

The **Begonian**

January/February 2003



The **Begonian**

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Publication of the American Begonia Society

American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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Cover

Front: This beautiful begonia is an unnamed seedling grown in Trinidad by **Choon Maraj**. Read her letter in the Letters to the Editor column on page 4.

Back: This is to make all of us wish we were in Florida for January and February! **Mary Bucholtz** took this photo of *B. nelumbifolia* and *B. 'Plum Gorgeous'*, one of **Tim Anderson's** recent hybrids, at the Garden of Four Arts in Florida where the landscaping was done by our own **Johanna Kitson**.

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Begonia 'Tiger Kitten'. Photo by Mary Bucholtz.

Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads **200303** or **200304**, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

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President's Message

Hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Now another year has begun and with it another growing time. Where ever you live, winter is well underway. Despite my best efforts my plants, like me, are not as happy as during the warm months of the year. *But, then there are things to do to make this time of the year tolerable also.*

The thought of the upcoming convention in Oklahoma City in April is a bright spot. If you have never been there, you will be in for a nice surprise. There is a lot to see and do, and the people are midwestern/western friendly and helpful. This will be a time to renew friendships and make new ones. It will be an opportunity to see new places or revisit sites previously enjoyed. There are always new things to learn and new ideas for growing. There are flawlessly grown show plants. (I don't spend too much time looking at them. If I did I would come home and throw mine out!) And then there are those "must have" plants at the sale as well as items from the boutique and bookstore.

This is also my time of year to plan - what to do again and not to do to try to grow better plants. Time to get out past issues of the *Begonian* and research. Despite having been read before there always seems to be something either forgotten or overlooked. Cold, gloomy, stormy days always pass more quickly with a stack of begonia reading at hand.

There are still chores to do with plants. They need watering and growing is on-going. Growing under lights as I do means they never really do go dormant. Some of them even enjoy the cooler weather and grow better. But, unfortunately pests like light growing conditions too, so constant inspection is a must.

Another winter activity that is enjoyable for me is sowing seed. The prom-

ise of new plants is exciting. For some reason this activity makes me feel more like I am outside. Terrarium plants do produce this kind of feel as a substitute for being out-of-doors. The light and warmth seem to hold the promise of the seasons ahead.

Enough of my scribbling about how I get them through winter, and on to society business. The results of the general membership advisory vote on dues increase were in favor of the increase. There were 73 votes received of which 67 voted for the increase. The deciding vote by the ABS Board members was also in favor of the increase. There were 50 votes of which 47 were in favor and 3 votes to keep the current dues. I will request the Board to approve the increase starting July 1, 2003 with the start of the new budget year. In the meantime the *Begonian* will be sent to all members by first class mail. I hope you will all enjoy this benefit.

One final note, the nominating committee for the election of officers has been established. **Johanna Zinn** of the Potomac Branch will chair the committee. She will be assisted by **Valerie Morris** of the Alamo Branch and **Margaret Fisher** of the Orange County Branch.

In friendship,

Morris Mueller

Letters to the Editor

From Trinidad

Hi, my name is **Choon Maraj** and I live in the tropical island of Trinidad, just off the coast of Venezuela. In Trinidad we have two seasons - a rainy season and a dry season, during our rainy season it can rain for up to two weeks non-stop whereas during the dry season it can get as hot as 91.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

Begonias are popular here, but are challenging to grow since there are no names or species varieties to identify them by. I grow begonias under a half covered and half Sarran netting shade.

I enjoy your magazine a lot, and I've used the information in your magazine and tried to cross and pollinate some of my own begonias. The results that I got were astounding...it resulted in a lot of plants with distinct markings and features. Enclosed are a few photos, not professionally done, of the results. I think you can get an idea of what they look like. I have crossed some again just recently and have some seedpods. I would like to donate to the seed fund, but I don't have the species names and would not be able to identify them.

I wish you continued success.
Mrs. Choon Maraj
125 Cunapo Southern Main Rd.
Rio Claro,
Trinidad, West Indies

See an example of Choon's plants on the cover! Indeed they are spectacular. Choon, we want your seed even without names; it is always exciting to try seed from another country. Send them on! Do you know if any species grow natively in Trinidad? Write us again with more about the different types of begonias you grow.

Dark Begonias

by Karen Platt

To those of you who do not know my name, I am a lover of most plants, but passionate about dark plants especially. I am author of *Black Magic and Purple Passion* and founder of the International Black Plant Society. So it is little wonder that I search the world for dark begonias. I search the internet and keep my eyes open

at shows. I read all I can to find the darkest begonias. Those silky dark leaves like shining taffeta make my heart race faster; I find the shapes of the leaves and the surfaces exquisite.

Based in England, I am denied the majority of **Brad Thompson's** offerings, but I have the delights of those begonias offered by **Shirly** and **Terry Tasker** here in the U.K., and I am working with the U.S. company Proven Winners to introduce more dark begonias and other dark plants. Brad Thompson has launched some wonderful dark begonias, but there are many other near-black leaved rhizomatous types as well as one or two dark species that I am particularly enamoured with for the depth of colour and silk-like quality of the leaves. One such is *B. 'Raquel Wood'* with incredible coloration, and the back of the leaves, as is often the case with begonias, is just as fascinating as the upper surface. This makes a lovely plant, fairly large leaves which appear like taffeta silk, so very dark, with interesting undersides, veined brownish, and hairy stems. Most of my begonias sit together and this one always catches my eye first, especially when the sun is behind it. It is quick to make a good specimen plant.

Another favourite is *B. 'Beatrice Haddrell'*. This is as near black to any, with a little chartreuse green mark which sets off the smallish dark leaves to perfection. Quite different is *B. 'Vesuvius'*, very aptly named. A silky dark leaf with red eruptions on the surface, reminiscent of an erupting volcano, this is a superb plant.

One of the most fascinating dark leaved begonias I have is *B. 'Dragon Wing'*; not the tuberous one sold under this name, but a lovely rhizomatous plant with near black leaves and chartreuse green mottling which almost looks like stained glass when the sun comes from behind. Other favourites include *B. 'Black Coffee'*,

B. 'Orient', *B. 'Midnight'*, and *B. 'Black Velvet'*, all of which are some of the darkest I have seen. I also find those with dark centres interesting, *B. 'Helen Teupel'* is magnificent, so too, the black centre of *B. 'Omaha Beefsteak'* and the red dotted dark leaves of *B. 'Boston Cherries'* and 'Chocolate'.

Begonias, as I am sure you all know, look best when they are maturing, none more so than the dark ones, so wait with the excitement mounting all the while until the mature leaves appear which are more stunningly dark than the young leaves.

Species begonias are just as fascinating if sometimes slightly more demanding to grow, *B. mazaе*, *B. goegoensis*, and *B. solimutata* with alternate green and near black striped leaves are all must haves on the dark list. The *B. bowerae* types are intriguing too; the eyelash begonias are very becoming and vary from brown to near black.

All in the dark side of begonias should thrill and enthrall.

Karen's new book Black Magic and Purple Passion 2 is a fully re-written, full colour version of her first book on the subject with over 300 photos and a special section on dark begonias describing 130 of the darkest available. It will be published on 1 February 2003. It will be available at the Northwest Flower Shows, both in Seattle and San Francisco. Also appearing there will be a dark garden, incorporating begonias; and she will be speaking on dark plants. It is also available by mail order from birdie@eroamprop.com. You may wish to visit Karen's website www.seedsearch.demon.co.uk and look out for her range of 'Black Magic and Purple Passion' plants in garden centers in the many places in the U.S. and on www.provenwinners.com.

Sure Winner Begonias by Chuck Ades

Ades & Gish Nurseries is a wholesale nursery consisting of about 17 acres of greenhouses and about 120 employees. Although we grow over 400 varieties of indoor houseplant and patio plants, I am especially interested in begonias.

About four years ago, we started growing begonias commercially- mostly rhizomatous and cane varieties. I purchased our first plants from Kartuz Greenhouses in Vista, California. Michael Kartuz has a plant catalog nursery and advertises in this publication. Since Vista is only a half hour drive from our nursery, I drove over and purchased three types of plants: begonias, passion vine, and gesneriads. The begonias were the group of plants that was met with the most excitement from our sales staff and our customers. Consequently, I joined the American Begonia Society and have since attended the last two ABS conventions in Denver and Houston. At the Denver convention, I asked the organization to grant me permission to use the ABS logo and website on our labels. I wanted to make it possible for new potential Begoniacs to find out where the nearest Begonia Society branches are located.

Presently, we grow about 120 begonia varieties. I am constantly adding new varieties and dropping others. I only want to have about 60 to 80 varieties at a time for sale. The balance of the 120 varieties is made up of recently dropped varieties and yet to be developed varieties. The 60 to 80 varieties will evolve into 'Sure Winners' through our continual re-evaluation process. We will also continue to add new varieties to keep our Classic Collection interesting and also satisfy my curiosity and desire to grow and become acquainted

with as many varieties as possible.

The criteria we use for a 'Sure Winner' is a plant that shows itself off well in the retail setting by way of colorful and attractive foliage and/or flowers. It must also be easy to grow. A plant may show well, but if it dies for the customer, that plant may be the last begonia that person buys. One of my goals is to increase the public's awareness and interest in begonias. Therefore, the buyer of one of our plants has to have success with it.

In my endeavor to popularize begonias, I have had to become a little creative and pursue and develop special uses of begonias. One area we are trying to develop is with the interiorscape industry. Interiorscape companies install and maintain plants in areas that are open to the public such as hotels and theme parks. We are already working with some interiorscapers and with such theme parks as Sea World, the San Diego Zoo and Disneyland. If the general public sees begonias in these public places the awareness and interest in begonias will automatically follow; this should eventually increase the membership in the ABS. However, to fully develop this aspect, we need information on which varieties perform well in interiors of buildings. While we are getting this experience through our present clients, it would be great if we could benefit from the vast experience of some of the ABS members.

I would be very interested in any such information or suggestions that any of you Begoniacs may have as to which varieties perform well in interiors of your homes without any supplemental lighting.

Another potential use for begonias I would like to develop is a 'Window Sill Collection'. The plant must be happy in a 4" pot, sitting on a windowsill and be easy to grow and attractive. They should not exhibit strong phototropism (quickly turning their leaves to the light from the win-

dow.). We presently have about 12 rhizomatous varieties that seem to meet these requirements. We would welcome any suggested varieties that any of you might have for their interiorscape varieties for the windowsill varieties. I can be contacted by phone at 760-727-8541, by fax at 760-727-5506, or you may reach me by email at darrella@agnurseries.com

A wholesale nursery is a valuable ally for ABS and Chuck's philosophy is a great one to make the growing of begonias both easier and popular; no more would we lose potential begonia lovers when they buy plants at the local nursery which quickly die off. Give him your best thoughts on the subjects he raises!

Atlanta Branch News

by Russ Richardson

I have retired as President of the Greater Atlanta Branch after 16 years. **Mike Gratton** is the new President and **Johnnie Hadley** is Vice President. On September 29th we had our annual Highlight of the year meeting at **Jack and Janet Harris**'. This is when they invite us to dig up and keep the wide variety of begonias they have been growing in the front yard beds all summer. In spite of the hot, dry weather the plants had held up well and were eagerly taken by some 17 members. I think most of us came one with at least a dozen nice plants.

As retiring president I was presented with a beautiful (what else) Rex begonia, potted in a handsome copper pot along with a maiden hair fern and African violet. A card written by **Mary Elizabeth Moultrie** thanking me of course brought tears to an old man's eyes. This has got to be one of the finest groups of begonia lovers in the world.

The Hidden Dangers of Begonia Growing by David Cavalli

As with most things in life, begonia growing has its own hidden dangers.

First, there's the danger of becoming addicted to the point of going crazy about plants. I find myself, and my good friend **Sandy Boyd** almost go into withdrawal after awhile if we don't get new plants or something isn't going crazy in our greenhouses. We plan trips with begonias being the sole purpose of the trip. No matter where we go we look for begonias, cuttings, plants, etc.

Last year **Morris Mueller**, **Sandy Boyd**, and I made a day out of going up to **Cynthia Bishop's** place to get plants. Addicted!!

Second there's the space factor be it in a greenhouse or in the house or plant room. Oh, it always looks like there's plenty of space to start, then reason one kicks in

again. Addicted! Plants, plants, and more plants: gotta have them!

You start cuttings, get cuttings, plants, seeds. How many of us start out thinking we're doing fine, just to go somewhere to find a new plant and there goes more space, plus plants will grow and grow fast hopefully.

I myself started with a 7' x 4' greenhouse and now have a 20' x 14' greenhouse much to my wife's dismay.

Third, there's ordering plants and having the long wait for them to come in the mail or wherever they are coming from. The wait can drive you nuts.

The list goes on and on, but I think you get the gist. So, I say be careful because once you get addicted you'll need to get your fix!

Yes, David - you have the malady bad and there is no cure! You may reach David by email at dlcavalli@hotmail.com or write him at 10192 Midway, Durham, CA 95938, but if you know of a medicine, share it with all of us!

Growing Show Begonias in Sewage Pipe by Antoon Hofnagels

Growing begonias in this way is very unusual, but it gives you a good result, and at a show you mostly get compliments and praise.

Thorough preparation is very important in this. To grow the shown begonia, I used a sewerpipe of synthetic material with a diameter of 0.8 feet and a length of 9 ft. I divided this pipe into 4 sections. In every section I drilled holes crosswise at one foot distance from each other.

With the 2 foot section at the bottom, I didn't do anything. So I had a pipe with 7 holes on 4 sides.

After this I made a water system that fed every hole with a thin, spaghetti-like

hose. All these went inside the pipe. I planted the pipe in a big flowerpot and filled the pipe with compost, close to every hole, I planted a begonia horizontally in a hole and worked in this way to the top.

In the centre, I made a drainage system with hydrogravel as drainage for superfluous water.

And for the rest you only have to look after this and a few months later you have a showstopper filled with begonias.

So if you ever need something special, perhaps this is an idea.

You may write Antoon at [Vossenpelsestraat, 6663 KH Lent, The Netherlands](mailto:Vossenpelsestraat,6663 KH Lent, The Netherlands) or email him at Hoefn@cs.com



Antoon's lovely 13 year old daughter Anne appears here with the begonia whose container we would not have guessed.. The begonia used in the planting is B. 'Purple Snow.'

Palos Verdes Branch Show and Sale

The Palos Verdes Branch held their annual Show and Sale in August at the South Coast Botanic Garden on the Palos Verdes Peninsula (CA). More than 500 begonias were for sale.

Best in Show was *B. 'Midnight Sun'* grown by **Bob Golden** and **John Spaulding** won Best Novice with his *B. 'Cachuma'*. **Louis Karobkin** won both Sweepstakes and the Show is Sharing awards.

As you can see below it was a fabulous show. The November issue of their newsletter *The Peninsula Begonian* announced the cultural awards won; these went to **John Spalding, Walter Pease, Ilene Anderson, Janet Brown, Eric Seel, Bob Golden, Rhea Campana, Don Caseltine,**

Jeanne Jones, Iris Bird, and Louis Karobkin. This latter master begonia grower won a total of 15 cultural awards.!

The Show was promoted by a beautiful article about **Jeanne Jones** in the Peninsula's newspaper *Daily Breeze* on the day of the sale. The article featured her 250 begonia varieties in her front yard and 500 in the back - all different. About the show the paper said, "Today's show will entice you with not only rare and unusual begonias that you'll rarely find in local nurseries, but also will offer begonia growing supplies and culture sheets with tips on raising them most efficiently." Photos of lovely leaves and flowers were there as well.

Westchester Branch Show

by **Janet Brown, Los Angeles, CA**

Despite the bad weather of the spring/non-spring we managed to have one of the most beautiful shows ever in July. The plants were gorgeous and varied as were the trophy and cultural winners. We really showed off the incredible beauty and variety of our beloved begonias and some of our favorite companion plants.. We also signed up two new members...

Almost like magic (oh, sure) the whole thing came together. **Ruth Pease** was busy registering all the entries. **Walter Pease** with help from **Iris Bird, Bob Golden, and Louis Korobkin** placed the plants on the tables and hung them on the racks. The plant sale was put together as always under the expert care of **Irene Nuss** and **Joy Blair.** and where do those plants come from? Not the good fairy be assured. **Mary Sakamoto** went down south to Kartuz and Ades & Gish and brought back tons of gorgeous things for you to buy. Then she

drove up to Westchester on Thursday to deliver them for pricing. Then there was the pricing party at my house on Thursday before the show.

The judges chose **Louise Korobkin's B. 'Rudy'** as Best in Show. *B. 'Rudy'* is a thick-stemmed, brittle begonia that is a cross of *B. ludwigii* x *B. popenoei* created by **Rudy Ziesenhenné.**

Iris Bird won the Showing is Sharing Trophy with 22 entries. Iris Bird with 13 blue ribbons won the Sweepstakes Award.

This article was excerpted from Janet Brown's write-up in the Westchester Newsletter. Want to have your show appear in the Begonian? Write a few paragraphs with all the details and send it along with a few photographs as soon after the show as possible to the editor at the address shown on page 38. Make sure the photos are duplicates as they may not be returned. And give the editor



Above left is **Louise Korobkin** with her trophy and Best of Show (Westchester) *B. 'Rudy'*. **Doug Pridgin's** new hybrid *B. 'Miniperba'*, above right in the Palos Verdes Show, was grown by **Jeanne Jones** - this one has migrated from Florida to California! It is an example of how our begonias move coast to coast in a flash. Below is just one of the many plant tables in the Palos Verdes show.



Convention 2003: Our Begonia Heritage

by Ann Salisbury

The Fred A. Barkley Branch will host the 2003 Convention from April 23, 2003 through April 27, 2003. The convention will be at the fascinating Embassy Suites with lots of activity on for every day. Arrive on Tuesday for the first tour next day.

Wednesday, April 23, an excursion to the Northern section of Oklahoma which will include a tour of the Salisbury Greenhouse, a lavish lunch at Northern Oklahoma College with a tour of the gardens. On to Ponca City, OK to see the National Statues including the Pioneer Woman, L.A. Cann Memorial Gardens, and a drive by of the Marland mansion with a tour of its gardens. Back to Oklahoma City for the cocktail hour and an evening seminar by **Mark Tebbitt** of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens who will have a slide show which will introduce the very latest findings on where the begonias originated and how they dispersed around the world. As a taxonomist, Mark will explain why the names of our cultivated begonias change. He will conclude with photographs of some of the species he likes to grow or wish he was growing and will tell a few short stories of their discoveries, histories in cultivation and cultural requirements. Don't miss this one!

Thursday. Another day of fun. First a trip to the TLC Nursery and on to the Cowboy Hall of Fame for a tour and lunch at their wonderful cafeteria. Lunch will not be included in the tour amount. In the afternoon we go on to tour the Dutch Gardens in one of Oklahoma City's most exclusive areas. Back to the hotel for more seminars when **Mike Flaherty**, landscaper to the California wealthy, will show us how he uses begonias in the plantings. Then **Scott Hoover** and **Mary Fuqua** will share the latest on his travels.

Friday is yet another fun day. You will board the trolley at the hotel and tour downtown Oklahoma City, attending the Fine Arts Festival and Bricktown with water canals and gardens and lots of places to eat. The Myriad Gardens are in walking distance and the National Monument for the bombing victims is in the same area. When you become weary, you may board the trolley and return to the hotel and get prepared for the gigantic plant sale.

Saturday will bring more seminars.. First you will hear some of ABS' current hybridizers such as **Mike Kartuz**, **Tim Anderson**, **Kathy Goetz**, and **Charles McGough** talk about their very latest hybrids and even get a chance to bid on them and maybe name your winners! Then, **Kathleen Burt-Utley** will share with us her discoveries about the begonias of Central America. And **Don Miller** will regale us with tales of his travels to the latest Australian convention. All this and you will have time to revisit the plant sale, shop at the Boutique, see the Show, and visit with all your old and new friends.

Plans are still underway for Sunday's events, but you already know they will be just as interesting. Remember there is a lavish free breakfast every day and an evening reception complete with drinks - great opportunities to eat and gab. So come early and stay late!

Come Round Up Begonias in Oklahoma!

THEY'RE MORE THAN OK AWARDS...

by Michael Ludwig

They are the American Begonia Society's FAB FOUR. As we join together in Oklahoma City we will present the most prestigious and honored awards that the Society hands out to its members. They recognize the outstanding service and achievements that have been done for the **national organization** by its members. YOU, the membership, are responsible to make the nominations. Please sit down right now and write up your nominations and send them to me. YOUR NOMINATION places the name on the ballot that goes out to the committee for voting. The nomination **must** contain the name of the award, the recipient **and** reasons that make them or the plant eligible for the award.

There are many worthy members that are possible winners for these awards. Some have become less active, but should be honored with one of these awards. If you have nominated someone in the past and they have not won, consider nominating them again. The committee may present only one of each of the awards each year. Often it is very difficult to choose a winner among the many high quality nominees.

I must receive your nominations by March 1st 2003. Please mail all nominations to

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

Award Criteria:

The **Hebert P. Dyckman Award for Service** is presented to a member who has

rendered **long-term** or very outstanding service for ABS above and beyond the normal duties of a member or officer.

The **Eva Kenworthy Gray Award** is given for one of two reasons: **1.** Contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among members; and/or **2.** Contributing original material toward helping the rank and file members further their study of begonias.

The **Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor** is for a begonia cultivar that has been released for at least five years and no more than fifteen. This hybrid must be registered with the Nomenclature Department and widely distributed, and the originator of the begonia must be a member of ABS.

The **Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award** is presented to the current or retired editor of the *Begonian* for the following reasons: **1.** For the outstanding use of contributions of members and others in the *Begonian* to execute the Aims and Purposes of the American Begonia Society. **AND 2.** For leading and strengthening the membership in their study of begonias through the excellence of editorship.

These awards may be received only once. The ADR Medal is presented to a cultivar and may be won more than once by a hybridizer. A complete list is available; contact me at the above address.

Recent past recipients of these awards:

Gray Award

1995	Mae Blanton
1996	Kit Jeans Mounger
1998	Gene and Ann Salisbury
1999	Mary Bucholtz
2000	Freda Holley
2001	Brad Thompson
2002	Helene Jaros

Dyckman Award

- 1995 Ann Salisbury
- 1996 Carol Notaras
- 1997 Joan Coulat
- 1998 Eleanor Calkins
- 1999 Gene Salisbury
- 2000 Mary Sakamoto
- 2001 Wanda and Richard Macnair
- 2002 Leora and Ray Fuentes

Alfred D. Robinson Medal

- 1995 B. 'Silvermist'
- 1996 B. 'Sweet Diane'
- 2000 B. 'Mary Sakamoto'
- 2001 B. 'Little Miss Mummy'
- 2002 B. 'Flamingo Queen'



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www.himarkbegonias.com

Note From the Awards Chairman:

The board voted to have an award made so that the national would have a presence at branch shows and events. The result is the Showing is Sharing Award. This certificate may be requested prior to your show from **Michael Ludwig**, Awards Chairman, (see back cover of the *Begonian* for address.)

This is awarded to the individual bringing in the most exhibits to your show. Between the signatures is a gold seal with the ABS' logo and the wording "Founded 1932".

Please request one for your next show. They are free to all branches.

The gold seals are available for purchase (contact me) and may be added to your own certificates or awards.

The certificate, suitable for framing, reads:

**American Begonia Society's
SHOWING IS SHARING
AWARD**

insert name here

is recognized for your efforts

**"to stimulate and promote interest in begonias and
other shade loving plants".**

Event chair signs

American Begonia Society's Award Chair signs.

Date

Descriptive Terminology for Begonia Peltate and Sinus by Jack Golding

The three main parts of a leaf are: the *lamina* or *blade* [the expanded part], the *petiole* [the leaf stalk], and a pair of *stipules* [the appendages at the base of the petiole].

The location of the **umbo**, the place where the petiole is attached to the blade, is a primary character used to distinguish leaves.

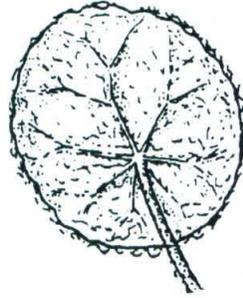
A leaf is **peltate** when the umbo is anywhere within the margin [outer edge] of the blade. The outline of the leaf shape is immaterial.



B. letouzeyi



B. fonsecae



B. ferramica



B. amphioxus

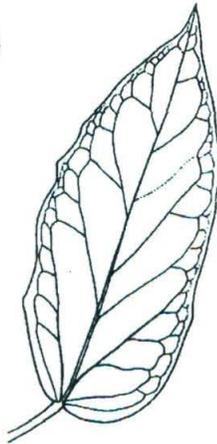
The leaf is **not-peltate** when the umbo is at any margin. Many leaves are **basifixed** [attached by the base].



B. multistaminea



B. emeiensis



B. rubromarginata



B. dioica



B. hayatae



B. buseyi



B. lanceolata

The **sinus** is the space or recess between two lobes or segments of a leaf blade or other expanded organ. **It is not the place where the petiole is joined to the blade.**

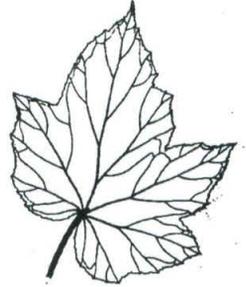
Many Begonia leaves have basal lobes on either side of the umbo. The space between these lobes is a sinus. This coincidence caused some writers in the 1940s to use the term sinus incorrectly, as the place where the petiole is attached to the blade. I had hoped when I wrote "Clearing Up the Sinus Problem" *Begonian* 58:168-9, 1991, this misunderstanding would be eliminated. But unfortunately some still continue to perpetuate the error.



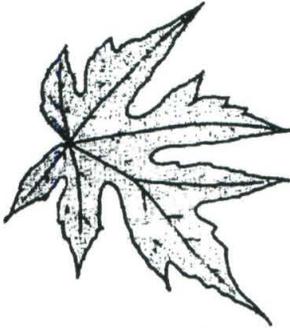
B. almedana

Lobed leaves

The sinuses are cut within the first third of the distance from the perimeter to the umbo.



B. oxyloba



B. reflexisquamosa

Cleft leaves:

The sinuses are cut to the middle third of the distance from the perimeter to the umbo.



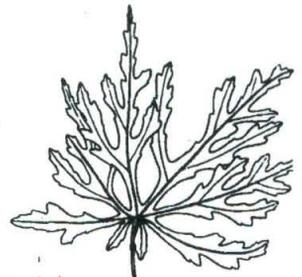
B. algaia



B. crassicaulis

Parted leaves:

The sinuses are cut to the inner third of the distance from the perimeter to the umbo, but not quite to the mid-vein or the petiole



B. mananjebensis

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Conservation Comments

by **Dr. B. E. Claybaugh,**
ABS Conservation Chairman

Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center.

I have recently been introduced to a new, US Government conservation program that will include both species and cultivar begonias. In recent correspondence with **Ken Browne**, Queensland Australia, I was told of a conservation program for begonias and other ornamental plants which is getting underway at Ohio State University (OSU). This program is being managed by Dr. **David Tay**, who is also from Queensland. Let me describe the background of this program and how the American Begonia Society can contribute.

The US Department of Agriculture currently maintains plant conservation programs at 24 state universities throughout

the US. This is the US National Plant Germplasm System. These programs have centered on food crops, until 1999, when Ohio State University was selected to develop and implement a conservation program on ornamental plants. This program and facility is the only one of its kind in the world. Since that time, the infrastructure has been built, and plans laid for conserving over 30 important genera of ornamental plants. The facilities at OSU include a 6,000 square foot office building, a 12,000 square foot greenhouse, two modern laboratories, extensive field plots, and an experienced staff of experts. The facility is known as The Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center. In their words, "The Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center (OPGC), located on the Columbus campus of The Ohio State University is a cooperative effort involving the University and the Agricultural Research Service of the US

Department of Agriculture with support and leadership from the ornamental plant industry nationwide. The goal of the OPGC is to conserve, assess and distribute herbaceous ornamental plant germplasm and to develop new techniques for conserving seed and clonally propagated germplasm." In lay-language, the program is to collect, propagate, and store plant materials so as to preserve the genus for the foreseeable future. These goals parallel those of the ABS.

I have been asked to serve on a "Begonia Technical Working Group" which will consist of five to seven individuals from plant societies, the University, and industry. Dr. **Tay, Carmel Browne** (Ken's wife), and myself are all members. An early, and very critical goal of the Working Group is to select those begonias which are to be included in the program. Cultivars will be part of the mix, but species will receive the primary emphasis. The number of begonias involved and the time frame are yet to be defined, but obviously must fit into the overall OPGC program.

Now we come to the good part, where all of the ABS can get involved. I need your help in this selection of begonias for conserving at the OPGC. To aid in the selection process, I have assembled several tentative criteria for judging which plants are the most important. These are:

1.) Endangered or extinct species (*B. rajah* would be an example)

2.) Species extensively used in hybridizations (*B. bowerae*, *B. carrieae*, *B. heracleifolia*, etc.)

3.) Extremely rare species (perhaps those from Africa?).

4.) Cultivars, which have been milestones in hybrid development (*B. 'Lucerna'*, etc.)

5.) Heritage begonias. (*B. 'Erythrophylla'*, *B. 'Ricinifolia'* etc.)

6.) Species from other Begoniaceae genera (*Hillebrandia sandwicensis*, the *Symbegonia* species)

7.) Commercially important cultivars/species (*B. 'Flamingo Queen'*, *B. masoniana* etc.)

I'm sure there are other criteria, but this is a start. Please think about this opportunity and contribute your thoughts to the program. Be bold, think big, and give me your best ideas on what begonias should be preserved for future generations of plant lovers. You can contact me by e-mail at absastro@hotmail.com or by US mail. My address is on the back cover of this issue.

The OPGC web site, containing many details on their goals and objectives can be found at

<http://hcs.osu.edu/opgc> . Ken Browne's excellent web sites can be found at <http://wwbmg.michel.com.au> and <http://begoniataalk.michel.com.au> .



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Minutes of Board Meeting September 7, 2002, Orange, CA

President **Morris Mueller** opened the meeting and asked **Gene Salisbury** to read the Aims and Purposes of the ABS. There were 29 member votes present. A motion to omit reading the minutes of the previous meeting and accept them as written was approved. **1.** Treasurer **Carol Notaras** submitted a financial report that was presented by President Mueller. For the period June 2 to July 31, 2002 the combined checking account totals were \$6927.14 beginning and \$15,318.07 ending. Savings accounts totals were \$59,611.62 initial and \$57,064.17 final. The drop was due to the purchase of the Smithsonian books on *Begoniaceae* with funds from the Millie Thompson Publication Fund...The Combined checking and savings totals were \$66,538.76 beginning and \$72,382.24 ending, thus showing a gain for the period. The annual financial report for August 2, 1001 to July 31, 2002 showed a somewhat different picture. The general checking account beginning balance was \$10,066.64 and ending balance was \$15,143.56. Income was \$58,681.60 and disbursement was \$53,604.68. Combined Checking account totals were \$11,897.69 initial and \$15,318.07 final. Savings accounts totals were \$66,142.09 initial and \$57,064.17 final. Combined checking and savings totals were \$78,039.78 beginning and \$72,382.24 ending. Thus for the year there was about a \$6,000. drop. This amount is about equal to the Denver Convention disbursement item. Referring to the section of this report that lists transfers out of savings a request was made to identify where the money was used in future reports. In this report most of the transfers went to **Scott Hoover's** collecting trip and the purchase of Smithsonian books. **2.** **Ann Salisbury** is

the Convention Chair for 2003. **3.** Grant Review Committee Chair **Janet Brown** reported sending out letters requesting donations for **Dr. Rekha Morris'** exploratory trip planned for December of this year to document the begonias of Veracruz State, Mexico. **4.** There will be a judging class on October 19, 2002, at **Jeanne Jones'** house given by **Michael Ludwig.** **5.** **Arlene Ingles** provided a membership report for June through August 2002 that was presented by President Mueller. Total membership on June was 1356. On August 31, it was 1321 During this time institution members dropped from 101 to 89, lifetime member 62 to 61, domestic members 1031 to 1000 and foreign members 114 to 223. Second family members increased from 53 to 58. Although some members did not renew we gained new members so the membership remains relatively stable. New member sources include branches (37), unknown (27), gifts (2), internet (15), 7 reasons (2), magazines (2), newspaper (1), *Begonian* (1), *Hobby Greenhouse* (1), Cloudy Valley Nursery (1), 2nd family (3), and new life members (1). Palos Verdes Branch signed up 14 members, Westchester 7, Astro 4, Palm Beaches 3, Sacramento 3, San Gabriel 2, and Alamo, Barkley, Orange County and San Francisco each 1. **6.** Nomenclature Co-Director **Gene Salisbury** reported 3 plant registrations. **7.** **Virginia Jens** volunteered to fill the Public Relations Director position. The Board approved. **8.** Holiday Ads Chair **Wanda Macnair** reported a total of \$2685. collected for the holiday issue. **9.** Award Committee Chair **Michael Ludwig** reported that the Showing is Sharing Award certificate is completed. **10.** The determination of a dues increase is the responsibility of the Board of Directors. This vote will be by mail. **11.** The supply of *7 Reasons* is low and we are not going to print new ones until after the

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determination of the dues has been made. If you need some in the interim we suggest you copy the inside page without the dues information. **12.** The question about liability insurance was raised for groups of members visiting privated homes on tours. Business Manager Gene Salisbury recalled that our coverage included the situation but will check and report back. **13.** A letter was received expressing great concern about holding major ABS events during Jewish holidays and requesting that ABS avoid doing so in the future. **14.** Begonian Editor **Freda Holley** proposed that in the future it might be desirable to distribute the Begonian via CD or the internet especially to foreign members. There are too many unknowns about the procedure to attempt this now, but the publisher can put each issue of the *Begonian* on a CD at nominal cost. Freda requested and received board approved to do this for archival purposes. **15.** Nomenclature Co-Director **Gene Salisbury** reported that donations for the Smithsonian book on *Begoniaceae* have been coming in. He made a motion that after the Millie Thompson Publication Fund has been reimbursed for the purchase of the books, 50% of the excess will go to **Jack Golding** and **Dieter Wasshausen**. **16.** Business Manager Gene Salisbury made a motion to allow foreign members a line of credit for purchases from ABS; this would simplify the foreign exchange currency problem. The Board approved. **17.** Branch Relations Director **Mary Bucholtz** requested that a new branch charter be issued to a new group to be known as the Dorothy Caviness Branch in Bartlesville, OK. The Board complied. She also reported sending a letter of inquiry to **Judy Gurka**, a member of the Rocky Mountain Branch to determine the status of that branch; no response has been received yet.

Richard Macnair,
Secretary, ABS

Annual Meeting Minutes, September 7, 2002, Orange, CA

President Mueller opened the meeting and began by calling for branches to relate their activities for the year; 24 branches reported by report or presentation. Committee reports were then requested. **1.** Awards Committee Chair **Michael Ludwig** reported the winners of the 2002 awards: **Ray** and **Leora Fuentes** - Herbert P. Dyckman Award; **Tamsin Boardman** - Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award; **Helene Jaros** - Eva Kenworthy Gray Award; B. 'Flamingo Queen', hybridized by **Ross Bolwell** - Alfred D. Robinson Medal. **2.** As Administrator of the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Michael Ludwig gave credit to members of the Margaret Lee Branch who produced seed, tested germination and grew out plants. He also thanked **Edgar Bates** for writing the seed listings for the *Begonian*. And he also thanked donors and customers for their support. The fund received orders for 1742 packets of seed. The fund also supplied over 400 packets for new members. Over \$2150.95 was transferred to the ABS general fund. Correspondence with ABS Branches, Members at Large, donors and customers were conducted to promote interest in seed growing. A program of follow-up on seed from **Scott Hoover's** collecting was begun and will be continued. Update and posting Seed Fund Listings on the ABS website is also being continued. **3.** Round Robin Director **Virginia Hamann** reported a large decline in Robin Flights. She believes the reasons for the decline are email, the 9/11 incident, the anthrax scare, and higher postage. She still has a few flights arrive and will list them in the *Begonian*. **4.** *Begonian* Editor **Freda Holley** appreciates the number of contributions she has received and urges everyone to keep it up. The current printer

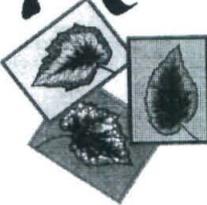
is wonderful to work with and makes her job easier. **5.** The Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund has had several contributions of materials to be considered for reprinting including some early issues of the Southwest Region's *Begonia Leaflet*. **6. Ann Salisbury** reported the following sales receipts in various categories: Millie Thompson Publication Fund - \$220.00; Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund - \$242.00; Miscellaneous Sales - \$168.53; Advertising - \$1485.00; Back Issues \$399.50. **7.** Conservation Chair **Bill Claybaugh** reported that National Directors have been asked to obtain lists of species the members are currently growing and some have responded. Selected species plants have been sent to Palm Beaches Branch for their collection at the Mounts Botanical Garden. Pictures of unidentified species have been accumulated and posted on the Astro website. More of all of this type activity is needed. **8.** Convention 2002 Chair **Cheryl Lenert** thanked all who worked on the conven-

tion in Houston. The total income from the convention is \$17,639.25 with \$4409.81 to be divided locally and \$13,229.44 going to ABS. Left Over wall plaques and gold jewelry are available for sale at other functions. Contact Cheryl if interested. **9. Rekha Morris** has revived publication of the *SOS Newsletter*. **10.** Business Manager **Gene Salisbury** urged that a planning committee be formed to find a convention site in California and organize a convention in 2004.

Richard Macnair,
Secretary, ABS

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Above you see *B. velloziana* exhibited by **Johanna Zinn** and winner of a culture award at the Potomac Branch Show. Below is *B. 'Little Miss Mummy'* shown by **Genie Cate** captured with a rare bloom. Photos by **Charles Jaros**.



Potomac Branch Show by Charles Jaros

The Potomac Branch Show was both beautiful and a resounding success this year. The show was held August 24-25, 2002 at Green Springs Park in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Close to 200 entries were exhibited by 7 exhibitors which filled the exhibition hall.

Visitors were amazed to see the variety of begonias that were on display. The public earmarked several begonias as favorites and the Peoples Choice Award was presented to *B. 'Flamingo Queen'* exhibited by **Johanna Zinn**. This was a first as both both judges and the public agreed on the best begonia in the show.

Johanna Zinn also won Sweepstakes while the Showing is Sharing Award was won by Charles Jaros. Charles was presented this award by branch members not for bringing the most plant to exhibit, but for driving from Florida, bringing 11 show plants as well as the branch sale plants.

As the show closed on Sunday, not a single sale plant was left and several visitors became members.

Charles, the Potomac Branch Newsletter said they welcomed seven new members and that the branch made more than a thousand dollar profit on their plant sale. You may contact Charles Jaros at 200 Maureen Drive, Sanford FL 32771.

Back Issues Chair Ann Salisbury has the following available for sale:

Back issues of the *Begonian* are available.

The Begonia Index by Pat Williams, covers 1941 through 1997 (6 left) \$10. incldg. postage.

Catalog of Registered Begonias by Ivy McFarlane, covers registered cultivars from #1 through 961. \$20. including postage.

Millie Thompson Publication Fund Publications (Proceeds go to fund.)

Raising Cane by Freda Holley \$6.75 including postage.

Tuberous Begonias and How to Grow Them by Howard Siebold \$6.75 including postage.

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Unidentified Species Listing by Freda Holley - pamphlet form. \$7. inc. postage.

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Begonia 'Holley Moon' grown by Dianna Wilkerson as it won Best in Show at the 2002 Barkley Branch show in Oklahoma City in April.

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Gene Salisbury, Nomenclature Director

Applications to register *Begonia* cultivars may be obtained from Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 52, Tonkawa, OK 74653. Forms must be typed or printed in ink and accompanied by a \$2 check payable to the American Begonia Society. Clear photos for publication in the *Begonian*, drawings and dried specimens are requested. ABS is the International Registration Authority for *Begonia* cultivar names. In the listing of cultivar parents below, the female (seed) parent is given first.

Begonia 'Holley Moon'

No. 986 Begonia (*B. carrieae* x *B. nelumbifolia*) **'Holley Moon'**

This rhizomatous begonia grows very large. The leaves are a solid light green and are peltate. In size they get up to 2 ft. wide by 2 1/2 ft. long. Margins are entire and they have a hairy surface. Petioles may be 2 to 3 ft. in length and are green with white hairs. Stipules are 1" x 1" and green fading to brown.

Flowers are white. There are 2 male and 2 female tepals, rounded, 1/2" x 1/2". Flower clusters may have 64 male blooms and an equal number of female blooms. There are many bloom clusters and the peduncle may be 1 or more feet. It blooms in late winter to spring.

The overall size of this begonia with its hairy, peltate leaves makes it most unusual. It makes a good landscape specimen where it can be planted out. It is very hardy to hot weather, but can also endure fairly cool temperatures.

The plant was first developed in 1999 by Freda Holley, 2015 Elvin Dr., Stillwater, OK 74074 and first distributed in 2000. It first bloomed in 2002. It has been tested by **Dianna Wikerson**, 15356 Pheasant Run, Choctaw, OK 73020 and

Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 52, Tonkawa, OK, 74653, and is recommended for registration by **Dianna Wilkerson** for whom it won Best of Show at the 2002 Barkley Branch Show and People's Choice Award at the 2002 ABS Convention in Houston.. It was registered on November 14, 2002.

Send Get Well Cards to Maurice Amey

Maurice Amey was house sitting for Don Miller while he was in Australia and suffered a stroke. He is currently hospitalized, but you can send a get well card to him at Don's: Don Miller, 1010 Mount Auburn, Dallas TX 75223.

And Maurice, we all send you our very best wishes for a quick recovery!

Correction

The web site listed last month for Ken Browne on page 223 should have been:

www.wwbrg.michel.com.au

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; 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. Please pollinate your species begonias with pollen from other plants of the same species and contribute (or exchange) to the seed fund.

Most packets of species seeds are \$1.50 all packets of cultivars (including open pollinated) seeds are 50¢ 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.

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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.. We wish to thank all those that made this list possible with their generous donations of seeds. They are: **Yoshiko Azuma, Ed Bates, Iris Bird, Evelyn Bouquet, Eleanor Calkins, Jackie Davis, Ingeborg Foo, Margaret Fisher, Peggy Fratus, Leigh Heard, Freda Holley, Scott Hoover, Beatrice Huckreide, Mark Hughes, Michael Kartuz, Johanna Kitson, Marge Lee, Michael Ludwig, Morris Mueller, Midori Nobsawa, Carol Notaras, Thelma O'Reilly, Dominique Permingeat, Doug Prigden, Patrick Rose, Gene Salisbury, Monica Sanders, Bernadette Seneschal, Joan Taylor, and Brad Thompson.**

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- ML03:** *B. biserrata*
ML03: *B. boliviensis*
ML03: *B. cardiocarpa* 1 (syn. *bakeri*)
ML03: *B. cardiocarpa* 2 (syn. *bakeri*)
ML03: *B. carolineifolia*
ML03: *B. cinnabarina*
ML03: *B. coccinea*
ML03: *B. coriacea*
ML03: *B. crassicaulis*
ML03: *B. cubensis* 1 (syn. *lindeniana*)
ML03: *B. cubensis* 2 (syn. *lindeniana*)
ML03: *B. cucullata* var. *arenosicola*
ML03: *B. cucullata* var. *cucullata*
ML03: *B. deliciosa*
ML03: *B. diadema*
ML03: *B. dichroa*
ML03: *B. dipetala*
ML03: *B. dominicalis*
ML03: *B. dregei*
ML03: *B. dregei* (syn. *natalensis*)
ML03: *B. dregei* (syn. *partita*)
ML03: *B. dregei* (syn. *suffruticosa*)
ML03: *B. dregei* var. *macbethii*
ML03: *B. dregei* "Glasgow"
ML03: *B. echinosepala*
ML03: *B. echinosepala* var. *elongatifolia*
ML03: *B. edmundoi*
ML03: *B. egregia*
ML03: *B. epipsila*
ML03: *B. fagifolia*
ML03: *B. fischeri*
ML03: *B. foliosa*
ML03: *B. foliosa* var. *miniata* (syn. *putzeysiana*)
ML03: *B. glabra*
ML03: *B. glandulosa*
ML03: *B. gracilis* var. *martiana*
ML03: *B. grandis* subsp. *evansiana*
ML03: *B. heracleifolia*
ML03: *B. heracleifolia* "Palinque"
ML03: *B. heracleifolia* var. *paramadilio*
ML03: *B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans*
ML03: *B. heracleifolia* "Zudy's true"
ML03: *B. herbacea*
ML03: *B. hirtella*
ML03: *B. homonyma* (syn. *rudatisii*)
ML03: *B. humilis*
ML03: *B. hydrocotylifolia*
ML03: *B. imperialis* var. *smaragdina*
ML03: *B. involucrata*
ML03: *B. isoptera*
ML03: *B. itaguassuensis*
ML03: *B. johnstonii*
ML03: *B. kellermanii*
ML03: *B. kenworthyae*
ML03: *B. leathermaniae*
ML03: *B. lindleyana*
ML03: *B. ludwigii*
ML03: *B. luxurians*
ML03: *B. malabarica*
ML03: *B. manicata*
ML03: *B. metallica*
ML03: *B. micranthera* var. *foliosa*
ML03: *B. molleri*
ML03: *B. mollicaulis*
ML03: *B. multangula*
ML03: *B. multangula* "sm lf"
ML03: *B. multinervia*
ML03: *B. muricata*
ML03: *B. nelumbiifolia* "rubra"
ML03: *B. nelumbiifolia*
ML03: *B. obscura*
ML03: *B. odorata* "alba"
ML03: *B. odorata* "rosa"
ML03: *B. olsoniae*
ML03: *B. opuliflora*
ML03: *B. paleata*
ML03: *B. parvifolia*
ML03: *B. pearcei*
ML03: *B. pedata* (syn. U #333)
ML03: *B. peltata*
ML03: *B. petasitifolia*
ML03: *B. plebeja*
ML03: *B. popenoei*
ML03: *B. radicans*
ML03: *B. reniformis* (syn. *vitifolia*)
ML03: *B. rigida*
ML03: *B. robusta*
ML03: *B. roxburghii*
ML03: *B. sanguinea*
ML03: *B. schmidtiana*
ML03: *B. sericoneura* (syn. *hypolipara*)
ML03: *B. sericoneura* (syn. *pilifera*)

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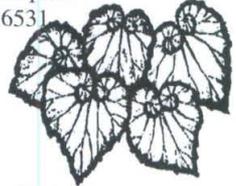
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COMING EVENTS

March 7-8, 2003, Saturday 2nd Annual Begonia Bonanza held by the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL. Workshops and/or lectures are scheduled by Bob Koehler and Tim Anderson and there will be a garden tour. The retail shop plans to have plenty of begonias available for purchase from several sources. For more information contact- dalesena@cs.com

April 22-27, 2003, Our Begonia Heritage, American Begonia Society 2003 Convention, Oklahoma City, OK. The tour to the Salisbury's Greenhouse in Tonkawa is Wednesday, April 22 and there will be a great tour on Sunday April 27 as well. Packets will go out at the end of January. For info in the meantime contact Ann Salisbury at 580-628-5230.

Fall 2003, Southwest Region Get Together. Planning is underway.

Closing Date for the Next Issue is January 15, 2003!

The Begonian

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