

May/June, 1993

*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

**Front & Back:** Semperflorens are not the only "bedding" begonias. Julia Meister of Rochester, New York captured the beauty of her tuberous begonias last summer.



## IN THIS ISSUE

### Convention '93

Late Breaking News	76
Wearing Begonias	89

### Articles

Hybridizing	
Hybridizing Canes	77
Judgement Day	80
Artistic Considerations	83
Unknown, Unnamed	85
Let Sleeping Dogs Lie	87
Barkley Fund	90
Green Treasures	92
Flower? Leaf?	93
Begonia Spotlight	94
A Dainty Native	96

### Regular Features

In the News	91
In Memory	92
Show News	95
Bulletin Board	97
Conservation News	98
Seed Fund Listing	99
Round Robin Notes	100
Around ABS	102
ABS Minutes	105

B. 'Perryann'  
Ernest K. Logee, 1948  
drawing by Charles McGough

A Big

## Thank You!

to **Sacramento Branch**, for donating the proceeds of their Plant Table to the **Begonian Color Fund**.

### Quick!

Check your mailing label!  
If it reads 5/93 or 6/93,  
your membership is about  
to expire.

Please renew! We don't  
want to lose you!

# Late Breaking Convention News

by Sylvia Ben

## Delta Initiates Special ABS Discount

Here I am again, writing for our national magazine. Delta Airlines just amended our contract in order to give us a special 5% discount (based on their lowest published fares) for all tickets purchased at Stirling Road Travel, 1(800) 843-2501.

This discount does not apply to already discounted tickets such as government employees, military personnel, or senior citizens.

The airlines are constantly having "on again, off again" price wars. Should the airfare be lowered on a previously purchased ticket, the ticket will be exchanged for the lower fare plus a \$25.00 fee; the additional refund will be issued to the purchaser. Refunds have already been issued to some conventioners.

Don't forget the special "Delta Ticket Raffle" that will be provided by Stirling Road Travel if 40 or more tickets are purchased through their offices.

## Roommate?

Anyone wanting to attend the post-Convention tour and needing a roommate (double-occupancy per room), please call Charles Jaros at (305) 635-7806 or Sylvia Ben at (305) 964-3828. Hopefully, we can locate a suitable person.

## Disney World Stay-Over

A special room rate of \$89.00 plus tax per night has been arranged at the Hotel Royal Plaza in DisneyWorld for anyone desiring to stay on an extra night (or two, or three).

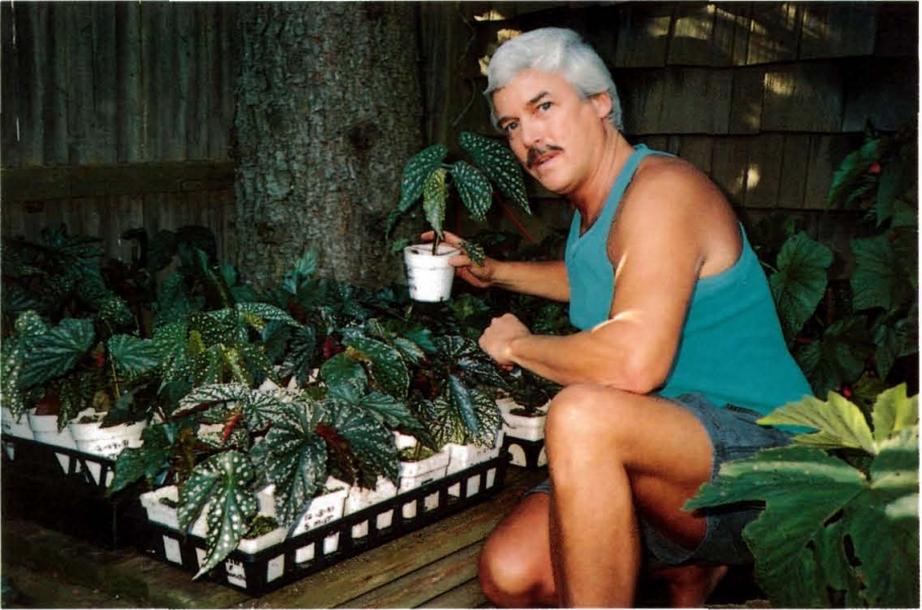
## Roommate!

In closing: I'm going on the post-Convention tour and I think I need a roommate - any volunteers? Please call! (Number above.)



## It's Not Flipper!

One of the items on our Convention Banquet Menu is a fish called, in our part of the country, dolphin fish. It's also known as mahi-mahi. We are definitely not serving porpoise, mammals that are also called dolphins, and are sorry for the misunderstanding.



## Hybridizing Cane Begonias

by Walter Dworkin

Any plant lover can tell you that once you've fallen in love with a specific plant family, you can never get enough of it. These were my exact sentiments once I discovered the cane-like (angel-wing) begonias.

Canes are beautiful plants, and for the hobbyist they offer a wide range of different foliage shapes, colors, sizes, and beautiful arrays of pendulous flower umbels. The beauty of these plants compelled me to collect almost every one in circulation, and I still wanted more. My curiosity led me to research the genetic backgrounds of these plants, and I became obsessed with the concept of creating my own unique hybrids. Eventually, my creativity and imagination began running wild, and a whole new world - hybridizing - opened up for me.

A hybrid is an offspring of two plants of different varieties, species, or genera. The offspring is the end result of hybridizing (interbreeding) the selected male and female parents' reproductive blossom parts. The first lesson to learn before attempting to perform any hybridizing is that begonias have both female (seed parent) and male (pollen parent) flowers.

Let's begin with exploring the nature and characteristics of the male blossom. The male blossom is easily recognized because, in contrast to the female blossom, it does not have any ovary compartment stored behind its sepals (flower petals). The pollen that is needed for reproductive purposes is stored in the pollen sacks in the anthers of the male blossom. In many instances the pollen, though present, may

not be visible to the human eye. There is also no guarantee that all males will have pollen, and consequently some will be sterile. Some male blossoms never open their sepals; others will remain closed during hot humid summers but surprise you in fall by opening and releasing pollen. It is not unusual to find cane hybrids with viable males but sterile females (or vice versa) on the same plant. In many cases, both males and females are viable; in others, excessive hybridizing will have rendered them sterile.

Once you choose the parents to create your own cross (hybrid), there are certain precautions that should be followed. When you decide to make your cross, choose a day that is dry with low humidity levels. Pollen will remain wet on a day with high humidity, and wet pollen will not release. Avoid making any crosses early in the morning if you live in an area with heavy morning dew; wait until late morning or afternoon, when the sun will have dried dew from the pollen sacks.

One way to prevent moisture problems is to collect your male blossoms the night before and try to keep them dry in the house overnight. Some hybridizers advocate the use of heat lamps indoors to dry out pollen sacks.

First day males (newly opened blossoms) should be avoided for use in pollination because their pollen sacks generally are not mature enough to open and release pollen. The best males to use are mature, with sepals fully open, preferably ripe or "over the hill", exhibiting a darker shade of yellow pollen discoloration. One good rule of thumb is to use fallen males, because their pollen sacks have matured. Under a controlled environment, pollen can also be stored in the refrigerator or frozen for use at a later date.

Now that we are all experts on pollen, let's examine the role of the female blossom in hybridizing. The female blooms will generally appear in clusters after the males have opened. Sometimes they appear on

the same peduncle (flower stem) with the males, sometimes on their own peduncle. Female blossoms are generally larger than the males, due to the three-segmented ovary compartment located behind their blossom sepals; however, I have also noticed that on some plants the reverse is true: the males are huge and the females average in size.

As the females develop, they will evolve from small buds with closed sepals to large open blooms. Once matured, the female will begin to open its sepals to receive pollen. Some hybridizers feel that the female will not be receptive to pollen for at least two days after its sepals open fully. I begin to pollinate the female flower as soon as it begins to open, and continue this process for the next couple of days. Early pollination is my only insurance against alien pollen entering the female before the pollen I have chosen. Pollen can be spread by bees, other insects, or wind. Unless you can make bonnets for your females to keep out the bees, early pollination or isolation are your only choices. I've tried to isolate my female blossoms from alien pollen by bringing the plant back into the greenhouse; however, much to my shock and dismay, all the female blooms started to separate from their peduncles and fall because of the change in environment.

To pollinate the female blossom, I simply take the male blossom and gently rub its pollen sacks into the female's stigma. Always be careful not to damage the female's reproductive blossom parts. I then tag the female bloom and carefully document in a diary the date of the cross and parentage, always listing the female parent first and male second.

Some female blossoms are sterile, and will never become parents. You will learn about this sterility through trial and error, or by studying a good reference book (such as *The Buxton Checklist*, which lists all hybrids and their parentage).

If your cross is successful and fertilization has occurred, the female will close its sepals and no longer be receptive to pollen. (This process is not to be confused with some female sepals that close at night due to cooler temperatures, and then re-open the next morning.) You will also notice discoloration of the female's stigmas, shedded sepals, and swelling of the ovary compartment. This is not, however, a guarantee of a fertilized seed pod since the female may fall off before ripening (false pregnancy).

Once fertilization has occurred you must endure the waiting period of at least five weeks, and perhaps as long as two months, during which you pray that your seed pod does not drop off. During this time frame all precautions must be taken to protect the seed pod from damage by wind, rain, garden hoses, and plant friends that are constant groomers.

Once the peduncle of the seed pod has turned brown and shriveled to a thread-like condition, it is time to harvest your treasure and place it in a labeled envelope until planting time.

Seed pods that have aged and dried properly can be turned upside down, and the seed contents will come pouring out as if from a salt shaker. If your seed does not spill out naturally, you can break the pod open by using a small sifter placed over a piece of paper, and separate the seed. Some pods will yield huge amounts of seed, while others produce only a few.

Your harvested seed will be very minute and resemble pepper, and may vary in color from shades of cinnamon to coffee brown. If you lift and slant the paper on which your seed is resting, you will notice that the seed will start to roll. At this point you will at least know that your seed has matured and formed properly.

Now that your harvested treasure is indicating all the signs of good color and maturation, It must pass the biggest test of

all, and that is the test of viability. Just because seed has formed does not mean it will grow, and in many instances it may be sterile.

Sow your hybrid seed on a well-drained, sterile, soilless planting medium. This medium should be moist, not soaking wet. Gently sprinkle your seed evenly on top of your planting medium: begonia seed should not be buried. Next, spray the surface of your medium with a quick fine mist of water and wrap pot and all in a clear plastic bag. Accurate record keeping is always a must when hybridizing, so always label each pot with the name of your cross and the date on which it was sown. Keep your newly potted up seed warm and covered with plastic to hasten germination. The majority of your seed should germinate within thirteen days; however, many will start as early as eight days, while others may take as long as two months. Once your seed has germinated, try to supply as much light as possible so your seedlings won't stretch out of shape. Good light will ensure compact and strong growth.

I recommend dividing your amount of seed in half and not sowing it all at once. Place half of your remaining seed in a labeled glassine envelope, and then store this envelope in a tightly sealed plastic container on the bottom shelf of your refrigerator. Seed stored in this fashion should remain viable for many years.

It's always wise to have a safety bank supply of seed as insurance in case you have an accident or a disease that kills all your seedlings. There isn't any bigger heartbreak than patiently waiting for an exciting hybrid cross to germinate only to knock the pot and all its contents on the floor. Attacks of fungus or mildew can also wipe out your entire batch of seedlings. Then there's the neighborhood cat or squirrel that may take tremendous joy in pouncing on your precious babies, or carry them off into the woods, never to be seen again! A word to the wise should be sufficient. (continued on page 82)

# Judgement Day...

comes at the end of the summer; we decide which seedlings show the most promise and are worth keeping over the winter months. It's the biggest and final culling day of the growing season...

Annette Boree and Philip Seiden help with the selection of the best. Both are also hybridizers.



Annette Boree is introduced to Walter Dworkin's seedlings

Annette and Phil look over the 1992 crop: their smiles are a good sign



The reaction the hybridizer hopes for:  
it looks as though Annette's found a "keeper"



During their early developmental stages, you will discover that your seedlings have an almost built-in immunity to mildew; however, this little blessing will be short-lived, and you must examine them on a regular basis to check against any signs of this killer fungus. To keep your seedlings healthy, always try to avoid over-crowded conditions and provide good air circulation. When choosing parents for your hybridizing work, try to avoid using begonias that are prone to mildew. The tendency to mildew is genetically inherited, and whether this trait is dominant or recessive, you don't want to chance raising a bunch of little mildew factories!

As the months pass by you'll be feeling like a very proud parent, watching your little treasured seedlings as they are maturing and exhibiting many beautiful colors, spots, stripes, and leaf shapes. You'll find yourself on the telephone boasting that your hybrids are the greatest thing since sliced bread. You're convinced your seedlings are so unique that they are going to set the horticultural world on fire!

I suggest that you refrain from those telephone calls for about eighteen to twenty-four months, because your seedlings are going to evolve and go through such drastic changes that you won't believe your eyes. Today's pick of the litter could definitely become tomorrow's dog. The runt of the litter (which is your future revolutionary compact miniature gift to the world) might

choose to stop growing at four months of age, and all the prayers in the universe won't make it grow again! That rare pure silver-leaved seedling can decide to turn all green after a year's growth. Those beautiful variegations and silver markings on leaves can all vanish, and you'll accept the guilt for using the wrong fertilizer. Your favorite prize seedling just may decide that it can't endure life's pressures any more, and die after six months. Some real beauties will survive, but one can't be propagated, and another that you cherish refuses to bloom (ever!). Eventually an entire batch of seedlings may not show any promise and will get dumped. On the other hand, another cross may have seven or eight super stars that are improvements over both their parents.

The world of hybridizing is a mixed bag of rewards and disappointments, but if you let the joys of success outweigh the heart-break of disappointment, the rewards are wonderful and well worth the effort. Creating a new and exciting hybrid is a joyous and fulfilling experience. Every hybridizer rejoices when that special hybrid seedling evolves with the best inherited characteristics of both of its parents to amaze the world with its beauty.

---

*Walter Dworkin is President of Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau Branch, and we'll all watch for his creations! His address is 8 Rugby Rd., Westbury, NY 11590.*



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# Artistic Considerations in Hybridizing Begonias

by Charles McGough

Let's look at hybridizing as an artist might. Artists tend to see things as exaggerations, such as

**huge!** instead of large,

*slick as glass* instead of smooth.

Look at your plants as works of art: either stiff or soft and flowing, soft green, formal or asymmetrical, intensely colored, richly patterned, transparent, angular, star-like, oval, elongated, or multicolored.

Look at your plant and ask yourself, "What would make it more beautiful or interesting?" How about a more cascading effect, or brighter, more intense leaf color? Should it be fuller in form, have a better proportion between leaf size and overall plant size? Should there be more contrast between flowers and leaf color? Or would you prefer the reverse, a greater harmony with, let's say, a soft leaf color, having a flower less intense in color and softer, to blend with the leaves?

In crossing begonias, there are two basic objectives: refinement of an existing plant, or the introduction of a totally different looking plant...a plant that has among its three or four most obvious characteristics a unique combination not seen in any plant before.

Begin by identifying one plant and its two or three outstanding characteristics. Then identify the one way you would try to improve it with an add-on, such as spots on a solid leaf or correcting a weakness, such as a flower that is too small.

Typical add-ons: decoration to leaf shape, surface, color, hair; a longer blooming period; more branching; increased (or decreased) plant size (height, or leaf).

Typical corrections of weakness: stronger stems, larger flowers, brighter color, non-branching to branching, reduced humidity requirements, wider range of light tolerances, removal of dormancy tendency, increased flowering.

To accomplish successful crosses I suggest using a chart that will help predict likely results. Identify the two or three most outstanding characteristics (+ and -) of both the male and female plant. Attempt to arrange your choices of plants so that an outstanding negative quality in one parent is countered by an outstanding positive quality in the other. On the next page is the chart for one of my crosses.

You can see that in this cross there was the potential for one or more seed to produce a plant that was strong-stemmed, vertical, well-branched, and have a large, heavily silvered leaf. The flowers could be profuse, a strong red, everblooming. The plant would love both heat and sun.

The problem is that there will also be one or more seed that will produce a low-growing, non-branching plant with a weak stem, a solid green leaf, and a sporadic whitish-pink flower.

	Seed Parent: B. 'Vodka'		Pollen Parent: <i>B. leathermaniae</i>	
	+	-	+	-
Stem		short, weak	strong, vertical	
Flower	continuous			infrequent
Leaf	deep rich bronze	non-decorative	large, silvered, beautiful streak	
Branch	easy , basal branching			rarely branches, drops lower leaves
Humidity				
Temperature				
Light				
Water				

All the seedlings need to be brought along far enough to eliminate the weak, slow growers. In the next cut you will be looking at stem, branch, and leaf characteristics. Eliminate those that fall short by not branching, or are weak-stemmed, or have what I call "vanilla" leaves.

The rest you bring along further by placing them in a variety of environments you hope they can grow in: more sun, more heat, lower humidities, etc. Those that survive this round are then groomed for flowering. Increase the fertilizer's phosphorus and potassium (example: go from 20-20-20 to 20-30-30) to encourage both roots and flowers, then to a high phosphorus (example: 10-50-20, or similar configuration) to put a heavy emphasis on flowering. Four to six weeks just might bring glorious results.

If you succeed in bringing one or more plants that are winners through this course, take cuttings immediately. Remember, the cutting is likely to act very differently from the seed-grown plant in several ways. You just might want to take stem cuttings of your most promising plants very early, before flowering. It is possible that the cutting will root and flower as soon as the seedling, and even appear to be the larger, more mature plant.

---

*Artist Charles McGough won the Best Artistic Exhibit in Show at the national convention in 1990 with his begonia tryptich, and Best Southwest Region Hybrid at the Southwest Region Get-Together in 1992. He lives at 1603 Walnut, Commerce, TX 75428.*



## Quote:

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

Anonymous, quoted in several newsletters (and it seems appropriate for hybridizers)



## Unknown, Unnamed, but Loved

by Mildred Swyka

The rhizomatous begonia pictured is one of my hybrids. It is perhaps six years old, from an unknown cross - but way back it has some *B. bowerae*, as you can see.

The mature leaves are 5" long and 7" wide, with the undersides green with a red edge. Stems are hairy. Blooms are profuse pink sprays on very tall stalks. It pollinates well.

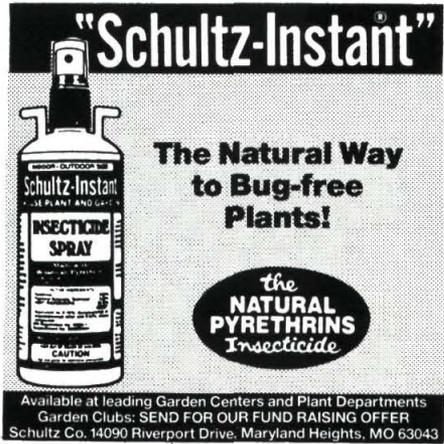
It is being grown in a 3" x 7 1/2" fiber dish that sits in a 3" x 10" clay saucer on a 1" layer of coarse vermiculite. Two wicks bring water to the plant. It is beautiful as long as it is kept moist. If I fail to keep the vermiculite wet, it droops; but quickly revives when water is supplied.

At the beginning of bloom time it is given a feeding of Peters' Bloom Booster. It is also putting out new growth.

What is remarkable to me about this begonia is that such a large plant grows in such a shallow dish.

I am very pleased with the rhizomatous begonias I have been growing with wicks, and wish I had them all wicked. Even some of my small "angel-wings" are wicked, and they are doing great.

Mildred Swyka lives at 1147 Bethel Church Road, Middletown, DE 19709. Watch future issues of the *Begonian* for some more of her photos and short articles on individual begonias she grows.



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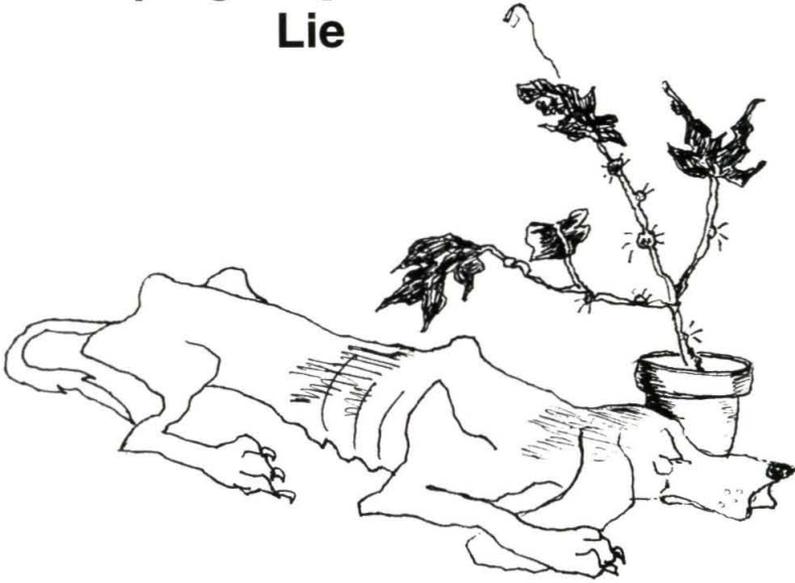
## 61st American Begonia Society Convention

Hosted by the Miami Branch

May 6-9, 1993



# Let Sleeping Dogs Lie



by Kit Jeans Mounger

Once you've succeeded in setting begonia seed, tiny stuff that it is, hybridizing is as easy as sneezing.

You laugh: I was bending over a tank in which resided some small temperamental species, one of which was *B. crispula*, a queen bee if there ever was one, and another *picta*, which isn't exactly easy, either. On one was a tall umbel of tantalizing female blossoms, and the other was brandishing its pretty pink males. I sneezed, thought nothing of it, and went on watering. The next thing I knew, *crispula's* seed pods had dropped their tepals and the pods were fattening. *Picta* had a smirk about it.

Out of curiosity - since I no longer have any time for hybridizing - I opened one of the pods when it dried to see if there was any visible seed therein. To my surprise, seed went flying away into the tank. I was

thoroughly annoyed. If I'd wanted to cross *crispula* with *picta*, I couldn't have succeeded in a hundred years. But all begonia growers know about Murphy's Law, don't we?

That was last summer. There are now small seedlings all over that tank, some of which look interesting and some of which look like what the little boy shot at. It will be years before I really know if any of these hybrids are of any value.

"Years?" you ask. Yes: years. It's all very well to hybridize willy-nilly. As I said, it's as easy as sneezing. Takes no talent at all. Shucks, begonias have been doing it for years and they have no brains. So have dogs. And this is where the word "mongrel" come from. As it is with careless pet owners, indiscriminate breeding will give you more mutts than you'll be able to find homes

for. Same thing with begonias. Don't think your fellow branch members will welcome your leggy, three-leaf, putrid-pink hybrid just because its yours...

'Tis a far better thing to plan, to hybridize as specifically as possible, to keep meticulous records of your crosses - and then cull ruthlessly. This process will take years. So why spend all that time on something that may grow up to be Ichabod Crane when you can have 'Tingley Mallet' instead? Of course, in the case of many seedlings, you will get a few dogs anyway, given Mendel's Law, but there will be a few jewels. So when your seedlings begin to mature, ask yourself some questions:

- Is it really all that different? Be honest: could you pick it out instantly on the plant sale table?
- Is it prone to mildew?
- Does it drop when the humidity does?
- Does it shed foliage like Gypsy Rose every time it gets moved?
- Does it get so big it belongs in the Little Shop of Horrors? Is it stunted? Contorted? Malformed?

The answer to the first question should be a resounding yes.

If the answers to all the other questions are yes, don't even think about calling the ABS registrar of new cultivars. There are already too many fussy, leggy, unholy prima donnas out there that could easily fit into a faceless chorus line. As the man said: don't be part of the problem, be part of the solution.

Put your babies to the test. Give them years to develop, to prove themselves. Send them to friends in other parts of the country to test-grow, and when these friends give you an honest opinion, believe them. Don't distribute them until they prove they're tough, different, and a real addition to someone's collection. Don't even consider registering your cultivars before they're 6-7 years old. If you act precipitously, they may act like the mutts they are and come back to bite you.

---

*Artist Kit Jeans Mounger is the creator of (to choose just a few) B. 'Dragon Flight' and the "Jeans" series. She lives at Rt. 1, Box 319, New Johnsonville, TN 37134.*



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# Wearing Begonias



by Charles Jaros

Wearing begonias: what better way to advertise Begonias and ABS? Wearing a Begonia-related item makes it easy to start a conversation with people who may not know about our favorite plant family. You may win a new Begonia convert and ABS/Branch member.

And just what will the well-dressed Begonia Fancier be wearing this season? Find out at the 1993 ABS Convention and Show in Miami, Florida, "Begonias, The Greatest Show on Earth", May 6-9. The haute couture 1993 Collection will be on display at the exclusive Fashion Show on Thursday, May 6 from 7 to 10 p.m. Jewelry, hats, handbags, and clothing will be modeled by ABS members.

Ralph Beaudry of "How Not to Grow a Begonia" fame\* will be our Fashion Commentator. What fun!

\*Note: "How Not to Grow a Begonia" is available through the ABS Slide Library.

Begonias, as well as clothing, will be part of the Fashion Show. Find out what's new in the world of Begonias. An auction of these wonderful new plants will follow the Fashion Show, and many of the Fashion Show items will be available through the Begonia Boutique. Now you, too, can wear Begonias!

If you haven't registered for the Convention, don't delay. If you've lost your packet or need additional information, write Charles J. Jaros at 2621 N. W. 23 Court, Miami, FL 33142, or call (305)635-7806. Don't miss "Begonias, The Greatest Show on Earth!"

# Barkley Collection Preservation Fund: Thank You!

The members of Buxton Branch would like to thank the following donors, whose names were inadvertently not listed in the January-February issue, for their contributions to the Barkley Collection Preservation Fund in 1991 and 1992:

Melville Chapin  
Mrs. F. Good  
J. & M. Herweg  
Martin Johnson  
Maria Kahalan  
Carrie Karegeannes  
Melvin Katsh  
Nancy Kingman  
Walter Kotyk  
Ronald Macon  
Genevieve Mulley  
Carol & Peter Notaras  
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Garvin Titcomb  
and the 1992 ABS Convention

and the following donors for their contributions in 1993:

Allen Dean  
Helen Chin  
Julia Crocker  
Evelyn & Raymond Cronin  
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Marjorie Garfield  
Ann & Al Henick  
Mary Ann Leer  
Henrietta Light  
Phyllis Podren  
Ann & Gene Salisbury  
Alice Sarno  
Philip Seiden

---

Mention must also be made of two very special donations:  
Wanda & Richard Macnair made and sold elderberry, blueberry-rhubarb, and strawberry-rhubarb jams (from their home-grown produce) and donated the proceeds to the Fund.  
Ernie Ayles and Neil Nagle made a quilt, which was raffled for the Fund.

---

## ***BARKLEY COLLECTION FREEZES - NOT!***

**Yes**, the northeast U.S. was hit by one of the worst winter storms of history.

**Yes**, there were widespread power outages.

**No**, the Barkley Collection did not freeze!

Kudos to Farsighted Frank Green, who had a back-up generator in place and ready to go when temperatures plummeted.

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

## ***In Panama...***

Roberto Brin was elected President of Kiwanis of Panama. Among the activities sponsored during his term of office were construction of Children's Villages, artisan's markets, aqueducts, health centers; and help with Special Olympics and young people's sports centers. In line with Roberto's interest in nature and ecology, some of the projects included tree plantings and park beautification.

Roberto's garden, filled with begonias, was featured on the front page of the Revista section of La Prensa on February 6, 1993 in an article by April Foster, with photos by Silvia G. de Morales. Pictured were Begonias U093, *heracleifolia nigricans*, and an unknown cane.

Those of us who know of his dedication to conservation and ecology may not realize that he is also hybridizing, and has come up with at least two special crosses, which he has named B. 'Agnes Brin' for his daughter and B. 'Ivonne Brin' for his wife.

Roberto's begonia collection (or should we say addiction?) began in 1983 with the purchase of an "Iron Cross" begonia (*B. masoniana*). After joining the American Begonia Society, Roberto learned to collect seed and began searching the forests of Panama for begonias (several of our "U" numbers came from his expeditions).

His many contributions to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund through the years have aided in preserving Panamanian begonia species and given him the delight of sharing "a little piece of Panama" with the rest of the world.

Roberto will share more of Panama with us at the 1993 ABS Convention in Miami, where he will present a program entitled "Tropical Splendors", with slides from Panama's tropical parks.

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See you in Miami!  
for

## **"Begonias, The Greatest Show on Earth"**

61st American Begonia Society Convention  
Hosted by the Miami Branch  
May 6-9, 1993

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### **Quote:**

"The dictionary is the only place where success comes before work."  
Westchester Branch newsletter

## IN MEMORY

One of our national Past Presidents, **Vera L. Naumann**, passed away January 21, 1993 in San Dimas, California. She was born July 6, 1912 in Missouri, and had been an area resident for 57 years. A Life Member of ABS and active in the San Gabriel Valley Branch, Vera was also a member of the Arboretum Society, the Fuchsia Society, and the Los Angeles International Fern Society.

"The soul and spirit that **Marjorie Muggie** was endowed with are indeed rare qualities. Her wit, wisdom, and warmth are the legacy she left to the Orange County Branch of the A.B.S.. God speed, dear one." - Ronnie Nevins

"We were all saddened at our last meeting to learn of the death of our dear friend and fellow Branch member **Bea Kaufman**. We will all miss Bea's warm smile, her enthusiasm and generous help at plant sales and other branch activities. She loved to garden. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family." - Leslie Hatfield

### Quote:

"There are people  
who make things happen,  
people who watch things happen,  
and people who don't know  
anything happened."  
Westchester Branch newsletter

# Green Treasures

If you missed the Green Treasures display at the New York Botanical Garden in October, you missed a fascinating exhibit. The scientists at the garden and their counterparts around the world from Borneo to Belize are engaged in a cooperative effort to examine the many species of plants in our remaining rainforests to assess their value to us as food or medicine.

This work has never been more urgent than it is now, seeing how fast the rainforests are being stripped for their lumber, leaving many habitats destroyed and the rich diversity of flora and fauna unresearched and, sadly, unknown. We do know that many of our modern-day medicines have their origin in the plants of these regions. Time is pressing the scientific community to discover and develop more medicinal properties and maybe new food sources before the clock runs out completely.

Of the lengthy list of helpful plants discussed were three very surprising ones - *Begonias glabra*, *cucullata*, and *sanguinea*. It seems they are used for medicine. We always knew our begonias had other purposes than just looking beautiful. It appears they are valuable to the medical community as well, making all of us amateur conservationists. See, we had this conservation stuff right all along!

---

*Barbara Berg edits The Knickerbocker News, where her article appeared in February. Her address is 16 Highview Terrace, New Canaan, CT 06840.*



more "odd things begonias do"...

## Flower? Leaf?

You can imagine my surprise when I saw this female flower on my *B. sutherlandii*.

At exactly where the leaf joins the stem this deformed flower formed.

There is no peduncle, nor pedicel. It appears part of the tepal is actually part of the leaf.

Well, no, what a contradiction! Is the flower part of the leaf or is the leaf part of the flower?

All other flowers, before and after this one, have been normal.

---

*Writer/photographer Mary Bucholtz lives at 2411 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207.*

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*Nor is this the only "oddity" in Florida right now: Mary promises an article soon on an odd adventure in Ed Harrell's greenhouse. Stay tuned!*

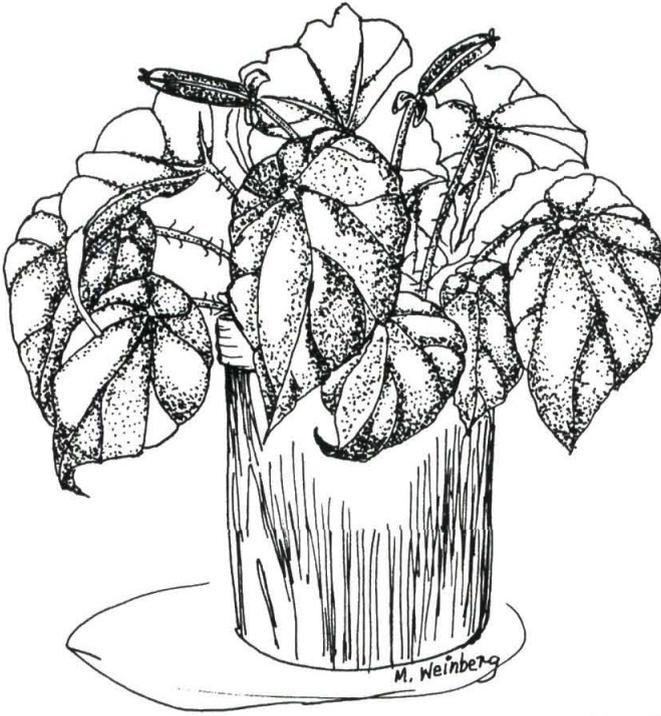


Text and photos by Mary Bucholtz



## SPOTLIGHT ON:

# *Begonia triflora*



by Mary Weinberg

*B. triflora* was discovered in 1921, in Gabon, West Africa, by Dr. Edgar Irmscher. It was introduced into cultivation in 1978 by Dr. DeWilde and Dr. Breteler, who brought it to the Netherlands.

The following description was given by Dr. Doorenbos in the January, 1980 issue of the **Begonian**:

"*B. triflora* is a small-leaved rhizomatous plant. It is stemless. The petioles are reddish, slightly pilose; the leaves are peltate, asymmetrically ovate with a long tip. Leaves are slightly ciliate but otherwise glabrous, veins on the underside with scattered hairs. The peduncles are glabrous and shorter than the petioles. Flowers are bright yellow, the upper tepal marked with

reddish brown at the base and also brownish at the back. Fruits are spindle-shaped with four narrow wings."

My plant was received from Dr. Doorenbos, and survived the long journey from the Netherlands in very good shape; there was no damage to the several kinds of yellow-flowered plants he sent.

I put *B. triflora* in a nutrient solution, where it stayed for several months until the root system was of a good size for planting. About February or March I moved it into a soilless mix, covered it with a plastic bag, and, except for watering when it was dry, I gave it no further attention. In early June the first flowers appeared, and it wasn't long before the plant was literally covered

with them. It is truly a beautiful plant. The leaves appear very much like those of *B. 'Buttercup'* except that they have a smooth surface instead of a quilted one.

I decided to self-pollinate *B. triflora* in order to share its beauty with others. I discovered that the male flower, when taken directly from the plant, does not have pollen available, so I waited until male flowers dropped from the plant, and set the flowers aside for a day. I tested for pollen again, and found there was a slight dust when the flowers were touched. I dusted four female blooms with the male flowers, and three of the female flowers developed enlarged ovaries.

I also took several leaves of *B. triflora* for propagation, and have already potted up one small plant from them.

After the fruit has ripened, I plan to place *B. triflora* in a terrarium.

## CULTURE

**Humidity:** *B. triflora* requires an enclosed environment, where it can get the higher humidity it needs.

**Water:** I have not watered it excessively, waiting until the surface of the soil was dry (remember, it was covered with a plastic bag).

**Light:** *B. triflora* has been under lights from the beginning. The light tubes are about 12" from the top of the pot. The color of the leaves is good.

**Growing Medium:** I plan to use unmilled sphagnum moss and perlite as the growing medium.

This article was written for the Chicago Begonian in the early 1980's.

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



## SHOW NEWS

### Around the Country

**Buxton Branch** put on a tremendous display for the New England Flower Show, winning the Massachusetts Dept. of Agriculture award for the best exhibit by a plant society, and a Silver Medal and an Educational Certificate from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Plants used were from the Barkley collection (including a spectacular *B. solanathera* that Joy Logee Martin donated to the collection), supplemented by plants borrowed from members.

Individual Buxton members entering the show and winning ribbons included **Laura Farnsworth, Wanda Macnair, Phyllis Podren, and Nancy Potter.**

## Moving?

**Please notify the Membership Chairman of your change of address.**

The Post Office does not forward bulk rate mail: ABS is billed for notification of the new address (if one is available) but the issue is destroyed. You miss the **Begonian** you've paid for; ABS must pay for the issue, the postage, and the notification that you have moved. No one is happy, and wouldn't you rather have your dues spent more productively?

If you forget to let the Membership Chairman know you have moved, you will have to purchase your missed magazines from the Back Issues Chairman - that's expensive!

# A Dainty Native of Malaysia



This dainty and lovely begonia bears only the designation 2SH 754. Don Miller, who accompanied Scott Hoover on his 1990 Malaysian expedition, sent a cutting to Joy Porter. Joy grew and painted the specimen above.

# BULLETIN BOARD

ABS News



## Ballot Counting Committee

**Ronnie Nevins**, 1913 Aspen Circle, Fullerton, CA 92635, chairman of the Ballot Counting Committee, will be assisted by **Olivia Carr**, 939 Lamark Lane, Anaheim, CA 92802 and **Don Case**, 3117 San Juan Dr., Fullerton, CA 92635.

The ABS By-Laws, Article VII - Elections, Section 5, states: "...The Committee shall invalidate any ballot containing any writing other than the marks necessary to register votes for candidates nominated under the procedures provided for in these By-Laws..." The Chairman reminds members that *the ballot is voided* if personal remarks or additions are made on the ballot.

Ballots will be mailed **June 17**, and must be returned by **July 21**. They will be counted on **July 22**

## New Society in Canada

The Canadian Begonia Society was organized in April 1992, and will be starting a newsletter soon. Contact Miree Lex, 70 Enfield Ave., Toronto, Ontario M8W1T9, Canada for more information.

## Directory Update

**Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau** Branch is now meeting in Classroom 4 of the Arboretum Center at Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, New York, on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

President of **Alamo Branch** is **Barbara Stewart**, 30631 Blanco Road, Bulverde, TX 78163. Alamo meets the 3rd Saturday of each month in members' homes.

New President for **San Gabriel Valley Branch** is **Beverly Hitz**, 663 Anaby Court, Upland, CA 91786.

**South Bay Branch** meetings are held the 2nd Friday of each month at the Dana School, 135th & Aviation in Hawthorne, California.

## *Travel - Beauty - Knowledge - even Humor!*

All available through the ABS Slide Library - write Chair Daniel Haseltine, 6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago IL 60634 for a complete listing, and spice up your next branch meeting!

# CONSERVATION NEWS

## Donation to Barkley Preservation Fund

The ABS Board voted at the January meeting to donate \$1,000 in Conservation Dept. funds to the Barkley Preservation Fund to help with the expenses of maintaining this important collection.

Branches and members are urged to help, too. This is the only collection actually owned by an ABS Branch; the Buxton Branch is doing a phenomenal job of supporting and caring for the collection, but they certainly do appreciate help! Donations are tax-deductible.

### Quote:

“Enlightenment takes place when one lets his innocence emerge and see nature and life (once again) with a child-like awe and respect.”

C. DuBack, quoted in the Palomar Planter

## Rainforest News Isn't All Bad

Ecuador is estimated to possess some of the richest biological areas left in the world, and it's rich in begonia species. ABS has sponsored collecting expeditions there in years past.

Ecuador has long been the destination of zoologists, botanists, pharmacologists, and other scientists. New plant and animal species are discovered with each new expedition into previously unmaped areas.

However, as we all know, the forests are under siege worldwide.

In recent good news, the Quichua of Ecuador have won a signal victory in the struggle of native peoples to control their homelands: the legal right to maintain control of their territory and to manage it under a co-management agreement with the government of Ecuador.

FOIN, a local organization, and Cultural Survival have helped the Quichua develop a program for forest management that stresses sustainable harvest of forest resources. Quichua lands will remain as they have been for centuries, under the protection of peoples who have cared for them for centuries - but with the backing of modern scientific knowledge and with legal protection from the government.

If similar agreements could be worked out in other countries, the outlook for the world's rainforests would be brighter.

Our own survival chances would improve, too: the forests, particularly the tropical rainforests, function as the air filters of our planet, taking in gases toxic to humans and other living creatures and replacing them with oxygen. More than begonias are at stake as the rainforests burn.



# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Listing

Marilyn Goldstein, Seed Fund Director

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

I would appreciate knowing how the seeds you received germinate for you. Please let me know approximately what percentage of seeds came up, and how long they took. If you don't get any germination, please let me know that, too, and the seeds will be replaced.

The Seed Fund needs fresh new seed. We would appreciate anything you have, especially species. THANK YOU!

All packets of species seed are \$1 each, and all packets of hybrid seed are 50c each.

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.

Please send your order with payment to:

Marilyn Goldstein  
1001 Diplomat Parkway  
Hollywood, FL 33019-2209  
U.S.A.

## Species seed \$1 per packet

*B. crassicaulis*  
*B. gehrtii*  
*B. hirtella*  
*B. leathermaniae*  
*B. mollicaulis*  
*B. plebeja*  
*B. sericoneura\**  
B. U008  
B. U115

\*sent as *B. pilifera*, a synonym of *sericoneura*

## Other seeds 50 cents per packet

Mixed Columbine seeds  
"Bottom of the Box"\*

\*this is a collection of begonia seeds that accumulated in the bottom of the seed box. They could be anything. Grow them and enjoy the surprise when they germinate.

# ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Virginia Hamann, Round Robin Director

I can't believe a whole year has gone by since I accepted the position of Round Robin Director. I have enjoyed every minute of working with the Robins, reading all of the letters and learning how to grow my begonias even better.

Thank you to all the Robin Chairmen for helping me get started, and thanks also to past Directors who were on hand to give advice: it is all appreciated very much.

I am hoping that new members of ABS will join the Robins - it is such a good way to share the fun of growing begonias.

## #23 Canes/Window Sill Growing:

All the rain in California has soaked Madeline Thomas' baskets and pots of begonias, leaving a clear jelly-like substance in the soil. Madeline wonders what it is... She feared pots of seeds left on her patio in the sun would be cooked, but she found some of the seed is growing.

Mildred Swyka (DE) told of a huge cane with bright red blooms. The plant was perhaps 40 years old when her grandmother moved to town. Over the years that plant had provided many cuttings for neighborhood friends.

Despite the dark days of winter, canes and rhizomatous begonias are blooming without bright sun.

## #25 Midwest Growers II:

This is a hardy group, coping with cold weather and snowy days that are darker than usual: the sun's appearance is counted in hours, not days. The whole month of December had about 4 hours of sun!

Begonias are still blooming in spite of this. Larger canes are wintered in basements, just getting by until they can be set outdoors in May.

## #57, Miniature Begonias:

Mary Simon (OH) is now owner of B. 'Silver Peridot'. It is a mutation reversion of the original 'Peridot', hardier than 'Peridot', and does not need terrarium care.

## #6 Odd/Rare/Unusual

Martha Curry (TX) has a cutting of B. U217 that is being sent to the Netherlands to be identified. Martha said "Maybe it will have a real name soon!"

## #9 Growing Under Lights

Mary Bucholtz (FL) found shoptight tubes on sale (12 for \$9.00); she is hoping they will work as grow lights. Her B. 'Caravan' has developed red hairs on the leaves - they look like a halo surrounding the leaf. Mary suggests down-potting rhizomatous begonias to prevent crown rot.

Madeline Thomas (CA), newest member of the Robin, would rather begin with small cuttings or plants instead of growing from seed. She claims it is "easier on my nerves", as she says she expects results immediately after planting seeds - like a "Jack and the Beanstalk" process. Madeline also senses her plants' appreciation of Gospel music she plays in the plant room.

Mae Blanton (TX) places mealy bug infested plants in a sink with warm water and Ivory soap; she even scrubs the stems and leaves with a soft nylon net scrubber. Soil mealy bugs are treated by washing all roots and stems with soap and water, replacing old soil, and repotting. Keeping infested plants isolated from others keeps the mealies from spreading to clean plants.

Daniel Haseltine (IL) asks, "Why do plants bloom only on new growth? What makes them go dormant?" Mae answered the questions with one word: "genetics."

Each plant has its own way of growing, and, she said, "That is the fun of growing begonias, with all the countless varieties."

### #1 General Culture

Mabel Corwin (CA) has been busy planting begonia seeds, 45 pots of her own crosses including the ones helped by the bumble bees in her garden. A new cane hybrid 'Raindance' was released after the 1992 Convention. 'Sundance' will be released in the spring. Will there be another release named 'Ralph Corwin'? Perhaps...

### #15 Cold Climate Greenhouses

Across the country from Mabel, Elaine Ayers (OH) has been starting seed of *her* cane crosses. She had 100% germination within 12 days!

Cynthia Bishop (CA) is taking cane cuttings and leaf wedges. She finds begonias growing in odd places: *B. brevirimosa* is growing in a heavy clay and gravel used as flooring in the greenhouse. The plant is huge! If she had planted it in this material on purpose, it would never have grown for her.

Several members are trying to find the book Begonia Portraits by Alice Clarke, printed in 1977 and now out of print.

Margaret Coats (TX) is starting terrarium plants for the Southwest Region Get-Together in April. She tries to keep the Region well supplied with terrarium begonias.

### #11 Canes

Restarted in November, this Robin added three new members in February.

Brad Thompson (CA) is busy propagating canes and has several named hybrids, B. 'Lady Ronnie' being his latest. His growing area in his yard makes a perfect micro-climate for growing his canes to their fullest. Walter Dworkin (NY) is also busy propagating canes and growing his crosses from seed. Cooler weather caused seed pods to ripen more slowly. Cane cuttings taken in the fall are allowed to root under lights until growth starts; then they are transferred to a cold greenhouse.

### #13 Canes

Thelma Crawford (KS) sent pictures of her cane begonias growing outdoors. They are magnificent, with lush growth and blooms. She makes her own natural composted potting mixes.

John Keller (NJ) uses a rockwool mix for rooting cuttings. Roots appear within a month of planting. Margaret Coats (TX) informs members that there are both a cane and a rhizomatous begonia named 'Madame Butterfly'. The cane is by Irene Nuss, the rhizomatous by Leslie Woodruff.

### #14 Semperflorens

This Robin started off a bit shakily, but with two new members it just might become a strong flier.

### #46 Greenhouse Growing

The Greenhouse Growing Robin feels a great loss over the passing away of G. Art Sackenruther. His letter of June 30 showed his enthusiasm for new plants just received, seeds sown, and a plant sale he was planning - a great way to live.

Christine Giordano (NY) has canes blooming happily: Begonias 'Irene Nuss', 'Pickobeth', and 'Christmas Candy'. Elaine Ayers (OH) has put lights in her basement for starting seeds. She is working on cane crosses she made during the summer. Begonias 'Kathlynn Calvert', 'Obsession', 'Lenore Olivier', and 'Posey Wahl' are some of the canes blooming for Elaine.

Carl Walker, Jr. (NC) finds it fascinating to watch leaves of seedlings, especially rhizomatous and canes, change as they mature.

*Keep 'em Flying...*

*There's a Robin covering almost every aspect of growing begonias. To join, write to Virginia Hamann, RR 1, Box 10, Chester Iowa 52134.*



# AROUND ABS

## Notes from our Newsletters

Happy Birthdays to Sacramento Branch, 45 in March; Monterey Bay Area Branch, 22 in February, and Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, in May.

On the birthday note, when San Francisco Branch celebrated its 54th in February, Iris Birkhofer, Emily Lingscheld, and Carmen Miller were among those attending. All three had been members for over forty years!

Last fall, Westchester celebrated its 33rd anniversary with a luau, inviting their traditional birthday speaker Rudolf Ziesenhenné. They also invited members of one of our newer branches, South Bay, to the luau.

Does your branch keep a "comments" booklet at shows for visitors to sign? The New South Wales Begonia Society, down in Australia, does. Some comments recently reported in their newsletter included "Are these begonias for REAL?", "Still as good as ever", "How sweet it is", "Creation is beyond our understanding", and, from a 9 year old, "SPEC TACULAR!"

"Pop & Swap" was the theme for a recent Satellite Branch meeting. Members were asked to "POP" three rhizomatous leaves into a plastic bag, label them, and bring them to the meeting to "SWAP". The Show & Tell portion featured a demonstration of wedge cutting and propagation.

Monterey Bay Area members spent March looking for 'pinkies' - those tiny shoots that indicate tuberous begonias are breaking their winter sleep.

While most people think of St. Valentine during February, gardeners are a different breed. At the February meeting of the Alfred D. Robinson Branch, Lois Donohue spoke on St. Fiacre, patron saint of gardens - by extension, that includes begonias, doesn't it?

Weather is always of supreme interest to plant lovers, and sometimes becomes a nightmare situation for program chairmen. A heavy snowstorm blanketed the Boston area on meeting night in February, resulting in a meeting without a speaker. Here's what happened:

"We improvised. Fortunately Al Henick and Althea Phillips both brought in plants, and Wanda Macnair did a couple of very informative grooming demonstrations. The source of her appellation "Wanda the butcher" was no longer in doubt. That woman has no mercy! Both plants went home prepared to grow into better specimens, and, if all the cuttings take, will be surrounded by whole new generations. Sort of like "the loaves and the fishes" enacted horticulturally! We had a good general discussion, and a good attendance..."

"Way to the south another program chair was surprised by a serendipitous invasion of Girl Scouts. This happened to Astro Branch, at their January meeting. Gloria Quinn and Ruth McCormick were doing a program on the history of terrariums, followed by the introduction of some good begonias for terrariums and a demonstration on planting them. The Scouts, meeting in the same building, sat in on the program and displayed great interest. As a result, Gloria and Ruth will be giving a program for the Scout troop in the near future.

## Growing Tips from Newsletters

### from Fort Lauderdale Branch:

Members are reported pleased with results of using foliar feeding for a boost in flowering. Several are also reporting good results with the use of potassium nitrate.

Remember the yellow "sticky sticks" recommended for trapping bugs? Editor Betty Warren noted that a yellow bucket sitting around with water really collected dead bugs.

When looking for plant & gardening information, don't overlook your local Extension service. Down in Florida a recent series of seminars on Environmental Landscape Management included plant selection and placement, fertilizing, watering, pruning, pest management, and yard waste recycling.

### from Monterey Bay Area Branch:

Another recommendation for keeping in touch with your Extension Service comes from California, where Jim Downer of the California Agriculture Extension Service says the calcium ions in water sources can, if high enough, de-activate polymers, making them of little value for cutting water usage.

### from Buxton Branch:

"Should your begonias be looking sad, growing with brown leaves, or just unhappy, try setting the pot on a bed of gravel and water. They don't like the dry atmosphere any better than you or I." - Frank Santoro

### from Dallas Area Branch:

to help begonias survive extreme heat,

1. Provide shade, especially in the afternoon
2. Keep plants away from reflected heat (brick walls, concrete drives)
3. Keep soil moist, not wet; in extreme heat, use ice cubes to water & cool the root ball
4. Use clay pots
5. Plant in hanging baskets outdoors, or place plants on floor indoors
6. Cut back on feeding. Use weaker solutions of fertilizer; don't add time release pellets or fresh manure

7. At least once a month leach potted plants to rid them of salts.

8. In dry times, group plants together to raise humidity, and mist leaves; in wet times, separate plants to allow for better air circulation, keep begonia leaves dry - you can hose down surrounding plants, walls, walks, etc. to lower temperature

9. Use fans, evaporative coolers

10. Don't discard plants that die back; that's a survival technique - they may revive in cooler weather.

### from Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch:

Cut off ants at the pass. First prune back the tip of any branch touching the ground. Then wash trees and shrubs with a solution of 1 to 2 tablespoons of dishwashing liquid per gallon of water. This helps to get rid of certain pests directly: aphids, wooly whiteflies, and mealy bugs can be washed to the ground. This does not include the ants who manage these herds of sucking insects...

Pruning cane-like begonias should be done in late winter or very early spring so that new growth can be enjoyed during the summer. Allow the newer stems to grow without severe pruning if they are not too tall. Most younger plants do not need to be pruned during the first two years; pinching their tips prevents them from becoming leggy. Older stems may be cut back to 4 or 5 nodes from the bottom of the plant. Attempt to graduate the height of the canes. It takes about 8 weeks after pruning for the plant to be in full bloom.

## STORK REPORT

Theresa Marie Ludwig was born September 12, 1992, to Sharon and Michael Ludwig of San Diego, California.  
(from the San Miguel Branch newsletter)

## 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 1993 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.

**AUSTRALIA '95:** Your postcard will indicate interest in pre- & post-convention tour(s) in Qld. & NSW. Small group (min:7) will visit natural areas, Grt. Barrier Reef; see begonias in homes, nurseries, botanic gardens in March-April. Bruce Boardman, P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale TX 76433

### **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.

**Begonias, Episcias, and Hoyas.** Cuttings only. Send \$1 for list to B & K Tropicals, 5300 48 Terrace N., St. Petersburg, FL 33709.

**BEGONIAS,** Texas' newest hybrids. 'Maurice Amey', 'Don Miller', 'Texas Orange', 'Fiesta Texas', and many more. Send \$2 for colorized list to Stew's Greenhouses, 30631 Blanco Rd., Bulverde, TX 78163. Ph. 1- 210-980-9439.

### **BEGONIAS, GESNERIADS, RARE FLOWERING PLANTS.**

1993 catalog \$2.00, free to A.B.S. members. KARTUZ GREENHOUSES, 1408 Sunset Drive, Dept. B., Vista, CA 92083-6531.

**PLANT COLLECTIONS:** 10 Begonias, Cactus, or Ivy only \$25.95 pp., 6 Bromeliads or unusual ferns \$25.95, 6 large Bromeliads (\$75 value) only \$35.95. ATKINSON'S GREENHOUSE, Rt. 2, Box 69, Morrilton AR 72110. No list now.

**HOUSEPLANT MAGAZINE** - Enjoy indoor gardening, travel, humor, hydroponics, tips for better growing, and information about your favorite houseplants - all in one delightful, full-color magazine. 1993 Discount subscription rate to ABS members. One year for four issues \$15.95 US/\$19.95 Canada & Mexico/\$24.95 overseas. Sample copy \$3.50 US/\$4.50 Canada & Mexico/\$5.50 overseas. US Funds drawn on US Bank only. For VISA/MC orders call 1(800)892-7594; or mail to **HOUSEPLANT MAGAZINE**, PO Box 1638-BS, Elkins, West Virginia 26241-1638.

# Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

January 30, 1993

The Board of Directors met at the home of Rudolf Ziesenhenne, 1130 N. Milpas, Santa Barbara, California on January 30, 1993. President Carol Notaras called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. There were 17 members present.

Margaret Lee read the Aims and Purposes of the Society.

The Minutes were approved with two name corrections, Weinberg and Voss; and a notation that interest from the Life Members' Fund goes into the General Fund.

**Treasurer's Report**, as of December 31, 1992: \$3,477.92 in checking, \$43,184.24 in savings, for a total of \$46,662.16. The Board voted to deposit in the General Fund \$3000 from the 1992 Convention proceeds that had been earmarked to repay the Catalog Fund and \$1150 that had been intended for the Conservation Fund.

### Committee Reports:

**Awards** - Chair Thelma O'Reilly wrote to say that nominations are open and to suggest that the awards system be reviewed periodically.

**Back Issues** - The Board voted to pay \$40 storage per month.

**Bookstore** - Chair Anita Ruthenberg reported cash on hand of \$403.75.

**Publications** - The Board voted to advance \$1000 to the editor's working account. Ann Salisbury was approved as Display Advertising Manager of the **Begonian**.

**Round Robins** - Chair Virginia Hamann was given \$400 for 1992 expenses; expenses came to \$390.

**Convention 1993** - Jean-Marc Chaintron of France will be the Banquet Speaker. The Board accepted the Show Schedule.

**Nominating Committee** - President Notaras appointed Elda Regimbal, Joan Coulat, and Russ Richardson to the Nominating Committee.

The Board voted to donate \$1000 from the Conservation Fund to the Barkley Preservation Fund.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next Board Meeting will be on May 7, 1993 in Miami, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ingeborg A. Foo,  
Secretary

Note: Minutes are condensed because of space considerations. Any member may order the complete Minutes from the Secretary. A stamped, self-addressed legal size envelope would be appreciated.

### 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.

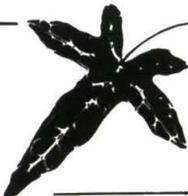
### GROW GREAT FERNS JOIN LAIFS

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### Join the NATIONAL

### FUCHSIA SOCIETY

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## 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, hardness 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.....Carol Notaras  
2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123  
Past President.....Jeannette Gilbertson  
751 E. Vista Way #2, 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....Claire Frontera  
3131 Patriot Lane, Sacramento, CA 95827  
Book Store.....Anita Ruthenberg  
1016 W. Arlington Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76110  
Branch Relations.....Douglas Hahn  
7736 Stonehill Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45230  
Business Manager.....Dale Elmlblade  
3418 McKibbon, St. John, MO 63114-4324

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund....Marilyn Goldstein  
1001 Diplomat Parkway, Hollywood FL 33091  
Conservation Committee  
Director.....Scott Hoover  
718 Henderson Rd., Williamstown, MA 01267  
Administrator.....Bruce C. Boardman  
Box 69, Bluff Dale, TX 76433  
Convention Advisor.....Elda Regimbal  
3117 San Juan Dr., Fullerton, CA 92635  
Convention Chairman.....Charles Jaros  
2621 NW 23rd Court, Miami, FL 33142  
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  
Members at Large.....Thelma McRae  
5471 S. Libby Rd. #15, Paradise CA 95969  
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  
Research Librarian.....Stephen Coppins  
30 Mygatt St., Binghamton NY 13905  
Round Robin.....Virginia Hamann  
Rt. 1, Box 10., Chester, IA 52134  
Slide Library  
Co-Chairman.....Daniel Haseltine  
6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago, IL 60634  
Co-Chairman.....Charles Jaros  
2621 NW 23rd Court, Miami, FL 33142

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## **OPENINGS: BEGONIAN EDITOR, HORTICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT**

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### BEGONIAN STAFF

Editor: Tamsin Boardman, P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale, TX 76433 (817) 728-3485  
Nomenclature Editor: Jack Golding  
Editorial Associates: Phyllis Bates, Bruce C. Boardman, Kit Mounger, Mary Weinberg  
Advertising Staff:  
Mini-Ads, Cynthia Bishop, 4150 Auburn-Folsom Rd., Loomis, CA 95659  
Display Ads, Ann Salisbury, P.O. Box 504, Tonkawa, OK 74653  
Plant Society Ads, Wanda Macnair, 177 Hancock St., Cambridge, MA 02139  
For subscription, dues, circulation inquiries contact John Ingles, Jr. 157 Monument,  
Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617



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## **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.

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## **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.**

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**American Begonia Society**  
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Address correction requested

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