *B. holtonis*.

B. lynchiana is a synonym for *B. cyathophora*. We have no description. Seed is listed as *B. cyathophora*.

B. glaucophylla is a synonym for *B. radicans*. Seed is listed as *B. radicans* 'Glaucophylla'.

Hybrid Seed

This issue offers mixed trailing-scandent hybrids for the first time. It appears we lack only thick-stemmed cultivars from the hybrid selections. Ever hear of any?

Please note: Rich Bishop reports that he has white flowers on plants grown from SF seed as B. U095. The description says they should be red. Has anyone else experienced this?



CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND LISTING

Species Seed

\$1 per packet

The Seed Fund is a service to 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 US funds to **The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.**

Costs of mailing:

U.S. only: 1-12 packets, 99c; 13-24, \$1.35; 25-36, \$1.71; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.30; 49-60, \$2.66.

Canada only: 1-12 packets, \$1.10; 13-24, \$1.46; 25-36, \$1.82; 27-48 (2 cans), \$2.35; 49-60, \$2.71.

Mexico only: 1-12 packets, \$1.15; 13-24, \$1.51; 25-36, \$1.87; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.50; 49-60, \$2.81.

All other international mail: 1-12 packets, \$1.85; 13-24, \$2.68; 25-36, \$3.68; 37-48, \$4.68; 49-60, \$5.68.

Two sets of planter dishes, in U.S. only: \$1.20; two sets & 1-12 packets, \$1.80; & 13-24, \$2.40; & 25-36, \$3; & 37-48, \$3.60; & 49-60, \$4.20.

These mailing costs include the costs of postage, mailers, and gasline seed envelopes.

California residents please add 7 3/4% sales tax.

Please send your order with payment to:

Ms. Diana H. Gould
9278 Mapleview Way
Elk Grove CA 95758

U.S.A.

<i>B. convolvulacea</i>	B. U119
<i>B. cubensis*</i>	B. U134
<i>B. cyathophora</i>	B. U150
<i>B. domingensis*</i>	B. U151
<i>B. edmundoi</i>	B. U154
<i>B. epipsila</i>	B. U158
<i>B. estrellensis*</i>	B. U159
<i>B. fagifolia</i>	B. U162
<i>B. fenicis</i>	B. U163
<i>B. filipes</i>	B. U169
<i>B. glabra</i> var. <i>cordifolia*</i>	B. U172
<i>B. hemsleyana*</i>	B. U188
<i>B. heracleifolia</i> var.	B. U193
<i>B. holtonis</i>	B. U194
<i>B. hypolipara</i>	B. U201
<i>B. imperialis</i> var.	B. U205
<i>smaragdina*</i> R	B. U246
<i>B. maculata</i>	B. U249
<i>B. manicata</i>	B. U252
<i>B. manicata</i> var.	B. U254 R
<i>aureomaculata</i>	B. U257
<i>B. manicata</i> 'Crispa'	B. U258
<i>B. masoniana</i>	B. U262
<i>B. mazae</i> var.	B. U263
<i>B. metallica</i>	B. U268
<i>B. odorata*</i> R	B. U286
<i>B. olsoniae</i>	B. U287
<i>B. palmata*</i>	mixed species
<i>B. paulensis*</i>	mixed tuberous species
<i>B. peruviana</i>	
<i>B. petasitifolia*</i>	
<i>B. pubescens</i>	
<i>B. pustulata</i> 'Argentea'* R	
<i>B. radicans</i> 'Glaucophylla'	
<i>B. thiemei</i>	
<i>B. thiemei</i> 'Richii'	
<i>B. xanthina</i>	
'Pictifolia'* R	
B. U029	
B. U031	
B. U049	
B. U062*	
B. U074*	
B. U106	
B. U107	
B. U118	

*extremely limited supply
R from the Russian collection

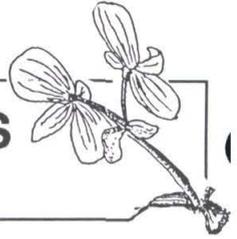
Hybrid Seed

50c per packet

mixed cane-like
mixed shrub-like
mixed rex
mixed rhizomatous
mixed semperflorens
mixed semp. "Frillies"
mixed shrub-like
mixed trailing-scandent
mixed tuberhybrida
mixed Mickey Meyer
 selections

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Virginia Hamann, Round Robin Director



The Robins are beginning to find their way to Iowa. Some might be lost. If it has been several months to a year since you received a Robin you are in, please let me know the Flight name & number, and when I get enough names I can restart it. Chairmen, I can use your help in this.

Thanks to the Chairmen who have sent me flight sheets!

Flight #25, Midwest Growers II:

Mary McClelland sent a picture of her cat, sleeping on the comfiest place ever: Mary's writing table.

Mildew is a problem, as growing areas can get chilly at night, then overly warm during the day, creating a good environment for mildew. During the foggy days this winter the begonias did not bloom as they have in recent years. Those under lights did very well, with much brighter colors than those grown in natural light.

Helen Clements (IL) uses Peters Special 20-20-20 on all of her plants, and is delighted that they adapted to their new home in Illinois better than she thought they would.

B. 'Christmas Candy' is a favorite bloomer with Rhodora Buss (IA) and Fran Hurley (IL); constantly in bloom, it is a delight. Mary McClelland (NE) remarked that plants growing in the Midwest would not be as green or lush as those grown in California or Texas, thus not ready for early spring shows. Midwest-grown begonias would show more stress, from lack of light and longer winter growing.

Flight #31, Southwest Growers:

Members here are also fighting mildew. The product "Xclude" was discussed. It is a natural pyrethrum-base product used indoors and out on ornamental plants as well as houseplants.

John Howell (TX) is composting his disease-susceptible plants and planning a breeding program to have stronger and more disease-resistant plants.

The question of how to use New Zealand moss was asked. Margaret Coats (TX) mixes it with perlite and a little charcoal, wets it, and squeezes out the excess water. Then she places the moss mix in her pot and inserts a cutting, tamping it down firmly. The pot is then placed in a sweater box and placed under lights. She advises that it should be kept damp, not soaked.

Flight #15, Cold Climate Greenhouses:

Barbara Hicks (OR) asked how to start tuberous begonia tubers and how to start cuttings. Here's a synopsis of the advice she received from Robin members:

Tubers should be placed in a container of peat until sprouts begin to grow; then soil is placed around the bulb (but not burying it). Watering from the bottom is best.

Cane cuttings can be put in a small pot of soil and watered with a rooting hormone until roots appear, or placed in a container of water until roots appear, then placed in a small pot of soil. Many members like to use sweater boxes with a lid as propagating box to provide humidity and keep the soil moist.

Perhaps the most important advice: have fun with your growing!

Flight #1, General Culture:

On a recent trip to Brazil Mary Ellen Taback (VA) found a *B. heracleifolia* blooming in a display of plants in her hotel. At home in Virginia her plant was also in bloom. Russ Richardson (GA) uses a heat cable in a special propagation box for better seed germination. Kit Jeans Mounger (TN) named a new plant *B. 'Fern Richardson'* after Russ' wife Fern; Kit claimed it was "too feminine and too pretty" to name after Russ!

Flight #32, Kusler Canes/other canes:

Dorcas Resleff (WA) tells us her cane and shrub begonias have been blooming since March. Some of them are the Argentine species. Discussing what time of year to start cuttings, Rhodora Buss (IA) said she doesn't put down cuttings after Sept. 1....she believes they do better in spring and summer. Kim Roe's (UT) *B. pseudo-lubbersii* grown from seed has some plants with heavily spotted leaves and some that are red on back, and some that are green. She asks, "Why?" Would this variation be cultural, and is it common?

In a discussion of ecology and conservation, the group wrote of using "gray water" for watering plants. "Gray water" is a term used for water that's been used in the home, like dish water and laundry water. There are special pumps used to extract this water and store it for use. In modern

homes gray water is automatically put down the drain. Years ago, when washing was done on the washboard or wringer-type washer the water was always used to water the roses or scrub the back porch.

Flight #82, General Culture:

Margaret Coats (TX) enjoys her terrariums during the winter, as the plants do and look their best at this time of year. Using an air ionizer/cleaner helps combat mildew in her greenhouse... spraying with Lysol helps also. Tamsin Boardman (TX) brought up the possibility of pH problems causing decline in rhizomatous begonias - or do they just need a rest after a blooming period? Christine Giordano (NY) asks how to treat rex begonias when they go dormant. Mabel and Ralph Corwin (CA) are busy cleaning, scrubbing, and readying their greenhouses for summer growing. (The lovely description of their blooming trees, shrubs, and plants make this winter-weary lowan want to relocate!)

Round Robin Flights cover a wide variety of topics. New members are always welcome. For a list of Robins, write:

**Virginia Hamann
Rt. 1, Box 10
Chester, IA 52134**

Quote:

"If you want to be happy for a few hours, get drunk. If you want to be happy for a weekend, get married. If you want to be happy for a week, barbecue a pig. If you want to be happy all your life long, become a gardener." Confucius, quoted by Margaret Coats in Round Robin flight #82

*BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS
FERNS, OXALIS, CACTI, HERBS*
new Full Color Catalog...\$3.00

LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES

(Est. 1892)

Dept. B, 55 North Street, Danielson, CT
06239

REX BEGONIA SEED RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

1.00 per pkt plus 25c postage

Calif. residents add 6% Sales Tax

1130 NORTH MILPAS STREET
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA
93103



AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

Congratulations to Santa Barbara Branch, founded in May 1940 and celebrating its 52nd anniversary this year at the home of two of its founders, Margaret and Rudolf Ziesenhennel!

Ray Peterson, a former president of Monterey Area Branch who taught ornamental horticulture at San Francisco State College, sees treasure where some see trash. Concerned that landfill space is running out, he spoke to his branch in April on compost and composting. Newsletter editor Leslie Hatfield reported that "it is imperative that we try to use some of our garden waste that fills our trash cans through the year. Actually, we are throwing away valuable material that with a little time, effort, and small space could be composted and returned to our garden beds to enrich our soil...As gardeners let's try where we can to do our part towards eliminating a serious problem."

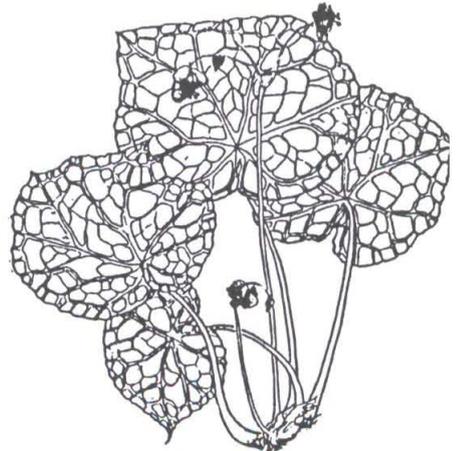
Another way to turn trash into treasure is to hold a 'White Elephant' sale. That's what Westchester Branch did at the May meeting, with members bringing nice items someone else would have more use for. Fun, and a good money-maker for the club. Other money-makers: Astro Branch supplements plant table sales with a raffle of a special plant (in May it was *B. 'Dainty Spray'*), Pinellas County held an auction with member-donated plants and auctioneer George Jendrusiak prompting lively bidding.

Greenery - in the form of begonias and other plants - is often found at branch meetings. Pinellas County Branch went farther into the green at their March meeting. In honor of St. Patrick's, the refreshment table was "wearing the Green...right down to the delicious spinach dip."

Plant of the Month for Palomar Branch in March was *B. sudjanae*. This Sumatra native, thought to be related to *B. goegoensis*, was sent to the Botanical Institute at Gothenberg, Sweden, by Dr. Sudjana Kassan, and the Institute sent a leaf to ABS in exchange for 10 copies of the **Begonian** for their library.

Luckily, Mabel Corwin was at that time ABS' President-elect "in charge of everything nobody knew what to do about." Mabel was given the leaf, and from it grew 12 plants to return to ABS. Hybridizers have crossed *B. sudjanae* with both *goegoensis* and *rajah*.

Miami Branch was concentrating on terrariums last spring, and their newsletter included a list of begonias for terrariums. *B. rajah* was the begonia chosen in April for special attention in the Miabegonia:



"*B. rajah* was discovered in Malaya. The leaves are reddish brown with green veins and pronounced green areas along the veins. At various times throughout the year this plant has small pink flowers. This very distinctive and lovely begonia makes a magnificent terrarium plant."

Note: Does anyone know who the artist for the *B. rajah* is? The drawing has appeared in several newsletters through the years.

San Francisco Branch members have found a substitute for leaf mold, the potting ingredient known as "black gold" that is increasingly hard to find. Nurseries in their area are carrying an Azalea, Camellia, and Rhododendron Mix made by Uni-Gro.

Down in Florida there's a lot of interest in hybridizing. Editor Esther Nagelberg of West Palm Beaches Branch reminds hybridizers that part of the challenge is to keep careful records: of seed and pollen parents; date of cross; whether seed was formed, and whether it was fertile; whether resulting plants had distinctive characteristics; germination time; size and shape of resulting plants, leaf pattern markings, bloom. Hybridizers, take note!

If intriguing titles lure members to meetings, Knickerbocker must have had a crowded time in June. The titillating title? "Keeping Your Plants Happily Potted", presented by Howard Berg. No druggie he; the program was of course on pots - the right size, the right kind, and when your begonia needs a new one.

Recycle!

Used tea leaves thrown on the soil around acid-loving plants will decompose - the tea leaves help lower the soil's pH.

Quote:

"The world is full of willing people: those who are willing to work and those who are willing to let them do it!"

-Westchester Branch newsletter

Virginia Carlson, editor of Begonias Begorra!, the newsletter for Orange County Branch, went thumbing through the Thompsons' Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide, looking for begonia species with fragrance. Here's a list she came up with:

Rhizomatous:

attenuata, decora, diadema, deliciosa, heracleifolia.

Shrub-like:

convallariodora, echinosepala, epipsila, kellermanii, obliqua, minor, incarnata, odorata

Thick-stemmed:

involucrata, egregia, malabarica.

Cane-like:

dichroa, lubbersii.

Tuberous:

fimbristipula.

Virginia has noticed a slight fragrance on U067, identified as *B. bakeri*. She suggests, "We can take time out to smell the flowers on our beautiful plants."

Also focusing on species was Sacramento Branch in April. Cynthia Bishop brought her collection of begonias species, describing them as the "building blocks" of all of today's hybrids. Cynthia likes to hybridize with the species, and showed some seedlings she had from crosses of rexes on to *B. partita*; the seedlings resembled the rexes more than *partita*.



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:

Cynthia Bishop
4150 Auburn-Folsom Rd.
Loomis, CA 95650
(916) 652-7311

BEGONIA CUTTINGS AND PLANTS.

Send \$2 for expanded 1992 list. Kay's Greenhouses, 207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221.

SOUTHWEST REGION, ABS: Annual Get-Together, show, sale; 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.

BEGONIAS, FERNS, SHADE PLANTS.

We are now open to provide you with quality plants...Come visit. Send \$1 for plant list. Golden Hills Nursery (Cynthia Bishop), 4150 Auburn-Folsom Rd., Loomis CA 95650; (916) 652-7311.

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.

RARE DISTINCTIVE BEGONIAS. Sym. U012, *bogneri*, U089, ex-Kew, etc. Send SASE for list. USA only. BILL VOSS, 3805 Louise Ave., Chantilly, VA 22021.

Begonias, Tropicals, & Exotic Plants.

Many varieties in 3" pots or larger. Catalog \$1 (refundable).....or The Tropical Gazette - quarterly full of info, discounts, & specials. 1 yr. subscription \$4. Send to: Sunshine State Tropicals, P.O. Box 1033, Port Richey FL 34673.

Begonias, Episcias, and Hoyas. Cuttings only. Send \$1 for list to B & K Tropicals, Dept. B, P.O. Box 28182, Kenneth City, FL 33709.

BEGONIAS, Texas' newest hybrids.

'Faded Love', 'New Moon', 'Kitty Twitty', 'Puffy Pop' and many more. Send \$2 for complete list. Stew's Greenhouses, HC 52, Box 2307, Bulverde, TX 78163 (512) 980-9439.

New Books. Episcias - 36 pages. Discusses culture and over 100 species and cultivars. \$5 ppd. Walt Maurus, P.O. Box 2247, Livonia, MI 48150.

Orchidae - a guide to the pronunciation and meaning of the botanical names of some orchids. Over 300 species discussed, 68 pages. \$9 ppd. Walt Maurus, P.O. Box 2247, Livonia MI 48150.

FLUORESCENT PLANT STAND. Hand-made construction in American hardwoods. Adjustable shelf. Four tube lighting. Comes fully assembled. \$159.00 plus shipping. Free brochure. J. F. Designs, 13 Elm St., Brookline, MA 02146 (617) 731-2754.

BEGONIAS. Unrooted cuttings. New, exclusive Symbegonia hybrids. New species, new hybrids, and old favorites. SASE legal size for new list. Paul Lowe, 5741 Dewberry Way, West Palm Beach FL 33415.



GROW GREAT FERNS JOIN LAIFS

Annual membership \$15.00

LAIFS Journal with Fern Lessons

Spore Store, Books, Educational programs

Los Angeles Int'l Fern Society

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

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

April 1, 1992

The Board of Directors Meeting was held on April 1, 1992 at the home of President Carol Notaras, 2567 Green St., San Francisco, California. President Notaras called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. There were 20 members present. Margaret Lee read the Aims & Purposes. The Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report, as of February 22, 1992: checking accounts \$5,055.86; savings accounts \$41,072.57; for a total of \$46,128.43. Eleanor Calkins urged Chairpersons to send their financial statements every month, or at least every other month.

Correspondence:

Martha Curry resigned as Advertising Manager for the **Begonian**.

President Notaras read a letter from Frank Green requesting ABS support for the Barkley Collection. As monies in the savings accounts have been donated for specific uses, ABS is not at this time able to help, but members and branches are urged to donate.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee (Arlene Ingles, chair; Elda Regimbal, Charles Jaros) submitted the following slate of officers for 1992-1993:

President Carol Notaras
1st Vice-President Gene Salisbury
2nd Vice-President Millie Thompson
3rd Vice-President Mary Bucholtz
Secretary Ingeborg Foo
Treasurer Eleanor Calkins

The slate was accepted as presented. Ballots will be sent on June 16, 1992. Additional candidates may be submitted not later than May 29, 1992, and must be accompanied by 15 signatures of ABS members.

Membership - John Ingles reported 85 Life Members, 138 Institutions, 1,483 dues-paying members as of March 31, 1992. During the first 3 months of 1992 advertising brought in 55 new members. John commended Russ Richardson for doing a great job on advertising, and reported that there will be no more expenses for advertising this year.

Convention 1992 - Chair Elda Regimbal presented the show schedule, which was accepted. Elda would appreciate knowing how many plants branches will be donating for the sale.

Awards - Thelma O'Reilly requested recommendations for ABS' top awards of members who contribute at the national level.

Judging - Maxine Zinman wrote she has only a few Cultural Awards left. Margaret Lee will have them reprinted.

New Business:

Eleanor Calkins moved that a committee establish standing rules to be attached to the By Laws. Margaret Lee will serve on the committee.

The next Board meeting will be held on June 6, 1992 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Rudolf Ziesenhenne, 1130 North Milpas, Santa Barbara, California.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingeborg Foo,
Secretary

Note: Minutes are condensed because of space limitations. Any member may order a copy of the full Minutes from the Secretary. A stamped, self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.

Join the NATIONAL FUCHSIA SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP \$15 per year
includes bi-monthly FUCHSIA FAN
The new A to Z on Fuchsias abridged version
\$6.95 plus \$1 shipping (CA residents add 42c tax)
Mail to: National Fuchsia Society, 11507 E. 187 St.
Artesia, CA 90701

The Indoor Gardening Society of America, Inc. Dept. B
944 S. Munroe Rd., Tallmadge, OH 44278
Dues \$15 a year **INDOOR GARDEN** issued 6 times yearly. Seed exchange, round robins, cultural guides, slide library.



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.



Elected Officers

President.....Carol Notaras
 2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123
 Past President.....Jeannette Gilbertson
 410 JoAnn Circle, Vista, CA 92084
 First Vice-President.....Gene Salisbury
 P.O. Box 504, Tonkawa, OK 74653
 Second Vice-President...Millie Thompson
 P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968
 Third Vice-President.....Mary Bucholtz
 2411 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL32207
 Secretary.....Ingeborg Foo
 1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083
 Treasurer.....Eleanor Calkins
 910 Fern St., Escondido, CA 92027

Appointed Chairmen & Directors

Audit Committee
 Ed Bates
 P.O. Box 230502, Encinitas, CA 92023-0502
 Ralph Corwin
 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista CA 92084
 Awards.....Thelma O'Reilly
 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa CA 91941
 Ballot Counting.....Ronnie Nevins
 1913 Aspen Circle, Fullerton, CA 92635
Begonian, Back Issues.....Betty Tillotson
 3912 Wildrose Way, Sacramento, CA 05826
 Book Store.....Anita Ruthenberg
 1016 W. Arlington Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76110
 Branch Relations.....Douglas Hahn
 7736 Stonehill Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45230

OPENINGS:

Horticultural Correspondent;
 Research Librarian.
Begonian staff: Editor; Advertising
 Manager.
 Contact President to volunteer.

Business Manager.....Dale Elmlade
 3418 McKibbin, St. John, MO 63114-4324
 Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.....Diana Gould
 9278 Mapleview Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758
 Conservation Committee
 Director.....Scott Hoover
 718 Henderson Rd., Williamstown, MA 01267
 Administrator.....Bruce C. Boardman
 Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262
 Convention Advisor.....Barbara Nunes
 6025 Greeley Blvd., Springfield, VA 22152
 1992 Convention Chairmen
 Chairman.....Elda Regimbal
 3117 San Juan Dr., Fullerton, CA 92635
 Co-chairmen...Mary Sakamoto
 Brad Thompson
 Historian...Norma Pfrunder
 3484 Jefferson St., Riverside, CA 92504
 Judging.....Maxine Zinman
 Rt. 1, Box 73, Boyce, VA 22620
 Long-Range Planning.....Kay Tucker
 207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221
 Nomenclature.....Carrie Karegeannes
 3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22003
 Parliamentarian.....Margaret Lee
 1852 31st St., San Diego, CA 92102
 Public Relations/Special Advertising
 Russ Richardson
 1854 Chancery Lane, Chamblee, GA 30341
 Research.....Houston Knight
 13455 Hadley St., Whittier, CA 90601
 Round Robin.....Virginia Hamann
 Rt. 1, Box 10 Chester IA 52134
 Show Entries/Classification.....Tim Last
 437 Prospect Ave. #15, Brooklyn, NY 11215
 Slide Library
 Co-Chairman.....Daniel Haseltine
 6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago, IL 60634
 Co-Chairman.....Charles Jaros
 2621 NW 23rd Court, Miami, FL 33142

BEGONIAN STAFF

Editor: Tamsin Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262 (817) 481-4305, 481-2169
 Nomenclature Editor: Jack Golding
 Editorial Associates: Phyllis Bates, Bruce C. Boardman, Kit Mounger, Mary Weinberg
 Mini-Ads: Cynthia Bishop, 4150 Auburn-Folsom Rd., Loomis CA95659
 For subscription, dues, circulation inquiries contact John Ingles, Jr. 157 Monument,
 Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617



Help Available from ABS

These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads, see preceding page. Please 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**.

Horticultural Correspondent

Prompt assistance with questions pertaining to growing begonias.

Judging Dept.

Certifies accredited judges through judging schools and correspondence course.

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.

Research Department

Works on problems relating to begonia culture.

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.

Seed Fund

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

Slide Library

List of programs available from Slide Librarian.

Member Input Opportunities

Conservation Department

wants lists of species grown by members.

Nomenclature Department

wants photos and information on "U" numbers members are growing from seed.

Research Department

solicits suggestions on projects and participation in research.

Seed Fund

seeks donations of seed.

Slide Library

requests individual slides of begonias as well as complete slide programs.

**See also "Openings", preceding page.
Participate. You can make a difference.**



American Begonia Society
157 Monument
Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617

Address correction requested

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 735
Dallas, TX