

The
Begonian
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The **Begonian**

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American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

To issue a bulletin that will be mailed to all members of the society.

To bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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Cover

Front: Joyce Bridgen captured *B. 'Rudy's Luxurians'* (*B. luxurians* x unkn., Ziesenhenne, 1959) in this photo taken at the LA County Arboretum Greenhouse during the Convention. The seed fund offers open pollinated *B. luxurians* seed this issue; you might get a hybrid such as this! See also the photos of *B. luxurians* on pages 12-13.

Back: H. Alton Lee caught the multicolored *B. 'Midnight Sun'* (*B. 'Jill Adair'* x '*Burle Marx'*', Martin 1980) on one of his California tours.

Begonia Kaleidoscopes, Part Two

This issue continues coverage of the magnificent 1999 Convention with more tours and more begonias. From Arlene Hoskins we learn how she grew the great winners of the Begonia Kaleidoscopes Show. And we meet Alan Carle, just one of the interesting new people attending this year's convention.

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Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads
200003 or 200004, your membership is about to expire.
Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

President's Notes...

Well, the Holiday Seasons have passed and winter is in its icy grip. I hope all members and their begonias are staying nice and cozy this winter. With the trees bare in most regions of the U.S. It is comforting to see the greens, pinks, purples and silvers of our favorite plant group.

I am enjoying reading all the Branch Newsletters that I am receiving. Boy, we are an active group. If I am not on your branch's mailing list, please place my name on it as it is great to be in touch with everyone. Also, remember to send your news letters to Branch Relations Director Mary Bucholtz and editor Freda Holley.

I am still in search of a Member-at-Large Director. If any member would like to volunteer, please let me know. This is a very important directorship as the MAL Director is a link between MAL members and ABS. MAL members do not have the luxury of a local branch nearby and often have to depend on the MAL Director, the Begonian, and the Round Robins for news about ABS and begonias. We need to keep these members in the loop, so please volunteer.

The upcoming ABS Winter Board Meeting is coming up February 4, 5 & 6, 2000 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I hope all ABS members and Board members can attend. Remember the Board Meetings are open to all members. We want and value your ideas and thoughts. Some fun activities are being planned as well. A get-together dinner Friday night, a trip to Rosedown Plantation, a visit to the Louisiana State University Rural Life Museum and a trip to member Cynthia Moran's Nursery. For those who are really daring there is a trip being planned on a Mississippi Riverboat gambling vessel. Look for

more details about the Board Meeting in this issue.

If any members have items they want brought up at the Board Meeting send them to myself and ABS Secretary Richard Macnair.

I hope everyone is gearing up for the ABS Convention and Show in West Palm Beach, Florida. The convention committee is hard at work making this convention a memorable one. Be looking at your begonias in 4" pots to enter in the Traveling Begonias Division. It's a good way to participate. Just ask Joyce Pridgen from the Miami Branch. She took plants to the Los Angeles Convention and won the Division Trophy for Traveling Begonias. This year's trophies are extra special and unique, and I know everyone want to take one home.

Good begonia growing this winter.

Editor's Notes...

Please note that the deadline for receiving items for the next issue has been moved up to the 15th of the first month of the current issue (January 15th for the March/April issue). I regret having to do this, but mail is taking longer to arrive here in Nacogdoches and it takes longer to get the material to the printer. It is particularly difficult when holidays come at the end of the month as they did for this issue.

Also, if you don't receive an issue, let Membership Chair Arlene Ingles know (Her address, phone number, and E-mail address is listed on the inside front and back covers). She gets the extra copies to make up for lost copies and will be able to make sure she has the right address for your labels (But make sure your dues are paid up!).

~ FH

California Daydreaming, Part 2

by Mary Elizabeth Moultrie

Mary Elizabeth continues her Begonia Kaleidoscopes' tours begun in the last issue.

Our first stop on Thursday afternoon was at the home of Brad Thompson. So many of us own Brad's hybrids. I want to say that Brad's yard is small; but then, how could something so small hold so many plants. For those of us who have small greenhouses and small patios, we want to know how can one put so many plants in such a small space. We try with little success. Always, the question is "where can we put it?" We need to know Brad's secret.

When we arrived at Bob and Iris's, we had to wait in the front yard because the other people from the other bus were still in the back yard. As I walked over the front yard, I came to realize that people in California do not have lawns, they have flowers. Every spot was such a delight that I expected that the back yard would be more of the same, but what a surprise. Bob and Iris's back yard is like entering the whole flowerbed. There is no possible way to describe the beauty of this place. Imagine that you are in a perfectly planted terrarium. Everywhere there are begonias, ferns, streptocarpus and cactus and succulents, and all are in perfect condition. Their back yard is the Begonia Show and the Fern Show combined into a luxurious daydream of wonder. I told Eddie to see what happens when the man gets involved, and he told me that it was the weather. I am sure that the weather conditions help, but one could not help but notice that this was the most loved yard. Had Madame Walska loved her estate as much as Bob and Iris love their yard? This

was not just a labor of love, but a full time passion. I will try harder. And there was *Begonia* 'Lotusland' looking stately and right at home in the wonderland of Bob and Iris's yard. We had been to the pinnacle. There was no need for the judged show. We had seen the best.

But still there was more. As we headed to Ruth and Walter Pease's house, I was still in a state of amazement at all that I had seen. Could begonias really grow this well? The answer was waiting for me at Ruth and Walter's. As we entered their backyard, we saw so many begonias and of such variety. I believe that almost everyone saw a begonia that he had been wondering about, but Ruth and Walter actually owned one and it was in perfect condition. At this point, I am trying not to be envious, and Eddie is reminding me to remember the weather, and then, the day dreaming returns. Maybe there is a way to make begonias love Atlanta, or should we just move to California?

Friday morning was an especially enjoyable treat for Eddie and me because we had wondered and thought about the Getty Museum for many years. Well, not only does California have perfect begonias and perfect weather, the Friday morning of our arrival at the Getty was the most perfect day. The sky was so clear and blue, and as we arrived at the top of the hill, you could see for miles around. The view of the surrounding landscape with ocean, valley, skyscrapers, and mountains was a strong competitor for the building, which was a beautiful white against the clear blue sky. Okay, so today we will take a break from flowers and focus on architecture. For a while we did, but the Getty has this



Among the many begonias seen on tours were B. 'Airy Fairy' (B. dregei 'Glasgow' x sutherlandii) at Michael Kartuz' greenhouse and B. 'Culture Class' (B. dregei 'Glasgow' x 'Lenore Olivier') which was only one of the many, many canes at Elda Regimbal's. Both these 1990 hybrids are by Brad Thompson. Photos are by Joyce Pridgen.



wonderful garden, and it simply took my breath - literally. I can still smell the blend of roses, heliotrope and lilies. And the colors were all of my favorites and the sky was as blue as I have seen it. Some of the plant material in the garden was very familiar to me, and I do indeed have some of the same plants. The main difference is that mine are in no way as large. The blue sky and the fragrance and the pinks and the purples -- we wanted to stay all afternoon, but we knew the evening would bring the show and the plant sale. My daydreams were turning into determination.

Joy of joys, there was a Begonia "Lotusland" at the plant sale. It, as well and another *Begonia* 'Freddie' was one of the first plants that I put into my box. I had been inspired, and I had dreamed big, and then I went into the plant show. The begonias were the biggest and the most perfect that I had seen. What a combination! My hope began to dim. The challenge for me would be too great. Maybe I will get some ferns at the fern show tomorrow. I have been able to grow some rather fine ferns.

The drive over to the Los Angeles Arboretum was not only a delight, but it was also one filled with much anticipation. The people who love begonias seem to have an affinity for ferns as well. One would have never been able to guess that this same group of people had been to a plant sale the night before. We were simply devouring all kinds of ferns and unusual tropical plants. Something was going to grow for us. We were determined that some part of California would be going home with us.

There was one final tour planned for Sunday morning. We had heard some comments about how we were going to love Elda Regimbal's garden, but there was no way for us to image the treat that

was in store for us. At her house, she not only had the biggest and best begonias, but also the biggest and best ferns. All of the dreams that we had had at the begonia show and the fern show came together in Elda's yard. As we kept walking and looking and ohing and ahing, we could not help but notice that she had several greenhouses with baby plants. The word soon got around that these would be available for us to buy. Once again we were off to see the wonderful specimens that Elda had so that we could know what our babies would some day look like. There were so many dreams and possibilities.

When I was growing up there was a saying that "As California goes, so goes the country." I certainly do hope that this applies to begonias and ferns. We have come home with such high hopes. Going to the American Begonia Society Convention is a little like going to a revival meeting. My *Begonia* 'Jumbo Jet' only has two leaves now, but I have every confidence that it will some day be as large as Elda's. My *Begonia* 'Lotusland' will look like Iris', and my *Begonia* 'Freddie' will be as spectacular as the one John Howell brought to the Southwest Region Get-Together in Ft. Worth. Believing is what it is all about. Some people came home with seeds or a single leaf. Daydreams do and can come true. Thank you California Begonia Societies for such a spectacular week. All of the things that I had daydreamed about were beyond my wildest expectations, and the surprises that you had planned for me will be sustenance enough for the long winter ahead.

Mary Elizabeth's enthusiasm captures for all of us memories of California that we will carry for a long time. She is now growing her B. 'Lotusland' and B. 'Freddie' back at 3710 Cochise Drive, Atlanta, GA 30339.

Growing the Big Begonias for **Begonia Kaleidoscopes:**

Arlene Hoskins Tell Us How She Did It

Winner of Best of Show, Sweepstakes, and culture awards in numerous categories, Arlene Hoskins can easily be identified as a champion grower. But, how does she do it? Here she tells all in an interview with the editor:

Q: So many of your plants were huge - B. 'Cathedral Windows', 'Shadow Box', 'Phil Corwin'. What's your secret for growing them so big?

A: Well, we live inland and have a very hot climate compared to the area around the coast. July and August always sees midday temperatures in the 90's. So plants grow fast and I can use a lot of fertilizers. Every time I water, I use half-strength fertilizer.

I rotate fertilizers too because their labels show that different fertilizers have different micronutrients. I learned to read food labels for health information and the habit just carried over. I noticed the different ingredients in different fertilizers so I rotate between 5 or 6 different ones. Sometimes I discover that a plant really responds to one particular fertilizer - the leaves grow larger and become more luxuriant. When that happens I may stick with that fertilizer for a while.

Also, some plants such as B. 'Cathedral' and B. 'Lenore Olivier' really respond to Epsom salts - they seem to need that magnesium. I might mention that I tried organic fertilizers, but my plants didn't respond. The plants seemed to need more.

Also, it is well to note that all balanced fertilizers are not the same; you have to read the labels. Some don't have sulfur, for example, and that is really important here in California. In past years, the good growers added their own micronutrients and their formulas always involved sulfur. Now we can get those in balanced fertilizers, but you have to check the labels and look for them. Some of the cheap fertilizers, by the way, are not bargains because they don't have any of those micronutrients.

Q: Not only were your plants large, their leaves were just perfect as though they had been grown in terrariums. Where are your plants grown?

A. B. 'Cathedral' was grown outside - it doesn't like the greenhouse I found - and the canes as well. They are on the patio, but grow under a 55% shade cloth. It doesn't rain here in summers and I don't wash off the leaves. I water the pots and don't touch the leaves until time for the show.

Q: Some of those you exhibited such as B. 'Aya' and 'Sinbad' get mildew for most of us. Do you have to worry about mildew?

A: Oh, yes. Again I don't get the leaves wet and I spray with Bayleton. Also, I grow these in the greenhouse which is really on the dry side because I also have

cacti there. I don't have a mister, but do have a cooler and run a ceiling fan. I have these growing near the cooler during the summer and they don't get mildew. But now that the cooler is off, I watch for it. I don't spray until I begin to see mildew, but this time of year I often have to.

Q: Do you do anything special to get your plants ready for a show?

A: I start deciding about midsummer which plants have show potential and I am probably more careful in fertilizing and caring for them. Just before the show I wash the leaves with distilled water. The tap water here can spot the leaves.

Q: Do you recommend any plants for beginners?

A: I think it all depends on where you are growing. Here I would recommend *B.* 'Cathedral' and 'Lenore Olivier' because their thick leaves seem to take anything. *B.* 'Medora' and 'Lois Burks' are easy too, but you have to watch them because they do get mildew.

Q: Which one would you describe as most difficult?

A: *B.* 'Sinbad', I think, because it is a most difficult plant to keep beautiful. You have to find just the right spot for it and work with it.

Q: Arlene, do you have a favorite plant?

A: Rexes, I think. I like them because they respond most rapidly to the fertilizers. Those with multiple colors will respond best to what they are fed. *B.* 'Phil

Corwin', for example, wants to revert to green, but the right fertilizers will bring out the colors. I bought this plant, by the way, at the supermarket. Just at Christmas time, right in there among the poinsettias. I was so thrilled to find it. It is about 3 or 4 years old now and it lost all its leaves last winter, but as you saw, it came back. Rexes are really at their peak in August so I had a challenge in having it looking good in September for the show.

Q: Do you repot often?

A: Not really. Unless a plant is ailing, I don't. I do move them up when they need it, but not as often as others would I suspect. *B.* 'Phil Corwin', for example is really rootbound. I have to water it more often, but it seems to love it. When plants begin to need watering too often, I guess that's when I repot. I learned a lot from Brad Thompson's cultural advice; that made me really begin to observe my plants and learn what they need. That's what it is all about!

Q: Do you have any final tips for readers on producing show winners?

A: Just to study your plants. Observe their leaves and try to learn what they want.

Arlene, you grow them big and beautiful as we saw in the last issue, and we loved them all at the Begonia Kaleidoscopes Show. Congratulations from all of us.

See Arlene's B. 'Aya' on page 35 and the photos of her big winners in last issue. You may write Arlene at 5777 Calle Vista Alegre, Yorba Linda, CA 92887.

On The Frontlines

of the Conservation Battles

An Interview with Alan Carle of Australia

The great rewards of attending an ABS Convention include meeting old friends and making new ones. I have never failed to meet new people to whom I instantly feel close. But above this one meets those who have fascinating lives and stories to tell. On this trip there were a number of those, but none so fascinating to me as Alan Carle. Because so many ABS members are conservationists at heart, I believe they will agree after reading this interview. Ed.

Q: To begin, Alan, could you tell us about yourself?

A: I live with my wife and two daughters in far north Queensland, Australia where it is very tropical. There we have 30 acres in a preserve called The Botanical Ark in which we grow only rainforest plants, especially ethnobotanical plants - that is, tribal plants that have practical significance to life in the jungles. I spend two months a year collecting plants. I've been to South America 5 or 6 times - to Brazil, Ecuador, Columbia, and other countries. I've been to New Guinea, to Central Africa, Camaroon, Gabon. What I see is that everywhere the forests are being destroyed - the equivalent of a football field every seven seconds. And as the forests go, so go the plant species. So far we have gathered more than 3000 species at The Botanical Ark. Special emphasis is given to tropical fruits and nuts and

to soft tissue plants which are very vulnerable to habitat loss. We do not collect many plants from above 1,000 meters (3000 ft.) elevation.

Q: Do you have begonias there too?

A: Oh, yes; they are one of the more remarkable families of the soft tissue plants.

Q: Why do you say that?

A: Because they are so diverse, so visually striking that they evoke reaction in people and some have practical uses such as in food or medicines. We try to collect plants that people can relate to and that can deliver a message that the rainforest plants need protection.

Q: This sounds like such an enormous undertaking. How is The Botanical Ark supported? Does the government assist you?

A: No, we have no government assistance. We have groups of people who come on tours and we provide food and so forth. This brings in funds. I've given up college teaching, but I also do consulting and we sell plants. We have our own quarantine station. Everyone should realize the quarantine rules are there for protection. We work closely with the government on this process.

Q: And your family works with you?

A: My wife does, of course. The children not as much; they think we work too hard. But I see them changing and growing more interested as they enter adulthood.

Q: How did you happen to come to the ABS Convention?

A: I came with my friend from Singapore, Tan Jiew Hoe (*You will be hearing more about him in another interview to come. Ed.*) Because we wanted to increase our knowledge of begonias. We consider them such an important plant family.

Q: And what is your reaction to our convention?

A: I am very impressed with what is grown and the way it is grown. I like the enthusiasm and hospitality of the members. It is a most congenial group.

Q: Do you have any special message you would like to send to all the members of ABS?

A: Yes, I would want them to really be aware of the need for educating others about the necessity for protecting plants and their natural ecosystem. Plants are at the bottom of the food chain and without them there can be no other life. This requires constant communication, greater cooperation, and the sharing of world resources.

Q: Is there anything else that ABS can do to help?

A: Yes, the members can continue growing species and work on insuring viability. There is a need for trying to preserve the genetic diversity within each species -- trying to use different plants or cultivars within a species for setting its seed so that the diversity of each species is preserved as well as the overall diversity of the whole family.

Alan, the mission you have undertaken is truly staggering and because we all have such a stake in its success, I know all ABS Members join me in wishing you our heartfelt best.

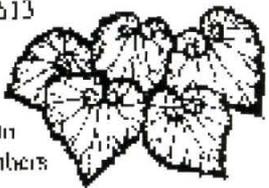
Alan can be reached at P.O. Box 354, Mossman Queensland 4873, Australia

Quick Tips

Cut a paper towel to fit the size of your terrarium and place it between your soil mix and the charcoal and sponge rock mix below. This keeps the soil in place and regulates the humidity inside the container.

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B. luxurians on Display

One of the pleasures of observing at Begonia Kaleidoscopes was seeing a plant in a variety of settings and noting how it adapted and differed in each. A good example was *B. luxurians*.

Here, at left, is *luxurians* exhibited in the shop by Janet Brown, looking like sculptural work of art. Below it sprawled happily against a wall at Elda Regimbal's. Lotusland, Maxine Zimm captured it at the top right location as we might imagine it would in its native setting in Brazil. Note the tall bloom reaching high above its leaves. Then, below right, Ma Bucholtz found it looking formal and groomed in Patricia Hantgin's garden.





2000 American Begonia Society Awards

by Michael Ludwig

Y2K in Florida. The ABS will present its top three awards at the convention banquet in May. These awards are presented for outstanding service on a national level. Please give thorough consideration when submitting your nomination. Please give reasons that make the person or grant eligible for the award.

There are many worthy members that are possible winners for these awards. If you have nominated someone in the past and they have not won, consider nominating them again. The committee may only award a single recipient in each award each year. Often it is very difficult to choose a winner among the many high quality nominees.

Deadline for nominations is March 25, 2000. Please mail nominations to:

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

The **Eva Kenworthy Gray Award** is given for one of two reasons: 1. Contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill 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 outstanding 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. The hybrid must be

registered with the Nomenclature Department and widely distributed, and the originator must be a member of ABS.

These awards may be received only once. The ADR Medal is presented to a cultivar and may be won more than once by a hybridizer. Past recipients of these awards:

Eva Kenworthy Gray Award

1995	Mae Blanton
1996	Kit Jeans Mounger
1997	Joan Coulat
1998	Gene & Ann Salisbury
1999	Mary Bucholtz

Herbert P. Dyckman Award

1995	Ann Salisbury
1996	Carol Notaras
1998	Eleanor Calkins
1999	Gene Salisbury

Alfred D. Robinson Medal

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

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

The only way someone can win is if they are nominated.

Nominate someone today!

Exploration of Javanese Mountains and Taxonomic Revision of the *Begonia* of Java

by W. Scott Hoover

Scott Hoover gave a late night seminar at Begonia Kaleidoscopes on his future plans for visiting Java and here he shares some of those plans.

In late January 2000, I will leave for a 20 week *Begonia* collecting expedition to Java, Indonesia. Even though Java is the most densely populated island in the world, the upper montane forests of Java's mountains remain largely unexplored due to the difficulty of accessing these forests. It is in these forests where *Begonia* grows.

The expedition will be organized into 4 collecting teams for each of 5 mountains. Each team will collect a different slope of each mountain, departing from designated villages and spending 4 to 5 days on the mountain. Each collecting team will consist of a team leader, one research assistant and two local guide/helpers. I will lead one team, **Dr. Harry Wirindinata** of the Bogor Herbarium will lead another team, and two other Bogor staff botanists will each lead the two other teams. Research assistants will include several Americans and several Indonesian students. Local guides will be hired from the designated villages. Several days will be spent in Bogor preparing specimens after returning from each mountain.

Each team will collect *Begonia* herbarium specimens, seed, epidermal peels, pickled live leaf material, and possibly some whole plants for the Cibodas Botanical Garden, West Java. Herbarium specimens will be given to the Bogor Herbarium with a duplicate set give to one American institution, possibly the Harvard Univer-

sity Herbaria. All *Begonia* seed will be given to American *Begonia* Society members **Gene and Ann Salisbury**, who in turn will distribute to designated growers, contributors who request seed and the ABS Seed Fund. Intellectual Property Rights agreements with the Indonesians are the same as for the 1995 and 1996 expeditions; *Begonia* germplasm brought into the United States is for the purpose of research, education and display; it is not to be used for personal or institutional gain.

Begonia seed will be distributed to contributors of the expedition. Contributors must request seed (an amount proportional to your contribution) from the Salisbury's or your share will be given to the ABS Seed Fund. **Gene and Ann Salisbury's address is P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653.**

If you contribute to the expedition and want seed, please let the Salisbury's know.

Upon completing the expedition, Harry Wirindinata and I will evaluate the collected specimens and conduct a taxonomic revision of the *Begonia of Java* which has been the only systematic treatment of the *Begoniaceae* of Indonesia. Such a revision paves the way for future work regarding description of new species from Sumatra, Borneo, Sulawesi, and Irian Jaya. I will present the results of the expedition at the ABS Convention in West Palm Beach, Florida in early May.

As long as funds are available, collecting of *Begonia* will continue after I return to the U.S., under the auspices of Dr. Wirindinata and several of his Bogor Herbarium colleagues. We will identify three additional mountains for *Begonia* collecting, likely in West Java, due to being the wettest region of the island and floristically the richest. Seed will be sent to me and specimens will be reviewed by Harry and myself and included in our Revision of the *Begonia* of Java, a study es-

timated to take 18 months.

Though the ABS has granted \$5,000.00 for the expedition, in order to undertake this collecting trip in the manner planned with the taxonomic work involved \$16,000.00 are still required. The ABS has much to gain from this expedition. Some of your personally have been contacted for contributions and I have sent requests to all branches. Please send donations directly to:

**Mrs. Carol Notaras, Treasurer
American Begonia Society
267 Green Street
San Francisco, CA 94123**

Such contributions are tax deductible. This expedition represents the beginning of a new era of our work with *Begonia*. Thank you for your help.

Contributors will be listed in a future Begonian. Scott Hoover is Founding Director of the New England Tropical Conservatory where you may write him at P.O. Box 4715, Bennington, Vermont 05201.

New Publicity Committee by Andy Conely, Public Relations Director

In the last six months the task of ABS Publicity director has had me going in every direction possible. There had to be something I was NOT doing!

And sure enough there was! As of this day I appoint each and every member of ABS to my newly formed PUBLICITY COMMITTEE!

If you see an opportunity to inform someone about ABS, take advantage and do it! If there is a group or individual that loves plants, especially tropicals, let me know. If you send their name and address to me, I'll send them a sample copy of our *Begonian*.

When a young person shows an interest in our begonias, reward that interest. Perhaps a gift of a year's membership in ABS? You just may be introducing the next generation of "old timers" to the ranks of ABS. What better legacy than knowing you are responsible for introducing someone to ABS that will still be a member in 2070? The future of ABS in its young members. All too few of those members now have ABS in their present!

Contact Andy at 4575 Elm Court,
Denver, CO 80211-1441,
Ph: 303-455-7845, E-mail:
sierra_vista_gardens@juno.com

Want to read more about begonias?

Join Southwest Region/ABS
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Begonian Index 1999

Theme Issues:

July/August: **Begonia Hybridizing Today in the U.S.**

September/October: **Begonias: They're International!**

November/December: **Convention Issue, Begonia Kaleidoscopes**

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The Notaras Family
is marching into
a new growing millenium.
We wish everyone a healthy and happy
New Year.
Carol and Peter Notaras



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Minutes of Board Meeting, American Begonia Society, El Segundo, CA, September 4, 1999

1. The meeting was opened by **President Bruce Boardman**. 2. The aims and purposes of the Society were read by **Benjamin Franklin**. 3. Minutes of the May 8, 1999 Board Meeting were accepted as printed without a reading or discussion. 4. The financial report was presented by **Morris Mueller** for the last quarter and the past year from written reports provided by Treasurer **Carol Notaras**. For the period May 4, 1999 to August 31, 1999, the general fund began with \$24,183.22 and ended with \$22,677.09. The combined checking accounts (bookstore, seed fund, and general) began with \$24,620.38 and ended with \$23,012.24. Savings accounts began with \$36,723.88 and ended with \$38,375.68. The combined accounts began with \$61,344.26 and ended with \$61,387.92 For the period August 1, 1999 to July 31, 1999, the combined bookstore, seed fund and general account balances were \$27,871.96 initially and \$26,822.23 in the end. Total income for the period was \$50,834.40 while disbursements were \$51,724.13. The savings accounts began with \$32,139.81 and ended with \$38,375.68. Combined checking and savings account balances were \$59,951.77 beginning, and \$65,297.91 ending. The report was accepted. 5. Audit Committee Chair **Paul Tsamtsis** provided a written report indicating the financial records of the Society appeared in order as of August 14, 1999. The Committee noted that savings on *Begonian* printing will pay for one issue each year. The Committee also noted the large cash balance in the checking account and recommended that it be reduced by transfer to something which

pays higher interest such as a short-term CD. 6. **Adena Kalal** resigned from the Audit Committee. **Paul Tsamtsis** recommended **Sandra Bondi**, a business associate who is not a member of the Society to replace Adena. A motion to accept Sandra Bondi for the Audit Committee was seconded and passed. 7. Treasurer **Carol Notaras** responded to the Audit Committee recommendation of August 14, 1999 by locating a suitable business money market deposit account. It is available at Washington Mutual Bank where she now does business and will pay 3 to 4 times the current checking account interest. ...An account is being set up and a transfer of funds will be made. 8. The membership report was provided by **Arlene Ingles** and presented by **President Boardman**. There were 55 lifetime members, 86 institutional members, 1028 primary members and 60 second family members on August 31, 1999. The sum of these memberships is 1227. There were 40 additional members who have yet to renew, giving a total membership of 1267. During the period July 1 to August 31, 1999, there were 69 new members, 13 past-due members who rejoined and 168 who renewed on time. 9. **Joan Coulat** announced that holiday cheer greetings would compete this year with begonias from the '99 Convention for the limited number of color pages allowed in the *Begonian*. A motion to eliminate color from holiday cheer messages this year was seconded and passed. 10. Show entry and classification procedures using a personal computer and printer were successful for this convention. The program did not run well on a laptop computer. It was recommended that a PC and associated equipment be rented or borrowed for each show rather than purchase one for the Society at this time. 11. Seed Fund Chair **Eleanor Calkins** reported a beginning

balance of \$197.55, income of \$2675.54 and expenses of \$288.14 for the year ...After transferring \$2000. to the general fund the final balance was \$584.95...and issued a renewed request for seed from members.

13. Ann Salisbury provided written reports...Sales of Millie Thompson Publication Fund Books and Australian books netted \$2951.60 for five publications. Sales of back issues for the year yielded \$1246.77. Thanks were expressed to **Rudy Ziesenhenné, Tamsin Boardman, Carl Laipple** and **Carol Notaras** for their donations of back issues. Display advertising income for the *Begonian* was \$1830. from eleven advertisers. **14.** Nomenclature Director **Gene Salisbury** reported that three begonias submitted by **Brad Thompson** and **Kit Jeans Mounger** were registered ...**Thelma O'Reilly** assigned 21 numbers, 365 to 386 to unidentified plants. **15.** Public Relations Director **Andrew Conely** reported distributing *Begonian* back issues and *Seven Reasons* to selected nurseries across the country to give to customers buying begonias. He has been contacting newspapers for publicity and requests more contacts to local publications from all members. ..Andrew suggested a new round robin be introduced for members under 21 as a means of putting them in contact with each other. **16.** Internet Editor **Kathy Goetz** requested more begonia topics and pictures to put on the web page. **17.** Two convention sites were approved: West Palm Beach, FL on May 3-7, 2000 and Denver, CO, 2001 with the exact date to be announced. **18.** Southwest Region invited everyone to their Get-Together in San Antonio, September 21-24, 2000. **19.** Addition of both **Mary Elizabeth Moultrie** and **Pam Hantgin** to the Awards Committee was approved. They replaced **Charles Jaros** and **Mary Sakamoto** whose terms are expiring. **20 Cheryl Lenert** was approved as Bookstore Manager to succeed

Betty Benningfield. 21. Member-at-Large Director **Elaine Ayers** has indicated a desire to resign, but plans to publish one more issue of the MAL newsletter. Volunteers are requested for this position. **22. Arlene Ingles** was approved as Membership Director to replace the late **John Ingles, Jr.** **23.** The position of Business Manager vacated by the passing of **John Ingles, Jr.,** was left open for the incoming ABS president to fill. **24. Pam Hantgin** is planning to donate slides to the slide Library covering the show for Convention 99. **25.** A letter was received from **Millie Thompson** indicating she is sending a third shipment of information on begonia species to **Kelton Parker** at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden for the Library. **26 Gene Salisbury** made a motion to contribute \$5000 to **Scott Hoover's** next collecting trip with \$2000 coming from the research fund and \$3000 from the conservation fund. Scott Hoover spoke briefly on his plans. The motion was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Macnair, Secretary

These minutes have been slightly 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.

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In The Mailbox

by Greg Sytch,
Horticultural Correspondent

I recently had a visitor to my yard from south-central Florida, and he commented on a specimen of *B. tomentosa* that I had growing. *B. tomentosa* has the habit of throwing out beautiful new growth, but the older leaves become blemished. The petioles on the older growth have a rust surrounding them, but spraying with fungicide does not appear to help. My inspector sent a sample to Gainesville, but that came back inconclusive - cultural. I was wondering if anyone else has experienced this problem? The visitor noted that perhaps a mite might (cute, huh) be responsible. I do not see any. You can E-mail me if you have a clue because I do not.

Question: From Illinois comes a dilemma about B. 'Helen Teupel' The grower has this enclosed in a terrarium, and he reports it is not doing well. He states that new leaves rot off, but then healthy ones follow, only to rot off once again.

Answer: While Rexes enjoy humidity, "B. 'Helen Teupel' is not a terrarium subject unless good air flow exists. I suggested to him that he sterilize the soil to ensure disease is not present, as fungus are among us in poor soil. I also suggested that he try and allow for soil to dry out more often, as under high humidity, Rexes require less root moisture. Try and grow only those Rexes recommended for terrariums such as B. 'Dewdrop' in enclosed containers.

Note: This grower also sent a leaf for

identification, but placed in an envelope it was dead upon arrival. Any live material must be sent in an enclosed baggie, no moisture added. I can do my best to identify, but the material must be live!

Tips for Better Begonias:

1. For long term feeding and encouragement of better blooming begonias (Say that ten times fast!), use bone meal. When repotting shy bloomers, use a "good pinch" before setting the soil in. This will break down over a few months and greatly encourage blooms. For already potted plants work in a pinch over the top inch of soil. You will be amazed at the improvement in blooming - just look in my yard! For lush leaves, use bone meal.
2. I just cannot resist this one! For acid-loving plants such as gardenias, azaleas, hydrangeas, and rhododendrons, use distilled vinegar. Take ten drops of vinegar per quart of water, and watch your ph bottom out. Your acid-lovers will love you for it, and your bonus will be darker leaves and better blooms.

Also, if you are having problems with disease or pests and want some help, just ask! I am a phone call, snail mail, or E-mail away. By the way, I am compiling an E-mail Listing of ABS members. Anyone who wishes to be on this list and then to receive a copy of the complete list, please let me know.

You may reach Greg at 6219 Alaska Ave., New Port Richey, FL; Ph: 727-841-9618. E-mail: GSytch@cs.com

*Note that the **area code** for his phone number has been wrong in previous Begonians. The new area code is as listed here. Also, please check the news column on page 36 for an item about Greg's business.*



Begonias in a Bag... by Bill and Mimi Schramm

Three years ago the Monterey Bay Chapter of the ABS participated in an *International Flower and Garden Show* which was held at Pebble Beach. We wanted to sell plants at the show to raise money for the Chapter, but we knew that most of the visitors to the show would be from out of town and not interested in carrying potted plants home. Our solution to that problem was to develop the concept of "Begonias in a Bag".

Depending on the type of begonia, we collected leaves, stem cuttings, or pieces of rhizomes from our members. Each piece of growing material was placed in a zip lock bag along with damp moss and a name tag. Different size bags (sandwich, 1 quart, 1 gallon) were used depending on the size of the growing material. The final touch was to add a self adhesive address type label to the bag. The label announced that this was a "Begonia in Bag" along with the name of our Chapter. We sold the bags for \$1 to \$2 depending on the size of the bag and included a sheet of paper with instructions on how to plant and grow the leaf or cutting. Our

Begonias in a Bag were very popular and we have used the concept at other local plant sales.

The advantages of "Begonias in a Bag" are significant. For visitors who travel long distances to plant sales such as those at ABS conventions, it is always a problem to carry potted plants home. Begonias in a Bag, on the other hand are very easy to pack and carry in a car or even on a plane. For growers of plants for sales it is much easier and quicker to take cuttings and bag them than to raise small plants. Consider also how much easier it would be for a Chapter to send these to a plant sale at a distant convention rather than to try to ship potted plants. We have also found that since it is easier for members in our Chapter to contribute cuttings we get more participation and more contributions including cuttings for some of the less common, harder to find begonias.

The Monterey Bay Chapter brought "Begonias in a Bag" to Begonia Kaleidoscoes too. Write Bill and Mimi at 17 Calera Canyon, Salinas, CA 93908

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 described, 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 is identified by a code to be used whenever writing to the Seed Fund about seeds. The descriptions published are from the literature and apply to the name used for the offerings. Thank you!

The Seed Fund needs donations of seeds. Seeds may be traded for seeds offered in the Seed Fund Listings. Unlisted seeds from earlier offerings may be available in small quantities. If you have a special need ask the seed Fund Administrator.

The need for new seeds to distribute 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. The Seed Fund needs enough seeds for 25 packets.

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 seed will be \$2.00 or more per packet.

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All orders must be accompanied by check or money order payable **ONLY in US funds to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.**

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Please send your order with payment to:

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

The CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND is a project of the San Miguel Branch of the ABS in San Diego County, CA. Donors of seeds in this issue are: **Thelma O'Reilly, Michael Ludwig, Midori Nobusawa, Jacqueline Davis, Dot & Barry Mann, Jacie Duruisseau, Greg Sytch, Brad Thompson, Mary Weinberg, Annette Boree, Irene Nuss, Iris Bird, and Evelyne Bouquet.**

Seed List

JF00-01: *B. boliviensis* 'Skagum'

JF00-02: *B. cucullata*

JF00-03: *B. cucullata* var. *arenosicola*

JF00-04: *B. geniculata* (a synonym, see below)

JF00-05: *B. incana* (Syn. for *B. peltata*)

JF00-06: *B. luxurians* (open pollinated)

- JF00-07:** *B. nelumbiifolia*
JF00-08: *B. pedatifida* (\$2.00 per package)
JF00-09: *B. sharpeana*
JF00-10: Unidentified cane-like begonia
JF00-11: Unidentified Philippine cane begonia
JF00-12: Semperflorens type 'Glamour'
JF00-13: Mixed begonia seeds.

Descriptions

JF00-01: *B. boliviensis* 'Skagum' This is a cultivated variety of the species *B. boliviensis* (Sect. Barya), a tuberous species from Bolivia. This variety has much larger blooms than the species.

JF00-02: *B. cucullata* (Brazil. Sect. Begonia) Stems to 3' little branched; leaves to 4", inrolled at base, glossy green; flowers in summer, white to pink.

JF00-03: *B. cucullata* var. *arenosicola* (Argentina) This differs from JF00-02 "by the narrowly elliptic leaves, rounded at the tip, narrow unequally cuneate at the base..." according to Jack Golding.

JF00-04: *B. geniculata*. This name is a synonym for both *B. convolvulacea* and *B. isoptera*. The grower says this plant is more like *B. convolvulacea*. *B. isoptera* (Java. Sect. Petermannia) Stems 1 1/2' to 2', glabrous, leaves ovate-oblong, wavy toothed margins, flowers inconspicuous greenish edged with pink, summer. *B. convolvulacea* (Brazil, Sect. Wagenaria) Stems to 7', succulent, thickened at the nodes, climbing by adventitious roots, green, glabrous, leaves 3 1/2" to 4 1/2" long, pointed, irregularly and shallowly 5-7 parted, dark dark glossy green; white flowers in spring.

JF00-05: *B. incana* (Syn. for *B. peltata* Mexico, Guatemala, Sect. Giroudea) Stem 1' to 2' erect, leaves 4" to 9" long peltate, felted,

flowers 1", white in cymes on long erect peduncles, winter.

JF00-06: *B. luxurians* (open-pollinated). The parent is from Brazil (Sect. Scheidweilera). Stems up to 8'; leaves palmately compound, 7-17 lanceolate, reddish, hairy leaflets; flowers tiny, creamy, in long peduncled cymes.

JF00-07: *B. nelumbiifolia* (Central America, Sect. Gireoudia). Parent plant has large (to 13") peltate leaves; some leaves have adventitious growth where the petiole meets the leaf blade. Flowers are small, white, and are held high above the plant (as in *B. popenoei*). Blooms profusely in spring.

JF00-08: *B. pedatifida* (China, Sect. Platycentrum) Erect stems from a rhizome -- once referred to as a tuberous rhizome. The stem with the leaves and flowers arise at the growing tip of the rhizome; dormant part of the year, treat like tuberous; leaves deeply lobed; profuse white flowers in summer.

JF00-09: *B. sharpeana* (New Guinea, Sect. Diploclinium) The collector described it as: "On steep slopes of a limestone ridge bordering the river about 10 meters (32') above sea level. Pink flowers, big roundish leaves, red brown strips radiating from the centre. The plants are 'climbing'; i.e. they grow flat on almost perpendicular limestone rocks in a thin mulch of old leaves, etc. in the dark forest shade, coming down to the river water level."

JF99-10: Unidentified cane-like begonia described by the grower as cane-like to more than 6'. Leaves 9" x 2 3/4", lightly spotted with white doughnut shaped spots. Reverse shows red down main vein and green near edges. Large, pendulous flower clusters of pastel pink, all summer into September.

JF00-11: Unidentified Phillipine cane begonia imported by Martin Johnson. Stems 2' to 3' tall, leaves brownish green, flowers white.

JF00-12: Semperflorens type 'Glamour'

JF00-13: Mixed begonia seed

ABS Winter Board Meeting

February 4-6, 2000

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Hotel - AmeriSuites \$75.00 plus tax 1-3 Persons
6080 Bluebonnet Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Make reservations directly with the hotel at 800-833-1516. Be sure to mention you are with the American Begonia Society. A block of rooms will be held for ABS until January 20, 2000. After this date rooms will be on an available basis only. A deluxe continental breakfast is included at the hotel. The AmeriSuites is located across the street from a mall and several restaurants that are within walking distance from the hotel. The hotel does not provide airport shuttle service.

February 4, 7 P.M. Get Together at Ralph & Kacoos Seafood Restaurant, 6110 Bluebonnet Blvd. Ralph & Kacoos has been recommended by Baton Rouge locals.

February 5, 8 A.M. Trip to Rosedown Plantation in St. Francisville, Louisiana. Admission \$10., 55 or over \$8.95. Enjoy this beautiful southern plantation and garden. The camellias are expected to be in full bloom during our visit.

February 5, 12 P.M. Buffet lunch and ABS Board Meeting at the AmeriSuites. Lunch cost is \$10.

February 5, Evening entertainment, a trip on the Casino Rouge paddlewheel boat on the Mississippi River.

February 6, 8:15 A.M. Trip to ABS member Cynthia Moran's Nursery and to the Louisiana State University Rural Life Museum. Admission \$5.00, Senior Discount \$4.00. Come see Louisiana in the 1800's.

Recommend flying into New Orleans International Airport, then rent a car and drive to Baton Rouge. Take I-10 west from New Orleans International Airport to Baton Rouge. The AmeriSuites is right off I-10 at the Bluebonnet Blvd. exit. Flying into New Orleans is suggested due to the possible higher cost of flying directly into Baton Rouge. Distance from New Orleans International Airport to Baton Rouge is 68 miles; driving time approximately 1 hour 10 minutes.

All ABS members are invited to attend!

You Can Still Order These!

The Catalogue of Registered Cultivars by Ivy McFarlane and Debbie Weber. \$28 including postage.

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Cost of the last two goes to the Millie Thompson Publication Fund.

And back issues of the *Begonian* for \$5/year or \$1/issue.

Order from:

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Newly Available from the ABS Bookstore:

A Guide to the Pronunciation of Begonia Names, 20 page booklet, by Jack Golding. 6 black and white drawings by Marilyn White. This booklet condenses the pronunciation of species names appearing in the *Begonian* from March/April 1998 to September/October 1999. \$3. including postage from:

ABS Bookstore, Cheryl Lenert, 13014
Chavile Dr., Cypress, TX 77419.

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Pronunciation of Begoniaceae Names for The Begonian, 66: November-December, 1999

by Jack Golding

Begonia	be-GoH-ni-uh
angularis	ang-yew-LAY-ris
cardiocalpa	kar-di-oh-KAHR-puh
fusca	FUS-kuh
handelii	hand-DEL-i-eye
heracleifolia	her-ak-le-eye-FOH-li-uh
masoniana	MAY-son-i-ay-nuh
opuliflora	o-pul-i-FLOH-ruh
pearcei	PEARCE-eye
pinetorum	peye-ni-TOH-rum
prismatocalpa	pris-ma-TOH-car-puh
rockii	ROCK-i-eye
scabrida	skab-RID-uh
sunorchis	sun-OHR-chis
tomentosa	toh-men-TOH-suh
ulmifolia	ulm-i-FOH-li-uh

Pronunciation of Begoniaceae Names for The Begonian, 67: January-February, 2000

by Jack Golding

convolvulacea	kon-vol-vyew-LAY-se-uh
<i>*syn. geniculata</i>	jen-i-ku-LAY-tuh
cucullata	kyew-kul-LAY-tuh,
var. arenosecola	uh-ren-oh-si-KOH-luh
isoptera	iss-OP-ter-uh
<i>*syn. geniculata</i>	jen-i-ku-LAY-tuh
luxurians	lux-YEWR-i-ans
nelumbiifolia	nel-um-bi-eye-FOH-li-uh
pedatifida	pe-da-ti-FID-uh
peltata	pel-TAY-tuh
<i>syn. incana</i>	in-KAY-nuh
sharpeana	shar-pe-AY-nuh

Begonia geniculata* Jack, 1822, is a synonym of **Begonia isoptera Dryander, from Java. *Begonia geniculata* Vellozo, 1831 is a synonym of **Begonia convolvulacea** A. de Candolle from

Brazil.

In Memory

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing Of Elizabeth (Betty) McLauchlan this past October. Betty was the beloved wife of ABS and Scottish Begonia Society member Hugh McLauchlan.

Hugh and Betty attended many of our conventions beginning with the 1985 convention. Betty was not a grower, but enjoyed cultivating her husband's hobby, enjoying begonias and the friendships that were developed through ABS. Betty once told me how friendly and welcoming evryone was at the conventions.

She will be missed by all. When we see the great tuberous hybrid B. 'Mrs. Elizabeth McLauchlan' we will think of her.

Our hearts and prayers go to Hugh.



Above, see Arlene Hoskins's B. 'Aya'. This is cane classed as Mallet-Like and comes to us from Shigemi of Japan in 1982. Although it can be difficult, it is also a very fast grower when given the conditions it prefers.

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B. 'Wanda'

News: ABS, Branch, & International

Bad News! Both **Greg Sytch's** Sunshine Tropicals and **Bob Koehler's** B & K Tropicals will no longer be shipping plants. Greg's closing is effective immediately and he is no longer able to respond to inquiries. Bob's will be closed effective January 1. Both express their appreciation to their many customers and regret that other jobs are demanding that they give up their mail order business. These Florida sources will be missed.

Ruth Pease would like to note that she failed to mention the Greater Atlanta Branch in her Kudos letter for Begonia Kaleidoscopes last month and it should have been the San Miguel Branch rather than the San Diego. She wants to be sure all those deserving thanks receive it!

Horticulture Magazine carried an article about **Joy Logee Martin** written by **Tovah Martin** recently. Joy is now semi-retired and since ABS remains very important to her, it would really be great if she could receive cards or letters from her ABS friends. You may write her at 141 North Street, Danielson, CT 06239.

There are a number of important new publications on *Begonia* out in the technical literature. First, remembers those fascinating glimpses of begonia seeds way back in May/June 1983 that appeared with an article by F. Bouman and A. de Lange? Now, there is even more. A complete booklet, *Seed Micromorphology of Neotropical Begonias* by A. de Lange and F. Bouman has been published as Smithsonian Contributions to Botany, Number 90 (Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1999).

And, in *Selbyana* 20 (2): 16-29, 1999 appears the article "New Taxa in *Begonia* (Begoniaceae) from Brazil" by **Stephen F. Smith** and **Dieter C. Wasshausen**. This publication lists ten new Brazilian taxa of *Begonia* found by **Lyman Smith** in his work; *B. cacaucicola*, *B. europhylla*, *B. matogrossensis*, *B. mattos-silvae*, *B. pinheironis*, *B. pluvialis*, *B. polygonifolia* A. DC. var. *differens*, *B. russelliana*, *B. serranegrae* and *B. windischii* are described, illustrated, and compared to neighboring taxa from an unpublished key of Brazilian *Begonia*. And interesting to those of us who grow it, in this article *B. oxyphylla* A. DC. is made a variety of *B. arborescens* Raddi, *Begonia arborescens* Raddi var. *oxyphylla* (A. DC.).

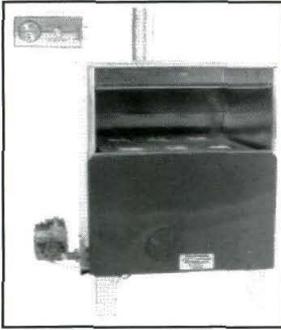
Carrie Karegeannes who shared a reprint of the article described above also contributed to the *Harvard Papers in Botany* 4 (1), September 1999 in which **Jason R. Grant** served as Associate Editor and Tribute Organizer for *Florilegium Luctatori Botanico Dedicatum*, a Tribute to **Lyman B. Smith**. Among the papers in this tribute is Carrie's paper "Enduring Gifts". The section also includes several other papers including **L. J. Dorr's** "Notes on *Begonia* (Begoniaceae) In the Venezuelan Andes" and "A New Name in *Begonia* (Begoniaceae) from China."

We began with losing two sources, but note that we carry two new sources in this month's advertising (see page 16 for the ad for **Rob's Mini-o-lets**) and for northern California there is **Valley Perennials** (see opposite page). Let's support *Begonian* advertisers!

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COMING EVENTS

February 4-6, 2000: ABS Board Meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Reserve at the AmeriSuites 225-769-4400; special rates are \$75 + tax, single or double so tell them you are with ABS. The easiest way to get there is to fly to New Orleans, rent a car and drive from the airport to the hotel on the east side of Baton Rouge. Contact Charles Jaros at 407-328-0618 or Sylvia Ben at 954-236-0018 to reserve a spot on weekend visits to Rosedown Plantation, Moran's Nursery, and Louisiana State University's Rural Life Museum. Dinner is planned for Friday night and all members are welcome! See page 32 for more information.

March 25-26, 2000: 6th Australian Begonia Convention, Adelaide, South Australia, the Haven Hotel, Glenelg. Contact: Convention Secretary Myrnie Jennings, 4 Kinnard Crescent, Highbury, South Australia 5089, Australia.

May 3-7, 2000: ABS Convention: Palm Beaches Shores Resort, Palm Beaches, Florida. More info to come.

September 20-24, 2000: Southwest Region/ABS Get-Together, San Antonio, Texas, Seven Oaks Resort. More info to come.

Closing Date for March/April Issue is *January 15!*

The Begonian

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Note! Closing Date for Next Issue is January 15!