

May/June, 1994

# The BEGONIAN



## 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 that will be mailed to all members of the society.*

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

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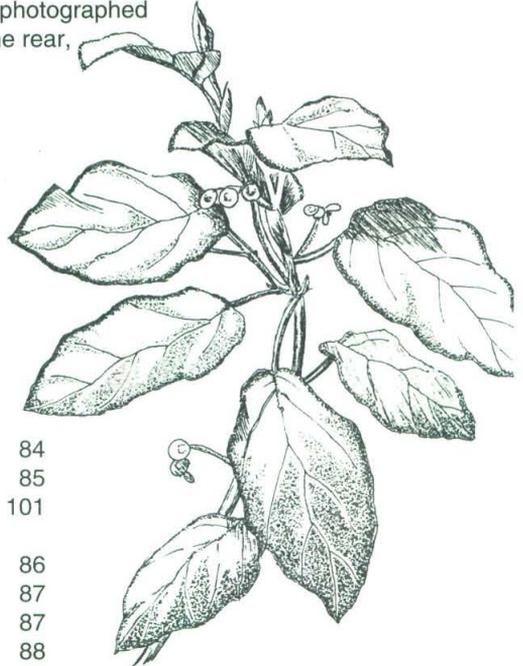
**American Begonia Society** - P.O. Box 231129, Encinitas, CA 92023-1129

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

## COVER PHOTOS

**Front** - During the 1993 ABS Convention in Florida, Eleanor Calkins took this shot of begonias on a tour of "Unbelievable Acres," the garden of Gene Joyner.

**Back** - Beautifully grown and beautifully photographed are three varieties of *B. masoniana*: at the rear, *B. masoniana* var. *masoniana*, to the right *B. masoniana* var. *maculata*, and to the left *B. masoniana* 'Silver'. *B. masoniana* is from China. Photo sent by Jan Goodwin. For tips on growing *B. masoniana*, see pages 99 and 105.



*B. cavallyensis*  
from Africa's Ivory Coast  
drawing by Kit Jeans Mounger

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### QUICK!

Check your mailing label - if it says 5/94 or 6/94 your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you!

# "Begonias: OK!"

## Schedule of Events

### Wednesday, May 18

Registration open (Lobby), 7:30 - 11 a.m.

Tour #1, Indian Country, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Hospitality Room open 11 a.m - 5 pm

### Thursday, May 19

Registration, 8-11:30 am, 1-5 pm

Tour #2, Guthrie, 8 am-5 pm

Show & Sale plants received 8 am-8 pm

Boutique & Bookstore open 10 am-5 pm

ABS Judging School, 1-5 pm

President's Meeting, 7 pm

(Executive Board, Committee Chairs, National Directors, Branch Presidents)

### Friday, May 20

Tour #3, Myriad Botanic Gardens & Kirkpatrick Center, 8 am - 1 pm

(Reception at Myriad Gardens)

Boutique & Bookstore open 10 am-5 pm

Seminars:

1:30 "Cherished Canes", Irene Nuss

2:30 "Royal Rexes", Mabel Corwin

3:30 "Australian Adventure", Thelma O'Reilly

Southwest Region Meeting, 4:30 pm

Plant Sale and Show Opening 7-10 pm.

### Saturday, May 21

Tour #4, Sunrise Birding, 6:30 -8:30 am

Members at Large Meeting 7:30-9 am (complimentary breakfast)

Seminars:

9 "Mad About Species", Mounger, Boardmans

10 "Begonia Stories" presented by **the Trailblazers**:

Mabel Corwin, Marge Lee, Irene Nuss, Thelma O'Reilly, Rudolf Ziesenhenne;  
moderated by Tim O'Reilly

Awards Luncheon & ABS Meeting 11:30 am-1 pm

Tour of Cowboy Hall of Fame & Banquet, 5 -10 pm

Hospitality Room open 10:30 pm

### Sunday, May 22

A special gift for all of us who have complained for years that the only problem with ABS Conventions is that there's never any time to just visit: here it is, a day of leisure. Browse the Show & Sale, visit, & talk begonias to your heart's content!

### Monday, May 23

Tour #5, Will Rogers Country, 7:30 am-6:30 pm

*The Embassy Suites will furnish complimentary breakfast 6:30-10:30 am  
and "Happy Hour" 5-7 pm for all paying guests*

## Convention Briefs

### Autographs Requested

At the Awards Luncheon on Saturday, be sure to sign the back of your luncheon ticket before handing it in. Why? Because there will be a drawing for a door prize of \$250.00!

You must, however, be present to win (now isn't that a sneaky way to get you to stay for the Business Meeting?)

### Shedding Light

The table lamp pictured at right has a beautiful stained and etched glass shade designed and executed by award-winning artist and glass worker Kit Jeans Mounger. The lamp (with shade) is approximately 20" tall. Kit has donated the lamp to be auctioned at the Convention, with proceeds going to benefit the Dr. Fred A. Barkley Research Grant.

### Quilts, Quilts, Quilts

In addition to her other honors, Kit is an award-winning quilter. She has designed and put together a quilted wall hanging for auction, with proceeds going to the Begonia Species Bank at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

There are yet more quilters among us: Virginia Kettler did squares that have been made into pillows, and squares by Marilyn Cates and Erma Platt have been made into tote bags (these projects were coordinated by Vera Miller, who put together the quilt pictured in the last issue).

## Tinker, Tailor, Candlestick Maker?

Artist? Carver? Have a hobby that's fun to do? Like to draw, or paint, or sew? Make a begonia (or horticulturally-related) item for the Begonia Boutique. We're planning a

### Boutique Unique!

And have lots of new items: stationery, mugs, terrarium kits, and of course new T's for the well-dressed begonia nut...

### Yummies Welcomed!

Baking your thing? Please bring some goodies for the Hospitality Room...



*See you in Oklahoma!*

# Go for the Jackpot!

by Thelma O'Reilly

Would you like to take a chance to win a jackpot? Read how one ABS Branch has made it possible.

The San Miguel Branch decided to send a "Happy New Year" gift to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. At the November meeting, hosted by Marge Lee, members collected seed pods from her excellent collection. Participating in the seed collecting was so much fun that the members decided to test seedlings for a 1994 Branch Project.

I cleaned the seed and distributed it at the January meeting. The Branch provided the materials for the seed planting. As a result of the germination records at the February meeting, fourteen packets of seed were packaged and mailed to Seed Fund director Marilyn Goldstein.

San Miguel's gift of begonia seed is offered in this issue. With the exception of *B. dichroa*, most listings are open-pollinated seed from popular cultivars.

Open-pollinated seed holds the unknown, a challenge for all who love the anticipation of a mystery. Identity of the female parent gives the first clue. Many beautiful, distinctive begonias have resulted from seed of one known parent, or a chance seedling.

An example of undetermined parentage in this listing is Marie Turner's B. 'Elizabeth Lockhart'. Open-pollinated seed of this begonia resulted in many of our favorite begonias, including Paul and Marge Lee's B. 'Lana', B. 'Kristy', B. 'Encanto', B. 'Nokomis' (recipient of the Alfred D. Robinson Medal in 1984), and B. 'Osoto'. Irene Nuss used B. 'Elizabeth Lockhart' as female parent in B. 'Kentwood', which is one of the parents of B. 'Alice N.', B. 'Bonanza', B. 'Irene Nuss', B. 'Jumbo Jet', and B. 'Silvermist'.

Branch members look forward with much enthusiasm to the next steps of this Project - transplanting, sharing the seedlings, and watching their progress. In November a Mini-Show will be held to judge the winners.

We hope our Project encourages all Branches to undertake a similar project for the benefit of the Seed Fund, and to give more ABS members an opportunity to "Take a Chance" on growing winners for all to enjoy in friendly contact.

---

*Thelma O'Reilly, who among other begonia hats, wears that of President of San Miguel Branch, lives at 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa CA 91941.*

---

# Happy New Year, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund!

San Miguel members grew the open-pollinated seed indoors under lights at temperatures between 66° and 72°, using Park Seed Company's germinating mix. Results of the test-growing were:

Name of Female (Seed) Parent	Germination Time (days) & Rate
'Di-Anna'	12 100%
<i>dichroa</i>	8 excellent
'Elizabeth Lockhart'	12 excellent
'Hawaiian Sunset'	13 good
'Honeysuckle'	12 very good
'Kentwood'	11 100%
'Kristy'	14 good
'Lana'	12 good
'Orpha C. Fox'	15 sparse
'Pinafore'	12 excellent
<i>rex</i> hybrid	12 excellent
'Ruth Langl'	12 good
'Texas Tea Sipper'	11 excellent

*In Friendly Contact,  
San Miguel Branch*

Note: B. 'Ruth Langl' has been in the collection of Marge Lee for several years. She does not remember where it was obtained. Does anyone have any information about this cane-like begonia? Please contact Thelma (10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa CA 91941) or Marge Lee (1852 31st St., San Diego CA 92102). It's a nice plant!

## 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.

# Unidentified Begonia Species List

Thelma O'Reilly, Project Director

The ABS Nomenclature Department maintains a list of unidentified species. These are assigned numbers preceded by "U" (for unidentified).

Your cooperation in supplying information, including observations, photographs, slides, or drawings, for this group is important. Any shared information will be appreciated. Please contact Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 91941.

The references in parenthesis are to the **Begonian**, year: Seed Fund number and page. Example: (1988: SF M-A10 58)

## B. U218

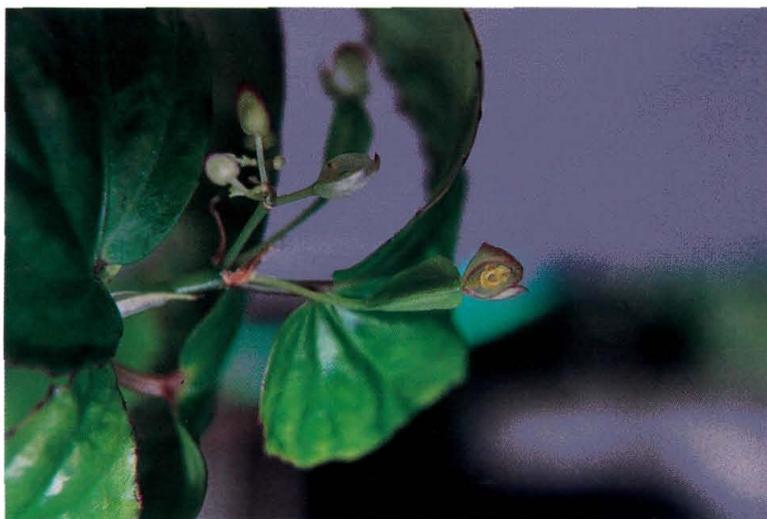
Brazil. Frequently seen in S. CA collections. Reported to have been imported by a bromeliad collector. Also similar to a species distributed in the 1960's by Sylvia Leatherman. (1988: SF M-49 58). Shrub-like. Stems green, rigid, covered with tan, fuzzy hairs, shallowly grooved, swollen at

the nodes, new branching growth red. Leaf blades 5 x 2 1/2 inches, hunter green above, burgundy red below, short, setaceous, white hairs scattered over both surfaces, 7-9 nerved, apically acuminate, marginally serrate, dentate and shortly ciliate. Petiole 1/2 inch, green, pubescent. Stipules 1/2 inch, green, keeled, persistent, setiferous. Staminate flowers white with four tepals, glabrous above, pilose below. Pistillate flowers with five tepals, glabrous above, pilose below. Ovary small with few scattered hairs over three wings. Capsule large.

## B. U219

Indonesia. Seed sent to Joan Campbell by Jan Goodwin. Cane-like. Stems green, glabrous succulent. Leaf blades green, shiny, glabrous. Pistillate flowers white edged pink, three wings, one large. Capsule large, bright green. This species is similar to *Begonia holttumii*.

B. U219. Grown by Mabel Corwin. Photo by Thelma O'Reilly





B. U221. Grown by Keith Mautino.

**B. U220**

New Guinea. Seed collected by Robert Standley for Howard Siebold who shared seed with a few growers. Germination reported only by Thelma O'Reilly. Five seedlings grew slowly, reaching 1-2 inches. As soon as summer heat arrived all seedlings damped off.

**B. U221**

Plant obtained by Rudolf Ziesenhenné from a grower in Porterville, CA. Distributed widely since 1980 as an unidentified Brazilian species labeled *Begonia* 'Porterville'. Also distributed by the late Bob Cole as SH 96. Patrick Worley's cultivar, B. 'Dale Kramer', is a near look-alike to B. U221, which has smaller and darker green leaves. Another significant difference is the bloom record. Flowers have never been reported on B. U221 while B. 'Dale Kramer' puts forth a shower of small, white flowers seasonally.

B. U222

Mount Madyaas, Tibiaco, Panay Island, Philippines. Seed distributed by Martin Johnson, 1987. Collector reported seed collection at 2117m. and referred to plant as 'Big Petals'. Mabel Corwin and T. O'Reilly reported that this begonia is a form of B. U166 (tentatively identified as *B. hernandioides*) with discolor leaves (green above, red below).

B. U223

Mount Madyaas, Tibiaco, Panay Island, Philippines. Seed distributed by M. Johnson, 1987. Collected at 2117m.

B. U224

Infanta, Luzon, Philippines. Seed distributed by M. Johnson, 1987. Collector reported that this begonia was an erect plant.

B. U255

*Ormac, Leyte Island, Philippines.* Seed distributed by M. Johnson, 1987. Trailing-scandent. Stem vine-like, tan tinged pink, thin, rooting at nodes. Leaf blades small, 1 x 1 at maturity, green, glabrous, shallowly lobed occasionally, 4 nerved, apically widely acute, marginally entire. Petioles 1/4 - 1/2 inches, tan tinged pink, glabrous. Stipules tan, 4mm, glabrous. I received several reports that this species is the same as B. U075, which has been identified as *B. aequata*. It is similar in habit and size. M. Corwin and T. O'Reilly spent several hours comparing the two begonias and observed differences between the two plants and another M. Johnson import from the Philippines labeled *B. leucosticta*. The leaves

are unlike and there are other characteristics that do not match. To date there are no bloom reports on B. U225. P. J. Merrill mentions close allies in this group of Philippine species. See photo, p. 92.

B. U226

Durango, Mexico. Tubers collected by Bashor at 7000 feet. Distributed by Phyllis Bates. Tuberous. Stem grass green, succulent, upright. Leaf blades grass green, covered with short, white hairs (entire plants profusely covered with same type of hairs), shaped like a butterfly wing, i.e. rather angular, marginally dentate. Staminate flowers deep pink with four tepals, two broad, two narrow. Pistillate flowers deep pink with four tepals, ovary light green.

B. U227

Mexico. Tubers collected by Bashor. Distributed by P. Bates (1988: SF M-A10 58). Tuberous. Stem red, succulent, small in diameter, giving plant a lax habit. Leaf blades deep green above, light green below, nerves palmate, margins serrate, base truncate. Flowers rose, buds emerge on elongating peduncles from the flared, keeled, overlapping pink bracts. Staminate flowers with four fimbriated tepals. Pistillate flowers with five tepals, ovary green tinged pink with three wings, two rounded, one extended.

B. U228

Mexico. Tubers collected by Bashor. Distributed by P. Bates. Entire plant covered with fine white hairs. Tuberous. Stem red, succulent, upright. Leaf blades green, asymmetric, ovate, veins outlined in brown above, marginally serrate.

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## Interested in the "U" Numbers?

If you would like to catch up on all of the available information on the unidentified species, the **Begonian** in July-August 1987 published a listing of changes, corrections, and questions regarding the U numbers. In July-August, 1990, p. 136-143 there was an update on U numbers that had been identified by that date, with some color photos. There have been two corrections to the 1990 update:

1. B. U095 = *B. roezlii* Lynch
2. B. U231 is not the same as B. U162. This species remains unidentified.

Individual descriptions are contained in the following issues of the **Begonian**:

- B. U001-B. U032: February, 1981, p. 33
- B. U033-B. U049: March-April 1986, p. 53
- B. U050-B. U062: July-August 1984, p. 85
- B. U063-B. U079, B. U088-B. U089: Nov.-Dec. 1984, p. 234.
- B. U080-B. U087: July-August 1982, p. 83.
- B. U090-B. U100: May-June 1988, p. 81-82
- B. U101-B. U120: May-June 1989, p. 101-103
- B. U121-B. U135: July-August 1990, p. 134
- B. U136-B. U151: Sept.-Oct. 1990, 176
- B. U152-B. U157: Jan.-Feb. 1991, p. 33
- B. U160-B. U177: March-April 1991, p. 55
- B. U178-B. U186: Sept.-Oct. 1991, p. 170
- B. U187-B. U200: Jan.-Feb. 1992, P. 29
- B. U201-B. U217: May-June 1992, p. 95

Back Issues of the **Begonian** may be ordered from Back Issues Chair Ann Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653-0452. Cost is 50 cents per issue plus postage, or \$2.50 per year plus postage (6 issues per year). Older issues (12 issues per year) are \$5 a year plus postage.

The ABS Bookstore has a listing of the U numbers. To order send \$1.50 to Bookstore Chair Anita Ruthenberg, 1016 W. Arlington Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76110.

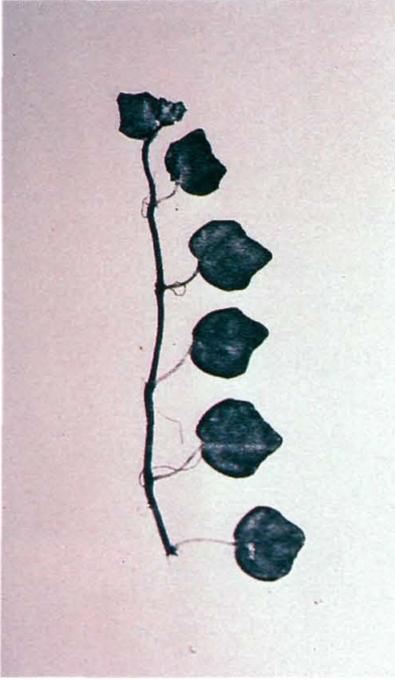
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GAINESVILLE, FL 32602**



B. U225  
photo by Thelma O'Reilly

## Supplementary Notes on *B. froebelii*

On the cover of the March-April issue, *B. froebelii* appeared with lots of yellow on the leaves. Artist Joy Porter writes that the leaves are really much greener; the yellow in the leaves appeared in the copying process, and was accentuated when the work was placed within a yellow border.

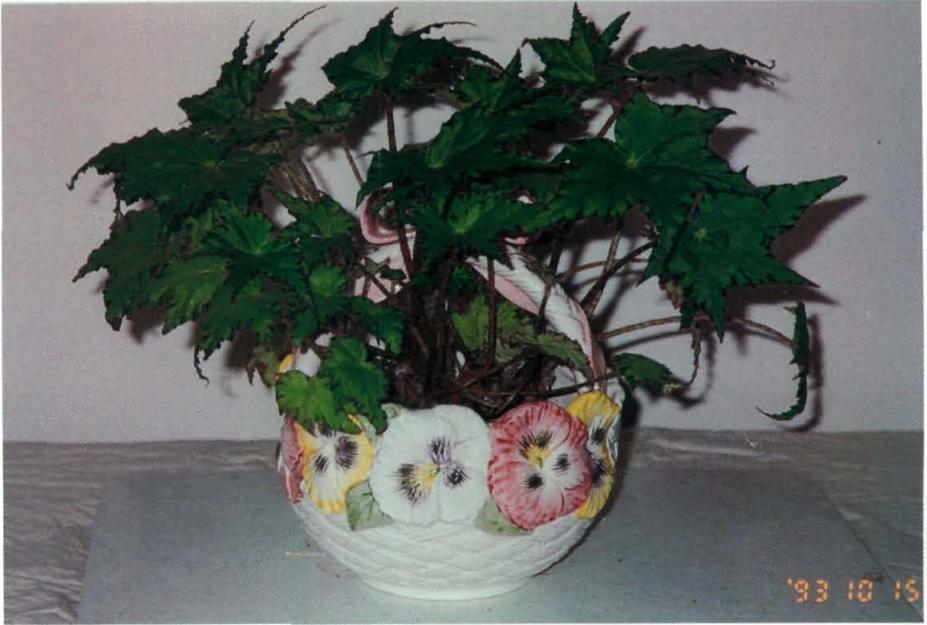
*B. froebelii*, Joy reports, "is a fantastic begonia - my plant has another bloomstalk, and is still blooming!"

### ***Alert!*** *to our Overseas Members*

Membership Chair John Ingles, Jr. writes that several of our overseas members whose **Begonians** are sent via air mail did not get their January-February issue. At least two members, both in England, received their issues more than two months after they were postmarked.

We apologize for the problems, and are trying to find out what happened so as to prevent a recurrence.

If your January-February **Begonian** did not arrive, please notify John at 157 Monument, Rio Dell CA 95562-1617, USA, and he will send another copy at no charge to you.



## B. 'Aruba'

Text and photo by Mildred Swyka

B. 'Aruba' is a rhizomatous begonia of unknown parentage, credited to *Vaughans*. It sits above my kitchen sink in a lovely hand-painted ceramic container and gets its share of admiring comments from my friends.

The medium green leaves are edged in maroon, and feature "eyelashes." Stems are about 10" tall, slightly hairy, and streaked with maroon. It is a very heavy bloomer for me, producing light pink flowers, but wouldn't you just know there were no blooms when I took its picture.

B. 'Aruba' likes to be kept on the dry side. It is growing in a four inch pot placed inside the ceramic basket. I am a real fancier of pretty containers for my begonias - but it looks as though I'll have to find a larger one for B. 'Aruba'.

---

*Mildred Swyka lives at 1147 Bethel Church Road, Middletown, DE 19709. She is an active member of the Photography Robin.*

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# Working with Organics

Taken from the **Begonian**:

A search through the past 10 years

Compiled by Chuck McGough

## FERTILIZERS

\* Spray this monthly:

*Recipe: 2 oz. fish emulsion, 4 oz. liquid seaweed, 1/2 oz. molasses, Biostimulant (Agrispon or Medina) per label, 1/2 oz. natural vinegar - add all this to 1 gal. water.*

## FUNGUS & MILDEW

\* Waxes/antitranspirants such as Wiltpruf, VaporGard, Folicote, Cloud Cover

\* Baking soda for black spot, brown patch, powdery mildew, etc. *Recipe: 2 to 4 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. liquid soap or vegetable oil in 1 gal. water.* Caution: don't overdo it.

\* Dusting Sulfur for mildew: avoid high nitrogen fertilizers with mildew-prone plants.

## IRON DEFICIENCY

\* Add chelated iron or epsom salts at 1 Tbs. per gallon

## CLEANING POTS

\* Soak in a solution of 1/4 cup Lysol liquid concentrate, 1/2 cup vinegar, and 10 qts. warm water.

## MAKING CUTTINGS

\* Wash knife with Clorox water

## MULCH

\* The very best alfalfa hay, up to 8"

## PLANTING SEED

\* No light, no fertilizer until sprouted - discourages development of algae.

## INSECTS

Spider Mites:

\* A mix of liquid seaweed plus fish emulsion (sprayed on both sides of the leaves)

Aphids/Others:

\* Insecticidal soap

\* Garlic/Pepper Tea

*Recipe: 2 bulbs garlic, 2 HOT peppers in blender, fill to 1/3 with water; strain out solids, add more water to make 1 gal. of concentrate. Add 2 Tbs. vegetable oil to final mix. Now...add 1/4 cup of concentrate to each gal. of water for spray*

Whiteflies:

\* Mix liquid seaweed plus garlic/pepper tea (use in and out of greenhouse)

Caterpillars:

\* *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (Bt) - dust or spray

Mealy Bugs:

\* Rubbing alcohol on a "Q-tip"

Slugs, Snails, Crickets:

\* Insecticidal soap

---

*Chuck McGough lives at 1603 Walnut, Commerce, TX 75428. His compilation appeared in the Southwest Region Begonia Leaflet of September-October 1993.*

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# Insect Remedies

*These environmentally friendly remedies are from the newsletter of the Alfred D. Robinson Branch. Editors are Betty Bauhan and Lindabel Bowman.*

## SPRAYS

All-purpose spray for chewing insects:

*Ingredients:*

*2 cloves garlic, 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper, 1 small onion, 1 qt. water.*

*Directions:*

*Blend in blender, then steep for 1 hour. Strain, and add 1 tablespoon liquid soap.*

Spray for aphids, scale, mealybugs, thrips and whitefly:

*1 cup rubbing alcohol to 1 quart water.*

## REPELLANTS

Maggots and ants:

Black pepper, chili pepper, dill, paprika, and cayenne repel maggot flies from seedlings of carrots and cabbage plants. Pepper around the base of plants repels ants. - Mary Rose Worack

Mealybugs:

Place a few halves of white potatoes (preferably with sprouts) in the area infested. The insects accumulate on the potatoes; kill them by dropping potato pieces into a bucket filled with water and bleach. Then set out more potatoes. - Mary Zemcik

Aphids:

Aphids do not like garlic. Plant garlic cloves at the base of each rose bush, and randomly around the garden (in small pots if appropriate). - Lindabel Bowman

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# Oak Leaves, Mold, Compost

by Houston Knight

The person who sells oak leaves likes to make all sorts of reasons why you should buy his. Biggest foulball is the act of coupling "mold" into the description. So, the first thing you need to understand is that leaves "being" mold is a falsehood.

Now, let's concentrate on leaves. The most natural cycle of nature is its recycling of last year's leaves into a new crop of growth for the tree. Leaves quickly break down into the basic nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium components that plants need. The microorganisms along the earth line help break them down. The "mold" (bacteria, fungus, mycellium, etc.) is just another plant group that gets its food chain from leaves, goes through its life cycle, also dies, and becomes compost for the next plant that needs it.

Do you get the idea that all the little guys at ground level belong there? They do, even the termites. The termite is the only way the cellulose part of the plant gets turned into compost. If you had no termites, the earth would be covered 12 feet deep in cellulose in about 10 to 20 years.

Now, there are bad things at soil level. Nematodes, for instance. Bad nematodes (there are good nematodes, too) can be killed by toasting your compost to 140°F. One way to do this is to put leaves down on a blacktop or concrete driveway and cover the pile with black plastic. The plastic helps the sun build the heat inside the leaves, and as soon as it gets to 140°F the bad nematodes die. It's easy to do, and very inexpensive - so easy and inexpensive that no seller would just take a chance on

getting nematodes from the wild and passing them on to a customer; purchased compost probably does not have nematodes. But you can use your own leaves and treat them the same way.

All leaves break down. Oak leaves are best, for they produce the most food by weight. Which oak tree is best? Any and all; the rotting time is a little different in some of the leaves. Now, ask yourself if the lactic acid in the oak leaves has been washed out. One way to do it is to flush the leaves with water, let the acid dissolve in the water, and let the water run off. Another way is to use dolomite lime crystals and forget about the acidity of the leaves. Take your choice, but think!

If oak leaves are unavailable, use other leaves. Even pine needles make good compost.

One of our friends, Bob Emrick, has a compost bin about the size of a school bus, just full of good, rotted compost, ready to use. In a trick so advanced even the best growers don't know about it, he has several hutches of rabbits putting their droppings right into the compost pile. Rabbits make the best amendment to compost mix, and here he does it "accidentally". Not! Got to talking to him, and found out that his father did it before he did, and he just inherited that knowledge.

Remember back up there we were talking about the good guys at the earth line? Well, that includes pill bugs, worms, fungus, slimes, lichens, mosses. So here comes Joe Cool with a \$90 jug of killer stuff

and puts it on his plants. Guess what else he kills? Only everything, and here comes the bee team to help you with your garden, takes one sniff of your insecticide and dies. Then another, then another, etc., until there are no insects left in your garden. And no birds, nor bats. Your yard is as sterile as an operating room at the hospital. How about we pick the snail and slugs by hand, and not poison everything?

CAUTION: If you use commercial chemicals, please follow the label exactly. If a chemical doesn't say "Begonias", don't use it on them. Above all, be sure you don't advise anyone else to use a chemical for a non-listed purpose.

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*Houston Knight lives at 13455 Hadley St., Whittier, CA 90601. His article first appeared in the February 1994 issue of Begonias, Begorra!, newsletter of the Orange County Branch.*

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## In the News...

**Scott Hoover**, while on a begonia collecting trip to Ecuador some years ago, picked up a bromeliad specimen he didn't recognize. It turned out to be a new species, and has been named after Scott. Congratulations, Scott!

**Greg Sytch**, newsletter editor for Pinellas County Branch in Florida, is a contributing editor for HousePlant magazine. Watch their spring issue for Greg's articles on container growing in the deep south and a highlight on begonias. Greg also has a short article in this issue: see page 104.

## SHOW NEWS

### Around the Country

**Atlanta Branch** members distinguishing themselves at the Atlanta Flower Show this past spring included **Eleanor Fowler**, who won a blue for *B. squarrosa* (syn. *hepatica-maculata*); **Virginia Almand**, with a rainbow of ribbons; and **Russ Richardson**, whose Begonias *prismatocarpa*, 'Irene Nuss', and 'Cleopatra' all took blues.

**Q.** Even the best of hotel food pales after several days. Is there any place else to eat around the Convention hotel?

**A.** Fifteen restaurants within a few blocks, and within walking distance. That's not counting the abundance of fast food joints. You won't have any trouble tempting your appetite!

# IN MEMORY

## Farewell to Phil Seiden

It is with deep regret that we must bid farewell to **Phil Seiden**, who passed away this February. Phil was one of the founders and past President of our Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau Branch here on Long Island, New York, while also being very active in the Knickerbocker Branch in Manhattan. Phil was truly a pillar of our club, and whenever any of our club members looked for begonia expertise, whether it was cultural or classification, we turned to him for help and guidance.

Phil's great love of begonias was always evident in the beautiful show quality plants that he grew and entered in national and local shows all over the country...and guess who always walked away with all the ribbons! Since Phil had a reputation as an excellent grower, he was often contacted by expedition collectors to test-grow seed and plant material for our national ABS. At our monthly meetings we would all marvel at the wonderful plant material that only he could propagate so beautifully. Phil was a true advocate of preserving the species and so many of the older hybrids and always reminded us to appreciate our begonias' ancestry. If any one person knew the great gift of giving it was Phil, as he always made so many of us happy by sharing and donating his plant material all over the country.

With Phil's passing, we have also lost a dedicated hybridizer whose hard work and creativity led to the development of many beautiful rhizomatous hybrids, such as B. 'Cold Spell', B. 'Phil Seiden', and numerous others for all of us and for future generations to enjoy. It takes a very giving person to be a hybridizer, because the biggest reward in hybridizing is bringing the joy of growing something new and exciting to other growers.

We will miss Phil's dedicated support, expertise, talent, and generosity, but most of all we will miss his friendship.

- Walter Dworkin

*"...For I am Free."*

*This is not a day for funeral sadness,  
But a time for ebullient gladness,  
For I am free.*

*The wonders of nature that you can see  
Will be multiplied in a new world of  
beauty for me,  
For I am free.*

*- a message for her friends, written by Alice Clark, to be read at her funeral.*

We thank Alice Clark for this message. Since Astro Branch last met, we had two of our members gain freedom. **Flossie Herzog** and **Roger Appledorn** are now with Alice tending the most magnificent garden one can imagine. Happy begonia growing, dear friends.

- Tom Keepin

## Maurice Mason

1912-1993

British horticulture mourns the loss of Maurice Mason last October at the age of 81 years. Born in 1912, he was a successful farmer and businessman, and his success enabled him to indulge his passion for gardening on a grand scale.

While interested in all plants, he was most passionate for greenhouse plants. It is said that his glasshouses held a range of exotic plants unmatched outside the largest botanical gardens. He traveled the globe in search of new plants.

*Begonia* played a part in his plant triumphs. One of his introductions was *Begonia masoniana*. It won the award for Best New Plant at the Ghent Florales in 1955, and went on to become a pot plant of great commercial importance, known and grown by plant lovers all around the world. His first Gold Medal at the famed Chelsea Flower Show in London was awarded for an exhibit of *Begonia*.

Maurice was a larger-than-life character. Not a timid gentleman, his judgements on people and events were often blunt and freely delivered. He was known for generosity and was great fun to be with, as many have attested.

*Begonia* growers should both mourn his passing and celebrate his life and contributions in advancing *Begonia*.

- Bill Voss

We regret to report that long-time Santa Barbara Branch member and hybridizer **Barbara Philip** has passed away. A full obituary has been promised, and will appear in the next issue.

*If you've tried, and failed, to grow Mr. Mason's most famous begonia discovery, you are not alone. Perhaps the following article will help.*

## *Begonia masoniana,* or, *Begonia Mush*

You would be surprised at the number of members who joined ABS because they have tried to grow *B. masoniana*, the "Iron Cross" begonia - you know, the one with the brown cross-shaped pattern on a pebbly green leaf.

When I say tried, I mean t-r-i-e-d. Lot of them say they have bought the plant four or five times, and sooner or later end up with a flower pot of mush!

Help for them is easy. The oldtimers know that all you do is take away their watering cans for a while.

Keep water off the leaves. Too much water on the roots is also a problem. If the soil seems wet but the plant looks wilted, it is overwatered. Zip - it's a goner before you know it. When you take a drink, you have to stop for a breath of air - so do begonia roots. It's a good idea to let the soil stand until it's almost dry before you give your *B. masoniana* another drink.

See, we just solved about 50% of the begonia-growing problems. About the rest of the problems: you get a lifetime to work on them.

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*Excerpted from "The Newcomer's Notebook..." by Jim Whistler, in the **Begonian**, March-April 1986.*

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# BULLETIN BOARD

## ABS News

### Nominations, Elections Schedule

The ABS Board appointed the following **Nominating Committee** for the 1994 elections:

**Tom Keepin**, Chair  
**Margaret Lee**  
**Kit Jeans Mounger**

The *Nominating Committee* proposes the following slate of officers:

President - **Gene Salisbury\***  
1st Vice-President - **Mary Bucholtz\***  
2nd Vice-President - **Bruce C. Boardman\***  
3rd Vice-President - **Michael Kartuz**  
Secretary - **Arlene Ingles\***  
Treasurer - **Carol Notaras\***

\*incumbent (first term)

Michael Kartuz, the addition to the slate, is a nurseryman and well-known begonia hybridizer. Formerly of New England and a member of Buxton Branch, he lives in Vista, California, where he belongs to Palomar Branch.

Additional nominations may be put on the ballot by petition, signed by at least 15 members of ABS and received by the Secretary by **May 3**.

Ballots will appear in the July-August **Begonian** (which will be mailed by the ballot-mailing deadline of **June 17**) and must be received by the Secretary by **July 21**. Ballots will be counted **July 22**, and all candidates and current Board members notified of results by **July 31**.

Installation will be at the annual *Business Meeting in September* (date and place to be announced).

### Other Appointments

#### **Awards Committee:**

**Marie Harrell**  
317 N. 12th St.  
Donna, TX 78537

#### **Branch Relations Director:**

**Mary Bucholtz**,  
2411 Hendricks Ave.  
Jacksonville FL 33207

#### **Slide Librarian:**

**Charles Jaros**  
2621 NW 23rd Court  
Miami, FL 33142

**Please note:** **Mary Bucholtz** was appointed as Branch Relations Director, not Public Relations/Special Advertising Director as erroneously reported in the last issue. **Russ Richardson** continues as Public Relations/Special Advertising Director.

### Resignations

**Daniel Haseltine** has resigned as Co-Chairman of the Slide Library. **Douglas Hahn** has resigned as Branch Relations Director. The board accepted the resignations with regret and thanked Dan and Doug for their many years of service.

### Openings:

#### **Begonian Editor** **Horticultural Correspondent**

Please contact President Gene Salisbury if you would like to undertake one of these positions, or if you would like to serve on an ABS committee.

## **Attention, All Chairmen and National Directors!**

All chairmen are required by the ABS Constitution to make regular reports to the Board, and National Directors are asked to make at least one annual report. Please report in before the National Convention in Oklahoma City, which starts May 19. Send one copy to the President, one to the Secretary, and keep one yourself.

Secretary Arlene Ingles will be driving to the Convention and leaving May 1. If your report is not in by that time, please send it to Arlene in care of Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653-0452. (It's not often you are rewarded for procrastinating, but in this case, yes, you can save one 29 cent stamp.)

The Board would like to hear from **all** the branches and committees: let's inundate them with reports and surprise them!

## **Directory Update**

New President of **Orange County Branch** is **Joyce Hesse**, 636 S. Gilbuck Ave., Anaheim, CA 92802.

**Crystal Zook** is President of the **Alfred D. Robinson Branch**. Her address is 526 San Elijo St., San Diego CA 92106.

### **OOPS!**

**Wylie Summerlin** is the President of **Pinellas County Branch**, succeeding Bob Koehler. While the Nov-Dec. issue updated the branch presidency information, last issue's Directory backslid. Wylie's address is 7235 53rd Street North, Apt. C, Pinellas Park, FL 34665.

## **CORRECTIONS**

Deepest apologies to **Russ Richardson**, who in the last issue was erroneously replaced as Public Relations/Special Advertising Chair. It was long-time Branch Relations Chair Doug Hahn who resigned, not Russ.

Leslie Hatfield has written to say that the correct name of the long-time Monterey Bay Area Branch member who passed away in the spring of 1993 was **Pierre Fischer**, not Pierre Fletcher as reported in the September-October issue, p. 171. Sincere apologies to his friends and family.

## **New Address**

for **Historian Norma Pfrunder** is 3135 Severt Lane, Eureka CA 95503.

## **JUDGES' CORNER**

An ABS Judging School will be held on Thursday, May 19. Registration is \$15. You can register for the School at the same time you send in your Convention registration. Please pre-register so we can have your school materials ready for you!

Members taking the Judging School are expected to serve as clerks for the show Friday morning. Contact Judging Chair Maxine Zinman (Rt. 1, Box 73, Boyce, VA 22620) to reserve your clerking slot.

All judges planning on attending the National Convention in Oklahoma City are urged to contact the Judging Chair.

# Coming Events

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**May 6-7: Jacksonville Branch Show & Sale** at Orange Park Mall, Interstate 295 and State Rd. 21, Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida.

**May 7: Monterey Bay Area Branch exhibition and sale** at Monterey Peninsula College "Garden Faire".

**May 8: Sacramento Branch** participates in decorating the California Governor's Mansion for a special Mother's Day celebration

**May 19-22:**

**"Begonias: OK!"**

## **American Begonia Society Annual Convention**

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. Packets were mailed at the end of January - if yours hasn't arrived, or if you need one for a friend, please contact Registration Chair Ann Salisbury, Box 452, Tonkawa OK 74653-0452, or call her at (405) 628-5230.

**June 18: Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch** extends an invitation to all ABS members to a **free tour of the garden of branch president Pam Hantgin** on Saturday, June 18, from noon to 4 p.m. On view will be over 300 begonias, plus fuchsias, ferns, and other shade-loving plants. There will be plants for sale. Pam's address is 94 North Santa Rosa St., Ventura, CA 93001. Questions? Call (805) 648-1530.

**July 30-31: San Francisco Branch Show & Sale** at Tanforan Shopping Center.

**July 30-31: Garden Grove Branch Show**, "A Love Affair with Begonias", at Huntington Beach Mall.

**August 26-28: San Francisco Flower Show, Inc.**

## **1995**

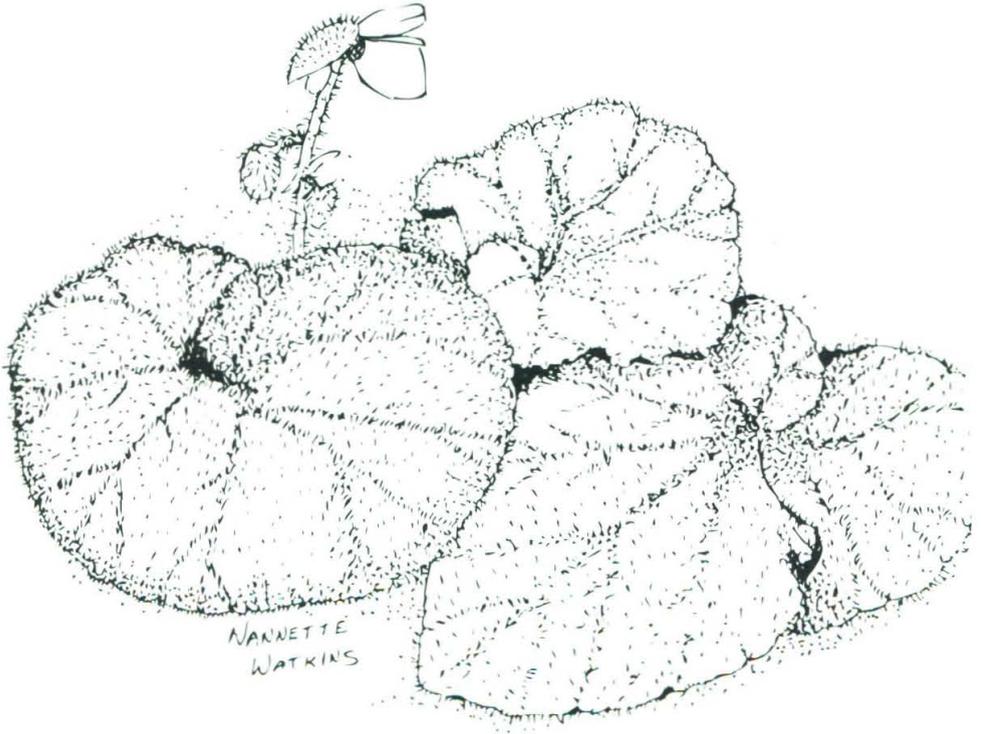
**April 14-17: Fourth Australian Begonia Convention** in Brisbane, Queensland, hosted by Queensland Begonia Society. Seminars, plant sales, visits to local begonia collections. Cost approximately \$150 Australian currency covers all events, dinner. For more information, contact P. J. B. Henderson, 79 Chuter St., Stafford 4053, Brisbane, Australia.

**Southwest Region Get-Together**, San Antonio, Texas. Hosted by Alamo Branch. *Y'all come!* (Date to be announced.)

*Deadline for next issue is May15.*

SPOTLIGHT ON:

***B. versicolor***



Text by Daniel Haseltine  
Drawing by Nannette Watkins

This lovely rhizomatous begonia is from central China and was discovered by Dr. Edgar Irsmscher in 1939.

*B. versicolor* was once called "Fairy Carpet" because of the velvety appearance of its leaves. Leaves and petioles are covered with thick red hairs, especially when new leaves are emerging and growing to maturity. Intensity of the coloring will vary with the amount of light received.

Leaf size will also vary, usually from 3" to 7", depending on how and where the plant is grown. This is one begonia with leaf undersides almost as pretty as the top. *B. versicolor* has medium-to-dark pink flowers, with flower backs covered with dark red hairs as are the ovaries of the female flowers.

**Humidity:** I find this begonia requires terrarium culture. If it is kept humid enough, adventitious growth will form on the surfaces of some leaves.

**Medium:** Long fiber sphagnum moss with a little perlite and charcoal seems to work the best for me.

**Watering:** *B. versicolor* should be kept moist and not allowed to dry out.

**Propagation:** *B. versicolor* can be propagated from seed or by leaf cuttings. If an old leaf drops to the sphagnum moss and starts to decompose, you will often find many small plantlets there. These can be lifted out and soon become beautiful plants.

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*Daniel Haseltine and Nannette Watkins are a father-daughter team. Dan, a past Vice-President of ABS who served many years as Slide Librarian, lives at 6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago, IL 60634. This article first appeared in the Chicago Begonian*

## Beautiful Spring

Oh for the beautiful days of Spring  
 With their soft and gentle breezes,  
 When wintertime is past and gone,  
 With all the frosts and freezes.

The catalogs of seeds and plants  
 The postman now delivers,  
 Even though looking at our plants  
 Still gives us the shivers.

The Summertime will soon be here  
 And we will hunt for shade,  
 And now and then we'll hear a wish  
 That cooler days had stayed.

Anonymous, from the  
San Francisco Begonian

## *B. masoniana*

by Greg Sytch

*B. masoniana*, commonly called the "Iron Cross", is classified as rhizomatous, distinctive foliage, unusual surface and/or unusual coloring, large leaved. Most begonias in this classification are considered to be touchy or difficult to grow. *B. masoniana* is no exception. However, it is only difficult to get through our long, hot summer.

The Iron Cross Begonia has a few special needs that must be met. It is essential to use a good potting mix with excellent drainage - so I include additional perlite and mulch in the mixture. The second special need is light - not too much sunlight but a nice, filtered light that includes some morning or late afternoon sunshine. The third special need is moisture - most essential during summer. *B. masoniana* must dry out between waterings during summer to prevent root rot, and during winter it must dry out in case of extended cool periods. However, too dry is not good. It should be just moist.

During its blooming season, from spring through summer, the Iron Cross Begonia puts out sprays of greenish-white blossoms. During late winter it is beneficial to alternate bloom food with your regular balanced fertilizer. This aids in development of bloom stalks, and flowers will be larger. Flowers of *B. masoniana* are fragrant; the more flowers that appear the more fragrance will fill the air.

Despite its touchy reputation, if you can get this begonia through summer you have won most of the battle.

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*Greg Sytch lives at 6329 Alaska Ave., New Port Richey, FL 34653-4301. His article first appeared in The Shadehouse, newsletter of the Pinellas County Branch.*



## Pinellas County Branch Scores at Florida State Fair

by Risa Young

Thanks to Dale Sena's organization and hard work, and the contribution of plants and "artifacts" from many branch members, the Pinellas County Branch added \$250 to their treasury by putting together a begonia display that won 3rd place in the Florida State Fair.

Dale got the idea to do a display of begonia species from around the world from an article she read in the July 1993 **Begonian** where the Buxton Branch used an "around-the-world" theme for one of their displays.

Dale labeled each plant with a flag showing the home country of each species, so not only was it a beautiful display, but gave the public an education as to the diversity of the areas where begonias are found.

Not only did we have a successful branch display, but several of our members did an outstanding job with their individual plant entries. Bob Koehler entered 10 plants and received 9 blue ribbons and 1 red. Dale received 3 blues out of her four entries. One member, "temporarily deranged" Jim Kelly, received 8 blue ribbons and 2 reds - although his entries were not begonias, we were still mighty proud of his success.

We're looking forward to putting in a display at the Pinellas County Fair in March and to the semi-annual sale at the University of South Florida on April 30, where we can once again dazzle the plant-loving public with our beautiful sale and display plants!

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*Risa Young lives at 7811 1st Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33707.*

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# Conservation News

## "Adopt-A-Species" Report

Your Conservation Department's newest project, Adopt-A-Species, is off and running. First adoptive "parent" is Sharon Holtzman of Cincinnati, Ohio, who has taken *B. dipetala* under her wing. Sharon says it grows well for her, and makes a wonderful bonsai plant.

Bill Voss of Virginia has written to say that this is an idea he has been promoting for some years. But he would like to see the older hybrid varieties - the "Classic Begonias", as the show judging schedules call

them - included. Perhaps that can be tackled, too. Are you interested? Let us know!

Adoptive papers are being drawn up, and a newsletter is planned for adoptive parents. We'll hope to have all of this ready for presentation at the National Convention in Oklahoma City in May. At the Convention, please visit the Conservation Department display. We'll have handouts, and a nice sample of needy begonia "babies" available for adoption. See you there!

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### Concerned about water quality?

Do your part to help prevent contamination with the following tips from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission:

## Kinder, Gentler Cleaners

### Baking Soda

\*absorb refrigerator odors: set an open box inside the unit

\*absorb carpet odors: sprinkle on carpet and vacuum

\*remove red wine stains on carpet: rub in, let dry, vacuum

\*clean sinks, toilets, ovens, shower curtains: mix with water to form paste

\*collar stains: add vinegar to form paste, apply before washing

\*clean bathroom tiles: mix with non-chlorine bleach to form paste, apply with brush, let dry, wipe with clean cloth

\*clean silver: mix with water, apply as paste with dry soft cloth

### Borax

\*general cleaning: mix 1 teaspoon each liquid soap and borax with 1 quart water and squeeze of lemon

### Vinegar

\*clean sink: mix with water and salt

\*clean toilet bowls: use undiluted

\*clean glass: mix 1/2 cup with 1 Tablespoon lemon juice in 1 quart water, apply with newspaper

\*clean floor: mix 1 cup with 2 gallons water, mop

### Club soda

\*remove fresh red wine stains from carpet

### Denture tablet

\*clean toilet bowl: drop in 1 tablet, allow to foam for 5 minutes, brush, then flush

### Toothpaste

\*clean silver and remove crayon and water marks

### Vanilla extract

\*deodorize room: set out a few drops in a dish

### Eraser

\*remove heel marks from floor

### Rubbing alcohol

\*clean windows and glass: add 1 Tablespoon to 1 quart water mixed with 1/2 cup vinegar

### Hair spray (non-aerosol)

\*remove ink stains: spray, soak, blot with towel until stain is gone

## and Eco-friendly Polishes

### Mineral oil & Olive oil

\*polish finished or unfinished wood: mix 3 parts light mineral oil with 1 part olive oil and a drop of lemon juice, apply with dust cloth

### Walnut

\*hide scratches on wood: rub with meat of walnut

# AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

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Happy Birthday to Alfred D. Robinson Branch, 52 years young this year, and to Monterey Bay Area Branch, 23 in February!

For the first time in many years, Rudolf Ziesenhenné missed the traditional ABS Birthday Party hosted annually by Long Beach Parent Chapter each January - and the members missed Rudy. Only illness could keep the Ziesenhennés away, and unfortunately a severe case of pneumonia prevented Rudy's attendance. Elda Regimbal filled in, providing a splendid program on short notice.

As Elda would no doubt agree, it's not easy subbing for a living legend. Susan Miller, Janet Brown, and Brad Thompson probably echo the sentiment. In the last issue we mentioned the retirement of long-time San Francisco Branch newsletter editor Herbert C. Bloom. Susan Muller has taken over the post - the typewriter? - and is doing a fine job. Now another long-time editor, Marion Lindgren of Westchester Branch, is also retiring; but the Branch has elected her "Editor Emeritus", and new editor Janet Brown expects lots of expert advice. And Brad? He's replacing long-time Begonias, Begorra! editor Houston Knight.

Pinellas County Branch has a unique way of improving their members' showing skills: from February through November they are holding a Mini-Show at every single meeting, with each show concentrating on a different begonia class. For example, in February the rhizomatous begonias were the stars, in the full glory of their bloom; May was for seedlings, July for Florida hybrids, November for Distinctive Foliage. Head Judge Dale Sena will keep track of all winners, and the member who wins the most blues during the year will receive an award at the Branch Christmas Party.

Dallas Area Branch is into improving members' skills, too, but in a different area. Taking advantage of Don Miller's photographic expertise, the branch had a hands-on program on taking better photos. Provided were begonias to photograph, a large selection of backdrops, and tripods. Members brought their own cameras and film. Watch for *lots* of photos from DAB in the 1994 Convention competition in Oklahoma!

Two branches across the country have taken an interesting tack: having "every member is a speaker" programs. Knickerbocker's, in December, was a "rip-roaring, very educational, holiday party, getting-to-know-you time! No lecture could have garnered the information this group shared. The mix was eclectic and the thoughts aired were the stuff of newsletters but on a more personal level...This definitely warrants repeating. Topics ranged from insect control to soil mixes to fungus to pesticides. Whew - what a dazzling blend of info..."

"Way to the south, Houston Satellite members also shared the podium with each other. Each member brought a rare or favorite plant to discuss: "Plants ranged from a small B. 'Satellite', in bloom, so named by our own Hubert Watson, to a wonderful, colorful basket of a variety of begonias used as a centerpiece by Jennie Turner. ...This meeting was indeed, a tribute to all of our growers! And how about that non-structure bit. If we had been any more relaxed we may just have collapsed in our chairs. Let's do it again!"

Also of interest this spring was insect control. Jeffrey Brushwein, with a PhD in entomology, spoke on Integrated Pest Management for Fort Lauderdale Branch in February and "we all learned some neat

things. For instance, spiders have big appetites and are great creatures to have hanging around in the garden. Most of them are not a danger to humans and they are easily killed by insecticides, so be careful and protect your spider friends! We were also treated to several slides of horrible-looking, but fascinating insects."

Sometimes written words don't come out the way they're intended. It was probably very late on a dark and rainy night, with a dread deadline looming, when one newsletter editor hyped the upcoming program by stating of the speaker "She's good with poisons. This is the month for each one to bring a guest and make him warmly received." Agatha Christie, take note. All concerned shall remain anonymous.

While we're being mysterious, "The Case of the Missing Members" occurred in San Antonio during the Alamo Branch meeting at the home of Imogene Mosley. The meeting went well, the lunch was superb, and then members toured Imogene's greenhouse. When they moved back to the house, locking the greenhouse behind them, no one noticed that two members were missing. Luckily one sharp-eared member heard screams as she approached her car and bravely stuck around to investigate. The "Case" ended happily - but wow, Imogene's greenhouse must be just full of greenery if two people were hidden in it!

Do begonias drive you to drink? It's happening in California. Here's a first-hand report of the problem from Begonias, Begorra!, newsletter of the Orange County Branch:

"We've been waiting four years for the larger pop bottles to get here. They were being field tested in the South before being tried here. So they are here now, and I bought a few cases of them. The cola inside is, to me, just as good as the other drink, so I thought I would chug-a-lug a bottle and get me a closed container to grow plants in. Wow, there must be a barrel of cola in there. I've been working on one a week now and it's still half full. Therefore, would anyone like to buy some cola from me? The bottles are not included - just the cola...Come on, good people, drink lots of cola for the cause!"

You guessed it: the drinking is a desperate search not for oblivion but for terrarium plant starters. Down in Oklahoma, the Barkley Branch newsletter has put in a plea for bottles for terrariums - needed for convention sale plants. So: drink up, everyone, for good old ABS.

## *New!*

In the ABS Slide Library: videos! including

the 1993 ABS Convention in Florida  
**"Begonias, The Greatest Show on Earth"**  
by Bill O'Geary

write for complete Slide Library listing to:  
SLIDE LIBRARIAN CHARLES JAROS  
2621 NW 23RD COURT  
MIAMI, FL 33142

# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND NOTES

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Thank you! to **Thelma O'Reilly** and the members of **San Miguel Branch**; and to **Joy Porter**, members of the **Buxton Branch**, and the **Barkley Begonia Collection** for this issue's seed offering.

The Seed Fund is always in need of seed donations. Please remember your Seed Fund when your begonias are in bloom!

For "how-to" articles on setting seed, see the **Begonian**, November-December 1986, p. 156 (repeated March-April 1992, p. 55); see also May-June 1993, p. 77.

## Notes on Seeds Offered

### Species

#### Tuberous

*B. boissieri* (Mexico, 1950) is tall-growing, with medium-sized, angular, bare leaves. Flowers are white flushed with pink, and fragrant. Seed is very limited.

*B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana* (China, 1939) has been called "the perennial begonia" because it freezes back in winter but returns in spring. It can be grown from seed, from cuttings, or from bulbils that the plant produces in its leaf axils. Flowers are profuse, dainty, pink.

*B. sandtii* (Mexico, 1969) is low-growing. Like *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana*, it produces bulbils in the leaf axils. Leaves are hairy, with an abrupt point and wavy double-toothed margins. Rudolf Ziesenhenné reported in the original description that a bilbil planted in potting soil would produce only one leaf the first season, and a flowering plant the second (for the original description, see the **Begonian**, August 1969; drawing on next page).

#### Unidentified

B. U176 from Bolivia is a beautiful semi-tuberous species with large, dark green leaves splashed with silver and clusters of greenish-white flowers. It appears to be related to *B. wollnyi* (see photo, **Begonian** March-April 1991, p. 59)

B. U265 is a rhizomatous begonia from Thailand with green leaves and white flowers. (Descriptions of the unidentified begonias are given by Thelma O'Reilly.)

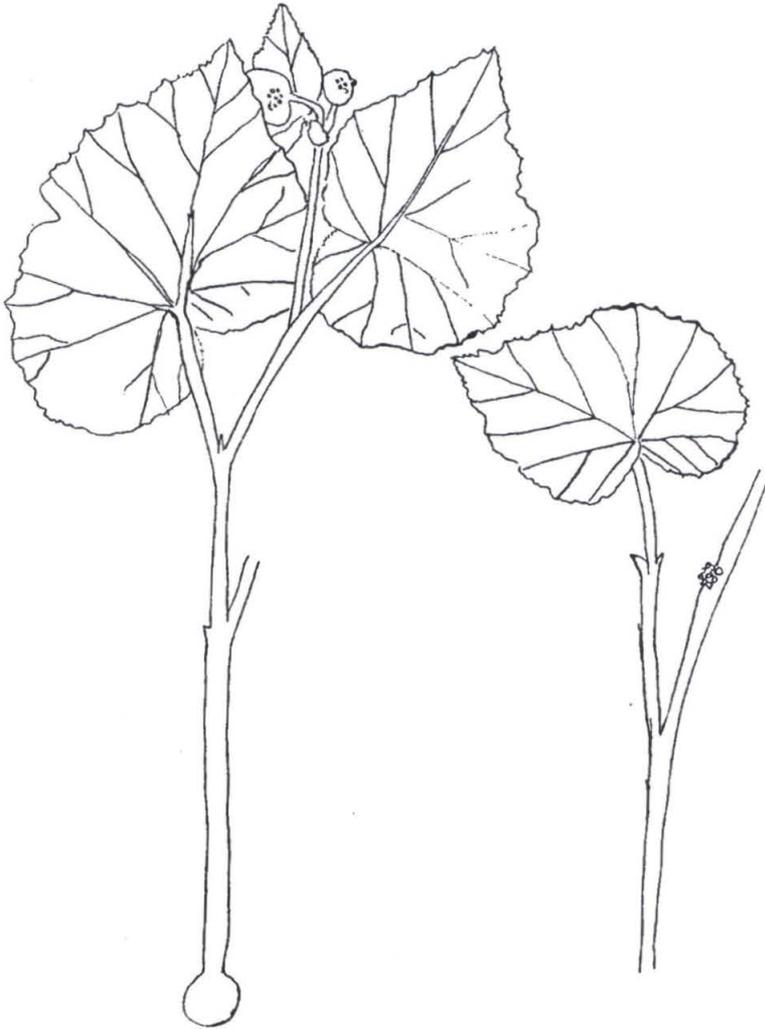
### Open-Pollinated & Hybrid

When seed has been open-pollinated, you never know what will come up. That's the case with the *Go for the Jackpot!* seed from San Miguel Branch. Be sure to read the article on page 86, complete with germination rates and times.

Also open-pollinated is another of our offerings. The female (seed) parent, *B. cucullata* var. *arenosicola*, is "distinguished by the narrowly elliptic leaves, rounded at the tip, narrow unequally cuneate at the base, and the larger subentire roundly obtuse stipules" (Jack Golding, **Phytologia** Vol. 50, No. 5, p. 354). *B. cucullata* is classified as a semperflorens. Growth habit in cultivation is taller, rangier, more sprawling than hybrid semps; its vigorous growth makes it attractive in the flower bed or in a hanging basket - but then, its offspring may surprise you!

Of hybrid origin is *B. 'Glamour Rose Picotee'*, a charming semperflorens with green leaves.

- Tamsin Boardman



Original drawing of *B. sandtii* Ziesenhenn  
Reprinted from the **Begonian**, August 1969

# 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, \$1; 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. boissieri*
- B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana*
- B. sandtii*
- B. U176
- B. U265

### Go for the Jackpot! Seed

75 cents per packet

(listed by name of female parent)

- B. 'Di-Anna'
- B. dichroa*
- B. 'Elizabeth Lockhart'
- B. 'Hawaiian Sunset'
- B. 'Honeysuckle'
- B. 'Kentwood'
- B. 'Kristy'
- B. 'Lana'
- B. 'Orpha C. Fox'
- B. 'Pinafore'
- B. rex* hybrid
- B. 'Ruth Langl'
- B. 'Texas Tea Sipper'

### Other Seed

50 cents per packet

- B. cucullata* var. *arenosicola*  
(hybrid, or open-pollinated)
- B. 'Glamour Rose Picotee'
- "Bottom of the Box"

# Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

January 22, 1994

The meeting of the Board of the American Begonia Society was held on January 22, 1994 at the Holiday Inn at Goleta, California, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. Margaret Lee read the Aims and Purposes. Twenty-five members attended.

Arlene Ingles read the Minutes of the May 1993 Board Meeting, which were approved as read; and the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, which was held September 11, 1993 at Sacramento, California. She asked that her name be removed from the Minutes, as she had not been installed at the time and past Secretary Ingeborg Foo had taken the Minutes. The Minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer Carol Notaras reported beginning balance in checking and savings accounts for Sept. 1, 1993 was \$47,614.45. Income was \$15,503.74; expenses were \$13,821.24; ending balance on December 31, 1993 was \$49,296.95.

Membership Chair reported 76 Life Members; 138 Institutions; and 1448 dues-paying members, a rise of 31 members since the last report.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Awards** - Thelma O'Reilly stated that we have no Alfred D. Robinson Medals on hand, and there are technical difficulties in getting more. Houston Knight volunteered to see if he could get some made.

**Advertising** - Ann Salisbury reported two new ads and two additional accounts that will appear soon. The Christmas greetings from branches, with 31 branches and individuals responding, brought in \$825.00 A study on advertising rates found that we are about 99% below other magazines; we will continue at the present rate for this year and consider a 5% raise next year.

**Back Issues** - Ann Salisbury reported sales

of \$299.86. A complete set of the **Begonian** was sent to the New York Botanical Garden and to Astro Branch in Houston. If your branch needs to replace missing issues please contact Ann.

**Bookstore** - Anita Ruthenberg reported for the period from October 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993 a beginning balance of \$799.79, sales of \$427.11, expenses of \$1002.79, and ending balance of \$244.41. Write for complete list of Bookstore offerings.

**Seed Fund** - Marilyn Goldstein is still in need of seed. PLEASE share seed with the Seed Fund.

**Convention 1994** - Martha Chesnut reports rooms at the Embassy Suites in Oklahoma City will be \$69 a night, breakfast included. We will need to fill a total of 80 rooms. Reservations must be in by April 19. Southwest Region will be paying the registration fee for foreign members attending.

**Members at Large** - Thelma McRae has 35 to 40 members, and says she has the best job in ABS! She is always interested in getting articles for the newsletter. There will be a MAL breakfast at the Convention on Saturday, May 21, from 7:30 to 9 a.m.

**Parliamentarian** - Margaret Lee reminds us that it is the duty of every National Representative and committee chair to make a report at each meeting. The report should be in triplicate: one for the reporter, one for the President, and one for the Secretary. This is part of the job. Marge will be working on revising and updating our Constitution and By-Laws this year.

**Public Relations/Special Advertising** - Russ Richardson reported that our publicity is largely confined to ads appearing in magazines such as Fine Gardening, Horticulture, and Flower & Garden.

**Round Robins** - "Flight Instructor" Virginia

Hamann reported 28 Robins, which have made 87 flights during the year; each completed in 3 1/2 months. 1 Robin was grounded; 3 new Robins started; and 15 new members added.

Membership - new dues are now in effect: \$17, or \$23 for first class delivery of the **Begonian** in the US, Mexico, & Canada; \$27 for foreign surface mail, \$37 for foreign air mail.

Gene Salisbury hopes to have a meeting for all of the National representatives at the 1994 Convention.

Rudy Ziesenhenné is in the hospital in Santa Barbara. We all hope that he recovers very quickly and we will see him in Oklahoma.

Edgar Bates has resigned from the Audit Committee. The Board accepted his resignation with regret.

Buxton Branch will not be hosting the 1995 Convention in Boston. We need a branch or branches to host this convention. Please get in touch with Kay Tucker or Gene Salisbury.

The board voted to send the 1994 election ballots in the **Begonian**.

New Standing Committee Chairpersons chosen by President Salisbury and approved by the Board are:

Show Classification, Leora Fuentes

Slide Librarian, Charles Jaros

Back Issues, Ann Salisbury

Awards, Mary Sakamoto, Marie Harrell

Ballot Counting, Shelley Andros

Conservation, Bruce C. Boardman

Branch Relations, Mary Bucholtz

The next Board meeting will be held at the 1994 Convention in Oklahoma City on Saturday, May 21, 1994 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Ingles,

Secretary

**Q.** There's nothing to do or see in Oklahoma, right? And the weather's so lousy you can't grow begonias there anyway.

**A.** Oh, dear. Do you believe there's nothing between the East and West Coasts except a black hole? Nothing described in these pages has interested you? Here's a challenge: come on down and find out for yourself the delights of the USA heartland. And: one of your biggest surprises will be the gorgeous begonias Barkley Branch members grow in spite of the temperature extremes. Would you believe rhizomatous begonias so big it takes 3 - 4 men to lift them? Give Oklahoma a chance to dazzle you!

# ABS BOOKSTORE

*Effective April 1, 1994, prices have been raised due to printing and postage increases.*

## BOOK LIST

### THE BEGONIA BOOK

A facsimile edition of Eva Kenworthy Gray's classic begonia book of 1931, reprinted in 1986. The first book about begonias published in the United States. Contains growing, propagation, and fertilization information as she knew it. Describes many old time begonias. 50 pages, some pictures. Softback. \$5.00

### BEGONIA

Hakari. Similar in size to Green & Flower Book; in Japanese, no translation. 96 pages, including 32 pages of excellent color prints. \$13.00

### BEGONIAS

Bill Wall, A Wisley Handbook, Royal Horticultural Society, 1988. An excellent guide to growing foliage begonias. 64 pages, 44 color photos. Softback. \$9.00

### BEGONIAS

Uemura, a Green and Flower Book. 131 pages, 171 pictures. Written in Japanese; however, pictures have English titles. Published by Shaeffer by Seikatsu-sha. Softback. \$13.00

### BEGONIAS, THE COMPLETE GUIDE

Eric Caterall, 1992. Covers semperflorens, canes, rhizomatous, rex, semi-tuberous, as well as tuberous; and culture, hybridizing, more; appendices list sources, organizations. Hardback only. \$40.00

### CATALOG OF REGISTERED CULTIVARS

Ed Bates. Published by ABS, lists the first 100 registered cultivars of the genus begonia. Listed is each cultivar's background, its parents, originator, references in the **Begonian**, tested data, and complete description. 47 pages with index. Softback. \$5.00

### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

A must for all branch libraries and officers. Softback. \$1.50

### GROWING BEGONIAS

Eric Caterall, 1984. From a complete survey of species distribution through complete cultural information for both tuberous and non-tuberous types, this is a beautiful and invaluable guide for the beginner and expert alike. 132 pages, 16 color photos, 154 b/w photos, 22 line drawings. Softback. \$19.00

### GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND ANNUAL SHOWS

Thelma O'Reilly. Approved by Board of Directors July 15, 1982. A must for branches, also for chairpersons of National Convention. \$3.00

### HOW TO WIN WITH BEGONIAS

Richard King. Pamphlet providing guidance in showing begonias. Includes tips on selecting the class to enter, how to groom your plant for the best score, and how to improve your chances of winning. 7 pages. \$1.50

### INDEX TO THE BEGONIAN

Pat Williams, 1990. This index was originally compiled to aid members of the Association of Australian Begonia Societies, Inc. in their search for information on specific subjects pertaining to begonias, begonia species, or begonia hybrids. 72 pages. \$9.50.

### LES BEGONIAS

Charles Chevalier, 1938. Written in French and translated into English by Alva Graham in 1975. This book has pictures, some in color, and contains a botanical study of begonias. General ideas on culture and information on different types of begonias. 165 pages, softback. \$7.00

### REVISED BUXTON CHECKLIST

John Ingles, Jr. 1990. A listing of all the cultivars included in the original check list in 1937 and its three supplements (1958, 1962, 1967) plus those found in other sources. Current as of May 1990. Species and "U" numbers are not included. Softback, 481 pages. \$37.50

## SONGBOOK

Published by the Mae Blanton Branch. A collection of songs about begonias (yes, really). Great to add some pep to your monthly meetings! Softback. \$1.50

## TERRARIUMS FOR BEGONIAS

Mae Blanton. A booklet on terrariums and the best begonias to grow in them. Softcover. \$1.50

## TIPS FOR BEGONIA BEGINNERS

Dorothy Patrick. A reprint of her **Begonian** articles from 1987 - 1989. Softcover. \$4.00

## THE **BEGONIAN**: EARLIEST ISSUES

A reprint of the newsletter that later became the **Begonian**. January 1934 through June 1938. Unbound, printed on 3-hole paper ready for standard loose-leaf binder you provide. \$25.00

## UNIDENTIFIED BEGONIAS LISTING

Thelma O'Reilly, 1991. All the U-numbers, and the information currently available about them. List, 11 pages. \$1.50

## 1994 ROSTER

Complete ABS membership list, current as of Jan. 1994 \$8.50

## Pamphlets

### BEGONIAS FROM SEED

4 pages.

Individual copy	\$ .50
With book order	.25
50 or more	.15 each

### CULTURE OF BEGONIAS

12 pages.

Individual copy	\$.75
With book order	.50
50 or more	.35 each

## OTHER RELATED ITEMS

### ABS PINS

Green and white ABS logo depicted on metal cloisonné pin for lapel or hat. \$6.00

### CURTIS BOTANICAL MAGAZINE HORTICULTURAL REPRINTS

A set of antique color prints of begonias reproduced from the Curtis Botanical Magazine of the 1800's. These 6" x 9" prints are quite lovely and suitable for framing.

Set of 7 \$6.00

### NOTEBOOK BINDERS

Perfect to keep your **Begonians** organized and in good condition. Hold up to 15 issues without repunching. Excellent quality black plastic cover with inside pocket for notes.

Each \$8.50

4 or more \$8.25 each

### MARKING PENS

A fine point permanent marker allows small clear writing. Excellent for plastic stakes and pots. Black. Each \$2.00

Make check, money order, or bank draft in US funds payable to ABS BOOKSTORE. *Texas residents add 7 3/4% sales tax.* Prices include shipping within USA. Foreign orders add 20% postage. Mail order to:

ANITA RUTHENBERG  
1016 W. ARLINGTON AVE.  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76110  
U.S.A.

## BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

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*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 May15**

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

Send \$2 for expanded 1994 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, 317 N. 12th St., Donna, TX 78537.

### **"VICKI'S EXOTIC PLANTS"**

Beautiful Begonias, Episcias, and Hoyas. Large variety of each. Please send \$1 for list to 522 Vista Park Dr., Eagle Point, OR 97524.

### **BEGONIAS, FERNS, SHADE PLANTS.**

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

### **BEGONIAS, Rare Exotic Tropicals.**

All shipped in 3" pots or larger. New '94 catalog \$2.00 to: Sunshine State Tropicals, PO Box 1033, Port Richey FL 34673; (813) 841-9618.

### **BEGONIAS: THE COMPLETE REFERENCE GUIDE**

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

### **BEGONIAS, EPISCIAS, HOYAS.**

Cuttings only. Send \$1 for list to B & K Tropicals, 5300 48 Terrace N., St Petersburg, FL 33709; (813) 522-8691.

### **BEGONIAS, 1994: newest Texas hybrids.**

'Black Swirl', 'Bo Jangles', 'Morning Sun', 'Funny Farm', and many more. Send \$2 for list to Stew's Greenhouses, 30631 Blanco Rd., Bulverde, TX 78163. Ph. 210-980-9439.

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

1994 catalog \$2.00, free to A.B.S. members. KARTUZ GREENHOUSES, 1408 Sunset Drive, Dept. B., Vista, CA 92083-6531.

### **BEGONIAS, New and Old Lowe hybrids,**

as well as popular rhizomatous species and hybrids. Price List \$1 & SASE. Paul Lowe, 5741 Dewberry Way, West Palm Beach FL 33415.

**HOUSEPLANT MAGAZINE** - Enjoy indoor gardening, travel, humor, hydroponics, tips for better growing, and information about your favorite houseplants - all in one delightful, full-color magazine. 1994 Discount subscription rate to ABS members. One year for four issues \$15.95 US/\$19.95 Canada & Mexico/\$24.95 overseas. Sample copy \$3.50 US/\$4.50 Canada & Mexico/\$5.50 overseas. US Funds drawn on US Bank only. For VISA/MC orders call 1(800)892-7594; or mail to **HOUSEPLANT MAGAZINE**, PO Box 1638-BS, Elkins, West Virginia 26241-1638.

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version \$6.95 plus \$1 shipping (CA residents add 42c  
tax). Mail to: National Fuchsia Society, 11507 E. 187  
St., Artesia, CA 90701.

**THE AMERICAN  
IVY SOCIETY INC.**

AIS is the International Registration Authority for Hedera,  
provides sources for new and unusual ivies; publishes  
three ivy newsletters, *Between the Vines*, and one  
Ivy Journal a year with reports on research hardiness  
testing, life-sized photos of ivies. Each member also receives an ivy plant.

Membership: General \$15; Institutional \$25; Commercial \$50.

Information: **The American Ivy Society, P.O. Box 2123, Naples FL 33939-2123.**

## Elected Officers

President.....Gene Salisbury  
P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa OK 74653  
(405) 628-5230

Past President.....Carol Notaras  
2567 Green St., San Francisco CA 94123

1st Vice-President.....Mary Bucholtz  
2411 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville FL 33207

2nd Vice-President...Bruce C. Boardman  
P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale TX 76433

3rd Vice-President.....Millie Thompson  
P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton NY 11968

Secretary.....Arlene Ingles  
157 Monument, Rio Dell CA 95562-1617

Treasurer.....Carol Notaras  
2567 Green St., San Francisco CA 94123

## Appointed Chairmen and Directors

Audit Committee  
Ralph Corwin  
1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista CA 92084

Awards.....Thelma O'Reilly  
10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa CA 91941

Ballot Counting.....Shelley Andros  
740 Lamat Rd., La Habre Heights CA 90631

**Begonian** Back Issues.....Ann Salisbury  
P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa OK 74653

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

Branch Relations.....Mary Bucholtz  
2411 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville FL 33207

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

Conservation.....Bruce C. Boardman  
P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale TX 76433

Convention Advisor.....Charles Jaros  
2621 NW 23rd Court, Miami FL 33142

Convention Chairman.....Martha Chesnut  
3232 N.W. 47th, Oklahoma City OK 73112

Historian.....Norma Pfrunder  
3135 Severt Lane., Eureka CA 95503

Judging.....Maxine Zinman  
Rt. 1, Box 73, Boyce VA 22620

Long-Range Planning.....Kay Tucker  
207 Southcross, San Antonio TX 78221

Members-at-Large.....Thelma McRae  
5471 S. Libby Rd. #15, Paradise CA 95969

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

Nomenclature.....Carrie Karegeannes  
3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale VA 22003

Parliamentarian.....Margaret Lee  
1852 31st St., San Diego CA 92102

Public Relations.....Russ Richardson  
1854 Chancery Lane, Chamblee GA 30341

Research.....Houston Knight  
13455 Hadley St., Whittier CA 90601

Research Librarian.....Kelton Parker  
3220 Botanic Garden Dr., Ft. Worth TX 76107

Round Robin.....Virginia Hamann  
Rt. 1, Box 10, Chester IA 52134

Seed Fund.....Marilyn Goldstein  
1001 Diplomat Parkway, Hollywood FL  
33019-2209

Slide Library.....Charles Jaros  
2621 NW 23rd Court, Miami FL 33142

**OPENINGS**  
**Begonian Editor**  
**Horticultural Correspondent**

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## BEGONIAN STAFF

Editor: Tamsin Boardman, P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale TX 76433; (817) 728-3485  
Nomenclature Editor: Jack Golding  
Editorial Assistants: Phyllis Bates, Bruce C. Boardman, Kit Mounger, Mary Weinberg  
Advertising Staff  
Mini-Ads: Cynthia Bishop, 4150 Auburn-Folsom Rd., Loomis CA 95650  
Display Ads: Ann Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa OK 74653  
Plant Society Ads: Wanda Macnair, 177 Hancock St., Cambridge MA 02139  
*For subscription, dues, circulation inquiries contact John Ingles Jr.,  
157 Monument, Rio Dell CA 95562-1617*

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## **Help Available from ABS**

*These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads, see preceding page. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you write.*

### **Members at Large**

Members who do not belong to branches are represented at Board meetings by the Members-at-Large Director. MAL members receive a quarterly newsletter and work on projects by mail

### **Back Issues**

Back issues of the **Begonian**, also current issues for branch use at shows, etc.

### **Bookstore**

Books about Begonias! And more! Write for complete list.

### **Judging Department**

Certifies accredited judges through judging schools and correspondence course.

### **Nomenclature Department**

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 that 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 seed of begonia species and cultivars by mail. New acquisitions are discussed in the **Begonian**.

### **Slide Library**

Write Slide Librarian for list of slide programs and videos.

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## **Member Input Opportunities**

### **Conservation Department**

wants lists of species grown by members

### **Nomenclature Department**

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

### **Research Department**

solicits suggestions on projects and participation in research.

### **Seed Fund**

seeks donation of seed and photos of plants grown from Seed Fund seed.

### **Slide library**

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

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



**American Begonia Society**

157 Monument  
Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617

Address correction requested

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