

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 shadeloving plants.

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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Cover

Front: Bill and Mimi Schramm's flowers on *B*. 'Splotches'. See the whole plant on page 126.

Back: Mary Bucholtz photographed B. 'Peace' in Florida last year. This Rex cultivar listed in the Thompson's *Begonias* as large leaved, non spiral, 1951, is probably of German origin since its alternate name is B. 'Frieda' and lovely!

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B. tayabensis grown by Joyce Pridgen - see page 31. Seed needed: see page 147.

Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads

200209 or 200210, your membership is about to expire. Please renew!

We don't want to lose you.

President's Message...

Questions! Questions! Questions! As is probably true with many of you when visitors who are not plant people see your collection, they have questions. Frequently one of the first to me is, "How many begonias do you have?" An honest answer is "too many." There are 118 plus species and several times that many hybrids. My awareness of too many is always high in the spring as plants get moved outside and again in the fall when they come back inside.

Yes, as this is being written, the days are being counted until our convention, show, and sale in Houston where undoubtedly the collection will be increased.

There are ways to reduce the number of plants. But for me this is always hard to do on any large scale. I become attached to them. Sometimes, the foliage is unique, or it does or does not grow well for me in which case I want to know why it doesn't. However, because spring is a time of hope, maybe inspiration will strike and somehow the available space will grow as the plants are doing!

Another question often asked, "What is your favorite begonia?" I truly do not have one. Large leaves, small leaves, curled, patterned, plain green, whatever -- they are all favorites. No matter how many there are, there is always a "want list." So, in the next few weeks the bullet will have to be bitten and the process of parting with some old friends begun.

Other questions that come with some frequency, "Why grow so many begonias?" or "Why so many of the same thing?" Well, I just enjoy them.

"What color flowers does it have?" Most often, "it hasn't bloomed for me, but a good guess is pink." "Do you have an angel wing/ beefsteak/ iron cross begonia?" No, but let me show you some plants like it/them that are more interesting. If the questions go beyond these, then it is time to get out the pruning knife and hook another poor innocent on our addiction.

As you read this, our 2002 convention will be over. New friends will have been made, "old" friendships renewed. (Hope many of you will be on my new list!) For all who attended, new things will have been learned and a store of new memories acquired. Some special, dedicated members will have been honored for their contributions to A.B.S. There will be memories of many beautiful plants displayed. And there will be new ideas and information to share at your branch with those members who weren't as lucky as you to be in attendance. Of course, there will still be so much to do to catch up with plants at home.

In friendship,

Morris Mueller

Corrections

The editor made a couple of BIG mistakes in the May/June issue:

Note that the true dates for the **AABS** in **Australia** is **September 27-29, 2002** as shown on page 158 of this issue.

At the last minute I overenlarged the editor's note on **Mike Stevens'** article on page 95 and as a result lost the ending. His address is 47 Burnside Crescent, Christchurch 8005, New Zealand. Mike is editor of a new book on begonias described in the News Column of the March/April issue. His book has also been spotted on several on-line book stores and some have reported it to be in U.S. bookstores as well.

Letters to the Editor

Ahh, the Miracle of Seed!

"Hello'...and a "Happy Mother's Day"!! I feel just like a new Mom for the first time (again) ...as I have just grown from seed...MY FIRST BEGONIA!!! I have always thought that the greatest excitement was buying a new Begonia, but have found something that just makes my heart sing even more and this is growing from seed!! Watch out Seed Fund, as I am going to buy until my heart is content!!

When I planted my *B. crassicaulis* I watched every day with a magnifying glass...I am sure as anxious as an old mother hen waiting for her eggs to hatch...and on the 13th day, there was GREEN!!! This is such an amazing feeling and I know those of you who have done this millions of times are looking at each other saying, "Haven't we been trying to tell her how wonderful this is for a long time?" Thank you for all of your inspirations...as I am now inspired to grow as many begonias as I can!!

I am also in the process of packing and moving...and we are building a new house in Ohio (we are now living in Michigan)...and we have our camper set up on the new property and sometimes we go down there for 5 days or more, and I knew what would happen if I left my new little ones home alone...so I have taken them with me and kept them warm and they have survived. (Well...a few of them, as when they were very little I "dumped" the container that I had them in, and "lots" of them just didn't survive that kind of earthquake!!) Now we have to make a trip to Tennessee and I will spread a lot of laughter when everyone sees that I am carrying along my little seedlings!! But that is okay...to be unique we must hear the laughter sometimes!

I know I can move and take care of my plants as I remember you writing to me when you moved and I think I can do it, too.

I wanted so very much to go to the convention this year, but because of moving I just can't. But...I do have my husband saying that he will even take me next year and "push a cart" so that I can get as many begonias as we can carry home!! What a gift to me!!

I just want to say "Thank you" to all of the members that have written articles that have encouraged me. I love reading the *Begonian* from cover to cover as soon as it comes in the mail.

I also want to say a big "THANK YOU" to all of you who save seeds for the Seed Fund!! I hope some day to do this great task myself, but it is such a joy to know that I can order begonia seeds!! Especially "Thank You" to whomever gave the *B. barkeri* seeds!! I have searched and searched for this plant and maybe now I can have one.

God bless all of you at the *Begonian*...and I will be wishing every day to be at the convention!!

Becky Steve 11407 S. Woodruff Rd. Blanchard, Michigan 49310-9795

Oh, Becky, now you have a madness from which there is no recovery - the love of growing from seed! And that joy at new "green" never grows old - just imagine, there are more than 1400 species that await your trial, one by one! Soon too you will discover hybridizing and then the opportunities are limited only by your imagination. We are sorry we cannot see you at the convention, but we will await your presence in 2003. And I join you in your thanks to all our members who write, photograph, and save seeds!

Hanging Around with the Trailing Scandents

by Mimi & Bill Schramm

Did you ever go to a nursery and ask for a trailing-scandent plant and get a blank look in return? Let's face it, the name for this group of interesting begonias is a bit strange. The trailing part of the name means handing. Think of a grape ivy with lots of flowers. Scandent refers to climbing as with a real ivy climbing up a wall.

One of our favorite trailing-scandent plants is *B. solananthera* which, according to the Thompson's *Begonias*, is a species from Brazil which was found in 1853 and introduced to cultivation in the gardens of the Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna, Austria. We grow ours in an unheated greenhouse in the winter and in a lath area the rest of the year. It has done very well although our home is clearly not a palace. It has lots of fragrant flowers in the winter and spring. The flowers are white with a red center.

Another trailing-scandent that has done well for us is *B*. 'Splotches' which is a Leslie Woodriff cultivar (*B. solananthera* x *B. radicans* (syn. *B.* limmingheana). The name comes from the pink and white splotches on the leaves. The flowers, which are profuse in the spring and summer, are white with pink edges. It is hard to tell from the picture, but the plant is over four feet long.

Trailing-scandent begonias have same growing requirements as most begonias, but you need to be careful about it getting too hot because they will dry out and burn quickly. Protect them from the mid-day sun.

In addition to the two described above we also grow *B*. 'Fragrant Beauty' and *B*. 'Ellen Dee'.

Interestingly, Mimi and Bill, B. 'Fragrant Beauty' is a result of the same cross as B. 'Splotches' (Ashizawa, Japan) with a resemblance that can be seen in their flowers. I have never seen B. 'Ellen Dee', another Woodriff cross, this time of B. radicans x B. dichroa, which should produce an interesting plant indeed. I hope you will photograph this one and share it with us in the future. Anyone else out there have a trailing-scandent that you can share with us?

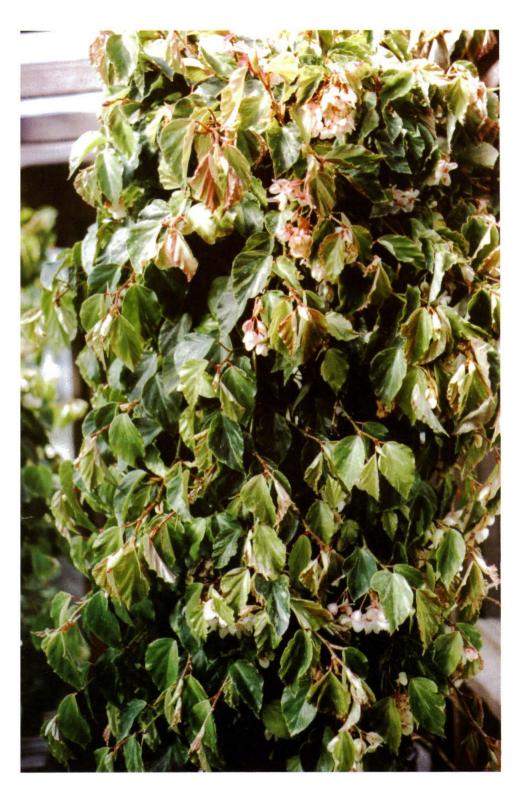
Opposite, Bill and Mimi Schramm's magnificent plant of B. 'Splotches'.

Trailing-Scandent Species

The following species are classified as Trailing-Scandent Species in the Tompson's *Begonias*:

B. ampla	B. mannii
B. borneensis	B. mariae
B. convolvulacea	B. maurandiae
B. fagifolia	B. mazae (& forma
B. francisiae	nigricans, viridis
B. glabra (& varities	& deminuta)
coralipetiolis and	B. mexicana
cordifolia)	B. molleri
B. poculifera (syn.	B. polygonoides
haullevilleana)	B. purpusii
B. oxanthera (syn.	B. solananthera
jussiaeicarpa)	B. subalpestris
B. loranthoides (sub-	B. thelmae
species loranthoi-	B. tropaeolifolia
des, rhopalocarpa	

[syn. rhopalocarpa])



New Species at Risk by Frank Green

Growing from seed can be "a trip" -whether to Indonesia, Mexico or whereever.
But it is really a special trip when the seed
may be of a new species,never before seen
in cultivation-- or from a species unavailable for years. And where might you obtain the "ticket" for this trip? Of course,
from The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund, in
the form of "U" number seed offered there.

Freda Holley recently compiled all the "U" numbers -- some 430 of them -- into an easily-used booklet *The American Begonia Society's Unidentified Species Listing*. It was first advertised in the March/April *Begonian* on page 62 in the guise of a quiz, and maybe you passed it by. Don't! It is well worth the modest cost.

Begonia growers should take up the challenge of growing these fascinating mysteries. "U" number seed may be the only remains of a species lost to habitat destruction, never to be seen again in the wild. A case in point is the stunning *B. chlorosticta* from Sarawak, discovered in 1967. This exciting begonia, known in cultivation for years as the "ex Kew" begonia, exists only from a cutting given to Glasgow Botanic Gardens by Kew, since Kew lost their plant soon afterward.

At present, the listing of unidentified species shows all collections since 1981. Some of these have seen been identified as duplications and some as known species. However, many remain unknown, and the unfortunate aspect of the whole situation is that none of us knows who may be growing any particular "U" numbered plant. A check of the master seed listing in the January/February *Begonian*

and the subsequent issue indicates seed available of very few of the 400 some listings.

If you are growing ANY of the "U" numbers, please let Bill Claybaugh, Conservation Chair, know so that a masterlist of those presently known in cultivation can be maintained. More importantly, bolster the Save Our Species program by setting seed on any you are growing and sending it to the Seed Fund. ABS should know where these species are, to be able to enable their perpetuation. (This is also true of all species, whether "U numbered" or not, so why not handle all species in the same manner?). If you can make good photos available (entire plant, close-ups of leaves or flowers), we will get as many of these published in the Begonian as possible, and perhaps in a later printing of the "Unidentified Species Listing."

We need your cooperation for the benefit of all future growers -- to ensure that the species discovered remain for posterity. Every collection represents a significant investment in dollars (not all of them from ABS -- some of the private collectors get nothing, except their satisfaction in making these plants available to Begoniacs around the world.

To most of us in the U.S., Scott Hoover is *the* begonia collector. He certainly has done a yeoman's job over the years. Unfortunately **MacDougal** (who collected for **Rudy Ziesenhenne**), **Martin Johnson** and others of a few decades ago are gone, and the major 19th century collectors, who in general were sponsored by the major seed houses or governmental agencies in Europe, have not been re-

placed. Well-known collectors of recent years are **Scott Hoover**, **Don Miller**, and **Roberto Brin** of Panama.

There are many other well-known names, many of great importance in the begonia world. Based purely on seed or plant collections, however, the above three have to top the list in recent years. Since this article is on the "U" numbers it does not attempt to quantify the contributions of many of the Begonia Greats.

A closing plea -- set seed on your species and send it to the Seed Fund. If you have, or can get good pictures taken of your "U" numbers, please send them in. Please, please, please -- send in a list of plants your are growing, and indicate whether you are willing to share cuttings. Thanks from all of us.

Frank, your concern is well taken, but we are fortunate that our new Conservation Chair is very computer savy. He will be pleased to receive from anyone a listing of all the species including the unidentified species they are growing. He will then be able to add this to his data base of species. His address is 1701 Country Club Drive, Crosby, Texas 77532 or email himat

absastro@hotmail.com. His address will appear in each issue of the Begonian under Conservation Chair on the inside back cover. He is also doing the fantastic website http://ABSastro.tripod.com. If you haven't visited it you are missing a treat. There are probably more begonia photos there than on any other website. He also has there photos of several of Scott Hoover's collections from Malaysia, many of which are unidentified begonias. Begonias from a number of shows are there as well.

Of course, Rekha Morris who is doing the Save Our Species project in collaboration with Bill Claybaugh is also anxious to have adopters for unidentified as well as known species. Anyone who does so will also receive the SOS (Save Our Species) Newsletter too. You may contact Rekha at 318 Woodland circle, Pendleton, South Carolina 29670, ph: 864-646-3584. You may email her at shivavana@juno.com.

So heed Frank's concern and join the battle to maintain the begonia species we have!

"Sheaves of Grass"

In a recent article by this title in the May issue of *Discover* magazine, Alan Burdick celebrated the opening of the newly renovated and expanded New York Botanical Garden Library and Herbarium. For those of us interested in taxonomy, the following quotation is of interest:

'With the rise of molecular biology and comparative genetics, the "old style" of taxonomy--the practice of visually inspecting and comparing specimens to determine their evolutionary roots--has fallen out of practice, though it remains as essential as ever. 'Fewer people are being trained to go out and identify the species they see, even in North America," Thiers laments. "How important is flower color in a plant's evolution? How important is the length of the petal? Somebody who only knew gene analysis wouldn't know what questions to ask." The Botanical Garden is one of the few institutions left that encourages its scientists in the obvious art: Venture out into the world and look.'





Above right, Cary Soto, winner Youth Division with B. 'Black Coffee. Above left, Joyce Pridgen's B. 'Palmgarten' winner Rhizomatous Division and Best of Show. Below, Begonia Landscape by Tim Anderson and Palm Hammock Orchid Estate.



ABS Miami Branch Show

by Doug Pridgen

WOW!!! The photos don't do it justice.

Not as many total entries as last year, but this show would rival any, including "National," thanks in no small way to **Tim Anderson** and Palm Hammock Orchid Estate for a huge indoor landscape scene composed substantially of begonias.

This 34th annual show was held at Fairchild Tropical Garden on March 16 and 17, 2002. It was based upon a St. Patrick's Day theme. Also, included were very impressive exhibits by The Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches and by **Armando Nodal** and family. All this with 141 beautiful entries made it really a breath-taking "wow" upon arrival.

The Youth Division was continued from last year and was won by **Cary Soto** with B. 'Black Coffee'. Another of our youth, **Daisy Nodal** won the regular division for terrariums (more than one variety). Congratulations to both of these future begonia leaders.

Tim Anderson won Commercial New Introduction with a rex. B. 'Kathryn Bloschak.' **Armando Nodal** won Novel Grown with B. 'Magdalene Madsen. **Karen Lawrence** won the Rex Division with B. 'Can Can', and **Charles Sibley** won the Hanging Container Division with B. 'Good & Plenty.'

Best in Show was taken this year by B. 'Palmgarten' as shown by **Joyce Pridgen.** Joyce also received the "Showing is Sharing" award and the Sweepstakes award. She won 13 divisions. The "People's Choice" was *B. mcaulata* shown by Joyce.

We were all delighted that one of our "life" members, **Alma Crawford** was able to attend the show.

November/December Begonian

The cost of printing the *Begonian* went up this year and remember dues pay for just about four issues per year. A large part of the cost of the annual holiday issue of the *Begonian* has been covered by branch and member donations. Again, this year **Wanda Macnair** will be sending out letters to branches to request their help. Individual donations are also of great as-

sistance. This year's issue will also list supporters in a special one page greeting with recognition in four categories (Bronze; silver; gold and platinum). Remember donations qualify for a tax deduction.

For more information about donations you may write Wanda at 59 Walker Street, Cambridge, MA, 02138 or call her at 617-876-1356. And now you may reach her by email at wmacnair@msn.com.

Exploring Begonia Websites

by Sandy Boyd

As more and more people go on line, the interest in websites featuring begonias keeps growing. Many of our new members are coming from the internet. Sandy Boyd has generously agreed to provide a column each issue describing a web site. If you know of a particularly interesting site, let Sandy know at samb4mail@aol.com.

The website profiled in this issue is from one of the premiere hybridizers and strong supporters of the ABS, **Brad Thompson**. The most difficult aspect of the website is the address which is: http://members.aol.com/btbegonia/index.html. Once you log onto the site be sure to bookmark it because you will be visiting it often. This is one of the easiest sites to navigate you will ever visit. It will give you more "how to" information than you will find anywhere else.

The homepage is headlined Brad's Begonia Page against a field of begonia flowers. Each topic is simply designated and can be accessed with a click of your mouse. As you might expect, the first site is information about ABS. Scroll down the page before you click on any topics to see the range of information available. When I first became addicted to these fabulous plants. I found this website and reveled in the information available. Finally, I ended up copying almost all of the culture and hybridizing data and keeping it in my greenhouse. For instance, in the culture page he discusses: staking; when, what, and how to stake. Or try pinching: who to pinch, why to pinch, how to pinch and when to pinch. See what I mean by a "how to" site? He also has pages on propagation, sprouting seeds, hybridizing, grooming for shows, lights, and so much more. As an example, on the propagation page he discusses the proper propagating mix to use, appropriate containers, and various cuttings, i.e. stem, leaf, rhizome, mallet, etc. He also discusses how each different begonia group can be propagated. On some topics, he has "guest writers" such as **Tim Anderson** writing on potting mixes.

Some of the most fascinating pages are on his hybrids. As many of you know, Brad is a hybridizer extraordinaire. He lists and describes all of his hybrids and you will drool with desire to own them all. His snake series is my favorite; oh, I almost forgot the Egyptian series and oh yes there is.... The only unfortunate part of this section is the lack of photographs of each hybrid. Be sure to access the name page and the culture tips for Brad's hybrid page as well. These are all highlighted and underlined. Just click and go.

As you may know, Brad does not sell begonias. However, he includes a list of commercial growers who do sell them and includes addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of those who do. This page has direct links to other begonia and gardening sites. There is also a begonia sources page a bit farther down on the home page which gives information on even more sellers of begonias.

When, he updates his website by adding new articles, he always highlights the page in order for you to access the new information easily and gives the dates of the update.

One page many of you will find interesting is the Irene Nuss hybrids list. Most of us grow at least one of her lovely plants, and here you can trace the parentage.

One page you won't want to miss is Brad's house page. Check out the photos of his begonias. Amazing how many plants can be grown around a home situated in a mobile home park.

I have come to know Brad through our begonia group on the internet. He is an almost daily participant and responds to queries and problems quickly. He is so giving of his time and expertise to begonia lovers he was the recipient of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award at last year's ABS convention in Denver. If you would like to join the begonia discussion group on the web simply address an email to Begonias@yahoogroups.com and in the subject line type: subscribe. You will suddenly become a part of a world wide group of begonia lovers who share and discuss all aspects of begonia growing. The photographs alone are worth belonging to this group. If you have any problems entering Brad's Begonia Page or joining the vahoo begonia group, please email me at samb4mail@aol.com

Brainstorming for Branch Membership by Joanna Kitson

Like most people, I came to my first

begonia meeting because a friend told

Some ABS Branches are constantly adding new members and keeping the ones they already have. The Palm Beaches Branch is one of these. Are there secrets to how this is done? Johanna Kitson of that Branch shares some thoughts that may help us all grow our branch.

ASK SOMEONE!

How did we all become members of the

various begonia societies? What got us to our first meeting? Every or-

me about it and invited me. ganization has

that age-old problem of how to keep the membership numbers high enough in order to function properly. Like most people, I came to my first begonia meeting because a friend told me about it and invited me.

HAVE A BEGONIA SHOW!

Many times an event will spur someone into attending a meeting. In February, the Horticulture Society hosts a Flower and Garden Show here. (Many of the ABS Board members attended this event last spring.) At this show we have an exhibit and hand out old Begonians and begonia leaflets that contain a brief synopsis about begonia growing, an application form, information about a local begonia garden, and our meeting dates.

When the local botanical garden has its sales in April and November we. hand out this same brochure.

Both events reach thousands of people.

MAKE A GARDEN!

We are very fortunate to have the Mounts Botanical Garden where we have planted 40 plus landscape begonia so that the general public can see what begonias can really look like growing here in South Florida. Before we joined the begonia society, most of us only thought that there were wax begonias out there! One of our local Board members is chairman of organizing work days to trim and fertilize our little garden.

GIVE BEGONIAS AWAY!

If you don't have a botanical garden to donate begonias to, there are other places to infiltrate our many plants. About three years ago the American Orchid Society moved to another location and had to start from scratch as far as landscaping was concerned. Voila! We gave them many, many trays of begonia starts. Today the AOS has some great big begonias growing in the full sun including Begonia 'Rudy' and a Phillipine spe-

cies. One of our members recently donated several begonias to a Flowering Tree Society because they were looking for ground

cover. Each time a society does this, people are exposed to so many new plants. When they see begonias in a garden they begin asking questions. "How can I get that plant, too?" Most are surprised that the plant in question is a begonia. Giving begonias to friends and neighbors is also a great way to get new people involved.

TALK IT UP!

Four of our members give begonia programs to garden clubs, Master Gardeners, and 4-H groups. A good percentage of our members are a result of these contacts.

HOW TO KEEP 'EM INTERESTED!

Now, once you have a new member, you need to brainstorm how to keep this person interested. Keep your meetings fun! Do your business in your board meeting

the week before. Have interesting speakers and programs. Have plenty of begonias on hand at your meetings...a raffle table...silent auctions...live auctions ...begonia bingo...badge plants (collect badges at the end of your meeting, draw one out of the hat and give that person a special begonia for wearing their name tag). Give away a small begonia to new members, to members for paying their dues a month early, for a member's birthday...any reason you want to make up.

EDUCATION!

A plant society that has a

terrific newsletter will have a

terrific membership as well.

Someone once told me that a plant society that has a terrific newsletter will have a

terrific membership

as well. How many of us out-of-staters belong to the SW Region because they like the newsletter? An informative news

letter educates and informs the membership. Get to know one another. Hold potting parties at each others homes a couple of times a year, educating the new members with all the 'secrets' of propagation. Tour each other's yards. Take a field trip to public gardens and nurseries. Trade cuttings with another beognia society from across town or across the United States. It is fun. And that is what it is all about. Perpetuating begonias rare and common, large and small. I usually have something new at every begonia event I have ever attended.

You may write Johanna Kitson at 14206 Greentree Drive, Wellington, Florida 33414. You may email her at oetkbtytc@aol.com.

My New Terrariums by J. Duruisseau

To grow some bégonia species, I formerly used the usual terrariums such as aquariums or any glass construction with a glass bottom that did not drain off water.

With this equipment, air circulation and interventions in the terrariums are possible by a detachable lid or pane. You can get drainage with the installation of gravel on bottom (5 cm) before putting in a layer of compost. Light and a warming cable also can used.

- In a such terrarium, which is easily practicable, it is useless to water: humidity causes water to condense on the glass and run down into the compost.
 Therefore, humidity is important and its effects last a long time.
- But the atmosphere is too enclosed and plants are short of air (in nature- the tropical undergrowth, rock fissures, and all places where begonias grow plants are well ventilated). Because the risk of rotting is very great; we must ventilate by opening from time to time and allow compost to dry up on the surface; also we must water and that is very difficult because too much water results in the roots asphyxiating.

After several accidents and plants lost due to drowning roots, I thought up another terrarium type.

It is of glass construction (an aluminium or wooden frame around the glass) but the bottom is not closed, so it is not watertight and water can go out. I use a metallic grill, a thick and rigid one, on the bottom (it is put on the terrarium frame) on which is put a dense polystyrene sheet (Styrodur) whose job is to retain the compost. It is roughly cut and water can go down between the sheets. The back and sides are made with white normal polystyrene that brings in some light. In front, opening and ventilation are possible by several glass doors on runners (sliding glass doors).

These terrariums can have large sizes (I have one: 1,20 m [3.8 ft.] high, 1,20 m [3.8 ft.] wide, 0,60 m [1.9 ft.] deep). They are equipped with a spray system, light, and a warming cable. I also use small fans (PC fans). Shading is possible above the top glass.

With these terrariums, we can water or spray: no problem!

- · Water goes down and roots do not stay too wet.
- Air circulation is important after spraying it is important to open the front or run the fans so the leaves dry, especially during autumn, when it is too hot during the day so we must water and too fresh during the night so the leaves will not dry and should not be left with water on them.





Photos described on opposite page.

 Humidity is important like an aquarium when glass runners (sliding glass doors) are closed.

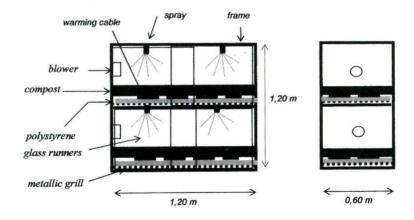
Of course, there are some drawbacks:

- The construction of this terrarium is not easy; but it is not insurmountable by a motivated handyman! With wood, we must protect the wood with several paint coats (or use treated wood but protection is only on surface)
- We cannot use this terrarium in the house or an apartment, because the water will run down

But, I think growing conditions in this terrarium are near the ones in nature. Plants grown in this manner became wonderful and healthy.

Look at enclosed photos:

- Chinese begonias. From left to right: *B. hatacoa* 'Spotted', *B. hatacoa* var. *meisneri*, *B. hatacoa* 'Silver', *B. chuniana* (as epiphyte on a mossy trunk), *B. rex*, *B. pedatifida*, *B. nepalensis*, *B. xanthina* and *B. cathayana* (not very visible in the picture). In this terrarium is also growing, but not visible: *B. handelii* (as an epiphyte on a mossy trunk). *B. masoniana*, *B. rex* var. *longiciliata*, and *B. rockii*. Compost is mixed with vermiculite. I put calcare ous rocks and moss (Look out for slugs in the moss!). On the glass top, there are two trays (with pots) which produce shade as I want. Today, September 25, five months after installation, plants grew too much! Luckily *B. xanthina*, *B. chuniana* and *B. handelii* are beginning dormancy. I have just stopped sprays; when it will be cold, I will close glass doors and I will connect up the warming cable (13 W) under the compost. Plants will be able to stay like this during the winter, dried up (not much) and warm (not much either).
- In the second one: low, Malaysian (*B. pavonina*), Chinese (*B. chitoensis*) and Java (*B. robusta*) species; high: *B. imperialis* and *B. pustulata* in good form.



In the Mailbox

by Greg Sytch

Questions, questions, questions. So many have come to me it is difficult to choose which one to highlight. So instead of choosing one question, I am going to share some cutural hints which correlate most of the questions into one.

Propagation:

Last fall, I began a new system of propagating. You see, once begonias root in my propagation house, I found myself having to hand feed them before they were settled in the growing areas. The solution: when I stick the cuttings now, I spread a small amount of time-release fertilizer after I water the cuttings in so the next time the cutting is watered, it will be lightly fed as it roots. I have noticed canes rooting especially fast and finishing quickly. It doesn't matter the brand, just so they are fertilized.

Soil:

As we all know, everyone who is anyone tries to use Fafard 2-S as their soil base. I have used it for four years and my success with it is fantastic. It is difficult to find away from commercial dealers, but it can be had. Look for supply houses, such as florist or agriculture, as they may be able to order it in if they do not carry it. For cuttings, I always add 2/3 perlite as my hot conditions require a little extra drainage here in Florida.

Rexes:

There are always questions on Rexes. These dynamic foliage plants can cause problems wherever you grow (except Har-

mony Greenhouses). In Florida, they suffer in summer with our hot nights. I keep them rather dry, allow them to become ratty while saving the root system and generally spray with a fungicide to prevent rot. Come fall, the cooler nights facilitate rapid growth and they are beautiful by February. Up north, it is just the opposite. The short, cool days of winter usually put them into a dormancy. Treat the same as above, just be cautious on mildew. Repot in fresh soil come spring. Since Rexes are grown for their beautiful leaves, I always use a high nitrogen fertilizer such as 30-10-10 to enhance the leaves. The time release I use is 19-6-12, so this also provides good nitrogen. Funny thing, they still bloom like crazy for me most of the year despite the high nitrogen.

B 'Sophie Cecile':

This beautiful cane is usually known as a shy bloomer here in Florida. Our guess is that it requires cooler winter weather for best bloom. This year, my main specimen, about six foot tall, is just beginning a flush of blossoms like I have never seen. Why? Well, our warm winter had a late cool spell which saw freezing temperatures at the end of February and early March. Mind you, low 30s F (0 C), for a night or two, but still cold! Perhaps this late cool spell triggered these blooms. I certainy have not fed it any differently. I hope to utilize it in some hybridizing. Anyone else experience something similar to this? Please share with me at gsytch@cs.com or write to:

> Gregory Sytch, 6329 Alaska Avenue New Port Richey, FL 34653.

Good growing and enjoy summer!

Minutes of the Board Meeting, American Begonia Society, West Palm Beach, Florida, February 23, 2002

President Morris Mueller opened the meeting and Virginia Jens read the Aims and Purposes of the Society. 1. The minutes of the prior meetings on 9/8/2001 were accepted as sent to the board members. However, one correction reported by the Nomenclature Committee should be noted. Paragraph 17 should read 2-900 registrations rather than 2-90. 2. Treasurer Carol Notaras presented the financial statement for the six-month period from 8/1/2001 to 1/31/2002. The general fund balance was \$10,066.64 beginning and \$7102.32 ending. The ending balance was the result of \$24,393 income and \$27,357.32 disbursements. The Denver Convention cost was \$7978.22 including the \$2000 seed money. The combined general fund, overseas mailing and seed fund accounts balance was \$11,897.69 beginning and \$9,011.83 ending. Savings accounts totals were \$66,142.09 beginning and \$64,236.28 ending. Combined checking and savings account totals were \$78,039.78 initial and \$73,248.11 final. The difference is due to the Denver Convention cost overrun offset by over \$2000 from holiday donations and \$1300 from advertising income. Thanks went to Wanda Macnair and Ann Salisbury for these amounts. 3. The initial count of voting members present was 32 and 2 more were added later. 4. The Audit Committee Report was read by President Mueller. The financial records appeared to be in order as of January 19, 2002. The committee recommended the establishment of a budget committee. This will be taken up at a later meeting. 5. The Awards Committee, Nomenclature Committee and Seed Fund reports were presented

by Gene Salisbury for Michael Ludwig. An article for the Begonian was submitted to the editor concerning awards. The deadline for award nominations is April 23, 2002. Awards will be presented at the Houston Convention. 6. The Nomenclature Committee reported receiving a plant press and other research materials from Thelma O'Reilly and that 3 begonias were registered. 7. The Seed Fund activity included testing of seeds, offering of seeds collected by Scott Hoover, packaging and sending seeds for new members, and packaging and providing seeds for branch use. Branches can request seeds without charge if the Fund makes the choice of seed. The Seed Fund checking account had an initial balance of \$443.79, income \$929.00, expense \$61.83 and a final balance of \$1310.96 for the period October 1 to December 32, 2001. Proceeds from seeds collected by Scott Hoover accounted for \$375.85 of the above \$929. With expenses of \$25.00 the net gains from these seeds was \$350.85. Checks for \$350.85 and \$500. were submitted to the ABS treasurer. 8. The back issues income for December 2001 and January 2002 was \$95. Please keep sending back issues. Urge current or past members who no longer want their Begonians to donate them and send them to Ann Salisbury. 9. Ballot counting results showed 23 ballots were received for the changes in the ABS Constitution and Bylaws. All votes were in favor of the changes. 10. Cheryl Lenert reported on the availability of the excellent Japanese reference she is handling separately for the Bookstore. It is the Japanese Begonia Checklist and comes with a CD. The cost is \$50. There is also an update. 11. Branch Relations Director Mary Bucholtz reported that a newsletter and program update were mailed in October 2001. Information on forming a branch was mailed to Bartlesville,

Continued on page 152.

Directory of Begonia Societies

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

International Societies

Australia

Association of Australian Begonia Societies Jean Whitten, 15 Carlo Close, Kincumber, N.S.W. 2251, Australia, Ph: (02) 4369 2967

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

The Melbourne Begonia Society

Contact: Diane Lawrey, 8 Simmons Street,

Box Hill North, Vic 3129 Ph: (03) 9898 8863

The N.S.W. Begonia Society, Inc.

Alan Gibson

18Priory Court, Balkham Hills, NSW 2153

Ph: (02) 9624 5637

The Queensland Begonia Society, Inc.

Mr. Peter Henderson, 79 Chuter Street, Stafford OLD 4053

Ph: (07) 3359 4319

South Australian Begonia Society Inc.

Mrs. Myrnie Jennings, 4 Kinnaird Crescent,

Highbury, SA 5089 Ph: (08) 8264 6490

The Begonia Society of Western Australia

Mrs. Shirley Lancaster, PO Box 427, Cloverdale WA 6985

Ph: (08) 9361 4564

Belgium

Societe Belge du Begonia

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

Canada

British Columbia Fuchsia & Begonia Society

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

Canadian Begonia Society

Eleanor Elston, 190 Julia Crescent, Orillia, Ontario L3V 7W9 Canada, Ph: 705-323-9437 E-mail: eelston@computer-products.com

England and Wales

The National Begonia Society

Colin Nicklin, 33 Findern Lane, Willington, Derbyshire, DE 65 6DW,

Ph: 01283 702681

Email: NATBEGONIA@aol.com

France

Assoc. Françoise de Amateurs de Begonias

Mr. Jacky Duruisseau 3 route du Puy Lanete Maisonneuve 17100 Le Douhet

France

Tel., fax: 05 46 74 38 90

New Zealand

Canterbury Begonia Circle.

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

Web site: geocities.com/begoniacircle

Japan

Japan Begonia Society

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

Scotland

Scottish Begonia Society C/o-260 Bellfield R. Coalburn Lanarkshire, Scotland M1100NQ, ULK

United States

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

Regional Group

Southwest Region: Arlene Ingles, 157 Monument Rd., Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617 Email: ingles@humboldt1.com

Branches

California

Alfred D. Robinson Branch: Margaret Lee, National Director, 1852 31st Street, San Diego, CA 92102, Ph: 619-239-3196

Doug Frost Branch: Joyce Hesse, 636 S. Gilbuck Dr., Anaheim, CA 92802-1322., Ph: 714-778-3546

Long Beach Parent Chapter: Margaret Fisher, 7552 Danube Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647-4637, Ph. 714-847-1889

Mabel Corwin Branch: Eleanor Calkins, 910 Fern St., Escondido, CA 92027-1708, Ph: 760-746-4743

Margaret Lee Branch: Eleanor Calkins, 910 Fern St., Escondido, CA 92027-1708, Ph: 760-746-4743

Monterey Bay Area Branch: Leslie Hatfield, 3025 Kennedy Ct., Marina, CA 93933-3614. Ph: 831-384-6519

Orange County Branch: Mary Sakamoto, 6847 E. Sycamore Glen Dr., Orange, CA 92869, Ph: 714-633-6997 Palos Verdes: Jeanne Jones, 1415 Via Margarita, Palos Verdes, CA 90274-2143, Ph. 210 278 7527

Ph: 310-378-7527

Sacramento Branch: Paul Tsamtis, 2630 F Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

San Francisco Branch: Carol Notaras, 2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123, Ph: 415-931-4912 Email: cnotaras@juno.com

San Gabriel Branch: Bevery Hitz, 663 Anaby Ct., Upland, CA 91786-2754

Santa Barbara Branch: Rudolf Ziesenhenne, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA, 93103-2336, Ph: 805-966-6956

Santa Clara Valley Branch: Jackie Davis, 170 Wingfoot Way, Aptos, CA 95003-5444.

Ph: 408-688-0357

South Bay Branch: Ramona Parker, 14965 Van Ness Ave., Gardena, CA 90249-3719,

Ph: 310-324-8803

Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch: Beverly Paulson, 397 Baker Ave., Ventura, CA 93004-1558, Ph: 805-642-3198

Westchester Branch: Ramona Parker, 14965 Van Ness Ave., Gardena, CA 90249-3719. Ph: 310-324-8803

Whittier Branch: Joy Blair, 1006 Pomering Rd., Downey, CA, 90240-3711 Ph: 562-928-3975

Delaware Valley

Delaware Valley Branch: Bernard Wiener, 229 Ellis Road, Havertown PA 19083, Ph: 610-446-2160

Florida

Florida West Coast Branch: H. Alton Lee, 5813 19th Ave., S, Gulfport, FL 33707-4029

Fort Lauderdale Branch: Sylvia Ben, 255 S.W. 87th Terrace, Plantation, FL 33324-2602, Ph: 305-964-3828

Miami Branch: Karen Lawrence, 7025 SW 72nd Ct., Miami, FL 33143-2914, Ph. 305-666-6374.

Palm Beaches Branch: Donna Bailey, 5285 Hood R., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

Georgia

Greater Atlanta Branch: Mary Elizabeth Moultrie, 3710 Cochise Drive, Atlanta, GA 30339, Ph: 770-436-5932

Illinois

Greater Chicago Branch: Daniel Haseltine, 6950 West Nelson Street, Chicago, IL 60634-4613, Ph: 773-637-5328

Massachusetts

Bessie Buxton Branch: Wanda Macnair, 177 Hancock Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, PH: 617-876-1356

New York

Knickerbocker Branch: Nikki Taussig, 233 Harison Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904-1815 or email nytaus@aol.com

Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau Branch: Annette Boree, 8 Brown Rd., Great Neck, NY 11023, Ph: 516-466-9593

Ohio

Western Reserve Branch: Sara Jane Pearman, 2120 Hampstead R., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118, PH: 216-321-5528, Email: pearman@cma-oh.org

Oklahoma

Fred A. Barkley Branch: RL Holley, 2015 Elvin Dr., Stillwater, OK 74074 Ph: 405-385-0484

Wheatheart Branch: Gene Salisbury, P. O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653-0452, Ph: 580-628-5230

Oregon

Cascade Branch: Kathy Goetz, 935 W. Isabella, Lebanon, OR 97355, Ph: 541-258-7517, Email: goetzk@begonias.com

Texas

Alamo Branch: Melba Schultz, 603 Chauncey Dr., San Antonio, TX 78216-3308, Ph: 210-341-3679

Astro Branch: Tom Keepin, 4513 Randwick Dr., Houston, TX 77092-8343, Ph: 713-686-8539

Dallas Area Branch: Don Miller, 1010 Mt. Auburn, Dallas, TX 75223, Ph: 214-823-1070

Mae Blanton Branch: Joan Kessinger, 14808 Meadowland Cir., Newark, TX 76071, Ph. 817-489-5055. Email: jdbk@earthlink.net

Satellites Branch: Pauline Mahoney, 917 Grove Rd., Clear Lake Shore, TX 77565-2506, Ph: 281-538-1880

San Jacinto Branch: Lulu Leonard, 1914 Cedar Bayou Rd., Baytown, TX 77520-2906, 713-422-6245

Virginia

Potomac Branch: Carrie Karegeannes, 3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22003-2319, Ph: 703-280-2114

Welcome to Our Newest Branch! The Delaware Valley Branch

Join me in welcoming our newest ABS Banch. A Charter has been issued to excited begonia admirers and growers in the Delaware Valley. This area includes members from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Their roster is 20 members strong and their officers are as follows:

President: Lucy Kuder
Vice President: Bob Hirschle
Treasurer: Helene Stephenson
Secretary: Anne Brennan

National Director: Bernard Wiener

It really is quite easy to form a branch. Only seven (7) ABS members are necessary, a Constitution and By-Laws, and a few officers. Quicker than you think possible, you can see your Branch listed in our directory. I have all kinds of information just waiting for you. Together we make the organizing process easier than you thought it could be.

So - if you know a plant friend, and that plant friend knows a plant friend, and by chance some of your plants are begonias, drop me a note and let's sart a Branch in your neighborhood.

Mary Bucholtz, Branch Relations 1560 Lancaster Terr. #1008, Jacksonville, FL 32204

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Always use the current issue address listing on the inside back cover. Frequent changes make the use of older address listings risky! Also, notify the editor promptly if you see an incorrect listing!

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B. 'Mary Bucholtz'

One of my favorite photographers got photographed herself by **Johanna Zinn** at the Palm Beach Board Meeting this year and she was holding her namesake B. 'Mary Bucholtz'. Paul Lowe named this rhizomatous hybrid, a cross of B. 'Green Giant' x 'Lowe Star' for her.

Mary Bucholtz is well known to all *Begonian* readers for her outstanding photographs and to all National Directors because she is Branch Relations Chair and editor of the Branch Relations Newsletter. Her contributions to ABS as both writer and photographer resulted in her receiving the Eva Kenworthy Gray award in 1999.

Mary resides in Jacksonville, Florida and in addition to the begonias she loves, her home is filled with begonia collectibles. Her fabulous majolica has been displayed in ABS slide shows.



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B. limmingheana

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Listing

The Margaret Lee Branch, San Diego County, CA Michael Ludwig, Administrator

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

DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. The seed fund cannot guarantee that the identification is correct. The species names (in italics) reported here are correct based on the latest information from **BEGONIACEAE**, Ed. 2 manuscript of 14 December 2000; Golding, and Wasshausen.

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.

The Seed Fund needs donations of seeds. Seeds may be traded for listed seeds. Seeds may be ordered from the master list by name. If you have a special need ask the Seed Fund Administrator. The need for new seeds to distribute is acute. Please pollinate your species begonias with pollen from other plants of the same species and contribute (or exchange) to the seed fund.

The Seed Fund would like to augment the present list with new species. There is also a need to refresh the current store with fresh seeds from new sources. Most packets of species seeds are \$1.50 all packets of hybrids (including open pollinated) seeds are 504 per packet. Very rare seeds and newly collected seeds will be \$2.00 or more per packet. California residents please add 7.75 % sales tax. All orders must be accompanied by check or money order, payable in US funds ONLY, to The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

Costs of mailing:

US only: 1-12 packets \$1; 13-24, \$1.35; 25-36, \$1.71; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.30; 49-60, \$2.66. **Canada only:** 1-12 packets, \$1.10; 13-24, \$1.46; 25-36, \$1.82; 27-48 (2 cans) \$2.35; 49-60, \$2.71.

Mexico only: 1-12 packets, \$1.15; **13-24**, \$1.51; **25-36**, \$1.87; **37-48** (2 cans), \$2.50; **49-60**, \$2.81.

All other international mail: 1-12 packets, \$1.85; **13-24**, \$2.68; **25-36**, \$3.68; **37-48**, \$4.68; **49-60**, \$5.68. Please send your order with payment to:

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CLAYTONM, KELLY SEED FUND

Michael Ludwig 6040 Upland St. San Diego, CA 92114-1933

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

There are no featured seeds in this issue. Any seeds from the master list can be ordered. This issue includes descriptions of species for which there are seeds available in the master list, and for which no description has been published in the last two years. In the future most hybrid

and cultivar seeds will be offered without descriptions since the seedlings are not necessarily similar to the parents. When the parentage is known, and if space permits, descriptions of the parents will be included

Following is a list of names of begonias for which the Seed Fund needs more seeds. These begonia seeds have been requested by Seed Fund users. Begonia acaulis, acetosa, ampla, angularis (Syn. compta), bogneri, bowerae, bowerae var. major, bracteosa, brevicaulis, brevirimosa, 'Bunchii', caraguatatubensis, cathayana, cavallyensis, chlorosticta, circumlobata, cooperi, crispula, decora, diadema, dioica, 'Exotica', floccifera, glandulifera, goegoensis, hemsleyana, hugelii, itaguassuensis, kenworthyae, leprosa, listada, 'Loma Alta', lubbersii, malabarica, mannii, nepalensis, olsoniae, paulensis, platanifolia, leathermaniae (Syn. platanifolia var. acuminatissima), polygonoides, princeps, prismatocarpa, pseudo-lubbersii, purpusii, pustulata, radicans (Syn. procumbens), rajah, rex, roezlii, roxburghii, scharffiana, scharffii, serratipetala, sharpeana, solananthera, solimutata, stigmosa, strigillosa (Syn. daedalea), subnummularifolia, tacanana, tayabensis, teuscheri, versicolor, wollyni. U#059, U#093, U#221, U#225, U#261, U #261, U #291, U #336, U #357, U #363, U #367, U #368, U #375, U #377, U #382.

The Seed Fund also has requests for seeds of African species, African yellow flowering species, and terrarium plants.

DESCRIPTIONS

JA02-01: *B. carolineifolia* Regel (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Mexico, Guatemala] Large erect rhizome; large palmately parted leaves

on long petioles; flowers large, pink, with dark pink spots; late winter to early spring. **JA02-02**: *B. dominicalis* A. de Candolle (Sect. *Begonia*) [Lesser Antilles, Dominica] Erect shrub to 4'; leaves bare, medium green, entire, oval with long tips, to 10"; inflorescence dense with hundreds of very small greenish-white flowers.

JA02-03: *B. fischeri* Schrank (Syn. U129) (Sect. *Begonia*) [N. & S. America] A highly variable shrub with many varieties. Var. *fischeri* has erect red stems to 2'; medium, puberulent green leaves, red flushed on back; palmately veined; pink blossoms and winged carpels throughout the year. Very prolific.

JA02-04: *B. micranthera* Grisebach var. *foliosa* Smith and Schubert (Sect. *Eupetalum*) [Argentina] Tall growing tuberous; 2" leaves; flowers white, 6 tepals. This variety of *B. micranthera* is reported to be dioecious—male and female blossoms do not occur on the same plants.



This A selectificals, graving Merril and Koffiye Cal of Chacles, Odds, was lear-show at the April Senti Stands show The species offered in this month's Ser Fund.

JA02-05: B. nelumbiifolia Schlecht. & ht. & Cham. var. 'Rubra' hort. (Sect. Gireoudia) [Mexico to Colombia] Rhizomatous; leaves large, round, green, peltate (resemble a pond lily); small white flowers in early spring. No description of horticultural variety 'Rubra' has been found. The picture is from The Begonian May-June 1983: p. 87.

JA02-06: *B. obscura* Brade (Sect. *Pritzelia*) [Brazil] Shrub, erect with red stems; leaves smooth, waxy, olive-green, with red petioles; flowers white.

Pronunciation of Begoniaceae Names for the *Begonian* 69: July/August, 2002 by Jack Golding

acaulis uh-KAW-lis acetosa ay-se-TOH-suh ampla AMP-luh angularis ang-yew-LAY-ris 'Compta' hort. KOMP-tuh bogneri bog-NEER-eye borneensis bor-NEE-en-sis BOW-er-ee, bow-er-eye bowerae MAY-jor var major bracteosa brak-te-OH-suh brev- I-KAW-lis brevicaulis brevirimosa bre-vir-i-MOH-suh 'Exotica'. ex-OT-ti-kuh caraguatatubensis kar-a-gyew-ata-tub-EN-Sis carolineifolia kar-oh-lin-e-eye-FOH-liuh carrieae kar-REE-ee cathayana kath-ay-AY-nuh cavallyensis ka-val-li-EN-sis chitoensis chi-TOH-en-sis chlorosticta klo-ro-STIK-tuh chuniana chun-i-AY-nuh convolvulacea kon-vol-vvew-LAY-seuh circumlobata sir-kum-lo-BAY-tuh cooperi KOOP-er-eve crassicaulis kras-si-KAW-lis crispula krisp-YEW-luh decora de-KOH-ruh diadema deye-a-DEE-muh dichroa DEYE-kroh-uh dioica deve-OH-i-kuh dominicalis doh-min-i- KAY-lis echinosepala ek-in-oh-SEP-a-luh fagifolia fag-i-FOH-li-uh fischeri FISH-er-eye floccifera flok-si-FEE-ruh francisiae fran-SIS-i-ee glabra GLAYB-ruh var. coralipetiolis kor-ral-i-pet-i- OHL-is var. cordifolia kor-di-FOH-li-uh

gland-yew-LIF-er-uh

goh-goh-EN-sis

han-DEL-i-eye

hatacoa * ha-ta-KOH-uh var. meisneri MEYES-ner-eye 'Silver' hemslevana hem-slee-AY-nuh holtonis hohl-TOHN-is hugelii hyew-GEL-i-eye imperialis im-peer-i-AY-lis ita-gyew-as-syew-EN-sis itaguassuensis ken-WORTH-i-ee kenworthyae leprosa lep-ROH-suh leathermaniae leth-er-MAN-i-ee syn platanifolia plat-an-i-FOH-li-uh var. acuminauh-kyew-min-a-tis-SEYEmuh listada lis-TAH-duh lubbersii LEWY-ber-si-eve loranthoides lor-anth-o-EYE-deez, subsp. rhopalocarpa rhoh-pal-OH-kar-puh syn. rhopalocarpa rhoh-pal-OH-kar-puh maculata mak-yew-LAY-tuh malabarica mal-i-BAR-i-kuh mannii MANN-i eye mariae MAYR-i-ee MAY-son-i-ay-nuh masoniana maurandiae mow-RAYN-di-ee MAH-zee mazae dem-in-YEW-tuh var. deminuta for, nigricans NEYEG-ri-kanz for. viridis VEER-i-dis mexicana mex-i-KAY-nuh micranthera meye-kran-THER-uh var. venturii ven-TYEWR-i-eye var. foliosa foh-li-OH-suh molleri MOHL-ler-eve nelumbiifolia nel-um-bi-eye-FOH-li-uh nepalensis ne-pal-EN-sis obscura obs-KYEWR-uh olsoniae ohl-SOHN-i-ee oxvanthera ox-i-ANTH-er-uh syn. jussiaeicarpa jus-si-ee-i-KAHR-puh paul-EN-sis paulensis pavonina pav-OHN-i-nuh platanifolia plat-an-i-FOH-li-uh pedatifida pe-da-ti-FID-uh poculifera pro-ku-LIF-er-uh syn, haullevilleana haul-le-vil-le-AY-nuh pol-i-go-o-EYE-deez polygonoides princeps PRIN-seps

glandulifera

goegoensis

handelii

pris-ma-TOH-car-puh

prismatocarpa

pseudolubbersii	syew-doh-LEWY-ber-si-
	eye
purpusii	pur-PYEWS-i-eye
pustulata	pus-tyew-LAY-tuh
radicans	RAD-i-kanz
syn. lim-	
mingheana	lim-ming-he-AY-nuh
syn procumbens	PROH-kum-benz
rajah	RAH-juh
rex	REX
'Longiciliata' *	long-i-sil-i-AY-tuh
rieckei	REEK-i-eye
robusta	ROH-bus-tuh
roezlii	REEZ-li-eye
roxburghii	rox-BURGH-i-eye
scharffiana	scharff-i-AY-nuh
scharffii	SCHARFF-i-eye
serratipetala	ser-ra-ti-PET-a-luh
sharpeana	shar-pe-AY-nuh
solananthera	soh-lan-ANTH-er-uh
soli-mutata	sol-i-myew-TAY-tuh
stigmosa	stig-MOH-suh
strigillosa	stri-gil-LOH-suh
syn daedalea	dee-DAY-le-uh
subalpestris	sub-al-PEST-ris
subnummulari-	sub-num-mul-ar-i-FOH-
folia	li-uh
tacanana	ta-kan-AY-nuh
tayabensis	tay-a-BEN-sis
teuscheri	TOOS-sher-eye
thelmae	THELMA-ee
tropaeolifolia	tro-pee-oh-li-FOH-li-uh
venosa	ven-OH-suh
versicolor	ver-si-KOH-lor
wollnyi	WOHLL-ni-eye
xanthina*	zan-THEYE-nuh
syn. picta hort.	PIK-tuh

* Nomenclature notes:

The typical **Begonia hatacoa** is described with the upper surface of the leaves "marked and dashed with white splotches." Therefore the cultivar name **B. hatacoa** 'Spotted' is superflorous and should not be used. The plants with all silver leaves is considered a cultivar and should be identified as **B. hatacoa** 'Silver'

A STATE OF THE STA

The name B. rex var longiciliata is not valid.

The epithet "longiciliata" was not published in accordance with the requirements of *The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*. The plant should be considered a cultivar with the name **B. rex** 'Longiciliata'.

The name **B. xanthina** var. *picta* is not valid. It should be listed as **B. xanthina** syn. *picta* hort.

In Memory Bob Lindgren

Westchester Begonia Society and the American Begonia Society lost a wonderful member on Good Friday. Robert Lindgren grew everything and grew everything to perfection. He was truly a master gardener. Bob and his wife, Marion, came to their first Westchester meeting in the early '60s, Irene Nuss recalls. They immediately took part in the club's activities and Bob served as President twice, in 1974-75 and 1985-86 and held many other offices as well. He worked tirelessly up to last summer helping with each meeting and board meeting and our annual show in July. Bob's specialty was Novel Grown Begonias and he entered many in our shows over the years. His B. 'Irene Nuss' took Best in Show at the Culver City Garden club show a few years ago.

Perhaps every branch has a member like Bob who is never too busy or tired to help when asked and to volunteer when not asked. Surely, we know there are not enough of his kind. Members like Bob Lindgren are the backbone and heart of the American Begonia Society. We miss him now and will always miss him, but we feel his loving presence whenever we prune a begonia, pot up a leaf cutting or plant a tomato. We will miss him this summer when it's showtime and he won't be there to help us, keep us laughing as we work and inspire us to do better. Westchester has a new trophy for our show this year: The Robert Lindgren Showing is Sharing Award. With this award we will remember one who was truly "in friendly contact" with "all who love and growing begonias".

Janet Brown Westchester Begonia Society

Begonias: Treasure of the Tropics

April 20-21, 2001 Show and Sale of the Fred A. Barkley Branch, Oklahoma

Rainy weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the members of the Barkley Branch as they brought in their entries and sale plants for the big annual show and sale. As it turned out, rain was just the thing to bring in a public who couldn't be out working in their yards anyway.

And what a show it was! Show Chairman Mark Howery led the branch in putting together an outstanding show and Dianna Wilkerson did an astonishing job at making the plant sale super great. Thanks to good write-ups in the local papers as well as advertising by the group at other garden events in the spring, the public showed up in good numbers. By the end of the weekend, 10 new members plus 4 children had been added.

Of particular note, the show this year had great variety. There were good samplings of both species and hybrids with just about every division and class of begonias being represented. With over 150 entries it was a BIG show!

Rhizomatous begonias are traditionally the largest category of show plants because at this time of the year they are at their best. This year was no exception. There were many old favorites: *B.* 'Art Hodes', 'Shiloh', 'Cathedral', *crassicaulis*, 'Page 13', and 'Freddie'. But there were also new, less frequently seen plants such as *B.* 'Oliver Twist' and 'Careless Whisper'. **Gene Salisbury**'s *B.* 'Virginia Jens' was *amazing*.

Thanks to **Charles Henthorne** there was an excellent display of terrarium begonias including *B. xanthena* var. *picta*, *leprosa*, 'Buttercup', and 'Bebe'.

Hybrids created in Oklahoma are always an important feature of any show here and they were well represented this time. There were a number of **Dorothy** Caviness creations on display. Dorothy's hybrids are particularly noted for their unusualness and she is perhaps best known for her B. 'Kathlyn Calvert', the deeply spiraled leaf cane. At this show, Gene Salisbury exhibited one of his favorites of hers, her huge hybrid that is a B. chitoensis look alike that has not been named. Gene also showed the very large B. 'Curly Face' (B. 'Harbison Canyon' x 'Joe Hayden'), created by Freda Holley and another of her hybrids grown by Dianna Wilkerson took Best of Show -- B. 'Holley Moon' (B. carrieae x nelumbiifolia). She also has a new hybrid that took Best New Introduction - B. 'Holley's Heartfelt' (B. 'Lana' x platanifolia).

Nancy Slagle made sure that we saw begonias in a garden setting with other plants. Her Dish Garden won a blue ribbon and Best of Division for her.

Dianna Wilkerson not only grew the Best of Show Winner, she took the Sweepstakes Award with a total of 21 blue ribbons. She had a large number of beautiful species on display including a *B. loranthoides* in bloom and with a seed pod forming, a gorgeous *B. venosa*, and a lush *B. holtonis*.

Jim Estes, breathless from a trip to Hawaii, still managed to take Best Species with an artful *B. echinosepala*

This was a show of which not only the Branch, but ABS could be proud.

~FH





Above left, Dianna Wilkerson's Best of Show winner B. 'Holley Moon' and, above right, her B. venosa. Below is Gene Salisbury's B. 'Virginia Jens' (left), B. 'Oliver Twist' (top) & B. 'Curly Face', winners all.







Volume 69 July/August 2002

Oklahoma. The new group in the Philadelphia area requested branch status and submitted copies of their Constitution and Bylaws and an officer and membership roster. Mary reported that the papers were in order and recommended approval of the new group to be known as the Delaware Valley Branch. The Board approved and a charter will be issued. 12. Business Manager Gene Salisbury brought up several items for consideration. The president needs to appoint a new Public Relations Chair and the Board needs to ratify the appointment. The Board should take affirmative action to develop a membership update procedure so that the Begonian editor always has an accurate mailing list. The new Convention Committee should be coordinating with the host group on board meeting arrangements. Sending of ballots for second family members should be confirmed so that no members are missed. Brad Thompson is publishing a begonia registration handbook which should be a help to hybridizers. The Board and Publications Committee should consider supporting this publication. Having board meetings during the year in various places may reduce convention attendance. 13. Convention Committee Chair Mary Sakamoto reviewed the major mistakes of the Denver Convention based on the final report of the accounting. Perhaps the most significant mistake was that the hotel required 400 rooms rented. There were refunds and reimbursements that were not explained and speaker fees were paid. The income and expenses of the tours and other functions were not itemized. Cash from plant sales was used to pay the hotel. Too many free rooms were provided to attendees. The committee will make sure that these mistakes are not made again. The financial report on this convention was apparently difficult to obtain. Virginia Jens sug-

gested that if the accounting were done on a computer it would be simple to make copies available. 14. Convention Chair Cheryl Lenert reported that registration packets for the Houston Convention are printed and would be mailed soon. The Grant Review Committee submitted proposed application and budget forms for field collecting grants to the Board for review. Initial comments on the forms were to include a request for a statement of benefit to the ABS in return for the grant and to include a request for citation of other funding sources with contacts. Also the Committee recommended funding the New England Tropical Conservatory's request for support of Scott Hoover's collecting trip this year. 16. Mary Fuqua reported that Scott Hoover is not going to conduct his originally planned collecting trip this winter. She presented a revised and less ambitious proposal for the NETC, which included Scott Hoover collecting for only two weeks in April and Indonesians doing a larger part of the collecting. Indonesians would also process, label and distribute seeds and specimens. The NETC requested a \$2500 grant for this work from the ABS. The Board voted approval. Since this effort will be less costly than the original plan, donors will be contacted to see if they wish to have their donation returned or held over for the next trip. 17. Judging Chair Maxine Zinman reported sending cultural certificates to various branches for their shows. 18. Subscriptions for the Member-at-Large Newsletter were due on January 1, 2002. Those interested in getting the newsletter should send \$5 to ABS Treasurer Carol Notaras. 19. President Mueller reviewed the membership report submitted by Membership Secretary Arlene Ingles for September 1, 2001 through January 32, 2002. Total membership is up from 1271 on September 1 to 1364 on January 32. The current total consists of 89 institutions, 60 lifetime, 1055 domestic, 51 second family and 109 foreign members. More than 100 new members joined during this period mostly from branches, the internet and unknown sources. 20. Maxine Zinman reported investigating cell phone contracts for use in contacting past due members. She found two types of contracts, one that covers only outgoing calls and one that includes unlimited incoming calls. We would probably need the latter, but the fee is \$69.99 per month. We decided to defer any action to the next meeting while investigating other alternative including an 800 number. 21. Begonian editor Freda Holley sent in reports on the Begonian and Publications Committee. She hopes everyone agrees that the new printer produced a quality issue for January/February. The cost is a few hundred dollars more than we were paying but associated savings offset that to a degree. The Publications Committee has received one inquiry, but no proposal. The Millie Thompson Publication Fund has over \$4000. At this time. Everyone is urged to make prospective authors aware of the availability of this fund. 22. The tabled item on ABS recognition at local shows was discussed. Two ways to do this were suggested. One was a Showing is Sharing award and the second was a People's Choice Award. After lengthy discussion a motion was made and seconded to adopt the Showing is Sharing Award for branch shows. This award will be provided on request in advance of a show and is to be displayed during the show. The motion passed. The Awards Committee will be given the task of designing the award. 23. All committee chairs are being asked to find a back-up person for your position. You will likely be asked to provide the name at the next meeting. 24. Bill Claybaugh was approved as Conservation Chair to replace Tamsin Boardman who resigned.

He spoke of some new approaches he wanted to take for this program. There will be a seminar on conservation at the Houston Convention. 25. Rekha Morris was appointed to revive the Save Our Species Newsletter. 26. The Begonia Society of France has requested an exchange of publications with ABS. The Begonian will be sent to them and they will send ABS Le Petit Begofils. Normand Dufresne will translate selected articles. 27. Nominations are requested for the position of Public Relations Chair. 28. Freda Holley sent a detailed written proposal to create a new fund to be called the Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund. The proposal was written as a motion, which was seconded from the floor. The Board voted approval. 29. The probability that the U.S. Postal Service will start irradiating mail with electron beams was discussed. We will soon need to seek alternate means of sending seeds and plant material. For now it is still safe to ship by USPS. 30. The doll that was won by Muriel **Ash** at the Denver Convention was never received. Helene Jaros quoted a price of \$250 to make another similar doll. The Board approved the expense to make another doll and send it to Muriel to replace the lost one. 31. The University of South Florida Botanic Garden hosted its first annual Begonia Bonanza Event at the end of February. The event included speakers and sales of begonias. They have invited the ABS to hold future board meetings in Tampa, Florida to coincide with this event.

Richard N. Macnair, Secretary

ABS needs a Public Relations Chair! Won't you volunteer? Contact Morris Mueller.



B. 'Gigi'

Here's another one from the 2002 Miami Branch Show. Grown by Joyce Pridgin it is a B. 'Sir Percy' sport by Sorenson of Florida,



Editor's Notes

Like Morris Mueller, I constantly face the problem of more plants than space and at this time of year, they seem to multiply apace. The current rule I am forcing myself to follow in order to cut down on the numbers is to keep only species, my own hybrids that I'm trying out, and perhaps a few hybrids that have some trait I want to use in hybridizing. I picked up this last rule in reading Ross Bolwell's practice in hybridizing - use an interesting plant for only a period of time. What rules do you readers use? I have not received many letters to the editor recently - how about outlining your methods for restraining the begonia overpopulation in your garden in such a letter?

I did not have room on the last page of Jacky Duruisseau's article to tell you about this interesting French begonia grower. His address is 3, route du Puy Lante, Maisonneuve 17200 Le Douhet, France and jkdur@club-internet.fr is his email address. You will note in the Directory of Begonia Societies in this issue that he is currently contact and President for the Association Francaise des Amateurs de Begonias. He is in retirement from teaching college mathematics. He is planning trips to collect begonias in Gabon and Madagascar. Jacky lived for 5 years in Madagascar as well.

One of my goals as editor has been to try to have at least one new writer represented in each issue of the *Begonian* either in a letter or an article and Jacky has helped me meet that goal for this issue. But this would not have happened without help from **Virginia Jens** who solicited the article. **Charles Jaros** is another who is always finding writers for me. I have many other helpers out there and I appreciate them all. If you know of someone

who has an interesting story to tell, press them to write an article, interview them, or get another person to write them up. Of course I say the same about begonias. Could you imagine interviewing an interesting begonia? Hmm, maybe I'll get **Brad Thompson** to write that one!

By the way, when sending me an article via the internet, if you have it I would appreciate the use of the font "Times New Roman" which is the standard I use in the *Begonian* (helps avoid problems when it is transferred to the printer) and I use 10 point type as well. If this is not available to you, it is easily transformed, however.

Propagation is a question always of interest to readers, particularly new readers. It would be nice to have articles about propagation of the different classifications of begonias. It would be good to have someone take each classification and run through the types of propagation that will work for the various plants. Of particular interest would be the exceptions to the rules. For example, one rule is that canes cannot be propagated from leaves. The exception? B. coccinea (the true species). It is amazing the unlikely ways that we discover some begonias will propagate. For example, I have tried and tried to propagate B. egregia to no avail. Light mix, heavy mix, using a rooting hormone, not using one, covered, not covered. Then, lo and behold, one day I had a stem break off and no time to propagate so I stuck it into a jar of water with some other cuttings. When I next looked at it, it hadn't wilted so I left it there. Peculiar bumps formed all along the stem from which eventually roots erupted. Voila, a new plant.

But whatever the topic, you write it and if it is about begonias our readers will be interested. And, you new members out there, help me meet my goal of a new writer per issue. Write a letter to the editor!

~FH

NEWS: ABS, Branch, International

The Westchester Begonia Society will present its 43rd annual Begonia Show and Plant Sale in July. See page 158 for details. The theme will be "A Walk in the Park" and it will feature Brad Thompson hybrids. It will be at Westchester Christian Church The judged show will feature rare begonias and other exotic shade plants. There will also be demonstrations on the growing and culture of begonias as well as a gigantic sale of begonias.

Mike Flaherty's Gazebo Plants & Flowers will also have a Show featuring Brad Thompson's begonias. See page 158 for details.

The West Palm Beach branch would be interested in exchanging cuttings with another branch. You may contact **Johanna Kitson** if your branch has an interest in this; her email address is oetkbtytc @aol.com and her mail address is 14206 Greentree Drive, Wellington Florida 33414.

The future looked perilous for the future of *Begonia Australis* for a time, but fortunately a new editor has been found and publication of this Journal of the Association of Australian Begonia Societies will be back on track soon. The new editor is **Tricia Marriott.** She can be reached at marriott@netlink.com.au and I'm sure she would be delighted to receive letters or material from any of our readers. My information is that she is new to begonias, but not to writing or editing. If you are interested in subscribing, you may contact **Geoff Apps** at gapps@dcsi.net.au

The 2001 **House and Garden** magazine (your library might still have a copy) car-

ried an article on 'Flower Patterns' with a stunning photo of a massive 253 x 79 foot floral carpet made from more than 650,000 tuberous begonias at Brussels' Grand Palace in Belgium. The every-other year event started in 1971 as a promotional scheme for the begonia growers of Ghent; now it is a major tourist attraction. The next floral carpet will be shown in August 2002. For information you may call (international call) 011-32-2-513-8940 or probably contact your local tourist agent. There was also a mention of Canada's new 'Mosaiculture Festival' in Montreal. In 2000, there were 60 floral sculptures including peacocks, swans and Van Gogh Paintings rendered in annuals, tropicals, and succulents. For info on this one call 888-868-9999. (If you go be sure to get photos of any begonia sculptures for the editor! And thanks to Johanna Kitson for bringing this article to our attention.)

It is with sad regret that we have learned of the death of the great ABS tuberous begonia expert **Howard Siebold**. The editor has not received a In Memory column with any details, however. Howard is known for his extensive work on tuberous begonias and for his book **Tuberous Begonias** (still available from the Millie Thompson Publication Fund through Ann Salisbury).

Remember the News column is for any topic about begonias - national or international. If you see an item of interest be sure to pass it on to the editor. Or if your group is having an event that might be of interest to others, send the editor a note. All items should be in her hands by the 15th day (preferably earlier) of the first month of the current issue for the next one.

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COMING EVENTS

July 20 & 21, 2002: The Westchester Begonia Society presents its 43rd Annual Begonia Show and Plant Sale, "A Walk in the Park" featuring Brad Thompson hybrids, at 8740 La Tijera Boulevard, One block east of Sepulveda, Westchester, CA. Admission is free; for more information call 310-670-4471 or email JBBROWN3@aol.com

August 16-17, 2002: Gazebo Plants & Flowers Begonia Show, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Featuring Brad Thompson hybrids, Hi-Mark Nursery specimen plants and Tuberous grown by Paul Carlisle. Our new Begonia garden will be open for the first time. 1505 East Valley Rd. Montecito, CA 93108. For info call 805-969-4367 or email Mikeflaherty@cox.net

September 27-29, 2002: Seventh 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.

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