

July/August, 1993

The BEGONIAN



P. ROBERTS

The BEGONIAN

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American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

To stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.

To encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

To gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation, and culture of begonias and companion plants.

To issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the society.

To bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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COVERS

Front - Artist Ralph Roberts is a member of the British Columbia Fuchsia and Begonia Society. His paintings have been used for cards and prints sold by the Society, and he has kindly given us permission to reproduce this striking orange tuberous begonia on our cover.

Back - Tea Time in Florida, with begonias. No, not at the Convention; Mary Bucholtz spotted the begonias gracing a tea table at the Spring Home & Patio Show in 1992.

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“Begonias - The Greatest Show On Earth”

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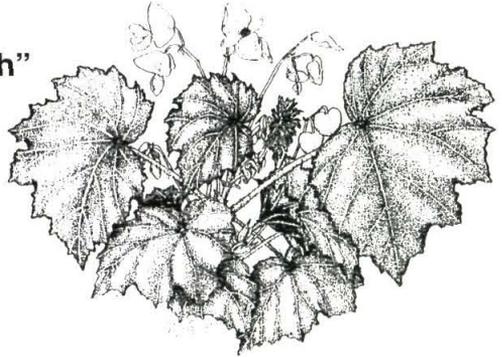
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B. 'Dresden Gold'
B. olsoniae x B. 'Winter Jewel'
Kartuz, 1981
Drawing by Pat Maley Belkham

Quick!

**Check your mailing label!
If it reads 7/93 or 8/93,
your membership is about
to expire.
Please renew! We don't
want to lose you!**

Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service goes to Charles Jaros



Dyckman Award recipient Charles Jaros, on right, at the Luncheon with our visitors from Japan Begonia Society, Hikoichi Arakawa and Tomo Morita, Helene Jaros is to the left. Photo by Shirley Nemecek

1993 Convention Chairman Charles Jaros, an active ABS member since he was eighteen years old, was honored with the Herbert P. Dyckman Award.

Substituting for Awards Chair Thelma O'Reilly, Mabel Corwin presented Charles with the Award, which is given for long-time service and/or service above and beyond the duties of an ABS officer. Jaros has

served in many capacities during his years with ABS, including two very successful years as Convention Chair. He has also served as Vice-president, Convention Advisor, and Co-chair of the Slide Library; as an ABS Judge, and as a teacher for Judging Schools.

Charles received a standing ovation upon presentation of the Award.

Eva Kenworthy Gray Award Recipient is J. J. F. E. de Wilde

Professor J. J. F. E. de Wilde of the Department of Plant Taxonomy at Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands, was the recipient of the Eva

Kenworthy Gray Award. Dr. de Wilde is editor of the University's publications *Studies in Begoniaceae* nos. I, II, and III. The Award was presented in absentia.

The Alfred D. Robinson Medal was not awarded.

Awards Committee members were Thelma O'Reilly, Chair; Joan Coulat, Leslie Hatfield, Carrie Karegeannes, Alice Ordway, and Joy Porter.

1993 Convention Show Results



BEST OF SHOW

B. hatacoa 'Silver'
exhibited by Elizabeth Mateus
Trophy donated by Martin Johnson
Photo by Shirley Nemecek

SWEEPSTAKES

Charles Jaros, with 63 entries
Trophy donated by
Helene & Charles Jaros

SHOWING IS SHARING

Charles Jaros, with 18 blue ribbons
Trophy donated by Miami Branch

DIVISION WINNERS

To win a Division, a plant must score at least 93 of a possible 100 points

Cane-like, Superba-type: B. 'Pink Jade'
Exhibitor: Fran DeMare
Trophy Donor: Sacramento Branch

Shrub-like: B. 'Withlacoochee'
Exhibitor: Fran DeMare
Trophy Donor: Palm Beaches Branch

Cane-like, all others: B. 'Elaine'
Exhibitor: Bob Cochran
Trophy Donor: Daisy Farm Nursery

Shrub-like, Dist. Foliage: B. 'Weeki Wachee'
Exhibitor: Fran DeMare
Trophy Donor: Alma Crawford

Thick-stemmed: B. 'Chuck Jaros'
Exhibitor: Bob Cochran
Trophy Donor: Jacksonville Branch

Rhizomatous: *B. diadema*
Exhibitor: Sybil Boozer
Trophy Donor: Potomac Branch

Rhizomatous, Crested/Spiral: B. 'Roulette'
Exhibitor: Charles Jaros
Trophy Donor: Carol & Peter Notaras

Rex: B. 'Raspberry Swirl'
Exhibitor: Wanda Cochran
Trophy Donor: Ann & Gene Salisbury

Tuberous: *B. dregei*
Exhibitor: Charles Jaros
Trophy Donor: San Francisco Branch

Trailing Scandent: *B. parva*
Exhibitor: Charles Jaros
Trophy Donor: Orange County Branch

Contained Atmosphere,
Single Variety: B. U304
Exhibitor: Charles Jaros
Trophy Donor: Buxton Branch,
Wanda Macnair Trophy

Hanging Containers: B. 'Panasofkee'
Exhibitor: Charles Jaros
Trophy Donor: Irene Nuss

Classic Begonias: B. 'Big Mac'
Exhibitor: Nan Scobles
Trophy Donor: San Miguel Branch

"U" numbered Begonias: B. U062
Exhibitor: Charles Jaros
Trophy Donor: Fort Lauderdale Branch

Florida Hybrids: B. 'Chuck Jaros'
Exhibitor: Bob Cochran
Trophy Donor: Pinellas County Branch

Commercial Growers: B. 'Brown Jewel'
Exhibitor: Daisy Farm Nursery
Trophy Donor: Thomas Keepin

Novel Grown: Begonias 'Muddy Waters',
'Cowardly Lion', and a *carrieae* cross
on lava rock

Exhibitor: Edythe Ropeik
Trophy Donor: Dallas Area Branch

Planters/Dish Gardens
Exhibitor: Sylvia Ben
Trophy Donor: Alamo Branch

Photographs of Begonias: B. 'Silver Curl'
Exhibitor: Janet Welsh
Trophy Donor: Rubidoux Branch

Artistic Photos of Begonias: *B. rex*
Exhibitor: Janet Welsh
Trophy Donor: Southwest Region

Begonia Arts & Crafts: oil on porcelain
Exhibitor: Nan Scoble
Trophy Donor: Shelbie Cochran

Shade Plants: *Episcia* 'Silver Dust'
Exhibitor: Marilyn Goldstein
Trophy Donor: Katherine Bloschak

Artistic Designs
Exhibitor: Cindy Rogers
Trophy Donor: Westchester Branch

The Show Committee thanks the following individuals and branches who donated division trophies that were not awarded: Anne & Chris Fergis, C. J. Newbold in memory of Ruth Sutton, Margaret & Rudolf Ziesenhenné; Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau Branch in memory of Fred Weinstein, Buxton Branch, Garden Grove Branch, Mae Blanton Branch, and Palomar Branch.

CULTURAL AWARDS

To win a cultural award, a plant must score 95 or more points out of a possible 100

98 points:

Syble Boozer, *B. diadema*

97:

Marilyn Goldstein, B. 'Earl-ee-bee'

Charles Jaros, B. 'Panasoffkee' and B. U304

96.2:

Charles Jaros, *B. dregei*

96:

Bob Cochran, unknown rhizomatous begonia

Syble Boozer, B. *hatacoa* 'Silver'

Fran DeMare, B. 'Concord'

95.6:

Fran DeMare, B. 'Weeki Watchee'

95.3:

Anne Fergis, *B. prismatocarpa* 'Variegation'

Maybelle Green, *B. bogneri*

Fran DeMare, B. 'Chuck Jaros'

95:

Fran DeMare, B. 'Pink Jade' and B. 'Withlacochee'

Charles Jaros, B. 'Big Mac', *B. parva*, and B. 'Tickled Pink'

Nan Scoble, B. 'Concord'

Elizabeth Mateus, *B. rex* cultorum

HYBRID OF DISTINCTION

B. 'Teal Wing'

Hybridizer: Paul Lowe

Exhibited by: Charles Jaros

COOKBOOK AVAILABLE

The Official 1993 Convention Cookbook, "What to Eat While You Talk About Begonias" is available through mail order. The cookbook was published by members of the Miami Branch. The price is \$9.50 plus \$2 shipping charges. Send a check for \$11.50 made out to Miami Branch, ABS, to Marilyn Goldstein, 1001 Diplomat Parkway, Hollywood FL 33019.

ON TOUR IN FLORIDA: Tropical Beauty even after Andrew

Photos by Shirley Nemecek



Tropical World Nursery, with begonias such as *breviramosa* growing in 5 gallon pots, impresses New Yorkers Sue Hessel and Beth Castillon, and ABS President Carol Notaras from California



The most famous resident of the Everglades: all of the signs said "do not feed!"

One of the many orchids at Daisy Farm; this nursery was totally demolished by the hurricane last August, and is being lovingly rebuilt.



Mabel and Ralph Corwin, famous for their beautiful garden, visit the tropical Florida garden of Gene Joyner. ABS Secretary Ingeborg Foo is on the right. Those winding paths consist of several feet of mulch - it was like walking on a giant sponge.

ABS Conventions are

Not Just for Begonia Nuts

The annual ABS Conventions are mecca for the truly addicted: four days spent "speaking begonia" in a frenzy of utter madness. That this might not appeal to the less beguiled is apparent. Yet each year tolerant spouses, friends, and sometimes even innocent children accompany their particular begonia nut to the scene of the gathering.

What's interesting is that, once the non-begonia lover joins the Convention crowd, he or she tends to return for years. No, it's not a case of masochism; there is always a lot going on aside from the pre-occupation with begonias.

Some families consider the Convention part of their family vacation, either beginning or ending their holidays with begoniomania. Last year's gathering in Anaheim, with the hotel a very short block from the entrance to Disneyland, was probably the largest turnout of children (of all ages) to grace a convention; but each year there are attractions in the area for the non-nut. Florida saw many of the same folks, again because of Disney, with DisneyWorld up the road; but others among us were attracted by the famous Everglades, coral reef, and tropical birds; or by tropical gardens; or by boating, fishing, or shopping, or the Arts & Crafts Show that took place on Saturday.

Conventions in Boston and the Washington, D.C. area have brought us closer to our nation's history, and it is exciting to see Boston Harbor, famous for its Tea Party, and the homes of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson (to name just two) simply by taking a few extra days to explore the countryside surrounding the Convention site. (Incidentally, if you missed Boston in 1988, you'll have another chance to visit in 1995, when the Buxton Branch hosts us again). California showed

us Spanish missions, gold country, vineyards, and the beautiful Pacific.

Each area of our vast country offers something unique: terrain, landscapes, climates, architectural styles, flora and fauna, foods, life styles - there are lots of changes as we move across the United States.

Next year's Convention will be in Oklahoma City. What will be special and unique about Oklahoma?

For starters, wide open spaces. If you've ever felt cramped in the cities, the prairies are - literally - a breath of fresh air. Prairies, you think: boring, monotonous fields of grass? Grasses, yes, but boring, no way! Especially not in May, when the wild flowers work their magic. Add the nation's largest herd of wild buffalo; add cattle and horses; add the scissor-tailed flycatcher (Oklahoma's state bird) and other birds unique to the prairie; add bright blue skies and a vast array of stars at night.

Oklahoma's spell is based partly on the vast prairies, partly on its Native American heritage, and partly on its not-so-distant frontier past. Put them all together, and you've got a state like no other.

It will perhaps surprise you to learn that the prairies are dotted with lakes, streams, woodlands, hills. Nowadays, of course, there are modern cities with all the modern shopping and entertainment; but step away from those for a few days: visit the prairies, the tribal villages, a working ranch. Then return to the cities to enjoy the fabulous museums, mansions, and skyscrapers created by the 20th century oil barons. Give Oklahoma a try, and you'll agree:

Oklahoma is more than OK!

The Begonian

Program Review

by Maurice Amey

Everyone in attendance at William Ash's seminar at SWR's "Spring Fling" found it exciting to see how begonias are grown and shown in England, Scotland, and other countries in the United Kingdom. One slide in particular was breathtaking (see next page). We took a trip by slideshow through conservatories at Kew Gardens and other conservatories throughout the U.K. Mr. Ash's begonia displays were excellent.

Mr. Ash's personal collection included tuberous begonias as well as other types, both species and hybrids. He also shared with us slides of his yard, which is bright, cheerful and colorful. With his strong English accent accentuating the slideshow, we felt as though we really spent a few moments in the magical United Kingdom. We applaud you again, Mr. William Ash!!

Begonias in the United Kingdom

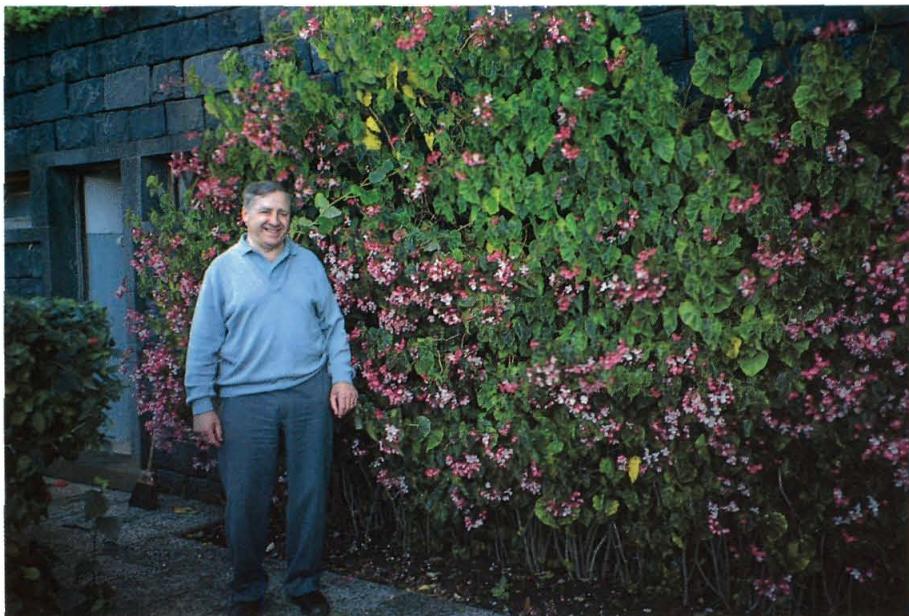
Bill Ash held his seminar at Southwest Region's Get-Together, "Begonia Spring Fling", in Fort Worth, Texas, and said that he had grown begonia species and hybrids for forty years. He acts as back-up for the species collections at Kew and Glasgow Botanic Gardens.

His slide presentation began with the Propagation House at Kew, where *B. nitida* was the first begonia cultivated. Next he presented a mystery, asking if anyone could identify a pink and white begonia that is grown as a hedge some six feet high in Madeira (see photo, next page) and is labelled 'Nitida Dryand'. It is obviously a *nitida* hybrid. Could it be 'Nitida Prince Eugen', as mentioned in Charles Chevalier's book? The leaves are 5" x 3", and the stems are much branched in comparison with 'Nitida Dryand' and 'Odorata'. Bill will be displaying this plant at a Royal Horticultural Society Show in Birmingham, England in June, 1993.

Text and Photos by Bill Ash

In the filmy Fern House at Kew, *Begonias chlorosticta*, *rajah*, *exotica*, and *breviramosa* grow rampant. Dr. Martin Sands, who showed Bill round the Kew Herbarium and Propagating Houses, let Bill have some begonias he had found in North Borneo; Bill is growing them under home conditions. Bill then showed *Begonias amphioxys*, U012, and *malasticta* thriving in his propagator. It is hoped that some will be commercially viable.

He also showed plants collected from the Glasgow expedition to Papua New Guinea, now in the propagator at Glasgow. Some twenty new species were found on the 1987 expedition. Plants in their Display House looked very impressive. Bill is indebted to Curator Eric Curtiss, who helped form the nucleus of Bill's own collection.



Bill Ash in Madeira, in front of the stunning *nitida* cultivar

Stapeley Water Gardens houses Bill's private begonia collection. Shrub and Cane-like begonias are grown in the Palm Section. His National Rex Collection, consisting of thirty-six named rexes, is in the Jungle Section, maintained at a minimum temperature of 65°.

Bill explained that, in spite of easy growing conditions in the United Kingdom, only about a dozen growers grow foliage-type begonias seriously, and very few are grown commercially.

B. dregei 'Glasgow', mentioned in a previous **Begonian** article, was found growing at a friend's house in England. Bill let Mr. Curtiss have it, and then Dr. Tracy McLellan took it to the United States. He showed a seedling grown from his plant of *B. dregei* 'Glasgow'; the seedling has smaller leaves and greater variegation, and Bill has named it B. 'Joy Ash', after his wife.

In addition to the slides of Kew, Glasgow, and the National Rex Collection,

Bill showed many varieties of named double Tuberhybrida, including seedlings in the greenhouse of the late George McCormick. A tour of shows in the U.K. followed, depicting the various methods of displaying in the different classes. There are few classes for foliage-type begonias, the double tuberous being mainly shown.

Bill's first love are the species, but he finds that by showing the gaudy double-flowered named tuberous varieties at his local show, he attracts the public to his exhibit. Once attracted, the average person is more interested in the foliage types, which he can more readily relate to and grow as house plants.

Bill Ash has named his home after a particularly beautiful Begonia species: he lives at Brevirimosa, Mukelstone Wood Lane, Loggersheads, Market Drayton, Salop TF9 4ED, England.



on the right:
B. 'Joy Ash'



above and
right:
views of
the
National
Rex
Collection



"Spring Fling" logo by Linda Shires



“Begonia Spring Fling” a Fun Time for Southwest Region

Southwest Region members and guests from all over gathered in Fort Worth, Texas on April 16th for three days of that special madness known only to begonia nuts.

Special guests were Miree Lex, president of the Canadian Begonia Society, and Joy and William Ash from England. Bill Ash oversees the National Rex Collection, and gave a seminar at the Get-Together (see page 119 for a write-up of his talk). Our National Board was represented by President Carol Notaras, 1st Vice-president Gene Salisbury, Secretary Ingeborg Foo, and Treasurer Eleanor Calkins.

The activity level was pretty frantic, with the plant sale opening for members Friday evening. Sale Chair Marie Harrell and her committee must have broken all records for fast work, as sale plants were

still arriving just an hour before the sale opened. Meanwhile, Show Chair Don Miller, Entries Chair Tom Keepin, and Placement Chair Charles McGough were leading their committees through their own version of the fast step, readying the show for judging the next morning. Kelton Parker was everywhere, toting plants and packages and suitcases for anyone that needed help. Perhaps the hardest worker of all was Hospitality Chair Kay Jennings, who fed all comers from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. (well, she was allowed out for a half-hour in the sale room - that was hardly a rest stop, though).

Saturday was also a full day, with seminars, show judging, tours, show opening, more plants in the sale, and a gala banquet in the evening. The “Spring Fling” theme was evident in the decorations done by Convention Chair Barbara Hamilton who also designed the beautifully decorated “goodie” bags.

In between activities, there were temptations for the begonia-loving pock-book: the sale room, the Begonia Boutique (ably chaired by Pam Lee), and the complete inventory of the ABS Bookstore (thanks to Chair Anita Ruthenberg).

Cynthia Ritchie led a tour of the Fort Worth Stockyards and Billy Bob's, imparting some interesting facts on Fort Worth's fascinating past. Kelton Parker took over at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, with an overview of the begonia collection, its library, and its goals.

The show was impressive, and beautifully staged. The awarding of twenty Cultural Certificates attests to the quality of the plants entered. Best of Show went, for the second year, to Barbara and Naron "Stew" Stewart, this time for a large and perfectly shaped B. 'Guy Savard' (see page 137 for a photo of this beauty, and for more show information).

The banquet Saturday night featured a bounteous buffet and the lovely background music of classical pianists Dana and Kathy Carl. Master of Ceremonies George Fix presided with humor and charm after the invocation by Cynthia Ritchie. Outgoing SWR Director Gene Salisbury installed the Region's new officers, and newly elected director Tom Keepin brought Convention Chair Barbara Hamilton to the front for an ovation.

The banquet was also the occasion for announcement of the winners of SWR's top honors. Helen Spiers won both the Marguerite Vernon Award, given by the Mae Blanton Branch to an "unsung hero" among SWR members, and the Begonia Ambassador Award, given by the Astro Branch to the SWR member who best promotes begonias. Helen qualified in both categories: she was instrumental in revitalizing Astro Branch some years back, started Houston Satellite Branch, served as officer in both, and in her spare time was

Vice-Director for SWR and made decorations for the Get-Togethers. Her charm and enthusiasm for begonias never seem to dim, yet, like a true hero, she never tries for the limelight.

The Mae Blanton Service Award went to very deserving new Director Tom Keepin. (A previous recipient, Maurice Amey, has said that in the Begonia Society you find three types: growers, showers, and knowers. Tom is all three, and part whirling dervish, too, we suspect - has anyone ever seen him at rest?)

Sunday featured the SWR annual meeting, with plans for the 1994 ABS Convention in Oklahoma City an important part of the discussion. At the end of the meeting, decorations and donated items were raffled off, and John Howell raised \$160 for the Barkley Research Grant by auctioning his show plants.

Get-Togethers always involve that mixture of exhilaration and exhaustion that occurs when begonia lovers congregate. Heading for home, SWR members look ahead and join in inviting you all to celebrate begonias with them in Oklahoma City* May 19-22, 1994 for the ABS National Convention, "Begonias: OK!"

**That's in Will Rogers Country, where you never met a begonia you didn't like.*



Quote:

"The way some people find fault, you'd think there was a reward."
South Bay Branch newsletter

Quote:

"The most gracious person in the room is the one who makes a point not to say anything that will make a member of the group wish he or she were somewhere else."
Westchester Branch newsletter

We spoke too soon; the Barkley Collection survived the "mother of all storms", only to fall prey to a later freeze...

Barkley Collection Hit by Freeze

by Frank Green

Mother Nature dealt the Buxton Branch and the Barkley Collection a real 'double whammy' in March of '93. For starters, the Northeast Spring Flower Show - our first hope of financial bail-out after an extremely tough winter - was successful as far as our exhibit was concerned; but miserable weather kept attendance down, and our sale booth only broke even.

But we had more in store. The night of March 19th, we had temperatures in the single numbers, and our primary furnace malfunctioned. The back-up furnace did not come on. The result was a major freeze.

We had two weeks of serious clean-up, with specimen plants cut back to pot-line in many cases. It is too early to predict what we will actually lose. Certainly many begonias will come back to regain their former glory, but it will take time.

It is surprising that some plants withstood the freeze so well. B. 'Page Thirteen' suffered some damage, but held on to most of its leaves. B. U010 suffered a little leaf loss, but was not destroyed. *B. scharfii* suffered - but not nearly as badly as some others. Interestingly, the specimen plant of *B. scharfii* (which some of you may have



seen at the 1988 convention) has just gone through it fourth freeze - three with previous owner Linde Saksen, and now one with us. Tough lady!

The most significant aspect of the freeze is that material that would have been cuttings for plant sales planned through spring and summer is now in the compost heap. In an effort to replace cutting material, we have requested cuttings from a number of friends around the country. Mary Bucholtz, John Howell, Tom Keepin, Carol Notaras, Mary Ellen Taback, the U.S. Botanic Garden, and Fort Worth Botanic Garden have promised cuttings. Some of these have already come in, and been stuck in prop trays. Thanks to all who have helped out.

The silver lining to this freeze is that some of the cuttings that have come in are of varieties we did not have, so they will help to expand the collection as well.

If anyone else has an interest in contributing begonia cuttings, they may be sent to me at 20 Cross St., Fitchburg, MA 01420. The best method of packing seems to be just loose in ziplock bags, and priority mail is the most reliable way to ship.

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COMING EVENTS

July 24-25: San Francisco Branch Show & Sale at Tanforan Shopping Center. Large numbers of gorgeous tuberous begonias on display and for sale!

August 21-22: Westchester Branch 12th Annual Show & Sale at Fox Hills Mall, Sepulveda Blvd. & Stauston Ave., Culver City. Saturday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

September 11-12: "Begonias - The Great Imposters!", Sacramento Branch Show & Sale.

September 25: Buxton Branch Annual Show, at Waltham Field Station.

October 1-3: Potomac Branch Show at the U.S. Botanical Gardens.

1994

May 19-22: American Begonia Society National Convention, "Begonias: OK!" at the Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in "Will Rogers Country, where you never met a Begonia you didn't like!" Hosted by Southwest Region.

Deadline for next issue is July 15.

LAURAY of SALISBURY

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Virginia Hamann, Round Robin Director

In the Round Robin Notes for March-April, I mentioned the confusion between Begonias 'Small Change' and 'Five and Dime'. Since both plants in question looked alike, it was decided that they were one variety. The only other possible explanation was improper labeling. After this came out, I received a letter from Patrick Worley, the creator of these plants. Here are his written descriptions:

B. 'Five and Dime' has a dark green leaf splashed with silver and lightly crested. It has a double spiral and is dark around the edge of the leaf. The leaves can get to the size of a quarter. The underside of the leaf is green and the leaf grows fairly flat. It is very small and compact in growth.

B. 'Small Change' is not spiraled, is solid silver with a lightly crested edge and a dark red underside to the leaf. It is even smaller-growing than 'Five and Dime' and has white flowers. The leaves tend to cup upward.

Thank you, Mr. Worley, for taking the time to write to me about it.

#57, Mini-begonias:

Martha Curry (TX) has a plant of *B. pygmae* that went dormant in January. Thinking its dormancy was permanent, she planted cactus in the pot. Now cactus and begonia are growing together. Another begonia in a winter slump is *B. U074*, a trailing-scandent that is a delight to grow. *B. xanthina*, which likes terrarium culture, is a favorite.

Mary Simon (OH) has grown many miniature begonias only to lose them. She reluctantly tried canes, and has found them

to be delightful. Begonias 'Coral Chimes' and 'Corliss Engle' are constantly in bloom. She is now crossing *B. 'Corliss Engle'* with other canes.

#20, Photography:

Daniel Haseltine (IL) enclosed pictures of orchids, and a photo of *B. bulbilifera* with close-up views of the bulbils on flower stems.

Mary Bucholtz (FL) shared pictures of *B. solananthera* (a lovely huge basket), *B. versicolor*, and the flowers of *B. 'Wayne Newton'* done with a dark background to enhance the pink blooms.

Elmer Wagner (LA) showed, through his camera, how he housed his begonias to protect them from the winds of Hurricane Andrew. They looked lovely in his house - albeit crowded!

#5, Hybridizing and Breeding

Members are trying to come up with canes boasting yellow, orange, and scented flowers. Bill Voss (VA) has as his goal miniaturizing rex begonias. Two of the rexes he is using are Begonias 'Kitty' and 'Silver Lyre'. He will use semi-tuberous *B. suffruticosa* in the crosses. His parent plants are selected first for leaf shape, then for leaf color.

#22, Propagating/Growing from Seed:

Mary Simon (OH) planted seeds from open-pollinated canes; one batch produced an ordinary cane, the other no cane seedlings. She wonders where the bee found that pollen!

Trying to hybridize plants can be frustrating. Brad Thompson (CA) found

monster plants when he crossed *B. partita* with rexes to get a miniature rex. *B. venosa* was also in bloom 20 feet away. His seedlings had the leaf shape of *B. partita*, but the papery bracts and thick leathery leaves of *venosa*. The leaves were so thick, in fact, that they could not open. Brad rejected 200 of them.

#52, Rhizomatous, Terrarium Growing is a newly formed Robin. Rooting rhizomatous begonias is most difficult for several members, because the rhizome tends to rot. Among the methods for success that were discussed were starting the rhizomes in small pots using vermiculite and perlite.

To get in on the Robin Rounds, write to Round Robin Director Virginia Hamann, Rt. 1, Box 10, Chester, IA 52134, and let her know which area of growing begonias interests you the most. She'll fix you up with a great group of begonia pen-pals.

New and Unusual -
Gesneriads, Begonias,
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Conservation News

Have you ever wondered where your begonias come from? I don't mean from your friends, your branch, your favorite nursery, or even the wholesale growers - I mean 'way back in the mists of history.

The answer, as I'm sure you know, is "from begonia species", or, to put it another way, from nature. Even the most creative of hybridizers uses, ultimately, genes descended from one or more of the begonia species found growing wild around the tropics.

As you also know, begonia species, along with other tropical plants and animals, are losing their natural homes worldwide. That's why some of us in ABS keep urging members to make it a point to grow species - to keep them alive, at least in cultivation.

Many begonia growers aren't much interested in growing species. There are a number of reasons given for disdaining the species, and in this and following columns I'll try to persuade you that some of those reasons are not valid.

This issue we'll tackle the "They're too finicky" reason. What, plants that have survived for centuries without fertilizers, potting soil, pesticides and fungicides, pinching and pruning, mist systems, temperature controls, and greenhouses - *finicky?*

If "finicky" comes to mind when you think of species, try growing *B. convolvulacea*, a trailing/scandent type that may have been the inspiration for Jack's beanstalk.

Or try taking one of those brilliantly hued species such as *B. rajah* or *B. serratipetala*, admittedly finicky in cultivation, and putting it in a terrarium to provide the high humidity it needs to thrive.

The “finicky” problem is really a matter of finding out what the plant needs and providing it. A bit of detective work is in order. Don't be afraid to move a new plant around until it finds its niche.

An example: I set my little *B. alicelarkiae* in a ceramic pot on the piano one evening, because company was coming and it was, while no beauty, just the right size for the spot and pot. Then I forgot to move it back into what I thought were more ideal conditions; yes, I even forgot to water it.

“Alice” adored the piano! Too close to the air-conditioning vent, with little light, and set in a ceramic pot (with no hole yet!); all these conditions were wrong for growing begonias, right? *B. alicelarkiae* perked right up and became a beauty, her leaves a deep velvety green. Transferred back to the greenhouse she sulked and turned a homely yellowish green; now she's under a bench, doesn't get watered much, and is happy as a clam - and certainly much lovelier than that bivalve. Accidentally is not the best way to discover your begonia's niche - but sometimes it works out.

Along the way, I've picked up some tips from other species growers on individual plants and their preferences. Here are some:

B. macduffieana, discovered growing in the sun along the banks of the Amazon when the temperature was over 100 degrees, is one of the best for high heat conditions. It needs at least some sun to put out its brilliantly deep red flowers, and will get quite ugly and leggy without sufficient light.

B. foliosa likes more water than most begonias. I'm not recommending boggy conditions, just don't let it dry out. Its leaves will be a deeper, prettier green in filtered light - under the bench in the greenhouse, under a tree outside, a few feet away from fluorescent lights.

From Australia comes advice on growing *B. lyman-smithii*: Kevin Handreck found that it didn't like his tropical house; it prefers dense shade and cool conditions. The same begonia thrives for Merv Sharrad buried under other foliage, receiving little light and little water.

Kevin also recommends low light and high humidity for *B. goegoensis*.

B. philodendroides is a species from Mexico with rhizome below soil level, tall erect petioles, glossy dark green leaves, and white flowers found beneath the foliage. Jan Goodwin, who used to handle the Seed Fund for the Association of Australian Begonia Societies, writes of *B. philodendroides* in the March, 1993 issue of **Begonia Australis**,

“This species goes dormant over the winter, and requires much the same type of care as do tuberous types. At the beginning of spring, remove the tuber-like rhizomes from the mix and remove dried roots and stems. Replace them in fresh potting mix with good drainage, taking care not to plant them upside down. This is easily done with a newly formed rhizome that has yet to produce stems. Grow in a shallow clay pot and do not over-water, as excessive watering will cause the stems to rot at the surface of the mix. For me, it does not rank in the difficult-to-grow category.”

Does the information above give you any ideas about begonias you could try in that empty space under the benches? Or in the heat of your west window? I hope so! There are begonia species out there looking for a good home.

And now for another commercial: once your species are thriving, drop a note to Kingsley Langenberg of the ABS Conservation Department, and tell him what you've got. His address is 2141 North Bonnie Brook Lane, Waukegan, IL 60087-2852. You may become a link in the survival of begonia species.

- Tamsin Boardman 

IN MEMORY



Shirley Nemecek at Milton Piedra's garden in Florida. Photo by Mary Sakamoto

Shirley Nemecek of Redondo Beach, California had only been growing begonias for about four years, but in that time she became one of our most active members. She belonged to Orange County, Palos Verdes, and Westchester Branches, and Southwest Region, seldom missing a meeting and participating in branch, regional, and national activities at every opportunity. Shirley enjoyed doing things for others, and brought a feeling of fun to everything she did.

Shirley died May 12 in Florida, shortly after completing the post-convention tour. She was doing what she loved.

"We are grateful for the goodness and joy, the laughter and kindness she brought to all of us.

"We treasure the beauty of the life and the way she shared it with others.

"She will always be a part of our lives. In love, Orange County Branch of the A.B.S." - Ronnie Nevins

We were very sorry to hear that **Margaret Winter** passed away near the end of March. She was a dear woman who was a member for over fifteen years. She became less active as time went by, but she always contributed however she could, most notably by supplying begonia art to help us illustrate flyers and other handouts.

- Sacramento Branch [Begonia Leaf](#)

James Miller joined San Francisco Branch in 1954. His tuberous begonias were fabulous. He will be remembered for B. 'Jim Miller', a red tuberous begonia. Our sympathies are extended to his wife Carmen and his family, and especially his grandchildren. - [San Francisco Begonian](#)

Les Sadler, a twenty-year member of San Francisco Branch, died recently. He lived with his wife Mildred in Stinson Beach, a long night drive over the Marin Hills on a long winding road, so we didn't see as much of him as we would have liked. He will be missed. Our deepest sympathy to Mildred and his family. - [San Francisco Begonian](#)

Long-time ABS member **Elda Haring** died May 11 in Flat Rock, North Carolina. Elda was a frequent contributor to the **Begonian**, author of the very popular book [Begonias for Beginners](#), and a recipient of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award in 1972. She was honored again in 1984 with a special award for her contributions to begonia knowledge. Her unusual cultivar B. 'Flat Rock' was named for the town where she lived.

BULLETIN BOARD

ABS News



Elections Coming

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of candidates for office:

President:

Gene Salisbury

1st Vice-President:

Mary Bucholtz

Charles Jaros

2nd Vice-president:

Bruce Boardman

Jo Pangrazio

3rd Vice-president:

Siegfried Hoffman

Millie Thompson

Secretary:

Arlene Ingles

Treasurer:

Eleanor Calkins*

Carol Notaras

*incumbent

About Our Candidates:

Gene Salisbury (Oklahoma) is a past President of Barkley Branch, which he has also served as Show chair, and immediate past Director of Southwest Region. He is currently serving his second term as ABS 1st Vice-president.

Mary Bucholtz (Florida) is currently 3rd Vice-president of ABS, and has served on the ABS Awards Committee. A member of Jacksonville Branch, she has served in the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and President. She was also Secretary for Eastern Region.

Charles Jaros (Florida) is currently Convention Chair, Co-chair of the Slide Library, and President of the Miami Branch. He has been an ABS Vice-president, Convention Chair and Advisor, and this year received the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service.

Bruce Boardman (Texas) is currently ABS Conservation Administrator. He has served as National Director for Southwest Region and for Dallas Area Branch, and is on the staff of the **Begonian**.

Jo Pangrazio (California) is past President of Westchester Branch. She is also a member of Palos Verdes Branch, which she served as National Director, and of South Bay Branch, which she served as President. She was Registration Chair for the ABS Convention in Anaheim.

Siegfried Hoffman (California) has served Sacramento Branch as Show Chair and Vice-president, and is currently President.

Millie Thompson (New York) is best known as co-author (with husband Ed) of Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide, the 1984 Update, and the Thompson Begonia Guide. She has served as Assistant Chair and Newsletter Editor for Eastern Region. Currently she is ABS 2nd Vice-president. She has received the Eva Kenworthy Gray and Herbert P. Dyckman Awards.



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Arlene Ingles (California) is a past President of ABS, and has served the Board as Convention Chair, Convention Advisor, and Secretary (twice). She received the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award in 1989.

Eleanor Calkins (California) has served as ABS Treasurer (in 1980, and continuously since 1984). She has also been Chair of the Audit Committee and on the Nominating Committee. A member of Palomar Branch, she has been President, Vice-president, National Director, and Treasurer. Eleanor is also a member of San Miguel and Alfred D. Robinson Branches.

Carol Notaras (California) is finishing her term as ABS President. She has also served nationally as 1st Vice-president, Convention Chair, and Convention Advisor. A member of San Francisco Branch, she has held the offices of Secretary, National Director, Vice-president, and President; she is also a member of Sacramento Branch.

These fine people have all agreed to spend a lot of their time in the coming year on ABS business. Please do them the courtesy of voting!

Ballots will be mailed by **June 17**, and must be returned by **July 21**. They will be counted on **July 22**. Please remember the By-Laws state that any ballot containing any writing other than the marks necessary to register votes *must be voided*; any comments should be made on a separate piece of paper.

Directory Update

New President for **Dallas Area Branch** is **Don Miller**, 1010 Mt. Auburn, Dallas, TX 75223.

Kay Jennings is the newly elected President of the **Mae Blanton Branch**. Her address is 5701 Oakmont Lane, Fort Worth TX 76112.

International:

New Chairperson of the **Association of Australian Begonia Societies** is **Peter Henderson**, 79 Chuter St., Stafford, Queensland 4053, Australia.

The **Begonia Society of Western Australia** has a new Branch, which meets in Freemantle.

Please add the **Canadian Begonia Society** to the list of international affiliates. President is **Miree Lex**, 70 Enfield Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M8W1T9, Canada.

Officers

Please keep your listing in the Branch Directory current - let the Secretary and the Editor know when you elect new officers. Thanks!

Two from Mickey

Photos and text by Mildred Swyka



The rhizomatous begonia pictured above grew from seeds sent to the ABS Seed Fund by Mickey Meyer, that talented hybridizer from Australia.

The seeds germinated in spring of 1992 within sixteen days of planting. As soon as I saw this one among the other begonias I knew it was different - and was I ever so happy that it survived the first transplanting.

It has proved to be a strong grower; however, I have put it in my terrarium as a safe guard.

The leaves show many shades of green on the top, and the undersides are green with red veining on the edges. Leaves also have a spiral on each side of the juncture with the stem. Mature leaves measure 3" long and 3" wide. My plant has not bloomed yet.

The plant hugs the pot. I think it is a real gem, just like Mickey herself - she must have some beautiful rhizomatous begonias! I consider all the Mickey Meyer seedlings in my small dish gems.

As soon as my seedling was large enough, I took two leaves off to start new plants. It will be interesting to see if the plants from the leaf cuttings have the exact traits of the mother plant.



This is also a Mickey Meyer cross grown from Seed Fund seed. This one is two years old. Its leaves are star-shaped, apple green to a very dark velvety green, with light green along the veins and eye lashes along the edges; on the underside they are red and green. Stems are hairy. This cross is also a strong grower; it doesn't seem to ramble, and has a very pretty leaf and pink blooms.

I grow my rhizomatous begonias with wicks. The pots are set on a dish containing about 1" of very coarse vermiculite, with a wick to draw water into the pot. The rhizomatous begonias grow great for me using this method.

Mildred Swyka lives and grows begonias at 1147 Bethel Church Road, Middletown, DE 19709.



Naming Begonia Cultivars

The ABS Board policy on naming cultivars when the seed is produced by one person, but transferred to another to grow is that *the seeds become the property of the person who germinates them and selects the offspring for showing and distribution*. Thus the cultivar is selected and named by the plant grower. In the event that two persons name cultivars from the same cross, the earliest name registered has preference. Consult the ABS Nomenclature Committee for assistance.

It is appropriate to keep the names of the parent plants, the source of the seed, and pertinent dates. For example, if a cultivar comes from seed purchased from the Seed Fund, the identification of the offering should be part of the grower's record.

-from the **Begonian**, Vol. 54, March-April 1987, p. 38.



Judges' Corner

This guest column is from the Pinellas County Shadehouse, edited by Greg Sytch

Having had the pleasure of clerking at our annual show, I thought I would let everyone in on the little "tweaks" that were made during the judging.

1) Soil line: the judges noted whether it was clean or not, and had fresh soil. It must also be free of debris.

2) Leaves: must be clean, free of any holes and brown edges - a major area in the point scoring system.

3) Pots: must be clean, wiped free of dirt, and have a "new" appearance. Points will be deducted if the pot is dirty. Of course, with clay there is a certain leniency.

4) Maturity: many blue ribbons were awarded to plants that were not all that mature. If the plant was in good shape, healthy, and not too small - it might get a blue. This was a surprise.

5) Best of Division: the scoring for "Best of Division" usually came down to two plants that were nearly equal. It was amazing how much scrutiny was adhered to during this part of the judging. The differences between the plants were as simple as having one poor blossom left on the plant.

Judging School

Southwest Region will be offering an ABS Judging School in October. If you would be interested in attending, please send a card to Glennis Crouch, 2012 Locksley Lane, Denton, Texas 76201 to reserve an information packet

Members at Large News

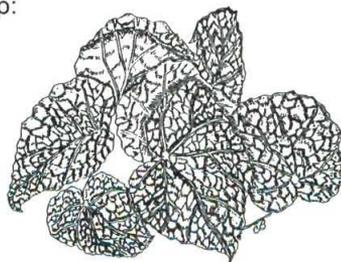
The Members at Large Committee is moving right along. If you don't have an ABS Branch near you, we'd like to be your Branch. (Put that to the tune of Mr. Rogers singing, "Won't you be my neighbor?")

We hope to include a section of questions and answers because it's lonely out there when you don't have anyone to talk begonia to.

To become a MAL just send a stamped, self-addressed legal-size envelope (you can send three for a 29 cent stamp) and, hopefully, a current biography of you and your begonias to Thelma McRae, 5471 South Libby Road, No. 15, Paradise, CA 95969.

We have some fun, share information about begonias, and meet by mail some very interesting hobby growers.

MAL Newsletter # 20 is available now. To whet your appetite for more MAL information, we are excerpting a drawing and some notes on *B. violifolia* by Cynthia Bishop:



B. violifolia, Mexico, 1859. A species with distinctive foliage, small leaves generally under 3" at maturity. Terrarium care is advised, needs humidity of 60% or more. Flowers are yellowish-white with red hairs and appear in April & May. Leaves are medium green.

So: Which Bone Are You?

It has been said that membership in an organization is made up of four bones:

There are the Wish Bones, who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work;

There are the Jaw Bones, who do all the talking - and very little else;

There are the Knuckle Bones, who knock everything that anybody else tries to do;

Finally there are the bones who get under the load and do all the work - the Back Bones.

Which Bone are you?

This little moral essay comes to us via the Queensland Begonia Society Newsletter, which in turn borrowed it from the Quilters Patch Newsletter in Australia.

Of course, in ABS there are only Back Bones - right?



In the News...

On April 3, the Saturday Oklahoman & Times featured **Effie & Howard Clemens** in their greenhouse surrounded by begonias. The photo and article also promoted "Begonias, Oklahoma Style", the Barkley Branch annual show and sale that weekend.

Estelle Sullivan walked away with numerous awards at the Texas State Federation of Garden Clubs meeting - her entries, of course, were begonias - and she and her plants were featured in a newspaper article as a result, winning her "celebrity of the month" status in the Houston Satellite Branch.

Correction

The article "Green Treasures" that appeared in the last issue was written by Vanessa Young, not Barbara Berg. Apologies to both - and for more words from Vanessa's pen, see Around ABS on page 138.

NEW in the ABS BOOKSTORE

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SPOTLIGHT ON:

Begonia rajah



B. rajah is a rhizomatous species with distinctive foliage. It was discovered in Malaya in 1894 by Ridley.

The rhizome is slender and creeping. Leaves are ovate, base cordate with overlapping blade bases, and approximately 10 cm. at maturity. The color is a deep mahogany on both upper and reverse surfaces (new leaves are almost red) and indented with distinctive green veins. The leaf area between the veins is raised, giving a large bubbly effect. Blossoms are pale pink, and appear in summer.

CULTURE

Humidity: *B. rajah* is strictly a closed container plant.

Water: It enjoys high humidity but will not tolerate wet feet. Water only when necessary.

Feeding: *B. rajah* responds to regular full strength foliar feeding.

Photo & Text by Jan Goodwin

Light and temperature: This species will only look its best when grown in a cool position in low light levels. If receiving too much light or heat the leaves tend to lose their rich color and become olive green.

Propagation: Propagation is by leaf stem or wedge cutting, or by seed. Margaret Chandler of Western Australia had great success with freshly harvested seed, but there was no germination from seeds eight weeks old. Maybe this seed has a short viability. We would like to hear from anyone else who has tried *B. rajah* seed.

This article is adapted from the March 1993 issue of **Begonia Australis**.

Jan Goodwin is Secretary of the South Australia Begonia Society, and past Seed Fund Director for the Association of Australian Begonia Societies. Her address is PO Box 386, Woodville 5011, Australia.



SHOW NEWS

Around the Country

The **Buxton Branch** display of *Begonia* species and the countries they come from won a Silver Medal and an Educational Certificate from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the Massachusetts Dept. of Agriculture award for best exhibit by a plant society. Plants exhibited were from the Barkley Collection.



Photos by Wanda Macnair

B. 'Guy Savard' grown by Barbara & Stew Stewart won Best of Show at the SWR Get-Together in April

Big winner at the *Barkley Branch Show* April 3-4 in Oklahoma City was **Gene Salisbury**, who took Best of Show with B. 'Dale Kramer', "Showing is Sharing" with 32 plant entries, and Sweepstakes with 10 first-place ribbons. **Rennie Taylor** won Novice Division with the notoriously difficult to grow *B. manicata* 'Aureo-maculata'.

Cultural Awards went to Begonias 'Caprice', "Ms. Twit", and 'Lois Burks', grown by **Linda Clemons**; 'San Miguel', 'Dale Kramer', 'Cachuma', and *kenworthyae*, grown by **Gene Salisbury**; *B. partita*, grown by **Rosemary Cronk**; *B. metachroa*, grown by **Archie Butler**; and B. 'Cathedral', grown by **Diane Horne**. Diane also won the SWR Hybrid Division with

B. 'Bob's Trash', and Special Exhibits Division with her educational exhibit. **Thelma Dodd** won the Begonia Art Division, and **Audrey Smith's** plate won the Craft Division.

Pinellas County Branch annual show, held at the University of Southern Florida Botanical Gardens in Tampa on April 30, was titled "Spring Folly". **Bob Koehler** took Best in Show with B. 'Juanita Jewel', which scored 98.5 points; Bob's *B. foliosa* won Best Shrub-like, and his B. 'Cowardly Lion' took the Rhizomatous Division. Sweepstakes

more Show News on the next page

went to **Greg Sytch**, with 8 blue ribbons. Greg's B. 'Helen Teupel' won Best Rex. **Dale Sena** won the Species Division with *B. venosa*, and **Murline Lydon** won the Novice Division with B. U002.

At the *Southwest Region Get-Together* April 6-9, **Barbara and Stew Stewart** took Best of Show with B. 'Guy Savard' and Sweepstakes with 16 blue ribbons. **John Howell** won the Thompson "Showing is Sharing" Award with 29 entries. Other major awards were Best Rex in Show, given to **Don Miller**, for B. 'Martin Johnson'; Best Southwest Region Hybrid in Show, given to the **Stewarts** for B. 'Maurice Amey'; and Best Artistic Exhibit in Show, won by **Thelma Dodd** with a colored pencil rendition of B. 'Vernona'.

and Around the World

In February, at the annual show of the Queensland Begonia Society in Australia, **Dorothy Mann** took the Hazel Burley Trophy for Champion of Show with her B. 'Looking Glass'. The QBS Trophy for Best Queensland Hybrid went to **Joan Young** for B. 'Eureka Bonanza'.



Quote:

"With all this lovely wam & sunny weather, raise some "cane" (begonias, that is!)"

Rubidoux Begonia Gazette

AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

Happy Birthday to Santa Barbara Branch, 53 years old in May! Each member attending the celebration was asked to recount his most interesting begonia adventure. Some of those stories should be most interesting indeed - maybe they'll share them with the rest of us?

Also celebrating a birthday in May was Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch - but they coyly didn't reveal their age.

Vanessa Young is President of Knickerbocker Branch, and writes "President's Line" every month in the Knickerbocker News. In April she tackled a problem each branch faces:

"How best to survive a flower show? First get plenty of rest, eat well, and brush up on plant knowledge. All will be needed to face the music of a flower show. Then mix in plenty of patience and practice smiling in the mirror to put on our club's best face. These are some of the tools for successful survival! If they don't work, try naming all your begonias alphabetically. This is guaranteed to sedate rattled nerves..."

Apparently members survived, because they were able to attend the next meeting en masse. In May Vanessa described both a program and an addiction:

"The love of begonias has been likened to a disease for which there is no cure. We supplicants willingly submit to the draw and power of our passion. Such is the pull that some of us have been enthralled for decades, while others have basked in the throes of our fascination for merely a few years. Such is the dedication to our cause that we nurse, rehearse, and study ceaselessly the ever-widening variety of begonias. One such devotee is Jack Golding, who held court at the last meeting

to a packed room, SRO! Slide after slide fascinated and delighted visitor and member alike. The circus may be the best show on earth under the big top, but Jack's presentation was the best under our top! What a finale to top "Flower Show" fever. Perhaps the begonia bug bit a few visitors and will entice them to return for another taste of BEGONIAMANIA!"

The South Bay Branch newsletter announced a program with a positively titillating title: "Dirty Little Secrets of the South Bay Branch." Who could resist? Attendance was great. Did they bare all? Yes indeed - every little bit of knowledge of potting soils and dirt. Surely you didn't think...?

South Bay also held a sale recently, with an interesting and exciting twist: one table was for children, with plants priced at 10 to 25 cents. Wow, what a good idea! Getting the youngest generation hooked on begonias! And, in case plants didn't attract every passing shopper, they had a bake sale too.

The March newsletter for Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch began with "It wasn't 40 days & 40 nights, but..." and ended with "Now is a good time to install, check, or repair your drip system. (It won't always be raining)" California's drought has ended, but with a vengeance. Some begonias are loving the humidity: the newsletter for Alfred D. Robinson Branch noted in May that everyone was reporting fabulous blooms on their rhizomatous begonias, and Eileen Clause' B. 'Beryl' had more than 20 stalks of 2 foot stems loaded with flowers; the bloom had lasted for two months, with more coming on.

Having company? Want to impress them with a beautiful table arrangement? Try a living centerpiece. In April Lana Nelson did a program for Astro Branch in which she demonstrated the use of living plants tucked into baskets to create living centerpieces.

Each basket combined begonias with seasonal color such as impatiens, coleus, and dusty miller. Unlike cut flowers, living centerpieces can be used, given away, rearranged, or, when the plants get too big, planted in the garden. Wouldn't they make a nice gift? Sure beats throwing cut flowers in the trash!

It's happened in every branch: the yearbook is finished, printed, and distributed to the members. Then new members come along. They're wanted, of course; but the yearbook editor knows the new names seldom get entered in the yearbook, and it's always a hassle to find their addresses and phone numbers when a call is necessary. Editor Linda Clemons of Barkley Branch took care of that problem in a neat way: she put the names, addresses, and phone numbers of new members on address labels, and mailed them to each member with the newsletter. All members had to do was remove the backing and stick the label in the yearbook. Now why didn't we think of that...

San Francisco Branch has always had a social conscience, and members collect toys for tots and food for baskets every Christmas. Now, thanks to a suggestion by Alice Gold, they are placing a box at the door at every meeting, so that members can donate food for the less fortunate. The Mae Blanton Branch has been doing the same for several years now, and they find that organizations really appreciate year-round donations. The needs, unfortunately, are not only at Christmas.

Here's what one branch does to help new members learn about begonia culture fast: each new member of Houston Satellite Branch receives a free copy of Dorothy Patrick's booklet, "Tips for Begonia Beginners," courtesy of the branch. Satellite's getting lots of new members; the ABS Bookstore has had to order another printing!

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.

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MINI-ADS continued

BEGONIAS. Unrooted cuttings. New, exclusive Lowe hybrids. New hybrids & old favorites. Send \$1 for list. Paul Lowe, 5741 Dewberry Way, West Palm Beach, FL 33415.

AUSTRALIA '95: Interested in pre- & post-convention tour(s) in Queensland & New South Wales? Small group (min:7) will visit natural areas, Grt. Barrier Reef; see begonias in homes, nurseries, botanic gardens in March-April. Long-term planning required; write Bruce Boardman, P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale TX 76433 by August 1, 1993.

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Quote:

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



Moving?

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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, hardiness testing, life-sized photos of ivies. Memberships: General \$15; Institutional \$25; Commercial \$50. Information: The American Ivy Society, P.O. Box 520, West Carrollton, OH 45449-0520.



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OPENINGS: BEGONIAN EDITOR, HORTICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

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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.

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.
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