

November/December, 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 - Merry! Photographer Sue Hessel took a picture of her B. 'Christmas Candle' just for our holidays issue.

Back - B. 'Maurice Amey', photographed by Don Miller.

See article, page 206.



B. partita

by Charles McGough

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Parliamentarian Margaret Lee (on right) installs new President Gene Salisbury. Watching on left is Gene's wife Ann. Photo by Peter Notaras.

ABS Officers Installed at Banquet in Sacramento

On Saturday, September 11, ABS members from across the country enjoyed a beautiful annual show and delicious luncheon put on by Sacramento Branch, and congregated at an evening banquet for the annual business meeting and installation of officers. There was a wonderful feeling of camaraderie, some reverent nostalgia, and much optimism about the future of ABS.

Parliamentarian Margaret Lee presided over the installation of newly elected President Gene Salisbury, Secretary Arlene Ingles, and Treasurer Carol Notaras. Vice-Presidents Mary Bucholtz, Bruce C. Boardman, and Millie Thompson were installed in absentia.

See Show News on page 205 for a report of Sacramento's show. Minutes of the Business Meeting were not available by press deadline, and will appear in the next issue.

In this Issue...

We are reviving an old ABS tradition: printing Season's Greetings from our Branches. Joan Coulat of Sacramento Branch asked about this a few years back, and Ann Salisbury saw the project through. Thank you to all who participated - we hope you enjoy hearing from your fellow members. Best wishes, Peace, and Goodwill to you all!



B. 'Magic Lace'

Photo and Text by Mildred Swyka

This lovely rhizomatous begonia has silver green leaves with darker green markings. It is a cultivar from a 1980 Leslie Woodriff cross of *B. imperialis* x *B. 'Bowkit'*.

Although it is reputed to be of trailing growth habit, I find *B. 'Magic Lace'* to be a very compact grower that hugs the pot. It does seem to enjoy sunlight.

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

Broken Stems? Splint Them!

You can nurse some injured or fragile plant stems back to health with a "splint".

Simply cut a drinking straw to the length that you need, slice it up one side, slip it around the injured stem, and then tape the straw shut. Eventually the stem inside will heal.

- from the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch newsletter, editor Carol Wright.

OH NO! A Nest of Babies!

by Mary Webb

Towards the end of last year, I helped arrange the choreography and costumes for a production at a local theatre. At the end of the season I was presented with a thank you gift of a B. 'Oh No.' I smiled very nicely and said my thanks, while all the time thinking that I never had any luck with 'Oh No' because it always dies on me.

Anyway, I took the plant home, hung it under the pergola, and proceeded to look after it along with all my other plants. It began to grow and, to my delight, produced flowers.

A few weeks later my husband called me out into the garden and told me to look at the B. 'Oh No'. At first I could not see anything different about it, but as I looked more closely I saw that in

amongst the leaves was a tiny little nest with two eggs in it. The mother, so I was told, was a long-nosed brown honey eater.

We carefully watched over the mother and eggs. Needless to say, the plant suffered as we could not give it an overhead spray for fear of getting the nest wet. Our patience was rewarded with two lovely babies, which we promptly named Oh and No.

We still have B. 'Oh No' and it is doing very well, but there have not been any more nests and babies.

*Mary Webb is a member of the Begonia Society of Western Australia. Her article appeared in the June 1993 issue of **Begonia Australis**.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

BEST WISHES TO ALL
FOR A YEAR
OF
FRIENDLY BEGONIA CONTACT

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

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Be Yours at
Christmastime
and Throughout
the New Year.*

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Flower Sex in *Begonia Semperflorens*

by Kevin Handreck

'Way back in 1938, one Edwin B. Matzke of the Botany Department of Columbia University in New York City spent a lot of time thinking about sex.

Well, actually, it was the sex of *B. semperflorens* (now *cucullata*) flowers in which he was interested. He was trying to find out whether the proportion of male and female flowers could be changed by changing the environment in which the plants were grown.

Anyone who has done any hybridizing will know that, frustratingly, often there are either no male or no female flowers available to be used to make a chosen cross. Wouldn't it be great if you could somehow alter the environment of a plant so that it produced flowers of the sex you wanted? Maybe the results of the 1938 study are worth using on begonias other than *B. semperflorens*.

What Matzke did was to grow some plants in clay pots in two different media. One was a mixture of five parts clay loam, one part leaf mold, and one third part sand, plus bone meal, sheep manure, and other fertilizers. The 53 plants grew vigorously and flowered profusely. Another group of 60 plants was grown in coarse sand. Of course they didn't grow much, but they did produce some flowers. In all, Matzke counted and sexed 15,483 flowers. At least the sexing bit would have been a whole lot easier than with chickens!

The interesting bit is that there was a greater proportion of male flowers on the starved plants than on the well-fed plants. Averaged over the four varieties used, the ratio of male to female flowers on starved plants was 4.481:1, but only 2.83:1 on the well-fed plants.

Does it follow that force-feeding other begonias will encourage them to produce female flowers? Maybe, maybe not, but it would be interesting to know. Any volunteers amongst you keen *Begonia* hybridizers?

*Kevin Handreck is editor of **Begonia Australis**. His article appeared in the June 1993 issue. Kevin lives at 2 Birdwood St., Netherby 5062, Australia.*

If you've enjoyed this and other articles from **Begonia Australis**, you might like to know that you can subscribe for \$18 (surface mail) or \$25 (air mail) in Australian currency. Better yet, contact the Association of Australian Begonia Societies to locate one of their members who might like to become an ABS member - that way you can exchange memberships (ABS membership, plus postage to Australia, is \$25 US for surface mail, \$35 for air mail) without going through the hassle and expense of international money exchange. Secretary/Treasurer of the AABS is Phillip Wright, C/ P. Clingin, City of Ballarat, PO Box 655, Ballarat VIC 3353, Australia.

Rainforest on the Prairie

It's true that early explorers in our country found rainforests only on the Olympic peninsula of what is now Washington State. Nowadays, however, rainforests are to be found across the country, under glass.

Among them is the architecturally acclaimed Crystal Bridge in Oklahoma City. From the outside, the Bridge looks like a long, faceted, glass and steel cylinder: a piece of modern art, perhaps. Artistic it is; but the form is designed for function as an ultra-modern greenhouse housing two distinct plant habitats.

The Crystal Bridge is part of Oklahoma City's Myriad Gardens complex, located in the shadow of downtown. It is 70 ft. in diameter and 224 ft. long, and raised above ground level to accommodate huge pools of water underneath that circulate to provide cooling and humidity. Visitors enter by elevator, perhaps symbolic of leaving the red earth and temperature extremes of Oklahoma for another ecosystem entirely.

Once inside, visitors find first the wet zone, with a waterfall and mini-stream surrounded by rainforest species - including, of course, begonias. Howard Clemens and other members of ABS' Barkley Branch have helped supply specimens. Along with the begonias grow ferns, cycads, palms, and epiphytes from several plant families.

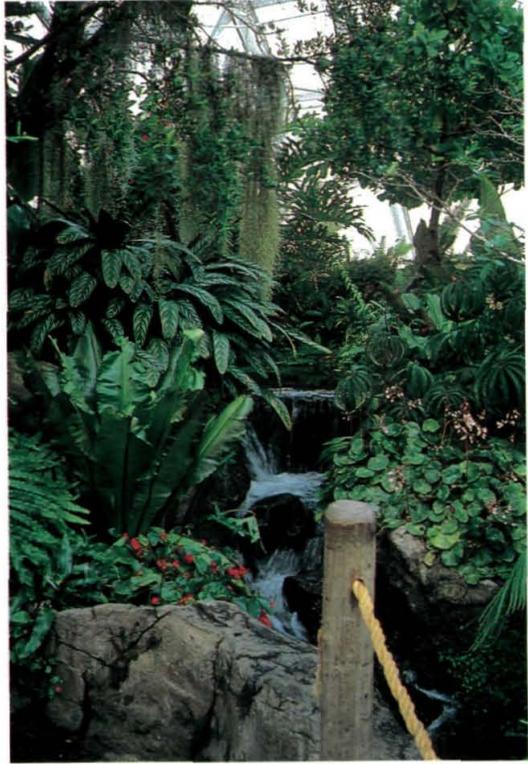


Photo by Bruce C. Boardman

Paved trails meander through the conservatory, making this rainforest comfortably accessible and connecting the wet zone to the dry zone at the far end. Or reach the dry zone by taking the skywalk, a long boardwalk running the length of the Crystal Bridge. From above you can view the canopy of this Oklahoma rainforest.

Placed to catch the strength of the Oklahoma sun, the bright and arid dry zone is home to succulents from over the globe. Water is supplied for eight months of the year, then withheld for the next four. The dry zone is quite a contrast to its lushly overgrown neighbor: there are fewer plants, and some may be bare of leaves during certain seasons as the ultimate means of conserving water. Euphorbias and acacias are prominent.

The Crystal Bridge conservatory is designed so efficiently that just two horticulturists can keep it in show condition. Behind the scenes is a tiny production greenhouse on the third floor, which provides growing space for seasonal displays that add color to the conservatory throughout the year.

The tour planned for ABS members attending "Begonias: OK!" in May will be truly "behind the scenes" and include the production greenhouse, chats with the staff, and a chance to explore the cooling system's pools. Who knows, you may pick up some good ideas for your own rainforest back home.

**MERRY BEGONIAS
TO YOU!**

Oh...and have a nice
Christmas too.

Best Wishes from the
PALOS VERDES BRANCH

Quote:

"Happiness is like jam: you can't spread even a little without getting some on yourself."

Westchester Branch newsletter

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Oklahoma is Full of Surprises

Let's face it: some places have an image problem. Take Oklahoma, for example: do you automatically think of beautiful scenery? Of modern cities? Of great architecture? Of outstanding museums? Of good restaurants? Of rose gardens?

If your image of Oklahoma is stuck in the "Dust Bowl" days, you're in for lots of pleasant surprises when you come to the 1994 ABS Convention next May.

No ocean, it's true; but lots of what pioneers called "the sea of grass", punctuated by oases of trees along winding streams and lakes for fishing, water-skiing, swimming. No world-class mountains, but lots of tree-covered hills for hiking and horseback riding, and enough strange rock formations to fascinate geologists for centuries.

We really must mention the sunrises and sunsets: they're only spectacular. If you can't bear to get up early, at least plan on an evening of watching the reds and golds and purples descend on the horizon. The stars at night are worth a look, too; the sky seems bigger in Oklahoma!

Nature lovers will enjoy Oklahoma's prairie birds, mammals, and wildflowers. A good place to get an introduction to the area is the Martin Park Nature Center on the northern edge of Oklahoma City. State parks are family-oriented, and offer lodging, camping facilities, and meals at bargain rates.

It's not all wide-open spaces and outdoor activities; Oklahoma's reknown for museums celebrating the state's Indian, cowboy, and pioneer heritages. Among the best are the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, set in an Italianate mansion surrounded by gardens, which has a fabulous collection of Western art in addition to historical documents and paintings and sculpture from around the world; the Museum of the Pioneer Woman in Ponca City; and of course the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, where the Convention Banquet will be held.

The modern world is represented by skyscrapers, malls, fast food chains, as well as elegant restaurants, boutiques, Victorian bed-and-breakfasts. It may seem odd to mention the good highways - but if you're driving, you'll appreciate them. Incidentally, Oklahoma has the best preserved stretch of historic Route 66 - and it goes right through Oklahoma City.

Rose gardens? The Oklahoma sunshine allows for a wide variety of plants. There are even native orchids.

Oklahoma has a lot to offer. Plan on taking some time to discover its surprises. A call to 1-800-652-6552 will net you a free vacation guide.

In at least one sense Oklahoma is 'way behind the big cities of the east and west coasts: prices are lower. You won't mind that kind of surprise, will you?

Seasons Greetings
from
Rio Dell, California
John & Arlene Ingles

Santa Clara Valley Branch
sends Holiday Greetings
and
Best Wishes for 1994

Don't Feed the Majolica

by Mary Bucholtz

TLC? Definitely!
Fertilizer? No!
Water? Limited!

As majolica, begonias are totally self-sustaining. The water is needed only to wash away the dust of the years.

I want to share with you an interest that parallels the fun of growing begonias: the collecting of majolica.

This tin-glazed earthenware, which has become known to us as Victorian Majolica, was introduced to the public in England at the Great Exhibition of 1851 when ceramics manufacturer Herbert Minton produced a display of unusually brilliant, colorful glazed pottery. It was not long before many of the major European potters - Wedgwood, Copeland, Holdcroft, Fielding, and George Jones, to name a few - were producing their wares.

The 1853 Crystal Palace Exhibition in New York featured a large display. Some of the big producers there were Edwin Bennett, James Carr, and the firm of Griffin, Smith & Hill. The era from 1879 through the 1880's was the period in which most American majolica was produced.

Whimsical in design, items were made for use in every room of the house: majolica vases, cachepots, garden seats, umbrella stands, pitchers, platters, tureens, bowls, butter pats, tea pots, cups, cake plates, a seemingly endless array. The designs and pieces encompass a multitude of ceramic creations, and reflect the Victorian era's great interest in botany, gardening, science, and travel, using birds,

butterflies, animals, sea life, shells, strawberries blossoms and fruit, calla lilies, oak leaves, ferns, and of course begonias.

I found it most interesting to discover that it was not uncommon to use the actual begonia leaf to create the mold. No wonder so many of the pieces look so real!

I started collecting after attending a seminar presented by Rudolf Ziesenhenne at our National Convention in Long Beach in 1987. I purposely stayed out of antique shops — but one cold January day in 1988 I was window shopping a few neighborhood stores. A window full of majolica brought me to a complete stop. Several begonia leaves dominated the display, as if the shop owner knew I were coming.

At first I collected begonia leaves that were horticulturally correct in color. As I learned more about this pottery, correct leaf color became less important. I began to find begonias on butter pats, pitchers, syrup pitchers, cake stands, platters, compotes, baskets, and even a cuspidor. My collection contains pieces from Europe and the United States.

With the exception of a few pieces, I have managed to limit my collection to those that have begonias as the central design. This makes it even more exciting when a new treasure is found.

My majolica is displayed on tables and walls in my dining and living rooms. In the accompanying photos, I have grouped similar colors together, as well as showing you those with the same background pattern, wicker.



Mary's Majolica begonias decorate her mantelpiece



Plates and pitchers are but a few of the forms begonias take in majolica



These diverse pieces of begonia majolica share a wicker pattern background

Did you know there is a Majolica Society? They produce a newsletter several times a year and even hold a convention, complete with seminars and a sale. The description of their sale sounds just like an ABS convention hall full of begonia collectors waiting for the door to open.

ABS 1st Vice-President Mary Bucholtz lives at 2411 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville FL 32207 surrounded by begonias (live and captured on majolica).

Quote:

"In all things of Nature, there is something of the marvelous."
Aristotle, quoted in the San Francisco Begonian

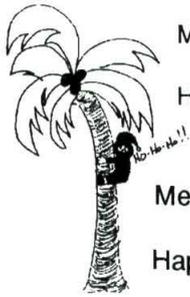
Season's Greetings

from the

**Westchester
Branch**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
GOOD HEALTH
&
GREAT GROWING
IN THE NEW YEAR

from the
SACRAMENTO BRANCH



Mele Kalikimaka
&
Hauoli Maka Hiki hou!

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
to All!

Long Beach Parent Chapter



Best Wishes for
a Happy Holiday
and a Prosperous 1994
from the
Greater Atlanta Branch
of ABS
and site of the
1996 Summer Olympics



Peace and
Best Wishes
for the New Year

**Knickerbocker
Branch**



We Wish You Joy, Hope,
and Peace
For the Holiday Season
and the New Year

MAE BLANTON BRANCH



A Sunny California
Xmas to all

from the
**Rubidoux Begonia
Society**



**Whittier Begonia
Society**



wishing you
Happy Holidays
during our
53rd Anniversary year
1993



To all our fellow
Begonia Lovers
Happy Holidays

Helene & Charles Jaros



Peace on Earth
Good Will Towards Men
Happy Holidays
PALM BEACHES BRANCH

IN MEMORY

It is with a heavy heart that we report the death of our beloved **Alecia Anderson**. She was an unassuming woman with a generous heart, who took the time to be a friend to many of our members when they were in times of trial.

I was particularly impressed with her steady quest to learn. When she joined the society, she, like many of us, hardly knew which end of a begonia was up. She asked questions and then asked some more. She brought plants in for identification; she was a big participant in Culture Corner. She took the plunge and entered plants in the show. She asked more questions and won the Novice division. She continued entering, applying her knowledge. She would win Divisions based on the skills she learned. It made me feel good to see how secretly pleased she was with her accomplishments.

She couldn't always participate to the level she wanted, but she would always do what she could. I will always picture her with her "I Remember Mama" braids. I am one of many who will miss her. - Paul Tsamtsis, in the Sacramento Branch Begonia Leaf

Marguerite Hankerson was a founding member of Dallas Area Branch. As a branch officer and a big contributor of plants for sales, she was a mainstay through the years.

Marguerite loved begonias and ferns, and her knowledge of both was encyclopedic. Her talents as a seamstress and as a gourmet cook were at the branch's disposal, and her keen sense of humor served to defuse disagreements.

On the national level Marguerite served as registration chair for the 1984 Convention and on the staff of the Begonian in the late 1980's, where her intelligence, education, and keen eye for typographical errors was of great value.

Marguerite died Saturday, September 11. We shall miss her very much. - Tamsin Boardman

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Garden Grove Branch

Wishes You All
A Happy Holiday

*Let's Don't Forget the
Reason for the Season
The Birth of our Lord
Jesus Christ*



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

and

GOOD BEGONIA GROWING

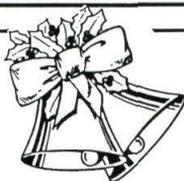
IN THE COMING YEAR

MIAMI BRANCH



Season's Greetings!

Fort Lauderdale Branch



We wish everyone the happiest, merriest of holiday seasons.

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful support I have received this last two years as your A.B.S. President.

Most Sincerely,
Carol and Peter Notaras

CHRISTMAS



a time to Love
a time to Share
a time to Care

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Best Wishes for 1994



Q: My wife isn't crazy about begonias, but I'm crazy about her anyway and want her to come to OK with me. She's into crafts - is there anything there to interest her?

A: OK City has a lot, but crafty folk head north to Guthrie, 30 miles up Interstate 35. Seems like the whole darn town consists of craft stores, craft boutiques, quilting shops, knitting shops, woodworking places, and such. Bet she'll go wild!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OKLAHOMA

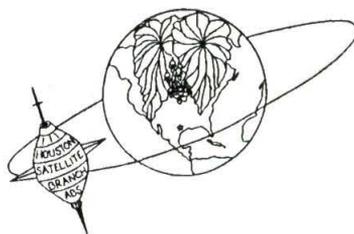
HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU IN 1994
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
NATIONAL CONVENTION
"BEGONIAS: OK!"

GENE AND ANN SALISBURY



**Santa Barbara
Branch**

*Wishes All of You
Peace and Happiness
for the Coming Year.*



**The Houston Satellite
Branch**

Beams Rays
of
Peace, Joy, Love
to ALL
for the
Holiday Season
and
New Year

the staff of the **Begonian** wishes you

Peace
Love
Joy



Show News Around the Country

Patricia McElderry won Best in Show at the *Westchester Branch 12th Annual Show* in August. Her winning plant was B. 'Lois Burks', which scored 97 points for a Cultural Award. Not far behind was her *B. maculata*, winner of the Species Division and a Cultural Award (96 points).

Cultural Awards were won also by **Brad Thompson**, for Begonias 'Lubbergei' (96 points), 'Airy Elf' and *albo-picta* (96 each), 'Precious Patti' and 'Cajon Valley' (95 each); **E. B. Willis**, for Begonias 'Drostii' and *prismatocarpa* (96 each); **Clair Christensen**, for B. 'Los Angeles' (95); and **Arnold Krupnick**, for B. *dregei* x *herbacea* (95). **Ramona Parker** took Novice, with B. 'Ginny'.

The *Sacramento Branch Annual Show* on September 11 was lovely despite the extreme heat Mother Nature came up with this past summer. Top winners were **Paul Tsamtsis**, whose B. 'Amelia' took Best in Show, and **Joan Coulat**, who won the Sweepstakes award with 22 blue ribbons. Paul's B. 7A08 won Best New Introduction.

Cultural Awards went to **Joan Coulat** for Begonias 'Irene Nuss' (97 points), 'Harbison Canyon' (96.66), and 'Medora' (95.5); to **Paul Tsamtsis** Begonias 'Amelia' (97.7), *dregei* (96.5), B. 7A08 (96.33), and 'Jewelite' (95); to **Cynthia Bishop**, for B. *crispula* (97); **Carol Notaras**, for B. 'Rudy' (96.3); **Bob Parish** for unnamed Tuberhybrida (96) and Tuberhybrida pendula (95); and **Donna and Saggi Hoffman**, B. unknown (95).

Members of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch distinguished themselves in the horticultural division at the *Ventura County Fair* in August. New branch member **Ronda Williams** took home a blue ribbon for her *B. masoniana*. The big winner was **Beverly Paulson**, with a large variety of prize-winning begonias.

In the News...

San Antonio, Texas was the site for the fourth International Master Gardener & Trade Show in August. Among the more than 70 classes and clinics was one on begonias, taught by **Kelton Parker**, ABS member and Curator of Begonias at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

Q: I think of Oklahoma as the Wild West, and I'd like to go horse-back riding. Where should I head, Pardner?

A: The movies' answer is "into the sunset" and Oklahoma sunsets are gorgeous, but let's be more practical. Call 1-800-652-6552 for a list of dude ranches; ask also about state parks that offer riding.



PINELLAS COUNTY BRANCH

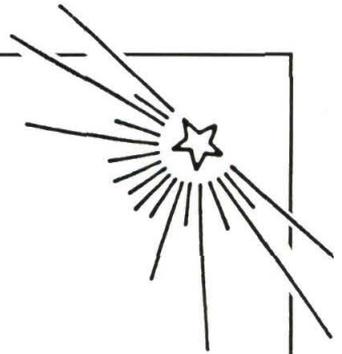
*Wishes all of you
Peace and Happiness
for the coming year.*

While visiting the Tampa Bay Area come
visit our meetings, 7:30 P.M. - Third Tuesday -
Fellowship Hall, Church of Christ
6045 Park Blvd. Pinellas Park, Florida



*As your begonias sleep,
Don't weep.
Christmas is here
And spring is near.
Have a happy growing year!*

**Happy Holidays
Orange County Branch
ABS**



Peace on Earth

**Dallas Area Branch,
American Begonia
Society**



May all the special sights
and pleasures of Christmas
live on in your memories

**Astro Branch
Houston**



**SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM TEXAS**

ALAMO BRANCH A.B.S.

Lucille Dyess
Nell Flores
Leora Fuentes
Ray Fuentes
Maria Gonzalez
Russ Hammer
Diane Hoff
John Howell

Johnie Long
Mary Ellen McCormick
Imogene Mosley
Elizabeth Muth
Ken Muth
Jim Rihn
June Shawver
Melba Schultz

Barbara Stewart
Naron Stewart
Emily Swayze
Lillian Transue
Kay Tucker
Hazel Wyatt
Tom Zoellner
Florence Zwirn

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY GROWING in the coming year

Joyce Bateman
Tamsin Boardman
Archie & Mary Ann Butler
Bob Calvert
Marilyn Cates
Dorothy Caviness
Martha Chesnut
Howard & Effie Clemens
Mike & Linda Clemons
Rosemary Danly Cronk
Bob Dodd
Nancy Hollis
Don & Diane Horne
Mary M. Johnson

Jim & Judy Jolly
Laura Kirby
Myrtle McNatt
Pearl Pearson
Linda Perry
Gene & Ann Salisbury
Louie T. Sullivan
Vernona Youngblood
Diana Wilkerson
Mark & Kathy Howery
Lisa Hollis Fina
Sharon Porter
Sherry Moore

HONORARY MEMBERS

Elizabeth Barkley
Laverne Carpenter
Thelma Dodd

Jerry Caviness
Ruth Wills
Kathlynn Calvert

SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE BARKLEY BRANCH

Maurice Amey
Millie & Ed Thompson
Rudolf Ziesenhenn
Carol Notaras
Mae Blanton
Carrie Karegeannes

Kit Jeans Mounger
John Ingles, Jr.
Thelma O'Reilly
Bruce Boardman
Don Miller

WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
ALL OF OUR BEGONIA FRIENDS
IN
OKLAHOMA - 1994 - AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
ANNUAL CONVENTION

"BEGONIAS: OK!"
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
THE FRED A. BARKLEY BRANCH

B. 'Maurice Amey'

by Don Miller

This begonia is so loud you can hear it across the room. And, if you like flashy, this is the plant for you.

Naron "Stew" Stewart of Bulverde, Texas crossed B. 'Pinafore' sport with unidentified species B. U062. One of the resulting seedlings was so colorful and bright it was obvious what the name should be: B. 'Maurice Amey', after Southwest Region's begonia evangelist. The plant won Best New Introduction at Southwest Region's 1993 Get-Together in April, competing against several other beautiful hybrids.

The ovate leaves of B. 'Maurice Amey' are larger than either of its parents' leaves: a mature leaf can be 8" x 3". The upper leaf surface has olive-green veins with silvery-pink dots and blotches between the veins. These blotches can be rosy red when grown in strong bright light. The leaf is edged with a serrated silver margin.

The medium-sized flower clusters are rosy pink, which will turn almost red in strong light.

Grow B. 'Maurice Amey' in very strong light, even a little sun, to bring out the best color in the leaves and flowers. This flashy new hybrid grows fast and roots easily from stem cuttings. It appears to have an upright, vase-shaped growth habit. This is one of the most exciting new hybrids I have seen in a long time.

The photo on the back cover and this write-up are taken from the May-June issue of SWR's Begonia Leaflet.

Horticulturist Don Miller takes smashing photos and raises prize-winning begonias. He is currently serving as President of Dallas Area Branch, and lives at 1010 Mt. Auburn, Dallas, TX 75223.

COMING EVENTS

November 13-14: Palm Beaches Branch Sale at Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 Military Trail, West Palm Beach.

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 November 15



Joy!

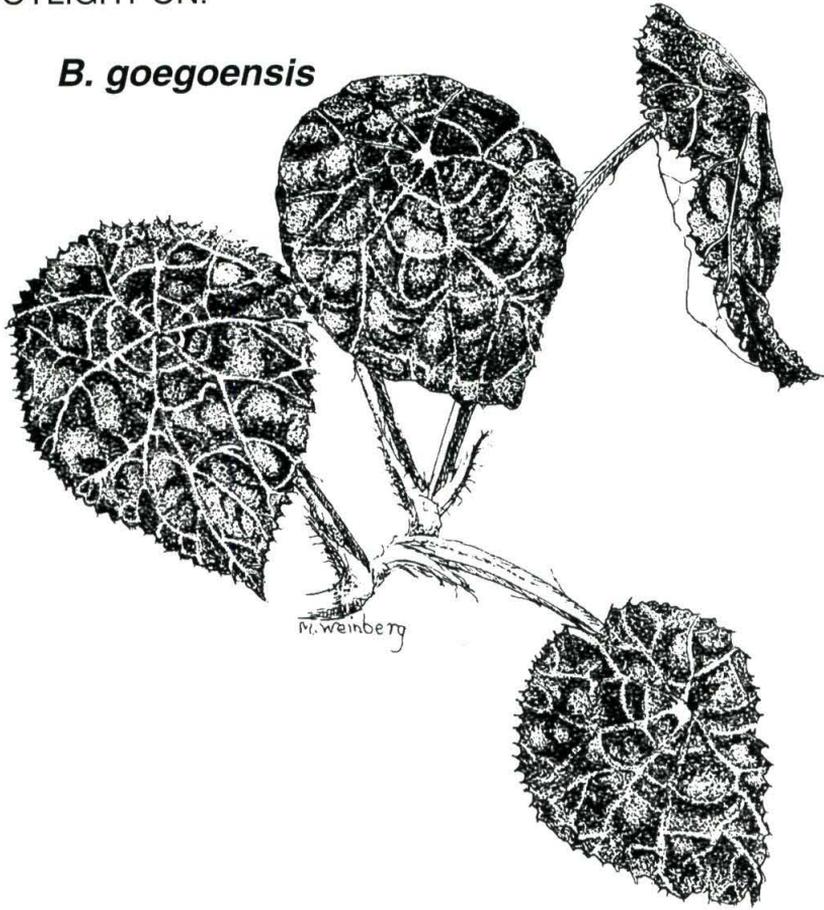
*Southwest Region,
American Begonia Society*

Hosts for the 1994 ABS Convention,
"Begonias: OK!"
May 16-19, 1994
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

We'll hope to see you there!

SPOTLIGHT ON:

B. goegoensis



B. goegoensis was discovered in Goego, Sumatra. It was introduced in 1881, and first described in 1882 by N. E. Brown. It is in section Reichheimia, and has 34 chromosomes.

B. goegoensis is a rhizomatous begonia with distinctive foliage. Leaves are egg-shaped, tapering to a point, peltate, and silky dark green-bronze in color. The undersides and edges of the leaves are dull red, with sparse red hairs on the edges and on the veins, giving the leaves a heavily quilted appearance. The main stem is short, creeping, with very short internodes. Stipules are ovate-acuminate, tinted with red, and

have red hairs on the edges and main rib. Petioles are four-sided, giving a very distinctive square look, and are light green tinted with red. Flowers are small and rose pink in color; staminate flowers have four tepals and pistillate flowers five tepals. The ovary is pink with unequal wings. *B. goegoensis* is a moderate bloomer through summer and fall.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, Sumatra has an annual rainfall of 80 to 120 inches, giving it a very humid atmosphere. Temperatures range between 57 and 80 degrees. Along the west coast the country is very

mountainous, with the east coast consisting of mangrove swamps and bogs. The soil has marginal degrees of fertility, consisting for the most part of decomposed rock. It is a very active volcanic area.

B. goegoensis was one of the earliest begonias I collected. Due to my overly protective nature, I managed to kill it shortly after purchasing it. I drenched it with water and kept it well covered with a plastic baggy, and did not heed its calls for help as it was drowning in my tender loving care.

A few years later the Seed Fund offered seed of *B. goegoensis*. I ordered a packet, and after planting got 100% germination. I kept the seedlings in the light garden, and as they got larger I removed their protective cover (humidity in my light garden is about 50%). I placed one of the larger plants in a small terrarium, using sphagnum moss and perlite for the growing medium. It was transferred once to a larger terrarium when it grew too big for its small home.

One spring I decided to grow *B. goegoensis* in a pot to see if it would survive in my home. In order to remove the plant from the terrarium to the outside air without the change in atmosphere damaging its leaves, I started by removing the terrarium cover slowly, a little each day, until it was fully exposed to room air. Then I carefully lifted the plant out of the moss, removing as much as possible from the roots so as not to damage them. Using my standard growing medium, to which I added leaf mold and a pinch of bone meal and more perlite, I potted *goegoensis* in a 4" square plastic pot. It did very well in the house all summer. I placed it back in the light garden for the winter months, as the humidity there is much more to its liking.

CULTURE

Light: Provide a bright situation, about four hours of filtered sun. Do not expose to midday sun. In a light garden, give it a bright spot; this will keep the leaves from getting too dark.

Temperature: *B. goegoensis* likes it on the warm side. A range of 70-75 degrees would be ideal. It tends to lose leaves in the winter if kept too cool.

Humidity: *B. goegoensis* does well in a terrarium, but can survive growing in a greenhouse or under house conditions if you can provide humidity in the 50-60% range.

Growing Medium: Pot in a light porous medium; add peat moss or leaf mold with a pinch of bone meal, as it likes a rich humusy growing medium.

Fertilizer: *B. goegoensis* should be fertilized on a regular basis during the growing season.

Artist/writer/begonia grower Mary Weinberg lives at 1527 W. Highland Ave., Chicago IL 60660. Her article first appeared in the Chicago Begonian in November, 1984.

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BULLETIN BOARD

ABS News

Appointments

Replacements have been found for several Chairmen who have resigned or requested replacements:

Shelley Andros will assume the duties of Balloting Chair, replacing **Ronnie Nevins**. Shelley's address is 740 Lamat Rd., La Habre Heights, CA 90631.

Leora Fuentes will take over Show Entries and Classification, replacing **Tim Last**. Tim resigned in 1991, and we're sorry it took so long to replace him. Many members will remember Leora as a long-time Sacramento Branch member; she now lives at 13747 Wilderness Point, San Antonio, TX 78231.

John Ingles, Jr., 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617, will return as Business Manager, replacing **Dale Elmlade**. John will wear two hats, remaining as Membership Chair.

Bruce C. Boardman will move from Conservation Administrator to Conservation Director replacing **Scott Hoover**, whose activities have been limited the past few years because of his involvement with establishing the New England Conservatory. Bruce's address is Box 69, Bluff Dale, TX 76433

The Board thanks Ronnie, Tim, Dale, and Scott for their dedication and hard work through the years.

Back Issues Chair Open

Back Issues Chair **Claire Frontera** has resigned. Thank you, Claire, for your work with the Back Issues.

Requests for back issues of the **Begonian** will be handled temporarily by Ann Salisbury pending appointment of a new chairman.

For a limited time, back issues will continue to be available at a cost of 50 cents per issue plus postage; a complete set for one year of the early magazines is \$5 plus postage (12 issues per set), and a recent set (6 issues per year) will be \$2.50 plus postage.

Branches needing recent back issues to give away or sell at shows, garden club talks, etc., may order for the cost of postage and handling only.

Contact Ann at P.O. Box 504, Tonkawa, OK 74653. If you've already written but have not received your order, please be patient: Claire is forwarding all correspondence to Ann, who hopes to have all the magazines sorted out and orders filled soon.

Also Open:

Begonian Editor
Horticultural Correspondent

Is there a job you'd like to fill for your Society? Contact the President, or any of the Officers, elected or appointed (they're listed on page 222). They'll be delighted to hear from you!

A Note to Branch Newsletter Editors

Thank you! for sending your newsletters to the **Begonian** editor. It's fun to read about begonia happenings all over the country and even abroad. Some branch newsletters, however, are still going to an old address; the correct address is Box 69, Bluff Dale TX 76433. Will you please check your mailing labels and make the update?

While you're updating, remember that ABS has a new Secretary: Arlene Ingles should also be getting your newsletter. Her address is 157 Monument, Rio Dell CA 95562-1617.

Other ABS officers that would like to receive your newsletter are Historian Norma Pfrunder, 3484 Jefferson St., Riverside CA 92504; and Branch Relations Chair Doug Hahn, 7736 Stonehill Dr., Cincinnati OH 45230. Thanks, again!

Seed Fund Donations

The Seed Fund has recently received some exciting donations! Be sure and read this issue's Notes and Listing.

As your rhizomatous begonias go into bloom in the coming months, please remember the Seed Fund. Self-pollinated species are especially needed. Keep the seeds coming!

Quick!

Check your mailing label.

If it says 11/93 or 12/93, your membership is about to expire.

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

Directory Update

New President of **Pinellas County Branch** is **Wylie Summerlin**, 7235 53rd Street North Apt. C, Pinellas Park, FL 34665.

Paul Tsamtsis is new President of **Sacramento Branch**. Paul's address is 1630 F Street, Sacramento CA 95814.

Barkley Collection: Winter Comes

Word comes from Buxton Branch that winter is hard upon Massachussetts and help is needed to heat the greenhouse where the Barkley Begonia collection is housed. Branch members are trying lots of fund-raising events, but they do need assistance from branches and individuals begonia lovers all over the country.

Many branches have benefited from plant and cutting donations from the Barkley Collection. Now is a good time to remember the Barkley Begonias in your Christmas giving.

Please send a check made out to the **Barkley Collection Preservation Fund** to Buxton Treasurer Phyllis Podren, 40 Dummer St., Brookline MA 02146 or to Branch President Frank Green, 101 Richardson Rd., Ashby MA 01431-9702. Donations are tax-deductible if you itemize.

Attention, Members at Large!

by Thelma McRae

Despite the fact that I'm dating myself with an old expression, as the current MAL Director I'm tickled pink! And it's certainly not my fault, either. We have a number of knowledgeable folks in the membership and they've been most generous with their contributions to the quarterly newsletter. After only three issues of the newsletter this lowly amateur has learned so much.

The October newsletter will include an article on "Growing Begonia under Lights" by Jeff Stuart of Syracuse, NY; the first in a series of 'Begonia Notes' by Rudolf Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara, CA (and you can't find anyone more expert than this gentleman); a profile of B. 'Torsa' by Paul Tsamtsis of Sacramento, CA; translations from "le petit begofil (French Begonia Society publication) by a new member, Françoise Fairfield of Westland, MI; and much more.

We've asked members, if they have time, to write and tell us about themselves and their experience in growing begonias, and the response has been overwhelming. When you've

discovered the diverse begonia, worked your tail off to produce lovely plants, and have no kindred spirit to share it with, kinda takes some of the fun out of it, doesn't it? Oh, sure, friends visit and admire (love it when my son comes to visit and - after two years - my B. 'Irene Nuss is covered with bloom, and he says, "Oh, sure, Mom, that's pretty.") Arg! Or when you have problems - such as you can't get your 'Irene Nuss' to bloom: perhaps we can help. As I recently wrote to a new MAL from Vermont, "Forgive typos, CA laid-back style, and horrible sense of humor. Despite our geographical and personal differences we all have begonias in common."

If you don't have an ABS Branch in your vicinity, you can send three legal-size envelopes, stamped and self-addressed, plus \$1.00 (for colored pictures; a deal with a local photo store so we can see what is), for a 29 cent stamp to Thelma McRae. 5471 S. Libby Rd. #15, Paradise CA 95969. (ABS pays for duplicating the newsletter, but other expenses are on us. Consider the \$1 as branch dues.)

**The Indoor Gardening Society of
America, Inc. Dept. B**

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

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND NOTES

November - December 1993

Thank you! to **Mme. Dominique Benoit, Cynthia Bishop, Mae Blanton, Joan Campbell, Beth Castillon and the New York Botanical Gardens, and Evey McDuff** for their generous donations to the Seed Fund.

Tuberous

B. grandis ssp. *evansiana* (China) is tall-growing with fragrant pink flowers. Graceful and fragile-looking, this is the "hardy" begonia; in most parts of the country, outdoors or in, it will die back in winter but return with warm weather. Once established it is very dependable.

The fragrant flowers of *B. picta* (India) are pale rose, and the Thompsons list it as everblooming if grown under fluorescent lights. Its textured leaves are green with chocolate markings. Like *grandis* ssp. *evansiana*, *picta* produces bulbils. *Terrarium care required.*

B. wollnyi (Bolivia) has incised leaves splashed with silver; flowers are white with a greenish cast.

Shrub-like

Also fragrant are the white flowers of *B. epipsila* (Brazil). Shiny deep green leaves have fuzzy red undersides. Of sprawling growth habit, it makes a good hanging basket.

B. foliosa (widespread in South America) develops long stems covered with tiny leaves and white flowers, and is usually grown in a hanging basket. It is fonder of water than most begonias; don't let it dry out completely.

B. obscura (Brazil) has small bare leaves and upright growth habit; flowers are white with white hairs. *B. tonduzii* (Costa Rica) has medium-sized leaves; flower colors vary from pink to red.

Thick-stemmed

Native to Brazil are our thick-stemmed offerings, *B. petasitifolia*, which has rounded leaves and white flowers, and *B. paranaensis*, with large leaves and profuse white flowers.

Semperflorens

B. subvillosa (Brazil) is a fuzzy-leaved, profusely flowering charmer that is easy to grow. This species varies; some specimens are more felted than others, some feature leaves with a red dot at the petiole juncture, and flowers may be white or pink.

B. wallichiana (Mexico) is a *schmidtiana*-type with pink flowers.

Unclassified

B. elatostematoides comes from the Philippines. The herbarium specimen pictured in the Smithsonian's Begoniaceae suggests that its growth pattern might be shrub-like, but that's a guess.

Also available are mixed columbine and the popular "Bottom of the Box" mix of begonia seed. No telling what you'll get - but we've had reports of some interesting seedlings.

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.

The Seed Fund would appreciate receiving donations of any fresh seed, as our supply is very limited at this time. 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:

US 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. elatostematoides
B. epipsila
B. foliosa
B. grandis ssp. *evansiana*
*B. obscura**
B. paranaënsis
*B. petasitifolia**
B. picta
B. subvillosa
*B. tonduzii**
B. wallichiana
B. wollnyi

*very limited supply

Other Seed

50 cents per packet

"Bottom of the Box": mixed begonia
seed
mixed columbine

Moving?

Don't miss an issue!

Let the Membership Chairman know your new address.

Write John Ingles, Jr., 157 Monument Dr., Rio Dell CA 95562-1617

JUDGES' CORNER

Thoughts on Show Entry Cards

Guest Column by Esther Nagelberg

Why not have a space on our show entry cards for exhibitor's comments? Here are four reasons I think it would be helpful:

1) Many begonias are unregistered and the parentage is not known. This means that knowledge of any particular idiosyncrasy in habits of growth, size, flowering, etc. is not readily available to the judges. This may result in incorrect scoring, having nothing to do with the exhibitor's method of growing.

2) Begonias respond differently in different parts of the country.

3) New begonia introductions - or even old ones that have been out of circulation for some time - which the judges may not be familiar with may receive lower scores unless some peculiarity is indicated by the exhibitor.

4) The exhibitor may be trying for a particular form of growth - not necessarily bonsai - and the judges should be aware of that.

In the American Gloxinia & Gesneriad Society shows there is a place on the entry card for comments by the exhibitor. This has made a difference in the way some of my gesneriad entries were scored. I think that there is need for an "exhibitor comments" place on the American Begonia Society entry card as well.

Esther Nagelberg, editor of the Palm Beaches Branch newsletter, lives at 6306 Emerald Sky Lane, Lake Worth, Florida 33463.

Congratulations!

To new judges:

Sue Hessel
Dale Sena

Promoted to Junior Judge:

Tamsin Boardman
Patrick Vacca

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Virginia Hamann, Round Robin Director

#25, Midwest Growers II:

This Robin welcomed two new members who live in Iowa, Marie Hollinger and Esther Griffiths. Marie likes to grow rhizomatous begonias in hanging baskets. She uses sphagnum moss for the roots to nestle in and also on top, to retain humidity. She lets her rhizomatous begonias bloom unless she wants to encourage growth of more foliage.

Mary McClelland (NE) sent pictures of the ABS Convention in Miami - a good way to tell about it.

#4/23, Windowsill & Canes:

Dennis Christianson (MO) had germination problems with seed sown in the fall. Seed sown in January and February is doing great, though. Mildew, occasioned by weather conditions, is giving Lois Rowland (AR) problems; she is using Ortho's Rose Dust Formula IV, which is helping. Martin Perlmutter (TN) uses sulphur dust for mildew.

#20, Photography:

Pictures of the Convention were sent by Mary Bucholtz (FL) and Mary McClelland (NE). The photos of Daisy Farm's display of rexes, with the brightly colored leaves against green ivy and gray rocks, were truly lovely. Daniel Haseltine (IL) always finds humor in his pictures. A close-up of an orchid revealed a face framed by a bonnet - each member "saw" something different. Betty Benningfield (TX) and Mildred Swyka (DE) were welcomed to the group.

#22/51, Propagation & Growing from Seed:

What a busy and dedicated group! Brad Thompson (CA) has so many seedlings and cuttings he has run out of

room and is moving some to homes of friends who will continue growing them. He also culls them from time to time, deciding what is good and what is not. He is experimenting with growing cane cuttings in 1 1/2" pots filed with perlite, setting the pots in sweater boxes that have 1/2" of water on the bottom. He puts the lid on the sweater box, but cracks it open if water condensation accumulates on the lid. He is pleased with this method.

Elmer Wagner (LA) sent seeds from B. 'Lucerna' in a clear plastic straw. One end of the straw had a name tag taped to it, the other end was taped shut. Members could tap seed into the lower end of the straw, snip it off, then re-tape the cut end. As each member snips, the straw will get shorter. A clever way to store seed as well as to send it.

Rhodora Buss (IA) reminds members of the ABS rule of labeling plants as seedlings, since plants grown from seed taken from cultivars will not "come true" to their seed parent. To get an exact clone of a cultivar, take a cutting from a correctly named plant.

#15, Eastern General:

To perk up her rhizomatous begonias, Mildred Swyka (DE) mixes a little composted cow manure in her potting soil. She still goes by the advice given her by her grandmother on starting a rhizomatous begonia: "Just stick a leaf down." This was also the advice of Carl Walker, Jr. (NC).

Elaine Ayers (OH) rotates brands of fertilizer, as well as alternating between organic and chemical. She finds a teaspoon of baking soda added to one gallon of water seems to perk up the action of the fertilizer. Another trick she uses is to add one teaspoon of sugar to

the water, which helps cuttings to root. Since she is trying to raise her plants organically, Elaine uses Murphy's Oil Soap or Ivory for combating mealy bugs and other creepies.

#53, Rhizomatous:

Another user of baking soda is Mary Bucholtz (FL); she uses a teaspoon to a gallon of water, using it as a spray to prevent mildew.

Carl Walker, Jr. (NC) reports more record-breaking heat. Keeping over 200 hanging baskets watered is a full-time job.

Cynthia Bishop (CA) sent seed of *B. thiemei* (also known as *richii* hort, and *macdougallii*) and *hatacoa* 'Spotted'; it will be fun to see what results the members get from growing them.

Members commented that begonias ordered from commercial growers do not always grow true to the catalog descriptions. Those growing Mickey Meyer seed all agreed that her plants are just as lovely and unusual as those ordered. They are also fun to watch develop, as leaves turn mottled green and brown much like exotic Australian butterflies - or perhaps reptiles.

Join in the Robin fun! Write Round Robin Director Virginia Hamann at Rt. 1, Box 10, Chester IA 52134 and meet begonia pen-pals around the world!

CONSERVATION NEWS

Why Not Species? Part 3

The first two parts of this series were devoted to debunking two myths about begonia species: they're too finicky to grow, and anyway, they're ugly.

There's another reason many begonia lovers don't grow species, and it's a legitimate one: species aren't as easy to find as cultivars. Nurseries and garden centers carry lots of *semperflorens* and, in some areas, tuberous begonias. The "other" begonias are harder to find, and the species are doubly so.

Thus the first hurdle the would-be species grower faces is where to locate starts. Here the ABS member has an advantage, for the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund offers species seed and species, unlike cultivars, come true from seed. For \$1 plus shipping charges, you can get a packet of minuscule seeds that will produce lots of tiny begonias of one particular species. For the current offering, see page 213.

If you've never grown begonias from seed before, blow 25 cents and send for the pamphlet that tells you how; it also helps to pour through old issues of the **Begonian** to find out more about your chosen species. Plant the seed immediately or freeze it until you're ready. Incidentally, the Seed Fund offers replacement if your seeds are not viable.

The Association of Australian Begonia Societies offer a grand Seed Fund listing. Contact them by looking in the Directory of Begonia Societies in the

mber-October issue. Warning: cy exchanges complicate ordering.

so open to ABS members are the s Robins. Members discuss their ences with growing species, and times exchange seed and/or js. Write Round Robin Director a Hamann (her address is on the ige) to join a Species Robin. She also be able to tell you if there's one else in your area who is g species.

there's an ABS branch near you, a meeting! You'll find a bunch of iting and friendly people, all bitten begonia bug - and some of them ow species, too. Most branches in annual show and sale - be there

there is no nearby branch, the ers at Large Committee works on :its by mail. Send MAL Director a McRae (her address is on the age, too) a legal-size, stamped, dressed envelope, and she'll send ie MAL newsletter. Some of the embers are species fans.

ne most exciting source of species e ABS National Convention. ntions hold enormous plant sales ext one is May 19-22 in Oklahoma sometimes, as in Miami last May, lection of species is fantastic.

et another source is mail-order. f the nurseries with large begonia

collections advertise in this magazine. Give them a try. (An advertisement in the magazine does not constitute an endorsement, but we've heard few complaints and lots of praise for our advertisers.)

Continue to look at your local garden center, nursery, or even grocery store plant section; occasionally they'll surprise you and offer an unusual begonia. The problem here is that you've no way of knowing what it is! Name changes are common (B. 'Sophie Cecile' has been found under a dozen different fanciful names), or the plant might be labeled "Rex Begonia" (even if it's a cane or rhizomatous type). *B. masoniana*, the stunning "Iron Cross" begonia from China, will occasionally turn up in a grocery or discount store; it's one of the few species common in the nursery trade.

Growing species *can* be a challenge. Sometimes even finding some to grow is a challenge! But it's exciting, too. Species are so diverse, so variable, often unusual and beautiful. If you think begonias are addictive, just wait until you get hooked on species!

- Tamsin Boardman

Quick Note:

Ivory Dishwashing Soap, long recommended as a foliar spray for pest control on begonias, has changed formulas and is now a detergent. Don't use it for begonia pests.

Q: Here's a tough one: my honey's only interests are hardware and history. Ok, Oklahoma, what have you got to offer?

A: The sweetest place for handypersons of a historical bent is Billings Hardware in Cushing, 60 miles northeast of OK City. Founded in the 19th century, it still has the old fixtures - and some of the original merchandise, still in the original boxes. There's modern merchandise, too, but maybe you won't want to mention the new-fangled stuff.

AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

Do you have an outstanding member? Someone who can always be relied on for whatever job needs doing? South Bay Branch does, and they wanted to do something special for him. So the Board of Directors voted unanimously to instate an award that will be given for really unusual service, not annually but only when merited. They named it the **Howard Anderson Award**, in honor of their extra special member, and Howard was the first recipient. Along with the new award, Howard was given a lifetime membership in the branch and a lifetime membership in ABS. Congratulations, Howard!

Most summer newsletters concentrated on getting begonias through wet, dark days (most of the the Midwest), unusual heat (New York), and drought (the southeast and southwest). Lots of us had unhappy combinations, such as heat and drought. As editor Marion Lindgren remarked in the Westchester Branch newsletter, "It has been a strange year..."

Here's the Knickerbocker News' summary of summer, 1993:

"What a summer! It was hot and dry, it was hot and humid with record temperatures, and it was cold and damp. Sometimes it seemed as if it was all of those, if not on the same day in the same week. The weather made compost out of some of the weaker begonias, but the uprights thrived and some of the rhizomatous did better than they have in years..."

Remember returning to school and having to write about "How I Spent My Summer Vacation?" Well, Knickerbocker Branch asked members to do essays, too: "How My Begonias Spent Their Summer Vacation..." Begonias, like humans, have stories to

tell - and with the weather that hit New York this past summer, you can bet some of them will be horror stories!

The Fort Lauderdale Branch newsletter passed on an interesting tip gleaned from television: if you use soap to spray your plants, and if you mix it up in advance and don't use it all at once, mix it with distilled water instead of tap water. (There was, the editor commented, a long complicated reason for this.) Other tips from the same newsletter: during extreme heat reduce water and do not feed; also, do not foliar feed during the heat of the day; and snails hate garlic!

The weather may have been gruesome in most of the country, but California is famed for its beneficent clime. So Santa Barbara Branch members were able to schedule an August picnic under the old Coast Live Oak Tree behind the Ziesenhenné's home. Palomar Branch visited the Corwin's garden, reporting that the gardens were lovely, the food outstanding. (Ed. note: Meanwhile, back at the ranch in Texas, it was a mild summer - our highest reading was only 105⁰.)

In hot and humid Houston, Astro Branch had a guest speaker in August. Flora Young spoke on butterfly gardening, inspiring members to include host plants in their gardens and to give close examination to caterpillars before ridding the garden of them. It helps to be reminded: those beautiful butterflies we enjoy watching cannot exist without their caterpillar stage - and pesticide use has decimated their numbers for decades.

Across town, Houston Satellite members welcomed John Howell of San Antonio as their August guest. John

brought just a few begonias with him: the auction/plant table he supplied set a record of \$320 for the branch. John has got to be one of the most generous begoniacs around.

The Rubidoux Branch newsletter, edited by Terry Hicks, was a novelty among newsletters in the weather comments: "What lovely weather we're having lately. Cool mornings & evenings and sunny afternoons. Our begonias and shade-loving plants are happy too, as indicated by their lush growth & vivid colors..."

Dallas Area Branch program chair Charles (Chuck) McGough decided to do some fund-raising, too, in order to start a fund to bring in speakers from other areas. Chuck is an artist - you can see a sample of his work on page 187 - so naturally he thought of an artistic solution: he did a program on begonia portraits in watercolor, explaining what he was doing and why as he produced a begonia portrait. He also raffled off two of his beautiful watercolors. All of this enriched the coffers mightily; first out-of-town speakers were Barbara and "Stew" Stewart, who in September brought a selection of their newest hybrids for the branch to see.

Other branches are out raising money, too. Alfred D. Robinson Branch held two fundraisers simultaneously in September: for the "potluck salad" lunch each member brought her choicest salad. Charge for the lunch was \$2. Bet they shared a lot of recipes! At the same meeting they held a "white elephant" sale. Buxton Branch members are planning an auction, sales of a restaurant guide, a day of seminars for families, participating in 'Grandparents Day' at Stone Zoo - with more money-makers being sought. Their impetus, of course, is keeping the Barkley Begonia Collection warm and happy over the winter.

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

***Deadline for next issue is
November 15***

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.

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We are now open to provide you with quality plants...Come visit. Send \$2 for plant list. Golden Hills Nursery (Cynthia Bishop), 4150 Auburn-Folsom Rd., Loomis CA 95650; (916) 652-7311.

BEGONIAS: THE COMPLETE REFERENCE GUIDE by Mildred L. and Edward J. Thompson. 884 pages, 850 illustrations (165 in color). Culture, classification, and history. \$20.00 to ABS members. To order autographed copies write: THE THOMPSONS, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968. **BEGONIAS: 1984 UPDATE** \$6.75. Prices include shipping. Foreign orders \$5 additional for shipping via Surface Mail.

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

Merry Christmas to the nicest people in the world, "Begoniacs!" from B&K Tropicals.

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.

SEED WANTED of colourful flowering begonias, also scented ones of all types. Price airmail to New Zealand to Ian McNeua, 112 Glasgow St., Wanganui, New Zealand.

AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY CULTURAL HANDBOOK Complete full color guide to growing orchids. Send \$8.00 plus \$2.00 shipping to Klehm Growers, Dept. ABS, 44W637 State Rt. 72, Hampshire, IL 60140. Price includes our catalog.

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The American Ivy Society

is the International Registration Authority for *Hedera*, provides sources for new and 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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These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads, see preceding page. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you write.

At-Large Members

Members who do not belong to branches are represented at board meetings by the Members-at-large director. MAL committee works on projects by mail.

Bookstore

Books about Begonias and back issues of the **Begonian**.

Horticultural Correspondent

Prompt assistance with questions pertaining to growing begonias.

Judging Dept.

Certifies accredited judges through judging schools and correspondence course.

Nomenclature Dept.

Monitors newly published findings on *Begonia* names. Handles official international registrations of new *Begonia* cultivars and publishes these registrations. Gathers information about and assigns numbers to unidentified species.

Research Department

Works on problems relating to begonia culture.

Round Robins

Members exchange information about begonias and their culture through packets of letters which circulate among a small group of growers. There are dozens of these packets, called flights, on many specialized subjects.

Seed Fund

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

Slide Library

List of programs available from Slide Librarian.

Member Input Opportunities

Conservation Department

wants lists of species grown by members.

Nomenclature Department

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

Research Department

solicits suggestions on projects and participation in research.

Seed Fund

seeks donations of seed.

Slide Library

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

See also "Openings", preceding page.

Participate. You can make a difference.



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