



The
Begonian

July/August 2000

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: **Bill and Mimi Schramm** send this photo of a lovely tuberous begonia grown in Salinas, CA. Compare its beauty to the one grown by **Iam McNeur** in New Zealand on page 135.

Back: **Wally Wagner's** Lathehouse - check out its size when you read the article on page 136 and view the pictures there.

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*Please Note: New Address
for the Editor,
Page 162.*

***Don't Forget:
Vote
Ballots are due by
July 21.***

Quick

Check your mailing label.
If it reads
200009 or 200010, your
membership is about to
expire. Please renew! We
don't want to lose you.

President's Message ...

The 2000 ABS Convention is now history and a great time was had by all. The show was spectacular with 267 entries with over 250 of those entries being begonias. This made for one of the largest shows in recent history. The show committee ran out of table space and had to place entries on the floor. New hybrids as well as old favorites were exhibited. Conventioneers were busy with great tours, interesting seminars and a fabulous plant and boutique sale. I want to commend the Convention Committee on a job well done. Look for complete details in the September/October issue. Remember the deadline for the September/October Issue is July 15th. The 2001 Convention will be held in Denver, Colorado. We are looking for host sites for future conventions. Let me know if you are interested.

Summer is in full swing and the temperatures keep rising. Since moving to Central Florida 5 years ago I have noticed that my begonias seem to grow better here in the summer than when I was living in Miami. Begonias seem to like a temperature variation between day and nighttime temperatures. During the summer in Sanford there is between 15 and 20 degrees in temperature difference. In South Florida nighttime temperatures rarely go below 80 degrees. This temperature range certainly seems to make a difference especially with species. Let you editor and myself hear your thought on the subject.

Let's keep those article for the *Begonian* coming in. Your editor is looking for articles on Shrub-like and Thick-stemmed begonias for future issues on these interesting groups. Other articles on Semperflorens, Rhizomatous, Rex Cultorum, Trailing-Scandent and Tuberos begonias are also needed. If you have

a favorite group of begonias let's hear about it.

Although early, it's time for branches and individuals to start thinking about holiday greetings for the November/December issue. Joan Coulat will be contacting Branch Directors shortly. Color will be available this year as the convention issue will be prior to the November/December issue. Individuals may also have greetings included. For more information contact Joan at 4111 DePaul Court, Sacramento, CA 95821, ph: 916-488-6567.

My final words for this issue are to remind members to send their ballots in and vote. The Nominating Committee has selected a great slate. Hats off to nominating Chair Dale Sena and committee members Nancy Mirgon and Don Miller. The ballot is on pages 103-104 of the May/June 2000 issue of the *Begonian*. These must be received by Ingeborg Foo in California by July 21, 2000.

I hope to see everyone at the ABS Annual Meeting to be held at the Southwest Region Get-Together in San Antonio, TX September 20-24, 2000.

Good Begonia Growing,
~Charles Jaros,
President

Letters to the Editor

The Mystery Deepens

The mystery regarding the mystery begonia (May/June 2000 *Begonian*, page 107) broadens.

The *B. tenuifolia* grown by Joyce Pridgen pictured in that issue as the winner of the Species Division of the Miami Branch show was also entered in the Species Division at the recent National Convention in Palm Beach. During judging, the en-

try card was marked to change the plant name from *B. tenuifolia* to *B. 'Suncana'* and its entry division was changed from Species to Rhizomatous. The plant was awarded the Division Trophy for Division E - Rhizomatous (as opposed to Division EEE for unusual growth, i.e. jointed at or below the surface).

At the time of the Miami Branch Show in February the leaves on this plant were from the prior year growth. They were 12" or better in size, slightly cupped under and very dark.

Just after the show, the plant bloomed (very shyly). The bloom spikes did not rise above the foliage. Because the prior foliage was well aged for showing, it was completely removed. It was then nip and tuck as to whether the new foliage would mature enough to go to the national show. At the last minute it was included. The larger of the new leaves at this time were about 9". The serrated edges of the leaves were much more pronounced at this immature stage and the leaves were not as dark, showing more variation.

Maybe someone can shed further light on this plant.

Doug Pridgen
701 Brickell Ave., Suite 1400
Miami, FL: 33131-2822

Please see the photos on page 148 for another possibility for B. tenuifolia. Does anyone else have a photo of a plant that has been identified for certain?

Species Data Base

I'm assembling a data base of begonia species including horticultural growing information. It will contain both descrip-

tive and cultural information. The data base is being compiled in MS Word format. This is readable to those who have MS Word on their computers.

I presently have access to the Thompson book and some data from the Smithsonian publication by Smith et al. I would very much appreciate any species data that members would care to send me.

James R. Hannah
158 Fisher Avenue
Staten Island, N.Y., NY 10307
E-mail: jrh158@aol.com

Corrections

Please note that **New Cultivar Registration No.974** is simply **B. 'Jeanne Jones'** without an i before the final e. Blame this slip on the editor's overactive typing fingers and not Brad Thompson or Gene Salisbury who spelled it correctly! And don't blame it on the editor's head either because she knows and loves Jeanne.

Note also that Member-at-Large Director Alton Lee's correct phone number is **727-343-5402**.

Finally, the editor's address and phone number is changing. On page 162 of this issue is a temporary address and phone number; **be sure to check the next issue** (September/October 2000) for the latest and, hopefully, permanent listing. Because of this the issue is not devoted to Shrub-like begonias as promised; see page 153 for a further explanation.

~FH

The Lady and Her Lovers

by Charles McGough

Here, Charles McGough continues our focus on hybridizing as an art form. Charles is a talented artist whose begonia watercolors are longingly desired by all of us who see them. He is also well known for his artistically grown begonia entries at ABS and Southwest Region Shows. His B. 'White Ice' was chosen as Best New Introduction in Atlanta in 1998. In this article we glimpse some of the thinking that goes into his hybridizing efforts.

The morning sun warms the plastic greenhouse and you hear the first little groans of the roof as it stretches in the heat. It's not too different from my old joints creaking when first out of bed on the way to the kitchen for that first hot cup. With cup in hand and work clothes on I step down into my greenhouse to say good morning to my beautiful ladies. Very carefully I carry male blooms on a small sheet of paper toward them. Each bloom is identified on the paper by a cryptic mark, but with its special qualities filed away into that wonderful computer-like mind we all possess. It is mysterious and wonderful how as you lightly caress the female blossom with the pollen laden male bloom, some reject the advance and the pollen falls away and yet another accepts the pollen. You are filled with hope and I suspect the young lady is too as she holds on in the warm morning sun. You take another sip of your coffee and a satisfied sigh melts in the warm morning light.

I wish I could give some profound reason, filled with experience on just how you should go about choosing candidates for hybridizing begonias, but I can't.

I am an artist who gets more excited by the possibilities of strange and new looks than anything else. In general, I

work toward what you might call "most" goals, such as: the tallest, the smallest, the darkest, the lightest, most flowers, the largest flowers, the most intense flowers, the most spots, the most sun tolerant, and so on. Every artists though has certain areas in design which are more exciting to him or her than others...for me these areas are contrast (or opposites) and linear qualities..

Unconsciously and/or sometimes very deliberately I cross plants with this in mind. An example of a recent cross is B. 'White Ice' where I took B. 'Flamingo Queen' (Lots of spots, a large, elongated leaf with a point) and crossed it with B. 'Whiskey' (very much the opposite: small leaf, no spots, tight, short, and very vigorous grower). I just sat back after planting the seeds to see what would happen. I got lots of tall, gangly, thin, small leaved with some to no spots; these were dumped. But along came a group of four seeds different, but related: 1) B. 'White Ice' (mid-size, very spotted, leaf elongated and pointed on both ends and very vigorous); 2) larger leaf than B. 'Flamingo queen', but elongated, heavy spotting, and vigorous; 3) very compact, elongated, pointed leaves, heavy spotting with a white edge, will be multibranching like B. 'Whiskey'; and lastly 4) similar to B. 'White Ice', but white edged and not as vigorous.

I've looked in the Thompsons' Begonias: *The Complete Reference Guide* (New York: Times Books, 1981) and here are some of my candidates for crosses. I'd love to have seed from any of these crosses. I feel that some of these crosses have the possibilities for brand new exciting directions in begonias. Get out your



Above top is one of Charles's unnamed Cane-like creations shaped as a bonsai; below is the familiar *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana* that he trained as a bonsai to win a trophy at the 1998 Southwest Region Get-Together in Oklahoma City.

Thompson book and look at what I see in each of them. Remember, there are other wonderful ways of hybridizing such as the refinement of existing qualities, but that's not for me. I just have too much fun looking for something new and unique. When you cross opposites which are as extreme as I've suggested you are likely to get a preponderance of very poor specimens, but be patient, let them grow a little longer until you can spot those three or four unique beauties standing out from the rest.

B. 'Sophie Cecile' x B. luxurians: (two tall growing, each with very exaggerated, but different leaf qualities). I would hope for a tall growing plant with a unique new leaf form.

B. aconitifolia x B. chlorosticta (two very exaggerated leaf qualities, two very different vertical qualities). I would hope for something exciting in leaf contour and coloring (silver and white) and a possibly different direction in growth.

B. lubbersii x. B. 'Opaline' or B. 'Charm' (semp) (an exaggerated pointed leaf with good spotting on a difficult grower with small mottled white leaves and vigorous grower). I would hope for a vigorous Shrub-like, pointed leaf with considerable white with no two leaves spotted the same.

B. foliosa x any, but my pick would be *B. 'Stallion', luxurians, 'Arthur Mallet', 'Cachuma', and lubbersii.*

I would really like to see some of that seed.

Others which are enticing opposites to me are: *B. leathermaniae x luxurians, B. 'Starfrost' x masoniana, B. 'Crestabruhii' x any*, but I'd pick *B. 'Cachuma'* or a Semp.

Plants with strong qualities which stand out when you see the plant:

B. lubbersii (boat-like leaf),

B. 'Artuhur Mallet' (Beautiful silver, purple),

B. aconitifolia (very deep indentation, very tall, leggy),

B. leathermaniae (leggy, large silver streak down middle, large leaf.),

B. pseudo-lubbersii (very leggy, pointed leaves),

B. luxurians (palm like leaves, very tall thin),

B. 'Argenteo-guttata' (very heavy spotted),

B. foliosa (fern like),

B. chlorosticta (very white, large spots),

B. acida (puckery, very round)

B. 'Rudy', 'Starfrost' (thick stem, pretty palm leaf),

B. 'Charm' (mottled white, no two alike),

B. masoniana ('Iron Cross'),

B. 'Cachuma' (giant leaf),

B. 'Pink Nacre' (dark edge, light center),

B. 'Crestabruhii' (crinkled edge).

Charles McGough is a member of the Dallas Area Branch and you may write him at 1603 Walnut, Commerce, TX 75428 or email him at bebe@koyote.com.

On the opposite page is B. chlorosticta. Is it any wonder Charles dreams of hybridizing from this one? Has anyone created a hybrid with it? This lovely plant was exhibited and photographed in Scotland in 1998 by H.D. McLaughlan of the Scottish Begonia Society. It was once known simply as B. ex Kew species which is how it is listed in the Thompson book.



Begonia Growing in New Zealand

by Ian McNeur

Being a narrow island country between latitudes 34° and 48° south, New Zealand has a relatively mild climate without extremes of heat and cold. Because of this, tuberous begonias can be grown in a partly shaded place outdoors, or in a shadehouse anywhere in the country. Evergreen types are more suited to the northern parts, but a few are grown under protection in the south.

Because of this, to most New Zealanders a begonia is a large flowered beauty and the uninitiated wouldn't know there was any other kind. Our journal *Begonia News* covers a wide range of topics but mostly relating to tuberous begonias.

Some growers import named varieties from Britain and Australia and make them available to other growers around the country so that the world's best flowers are available here. The shops sell a miscellaneous collection of tubers and some of us do our own hybridizing to see what we can improve on.

Most reasonable sized towns have public gardens with conservatories featuring tuberous begonias during summer.

One thing that British visitors comment on is the number of basket type begonias (pendulas) that we have, as they normally form a large part of a grower's display. A few of the old-fashioned, narrow petaled type are still sold, but most pendulas used have good quality roseform flowers based on plants selected from Antonelli Brothers seed.

As there have been no competitive begonia shows here in the past, we are not prodded towards any rules determining what a good flower or display should

be and everyone has their own way of growing and displaying their own favourite plants. The smooth symmetry of Blackmore and Langdon's large flowered, beauties (standards) normally occupy centre stage in the shade house, but 'Non Stops', multifloras, and home grown seedlings vie for position, especially outdoors.

Of the evergreen varieties grown here, some rhizomatous such as Rex, *B. 'Cleopatra'*, *B. 'Silver Jewel'*, and *B. bowerae* var. *nigramarga* are used as house plants and some shrub types such as *B. fuchsoides* 'Rosea', *B. scharffii*, and *B. acutifolia* as well as a few canes are grown outdoors or in conservatories.

I have been breeding *B. tuberhybrida* for fragrance, helped very considerably by seed from Howard Siebold, and already scented begonias are enhancing the atmosphere of some shade houses here, with standard pendulas and tinies all adding to the show.

Britain claims to be the home of the best tuberous begonias, but I think we can run her pretty close or even surpass her from the point of view of a home display.

You may write Ian McNeur at 112 Glasgow St., Wanganni, New Zealand.

Opposite, Blackmore and Langdon's B. 'Sugar Candy' decided to cascade in New Zealand. Photo by Ian McNeur.



Lathouses for Every Climate

by Wallace W. Wagner

The first thing one thinks of when you mention "lathouse" is a shade structure for use in hot, sunny areas like California and the deep South where the sun is too hot, the winds too strong, or the rain too intense.

The truth is that a lathouse can be useful in any part of the country. Rather than just a shade accommodation, a lathouse primarily modifies the atmosphere, making the sun less strong, rain soft, and the wind a breeze. Lathouses should properly be called "filterhouses."

We are constantly told that certain plants require "modified sunshine," "half-shade," "a sheltered position", etc. Then we are asked to find a location in our garden that meets those conditions, often without success. It is hardly surprising that most of our gardens consist of only those plants that will grow any place. What a shame that we miss out on some prize specimens because we cannot meet the plant's needs.

An often quoted objection to a lathouse is that they are so ugly. And so they can be, if not designed properly. Lathouses can be attractive to the eye as well as functional; a place to raise superb specimens of your favorite plants and a place to relax and enjoy the filtering affects on your mind and body as well as the well-being of your plants.

Designing the Structure

Structurally, the lathouse roof should be flat and covered with the ordinary lathe (1/2" by 1 1/4") spaced the width of a lathe apart, with the lathe running north and south. The lathe should

be supported at two-foot intervals to prevent sagging. Galvanized nails or screws should be used throughout. The framework for a sturdy roof should have 6" by 6" posts with 1" by 6" stringers between posts. Cross stringers can be 1" by 6".

The posts should be placed in cement to several inches above the soft level to prevent rot. Posts should be set at least one foot into the soil.

If you are growing a variety of plants from low growing to small trees or shrubs, then the roof needs to be divided into several elevations (photo opposite). Low growing plants wouldn't do their best under a high roof and conversely, tall plants wouldn't do well under a low roof. The elevation changes should be in increments of 18 inches, leaving the space open between elevations. Good elevations would be 8, 9 1/2, 11, and 12 1/2 feet.

Redwood posts will last the longest, but other treated wood will do. Make sure the chemical used in the treatment is not toxic to the plants (or to you). Some plants are very sensitive to preservatives.

If you have no choice of how to orient the lathouse then that will dictate the design. The ideal in a moderate climate would be to have an open front on the north side. If you get cold weather from the north, then you would want that side to be a solid wall. You may want to insulate the coldest side with Styrofoam panel painted to match the wood. All sides should be solid from the base up to three feet.

For maximum protection you can close in all sides and use doors for entry. All sides except the solid side should be lathe laid in a square or diamond pattern.



In the photo above, you see that the lathehouse on the back cover is a model whose size you can judge from the flower bed in the background. The side view on the right highlights the three levels of the roof. Wouldn't we all love to have a structure like this to protect our precious begonias?



Use your decorating sense to design an attractive pattern. Many lumberyards sell prefabricated 4' by 8' panels of lathe in various designs. These can be used on the sides, but not on the roof. A leaded-glass window in the east and west sides would be the crowning touch.

Designing the Interior

When designing the interior of the lathehouse you may want to consider allowing room for propagating, storage of materials, such as soil, pots, stakes, tools, etc. You may also want areas to use for outdoor furniture for relaxing among your plants in the filtered climate.

Several rules will make the lathehouse more enjoyable and useful:

- 1) Make a path through the structure that allows viewing of all plants at their optimal viewing elevation.
- 2) Have varying levels of soil using mounds and depressions. Make sure you don't pile soil against the wood portions of the structure.
- 3) Plan your plantings before starting and don't crowd them.

The best method for raising beds is to use retaining walls of rock with the intervening space filled with moss and soil, puddled together (NO CEMENT) as a good drainage. Use natural stone; not cement blocks for best appearance. If you plan to grow madenhair ferns, plant them against irregular chunks of cement. They like the lime.

Watering Facilities

Put in enough water lines (underground in cold climates) to be able to reach anyplace in the lathehouse with a 25 foot hose. If you have hot summers you may

want to install a misting system about a foot below the roof to keep the air cool and humid. Make sure the jets are on the bottoms of the pipes so the pipes drain. otherwise the water in the pipes will become scalding hot in summer and freeze in the winter.

The Soil

For most plants you will not want to fill your raised beds with regular soil. Make your own soil from materials available in your area and customize it to the type of plants you will be growing in each area. Basically, use the same type of soil you have successfully used in your pot mix for the particular plant. If you are going to leave the plants outdoors all year and you have a long rainy season, you probably will not want to use time-released fertilizer since it will continue to release fertilizer even when the plant is not growing. That can harm the plant. If some plants will need to be moved indoors for the winter, sink the pots into the soil, rather than plant them directly in the soil. Then you can easily move the pots indoors in the winter.

Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge articles by Alfred D. Robinson for much of my knowledge of lathehouses. Mr. Robinson, who developed Rosecroft Gardens in Point Loma, California, is the father of modern lathehouses. His structures at Rosecroft served as models for my first lathhouse. His designs are well tested.

Wally Wagner grows his begonias at 4500 39th Ave., NE, Salem, OR 97305. You may call him at 503-393-8227 or E-mail him at wwwno1@earthlink.net.

A Plant for All Seasons:

B. fisheri Schrank

by Freda Holley

I've never seen a *B. fisheri* win a Division Award at a show, nor appear as a beauty in any magazine, but this is one plant that really should be on everyone's list of favorites.

B. fisheri first came to me as an ABS seed fund packet of seed labeled simply "Species Semp" I grew these out some years ago in Ozone and was enchanted with their ease and speed of growth. I had pots and pots of them from that small seed packet, but I couldn't locate any species name and description to fit them among the *Semperflorens* listed in any of my reference books. Then, on the tour to Galveston's Moody Gardens during the 1997 Houston ABS Convention, I spotted the plant growing there. California growers on the tour identified it to me as *B. fisheri*. Later, Thelma O'Reilly confirmed for me that was indeed my plant's name also. Not a *Semperflorens* species at all, but a Shrub-like. It is listed there among the Bare-leaved, small leaved (generally under 4 inches at maturity). Surprisingly, it is not included on the list of recommended Shrub-like plants for beginners in the Thompson book, *Begonias The Complete Reference Guide* (New York, Times Books, 1981), but I would recommend it to every grower.

When it grew, bloomed and set seed with such ease in Ozone, AR (at 2000', summer temperatures rarely above 90° F), I thought perhaps it was of mountain origin and liked it cool. But then I discovered it grew even better, getting larger leaves and taller, heavier stems in the Nacogdoches heat and humidity. There in Nacogdoches, I found a huge one growing on a lady's patio in a big pot. She

couldn't identify it, but she assured me that it rarely froze down and if it did, it came back each spring. (Temperatures were in the 20° F range several times last winter).

In Houston then, visiting gardens there I saw it growing in the ground and looking great.

Although listed as Shrub-like, it is certainly everblooming, slowing down only in the hottest or coldest weather. The large one in the photo on page 141 stayed outside all winter, coming into the garage only during the spells of 20°. It never stopped blooming.

Thompson lists it as blooming bright pink in Spring, and my plant in Ozone which received sun for much of the day did have pink blooms, but in a shadier location in Nacogdoches they were white as the photos show.

Why do I like it? Because it is both hardy and beautiful. As I mention in the Editor's Notes, most begonias moving from Nacogdoches to Stillwater suffered drastically - not so *B. fisheri*. Its leaves remain crisp and clear and the blooms never stopped. Although it grows rapidly and makes a large plant in less than a year, it has been long lived for me although it has to be pruned back regularly and severely. These stem cuttings root easily and quickly make a nice gift or sale plant.

Best of all for me, a seed lover, it produces seed like a small factory. It has 34 chromosomes and is a good candidate for hybridizing with most Semp. In fact, I feel sure many Semp hybrids have *B. fisheri* in their background. My favorite cross has been with *B. mollicaulis* as the female parent. This has yielded the plant

shown below on the opposite page which I have named *B. 'Dovecot'*. It has white flowers, but several of the seedlings have pink flowers. There is also a bronze leaved version that I have named *B. 'Central Market'*. The green version has very large leaves, up to 8 to 10", but the bronze leaved one leaves are smaller at about 6 inches.

Since making this cross, I have seen another begonia on the market in Baton Rouge whose name I forget with pink flowers that looks very much like the version I produced with pink flowers.

I have never had any disease problem on *B. fisheri*, but *B. 'Dovecot'* did get mildew after the move although it never had in Nacogdoches. This was easily cleared up with a fungicide. The bronze leaved version did not get mildew.

Thompson lists the home country as Brazil, but other sources indicate it is to be found over much of South and Central

America. Doorenbos, et. al. (*The Sections of Begonia*, The Netherlands, Wagenigen Agricultural University, 1998) places it in the section *Begonia* in which there are 62 species, many of which are horticulturally classed as *Semps*, including *B. cucullata*, *B. schmidtiana*, and *B. subvillosa*. *B. fisheri* has 4 male tepals and 5 female. The ovary has 3 unequal wings.

There is also a *B. fisheri* var. *tovarensis* that I have never seen, but would certainly like to try.

If you see seed or a plant of *B. fisheri* I urge you to give it a try. You will be a fan too I'm sure.

Opposite top, B. fisheri in Nacogdoches, TX. Inset, above, B. fisheri in Ozone, Ar. Bottom, a Holley hybrid of B. mollicaulis X B. fisheri; B. 'Dovecot.'

Pronunciation of Begoniaceae Names for the Begonian, 67, July-August, 2000 by Jack Golding

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| acaulis | uh-KAW-lis |
| acida | ASS-i-duh |
| aconitifolia | uh-kon-i-ti-FOH-li-uh |
| acutifolia | uh-kyew-ti-FOH-li-uh |
| boucheana | bow-che-AY-nuh |
| bowerae | BOW-er-ee, <i>bow-er-eye</i> |
| var. nigramarga | neye-gra-MAR-guh |
| chlorosticta | klo-ro-STIK-tuh |
| ciliobracteata | sil-i-oh-brak-te-AYE-tuh |
| syn. <i>dielsiana</i> | deel-si-AY-nuh |
| syn. <i>hookeriana</i> | hook-er-i-AY-nuh |
| syn. <i>raynalianorum</i> | ray-nal-i-OH-rum |
| syn. <i>cameroonensis</i> | kam-e-ROON-en-sis |
| cucullata | kyew-kul-LAY-tuh |
| diétrichiana | dee-trich-i-AY-nuh |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| elaegnifolia | el-ee-ag-ni-FOH-li-uh |
| eminii | e-MIN-i-eye |
| fischeri | FISH-er-eye |
| var. <i>tovarensis</i> | toh-var-EN-sis |
| foliosa | foh-li-OH-suh |
| fuchsioides | fyew-si-o-EYE-deez |
| gehrtii | GEHRT-i-eye |
| glandulosa | gland-yew-LOH-suh |
| grandis | GRAND-is |
| subsp. <i>evansiana</i> | e-van-si-AY-nuh |
| hatacoa | ha-ta-KOH-uh |
| heracleifolia | her-ak-le-eye-FOH-li-uh |
| var. <i>nigricans</i> | nig-REE-kans |
| leathermaniae | leth-er-MAN-i-ee |
| longipetiolata | long-i-pet-i-ol-AY-tuh |
| lubbersii | LEWY-ber-si-eye |
| luxurians | lux-YEWR-i-ans |
| malabarica | mal-i-BAR-i-kuh |
| masoniana | MAY-son-i-ay-nuh |
| mollicaulis | mol-li-KAW-lis |

Continued on page 143.



Startin' Out

by Jim Hannah

My Lady (Joan) and I aren't suspicious people by nature. but we've learned that when it comes to raising begonias from seed, a little suspicion can be a very good thing indeed. Here's what happened to us and what we gained from our experiences.

We'd built a propagation box with a heating cable to take care of our temperature problems (Begonia seeds need a temperature of 70-75° F for good germination.) It fit nicely under a 'shop light' two-tube fluorescent fixture. The next step was to get a suitable starting soil mix. Our basic mix for garden seeds (we blend our own) was much too coarse. We pressed a large wire kitchen strainer into service to sieve some dry mix. This got rid of the lumps and twigs.

Next, we put the sieved mix into an empty soil bucket and wet it down. In doing this we made two big mistakes. The mix picked up all sorts of mold and fungus spores from the dirty bucket and the water we used came from an old plastic jug with some green stuff on the inside surfaces. Like I say, we're not suspicious folks - at least we weren't back them.

We transferred some of the dampened mix into soft margarine containers and sprinkled the begonia seeds on top. The containers were covered with clear plastic food wrap and put in the propagation box under the fluorescent lights. Several days later the top of the soil was a lovely deep green, but not from seedlings. Actually, it wasn't all green either. In some places it was white with fungus growth. Needless to say, the seeds had no

chance. The competition was just too tough.

We learned quite a bit from the experience. Since then we've developed procedures which work. I can't say they are the best procedures. That's a topic for the real experts to discuss (We're beginners, remember?). But they work for us and, if you're at square one, they'll serve as a starting point.

The key to avoiding the green and white nasties is to be sure that the starting mix you use is free of viable spores. In other words, the mix should be sterile or very close to it. You can go about getting sterile soil mix in three ways: buy a commercial sterile starting mix, sterilize a non-sterile mix in a stove oven, or sterilize a non-sterile mix in a kitchen microwave.

There are several good mold and fungus-free starting mixes on the market. You can track them down through the advertisers in the *Begonian* or find them at your local garden supply store. For more information check some of the books on begonias or (best yet) seek the recommendations of other begonia enthusiasts in your local ABS Branch. These mixes will be ready to use in most cases - no sieving needed.

If you wish to start with a non-sterile mix or oven sterilize it, a good starting point is to bring the dampened mix to a temperature of 150 to 180° F for at least 30 minutes. You'll need a thermometer to check this. Meat thermometers will work. Just remember that it's the soil that must reach the temperature. The oven will have to be set higher - about 225-250° F.

The kitchen microwave can also do a dandy job of ridding soil of unwanted spores. Again, the soil mix must be moist. You'll want to use a time setting which will end just short of drying out the soil.

Microwaves differ enough so that I can't give a starting point for this. You'll have to use trial and error at first. To keep things simple, use the same container with about the same amount of soil mix in it each time once you've found the successful time and setting. (*Editor's note: Remember, NO metal for the microwave and DO NOT use the thermometer there!*)

Remember how we got into trouble in the first place? It's not enough to have sterile soil if you're going to re-contaminate it with dirty containers or with water that contains mold or fungus spores. If you have to re-moisten soil, play it safe and use boiled water. It only takes a few minutes and you can have a nice cup of tea at the same time.

The last thing we learned is based on a saying that comes out of the world of

politics: 'Trust, but verify!' Before we use a new bag of prepared commercial mix or a new batch of soil that we sterilized ourselves, we make a little trial run. Some of the mix is moistened and put into a margarine container just as we would if we were sowing seeds. We cover the container with plastic wrap and place it in the propagation box. A couple of weeks later we know for sure that the mix is OK to use. From that point on, we can proceed with confidence.

Next up will be a description of how we go about getting those pesky seeds from envelope to starting mix and how we work with seedlings. See ya.

You can write Jim and Joan Hannah at 158 Fisher Avenue, Staten Island, N.Y., NY or Email him at jrh158@aol.com

Normand's Plant of the Month

The Buxtonian, newsletter of the Buxton Branch carries a delightful feature each month: it's Normand Dufresne's presentation of a plant. Here is the April item.

The theme of today's program gives me an opportunity to present *Begonia eminii* as plant of the month. It was collected in Victoria Nyanza Tropical Africa during the Emin Pacha Expedition and was named in his honor. It was described in 1894 by Warburg in a publication by Engler & Prantl.

Millie Thompsom classified this plant as thick-stemmed epiphytic, bare leaved, medium leaf, 4 to 6 inches at maturity. It was revised in the 1984 update to Trailing-scandent.

B. eminii blooms most of the year with a bicolor red and white flower which seems to be favored by quite a few African species... The female flower has a fusiform (spindle shape) ovary. The flowers on this plant are all female which would

lead you to think that *B. eminii* is dioecious. The males don't show up till summer and are not plentiful.

In 1977 as a branch project Millie Thompson gave a few seedlings to members of the Hampton Branch. One member reported that *B. eminii* was difficult to shape; another said her plant wanted to look like an undernourished bean stalk.

The word is that fruit and leaves are edible.

You may write to Normand Dufresne at 4 Plantation Drive, Cumberland, RI 02864. And thank you Normand for letting us borrow your presentation. Do you have a photo?

Continued from Page 141.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| opuliflora | o-pul-i-FLOH-ruh |
| scharffii | SCHARFF-i-eye |
| schmidtiana | schmidt-i-AY-nuh |
| solimutata | sol-i-myew-TAY-tuh |
| subvillosa | sub-vil-LOH-suh |
| tenuifolia | ten-yew-i-FOH-li-uh |
| ulmifolia | ulm-i-FOH-li-uh |

Directory of Begonia Societies

All information is the latest available to us at the time of publication.

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Association of Australian Begonia Societies Ross Bolwell, Chair, 226 Annangrove Rd., Annangrove, NSW 2154
Phone (02) 9679 1386

The Victorian Begonia Society, Inc.
C/-Mr. Geoff Apps, 29 Bowen Street, Warragul 3820, Australia, Ph: (03) 5623 4989, Email: gapps@dcsi.net.au

Victorian Begonia Society Melbourne Study Group

Contact: Mr. Brook Turner
Phone: (03) 9578 1698

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15 Carlo Close Kincumber 2251
Ph: (02) 4369 2967

The Queensland Begonia Society, Inc.

Mr. Peter Henderson, 79 Chuter Street, Stafford QLD 4053
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Ph: (08) 8264 6490

The Begonia Society of Western Australia

Mrs. Shirley Lancaster, PO Box 427,

Cloverdale WA 6985
Ph: (08) 9361 4564

Belgium

Societe Belge du Begonia

Piron Gilles, Pres., Chemin de Lancre,
4 B-4970 Coo, Belgium

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British Columbia Fuchsia & Begonia Society

Loma Herchenson, Pres. 2402 Swinburn Ave. North, Vancouver B.C. V7H 1 L2

Canadian Begonia Society

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eelston@computer-products.com

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The National Begonia Society

Colin Nicklin, 33 Findern Lane, Willington, Derbyshire, DE 65 6DW,
Ph: 01283 702681
Email : NATBEGONIA@aol.com

France

Assoc. Francoise de Amateurs de Begonias

Mme. Agnes Cazaux, Presidente
Association Francaise des Amateurs de Begonias, Domaine de Bontemps, 31470 Fonsorbes, France

New Zealand

Canterbury Begonia Circle.

Mike Stevens, 47 Burnside Cres., Christchurch, NZ. Ph: 03-358-4126,
Email: m.i.stevens@xtra.co.nz

Japan

Japan Begonia Society

President: Mr. Naoyuki Uemura, 5-27-10 Higashiohizumi, Nerimaku, Tokyo 178-0063, Japan Ph/Fax: 81-3-3921-5132

Scotland

Scottish Begonia Society

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Lanarkshire, Scotland M1100NQ, ULK

Sweden

Swedish Begonia Society

Ann-Sophie Asplind, Via Tunheim
Fristorp, 4718 461 93, Trollhattan, Sweden.

United States

Guests are welcome at all meetings. Contact the National Director listed below for time and place of meetings or other information.

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Southwest Region: Helen Speirs, 1423 Laskey, Houston, TX 77034. Ph: 713-946-4237

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*Above, we see a Scott Hoover collection from one of his trips several years ago that was tentatively identified as *B. tenuifolia*. Below is a close-up of its flowers. is this the real one? If you grow *B. tenuifolia*, let us hear from you.*



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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 needs 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.

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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, CA. Donors of seed in this issue are Jackie Davis, Evelyn Bouquet, and Ingeborg Foo.

SEED LIST

Species

JA00-01: *B. dietrichiana*

JA00-02: *B. foliosa*

- JA00-03:** *B. gehrtii*
JA00-04: *B. glandulosa*
JA00-05: *B. heracleifolia* var.
nigricans
JA00-06: *B. opuliflora*
JA00-07: *B. ulmifolia*
JA00-08: *B. U340*

Mixed Seed

- JA00-09:** *B. Rex* hybrids

DESCRIPTIONS

JA00-01: *B. dietrichiana* Irmscher [Brazil] (Sect. *Pritzelia*). Stem erect; leaves 2- 1/2 in. Long, obliquely elliptic-oblong, acuminate, cordate at base, toothed, green above, red underneath; flowers light pink in forking cymes.

JA00-02: *B. foliosa* HB&K [Columbia] (Sect. *Lespia*) Rhizomatous; lvs. Large, rugose, shiny green, hairy petioles, veins on underside outlined in red; flowers white, late winter.

JA00-03: *B. gehrtii* Irmscher [Brazil] (Sect. *Pritzelia*) Rhizomatous; leaves large, rugose, shiny green, hairy petioles, veins on underside outlined in red; flowers white, late winter.

JA00-04: *B. glandulosa* Hooker [Mexico] (Sect. *Platycentrum*) Rhizomatous; leaves obliquely orbicular-cordate, peltate, acuminate, wavy margined, glossy yellow green with deep chocolate brown veins above, dark red underneath; flowers small, greenish white, fragrant, winter to spring.

JA00-05: *Be. heracleifolia* Cam. & Schlecht var. *nigricans* [Central America] (Sect. *Gireoudia*) Rhizomatous; leaves 1 foot across, hairy, 5-9 deep narrow lobes,

toothed, bronzy green tinged with black near margin; petioles 10-18 in. long, stout, tinged with red; flowers rosy pink, fragrant; peduncles 1 to 4 feet long.

JA00-06: *B. opuliflora* Putz [Panama] (Sect. *Ruizopavonia*) Stem erect shrub; lvs. medium, green; flowers white, late summer.

JA00-07: *B. ulmifolia* Willd. [Venezuela] (Sect. *Donaldia*) Stems erect to 6 feet, branched, light green; leaves to 5 inches, ovate-oblong, doubly serrate, somewhat rough-hairy, green; flowers many, 1/2 inch, white, spring. (See photos next page.)

JA00-08: *B. U340* Introduced by Scott Hoover; a shrubby herb found along trail on Mt. Kaba at 4400 ft. (See photo next page.)

- JA00-09:** *B. Rex* hybrids

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Below, B. U340, in Gene Salisbury's greenhouse, April 2000. Left, A young B. ulmifolia and above inset its flowers. The editor found these to be very fragrant.



Editor's Notes

Many of you know by now that we have moved again, hopefully, to a town in which we will remain for a while. Because this move was rather sudden (We had been trying to sell our house for almost a year and the sale was conditioned on our being out fast - we were!) and hurried, this issue is not as I had promised about Shrub-like begonias. But that is still in the works for some future date and I hope with a longer time line more of you will send me articles about your favorites or about the species or hybrids in this group that you've grown. I need a general article about the category too. I am giving you an article about one of my favorite Shrub-like species, *B. fischeri*, because I was so impressed by its behavior in our move.

This issue is done without most of my reference books and I hope you will forgive any errors I make. Also if you have written and I haven't answered or I haven't returned something I should have, please understand. I will soon be organized, I hope!

Also, I did not get to attend the convention in Palm Beach and I need lots of help to produce a good Convention Issue (the September/October issue, deadline July 15). Send me those convention stories and photos!

As you know, we moved from Nacogdoches, TX this time. This is almost 400 miles southeast of Stillwater as it was about 350 miles south of Ozone, AR where we formerly lived. Nacogdoches was like a dream for a begonia grower. My plants could live outside most of the year and it was so humid that they barely turned a leaf when I moved them from the sunroom where they spent the winter to the outside. They grew fast and except for the heat of July and August, they were always growing and blooming. This time I moved my plants with us, and they were moved with little damage to the plants. It did take a 15' U-Haul! However, we moved them to my son's house where we are staying temporarily until we found a house to buy and he has no facilities for plants. So outside they had to go - little or big.

Now, in Ozone I had a dictum that said, "no matter when plants are moved outside in the spring, it will promptly get cold again and stay that way for a month." This will be equally true of Stillwater, OK I fear which is in just about the same growing zone (USDA 6B) as Ozone. It did turn cold and worse, the dry winds seem to blow constantly at high speeds. In no time, the majority of the large begonias looked like the year we had a hail storm with their torn and ragged leaves. The very large canes fared worst. I lost most of the babies that came from inside as well. The plants in fact look very much the way they do if you take them without hardening off outside from a warm greenhouse, which indeed the climate in Nacogdoches well imitated.

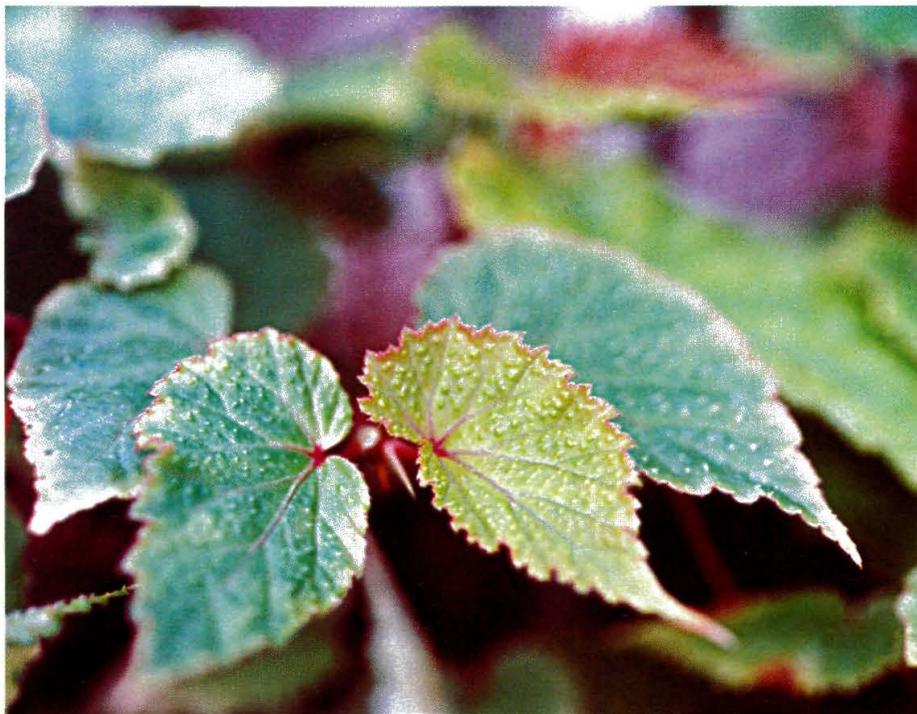
Wally Wagner's lathehouse article is fortuitous for me!

However, a few plants have taken the move and the unfavorable climate here in surprising stride. One of those is *B. fischeri*. My small Rex cultivars and my crop of *B. hatacoa* have also fared well. If not thriving, they are at least surviving. Most of my plants were seedlings grown from seed after we arrived in Nacogdoches last year, planted either in June or November. *B. gehrtii* is thriving in the cold although I have had to transplant them low in deep bulb pans which protect them from the winds. *B. soli-mutata* looks its usual lovely self too. The wonderful thing about most begonias is that somehow we can find a way to grow them almost anywhere!

Nevertheless, I am anxious to get all those plants remaining to the house we are buying and set up more protective environments for them. We expect this to happen June 6, not in time to give you our permanent address this issue, so don't forget to check the address page next issue. The P.O. box address will be good for a year, however, so you can go ahead and mail me stuff there! Unfortunately I cannot give you a new phone number or Email address yet either.

My thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue making it easy for me to get it out by the deadline despite the confusion of a move.

~Freda Holley



Identify this Species . . .

The mystery begonia of the last issue was *B. malabarica* Lamarck. Doorenbos, et. al. (*The Sections of Begonia*, The Netherlands: Wageningen Agricultural University, 1998) have this to say "Authors ...include a second species [in section *Haagea*]: *B. malabarica* A.DC. However, this is a later homonym of *B. malabarica* Lamk which outdates the first by 81 years. As clearly it merges into *B. dipetala* of section *Haagea*, we join the two species here." Doorenbos makes no assignment of *B. malabarica* Lamarck which is said to resemble *B. dipetala* to a section.. Thus botanically adrift, in the meantime this lovely species from India with its beautiful pink flowers is one to grow. There is an excellent color photo in the Thompson *Begonias The Complete Reference Guide* (New York: Times Books, 1981) on page 13 of the color section. The photo above

was taken by **Midori Nobusawa** at the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens in May of 1999. It is of a young plant.

Because of the editor's move, the winner will be announced next issue making sure all responses are received.

The New Mystery Species

This unusual Thick-stemmed begonia has elongated leaves that are usually peltate. The flowers really set it apart, the male flower having only two tepals and the female six. The ovary has four wings and four locules. This led to its synonym given by Brade: *B. quadrilocularis*. The plant is from North Eastern Brazil and is the only plant in its section.

Send your entry to the editor today to win a young seedling of this species. All entries will be held until July 15 and a winner drawn at that time.

American Begonia Society

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May 2000

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BEGONIAS FROM SEED - SOWING AND GROWING. Chuck Tagg, *BEGONIAN* reprint - \$.50

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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, 1997- \$1.50.

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Previously unavailable publications were received just before the convention. By the time this issue is available, everyone with a pending bookstore order should have received their material.

News: ABS, Branch, International

From the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch we learn that the Antonelli Brothers have a new web site: www.antonelli.com which is both an on-line order site and a help site. So all those tuber growers out there, you now have a place to get answers to those questions.

From *The Shade House*, Newsletter of the Doug Frost Branch edited by **Nancy Mirgon** we learn that **Goldie Frost** has germinated begonia seed stored in her freezer after 20 years!! It was also suggested that begonia seed might be tested in the standard way for testing garden seed: "Instead of potting the seed, lay it between two moist (not wet) paper towels where it will be easy to observe. Seal the towels in a small plastic bag labeled with the name, date and time of placement. Wait a few days then open the bag and check for germination every day. Many seeds can be transplanted into pots once they have germinated in this way. You'll find it easier to transplant large seeds." Let's try it, as suggested, just for fun...

The Monterey Bay Branch April meeting was devoted to "WILD BEGONIAS: We call them species begonias, but if you let your imagination take you to unexplored jungles and remote highlands where these begonias were discovered and are still being discovered the world species just doesn't seem to capture the feeling of wildness. Do we call tigers and lion species felines or do we call them wild animals." Such imagination could create a wonder-

ful presentation that would surely appeal to young people.

Houston Knight traveled from California to Houston to speak to the San Jacinto Branch on April 11 about his research on begonia growing.

Barbara Berg in the May issue of the Knickerbocker News gave her recipe for a Planter for Summer: "Try something a little different...last summer we put together a planter for our patio which turned out to be spectacular. In the top of a strawberry jar planter we put a *B. 'Christmas Candy'* and in the side openings we put red and white impatiens. During the summer they grew to cover the jar. It was grown in full sun half the day and was a real eye-catcher."

Have you noticed how many begonias were appearing en masse at the large garden centers attached to building supply stores this spring? *B. 'Richmondensis'* and *B. 'Dragon Wings'* were everywhere. Of course, the usual Semps were omnipresent. Garden magazines as well often featured begonias as part of mixed plantings.

Remember, the dates for the Begonian's Coming Events calendar are picked up from Branch Newsletters. Few dates beyond July 1 were given in newsletters received by the deadline date. Try to include dates well in advance in newsletters if you know them.

Understanding *Begonia* Nomenclature

by Jack Golding

With our personal computers, the internet and Email, we are able to exchange information almost anywhere in the world in a few minutes. But in the early years of botanical exploration of the 16th to the 19th century it often took many months or years for botanists to exchange information about plants that the explorers found in the wild. A collector could send specimens and information about the same begonia to Botanical Gardens in different countries. Because of the long time it took to exchange information, some of the same species were given different names [synonyms] or sometimes different species were given the same name [homonyms].

The **International Code of Botanical Nomenclature [ICBN]** was established with the aim of providing “. . . a stable method of naming taxonomic groups [plants], avoiding and rejecting the use of names which may cause error or ambiguity or throw science into confusion . . .” We follow the Rules and Recommendations of the ICBN. “Scientific names of taxonomic groups are treated as Latin regardless of their derivation.”

The family **BEGONIACEAE** have three *genera* [plural of *genus*] *Begonia*, *Hillebrandia*, and *Symbegonia*. Our primary interest is with the *Genus Begonia* with approximately 1400 species, divided in some cases, into approx. 75 sections, subspecies [subsp.], variety [var.] and form [for.].

The species name is a binary combination consisting of the name of the genus followed by a single specific epithet. The name that is published first, in accordance with the requirements of the **ICBN**, is the correct name and has priority over all the other names of that same species.

For accuracy, the citation of a begonia should include the name of the species, the name of the author(s) [the person who validly published the name] and date of publication, e.g., *Begonia acaulis* Merrill & Perry, 1943. A more complete citation also includes the name of the publication, with reference to the volume, page, and illustration, e.g., *Begonia acaulis* Merrill & Perry, J. Arnold Arbor., 24:43, pl. 1, l-q, 1943.

Some typical citations, followed by an explanation, are:

Begonia ciliobracteata

Warburg, Bot. Jahrb. Syst., 22:40, 1895. —M. Sosef, Wageningen Agric. Univ. Papers, 94(1):222, fig. 17.3, pl. 1c, 1994. [*Scutobegonia*]. Cameroon. Fig. 22.6, icon. **R**

dielsiana Gilg, 1904, non
E. Pritzel, 1900.

hookeriana Gilg ex
Engler, 1921, non
Gardner, 1845.

raynaliorum Wilczek,
1969.

cameroonensis L.B. Smith
& D.C. Wasshausen, 1983.

The name *Begonia cilio-bracteata* was published by Warburg in Bot. Jahrb.

Syst., volume 22, page 40, in 1895. Additional pertinent information about this species was published later by M. Sosef in the Wageningen Agric. Univ. Papers, volume 94, part 1, on page 222, with an illustration fig. 17.3, plate 1c, in 1994. It was placed in Section *Scutobegonia*. Its native habitat is Cambodia. The synonym names, their author and date of publication, are listed.

The complete citations of the synonyms also include the author who determined that they are the same as the correct name.

Begonia dielseiana Gilg, Bot. Jahrb. Syst., 34:91, 1904, non E. Pritzel, 1900. —L.B. Smith & D.C. Wasshausen, Phytologia, 52:442, 1983, [= *Begonia cameroonensis* L.B. Smith & D.C. Wasshausen, 1983]. —M. Sosef, Wageningen Agric. Univ. Papers, 94(1):222, 1994. = *Begonia ciliobracteata* Warburg, 1895.

Begonia dielsiana was published by Gilg in 1904. However it was a later homonym [a different species with the same name] that was published by E. Pritzel in 1900. Therefore, L.B. Smith & D.C. Wasshausen, Phytologia, 52:442, 1983, gave it a new name *Begonia cameroonensis* L.B. Smith & D.C. Wasshausen, 1983. But M. Sosef, Wageningen Agric. Univ. Papers, 94(1):222, 1994, determined that it was the same species as *Begonia ciliobracteata* Warburg, 1895.

Begonia hookeriana Gilg ex Engler, Veg. Erde, 9(3.2):617, 1921, non Gardner, 1845, — L.B. Smith, D.C. Wasshausen, J. Golding, & C. Karegeannes, Smithsonian Contr. Bot., 60:180, 1986, [= *Begonia scutulium* J.D. Hooker, 1871, sphalmate]. —M. Sosef, Wageningen Agric. Univ. Papers, 94(1):222, 1994. R = *Begonia ciliobracteata* Warburg, 1895.

Begonia hookeriana Gilg ex [from Gilg but validly] published by Engler in 1921 was a later homonym of the species published by Gardner in 1845. L.B. Smith, D.C. Wasshausen, J. Golding, & C. Karegeannes, Smithsonian Contr. Bot., 60:180, 1986, listed it as a synonym of *Begonia scutulium* J.D. Hooker, 1871, by mistake. But that error was corrected by, M. Sosef, Wageningen Agric. Univ. Papers, 94(1):222, 1994, who determined that it was the same species as *Begonia ciliobracteata* Warburg, 1895.

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Begonia raynalianorum Wilczek,
Bull. Jard. Bot. Nat. Belg.,
39:93, 1969. —M. Sosef,
Wageningen Agric. Univ.
Papers, 94(1):222, 1994. **R**
= *Begonia ciliobracteata*
Warburg, 1895.

Begonia raynalianorum Wilczek,
published in 1969. M. Sosef, Wageningen
Agric. Univ. Papers, 94(1):222, 1994,
determined that it was the same species
as *Begonia ciliobracteata* Warburg, 1895.

* * * * *

Another citation:

Begonia boucheana
(Klotzsch) A. de Candolle,
Prodr., 15(1):373, 1864.
[*Pritzelia*]. Venezuela.
Gurltia boucheana
Klotzsch, 1856.

The epithet *boucheana* that was
originally published by Klotzsch in the
[rejected] genus *Gurlitia* was transferred
to *Begonia* by the publishing author A.
de Candolle.

* * * * *

Sometimes a species is identified
incorrectly by one or more authors. A
misapplied name is indicated by the words
“*auct. non*” followed by the name of the
original author and the bibliographic ref-
erences of the misidentification. This is
followed by the citation of the author who
determined the misidentification plus the
correct name, as in the following example:

Begonia elaeagnifolia auct.
non J.D. Hooker: De Wildeman

& Th. Durand, Ann. Mus.
Cong., II, 1(2):25, 1900; Th. &
H. Durand, Syll. Fl. Congol.,
:234, 1909; Mildbraed, Wiss.
Ergebn. Zweit. Deutsch,
Zentr.-Afr.-Exp. 1910–1911,
2:97, 1922; Wilczek, Fl.
Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, :20,
1969. —J.C. Arends,
Wageningen Agric. Univ.
Papers, 91(6):8, 189, “1991,”
1992.
= *Begonia longipetiolata* Gilg,
1904.

Several authors, De Wildeman &
Th. Durand *et al*, mistakenly identified a
species using the name *Begonia*
elaegnifolia. Their species was not *Be-*
gonia elaeagnifolia published by J.D.
Hooker in Oliver, Fl. Trop. Afr., 2:579,
1871. It was identified by J.C. Arends,
Wageningen Agric. Univ. Papers, 91(6):8,
189, “1991,” 1992, to be *Begonia*
longipetiolata Gilg, 1904.

* * * * *

To be continued in the next issue
with the names of hybrids and cultivars.

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In The Mailbox

by Greg Sytch

Convention News: For everyone who missed the convention, it was a blast! This was only my second convention, but I learned much from the experience. Helping setting up the show room was a learning experience. While opinions differ, the award winners were still all beautiful, well grown plants. Just walking through, time and again, you learn how large some species and hybrids can get, how others grow, and what soil works best. I highly suggest if you ever have the chance to visit a convention plant show, or any branch show, do so. You will be amazed at how beautiful a well grown begonia is.

From New Jersey: A recent post online was from a grower from New Jersey who purchased plants grown from a commercial grower and was complaining that leaves were beginning to curl and dry up after some time. The problem could be from many sources, but I would suspect the change in environment definitely was a contributing factor. When begonias go from a humid greenhouse to a drier windowsill or under lights, the new growth will adjust but the older growth may not.

As an example, Florida has four seasons. Unfortunately, two of them are summer, but luckily winter is among the other two. Sunny, crisp, cooler days with lower humidity are a drastic change from the hot, humid days of summer. Begonias often drop older leaves in my yard, and greenhouses, as new conditions set in. I often prune hard in late fall expecting this to occur and new growth rapidly adjusts and thrives. Be careful when bringing a

new plant home. If you are unable to secure how it was grown, assume it was greenhouse grown and allow it to adjust for a few weeks in your home. Try it in a few different areas to see which is best. Once it appears happy, then repot up only one size, and always use a lightweight soil mix. Once growing, it will reward you with lush leaves and frequent blossoms.

If you ever have a question, comment, or need some assistance, feel free to Email me at: gsytch@cs.com, call me at 727-841-9618, or write me at 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653. I would love to hear about successes to share with our readers, too.

Begonia Lost and Found

This is the new column where you can advertise for begonias that you have been unable to find from any other source. Please do not request begonias available 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 before shipping. And if you find one through this column be sure to let us know!

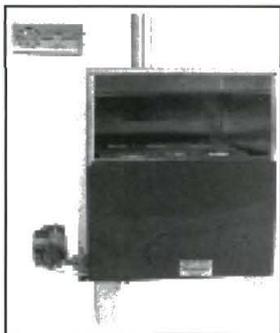
Dean H. Allen, 195 Pleasant St., Apt. 905, Malden, MA 02148-4817, ph: 781-397-8371 (who has been a member of the Buxton Branch for more than 50 years!) has lost **B. 'Queen of Hanover'**, a Rex cultivar with dark olive green leaves, wide silver green zone, densely covered, light pink hairs.

The editor bought a plant labeled "B. chiba" in LA in 1999. She has been unable to find any reference to this. If you know anything about this plant, please let her know.

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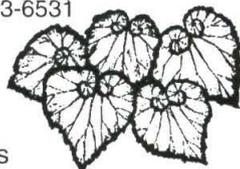
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COMING EVENTS

July 22-23, 2000, Saturday 9-5; Sunday 12-4: Westchester Branch Show and Sale at Westchester Christian Church, 8740 La Tijera Blvd., Westchester, CA. For more information, call Janet Brown at 310-670-4471.

July 29-30, 2000: Culver City Garden Club show and Sale; Westchester Branch will have a booth. Call Janet Brown at 310-670-4471 for more information.

September 20-24, 2000: Southwest Region/ABS Get-Together, San Antonio, TX. Seven Oaks Resort, San Antonio, Texas. For more information call Lucille Dyess at 210-432-7293 or Elizabeth Muth at 210-494-3313.

October 7-8, 2000: The Mabel Corwin Branch will have a show of begonias at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Contact Eleanor Calkins at 760-746-4743 for more information.

June 2001: ABS Convention 2001 in Denver, CO. More information next issue!

***Closing Date for Next Issue is July 15!
Please: Send your Convention Stories and Photos!***

The Begonian

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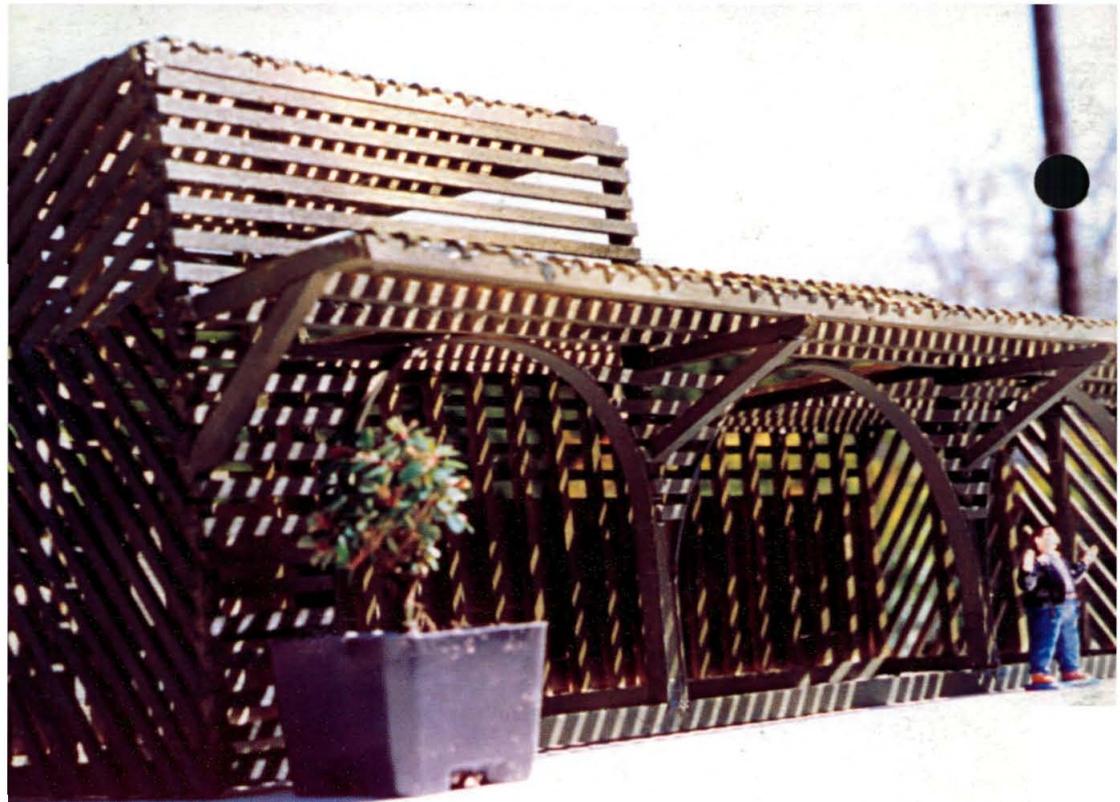
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