A vertical stem of a begonia plant is the central focus. The stem is dark green and bears several flowers and buds. The flowers are a mix of pink and white, with a prominent yellow center. The buds are also pink and white. The leaves are dark green and have a serrated edge. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

The
Begonian

January/February 1999

The **Begonian**

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American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

To issue a bulletin 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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Cover

Front: *B. gracilis* var. *martiana* shows why it's nicknamed the "Hollyhock" begonia in this photo by Mary Bucholtz. Seed are available this month from the Seed fund.

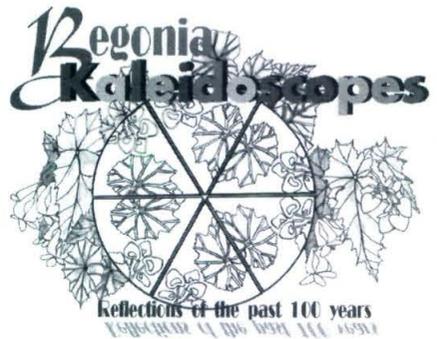
Back: Wouldn't you love to visit Don Englund's home in Monterey, CA and see tuberous begonias in so many lovely colors like these? Photo by Don Englund.

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***Come to LA for
Labor Day!
Plan Ahead Now.
See page 34.***

Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads

3/99 or 4/99, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

President's notes....

It shall take me the usual month to learn to write 1999 on my checks and correspondence. But there are a multitude of ABS plans for the new year already in place.

There's the ABS Board meeting in Tampa, February 5-7, hosted by the Florida West Coast Branch. And, as I glance at the autumn-dated newsletters, I see that bus trips are planned for spring, visits to arboretums, botanic gardens and nurseries. Southwest Region is planning a very hands-on Get-Together in Fort Worth, May 6-9, and the national convention will commence September 1, in El Segundo, California.

As you make your plans to attend these events (and others by your own branch or nearby) put yourself into the fun by helping out in some fashion. Don't wait to be asked: volunteer for a job or

committee that could use your experience and advocacy. Great shows, sales, tours, seminars, and memorable moments don't just happen! There is someone that has done an immense amount of work well before the event. Those bus trips take some asking and learning before the doing!

To sustain our growth, I would still love to see our committees 'fleshed out' with neophytes learning the ropes before the experienced chair suffers 'burnout' and loss of enthusiasm. And we do want your ideas and suggestions presented in our Board meetings: We are a voluntary organization dedicated to serving our membership with innovations welcomed! Make 1999 the year for you to make a real commitment. It's a whole lot more fun than hanging around in the mall awaiting discovery for your "15 minutes of fame."

~Bruce C. Boardman

Letters to the Editor

Just wanted to clarify something that was in my article in the Nov/Dec *Begonian* about my visit to the New York Botanic Garden's propagation greenhouses. It should read:

"The Propagation area consists of 14 greenhouses, some that are divided into separate climates. The greenhouses are from 2 to 30 years old and their purpose is to hold the permanent collection of certain plants such as ferns, orchids, and begonias and to grow the show crops of the Garden."

Only one of the greenhouses and parts of others hold the begonia collection.

**Ann Persico
Mt. Vernon, NY**

When I added a page to my manuscript listing other Begonia Societies, I copied them from the July/August 1998 *Begonian*. When my daughter proofread that page, she commented that "Beige" would be French not Belgian.

I got out a letter from Piron Gilles and find that she is correct. It should be Belge, Societe Belge du Begonia.

**Howard Siebold,
Clinton, WA**

Thank you, Howard. Everyone, please make this correction to page 140. With the help of all, we'll finally get this listing correct! Ed.

Send your letter to the editor today to Editor, P.O. Box 99, Ozone, AR 72854.

New Cultivars

Official International Registrations 963-968 Carrie Karegeannes, Nomenclature Department

Applications to register *Begonia* cultivars may be obtained from Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653. Forms 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 given first.

Begonia 'Shirotae'

No. 963. *Begonia* ('Lenore Olivier' x *maculata*) 'Shirotae'

Tall, slender canelike hybrid, about 4', with long, narrow, glossy green leaves dotted in white, maroon underneath, carrying profuse, large clusters of white flowers shading to pale pink in strong light.

Leaf blades are thickish and glabrous, narrowly boat shaped, obliquely and shallowly cordate (heart shaped) at the base with long-acuminate (tapering) tip. They measure 3" to 3" wide and 9" to 11" long. Margins are serrulate and wavy. The 5 to 6 indented main veins radiate from a pale center dot. Pale-green petioles (leaf stalks) are about 1" to 2" long; pale-green stipules, just under 2" by 1".

The large flowers, ever-blooming in pendent clusters on 2" to 2" peduncles, have 4 male tepals, 2 almost 1" long and slightly less wide, and 2 smaller, about " x ". Female flowers have 5 tepals, 2 of them slightly over " round-ovate, slightly longer than wide, 2 others " by ", and the fifth about " by 1/3".

B. 'Shirotae' is similar to pollen parent *B. maculata*, but more branched and tends to send up more shoots from the base, for a full plant.

Developed by Hiroko Imamura (18-15 Suzugamine-cho, Nishi-ku, Hiroshima-shi, 733 Japan) in 1990; first bloomed in 1992; first distributed in 1994;

first published in the Japan Begonia Society quarterly *Begonia* in January/March 1996. Recommended for registration by Tadashi Osaki (Hiroshima, Japan), and described by Akira Tanaka (Tokyo). Registered Aug. 18, 1998.

Begonia 'Seishonagon'

No. 964. *Begonia* ('Mrs. Hashimoto' chance seedling) 'Seishonagon'

A canelike chance seedling growing to about 1' tall, bearing large deep-green leaves with pale main veins and paler green undersides, everblooming in large erect clusters of pink flowers with contrasting white ovaries.

Glabrous leaf blades--3" to 3" wide and almost 8" to 8 2/3" long--are narrow-ovate, with obliquely cordate base and acuminate tip. Margins are serrulate. The 5 to 6 main veins radiate palmately from the base. Petioles are pale green, glabrous, 4/5" to 1 1/5" long; stipules about " wide and reported as almost 2" long.

Flowers are soft pink with greenish-white 3-pink-winged ovaries on the females, giving a two-toned effect. The 4 male tepals are 1/5" by 1/3". The 5 female tepals are 1/10" by 2/5" to 2/5" by 3/5". Peduncles are 2" to 2" long, extending the clusters up above the foliage, rather than drooping.

Developed by Hiroko Imamura (address above) in 1991; first bloomed in



Begonia 'Shirotae'. Photo by Hiroko Imamura.

1992; first distributed in 1994; first published in the January/March 1996 Japan Begonia Society *Begonia*. Recommended by Tadashi Osake and described by Akira Tanaka (addresses above). Registered August 19, 1998.

Begonia 'Kaylen'

No. 965. *Begonia* (parentage unknown) 'Kaylen'

Semperflorens Cultorum group cultivar developed by Craig Walker from rooted cuttings given him in 1991, blooming with bright pink to coral single flowers over bronze foliage April to frost, reappearing next spring (zone 7). Craig wondered whether chance seedling or mutation.

Rounded-ovate, 2" by 4", leathery leaf blades are lightly scalloped, palmately veined, and sparsely hairy. The 4-tepaled male and 5-tepaled female flow-

ers are 3/4" in diameter. Males have 2 broadly ovate and 2 very narrow tepals, and females have 2 larger, broad tepals, 2 medium, and 1 small ovate, in few-flowered clusters on 2" peduncles. Pale ovaries shade into 3 pink wings. Developed by Craig Walker (7145 Bramlett Lane, Harrison, TN 37341) 1991-1992; first bloomed in 1991; first distributed in 1997. Inspected and recommended by Russ Richardson (1854 Chancery Lane, Chamblee, GA 30341). Registered Aug. 19, 1998.

Begonia 'Cragmont'

No. 966. *Begonia* (chance seedling or mutation) 'Cragmont'

Semperflorens Cultorum group cultivar 12" to 18" tall, with bright-pink double flowers over bronze foliage, arising from Craig Walker's B. 'Kaylen' when grown by Charlotte Webster.

Leaf blades are 2" by 4", rounded-ovate, lightly scalloped, palmately veined, and sparsely hairy. Pink double flowers



Begonia 'Seishonagon'. Photo by Hiroko Imamura.



Above: *Begonia* 'Kaylen'. Photo by Craig Walker.
Below: *Begonia* 'Cragmont'. Photo by Craig Walker.



Above: *Begonia* 'Granite'. Photo by Akinori Itoh.
Below: *Begonia* 'Nagori-no-Yuki'. Photo by Akinori Itoh.



include 5/8" males and two-toned females with pale ovaries shading into 3 pink wings.

Developed by Craig Walker (address above) and Charlotte Webster (Circling Hawk Nursery, Hollytree, AL 35751) in 1996; first bloomed in 1996; first distributed in 1997. Available from Charlotte Webster. Inspected and recommended by Russ Richardson (address above). Registered Aug. 20, 1998

***Begonia* 'Granite'**

No. 967. *Begonia* ('Winter Queen' x 'Tenmoku') 'Granite'

A *Begonia* Rex Cultorum group hybrid with large darkish-green leaves centered and edged in purplish-brown and dotted thickly with white. Leaf blades are 11" x 11" at largest, obliquely rounded with cordate base, and shallowly 7 to 8 lobed. The lobes are broadly triangular with acute to acuminate tips. The blades have a crepelike texture and 7 to 8 indented main veins. Petioles are 1/3" in diameter and 6" to 6 3/5" long.

Dark-pink flowers in autumn are carried above the foliage on 4" to almost 6" peduncles (flower stalks). The 4 male tepals (so-termed because begonia petals and sepals are difficult to separate) are 1 3/5" in diameter, the 5 to 6 female tepals about 2".

B. 'Granite' leaf surfaces are greener with larger white dots than those of *B.* 'Ryokuha', also a *B. rex* cultivar. The hybridizer named the present cultivar for leaves recalling the appearance of granite.

Developed in 1993 by Akinori Itoh (6417 Tsujido Fujisawashi, Kangawaken, 251 Japan); first bloomed in 1995; first distributed in 1996; first published in the April/June 1996 Japan Begonia Society quarterly *Begonia* (vol. 1, no. 175). Rec-

ommended by Akira Tanaka of Tokyo. Registered September 9, 1998

***Begonia* 'Nagori-no-Yuki'**

No. 968. *Begonia* ('Cora Miller' x 'Midnight Magic') 'Nagori-no-Yuki'

A hybrid in the *Begonia* Rex Cultorum group, with deep bluish-green, white-splashed, 6 3/5" by 9", obliquely ovate leaf blades tightly cordate at the base, broadly acute at the tip, with broadly serrate to angulate margins. The texture is crepelike and the 7 to 8 main veins are indented. Petioles are 1/3" in diameter and about 5" long.

Profuse large clusters of pale-pink flowers contrast with the foliage in autumn, borne on 4 4/5" to almost 6" peduncles. The 4-tepaled male flowers are 1 3/5" in diameter, the 5-tepaled females 1 1/5". The flowers, unusually large and profuse for the Rex Cultorum group, distinguish this cultivar from others.

Developed by Akinori Itoh (address above) in 1994; first bloomed in 1995; first distributed in 1996; first published in the July/September 1997 Japan Begonia Society quarterly *Begonia* (vol. 1, no. 180). Recommended by Akira Tanaka of Tokyo. Registered September 9, 1998.

In Memory

Al Crane died November 11, 1998. Al was an active member of the Atlanta Branch of ABS since he moved back to the Atlanta area. During the time he lived in California, he was a member of several branches of ABS. We've lost a great begonia grower and really dear friend. Members of the Atlanta branch will sorely miss this fine lover of begonias.

Russ Richardson

East of the Wallace Line:

An Expedition through Sulawesi, Indonesia by Cytandra G. Hoover

Cytandra Hoover first wrote about her adventures in Indonesia with her father, Scott Hoover in the Sept/Oct 1997 Begonian. There her adventures were West of the Wallace Line; here she continues in the East.

On Wednesday, February 15, 1998, at JFK Airport in New York City, my sister Meghan and I boarded our plane alone. It was the first plane of three that took us to our destination, Jakarta, Indonesia to meet our father, W. Scott Hoover. After flying five hours, we landed in Los Angeles and two hours later boarded our next plane, Garuda Indonesia, to fly to Honolulu (Hawaii), Denpasar (Bali, Indonesia) and finally landed in Jakarta where we met our father. It had been thirty-six hours since we left New York City. The next three weeks were spent exploring the mountains and landscape of South Sulawesi, Indonesia. At the time, I was a sixteen-year-old sophomore at Mount Greylock Regional high School in Williamstown, MA and Meghan was a fourteen-year-old freshman at the same school. Because of a \$1,500 Explorers Club grant, I returned to Indonesia to work with my father again as a research assistant and to complete a school project involving Indonesian culture. While in Java and Bali in 1995, I learned about the Wallace Line and the mammals to the west of it. On the expedition to Sulawesi, I learned about the mammals to the east of it. (The Wallace Line is an imaginary boundary based on differences in species of mammals. It was first proposed by Alfred Wallace in the early 1850's.) While in Sulawesi, I noted a difference in species. Relatives of mainland Asiatic species

are found to the west of the line and marsupials are found to the east.

On Friday, February 27 after meeting my father at the Jakarta Sukarno-Hatta Airport, we left for our hotel in Bogor, an hour south of Jakarta. The next day we picked up Dr. Harry Wiriadinata, a senior botanist at the Bogor Herbarium and then left Jakarta for Ujung Pandang, South Sulawesi. Once we arrived in Sulawesi, we rented a Toyota Kjang and hired a driver, Abas.

On Saturday, February 28, from the Hotel Celebes, Malino, South Sulawesi, we drove an hour southeast to a hill resort in Malino. The next day we drove to a small village to look for begonias. We hiked up Mt. Bawakaraeng and made one collection. The species was unidentified, as were all other species we collected during the expedition. During our expedition we also made general seed collections of various plants.

On Monday, March 2 we stopped in the pouring rain at a waterfall in Bantimurung. My father went by himself up to the waterfall while we stayed at the cafe. He made one collection of an unidentified tuberous species abundantly covering the rock ledges and cliffs of the waterfall. On Tuesday, March 3 from the Matana Lodge, Mamasa, South Sulawesi; we drove six hours on back roads that were cut out of mountain sides and frequently get landslides. Along the drive we observed many fish ponds as well as rice terraces, both of which are cultural adaptations to a very wet climate. Though small fish ponds were observed in Java, west of the Wallace Line, Sulawesi has huge ponds extending for miles along the

southern coast. We made one begonia collection along a stream. The next days were spent in Mamasa. After a long drive and a good night's rest, the four of us left Mamasa in search of begonias. We drove as far as we could on a dirt road through the mountains, then hiked the rest of the way. We later learned that the road we were on was being built to connect Mamasa to Tana Toraja, a region in the Northern part of South Sulawesi. While we were hiking up the road, we came to a village in the middle of nowhere. Harry told us the people did not speak Indonesian, but a dialect of traditional Torajan that few people speak anymore. We went down a path that led to a river and split up. Harry and Meghan went downstream and my father and I went upstream. After about twenty minutes, getting soaking wet up to our waists and not finding any begonias, my father and I decided to head back to meet Harry and Meghan. The walls of the river were covered in beautiful white and purple flowers and tree branches hung over the water. The river itself had rocks in it that were obstacles we had to maneuver around. We could not tell how deep it was by just looking at it so every step we took had to be extra cautious. After finally meeting up with Harry and Meghan, we told them we did not find any begonias. But we were in luck; they found one species my father said was related to a Papua, New Guinea species. It was beautiful, with thick, dark green leaves and red veins. We then hiked back up the trail and were about to leave when my father and Harry spotted more begonias on the banks of a river at the base of a 50-yard, nearly vertical embankment. After finally making it to the bottom by sliding down most of the way, the next endeavor was to cross a swiftly moving river after we climbed over a barbed-wire fence. We all put our heads together to think of a way to get across. Finally, my father crossed on a half-sub-

merged log and we all followed him. We made several begonia collections, but there were only two species.

On Monday, March 9 during our drive to Rantegpao, we made one begonia collection on a limestone cliff face in downtown Mekele. During our drive from Parepay to Mamasa, we stopped and saw a family who cultivated silk worms in order to produce silk and also a traditional Indonesian wedding. The bride was dressed in a very ornamental headpiece with jewels on it and extremely fancy clothes woven with what looked like gold thread. We continued around the region and saw the most magnificent rice terraces I have ever seen. Some of them covered a whole valley and seemed to go on forever. We made one begonia collection in a village surrounded by coffee plants.

On Thursday, March 12, we made two begonia collections above Palopo, a city on Bone Bay. These were the last collections of our expedition. As we were crossing a mountain top I saw a real rainforest for the first time. The top was undisturbed, with beautiful, different shades of green, and we could hear different birds singing. That part of the trip allowed me to see how fortunate my father is to be able to work with such undisturbed beauty, both in the past and in the present. Harry left to go back to Bogor to start working on the begonias we had collected and we visited different points of interest within the city, including the Clara Bundt Orchid Garden which was so beautiful with all different types of orchids of various colors. On Tuesday, March 17 our Sulawesi part of the trip had ended. We flew from Ujung Pandang to Jakarta, then drove to Bogor. We went to the Bogor Herbarium and deposited specimens with Dr. Harry Wiriadinata and seed collections with the Bogor Botanical Garden for use of future analysis. The next day we left Indonesia and headed back home.



Above, Cytandra Hoover stands beside the Begonia that becomes U380. You may write to Cytandra c/o Scott Hoover at P.O. Box 93, Williamstown, MA 01267.

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ABS needs new members. The larger our membership, the greater the support for our goals. Make it one of your New Year's resolutions to help ABS gain one new member this year!

Quick Tips:

Hybridizing Begonias

Select good parents, good performers, both flowering and appearance. Tag pollinated female flowers with tape or small jewelers tags. Keep notes. It is usually best to keep within the same group of begonias, i.e. cane with cane, etc., but do attempt some crosses with distantly related begonias. However, such hybrids tend to be weak and usually rapidly disappear from collections because of the difficult and exacting cultural requirements. Also very important: distinctiveness. Is your new begonia that different from other existing cultivars?

Michael Kartuz
Vista, CA

Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) on Begonias

by R. M. Hatcher

It is always distressing when prized tuberous begonia plants have to be destroyed. Imagine the situation when one hundred fifty greenhouse plants destined for exhibition had to be sacrificed. The reason: They were infected with a virus, specifically impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV).

Initially thought to be a strain of the Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus, INSV was classified as a thoroughly distinct virus in 1991, and has become a problem for many North American greenhouse flower crops including gloxinia, New Guinea impatiens, cineraria, and Persian violets. Indeed it is believed that a shipment of infected New Guinea impatiens introduced the virus into the propagation greenhouse in this instance. Obviously they were also destroyed.

Originally it was suspected that stress, as a result of unseasonably hot weather, initiated a bizarre system form of stem rot. Within just a few weeks, the stems of healthy plants, frequently near the flowers, began to rot. Large brown or black necrotic areas developed and quickly spread. The result was widespread wilting, with no signs of lesions whereby an infecting organism might have penetrated the stem.

Fungicidal treatment failed, so an infected plant was submitted to a university plant pathology laboratory for diagnosis. Using the ELISA serological technique, the laboratory analysis confirmed INSV as the infective agent.

The flowers were also infected with thrips!

Thrips have frequently been reported as a pest associated with begonias.

Mildred and Edward Thompson in their book *Begonias, The Complete Reference Guide* describe thrips as an insect found on begonias that are particularly attracted to the flowers of tuberous begonias. Ironically when the Thompsons' book was initially published, the western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) was becoming a serious commercial greenhouse pest in both Canada and the United States. Serious because these tiny insects have since been positively identified as the vector that ingests INSV from infected plants and subsequently injects the virus into healthy plants. During the past decade, as entomologists followed the expanding range of the western flower thrips in North America, plant pathologists saw a corresponding increase in INSV outbreaks. Serious also because these insects indiscriminately absorb the virus from various sources such as infected common weeds, and transport it into the greenhouse.

In spite of the widespread and frequent exchange of plants and cuttings across long distances, INSV is reported to be less widespread in Europe than North America. However, there has been a case identified in Rieger begonias in the Netherlands. Growing tuberous begonias in a greenhouse? Be aware than an infestation of thrips may have dangerous consequences.

You may write R. M. Hatcher at 4 Sheahan Crescent, Nepean, Ontario, K2H 8M2.

Growing Rexes the Florida Way!

by Greg Sytch

Florida grows begonias big! Real big! So why would Rexes be any different? They're not, despite our tropical heat and humidity. Rexes may love warmth, but a summer in Central Florida? Yes!

For years, Rexes thrived for me from October through May with gorgeous colors during those cool winter nights. In fact, I've exposed them to frosts and light freezes with little damage. Since our days warm up even after Jack Frost nips at our swaying palms, Rexes persevere, looking radiant in hues of roses--pinks, silvers, plums. Well, you get the idea. Summers used to be my downfall and I was happy to just get them through. No more!

My new mix, Fafard 2S is a dream. Light, spongy, airy, it allows for cool roots and even moisture. Grown either in my shadehouses or greenhouses, Rexes now

thrive, but only under cover. The constant environment provided by these houses offers protection from our brutal sun, violent tempests, and bacteria causing downpours. Of course, they get a little help from me.

I incorporate bone meal and magnesium sulfate into my mix for long term feeding, and foliar sprays monthly provide fertilizer for deepened color, fungicide to prevent spotting, and an occasional dose of Superthrive. Now I produce full 4" Rexes in six to eight weeks; from leaf, 6" mature specimens in three to four months. The secret is protection from the elements and a constant, warm and humid atmosphere under 50% shade. I am enjoying growing these beauties more

B. 'Comet Hale Bopp' created by Tim Anderson is a Rex with a lot of color! Photo by Charles Jaros.



than ever, and with 35 varieties, every one thrives. So if you live in a hot climate, never fear, Rexes are easily grown to perfection if these steps are followed. By the way, some of the newest Rexes developed are of Florida origin:

B. 'Comet Hale Bopp' is a gorgeous cocoa-bronze with large leaves having silver etchings and boasting pink blushing in winter. Just fabulous, and Tim Anderson did a great job in creating this one.

B. 'Big Boy', also by Tim, is aptly named. These huge round leaves are a combination of greens and silver with some rose highlights, deepening to plum in cooler weather. Not for the faint of heart, it can mature in a 10" pot in one season, but it survives even the hottest Floridian summer like a trooper.

I've even created an upright Rex with beautiful silver splashed leaves and very fragrant pink clusters of blooms.

Who knows the potential now that Floridians have entered the Rex arena. Look out California, here we come!

Greg Sytch grows these beautiful Rex Cultorum hybrids at 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653.

Quick Tips

In hard water areas a good cleaner to soak clay pots in is surge Milk Stone Remover. It is available at dairy supply stores. It's used to clean milking machines and is inexpensive. It is a citric acid and really cleans clay pots up.

Lorraine Anderson
Brush, CO

If you need saucers for little pots, try using the lids from peanut butter jars.

Lois Rowland
Redfield, AR

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Elegant *B. egregia*

by Kit Jeans Mounger

Unlike *B. aconitifolia*, the species *B. egregia* is not all that widely known, grown or distributed--even though it has been around ABS for a long time. It was found--or so Joaquin dos Santos thought--in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1941. And it was given the jaw-breaking name of *B. quadreocularis*. This because its tiny female blossoms had a four-winged ovary. But further investigation reclassified it as

B. egregia which was described by N.E. Brown in 1887 before the later naming.

Having gotten past that, I'd have to say that this begonia, for all its obscure beginnings, is well worth growing. Those who have tried it have found it easy and fast to attain some size and heft. In Cynthia Bishop's greenhouse in California, it has grown to six feet; a thick stemmed begonia with lanceolate leaves some 3 inches wide and 8 inches long. They're slightly furry and the color of Granny Smith apples. Cynthia tells me the

Photo by Kit Jeans Mounger.



plant loves fish emulsion and seems to prefer the aeration of clay pots. Its flowers are not showy, being tiny hearts dipped in pink.

In the September 1977 issue of the *Begonian*, Phyllis Bates remarks that hybridizers have not yet discovered its parental possibilities (which for me sets the cat among the pigeons). She knows of only two: *B. 'Ernest Martin'*, a cross with *B. 'Tingley Mallet'* and *B. 'Egrelet'*, with *B. 'Lettonica'*. She further remarks that there are not a whole lot of begonias which

near a resemblance to *B. egregia*. (This begonia is also the cover girl of that issue and the October 1958 cover in black and white). After these bursts of celebrity, she seems to have sunk back into obscurity, her 15 minutes of fame having evaporated.

But like the specimen of *Cynthia*'s, there is another at B & K Tropicals in St. Petersburg, Florida. And Bob Koehler says it grows so quickly for him, invariably getting so big that it overturns its pot. When I decided to bring this begonia to the attention of *Begonian* readers, I queried Bob, *Cynthia*, and Freda Holley, who finds it grows well in Arkansas, too. Between the three of them, I got both cuttings and plants. The plant quickly adapted and the cuttings I put in Ma Mounger's Baggies: a cupful of perlite in a corner, some water infused with 'Watch-Us-Grow' and the bag then hung on a nail, first out in the carport and, when weather cooled, from a peg next to the

lights in the light garden. No muss, no fuss, no bother although it does prefer NOT to be in a tank or bowl.

This begonia is another of those 'Not Miss America' types. But again, for a bonsai fancier or a person who enjoys the odd and unusual, it is an easy keeper, a nice addition to a collection. As for a lack of redheaded, freckled or frilly progeny, just give it time, folks. This species is well worth keeping for itself--but it's also ripe for hybridizing. Imagine those huge silver-swordlike leaves tinged with red and huge clusters of pale pink flowers as big as those on *B. 'Silvermist'*. Where are you *B. 'Elaine'*? *'Lenore Olivier'*? *ac-onitifolia?* *U066??* The possibilities fairly boggle the mind.

If a great B. egregia hybrid can be created, we know Kit Jeans Mounger will do it at 485 Cottontail Lane, Afton, TN 37616.

Wouldn't it be great if there were a place where we could reference all the ABS registered hybrids from one to 962? in one easy source? NOW, there is! And you can own one.

Announcing:

The Catalogue of Registered Cultivars

This book was researched and compiled by Ivy McFarlane, a member of the QLD Begonia Society of Australia, and her daughter Debbie Weber. It provides information relating to the parentage of the cultivars, plant descriptions, names of the originators, dates of origin, and registered dates. There is an appendix that gives all the locations of the original text in the *Begonian* and, particularly nice for hybridizers, there is an alphabetical index of cultivar parents. It even includes a glossary of horticultural terms frequently found in the descriptions. It's 232 letter size pages, attractively bound. **Order yours for just \$28 including postage**, checks payable to the **American Begonia Society**, from:

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Growing Organic, or: *Heresy!*

by Tamsin Boardman

We all tend to do things according to the weather. For most of us winter is a fine time to dream: we study the plant catalogs, plan the perfect outdoor spot, and tend to the begonias wherever they may be wintering, knowing that they'll look better come spring. Of course, if we are growing rhizomatous begonias, we enjoy their stunning flowers held so proudly aloft!

January in particular is also regarded as seeding time. The dreaming here is over the Seed Fund offerings, and the smug knowledge that by summer we'll have that rare species or that one-in-a-million cultivar (and we get to name it!).

It's general knowledge that seedlings must be protected from disease, damping off, bacterial infections; and generally growers attempt to provide the best environment by sanitizing and disinfecting everything around, even baking the soil at high temperatures to kill absolutely anything that might attempt to survive in it.

So here's the organic heresy: we organo-nuts plant begonia seeds in a stout

mix containing (oh, horrors!) compost, or a mix of compost and sphagnum. We use plain old water (adding 1 tablespoon of vinegar per gallon if the water source is exceptionally alkaline). We try to meet the babies' requirements in the areas of light and temperature, but we don't spray insecticide or fungicide at any step in the process.

Once the first true leaves appear, we (you're not going to believe this!) feed them -- foliar feeding works just great -- with all kinds of weird, strange-smelling stuff (some of it comes from the kitchen and the bathroom, not the pharmacy). We're a bit careless about separating and potting up -- Mother Nature doesn't do it, and it's easier to be lazy about this step. True, if it's not done soon enough, the roots get tangled up; but then we're dealing with some pretty tough roots, and, depending on the variety, the plantlets may be happier with some of their siblings along in the same pot (just as if they were neglected orphans out in the forest).

Does this sound like plant abuse to you? It really isn't. The babies grow vigorously. Like any proud parent, I check my seed beds daily and thrill to the first spot of green. Boy, am I looking forward to January! I'll try to remember to take baby pictures to share with you.



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July/August: **Begonias in the Open Garden**

Sept./Oct. —Convention Issue: **Begonias...Southern Style and Special Feature on Rudolf Ziesenhenné.**

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*Denotes Photo

Round Robin Notes

Virginia Hamann
Round Robin Director

#57 Mini-Begonias & Terrarium Growing: Mike Gratton (VA) sent a picture of his terrariums sitting on a light stand. He uses "Grandma Utz" pretzel containers that are barrel shaped. He has them on their sides. Mike also uses deli containers for seed starting. **Wanda Macnair** (MA) has containers on top of containers, around and on her light stands. She uses long fibered sphagnum moss cut in small pieces mixed with perlite and charcoal as soil for her terrariums. Wanda contributed terrariums to the ABS Convention in Atlanta besides giving a program on growing terrariums.

#1 General Culture: The Oasis cubes are working for **Eileen Morrison** (PA). You should plant the whole cube as roots do get enmeshed in the material. For **Elaine Ayers** (OH) Terrariums do best at the north end of her greenhouse which is cooler.

#53 Rhizomatous Begonias: **Barbara Mooney** (VT) is pleased with her seedlings of *B. crassicaulis*. Many members are making their own compost, even Vermi-post in bins that have earthworms working up the vegetable matter used for composting.

#6 Odd, Rare & Unusual: In spite of the vagaries of Oregon weather, **Marilyn Dube** had blooms on her large canes of *B. 'Irene Nuss'*, *'Blackjack'*, and *'Sophie Cecile'*. The weather had turned hot and dry.

#32 Kusler & Other Canes: **Susar Hvegholm** (Sweden) asks why seedlings grown in cocoa fiber turn white and stop growing. Sea kelp is used as fertilizer. Members thought the fiber was retaining too much moisture and suggested more perlite could be added. Also acidity could be the cause.

#14 Semperfloren Begonias: **Rose Shumate's** (KS) *B. 'Wooley Bear'* was a mound of bloom all summer. **Mildred Swyka** (DE) grew *B. 'Dragon Wings'* again this summer. This a beauty from Burpee.

#43 Terrarium Growing: **Wanda Macnair** (MA) made it to and from Atlanta with her terrariums in the intense heat. *B. versicolor* lost leaves as did *B. microsperma* (syn. *B. ficicola*). *B. Incisa* seemed to be thriving in the heat. **Eleanor Calkins** (CA) had puppy troubles earlier in the summer, neighboring pups entertained themselves by playing in her begonia pots. She was pleased that the demolished plants are now making a comeback. *B. 'Sinbad'* has survived the devastation.

Lorraine Anderson (CO) had to drop out of Robins because of health problems. She has asked to put in a warning to those growing under lights. If several units are plugged into a single outlet, be sure the outlet is a commercial type instead of household. She discovered her wall around the outlet was hot to the touch, and the wires were melting. She installed a commercial outlet in her plant room to avoid a fire.

Make friends! Learn Begoniae! Write Virginia Hamann at 1169 Lincoln Ave., Chester, IA 52134-8508 and tell her about your interests. She'll find a Robin just right for you.

It's Tampa in February:

ABS Board Meeting, February 6-7, 1999

Tampa, Florida in the height of the winter season, at fantastic hotel rates, and a promise of fabulous begonia entertainment! Isn't it a winter dream? No, just the winter ABS Board meeting. Board members are coming to vote, but all ABS members are invited to attend.

We'll be staying at the Quality Hotel, 1200 N. Westshore Blvd. (Toll free reservation line: 1-800-449-4343; mention the American Begonia Society to get our room rate of \$65 single/\$75 double (+11.7% tax for \$72.64/\$83.82). There is a free airport shuttle by using the courtesy phone in the baggage claim area. **Reservations MUST be made by Jan. 17.)**

Events planned are a welcome reception at Dale Sena's if you are there by Friday night at 5 pm and dinner at 7 (RSVP for Friday night to Dale Sena at 813-221-0567 or Charles Jaros at 407-328-0618 by Mon. Feb.1).

On Saturday morning at 8:30 there will be a tour of the USF Botanical Garden. The Board meeting will begin at a working lunch at 12 noon and go into the afternoon. At 7 pm Saturday, we will visit the Florida State Fair with all sorts of great competitive exhibits, and on Sunday from 9 am to 12 there will be a garden visit and continental brunch at the home of Eileen Hart, also hosted by Helene and Charles Jaros and Dale Sena.

*Be there to see *B.nelumbifolia* and other begonias Florida-size in Eileen Hart's garden. Photo by Charles Jaros.*



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The San Miguel Branch, San Diego County, CA

Eleanor L. Calkins, Seed Fund Administrator

The seed fund is a service to members only. It is a privilege of your membership.

DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the Seed Fund are identified as received from the donors. The Seed Fund cannot guarantee that the identification is correct. When you find that seeds received from the Seed Fund do not develop into the plant expected, please notify the Seed Fund so that a warning can be published for others who may have received seeds from the same batch. Each offering will be identified by a code and that code should be used whenever writing to the Seed Fund about seeds. Thank you!

The Seed Fund would appreciate receiving donations of any fresh seed. Our supply is very limited at this time. Thank you! Please be careful to identify open pollinated seeds and keep them separated from known self-pollinated seed. Thank you!

B. hernandioides has a small, peltate leaf.



Dainty B. coriacea in the Houston show 1997, also has a peltate leaf. . Photo by Midori Nobussawa.

Packets of species seeds are \$1.50 each and all packets of hybrid seeds are 50 cents each. Very rare and newly collected seed will be \$2.00 or more per packet. California residents please add 7.75% sales tax. All orders must be accompanied by check or money order payable **in US funds ONLY** to **The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.**

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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:

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND
Eleanor L. Calkins, Coordinator
910 Fern Street
Escondido, CA 92027

The CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND is a project of the San Miguel Branch of the ABS in San Diego County, California. Donors of seed in this issue are Irene Nuss, Jackie Davis, Brad Thompson, Carol Notaras, Michael Kartuz, and Eleanor Calkins.

Species Seeds

- JF99-1: *B. angularis*
JF99-2: *B. coriacea*
JF99-3: *B. gracilis* var. *martiana*
JF99-4: *B. hernandioides* (U166)
JF99-5: *B. juliana* (U049)
JF99-6: *B. luxurians*
JF99-7: *B. lyman-smithii*
JF99-8: *B. sandtii* (bulblets)

Cultivar Seeds

- JF99-9: Mixed Rex
JF99-10 *B.* 'Bumblebee'

DESCRIPTIONS

JF99-1: *B. angularis* (Raddi) Brazil; cane-like to 4 ft., somewhat bushy, red hexangular stems; leaves medium, ovate oblong, cordate oblique base, denticulate margins, green with silver above, light green on red background underneath; flowers infrequently with many small white flowers on long erect peduncles.

JF99-2: *B. coriacea* (Hasskarl) Java; small rhizomatous; rounded peltate leaves, deep copper color; bright deep pink flowers nearly continuously; requires

high humidity.

JF99-3: *B. gracilis* (HBK) var. *martiana* Mexico, "Hollyhock"; tuberous; erect unbranched glabrous stem; orbicular to lanceolate; crenately toothed fleshy pale green leaves; large pink flowers on short axial peduncles; summer; axial bulblets.

JF99-4: *B. hernandioides* (Merrill) Philippines; rhizomatous; short glabrous petioles; peltate orbicular-ovate glabrous leaves; sparse pink inflorescence above the foliage.

JF99-5: *B. juliana* (Loefgren) Brazil; erect stems to 3 ft.; elongated, 2 in. x 8 in., dark green velvety leaves, sometimes bronzed on top and red-purple velvety texture underside; white flowers.

JF99-6: *B. luxurians* (Schedweiler) Brazil; stems tall unbranched; leaves palmately compound, 7-17 leaflets 3-6" long, lanceolate, serrate, hairy, reddish above, green underneath; small cream colored flowers in cymes on long peduncles; summer.

JF99-7: *B. lyman-smithii* (Utley) Mexico; rhizomatous; dark green ovate leaves with sunken veins and very narrow dark margin, abundance of tiny white hairs on most parts of the plant; pink flowers.

JF99-8: *B. sandtii* (Ziesn.) Mexico; tuberous; erect fleshy 8" unbranched stem, hairy; short hairy petioles; leaves light green and hairy above and below, oval, cordate, oblique base, double dentate margin; palmate veined; few flowered axillary cyme on short peduncles; axillary bulbils.

JF99-10: *B.* 'Bumblebee'; tuberous; short stem, leaves resemble *B. pearcei*, but flowers are orange, more like *B. cinnabarina*; cross unknown.

The November/December Seed Fund listings did not include descriptions because of time constraints. The descriptions below are for



B. juliana has long, lovely leaves.

those November/December offerings. The U-numbers in this group were from the most recent Scott Hoover collections from Sumatra. The brief descriptions offered are all that is available at this time.

ND98-1: *B. U340*, a shrubby herb found along a trail on Mt. Kaba at 4400 ft.

ND98-2: *B. U365*, large flowered rhizomatous found along a trail at 6400 ft.

ND98-3: *B. isoptera* (Dryander) Java, med. bushy erect branched stems, glossy green leaves with red toothed margins, pink tinged greenish-white flowers in small terminal clusters.

ND98-4: *B. U378*, a beautiful rhizomatous found near waterfall along a trail at 5700 ft.

ND98-5: *B. U347*, rhizomatous vine; long red hairs on petiole and lower leaf surface; found along a shady stream at 4500 ft.

ND98-6: *B. tricornis* (Ridley) Malaya; oblong leaves, acuminate tip, oblique base. Never offered by the seed fund or described in the *Begonian*.

ND98-7: *B. cinnabarina* (W.J. Hooker) Bolivia; low growing tuberous; flowers orange, said to be fragrant.

ND98-8: *B. johnstonii* (Oliver) Tanganyeka, Kenya; stems branched, trailing, succulent, pale green streaked with red; leaves broad-ovate, crenately lobed, basal lobes overlapping, glossy green above, paler underneath with soft hairs long veins, flowers large, soft pink, in few flowered clusters on arching peduncles, summer.

ND98-9: *B. pearcei* (J.D. Hooker) Bolivia, tuberous; stems low, branched, succulent, pubescent; leaves 4-6 in. long, obliquely ovate, acuminate, base cordate, toothed, dark green above with light colored veins; tomentose, dull red beneath; flowers 1 to 2 in. yellow on erect axillary peduncles.

ND98-10: *B. sanguinea* (Raddi) Brazil; red stems 1° ft., woody at base; leaves 4 to 6 in. obliquely cordate, pointed nearly peltate, minutely toothed, fleshy, green above, crimson underneath; flowers white in forking cymes on 1 ft. peduncles; spring.

ND98-11: *B. tomentosa* (Schott) Brazil; stems unbranched, woody; leaves 4-6 in. ovate, acuminate, base cordate, entire or toothed, green with a fine red line along margin; many 1 in. flowers, white or pink bearded on exterior.

B. U340. Photo by Scott Hoover.



Conservation News

by **Tamsin Boardman,**
Conservation Chair

Random quotes that say it better than I can:

“At least 1 of every 8 plant species in the world -- and nearly 1 in 3 in the United States -- are at risk.”

“The rapid disappearance of plant species was ranked as one of the planet’s gravest environment worries, even passing pollution, global warming and thinning of the ozone layer...”

“Wild creatures depend upon the richness of plant life for food and shelter. The life of those amazing mammals and birds can be traced through nature’s web to be ultimately dependent on a few, specific plants. Once a plant species disappears, there is little hope for the butterflies, the songbirds and all the wildlife species depend on it.”

~ *National Wildlife Federation*

Are the rainforests too far gone to be protected? A lost cause? The European Commission conducted a study through their Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy, and concluded that much of the rainforests are beyond repair, especially in Southeast Asia. Scientists involved argue for concentrating preservation efforts in the few areas not yet under pressure

~*shortened from Science Notes, in the Fort Worth Star Telegram*

“Forests are vital for all life on Earth. They purify the air we breathe, are home to countless species of plants and animals, protect important water systems, and provide wood, medicines, and other valuable products. They also help combat global warming.

“But tropical forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. Between 1980 and 1995, more than 540 million acres were lost worldwide, an area larger than Mexico and Indonesia...”

“...the Tropical Forest Conservation Act...will permit developing countries around the world to reduce their debt to the United States in return for setting up trust funds to pay for the protection of tropical forests...”

~*Focus, newsletter of the World Wildlife Fund, Nov/Dec 1998.*

Does that last sound benevolent of the US government? It is-- but not altogether al-

truistic. We’ll reap immediate benefits in purer air. There will be fewer disasters (the mudslides in Honduras that buried tens of thousands of people and horrified the world came about because mountain slopes were denuded). Saving plants means saving the sources of medications and food - gene pools that otherwise would have been lost - as well as horticulturally interesting specimens. Scientists are ecstatic - there is so much unknown, unmapped, undescribed material in the world’s forests. It’s a step in the right direction.

Did you know that the majority of species listed on the Endangered species List are plants?

Would that we could wave a magic wand and create a perfect world! That is, alas, beyond our resources. But what is impossible for one becomes a maybe for many - in any Herculean endeavor, the chances for success improve as more backs are bent to the task.

Most folks resolve to be better, do better in a new year. This year, why not add the environment to your resolutions? We’re ahead of most folks here, because as plant lovers we already do good! Plants not only beautify, they purify by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen; they cool our summers and cut cold winds in winter. So make a resolution. It will be fun to keep: keep on growing begonias and their companion plants!

If you want to go further, the ABS Conservation Department can suggest another enjoyable task: grow the species, the begonias that are losing their native habitat. List your species¹. And if that’s not enough, join the work crew: adopt a species, grow it, keep notes, report, share your knowledge and your plants². Maybe you’ll get so involved you forget to eat, and will actually lose that 20 pounds you’ve been resolving to shed for years.)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

¹ Send the list of species you grow to John Howell, 129 Trillium, San Antonio, TX 78213-2514. If you’d like to have the complete list of species we know are being grown, send John a legal size SASE.

² Write Tamsin Boardman, P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale, TX 76433.

Minutes of Board Meeting, American Begonia Society, Goleta, CA (Santa Barbara), September 26, 1998

1. President **Bruce Boardman** opened the meeting and Paul Tsamtsis read the Aims and Purposes of the Society. 2. The minutes of the June 20th Board Meeting in Atlanta were read. At the time of publication two paragraphs of the motion to form the Millie Thompson Publication fund were left out: paragraph 5, Funds would be maintained by the ABS Treasurer, and paragraph 6: the Fund would be administered by the ABS Publications Committee which would make decisions about publications receiving support and the allocation of funds thereto. Separate from the motion agreement was made to distribute or sell copies of publications supported through the *Begonian* Back Issues chairman rather than the Bookstore. The minutes were accepted with these additions. 3. The Treasurer's Report was presented by **Carol Notaras** for August 1, 1997 to July 32, 1998. The general checking account began with \$36,839.72 and ended with \$27,062.96. The combined checking accounts began with \$38,179.24 and ended with \$29,315.01. The main reason for the lower ending balances was the publication of 7 *Begonian* issues compared to 5 last year, and the contribution to **Scott Hoover's** collecting trip. Combined savings accounts began with \$31,143.88 and ended with \$32,139.81. Combined checking and savings accounts began with \$69,323.12 and ended with \$61,454.82. The statement for June 16, 1998 to September 21, 1998, was also presented. The general fund began with \$22,354.90 and ended with \$31,172.54. The major reasons for the increase were the 1998 Convention profit, the Millie Thompson Publication Fund and the **Rudy Ziesenhenn**e contributions. The combined checking accounts began at \$23,654.86 and ended with \$33,678.16. Savings accounts started with \$28,826.25 and ended with \$32,609.64. The combined totals were \$52,480.76 start and \$66,287.80 end. The report was accepted. 4. The 1998 Convention Chair, **Mary Elizabeth Moultrie**, was

congratulated for the \$9,434.65 profit and for the detailed financial report produced. 5. President Boardman requested that a copy of the 1998, 1997 Convention Reports, and others if located be sent to **Janet Brown**. 6. The money collected for the Rudy Ziesenhenn Award must be returned to donors or redirected to other causes according to an IRS ruling. Thanks were extended to all who donated. Treasurer **Carol Notaras** is contacting all donors about this change. 7. There were 19 attendees, one guest, and 24 votes present at the meeting. 8. A credit card system for accepting dues was discussed and tabled for input from the Membership Chair. 9. Audit Committee Chair **Paul Tsamtsis** needs a new person on the committee to replace **Bob Kalal** who resigned. He was advised to select someone else from the Sacramento area for convenience. 10. Awards Chair **Michael Ludwig** presented a proposal for the new award honoring **Rudy Ziesenhenn** in two parts. The first part was to make the initial award to Rudy for his 2,432 column inches of information published in the *Begonian*. This part was approved. The second part was modified to indicate that criteria for future awards would be developed with Rudy in the coming months and presented to the Board at a later date. It was approved as modified. **Carrie Karegeannes** was made a permanent member of the Awards Committee. 11. Back Issues Chair **Ann Salisbury** indicated that some issues of the *Begonian* are no longer available and raised the question of reprinting. **Herb Wilkinson** offered to donate a complete set for use by ABS as a master set. All means of reproducing and storing volumes of the *Begonian* should be explored and reported to the Board at a future meeting. 12. **Ann Salisbury** announced that she has an abundance of ABS stationery. If you need some she will send it to you. 13. Bookstore Chair **Betty Benningfield** reported sales in Atlanta and Oklahoma totaled \$275 and \$228, respectively. The return to ABS was only \$485 this year due to slow sales and the cost of printing. Several books were added to the inventory. 14. The Branch Relations Report from **Mary Bucholtz** indicated that information on ABS branch formation was sent to people in Wis-

consin, Louisiana, Sweden, Ohio, Missouri, New Jersey and Iowa. **Helen Spiers** attempted to form another branch in Houston, Texas, but was unsuccessful. The Jacksonville Branch dissolved and funds remaining were sent back to ABS for life memberships and for the Millie Thompson Publication Fund. The 1997 Program Update is complete and available to any branch on request. Newsletters were published in March and September. **15.** Conservation Chair **Tamsin Boardman** report on articles in the *Begonian* and newsletters in the Save our Species program. **16.** Convention 1999 Chair **Janet Brown** submitted minutes of the first meeting held on August 15, 1998 with sixteen people present. **17.** Internet Editor **Kathy Goetz** reported that the web page is not ready yet. **18.** Horticultural Correspondent **Don Miller** has resigned. A search is on for a replacement. **19.** Membership Chair **John Ingles, Jr.**, sent in a report indicating 51 life members, 90 institutions and 1,181 dues-paying members as of August 31, 1998. There were many non-renewals. **20.** The draft for national or standardized show schedules proposed by Judging Chair **Maxine Zinman** was addressed. There has been no known feedback on this as yet. **21.** When judging schools are held, the fees collected are taxable to ABS and must be treated as a separate item on financial records. **22.** Incoming Director of Nomenclature **Gene Salisbury** reported 3 pending requests for registration. He commented that the indefinite time required for cultivar registration was mostly for name search which could take a year or more. He requested all members' help by lending him reprints or reference books to aid in the searches. **23.** **Tamsin Boardman** recommended that the Nomenclature Committee include the Conservation Chair. The motion was amended to include the Seed Fund Chair and passed as amended. **24.** Outgoing Nomenclature Director **Karegeannes** submitted a written report on activities for the past year: There were six new registrations including four from Japan. **Thelma O'Reilly** published descriptions of *Begonias* U257 through 265 in the *Begonian*. **Jack Golding** remains the *Begonian* Nomenclature Editor. Questions were fielded from ABS members and others

by the Committee and contacts were maintained overseas. **25.** Public Relations Chair **Russ Richardson** has resigned and a search for a replacement will be conducted. **26.** Seed Fund Chair **Eleanor Calkins** reported in writing that another \$1,000 was transferred to the ABS general fund making a total of \$2500 for the year. The fund balance as of July 32, 1998 was \$343.53. Eleanor reported verbally that seeds from **Scot Hoover's** collecting trip will be offered in the next *Begonian*. **27.** Slide Library Chair **Charles Jaros** reported in writing that many branches and individuals have been using the programs. Four new programs were added to the library this year. He requested everyone to tape programs and field trips with a narrative for the Library. Information is being collected on preserving slide programs and transferring them to computer discs and videos. There is a problem identifying each plant on a video. He is soliciting ideas. **28.** The Display Advertising Committee billed \$1700 for *Begonian* ads in 1999. **29.** A new brochure titled Seven Reasons (to belong to the ABS) has been designed and will be distributed for obtaining new members. **30. President Boardman** announced the invitation issued by the Florida West Coast Branch to host the winter board meeting in Tampa, Florida has been accepted. Branch members are making preparations. The original date had to be moved to February 6-7, due to a lack of hotel availability in January. **32.** President Boardman announced that the San Jacinto Branch of Greater Houston has introduced a new award honoring **Helen Spiers** for her efforts in forming new branches. It will be known as the Helen Spiers Organizational Gift. They will present a \$100 check to every newly chartered ABS branch in her honor.

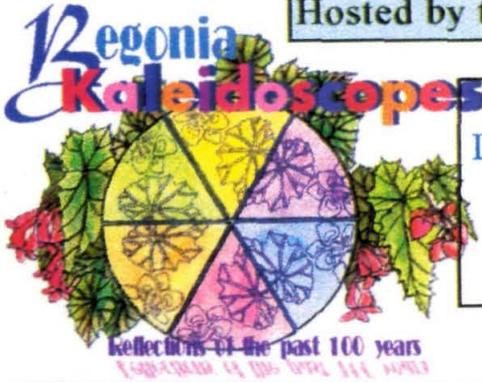
Respectfully submitted,
Richard N. McNair, Secretary

These minutes have been slightly edited and condensed by the editor for reasons of space. The complete minutes are available from Richard Macnair at 177 Hancock Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, Ph: 617-876-1356.

Save the Dates September 1-5, 1999

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died in 1984. The *Smithsonian*, March, 1997 features the garden but does not show our favorite corner--yes--Begonias.

In addition there will be a tour every day, including the new Getty Museum high on a hill overlooking Los Angeles; members' gardens, some never seen before; the Fern Show and Sale in Arcadia. The Plant Sale is in the charge of the Orange County Branch with Mary Sakamoto and Margaret Fisher as chairmen. It will be stupendous.

The hotel rooms are lovely and comfortable. Each has a king or two double beds, living room with sofa bed and up to three in a suite for \$93.--for four add \$10. There is a galley kitchen, complimentary full breakfast, and Manager's Reception every evening on the house. Just mention ABS to get the good rate.

Janet Brown, Convention Chair
Katsuko Nakagawa, Co-Chair &
Branch President
Irene Nuss, Honorary Chairman

News: ABS, Branch, and International

The San Jacinto and Astro Branches followed the lead of the Houston Satellites Branch when they donated their returned checks originally given to the **Rudy Ziesenhenn**e fund to the Millie Thompson Publication Fund in honor of Rudy. These branches challenge other ABS Branches to do the same.

Check it out! *Better Homes and Gardens*, December 1998, features B. 'Kismet' (Remember it from Atlanta and page 193 of the Sept/Oct *Begonian*?) for it's festive foliage for holidays article. Lovely.

This report from the Westchester Branch Newsletter by **Janet Brown** on "A Day in Santa Barbara for **Rudy Ziesenhenn**, September 26, 1998": To quote ABS president **Bruce Boardman**: "The standing ovation when Rudy walked in was spontaneous and so well deserved: it sparked the atmosphere..." And from start to finish the afternoon was a loving tribute to our great man. The idea was **Bruce Boardman's** and he is to be commended

for the great deal of work he did to bring it all together. The scrapbook, collected and put together by **Lynn & Herb Wilkinson** with glorious begonia artwork by **Aline Renison** is a collector's item...

The table decorations were created and brought down from Sacramento by **Joan Coulat**; beautiful begonia filled treasures. The tributes given by Rudy's many friends and colleagues were moving and tearful and all from the heart. And who else but Rudy could have gotten our favorite...Master of Ceremonies **Tim O'Reilly** back on the circuit...And then we heard from **Rudy Ziesenhenn** himself and enjoyed his reminiscences of some of the many events of his long career. It was a lovely day and one we'll always remember and cherish.

Below from left to right: Pam Hantgin, Lynn Wilkerson, Vivian Hill, Brad Thompson, Thelma O'Reilly, Joan Coulat, Gene Salisbury, Rudy, Michael Ludwig, Janet Brown, and Ruth Pease in Santa Barbara. Photo by Eleanor Calkins.



Pronunciation of Begonia Epithets for the *Begonian*, 66: January/February, 1999
by Jack Golding

aconitifolia	uh-kon-i-ti-FOH-li-uh
angularis	ang-yew-LAY-ris
cinnabarina	sin-na-bar-EYE-nuh
coriacea	kor-i-AY-se-uh
crassicaulis	kras-si-KAW-lis, <i>kras-si-KOW-lis</i>
egregia	e-GREE-ji-uh
syn.	kwad-ri-loh-kew-
quadrilocularis	LAY-ris
gracilis	GRAY-cil-is
var. martiana	mart-i-AY-nuh
hernandioides	her-nan-di-o-EYE-deez
incisa	in-SEYE-suh
isoptera	iss-OP-ter-uh
johnstonii	john-STON-i-eye
juliana	jiyewl-i-AY-nuh
luxurians	lux-YEWR-i-ans
lyman-smithii	lyman-SMITH-i-eye (named for Lyman B. Smith)
maculata	mak-yew-LAY-tuh
microsperma	meye-KROH-sper-muh
syn. ficicola	fi-ci-KOH-luh
nelumbifolia	nel-um-bi-eye-FOH-li-uh
pearcei	pearce-EYE (named for Richard Pearce)
sandtii	SAND-ti-eye
sanguinea	san-gwin-EE-uh
tomentosa	toh-men-TOH-suh
tricornis	treye-KOR-nis
versicolor	ver-si-KOH-lor

Sources

Sources could be located for the following begonias that were featured or pictured in this issue. Numbers following each begonia refers to the source list below. Information is latest available to the editor.

- B. *egregia* 1, 2, 3
 B. *nelumbifolia* 2, 3
 B. 'Comet Hale Bopp' 3, 4
 B. 'Big Boy' 3, 4

- B & K Tropicals**, 5300 48th Terrace North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709, PH 727-522-8691, Email: BKtrop@aol.com
- Kartuz Greenhouses**, 1408 Sunset Dr., P.O. Box 790, Vista, CA 92085-0790, PH: 760-941-3613
- Palm Hammock Orchid Estate, Inc.** Dept. B, 9995 S.W. 66th St., Miami, FL 33173, PH: 305-274-9813
- Sunshine State Tropicals**, 6329 Alaska Ave., New Port Richey, FL, 34653, PH: 813-841-9618

Editor's Notes...

Not only is doing an index tedious, as I have shared with you before, it is also humbling because when you review every page you see all the glaring errors. After Annette Boree correctly spelled B. 'Quinebaug' on page 190, the editor went on to misspell it in the caption and on pages 195, 229, and 230. A bad habit is hard to break! And I think the editor has dyslexia when it comes to double letters. Apologies to the Satellite Branch for doubling the wrong letter on page 236. Finally, on page 167 and 175, it should be B. *prismatocarpa* 'Variegation' which is ABS Registered Cultivar #522.

In response to the many objections to the smaller print that came in recently, I have done in this issue something one really shouldn't do. I have mixed type sizes so that most items are back to the larger type size. However, just to get everything in the space available, the index, the Board Minutes, and perhaps a few other items are in the smaller type size. By next issue, I'll try to get everything back to the larger type size. Remember on all things about the *Begonian*, let your wishes be known!

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COMING EVENTS

January 10, 1999. Atlanta Branch meeting at *Hastings* in North Atlanta. Call Mary Elizabeth Moultrie, 770-436-5932 for information.

February 5-7, 1999: ABS Board Meeting hosted by the Florida West Coast Branch, Tampa FL. (See Page 26 of this issue for more information.) Hotel is the Quality Hotel, 1200 N. Westshore Blvd.; rooms \$72.64 single/\$83.82 double including tax; free airport shuttle; call 800-449-4343. **Reservations must be made by Jan. 17.** Must have an RSVP for Friday night dinner by Monday, Feb. 1; call Dale Sena at 813-221-0567 or Charles Jaros 407-328-0618.

May 6-9, 1999: Southwest Region/ABS Get-Together at Fort Worth (TX) Botanic Gardens. Packets go out in January. Hotel will be the Ramada Inn Midtown, 1401 S. University Drive, Ft. Worth, Texas. PH: 1-800-336-3000.

June 12, 1999: Orange County Branch will tour Lotusland in Santa Barbara. Call **Mary Sakamoto** at 714-633-6997 for information.

September 1-5, 1999: Begonia Kaleidoscopes, ABS Convention, hosted by Westchester Branch, Los Angeles, CA. The first tour will be on Wednesday morning, September 1 and the show will close at 4 PM on September 5. Hotel is the Embassy Suites, Los Angeles Airport - South, 1440 East Imperial Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245, Phone: 310-640-3600. Free shuttle. See Page 34 this issue for more information.

Closing Date for March/April issue is January 20, 1999!

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Details inside: Florida in February, Ft. Worth in June, LA in September!