



# *The* **Begonian**

*November/December 1999*

# *The Begonian*

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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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## Cover

**Front:** Big and beautiful B. 'Shadow Box', a Dorothy Caviness hybrid obtained as a small plant in Atlanta last year by Arlene Hoskins and grown to perfection, was photographed by Mary Bucholtz.

**Back:** This leaf of B. 'Cathedral Windows' shows where this plant got its name; to see why it won Best in Show for Arlene Hoskins, see the whole plant on page 207. Mary Bucholtz took the photo and enhanced the name 'Cover Girl' given her by Michael Ludwig (see page 231).

## Begonia Kaleidoscopes

What a convention put on for us by the Westchester Branch and its California counterparts on September 1-5, 1999! California displayed its best weather for those of us weary of the heat, and the hotel treated us sumptuously. We went from early morning to late night for begonia filled activities. Begonias big, begonias beautiful, begonias rare...more begonias than some of us had every seen! We saw them in parks, in nurseries, in gardens, even in the Fern Show! But nowhere did we see them so lovely as at the ABS Show. And the plant sale! So many plants and all sold by the closing day! So big was this convention that it will take more than one issue to cover it all. In these pages learn about the winners and begin the tours with Atlanta's Mary Elizabeth Moultrie. And meet this year's winners of the ABS prestigious awards. Then, hold on till next issue for more to come! It is not possible to list the names of those many members led by Janet Brown who made this convention one of the greatest of all times, but to all of you, ABS expresses admiration and thanks.

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## Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads

**200001 or 200002**, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

## *President's Notes . . .*

The 1999 Convention is now history and what a great convention it was. Janet Brown and the Convention Committee are to be commended on a job well done. This was one of the largest conventions ever with 210 registrants and many international members attending from France, Singapore, Australia, England, and Japan. We are truly an international society. A great time was had by all. Mark your calendars now for the 2000 ABS Convention in West Palm Beach, May 3-7, 1999 and don't forget to submit your poem on begonias for the poem contest.

In my first President's Message to ABS I want to introduce myself. I've been an ABS member since 1972 and have served in various offices and committees at both national and branch level. It is a great honor to serve as your President and I thank ABS for expressing their confidence in me. ABS has a great group of officers who are ready and willing to work for ABS and its members. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us with questions, comments, or suggestions.

I hope to be able to increase membership in ABS and promote begonias during my term in office. Promoting begonias and membership is something all ABS members can help with. I know many of you give lectures to garden clubs and other plant organizations; have the newly re-developed "7 Reasons to Join ABS" available to hand out during your lecture. If someone wants to join ABS during your lecture, take the membership form, check and send it to the Membership Secretary. Have those pamphlets at your Branch plant sales; take them to your local nursery. If we all do our part we can spread the word about begonias and ABS. Public Relations Director Andrew Conley

and Branch Director Mary Bucholtz are there to assist you when needed. Mention our Internet web page (<http://www.begonias.org>); this is a great source of information about ABS and begonias. This February 2000 I will be giving a lecture on begonias in West Palm Beach to 200+ members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. What better way to promote ABS and begonias!

The demand for begonias is out there. A wholesale nursery in my area ships Rex begonias, rhizomatous begonias, cane and shrub-like begonias all over the United States and they often times have trouble meeting the demand for begonias. If your local nursery does not carry begonias, ask them to do so. Volunteer to present a lecture on begonias at the nursery. Local branch plant sales activities are always brisk with repeat customers and new customers purchasing plants. Why aren't these people ABS members? Because we may be lax in promoting ABS.

I want to take this time to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season with Best Wishes and Good Begonia Growing in the Millennium.

*~Charles Jaros*

**It was voted at the annual meeting held at the convention that all holiday greetings this year would be run in black and white in order that color pages might be used for photos from the convention. Let's all thank the Branches!**

***May your holidays bring beautiful begonias!***



## Letters to the Editor

### Kudos

It takes many hands to build a house, but they are only as good as their leadership. Janet Brown's leadership brought us from a year of show committee meetings to a successful 1999 ABS Convention and Show.

Show committee members, with many of their own types of expertise and know-how, fitted enormous jobs expertly. There was a camaraderie of working together for the American Begonia Society's International Convention and Show.

Jan, along with her co-chairpersons and committee members from 12 California branches of the ABS, gave us five days of sharing our love of begonias and the unbeatable pleasure of coming together with so many from other countries as well as our own United States.

Committees included branch members from Westchester, Palos Verdes, Doug Frost, Orange County, Southbay, Long Beach Parent, San Gabriel Valley, San Diego, Whittier, Theodosia Burr Shepherd, Santa Barbara, and San Francisco - as well as ABS National Board Chairpersons from Texas, Florida, Colorado, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Oklahoma.

The show's beautiful begonias, exhibited by some of our finest growers, was enhanced by the very special begonia banners sent to us by the Glasgow Botanic Gardens in Scotland.

It is with love and admiration that we salute you, Jan, for your leadership as the 1999 ABS Convention and Show Chairperson. We could not have done it without you.

Ruth Pease  
8406 Croydon Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

*Ruth, all ABS members and especially those of us who attended an outstanding convention can only echo your sentiments.*

### The Great Hybrid Debate

I can't resist the opportunity to comment on the Great Hybrid Hassle (July/August 1999, pp. 128-9). *{Sotto voce; aw, c'mon now, 'fess up, Ed. Were letters such as mine your intention in pulishing the 'heated exchange'??} {I'll never tell! Ed.}*

To: Mr. Hahn: Why stop with eliminating unregistered hybrids from shows? Why not carry your argument to its logical conclusion and limit show plants to species begonias? Surely there is enough variation among the described species to ensure a whale of a show. In addition, the limit would make the judges' work a bit easier. They would be seeing the same species more than once and could develop an effective uniform judging standard.

To: Ms. Goetz: Why bother with registration of hybrids at all? Let the marketplace decide everything. As an example of how this can work consider the excellent popular line of Optimara African Violets. I sincerely doubt if registration of an Optimara with any AV organization would have a significant effect on its sales and distribution.

So much for my little exercise in *reductio ad absurdum*. The point of it, of course, is that the issues raised by begonia hybridization are manifold and complex.

On restriction of shows to species: do we really want to give up the opportunity to display a superbly-grown specimen of B. 'Cowardly Lion' or B. 'Paul's Pride' in a public setting? Or, for that matter, an absolute show-stopper of an unregistered hybrid? Where should we draw the line? And why?

On letting the market decide; do we (the begonia enthusiast community)

wish to leave the fate of hybrid standardization solely in the hands of the commercial growers? I think not.

OK! We've at least taken a quick peek at the extreme limits of the view presented and (I hope!) found them lacking. What can be done to make the best possible use of the extant plethora of hybrid begonias, registered and unregistered? With your indulgence, I'll throw out a few thoughts for discussion.

For shows, how about taking temporary baby steps in display categories to separately recognize registered and unregistered hybrids? Get feedback from the show committees, entrants and judges. Work from there based on the general acceptance or rejection of the specific changes.

For registration, formally review the goals of the registration program. I'm almost certain they don't include a burning desire to list zillions of temporary names? (As an aside: how is a hybrid listing deleted from the registry?) What are the goals? A fresh look might well suggest modifications to change the requirements for registration. Again, changes can be made in gradual stages. And also again, seek response from amateur and commercial growers and hybridizers. Make sure that both groups are well-represented on committees.

As a possible synthesis of the above; might it not be possible to eliminate some of the less-worthy hybrids from the registration process by requiring some show-winning ability in addition to other cultural requirements. This would not affect the amateur growers who hybridize just for the fun of it. It would have the effect of including showing as a necessary part of the registration process. The additional hurdle would not be onerous and would probably add an exciting element to the process of showing begonias. It might also

increase the number of entries and entrants.

The comments above are presented solely as a catalyst for a continuing discussion. They are most certainly not intended to be viewed as full-fledged viable actions.

Jim Hannah  
158 Fisher Ave.  
Staten Island, NY 10307

*Well, Jim, you raise some good points that certainly should draw some other members into the fray.*

### Wrong Address

It was great to see our little article in the latest Begonian. However there were a couple of errors in it; the first not so important, is that we publish six magazines per year (*Canterbury News*); the second quite important, was the fact that my E-mail address was not correct. It should read: **m.i.stevens@xtra.co.nz**

Do hope all is well. Spring has really sprung down this way. It is a fabulous time of year, I always think.

Mike Stevens  
47 Burnside Crescent  
Christchurch 8005  
New Zealand

**Merry  
Christmas  
from  
The San  
Gabriel Valley  
Branch**





*Begonia Kaleidoscopes Best in Show: B. 'Cathedral Windows' and Best Rex Cultivar B. 'Phil Corwin', both grown by Arlene Hoskins. Learn next issue how she grows them so big and beautiful.*



# Begonia Kaleidoscopes

## The Begonia Winners

**Best in Show:** B. 'Cathedral Windows' grown by Arlene Hoskins

**Sweepstakes:** Arlene Hoskins

**Showing is Sharing:** Iris Bird/Bob Golden

### Division Winners

<u>Division</u>	<u>Begonia</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>
Cane-like	B. 'Lois Burks'	Arlene Hoskins
Shrub-Like	B. 'Medora'	Arlene Hoskins
Rhizomatous	B. 'Cathedral Windows'	Arlene Hoskins
Rhizomatous Erect	B. Unknown	Arlene Hoskins
Rhizomatous Jointed at or Below the Soil	B. 'Little Brother Montgomery'	Janet Brown
Rex	B. 'Phil Corwin'	Arlene Hoskins
Species	B. <i>masoniana</i>	Iris Bird
Hanging Baskets	B. 'Argenteo-gutatta'	Arlene Hoskins
Contained Atmosphere - Single Begonia	B. 'Silver Jewel'	Louise Korobkin
Heritage Begonia	B. 'Universe'	Iris Bird
New Introduction	B. 'Kusler's Speckled'	Joan Coulat
Collection of Begonia	Green Box Container	Iris Bird
Novel Grown	B. 'Irene Nuss'	Louise Korobkin
Traveling Begonia	B. <i>U334</i>	Joyce Pridgen
Artistic Photographs of Begonias	B. 'Madame Queen'	Mary Bucholtz
Photographs of Begonias Judged Horticulturally	Unknown Rieger	Mary Bucholtz
Begonia Arts and Crafts	B. <i>pearcei</i>	LaVerne Hanell
Ferns	<i>Nephrolepis exaltata</i> , <i>whitmanii</i>	Louise Korobkin
Other Shade Plants	Alocasia	Arlene hoskins
Exhibits and Displays	Carousel Educational Display	Ruth and Walter Pease
Exhibits and Displays, Commercial or Clubs	Banners	Glasgow Botanic Gardens





## More Winners...

Top left, Best Heritage Begonia was *B. 'Universe'* (*B. 'Nora Bedson' x 'Leslie Lynn' O'Reilly 1965*) grown by Iris Bird who also exhibited the winner of Best Novel Container, "Green Box", top right, in which we see *B. 'Maria Holmes'* and *B. 'Euphrates'*, both Brad Thompson hybrids. Mary Bucholtz caught the beauty of the leaf of the Best New Introduction, *B. 'Kusler's Speckled'* grown by Joan Coulat, right. Joyce Pridgen brought *B. U334* (Don Miller's finding in Malaysia) from Florida to win Best Traveling Begonia.



## Culture Awards

<u>Begonia</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>
B. 'Black Gold'	96	Iris Bird/ Bob Golden
B. 'Lenore Olivier'	97.5	Arlene Hoskins
B. 'Jim Wyrzten'	98	Arlene Hoskins
B. 'Lois Burks'	99	Arlene Hoskins
B. 'Aya'	98.7	Arlene Hoskins
B. 'Morocco'	95	Louise Korobkin
B. 'Medora'	95.5	Arlene Hoskins
B. <i>masoniana</i>	96.3	Louise Korobkin
B. 'Cathedral Windows'	97.7	Arlene Hoskins
B. 'Marmaduke'	97	Louise Korobkin
B. 'Shadow Box'	96.7	Arlene Hoskins
B. Unknown	95	Arlene Hoskins
B. 'Little Borthor Montgomery'	97	Janet Brown
B. 'Phil Corwin'	98	Arlene Hoskins
B. <i>masoniana</i>	96	Iris Bird
B. 'Tom Ment'	95	Iris Bird
B. 'Argenteo-gutatta'	98	Arlene Hoskins
B. <i>prismatocarpa</i>	95	Rhea Campana
B. 'Silver Jewel'	96.7	Louise Korobkin
B. 'Universe'	95	Iris Bird
B. 'Kusler's Speckled'	95	Joan Coulat
B. 'Irene Nuss'	96.3	Louise Korobkin
B. 'Sinbad'	95	Arlene Hoskins
B. 'Little Brother Montgomery'	95.6	Arlene Hoskins

## California Daydreaming

by Mary Elizabeth Moultrie

When we heard that the 1999 ABS Convention was to be held in southern California, my husband Eddie and I wanted to attend, but we had already planned a two week visit to California in September 1998. As much as we longed to attend, we knew that we could not make two trips to California within a year's time. Then we had the good fortune to not only share the table with Rudy at the luncheon that was given in his honor in Santa Bar-

bara but also to share the table with Jeanne Jones and Iris Bird. Jeanne started telling us about Lotusland that had already been reserved as a tour for ABS. How could we miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to see such a spectacular garden? As my mind wandered off into the fantasy of wondering if such a place could exist, Jeanne started saying that we were also going to the Getty Museum. As an architect, Eddie has spent twelve years wondering about this great architectural accomplishment, and then there was the garden as well as the art. We were weakening.





### At Lotusland...

*B. 'Mrs. Fred D. Scrips'*, above, *B. angularis* in bloom, below, and *B. tomentosa* using a tree as a stake are only examples of the begonias Mary Bucholtz caught on film at Lotusland.



Then, Iris started telling me about her and Bob's yard. Were her plants as spectacular as my mind started to imagine? Would we get to see for ourselves? We had heard of the legendary California begonia growers; so maybe my mind was not creating an exaggeration. Before the dessert arrived, Eddie and I knew that in less than a year we would be back in California and that there would be spectacular and wondrous tours for us to enjoy. When the registration information arrived, there was no doubt that we would sign up for every tour. And oh what an incredible time we had!

On the first day of the convention, we board the bus for our trip back to Santa Barbara and Lotusland. There was much anticipation about Lotusland, and then we pulled up to a small house in Ventura. Part of the day's activities would be to stop at Pam Hantgin's for lunch and to tour her garden. All thoughts of Lotusland ceased as we rounded the corner of her house and were awe struck by the magic that was Pam's back yard. There were begonias and fuchsias and streptocarpus growing everywhere. The overhead was a mass of hanging baskets in all the colors of the rainbow. And this was an individual's yard! I immediately told Eddie not to tell me ever again that I have too many plants; and also immediately, I started to think of what might be possible. To help the dream along, Pat had plants for us to buy. While we looked at her prizewinners, we could have the possibility of having one of our own. There was a delicious lunch and Lotusland was ahead; but for me, I did not need to eat or to go further. This was as good as it gets. But the bus beckoned; we were off to Lotusland. My daydreams of it were now dimmed because I did not believe that it was possible to enjoy anything any more than I had enjoyed Pam's yard. Lotusland would probably be anti-

climatic. What could there be that would be better than this?

Upon our arrival at Lotusland, a gracious hostess and an informative guide greeted us. He would lead us on our walking tour. Even as we started down the drive, my mind was still marveling over Pat's yard. And then in the distance the tall stately and magical lotus appeared. Who has not loved this mythical plant and longed to have one of our very own? All of a sudden, we knew that we were in the presence of something to be revered. Our guide stated that the blooms were starting to fade since the height of their bloom season is in July and August. But with their majestic leaves and magical seed pods, there did not have to be many blooms for us to be spellbound; and just beyond the lotus pond, there were two water lily ponds - one for tropical water lilies and the other for hardy water lilies.

Then there was the succulent garden, the cactus garden, the cycad garden, the rose garden, the house and patio and so much more. This was after all the garden of a very rich person; and if she daydreamed about it, she usually got it.

One of her dreams was of begonias, and there were very large beds with mass plantings of begonias, ferns, and tropical plants. But of course the one begonia that we all wanted to see was B. 'Lotusland'. And what a begonia it is! It has one of the largest leaves that I have ever seen. Would it be possible for me to own one of these begonias? It seems only fitting that it be the perfect souvenir of our visit. Where could I find one? Maybe there would be one at the plant sale.

Madame Walska's yard was quite spectacular indeed, but it was not the thing for the ordinary person to daydream about. While her gardens would certainly be unattainable for me, there was still the dream of Pam's garden and somehow, I would



get to have B. 'Lotusland.' After we left Lotusland, we headed back into the town of Santa Barbara and up a quiet street where we were greeted by Rudolf Ziesenhenne himself.

He was ready to take us into his green houses. How many times have we been there in our mind's eye? B. 'Freddie' was created there as was B. 'Lotusland'. The daydream of being in the place where so much research and the working with and the growing of begonias had taken place was overwhelming. My dream of getting B. 'Freddie' would come true. Everyone in the group seemed to have this as a favorite, and it was such a privilege to buy it from its creator. We wanted to stay for hours with Rudy to garner some of his invaluable knowledge of our favorite plant. Without Rudy's care and conservation, the begonia population would be greatly diminished, and there was a great sense of pride being in his presence in his green houses. That was the ending of our first day.

On Thursday, we boarded the buses and headed south. We were on our way to Michael Kartuz's greenhouses and Weidner's Garden. I had been to Michael's last year and my mind was filled with many memories. Would it be as I had remembered it or had my daydreams embellished it? As soon as I entered the first greenhouse, I knew that it was even better than I had remembered. All of the begonias and streptocarpus and achimenes that we read about and daydream about in Michael's catalog were there, and not only could we see them but we could also buy them. The challenge was the decision. At one time or another I have wanted all of them.

**But of course the one begonia that we all wanted to see was B. 'Lotusland'. And what a begonia it is.**

One of the first things that I reached for was a yellow tuberous begonia. For a moment, I held it; but with so many other choices, I knew that that would be a dream that could not last. Tuberous begonias do not like Atlanta, Georgia; and for its own sake, I must leave it there. Or perhaps, I should say that I should leave it for some one else to have the dream of owning. I did see that begonia getting on the bus.

Because I was trying to temper my daydreams with a bit of reality, I knew that it would be impossible for me to make purchases at Weidner's Gardens. Their plants were larger than large. They were huge and most of their begonias were the tuberous kind. I have never seen so many and ones that were so large. These were the rainbow colors that were hanging overhead at Pam's, but I knew from many, many attempts that there was absolutely no way that they would grow for me. I wanted those begonias; but with so many canes and rhizomatous and thick stems, one could not afford to be sad. And tonight we would be visiting more yards of members so maybe I could see more things that I could relate to.

*Plan on joining Mary Elizabeth next month to continue your Begonia Kaleidoscopes tours in California as she moves on to the homes of Brad Thompson, Iris Bird and Bob Golden, and Ruth and Walter Pease before she and Eddie finally get to the Fern Show and the Getty Museum as well.*

# In Memory

**John Ingles, Jr.**

**December 10, 1928 to July 18, 1999**

John joined the ABS in 1975 and belonged to the Rubidoux Branch. He was the Treasurer and Supply Chairman for many years. He was always ready to help the branch in any way he could, spearheading projects such as fair displays at L.A. County Fair and San Bernardino Orange Show. He was greatly missed by the Branch when he moved to Northern California.

He was elected treasurer of the National ABS and held that office from 1981 to 1984. He then became Membership Chairman a position he held up to the present time. He was Business Manager for the ABS also. When Riverside, California held the national convention in 1982 he was treasurer.

He was a member of various branches over the years, these included the Orange County, Sacramento, Cascade and the Southwest Region.

John had also been a member of the Riverside Community Flower Show for many years helping in any way he could.

In earlier years John was an avid scuba diver, during this time he enjoyed collecting sea shells and he could tell you the name of each shell and where he found it. He was also an airplane buff and loved attending air shows. He retired from the Air Force after a 20 year career.

John loved nature and growing plants. He enjoyed getting out and seeing the wild life (deer, bears, raccoons, etc.) also discovering the diverse plant life of Northern California. He took many trips around the area enjoying the beautiful North Coast scenery.

John was buried at Sunrise Cemetery in Fortuna, CA. This small cemetery sits up on a hill overlooking a

beautiful valley. What a wonderful resting place. John will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

~Norma Pfunder

The family asks that memorial contributions be made to the American Lung Association, Redwood Empire Branch, P.O. Box 1746, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

## **GESNERIAD CORRESPONDENCE CLUB**

RON & LOIS KRUGER, EDITORS

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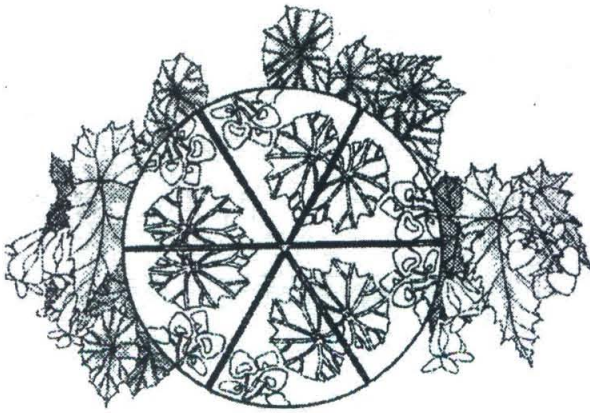
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Happy Memories  
of  
Begonia Kaleidoscopes  
1999 National Convention



Season's Greetings  
and  
Happy Year 2000  
from the  
Westchester Branch – ABS  
Convention Host 1999

## Species at the Show...

*Ruth Pease won Best Exhibit for her Carousel display of begonias where we found a big B. handelii, which had been grown outside she told us. Many of us have only seen this one in a terrarium.*



*Janet Brown grew this B. sunorchis, left, a thick stemmed begonia with peltate leaves.*

*Jeannie Jones entered her gorgeous B. scabrada whose leaves were such a deep and lovely green.*





**The Buxton Branch  
Wishes You  
Happy Holidays**



*May Peace and Joy  
be Yours at  
Christmastime  
and Throughout  
the New Year*



*Bob Ammerman  
Toni Baker  
Edgar & Phyllis Bates  
Shirley Bittner  
Elaine Burden  
Eleanor Calkins  
Ralph & Mabel Corwin  
Margaret R. Curtin  
Juanna Curtis  
Rumi Dover*

*Julian Duval  
Ingeborg Foo  
Michael Golub  
Patricia Kegemeyer  
Dick & Camille Horak  
Michael Kartuz  
Margaret Lee  
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Herb Wilkinson  
Peggy Wisler  
Dick &  
Dorothy York  
Mary Zemcek*

**PALOMAR BRANCH**



## Not Your Usual Begonia...

Here's B. 'Sinbad', which many of us can only dream of growing, shown by Arlene Hoskins at a huge size on a trellis. And below is B. U359 exhibited at the show by Iris Bird and also captured by Mary Bucholtz growing outside in Pam Hantgin's garden. This begonia is something of a mystery having come to Rudy Ziesenhenn from Hiko Arakawa and is likely Asian. Perhaps some of our Japanese readers can identify it for Thelma O'Reilly.







*All the Begonia  
Lovers of Southwest  
Region / ABS send  
happy holiday  
greetings and...*

*Invite you to  
San Antonio  
for  
September  
20-24, 2000*

*Right, B. 'Lomita Lass', a bloomin' new introduction from Brad! Below, Brad's B. 'Patriot Games', grown by Louise Korobkin.*



## Brad Thompson

His handiwork was everywhere at the Convention! He worked the computer for the show registration, his artwork adorned the convention literature, his framed artwork went to show winners, the boutique offered more of his works. His home was on a tour.

Many of the show entries were his hybrid creations. But Brad also had blue ribbon winners entered in the show. And all but one of the new introductions, which promise to become future winners, were his. On these two pages sample the show entries that fit one of these categories as we say "Thank You" to Brad.



*B. 'Around Janet Brown', another new Brad introduction.*







*B. 'Black Gold', Brad's newly registered cane, grown by Iris Bird, and right, new introduction B. 'Mission Bells' many of us fell in love with at the show, but here photographed by Mary Bucholtz in a garden.*

# Growing Organic, or, The Mildew Battle by Tamsin Boardman

It's not just insects that war on our begonia babies. Mildew is an enemy too. Can you beat this vicious aggressor? Can you do it organically? Yes!

Know your enemy. Mildew spores of various types are everywhere - you can never kill them all; but most of the time they don't bother you unless your climate is extremely damp. Usually it's only when conditions are propitious that mildew shows its ugly head.

Mildew appears on your plant when leaves get damp *and stay damp*. It takes anywhere from 30 minutes to 30 hours of dampness for mildew to appear - that's because there are different types, with different incubation times: you're really battling not one enemy, but many. All, though, require dampness.

The initial spot grows and spreads, picking out every other susceptible plant in the area before going on to test the stronger plants. It's interesting to note in assessing that even in the most infested greenhouse there are usually a few plants that don't give in; usually they are begonias with thick leaves, no silver splashes or spots, and strong stems.

Know your begonia. Some, particularly those with thin leaves that are heavily silvered, are especially vulnerable to mildew. Either don't grow the susceptible ones at all, or be prepared to take precautions. Do everything in your power to keep them healthy; healthy plants resist all assaults much more easily than stressed plants. These six cultural practices will help.

Grow the susceptible ones in the strongest light you can manage without burn-

ing leaves; a light garden allows you to regulate timing and intensity, and removes the danger posed by a series of grey days.

2. Give plants as much air circulation as possible without blowing the leaves off. A fan is an invaluable battle aid.

3. Don't crowd. Give each plant a little circle of open space.

4. Keep soil moisture even. Set mildew-prone plants in saucers to water from the bottom (remove in 20 minutes or less so you don't drown the roots). Once a month carefully water through from the top to leach the soil.

5. Keep temperatures within a fairly narrow range: 65° to 75° is a safe range for most begonias. Avoid sudden dramatic drops in temperature.

6. Learn to check your soil pH. Most begonias do best in a range of 6.5 to 7. Adjust pH by sprinkling horticultural lime or powdered limestone on the soil to create more alkalinity, or acidify by adding a tablespoon of cider vinegar to a gallon of water and watering once a month (or more often if your water is very alkaline; too much alkalinity is more often the problem because most municipalities treat their water to increase alkalinity). If you're using a peat-based mix, remember that the peat deteriorates with time, and this changes the pH. Repotting with fresh mix is a fine way to reinvigorate an ailing begonia.

Mildew is a powerful enemy: ever present, just waiting for a moment of neglect to march to victory. If your begonias are attacked, stop and think for a minute. Fungicides have been around for decades. Has mildew been eliminated? You know people who use a fungicide - or a battery of fungicides - constantly, on a regular schedule, year round, as a preventive measure. Often these are the very folks who lament that their plants have mildew. Did the chemicals work? Are





### And Yet More Winners....

Above, is Arlene Hoskins Cane-like Division Winner B. 'Lois Burks' while Louise Korobkin won the Novel Grown Division with her B. 'Irene Nuss' grown on a trellis, left.

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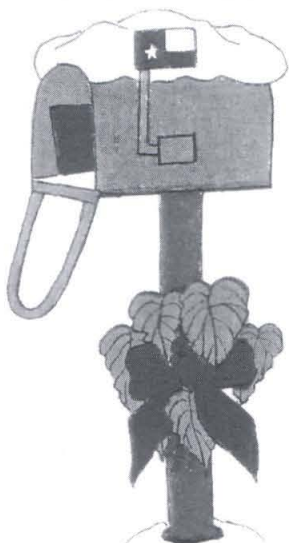
B. 'Wanda'

you aware that several have been removed from the market because they are hazardous to human health? Are they the best yet?

There are organic steps you can take, and the sooner the better. Isolate your infested plant. Remove all sickly

leaves and discard. Now to your kitchen for arms: add 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda to 1 gallon of water, mix well, and spray every three days. OR: dust the plant with corn meal; it's a fertilizer as well as mildew inhibitor. You're equipped for battle - on to victory!

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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and

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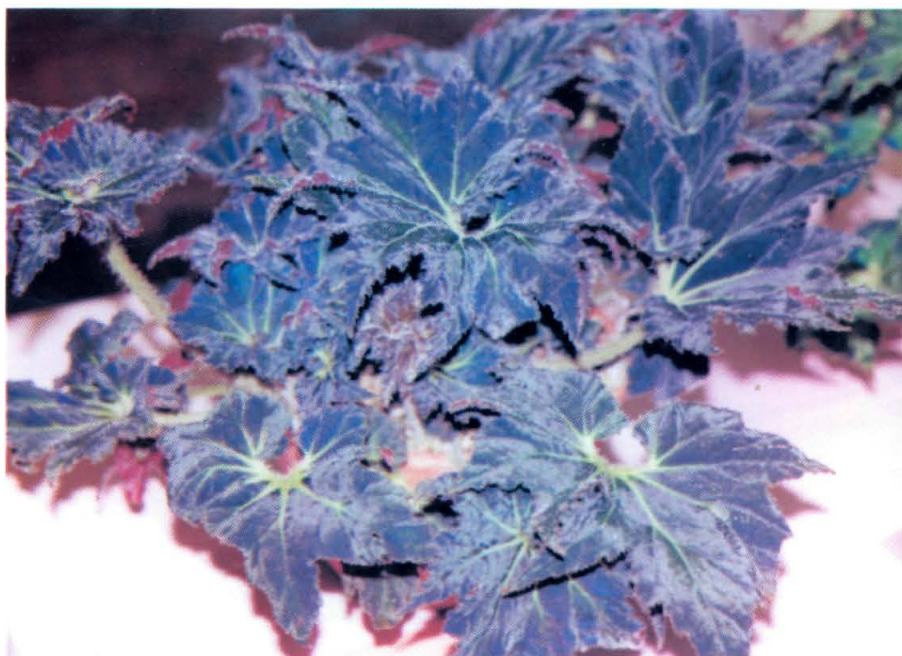
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*Two more of Brad Thompson's hybrids exhibited by Iris Bird: B. 'Hyroglyphics' (yes he wants to spell it that way) and B. 'Curly Stormy Night' below..*



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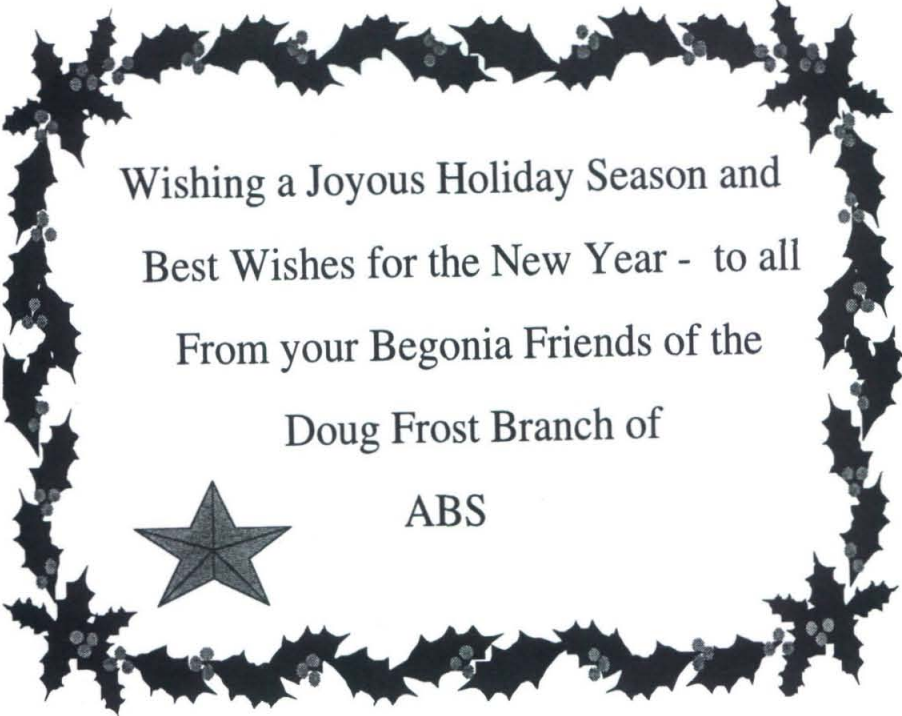
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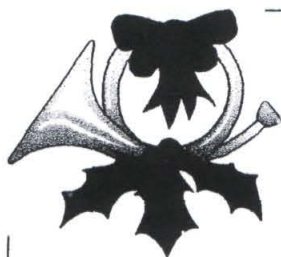
Wishing a Joyous Holiday Season and  
Best Wishes for the New Year - to all  
From your Begonia Friends of the  
Doug Frost Branch of



ABS

## *The Sacramento Branch*

*We wish begonia growers in  
other branches, and members at  
large, all over the world, a  
happy holiday season.*



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Loads of  
Plants and  
Tons of  
Happiness!*

*The Santa Barbara Branch*



Above left, Gene Salisbury accepts the Herbert P. Dyckman award from Michael Ludwig. Mary Bucholtz wears her award announced by Michael. Below, John and Arlene Ingles at an earlier time enjoying life together; see also the In Memory column on page 214.





# 1999 Awards Committee Report

by Michael Ludwig

It was with great pleasure that I was able to present the American Begonia Society's prestigious awards of recognition. The banquet, at a truly outstanding convention, was the setting where the following deserving members were inducted into the honor roles of the society.

The Herbert P. Dyckman award for long term or outstanding service was presented to Gene Salisbury. Gene has served as President of the Fred A. Barkley Branch and Director of the Southwest Region. He has been 1st Vice President for four years, split by two terms as ABS President. In the letter of nomination it was pointed out that "During his tenure as President, it was his goal and aim to continue the harmony in the American Begonia Society that had been achieved." He is now serving as Nomenclature Chairman. He has provided numerous "anonymous" donations of time and money to the society and its functions. This award must now find a space on his wall between Ann's Dyckman Award and the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award that he and Ann won last year.

The Eva Kenworthy Gray award is given for contributing original material to help the rank and file members further their studies of begonias or for contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing good will and harmony among members. It was with great pleasure that I was able to present Mary Bucholtz with this award for both of these criteria. I first met her in a Round Robin when I joined ABS over 20 years ago. I then had the pleasure to meet her my first convention and she was every bit as warm, friendly and intelligent in person as in her letters. She has served in various offices on the

Board and Mary is a "Cover Girl." She has had numerous photos on the cover of the *Begonian*. They have also graced the inside along with her articles. Mary has lectured and judged throughout Begoniadon. Many have felt her generosity through her work as Branch Relations Chair where she helps with articles, information and a kind heart for new and established branches. Mary tearfully wondered how we could award her for something she loves to do. I wonder why it took so long and how could we not give it to such a wonderful person.

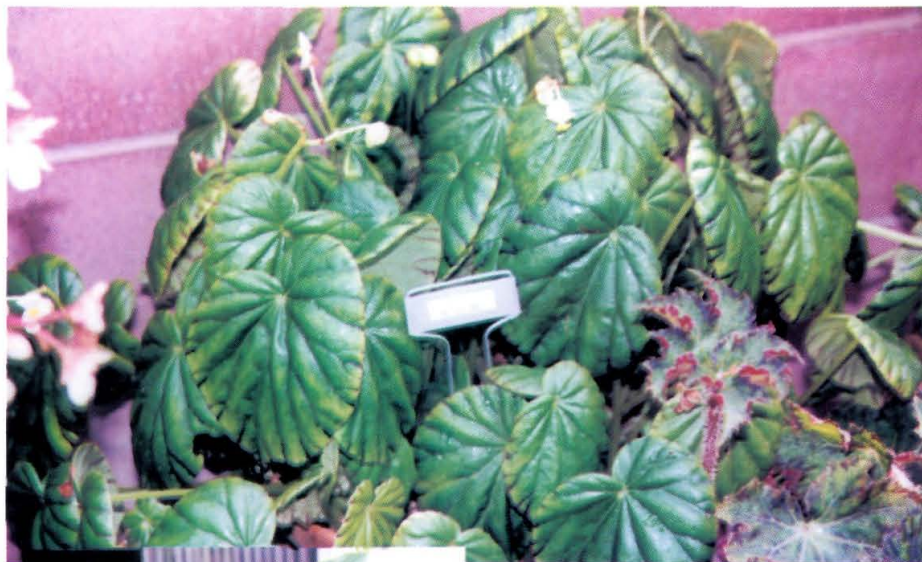
I also had the honor and privilege to give Arlene Ingles a special plaque, in memory of John Ingles for the dedication and service that he rendered to the American Begonia Society and its members over many, many years. Arlene confided "he never did grow a begonia", he loved the people and those who knew him loved him and he is sorely missed already. He lives on in Arlene as she has taken over his tasks.

Congratulations to all our honored winners and thank you for their selflessness and dedication.

***Greetings  
and  
Best Wishes***

**from the**

**Alfred D. Robinson  
Branch**



### *Begonias Rare Indeed...*

Above is an unidentified Scott Hoover import and below *B. fusca*, not often seen now although once well-known. Both were found in Pam Hantgin's garden. At Rudy Ziesenhenné's we found the elusive *B. opuliflora*, left, about which Thelma O'Reilly wrote in the *Begonian* exactly two years ago.





A festive holiday greeting card for the Alamo Branch of the American Begonia Society. The card features a central illustration of a large, dark green begonia plant with red berries. The text "1999 Season's Greetings" is on the left, and "from the Alamo Branch of the American Begonia Society" is on the right. Below the central illustration, there are three columns of names. The card is framed by a decorative border of small, dark green Christmas ornaments.

**1999**  
**Season's Greetings**

Julie Aldrich  
Marcelina Cerda  
Eva & Ralph Chavez  
Roma Cook  
Lucille F. Dyess  
Diana Kirk Gonzalez  
Maria C. Gonzalez  
Russ Hammer

John Howell  
Clarice James  
Patsy Mikeska  
Valerie Morris  
Imogene Mosley

Elizabeth Muth  
Melba A. Schultz  
June Shawver  
Irene Thurman  
Lillian Transue  
Kay Tucker  
Tom Zoellner

from the  
**Alamo Branch**  
of the  
**American Begonia Society**

## Florida in 2000!

Johanna Kitson lets us know that all the begonias are not in California with her photo taken at the Palm Hammock Orchid Estates in Miami.

Moreover, Convention 2000 Chair Virginia Jens is already hard at work thinking up ways to make next year's a unique convention. The first thing on her agenda is a **POETRY CONTEST!** (Yes, we are all invited to submit entries. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the ABS 2000 Convention banquet, Palm Beach Shores, FL.

Below are the contest rules. Enter your poem soon! No, even better enter five!



## Poetry Contest, ABS 2000 Convention

- . Deadline April 1, 2000
- . 30 lines maximum per poem
- . 5 poems per person maximum
- . Subject matter must be begonias or about begonias
- . \$1.00 per poem entry fee
- . PRIZES: \$25 FIRST PLACE, \$15 SECOND PLACE, \$10 THIRD PLACE
- . Entries should be mailed to: Virginia Jens, 922 Upland R., West Palm Beach, FL 33401 with check or money order (no cash please!) made out to ABS 2000 Convention.
- . Judging will be provided by The Poets of the Palm Beaches.



# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Listing

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Eleanor L. Calkins, Seed Fund Administrator

*The seed fund is a service to members only.  
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**The Seed Fund would appreciate receiving donations of any fresh seed. The need for new seed is becoming acute. Please pollinate your species begonias with pollen from other plants of the same species and contribute (or exchange) to the seed fund. Thank you!**

Most packets of species seeds are \$1.50 each and all packets of hybrid seeds are 50 cents each, except rare seeds and newly collected seeds will be \$2.00 per packet. California residents please add 7.75% sales tax.

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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 **Mabel Corwin, Barry Mann, Thelma O'Reilly, Chiara Saccazini, and Rudy Ziesenhenn**e

## *Species Seeds*

- ND99-1:** *B. bakeri*  
**ND99-2:** *B. heracleifolia* (\$2.00)  
**ND99-3:** *B. J-11* (\$2.00)

**ND99-4:** *B. pinetorum* (\$2.00

**ND99-5:** *B. rockii*

**ND99-6:** *B. ulmifolia*

**ND99-7:** *B. U315*

## DESCRIPTIONS

**ND99-1: *B. bakeri*** (C. DC.) Nicaragua. Dr. Burt-Utley assigns this species as conspecific with *B. cardiocarpa*. Rhizomatous, becoming erect with age; leaves coriaceous, palmately 7-8 veined, upper surface green but often marginally reddish, lower surface darker green shading to red at the margins; petioles 2-8" long; many flowered large cymes high above the leaves, white to pink.

**ND99-2: *B. heracleifolia*** (Schlecht & Cham.) Mexico. Rhizomatous; deeply lobed leaves palmately veined, somewhat hairy on the veins; petioles 1-5" long, hairy, with prominent ruff below the blade; flowers pink on peduncles up to 24" long. The parent plant was collected in Central America by Thelma O'Reilly's daughter. Ziesenhenné has proclaimed this to be the true species. \$2.00 per packet.

**ND99-3: *B. J-11*** Brazil. Introduced by Sylvia Leatherman in 1859. This is a large plant having umbrella-like leaves and flowers that stand high above the leaves. See photo in *Begonian*: January 1973, pg. 12. Seeds of this plant have not been offered for several years. A beautiful plant was seen at Pease's garden during the recent convention tour. Very limited supply - \$2.00 per packet.

**ND9-4: *B. pinetorum*** (A.DC.) Mexico. Rhizomatous; leaves thin, palmately 8-10 veined, upper surface tawny tomentose, but easily rubbed off leaving bare patches, lower surface sparsely tomentose except thicker along veins; petioles 5-10" long; flowers white to pink held high above the leaves. The contributor assures us that this is the true species. \$2.00 per packet

**ND99-5: *B. rockii*** (Irmischer) Burma. No description of this species is available. The photo of the herbarium sheet in *Begoniaceae*, Smithsonian Contributions to Botany No. 60 shows a small plant with rows of light colored spots parallel to the veins. It appears to be rhizomatous with flowers on short peduncles.

**ND99-6: *B. ulmifolia*** (Willdenow) Venezuela. Tall growing, thick stemmed, hairy leaves, medium leaved; white flowers. The name means foliage like an elm tree.

**ND99-7: *B. U315*** Madagascar. Collected some years ago by Dr. Mardi Darian of Vista. Semperflorens type plant, makes a nice hanging basket and blooms profusely. At each branch from a node the stem is slightly swollen for about an inch.



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## COMING EVENTS

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 more information write to the Convention Secretary, Mrs. Myrnie Jennings, 4 Kinnard Crescent, Higbury, South Australia, 5089, Australia.

May 3-7, 2000: ABS Convention, Palm Beach Shores Resort, Palm Beach Shores, Florida. More information soon.

September 20-24, 2000: SWR Get-Together, San Antonio, Texas, sponsored by the Alamo Branch, Seven Oaks Resort. More information coming.

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May all the  
special sights  
and  
pleasures of **Christmas**  
live on in  
your memories

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This Issue is Dedicated to the Memory of John Ingles, Jr. as was  
the Begonia Kaleidoscopes Convention.