



The
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The **Begonian**

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American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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Cover

Front: **Mary Bucholtz** captured *B. metallica* growing at Lotusland during the convention in Los Angeles in 1999. Read about it on page 88.

Back: **Midori Nobusawa** of Japan grew and photographed this *B. U336* which was collected by Scott Hoover from Sumatra, Lampung Province on a shaded gorge where the population was scattered along a cliff face. Does anyone in the U.S. grow this beauty?

In This Issue

Begonias and People

Although begonias can and do grow perfectly well in their native habitats with no help from people at all, the begonias we grow in our homes and gardens are inseparably linked with people - those who find them, name them, grow them, study them, and write about them. This issue as it emerged turned out mainly to be about many such people all of whom have a special relationship to the plants we love - the growers extraordinary **Jeanne Jones**, **Lulu Leonard**, and **Janet Welsh**; the explorer **Ruth Kiew**; the researcher and hybridizer **Thelma O'Reilly**; the late **Professor Jan Doorenbos** who contributed so much; and all the others.

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Quick

Check your mailing label.
If it reads
200207 or 200208, your
membership is about to expire.
Please renew! We don't want to
lose you.

President's Message...

Having returned recently from the ABS Board Meeting in West Palm Beach, I am again reminded that ABS isn't about just begonias. It is also about friends and friendship. Time spent with other plant lovers are times to learn and times to share. I'm always amazed that my time spent with others who grow is never without "something to talk about."

Then in the quiet times at home with my plants there are so very many recollections and memories. There is the generosity of others, whether it be sharing plants or knowledge or both. So many plants have memories of people and events attached to them. Thus, as I tend the plants I am also attending to memories. And so I not only have a garden of plants, but also one of memories.

Although cactus and succulents are not of much interest to me, I do have a few, all with memories attached to them, that go back to my childhood. Likewise with several begonias, one in particular holds a special memory. It was the plant I received on the night I first attended a branch meeting. Never have I found out anything about it, but it is appropriately named "Wally Plant."

So how about filling your garden of memories? Attend the upcoming Convention and Get-Together in Houston, and I assure you that you will do just that. There will be nonstop opportunities to learn both formally (seminars) and informally (others attending). Of course, there will be no end of opportunity to obtain new plants (sale) and see the best-of-the-best (show) and also time to get to know people from around the country and the world who share your interest in begonias and probably some other types/groups of plants as well. If you are a first-time attendee, you

will probably feel like a kid on a trip to Disneyland, and it will be a time you will never forget.

Specifically, I do want to thank the Palm Beach Branch for putting together a memorable time for the February board meeting. It was great. Tours of Palm Beach Branch members' gardens were spectacular: Rhizomatous five feet wide, three feet tall, and all were covered with flowers. (Made me think about just giving up on growing!) The tropical flower show was real "eye candy". Best of all though was the wonderful hospitality of the branch members. If I tried to thank each one by name, the list would be in the dozens. No wonder this branch is growing in new membership. Again, my thanks for hosting the board meeting and all of the work you put into it.

Spring has arrived at long last. So now is the time to not only tend your plants, but also enjoy them as they are either coming into or are at their best. For me, it is the best time of the year. There is so much promise. Seedlings are sprouting, cuttings root readily, blooms are more common, but only if we take the time to care for our friends the plants which are tied so often to our human friends.

On a final note, Ann Salisbury has volunteered to temporarily take on the duties of Public Relations Chair. Thank you, Ann. However, we still need someone to fill this position permanently.

In friendship,
Morris Mueller

Letters to the Editor...

Naming A Begonia

I wanted to share my exciting little story. A few years ago I visited **Mike**

Kartuz' home and bought a bunch of begonias. One that he sold me just had a number on it. I emailed him about 8 weeks ago to ask if he ever named it. He checked his records and said he is going to release it in the spring of this year. He asked if I would like to name it, so I did. It will be B. 'Oleta', which is my 86 year old mother's first name. I showed her my plant and told her about the name and she teared up and thought it was such an honor. It just really made me happy to think I will have a plant named after my mother. This was so nice of Mr. Kartuz. He is now propagating this hybrid and it will be available soon.

Paul Rothstein

Arkansas

paroan2001@yahoo.com

Paul, you've discovered two great rewards of growing begonias other than the plants themselves. One is the friendship in our society that Morris talks about on the facing page. And it is no wonder that we all think of Mike Kartuz not only as one of our great commercial members, but also as a friend. Another is in growing begonias as a hybridizer, one of the real pleasures is being able to name begonias for those we care about whether family or friends. That's what the recurring feature on begonia namesakes is all about.

A Notice from ABS' Membership Chair

Please note that the price of membership in this Society is:

\$37.00 for one foreign membership. Each additional FAMILY membership is \$2.00
\$23.00 for one membership with first class delivery of the *Begonian* in the USA, \$2.00 more for each FAMILY membership.

\$17.00 for one membership with 3rd class delivery of the *Begonian* in USA. \$2.00

more for each FAMILY membership. \$23.00 for memberships from Canada and Mexico. \$2.00 more for each FAMILY membership.

Family memberships will get one *Begonian*.

If you do not send me a change of address when you move, you will not get your magazine. Those who go away for extended time and do not get your magazine, it is because the post office does not hold 3rd class mail, so you need to talk to your post office about holding it for you. I get the back page when they do this. To remail the magazine costs ABS \$1.26 or more. If you do not get your magazine within two weeks of sending it to you, notify me. Do not wait for months as I run out of extra copies very fast, then you will have to go to back issues which charges you for the extra copy. I hope this is all clear to every one. Thank you.

Arlene Ingles,
Membership Chair

In Memory

Ray Fuentes

It is with deep regret that I report the death on March 17, 2002 in Plano, Texas of Ray Fuentes, member of the Dallas Area Branch and of the Sacramento Branch. Ray is well known to both members of ABS and the Southwest Region as the person in charge of the hospitality suites at annual meetings. His wife, Leora was the grower of the beautiful begonias, but Ray was the constant supporter of both his wife's efforts and the efforts of those begonia organizations of which they were members.

What's

In A

Name?

by Brad Thompson

Have you ever noticed that sometimes begonias seem to have an opinion to express about the names we give them?

For instance *B.* 'Sarcophagus' quickly left this earth after receiving its name, as did 'Mummy's Curse' and 'Valley of Kings'. And I don't know when 'Greener Pastures' went looking for greener pastures, but it must have been soon after getting the idea. Also, *B.* 'Hari Kari' has been trying to kill itself for years.

I think some have killed themselves from embarrassment or at least have showed their resentment. *B.* 'Little Tutu' must have been a boy. *B.* 'Red Undies' has forever been difficult and I cannot imagine why. *B.* 'Crazy Mary' went insane. *B.* 'Miss Kitty' refuses to bloom ever since *B.* 'Marshall Dillon' bit the dust. *B.* 'Slap Stick' isn't laughing anymore. *B.* 'Damsel' is still in distress. I've also noticed that *B.* 'Torrance' has sulked ever since I moved to Lomita. *B.* 'Pieces of Eight' is a few pieces short. *B.* 'Good Intentions' has an agenda of its own. *B.* 'Miss Motormouth' isn't speaking much anymore. You can see my problem

Now some begonias just seem to have a streak of orneriness to them, especially some of those silver ones. *B.* 'Guilded Promise' is neither guilded nor

promising anymore. *B.* 'Something Silver' is really something. *B.* 'Silver Certificate' has almost had its name changed to *B.* 'Changing Rate of Exchange.'

And *B.* 'Gray Ghost' only materializes when it wants to. Some of the others are just as bad. *B.* 'Cowardly' hasn't had a yellow stripe down its back since I named it. *B.* 'Monsieur Moth' is still threatening to fly away. *B.* 'Maria's Revenge' is determined to get even with me and almost all of the ones with Lady in the name are anything but ladies. Also, with *B.* 'Jokester', the joke is on me.

Now sometimes begonias have surprised me and really lived up to their names. *B.* 'Patriot Games' is very patriotic. *B.* 'Sir Sterling' got even more silver. *B.* 'Proud Mary' really had something to be proud about. *B.* 'Shatoyant' got even more chatoyant even if I did misspell its name. *B.* 'Mary's Surprise' is always surprising me. *B.* 'Afternoon Delight' has always been a delight and *B.* 'Wonderful' really is. Did I ever tell about the show I was at where this woman pointed to *B.* 'Wonderful' and said, "What is the name of that begonia?" "It's 'Wonderful'!" ...well you can guess the rest.

Now I'm not the only one who's begonia names have influenced their futures.

Barbara Stewart's *B.* 'Finky Flake' has been a real fink for me to grow and *B.* 'Crazy Horse' really is. **Goldie Frost's** *B.* 'Careless Love' has been neither careless nor loving for me. **Irene Nuss's** *B.* 'Jumbo Jet' really is jumbo, but *B.* 'Symphony' and *B.* 'Staccato' haven't always been music to my ears. **Tom Mentolos's** *B.* 'Fabulous Tom' is only fabulous part of the year and **Marge Lee's** *B.* 'Phantom' has always eluded me. **Walter Dworkin's** *B.* 'Dream Lover' is dream, but sometimes the lights go out on *B.* 'Party Lights'. **Dorothy Caviness's** *B.* 'Fright Night' really is a fright and *B.* 'Frisly Dilly' really is a dilly, but *B.* 'Sooner Gal' usually is later. Now **Don Asmussen** really had some duzzies. *B.* 'Angel Wings' is no angel. *B.* 'Evee-Bee' usually doesn't be for me. *B.* 'Parti Time' is all the time. *B.* 'Spooks' really is scary and *B.* 'Chameleon' really does

change. *B.* 'Prissy Miss' really is prissy and *B.* 'Winged Victory' flew the coop.

I hope I've illustrated just how important naming can be to the future of your begonias so bear that in mind next time you get ready to name one. *B.* 'Monster' could turn out to be one and *B.* 'Getting Even' just might.

Now, who better to advise us on naming our plants than the one we all know comes up with the wildest names of all and who will ever be known for his snakes and Egyptians and such! Brad's B. 'Little Miss Mummy' received the Alfred D. Robinson Medal in 2001. Brad is in the process of moving, but I believe he can still be reached at bthompson@aol.com.

Birds and Begonias

by Janet Brown

A few days ago I was pruning begonias, cleaning up and throwing out hopeless old plants. I came across a *B. convolvulacea* that was pretty sad looking -- one calcified stem in a 6" basket with a green trailer three feet long. Yes I know, I should have taken cuttings, Brad, but it was just too sad looking and I tossed it into the trash bucket.

Several days later I was out working in the yard. I looked up at a very tall liquid amber tree just showing the spring buds. I saw a bird's nest high up, a very large one, possibly a crow's, and on the outside of the nest a bright green leafy object, obviously not a liquid amber leaf. Could that be the *convolvulacea* that I had tossed out? Looking with binoculars confirmed that indeed it was.

A week later it is still bright green and looking very healthy and I wonder what will happen to it: will it take root and grow and grow and grow? When the leaves of the tree come out which will be very soon they will hide everything, but perhaps in the fall when the leaves are gone, *B. convolvulacea* will be thriving and growing longer and longer.

You never know where your begonia cuttings are going to end up.

The wonder of begonias and birds never end! And Janet, what is a liquid amber tree? Sounds fascinating; how about a photo of the tree as well of the begonia growing on high? This was taken from the Westchester Branch Newsletter which is also edited by Janet Brown in Los Angeles, CA..

**Send Your Quick Tips
to
Dianna Wilkerson,
Address on Page 118.**

Begonia Metallica

by Morris Mueller

B. metallica W.G. Smith is a Brazilian species first described in *Floral Magazine* in London in 1876. The earliest hybrid of record of this species was *B. 'Margaritae'* was done in France prior to 1882; this cross was a hybrid with *B. echinosepala*.

This shrub-like species has sturdy, but thin, erect stems. The leaves have been described variously as "iridescent and embossed silk" (Alice Clark) and "having the shininess of polished metal". Mature leaves are dark green with red veins underneath. New leaves are bright red both top and bottom. White hairs are sparse on top of the leaves and heavier underneath.

Flowers, which appear in summer and fall are pink with darker pink, almost red hairs; male flowers dominate. It is a moderate bloomer, but has large clusters of flowers.

B. metallica sends up many stems from below the soil mostly in spring and early summer. More new growth seems to spring up if the older stems are pinched or pruned. Older stems will also produce more side growth when this grooming is done. Given winter sun and overhead protection, the plant sits and waits patiently for spring. Mine has taken temperatures in the upper twenties with minimal damage, so long as the soil is on the dry side. Cuttings are easily rooted.

Culturally, this is a very easy plant to grow. It needs no special conditions. Despite its dark leaves it can, however, sunburn if it gets sun at noon or later.

Checking the Thompson's *Begonias* (New York: Times Books, 1981), I find there are ten hybrids listed. The ones most often seen are *B. 'Alleryi'*, *'Braemar'*,

'Credneri', and *'Thurstonii'*. All are easy to grow and enjoy the same treatment as their parent, *B. metallica*. All of these are old hybrids, because a search of the first half of the John Ingles Memorial Checklist turned up not a single hybrid of *B. metallica* in recent years.

As an aside, *B. 'Ginny'* claims *B. metallica* as a grandmother, being a cross of *B. echinosepala* x *B. 'Margaritae'*. *B. 'Ginny'* is one of our most cold tolerant and floriferous plants here in Northern California.

Morris, B. metallica is a species I have always loved and longed to grow, but I have tried in vain for years to succeed with it. When I saw Mary's cover photo, I could not believe the plant's size and health. I must have killed a dozen of them, and I have one right now that is almost a year old. Although it hasn't died yet, neither has it shown much growth. Some we just have to enjoy in other's gardens! Morris grows his plant at 163 Hartnell Place, Sacramento, CA 95825.

In The News

Sylvia Lin whose begonias such as *B. bogneri* catch all eyes at the Philadelphia Flower Show was recognized this year when she received the Garden Club of America Zone V Horticulture Award. The award is given once a year to a maximum of 12 people in the U.S. A fellow exhibitor says of her, "She searches out the most plants and then finds out just what they need to thrive."

Congratulations to Sylvia!

A Visit with Jeanne Jones

in

Palos Verdes, California

To visit Jeanne Jones, you drive through Palos Verdes, one of the most picturesque areas of Los Angeles. As are many of the homes here, Jeanne's house at 1415 Via Margarita is perched on a hillside such that the driveway curves down and around into her garage. From the moment you turn into that drive, you are confronted with a feast of lovely begonias. They frame the garage, the front windows, and



Above, Jeanne and Wally Jones in a photo by Janet Brown and below in Jeanne's photo is her home's entrance fronted by B. 'Dragon Wings' and others.

most of all the front entrance. There to the right was an outsize B. 'Dragon Wings'. To the left was the largest, lushest B. 'Looking Glass' that I have ever seen. Also near the entrance was, of course, B. 'Jeanne Jones' herself, the cane named for her by Brad Thomspson.



These are not your every day begonias, but big, beautiful specimen plants. She is particularly fond of the hybrids of **Irene Nuss** and **Brad Thompson** and these were all in glorious bloom the early September day when I first saw them. However, liberally mixed in among these are species, some of them tuberous. Here was the largest *B. sanguinea* I have ever seen and it was loaded with bloom. A seed lover, such as I, had indeed arrived in begonia heaven.

All this area is flooded in morning light that induces bloom. Although the light seemed ideal on the days I was there, Jeanne's husband Wally had installed an automatic awning that extends and protects the begonias along the front when the sun gets too hot.

On the right of the front yard stood a great evergreen pear tree which served as a natural hanging basket structure and the limbs were full both with begonias and all the other types of plants Jeanne grows.. She doesn't limit her interests!

Jeanne's house is as spectacular as her front yard because the entire main floor opens onto a balcony which oversees the backyard - remember this is a house on a hillside. The floor below opens on a patio which in turn opens on one side into a dream of a shade house. The remainder of the yard is taken up with huge citrus trees - Jeanne never lacks for fresh juice - and all the other ornamentals she has collected.

But the begonias here were still the stars. At first glance, I thought, "What a climate! Things just grow themselves here." But later, I saw Jeanne sitting on the drive in front, grooming plants carefully one by one. As usual where there is lovely plant, there is a dedicated grower at work. Indeed, Jeanne has two work areas, a potting bench and work area in the front in her garage and on the patio by the shade house. She uses a special potting soil mixed to her specifications.

A number of plants in her shade house were new to me and one of the most striking to me was a big, gorgeous *B. 'Magic Carpet.'* This looks like *B. hispida* var. *cucullifera* with its leaf appendages, but these and the leaf they occupy was an olive, coppery color and of a velvety texture. It is a **Ruth Pease** hybrid and I'm hoping soon she will share its history. Jeanne kindly gave me a cutting and to my surprise it rooted quickly and well - I usually don't have a lot of luck propagating the velvety shrubs.

Of a similar texture was a huge *B. 'John Tapia'*. This is a **Rudy Ziesenhenn**e hybrid and on a later visit to Rudy's greenhouse, Jeanne introduced me to **John Tapia** himself. The large bloom clusters on this plant are a major attraction. Each bloom is a heart-shaped pink silver dollar before it unfolds with striking pink to red hairs.

There was a *B. U029* which had almost mature seed. I've tried for years to get seed on this one and never succeeded. Did you save those seed, Jeanne? I grew mine from seed given me by **Joy Porter** years ago and it is rarely seen today, a comment that can be made about a number of the plants Jeanne grows.

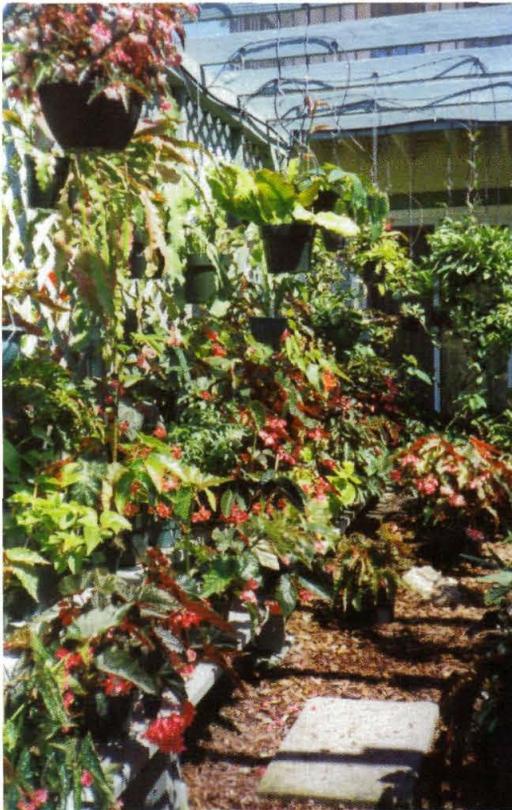
Another group of plants that I was struck with were what I call "the gray flock." These are the cane-like begonias with a slate green color with veins outlined in varying degrees of a grey-white. Chief among these is *B. angularis*. Jeanne had this one, *B. angulata*, and *B. pulchella*, sometimes called by its synonym *B. similis*. All of these grew well for me in the Ozarks, but I could never get any except the last one to bloom and set seed. Here, they all bloomed in profusion. The plants were tall and full as well. Here in Oklahoma it is too hot in the summer for this entire group of cane-like begonias.

Another group of begonias that I cannot grow in Oklahoma and that I have

rarely seen at all were tuberous species. Of course, here Jeanne grew these as well. You may remember, **Thelma O'Reilly's** story and photos about the long lost *B. opuliflora* that appeared a few years ago in the *Begonian*. I saw a small plant of this at Rudy Ziesenhenné's in 1999, but here at Jeanne's was again a specimen plant that matched up to Thelma's enthusiasm for it. It was both large and well-shaped. She also had an outstanding example of *B. boliviensis* the size of whose tuber will simply not be believed.

Visiting Jeanne is indeed like taking a trip to begonia paradise!

~FH



Above is Jeanne's splendid *B. 'Looking Glass'* (Worley) and below is one side of her back shade house and her *B. 'Jeanne Jones'* (Thompson).



Leaf Cuttings from Tuberous Begonias

by *Mike Stevens*

When I first began growing begonias some years ago I was told that there were only two ways of increasing one's stock, that is by taking either basal or stem cuttings. It was claimed that a dormant bud was necessary, which had to be removed with the cutting to ensure that the resulting tuber had a growing 'eye' for new plant growth the following season. So, although Rex and other Rhizomatous begonias have always been propagated from leaves it was believed this was not possible with the tuberous varieties.

However, some growers then proved that it is possible and that the resulting tubers are as good as any others. Since that time I have been experimenting to see what results, if any, one would get.

The thought of this type of cutting working was exciting, for should it prove successful it would help increase the availability of 'Named' tubers. It was of special interest for the pendula varieties, on which taking more than just a very few basal or stem cuttings resulted in a plant spoilt for the season, whereas the removal of a dozen or so leaves over a few weeks would not affect the performance or appearance of the plant at all. In addition it would also help greatly with those upright plants that give little if any cutting material in the normal event.

I would like to tell you about the ups and downs and how I went about rooting leaf cuttings and how I tackled the problems encountered.

Early Trials

In the first instance leaves were taken from a number of plants and were placed in propagators. In the main the leaves taken were on the large size, 10-15 cm long and with stems of a similar length. The stems were inserted into the pumice of the propagator to a depth of about 2.5 cm, as one would do with a basal or stem cutting. Difficulty was experienced in getting the stalk to support the weight of the leaf, especially when wet from the misting unit. I took to leaning the leaves against the edge of the propagator with a thin stick keeping them steady. I probably took about two dozen of these cuttings but I only managed to root two to the potting up stage. Mostly the stems rotted at pumice level and with others the leaf itself rotted where it was

in contact with the sides of the propagator.

Of the two that I potted up, both were grown right through winter. Neither showed any sign of a shoot until the spring when one had a new shoot burst up through the potting mix. This is now a healthy plant of 'Mrs Elizabeth McLauchlan'. The other, 'Moon Glow', did nothing, so my inquisitiveness got the better of me and I knocked it out early in January. I found a tuber about 1.5 cm in diameter, but no sign of a shoot. I put this tuber into a box of damp pumice along with others that are reluctant to start and left it to its own devices.

**Tubers resulting
(from leaf cuttings)
are as good as any
others.**

I decided to try again using smaller leaves usually with shorter stems, although some pendula leaves can have quite long stalks. It appears these can be shortened without any adverse effect on the rooting capability. Some leaves produced roots very quickly, others formed a large callus or swelling with few roots and some others seemed to have tiny shoots or plantlets, up to five, forming on the swelling.

Smaller Proves Better

Having learnt from the experiences of others I adopted a new approach. Small leaves were taken, many being the lower leaf on a normal basal cutting. In addition I no longer buried the leaf stalk in the pumice. The cut surface was simply allowed to rest on a very shallow depression in the pumice and a skewer inserted through the actual leaf, close to the stalk to give support. It is important that you do not handle the leaf stem at any time, as it seems that the slightest pressure bruises the stem leading to early rot setting it. Always handle the cutting by the leaf area.

My success was encouraging although I had a loss rate of about 30%. These losses have been due in the main to the leaf itself rotting around where the skewer is inserted for support, the rot gradually spreading until the leaf collapses. There has been a variation in the loss rate between my two propagators. Because of the adjustment, one gave mist a lot more frequently than the other, and the effect of too much water was a higher rot rate. Such rot as this can be reduced by making the hole in the leaf some two or three days prior to removing the cutting

from the plant; this then allows the wound to callus over.

Other Experiments

I also did a trial, using 20 leaves in each batch. The first batch were given no treatment and placed in the propagator in the manner described above. The second group of 20 leaves were sterilised by immersing them totally in a 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) and the excess liquid simply shaken off. The leaves were supported in the propagator by skewers that had also been soaked for five minutes in the Bleach solution. The percentage of rot still remained about 25% in both trial lots.

Another experiment was conducted using water. I took five small leaves with stems about 2.5 cm long (although the length is, in fact,

My success was encouraging although I had a loss rate of about 30%.

immaterial). I placed these into five separate clear plastic film canisters. I poured clean water direct from the tap into each one until the level was covering the bottom .5 cm of each stem.

The leaf stays in position supported by the rim of the container. I placed two of these containers in the misting propagator and left 3 sitting on the bench.

In a further experiment I used Sphagnum Moss. This same principle had worked when I used it with basal shoots so I decided to try it with leaf cuttings. I filled a 25 cm pot with fresh clean Sphagnum moss after soaking it well with clean water. I cut eight leaves from one basket and set them in the moss. The technique was varied with some cuttings being dipped in the bleach solution and others left as they were. Those leaves with longer

stalks were inserted deep into the moss so that the leaf itself rested on the rim of the pot; those with short stalks had just the tip inserted. This particular sample was placed under the bench and was given fresh water every day or two along with hand misting. A second pot containing moss was prepared as above; this pot was, however, placed in one of the mist propagators.

Yet another experiment was prepared. This technique involved using 2.5 cm of fresh potting mix, which was placed in a 7.5 cm pot and was well watered. Two leaves of similar size were taken from the same plant, one was dipped in the bleach and the other not. The leaf stems were pressed gently down against the mix with the leaf supported by the side of the pot. The pot was then placed under the bench. A second pot was also prepared as above with four leaves, two of which had been dipped and the others not. This pot was placed in the mist propagator.

In a final experiment I took 30 leaf cuttings of mainly medium to small size. These were all dipped in the bleach solution and supported with wooden skewers. The only difference with this batch was the shape of the stalk end. I trimmed it into the shape of a wedge and these were inserted into the pumice to the depth of this cut, about .5 cm. I was interested to see if these cuttings produced any more roots than those with a cut straight across.

Results of trials

The results of the experiments listed above are as follows:

Water:

The leaf cuttings rooted in water in the film containers all grew roots at about the same rate and there appeared to be no

difference between the ones placed in the mister or those put on the bench. Small roots appeared after three weeks and the cuttings were potted up after four weeks. I find it best not to allow roots grown in water to become too long before potting up, as they appear to be softer and more prone to damage than roots grown by other methods.

Sphagnum moss:

There were two trials. In one the pot of cuttings in the moss was placed in the mister. I found this was not a success as most of the leaves rotted before rooting.

The second batch was left standing on the bench and six of the eight cuttings rooted. However, I noticed that the leaves themselves were starting to go dry so I initiated a daily misting by hand to keep them in a moist condition.

A further way to assist in keeping them moist would be to place the whole pot in a plastic bag. Care must be exercised when removing the leaves from the moss. Do not just pull the leaf upwards or the result will be the breaking off of the actual roots. I found it best to leave all the leaves in the moss for a four-week period and then to tip out the whole lot, moss as well and then gently remove the cuttings. A way to ensure the moss comes away cleanly from the roots is to mince the moss into small pieces before inserting the cuttings.

Potting mix:

I did not find this method particularly successful. I found the leaf stems tended to buckle and unless the top of the pot supported the whole weight of the leaf, then the leaf just collapsed. I also found that those leaves not placed in the mister tended to shrivel and although roots did grow on those in the potting mix, I found

that they were not as prolific as leaves inserted into pumice/coarse sand.

Wedge shaped stalk ends:

I found there to be no significant difference between those with wedge shaped stalk ends or those just cut normally.

Summary

The type of leaf cutting that works with tuberous begonias is a whole leaf with a stalk, or a leaf-petiole cutting. These can be taken at any time. Those which were most successful were young yet fully-developed leaves. Whichever method used to root the leaves it is essential that they do not suffer from moisture loss.

Overall I tend to favour the misting method in pumice, probably because I have a mister. The water method works very well but the roots produced appear to be extremely tender and great care must be taken to ensure no damage occurs when potting up. Similar provisos apply to those rooted in sphagnum moss except with this method the greatest care is needed when removing the cutting from the moss.

With the open method of a mister it is easy to monitor the root growth without

having to disturb the cutting. It is also easy to see the tiny buds and shoots appearing and to watch the growth of these shoots.

One thing that has been noticeable is that leaf cuttings potted up before a shoot appears at the base, often, but not always, tend to die off leaving you with nothing. This also occurs less with the slightly bigger leaves, which obviously have more to sustain them. The smaller leaves when potted can be given a better chance if they are returned to the mister or hand-misted daily. Another good method is to use a clear 2-litre soft drink bottle with the base removed. Place this directly over your cutting thus producing a mini propagator.

Have a play around yourself and if you find a method that works best, stick to it.

This article first appeared in *Begonia News*, Newsletter of the Canterbury Begonia Circle in New Zealand, Vol. 7, No. 6 of which Mike is also the editor. You may email him at m.i.stevens@xtra.co.nz or write him at 47 Burnside Crescent,

Light and Water for Rex Cultivar Begonias

**by Peter Sharp,
Australia**

As Rexes excel as indoor plants and are rarely grown out of doors with real success, the question of how much light is needed for them refers, of course, to indoor conditions. A high indoor light level would equate to a low level of outdoor (sun) light! Or is that too Irish? I believe

the optimum level is 300 lux (a measure of light intensity) which is about the equivalent of 12 inches from a two bar fluorescent fitting.

On the question of over watering of Rexes, it is interesting to note that begonia leaves, especially of the Rexes, will go several shades paler when watering is required and well before the wilt point. Once you get to know your begonias as family members, you will instantly recognise this cry for help from them!

**Pronunciation of Begoniaceae
Names for the Begonian 69:
May-June, 2002
By Jack Golding**

Begonia

angularis	ang-yew-LAY-ris
angulata	ang-yew-LAY-tuh
bakeri	BAYK-er-eye
barkeri	BARK-er-eye
boisiana	boys-i-AY-nuh
boissieri	BOYS-seer-eye
boliviensis	boh-liv-i-EN-siz
cardiocarpa	kar-di-oh-KAHR-puh
syn. <i>bakeri</i>	BAY-ker-eye
carolineifolia	kar-oh-lin-e-eye-FOH-li-uh
carriecae	kar-REE-ee
cinnabarina	sin-na-bar-EYE-nuh
coccinea	kok-SIN-e-uh
convolvulacea	kon-vol-vyew-LAY-se-uh
coriacea	kor-i-AY-se-uh
cucullata	kyew-kul-LAY-tuh
var. <i>arenosicola</i>	uh-ren-oh-si-KOH-luh
deliciosa	de-lis-I-OH-suh
diadema	deye-a-DEE-muh
dipetala	deye-PET-a-luh
egregia	e-GREE-ji-uh
fagifolia	fag-i-FOH-li-uh
foliosa	foh-li-OH-suh
glabra	GLAYB-ruh
glandulosa	gland-yew-LOH-suh
imperialis	im-peer-i-AY-lis
var. <i>smaragdina</i>	sma-RAG-din-uh
incarnata	in-kar-NAY-tuh
juliana	yyewl-i-AY-nuh
johnstonii	john-STON-i-eye
kellermanii	kel-ler-MAN-i-eye
kenworthyae	ken-WORTH-i-ee
lanceolata	lan-see-oh-LAY-tuh
leathermaniae	leth-er-MAN-i-ee
leprosa	lep-ROH-suh
listada	lis-TAH-duh
lyman-smithii	lyman-SMITH-i-eye
metallica	met-TAL-li-kuh
microsperma	meye-KROH-sper-muh
mollicaulis	mol-li-KAW-lis
nelumbiifolia	nel-um-bi-eye-FOH-li-uh

‘Rubra’	RYEW-bruh
olsoniae	ohl-SOHN-i-ee
opuliflora	o-pul-i-FLOH-ruh
paulensis	paul-EN-sis
pedata	pe-DAY-tuh
peltata	pel-TAY-tuh
pulchella	pul-KEL-luh
syn. <i>similis</i>	SIM-il-is
rajah	RAH-juh
reniformis	ren-I-FORM-is
syn. <i>vitifolia</i>	veye-ti-FOH-li-uh
rex	REX
sanguinea	san-gwin-EE-uh
sericoneura	ser-i-kon-OO-ruh,
syn. <i>hypolipara</i>	heye-pol-i-PAY-ruh
syn. <i>pilifera</i>	peye-LIF-er-uh
siccaudata	siss-a-kaw-DAY-tuh
tomentosa	toh-men-TOH-suh
ulmifolia	ulm-I-FOH-li-uh
venosa	ven-OH-suh

Section Names

<i>Baccabegonia</i>	bak-a-be-GOH-ni-uh
<i>Diploclinium</i>	dip-lo-KLEEN-i-uh
<i>Eupetalum</i>	yew-pe-TAL-um-
<i>Gireoudia</i>	JEER-ow-di-uh,
<i>Knesebeckia</i>	KNES-e-beck-i-uh
<i>Mezierea</i>	me-ZEER-e-uh
<i>Peltaugustia</i>	pelt-aw-GUST-i-uh
<i>Petermannia</i>	pet-er-MAN-ni-uh
<i>Platycentrum</i>	plat-i-SENT-rum
<i>Pritzelia</i>	PRIT-zel-i-uh
<i>Quadriperigonia</i>	kwad-ri-per-i-GOHN-i-uh
<i>Reichenheimia</i>	reyek-en-HEYEM-i-uh
<i>Sphenanthera</i>	sfen-an-THER-uh
<i>Squamibegonia</i>	squam-i-be-GOH-ni-uh
<i>Tetraphila</i>	tet-ra-FEYE-luh
<i>Trachelocarpus</i>	trak-ee-lo-KARP-us
<i>Wageneria</i>	WAH-jen-er-i-uh
<i>Weilbachia</i>	WEYEL-bak-i-uh

**Write an article
or send a photograph
to share your
love of begonias!**



Remembering Jan Doorenbos

by Jack Golding

Professor Doctor Jan Doorenbos died suddenly in his sleep on November 18, 2001. The world of Begonia enthusiasts has lost our good teacher, colleague, and friend who enthusiastically shared his extensive expertise of growing and identifying Begonia.

Jan Doorenbos studied at the Wageningen University in the Netherlands. He gained his M. S. Degree in 1946, and his Ph.D. in 1950. After some post graduate studies at the University of California in 1951, he became a member of the staff in the Wageningen Department of Horticulture. He was appointed Assistant Professor in 1956 and got a chair as Full Professor in 1963. At the Greenhouses of the Wageningen University he supervised the growing and identification of several hundreds of Begonia used for their research.

His main scientific activities were in the field of dormancy and flowering plants. Jan was a remarkably educated person, well-read, a communicant member of the

Remonstrant Church, he played the piano well, was always in for a good story, and especially he was in the possession of a refined sense of humor. He was a sharp observer and from his numerous holidays in his beloved Scotland, he always returned with tales about plants, animals, more in particular birds, and the people he had met.

Many of us first became acquainted with Jan through his writings in *The Begonian*. He wrote 36 articles from 1969 to 1982. Those on growing from seeds were reprinted in 1986 and 1992. He was the author or coauthor of seven published works on Begonia. With his letters to the *Begonian* Editor, in 2000 and 2001, he continued helping us clarify of the identity of several Begonia. His citation and illustration of a new species *B. siccacaudata* were published in *Blumea*, 45:399-402, 2000.

His frequent correspondence with the American Begonia Society Nomenclature Committee during the 1970s and 1980s

furnished much valuable information, enabling us to resolve many questions on the identity of Begonia. He shared with us his most helpful unpublished 1971, "Check List of Begonia Species" that he had compiled for his own use.

He was a continuous source of seed, cuttings and photos, which he sent many growers throughout the world. To the American Begonia Society's Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund he contributed the seed of more than 200 species, many were very rare and new to cultivation.

Dr. Doorenbos was given the ABS Eva Kenworthy Gray award in 1975, for his contribution of literary material that aided members in their study of Begonia.

When I visited the Greenhouses at the Wageningen University in 1974, there were more than 250 clearly identified Begonia species growing. I took many pictures of their plants and the attached picture of Jan.

After he retired in 1986, his Begonia collection was dispersed and faded away. But he could not keep away from his love of Begonia research and in 1987 became an Honorary Staff member in the University Department of Plant Taxonomy. In 1992 he worked on identifying the cultivated Begonia of Hawaii for a new Garden Flora. While working on this project, he found that many specimens in their herbarium were not or incorrectly named. For the next six months he did a thorough checkup of this collections. He wrote to me that "After this I felt quite familiar with Begonia again!"

Marc Sosef initiated the idea of writing a book on the Begonia Sections. He and **Hans de Wilde** were very familiar with the African species and they asked Jan Doorenbos to work with American and Asian species. The result of this collaboration was their excellent book *The Sections of Begonia*, Wageningen Agric. Univ.

Papers, 98(2):1-266, 1998.

During these many years, he furnishing corrections for *Begoniaceae*, Edition 1, and much information and a critique for Edition 2. In his last letter to me received a week before he died, he discussed the new Begonia that were being discovered and named. He concluded with "Lots of work to be done!"

We can best honor and remember Jan Doorenbos by following his example of generously sharing the knowledge of Begonia and to continue his work to identifying and naming all Begonia correctly.

Hans de Wilde, **Carrie Karegeannes** and **Millie Thompson** contributed to this tribute.

Jan Doorenbos Writings

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- Sep. 1970 Chromosome Numbers in Begonia, 203-4, 207. [with R.A. Legro]
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- Oct. 1972 What is Begonia 'Fireflush'?, 230-1.
- Jul. 1973 Additional Information about B. 'Parva', 155.
- Aug. 1973 *Begonia acaulis*. cover), 171.
- Dec. 1973 Breeding Elatior Begonias (B. x Hiemalis Fotsch), 275-7, 290-1.
- May 1974 What is Begonia 'Tingley Mallet', 72-3.

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- Jul. 1974 Begonia "Tripetala" is Begonia x sunorchis, 168-9, 193.
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- Feb. 1975 Another *Symbegonia*, 43.
- Jul. 1975 How to Produce Begonia Seed, 159-163, 165.
- Sep. 1975 How *Begonia wallichiana* Got Its Name by Mistake, 213-5.
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- Aug. 1978 The Omati Begonia Cultivated, 199-201.
- Oct. 1979 *B. vitifolia* and Other Elusive Treelike Begonias.. 234-240.
- Jan. 1980 The Yellow-Flowering Species From Africa, 12-6.
- Feb. 1980 More of the fascinating yellow flowerers, 34-7.
- Apr. 1980 *B. rhopalocarpa*, A Begonia with Colorful Fruit. 102-3.
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- Sep. 1980 *B. lindleyana*: Straightening Out the Confusion, 244-8, 253.
- Dec. 1980 A Farewell to Begonia "nurii", 326-7.
- Jan. 1981 A Begonia People Grow as a Vegetable, 14,17.
- May 1981 *B. californica*: Is it Really *B. boissieri*?, 108-10.
- Jun 1981 Lots of Names, But It's *B. oxyloba*, 136-8.
- M--A 1982 *B. pearcei*: A Favorite Early Tuberous Species, 30--2, 39.
- N-D 1982 African Soil Yields Surprise— Is it *B. scapigera*?, 147-9.
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Lulu Leonard, B. 'Lulu Leonard', and Lulu Leonard's Garden

Come to Houston and See Them All!

If ever there was someone who deserved to have an energetic plant named for them, it is Lulu Leonard and that is what we have in B. 'Lulu Leonard'.

This cane-like begonia is a fast grower of the typical "All Other" or "Angel Wing" type. It also has the largest leaves I have ever seen on that type of begonia. Unlike many with large leaves, this one is moderate in height, not tall growing and it sends up many stems rapidly so it is always full. It doesn't drop its leaves either. The blooms are a very deep pink and come in large clusters. Although it is not a heavy bloomer here in Oklahoma, this might not be true in more favorable climates. **Virginia Kettler** hybridized this one and the parentage is not known.

Lulu Leonard though is known well to

those who attended the last convention held in Houston in 1997. There were tours of numerous homes and sites there, but Lulu's yard was the highlight and members voted it their favorite.

Lulu retired after working many years with an oil company and now she can devote her full attention to what she loves most - her plants. And Lulu is not devoted only to





begonias although that devotion runs deep. She also loves and grows the most beautiful of daylilies.

One of the reasons to feature Lulu this month is that we will all have an opportunity to visit her again during the upcoming Begonias International. Of course,

Opposite is a photo of Lulu taken by at last year's SWR Get-Together. Below is B. 'Lulu Leonard'. Above in a photo by Vickie Jackson is one of her garden's massive pecan trees providing perfect shade for her multitudes of begonias.

most of us will want to go for the plants, but my husband put it first on his list of things to do in Houston because of the barbecue - he is a connoisseur and he says what Lulu serves is the BEST! As I recall it is provided by her son who also assists Lulu in designing her garden.

I have heard that Lulu has recently redone her yard completely. One thing I know will be the same are all those towering pecan trees, but I look forward to seeing how a great yard can be made even better!
-FH



Conservation Comments by Bill Claybaugh, ABS Conservation Chairman

Let me begin by thanking **Tamsin Boardman** for her tireless efforts over many years as the Conservation Chairman for the ABS. I have recently gone back and read the many editions of the "Save Our Species" publication, plus the numerous articles she contributed to the *Begonian*. Overall, it is a very impressive piece of work. In fact, her work was so broad that our President, **Morris Mueller**, has decided to subdivide the effort into two parts for the future. **Rekha Morris** will now do the SOS project and publish the SOS newsletter, and I will try to cover everything else. Wow!! Quite an assignment.

Last October, when Morris asked me if I would assume the Conservation Chairmanship for the ABS, I quickly jotted down some thoughts. I later worked these into a project proposal for future ABS Conservation activities and gave it a very narrow distribution. Many of the ideas were of projects already underway, but some were new. Almost all ideas were broad enough that there was plenty of room for different results, depending on the actual method of implementation. Now I would like to broaden the distribution of that proposal to everyone so that we can, together, add to, subtract from, or modify it and build a program of significance.

Regarding species availability and growing techniques:

1. Identify what species are now being grown, world wide, and by whom.
2. Develop and share information on good growing techniques for species begonia, both in general and specifically when needed.

3. Share species information via the internet. This is already being done on several web sites including that of the Astro Branch and the ABS.

Regarding propagation, growing, and distribution:

4. Encourage Branches to grow more species from seeds. Personal visits and talks on pollination, seed collection, seed planting, and early care techniques should help.

5. Grow and distribute more species plants. More emphasis might be given to species at local and national plant sales. Also, plants might be grown by key individuals across the country, who in turn, would distribute them to local branches.

6. Encourage terrarium growing of species plants via education and cheaper containers. We have several growers with unique talents in this area.

7. Contract with commercial growers to produce selected species plants for broad distribution. Small plants can be made available very cheaply.

8. Examine "tissue culture" to see if this is a viable way to expand the availability of selected species.

9. Develop a program to support more local arboretums, botanical gardens, etc. There are several programs already underway which could be the models for an expanded effort.

10. Promote the active exchange of species, world wide, between major begonia growers and botanical gardens.

Regarding increasing the number of known species.

11. Continue financial support for exploration and species collection.

12. Publish more color pictures of species to aid in identification. The *Begonian*, the Astro Branch and ABS web sites,

and the Yahoo Discussion Group are ideal mechanisms for this.

13. Identify and name more of the U numbered species. Why are so many of these unnamed after all these years?

14. Work with Universities and/or selected botanists to promote science to aid in begonia identification.

As stated earlier, most of the above action steps are not new. Rather, they are a collection of targets and goals that we all live with, everyday. Perhaps the novelty in the future Conservation Program will be in the execution. I firmly believe that if we, as a Society, become committed to species preservation, then good things can happen. Our short-term goal is to examine the above action steps, add to, subtract from, or otherwise improve the ideas, until we have an executable program. Also, Rekha and I obviously have some overlapping objectives, which need to be worked out. Regardless, with an open mind and some luck, we can develop a program that will

please everyone as it is implemented over the next few years.

At the upcoming National Convention in Houston, I will be chairing an open discussion on species conservation. Everyone is invited to attend and to make comments on the future direction of the Conservation Program.

Prior to that time, if you would like to send comments or suggestions, just contact me at my web address, absastro@hotmail.com. I also invite you to visit the Astro Branch web site at <http://absastro.tripod.com>. There you will find over 850 pictures of begonias, both species and cultivars. You will also find a begonia database listing over 1400 species and synonyms, and 3400 cultivars. Each listing has valuable data such as name, author, date, country of origin, etc. plus references to articles in the *Begonian*. Try it; I think you'll like it.

Let's all welcome Bill by attending his seminar and providing input!

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B. 'Gold Coast'

An Interview with Janet Welsh by Bernie Wiener

The new Delaware Valley Branch is fortunate to have a member like Janet Welsh who has grown begonias for 30 years. Janet allowed me to interview her in between times when plants from the Philadelphia Flower Show were replaced into the greenhouse and terrariums throughout the house. In a few days she and husband, Louis, were driving to Boston so

Janet can judge at the New England Flower Show.

Q: What is your background with begonias, Janet?

A: I have been an ABS member more years than I can remember, Senior Judge for ABS, National Judge for the National Council, and a judge for the Garden Club of America.

Q: What was your ordeal in preparing for the Philadelphia Flower Show and how many plants did you enter?

A: I did not enter as many plants as usual since I was in charge of the Horticultural

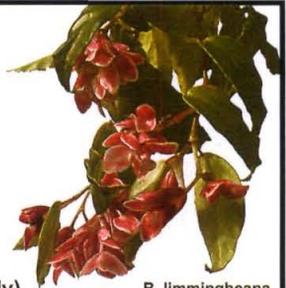
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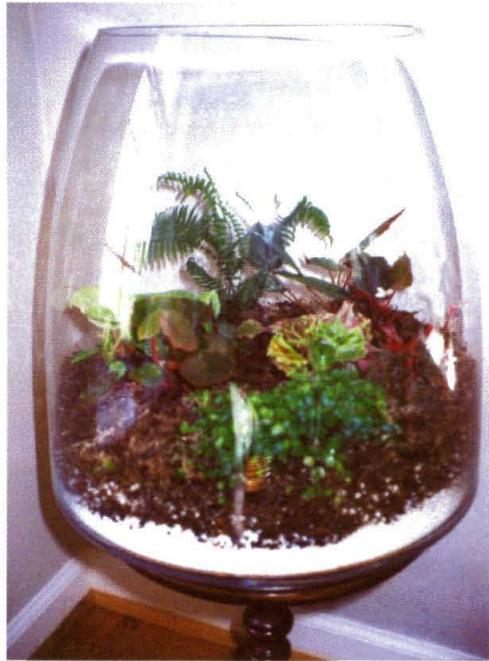
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Visit our web page and virtual greenhouse at www.begonias.com

Judges and that took a lot of my time. However, I did manage to enter about 40 plants, half of which were begonias.

Q: Which begonias were you anticipating to get the judges' approval and receive some type of award?

A: First, I do not enter plants for the ribbons, but instead my interest is in educating the public with my entries. I gave more attention to one particular terrarium which is 18 inches in diameter and about 2 feet high. There were 5 begonias in it: *B. coriacea*, *U303*, *rajah*, *U074*, and *microserma*; and two ferns: *Polypodium pectinatum* and *Microgramma pitoselloides*.



On the facing page top, one of Janet's terrariums. Above a bubble described to the left, and below the Welsh greenhouse.

Q: How much time went into growing these plants for this large container so it could be exhibited at the Show.

A: First, the small plants were

placed in the container at the beginning of the summer. Next, special growing conditions were required which meant the container was placed under fluorescent lights in the basement. As the plants become larger, it was

Continued on page 115.



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Michael Ludwig, Seed Fund Administrator

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When you find that seeds received from the seed fund do not develop into the plant described please notify the Seed Fund so that a warning can be published for others who may have received seeds from the same batch. Each offering is identified by a code to be used whenever writing to the Seed Fund about the seeds. The descriptions published are from the literature and apply to the name used for the offerings.

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The CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND is a project of the Margaret Lee Branch of the ABS in San Diego County, California..

Thank you to **Eleanor Calkins, Jackie Davis, Michael Ludwig, Thelma O'Reilly** and **Monica Sanders** for their seed donations.

FEATUREDSEEDLIST

May-June 2002

MJ02-01: *B. barkeri*

- MJ02-02:** *B. boissiana* - limited 2.00
MJ02-03: *B. boissieri*
MJ02-04: *B. diadema*-limited 2.00
MJ02-05: *B. fagifolia*
MJ02-06: *B. imperialis* var. *smaragdina*
MJ02-07: *B. incarnata*
MJ02-08: *B. kenworthyae* - limited 2.00
MJ02-09: *B. lanceolata* - limited 2.00
MJ02-10: *B. leprosa* - limited 2.00
MJ02-11: *B. paulensis* - limited 2.00

DESCRIPTIONS

MJ02-01: *B. barkeri* Knowles & Westcott (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Mexico] Rhizomatous; dull bronze leaves with pointed lobes, growing to 2 feet or more; inflorescences on 2'-3' peduncles, hundreds of very small white flowers.

MJ02-02: *B. boissiana* Gagnepain [Indo China] Shrub-like; distinctive foliage; moderate white flowers from fall through early winter.

MJ02-03: *B. boissieri* A. de Candolle (Sect. *Quadriperigonina*) [Mexico] Tuberos, the tubers being long and curled deep in the pot; tall growing; medium sized, angular, bare leaves; flowers white flushed with pink and having two large broad bracts, on long peduncles.

MJ02-04: *B. diadema* Linden ex Rodigas (Sect. *Platycentrum*) [Borneo] Rhizomatous; upright succulent stems to 2'; many leaves, deeply and irregularly palmately lobed, toothed, glossy green with white blotches; red petioles; flowers white or pink in cymes enveloped in a dark red sheath before opening, autumn to winter. (See "Begonia Portraits", Alice B. Clark)

MJ02-05: *B. fagifolia* hort. Petrop. ex Otto & Dietrich (Sect. *Wageneria*) [Brazil] Shrubby, reddish stem 14"-18" tall; oblique-ovate leaf, 2"-3" long, toothed, glabrous, shiny green above, reddish beneath; rose-red flowers in forked axillary, drooping cymes, in summer.

MJ02-06: *B. imperialis* Lemaire var. *smaragdina* Lemaire (Sect. *Weilbachia*) [Mexico] Thick, short rhizome, plant low very hairy; 4-6 inch cordate, pustular leaves, green with occasional white splotches, on 4-6 inch petioles; white flowers all year; ovary broad, green, 3-angled with one long wing.

MJ02-07: *B. incarnata* Link&Otto (Sect. *Knesebeckia*) [Mexico] Shrub-like with erect succulent stems, swollen at nodes, 2-3 feet, reddish, spotted; 4-10 inch obliquely cordate to lanceolate, acuminate, shallowly lobed, green leaves; and fragrant rose-pink flowers on arching rose colored peduncles.

MJ02-08: *B. kenworthyae* Ziesenhenné (Sect. *Gireoudia*). [Mexico] Erect succulent green thick rhizome to 6 in.; 12" X 8" leaves, unequally sharply lobed, basally cordate, serrate, red-ciliate, fleshy, slate grey, green veins, covered with a grey bloom; white flowers in many flowered cymes; winter.

MJ02-09: *B. lanceolata* Vellozo (Sect. *Trachelocarpus*) [Brazil] a rare small species from the Atlantic rainforest; green incised lanceolate leaves; white flowers on short peduncles

MJ02-10: *B. leprosa* Hance (Sect. *Diploclinium* I) [China] Formerly called U033 or the "Japanese Begonia" has medium green broadly cordate leaves 3 x 3 ½ inch, satin finish, reddish color, crisp texture; pink flowers.

MJ02-11: *B. paulensis* A. de Candolle (Sect. *Pritzelia*) [Brazil] Soft, hairy ascending rhizome; 6"-9" long leaves, oblong, acuminate, irregularly toothed, glossy green with lighter veins in a spider-web-like pattern; hairy petioles with collar of red hairs at the apex; large white flowers with fleshy maroon hairs on the exterior, in panicles; 3-angled ovaries covered with fleshy maroon hairs having one large red wing.

SURPLUS SPECIALS THIS ISSUE

\$ 1.00 species; hybrid \$0.25

B. cardiocarpa (syn *bakeri*), *B. carolineifolia*, *B. coccinea*, *B. dipetala*, *B. egregia*, *B. foliosa*, *B. glabra*, *B. johnstonii*, *B. kellermanii*, *B. leathermaniae*, *B. mollicaulis*, *B. nelumbiifolia*, *B. nelumbiifolia* 'Rubra', *B. peltata*, *B. sanguinea*, *B. sericonuera* (syn *pilifera*), *B. sericonuera* (syn *hypolipara*), *B. tomentosa*, *B. ulmifolia*, *B. venosa*, Cane-like hybrids mixed, *B. cucullata* var. *arenosicola*, hyb., *B.* 'Kentwood', *B. semp*- Glamour Rose picotee hyb.

NEW LISTINGS AND ADDITIONS TO MASTER LISTING:

Many of the Scott Hoover collections are available except for U422 as listed in March/April.

B. barkeri Knowles & Westcott (Sect., *Gireoudia*) [Mexico], *B. boisiana* Gagnepain (Sect. ?) [Indochina] - limited \$2.00, *B. boissieri* A. de Candolle (Sect. *Quadreperigon*) [Mexico], *B. carrieae* Ziesenh. (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Mexico], *B. cinnabarina* W. J. Hooker (Sect. *Eupetalum*) [Bolivia], *B. deliciosa* Linden ex Fotsch (Sect. *Platycentrum*) [Borneo], *B. diadema* Linden ex Rodigas (Sect. *Platycentrum*) [Borneo] - limited \$2.00, *B. fagifolia* hort. Petrop. ex Otto & Dietrich (Sect. *Wageneria*) [Brazil], *B. glandulosa* W. J. Hooker (*Platycentrum*) [Mexico], *B. imperialis* Lemaire var. *smaragdina* Lemaire (Sect. *Weilbachia*) [Mexico], *B. incarnata* Link & Otto (Sect. *Knesebeckia*) [Mexico], *B. juliana* Loeffgren ex Hoehne (Sect. *Pritzelia*) [Brazil], *B. kenworthyae* Ziesenh. (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Mexico] - limited \$2.00, *B. lanceolata* Vellozo (Sect. *Trachelocarpus*) [Brazil] - limited \$2.00, *B.*

leprosa Hance (Sect. *Diploclinium* I) [China] - limited \$2.00, *B. listada* Smith & Wasshausen (Sect. *Pritzelia*) [Paraguay] o.p., *B. lyman-smithii* Burt-Utley (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Mexico] - limited \$2.00, *B. olsoniae* Smith & Schubert (Sect. *Pritzelia*) [Brazil] - limited \$2.00, *B. paulensis* A. de Candolle (Sect. *Pritzelia*) [Brazil] - limited \$2.00, *B. pedata* Liebmann (Sect. *Quadriperigon*) [Mexico], *B. rajah* Ridley (Sect. *Reichenheimia* I) [Malaya] - limited \$2.00, *B. reniformis* Dryander (syn. *vitifolia*) (Sect. *Pritzelia*) [Brazil], U #031 [Brazil], U #166 [Quezon, Philippines], *B.* 'Astro's Pride', *B.* 'Cachuma', *B.* 'Costello', *B. rex* Putzeys (Sect. *Platycentrum*) [India: Himalaya] hybrids, *B.* 'Vanderveldiana' - limited \$2.00.

THE SEED FUND IS OUT OF THE FOLLOWING SEEDS:

B. ampla, *B. angularis*, *B. crispula*, *B. dichotoma*, *B. gracilis* (bulbils), *B. hernandioides*

Last Minute Developments: Begonias International

See the article about the upcoming events at the 2002 Convention on page 116, but here are a couple of last minute developments:

Howard Berg has donated a copy of that much sought after book, the **Thompsons' Begonias** for an auction and there will be other items: brass begonia collectibles, botanical prints, books, etc. **Cheryl Lenert** also encourages donations of any kind for this event. Donations are also encouraged for the Boutique - anything you would be tempted to buy for a gift or collection.

Thelma O'Reilly will be present at a "Fireside Chat" to talk about the U numbers. She will be talking about where and why it started and giving you a chance to ask questions about it all.

Houston: Be there!

New Fund Approved: The Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund



At its February Meeting in Palm Beach, the ABS Board approved the establishment of a new fund, the Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund, whose purpose is to provide funds to print up new editions of materials now out of print. This fund will complement the Millie Thompson Publication Fund which may be used only to print new material. It has been established with initial contributions by **Freda Holley** and by **Morris Mueller**. Also, all proceeds from the recently printed *ABS Unidentified Species Listing* will be contributed to this fund. Of course, any member of ABS may contribute to the new fund as it will be funded only through contributions and income from materials reprinted.

Thelma O'Reilly is a much deserving recipient for the honor. She has served in numerous ABS offices, led the Round Robins, and written many, many articles for the *Begonian*. She is best known however for her work on the Nomenclature Committee both as Co-Chair with **Carrie**

Tamsin Boardman photographed *Thelma in Florida in 2000 in red and deep in discussion with Carrie Karegeanneas, left, John Howell, and Michael Ludwig (right).*

Karegeannes and later for her work with the unidentified species. This listing is maintained by ABS as a way to keep tabs on the species that are brought back to the US by plant collectors from around the world. It replaces an old confusion where such plants were sometimes identified by the country of origin, as Brazil #1 (of which there are many!), or by the collectors' number. Thelma has both maintained this list and researched many of the species to find an identification. She also grows many, writes up the field notes, and collects photos for publication in the *Begonian*.

Thelma is one of the ABS triple crown Award Winners. In 1974 her *B. 'Universe'* won the Alfred D. Robinson Medal. In 1980 she received the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award to recognize her writings and

in 1987 came the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service.

But having received all the awards has not stopped Thelma's dedication. She is always available to ABS members with answers to their questions on species, and as an active member of the Margaret Lee Branch she assists ABS in making available both species and hybrid seed through the seed fund which the branch administers. Many seeds of her own rare collection appear there as well.

No tribute to Thelma would be complete without mentioning her husband Tim whose humor has graced many an ABS functions of Master of Ceremonies or speaker.

The first publication of the new fund is the *ABS Unidentified Species Listing* compiled by your editor, also in honor of Thelma. It is available in two forms: a pamphlet form for \$6 plus \$1.50 postage/handling and a notebook-ready form for \$10 plus \$2.50 postage/handling. As stated all proceeds from this publication other than the shipping go into the new fund. Copies will also be available at the Convention.

Order from:

Ann Salisbury
P.O. Box 452
Tonkaway, OK 74653
E-mail: geneann@cableone.net

New Publication Available from
The Millie Thompson Publication Fund:
Begonia Registration Handbook
by Brad Thompson

Don't be deceived by the title of this new booklet by **Brad Thompson**. Although its first intent is to aid those of us wishing to register our new hybrids (which it will certainly do very well), it is much more. It will be of an aid to everyone who might find themselves at a loss when it comes to describing their plants.

With the registration form as a base, it steps through the descriptive phases of a plant from its classification to its flowers defining the terms as it goes.

Illustrations are included for everything from the parts of a begonia plant to types of hair on a leaf. You know Brad's skills as an illustrator and they are well utilized here. There is a glossary of botanical terms as well.

Brad has put the whole into a notebook form. He hopes eventually to add

other sections to what will eventually be a complete handbook on growing begonias. This one is an excellent start.

Brad has very kindly donated all proceeds from the sale of this handbook back into the Millie Thompson Publication Fund.

Order from:

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P.O. Box 452
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Cost for this 45 page, notebook-ready booklet is \$10. plus \$2.50 for shipping/handling.

Dr. Ruth Kiew

by Virginia Jens

On February 9, 2001, Dr. Ruth Kiew gave a presentation on Malaysian biodiversity at the Kampong in Coconut Grove (Miami), Florida. Educated at Cambridge and a resident of Malaysia since 1972, Dr. Kiew is the Keeper of the Herbarium and Library at the Singapore Botanic Garden. Her field work on limestone montaine flora and montaine flora of Malaysia have led to her award of the National Tropical Botanical Garden's David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration with emphasis on *Begonia*.

In addition to describing some 18 new species of *Begonia*, she has also found indications of extinction of *B. eriomischa* in its natural habitat. She also believes *B. rajah*, which is on the Critically Endangered list, may be extinct. However, a small population of *B. forbesii*, thought to be extinct in its natural habitat for 120 years, has been located, placing it on the Critically Endangered list.

Dr. Kiew has found *Begonia* to be an indicator species for biodiversity, since it is frequently found in habitats with ferns, orchids, and gesneriads. She has also done a biodiversity study for the government of Vietnam. Her book on the begonias of Malaysia is due out next year. **Tim Anderson** of Palm Hammock Orchid Estate nurs-



ery presented Dr. Kiew with a hybrid named in her honor.

PLANT TALK, the Bulletin of The National Botanical Garden, issue 27, January 2001, also carries an article on Dr. Kiew by author **Ilisa Sharp** which gives us the following quotations: "I find the incredible diversity of plants fascinating....I have always loved observing things. Taxonomy is no longer fashionable, yet the scientific name is the key to everything that's known...Field botanists see the rate at which the forest is disappearing. Yet when we work in Borneo, at least 30% of the species we find are new to science. We have a tremendous responsibility to describe as much as possible...I treasure being in the forest for the feeling that you are part of a much larger system than yourself. We should try to do what good we can while we are here, not destroy what we cannot create."



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In The Mailbox

by Greg Sytch, Horticultural Correspondent

Several interesting questions have come my way by beginners asking about the differences between species and hybrids. Of course, a species is a begonia originally found growing wild which can reproduce itself in the same form from selfed seed while a hybrid is a cross between two different begonias either species or hybrid. A hybrid cannot be reproduced from seed so it must be propagated vegetatively.

Of course, being a HUGE hybrid grower myself, I advocate that hybrids are often the best to grow because they have been adapted and chosen to meet certain criteria. Beginners should try some of the proven, easy hybrids first before moving on and experimenting with species and more difficult hybrids.

Some species also struggle with temperatures that are either cold or hot. In cold conditions, they may show damage, lose vigor, or go dormant. During dormancy, it is important not to overwater. *B. U062*, an unidentified species from India, is a perfect example. Even here in Central Florida, it loses most of its leaves and looks ratty during winter. Once warm, spring conditions returns, it grows lushly and blooms prolifically. Hybrids of *B. U062* also display this habit.

In my hot Tampa Bay climate, I have also found that our warm summer nights, often staying in the 80°F range with equal dewpoints, are detrimental to some species. In fact, I lose more species during August than I do in winter. It is essential to keep their feet dry from overwatering as they will rot easily in the heat. This is a hard task in our heavy, tropical summer rains so a porous soil is a must! If your

climate is similar to our winter (cool) or summer (hot), then heed these suggestions.

Now, back to species versus hybrids again. After reviewing general success, you will have much better luck with the hybrids, especially the “tried and true” ones that have been around for some time. They are hardy, resistant to most adverse conditions, and can tolerate almost any climate or condition. I always recommend starting with hybrids before going on to more challenging species, but you should always feel free to “give them a try.” Trial and error is the best way to learn about growing begonias or any plant group!

If you have any additional questions, need advice, or are looking for any resources for begonias, feel free to email me at gsytch@cs.com, or send by regular mail to Greg Sytch, 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653-4301.

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Save Our Species

by **Rekha Morris**

The president's message in the January/February issue of the *Begonian* has already informed all of us that **Tamsin Boardman's** admirable work as Conservation Chairperson and editor of the SOS Newsletter has now been allocated to **Bill Claybough** and myself respectively. In order to continue publishing the SOS Newsletter in keeping with the standards set by Tamsin, I would very much appreciate all the help that I can get from members of the Begonia Society. For those of you who are hesitant to submit short notes on species for the Newsletter or are unfamiliar with the format, I take this opportunity to briefly describe what is entailed and to also make three related request for assistance from all ABS members.

1. The short notes on species begonias may vary in length from 500 to 750 words or a bit shorter or longer if necessary. Bill Claybough, Chairperson of the Conservation Committee, has created a data base which provides quick and easy access to historical information as to when, where and by whom species begonias were collected. So all that would be required is to write up a note on the specifics of growing the species based on your personal experiences. Bill may be contacted at absastro@hotmail.com.

2. I would like all those who have adopted a species to confirm that they still wish to continue their adoption of this species. I need to update Tamsin's list of adoptees and their adopters.

3. I would like to continue where Tamsin left off in updating the check list of all species begonias currently in cultivation by members of the society. Instead of requesting individual members who are

branch members to mail me a list of the species each of you are growing, it would greatly facilitate the whole process for all of us if this were done by each branch. I would very much appreciate it if each of the branches of the society would send me a list indicating both the species being grown and who is growing them. I will add this to the list sent to me by Tamsin to create a comprehensive check list which would be readily available to all of us.

3. Finally, I am personally interested in creating a data base on species from Mexico. The herbarium at Clemson University has graciously agreed to mount and house herbarium specimens of the Mexican species which I collect. The curator of the herbarium has also offered the use of a press with the necessary supply of paper for all future trips I take to collect in Mexico. There will be a photograph of the species attached to each dry specimen as is now being done by many botanists. I will be most grateful if all those growing Mexican species would consider donating specimens & photographs of the parent plant for this collection which will carry the name of each donor as well as a credit line to the American Begonia Society. I will bring a sample page to the Houston convention to illustrate what I am attempting to do.

Please contact me if you need more information or clarification on any of the above stated aims by E-mail at shivavana@juno.com or by mail at 318 Woodland Circle, Pendleton, South Carolina 29670 or by phone at 864-646-3584.

I will look forward to being inundated with notes and general information on species begonias. At the outset I would like to emphasize that not only do I lack Tamsin's experience, but that I am an absolute novice both in the world of begonias and in editing a newsletter of this nature and request your indulgence accordingly.

Continued from page 105.

constant care to shape the plants and watch that they received the proper light.

Q: Is this your first experience for exhibiting such a large terrarium?

A: Yes, I usually exhibit terrariums with only one plant.

Q: Please describe the growing mix you used in the terrarium?

A: Perlite in the bottom, then a layer of charcoal, next a layer of perlite and sphagnum. Since the perlite stood out too much, I had to cover it with more sphagnum moss.

Q: Did you feel that the judges gave their approval for this oversized terrarium by awarding you a ribbon?

A: This particular terrarium did not receive high recognition. I was trying to see how the judges would evaluate the terrariums. Whether they give awards only to terrariums with a single plant in a bubble or pick a larger container since it would contain more plants and lend itself to more design.

Q: How many years have you been exhibiting the Philadelphia Flower Show?

A: For 27 years I have been educating the public by showing them different begonias.

Q: Do you feel that the begonias you exhibit in terrariums are happy in the greenhouse alone?

A: No, these begonias must be grown under high humidity and they would not be happy in a greenhouse.

Q: Where do you grow your begonias inside the bubble containers?

A: Most of the time I grow bubbles on my window sill, but during the winter the temperature drops too low. Then I move the bubbles to the basement so they can grow under fluorescent lights. During the sum-

mer months when the air-conditioning is on and the basement is too cold, I move the bubbles again to a more desirable location.

Q: Now you have a greenhouse and a solarium to grow begonias to perfection. Why bother with terrariums?

A: There are begonias that can only grow under the high humidity of a terrarium. Plus, I am a firm believer that the public at a flower show should be educated. I would not grow *B. rajah* without it being in a terrarium since it would not grow properly in any other location.

Q: What are your feelings about Delaware Valley now being a branch of the American Begonia Society.

A: The people in the American Begonia Society are the most friendly people and I am so happy to see that we now have a branch in the area. I only hope that the people in Delaware Valley take advantage of the branch and come to the meetings to learn about begonias.

This being my first visit to Janet and Louis Welsh's home, I noted that it must be the most begonia motif house I ever saw. Every place you turn you see begonias: A fabulous collection of begonia prints from around the world; begonias on ceramic tile; plus you walk on begonia throw rugs. There is no doubt that Janet Welsh is a dedicated grower of begonias. She wants to be surrounded with begonias where ever she may be. I hope the readers of this article will realize how fortunate the ABS organization is to have a member like her. I know the Delaware Valley Branch appreciates the enormous contribution of her talents and energies.

The Delaware Valley Branch is now official; for information call 610-446-2160.

Begonias International:
ABS Convention/SWR Get-Together 2002
by Cheryl Lenert

In the last issue of the *Begonian* (March/April 2002, p. 59) you read about many of our plans for the upcoming convention. You should also have received your registration packet in March.

Since that time, we have more exciting plans to report.

First, we are excited to have **Darrin Duling** joining our line-up of presentations for Saturday. Darrin is the author of "A Report on a Study Tour to the Macae De Cima Preserve" including a Catalogue of Begonia Species and Drawings (This will be available in the bookstore). This was a research tour sponsored by ABS.

Darrin is a botanist and is currently director of horticulture for the American Orchid Society at their new facility in Bouytan Beach, Florida. There are many begonias on display at this facility as well, by the way.

But Darrin has a most interesting background. He received horticultural training, first in Richmond Virginia and then in Wisley England from The Royal Horticultural Society and from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England, and finally a MSc. from the University of Reading at Whiteknights, England.

His career has included a number of interesting activities. He refined the fern collections (nursery and display) for the 1995 International Pteridophyte Symposium and also served as principal organizer for the 1993 Rare Plant Auction, both at The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. He was advisor to the Director for development of a 1600 acre biosphere reserve and botanical garden and a herbarium facility at the Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden, Chiang Mai, Thailand. More recently he

served as Coordinate of Pan's Garden, an urban botanical garden of The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, Florida. Pan's Garden was recognized as one of the most botanically diverse cultivated Florida native plant collections in the State of Florida. He also coordinated and developed materials for their children's program.

All this and he is still a young horticulturist! You will be delighted to hear him speak on "A Journey into the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest" and tell us about his future collecting plans as well.

Second, we will be honored to have our old friend **Bill Ash** of England show us his latest slides of new and rare species. Bill and his wife **Muriel** are well known to those who attend ABS conventions and we all look forward to seeing them again.

Third, we will have a special occasion at which we will ask all convention attendees who have had a begonia named after them to gather and pose for a group picture at the pre-banquet cocktail party. Yes, of course, we will have a cocktail party where we can all gather and socialize!

Don't forget we will also have the annual presentation of ABS Awards - who will be the winners of this year's major awards? You did get your nomination in to Michael Ludwig, didn't you?

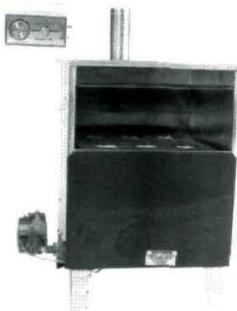
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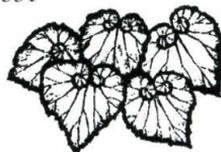
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COMING EVENTS

May 4, 2002: Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch 65th Birthday Celebration. A potluck to be held at **Pam and Steve Hantgin's** home. For information, call 805-648-1530. Also they will hold a garden tour on June 15th from noon to 4 p.m.

May 29-June 2, 2002: Begonias International: ABS/Convention/Southwest Region Get-Together, Houston at the Hobby Hilton (1-800-HILTONS) on Airport Road (near Hobby Airport and there is a shuttle). Contact Cheryl Lenert at lenert@flash.net or 281-897-0155

September 37-19, 2002: AABS Convention, Perth, Australia. Western Australia is famous for its unique wildflowers and it will be spring there giving visitors the opportunity to see the fantastic array. The venue is the Metro Inn Apartments, Nile Street, East Perth, Australia. For details contact the Western Australia Begonia Society, P.O. Box 427, Cloverdale, W. Australia 6985. Telephone (08) 9361 4564 or E-mail lancas@iinet.net.au. You're invited.

The Begonian

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