

The
Begonian

May/June 1999

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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Membership (subscription) \$17 annually, \$23 first class mail, US, Mexico, and Canada. \$27 foreign surface mail except Mexico and Canada, \$37 Overseas airmail. Added member, same household, \$2. Consult Membership Chairman for sustaining, benefactor, life membership dues. U.S. currency only. Back issues (current volume) \$2.50.

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Cover

Front: *Begonia prostrata* Irmscher collected from Xishuangbanna, south of Yunnan province in China. See article beginning on page 90. Photo by Guan Kaiyun.

Back: We know that birds and begonias have an affinity, but here they become one in the form of the giant 12 foot cardinal topiary at the annual Palm Beach Tropical Flower and Garden Show, February 19-21, 1999. For details, see page 104. Photo by Charles Jaros.

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*Note new address
for editor, page
118.*

Quick!

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reads

199907 or 199908,
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President's Notes...

Last summer while it was hot and very sere, Tam and I viewed from our hill-top the beginnings of a house construction about 3 miles to the south - our really great view from the bedroom. The screaming yellow lumber could almost be heard, even from our remoteness to the site. As construction continued, though, the muted metal roof covered the plywood that had reflected the summer sun toward us, the cause of anxious glances when we passed one another on upstairs errands.

Not to worry: with the advent of new growth this springtime the house has receded from view and certainly from our immediate cognizance. The wonderful bursting of new greenery has taken away any rough edges that remained after the house was completed.

When we moved into our new house in the summer of 1997, it was all angles and straight lines. Within days the edges had been muted by moved-in greenery from the old house and the more sumptuous plants crowding the aisles of the greenhouses. Instead of seeing an endless hallway, there were two or three begonias of differing heights and colors inviting you to "come hither." *B. 'Sophie Cecile'* and a stitchery of *B. heracleifolia* observe our morning ablutions. Window sills are masses of green. The long, once-barren kitchen counter is greened and edged by *B. 'Chuck Jaros,'* flanked by salvia, clivia, asparagus fern, and a pair of tall leaves that must have a name, but are too beat up (and embarrassed) from passing traffic to wish to be identified.

The green-thumbed mistress of our various abodes has always taken the discomforting edges away from wherever we've had to stay for a while. She acquired a 3 foot diameter *B. U010* and hung

it in a distressingly dull corner in our previous place and it superbly accented the room after sundown and seemed to make it cozier. (The only way to water it was to carry it to the shower stall through a 2 foot doorway - the globular mass of *U010* soon diminished in magnificence to an 'edgy' 2 foot mass!)

There is an absolutely darling house in Stephenville that Tamsin will go blocks out of the way to drive by. It is sunshine yellow with white painted columns, trim, shutters, and false balcony above the centered front door. Pansies surrounded the handsome, mature tree in the front yard and flank the picket fence gate and walkway. The grandgirls have been taught a litany, recited when the car pauses in passing: "It's the prettiest house in Stephenville, but it sure could use some begonias on the front porch."

I chanced upon an acquaintance at the market, one that always has some excitement growing in her yard. She's a neighbor to that house about 4 more houses up the street. She informed me that the owner was an airline stewardess, one frequently gone for days at a time. (We're 100 miles from her airport!) When I told Tam that it was time to do something about the paucity of begonias at the yellow house and the circumstances of the owner, a look of deep consternation clouded her features.

"Oh, my goodness. What begonia can stand up to our summer heat without some better attention than that lady can give it?" She'd already been grooming a cane, one of great stature and beauty, one not intended to be just an edge plant. Now, I'm watching to see whatever will she do: I'll keep in touch with you.

Enjoy your begonias - and enjoy sharing them with others!

~Bruce C. Boardman

B. crassicaulis

by Ruth Pease



There seems to be a never-ending pleasure in growing and learning about begonias. We had had our *B. crassicaulis* for three years when we actually began to notice changes in its habit of growth. We decided to record our observations and took photographs from January through November of last year (1998). In order to learn more about this unique species, we researched several books in our collection, and compared our findings with others growing *B. crassicaulis*.

Some of our photographs as well as excerpts of information we found are included in this article.

The first photograph taken was in January when our plant's thick stems were bare, but there was an abundance of pink flowers. These remained on our plant

through May. Our plant began to leaf out again in June.

We read a description of *B. crassicaulis* written by Karl Albert Fotsch in "*Die Begonian*" and we quote: "*B. crassicaulis*, Lindl. *crassicaulis* Thick Stemmed. Rhizomes thick, fleshy, brown, green hairy, creeping and covered with many pointed bracts about 1 cm. long, out of which ventricose, succulent green shoots grow at the end of which petioles and flowers grow. Petioles round, fleshy, hairy, as long as the leaves or a little longer. Leaves fairly large, deeply lobed and notched..."

In August, we saw six "succulent green shoots" beginning to grow from the thick stems, not from the soil line. We didn't see any rhizomes that were hairy

and creeping. Additionally, Fotsch wrote that “the flowers are white, pink at margin.” We had not studied taxonomy so we could only wonder about what we were growing when compared to his description.

After talking with Thelma O’Reilly who had studied this species for many years and telling her we didn’t see “petioles that were hairy,” she suggested that we look at the petioles through a magnifying lens. We saw a light scruff or down on the petioles. A stronger lens would probably show us more. But the creeping rhizomes still puzzled us!

How to explain this other than that the thick stems may have fallen and continued to grow across the soil line.

Then, in the 1998 July/August *Begonian* we read Peter Sharp’s article on begonias growing in the ground in Australia. We were delighted to read his comments. “We even have a planting of *B. crassicaulis*, that fascinating thick stemmed begonia which in the Royal Botanic Garden produces masses of flowers on bare trunks before leaves appear in the spring.” “Fascinating” and “thick stemmed.” We agreed.

In the following issue of the *Begonian*, there was yet another photograph of *B. crassicaulis* taken in January 1998. The photograph wasn’t very clear, but the flowers appeared to be white. This plant was growing at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. We have since learned that some refer to this begonia as erect rhizomatous. We took photographs of the backs of the thick stems of our *B. crassicaulis*. They do not resemble any erect rhizomatous begonias in our collection.

It was then that we spoke to Rudy Ziesenhenne who told us *B. crassicaulis* is thick stemmed. However, he added, for show purposes it would probably compete best if entered into competition with erect rhizomatous begonias.

The six “succulent green shoots” have now grown and look like the original thick stems we had on our plant.

While we were transplanting our plant, a tip of one of the thick stems was torn off. This was planted with the growing tip away from the side of the container and the torn part of the stem was gently pressed into the soil. This then anchored itself by sending roots down into the soil! The tip stopped growing, but a “succulent green shoot” grew from the top of the now prone thick stem.

Brad Thompson helped us further our research by sending us a copy of an article Thelma O’Reilly had written in 1985 about *B. crassicaulis*. In it she mentioned a botanical study on the *Flora of Guatemala* written by Drs. Lyman B. Smith and Bernice Schubert. She also noted that Alex D. Hawkes had written in the July 1963 issue of the *Begonian* that, “I very much believe that I have found *B. crassicaulis* growing as a rather common epiphyte near Santa Rosa Maria de Otsuma in Nicaragua, since the drawing of it in this work certainly looks much like the very leafless tree-dwelling species of that area.”

To add to our confusion, we read a copy of a paper that Thelma sent us on *Flora of Guatemala*, the one she referred to in her 1985 article. There was a line drawing pictured showing roots coming from the bottom of a thick stem and not from a rhizome below the soil.

Part of the description in the article read: “*Begonia crassicaulis* Lindl. Bot. Reg. 28; misc. 22, t. 44. 1842. Thickets or forest, sometimes epiphytic, 1,300-1,400 m. Endemic. Herbaceous, rhizome short, simple with very short bulbous branches, 3-4 cm. thick...”

In her article, Thelma’s description read, in part: “Rhizomes erect and branching into a vee about 9” above the soil, succulent, 17” high...”



Photo 1 on page 85 is B. crassicaulis from January through May 1998 with bare stems and blooming. Photo 2, left, is in June with blooms gone, but plant leafing out again. Photo 3, below middle, as "succulent green shoots" appeared. Photo 4, below bottom, is B. crassicaulis in full foliage, leafed out. All photos and captions by Ruth Pease.



Looking at our plant we began to realize that possibly a begonia grown in many different areas has an endless ability to change in growth with each change in location. Begonias may adapt their habit of growth to their different microclimates.

This was seen after talking with Thelma and learning that her plant did not do well when it was too wet. Our plant grows out of doors under shade cloth and withstood all of the heavy rains of El Niño last year.

You may have also seen changes in begonias when you moved them from one area to another. Color and leaf size as well as color of blooms may change with different amounts of light. We have seen habit of growth changes when the same begonia is grown under lights or in a greenhouse or in the ground.

From our own observations and those of others who have grown and written about *B. crassicaulis*, we may conclude that it is at once thick-stemmed, rhizomatous and epiphytic with flowers that are either white, pink at margin, or pink. Did we mention that our plant has apple green leaves?

Additionally, with all of these thoughts in mind, we wonder about natural physiological changes that may take place in the wilds. Where does this leave the difference in appearance of a thick stem and an erect rhizome?

Seed was offered by the Seed Fund last year. If you have seed that germinated and you are growing this exceptional species, we would be interested in learning about your observations as your plants mature.

We are grateful to Rudy, Thelma, and Brad for their assistance in our research, and we would be remiss if we didn't include mention in this article of the show-stopper *B. crassicaulis* grown

by Barbara and Naron Stewart and exhibited in Houston that was pictured in the 1992 July/August *Begonian*.

Last month Ruth Pease shared with us her fascination with a hybrid; this month a species. She loves them all! You may write her at 8406 Croydon Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045-3039.

Quick Tips

Use a very sharp razor blade when cutting up rhizomatous begonia leaves for propagation. This does less damage to the delicate plant cells than scissors or other instruments. Tape up one side of the razor blade if you're using double-sided shaving blades. Single-edged blades are safer and inexpensive when purchased in bulk from a building supply store.

Michael Kartuz
Vista, CA

In Memory

The Doug Frost Branch (CA) is sorry to report that we lost **Rosa Vogel** on February 7th after a long illness. Rosa was always willing to help. She and her husband **Ed** held many offices in the Branch and opened their home to the members for our annual pot luck.

We still have Ed and appreciate all he does for the Branch.

God bless you, Ed. Rosa was a special lady and we will miss her. As was said at the service, "She left the world a better place than she found it."

Nancy Mirgon



Photo 5, above, shows B. crassicaulis and the rooted tip cutting. Photo 6, right, shows B. crassicaulis as it is beginning to lose some leaves, growing "succulent green shoots" that are now trying to make room for themselves by pushing apart the older thick stems. Photos by Ruth Pease.



Studies on *Begonia* from Yunnan, China

GUAN Kaiyun, LI Jingxiu, KUANG Jian and TIAN Daikē

(Kunming Institute of Botany, The Academy of Sciences of China)

This paper was given to the Fifth Australian Begonia Convention, Sydney, Australia, 10-12th April 1998 by Guan Kaiyun, Director of the Kunming Botanic Gardens and Senior Research Fellow of The Chinese Academy of Sciences. It was also printed in the December 1998 Begonia Australis. We appreciate the opportunity provided to reprint it here.

Abstract

Forty-four Yunnan *Begonia* species and forty-five species and cultivars from other countries were successfully introduced and cultivated in the Kunming Botanic Gardens. The geographic distribution of *Begonia* L. in Yunnan and the cultivation and propagation of different species in Kunming and their results were reported. Preliminary information about soil condition, light, humidity, temperature and watering for the cultivation of *Begonia* in Kunming was given in the paper. Some results about propagation including cuttings and seed propagation were also indicated.

Introduction

The genus *Begonia* L. has about 1200 species in the world. The species are widely distributed in the tropics and subtropics. The majority of species of the genus are from South America especially the Amazon basin, but also high in the Andes Mountains. They are also distributed in Central America, Hawaii, New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaya, the Philip-pines, India, South Africa, and China.

There are about 130 species distributed in China and the majority of Chinese species are from SW China especially from Yunnan. Our research showed that 88 species of *Begonia* were discovered in Yunnan. The main distribution areas of *Begonia* in Yunnan are the southern, southwestern and western part of the province like Wenshan, Honghe, Xishuang-banna and Dehong although some species are found in the central and even north-western part of this province.

Begonia is perhaps the most diverse of all in the plant world. The diversity applies to their growth habits, their leaf shapes and colors, and their flowers. Also, the original habitats are as diverse as the plants themselves. There are many hundreds of species of *Begonia* and thousands of hybrids in cultivation. However, many species of the genus from Yunnan are not in cultivation. Our studies on the genus *Begonia* started in 1996. A preliminary study on the geographic distribution of the genus *Begonia* in Yunnan has been done and 44 species from Yunnan and 45 species and cultivars from other countries have been introduced and cultivated in our garden. Our study indicated that most species can be cultivated successfully in Kunming without any heating in winter, but just need simple shelter. Studies on sexual reproduction and vegetative propagation have been done. Twenty-five species were propagated successfully by sexual reproduction and twenty species were propagated by cuttings. The suitable temperature, humidity, soils and light for growing *Begonia* in Kunming were also observed.

The Geographic Distribution of *Begonia* in Yunnan

<u>Species</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Altitude (Meters)</u>
<i>B. acetosella</i> Craib	Yuan yang, Manhoa, Lushui	700-1800
var. <i>hirtifolia</i> Irmsch.	Simao	1200-1400
<i>B. alveolata</i> Yu	Pingbian	1000-1500
<i>B. anceps</i> Irmsch.	Xichou, Malipo	1000
<i>B. augustinei</i> Hemsl.	Simao	1300-1500
<i>B. asperifolia</i> Irmsch.	Jianchuan, Fugong, Zhengkang, Gongshan, Lanping, Tengchong, Weixi	2100-2800
var. <i>tomentosa</i> Yu	Gongshan (Dulongjiang)	1800
<i>B. baviensis</i> Gagnep.	Jinping	200-400
<i>B. biflora</i> Ku	Malipo	300-400
<i>B. brevicaulis</i> Ku	Malipo	1000-1500
<i>B. cavaleriei</i> Levl.	Funing, Xichou, Malipo	1000-1600
<i>B. cathayana</i> Hemsl.	Pingbian, Megzi, Mengla	1250-1500
<i>B. circumlobata</i> Hance	Pingbian	1200-1700
<i>B. clavicaulis</i> Irmsch.	Tengchong, Lushui	2100
<i>B. cirrosa</i> L.B. Smith et D.C. Wasshausen	Funing	900-1300
<i>B. coptidi-montana</i> C.Y. Wu Luchun	Luchan	1750-2200
<i>B. crassirostris</i> Irmsch.	Simao, Jingdong, Pingbian, Shiping	350-1600
<i>B. cucurbitifolia</i> C.Y. Wu	Hekou	430
<i>B. dawweishanensis</i> S.H. Huang	Pingbian	1420-1750
<i>B. dentato-bracteata</i> C.Y. Wu	Lushui (Pianma)	1600-1900
<i>B. discrepans</i> Irmsch.	Tengchong	1200
<i>B. discreta</i> Craib	Jinghong	800
<i>B. dryadis</i> Irmsch.	Jinghong, Lancang, Menglian	650-1400
<i>B. duclouxii</i> Gagnep.	Yanjing, Suijiang, Dagan, Zhaotong	100-1400
<i>B. edulis</i> Levl.	Malipo, Funing, Jinghong	500-1500
<i>B. fengii</i> Ku	Malipo (Laojunshan)	1100
<i>B. fimbistipula</i> Hance	Zhenkang, Lincang, Xichou	?950-1400
<i>B. flaviflora</i> Hara var. <i>vivida</i> J. Golding et C. Karegiannes	Lushui, Bijang, Gongshan	1600-2400
<i>B. fooningensis</i> C.Y. Wu	Funing	1000
<i>B. forrestii</i> Irmsch.	Tengchong, Yuanjiang	1000-2400
<i>B. gagnepainiana</i> Irmsch.	Zhaotong	
<i>B. gesnerioides</i> S.H. Huang et Shui	Hekou	350-400
<i>B. grandis</i> Dryand.	Kunming, Zhaotong	1800-2400
spp. <i>holostyla</i> Irmsch.	NE, C to NW Yunnan	1700-2400
var. <i>unialata</i> Irmsch.	Lijiang	2400
<i>B. guishanensis</i> S.H. Huang et Shui	Lunan	1990
<i>B. gulinqingensis</i> S.H. Huang et Shui	Maguan	1730
<i>B. gungshanensis</i> C.Y. Wu	Gongshan	1400-2000
<i>B. handelii</i> Irmsch.	Hekou	150-270

<i>B. hemsleyana</i> Hook f.	Mengzi, Luchun, Pingbian, Jinghong, Jinping, Hekou, Maguan, Xichou	1160-1500
<i>B. henryi</i> Hemsl.	Weixi, Dongchuan	1260-1900
<i>B. howii</i> Merr. et Chun	Malipo	1400-1800
<i>B. labordei</i> Levol.	Most parts of Yunnan	
<i>B. lacerata</i> Irmsch.	Mengzi, Malipo, Funing	1200-1700
<i>B. laciniata</i> Roxb.	Fugong, Jingdong, Pingbian, Hekou, Funing	300-2000
<i>B. laminariae</i> Irmsch.	Malipo, Xichou, Maguan	1200-1850
<i>B. leprosa</i> Hance	Pingbian, Xichou, Maguan, Malipo	1200-1500
<i>B. lithophila</i> C.Y. Wu	Lunan, E'shan, Yiliang, Shiping	1750-2000
<i>B. macrotoma</i> Irmsch.	Lincang, Gengma, Menghai	1200-1500
<i>B. maguanensis</i> S.H. Huang et Shui	Maguan	1760
<i>B. malipoensis</i> S.H. Huang et Shui	Malipo	1300
<i>B. masoniana</i> Irmsch.	?Hekou	
var. <i>maculata</i> S.K. Chen et R.X. Zheng	Cultivated in Kunming	
<i>B. megalophyllaria</i> C. Y. Wu	Pingbian	900-1000
<i>B. mengtzeana</i> Irmsch.	Mengzi, Jinping, Pingbian, Yuanyang	2000-2400
<i>B. miranda</i> Irmsch.	Pingbian, Jinping	1600-1800
<i>B. modestiflora</i> Kurz	Malipo	1100
<i>B. morifolia</i> Yu	Pingbian, Xichou	1300-1800
<i>B. muliensis</i> Yu	Zhongdian, Lijiang	1700-2200
<i>B. nymphaeifolia</i> Yu	Funing, Malipo	1000-1400
<i>B. obsolescens</i> Irmsch.	Malipo, Xichou, Wenshan, Jinping	1600-2000
<i>B. oreodoxa</i> Chun et Chun ex C.Y. Wu et Ku	Pingbian	1200
<i>B. palmata</i> D. Don	Yingjiang	1400
var. <i>crassisetulosa</i> (Irmsch.) J. Golding et C. Karegeannes	Tengchong, Lushui, Fugong, Gongshan	1800-2200
var. <i>difformis</i> (Irmsch.) J. Golding et C. Karegeannes	Lushui, Longling, Baoshan, Jingdong, E'shan	750-2200
var. <i>henryi</i> (Levl.) C.Y. Wu	Simao	1350-1700
<i>B. parvula</i> Levl. et Van	?E. Yunnan	
<i>B. paucilobata</i> C.Y. Wu	Suijiang	1700
<i>B. peii</i> C.Y. Wu	Mengla	1000
<i>B. pingbiensis</i> C. Y. Wu	Pingbian	1000-1500
<i>B. polytricha</i> C.Y. Wu	Luchun, Yuanyang, Maguan	1800-2200
<i>B. prostrata</i> Irmsch.	Simao, Jinghong, Hengla, Cangyuan, Gengma	750-1530
<i>B. pseudodryadis</i> C.Y. Wu	Pingbian	1320
<i>B. psilophylla</i> Irmsch.	Hekou	150-700
<i>B. purpureofolia</i> S.H. Huang et Shui	Pingbian, Jinping	1500
<i>B. reflexisquamosa</i> C.Y. Wu	Luchan, Pingbian	1500-1820
<i>B. repenticaulis</i> Irmsch.	W. Yunnan	
<i>B. rex</i> Putz.	Yingjiang	950
<i>B. rhodophylla</i> C.Y. Wu	Lunan	1800-2000
<i>B. rotundilimba</i> S.H. Huang et Shui	Pingbian	1600-1810

<i>B. rubroides</i> C.M. Hu ex C.Y. Wu et Ku	Pingbian, Jinping	1300-2200
<i>B. rubropunctata</i> S.H. Huang et Shui	Jinghong	750
<i>B. scitifolia</i> Irmsch.	Suijiang	1300-1600
<i>B. setifolia</i> Irmsch.	Mengzi, Pingbian	1750-2500
<i>B. silletensis</i> (A.DC.) C. B. Clarke	Jinghong, Mengla	570-800
<i>B. summoglabra</i> Yu	Pingbian	1400
<i>B. taliensis</i> Gagnep.	Yangbi, Dali, Heqing, Jianchuan, Lijiang, Yongsheng, E'shan, Jingdong, Shuangbei, Shiping, Mengzi, Pu'er	1300-2000
<i>B. tetragona</i> Irmsch.	Malipo, Pingbian, Luchan, Menghai, Jingdong Cangyuan, Gongshan,	
1100-1500		
<i>B. truncatiloba</i> Irmsch.	Mengzi	1400-1600
<i>B. tsaii</i> Irmsch.	Pingbian	1500
<i>B. versicolor</i> Irmsch.	Mengzi, Simao, Jinghong, Pingbian	1800-2100
<i>B. villifolia</i> Irmsch.	Pingbian	1600
<i>B. wangii</i> Yu	Funing	600-800
<i>B. wenshanensis</i> C.M. Hu	Wenshan	2200
<i>B. yui</i> Irmsch.	Lincang	1300
<i>B. yunnanensis</i> Levl.	Hequin, Dali, Simao, Lanping	1500-3000

Our study was based on herbarium specimens kept in the herbarium of the Kunming Botanical Institute and the related literature as well as fieldwork. The result showed that there were 88 species, 1 subspecies and 7 varieties of *Begonia* distributed in Yunnan. The main distribution areas of the genus are Wenshan and Honghe Prefectures from South Yunnan, the Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Region and Simao Prefecture from SW Yunnan and the Dehong Dai Autonomous Region from W. Yunnan. The distribution range of altitude varies greatly from the lowest altitude of 150 meters at Hekou to the highest of 2800 meters at Gongshan and Weixi. The most southern limit of distribution of the genus in Yunnan is Mengla, the northern limit in Suijiang, the western limit in Yingjiang and the eastern limit in Funing. The species from the tropics often grow under the tropical monsoon forest while those from the subtropics always grow in subtropical ever-

green broad-leaf forest. The species from central and NW Yunnan normally grow along streams or on wet cliffs or in shady areas. Very few plants were found in dry or open areas.

Cultivation

Most *Begonia* species from Yunnan are ideal for indoor growing. Only a few species grow well in the open garden. Suitable soil condition, light, humidity, temperature, and watering are necessary for successfully growing *Begonia*.

Soil Condition: Compost collected from the mountains near Kunming were used for growing *Begonia*. The PH of the soil used for growing *Begonia* is 6.8. The result indicated that most species can grow well in this soil condition.

Light: Two types of shaded houses are used for growing *Begonia*, one type is 45% shaded and another one is 60% shaded. The results showed that most

species collected from the tropics and subtropics were growing well in the 60% shaded houses, but most species were growing poorly in the 45% shaded house. It was also discovered that some species like *B. masoniana* need a deep shade condition.

Humidity: Our research indicated that a condition of 50-60% humidity are suitable for growing most species of *Begonia*. Less than 40% humidity caused leaf loss and flower bud drop while higher than 70% caused leaf and stem rot in some species. Higher humidity also can cause disease problems. So a good circulation of air is essential.

Temperature: There is no heating system in our *Begonia* house. The lowest temperature was 0°C in winter for more than ten days in total. The highest temperature in summer was 30°C inside the house. Two species were damaged by low temperature, but not killed, only losing all their leaves and stems, but growing again in summer. The high temperature did not harm any species. 20°C is a good temperature for most *Begonia*.

Watering: Our observation showed that all *Begonia* like to be grown on the dry side although they need relatively high humidity. Well drained pots or beds are needed for growing *Begonia*. Some rhizomatous *Begonia* such as *B. rex* do not need frequent watering while some cane and shrub type *Begonia* need more frequent watering. Too much watering would kill the plants, especially in winter.

Propagation

Experiments on propagation by cuttings or by seeds have been studied. Most species studied can be either propagated by cuttings or by seeds. Although most species can be propagated by cuttings,

rhizomatous *Begonia* are more easily propagated by leaf or rhizome cuttings while cane and shrub-like groups were easier to propagate by stem cuttings.

Cuttings: Only pure perlite cutting medium was used for cuttings. Cuttings can be taken nearly all year round in Kunming. It took only about ten days to root in summer, but it took at least two weeks to root in winter, but rhizome cuttings took about three weeks for new plantlets to appear. When the roots were visible, the cutting was potted up into a medium of 1:1 compost and perlite mixture.

Seed Propagation: A combination of 1:1 peat moss and sand medium was used for sowing seeds. The mixture for sowing seeds was sterilized by steam heating and was thoroughly dampened. The container was sealed with plastic after sowing seeds. The container was kept in a moist, but well-lighted and warm place during the germination period. The seeds of most species started to germinate between three days to one week. The seedlings were pricked out into a tray with suitable potting mix when the first true leaves were produced (ca. 1 cm). Most seedlings were potted up in about one month.

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4. Helen K. Krauss. *Begonias for American Homes and Gardens*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1947.
5. Kunming Institute of Botany. *Index*



Above, from left, Bob Cherry, Paradise Nursery, Kulmara, NSW Australia, Yang Gulan (Mrs. Guan Kaiyun), and Guan Kaiyun, Director, Kunming Botanical Garden, The Chinese Academy of Sciences, and an ABS member. Below, Begonia macrotoma Irmscher, collected from Genma, west of Yunnan province.



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Taxa of the Begonia L. (Begoniaceae) from China (Cont.), *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* 35 (1), 43-56, 1997.

8. Huang & Shui et al. New Taxa of Begonia L. from Yunnan, *Acta Botanica Yunnanica* 16(4), 333-342, 1994.

Nomenclature Notes for Studies on Begonias from Yunnan

by Jack Golding, February 17, 1999

There are now approximately 1400 correctly published *Begonia* species in the world, with approximately 40 more waiting for publication.

Change from *B. brevicaulis* T.C. Ku to *B. sinobrevicaulis* T.C. Ku.

The complete citation is:

B. brevicaulis T.C. Ku, *Acta Phytotax. Sin.* 35 (1): ###, 1997, non A. de Candolle, 1859; *Acta Phytotax. Sin.*, 37(2): ###, 1999. *ined. fide* T.C. Ku in *litteris* to J.G., Mar. 12, 1999. N.

= **B. sinobrevicaulis** T.C. Ku, 1999

Change from "*B. gesnerioides* S.H. Huang & Y.M. Shui" to **B. hekouensis** S.H. Huang.

The complete citation is:

B. gesnerioides S.H. Huang & Y.M. Shui, *Acta Bot. Yunnanica*, 16 (4): 341, 1994, non L.B. Smith & B. G. Schubert, 1941. *Fide* S.H. Huang in *litteris* to J.G., Feb. 11, 1998.

= **B. hekouensis** S.H. Huang.

In the above list of species *B. laciniata* Roxburgh should be listed as *B. palmata* D. Don, syn. *B. laciniata* Roxburgh.

The complete citation is:

B. laciniata Roxburgh, *Fl. Ind.*, 3:649, 1832.—W.J. Hooker, *Bot. Mag.*, 83: pl. 5021, 1857.—A. de Candolle, *Prodr.*, 15(1):347, 1864. —C.B. Clarke in J.D. Hooker, *F. Brit. Ind.*, 2:645, 1879.—Irmischer, *Mitt. Inst. Allg. Bot. Ham burg*, 10:525, 1939. —H. Hara, *Fl. E. Himalaya*, 1:215, 1966

= **B. palmata** D. Don var. **palmata**, 1825.

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Note that all proceeds other than mailing costs from the sale of the above two publications are being donated to the Millie Thompson Publication Fund.

Also Available:

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B. 'Wanda'

1999 American Begonia Society Awards

by Michael Ludwig

Eleanor Calkins and **Gene** and **Ann Salisbury** know the feeling of winning. They were last year's winners of the American Begonia Society's national awards presented at the annual convention. This year in Los Angeles the ABS will present its top three awards at the annual banquet. These awards are presented for outstanding service on a national level. These awards may be received only once. The Alfred D. Robinson Medal is presented to a cultivar and may be won more than once by a hybridizer. Please give thorough consideration when submitting your nomination. Please give the reasons that make the person or plant eligible for the award.

Deadline for nominations is **July 1, 1999**. Please send nominations to:

**Michael Ludwig,
Awards Chairman
6040 Upland St.
San Diego, CA 92114.**

The **Eva Kenworthy Gray Award** is given for two reasons: **1.** Contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing good will and harmony among members; and/or **2.** contributing original material toward helping the rank and file members further their study of begonias.

The **Herbert P. Dyckman Award** for Service is presented to a member who has rendered long-term or very outstand-

ing service for ABS above and beyond the normal duties of a member or officer.

The **Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor** is for a begonia cultivar that has been released for at least five years and no more than fifteen. This hybrid must be registered with the Nomenclature Department and widely distributed, and the originator of the begonia must be a member of ABS.

Recipients of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award

Mae Blanton	1995
Kit Jeans Mounger	1996
Joan Coulat	1997
Gene & Ann Salisbury	1998

Recipients of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award

Ann Salisbury	1995
Carol Notaras	1996
Eleanor Calkins	1998

Recipients of the Alfred D. Robinson Medal

B. 'Silvermist' (Nuss)	1995
B. 'Sweet Diane' (Siebold)	1996

Earlier winners may be found on pages 54-55 of the March/April 1995 issue of the *Begonian* or write to Michael Ludwig at the above address.

The only way someone can win is if they are nominated. **Nominate someone today!**

Growing Organic, or, Mulch Ado

by Tamsin Boardman

Summer has arrived for those of us in the southwest, where heat is searing and rains almost unknown. Summer problems are different in other parts of the country, but no matter where you live summer is a time when your garden can be breathtakingly lush or discouragingly brown. One of the best things you can do to guarantee beauty is to mulch almost every plant in sight*: trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and those potted plants you have as accents - mostly begonias, of course.

What kinds of materials can you use for mulch? Your local garden center will have bags of all sorts of materials labeled as *mulch*: bark chips, shredded wood, pebbles, rocks, gravel, plus more creative packages such as cotton seed hulls. Emptying the bags and spreading the mulch around is quick and easy - but unless your gardening is limited to a few containers, the bagged mulches are mostly cost-prohibitive.

There are alternatives, which will depend on where you live. Those of us in the country can use surplus materials from neighbors: hay, straw, or any mix of farming left-overs; and manure of various origins, which often come pre-mixed with wood shavings or other bedding. City dwellers can chop and pile yard wastes such as grass clippings, fallen leaves, trimmings from perennials and annuals, and spread them over the beds.

Best of all, of course, is compost you create yourself out of garden and house-

hold wastes. It's free except for labor, and the kindest gift of all for your growing things. Find a pamphlet written locally about mulch-making in your area, or contact your local Master Gardeners' group for advice.

Remember though that mulch, like most things in life, isn't permanent. Good mulch will deteriorate, enriching the soil, but leaving the top layer exposed again. Keep an eye on your beds and renew your mulch as needed. One easy way to do this is to leave perennial and annual cuttings on the ground - you'll spread seeds this way, too.

Mulch isn't just a summer addition. Come fall most of us will want to protect our plants from cold, and a good layer of *mulch does that, too*. *Mulching improves your soil*, which means healthier plants, less need for fertilizers and pesticides, and a safer, healthier environment for you and your family. Mulching also lowers your water bill, prevents weeds, keeps tons of materials out of landfills. In the long run, mulching can save you time, energy, money. Give it a try!

*The exception? *Ground covers*. They're mulches unto themselves, covering the ground to retain moisture. Many flower. The climate in some parts of the country permit the use of begonias as ground covers under shrubs. Horticultural Correspondent Greg Sytch has had good success with that in Florida.

**Next Issue has the Annual
Directory of Begonia Societies!
Please get any changes and the
National Directors' phone
number and E-mail address if
there is one to John Ingles
right away.**

American Begonia Society Election 1999

About the Candidates

For President:

Charles Jaros has held numerous offices within the local Branches and ABS. He is Past President of the Miami and Palm Beaches Branches, has been 3rd Vice President of ABS, and was 1985 and 1993 ABS Convention Chairman. He is currently ABS Slide Librarian and has served on the Nominating and Awards Committees for ABS. He received the ABS' Herbert P. Dyckman Service Award for 1993. And he grows begonias that take awards not only in ABS shows, but State Fairs as well.

Gene Salisbury has served two years as ABS President. For the last two year he served as 1st Vice President. The latest challenge that Gene has taken on is that of Nomenclature Director and the responsibility of registering new cultivars. With his wife Ann, he received the Herbert P. Dyckman Service Award in 1998. Gene also grows outstanding "Best in Show" begonias.

For 1st Vice President:

Morris Mueller is currently serving as President and National Director for the Sacramento Branch of ABS. Morris is also an associate member of the San Francisco Branch and a member of the Southwest Region. Morris attends the national conventions and serves his branch and ABS in numerous ways.

Howard Clemens is a member of the Fred A. Barkley Branch and is a long time resident of Oklahoma. He was a Professor of Zoology at the University of Oklahoma from 1949 to 1983 and among many other duties was Director of the Fisheries Research Center. He is an avid grower of both begonias and Chrysanthemums. He has worked tirelessly to make ABS Conventions and Southwest Region Get-Togethers successful.

For 2nd Vice President:

Dale Sena began growing and loving begonias back in the 1970's as a member of the Santa Clara (CA) Branch. Since moving back to Florida, she has been a member of the Miami, Tampa, and Florida West Coast Branches, most recently serving as a National Director of the latter. For the past nine years she has served as curator of the begonia species collection at the University of South Florida, in Tampa, Florida. She grows and exhibits prize winning begonias as those who saw her B. 'Palomar Prince' in Atlanta will recall.

Howard Berg has been a member of ABS* since 1966 and of the Knickerbocker Branch since 1968. He was one of the founding members of the Chicago Branch and served as its initial president. He has served the Knickerbocker Branch as president for four terms over the years and is currently the treasurer. He has served ABS as 3rd Vice President in the past.

3rd Vice President:

Helen Spiers has been a driving force in organizing the three Houston area

#11 Canes, Virginia Hamann (IA), Chairman: Susanne Hvegholm (Sweden) wrote in the September flight that summer had been rainy; she is glad for her greenhouse. Her favorite begonias are: *B.* 'Silvermist', 'Superba 7', 'Lana', 'Pink Phantom', 'Melissa'. She uses sphagnum moss for starting leaves and cuttings, cane cuttings are water rooted, and cocoa fiber is good for rooting leaves. **Vickie Jackson** (LA) likes to root cane cuttings in water also. When planted into damp perlite and vermiculite leaves root fast.

#9 Growing Under Lights, Virginia Hamann (IA), Chairman: Daniel Haseltine (IL) is getting set for spring. He has purchased new light fixtures for his plant stands and is planning on planting lots of begonia and gesneriad seeds. **Jeannette Gilbertson** (CA) enjoys propagating. Her lighted plant stands are loaded with terrarium plants, pots and boxes full of seedlings and cuttings.

#10 Begonias, Growing All Kinds & #30 Rex Begonias were combined in February 1999. Rex begonias are troublesome to grow as they seem to need more warmth and humidity than one would think. They seem to like a more acid soil and, one hint I was told, they like to have a warm draft blowing on them.

#57 Mini-begonias/Terrarium Growing: Marilyn Dube (OR) wonders if *B.* 'Peridot' will bloom. She has a big plant in a domed terrarium, no bloom. Other plants in terrariums are in bloom; they are *B. prismatocarpa*, 'Butterscotch', *dichroa*, 'Winter Jewel' and 'Kathleen Meyer.'

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Reaching Out...

Palm Beach Tropical Flower and Garden Show

When branches and individuals exhibit begonias in the shows, they take begonias to those who may not be aware of their beauty and variety. That's a great recruiting strategy for new members. Here's an example.

Members of the Palm Beaches Branch (FL) took many ribbons and awards at the annual Palm Beach Tropical Flower and Garden Show, February 19-21. Charles Jaros won Best Begonia with *B. 'Withlacoochee'*, Best Aroid with *Aglonema hospitum variegatus* and Horticulture Sweepstakes with 19 blue ribbons. Other members receiving blue ribbons for their entries at the show were Frances Hunter, Donna Bailey, Virginia

Jens, and Johanna Kitsen. The Branch created a beautiful and informative display showing the various begonia groups, also displaying begonia art.

Handouts, *Begonian* back issues, and ABS Web Site information were available to the public. Much interest in begonias was created at the show. One of the highlights of the show were two 12 foot cardinal topiary's made completely with red *semperflorens* begonias from Cypress Gardens of Winter Haven, Florida.

Prize winning *B. 'Withlacoochee'*, (Michelson's cross of two unidentified trailing/scandent species in Florida, 1977) grown and photographed by Charles Jaros.



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Growing Tuberos Begonias in Michigan

by Gail S. Bones

Here is a picture of our deck garden taken in July. Everything will grow by another 30% until our frosts in mid-September. The deck rails are 3' high and our oldest tubers (now in their seventh year) will reach the top rail by frost.

Our routine is to place the tuber in lunch bags in separate cubicles of booze boxes along the outside wall of our heated basement. We let the frost kill the leaves first, bringing the pots under the overhangs until they totally dry out (no more watering), then spread out the tubers on paper in the cellar, their labels with them, until totally dry-usually mid to late October. At this point we put them in the cartons, with labels in bags. We describe



them by color, size, and how they acted (“huge red double upright” or “dainty yellow hanging, sprawl-out-of-control”, etc!). With our short growing season, we do not attempt to alter their growing by pruning. They do their thing and we love them as they are. Now and then, we’ll remove a leaf to let a bloom show better...that’s it.

We start the tubers in Mid-April, planting up the ones that are showing only. Usually all of them are planted by mid-May in shallow aluminum throwaway (but we keep them) roasting pans under grow lights in a bedroom window. They go into pots in late May to mid-June and outside by late June. (1998 was a warm spring and everything got accelerated one to two weeks.) We put two to five tubers in the

hanging baskets lined with moss or cocoa fiber and two to three in the large deck pots. Species that are described as 8 to 12” tall get 3’ high for us so staking is always a problem.. (I suppose with no frost they’d rival the house in size. I was amused at the lady’s description of a neglected begonia that rooted to her greenhouse floor and hit the ceiling, still growing!) We are always hunting down supports for the huge, heavy blossoms, usually the ones we bind are too short. Suggestions on sources would be appreciated.

My husband and I still work, so free time is taken up with house and yard in our beautiful summers; we never go anywhere then and vacation right here, playing host to city dwellers who escape swel-

tering heat and the rat-race. The begonias obviously love our 75^o days and 60^o nights. They get morning and midday sun through the tree leaves and thrive.

Every year we have a large outside party in mid-August and while most hostesses would be worrying about the house or food, my concerns are always only:

How are the plants looking?! They are the subject of lots of oohs & aahs -- sometimes from people who have never seen tuberous so large. People pull in the driveway and inquire what's in the baskets!

Gail Bones grows these spectacular tuberous begonias at 215 Michaywe Drive, Gaylord, MI 49735.

Begonia Bytes

by **Kathy Goetz,**
Internet Editor

The American Begonia Society has a new web site at **www. begonias.org** for begonia lovers. The new web page has lots of information about ABS and its various branches. It also is loaded with information about growing begonias. We hope the new web page will encourage people who are interested in raising begonias to learn more about them and join us as members of the ABS. This is a great way for the national society and the local branches to get some publicity.

We are planing to post information about the national convention as well as upcoming begonia events around the

country. If you would like us to list your next club sale, just send the information to me at **goetzk@dnc.net** or mail it to **Kathy Goetz, 935 W. Isabella St., Lebanon, OR 97355.** We can also include items of interest from your branch and excerpts from branch newsletters. Just send me a copy of anything you think would be interesting to other begonia growers and I will put it on-line. If your branch has a web page, send me the address and I will link it to the national page. If you have suggestions for other things you would like us to include, send that to me also.

I want specially to thank **Mary Rafferty** for all her help. She has done a great deal of work coding this page and deserves a special thank you from everyone in the ABS.

Buxton Check List Update

We are in the process of updating the Addendum (March 1997) to the Buxton Check List dated May 1990,

The updated Addendum will include all those cultivars contained in the March 1997 Addendum, plus any new cultivars that have been hybridized whose names were not previously published.

We are attempting to obtain any new cultivars so as to give hybridizers credit, plus the Nomenclature Department needs

to know if there are duplications of names. Cultivars need not be registered to be listed.

For hybridizers interested in getting their plants listed (not registered), please contact by mail or E-Mail or Fax:

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

E-mail: ingles@humboldt1.com
Phone/Fax: 1-707-764-5407

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Listing

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 needs donations of the following seeds requested by members: *B. acetosa*, *ampla*, *cathayana*, *cavallyensis*, *chlorosticta*, *compta*, *decora*, *diadema*, *floccifera*, *hydrocotylifolia*, *leprosa*, *listada*, *manii*, *paranaensis*, *polygonoides*, *sharpeana*, *solimutata*, *tayabensis*, *wollnyi*.

Most packets of species seeds are \$1.50 each and all packets of hybrid seeds are 50 cents each. Very rare seed and newly collected seeds 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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The CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND is a project of the San Miguel Branch of the ABS in San Diego County, California. Donors of seeds in this issue are Freda Holley, Michael Gratton, Evey MacDuff, Michael Ludwig, Jackie Davis, Dominique Permingeat, Mabel Corwin, and Beatrice Huckriede.

Species Seeds

- MJ99-1:** *B. coriacea*
- MJ99-2:** *B. crassicaulis*
- MJ99-3:** *B. echinosepala*
- MJ99-4:** *B. egregia*
- MJ99-5:** *B. incarnata*
- MJ99-6:** *B. johnstonii*
- MJ99-7:** *B. macduffieana*
- MJ99-8:** *B. rotundifolia*

MJ99-9: *B. socotrana*

MJ99-10: *B. U315*

Hybrid Seeds

MJ99-11: *B. foliosa*

'Toledo' hort. (2.00)

MJ99-12: *B. 'Rory'*

The seed listed above as 'Toledo' are probably a species different from *B. foliosa*. It has been known in the Society as 'Toledo' every since it was introduced by the Seed Fund several years ago.

DESCRIPTIONS

MJ99-1: *B. coriacea* Hasskarl. (Java) (U087) An enchanting small begonia with rounded, peltate leaves the color of copper; continuously blooming deep pink flowers, needs high humidity.

MJ99-2: *B. crassicaulis* Lindley (Guatemala) Loses all its leaves, blooms on bare rhizome, then leaf out with deeply incised, large glossy leaves.

MJ99-3: *B. echinosepala* Regal (Brazil) Sometimes called "peach tree begonia" for its bare, elongated leaves, gracefully arching stems, fragrant white flowers, winter through summer.

MJ99-4: *B. egregia* N.E. Brown (Brazil) Thick-stemmed, tall with large elongated scabrous leaves, white flowers in winter.

MJ99-5: *B. incarnata* Link & Otto (Mexico) Shrub-like with small, bare, green leaves and fragrant rose-pink flowers.

MJ99-6: *B. johnstonii* Oliver (Tanganyika) Thick-stemmed with medium sized green leaves, scalloped margin and pink flowers.

MJ99-7: *B. macduffieana* Smith & Schubert (Brazil) Tall, cane-stemmed, long, narrow green leaves, and large

panicles of brilliant orange-red flowers.

MJ99-8: *B. rotundifolia* Lamarck (West Indies). Upright rhizomatous; small medium green roundish, waxy-textured leaves with a red spot at the petiole juncture, and light pink flowers.

MJ99-9: *B. socotrana* J.D. Hooker (Socotra) Bulbous Begonia that goes dormant in the summer when its home island is very dry; it has a profusion of pink blossoms and medium green roundish peltate leaves like little green umbrellas.
MJ99-10: *B. U315* (Madagascar) Medium shrub or hanging basket; characterized by swollen nodes along the stem; medium dark green leaves, profuse white blossoms much of the year.

MJ99-10: *B. foliosa* 'Toledo' hort. (limited supply, \$2.00) Shrub type with succulent stems, blooms pink in late winter through summer; does not require high humidity, blooms best in good light when kept on the dry side. This *Begonia* was collected by Scott Hoover several years ago at a place called Toledo probably in Columbia. It was distributed by Joy Porter; some members may have grown it with a number starting SH. It is not known how the name *B. foliosa* became attached to it. The plant resembles *B. holtonis*, formerly known as *B. foliosa* var. *amplifolia*. (Nomenclature note: *B. foliosa* is a very variable species. Plants from these seeds should be compared to the description of *B. holtonis* to see if they are the same.)

MJ99-12: *B. 'Rory'* Tuberous cultivar (*B. cinnabarina* x *B. boliviensis*); tall stems, orange blossoms somewhat like *B. cinnabarina*, but darker. First distributed by the Seed Fund in 1987. This Frost cultivar comes fairly true from seeds.

Minutes of Board Meeting, American Begonia Society, Tampa, FL, February 6, 1999

1. President Bruce Boardman opened the meeting with 40 ABS members present and with 44 board member votes represented. **2. Andrew Conely** read the Aims and Purposes of the Society. **3. Secretary Richard Macnair** read the minutes of the Sept. 26, 1998 meeting in Santa Barbara, CA and with corrections regarding finances and other matters, they were approved. **4. Treasurer Carol Notaras** reported on the finances for the period September 21 to December 31, 1998. The combined checking accounts began with \$31,719.04 and ended with \$28,355.56. The savings accounts ended with \$34,059.10. The combined savings and checking accounts began with \$64,328.58 and ended with \$62,414.66. Income for the period was \$10,620.67 and disbursements were \$14,961.12. The report was accepted. **5. Audit Committee Chair Paul Tsamtsis** has chosen **Morris Mueller** as the third member of the committee. **6. Back Issues Chair Ann Salisbury** requested and received reimbursement for the shipping of back issues received from **Rudy Ziesenhenn** and \$50 for sturdy boxes in which to store all back issues. Back issues received from Rudy may be purchased at \$1 per single issue and \$5 per volume (all issues in one year). **7. Ballot Counting Chair Ingeborg Foo** reported that many members will not damage their *Begonian* by removing their ballot and thus do not vote. After a lengthy discussion, a motion made and seconded to send out ballots to all members by first class mail was rejected on a vote of 27-13 as not cost effective. A second motion was made, seconded, and carried to continue

distributing the ballot in the *Begonian*. ... **9. Branch Relations Chair Mary Bucholtz** reported sending info on branch formation to **Dick Lutz** in Bennington, VT. **10. Membership Chair John Ingles, Jr.** sent a written report indicating there were 1320 members as of December 31, 1998. This total was made up of 1120 primary members, 58 second family members, 55 lifetime members and 87 institutional members. **11. Conservation Chair Tamsin Boardman** reported sending out a Save our Species Newsletter in October. **12. Convention Advisor Mary Elizabeth Moultrie** reported that \$50 had been sent to the treasurer for the Slide Library. **14. Internet Editor Kathy Goetz** reported that the ABS now has a web page which may be reached at www.begonias.org and she presented several ideas for generating new members via the web page. **15. Judging Chair Maxine Zinman** presented the skeleton show schedule to help standardize begonia shows nationwide and this was approved after a lengthy discussion. **16. Seed Fund Chair Eleanor Calkins** reported the transfer of \$1,000 from seed sales to the general fund and urges everyone to set seed on their species. **17.** A motion was made, seconded, and carried to use some slide library income to purchase equipment to transfer slides to video programs. ...**19.** The Barkley Branch is celebrating its 20th birthday this year. ...**25.** Board approval was given to the nominating committee of **Ingeborg Foo, Mary McClelland, and Johanna Zinn.** **25. Morris Mueller** was approved as the third member of the Audit Committee. **26 Greg Sytch** was approved as Horticultural Correspondent. **27. Andrew Conely** was accepted as Public Relations Chair.

These minutes have been abbreviated 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.

Help!!

by **Andrew Conely,**
Public Relations Director

As your Public Relations Director your HELP is needed! I subscribe to many horticultural magazines and buy a few more each month from magazine racks. As "Plant Junkies," you probably do too.

A complete list of magazines we read will give me power with the publishers. We need to use this purchasing power to get as much "free" publicity as possible. There is a need to advertise our meetings, sales, and conventions nationally and regionally. Articles about begonias and the nurseries that supply them will also be easier to "sell" to magazines we read.

Please take a few minutes and compile a list of all plant related magazines you read. Note if the magazine is purchased from a stand or subscribed to. How many years you have received or read the periodical could be helpful (example: 400 subscriptions to *SUNSET*, and the average duration is 7 years; equals 2,800 subscription "years").

Include the other plant societies that you belong to. If you have an interest in another plant family, there may be future American Begonia Society members within its ranks. When advertising is possible, it makes sense to use those societies' journals that our members receive and we currently exchange ads with a number of societies. Perhaps there are others we should consider. We need to reach people with interests similar to our own.

Any and all information will be helpful. Please do it today!! Public notices have lead times of three or four

months to meet publishing schedules. We need to start today. Thank you! Send your lists to:

Andy Conely
4575 Elm Court
Denver, Colorado 80211-1442

Email: sierra_vista_gardens@juno.com

In The Mailbox by **Greg Sytch,** **Horticultural Correspondent**

As time goes on, some things come back around at you. So it goes for the position of Horticultural Correspondent. For those that remember my first foray several years ago, they already know that while I live in tropical Tampa Bay, I came from New Jersey. Growing for 8 years in the Garden State means my advice has a dual point of view.

The purpose of my job is to answer questions about growing begonias. If you have success--SUPER--but once in a while, situations arise where your favorite variety declines, or disease or insect pests infest your collection. There are many plausible problems that appear throughout the year, so feel free to write to me at:

Greg Sytch
6329 Alaska Avenue, Dept. ABS
New Port Richey, FL 34653-1230
Ph: 727-841-9618.

If you want to call, evenings are best, or weekends. Look for articles to appear addressing some of the more popular and intriguing problems. Just feel free to write or call for help.

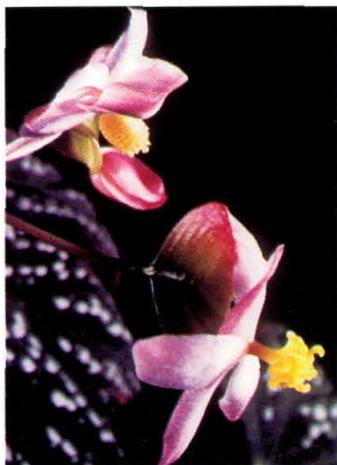
Conservation News

by Tamsin Boardman,
Conservation Chair

An interesting thing happened in the show room at the Atlanta convention; as I was admiring the gorgeous *B. deliciosa* grown by Charles Jaros, a visitor asked if the name meant that this begonia was tasty. I answered that it probably did, as this is one begonia reputed to be grown as food in Asia. The visitor promptly pinched off a flower, popped it in his mouth, and pronounced it “interesting - sweet, yet tart.”

I was taken aback; not just because someone would munch on a show plant, but also because that plant might have

been sprayed with pesticides. Charles later laughed about it, and assured me that he never, ever used toxic chemicals on his



Below, Charles Jaros' *B. deliciosa* photographed by Midori Nobusawa in Atlanta 1998. Above, *B. deliciosa*'s beautiful bloom. Photograph by Edward and Mildred Thompson.



babies. The taster would not keel over.

Begonias are edible, a fact that appalls some of us and appeals to others. Whether you want to munch on it or not, there are good reasons to grow *B. deliciosa*. It's a treat for the eyes, too.

B. deliciosa is a charming begonia, with cleft dark leaves generously spotted with silver; its delicate light pink flowers are fragrant. Classified horticulturally as "rhizomatous, rhizome erect, jointed at or below soil level," it produces odd bulbous growths at soil level, then shoots stems straight up into the air. It can grow to a medium-sized shrub.

B. deliciosa was discovered by Jean Linden in 1881 in Borneo, a land of steamy climate. It is beautifully suited to its home with Charles in Florida. In less tropical areas it will require winter protection, and additional humidity will help. Place it near a water source, don't let the soil dry out, and do all you can to keep the humidity high.

Charles Jaros has another link to this begonia. In 1976 Paul Lowe crossed *B. hatacoa* 'Silver' x *B. deliciosa*, and produced *B.* 'Charles Jaros' ABS registration #812.

Some of our top hybridizers have used this Borneo native: Belva Kusler created *B.* 'Jean Herr' (*B. deliciosa* x *B. kenworthyae*; ABS registration #368, 1973); Michael Kartuz created *B.* 'Tsunami' (from the same cross as Lowe, 1978). In Japan Isamu Misono crossed *B. masoniana* x *B. deliciosa* to create *B.* 'Bronze Iron' (1980). All of these offspring were classified as "rhizomatous, rhizome erect" or as "rhizomatous, rhizome jointed at or below soil level with erect stems."

Crossed with rexes, *B. deliciosa* produced rex offspring. Kit Jeans Mounger crossed *B.* 'Hallelujah' (one of her hybrids, an upright-stemmed rex) x.

B. deliciosa and got *B.* 'Camisole.' Robert Cole crossed *B. deliciosa* x 'Sir Roy Yewell' for *B.* 'Satire', a rex with an upright stem and large spiral leaves.

Then, the always adventurous Patrick Worley crossed thick-stemmed, hairy leaved *B. dipetala* x *B. deliciosa*. Resulting seed produced four begonias distinctive enough to name: *B.* 'Daniel Worley', 'Jesse Worley', 'Ricky Kramer', and 'Shawne Worley'. Neither thick-stemmed nor rhizomatous, all these are classified as shrub-like, distinctive foliage, unusual surface and/or coloring, and described as everblooming with pink flowers.

So this is a versatile begonia. Even if munching on begonias doesn't appeal to you, you could grow it to help preserve a species, for its beauty, for its unusual growth habit, for use in hybridizing. It's not an easy grower - the Thompsons' list it as "for the collector" - but it is one of our more interesting and arresting species, and well worth the effort.

ABS sponsors an 'Adopt a Species' program through the Conservation Department. If you would like to 'adopt' a species, grow, propagate, report on it, and share it with others, contact:

**Tamsin Boardman,
Conservation Chair,
P.O. Box 69
Bluff Dale, TX 76433**

for more information.

***It's not too late!*
If you want to attend the
Southwest Region
Get-Together, May 6-9 call
Tamsin at 254-728-3485.**

BEGONIA KALEIDOSCOPES

ABS Convention 1999

September 1-5, 1999

The beautiful kaleidoscopic quilt pictured below was designed and sewn by Westchester Branch President and Convention Co-Chairman Katsuko Nakagawa. This quilt is just one of the Prizes for Convention '99. Another is a lead glass terrarium designed by Marty Korobkin, very helpful husband of Louise Korobkin, Convention Co-Treasurer. We'll try to have a photo ready for the next issue.

To tempt you further on the delights awaiting you at Begonia Kaleidoscopes in September, here is a "to date" list of the wonderful seminars prepared for you by Seminar Chairman Thelma O'Reilly: **1. Begonia Treasures of Yore.** Mary Bucholtz' amazing collection of begonia collectibles will be shown and discussed. **2. Raising Cane-Like Begonia Species.** Freda Holley will discuss the experiences leading to her new booklet. **3. Species to Hybrids.** A panel of noted experts including Brad Thompson and Don Miller will discuss how species are used to make glorious new hybrid begonias. **4. Challenging Symbegonias & Asian Species.** Bill Ash, English begonia expert speaks on the rare and difficult symbegonias and intriguing Asian species. **5. Kaleidoscopic Reflections.** Thelma O'Reilly's Banquet Program will present a dazzling slide show looking back on the beginnings and early years of the Begonia Century and the people who made it great, including artist Alice Clark.

And don't forget the wonderful tours every day beginning Wednesday, September 1, Lotusland and Pam Hantgin's Garden, Montecito and Ventura; Thursday, Mike Kartuz' Nursery/Weidner's Nursery/Members' Gardens, Vista, Leucadia, Westchester, Palos Verdes & Lomita; Friday afternoon, the Gardens of the Getty Museum, Brentwood; Saturday morning, International Fern Show, Arcadia; and Sunday, Gardens of Elda Regimbal, Orange.

We'll try to leave some time to enjoy the beautiful hotel, to catch your breath, meet new begonia friends and catch up on old friends. Just be sure not to miss this Convention. Make your reservations now. **Southern California Welcomes You!**

~ Convention Committee



In Memory

Margaret Ziesenhenne passed away on March 9, 1999 in Santa Barbara, California. **Rudy Ziesenhenne** married Margaret Selover, a native of Santa Barbara on July 6, 1933. They had two sons, **Henry** and **Fred**.

Margaret served as ABS President from 1974 to 1975, but over the years she performed countless other services for ABS from preparing the *Begonian* Index for several years to serving on various work committees and in offices such as ABS Parliamentarian.

Along with her work for ABS, Margaret assisted her husband tirelessly in his growing of begonias and in his research writing about them. Yet, in addition to all this, she had a full time career, working first with the U.S. Forest Service and later with the IRS.

ABS mourns her loss and conveys its deepest sympathy to Rudy Ziesenhenne and the family.

Pronunciation of Begonia Epithets for the Begonian, 66: May/June, 1999*

by Jack Golding

boliviensis	boh-liv-i-EN-siz
cinnabarina	sin-na-bar-EYE-nuh
coriacea	kor-i-AY-se-uh
crassicaulis	kras-si-KAW-lis
deliciosa	de-lis-i-OH-suh
dipetala	deye-PET-a-luh
echinosepala	ek-in-oh-SEP-a-luh
egregia	e-GREE-ji-uh

foliosa	foh-li-OH-suh
‘Toledo’ hort.	Toh-LEE-doh
hatacoa	ha-ta-KOH-uh
holtonis	hol-TOHN-is
syn. <i>foliosa</i>	foh-li-OH-suh
var. <i>amplifolia</i>	amp-li-FOH-li-uh
incarnata	in-kar-NAY-tuh
johnstonii	john-STON-i-eye
kenworthyae	ken-WORTH-i-ee
macduffiana	mak-duf-fi-EE-ay-nuh
macrotoma	mak-ro-TOH-muh
masoniana	MAY-son-i-ay-nuh
prostrata	pros-TRAY-tuh
rotundifolia	roh-tun-di-FOH-li-uh
socotrana	sok-koh-TRAY-nuh
soli-mutata	sol-i-myew-TAY-tuh
thelmae	THELMA-ee

* Because the listing in the Yunnan article beginning on page 90 is so extensive and so few are readily available to growers, only the pictured begonias are included here.

Editor’s Notes...

You will note that the editor’s big news this month is a move. The address given on page 118 is temporary; stay tuned next month for a new one! Our farm in Arkansas is sold, but as yet we do not have a new home. Thanks to all who helped with their timeliness to get this issue out before we moved!

Lucy Kuder received the plant offered last month with her article to appear in an upcoming issue.

Corrections:

In the March/April issue’s article on *Begonia wollnyi*, on page 47, Column 1, line 17, add “were growing” after West Coast. On page 52, the caption under Plate 3 should read: “Older leaves peltate, others non-peltate.”

News: ABS, Branch, and International

The ABS Board Meeting in Tampa, Florida in February was a wonderful experience from the initial reception at Dale Sena's home to the closing at Eileen and Bob Hart's house and garden. More than 50 ABS members soaked up the Florida warmth and sunshine. A special treat was the Florida State Fair where we saw begonias grown to perfection and were thrilled to see that Charles Jaros' magnificent B. U002 shown below beat out not only all begonias but all other types of plants to win the overall Best of Show.

The Monterey Bay Area Branch (CA) celebrated its 28th anniversary on February 24th with a night out at Chef Lee's Mandarin House Restaurant.

The National Begonia Society of England is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The San Francisco Branch (CA) celebrated its 60th anniversary with a birthday cake on February 3rd.

The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch (CA) celebrated its 62nd birthday with a potluck dinner on May 15th.

The Palomar Branch (CA) devoted its March meeting to advise on pollinating begonias and collecting seed for the Seed Fund.

A new book in the Wageningen Agricultural University (Netherlands) series, *Studies in Begoniaceae VI: The Sections of Begonia* by J. Doorenbos, M.S.M. Sosef, and J.J.F.E. de Wilde was published on 2/12/98.

B. U002 was the Florida State Fair winner grown by Charles Jaros. This plant is thought to be a natural hybrid of *B. thelmae* and *B. soli-mutata*.
Photo by Charles Jaros.



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COMING EVENTS

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

June 5, 1999: Alamo Branch (TX) Plant Sale, Rolling Oaks Mall, San Antonio.

September 1-5, 1999: Begonia Kaleidoscopes, ABS Convention, hosted by Westchester Branch, Los Angeles, CA. Come on August 31 to be there for the first tour on Wednesday morning, September 1. The show will close at 4 PM on September 5. Hotel is embassy Suites, Los Angeles Airport - South, 1440 East Imperial Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90145, PH: 310-640-3600. Free shuttle.

October 2-3, 1999: Palomar Branch show of begonias at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park.

March 25-26, 2000: Begonia Convention 2000 will be held at the Haven Motel, Glenelg, Adelaide, Australia. The South Australian Begonia Society invites all to attend. For information write to the Convention Secretary, Mrs. Myrnie Jennings, 4 Kinnaird Crescent, Highbury, South Australia, 5089.

Closing date for July/August issue is June 20!

The Begonian

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