

The

Begonian

May/June 2000



The **Begonian**

ISSN 0096-8684

Publication of the American Begonia Society

American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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

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Cover

Front: Is this beauty *B. guttata*? **Johanna Zinn** records and photographs its characteristics precisely while growing it to perfection and researching its identity in depth. Read all in the article beginning on page 98.

Back: **Iris Bird** captures the beauty in flower and leaf of *B. 'Gene Daniels'* (*B. 'Frieda Grant'* x Unknown, Ziesenhenne 1975) while contemplating what a beginner needs to know about the art of hybridizing. Read the results starting on page 91.

Hybridizing Begonias is an Art Form

A dictionary definition of art is “the production or expression of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than ordinary significance” and a home improvement warehouse advertises that it sells “Artist supplies for gardeners.” **Brad Thompson** calls hybridizing begonias the development of living art. What better way to demonstrate these ideas than with the “New Cultivars” offered in this issue? **Iris Bird** views this process through the eyes of a beginner at hybridizing and **Jackie Davis** demonstrates how she chose parents to produce her own vision of a hybrid.

True Detectives

Pulp fiction cannot produce anything more inately mysterious than our begonia species. Each is so variable and often has such a deep and murky history that it can sometimes turn the grower into a Sherlock Holmes searching for that begonia's best growing conditions and its true identity. In this issue **Dale Sena** and **Johanna Zinn** undertake the challenge with their two mystery species.

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Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads **200007 or 200008**, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

President's Message...

Well, the 2000 ABS Convention is upon us. I'm looking forward to meeting *all of you in West Palm Beach at the Radisson Palm Beach Resort*. Remember to attend the ABS Board Meeting during the convention. This is your opportunity to express your opinions, participate in discussions, and bring forth suggestions for ABS.

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of H. Alton Lee to the position of Member-at-Large Director. Alton's appointment was approved at the ABS Winter Board Meeting this past February. As soon as Alton received notification of board approval he began vigorously working on the first Members-at-Large Newsletter. Those who are already MAL members will have received their quarterly newsletter. A complimentary copy of the newsletter will be presented to all conventioners. Dues to receive the MAL Newsletter are \$5.00 and should be mailed to Membership Secretary Arlene Ingles. Be sure to make checks payable to the American Begonia Society and annotate that it is for the MAL newsletter.

A little note about hybridizing. When hybridizing, choose your begonias carefully. Think of what you want to accomplish with creating the cross. Cull out those plants that do not meet your criteria. Test your hybrids: Are they easy to propagate? Are they susceptible to diseases? Does the hybrid make a pleasing begonia that others would want to grow? More importantly, is the hybrid distinctive; is it different from other begonias in its respective group (cane-like, rhizomatous, etc....)? Look to see what makes this hybrid distinctive: Are the flowers larger? Does it bloom longer? Is the color different? Is the foliage unique in some way? Is the growth habit distinctive? It is very impor-

tant to obtain different growers opinions when testing a hybrid, so distribute the hybrid to other growers for testing. After all this has been done then the hybrid is ready to be released and registered with the Nomenclature Director of the American Begonia Society. There are so many begonia hybrids that are similar in appearance that a grower cannot tell one from the other. So let's take time and care when hybridizing.

The ballot for the 2000 election is in this issue. Be sure to vote. The Nominating Committee has selected a good slate. Last year's election had the most ballots returned; let's surpass it this year.

Good begonia growing,
Charles Jaros

Letters to the Editor

Too Early? Or Too Late?

We received the January/February 1999 issue of the *Begonian* the last of November 1998. I was inundated with seed orders through the month of December 1998. Was really rough on me, all that pressure during the holidays. Then, I received the January/February issue of the *Begonian* the middle of December 1999 which made for a more relaxed and enjoyable month for me and made the holidays more enjoyable as well.

I really don't think we need the *Begonian* a month ahead of issue date, but this is only my thinking ...

Eleanor Calkins
910 Fern St.
Escondido, CA 92027

Eleanor, if I could determine delivery dates, I would have the Begonian in every one's hands on the last day of the month before the issue date. However,

delivery is determined by the post office. First class is usually, but not always (I received a first class letter posted here in Nacogdoches on March 7 on March 14!), delivered within a week to 10 days. But most of our mail goes nonprofit rate and arrives when it arrives -- some members this year did not get the January/February issue until the end of January! If possible, the printer and I try to get the issue in the mail by the 7th of the month before the date of issue with the goal of everyone having it by the last week of that month. Otherwise, our Membership Chair gets calls and replacement requests for lost Begonians!

Remembering a Great Plantsman

No matter how dedicated a gardener may be to one family of plants -- did someone scream "Begonias"? -- it's pretty much a given that most plant-lovers cannot limit their love to one group and readily let plants from more than one family join their garden.

Some years ago, my wife Paula and I had the pleasure of visiting the Miami garden of Dr. Monroe Birdsey, who died recently (January 2000). Although Dr. Birdsey's specialty was aroids (he was the author of the legendary, long out-of-print and much sought after *The Cultivated Aroids*). Paula and I were not really surprised to find a small but choice number of begonias in his garden mix.

Dr. Birdsey spent his life writing about, collecting, saving, and propagating plants. He was willing to share with anyone who showed even a minimal amount of horticultural interest. Although I only met Dr. Birdsey the one time, we had several fascinating phone conversations in which he willingly shared his vast knowledge about aroids as well as all things horticultural.

The loss of even a casual weekend gardener is a blow to our ever fragile envi-

ronment. The loss of someone such as Dr. Birdsey is an even greater hardship in the ever increasing struggle to save nature's very finite resources.

But as loss can be a time of reflection and a seeking of perspective, so it can also be a time for intense rededication by those of us who remain, a vow to work harder to preserve our natural environment -- which certainly includes a lot of endangered begonias, not to mention undiscovered ones. Such efforts reaffirm and validate the hard work of those who go before us such as Dr. Birdsey.

And after all, how could a plant-lover ask for a greater and better legacy than that?

H. Alton Lee

5813 19th Avenue S.
Gulfport, FL 33707

And a Thank You!

I would like to thank **Mary Elizabeth Moultrie** for taking me on all the tours of Convention 1999 in the November/December and January/February issues of the *Begonian*. Unfortunately, I was unable to go on any of the tours due to interfering activities and this certainly was true for many of the Committee members as well. Mary Elizabeth's charming and delightful articles made us all feel as though we had seen everything for ourselves.

Her writing is wonderful and I hope to see more of her work in the *Begonian*. Thank you, Mary Elizabeth, from me, the Westchester Branch, and the Convention '99 Committee.

Janet Brown

7825 Kentwood
Los Angeles, CA
90045

And not to mention your editor too! Oh, how the Begonian depends on our talented and generous writers and photographers in every issue!

New Cultivars

Official International Registrations 972-974

Gene Salisbury, Nomenclature Director

Applications to register Begonia cultivars may be obtained from Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653. Forms must be typed or printed in ink and accompanied by a \$2 check payable to the American Begonia Society. Clear photos for publication in the Begonian, drawings and dried specimens are requested. ABS is the International Registration Authority for Begonia cultivar names. In the listing of cultivar parents below, the female (seed) parent is given first.

Begonia 'Vivian Hill'

No. 972. *Begonia* ('Jumbo Jet' x *partita*)
'Vivian Hill'

This Cane-like, All other *Begonia* is not quite a *Superba* and is just 12 to 18" at maturity. Its leaves are dark bronze/green, red backed, and have a red sinus. Leaves are 2 1/2" x 8", ovate with silver spots and acute tips. The upper lobe is acute also. The leaf surface is smooth and bare with 6 main veins. Red petioles are

1"; red stipules are 1" long by 1/2" wide.

Flower tepals are narrow, ovate, red. Male flowers are 1 3/4" in diameter with 4 tepals; female flowers are 1 3/4" with 5 tepals and red ovaries. The many flower clusters average 28 male flowers and 24 female flowers. Flower peduncles are 2".

*Below, Registration #972 B. 'Vivian Hill'.
Photo by Brad Thompson.*





Above, Registration #973 B. 'Don Case'. Below, Registration #974 B. 'Jeannie Jones'. Photos by Brad Thompson.



Blooms occur summer to fall. Female petals are very narrow and fold back resembling shooting stars.

The whole plant glows red, very low and full growing. Brilliant red flowers that are rose scented. Leaves are pointed at both ends.

Developed in 1992 by Brad Thompson (2436 W. Lomita Bl. #1, Lomita, CA 90717); first bloomed in 1993, and first distributed in 1994. Tested by Elda Regimbal (3117 San Juan Dr., Fullerton, CA 92635), Mary Sakamoto (6847 E. Sycamore Glen Dr., Orange, CA 92869), and Vivian Hill (5133 Ashworth St., Lake-wood, CA, 90712). Available from Kartuz Greenhouses (1408 Sunset Dr., Dept. B., Vista, CA 92083-6531). Registered March 3, 2000.

***Begonia* ‘Don Case’**

No. 973 *Begonia* (‘Jumbo Jet’ x ‘Orange Rubra’) ‘Don Case’

Cane-like, Superba hybrid, 2 to 4 feet at maturity, having dark green leaves with small silver spots and a red sinus. Leaves are lobed to cleft and toothed with an acute tip and a cordate base; surface is smooth and chatoyant. Petioles are 1” and reddish. Stipules are 1” long by 1/2” wide.

Flowers have dark pink, round tepals. Female flowers have dark pink ovaries. Male flowers are 1 1/2” in diameter with 4 tepals. Females are 2” with 5 tepals. The many flower clusters average 16 male and 26 female flowers. Flower peduncle is 2”. Blooms occur in fall and winter.

This begonia is extremely sturdy and nearly indestructible. It is easy to grow and doesn’t have leaf drop in winter or wet weather. Male flowers are held above the foliage and female flowers are solid pink. It is a late season bloomer and blooms through the winter, but can also bloom in summer. Blooms at a time when most other canes are semi-dormant and

have dropped most of their leaves. Female flowers have extremely large ovaries similar to B. ‘Jumbo Jet’. Leaves are deeply lobed and toothed and are wider than most Superba types.

Developed by Brad Thompson (address above) in 1990; first bloomed in 1991, first distributed in 1992. Recommended for registration by Mary Sakamoto (address above) and Elda Regimbal (address above). Available from Kartuz Greenhouses (address above). Registered March 3, 2000.

***Begonia* ‘Jeannie Jones’**

No. 974 *Begonia* (‘Jumbo Jet’ x ‘Sophie Cecile’) ‘Jeannie Jones’

Cane-like, superba hybrid has dark green, red backed, 3” x 8” leaves. The leaves have silver spots, are ovate with acute tips. Margins are lobed, toothed, and undulate with smooth surface other than some raised spots. Leaves have 7 main veins with 1” red petioles. Stipules are 1” long by 1/2” wide and green.

Flowers have rounded dark pink tepals. Male flowers have 4 tepals with 1 1/2” diameter flowers. Female flowers are 2 1/2” with 5 tepals and dark pink ovaries. The many flower clusters average 12 male flowers and 16 female flowers. Flower peduncle is 2 1/2”. The long lasting blooms occur in summer to fall.

More compact than other Superbas, branches better, and has chatoyant leaves. It is naturally symmetrical in growth and is easier to grow and bloom. It has strongly rose scented flowers. It was developed by Brad Thompson (address above) in 1992, first bloomed in 1994, and was first distributed in 1994. It is recommended by Mary Sakamoto (address above) and Jeannie Jones (1415 Via Margarita, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274). Available from Kartuz Greenhouses (address above). Registered March 3, 2000.

Hybridizing Begonias is an Art Form

by Brad Thompson

Until Freda suggested this article I guess I never consciously thought about the artistic aspects of the begonias I was creating. I suppose years of art classes made artistic goals mostly ingrained in everything I do. I must admit, upon reflection, that I do think of my begonia hybrids as a type of living art. Creating this type of living art, using chromosomes instead of paint, does throw in the element of chance and surprise to the work.

People are attracted to begonias for the same reasons they are attracted to beautiful paintings and works of art. They are pleasing to the eye and a joy to look at. I suppose some begonias might be considered more beautiful than others, but I have always been able to see the little things that make each unique. Things such as leaf color patterns, textures, and shapes. Those are what make begonias attractive to me. When choosing parents to use, I try to use two parents that have many interesting traits in the hopes that the best of these traits will combine in some new way.

Although there is always the unexpected and chance in hybridizing, to be successful, you do have to have enough imagination to envision what to expect from crossing two parents together. Especially if you want to create something truly different, you have to have this ability. I have had people come to me and say, "I just self-pollinated B. 'Orange Rubra' and got two hundred seedlings coming up." They are so excited and I ask them why they did that cross and what did they expect to get. They tell me they just love the orange flowers. They didn't think ahead to envision that those seed-

lings will all be slightly different versions of B. 'Orange Rubra' and they wouldn't really be coming up with something unique. Now, if they had crossed B. 'Orange Rubra' with B. 'Charles Jaros', that would be a different story. B. 'Orange Rubra' has the beautiful orange flowers and B. 'Charles Jaros' has wonderful cut silver leaves. I can already envision the B. 'Charles Jaros' with orange flowers. If you're going to go to the trouble to pollinate flowers and grow seed, make it worthwhile and interesting.

My goal in hybridizing is to come up with the most unique and beautiful begonia I can envision. Sometimes this is a slight or minor change such as different colored flowers, but more often I am looking for a totally new artistic creation. We sometimes think that everything that can be created in begonias has already been done to some extent. That isn't so. Try this experiment. Close your eyes and envision all the begonias you know. Now envision all those begonias with the texture of *B. gehrtii* added to them. There's a few hundred new begonias that are totally different, that have just been dreamed up. It doesn't take too much imagination to envision a cane with *B. luxurians* leaves, a shrub with *B. paulensis* texture, or a cane with spiral, patterned leaves like a rhizomatous.

Besides the forethought into the parents and what might result, a good share of the artistic eye toward hybridizing comes in the culling process. As anyone who has grown begonia seed knows, you can have hundreds of seedlings from a single seed pod. Of course, most of us don't have the room to grow them all to

maturity so only the ones we consider the best get to grow on. For some seedlings, they are selected according to the vision that I had for them. If I were trying for a Superba cane with orange flowers, the seedlings with the most interesting leaves are selected with the vision of orange flowers waiting for the time when they bloom. Many seedlings take on their own artistic vision after they are up and growing though. Like I said before, there are surprises in hybridizing, and many of my crosses are made with surprises in mind. Planned surprises. I know what can result, but not exactly how those aspects will combine. If I were to cross *B. gerhtii* which has heavily textured leaves with a very patterned rhizomatous such as *B. 'Fred Benson'* I would expect that I'll get a rhizomatous begonia with patterned and textured leaves. The most eye pleasing combinations are the ones that get to grow and eventually become named varieties. In this example, while all the results are a surprise, they aren't complete surprises. I know the leaves should be textured and patterned, just not exactly how those two aspects will combine.

When it comes to naming your creations, you can add an artistic flair to that also. *Anyone who has done any hybridizing* has to name some of them for friends, etc., but for the others a creative name doesn't hurt its eventual popularity. Many of my hybrids' names were inspired by things they reminded me of. My snake series got their names because the leaf patterns reminded me of the different patterns on snakes. *B. 'Stormy Night'* and *B. 'Curly Stormy Night'* have black leaves and were named during a thunderstorm. *B. 'Dancing Birds'* with its upward pointing leaves reminded me of a flock of birds taking flight. I have several canes with Japanese names that

were all named because they reminded me of some aspect of Asian painting or design.

Just as with painting, all the begonias you create should be new and unique. You can paint a copy of the Mona Lisa, but it wouldn't be nearly as fine as if you painted a creation on your own. There can be only one real Mona Lisa. Use begonia parents that have many unique qualities that you can hope to combine in new and different ways.

Brad's artistic results can't be doubted; just check out the new cultivars! You may write him at 2436 W. Lomita Bl. #1, Lomita, CA 90717 or E-mail him at Btbegonia@aol.com

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**Call for hours.
(209)-748-5886**



A Beginner Considers Hybridizing Begonias As An Art Form

by Iris Bird

As a confessed beginner, attempting to hybridize, what could I tell another beginner, about the art of hybridizing? I would spend a couple of years familiarizing myself with the different 'kinds' of begonias I have the option and requirements for growing. I would analyze somewhat my growing areas; where would be the best location for them, are they canes, rhizomatous, shrub, thick stem, or, are they the species from the wild places of the world? Do they grow in a contained atmosphere? What is that? Who grows there? I asked myself these same questions five years ago. Do I want that one and for what? Yes, I desired the lovely unusual leaf of the rhizomatous begonia, and I try to collect one of each that I might have the good fortune of growing. I still 'need' many more. When I didn't have access to the plant, I collected leaves from whoever would share with me. Now, what did I do with the leaves? Made more plants. Hopefully growing them for show and for their blooms and pollen. At this writing all the rhizomatous are blooming, and seeing so many blooms with all that pollen, am I confused? Which one will be a good match for that one? Do I have in my collection compatible plants suitable for hybridizing? I don't really know. But, I have to try.

So, instructing a beginner in the art of hybridizing, one would have to begin by familiarizing oneself with the family *Begoniaceae*. Study them for their finer points and what it is you want to achieve. How to grow from seed. How to propagate from cuttings of all kinds. How to

grow the begonia to a mature plant, with success. How To produce a show plant. How, and most important to me, to keep my plants in good condition and growing well. For years, you say? I guess the answer is yes. If a plant you are caring for conforms and adheres to an established standard and is still growing well after a couple of years, I think that plant has good genes and was hybridized well. This is not an easy task. I want to do the same! I would like to create one of those beautiful rhizomatous, such as *B. rajah*, or , *B. 'Wanda'*, or a successfully hybridized cane, such as *B. 'Irene Nuss'*. There is nothing wrong with dreaming and giving it my best effort. These plants have grown for years and are always the same in appearance and their requirements never change. You can depend on their stability and constancy and benefit by these traits.

I have read about 'making' your own. Placing that pollen from that male flower onto this female flower. It is just that easy! Well, I don't think so. I stand in the yard and look over the many begonias we have, and I think, if I like that one and that one, why not do just that? Well, because they may not be compatible. They may be weak of stem, may both have few flowers, possible one needs more shade. By chance will they be the same, and need identical cultural requirements? NO. Chromosome numbers enter the picture here. Is the characteristic number in each plant correct? Please remember I am a beginner too.

Without much thought about what I have read about hybridizing, I just went ahead and did it! I obtained that pollen from that boy plant and pollinated this girl plant. I had forgotten the important part about selection, color, size, stability, stamina, resistance, and desirability. Did I get seed? Yes. Did I plant it? Yes, I did. Did it grow into a fine new introduction to the begonia world? NO! Why didn't it? Because I was a beginner and I didn't take into consideration all of the above. Do I still have those hybridized seedlings? Yes. Are they growing well? They did at first. Now they are fading and dwindling and not growing at all. They, as a matter of fact, have reclined in the same pot, same height, as they were three months ago. I have fed them, given them plenty of light. Too much light possibly. I have babied them, and I guess even prayed a little. They were beautiful at first, as one and two inch babies. Each one is very different from the other. A few with a silver edge all around the leaf. Are they a success? I doubt it very strongly. But, I am a beginner.

I made another attempt. Trying to visualize the difference and considering this one is weak and this one is strong, this one needs to have stronger stems and this one has great orange blooms, and this one has really strange blooms. This one is a cane and the other a rhizomatous, jointed at or below the soil with erect stems. In my opinion, this was a mistake, after seeing the results. They either favor the female or they are a mess. I saved ten of them, and they are nine months old and need tossing. I am not surprised, nor am I feeling like I have wasted my time. I am confused. I know this 'creating a begonia miracle' can happen. I have seen positive results, as the sun at noonday, many times over. Do some people have 'it' and others do not?

I don't think so. It takes time, trying over and over again, until maybe something good will happen. I am certain, not every attempt at 'making' a new hybrid will be a winner. I think it takes much consideration on the part of the person doing the hybridizing.

I want to be able to do just a tiny portion of what they accomplish, with a little pollen here and a little pollen there. Sounds good to me. I have the spirit for it, and the desire, but I need to keep trying and maybe some day I will get lucky. Just observing the leaf wedges producing tiny baby plants, is a miracle to me. And cane cuttings forming water roots and soon growing into a nice tall cane begonia with large umbels of blooms is a beautiful sight. Even if I never really accomplish this, I am intrigued and fascinated to be a begonia lover and grower. But I don't give up easily!

Iris is both modest and a dedicated grower who knows how to produce gorgeous show winners as those of us who saw her entries last year in LA can attest. In addition to her blue ribbon plants, she had a truly excellent educational display on propagation with the most beautiful rhizomatous wedge cuttings and their plantlets. We know her flair for design and eye for beauty will soon result in delightful new creations for us. As she says, she is growing with enthusiasm and delight in Torrance, CA.

Are you a hybridizer?

If you hybridize, the *Begonian* would like to hear from you too about your beliefs and practices. We would also like to see your best and favorite hybrid creations along with their story. We all learn from sharing what others know or are learning. Mistakes are as important as successes in this learning process. Write your article and submit it very soon!

Creating Begonias to Your Own Vision (Or The Experts Are Not Always Right!)

by Jackie Davis

A few years ago, I found a tuber in a packet that was marked simply "Belgian tuber". Where or when I got it, I don't remember, but always looking for odd or unusual begonias, I bought it.

The plant that came up was odd. It reminded me of *B. bolivienses*, yet it was small with leaves like a regular tuber.

I was happy with it and when my club members saw it they also liked it. I did nothing to it -- didn't self or try to cross it and was happy with it until 1998. I had potted it and it didn't look right. I found it had rotted and was kicking myself because I had not tried to make backup starts.

I wondered if I crossed *B. bolivienses* and a tuber would it look like my Belgian cross? So I did. I chose an orange tuber because my plant was that color.

Up they came! They were very much like *B. bolivienses* except in the shape of the plant. Everyone wanted a baby of my cross so I gave many away.

Then when I read my March/April 1999 *Begonian* there it was. Someone else did what I did. Found out they were Nonstop tubers and I visited Weidners' greenhouse and again they looked alike.

Some expert tuber growers say not to fool around with tubers like that, but I sure was happy with the results. They all looked like my Belgian tuber except five were perfect rose form tubers.

Please don't blame the title to this article on Jackie. The editor took advantage of her article submitted without a title and added one to make a point. Although experts may give us tips and advice, there really are no rules or "laws" for hybridizing. We can do anything we like and for those of us who are amateurs at it, the important thing is that we have fun and enjoy our results! As Iris pointed out earlier, we can learn as we go along. If by chance we produce something truly unique and new that deserves recognition and wide distribution (and this CAN happen), then we can worry about the rules and seek registration. Jackie grows beautiful begonias and is a frequent contributor of seed to the seed fund. You may write her at 170 Wingfoot Way, Aptos, CA 95003. Turn the page to see her vision realized.

Members-at-Large Get New Director

H. Alton Lee was approved by the ABS Board in February as the new Director for the Members-at-Large. He will be editor of the MAL Newsletter and a new issue should be in the hands of subscribers soon. Alton is a superb writer who knows his begonias. He is particularly fond of the rare and unusual and terrarium growing. The Newsletter will be great!

Subscribers are reminded that their renewals are due. To continue receiving

your issues, send your \$5 check made out to American Begonia Society, clearly marked for "MAL Newsletter", to **Arlene Ingles** at 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617.

Although the newsletter is designed for members at large it is still *all about begonias* and those in branches may also subscribe - just send your \$5 as indicated above.



Above left is Jackie's sought-after cross and to the right is the unexpected rose form. Below, her hybrid nestles behind an unusually beautiful *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana*.



Another Look at

B. sceptrum and *B. aconitifolia*

by Dale Sena

I am not an expert on begonias. I did not study this field in college. I am a self-taught hobbyist who has been growing (and learning about) begonias for about 25 years. During a visit to the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden I made some comments regarding *B. sceptrum* and *B. aconitifolia*, and the editor of the *Begonian* asked me to write this article.

A lot has already been said and written about these 'two' plants. For years there has been some confusion in begonia circles regarding this (these?) species. Are they the same, or are they different? Having grown them for many years, I offer here my observations.

To begin with, let me say that I obtained my plants from different sources. In each case, they are grown side by side in order to eliminate such variables as light, water, food, temperature, humidity, etc. While both are considered Superba canes, *B. aconitifolia* has a taller and more decidedly upright habit of growth. It reaches 5 ft. to 6 ft. easily. *B. sceptrum* is also a tall growing cane, but mine stays slightly smaller, usually 4 ft. to 6 ft., and while it is clearly a tall cane, it seems to have a "shrubbier" habit of growth than does *B. aconitifolia*. *B. sceptrum* has thinner, more zigzag-like stems that branch rather freely.

The leaves on *B. sceptrum* are slightly smaller than those on *B. aconitifolia*, and the white markings are also somewhat different. The white "spots" on *B. sceptrum* look to me as if a paint brush were used to dab on the markings (see photo A on page 96). On *B. aconitifolia*, the markings seem more smeared,

especially on the early leaves (see photo B).

As both plants mature, some subtle differences become more visible. The leaves of *B. aconitifolia* are clearly larger, more pleated at the veins, and slightly lighter green in color. When they flower, other slight differences continue to be noticeable. *B. aconitifolia* loses its white markings, *B. sceptrum* does not (see photo C). In my opinion, it is at this time when the plants are the most difficult to distinguish from each other. The leaves on *B. aconitifolia* can be either totally green, or more "dabbed" looking like *B. sceptrum*. While both have large clusters of large white flowers, those on *B. aconitifolia* are larger. The flowers on *B. sceptrum* will blush pink in the light, the flowers on *B. aconitifolia* do not seem to do this. Both are fragrant.

I am of the opinion that *B. sceptrum* and *B. aconitifolia* are two different variations of the same begonia species. Those of you who attended the 1997 ABS Convention may have heard Dr. Kathryn Burt-Utley address this very issue. There is some precedence to her position. I found a reference to a 1686 edition of *Historia Plantarum* where John Ray called them "accidental variations and not such as to distinguish a species." While it is not my intention to get into an area where I am clearly unqualified, I believe that Dr. Burt-Utley (and others) would consider all the "differences" I have noted in this article to be *acceptable* differences within the species, and *not* two different species.

Can you believe it? The experts do, in fact, agree with me! They arrive at their



Above left, Photo A: Dale's *B. sceptrum*: dabbed markings, smaller leaf. Above right Photo B: Dale's *B. aconitifolia*: smeared markings, larger leaf. Below, Photo C. *B. aconitifolia* just about to bloom: larger, leaves more pleated, lighter green, almost no white markings.



conclusion somewhat differently, however. They study flower parts in minute detail (small differences still being acceptable); something I, as a hobbyist, am not qualified to comment on. My conclusions are based on visual overall appearances and habit of growth.

Which now brings us to the name: What should we call them? Jack Golding, the ABS expert and authority on nomenclature has provided me with references regarding the proper name of this species. The correct name is *Begonia aconitifolia* A. de Candolle, named in 1859. *Begonia sceptrum hort ex Rodigas*, named in 1884 was later determined to be the same species and therefore is a synonym. What that means to the experts is, *B. sceptrum* is incorrect, and that both of these forms are correctly named *B. aconitifolia*.

However, Mr. Golding, in his article "Begonia Species are Variable" (*Begonian*, January/February 1992, p. 10-12) does concede that while this might be logical and practical for the botanist, "a horticulturist needs to be able to name a distinguishable variant from others of the same species." As it is my opinion that both variations present consistent, persistent and distinguishable characteristics, I feel that they meet his criteria for two names. In my greenhouse they will be *B.*

aconitifolia and *B. aconitifolia* (Syn. *sceptrum*).

Well, so that settled it, right? Boy, I sure am glad I cleared that up! Ha!

Dale gets plenty of chances to study species in her work as volunteer curator for the University of South Florida Species Bank. You may write her at 816 W. Braddock St., Tampa, FL 33603-5410 or E-mail her at Dalesena@cs.com

Nomenclature Footnote:

The meaning of the botanical citation: "*Begonia sceptrum hort ex Rodigas*, Rev. Hort. Belge Etrangere, 10:253, pl. 1884" is as follows: The name *Begonia sceptrum* (hort ex) from the gardens or gardeners (not from its native habitat) was first validly published by Rodigas in *Rev. Hort. Belge Etrangere*, Volume 10, on page 253, with a picture in 1884.

The name *Begonia sceptrum* by Rodigas is a valid name because it was published in accordance with the requirements of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. However, it is a synonym (another name, but an incorrect one) because it was published later than the correct name for this species *Begonia aconitifolia*.

Jack Golding

Begonia Lost and Found

At the ABS Board's suggestion we are adding a column where readers may let each other know of begonias they have lost and been unable to find *anywhere*. (Please restrict requests to begonias not to be found from our commercial sources!) Members advertising will be glad to trade from their own collections or they will pay postage. It's probably best to talk by phone or mail before shipping.

Wanda Macnair seeks *B. aequata* A. Gray. Contact her at 617-876-1356 or write to 177

Hancock St., Cambridge, MA 02139

Charles Jaros is seeking two Paul Lowe Hybrids *B. 'Helene Jaros'* and *B. 'Frances Hunter'*. Both are rhizomatous; *B. 'Helene Jaros'* has medium parted leaves and *B. 'Frances Hunter'* has the rhizome jointed at or below the soil with erect stems. Would like leaves, rhizome or plants. Contact him at 407-328-0618 or write to 200 Maureen Dr., Sanford, FL 32771.

B. guttata?

by Johanna Zinn

At the 1994 "Begonias: OK!" Convention, Don Miller exhibited a plant called *B. guttata*. It was an elegant plant entered in the Tuberous Division. It had a single stem with a few long spotted leaves that ended in curls. Don kindly shared a cutting with me. Often, learning about a plant and its habitat can help me grow a better plant so I asked Carrie Karegeannes if she had any information on *B. guttata*. After comparing a leaf of the plant I was growing, and the picture of the dried specimen in *Begoniaceae*, Smithsonian Contributions to Botany No. 60, Carrie expressed some reservations about the plant being correctly identified as *B. guttata*. At the 1999 convention in California, two growers, one from England and one from France, felt that my

photographs did not look like plants they knew as *B. guttata*.

The plant I grow as *B. guttata* was collected by Don Miller and Scott Hoover



A close up of the male and female flowers on Johanna's plant. Below, the many flower clusters. Photos by Johanna Zinn.



in Perak Province, Malaysia. Only one individual was observed and collected. It was 4.5 cms. tall and growing at 1500 feet. It was given the Scott Hoover collection #778. The plant was identified by Scott and Don from Henderson's description in *Malayan Wildflowers*. According to Don, the first and younger leaves are more like Henderson's drawing. Scott said he collected another plant in southern Thailand that was similar to this plant, but had solid green leaves.

The plant I am growing fills a 15 inch (20.4 cm.) wide by 12 inch (15.3 cm) tall terrarium, and needs to be trimmed periodically to keep it from touching the top. The stems are light cranberry pink or light green with pale cranberry colored vertical stripes that make the stem appear to be cranberry in color. They are succulent and weak, needing to be staked when they are 6 to 8 inches (15.3 to 20.4 cm) tall. At times the stems fall over and form roots, and occasionally tubers, at the node touching the ground. The nodes along the stems often form aerial roots. This year, several of the nodes formed "aerial" tubers that are green to beige, covered with wiry, brown roots, and are 0.5 to 1 centimeter in size. The stems have not branched, even when trimmed or pinched. The large terrarium I am growing has several plants growing in close proximity. So far, only one stem has been produced by each 1 to 1.5 centimeter tuber.

Mature leaf blades can grow to 6 to 8 inches (15.3 to 20.4 cm) long and 2 to 3 inches (5.1 to 7.6 cm) wide. Occasionally leaf blades can be as long as 9 inches (23 cm). The leaf shape is narrowly-long ovate with a long acuminate tip that curls under as the leaf matures. It has a cordate base that overlaps or at times is narrowly open. The leaf has a slightly wavy margin. Petioles are 2.5 to 6 centimeters in length. The veins on the top of the leaf are light cranberry and depressed, caus-

ing the leaf to pucker slightly. The veins on the back of the leaf blade are raised and are green outlined in light cranberry, or cranberry in color, and have short, sparse, white hairs. The top of the mature leaf blade is medium green with rosy-purple margins, is covered with silver to white spots, and has sparse, widely scattered, short white hairs. Often, new leaves are a rosy-purple and have noticeable short, white hairs.

Stipules and bracteoles are translucent and measure 8 mm in length and 2 mm wide. Bracts are up to one-third larger and are similar in appearance. Most fall off quickly or perhaps decay quickly in the humid atmosphere of the terrarium. There are a few that have persisted and dried.

Flowers appear at any time of the year on new growth. The male flower generally opens first on each inflorescence. The male flower has 4 white to very pale pink tepals with the larger outer tepals containing 6 to 8 cranberry stripes and measuring 8 to 12 mm long and 6 to 9 mm wide. The smaller, inner tepals have 1 to 3 light cranberry stripes and measure 6 to 10 mm long and 3 to 5 mm wide. The female flower has 5 to 7 white to very pale pink tepals, generally 6, measuring 9 to 12 mm long and 3.5 to 5 mm wide. Each tepal has six cranberry stripes. The ovary is green with faint cranberry stripes, and has three triangular wings with one larger than the other two. The larger wing measures from 9 mm to 1.5 cm, and the smaller wings from 3 to 6 mm. Blooms are larger in the summer months. Both male and female blooms can be open on the plant at the same time. The flowers have a faint sweet fragrance most noticeable when the terrarium is first opened.

Bloom and growth slow in November to early December. Dormancy usually begins for my plants in mid to late January to early February and last two to

four months. Not every plant enters dormancy every year. Plants that are drier, cooler, and older seem more likely to do so. Cuttings taken the previous spring generally do not go dormant, but continue to grow slowly through the winter if kept under lights.

The culture of this beautiful plant is simple. I am growing my plants in four terrariums, all completely closed and placed six to eight inches under lights. Two bask under full spectrum lights; two recently planted terrariums grow under cool and warm fluorescent lights. Both seem to be growing equally well. The lights are on for twelve hours a day. Our basement temperature is in the sixties in the winter and in the seventies in the summer. I arrange a fan to blow across the plant stands in the summer to remove some of the heat produced by the lighting ballasts.

The soil mix is lightly moistened, cut, long-fibered sphagnum moss, over a thin layer of commercial potting mix, over a thin layer of horticultural charcoal, over a thin layer of perlite. This is the first time I have tried potting soil in the *B. guttata* terrarium, and it seems to have improved the amount of bloom. Fertilization is infrequent since I don't want the plants to grow out of the container. When I do fertilize, I use a very dilute solution of whatever is in the cupboard and water the soil or foliar feed.

Pests and disease have not been a problem perhaps because the terrariums are tightly sealed.

These plants propagate easily from seeds or stem cuttings.

Setting seed has been a challenge, but I did manage to set some this spring. Some of the seed was distributed at the convention in September to ABS members (national and international). I hope that there are many mystery *B. guttata* plants growing well for the seed recipi-

ents, and that someone can help with a final identification. A very limited amount of seed has been supplied to the seed fund for future distribution.

To help those of us who are growing this mystery begonia, Carrie Karegeannes has translated material from E. Irmscher pertaining to *B. guttata* and a form and variety of the same. Jack Golding has provided us with a translation of Irmscher's description of *B. phoeniogramma*, a plant that has characteristics similar to *B. guttata*. I would like to thank Carrie, a skilled begonia detective, for her help and both Carrie and Jack for their translations. If anyone wishes to pursue the identification of this begonia, please write me and I will provide copies of these materials and translations.

And thank you Johanna for a well researched and photographed look at a beautiful and fascinating plant. I think now that Carrie Karegeannes and Thelma O'Reilly should surely have a ceremony and induct you into the royal order of "Begonia Detectives" as well! You may write Johanna Zinn at 4407 Jensen Place, Fairfax, VA 22032. (If you are raising this plant and wish to help with the identification of this plant and want copies of the material be sure to include a postage paid self-addressed envelope.)

Read all the articles in this issue and still want more?

Join the Southwest Region and receive the *Begonia Leaflet* in alternate months with the *Begonian*. It is edited by Tamsin Boardman so you know it is great! You don't have to live in the Southwest, but you do have to be a member of ABS to join. Membership is \$10 per year US and \$15 other countries. Send to: **Clarice James, 5512 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78723-4705.**

In the Mailbox

by Greg Sytch

Recently, inquiries to me have focused on problems with rhizomatous begonias in winter so I will review good culture for better winter success.

During late fall, rhizomatous begonias are slowing down their growth to prepare for the massive display of blooms. Since the energy will be focused on blooming, watering should be cut in half as the roots will not utilize as much moisture as when in full growth. While it is always a good idea to allow them to be on the dry side, it is very important during the winter. You may feed with half-strength bloom food to help the flower display. It is not a good idea to repot, and if you can hold off until early spring, please do.

If you live in a northern climate which has cold weather, cloudy days, and dry forced heat, additional misting would be most beneficial. You may also add fertilizer to the mist once per week. As spring arrives (March) you will notice new growth starting, and the plant will use more moisture. Remove old, tattered leaves so that energy may be focused on the healthy new growth. It is also a good time to begin propagating leaves and rhizome tips to increase your collection.

If you want to propagate from leaves, always choose the healthiest, but not newest leaves - somewhere in the middle. This older, healthy growth will root and pup quicker and produce a larger, fuller plant. Do not be in a rush to push these rhizomatous plants out of season as it may cause severe problems including rot and the plant may perish.

If you have any question about growing begonias or problems that need a quick fix, always feel free to contact me. You may Email me at gsytch@cs.com

or telephone me at 727-841-9618. You may write me at 6329 Alaska avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653. Hope I will see everyone at the convention!

Editor's Notes

We are so fortunate you and I. First, we have so many ABS members willing to serve the society by running for election. Give them your support by mailing your ballot early! Second, we have all the members who came through with great articles and photos for this issue and on a short timeline too. Let them know how much you appreciated their contributions!

Looking ahead, I would like to devote the next issue to Shrub-like begonias and later another to Thick-stems. These begonias have not been receiving a lot of attention lately and they deserve some! Don't you have one of these types that you just absolutely love and want to tell everyone about? If you have a photo that is great, but remember I may have a photo just languishing for a story to go with it! Handwritten stories are fine and I don't need the negative just a good photo. To reproduce well the photo needs to be fairly light; details do not reproduce well in print from dark photos.

Next issue will have the Directory of Begonia Societies. Be sure that Arlene Ingles has your branch's national director name, address, and phone number well in advance of May 15 so that she can get the roster to me.

Since the Convention ends on May 7th and the deadline for the next issue is May 15, the Convention issue will have to be the September/October issue with a deadline of July 15 for all your great convention photos and stories! Plan lots of them for us!

~Freda Holley

American Begonia Society Election 2000

About the Candidates

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

Tom Keepin has been a member of ABS since 1975. He served as Director of the Southwest Region for two years and has served as *President and Vice President of the Houston Astros Branch*. He has done placement, staging, and classification for both national and regional shows. When the ABS Convention was held in Houston in 1997 Tom opened his home for a tour and was everywhere working at the Convention. Tom grows all kinds of begonias but his very favorites are Rexes although terrariums and the rare and unusual species are in close competition.

For 1st Vice President:

Morris Mueller is serving his first term in the office of 1st Vice President. He also serves as the President and National Director for the Sacramento Branch of ABS. Morris is also an associate member of the San Francisco Branch and a member of the Southwest Region. Morris attends the national conventions and serves his Branch and ABS in numerous ways.

Bob Caldwell is a member of the Dallas Branch and of the Southwest Region. He currently serves as National Director of the Dallas Branch and attends ABS Board Meetings. He has been a member of ABS for about ten years and a greenhouse grower of begonias and other tropicals for 45 years.

For 2nd Vice President:

Howard Berg is serving in his first term as 2nd Vice President. He has been a member of ABS since 1966 and of the Knickerbocker Branch since 1968. He was one of the founding members of the Chicago Branch and served as its initial president. He has served the Knickerbocker Branch as president for four terms over the years and is currently the treasurer. He has served ABS as 3rd Vice President in the past. Howard is a collector of older printed material on begonias including prints.

Janet Brown joined the Westchester Branch and ABS in 1991. She served as Westchester Branch Show Chairman for 9 years, President for 3 years, and Newsletter Editor for 6 years. She was ABS Convention Chairman for 1999. She loves begonias and the American Begonia Society.

For 3rd Vice President

Helen Spiers is currently serving her first term as 3rd Vice President. She has been a driving force in organizing the three Houston area branches. She has served as an officer and/or National Director for all three branches. She has served on the ABS board for seven years and was Vice Director of the Southwest Region for two years. She co-hosted the ABS Convention in 1997 and the Southwest Region Get-Together in 1992.

Ingeborg Foo has been a member of ABS for 25 years. She has served four years as Secretary for the ABS National Board and as

Ballot Counting Chair for three years. She is currently a member and Secretary of the Mabel Corwin and Margaret Lee Branches and is the National Representative for the Margaret Lee Branch.

For Secretary:

Richard Macnair is currently serving as ABS Secretary. When you read his minutes, you feel that you have attended the Board Meeting he records, so thorough are his notes. He is also very active in the Buxton Branch of ABS and has been a diligent behind-the-scenes worker for ABS. He never fails to support both the annual conventions and the ABS Board in every way possible.

Carolyn Hawkins has been involved with the Atlanta Branch for several years and helped with tours during the 1998 ABS Convention in Atlanta. She is a Master Judge, Horticulture Instructor for Schools and Symposiums and Plant Society Liaison for the National Council of State Garden Clubs. She is also an Ivy Judge, Iris Judge, and at the present time she is also in the judging program for ABS.

For Treasurer:

Carol Notaras has been our treasurer for the past seven years. She has also served two terms as President of ABS. She is an active member of the San Francisco and Sacramento Branches and was convention chair in 1989. She also grows award winning begonias and is a frequent contributor of photographs for the *Begonian*.

Minutes of Board Meeting, American Begonia Society Baton Rouge, LA, February 5, 2000

1. President **Charles Jaros** opened the meeting and **Bob Caldwell** read the Aims and Purposes of the Society. **Sylvia Ben** was thanked for making the meeting arrangements. 34 board member votes were represented. **2.** A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting was seconded and passed. **3.** Treasurer **Carol Notaras** presented a financial report for September 1 to December 31, 1999. The beginning balance of the general fund was \$22,677.09. Income was \$23,065.01. Disbursements were \$31,783.05 including a transfer of \$10,000 to a higher interest paying account. Ending balance was \$13,959.05. The combined checking accounts ending balance was \$14,294.80 which includes the \$13,959.05 above and the seed fund account balance of \$335.75. Savings accounts balance started with \$38,375.68 and ended with \$43,968.07. Combined checking and savings account totals were \$61,388.52 initially and \$58,262.87 finally. There was one house-keeping correction noted which did not affect the totals. The report was accepted as corrected. **Committee Reports:** **4.** *Begonian* Editor **Freda Holley** requested more articles for publication for both the *Begonian* and for the Millie Thompson Publication Fund. **5.** **President Jaros** read the membership report submitted by **Arlene Ingles**. As of December 31, 1999, there were 56 lifetime members, 84 institutions, 1081 primary members and 62 second family members. Total membership was 1283 which has increased by 7 members since Sept. 30. The increase appears significant considering 34 renewals have not yet been received and the August 1999 total membership was 1227. Credit was given to shows, the Internet, and the *Begonian*; members were encouraged to give out *Begonian* back issues at shows and lectures. **6.** Back Issues Chair **Ann Salisbury** has mailed 100 back issues to the 2001 Convention Committee. All recipients of back issue mailings both past and present are expected to reimburse Ann for the postage since she pays for the mailing personally. Return of postage has been sporadic. The Board urges all

branches to make sure postage is repaid to Ann when they receive back issues. National Directors should confirm this action. **7.** Ballot Counting Chair **Ingeborg Foo** reported a record number of votes received in the recent election. **8.** The Bookstore needs new publications to sell. *Begonias for Beginners* by **Elda Haring** is a possibility. **Walt Haring** will be contacted to request permission to make copies of this book. Compiling groups of related articles from old *Begonians*, including the Question Box, and copying them is another possibility. Other suggestions are solicited and should be directed to **Cheryl Lenert** (address on page 123) or **President Jaros**. The bookstore also needs to dispose of unsellable items. It was decided to bring examples of all unsellable items in the inventory to the next board meeting so that the board can decide how to dispose of them. **10.** Branch Relations Director **Mary Bucholtz** sent a written report. A newsletter was mailed in September 1999. ... Requests were received from two branches for name changes. The Palomar Branch is now the Mabel Corwin Branch and the San Miguel Branch is now the Margaret Lee Branch. The Board approved and applauded these very appropriate changes. **11.** ...A motion was made for ABS to accept the *Smithsonian Publication Contributions to Botany #60, Begoniaceae* and subsequent updates as the official authority on Begonia nomenclature. The motion was seconded and passed with one vote opposed and seven abstentions. **12.** Convention Advisor **Janet Brown** gave a financial report on the 99 Convention in El Segundo, CA, showing gross receipts of \$56,124.80 and expenses of \$33,106.18, leaving net proceeds of

\$23,018.688. Thus far \$21,000 has been turned over to ABS leaving \$2,018.68 to cover residual bills. The remainder will be forthcoming when all bills are paid. **13.** Convention 2000 packets have been sent out. An incorrect phone number for registrar **Maurine Lunsford** was given; the correct number is 561-969-6642...**14.** The 1999 Convention Committee is expected to send the disk containing the entries and classification program to the 2000 Convention Committee. ...**15.** Judging Chair **Maxine Zinman** has approved the show schedule for the 2000 Convention. If and when any branch wishes to conduct a local judging school, they must contact **Ann Salisbury** to obtain booklets, and contact the Judging Chair (see addresses on page 123) to see if she could be there to present the program. **16.** Nomenclature Director **Gene Salisbury** reported a request for begonia registration forms, but otherwise there has been little activity. He urged board members to make some calls to encourage hybridizers to submit applications. **17.** Seed Fund Director **Eleanor Calkins'** financial report showed a beginning balance on August 1, 1999 of \$584.95, income of \$1,646.30 and expenses of \$1,390.84, for an ending balance on January 29, 2000 of \$840.41. The expense included a \$1,000 transfer to the ABS General Fund. **18.** Slide Librarian **Charles Jaros** indicated that **Millie Thompson** is planning to prepare more programs for the library. **19.** **Millie Thompson's** begonia files at the Ft. Worth Botanical Garden will be inventoried by **Bruce** and **Tamsin Boardman** who will report on their exact status...They are confident that the files are safe and complete. The broader problem of preserving files of these and other begonia researchers, hybridizers and col-



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lectors is recognized. **20.** Advertising Chair **Ann Salisbury** reported that ads are still coming in this year. **Old Business: 21.** **Scott Hoover's** collecting trip to Indonesia is in progress. He is not fully funded, but has a grant from Harvard which will help. He reported that some donors to his trip sent money directly rather than through ABS and this will need to be worked out for tax purposes. **22.** A motion was made that the seeds from **Scott Hoover's** trip be processed by **Ann** and **Gene Salisbury** assisted by **Thelma O'Reilly**; that the seeds be distributed to donors who requested them in writing in proportion to their donations, and that all remaining seeds be made available for sale to members by a special listing in the *Begonian*, separate from the seed fund. The motion was seconded and passed. **23.** Another motion was made to distribute proceeds from the sale of seeds from **Scott Hoover's** trip in a 60/40 proportion between ABS conservation and research funds: i.e. the same proportion as the ABS donations for his trip. The motion also was seconded and passed. **24.** A third motion directing the Seed Fund Director to return unsold seeds from **Scott Hoover's** prior trip in 1998 to **Ann** and **Gene Salisbury** for sale with the seeds from the current trip was seconded and passed. **New Business: 25.** **President Jaros** announced his appointment of **Gene Salisbury** to fill the vacant business manager position which was approved by the Board. **26.** A motion to establish a stipend of \$100 per quarter, to be paid quarterly, for the Member-at-Large (MAL) Director position was seconded and passed with one abstention. **27.** **President Jaros** announced his appointment of **H. Alton Lee** to succeed **Elaine Ayers** as MAL Director which was approved by the Board. A clarification of Member-at-Large status was requested. A Member-at-Large is any member not affiliated with a branch. Therefore, branch members by definition are not Members-at-Large, but they may subscribe to the MAL Newsletter for \$5.00 per year and thus receive all information available to Members-at-Large. **29.** A motion to increase the stipend of the Round Robin Director from \$90 to \$100 per quarter paid monthly was seconded and passed. **30.** **President Jaros** announced nominating

committee appointments of **Dale Sena** (Chair), **Nancy Mirgon**, and **Don Miller**. **31.** An exhibitor's insurance program has been proposed for use by ABS and branches at their shows. The business manager will look into it in detail and report to the Board. **32.** *Begonia* species and cultivars are lost by members periodically. Replacements are sometimes hard to find. It was decided to place an item in the *Begonian* and post a notice at Conventions to help members find begonias they have lost, rather than develop a computerized cutting exchange system which was proposed. **33.** The 2000 Convention Committee has requested an additional \$500 advance. The Board approved. **34.** A motion was made to require convention committees to return advanced funds to ABS by the deadline for convention registration. The motion was seconded and passed. **35.** A proposal to increase the standard convention advance from \$1500 to \$2000 was seconded and passed. **36.** A proposal to increase the percentage of net convention proceeds retained by the host branch was deferred to another meeting because it would require a change of the constitution and bylaws. **37.** Correction to prior minutes: Paragraph 24 of the September 4, 1999, El Segundo Board Meeting minutes should be changed to indicate that the T.B. Shepherd Branch is paying for the donation of slides of the 99 Convention to the slide library. TBS President **Pam Hantgin** donated her time to take the pictures.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard N. Macnair,
Secretary

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



Identify this Species...

The mystery begonia of the last issue was, of course, *B. tenuifolia* Dryander! Lots of people guessed it, but **Mona Harvey** won and chose *B. roezlii* as her reward. (Read more about her in the News section on page 119.)

And the photo of the grand *B. tenuifolia* above by **Doug Pridgen** came in just in time to include here. It won **Joyce Pridgen** the Best Species Award at the Miami Branch Show (see page 111). Joyce and I both got a leaf of this plant in January of 1999 in Tampa and believe me hers puts mine in the shade! At first we both thought the plantlets from the leaf couldn't be *B. tenuifolia* because they don't look much like the mature plants. It belongs to that wonderful category of "rhizome jointed at or below the soil with erect stems" many of whose looks do change as they mature. From the one leaf I think I got about 25 plants so you know it reproduces easily. Moreover, mine withstood the heat and drought of last sum-

mer without a protest, but the amazing thing is that one plant (I had so many I was able to experiment!) stayed outside this winter surviving a couple of nights in the 20s without a whimper at which point I did take pity on it and brought it into the garage. It survives happily. And now for the new puzzle:



This begonia has hairy, medium leaves with lovely pink flowers. It belongs to the thick-stemmed group and is among the earliest begonias known once bearing the exotic name *Tsjeria-narinampuli*. Botanists are currently thinking it may actually be simply a form of another species which also has only two tepals so it is truly a mystery begonia.



Send your guess to the editor. To even the playing field, all responses will be held until the closing date for the next issue and a winner drawn to receive a young plant of this mystery begonia.

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Two Grand Ladies Honored

Mable Corwin receives the certificate of name change from Branch President Michael Ludwig as her husband Ralph Corwin looks on. Photo by Peggy Wisler.

At the February Board Meeting of ABS, two branches took on new names. In doing so, they have honored two very special ladies who have spent the greater part of their lives helping others grow their love of begonias. These two ladies have given of their time, talents and plants to their respective branches. Their tireless education of begonia lovers is limitless as are their contributions of many cultivars which most of us find in our collections.

The Palomar Branch is now known as the **Mabel Corwin Branch** of the ABS, named in honor of **Mabel Corwin**. Mabel who started the Palomar Branch in January 1976 is known to us as the creator of 'gorgeous Rex cultivars and also that wonderful B. 'Christmas Candy'. The San Miguel Branch of the ABS is now known as the **Margaret Lee Branch** of the ABS. Margaret Lee is famous for her rule calls as Parliamentarian at ABS Board Meetings and is the hybridizer of such well-known and registered favorites as B. 'Nokomis',

'Osoto', and 'Kristy.'

Congratulations to these Grand Ladies and to the members of their branches. What a delightful way to honor their longtime devotion to begonias and this organization.

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Show News

Miami Branch Show

The Miami Branch held its annual show at Fairchild Tropical Garden on February 26 and 27. It was another beautiful show with great diversity among 159 total entries.

Tim Anderson of Palm Hammock Orchid Estates won the Commercial Division and Best of Show with *B. masoniana*. Other division winners included Yvonne Shelley, Rhizomatous with *B. 'Streaky Jeans'* and the Semperflorens Division; Charles Sibley, Hanging Container with *B. 'Sinbad'*; Armando Nodal, Terrariums with a mixed planting; Kimberlee Kortenbach, Novice with *B. 'Erythrophylla'*; and Daisey Nodal, Begonia Arts & Crafts.

Joyce Pridgen received the "Showing is Sharing Award" with 48 entries. This led to a "Sweepstakes" win with 29 blue ribbons and 9 Division Winners including Cane-like, All Other for *B. 'Fountain of Youth'*; Shrub-like with *B. 'Cubinfo'*, Thick-stemmed with *B. 'Boomer'*; Rhizomatous, Unusual Growth/Foliage with *B. 'Little Brother Montgomery'*, Tuberos-rooted with *B. natalensis* x *suffruticosa* (Both of these are synonyms for somewhat differing forms of *B. dregei*, Ed.); Trailing-scandent with *B. 'Orococo'*; Species with *B. tenuifolia* (See photo on page 107.); Shade Plants with Jewel Orchid; Planters/Dish Garden with a *Begonia* basket arrangement. Joyce also received the "People Choice Award" with her *B. 'Palomar Prince'*.

Doug Pridgen

Southeastern Flower Show

The Southeastern Flower show supports the mission and activities of the Atlanta Botanical Garden with a donation from the proceeds of this show each year. Over 40,000 attended the show this year and approximately 200 judges came from 25 states to judge the exhibits. Included in horticulture and artistic exhibits are retail areas, food service, garden

displays, landscaping areas and educational and seminar presentations. It is held in a large, well-lighted, exhibit hall on the southside of Atlanta.

The southeastern Flower Show was held Feb. 23-27, 2000 and has just ended with the Greater Atlanta Branch of the American Begonia Society giving a trophy, for the first time, to the individual exhibiting the most outstanding begonia. This show had two judging sessions and the crystal plaque was awarded in the second judging.

Photo 1 on the facing page shows Carolyn Hawkins (standing in for the Branch President Russ Richardson) presenting the plaque to Lillian Balentine for her *Begonia 'Lady Lynn.'* Mrs. Balentine also received the Dorothy Dean Harris Trophy for the best exhibit in the Begonia Class. The Harris Trophy is engraved with the name of the winner and remains on display at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

Vera Wells, a Branch member, received the Certificate of Excellence for the Garden Club of America for Horticulture. Vera won this for her fern, *Microgramma piloselloides*. Vera was also the winner in the first judging session of the Dorothy Dean Harris Trophy for the best exhibit in the Begonia Class for her *B. prismatocarpa*. This exhibit was a 12 to 14" round terrarium full of foliage and bloom.

The Greater Atlanta Branch of the ABS has committed to presenting this award for five years and it is one of the few awards given to the individual to keep. The bulk of the awards remains in glass cases at the Atlanta Botanic Garden.

Carolyn Hawkins

Way to go Atlanta! Participating in general flower shows is a wonderful way to expose begonias to a new audience and attract new members.

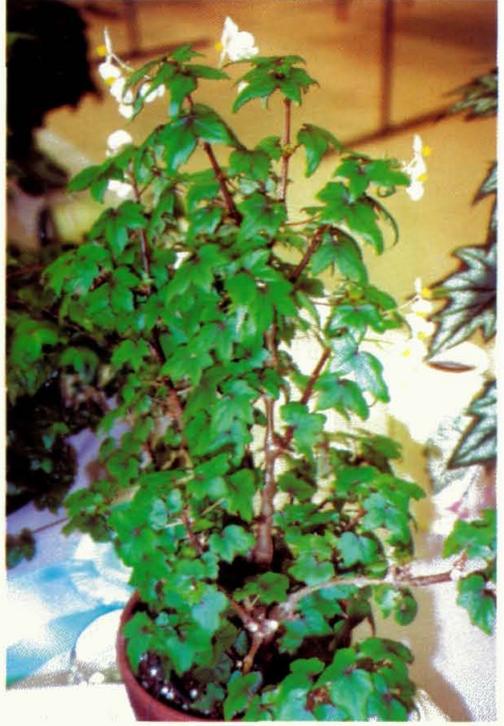


Photo 1, above left, Lillian Ballentine of the Atlanta Branch receives her award from Carolyn Hawkins; Photo 2, above, Joyce Pridgen's Division winner *B. natalensis x suffruticosa* (Syns. for *B. dregei*). Photo 3, below, Tim Anderson's blue ribbon winner *B. soli-mutata*. Photos 2 & 3 by Doug Pridgen.



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.

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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 needs 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. Please be careful to identify open pollinated seeds and keep them separated from known self-pollinated seed. Thank you!

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The CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND is a project of the San Miguel Branch of the ABS in San Diego County, California. Donors of seeds in this issue are: **Freda Holley, Phyllis Podren, Irene Nuss, Beatrice Huckriede, Thelma O'Reilly, and Eleanor Calkins.**

Seed List

MJ00-01: *B. crassicaulis*

MJ00-02: *B. epipsila*

MJ00-03: *B. leathermaniae*

MJ00-04: *B. mollicaulis*

MJ00-05: *B. theimei*

MJ00-06: *B. schmidtiana*

MJ00-07: *B. venosa*

MJ00-08: *B. U304* (limited amt.)

MJ00-09: *B. U332*

MJ00-10: *B. U333*

Mixed Seeds

MJ00-11: *B. Semperflorens Cultorum*
(Frillies)

DESCRIPTIONS

MJ00-01: *B. crassicaulis* (Guatemala, Sect. Gireoudia) Erect rhizomes. Light green parted leaves, drops leaves in late winter and blooms on bare rhizome then leaf out after the blooms have faded.

MJ00-02: *B. epipsila* (Brazil, Sect. Pritzelia) Erect, branched woody stems; small, dark glossy green leaves, obliquely ovate, underside red and rusty wooly; white blooms in many flowered cymes in spring.

MJ00-03: *B. leathermaniae* (Bolivia, Sect. Knesbeckia) Tall (to 10 ft.) Woody stems swollen at base, rarely branching, palmate, coarsely lobed, green leaves with characteristic collar of hairs where stem meets leaf blade; infrequent large pale pink blooms in winter and spring.

MJ00-04: *B. mollicaulis* (Brazil, Sect. Begonia) 2 foot shrub like; soft hairy leaves; profuse pearly white blooms, summer to fall.

MJ00-05: *B. thiemei*. These seeds were submitted with the label *B. purpurea* (*macdougallii*). Neither of these names is correct.* (Mexico, Sect. Giroudia). Plants with large rhizome, palmate parted leaves, dark green with red backs, blooms spring into summer on tall peduncles with red cymes.

MJ00-06: *B. schmidtiana* (Brazil, Sect. Begonia) Short branched, herbaceous, hairy, red tinged stems, obliquely ovate. Shallowly lobed, toothed leaves, green above, red beneath, many small axial blooms tinged pink with short peduncles good for hanging baskets.

MJ00-07: *B. venosa* (Brazil, Sect. Begonia). Erect thick-stemmed; fleshy, deeply cupped green leaves with white scurf, short petioles; white blossoms on moderately long peduncles in winter and early spring.

MJ00-08: *B. U304*

MJ00-09: *B. U332*

MJ00-10: *B. U333*

Mixed Hybrid Seeds

MJ00-11: *B. Semperflorens Cultorum*
(Mixed Frillies)

*Nomenclature note: The species name *B. purpurea* was validly published by Swartz in 1788 and is now a synonym for *B. jamaicensis* A. de Candolle 1859. The name, for another species, was also validly published by Elmer in 1939 and is now a synonym of *B. neopurpurea* L. B. Smith & D.C. Wasshausen, 1983. A. Chevalier mentioned the name in 1920, but it is a nomen nudum (without a description) and has no status. The name *B. macdougallii* is a synonym of *B. thiemei*.
Jack Golding

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CORRECTIONS

Some major errors crept in at the printers on the March/April 2000 issue and they have kindly given us extra pages for corrections in this issue. Apologies to the writers whose work was affected. And one thing we cannot mend is those books that did not get drilled (hole punched).

Letters to the Editor, page 46

Adrian Popa's letter should end:

I haven't a glass house, just an unheated balcony and during the winter we can have very low temperatures (minus 15 to 20 degrees Celsius) so I keep my begonias inside my apartment, mostly with artificial light sources.

Thank you very much.

Adrian Popa
Aleea Episcop Popeea 27/B/2
Sacele-Brasov 2212
Romania

Have you written to Adrian yet?

Mildew by Mike Stevens, page 55-56

Pretend the article's text begins on page 55 and that it continues from page 56 as below:

What to use as a preventative?

This, naturally, will depend on where you live, as different products are available in different locations. In the UK growers mention using Nimrod T,

Karathane, Tumbleblight and Spotless. In Canada Lynn Aegard used Benomyl. Here in NZ products such as Bravo, Guardall are available. Some of the products mentioned are systemic fungicides which should give you better protection. Before buying your spray check the information given on the container for the following names as these are the present day chemicals supposedly best suited to controlling powdery mildew: *Proaconazole, Myclonbutinal, Triforine, Tridimefon, Penconazole* and *Fenarimol*. In some instances copper fungicides can also be effective.

Sulphur, both as a spray or a dust, is also effective and is now available as a wettable powder. Unlike all other sprays plants do not become resistant to sulphur.

If you would prefer not to spray with chemicals then an old remedy is to mix 2 tablespoons of baking soda to a gallon of water and use as either a spray or a drench. Another natural product one can use is soluble oil. It is generally used in winter as a control against mites and other pests. In NZ one can buy different strengths known as Winter Oil and Summer Oil. Milan Pahor of NSW, Australia used this oil on plants that were covered in mildew with instant success.

Mike Stevens is editor of the Begonia News, the newsletter of the Canterbury Begonia Circle which is always filled with tuberous begonia information, but also with general items of interest such as this one. The above article is followed in the December/January issue by an item from the United Kingdom which touts a twice a week spray with diluted milk (1/9 with water) as a mildew preventative on vegetables, raising the possibility of effectiveness for begonias. You can write him or get information about subscribing to the Begonia News at 47 Burnside Crescent, Christchurch 8005, New Zealand. Or you can E-mail him at m.i.stevens@xtra.co.nz

And thank you Mike for being understanding about a butchered article. Mildew is a big problem for all of us and we need ALL the help you offer us in this article. Many readers will be grateful to have this final section.

Startin' Out

by Jim Hannah

Hi! Good to see you again. Let's see -- I was telling you about our first begonia seed experiences, right? Well, here's what happened...

It was winter. The cellar with the fluorescent lights was chilly, and begonia seeds germinate best at temperatures in the low 70 degrees F so we bought a heating cable and made a propagation box. Heating cables are readily available through some of the seed catalog houses. You'll find that they come in different lengths and are rated by wattage. Some standard sizes include 42 watts (12 feet), 84 watts (24 feet), and 126 watts (36 feet). The cables include thermostats. These switch on and off to maintain the temperature. When used indoors they actually use very little electricity. Unless you plan to go really big time, a 12 or 24 foot cable will be your choice.

Bigger isn't better when it comes to heating cables. A 12 foot cable will take care of about 3 to 4 square feet of space. A 24 foot cable will handle up to 7 or 8 square feet. We were new to the whole thing and we overbought. We're using a 24 foot cable for a little less than 4 square feet. As far as the cost of running the cable goes, it doesn't make any difference - the amount of electricity you'll use is the same. But an overly long cable takes more time to set up.

To make a simple heated box, one that will work well under a shop light with two 40 watt 48" tubes, you'll need the following:

- a 12 foot heating cable (42 watts)
- two 1" x 4" x 4" and two 1" x 4" x 10 1/2" pine boards.
- a piece of exterior grade

- 1/4" x 48" x 12" plywood
- eight 2 1/2" #8 flat head wood screws
- a clear plastic drop cloth, upholstery tacks, wood glue and a small box of 1 1/4" or 1 1/2" panel nails.

The first step is to glue and screw the 48" sides onto the 10 1/2" end pieces. You get a box about 3 1/2 inches deep with outside dimensions of 48" x 12". Glue and nail on the plywood to form the bottom of the box.

Next, line the box with layers of drop cloth. You'll want to have a piece about 2' x 5' to cover the top of the box, but line the box with several layers of plastic if possible. The idea is to make the box into a waterproof tank. It will hold quite a few pounds of damp sand or soil when finished, so waterproofing pays off. Tack the plastic to the outside of the box using upholstery tacks. Cut off any excess sheeting.

Cut the hardware cloth so it measures 3/4 to 1 inch smaller than the inside of the box. You don't want any sharp ends which will punch holes into the plastic lining. The clearance will help to take care of that. Following the directions packed with the heating cable, lay it out on the hardware cloth and tie it in place using short lengths of cotton twine.

Now put about a half inch of damp soil or sand into the box. Put the cable/hardware cloth on top of the soil, cable-side down. The hardware cloth protects the wire and thermostat from injury when you scrape away soil to nestle seed containers. Add another inch or two of damp soil.

The only thing missing now is the top. Raid the closet for some old wire coat hangers. Cut them open and form about 6 or 8 shallow wire 'U' hoops 11" wide with legs about 5 to 6 inches long. Drill

small 1" deep holes into the top edges of the long sides of the box. Drill right through the plastic sheet on top of the edges. The holes should be the same diameter as the hoop wire. If you're handy, you can make a simple 'drill' out of a piece of coat-hanger wire. Plug the hoops into the holes. They'll support the single layer of drop cloth and permit you to cover the box and retain the heat and moisture.

That's all there is to it. There's no need to paint the wood. It's protected from moisture by the drop cloth lining of the box. If you wish, you can devise a more permanent cover arrangement. The hoop idea is quick and dirty, but it can be a bit pesky. The nice thing about it is that you can upgrade at any time simply by pulling out the hoops and replacing them by whatever your heart desires. I later made a framework out of scrap wood and coat-

hanger wire so that the whole top lifts off the box.

If you want to make a larger box, the next logical size would be 4 by 2 feet. It would use an 84 watt cable. Aside from dimensions, the construction would be almost identical.

We use soft margarine tubs as our containers for starting seeds. We tuck them in about a half inch deep into the soil. You'll be pleasantly surprised at the number of them you can fit into the 1' by 4' box.

Next time, the topic will be the process of getting a seed mix ready and sowing the seeds. See ya then.

You can send questions or let Jim know how your box turns out to: Jim Hannah, 158 Fisher Avenue, Staten Island, N.Y., NY or Email him at jrh158@aol.com

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**Pronunciation of Begoniaceae
Names for The Begonian, 67,
March/April and May/June 2000
by Jack Golding**

Begonia	be-GOH-ni-uh
aconitifolia	uh-kon-i-ti-FOH-li-uh
syn. <i>sceptrum</i>	SKEP-trum
boliviensis	boh-liv-i-EN-sis
chloroneura	klo-ro-NOO-ruh
conchifolia	kon-chi-FOH-li-uh
var. rubri-	
macula	ryew-bri-mak-YEW-luh
convolvulacea	kon-vol-vyew-LAY-se-uh
crassicaulis	kras-si-KAW-lis
cubensis	KYEW-ben-sis
dipetala	deye-PET-a-luh
dregei	DREG-e-eye
syn. <i>suffruticosa</i>	suf-freyw-ti-KOH-suh
syn. <i>partita</i>	par-TEE-tuh
var. macbethii	mak-BETH-i-eye
epipsila	e-pip-SIL-uh
formosana	for-mos-AY-nuh
gehrtii	GEHRT--i-eye
glabra	GLAHB-ruh
gracilis	GRAY-sil-is
var. martiana	mart-i-AYE-nuh
grandis	GRAND-is
subsp. evansiana	e-van-si-ay-nuh
guttata	gut-TAY-tuh
jamaicensis	ja-MAYK-en-sis
hirtella	hir-TEL-luh
johnstonii	john-STON-i-eye
leathermaniae	leth-er-MAN-i-ee
luxurians	lux-YEWR-i-ans
maculata	mak-yew-LAY-tuh
malabarica	mal-i-BAR-i-kuh
mollicaulis	mol-li-KAW-lis
neopurpurea	nee-oh-pur-pu-REE-uh
parviflora	par-vi-FLOH-ruh
phoeniogramma	fee-ni-oh-GRAM-muh
peltata	pel-TAY-tuh
syn. <i>incana</i>	in-KAY-nuh

rajah	RAH-juh
sericoneura	ser-i-kon-OO-ruh
schmidtiana	schmidt-i-AY-nuh
soli-mutata	sol-i-myew-TAY-tuh
staudtii	STAWD-ti-eye
sutherlandii	su-ther-LAND-i-eye
thiemei	THEEM-eye
syn. <i>macdou-</i>	
<i>galii</i>	mak-DOO-gal-li-eye
syn. "Purprea"	
hort	pur-pu-REE-uh
venosa	ven-OH-suh
versicolor	ver-si-KOH-lor

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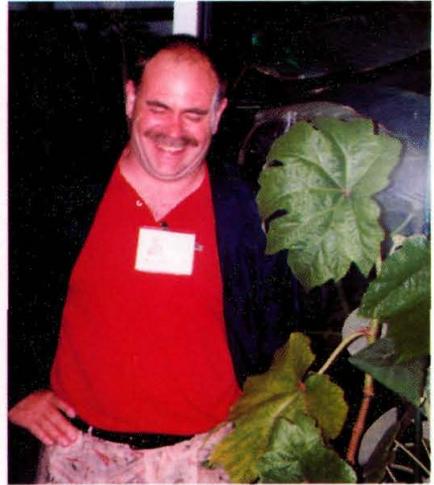
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Where is Scott Hoover Today?

Scott Hoover may be almost anywhere and so may his collections! Here we see his collection in western Colombia and the western and eastern slopes of Ecuador, *B. parviflora*, which was growing in the Atlanta Botanic Garden

during the 1998 ABS Convention. Photo by Mary Bucholtz. Below, we see him during the 1999 LA Convention as he holds a seedling of one of his collections grown by Rudy Ziesenhenne (right). Photo by RL Holley.

Will he be back from Indonesia in time for the Convention so he can come tell us all about his latest collections? Come find out!



News: ABS, Branch, International

New Begonia Societies: From Australia's Newsletter of the NSW Begonia Society we learn that the Melbourne Study Group has become a new society. Also Sweden has formed a society with an initial membership of 19 growers.

Planting Fields Arboretum: Mona Harvey, winner of last issues "Identify this Begonia" will take her winner to the Planting Fields Arboretum in Oster Bay, N.Y. where she is a volunteer trying to increase and restore their begonia collection which was decimated by thrips and a fungus before those problems were cleared up. She would welcome any donations of cuttings for this effort. You may send them to: **Mona Harvey**, 110 Lee Ave., Great Neck, N.Y. 11021.

National Council of State Garden Clubs: Carolyn Hawkins invites you to come and enjoy horticulture and designs

from all over the US at the "2000 Time in Bloom" National Flower Show, San Diego Concourse Auditorium, 202 C Street, San Diego, CA on May 26th 4-9 p.m.; May 27th, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; and May 28th 9 a.m. -3 p.m. This is sponsored by the National Council of State Garden Clubs (With 235,000 members!).

The Palm Beach Post on Sunday, February 20 carried a great photo of our President Charles Jaros and an article sharing some of his tips on growing award winning begonias, all in color. *What great publicity for upcoming Convention!*

Below, Derek Telford, editor of England's National Begonia Society Bulletin, shares a photo of the lovely Tuberous B. 'Jenny Barclay.' Derek is a show judge and he says England had seven weeks of great shows in 1999.



Round Robin Notes

Virginia Hamann,
Round Robin Director

#25 Midwest Growers II: Esther Griffith (KS) has *B.* 'Pink Jade', 'Lana', 'Magdaline Madsen', and 'Dracula' in bloom in her greenhouse.

#15 Cold Climate Greenhouse Growing: Beatrice Huckeride van der Laan (The Netherlands) has planted seeds of *B. dipetala*, *malabarica*, and *mollicaulis*. They were sown 12/98 and by 9/99 she has blooming plants. Plants from fall sown seeds seem to do better for Robin members than those sown in the spring.

#18 Tuberos Begonias: Julia Meister (NY) entered Howard Siebold's seedlings at the Fair. A pastel picotee won "Best of Show". Two of the seedlings made Queen's Court. She sent pictures of Howard's seedlings in bloom. They are in lovely shades of pastel peach and salmon...most are fragrant.

#33 Hybridizing: Crossing species is most enjoyable for **Freda Holley** (TX). She likes this better than working with hybrids as she gets a feel for which traits show up in the off-spring. The interesting hybrids often begin to show their uniqueness almost from seedlings. Ease of propagation is Freda's goal.

#10 Begonias, All Kinds: Mae Blanton (TX) was welcomed back to the Round Robins. **Lois Kruger** (NJ) also joined. **Cynthia Bishop** (CA) is now moved into her new home at Fort Fones. She is growing in hoop houses heated with a gas furnace. She is busy hybridizing and has promised seeds for the next round! Mae is now growing her plants in a plant room and in terrariums...she is an expert grower when it comes to *B. versicolor* and *rajah*. An easy grower for her is *B.* 'Sylvan Triumph'. **Janice Keck** (WI) finds easy to grow *B.* 'Persian Brocade', 'Erythrophylla', 'Chuck Jaros', 'Boomer', 'Tequesta', and 'Silver Mist.'

Join a robin and fly high! Write Virginia Hamann at 1169 Lincoln Ave., Chester, Iowa, 52134-8508.

In Memory

Winnie Stanfield passed away January 2, 2000. She was a member of the ABS since 1982, the South Bay Branch and at one time a member of the Westchester Branch.

She grew beautiful plants and begonias were a favorite of hers. Through the years she generously contributed many plants and her time for the South Bay Annual Sale.

We are grateful for the goodness and joy, the laughter and kindness she brought to all of us.

We treasure the beauty of her life and the way she shared it with others.
She will always be a part of our lives

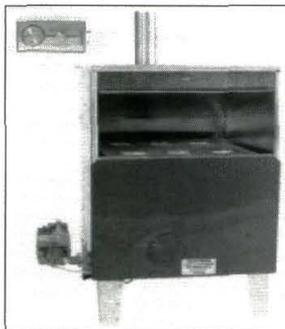
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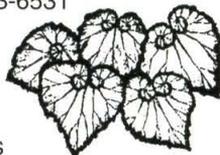
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COMING EVENTS

May 3-7, 2000: Begonias by the Beach/ABS Convention 2000, West Palm Beach, FL. Radisson Palm Beach Shores Resort (Rooms are \$99 net, call 561-863-4000). Come Tuesday May 2 for the preconvention tour on May 3. Show ends at 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information call Virginia Jens at 562-835-3845 or Maurine Lunsford at 561-969-6642.

May 6, 2000: The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch (Ventura, CA) will celebrate its 63rd birthday with a potluck at 11:30 at Pam and Steve Hantgin's home. Call Pam Hantgin at 805-648-1530 for more info.

May 21, 2000: The Barkley Branch (Oklahoma City, OK) will travel to Tonkawa for a visit to the greenhouse of Ann and Gene Salisbury. Call Gene at 580-628-5230 for more information

June 7, 2000: The San Francisco (CA) Branch will have a Pot Luck Dinner. Call Carl Laipple at 650-873-4890 for more info.

June 10, 2000: The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch (Ventura, CA) will have a Potluck Dinner and tour of Eva and Wayne Pratt's garden at 3 p.m. Call Pam Hantgin at 805-648-1530 for info.

June 23, 2000: The Alamo Branch Branch (San Antonio, TX) will have its annual plant sale at Rolling Hills Mall. Call June Shawver at 210-824-1834 for more information

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

PLAN AHEAD: It's ABS Convention 2001 in Denver, CO! *Closing Date for the Next Issue is May 15!*

Note change in editor's area code below.

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See you in Palm Beach! And Denver in 2001!