



*The*  
**Begonian**

November/December 2001

# *The* **Begonian**

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Publication of the American Begonia Society

## **American Begonia Society**

**Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman**

### Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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## Cover

**Front:** Johanna Zinn welcomes us with this begonia wreath. From the top clockwise: *B. glabra*, *U010*, *longipetiolata*, 'Caribbean Prince'. The bottom begonia is unidentified and the two begonias on the left side are both *B. U315*. See how she made it on page 207.

**Back:** *B. 'Corazon Rojo'* (syn. *B. 'Red Heart'*) may not have a holiday name, but it surely looks festive in this photo taken by Mary Bucholtz. It is a Rex cultivar by Philip of CA, 1976 whose parents were two unnamed Rex cultivars.

## 2001 Happy Holidays!

This issue of the *Begonian* is brought to you in large part by those contributors shown on page 205. They have chosen to bring us the extra pages on begonias rather than the holiday greeting ads that have appeared in the past. Let us thank them as well as the contributors of the very special articles and photos for this issue!

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## *Joyous Holidays*

and a

*New Year*

**Filled with Beautiful  
Begonias!**

### Regular Features

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### Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads **200201 or 200202**, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

## President's Message....

How many of you have taken the time recently to read the Aims and Purposes of our society? Several recent things have prompted me to consider the reasons for ABS existing.

The first thing is two plant articles that appeared in the newspaper. One article reports how a fern, *Pteris vittata*, extracts arsenic from the soil. It stores up to 80% in the fronds and is not hurt by doing so. A second article reports on the rediscovery of a tree, *Tnochetia parviflora*, thought extinct for over a century. The tree was found on an island cliff in the Indian Ocean.

These articles point out the need to preserve the begonia species we grow and to learn as much as possible about them. Additionally, there is the need to find and grow new species. With this in mind, I hope the society will be able to restart the Save Our Species (SOS) newsletter and encourage more members (me included) to adopt a species. Aim: **To gather and publish information in regards to kinds, propagation, and culture of begonias and companion plants.**

The second thing is two trips made recently. The first trip of two days was made to visit with two of our Sacramento Branch members. The first day was spent visiting, enjoying their plant collections and exchanging experience and knowledge. The second day we visited with grower and hybridizer, **Cynthia Bishop**, at Golden Hills Nursery. Trip number two was a few weeks later to Santa Barbara. The inspiration for this trip was an invitation from **Mike Flaherty** to attend the Begonia Day at his business, The Gazebo. In addition to this stop were others at **Mark Bartholemew's** wholesale nursery, Hi-Mark, a grand visit with **Rudy Liesenhenne**, and several other nurser-

ies and homes of Santa Barbara members. In all both trips are most memorable. While in Santa Barbara a bus of members from the Los Angeles area also arrived so more opportunity, if brief, to visit with begonia friends. Aim: **To bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.**

It is timely also to thank all the branches and individual donors, listed on page 205 who make this edition of the *Begonian* possible. As has been said a number of times, our dues cover the cost of only four issues. A special thanks also to **Wanda Macnair** who acted to gather and record these holiday donations. May this issue of the *Begonian* bring pleasure to all!

Yet, one more thank you to **Mary Sakamoto** and the Orange County Branch who hosted the Board Meeting and Annual Meeting at their Fiesta on September 8. It was a grand meeting attended by representatives of over 20 branches. In addition to being able to view Mary's large shade house growing area replete with begonias, there was also an outstanding plant sale and to top it off, an auction of show quality begonias and ferns. Mary also agreed to chair a new Convention Advisory Committee which will assist those putting on future conventions. Our slate of offices for the coming two years were installed by **Herb Wilkinson** and thanks to both the Election Committee chaired by **Ann Salisbury** and the Ballot Counting Committee chaired by **Ingeborg Foo**.

A final note until next time. With the approach of winter, whatever that means where you live, may your begonias brighten your days and carry you into the New Year.

*Morris Mueller,*  
*President*



The following Branches and Individuals Wish all ABS Members Happy Holidays by Providing a Contribution of Support for this Very Special Issue of the *Begonian*:

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*Jeanne Jones*  
*Long Beach Parent chapter*  
*Billy and Sylvia Pendarvis*  
*Alfred D. Robinson Branch*  
*Whittier Branch*

# Letters to the Editor

In the midst of the sorrow created by the terrible events befalling our nation, I hope you were as touched as I was by the many nations that reached out to us all on television. Following are specific messages to us in the begonia community.

## From Australia

Dear Friends:

My mind cannot encompass the enormity of this crime against the American people - my mind cannot seem to accept that such evil can exist - my grief is your grief - accept please my deepest sympathy - be assured of our support and love.

**Peter Sharp**  
Australia

I would just like to reiterate what Peter has just said from the growers and people in general of New Zealand.

**Mike Stevens**  
New Zealand

We have all been devastated by the scenes of destruction wrecked on the American people. On behalf of the members of the National Begonia Society I offer you our sympathy and prayers. God Bless.

**Derek L. Telford**  
England

## Brad Adds a Note

These are comments on the topic brought up in the article by **Ross Bolwell** in the September/October *Begonian*. When I first started growing begonias, growers thought that strong sturdy growth that came up from the roots in canes was sucker growth. It was only after growing

a while that I realized that growth wasn't sucker growth, but the normal growth of canes. We pinch and prune our canes to make them conform to the shape we want them to grow. If left to their own devices though, most canes, even the ones we use as baskets, will send up tall heavy shoots. Those tall shoots are the plant's normal pattern of growth. That weaker, more refined growth, is how we trained the plant to grow. We pinched out the tips and pruned to make the begonia send out weaker side shoots that are bushier and more compact. If you're trying to grow a basket and the begonia sends up the stronger growth, that just means it's happy and thriving. If you want to keep it as a basket though, you need to prune those back to a low side bud to force more compact side growth. Just thought I would add to what Ross commented on.

**Brad Thompson**  
2436 W. Lomita Bl.  
Lomita, CA 90717

## A Further Convention Note

The Alamo Branch did not receive acknowledgment of its contribution of \$50 for a trophy for the best rhizomatous begonia in the Denver show. We do appreciate their help.

**Paula Szilard**  
6217 South Hill Street  
Littleton, CO 80120

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**Printing Woes:** The editor regrets the problems with some pages of the last issue and its lateness. Our printer moved locations and had equipment problems. They have been doing good work for us for almost five years now and have promised that problems will be remedied with this issue. ~FH

# A Holiday Welcome

by Johanna Zinn

*See Cover Photo*

While shopping at a local nursery I noticed a ring of cactus suspended from the greenhouse wall. Although the circle of cactus was interesting, I thought that begonias would fill the space more attractively. I had a few small trailing-scandent plants that were suitable for this type of planting.

Empty metal rings are available at a few nurseries in our area. I purchased one consisting of four circles of metal: two larger circles formed the front and back outer rings and two smaller circles formed the front and back of the inner circles. The rings were held together by metal bars spaced at frequent intervals. I packed the wreath with pre-moistened long-fibered sphagnum moss and secured the moss with waxed beige twine.

Choosing the plants was the most enjoyable part of the project. I tried to choose mostly trailing-scandent plants, but selected a few that would fill in the spaces with foliage. Begonias planted included *B. 'Caribbean Prince'*, *longipetiolata* (syn. *crassipes*), *U010*, *U315*, and *glabra*. I made holes in the sphagnum and inserted each plant with its root ball and soil into the openings. Then the begonia ring was placed horizontally into a very large plant saucer for three weeks to allow the plants to grow into the moss and become secure before I hung it in our shade house.

Just before the photo was taken, a squirrel knocked the begonia ring to the ground. While picking off the damaged foliage, I decided to take the photo before any further damage was done. Blooms from a Non-Stop tuberous begonia filled

in some of the empty spaces. Over the summer, the wreath filled in well, but keeping it growing was not without challenges.

Other than declaring our shade house a "No Squirrel Zone", were there other things that I could have done to ensure the health of the plantings? I can think of two that would have made watering less of a chore. The wreath dried out very quickly in the summer heat. A few weeks after planting, I added water absorbing polymers. Although I inserted the granules at the suggested depth of two inches, the morning after I watered the wreath, it looked as if it were regurgitating slug slime. Adding the polymers at planting time would have prevented the problems. The plants also should have been inserted with a larger soil mass.

Several weeks ago, I purchased another wreath frame. This wreath has a coconut fiber shell inside the metal rings. The frame opens on hinges for easy filling with soil, and the coconut fiber shell is thin enough to slice easily for plant insertion. This frame should solve most of the problems mentioned. I wonder what is rooted in my prop box.

*Johanna Zinn is well known to readers of the Begonian, both for her well-researched articles for us and also for her ability to grow those difficult species and terrarium begonias. She also has a way with the camera and her photos have graced other Begonian covers. You may contact Johanna at: 4407 Jensen Place, Fairfax VA 22032-1718, Ph: 703-323-7513.*



## A Holiday Begonia: *B.* 'Christmas Candy'

**N**o one answered the call for photos and stories of begonias with holiday names, perhaps because there are apparently very few of these. I could identify only *B.* 'Merry Christmas' and *B.* 'Happy New Year' in addition to the subject here and I am wondering if even these can be found anymore (Now watch many more magically appear!). It's time for creative hybridizers everywhere to celebrate the holidays by naming some of their selections appropriately for next year's holiday edition!

But I did have on file **Cynthia Bishop**'s photo of her *B.* 'Christmas Candy' and it is surely enough of a marvel with which to celebrate the holidays. It is also a begonia with a story. Evidently, **Patrick Worley** was the first to use *B.* *U014* from Argentina - and I have been told by one reader that *B.* *U014* may now identified as *B.* *descoleana* L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert (Is that correct, Thelma?) - to cross with a Semp. He believes that cross is now lost, but **Mabel Corwin** later crossed *B.* *U014* with *B.* 'Glamour Rose Picotee' to produce the *B.* 'Christmas Candy' we all know and love.

Other hybridizers say that no matter which Semp is used for a cross, the hybrids will be very similar demonstrating the power of *B.* *U014*. A commercial producer has come up with such a seed grown cross *B.* 'Dragon Wings' that has been a huge commercial success and a similar cross is available in Australia.

*B.* 'Christmas Candy' never stops blooming if given light and heat and it is an appropriate begonia with which to celebrate the holiday season with its vivid green and red coloring. So bring one inside and enjoy!

## The Begonia of the Socotra Archipelago

by Mark Hughes

As Freda Holley kindly included my request for material of *Begonia socotrana* and its hybrids in a previous issue, I thought readers of the *Begonian* may be interested to read a little about the species by way of thanks.

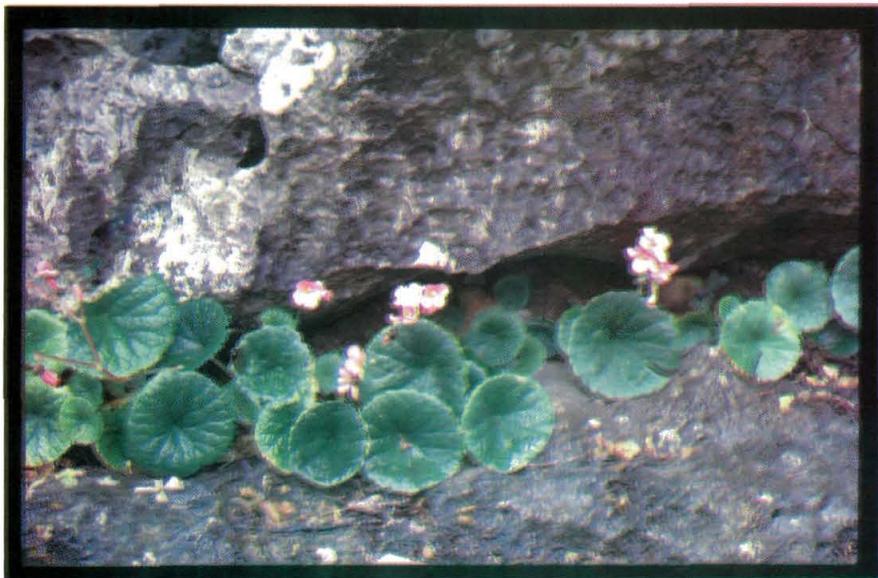
I have been interested in the *Begoniaceae* since a field trip to Ecuador in 1997 where I saw many of the odder representatives of the family from the high Andean *B. uricae* to the rainforest giant *B. parviflora*. Since then, I have been lucky enough to study *Begonia* at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh as part of an M.Sc. and now a Ph.D.

My current interests are to do with the speciation of *Begonia*, and to why it is such a diverse genus with so many species. To investigate the evolution of *Begonia* species, I have been using DNA

markers to look at how easily different populations of a species can become isolated from one another. Once populations become isolated, they can eventually turn into new species if they remain 'out of contact' with their cohorts. To look at population isolation, and over what kind of distances it happens in *Begonia*, I am using three species: two from the Socotra archipelago and one from South and East Africa (the commonly cultivated *B. sutherlandii*). Rather than go into "DNA details," I would like to present a short account of the species from Socotra.

Until a few years ago, *B. socotrana* was the only known species from the archipelago, growing in the Haggier Moun-

*Below. Begonia socotrana growing in a sheltered limestone crevice.*





tains on the strange and isolated island of Socotra. It was discovered by Isaac Bayley Balfour, Regius Professor of Botany at Glasgow University on an expedition to the islands in 1880. The species was responsible for the production of the first winter flowering hybrids, as it flowers during the winter rains on Socotra, the two main winter flowering hybrid groups are *B. x Hiemalis* and *B. x Cheimantha*.

The *B. x Hiemalis* group was the result of a cross between *B. socotrana* and the tuberhybrida begonias, for example *B. 'Viscountess Doneraile'* which originated during 1865 from repeated hybridisation between four South American species (*B. veitchii*, *B. veitchii* (syn. *rosiflora*), *B. pearcei*, and *B. boliviensis*). The crosses were performed by Veitch and Sons of Chelsea in 1883.

The *B. x Cheimantha* group originated from crosses between *B. socotrana*

*Above, the position of the Socotra archipelago in the Indian Ocean.*

and *B. dregei* followed by repeated back crossing and mutant selection. *B. 'Gloire de Lorraine'* was produced in 1891. It is very likely that all the current winter flowering hybrids and most of the species material of *B. socotrana* in cultivation derive from Balfour's original collections way back in 1880, and it was in order to investigate this that I asked for the plant material.

The species is quite unique in the genus, and accordingly resides in its own section, *Peltaugustia*. It has circular, peltate leaves and shocking pink flowers, and it survives the island's hot and dry summer by dying back to a cluster of tiny bulbils. It also seeks out the shadiest north facing cracks in the craggy and steep fountains and adjacent high limestone plateaus



Above, *B. samhaensis* M. Hughes and A. G. Miller, in ed. The drooping flowers on this plant are pollinated females; the fruit is swelling behind. Male flowers with four tepals are visible at the top to the picture. Below, *Dracaena cinnabari* woodland at the foothills of the Haggier mountains on Socotra, where *B. socotrana* can be found. This impressive tree is one of the many unusual plants endemic to the island.



which help it to survive in such an atypical place for the genus. I visited Socotra in 1999 to survey the plant and collect leaves for DNA analysis and was very pleased to find the plant was far commoner than had been believed as several publications had listed the plant as severely threatened. However, the species is alive and well in the hard-to-reach mountains, and my survey has allowed the plant to be removed from the threatened list (after recommendations on the delimitation of conservation areas on the island have been made).

The second species from the archipelago was only discovered in 1996 by Vanessa Plana (also researching *Begonia* at Edinburgh), growing in a tiny area on the very pinnacle of the smaller neighbouring island of Samha. This island is an even more unusual place in which to find a *Begonia* than Socotra, as the island does not reach such a great height and is correspondingly hotter and dryer at its highest point. This species is obviously closely related to *B. socotrana*, as it also produces bulbils, has peltate

leaves and pink flowers. However, it differs in several features of anatomy and morphology, including the presence of a woody tuber which must help it perenniate in its dry and exposed home. The entire range of the species is a limestone block about 50 metres square, save for about 20 plants 500 metres away on a cliff, and it has been listed in the 'vulnerable' conservation category. The new *Begonia* has been named (*B. samhaensis* M. Hughes & A.G. Miller, in ed.) and described, and is due to be published in the *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* sometime in 2002. DNA evidence shows the species must have been separate from its sister on Socotra for quite a considerable time, and the two may even have been drifting apart ever since the archipelago became isolated from the mainland approximately 10 million years ago.

*Now wasn't Mark great to provide us with an in-depth look at the parent of so many winter-blooming, perfect-for-holiday-celebrating hybrids! You may contact Mark at M.Hughes@rbge.org.uk or by mail at Begonia Research Group, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20a, EH3 5 LR*



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Above, *B. samhiensis* M. Hughes & A.G. Miller, in ed. *The drooping flowers on this plant are pollinated females; the fruit is swelling behind. Male flowers with four tepals are visible at the top of the picture. Right, a closeup of the male (upper) and female (lower) flowers of B. socotrana. In common with most other Begonia species, it is pollinated by deceit, that's to say the rewardless female flowers attract pollinating insects by having bright yellow styles which mimic the pollen bearing anthers of the male. Below. B. socotrana bulbils. These sprout from the stem base at the end of the wet season, and remain encased in their dry papery bracts throughout the dry summer months until the rains cause them to sprout. Photos right and center by Debbie White, RBGE.*



# A Semi-Tuberous Myth

by Doug Pridgen

I would like to share a finding. I have heard from more than one “experienced” grower that cuttings propagated from semi-tuberous begonias do not have a caudex such as seedlings do, and such as we all expect to see on our semi-tuberous begonias. Well, that is not what I find!

The caudex, which is a natural occurrence on semi-tuberous begonias, is formed at the junction of the trunk and roots. Therefore, when seeds are planted at soil level, naturally the caudex appears at soil level (Figure A).

When one takes a cutting for propagation, however, and pushes it two inches or so into the potting mix, no caudex appears at ground level. That is because the junction of the trunk and roots is now two inches below soil level. After your cutting is well established and ready for repotting, if you will brush away the potting mix down to the point that the cutting set roots, WA-LAHH, there appears its caudex (Figure B). Simply repot your cutting with the found caudex near the soil line and it now looks just like the seedling.

Figure A.

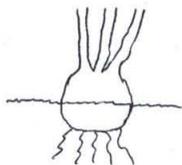
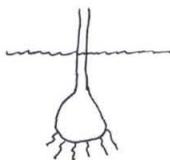


Figure B



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## Begonias on the Internet? You bet!

by Sandy Boyd

Come join 134 fellow begoniacs on the web at Yahoo.com. Not only will you be able to view and download fabulous picture of begonias, you will be able to learn more about the joys, frustrations and culture of raising these fabulous plants than you ever thought possible. Plus, for many of us who do not live near nurseries which grow begonias, we can order from growers. Directions on just how easy it is to join the group are at the end of this article.

You can follow along and join in such educational discussions as soil mixtures, light requirements, leaf dropping,

mealy bugs, fungus, and more. Every topic imaginable has been covered via email. Believe it or not members have identified begonias simply by descriptions in email.

Many of the top growers of begonias around the world contribute their expertise to their begonia friends. **Peter Sharp** from Australia, the author of *Growing Begonias*, is a frequent contributor; **Sophie Asplind** from Sweden relays the problems with growing begonias in a hostile climate, and **Greg Sytch** and **Tim Anderson** from Florida keep us abreast of droughts and hurricanes along with the raising of begonias. We all suffered along

with **Patrick Worley** when a freeze literally wiped out all of his begonias a couple of years ago. **Brad Thompson** freely gives us his expertise on begonia culture and hybridizing.

The begonia group is especially helpful for at-large ABS members who do not live near a branch. The exchange via email between members is the next best thing to being at a branch meeting.

Many boutique growers of begonias are members of the list and will respond to group members who are looking for a particular begonia. This is not a commercial site. However, members do announce sales of plants or cuttings and if anyone is interested they can contact the grower directly.

You can be an actively contributing member or simply read and absorb the knowledge others have to give. Nobody will ever know you are there. Either way

you will be enriched. One hint: if you are going to change the subject of an email don't just type in a response and hit reply. Change the subject line to reflect the new subject.

If you would like to become a member here is all you do. Send an email to:

**Begonias-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

To post a message send your email to:

**Begonias@yahoogroups.com**

Simple, huh? If you have any problems email me at samb4 mail@aol.com and I will be happy to help you.

*Sandy is right. In just about a month, I have downloaded files and printed out about an inch of begonia photos mostly of begonias I had never seen before!*

---

## Begonia Bytes

by **Kathy Goetz, Internet Editor**

Apparently, there was some confusion at the July Board meeting about updating the web site. I want to clarify so everyone knows what is going on. Your web site is being worked on and updated on a regular basis. It is an on-going project that has had many changes since it was first started and it will continue to grow and change over time.

Many branches and individual begonia growers now have their own web sites. If you would like your site linked to the ABS site, just send me the information at goetzk@begonias.com . Any site that is about begonias or related plants is probably appropriate for linking to the ABS site. If you know of other sites that you find interesting, let us know. We may be able to link to them as well. The Events

Calendar is a newer feature that is very popular. You can post upcoming events yourself. When you post a new event, it does not appear immediately on the web site. First, it comes to me to be approved. This is to keep inappropriate material from being posted on our site. I try to approve new events information as soon as I receive it, but sometimes it takes awhile. I may not be home or at my computer when the information is posted. Please don't repost the information. It does not do any good. If you think it has been too long, send me an em-mail, and I will respond as soon as I am able.

---

*Feel left out? Celebrate the holidays by giving yourself a computer and join the begonia-on-line crowd. It will be worth your while. Or have your grandchild look up begonias on a search and find how many sites to visit there are! It's all easier than you think! ~FH*

# On the Trail of an Unidentified: *Is it Begonia Incisa or is it Begonia U076?*

by Johanna Kitson

It's funny how one gets involved in different projects. At the Denver Convention a couple of us were looking at a painting of *Begonia incisa* and Freda thought it would be nice to have an article written on this topic since nothing much has been printed in the *Begonian* lately about it. In the ensuing weeks, however, I discovered that the begonia I was growing and had drawn, was not *B. incisa*, but *Begonia U076*.

Jack Golding was so kind as to send me detailed information on *B. incisa*. In reading these comparisons, it is very clear that they are two different plants. The biggest one being that the two begonias

have different types of leaves. Briefly, "*B. incisa* has a simple unequal-sided, obovate-oblong leaf with an obliquely, almost cordate base and acuminate tip; the margins are pinnately cleft with parallel toothed lobes, 7-8 on the larger side, 4-5 on the smaller side, and the lobes are 1/3 to 1/2 the distance from the outer perimeter to the center vein of the leaf." On the other hand, "*B. U076* has palmately compound leaves with 5-6 pinnately lobed

*Below is Johanna's photo of her B. U076 and to the right is her portrait of the plant.*





leaflets, rounded at the ends, with the lobes to the center vein." It also has short hairs on the reddish 2-3 inch petiole and hairs on the leaves front and back. The veins are also reddish and the 1/2 to 1/4 inch flowers are white with some being pale pink.

Jack Golding provided the following quotation and translation of: *Begonia incisa* A. de Candolle, Prodr. 15(1): 321, 1864:

**A. de Candolle, Prodr. 15(1): 321, 1864**

**118. *B. incisa* (Alph. DC. l. c.),** ramis fusco-puberulis, foliis breviter petiolatis obovato-oblongis acuminatis basi oblique subcordatis pinnatifidis dentatisque lobis ovato-oblongis passim denticulato-setiferis utrinque glabris nervis solum petioloque fusco-pubescentibus. stipulis lanceolato-subulatis caducis, pedunculis masc. folio multo brevioribus puberulis apice bis dichotomis, bracteis secus ramulos alternis ovato-acuminatis minimis, sepalis fl. masc. late ovatis, petalis nullis, fl. fem..., capsulâ..., in Philippinis (Neo? in h. Boiss.). Ramus gracilis, teres, merithallis, pollicem longis. Petioli 3-6 lin. longi. Limbi 4-5 poll. longi, 1 1/3 - 1 poll. lati, inaequilateri, lobis a basi ad medium accrescentibus, inferioribus et sup. dentiformibus, mediis nunc. bipollicaribus et tunc grosse dentatis, nervis latere majore 7-8, minore 4-5, supra glabriusculis, subtus modo petioli ramique fusco-pilosulis, parenchymate subtus pallido, sinu basilaris non profundo, lobo inferiore majore. Stipulae 5 lin. longae, lineam basi latae, glabriusculae. Pendunculus pollicaris, apice ramulos tres in specimine emittens. Bractea secus ramulos 1/8 lin. longae, glabriusculae. Sepala nondum aperta 2 lin. longu. (v.s.)

Jack Golding's translation of August 27, 2001 is as follows:

***B. incisa***, (Alphonso de Candolle. At the place cited [Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., IV, 11:129. 1859]) branches; with dark-brown short soft downy hairs, leaves with short petioles, obovate-oblong, apex acuminate, base obliquely almost cordate, pinnately cleft [lobes divided, to half the width of the leaves, mostly within the outer 1/3] and toothed, lobes ovate-oblong everywhere with very small sharp teeth-bearing bristles, glabrous on both sides, lowest part of nerves and petioles with dark-brown short soft downy hairs, stipules lanceolate-tapering to a fine point, dropping off early, male peduncles much shorter than the leaves, with short soft downy hairs, at the tip twice dichotomous; bracts along the branchlets alternate ovate-acuminate very little, male flowers with two sepals [outer tepals] ovate-almost circular, petals [inner tepals] none. [Original habitat] in the Philippines. (new?)

[The following details are from the] Type in Herbarium collection of Boissier, Genève, Switzerland:

Branch slender with circulate cross-section, internodes 1 in. long. Petiole 0.25-0.5 in. long. Leaves 4.3-5.4 in. long, 1.3-2.7 in. wide, with unequal sides, lobes increasing in size from the base to middle, the lower parts and

# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND LISTING

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Michael Ludwig, Administrator

*The seed fund is a service to members  
only. It is a privilege of your membership.*

**DISCLAIMER:** The seeds distributed by  
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guarantee that the identification is correct.

When you find that seeds received from  
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same batch. Each offering is identified by  
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descriptions published are from the  
literature and apply to the name used for  
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**The Seed Fund needs donations of seeds.**  
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Michael Ludwig  
6040 Upland St.  
San Diego, CA 92114-1933

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is a project of the Margaret Lee Branch of  
the ABS in San Diego County,  
California.

Thank you to recent donors: for their seed  
donations: Iris Bird, Eleanor Calkins,  
Jackie Davis, J. Duruisseau, Ingeborg  
Foo, Peggy Fratus, Leigh Heard,  
Beatrice Huckeriede, Mark Hughes,  
M. Kartuz, Johanna Kitson, M.  
Ludwig, Midori Nobusawa, Thelma  
O'Reilly, Doug Pridgen, Joan Taylor,  
and Brad Thompson

above tooth like, the middle now 2 in. long and then coarsely toothed, nerves, larger side nerves 7-8, smaller 4-5, above almost glabrous, below only petioles and branches dark-brown hairy with distinct long ascending hairs, parenchyma [leaf tissue] pale underneath, basal sinus not deep, lower lobes greatest. Stipules 0.4 in. long, base broadly linear with glabrous spikelets. Peduncles inch long, giving forth, in the specimen, at the apex 3 branchlets. Bracts along the branchlets, 0.04 in. long, almost glabrous. Sepals [inner tepals] not yet open 0.2 in. long. (I have seen it in a dried state.)

I bought my first *B. U076* from Tim Anderson the summer of 2000. It did well until the temperatures dropped into the 50-60 degree range in the early winter (this is Florida, remember) and then the begonia started to go downhill. When the temperatures threatened to hit the high 30's and low 40's I brought it inside and within a couple of weeks the begonia began to revive and actually grew sitting in my kitchen window for the rest of the winter and spring. I bought another *B. U076* in March to ensure I would have one in my collection.

By this time both begonias were on the back porch soaking up the sun under a 60% shade screen. As the summer humidity, rain, and temperature increased to the 85-90 degree angle, so did the growing and blooming of the two begonias. In my researching this begonia, I discovered that *B. U076* is from the Philippines. No wonder it liked the heat and humidity of the Florida summer! This is why it is important that one knows the background of a species so we know what Mother Nature has provided for these begonias in the wild. Other growers who answered my e-mail queries, also found that this *B. U076* needs a higher humidity than most begonias and several grew it as a terrarium plant or in a humid greenhouse. *B. U076* was imported from Polilio in the Philippines by Martin Johnson as his No. 45 - a shrub-like begonia with deeply lobed leaves and a delicate nature. In 1960 it was identified as *B. incisa*, but Tracy McLellan questioned this after studying the type illustration in the Annotated Series.

For further research, there are illustrations of Begonia in Section Petermannia, in J. Doorenbos, M.S.M. Sosef and J.J. F.E. deWilde's *The Sections of Begonia*, Wageningen Agric. Univ Papers: 98(2), 1998. A photo of the type is in Fig. 6.13 in *Begoniaceae*, Part I: Illustrated Key, Part II; Annotated Species List, Lyman B. Smith, Dieter C. Wasshausen, Jack Golding and C. Karegeannes, Smithsonian Contributions to Botany, 60, 1986.

Now we see from all of these, that *B. U076* must remain unidentified and if anyone has the true *Begonia incisa*, would you please let us know where we can get one. And for those of you that have a painting of mine labeled *B. incisa*, please note that it should be *B. U076*.

## Seed List

November-December 2001

**ND01:** *B. boissieri*

**ND02:** *B. gracilis* var. *martiana*

**ND03:** *B. pearcei*

**ND04:** *B. cinnabarina*

**ND05:** *B.* 'Bumble Bee'

**ND06:** 'Non-Stop' Tuberous hybrid mix

**ND07:** Mixed Tuberous species

## DESCRIPTIONS

**NOTE:** The names reported here are correct and are based on the latest information from **BEGONIACEAE**, Ed. 2 manuscript as of 14 December 2000, Golding and Wasshausen.

**ND01:** *B. boissieri* (Mexico, Sect. Quadriperigonía) A white flowered tuberous species. Tubers are finger-like and develop deep in the soil.

**ND02:** *B. gracilis* var. *martiana* (Mexico, Sect. Quadriperigonía) Also known as "the hollyhock begonia", the upright stem to 2 feet arises from a tuber; round to pointed leaves grow up the stem, blooms with very short peduncles grow up the stem among the leaves like hollyhocks; at the axils of older leaves bulbils form which fall off and start new plants. The plants go dormant in cool weather and the tubers will not survive cold weather. The plant tolerates bright light and demands high humidity. It comes from a high altitude.

**ND03:** *B. pearcei* J. D. Hooker (Bolivia, Sect. Eupetalum) tuberous; stems low, branched, succulent, pubescent; leaves 4-6 in long, obliquely ovate, acuminate, base cordate, toothed, dark green above with light colored veins; tomentose, dull red beneath; flowers 1" in yellow on erect peduncles.

**ND04:** *B. cinnabarina* W. J. Hooker (Bolivia, Sect. *Eupetalum*). Low growing tuberous; green leaves; light orange single blossoms; summer. said to be fragrant.

The following listings are for hybrids and cultivars. No descriptions are given because the plants grown from these seeds are unlikely to be the same as the parent. Any plants grown from these seeds should be examined for merit. Exceptional plants can be given a new name and introduced to the begonia world. None of these plants should be labeled with the parents name.

**ND05:** *B.* 'Bumble Bee' X

**ND06:** 'Non-Stop' Tuberous hybrid mix

**ND07:** Mixed Tuberous species

The following gives changes to the list published in the Sept.-Oct. Seed fund list:

## Additions:

*B. angulata*

*B.* 'BumbleBee' x *boliviensis*

*B.* 'Caravan' selfed

*B. crassicaulis*

*B. cubensis*

*B. cubensis* (syn. *lindeniana*)

*B. dichotoma*

*B. foliosa* 'Toledo'

*B. heracleifolia*, Palique Mexico

*B. heracleifolia* (Rudy Z's says "true sp")

*B. hernandioides*

*B. incarnata*

*B. leathermaniae*

*B. macduffiana*

*B. metallica* - limited amount

*B. opuliflora*

*B. paleata*

*B.* 'Palomar Fanfare' selfed

*B. petasitifolia*

*B. plebeja*

*B. solananthera* - o.p.  
*B. U043*  
*B. U083*  
*B. veitchii*

Mixed seed

**Deletions:**

*B. rockii*

---

*And a Very Special Holiday Listing:*

## The Hoover Seed

by Micahel Ludwig

Scott Hoover has returned from another successful collecting trip in Indonesia, West Java 2001. I'm looking forward to future articles on his travels there, but right now I have the privilege to offer you the chance to have a bit of Southeast Asia in your begonia collection. The following are all the seed that has been forwarded to me for distribution. I have no germination information on them at this time.

Collection and other information that is available are included for the U numbers. Thank you to Thelma O'Reilly for supplying this to me. Some seeds are in very limited supplies, but will be distributed until gone. If there is a number after a listing, e.g. *B. muricata* (6), this means there are six collections of this species that vary in some aspect of their appearance, more or less hairy, size, etc., but are the same species. Each collection is packaged separately. Because of this there are 49 different packets that can be ordered from the list. If you would like to have more than one collection of a species please indicate that when ordering.

Let me know if you would like substitutes (list them), an increase in those ordered, or credit memo for those that are not available.

Please remember that when you or-

der these seeds, the funds from their sale goes back into the Conservation and Research Funds to help fund future projects. All purchasers will be contacted in the future for information on their experiences with these species. This was requested at the West Palm Beach Convention and is hoped to bring information that will be useful in growing and identifying these plants.

A donation of \$2.00 is requested for each packet California residents please add 7.7% sales tax. Also, add shipping cost. All orders must be accompanied by check or money order, payable in US funds ONLY, to the The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

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*B. bracteata* (2)

*B. isoptera* (11)

*B. multangula* (9)

*B. multangula*: smaller leaves

*B. multangula*: red stemmed variety

*B. muricata* (6)

*B. robusta* (2)

*B. U412*: 4000 ft., base of a waterfall, close to but different form of *B. multangula*.

*B. U413*: 7600 ft., north facing slope of mountain.

*B. U414*: 5000 ft. near entrance of jogging trail.

*B. U415*: 4600-5700 ft., west slope of Mt. Pasiripus. Scandent habit, huge flowers

*B. U416*: 5600 ft., forest floor, leaves up to 15 centimeters

*B. U417*: 5600 ft., pubescent variety of *B. multangula*.

*B. U418*: 5400 ft., *B. acutifolia* type. Collected in gorge near lake.

*B. U419*: 5400-6300 ft., collected in gorge area and forest. Species variable.

*B. U420*: 6200 ft., leaves up to 20 centimeters, growing in gorge.

*B. U421*: 3500-4600 ft., above clove and coffee plantations, dry forest, lobed leaves, shrub-like.

*B. U422*: 4700 ft., N.W. slope of mountain. *B. tenuifolia* aff.

*B. U423*: 4900-2000 ft., grows to 2 meter tall.

*B. U424*: 4700 ft., large, shrub-type with horned fruit.

*B. U425*: 4600 ft., possibly a hybrid ridge and eastern slope of Mt. Punca Pur. West.

*B. U427*: 2700-3400 ft., interesting population of *B. muricata* with white hair on the leaf blade, petiole and inflorescence.

*B. U429*: 2300-2400 ft., *B. longifolia* aff., trail side along pass to waterfall.

*B. U430*: *B. tenuifolia* aff., trail near waterfall and on boulders below waterfall.

---

## Mystery Begonia

The Mystery Begonia feature will appear in the next issue with the answer to last issue's mystery.

**Plan Now  
to be in  
Houston  
in 2002!**

# The Mile High Awards

by Michael Ludwig

The Herbert P. Dyckman Award is given for LONG TIME SERVICE and Richard and Wanda Macnair certainly fill this criteria. If there is an ABS convention, a regional get together or "nearby" local show they are there. Not only are they there, they are hip deep in working. They have dedicated themselves to service, especially to the ABS. The society, regions, and local branches are richer for their work and generosity. They have shared their time, talents and plants and the best part is that WE GET TWO FOR ONE! Although based in the Northeast

that doesn't limit their participation in events all around the American Begonia Society's world. Congratulations to Richard and Wanda Macnair, winners of the 2001 Herbert P. Dyckman Award. They are truly treasures of the American Begonia Society.

*Below, Wanda and Richard Macnair in Denver receive their award from Gene Salisbury, substituting for Michael Ludwig. Photos below and top right by Janet Brown.*





Above, left, Brad Thompson in California receives his awards from Mary Sakamoto who accepted them on his behalf in Denver. Above, right, we see Brad with the medal and B. 'Little Miss Mummey'. In this photo, you unfortunately cannot see its beautiful and distinctive raised spots. Below, Ed and Phyllis Bates accept the very first Rudy Ziesenhenne Award from Awards Chair Michael Ludwig. Photo below by Eleanor Calkins.



**The Eva Kenworthy Gray Award:** Proliferation and mass production...those are words that describe **Brad Thompson**, the winner of this award. He has his finger in every aspect of the Begonia World.. He shares his knowledge with everyone he meets. His articles have appeared in branch newsletters and the *Begonian*. they are informative, entertaining and loved by those that read them. He is an editor's dream for the sheer volume of work that is created. In fact as editor himself, he was his own best resource. Congratulations to Brad Thompson, winner of the 2001 Eva Kenworthy Gray Award.

The **Alfred D. Robinson Medal** is given to a REGISTERED BEGONIA. As International Registrar of Begonias it is important that our hybridizers are encouraged to create and introduce new types of these plants AND REGISTER them. After a lull that lasted for some time we are now once again receiving new registered hybrids to consider for this medal. A wonderful new hybrid that is distinctive and fun to grow is the recipient of this year's award. Its dark leaves and raised dots along with white flowers make this a distinctive plant. The prolific hybridizer, **Brad Thompson**, produced the 2001 winner, a cane, *Begonia* 'Little Miss Mummy'.

The **Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award:** "With gratitude for excellence in Editorial Leadership, the American Begonia Society recognizes..." These simple words are our way of thanking individuals for a job most of us wouldn't take even if we were cornered by a pack of wild wolves, putting forth a magazine that is read throughout the world and delivering the word of begonias to all. The namesake of this award has said that without the *BEGONIAN* there wouldn't be a society. I'm sure we all would agree.. Although published bimonthly since Janu-

ary 1982 before that it would be welcomed into the homes of begonia growers every month, a lifeline to our beloved plant and those around the world that grew them, coming even more frequently than the round robins that circulated in the mail. Although not consecutive, for nearly nine years, and more importantly, Edgar and Phyllis Bates put out 81 issues, more than any other editor of the *Begonian*. What is even more amazing is that during this time the *Begonian* wasn't the only magazine that they edited. Another monthly publication was also on the table, *LAIFFS*, the publication of the Los Angeles International Fern Society. Although they both weren't listed as editors for the second stint there is little doubt that they both were involved in the publication. Edgar and Phyllis Bates are still editing. Ed, the newsletters for the Margaret Lee and Mabel Corwin Branches and the descriptions for the seed fund; Phyllis for several sewing related groups. Congratulations to **Edgar and Phyllis Bates**, the winners of the Rudolf Ziesenhenné award.

---

### Give Those Begonias A Holiday Name

Hey, hybridizers - yes, you **Brad Thompson** and you, **Tim Anderson, John Howell, Charles McGough, Ross Bolwell, Doug Pridgen**, and all the rest of you - I was serious about naming some begonias for next year's holiday edition. I'm even going to suggest some names for you:

Reindeer Holiday  
Rudolf Reindeer  
Frosty Snowman  
Holiday Cheer, Holiday Grace...

Or you dream it up and how about some names appropriate for the Jewish holidays - be sure to let Wally Wagner know its name, photograph it, and send me its name and description for next year. ~FH

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**Begonias old and new:** *B. 'Richard Robinson'* is a *B. dregei* seedling originated by Robinson in California and first published in 1950 making it now over 50 years in cultivation. Photo by Joyce Pridgen at Elda Regimbal's in 1999. *B. U303*, below is new, and the editor has no information on it - if you do, write a letter or email to the editor. Photo is by Mary Bucholtz.







**Royalty and Magic:** The Scottish Begonia Society was awarded a Gold Medal at the Royal Caledonian Society Horticultural Show in Edinburgh, June 2001, for their display of begonias and here, above, Hugh McLachlin shows us that this brought Royal interest for begonias! Below, Mary Bucholtz photographed B. 'Midnight Magic'(Unknown Rex x B. 'Manuel', O'Reilly, CA 1987) in Florida in 2000.



# Memories of "My Texas Mom"

by Robert Hamm

When I met her twenty-eight years ago Mae Blanton was Round Robin Director for ABS. She worked diligently for ABS, and especially for the many Robin members who were isolated from other begonia lovers. Her love of begonias was only exceeded by her loving and generous nature towards others.

When the Air Force stationed me in North Texas, she immediately invited me to come spend a weekend visiting her and other begoniaholics in the north central Texas area. After all, I was only 150 miles away, close by Texas standards.

We instantly hit it off, and many of my free days were spent at Mae's, taking plants and visiting other begonia growers. Through her I met such wonderful people as Dr. Fred Barkley, Tamsin Boardman, Don Miller, and many others.

Mae always had ABS and begonias at heart, and in one talk she told me she had invited several geographically scattered growers to gather at her house to enjoy begonias and meet others who loved them. Shortly after Mae held her gathering - in her garage - she informed me that what we needed was a regional gathering and group, since the members were so widely separated, and that she had decided I should organize it!

We learned that this was not as simple as it seemed. There were no provisions in the ABS Constitution for a regional group, or for regional gatherings (conventions were to be held in California, in September). So our first gathering was held in Wichita Falls, Texas, as the Southwest Begonia Growers Association. Our first was such fun that our group wanted to "get together" again, and Mae's "child," now know as Southwest Region, ABS, a regional group under the ABS umbrella, has continued to meet annually since then, still the SWR Get-Together.

Now, Mae didn't want an independent group. She loved ABS, and wanted it to continue to grow, an ABS with more member participation, all across the country. Mae envisioned ABS conventions and Board meetings moving around the country, so that more mem-

bers could come; she envisioned strong regional groups supporting the national society. She was so thrilled to be able to attend the 1984 ABS Convention - in Dallas, Texas, just 30 miles down the road from her home.

Mae used to say, "If it is at all controversial, throw it out and let people argue about it for five years." In that spirit, I would like to submit the following ideas:

1) People must successfully grow and come to love begonias before they join ABS - so add more beginner information to the website, and list branch websites and branch contacts.

2) Branches: streamline branch meetings; let the board handle business and keep the meetings informative and fun.

3) Consider an additional membership class with delivery of the Begonian by e-mail. Setup costs would be offset by savings on printing and paper. Currently 50% of American households have a computer, and the number is growing. A computer magazine would especially appeal to younger people who do everything by computer and e-mail. (This suggestion is from someone who is not on-line and can barely use his computer, but can see where the future is heading!)

4) Budget money to keep the Editor up to date on equipment and software.

5) Conventions and Get-Togethers: remember that either can be held anywhere you can get one person to do the ground work; the rest of the chairmen and workers can be found among the people attending from around the country.

Mae always looked to the future and the good of ABS and begonia lovers in general. In this spirit, I think the best way to honor her is to continue to think of the future of ABS - even if that means shaking ourselves out of our comfortable ruts occasionally.

---

*Mae Blanton passed away on August 10, 2001. ABS also recently lost another member important to its history, Sylvia Leatherman. The 'In Memory' columns for both will be carried in the January/February 2001 issue.*



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Spring Catalog: Fibrous/Fuchsias  
*On Request*  
URL: <http://www.infopoint.com/sc/market/antnelli>



*Unfortunately, I do not yet have photos to go with the U numbers from Scott Hoover listed by the Seed Fund on page 222, but I do have another set from his earlier trips that you might be growing. Above is B. U 383 and below a closeup of the unusual flowers of B. U380. On the opposite page is a real beauty, B. U394.*



**Pronunciation of Begoniaceae  
Names for the Begonian, 68,  
November/December 2001  
by Jack Golding**

**Begonia**

<b>angulata</b>	ang-yew-LAY-tuh
<b>boissieri</b>	BOYS-seer-eye
<b>boliviensis</b>	boh-liv-i-EN-siz
<b>cinnabarina</b>	sin-na-bar-EYE-nuh
<b>crassicaulis</b>	kras-si-KAW-lis
<b>cubensis</b>	kyew-BEN-sis
syn.	
<i>lindeniana</i>	lin-den-i-AY-nuh
<b>dichotoma</b>	deye-KOT-o-muh
<b>dregei</b>	DREG-e-eye
<b>foliosa</b>	foh-li-OH-suh
<b>glabra</b>	GLAYB-ruh
<b>gracilis</b>	GRAY-sil-is
var.	
<b>martiana</b>	mart-i-AYE-nuh
<b>heracleifolia</b>	her-ak-le-eye-FOH- li-uh
<b>hernandioides</b>	her-nan-di-o-EYE- deez
<b>incarnata</b>	in-kar-NAY-tuh
<b>leathermaniae</b>	leth-er-MAN-i-ee
<b>longipetiolata</b>	long-i-pet-i-ol-AY- tuh
syn. <i>crassipes</i>	KRAS-si-pes
<b>macduffieana</b>	mak-duf-fi-EE-ay- nuh
<b>masoniana</b>	MAY-son-i-ay-nuh
<b>metallica</b>	met-TAL-li-kuh
<b>opuliflora</b>	o-pul-i-FLOH-ruh
<b>paleata</b>	pa-le-AY-tuh
<b>parviflora</b>	par-vi-FLOH-ruh
<b>pearcei</b>	PEARCE-eye
<b>petasitifolia</b>	pet-uh-si-ti-FOH-li- uh
<b>plebeja</b>	ple-BEE-juh

<b>solananthera</b>	soh-lan-ANTH-er-uh
<b>sutherlandii</b>	su-ther-LAND-i-eye
<b>veitchii</b>	VEECH-i-eye
syn. <i>rosiflora</i>	ros-i-FLOH-ruh

**Section Name**

<b>Eupetalum</b>	yew-pe-TAL-um
------------------	---------------

<b>Peltaugustia</b>	pelt-aw-GUST-i-uh
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**Begonias Gifts: Some Ideas**

First on our list would be a gift subscription of the *Begonian* to any friend or family member whom you are trying to entice into an interest in begonias.

Check out the *Kathy Goetz*' ad on page 232 for some books and supplies that would make great gifts for any begonia lover. (Hint: mark this page and place it where everyone can see it!)

Fill a large pottery bowl with a white candle and red ribbon at the center, surrounded by 3 or 4" pots of green foliage begonias burried in moss.

If you have a computer, grab some of those great begonia photos off the internet, print them and frame. Sets of four make a collection! Also, use them to create a date book or sets of notecards - no talent required! Also, check out E-Bay on the internet where you may find some lovely begonia art for sale. Get an extra copy of this issue and frame **Johanna Kitson's** print - or even better order some of her begonia portraits (see ad last issue).

**Mary Bucholtz** took a photo of a cement walk at the Denver Botanic Gardens where begonia leaves had been impressed - you could create some paving stones in the same way. Got more ideas? List them now and send to the editor for next year. ~FH

## NEWS: ABS, Branch, International

The **Alamo Branch** of San Antonio and the **Astro Branch** of Houston are taking sharing to a new level. The Astro's **Tom Keepin** and **Cheryl Lenert** will speak to the Alamo group in September and several more members will visit as well. Then, the Alamo Branch will return their visit later. They will be exchanging ideas, begonias, and all kinds of information.

The **Houston Satellites Branch** had a fun "dog" show for their August meeting which left everyone feeling better about their failed efforts with a begonia. To quote editor **George Macias**: "**Lawrence Pope's** artistically dried cane, plaintively looking to the sky - apparently praying for water - took first and [won] a large hanging basket of *B. 'Cowardly Lion'*; **Mary Pearson's** pitiful cane and its companion plant *weedii desconocida*, took second and a set of gardening tools." George's wrinkled *B. dregei* caudex took third ...and won a bag of ... horse manure.

**Ann Salisbury** had the opportunity to purchase an entire collection of the *Begonian*, complete for 35 years from 1966 to 2000. Now she would like to make those available for purchase by any interested member. Cost will be \$175 (\$5/year). Contact her if you are interested at 580-628-5230 or at her NEW email address:

[geneann@cablone.net](mailto:geneann@cablone.net)

The Board Meeting and annual ABS Board Meeting in conjunction with the **Orange County Branch** annual Fiesta was a success (see President's Notes) and new officers elected in July were installed by **Herb Wilkinson**. For the new roster, see the newly revised Officer's Page on

page 239.

The editor, after attending the Board meeting and participating in a wonderful tour of the Huntington Gardens, spoke to what must now be ABS' largest: **The Palos Verdes Branch** who celebrated their birthday with a beautiful cake. Then, she had the unexpected opportunity to stay over a few days (since her plane back was to have departed on September 11) and attend the Luau for the 42nd birthday celebration of the **Westchester Branch** where there was another festive cake. There were many visits to homes and nurseries as well to see more begonias of great size and beauty than she could have imagined. Canes were absolutely lush with bloom and others were just beautiful. At **Bob Golden** and **Iris Bird's** there was the *Begonia* 'Midnight Sun' which had just won the Westchester 'Best of Show' Award as well as the *B. metallica* that won the Palos Verdes 'Best of Show' Award. **Jeanne Jones** had a collection of Irene Nuss and **Brad Thompson** hybrids so full of bloom they were not to be believed. She also had many species and older hybrids. Jeanne had the best labeling on her plants that the editor has ever seen and it was obvious that she took great care to be accurate in those names.

**Arlene Ingles** reported that she came home from the Board Meeting to find 40 renewals from her recent mailout to non-renewing members!

**Newsletter Editors:** *Please be sure there is at least one contact phone number on your newsletters!*



## ***B. U402*: An Unidentified Begonia From Venezuela via Japan**

This interesting begonia entered in the Shrub Division, 2001 Miami Begonia Show and photographed by **Joyce Pridgen** is an interesting new shrub-like species that is great for the holiday season. **Thelma O'Reilly** designates it *B. U402*.

It evidently arrived here via a gift from a Japanese visitor to **John Howell** of San Antonio who, as is his wont, propagated and distributed it widely, identified simply as a 'Venezuela Species'. I bought one in Ft. Worth in the spring of 2000 and thinking it fragile grew it carefully in a contained environment, but only when I gave up on this and put it outside to fend for itself in Nacogdoches, TX did it come into its own, growing rapidly and as the weather cooled beginning to bloom profusely.

But to be on the safe side, I took a cutting to root and also put down the leaves I stripped off this cutting. To my surprise,

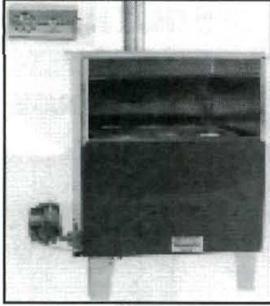
even the *half-leaf* took and produced 7 or 8 little plants! In fact, from that one small cutting and its leaves, I wound up with about 25 plants! Hybridizers, take note, if there is a gene for easy reproduction, this one has it!

It blooms all winter and makes a lovely drooping basket for the holidays. I am now growing it here in Stillwater, OK and find that it can also take the heat (to 108 degrees!) well if given deep shade and ample humidity. I was able to self it last year too and the identical seedlings give evidence that it is indeed a species. They grew fast and well. *B. U402* is probably related to *B. ulmifolia* as one cannot tell the seedlings of these two apart until they are fairly far along. Then, as its leaves take on their bronze color, *B. U402* becomes quite different in appearance. The flowers and flowering habits also differ. Try it; you'll like it. ~FH

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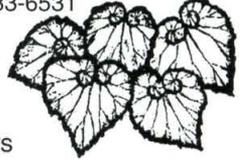
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# COMING EVENTS

**February 12, 2002:** Dr. Mark Tebbitt of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden will be the speaker at the Tuesday meeting of the **Knickerbocker Branch**. He is writing a book on the evolution of begonias and will discuss that as well as begonia DNA. Fo

**February 21-24, 2002: Winter Board Meeting**, West Palm Beach, Florida. See page 229 for details. Contact Virginia Jens at 561-329-5012 for details.

**April 20-21, 2002: Barkley Branch Show and Sale** at the Will Rogers Garden Center, Oklahoma City, OK. For more info, contact RL Holley at 405-385-0468 or email at fholley@provalue.net.

**May 29-June 2, 2002: ABS Convention** combined with the **SWR Get-Together**, Houston, at the Hotel Hilton on Airport Rd. (near Hobby and there is a shuttle). Sponsored by the Astro, Houston Satellite, San Jacinto Branches and the Southeast Region. More information coming.

**September 26-28, 2002: AABS Convention**, Perth, Australia. You're invited.

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**Past President**.....Charles Jaros, 200 Maureen Drive, Sanford, FL 32771; Ph: 407-328-0618

**1st Vice-President**.....Howard Berg, 16 Highview Terr., New Canaan, CT 06840.

**2nd Vice-President**...Janet Brown, 7825 Kentwood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045-1150; Ph: 310-670-4471

**Secretary**.....Richard Macnair, 59 Walker St., Cambridge, MA 02138; Ph: 617-876-1356

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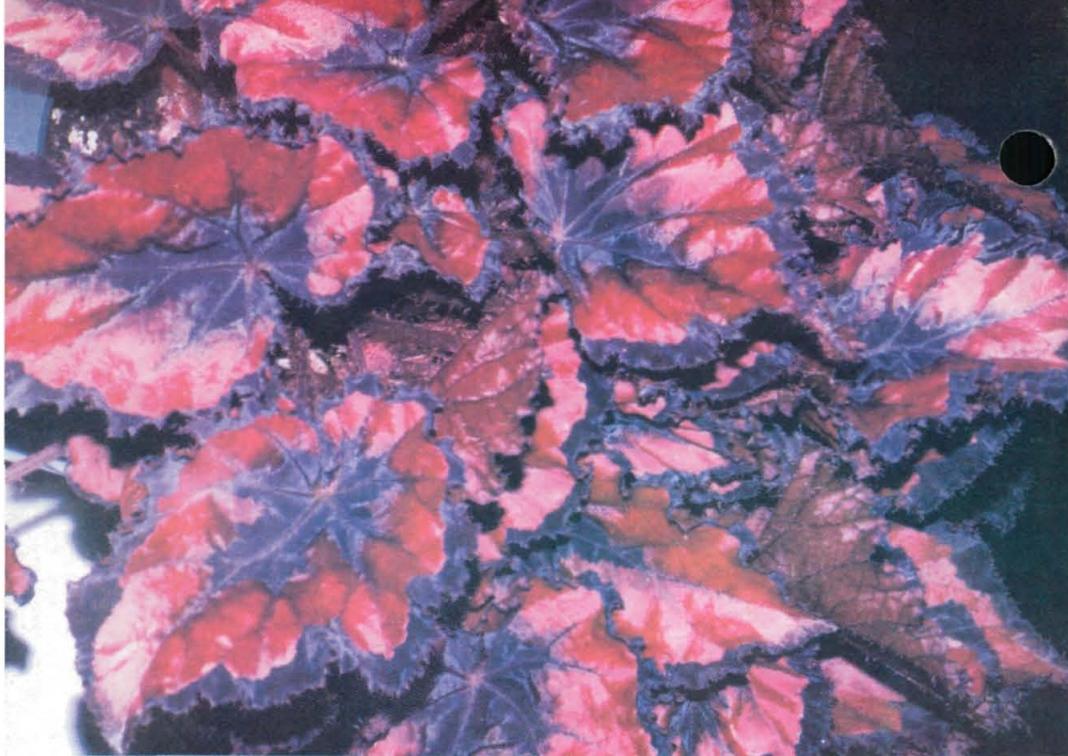
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