The background of the cover is a close-up photograph of several roses. In the foreground, a large, vibrant red rose is the central focus, with its petals tightly curled. Behind it and to the left, there are several bright yellow roses, some in full bloom and others as buds. The green leaves of the roses are visible, adding depth to the floral arrangement. The overall lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the petals.

*The* BEGONIAN 

January/February 1995

# The BEGONIAN

ISSN 0096-8684

*Publication of the American Begonia Society*

## American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

### Aims and Purposes

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

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

*To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.*

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

*To issue a bulletin 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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## COVERS:

**Front** - In case your winter sky is gray, Leo Neuman of Illinois sends a beautiful reminder of summer bloom. The red flower in the foreground is of *B. 'Goliath'*.

**Back** - Three from Walter Dworkin of New York: Begonias '*Matchmaker*' (left), '*Angel Baby*' (center), and '*Angel Eyes*' (right) are sister seedlings. See article, p. 11.



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Tuberhybrida, fimbriata type  
seed available through the Seed Fund  
Drawing by Nannette Watkins

### **Quick!**

**Check your mailing label: if it says 1/95 or 2/95 your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you!**



## "The Red-Haired Beast"

Photos & Text by Jan Goodwin

Red hairs cover all parts of this unidentified begonia, including the flowers (on the reverse of the petals).

The "Beast" was field collected by Bob Cherry in North Vietnam at 2,000 metres, growing in shade. Its height was 20".

Bob grew the specimen in the photographs in his garden in New South Wales, Australia, with overhead shade.

Until it is identified, we call it the "Red-Haired Beast."

---

Jan Goodwin will be speaking on the "Red-Haired Beast" and other recent China & Vietnam begonia discoveries at the upcoming Australian Convention. Her address is P.O. Box 1026, Blackwood, South Australia 5051, Australia.

---



*Is the "Red-Haired Beast" the tasty treat Brad read about?*

## *Yummy! Begonia!*

by Brad Thompson

I was reading an article in the New York Times Magazine about an expedition into the jungles of Vietnam to search for a previously unseen variety of deer or antelope.

Expedition members talked about the rough conditions and the fact that they had so little funding that they ate mainly rice and sometimes strips of pork. But they said that one day they had a rare treat that they found along a river bank.

It was a begonia with fuzzy red stems, which, when peeled, tasted like rhubarb. They said the sour taste was a welcome change, and they relished it as though it were candy. They also said the leaves made a nice soup.

I wish they had had a picture. Maybe that particular begonia isn't in cultivation yet, and we'll need it for our begonia jams and preserves.

---

*Brad Thompson is newsletter editor for Orange County, and this short article appeared in their newsletter, "Begonias, Begorra" in July.*

---

Editor's Note: Yes, begonias are edible, and serve as food in some countries; several have been found to have medicinal value. However, there are some cautions: before munching on your begonia babies read "Begonia Edibility" by Dr. Joseph E. Laferrière, **Begonian**, Sept./Oct. 1990, p. 175.

# Coming Events

**February 2-5: Palm Beaches Branch** participates in the Palm Beaches Tropical Flower Show, along the waterfront on Flagler Dr., West Balm Beach, FL.

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

**February 25-26: Queensland Begonia Society Show & Sale**, 10 am-4 pm, Mt. Coot-Tha Botanic Gardens (Auditorium), Brisbane.

**March 2-5: Knickerbocker Branch** participates in the New York Horticultural Society Show..

**March 11-12: Fort Lauderdale Branch Show & Sale** at Flamingo Gardens, 3750 Flamingo Rd (between Griffin Rd. & State Rd. 84/I-595) Davie/Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

**April 14-17: "Begonias: Beautiful One Day, Perfect the Next" 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 Averil Thompson, 18 Kelly Rd., Virginia, Queensland 4014, Australia.

**April 29-30: Barkley Branch Show & Sale**, Will Rogers Garden Center, Oklahoma City.

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**May 6-7: Miami Branch Show & Sale** at Fairchild Tropical Gardens.

**May 11-14: 1995 Southwest Region Get-Together**, at Seven Oaks Inn, 1400 Austin Highway, San Antonio, TX. Rooms: \$65 (1-4 people), suites \$125. Hosted by **Alamo Branch**. *Y'all come!*

**August 31-Sept. 2:**

## "Begonia Super Stars" 1995 ABS Convention

Hosted by Doug Frost Memorial Branch and featuring the Begonia Walk of Fame. At the Radisson Plaza Hotel, directly across from Orange County (CA) Airport. Rooms \$65 1 to 4 persons (\$75 single or double including breakfast, \$85 3-4 persons including breakfast). Sale & show plants enter Wed. Aug. 30.

*Deadline for next issue is January 15.*

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# Begonias as a Natural Source of Food Coloring

Exploiting highly-pigmented *Begonia* genotypes as an *in vitro* resource for natural food colorants (anthocyanins)

by M. A. L. Smith, PhD.

Color plays a major role in food quality perception and preference, and has a recognized psychological effect on perception of flavor or aroma. We use all of our senses to appreciate food (visual, olfactory, auditory, tactile, and gustatory) - but the visual pathway is the sensory system relied on primarily to make decisions on what we eat.

Pigment also helps protect flavor and light-sensitive vitamins during the shelf life of a colored food product. Color tends to be changed or lost in storage and processing, but our senses are trained to expect foods of certain colors and reject any deviations. Aesthetically pleasing colored foods are purchased and consumed. This mandates the routine additions of additives to replace colors destroyed during food processing, and to ensure product uniformity.

Anthocyanins are the pigments that provide many of the brilliant red, violet, scarlet, mauve, and blue colors found in nature. Anthocyanin-producing plants are a source of natural food additives that are not only innocuous, but have health-promoting properties unrelated to nutritive value. As today's consumers have become more aware of (and resistant to) artificial food additives and synthetic chemicals with known links to adverse health effects, research has shifted to explore safe, practical alternative natural pigments derived directly from plants. An-

thocyanins are an excellent candidate to serve as the natural pigment for reds and related color additives. They are edible - they've been consumed by man and animals for generations without adverse health effects - they are brilliant, and they are water soluble (can incorporate into aqueous food systems).

Production and extraction of the anthocyanins *in vitro* (in cell culture) is a scheme that promises more controlled, defined, cost-effective production. Cells and tissues can be cultured under controlled conditions to synthesize the pigment rapidly in a simpler, more cost-effective procedure than possible with extraction from the field.

In this project, several highly pigmented genotypes from *Begonia* were adapted to microculture (shoot culture), and examined for their potential to produce natural pigments in undifferentiated cell colonies. Plant segments from *Begonia* 'Richmondensis' and *Begonia* *sempiflorens* 'Vodka' (Cocktail Mix series) were surface disinfected and introduced into *in vitro* culture. Plantlets were readily formed from leaf segments, and uniform, microcultured plants were stably maintained *in vitro* for use as donor material.

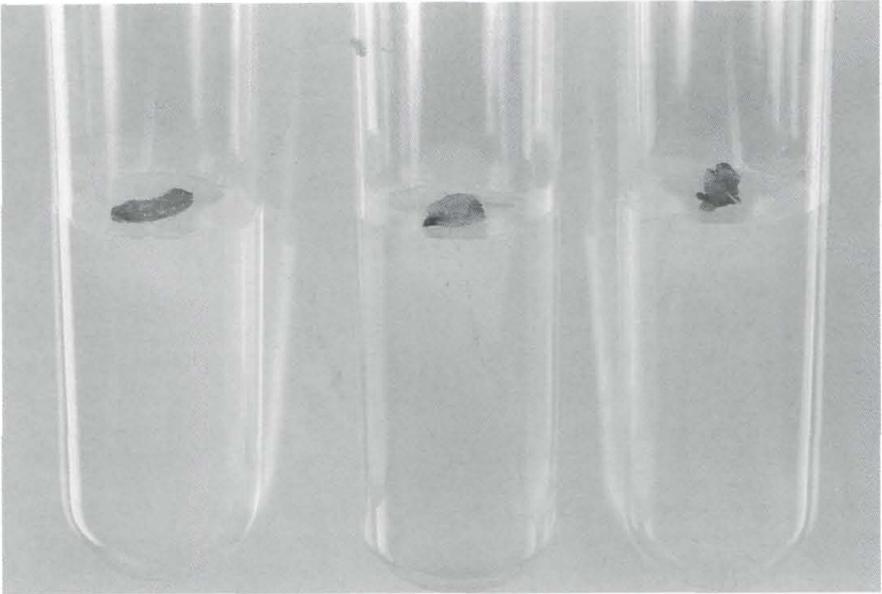
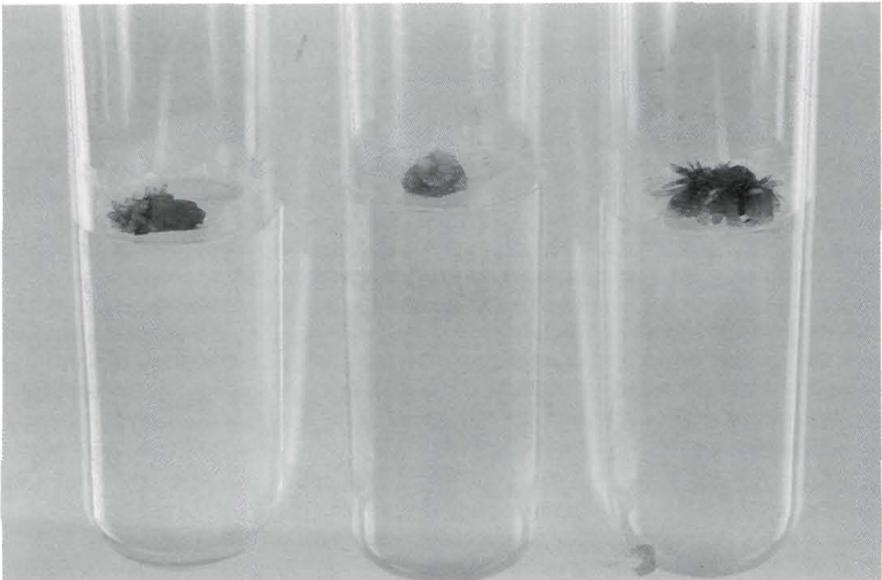


Fig. 1

Explants from the microcultures, including leaf, petiole, and stem segments, were each tested to generate callus cultures (undifferentiated, proliferating, rapidly growing cells) (Fig. 1).

Callus proliferation from *Begonia* proved to be exceedingly difficult to maintain, because the genus has a strong tendency to revert to organogenesis *in vitro* (form spontaneous roots and shoots). Figure 2 shows spontaneous root and prolific root hair formation on callus colonies from *B. "Richmondensis"*.

Fig. 2



Organogenesis is not desirable in callus cultures, as it reduces callus division and prevents production of a rapidly growing, friable callus that can later be induced to promote pigment.

We consulted with researchers in Norway who had previous experience with the genus *in vitro*; they encountered the same dilemma. After preliminary tests, a factorial was set up to determine the effects of growth regulators, presence of iron, and micronutrients to sustain callus growth without root formation (Table 1).

Table 1. Effects of medium formulation (presence or absence of iron and other micronutrients) and growth regulators on pigmentation and stable callus production in *Begonia*. Treatments that eliminated all micronutrients from the culture medium including iron, and incorporated low amounts of TDZ (a cytokin) achieved successful callus proliferation and pigment expression.

Modifications of Gamborg's medium	Growth regulators	Results
Regular medium	1. NAA (13 $\mu$ M)+ 2,4-D (0.45 $\mu$ M)	Differentiation
	2. <u>NAA(13<math>\mu</math>M)+ TDZ(0.045<math>\mu</math>M)</u>	<u>Differentiation + some callus</u>
	3. NAA (13 $\mu$ M)	Differentiation
Without iron	1. NAA (13 $\mu$ M)+ 2,4-D (0.45 $\mu$ M)	No differentiation + No callus
	2. <u>NAA (13<math>\mu</math>M)+ TDZ (0.045<math>\mu</math>M)</u>	<u>Colorless callus</u>
	3. 2,4-D (13 $\mu$ M)	No differentiation+ No callus
Without micronutrients	1. NAA (13 $\mu$ M)+ 2,4-D (0.45 $\mu$ M)	No differentiation+ No callus
	2. <u>NAA (13<math>\mu</math>M)+ TDZ (0.045<math>\mu</math>M)</u>	<u>Pigmented callus</u>
	3. 2,4D (13 $\mu$ M)	No differentiation+ No callus

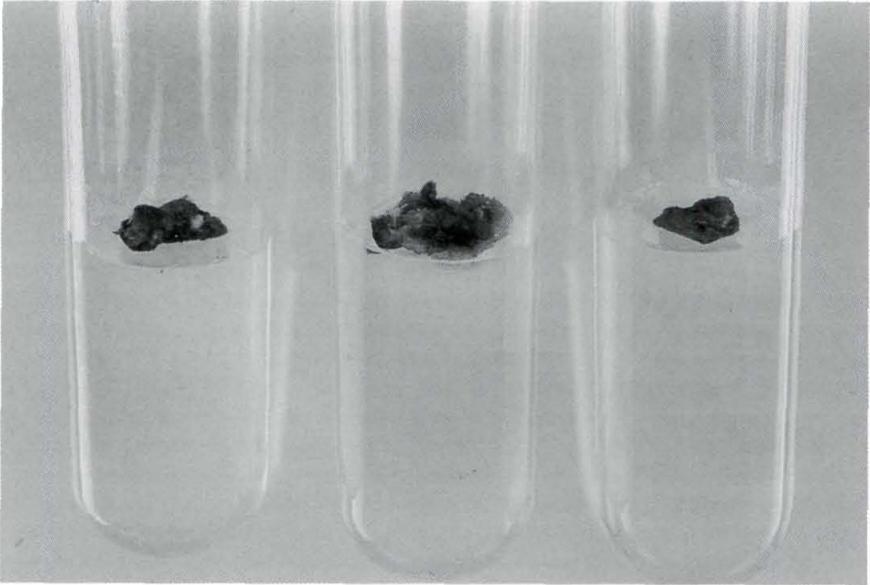


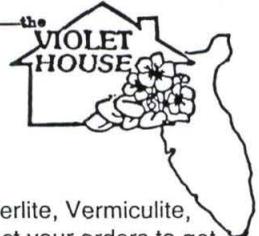
Fig. 3

Introduction of TDZ, a strong cytokinin (a class of hormones important in many growth responses of plants) at low concentrations, and elimination of the micro-nutrients including iron from the medium, resulted in consistent formation of callus from all explant sources. Once rapidly growing callus cultures were achieved, these cultures were subjected to treatments to induce pigment formation in the rapidly growing tissues. Figure 3 illustrates pigmentation in callus cultures with minimal organogenesis.

Current experiments are aimed at increasing the rate of callus division, to intensify pigment productivity. Callus cultures will next be extracted to determine the species and composition of anthocyanin pigments, and the identity of other key phytochemicals present in the tissue cultures.

*Dr. M. A. L. Smith of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign received Southwest Region's Dr. Fred A. Barkley Research Grant in 1992 and 1994. Her article was written for the Southwest Region Begonia Leaflet, July/August 1994 issue.*

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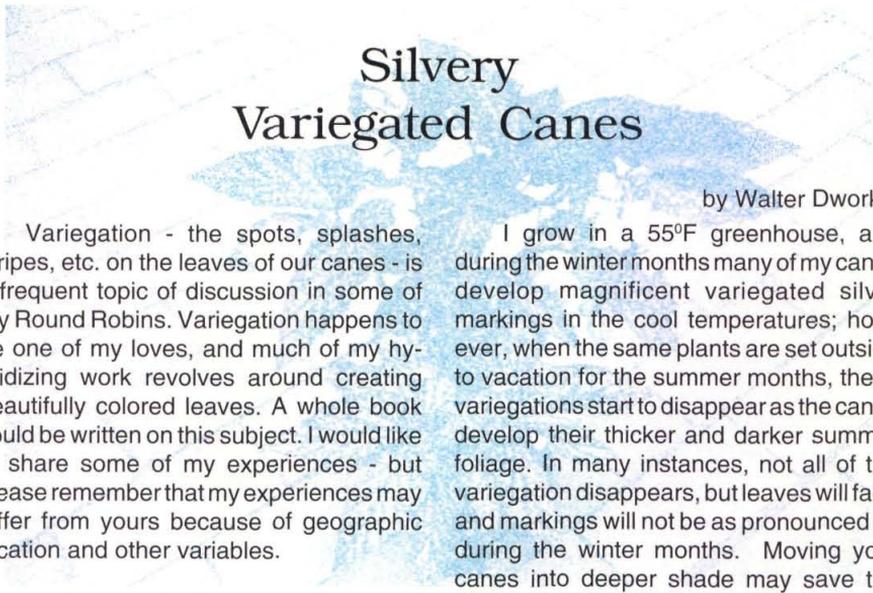


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# Silvery Variegated Canes

by Walter Dworkin

Variegation - the spots, splashes, stripes, etc. on the leaves of our canes - is a frequent topic of discussion in some of my Round Robins. Variegation happens to be one of my loves, and much of my hybridizing work revolves around creating beautifully colored leaves. A whole book could be written on this subject. I would like to share some of my experiences - but please remember that my experiences may differ from yours because of geographic location and other variables.

To begin with, there are all types of variegation, both stable and unstable. Thousands of seedlings are born every year with beautiful silver markings - most of which will disappear as the seedlings mature. Once I had a seedling I was very excited about: its leaves were pure silver, even after a year of growth. I took this silver beauty to a branch meeting, and everyone went crazy over it. The members urged me to name it, but I replied that I wouldn't name it until its color proved stable....and with that "the angel passed and said amen": at the end of 15 months, my beautiful silver leaves turned solid green! Needless to say, I had never expected *all* of the silver to vanish, and was very shocked. The possibility of such a drastic change at maturity is one reason why a hybridizer should never release a plant until it is mature enough and has been tested in different parts of the country.

Maturity is not the only factor in the disappearance of leaf markings. Heat and intense outdoor light/sun will affect the chlorophyll (green cells within a leaf and produce more green cells, which will overtake the variegation.

I grow in a 55°F greenhouse, and during the winter months many of my canes develop magnificent variegated silver markings in the cool temperatures; however, when the same plants are set outside to vacation for the summer months, these variegations start to disappear as the canes develop their thicker and darker summer foliage. In many instances, not all of the variegation disappears, but leaves will fade and markings will not be as pronounced as during the winter months. Moving your canes into deeper shade may save the silver markings at the expense of flower production.

I also grow some of my canes under fluorescent lights in my basement. In a controlled environment of 78-80°F and twelve hours of light daily, my canes exhibit beautiful rich colors and markings. One reason for this is that, although light is intense, it is cool light and not hot sunlight. Some canes are breathtaking while they develop under artificial lights, but placed outside in the greenhouse or outdoors, they take on a very different coloration. The true test of a plant's personality and strength is to examine how it performs in nature (a natural environment). A hybridizer cannot grow a plant only under lights and state that it is different and beautiful - because this same plant may be a real prima donna and fall right on its face when confronted with survival in a greenhouse or outdoors!

Another factor in the loss of variegation is feeding. High nitrogen fertilizers (30-10-10, for example) should always be avoided on silver-marked canes, because nitrogen produces lots of chlorophyll cells, which will not only push out your variega-



B. 'Dede Dinah' (mother plant & cuttings)

tion but also inhibit flower production. I try to use fertilizers that are well-balanced (such as 15-15-15) or high in phosphorus (such as 10-15-10), and will only resort to fertilizer with a high nitrogen analysis if a cane doesn't seem to grow well.

A very rich dark potting soil may also contain high levels of nitrogen, and not be suitable for variegated canes; that's one reason why so many growers use artificial potting mixes.

At the ABS Convention in Anaheim in 1993 Irene Nuss taught us that most canes will also start to lose their upper leaf variegation when they are ready to bloom. I have found this to be absolute fact. Many cane growers also become confused when they see new basal or side shoots that are marked with silver, despite the solid green leaf of the parent plant. Most of the time this is quite normal, as the new growth temporarily reverts back to its infantile stages; however, as it matures, it will take on all the green characteristics of the mother plant. On a rare occasion in nature, a plant may

develop a completely different off-shoot of the parent plant, which may remain stable and produce a new plant referred to as a sport.

---

*This article is an adaptation of one of Walter Dworkin's Round Robin letters. See the **Begonian**, May-June 1993, p. 77 for an article on his hybridizing techniques. Walter Dworkin lives at 8 Rugby Rd., Westbury, NY 11590.*

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# BEGONIAN INDEX 1994

## 1994 TOPICS AT A GLANCE

**Jan.-Feb.:** Dorothy Caviness Hybrids; B. U168; Begonia Exhibit; *B. carrieae*; B. 'Dancin' Fred'

**March-April:** Convention '94; Tuberous culture; Hybridizing Fun; Begonia Collectibles; Dr. DeWilde; Begonia Talk; *B. incarnata*; Fort Worth Botanic Garden; B. 'Looking Glass'

**May-June:** Convention '94; "Jackpot" Seeds; U#s 218-228; B. 'Aruba'; Using Organics; Insect Remedies; Compost; *B. masoniana*; *B. versicolor*; Pinellas County Branch Wins

**July-Aug.:** Convention 1994: Awards, Show Results, Banquet, Thanks, Behind the Scenes; SWR Awards; Soil Toxicity; *B. sutherlandii*

**Sept.-Oct.:** Convention 1994: More Thanks, Traveling Begonia; Shrubs; Rexes to the Rescue; M. L. McIntyre Trust; Australian Convention; Growing Under Lights

**Nov.-Dec.:** B. 'Flamingo Queen'; *B. chlorosticta*; China Discoveries; Building a Light Shelf; *Symbegonia fulvo-villosa?*; *B. subscutata*

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# BULLETIN BOARD

## ABS News

### Officers Installed

President Gene Salisbury, 1st Vice-President Mary Bucholtz (in absentia), 2nd Vice-President Bruce C. Boardman, 3rd Vice-President Michael Kartuz, Secretary Arlene Ingles (in absentia) and Treasurer Carol Notaras were installed by Parliamentarian Margaret Lee at a banquet held October 1, 1994 at the Seapoint Hotel in San Diego California. Twenty-five members and three guests were present for the Annual Membership Meeting.

### Amendments

At the Board meeting on September 30, 1994, the Board approved several amendments to the ABS Constitution & By-Laws. A copy of the proposed changes appears on page 24. The membership must approve any and all changes to be made. This is your one chance to influence the future of ABS. Please read them carefully and send in your ballot.

### Directory Update

**Garden Grove Branch** members voted to honor the late Doug Frost by re-naming their branch the **Doug Frost Memorial Branch**.

New President of **Miami Branch** is **Bob Cochran**, 951 SW 99th Ave., Pembroke Pines, FL 33025.

**Sylvia Ben** is new President of **Fort Lauderdale Branch**. Her address is 2808 N. 45th Ave., Hollywood FL 11937.

### Appointments

#### Awards Chair:

**Mary Sakamoto**

6347 E. Sycamore Glen Dr.  
Orange, CA 92669

#### Awards Committee:

**Irene Nuss**

**Don Miller**

#### Audit Chair:

**Paul Tsamtsis**

1630 F St.  
Sacramento, CA 95814

#### Audit Committee:

**Adena & Bob Kalal**

#### Research Director:

**Kelton Parker**

3220 Botanic Garden Dr.  
Fort Worth, TX 76107

The Board thanks retiring Award Chair **Thelma O'Reilly** and retiring Research Director **Houston Knight** for their dedication and service.

**Herb Wilkerson** will be serving as 1995 Convention Chair pending formal approval at the next Board meeting in January. Herb's address is 16281 Mercier Lane, Huntington Beach CA 92647.

### IMPORTANT!

The Directory of Affiliated Societies will appear in the next issue. If your group has elected a new slate of officers, please notify the Secretary, Arlene Ingles, 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617 so your listing will be current. Thank you!

The following changes to the American Begonia Society Constitution and By-Laws were voted upon at the Board of Directors meeting on Friday, September 30, 1994.

CONSTITUTION OF THE  
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 4 - (last 12 words)  
....approval of two-thirds of the *elected* Board present at a regular meeting. (excise 'elected')

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

**Section 2 - When, due to circumstances, a show will be held at a period of time prior to the Annual Meeting\*, such a meeting shall be deemed a "Conference" in which the general membership may voice a non-binding opinion that the Board of Directors may, or may not, act upon at the next meeting of the Board.**

**Section 3 - The Annual Meeting shall be designated as a "Convention" and the elected officers for the upcoming year will be installed.** (add all in bold)

\*Note: 'Annual Meeting' is the term used here for the annual business meeting, which must be held within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year (July 31); by this definition, the Annual Meeting must be held in August or September

ARTICLE VIII - FUNDS

**Section 2 - Any expenditure in excess of an amount set by the Board of Directors will not be authorized prior to the next meeting of said Board.** (add all in bold to the current Section 2 as a second sentence)

BY-LAWS OF THE  
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

ARTICLE I - DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 3 - The Second and Third Vice Presidents shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the President *and shall in sequence fill the office of President or First Vice President as required.* (excise all in italics)

Section 4 - ..., **with a copy to the President. When attendance at any Board of Directors meeting is not possible, a report should be made, in writing, to the President and Secretary prior to said meeting.** (add all in bold after "...at the Annual Meeting" deleting: ".")

ARTICLE II - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Section 5 - Copies of the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Begonia Society shall be supplied to each elected and/or appointed member.** (add all in bold as new section)

ARTICLE III - APPOINTED OFFICERS

Section 2 - ....from the Recording Secretary **and supplied to each appointed officer.** (add all in bold to current section)

ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES

Section 5 - The Standing Committees shall be Finance, Audit, Convention **or Conference** and Show...(etc.) (add bold)

Section 6 -c- The Branch or Group hosting the Annual Show and Convention **or Conference** shall appoint its own Chairman...(etc.) (add bold)

ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS

Section 1 - ....for each elective office. **No member should be considered as a nominee for President unless he/she has been President of a**

**Branch or Region or has been an active member of the Board of Directors.** (add all in bold)

ARTICLE VIII - QUORUM

Section 1 - **The Members present**, including the President ... (etc) (change current wording to those in bold)

Section 2 - **Ten** members of the Board of Directors, ... (etc) (change current wording to those in bold)

ARTICLE IX - BRANCH SOCIETIES

Section 2 - ...of the American Begonia Society. **All Branch Officers - elected or appointed - must maintain membership in the American Begonia Society.** (add all bold at end of existing section)

**Section 6 - Any Branch that knowingly disregards any of the above sections of this Article will risk the recall of their Charter.** (add new section in bold)

ARTICLE X - EXPENSES AND COMPENSATION

**Section 2 - No unbudgeted expenditures of funds in excess of an amount set by the Board of Directors shall be made without prior approval of said Board.** (add new section in bold)

ARTICLE XIII - ANNUAL SHOW AND CONVENTION/CONFERENCE STANDARDS AND CONDITIONS

**Section 1 - See ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS - Sections 2 and 3 of the CONSTITUTION of the American Begonia Society.**

**Section 2 - The annual Convention/Conference and Show** may be held anywhere in the United States when approved by the Board of Directors.

**Section 3 - The Board of Directors shall require compliance with the Standards set down in the GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL CON-**

**VENTIONS/CONFERENCES AND ANNUAL SHOWS.**

**Section 4 -**Transportation will be paid for the President or First Vice President. (delete *and the Banquet Program Speaker.*)

**Section 5 -**All funds remaining after all expenses have been paid will be forwarded to the American Begonia Society treasury **within 60 days**, except for 10% of the net profit which may be retained by the hosting group. (add or change all in bold and delete italics)

ARTICLE XIV - ANNUAL SHOW AND CONVENTION/CONFERENCE HOST

Section 1 - Any Branch, group of Branches or Regional organization may request that the Board of Directors consider their invitation to host the Annual Show and **Convention/Conference** ..(etc.)

Section 2 - Invitations to host the **Annual Show and Convention/Conference** shall be offered one (1) year or more in advance, ... (etc.) (add or change all in bold.)

ARTICLE XVII - ACTIVITIES

**Section 1 - American Begonia Society functions have precedence over any Branch or Regional activities.**

**Section 2 - Scheduling of local activities should be such that would enable all members to attend American Begonia Society functions, as well as local ones, without too much inconvenience on the part of all members concerned.** (new article all in bold)

# BALLOT

	yes	no
<b>Constitutional Amendments</b>		
Article IV, Officers Section 4		
Article VI, Meetings Section 2		
Section 3		
Article VIII, Funds Section 2		
<b>By-Laws Amendments</b>		
Article I, Duties of Elected Officers Section 3		
Section 4		
Article II, Board of Directors Section 5		
Article III, Appointed Officers Section 2		
Article IV, Committees Section 5		
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Article VII, Elections Section 1		
Article VIII, Quorum Section 2		
Section 6		
Article X, Expenses and Compensation Section 2		
Article XIII, Annual Show & Convention/ Conference Section 2		
Section 3		
Section 4		
Section 5		
Article XIV, Annual Show & Convention/ Conference Host Section 1		
Section 2		
Article XVII, Activities Section 1		
Section 2		

Please mark the "yes" or the "no" box. and mail your votes to Ballot Counting Chair Shelley Andros, 740 Lamat Rd., La Habre Heights CA 90631 by January 15, 1995. Ballots may be photo-copied for 2nd member in household or if you do not want to cut into your magazine.

## SPOTLIGHT ON:

### ***B. buddleiifolia***



Text & photo by Don Miller

Very important in begonia literature in 1859 was Alphonse de Candolle's *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, in which he described this South American species.

*B. buddleiifolia* A. DC. belongs to the section *Pilderia*. As its name states, *B. buddleiifolia* has leaves that look like the leaf of the *Buddleia*, commonly known as "butterfly bush".

*B. buddleiifolia* has an erect slender stem with some branching. It is reported to grow from 1 to 3 feet tall. Leaves are narrowly lanceolate oblanceolate, very unequilateral rounded at the base with one side lower than the other. The leaf margin is serrated and the leaf texture is slightly bullate. The inflorescence is early racemose or paniculate. Flowers are small and white with a red edge.

The plants I have in cultivation had white flowers with a light pinkish-rose edge. The bracts are narrow and persistent. The plant in the photograph was growing on a semi-rotten log lying across a small stream on the Mendez-Morana road in the Morona-Santiago province of Ecuador. This was at an altitude of 2,000 feet.

Joy Porter of Framingham, Massachusetts reported 100% germination in 15 days from seed of this collection. My seed began germinating in 18 days with one seedling, and in 27 days I had complete germination.

I have also collected this plant at approximately 5800 feet on the Baeza-Tena road in Napo Province, Ecuador. It is also reported to have been found growing in Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru.

I have grown this species in a humid greenhouse, and in Dallas it bloomed in the spring. Kelton Parker of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden reports that it grows a lot faster and better in a terrarium.

This rare species is a challenge to grow, and its subtle beauty and delightful habit make it a definite plus for any collection.

*Don Miller's article originally appeared in the Southwest Region Begonia Leaflet in December 1990. Don lives at 1010 Mt. Auburn, Dallas, TX 75223 and was the 1994 recipient of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service to ABS.*

#### GESNERIAD CORRESPONDENCE CLUB

RON & LOIS KRUGER, EDITORS  
207 WYCOFF WAY WEST, EAST BRUNSWICK  
NJ 08816 Membership \$5 US; \$6.75 Canada; \$12  
foreign; Braille \$5 (all payable US funds to Ron  
Kruger) includes a bi-monthly newsletter; seed &  
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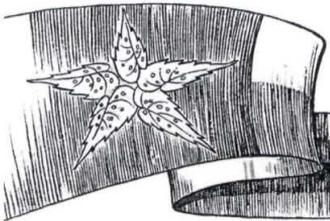
## In the News...

"In the hands of artist **Chuck McGough**, a begonia can resemble a tree, a fern, or even grass. Begonias are Mr. McGough's palette for scenes he constructs of plants and stone."

Thus began an article in the gardening section of Dallas Life Magazine (October 9, 1994) by Betsy Simmacher. Entitled 'Seasoned Pros', it featured plant enthusiasts and their favorite plants, starting with Chuck, president of the Dallas Area Branch, ABS.

Highlighted were Chuck's miniature landscape designs, dish gardens, and bonsai techniques.

An article by Dorree Gurdak entitled "Big on Begonias" featured the **Barkley Begonia Collection** and **Frank Green** in the Sunday Home & Garden section of a local newspaper in Sudbury, Massachusetts, where the collection is housed. The Barkley Collection was started by Dr. Fred Barkley, Botany Professor and later Professor Emeritus at Northeastern University; it now ranks as the largest private begonia collection in the northeast.



## Y'all Come!

# LONE STAR BEGONIAS

May 11-14, 1995  
**Southwest Region Get-Together**  
Show - Sale - Seminars - Tours  
Seven Oaks Inn, San Antonio  
and the famous SWR hospitality  
Hosted by Alamo Branch

# SHOW NEWS

## *Around the Country...*

Three Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch members stood out at the 1994 *Ventura County Fair*. **Annette Morris** won blues for her Begonias 'Richmondensis' and 'Crystal White'. **Carol Wright** won a first with *B. partita*, and firsts in pink and red tuberous bloom classes; she also won the Best of Division plaque for fuchsia blooms. **Beverly Paulson** won Best of Division for B. 'Organdy' and another Best of Division for her collection of three begonias, in addition to 13 first places, 10 seconds, and 5 third places in individual begonia classes and top honors in the bicolor tuberous bloom class. Beverly also won with gesneriads and fuchsias.

*Best of Show at the Palos Verdes Branch Show* went to **Brad Thompson** for his B. 'Tom's Fantasy', which scored 98 points for a Cultural Award. Brad also took Cultural Awards for Begonias 'Tom Ment' (97.5 pts.), 'Mary Sakamoto' (97); *albo-picta*, 'Alamo Melba' and 'Morocco' (all 96) Eric Seel won several Divisions, and Cultural Awards for Begonias 'Hawaiian Sunset' and *prismatocarpa* (both 97); *salicifolia*, 'Robinson's Peach', and *homonyma* x *macduffieana* (all 95)

Additional Cultural Awards went to **Jeanne Jones** for *B. rajah* (96), **Teri Dykzeul** for B. 'White Richmondensis' (95), and **Shelley Andros** for B. 'Freddie' (95). **Beebe Moorhead** won the Novice Division with B. 'Ebony'.

At the Garden Grove Branch Show, "A Love Affair with Begonias," **Mary Sakamoto** won Best in Show and the Doug Frost Memorial Trophy with tuberous B. 'Sugar Candy'. Notable also in the large and impressive show was a Division-winning display by **Thelma Burnett** of a wooden rack that held individual pots.

## *and Around the World*

Begonias abounded as members of the Canadian Begonia Society entered the *Canadian National Exhibition*. Among the blue ribbon winners were **Blain Berdan**, **Ardys Bobechko**, **Rosemary Dobson**, **Lorraine Findlay**, **John Klevinas**, **Zita Klevinas**, **Wyn Salter**, and **Eleanor Elston**, who was winner of the most points in show.

## Judges' Corner

There's an exciting opportunity for ABS members to become certified judges in two begonia societies. The Canadian Begonia Society plans to hold its first Judging School in the spring. Instructor will be Joan Coulat, ABS Senior Judge, and completion of the course is intended to qualify judges for both the Canadian and American Begonia Societies (to be an ABS judge, you must be a member of ABS; to be a CBS judge, you must be a member of CBS).

All types of begonias will be covered, with tuberous begonias receiving the most emphasis. Cost is \$40 Canadian (subject to change).

Contact CBS President Miree Lex at 70 Enfield Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M8W1T9, Canada for more information.

# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND NOTES

Thank you! to **Mae Blanton, Piron Giles,** and **Joy Porter** for new contributions for this listing; and to all of you who have supported the Seed Fund with seed donations. Your input makes the Seed Fund possible.

## Species

### Shrub-like

*B. kellermanii* (Guatemala, 1919) is an easy grower with thick felted leaves; flowers are white tinted with pink, profuse, and fragrant. *B. peltata* (Mexico, 1841) also has thick and felted leaves, and can be distinguished from *B. kellermanii* because its leaves are peltate (but then you guessed that from the name). White flowers come winter through spring.

B. U049 (Brazil) has long green hairy "angel-wing" leaves with red undersides, and white flowers. See cover photo, the **Begonian**, March-April 1986, and accompanying article, page 42, "The Pot of Gold" by Thelma O'Reilly, which describes the search for this species' name and gives several useful hints for growing and propagating this handsome begonia. It has been tentatively identified as *B. juliana*.

### Thick-stemmed

If you're intrigued by these unusual and hard-to-find begonias, this is your lucky day! Offered are:

*B. egregia* (Brazil, 1887), with large elongated hairy leaves and white flowers in winter;

*B. ludwigii* (Ecuador, 1937), trunk-like, non-ramified, with creamish-white flowers in spring and summer;

*B. multinervia* (Central America, 1852) with large bare leaves and pink flowers (it's also been listed as B. U115); and

*B. paranaënsis* (Brazil, 1944), with large bare leaves and white flowers in spring.

### Rhizomatous

There's an extra special offering this time: rare and temperamental *B. versicolor*.

Flowers are salmon-pink and intermittent, but this begonia is grown primarily for its leaves, distinctive in both surface and coloration. See cover photo, **Begonian**, Sept-Oct. 1991. Seed is untested, but from a very reliable source. *Terrarium care required.*

### Trailing-scandent

*B. glabra* (1775; found West Indies, and Central and South America from Mexico to Ecuador) is an easy grower with small corrugated leaves and profuse white flowers in the spring.

### Unclassified

B. U030/U007 (Philippines, 1981) is either a cane or a shrub (see Seed Fund Notes, Nov.-Dec. 1994 for background information). It is everblooming, with white flowers in low light and pink flowers in bright; leaves are thick and bright green, nodes knobby.

## Hybrid Seed

Now is the time to start *Tuberhybrida* from seed for summer glory. The *fimbriata* types have flowers that resemble frilly carnations, and mixed seed guarantees lots of color. Order quickly to get seed - it's going fast! -Tamsin Boardman

# 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. egregia*  
*B. glabra*  
*B. kellermanii*  
*B. ludwigii*  
*B. paranaensis*  
*B. peltata*  
*B. versicolor*  
B. U030  
B. U049  
B. U115

## **Hybrid Seed**

50 cents per packet

Tuberhybrida, fimbriata type, mixed colors

## **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.

## **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

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

September 30, 1994

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was held at the Seapoint Hotel, 4875 Harbor Dr., San Diego, California.

President Gene Salisbury called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. There were fifteen members present; twelve were voting members.

Eleanor Calkins read the Minutes of the May 21 Board Meeting in Oklahoma City. The Minutes were accepted as read.

Parliamentarian Margaret Lee stated that the Constitution and By-Laws had not been changed in ten years. She presented several amendments for consideration. Ramona Parker moved that a separate motion and second not be necessary for each individual amendment, but that the first motion and second made be sufficient to cover the pre-arranged changes. Motion carried. All changes and a ballot will be published in the **Begonian** for vote by the members.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 1, 1994

The meeting was held at the Seapoint Hotel, San Diego, California and called to order by President Gene Salisbury at 8:00 p.m.

Peter Notaras gave the invocation. After the flag salute a buffet dinner was served. Margaret Lee read the Aims and Purposes of the Society.

Margaret Lee installed the officers for 1994-1995:

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

President Salisbury lauded Margaret Lee for her arrangement of the meeting place and selection of the food. It was voted not to read the Minutes.

President Salisbury stated he was very pleased with the reports from officers, chairpersons, and branches. He mentioned the previous evening's Board meeting in which the Board spent much time on the amend-

ments to the Constitution and By-Laws.

Carol Notaras gave the Treasurer's report. Balances: checking account, \$8,173.82; savings, \$45,650.72; total, \$53,788.54.

John Ingles sent the membership report as of August 31: 73 Life Members, 136 Institutions, 1351 Dues-paying members.

New Business

Margaret Lee and Irene Nuss received Honorary Citizen of Oklahoma certificates.

Approval was requested and granted for Garden Grove Branch to host the 1995 ABS Convention in Orange County, California.

Houston Satellite and Astro Branches have asked to co-host the 1997 Convention; approval should be forthcoming at the January 1995 Board meeting. Alamo Branch will host the Southwest Region Get-Together, "Lone Star Begonias" May 12-14, 1995. Mary Sakamoto asked if members who do not pay the registration fee at a convention should be allowed to attend seminars, see the show, and buy plants? President Salisbury replied that a committee will be appointed to oversee a new Convention Guideline Booklet to answer questions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

October 2, 1994

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. at the Seapoint Hotel, San Diego, California.

There was no Old Business.

New Business

The following appointments were ratified:

Awards Chair	Mary Sakamoto
Awards Committee	Irene Nuss and Don Miller
Research Director	Kelton Parker
Book Store	Betty Benningfield
Horticultural Correspondent	Gregory Sytch
Audit Committee Chair	Paul Tsamtsis
Audit Committee Adena Kalal and Bob Kalal	

President Salisbury proposed an International Steering Committee be formed in the future to explore opportunities to further the cause of the family *Begoniaceae* internationally. Board members are asked to think about this, as it will be discussed at a later date.

Darrin Duling's report on his Brazil trip was sent to Kelton Parker for the Library.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ingeborg Foo and Ann Salisbury for Arlene Ingles, Secretary

NOTE: Minutes are condensed because of space limits; copies of the Minutes may be ordered from the Secretary. SASE, please.

## BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

*Mini-ads are a service to our members. The charge is \$1.25 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$5. Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to ABS and mail to:*

Cynthia Bishop  
P.O. Box 247  
Macdoel, CA 96058

**Please note both change of address for Mini-Ads Manager and increase in price (effective January 1, 1995).**

**Deadline for next issue is January 15**

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

Send \$2 for expanded 1995 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 in our new location to provide you with quality plants. Send \$1 for plant list. Golden Hills Nursery (Cynthia Bishop) P.O. Box 247, Macdoel, CA 96058. (916) 398-4023.

### **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. 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, 1995:** newest Texas hybrids. 'MS Twitt', 'TuffNut', 'Down Home', plus 'Flamingo Queen', and more. Send \$2 for list to Stew's Greenhouses, 30631 Blanco Rd., Bulverde, TX 78163. Ph. 210-980-9439.

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

1995 catalog \$2.00, free to A.B.S. members. KARTUZ GREENHOUSES, 1408 Sunset Drive, Dept. B., Vista, CA 92083-6531.

**BEGONIAS:** Exotics and Tropicals. The 1995 SUNSHINE STATE TROPICALS catalog is ready; We offer the largest plants for the best value. Send \$1.00 to: GREG SYTCH, P.O. BOX 1033, PORT RICHEY FL 34673-1033. (813) 841-9618.

**WANTED:** Southwest Region Hybrids and other rare types; Plants or cuttings; Send pricing info to: GREG SYTCH, PO BOX 1033 PORT RICHEY FL 34673. (813) 841-9618.

**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. 1995 Discount subscription rate to ABS members. One year for six 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.

## 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.....Michael Kartuz  
1408 Sunset Dr., Vista CA 92083

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.....Paul Tsamtsis  
1630 F St., Sacramento CA 95814

Awards.....Mary Sakamoto  
6847 E. Sycamore Glen Dr., Orange CA  
92669

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.....Betty Benningfield  
P.O. Box 969, Anahuac TX 77514

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

Convention Chairman.....Herb Wilkerson  
16281 Mercier Lane, Huntington Beach  
CA 92647

Entries/Classification.....Leora Fuentes  
13747 Wilderness Point, San Antonio TX 78231

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

Horticultural Correspondent....Greg Sytch  
P.O. Box 1033., Port Richey FL 34673

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.....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

**OPENING  
Begonian Editor**

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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, P.O. Box 247, Macdoel CA 96058  
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 though 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.**

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**American Begonia Society**

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Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617

Address correction requested

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