



July/August 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.*

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

Membership (subscription) \$17 annually, \$22 first class mail, US, Mexico, and Canada. \$25 foreign surface mail except Mexico and Canada, \$35 overseas airmail. Added member, same household, \$2. Consult Membership Chairman for sustaining, benefactor, life membership dues. U.S. currency only. Back issues (current volume) \$2.50.

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

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

**COVER PHOTO:** Don Miller photographed a portion of one of the begonia displays at Myriad Gardens' Crystal Bridge in Oklahoma City. Members of Barkley Branch, led by Effie & Howard Clemens, helped with plantings.



Drawing by Chuck McGough

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Convention 1994

Awards	124
Show Results	125
Banquet	128
SWR Awards	141
Show Room	144

### Articles

Toxicity	136
Begonia Spotlight	142

### Regular Features

New Cultivars	131
Coming Events	134
Show News	135
Bulletin Board	137
Judges' Corner	138
In Memory	139
Conservation News	146
Round Robin Notes	148
Around ABS	150
ABS Officers	154

### **QUICK!**

**Check your mailing label - if it says 7/94 or 8/94 your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you!**

"Begonias: OK!"

## Margaret Lee receives Eva Kenworthy Gray Award



ABS Awards Chairman Thelma O'Reilly presented Margaret Lee of San Diego, California the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award in recognition of both her writings and her actions in promoting harmony among ABS members.

Marge writes a regular column on begonias in [California Gardens](#), and has served ABS in many capacities, including President. She is currently Parliamentarian. She and her husband Paul were presented with the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service in 1978, and she was given the Alfred D. Robinson Medal in 1984 for her hybrid B. 'Nokomis'. Among her other outstanding hybrids are Begonias 'Kristy', 'Lana', and 'Osoto'.

In receiving the award, Marge joins the small but very special group of members who have received all three of ABS' top awards.

## Herbert P. Dyckman Award goes to Don Miller



Don Miller of Dallas, Texas was the 1994 recipient of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service. Don's contributions to ABS include service on the Research Committee, on the Malaysian Project; many articles and photographs for the **Begonian**; begonia collecting trips to Ecuador and to Malaysia; seminars given at national conventions and talks locally and regionally, always given with an emphasis on the benefits of ABS membership - Don has even given seminars in Australia; and lots of behind-the-scenes work at national conventions.

*The Alfred D. Robinson Medal for outstanding hybrid was not given.*

Awards Committee:

Thelma O'Reilly, Chair

Joan Coulat, Marie Harrell, Helene Jaros, Carrie Karegeannes, Joy Porter.

# 1994 Convention Show Results



## BEST OF SHOW

B. 'Cachuma'

Exhibited by Ann & Gene Salisbury

Trophy donated by Fred A. Barkley Branch

Photo by Eleanor Calkins

## SWEEPSTAKES

Effie & Howard Clemens,  
with 22 blue ribbons

Trophy donated by Effie & Howard  
Clemens

## SHOWING IS SHARING

Ann & Gene Salisbury, with 97 entries

Trophy donated by Houston Astro  
Branch

## BEST SPECIES

*B. parilis*

Effie & Howard Clemens

Trophy Donated by Dallas Area Branch,  
in memory of Marguerite Hankerson

## BEST SOUTHWEST REGION HYBRID

B. 'Jupiter Jewell'

Effie & Howard Clemens

Trophy donated by Ann & Gene  
Salisbury

## ALICE CLARK MEMORIAL AWARD

for Best Artistic Entry

Charles McGough, watercolor "Opening the Logee Shipment & Dreaming"

Trophy donated by Mae Blanton Branch

## DIVISION WINNERS

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

Cane-like: B. 'Down Home'

Exhibitor: Don Miller

Trophy Donor: Houston Satellite Branch,  
in honor of Helen Spiers

Shrub-like: B. 'Ginny'

Exhibitor: Effie & Howard Clemens

Trophy Donor: Westchester Branch

Shrub-like, Dist. Foliage:

B. 'Magdalene Madsen'

Exhibitor: Effie & Howard Clemens

Trophy Donor: Palomar Branch

Thick-stemmed: B. 'Star Frost'

Exhibitor: Don Miller

Trophy Donor: Potomac Branch

Rhizomatous: B. 'Cachuma'

Exhibitor: Gene Salisbury

Trophy Donor: Carol & Peter Notaras

Rhizomatous, Crested/Spiral:

B. 'Harbison Canyon'

Exhibitor: Ann & Gene Salisbury

Trophy Donor: Phil Seiden Memorial  
Trophy, by Knickerbocker Branch

Rex: B. 'Green Gold'

Exhibitor: Kit Jeans Mounger

Trophy Donor: Greater Chicago Branch

Semperflorens: unkn

Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes

Trophy Donor: San Francisco Branch

Tuberous: B. *drey*

Exhibitor: Don Miller

Trophy Donor: Monterey Bay Branch

Species: B. *parilis*

Exhibitor: Effie & Howard Clemens

Trophy Donor: Doug Frost Memorial  
Trophy, by Garden Grove Branch

Contained Atmosphere: B. *versicolor*

Exhibitor: Richard King

Trophy Donor: Wanda Macnair Trophy,  
by Buxton Branch

Hanging Containers: B. 'Lois Burks'

Exhibitor: Effie & Howard Clemens

Trophy Donor: Buxton Branch

Heritage Begonias: B. 'Prunifolia'

Exhibitor: Maurice Amey

Trophy Donor: San Miguel Branch

Novel Grown: B. 'Orococo' on wood

Exhibitor: Effie & Howard Clemens

Trophy Donor: Alamo Branch

New Begonia Introductions: B. 'Adagio'

Exhibitor: Dorothy Caviness

Trophy Donor: Sacramento Branch

Novice: B. 'Tiger Kitten'

Exhibitor: Jerri & Mike Eubank

Trophy Donor: Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau,  
in Memory of Phil Seiden

Southwest Region Hybrid: B. 'Jupiter Jewell'

Exhibitor: Effie & Howard Clemens

Trophy Donor: Houston Satellite Branch,  
in honor of Helen Spiers

Photographs of Begonias: Tuberhybrida

Exhibitor: Charles Jaros

Trophy Donor: Palm Beaches Branch

Artistic Photographs of Begonias:

"Bob's Trash" collage

Exhibitor: Thelma Dodd

Trophy Donor: Alfred D. Robinson Branch

Begonia Art: watercolor

Exhibitor: Charles McGough

Trophy Donor: Pinellas County Branch

Begonia Crafts: quilted wall hanging

Exhibitor: Kit Jeans Mounger

Trophy Donor: Mary Keepin

## CULTURAL AWARDS

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

Maurice Amey: B. 'Ginny' (95), B. 'Prunifolia' (96).

Effie & Howard Clemens: B. 'Boomer' (95), B. 'Caprice' (95), B. 'Lois Burks' (95), B. 'Loma Alta' (95), B. 'Jupiter Jewell' (96), B. unknown (96.33), B. 'Ginny' (96.6), B. 'Magdalene Madsen' (97), B. 'Carol Mac' (97.25).

Jerry Eubank: B. 'Tiger Kitten' (96).

Leora Fuentes: B. 'Millie Thompson' (96), B. unknown *semperflorens* (96), *B. leprosa* (98).

Diane Horne: B. 'Peridot' (95), B. 'Liberty Bell' (95), B. 'Bess' (96.4).

John Howell: B. "Alamo Rex Cultorum" (95.5), *B. soli-mutata* (96).

Richard King: *B. quadrialata* (96), *B. versicolor* (98).

Don Miller: B. 'Flutterby' (95), B. 'Flamingo Queen' (96), 'Yakagura' (96), *B. guttata* (97), B. 'Down Home' (97.1).

Kit Mounger: B. 'Green Gold' (98).

Ann & Gene Salisbury: B. 'Candlelite' (95), B. 'Gailord' (95), B. 'Shirt Sleeves' (95), B. 'San Miguel' (95), B. 'Benitochiba' (96), B. 'Bob Dodd' (96.66), B. 'Freddie' (96.6), B. 'Harbison Canyon' (97), B. 'Green Fountain' (98.25), B. 'Cachuma' (98.5).

Nan Scoble: *B. foliosa* (96).

## HYBRID OF DISTINCTION

*to qualify for Hybrid of Distinction, a plant must score at least 85 points*

B. 'Adagio'

Hybridizer: Dorothy Caviness

Exhibitor: Dorothy Caviness

## *Thank you!*

to all our Division Trophy Donors; and to Kay & Lorne Bradley, Dorothy Caviness, Helene & Charles Jaros, Irene Nuss, Thelma & Tim O'Reilly, and the Friends of Flossie Herzog; and the following branches: Sacramento, Knickerbocker, Miami, and Rubidoux, for Trophies where there was no Division winner.

*Thank you!* also to Kay & Lorne Bradley, Normand Dufresne, Arlene & Ray Hooton, Marie McCooney, Denise Meyer, Georgia & Dale Meyer, Carol & Peter Notaras, Ramona Parker, Ann & Gene Salisbury, and Rudolf Ziesenhenné; and the following branches: Fort Lauderdale, Garden Grove, Orange County, Palm Beaches, Palomar, San Francisco, and Whittier, for their generous donations to the **General Trophy Fund**.

# Banquet Highlights

The 1994 Convention Banquet was held on Saturday evening, May 21, at Oklahoma City's Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Dressed in an interesting assortment of Western garb, we enjoyed strolling through the museum's galleries of Western art, which include a priceless collection of Remington and Russell paintings and bronzes of the Old West, collections of contemporaneous Western art, and a room dedicated to the work of James Earl Fraser and his wife Laura Gardin Fraser, dominated by the fabulous "End of the Trail", several times life size. Also on view were displays telling of cowboy life and lore, and the gift shop proved a popular spot. Open and pleasant were the gardens surrounding the Hall of Fame - and what luck! The weather was lovely.

Sightseeing done, we entered the banquet hall for a barbecue dinner. Begonias, wreaths, and favors - each unique - dressed the tables charmingly in Western style; Decorations Chair Laura Kirby had been busy! Barkley Branch President Jim Jolly gave our invocation, and Parliamentarian Margaret Lee read the Aims & Purposes of our Society.

Joy Porter dedicated the Convention to Dr. Fred A. Barkley with some delightful personal memories of this Oklahoma native son who won fame as a scholar but above all loved begonias. Then Don Miller announced this year's recipient of Southwest Region's Dr. Fred A. Barkley Research Grant: Dr. M. A.L. Smith of Illinois University.

After that, award followed award. Maxine Zinman announced Show winners and presented a multitude of Cultural Certificates (despite her admonition to the judges: "show no mercy").

President Gene Salisbury gave Oklahoma citizenship certificates to all of our foreign visitors: Hikoichi Arakawa, Hitoshi Hanamoto, Yasumasa Kamata, Tsuyuko Ninamide, Toshiko Uchiyanma from Japan; Miree Lex of Canada; Jo and Rex Bungey of Perth, Australia; and Muriel and Bill Ash from England. And what a distinguished group they were! Directors of the Japan Begonia Society, President of the Begonia Society of Canada, Curator of the National Rex Collection of England, and officers of the Begonia Society of Western Australia, all drawn to Oklahoma by love for our favorite plants, the enchanting begonias.

Jo and Rex Bungey reciprocated with a presentation of their own. On behalf of the Begonia Society of Western Australia, they presented President Salisbury with a "Message Stick", an aboriginal passport used to guarantee safe passage between tribes. The Message Stick was handcarved from wood of the Australian Sheoak by Rex, and signed by members of the Society.

More awards were given by Southwest Region (see page 141). As a special "thank you" award SWR Director Tom Keepin gave out trivets with the "Begonias: OK!" logo painted on ceramic tiles to the Convention Committee members. Gene Salisbury made a special presentation to our "Triple Crown" stars (see next page). ABS Awards Chair Thelma O'Reilly presented the Eva Kenworthy Gray and Herbert P. Dyckman awards. Finally, a panel of independent, unprejudiced and, alas, unbribeable judges decided that Cowboy Tom Keepin and Pioneer Woman Thelma Dodd deserved the awards for best Western outfits.



One of the delights of the 1994 Convention was the presence of the three members who have achieved the ABS "Triple Crown", winning all three of the top awards given by the Society. Above, at the Banquet President Gene Salisbury presented special commemorative plates to Mabel Corwin, Rudolf Ziesenhenné, and Thelma O'Reilly (from left). Featured on each plate was a portrait of the recipient.

Photo by Bruce C. Boardman

The evening closed with two exciting events: the drawing for pillows (won by Charlotte Burrows and Vivian Hill), tote bags (won by Margaret Fisher and Max Gotcher), and finally the Begonia Friendship Quilt (won by Lavone Craddock, who says no, she won't entertain purchase bids) and the auction (benefitting the Barkley Research Grant) of Kit Jeans Mounger's begonia lamp (high bid by Tom Keepin) and a 1946 autographed copy of Bessie Buxton's Begonias and How to Grow Them (high bid by Tamsin Boardman).

But how to convey to those who missed it the fun, the hilarity (you really must hear Tim O'Reilly tell of his hate affair with begonias!), the camaraderie? It's insufficient to say "a good time was had by all" - but that will have to do. - Tamsin Boardman

## With Deepest Gratitude...

**Plant Sale Chairmen** Linda & Mike Clemons wish to thank:

Shelley Andros, Janet Brown, Dorothy Caviness, Effie & Howard Clemens, Joan Coulat, Rosemary Danley Cronk, Bob Dodd, Normand Dufresne, Maybelle Green, Barbara Hamilton, Joyce Hesse, Sue Hessel, Helen & Charles Jaros, Tom Keepin, Virginia Kettler, Wanda & Richard Macnair, Thelma McRae, Don Miller, Kit Jeans Mounger, Carol & Peter Notaras, Irene Nuss, Joy Porter, Mary Sakamoto, Ann & Gene Salisbury, Elsie June Shawver, Rudolf Ziesnehene; Southwest Region; and the following branches: Alamo, Alfred D. Robinson, Dallas Area, Greater Atlanta, Long Beach Parent Chapter, Mae Blanton, Miami, Orange County, Palomar, San Francisco, San Gabriel Valley, San Miguel, Santa Clara, South Bay, Rubidoux, Theodosia Burr Shepherd, Westchester; and the Barkley Collection, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Golden Hills Nursery, Kay's Greenhouse, Logee's Greenhouses, and North Haven Gardens for their generous contributions to the Plant Sale. Thank you also to all members who brought sale plants!

**Hospitality Chairs** Ray Fuentes and Kay Jennings thank Elaine Baxter, Joy Blair, Effie & Howard Clemens, Lavonne Craddock, Glennis Crouch, Margaret Fisher, Maybelle Green, Barbara Hamilton, Virginia Kettler, Ruth McCormick, Ann & Gene Salisbury, Elsie June Shawver, Vernona Youngblood, and the Barkley Branch for their contributions to the **Hospitality Fund**. Thanks also to all who brought "goodies" to share!

**Southwest Region** thanks Lulu Leonard, Elizabeth Mateus, Thelma & Tim O'Reilly, and Ann & Gene Salisbury for their donations to the **Fred A. Barkley Research Grant**. Special thanks to Joy Porter, for the donations of auction items benefiting the Grant.

The staff of the **Begonian** thanks Shelley Andros, Hikoichi Arakawa, Effie & Howard Clemens, Normand Dufresne, Sue Hessel, Tom Keepin, Carol Notaras, Thelma & Tim O'Reilly, Ramona Parker, Ann & Gene Salisbury, Janet Welsh, and Johanna Zinn for their generous donations to the **Color Fund**.

### Thank you!

...to Tamsin & Bruce Boardman for their donation and Kit Jeans Mounger for the quilted begonia wall hanging auctioned to benefit the **Fort Worth Botanic Garden's Begonia Species Bank**.

...to Alma Crawford, Rosemary Danley Cronk, Denise Meyer, Georgia & Dale Meyer, Dorcas Resleff, and Maxine Wilson for contributions to the **Barkley Collection**.

...to First National Bank of Oklahoma (Tonkawa, OK), Tinker Air Force Base, Diane Horne, Keepin' Green Enterprises, MSW Corporation (Houston, TX), Schultz Co., Vitamin Institution, Pacific Chemicals, and Grace/Sierra for donations to the **Welcome Bags and Cash Drawing**.

...to Tamsin Boardman, Jo & Rex Bungey, Kartuz Greenhouses, Kay's Greenhouses, Schultz Co., and Vernona Youngblood for **Door Prize** items.

*So many people contributed to making "Begonias: OK!" a success. If we've omitted your name, the oversight was not intentional! Please let us know so we can thank you in the next issue.*

# New Cultivars

## Official International Registrations Numbers 942-945

Carrie Karegeannes, Nomenclature Director

---

*Applications to register Begonia cultivars may be obtained from Carrie Karegeannes, 3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale VA 22003-2319. Each form must be typed or printed in ink and accompanied by a \$2 check payable to the American Begonia Society. Clear photos for publication in the **Begonian**, drawings, and dried specimens are requested. ABS is the International Registration Authority for Begonia cultivar names.*

*In the listing of cultivar parents below, the female (seed) parent is listed first.*

### *Begonia* 'Quick Silver'

No. 942—*Begonia* ('Looking Glass' x 'Tingley Mallet') 'Quick Silver'

A silver-leaved cane-like hybrid of two exotic begonias, B. 'Quick Silver' is 2'-3' tall with ovate, acute-tipped, 4" x 8" silver leaf blades marked by green veins and backed by deep maroon. The leaf margin is toothed and the surface smooth. Petioles, 2" long, are red and hairless. The coloring of leaves sets it apart from other cultivars. B. 'Looking Glass', the seed parent, has more solid silver area; B. 'Quick Silver' has wider green areas along its veins and deeper red backs. Developed in 1988 by Goldie Frost (10622 Teal Drive, Garden Grove CA 92643); first distributed in 1992; no bloom to date. Tested by Joy Blair of Downey CA. Registered March 1, 1994.

### *Begonia* 'Jeanette Knight'

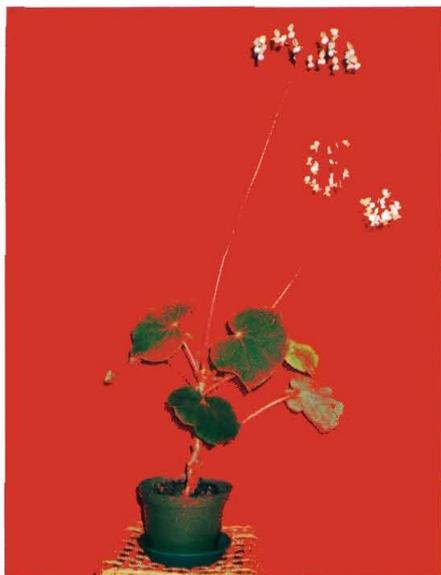
No. 943—*Begonia* ('Looking Glass' x 'Tingley Mallet') 'Jeanette Knight'

From the same parents as B. 'Quick Silver', this cane-like cultivar also is 2'-3' tall. Its ovate, somewhat lobed leaf blades are acute tipped and reddish to bronze green with tiny silver spots and red backs. Margins are toothed and the surface is bare. Red petioles are 3" long. Neither the large silver areas of B. 'Looking Glass' nor the metallic red of B. 'Tingley Mallet' are apparent in their offspring, 'Jeanette Knight'. Developed in 1988 by Goldie Frost (address above); first distributed in 1992; no bloom to date. Tested by Joy Blair of Downey CA. Registered March 1, 1994.

### *Begonia* 'Frost's Yosemite'

No. 944—*Begonia* ('Margaret Taylor' x *maculata*) 'Frost's Yosemite'

Cane-like cultivar 4' tall with 5" x 10" silver-splotted green leaf blades that are thin-textured, acute-tipped, and toothed. Many 2" white flowers are borne on 6"-8" peduncles from June to November, the males 2-tepaled and the females 4-tepaled with white ovaries. The large silver-splotted leaves and large clusters of white flowers distinguish 'Frost's Yosemite'. Developed in 1988 by Goldie Frost (address above); first bloomed in 1991; first distributed in 1992. Tested by Joy Blair of Downey CA, Registered March 1, 1994.



*Begonia* 'Frostland'  
photo by Joy Porter

*Begonia* 'Frostland'

No. 945—*Begonia* (*petasitifolia* x *sanguinea*) 'Frostland'

A 2'-5' thick-stemmed cultivar with dark glossy-green leaf blades flushed red below, *B.* 'Frostland' is everblooming with white flowers, rose ovaries adorning the females. Leaf blades are 6 1/4" wide x 7 1/2" long (or larger grown in the ground), round-ovate with broadly acute tip, entire margin, and cordate base. They are leathery with smooth bare surface and 9 main veins. Petioles are 10 1/4" long, rose colored, with no hairs. Stipules are 1 3/16" long by 3/4" wide, pale green, turning brown and remaining on the plant. Many-flowered forked clusters high above the foliage year round carry 1" male flowers and 3/4" females. Both have 4 tepals, 2 of them larger and broadly rounded, 2 smaller and narrow. Easier to grow than either of its species parents, *B.* 'Frostland' is similar in habit of growth to seed parent *B. petasitifolia*, but its petioles and peduncles are shorter and it follows its pollen parent in lack of hairs and in leaf texture and coloring.

Seed of the original cross was inadvertently sold through the Seed Fund in the July-August 1984 *Begonian*, mislabeled *B. petasitifolia*. Some members may be growing *B.* 'Frostland' instead of the species. Compare your plants with the species to see if you have it or the cultivar. The plant shown by a Selby Botanical Garden grower in the Miami 1985 National Show, where it took Best of Show, does not match the original publication of *B. petasitifolia*, either, though similar in some ways.

*B.* 'Frostland' was developed in 1984 by Goldie Frost (address above); first bloomed 1985. Tested by Joy B. Porter of Framingham MA and offered for sale by Kay's Greenhouses, San Antonio TX.

Please see photos, next page, of *B. petasitifolia* and a larger specimen of *B.* 'Frostland'

NEW!

BETTER BLOOMS

Ask for it at your store's garden department or write to Schultz Company, 14090 Riverport Drive, St. Louis, MO 63043

right:  
*B. petasitifolia*  
Photo by Jack Golding  
taken at  
Brooklyn Botanic Garden,  
Oct. 1988.



B. 'Frostland'  
Photo by Wanda Macnair  
taken at 1993 Southwest Region Get-Together  
Division winner grown and exhibited by Barbara & Naron "Stew" Stewart

# Coming Events

**June 11: South Bay Branch Show, Sale, and Bake Sale, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**July 23-24: Westchester Branch 13th Annual Show & Sale, at Fox Hills Mall, Sepulveda Blvd. & Slauson Ave. Saturday 10 a.m.- 7 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**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.**

**August 18: Palos Verdes Begonia Show, South Coast Botanic Garden.**

## 1995

**February 25-26: New South Wales Begonia Society Show & Sale at the Harvey Lowe Pavilion.**

**April 14-17: Fourth Australian Begonia Convention, "Begonias: Beautiful one day, Perfect the next", at Robertson Gardens, Kessels Road, Robertson, 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 Averil Thompson, 18 Kelly Road, Virginia, Queensland 4014, Australia.**

**Southwest Region Get-Together, San Antonio, Texas. Hosted by Alamo Branch. Date & place to be announced.**

*Deadline for next issue is July 15.*

### Let Gardner Pardner Software Keep Your Gardening Records

*Kiss Your 3x5 Cards 'Goodbye!'*

- ◆ Track all your plants and all pertinent gardening catalog information
- ◆ Using your IBM compatible computer, and Microsoft Windows Software, enjoy easy pull down menus and varied plant listings



*Regular price \$99.95.*

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR MEMBERS ONLY  
\$69.95.**

**TO ORDER: Call 1-800-204-5614  
OR WRITE: J&L Bluebonnet Plantation  
Rt. 2, Box 564B • Hempstead, Texas 77445**

### BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS FERNS, OXALIS, CACTI, HERBS

new Full Color Catalog...\$3.00

### LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES

(Est. 1892)

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

### REX CULTORUM BEGONIA SEED RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

1.25 per pkt plus 29c postage

Calif. residents add 7.75% Sales Tax

**1130 NORTH MILPAS STREET  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA  
93103**

### Lauray of Salisbury

Begonias, Gesneriads, Orchids  
Cacti & Succulents

432 Undermountain Road, Rt. 41  
Salisbury, CT 06068 203-435-2263

Usually open daily, 10 am - 5 pm  
1994 Catalog \$2.00

# Show News

## Around the Country

*Miami Branch* put on a spectacular annual show and sale at Fairchild Gardens in March. "Begonias in the Rainforest" boasted a rainforest display by Daisy Farm Nursery, big sale, and raffle. The show had 145 entries, and 942 visitors from all over the country - and from England!

The Helen & Charles Jaros Award for Best of Show was won by *B. floccifera* (97.3 points) shown by **Marilyn Goldstein**. **Charles Jaros** took the Anne & Chris Fergis Sweepstakes Award with 25 blue ribbons. Best Novice (donated by Jim Newbold honoring Ruth Sutton) was won by **Joyce Pridgen** with *B. U002*.

Two unusual features of the show were the "Best Non-Member" Division, with an award donated by the branch, which went to *B. 'Thurstonii'* exhibited by **Florence McGinnis**. Another unusual award was "Best in Show as Voted by the Public." **Daisy Farm Nursery** both donated and won the award; *B. 'Peace'* was their winning entry.

The show was a success financially, and in another way too: the April newsletter listed three new members. (We'll hope to see non-member winner Florence McGinnis listed as a new member soon.)

**Buxton Branch** won a Gold Medal in the *New England Flower Show* for their exhibit, mounted this year by **Dottie Gardner** and her family. Featured were a lath house, rocking chair and a keg (which served as a makeshift end table), and a lovely *B. radicans* in glorious bloom, hanging at the front. As a bonus, the lath house and two potting benches were sold, leaving Buxton members with little to take home except their plants.

The *Jacksonville Branch Annual Show* at Orange Park Mall in May turned into a **Lee Guthrie** party all the way. Lee took Best of Show with her *B. 'Caravan'*, as well as Sweepstakes and Most Entries (57). And no, she wasn't the only entrant! There were 155 entries in tough competition. Other division winners were **Mary Bucholtz**, winning the Tuberous Division with *B. sonderana* and Contained Atmosphere with *B. rajah*; **Chris Hall**, winning Novel Methods with *B. masoniana*; and **Ed Harrell**, who won the Club Challenge with a cane seedling.

## and Around the World

**Lyla Kilpatrick** of Western Australia won the Horticultural Council of Western Australia's State Championship for Begonias.

At the annual show of the Begonia Society of Western Australia, top honors went to **Shirley Brown** for *B. U002*.

At the *Queensland Begonia Society* show **Dorothy Miller** of Toowoomba won the Hazel Burley Trophy for Show Champion with a *B. 'Lana'* described as "flawless", and **Marge Heninemann** won Best Queensland Hybrid with *B. 'Eureka Bonanza'*, a Bernard Yorke cultivar.

# Potting Mix Toxicity

We harassed you about soil pH, and soil porosity. Now it's time for soil toxicity. The good news is that testing for toxicity is easy, cheap, and fun. It will cost you only the price of a packet of radish seeds.

Take one small glass jar. Place 1 centimeter of damp potting mix in the base. Sprinkle 4-6 radish seeds on top of the soil. Sit the lid - don't fasten it - on top of the jar to retain humidity and allow air flow. Place the jar in a warm, light place out of sunlight. If the soil is non-toxic, healthy roots will appear by the third day. If after three days the roots haven't emerged, the soil should not be used for potting (see [Potting Mixes](#), by Kevin Handreck, page 32).

You will probably get some surprises. I found the roots emerged after 36 hours on vermiculite, and on fresh jarrah sawdust after 12 hours! No kidding. Not that I recommend fresh sawdust for mixes, but that was the result.

One commercial mix that I purchased - expensive, because it was one of the top three in Australia - didn't ever let those roots emerge, and just about killed the begonias that were planted in it. I tested after using it, of course.

If you open a bag of mix and there is a strong smell of pine oil (turpentine), you had better test it before use.

What can you do with toxic soil? In such cases the mix should be kept moist and allowed to compost for 4 to 6 weeks. Test every week or so for toxicity.

*from the February, 1994 issue of the [Begonia Society Newsletter of the Begonia Society of Western Australia](#). Editor is Betty Grigg.*

---

## Quote:

"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity."  
Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch newsletter

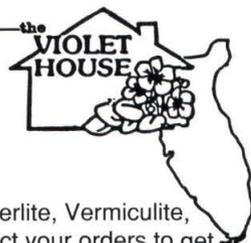
## INDOOR GARDENING SUPPLIES FREE CATALOG

Shallow pots: 5" to 10".

Squares: 2.5" to 4.5"

Round tubs, Standards, Trays, Reservoirs, Soilless Mixes, Perlite, Vermiculite, African Violet and Sinningia Seeds, and more. You can expect your orders to get immediate attention.

**THE VIOLET HOUSE (abs), P. O. Box 1274,  
GAINESVILLE, FL 32602**



# BULLETIN BOARD

ABS News

## Thank you! to Leo Neuman:

Leo, a master grower of tuberous begonias in Wilmette, IL, does programs for garden clubs and civic groups, and donates his fees to ABS. (See the March-April issue for photos and culture tips from Leo.)

## CORRECTION

If the photo of B. U219 on page 88 of the May-June issue looked odd to you - as it did to many of our readers - it's because it was printed upside down. The editor apologizes for not catching the error.

## Directory Update

**Charles McGough** is new President of **Dallas Area Branch**. His address is 1603 Walnut, Commerce, TX 75428.

New President of **San Miguel Branch** is **Eleanor Calkins**, 910 Fern St., Escondido, CA 92027.

Here is a very tardy update from Australia: the President of the **Queensland Begonia Society** is **Les Bowden**, 24 Lexham St., Bald Hills, Queensland 4562, Australia. President of the **Begonia Society of Western Australia** is **Jim Webster**.

## Elections: Ballots

As a cost-cutting measure, your Board voted to include the ballot for the 1994 election of officers in the **Begonian** - as had been done in the past. The ballot appears in the next column. Please cut and return to:

**Shelley Andros,**  
**Ballot Counting Chair**  
740 Lamata Road  
La Habra Heights, CA 90631

Volume 61 July-August 1994

## Stork Report:

Welcome to our newest and youngest member, **Erin Nicole Cochran**. Erin joins proud and loving parents Wanda and Bob Cochran and two begonia-loving sisters as a member of Miami Branch.

## Judges' Corner

### ***Congratulations!***

to new judge

**Maurice Amey** (Dallas, TX)

and to newly promoted

Senior Judges:

**Mary McClelland** (Hastings, NE)

**Paul Tsamtsis** (Sacramento, CA)

**Gene Salisbury** (Tonkawa, OK)

## Seed Fund Announcement

Seed Fund Director Marilyn Goldstein has been bedridden for several months with a herniated disk. She is working as her health permits, doing her best to keep up with your orders, and hopes to catch up soon. A listing is promised for the next issue.

Please remember the Seed Fund now that your cane, shrub, semperflorens, and tuberous begonias are in bloom! The Seed Fund is always in need of fresh seed, especially of species. ***Thank you!***

# In Memory

**Helen Hodgkins**, a long-term member of Buxton Branch, passed away in early spring.

Fort Lauderdale Branch announces with deep regret the death of their good friend and member **Ed Stern**. He will be missed.

## Martin Johnson

It is with much sadness that the San Francisco Branch reports that Martin Johnson passed on in April. He will be missed by our whole Begonia Society.

Martin was the co-chairman, along with Scott Hoover, of the Conservation Committee. He travelled extensively, searching for his favorite plant - begonias.

He was a jazz fan, and named many of his hybrid begonias after jazz greats - such as 'Little Brother Montgomery'. He visited the Philippines many times, and brought back "lost begonias."

He contributed to any begonia cause, and was always sharing his knowledge and his plants.

Martin received the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service in 1986, and his hybrid B. 'Connee Boswell' won the Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor in 1989.

He was instrumental in making connections with the Scottish Begonia Society, visiting their shows and securing Hugh McLauchlan as a speaker at a number of our National Conventions.

Martin is survived by his brother-in-law Earl Clark, and many nieces and nephews who all mourn his passing.  
- Alice Gold

## Barbara Philip

It is with great sadness that I write this farewell.

Barbara was born in Santa Barbara and spent many years as a registered nurse at Saint Francis Hospital. After her mother became ill, Barbara retired to care for her and maintain their beautiful ranch.

She had orchards of citrus and avocado and many other tropical plants. She landscaped with fuchsias, ferns, and impatiens, and tucked away in various areas she had outstanding begonias.

Her love and dedication in growing begonias was only surpassed by her creation of new rex. She will always be remembered as a great rex hybridizer. Large helix and vibrant colors are her trade mark. Among her creations are B. 'Glacier Bay', B. 'Manuel', B. 'Sonja', B. 'Elegant Victoria', B. 'Airy Ashes', B. 'Black Lagoon', and B. 'Bewitched', just to mention a few.

Barbara joined the Santa Barbara Branch in 1946 and was very active in all branch activities. She was also a member of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch in Ventura. Many friends will remember the picnics she hosted under the grape arbor.

Barbara loved to share her plants, her ideas, and her knowledge. We will all miss her greatly.

Barbara Philip - a very special lady - faithful Christian and everlasting friend.  
- Joan Coulat

*"In Memory" continues on the next page*

## Elizabeth Ducker Barkley

Born March 31, 1908  
Died February 15, 1994

Elizabeth Ducker Barkley was a founding member of the Fred Barkley Branch of the American Begonia Society. She will be missed by all of us who loved her. Elizabeth gave tirelessly of her time and was always there ready to help in any way she could. She held many offices in the Branch, and was made an honorary life member.

I remember the first time I met Elizabeth at her home in Tecumseh. I had just moved here, and remembered from reading the **Begonian** that there was a club in Oklahoma. I called the Barkleys and they invited me to their meeting the next day. Elizabeth made me so welcome in her home I soon forgot I didn't know a soul. I had a wonderful time. She had made an angelfood cake with ice cream, and made sure, as a perfect hostess, that I was served first as a special guest. That began my love affair with Elizabeth and Fred Barkley.

Elizabeth had a B. A. in Education and a M. S. in Botany. She taught school in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, and Boston, Massachusetts. The wife of Fred Barkley, a legend in the begonia world, Elizabeth was a loving mother to their four children.

Working quietly and diligently behind the scenes, she was a very caring person who always made time to help others. An example for all of us, Elizabeth gave willingly of her time to church, school, Girl Scouts, and many charities.

Shortly before her death Elizabeth called me to say that my hybrid B. 'Fred Barkley' was in bloom on her front porch. She was excited, and wanted me to come out and photograph it. I sadly regret not getting out to do this, but I'm so glad 'Fred Barkley' bloomed for this special lady. She was the first and only one to see it bloom so far. Didn't I tell you she was special?

Services were held at Tecumseh Presbyterian Church with Rev. Mary Ellen Waychoff, one of her former students, officiating.

Elizabeth, you were much loved by everyone whose life you touched, and will always be remembered in our hearts. - Dorothy Caviness

# Southwest Region Presents Awards at Convention Banquet

SWR Director Tom Keepin presents the Mae Blanton Service Award to a very surprised and very deserving Kelton Parker.

Photo by Bruce C. Boardman



Kelton Parker was the 1994 recipient of the Mae Blanton Service Award, Southwest Region's highest honor. In presenting the award, Director Tom Keepin spoke of Kelton's 12 years of work with the begonias at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, culminating in his being named Curator of Begonias in 1991. Kelton has shared both plants and knowledge generously with SWR and ABS members across the country, made contacts with botanic gardens worldwide, established the Begonia Species Bank and a begonia research library at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, and increased public awareness of the beauty and uniqueness of begonias through displays and programs.

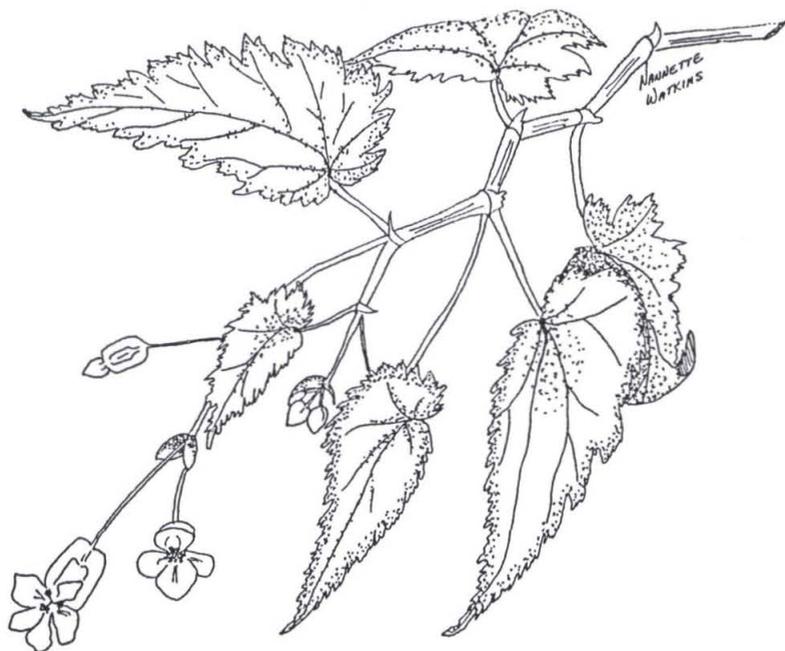
With typical generosity, Kelton thanked the Region and its members for all of their help, and offered "Anything you want, just ask; I'll get it for you."

Also honored were George Fix, who was presented with the Mae Blanton Branch Marguerite Vernon Award for an "unsung hero". The award, presented by branch President Kay Jennings, was etched glass begonia art designed and executed by Kit Jeans Mounger.

Helen Spiers, last year's recipient of the Begonia Ambassador Award given by Houston Astro Branch, created a mystery as she presented this year's award. She described the honoree by items that would be found in her purse - a phone bill with calls to nurseries in California, Connecticut, and Bul Verde, TX; bills from nurseries and garden centers in the Houston area; calendar with talks to garden clubs - about begonias, of course; and so on. Lots of people guessed that it was Virginia Kettler who would be called to the stage - and they were right!

## SPOTLIGHT ON:

### *B. sutherlandii*



Drawing by Nannette Watkins  
Text by Daniel Haseltine

*B. sutherlandii* is a native of Natal, and was discovered by P. C. Sutherland, Surveyor-General of Natal, in 1864. It was found growing in moist, shady places at an altitude of some 3,500 to 5,000 feet, where it blooms from December to January.

*B. sutherlandii* is tuberous, with a tuber whose size depends on the growing area. Stems are long and slender and delicate, and form trailing branches. Pale green leaves are slightly serrated on the edges and tipped with reddish-copper. The leaves appear to have a reddish dot at the apex where leaf and stem are joined. Its flowers are lovely, delicate, and orange.

#### CULTURE

This begonia should be kept out of hot sun and drying winds. In fall it will form small bulbils at the leaf axils; these can be propagated for new plants. *B. sutherlandii* will go dormant, even when grown under lights, and will return to renew its growth for another season.

*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.*

# The Answer

by Jack Street

"Where do I think God is?" the old gardener said.  
He rubbed his chin, raised a hand to his head,  
"Why, every day in my garden I find him with me,  
In all the ongoing beauty of flower and tree,  
Among the birds with their colourful song,  
Like the soft music of a heavenly throng,  
On the dew on rosebuds before the sun is high,  
Among the bulbs bursting forth towards the sky,  
In the cool rain falling to moisten the sod,  
Here is where I find my beloved God."

*Jack Street is a member of the Queensland Begonia Society. His address is 84 Dinwoodie Road, Thornlands, Queensland 4164, Australia.*

A video-tape of the 1994 ABS Convention is being edited and will be available for loan through the ABS Slide Library.

Two booklets given away at the Convention Luncheon and Banquet are now available through the ABS Book Store. "Remembering Fred" is a collection of personal memories of Dr. Fred A. Barkley from articles appearing in the **Begonian**. "A Barkley Retrospective" is a collection of Dr. Barkley's writings from the **Begonian**.

## Cleaning Tip

from the Knickerbocker News:

"A Polident capsule not only cleans dentures. The garden column in the *Times* swears that it can also clean stubborn stains from glass containers. Finally, a solution for the stubborn stains in my glass jars I use for terrariums and propagating stem cuttings."

# Behind the Scenes

*at the show*



Chuck McGough's displays added beauty as well as function  
Photo by Don Miller

The show at our 1994 Convention was noteworthy for quality and quantity of entries - and for the efficiency behind the scenes. Show Director Tom Keepin and Entries/Classification Chair Leora Fuentes made the process look easy - and if you've ever worked a show, you know it isn't!

Lots of hard planning in advance paid off for Chuck McGough and his helpers on the Placement Committee when 440+ plant entries and a large contingent of artistic entries showed up for competition.

Months ahead, Chuck had designed and built sturdy, handsome displays designed to make showing off the perennially difficult artistic and hanging baskets divisions easy. His innovative creations are strong, simple to erect, and quick to disassemble for storage until the next show.

Kudos to Chuck also for the hand-made feather-and-thong decorations that made the show room so attractive.

Meanwhile, Leora had simplified the mounds of paperwork so that entries moved swiftly and smoothly.

Show trophies for "Begonias: OK!" reflected one facet of Oklahoma as visitors came to know it during the convention: its American Indian heritage. Entry cards were decorated with artwork (by Chuck McGough) featuring a feather motif; ribbons cascaded from handmade "Ojos de Diós" ("Eyes of God", designed to bring good luck and ward off evil spirits) and were festooned with feathers; and Division and top award winners received Kachina dolls.



Above, the winner of the Novel-Grown Division, *B. 'Orococo'* climbing a very large piece of old wood (entered by Sweepstakes winners Effie and Howard Clemens), dwarfs a sizable *B. versicolor*, winner of the Contained Atmosphere Division and a coveted Cultural Certificate for grower Richard King. Photo by Eleanor Calkins

# Conservation News

---

## Adopt-A-Species Project      Species Banks

There are approximately 1550 known begonia species, and so far 40 adoptive parents have volunteered to sponsor 57 of them. That means there's still a favorite begonia species for **you** to take under your wing!

Sponsorship means trying to ensure your species' survival by growing the plant, distributing it, setting seed and distributing the seed, taking photos, making and sharing culture notes.

Yes, you may adopt more than one species, and yes, a species may have more than one adoptive parent (that's good news if you're interested in setting seed: there's more variety at your disposal if you can trade pollen instead of "selfing" the same plant).

What does an adoptive begonia parent get out of the adoption? Besides a warm fuzzy feeling of helping a favorite begonia survive in cultivation, you'll get an adoption certificate; hear from other adoptive parents through a quarterly newsletter giving tips on growing species successfully; find out where to locate some of the rarer species; tap into the material in the Research Library. If you're a hybridizer, you'll have access to a wealth of genetic material.

A begonia is out there just waiting for you to adopt it: let us hear from you! Write to:

ABS Conservation Chair  
Bruce C. Boardman  
Box 69  
Bluff Dale TX 76433

Questions? Call (817) 728-3485.

The Species Bank at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden boasts around 400 begonia species, with seed and plants available to share with prospective adoptive parents, ABS members, and branches.

In addition, Curator Kelton Parker has an impressive research library (he's now ABS' Research Librarian, too) that includes original descriptions of begonia species; research material is available to ABS members. If there's a begonia species you'd like to know more about, write Kelton and request copies of his material on that plant (a stamped, self-addressed envelope and help with copying costs would be greatly appreciated, as budgets are tight). Another asset is a slide collection that eventually will include all of the begonias in the collection, species and cultivars. Some species have already been photographed.

Good news is that the Fort Worth Species Bank is no longer the only one. ABS member Dale Sena is in charge of the begonia greenhouse at the University of Southern Florida, and has long been interested in establishing a Species Bank there. In addition to a goodly number of lovely hybrids, Dale now has collected 69 species for a start on the Bank. (Can we clone Dale country-wide?)

# Dead Drunk Slugs

## It's Recipe Time!

From Bob Lindgren in the Westchester Branch newsletter come two organic pest control recipes Bob found in a column by Jerry Baker called "On the Garden Line." Bob finds the mixtures very effective: "The bugs will vomit and die but will always have good breath." (If that recommendation doesn't intrigue you nothing will!)

### **Spring Tonic**

1 cup baby shampoo or liquid soap (not detergent)  
1 cup antiseptic mouth wash  
1 cup chewing tobacco tea (recipe follows)

Put this mixture in a 20 gallon hose-end sprayer and fill to volume with warm water.

### **Chewing Tobacco Tea**

Put half a pack of chewing tobacco into the toe of a nylon stocking. Tie it up and place in 1 gallon of boiling water. Simmer for 10 minutes.

*We hate to recommend enriching the tobacco companies by buying their products. Nonetheless, tobacco is an extremely effective poison. If only they'd market it as such!*

### **Quote:**

"The one thing worse than a quitter is one who is afraid to begin."  
Westchester Branch newsletter

*In May, 1970 the **Begonian** printed the following short article reprinted from the February 1970 issue of the "Shady News" as quoted by Time magazine in their February 9, 1970 issue:*

FLASH: The Department of Agriculture has just discovered how to banish pests without lethal insecticides like DDT. "Beer, either fresh or stale," reports the department's recent newsletter, "is substantially superior to other bait compounds used to control slugs, one of the most troublesome pests infesting farms, gardens and greenhouses."

Entomologist Floyd F. Smith made the discovery after experiments with various slug killers. In a four-day test, he found that the standard bait, metaldehyde (which must be mixed with arsenic) attracted and killed only 28 slugs. Even then, the chemical caused the slugs to slug back: reacting to the poison, they exuded "copious quantities of slime" that Smith describes as "revolting to householders." By contrast, a shallow pan of beer lured 300 slugs: they sipped, then slipped, and happily drowned in the brew without a fight.

## But: which brand of beer?

Couldn't resist passing on this bit of information. It seems that researchers at Colorado State University did some field trials with different brands of beer, and found that the slugs preference is for Kingsbury Malt (non-alcoholic). Michelob and Budweiser were next in appealing to slug palates. Least favored was Pabst.

And you probably thought slugs had no taste. As humorist Dave Barry would say, "I am not making this up."

Beer also works for snails and pillbugs. There's no information yet from Colorado State on which brew these pests prefer.

# ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Virginia Hamann, Round Robin Director

---

As usual Robin members are planning what to add to their collections of begonias. There are discussions on how to get cuttings to start without leaf drop or rotting of rhizomes.

New ABS members are welcome to join the Round Robins - you do not have to be an expert grower to take part. Tell me what your interests are, and I will find a Robin for you.

Virginia Hamann  
RR1 Box 10  
Chester, IA 52134

## #32, Kusler and Other Canes:

This was the first Robin to land in 1994. Gregory Sytch (FL) was welcomed as a new member. He has perfect growing conditions for a 6 foot specimen of *B. 'Lucerna'*: if he wants to grow a cane he just sticks it in the ground and it grows.

## #12, Begonias & Companion Plants:

Carolyn Collman (CA) says her ferns, nematanthus, and hoyas have enjoyed cooler days and good humidity. Her plants have been in bloom all summer.

## #31, Southwest Growers:

Glennis Crouch (TX) was delighted with the success of the Christmas Gala, and the Begonia Booth that she helped attend. A tray of unsold small begonias was adopted by Glennis; they will be grown on and offered for sale at her next branch meeting.

Mae Blanton (TX) says "these begonias never cease to amaze me!" Since the Texas weather was dry she watered twice a week; still she had blooms and better growth than during moderate temperatures and moisture. Mae offers this advice on *B. bogneri*: it has a rest period where it will lose all its leaves.

## #43, Terrariums:

Mae Blanton (TX) tells Eleanor Calkins (CA) that *B. versicoloris* is easy to grow. Mae has grown it for 23 years. Her secret is to keep cuttings for insurance.

Ruby Tetrault (IL) finds a fungus that looks like tapioca and asks what it is and how to control it. Her rhizomatous begonias seem to dry up at the soil level.

Mary McClelland (NE) covers the vent holes in fruit ripening bowls to keep the soil from drying out. *Begonias acaulis*, *triflora*, and *prismatocarpa* are doing well in terrariums.

## #9, Growing under Lights

Rhodora Buss (IA) keeps a notebook for hints and begonia growing information from the Robins. She has done this since 1979. To control mildew in her growing area she sprays with Lysol. Lysol cleaning products are also used to clean trays and pots.

Mae Blanton (TX) has terrarium cases for a light set-up. They are wooden frames enclosed in glass on all sides: the front glass drops down for easy maintenance. Cafeteria trays covered with hardware cloth are set on the bottom of these cases, filled with water, and plants set on top. All look very happy and healthy in pictures enclosed.

Removing old leaves from rhizomatous begonias will stimulate new growth.

Richard King (TX) has constructed his own lighted plant stand using wide spectrum Sylvania bulbs. The lights on top shelf are 17" above the shelf and the lights on the bottom shelf are 15" above the shelf. The plants closest to the lights are 5" away.

#### #14, Semperflorens:

Richard King (TX) made a planter out of a piece of limestone rock. He drilled a hole big enough to hold a 2" pot. The rock was smoothed so it would sit straight, and placed under lights in a pan holding 1/2" of water. Plants are watered through capillary action. Lichens and mosses are also growing on the rock to give a natural look.

#### #33, Hybridizing:

Bill Voss (VA) is waiting for seed pods to dry on a cross of 'Indian Maid' x *alice-clarkiae*. B. 'Indian Maid' is from a cross of *taiwaniana* x *rex*, and is a *rex* that looks like *taiwaniana*. He is hoping for more green coloring (from *B. alice-clarkiae*) in the seedlings.

If the male flower she wants to use doesn't release pollen right away, Elaine Ayers (OH) picks off the male blooms and lets them dry for a few days. Charles McGough (TX) crossed B. 'Vodka', a semperflorens, with cane-like *leathermaniae*; now the cross is in its second year of growth and has begun to send up shoots at its base like B. 'Vodka', only with canes, like *leathermaniae*.

#### #16, Eastern General:

All members are trying to survive the cold weather. Mike Gratton (VA) is enjoying a sunroom and solarium he built onto his new home making use of an existing concrete deck. The sunroom has lighted plant stands for added light.

#### #1, General Culture:

Mabel Corwin (CA) has named 8 new varieties of *rex* seedlings, which were released to Kartuz Greenhouses. These are hardy *rexes* that will be easy to grow.

Greg Sytch (FL) grows his canes in the ground. He uses a basic 13-13-13 fertilizer with micro-nutrients and foliar feeds. Potted begonias receive a timed-release fertilizer. Because timed-release fertilizers break down in heat and during heavy rains, Greg incorporates them into the soil instead of using them as top dressing.

#### #11, Canes:

Eleanor Calkins (CA) asks the Midwest members if they prune canes in fall or spring. She waits until fall to prune and move plants into an unheated plant house for protection against light frosts.

#### #20, Photography:

Photos taken by members are sent in each flight. Mary Bucholtz (FL) had texture in the leaf of *Symbegonia sanguinea*, and an "Iron Cross" mutation with a variegated *masoniana*. Mildred Swyka (DE) showed leaf size and texture of B. 'Elda', and pink flowers against the foliage of B. 'Silvermist'. Not only begonias are photographed. Daniel Haseltine (IL) included one of a brilliant yellow *Zygocactus*.

#### #8, Tuberosus:

Howard Siebold (WA) has advice on starting tubers in spring. Check for sprouts. To slow sprouting, place tubers in cooler space; to encourage growth, place in warmer space. Place tubers in a starting mix low in fertilizer; this will encourage roots to stretch out looking for food. They can be placed under lights until ready for going outdoors. When plants are put outdoors, remove flower buds until the stem is about 1" in diameter. Large flowers are produced on large stems. Ken Mackey (NZ) is enjoying summer growing. He is using water-absorbing crystals to help keep plants moist. Crystals the size of rice absorb to 400 times their size when water soaked, then release water as the soil needs it. The crystals last about two years before breaking down.

#### #22/51 Propagation & Growing from Seed:

Mary Simon (OH) loves it when her plants "teach" her. After its first bloom cycle *B. lyman-smithii* lost leaves and began a decline; Mary moved it from a warm area to a cold utility room with limited light; the plant leafed out and is now a lovely plant once more. Mary is thrilled with the new hybrids produced by her "pollen festival" (see the March-April issue, page 49). She raised a good cultivar from B. 'Ionic'; when the new cultivar produced seeds they were planted,

and the new plants are beautifully spotted with smaller leaves, perhaps good basket plants.

Brad Thompson (CA) is so busy with plant sales, shows, and lectures over the next few months he may have to go to the Convention to rest! His rhizomatous crosses are in 4" pots with many awesome patterns and swirls. With many more crosses made and seeds to plant, what will Brad's newest crosses be like?

**NOTE:**

"How-to" instructions for making the begonia cases Mae Blanton uses can be found in the **Begonian**, September-October 1988, page 162.

Back Issues can be ordered from Back Issues Chair Ann Salisbury, P. O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653 for postage and 50 cents per issue, or \$2.50 per year (6 issues). Older issues are \$5 per year (12 issues).

Richard King's light stands will be featured in our next issue.

---

## AROUND ABS

### Notes from our Newsletters

---

Happy Birthday to Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, 58 years old in May, and to its younger sister, Santa Barbara Branch, 54 year old in May.

Trailing-scandent begonias were spotlighted in the April issue of The Shadehouse, newsletter of the Pinellas County Branch. Editor Greg Sytch pointed out that - at least in Florida - they are not just for baskets. He uses Begonias 'Orococo', 'Sean Yorke', 'Marjorie Daw', 'Bob-o-link' and *convolvulacea* as ground covers.

Greg plants his trailing/scandent begonias in the shelter of a larger plant to provide the partial shade they require; he finds that B. 'Bob-o-link' will tolerate a bit more sun than the rest. "They create a great effect with minimal care. They are fertilized when the rest of the plants are, watered then, too. My only problem seems to be slugs during very wet periods, and the damage is minimal..."

And for those of us with limited space, Greg points out that growing begonias beneath other plants is a good way to use generally unused space.

Yum! South Bay Branch is adding a bake sale to their annual show/sale this year.

Lucky the branch that has an artist as a member. Last year Dallas Area Branch was treated to Chuck McGough demonstrating capturing begonias in watercolor, and in April Thelma Dodd did a program for Barkley Branch members on how to draw begonias.

Do you root begonia cuttings in water? Ramona Parker of Westchester Branch suggests putting a little charcoal in the rooting jar to keep the water sweet. Don't use the charcoal briquets used for cooking

- recommended are the kind of charcoal bits used in fish tanks; try pet shops for these.

Southern California has record-breaking heat in March - the San Miguel Beacon reported a high of 95 degrees, and President Thelma O'Reilly wondered if spring would be just a short-time visitor this year. Heat notwithstanding the branch seed project was going great guns.

Heat is always a problem for ABS members in southern Florida, making some types of begonias hard to grow. That's why editor Janice Koza of the Fort Lauderdale newsletter is delighted: "I have also decided to give rhizomatous begonias another try. I chose a plant of 'Paulo' from the raffle table last month and I am happy to report that it is still alive and actually growing some new leaves!"

Knickerbocker Branch is holding their 1st annual Spring Cleaning and Swap Meet:

"Got a gangly teen-age begonia giving you trouble? Do you have a begonia that looks as if it's stayed too long at the fair? Perhaps you've grown tired of repotting it, or are simply tired of it? (We can get bored looking at the same begonias year in and year out.) ...Bring a begonia to the swap table and try another variety you may have had your eye on but didn't have the courage to try. Bring us your tired, less than successful, perhaps overgrown kiddie and refresh your spirit with another one. Remember, one wo(man)'s eyesore is another's trophy..."

From Down Under comes a note that the New South Wales Begonia Society celebrated their 8th birthday on June 15. Starting with 20 members, they now have 107: congratulations!

Here's a bit of begonia trivia from their interesting newsletter:

"Did you know that the largest flower picture ever created was the begonia carpet laid in the main square of Ghent, Bel-

gium, in 1973? Nearly two million blooms were used to produce the multi-coloured, ornate carpet, which covered more than 1 1/2 acres."

Those Australian begonia lovers just keep coming up with wonderful, "why-didn't-we-think-of-that???" ideas. The Queensland Begonia Society newsletter reported the winners of their 1994 show in an article entitled "Everybody Loves a Winner." The winning plant in each division was named, and - here comes the bright idea - the plant was described; the growing area was described; the mix used, the watering, and fertilizing program were described. Other notes of interest were added. Here, for example, was the listing for the winner of the Rhizomatous Species Division:

1st: Dorothy Miller, *B. carrieae*

Description: Mexico, 1976. Heavy stems and large roughly textured dull green leaves with a network of veins, on thick bristly stems, white flowers from late winter to early spring.

Where Grown: Toowoomba, under solid roof.

Mix: Open mix

Watering: Water into pot, not on foliage - 2 to 3 times a week. When others need watering, all plants are watered.

Fertilizing: Cow manure, Osmocote 4-6 month.

John Harders started this plant off for Dorothy from a wedge at Nambour about 12 months ago.

*B. carrieae* - not known for ease in growing - was not Dorothy Miller's only winner. Incidentally, the Miller garden is scheduled for tour during the 1995 Association of Australian Begonia Societies Convention in mid-April.

---

## 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 July 15**

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

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

### **RARE DISTINCTIVE BEGONIAS.**

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

### **BEGONIAS, 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.

**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.

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

**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.

**WANNA LIVE ON BEGONIA STREET?**

Here in Salem, Oregon we have a Begonia Street. AND I have a home for sale on that street (I'm a realtor with Real Estate 100 as well as a begonia enthusiast). What a wonderful place to retire! It is a 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 4760 sq. ft. gorgeous home on a 110 x 110 lot. Lots of room to grow begonias. It also has a spectacular view of the snow-capped Cascade Mountains and the city lights. Wallace W. Wagner, (503) 393-8227.

**GROW GREAT FERNS**

**JOIN LAIFS**

Annual membership \$20  
LAIFS Journal with Fern Lessons  
Spore Store, Books, Educational Programs

**Los Angeles Int'l Fern Society**

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

*Pacific Horticulture*

**The color illustrated quarterly  
for keen gardeners**

\$12 a year  
(\$14 Canada & Mexico,  
\$16 elsewhere)

P.O. Box 485, Berkeley, CA 94701

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

944 S. Munroe Rd., Tallmadge OH 44278  
Dues \$15 a year. **INDOOR GARDEN** issued  
6 times yearly. Seed exchange, round  
robins, cultural guides, slide library.

*Join the NATIONAL*

**FUCHSIA SOCIETY**

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

**Quote:**

"People who light up your life usually know  
where the switch is...Light up a life with a  
begonia."

Satellite Shuttle

**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

Awards.....Thelma O'Reilly  
10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa CA 91941  
Ballot Counting.....Shelley Andros  
740 Lamat Rd., La Habra 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  
Entries/Classification.....Leora Fuentes  
13747 Wilderness Point, San Antonio TX 78231

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**  
**Audit Chair**  
**Begonian Editor**  
**Horticultural Correspondent**

---

## 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*

---

---

## ***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.

---

## ***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

