

The
Begonian

July/August 2003

The Begonian

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American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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American Begonia Society - P.O. Box 471651, San Francisco CA 94147-1651

Membership - Subscription, dues, circulation, inquiries, and address changes: Arlene Ingles., 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617; (707) 764-5407. E-mail: ingles@humboldt1.com

Cover

Front: Take a peek into **Johanna Zinn's** prop box. Wouldn't you like to steal it away? Among the beauties there you may be able to spot in her photo are *B. lanceolata*, *amphioxus*, *malachosticta*, *naumoniensis*, *prismatocarpa*, and 'Exotica'.

Back: Here is Sandy Boyd's photo of *B. 'Orange Star'*, a hybrid by the owner of the nursery in Japan we visit with her in this issue.

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**Everyone is invited
to the ABS Annual
Meeting at DFW on
August 28 to
September 1, 2003!**

Quick

Check your mailing label.
If it reads
200309 or 200310, your
membership is about to expire.
Please renew! We don't want to
lose you.

President's Message...

Something that just recently occurred to me about begonias is their forgiveness. Most years as many plants as possible are moved outside once morning lows are about 50° F. But this year spring has continued to feel like our unusually mild winter with lows in the lower 40's. The convention came along in April, and I knew I needed to have someone water plants indoors. They were packed in tight for the winter. To make the watering chore easier, despite low morning temperatures, many begonias were moved outside. Well, in spite of my concerns, they forgave the move and are growing very nicely. Would that we would be as forgiving of each other as our begonias are of us.

The convention in all aspects was terrific as we all knew it would be with **Ann Salisbury** as convention chair and **Gene Salisbury** as the show chair. They even ordered up special weather for the attendees.

As a judge, I couldn't decide which plant should be best-of-show, which says a lot for the high quality of the show plants. Given that I managed to pack over 70 plants in my two suitcases (The MOST I've ever hauled home!) you can guess the great quality and diversity of the sale plants.

All of the seminars were packed to capacity and then some. **Mark Tebbitt** shared his work on DNA analysis of begonias at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, and is in the process of writing a book about his work, something all of us can look forward to reading. **Kathleen Burt-Utley** gave a fast paced slide presentation of her exploration for begonias in Mexico and Central America. **Mary Fuqua** brought us up to date on the New England Tropical Conservatory's explorations in Indonesia. **Mike Flaherty's** slide presentation about his work at the homes of the rich and fa-

mous was not only entertaining, but also caused disbelief from the audience as he reported the finances involved in his work.

The excellent slide show by **Don Miller** of his Australian trip and the hospitality extended by begonia growers there even made me consider a possible journey to "down-under." And last, but certainly not least, the comments by the three hybridizers - **Kathy Goetz**, **Michael Kartuz**, and **Charles McGough** - provided all in attendance with insights into the world of all of the new hybrids so many of us enjoy.

Regarding the convention trips, I will only say they were well organized and interesting. There will undoubtedly be more about these in the September-October *Begonian*, most likely with pictures. Oklahoma air was so refreshing, the food was very good. What a great time and what a very fine convention.

Best of all for me, however, were the friendship and company of fellow begonia lovers that always renews my spirit. The convention once again supported the Aims and Purposes of ABS.

Until the next letter, may each of you enjoy a good growing season and the perseverance to overcome any problems in growing that you encounter.

In friendship,
Morris Mueller

Holiday Greetings

Members came through for us again this past year, but we are asking that they dig just a bit deeper this year because of added expenses entailed when printing and mailing the *Begonian*, and the new increased dues won't kick in in time to really help solve this problem.

The giving categories will be the same as last year:

Bronze	\$1 - \$25
Silver	\$26 - \$50
Gold	\$51 - \$100
Platinum	Over \$100

Please send your branch and individual checks made out to ABS with a notation "For holiday greetings," by September 1, to Wanda Macnair, Holiday Greetings Chair, ABS, 59 Walker St., Cambridge, MA 02138. We ask individual donors to please let us know if you wish an acknowledgement for this tax-deductible gift. Thank you for your generous support.

Holiday Ads Chair,
Wanda Macnair

Letters to the Editor

Begonias

I feel as if I am akin to Rip Van Winkle - for the first time since September 2001, I was able to read the *Begonian* (March-April 2003) in its entirety, and my morale received a big boost when I saw my painting of *B. tayabensis* (the begonia I credit with saving my life).

After two cancer surgeries and five weeks of radiation and chemotherapy, I collapsed and again was hospitalized due to dehydration since I could not swallow. I was too ill to care about living until the young doctor who cared for me told me that his mother, who lived in Manila was disappointed because she could not get her windowsill native orchids to bloom. I immediately thought of *B. tayabensis* as being locally available and a good substitute for her sparse bloom orchids. I asked my husband, John, to bring in the latest issue of the *Begonian*, which I gave the

doctor in an envelope, imploring him to mail it to his mother, envisioning a new source for native Philippine begonias. Did the good doctor mail the *Begonian* to his mother? If so, how could she read it, knowing only a Chinese dialect and some Spanish? I'll never know. I only know that thinking about begonias, *B. tayabensis* in particular, erased my thoughts of dying.

My love affair with *B. tayabensis* began when **Martin Johnson** sent two packets of seed from his Philippine collector to the Seed Fund. One packet was labeled *B. rizalensis*, the other was labeled *B. tayabensis*. I listed both in the Seed Fund and reports of germination for *B. rizalensis* were good, but none for *B. tayabensis*. When my plants matured and bloomed, I compared them with both named plants and it was easy to see the seed labels had been reversed - easy to do if you are dealing with several different varieties. Since some Seed Fund growers may still be growing *B. tayabensis* under the label *B. rizalensis*, perhaps this information could help put a name to some *B.* unknowns in collections.

Thanks to **Norman Dufresne**, who replaced my *B. tayabensis*, it has been blooming since November all during this very severe winter, cheering me and encouraging me to live.

Sincerely,
Joy Porter

Joy, what a heart warming letter! And it came with a notebook of collected letters and begonia information which I hope eventually to get copied and offered through the Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund to ABS members. Also included was a beautiful watercolor of B. fimbristipula which I will bring to you in the Begonian. And Joy, you will always remain my favorite seed fund director.

Labeling Begonias and Other Plants

by **Rekha Morris**

After years of frustration with garden labels being pulled up, trampled upon and lost due to the various life forms in my woodland garden such as squirrels (who also eat up crocus corms and chew on prize tree peony buds), cats and husband who uses a blower/shredder to decimate the masses of leaves each fall (and in the process appears to blow way or shred labels as well), I have finally found a solution and some equilibrium.

I use vinyl venetian blinds which I buy at thrift stores for a couple of dollars each. I cut these into 4 to 8" lengths depending on where the label is to be used, the smaller ones for pots and the larger ones for the garden. If the label is to be tied to shrubs or small trees, I punch a hole at one end and use a strong tie to attach the label to a branch well above the soil level where I can see it when I need to. I prepare labels which go into the soil by clipping off triangular sections from one end to make a sharp point which facilitates their insertion into the ground. Instead of preparing a few labels as and when I need them, I prepare about 40 to 50 at a time, and using rubber bands bundle them according to size so that I have them ready to use whenever I need them.

Although white or cream venetian blinds are most readily available, some of the colored ones, pink, green or blue, are less of an eye sore in the landscape. Their advantage over wooden labels is obvious: they do not disintegrate as a result of constant expose to moisture.

Some gardeners cut off sections of soda cans and using a ball point pen indent the surface with the necessary information. I find this both more tedious as

regarding the cutting required, but also less satisfactory as indented information is not as easy to read as those written by pencil. Since labels written with permanent ink markers are darker and easier to read, I often write down the name of the plant in pencil on one side and with the permanent ink marker on the other side, thus satisfying my need for indelibility and greater visibility respectively.

After having tried all the various permanent markers, none of which are really permanent as they may withstand water, but are invariably susceptible to sunlight, so that in time the labels are useless, I now use lead pencils. The best pencil I have is one I bought at the Chelsea Flower Show in London a few years ago. It is all lead (not lead encased in wood as our pencils generally are), and needs no sharpener. I have been using it for at least five years and there is enough to last me for another five. Since I have only one of these and I keep my labels and pencils in several appropriate places, I also use a regular lead pencil.

Having lost as many pencils and pens in the garden as labels, I now tie a length of orange plastic tape used around construction sites and available from Lowes or Home Depot around each pencil. When I am outdoors in the garden, I tie the other end of this orange plastic tape through one of the button holes in my shirt thus securing it from clumsiness or absent mindedness.

In the case of house plants such as begonias, I often use two sets of labels. I make a small one about 2" long and 1/2" wide, punch a hole through one end and tie it discretely to a stem. The larger 4" labels are inserted in the soil with about an inch sticking out of the soil so that I do not have to fumble through the foliage looking for the smaller label when I need to check on the name of the plant.

Convention Notes

We have two notes that need to be made now about the 2003 Convention.

First, the judges announce that there was an award for Hybrid of Distinction and a Division Award for New Introductions. The award went to *Begonia* 'Winter Blanket', grown and hybridized by **Charles McGough**. Through a slipup the award was not given at the banquet as it should have been for which the judges apologize. Congratulations Charles on another beautiful hybrid!

Cheryl Lenert who, as you will learn in the upcoming Convention issue won the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award sends this message about her nomination and the award presentation:

"Somehow I have been given the credit for founding the three great clubs in the Houston area. I needs to be made clear that these clubs were in existence long before I ever knew there was an ABS.

The person who deserves credit for establishing these three is **Helen Spiers**. She is also the one who invited me to my first Astro meeting. For this and many more kindnesses over the years, I will always be grateful."

Editor's Notes

With this July/August issue the editor completes her sixth year. These have been great years in which I have gotten to know and appreciate so many members of ABS in a special way through their contributions to the *Begonian*. I am constantly amazed at the extent and variety of the talents we have among our ABS members.

In this issue, **Peter Szilagyi** has once again allowed me to meet my goal of at least one new contributor in each issue with his great article on *Begonia* 'Joe

Hayden'. I hope that at this moment another of our members is preparing to make their first contribution to go into the coming issues! New contributors add a special dimension. If they are beginners, they will be speaking as well to many others who seek the kind of insights only a new *Begoniac* can offer.

So many people responded to my last urgent call that it has only emboldened me to ask for even more contributions! Remember I have told you the *Begonian* is a hungry dragon that swallows up stories faster than I can blink my eyes!

We learned at the recent Convention that our next convention will be in San Jose, California in 2004. One reason that is so exciting is that I know we will have an opportunity to see the nurseries of **Mike Kartuz** and **Chuck Ades**. I have seen the former and photos taken at the latter. I know that we are going to be seeing begonias as we have never seen them before and that's saying a lot! It would be great to have some advance articles from you in California who have visited individual gardens there to show us how they grow begonias in that area.

Members who are not so fortunate as to live in traditional begonia growing areas in Texas, California, and Florida are especially hungry for articles from those who grow begonias in areas where the climate is not as favorable be it due to humidity, temperature, or other growing conditions. If you do grow begonias in such areas, it would be great if you could write telling us about those efforts. Some days in my own environment I feel like giving it all up so many begonias do I lose, but then I discover that one grows and thrives even here and I am encouraged to try again. Do you have a story about a begonia that thrives in your area? Write about it in a letter or article and send it to the editor!

~FH

Begonia U388 Out of a Terrarium in Houston

by Tom Keepin

For those of you who are not familiar with *U388* here is a little background on a beautiful plant.

B. U388 was collected in North Vietnam November 6, 1996 by **Mary Fizmore**. It was growing terrestrially on the bank of a river near Hanoi. Mary shared a piece of this new find with a friend in Tennessee, who shared with **Don Miller**, who then shared with me. In the American *Begonia* Society's *Unidentified Species Listing* compiled by **Freda Holley**, there is as listing for *B. U388* but no date and no data. Going through the *Begonian* from 1999 through the latest publication of 2003 the only reference was in 2000. This leads us to believe it was given its number sometime in 2000.

B. U388 is a rhizomatous begonia whose leaves and stems are covered with white hairs. The hairs on the leaves are on both the top and bottom. The hairs on the top being very long giving the leaf an interesting appearance. The flowers are pink. The female bloom has a wing on the top when it opens. The largest leaf on my plant has been 8 inches by 6 ½ inches. It started blooming in September and is still blooming. The one thing I have noticed about the blooms is they drop their petals very easily. Early on I had both male and female flowers on my plant, so I thought I would try to self it. I picked a male bloom and in the process the petals on the female blooms fell off. I pollinated it anyway several times over the next couple of days at different times of the day. I recently harvested the seed pods to let them dry completely. As I mentioned, the female has a wing on top when she opens; after polli-

nation the entire capsule curls under with the wing facing the growing medium. I am now anxious to see if the seeds are viable [They germinated promptly for Tom!].

When I was visiting **Don Miller** in Dallas I saw this amazing plant growing in a terrarium. I could not hold back my excitement. It was so beautiful! I was told it was *U-388* from Vietnam. Don generously shared two (2) leaves with me. They rooted easily and made lovely plants. They were both growing in 16 inch plastic saucers with a plastic dome on top. They were both in different areas: one under lights and the other in natural light. They both flourished--blooming, but the blooms never rose above the foliage. For some unknown reason one decided it was no longer happy and died. The remaining plant was under lights and still doing well. One day I noticed it had collapsed. The dome had been bumped and it had gotten very, very dry. I removed the dome and watered it out in my garden room. I could not replace the dome until it perked up. I got distracted and forgot all about it. In a few days I remembered and ran to check on it. It was thriving, and looking better than when it was under a dome. I left it off. Some time later I noticed it was getting very full in the saucer so I removed a nice little plant and thought I would do an experiment. I planted the little plant in a Vanda basket. This is a wooden basket in which they grow orchids. I put screen in the bottom to keep the medium in. The medium is a epiphyte mix used for my anthuriums and ferns. The medium is a mixture of coarsely cut orchid sphagnum moss and orchid mix. The orchid mix contains charcoal chunks,



Above right, is *B. U388* in its basket and to its left is a

closeup of the female flower. Below is its leaf showing its patterning and the fringe of hairs. The closeup demonstrates the length of the dramatic hairs that decorate the leaf.



stones, and bark chunks. Not knowing at the time where it liked to grow I thought this would perhaps duplicate its natural conditions. I potted it up, attached the wires and hung it up in my garden room. It is growing under a skylight and in front of a window. It gets early morning sun and very late afternoon sun. It's shaded during the day from the hot sun by an Arizona Ash growing outside. It is checked every other day so it will not dehydrate. When in need of water it is soaked in a tub of rain water. Every other week 1/4 strength Peters 20-10-20 is added to the water. If you attended 'Begonias International' and visited my home on Sunday it was hanging over the entrance to the garden room.

My next project is to take a small plant of U-388 and plant it in a moss lined basket filled with a soilless mix. Since I have now learned it grows terrestrially I think it will like this situation as well. When

this is done it will be grown out of doors under the shade of the Arizona Ash. I have a feeling that it will be happy this way as well.

I highly recommend this plant for any collection that included Rhizomatous. As you can see from the pictures it is stunning and it really attracts a lot of attention. I have taken this plant to several programs I have given to garden clubs and it is a real hit.

Happy Growing!

Tom Keepin is a member of the Houston Astros Branch. Many of us have visited his beautiful home and saw how he grows begonias inside and outside. You will note there is a limited amount of seed available to members through the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund on page 155. You may write Tom at 4513 Randwick Dr. Houston, Texas 77092-8343 or email him at: frogman@earthlink.net.

Miami Show and Sale

by Doug Pridgen

On March 8 and 9, 2003 the Miami Begonia Society held its 35th annual show and sale at Fairchild Tropical Garden. With a show date this early in the spring, fewer entries were anticipated.

However, with a warm sunny February, the members pulled off another spectacular event. There were 192 entries with a lot of diversity and color. WOW!!!!

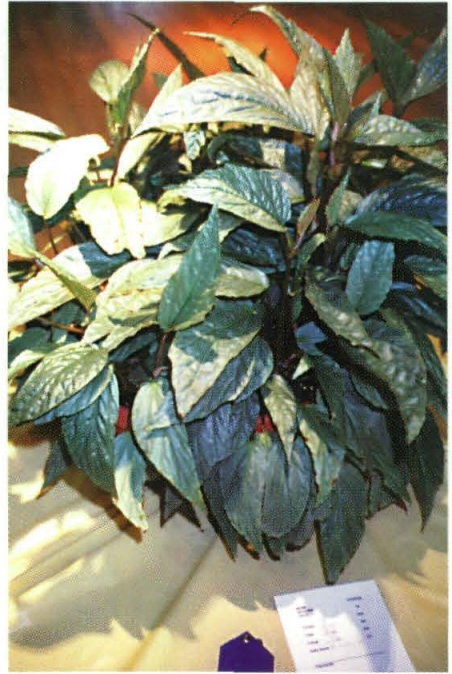
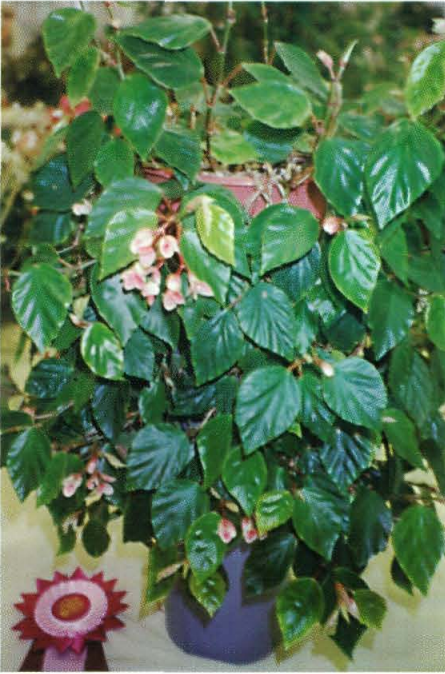
Tim Anderson set up a complete walk-through lath house within the show area and totally decked it out in blooming begonias. What a presentation!!! Tim is a major factor in the success of this annual event and he is

truly appreciated by the club.

B. masoniana shown by **Yvonne Shelley** won "best in show." Yvonne had 5 division winners, received the "showing is sharing" award for 60 entries and won "sweepstakes."

Other division winners included **Joyce Pridgen** (5 divisions), **Mike Twyford** (3 divisions), **Charles Sibley**, **Margarita Nodal**, **Daisy Nodal**, **Armandito Nodal**, **Tim Anderson** and **Karen Lawrence**.

The "people's choice" award went to *B. hatacoa* 'Silver' shown by **Armando Nodal**.



Above left, is B. 'Fragrant Beauty', Joyce Pridgen's winner of the Trailing Scandent Division and right is B. hatacoa 'Silver', Armando Nodal's winner of the People's Choice Award. Below is the walk through lath house inside the show room as displayed by Tim Anderson.



A Japanese Begonia Garden

by Sandy and Denise Boyd

Perched high on a hill overlooking the town and bay called Karatsu, in Southern Japan, is an incredible begonia garden called Ponpoko. Surrounded by lush orange and Satsuma Mandarin groves sits a 20,000 square foot greenhouse which encloses the display gardens, gift shop, plant sale area, work areas and a restaurant and tea room.

These incredible gardens are owned by **Yoshitoyo Kondo** and his brother in law **Tonnohide Mutho**. Tonnohide is responsible for the cultivation of the begonias up to sale size. These are raised at another location in 2 greenhouses which each measure about 2500 square feet. They are all temperature controlled. This area of Japan has normally high humidity and being on the coast does not have great temperature extremes. I was so impressed by the health and vitality of the young plants. Yoshitoyo is responsible for the displaying of the begonias and he also designed the gardens and built the furniture in the restaurant. He is the partner who interacts with the visitors to the garden.

After paying a small admission fee (about \$3.50 US) one is welcomed into the begonia display area. The first huge room is dominated by a rock waterfall surrounded by mostly rhizomatous and tuberous begonias. The atmosphere is quite humid and the plants are specimen size beautifully grown. The winding paths are gravel covered and allow for slow strolling and viewing. Many of the plants have names in both Japanese and English. Begonia 'Piglet' and 'Benitochiba' are two notable specimens which come to mind. The tu-

berous were in full bloom in hanging baskets when I visited in November. The atmosphere in this first display area was especially conducive to Rex begonias and the leaf colors were breathtaking.

The second display room is brighter and less humid and is filled with mostly cane begonias. Most of these are a good 15' tall. Standing amidst these beautiful blooming begonias and gazing out the windows at the harbor with all the boats gave us an awesome sight. I couldn't believe the amount of blooming plants he had in early December. Most of the canes were covered with huge amounts of blooms. One particularly beautiful one is Orange Star, Yoshitoyo's hybrid.

As you head to the exit, the hallway is lined with beautiful glass domed terrariums about 12 inches in diameter which are absolutely filled to overflowing with *B. rajah* and *B. 'Buttercup'*, among others. The glass terrariums are imported from Spain and are readily available throughout Japan. Once you exit the display gardens the restaurant beckons for a light lunch or tea and cakes. The tables and chairs are arranged in front of the windows of the greenhouse overlooking the harbor, and were all built by Yoshitoyo. There are about 500 begonia varieties growing at Ponpoko and he is the only grower in the area. He began growing begonias as a hobby that slowly grew into these wonderful gardens. His family owns the orange and Mandarin groves which surround the properties. I asked him why he grew begonias and he said he liked them best of all plants, plus they are easy and fast growing, and



The begonias are beautiful whether in mass as shown in the photo below or individually as in the photo of what may be Begonia rex above.



they take low light. Being on the coast, Karatsu is often cloud covered. What he didn't mention is that he is a "master grower" of these fabulous plants.

He mainly grows his begonias in Pro Mix about 60 - 70% and adds equal parts perlite and vermiculite. His terrarium begonias are grown in spagnum moss only (no potting mix or soil) and he keeps them very moist. I purchased some of the moss in Japan and it is different than anything I can buy in my small town of Chico, California.

While I was there two buses arrived with tourists to view the gardens. He met them in the main display room and told them about begonias and their culture and care. They then toured the gardens and ended up for lunch or tea before going to the sales area. Most of the plants for sale are the 6" size and sell for \$12 to \$17.00 US. He also sells smaller terrarium plants.

He is a photographer of note and has produced an incredibly beautiful catalog. His begonia photographs have been in several exhibitions in the area. My daughter, Denise, the coauthor of this article first met Yoshitoyo at a street fair in Saga. Somehow the love of begonias is carried in the genes, and she spotted his plant stand immediately and learned of his gardens in Karatsu. To show you all the caring person Yoshitoyo is, when he found out my daughter was having surgery, he tracked down my daughter's boss in Osaka to see who was caring for her begonias and if they might need some help.

To reach Ponpoko Gardens (which means Little Raccoon), write:

Yoshitoyo Kondo
Ponpoko Mura
Hamatama, Higashi Matsuura,
Saga, Japan 849-5131.

His email address is: info@begonia-jp.com

The homepage is: begonia-jp.com

The website is in Japanese. However, if you will click around you will come across some incredible pictures of his begonias and gardens. I have asked him if he might add some English to his site. So by the time this article is published you might find some English words. If you are having trouble reaching Ponpoko you might want to email Denise for help at db4post@hotmail.com.

Sandy is well known to us for her articles that keep up posted on internet web sites, but here she coauthors with her daughter Denise who lives in Japan. Sandy lives near Sacramento and her email address is samb4mail@aol.com Aren't we jealous that she got to visit this lovely garden with her daughter?

In the Mailbox

by Greg Sytch, Horticultural Correspondent

The ABS website has a feature which you can click on for help and advice, and hopefully it is sent through to me for assistance. Recently, I have had several inquiries regarding identifying begonias, not by picture, but by description. This is a difficult job at best, and a few pointers here would help me best to direct you:

- 1) As usual, a complete description of the flowers, season they bloom, size of the leaves and overall plant height growth.
- 2) Where you purchased the plant. Yes, the center, individual, state/city, any information that would help me guess at what variety it might be.
- 3) A picture always helps, but please tell me where it is grown (i.e. indoors window, greenhouse, etc.). Picture are preferred embedded, but zips will do.
- 4) Where you live and your climate.

Begonias can look different under varied conditions.

5) How you grow it. Do you grow in clay, under lights with wick, etc.; what soil is it growing in?

6) go to www.begonias.org and see if any begonia looks like it and give me their names. There are many look-alikes, but this can be most valuable. I can often get close just by this information alone.

I will try my best to help you or direct you to whom can best assist. Living in Florida, I have little information on tuberosus as they do not grow here due to our heat. You can always email me directly at gsytch@cs.com or write to: Grey Sytch, 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653. Another idea is to check the links on the website for further pictures and information.

Good luck and good growing.

Begonia Description and Use of the *Begoniaceae* Keys by Bill Claybaugh

On the afternoon of August 29th and the morning of the 30th, at the South West Region Convention, we will have a workshop on using the *Begoniaceae* Keys to identify species begonia. This work will be preceded by a couple of hours of study on the Keys nomenclature and practice in describing plants using exact botanical terms.

The workshop will begin with a session on learning to identify and use the correct names of all of the major components of our plants. In the initial session, we will cover leaf shape, margins, incisions, divisions, apex, base, attachment, veining, and petiole. This will be followed by a second session on plant surface, texture, substance, stems, and stipules. The

final descriptive session will involve plant inflorescence and flowers.

Each session will involve reviewing pictorial and written information, and work with example plants. Over 20 varieties of species will be available so participants will get a broad overview of the many forms that *Begonia* attain. Participants will be divided into teams of three to five members and each team will draw parts and describe as many plants as time allows.

The final session of the workshop will be to use the *Begoniaceae* Keys to identify species. We will initially work with known varieties, with pre-printed analysis of each plant. We will later tackle "unknown" plants and try to identify them from their physical appearance.

The cost of the workshop will be about \$15.00 to \$20.00, principally to cover cost of reproducing the workbook that each participant will receive. This workbook has been co-authored by Jack Golding and myself and contains two principal elements. First there is a large glossary of terms, well defined, and developed specifically for use with the *Begoniaceae* keys. Second there are numerous explanatory drawings, enough to lead the user to the correct descriptive terms, and again designed specifically for this workshop. There will be other tools included to aid in this difficult task of species identification.

Participants are asked to bring copies of *Begoniaceae Edition 1* and *Begoniaceae Edition 2* for your own use in the "unknown" species identification session. (Please bring any extra copies for others to use too, if available). Each ABS branch has been sent one or more free copies of these two books in times past. Check with your branch president or librarian. You also would find a black pen, suitable for drawing, and a magnifying glass very useful. Paper will be furnished in the workbook.

Upon completion of this workshop, you should be well on your way to understanding and appreciating these beautiful plants even more. I promise, you will see *Begonia* in a new light.

For information on registration, see page 143.

Conservation Comments: **Begonia with Palmately Compound Leaves**

Bill Claybaugh, Conservation Chairman
and
Jack Golding, Nomenclature Editor

In February of 2002, the Claybaughs visited the Andersons at their Palm Hammock Orchid Estates in Miami Florida. While there, Tim gave me a plant, *B. luxurians*, with the comment that I should be able to grow it in the Houston area. He was right. It has not only stayed alive, but seems to like the warm, humid atmosphere of my shade house in August and the cool, moist temperatures of January. My success with this beautiful plant led me to search for more plants with similar physical appearance. To my surprise, I could only find ten stemmed begonia species that exhibited the palmately compound leaves so obvious in *B. luxurians**. I was also surprised to find so much confusion in the literature, where two species have been listed as having these compound leaves, but don't, and several confusing synonyms exist. This prodded me on to learn as much about these plants as I could. Let me now share what I have found.

First, what is a palmately compound leaf? George H. M. Lawrence in his book "An Introduction to Plant Taxonomy", page 40, has the following to say, "In its simplest form a leaf consists of a blade and its leaf-stalk or petiole. ...A leaf with one blade is generally a simple leaf" ... "A leaf of two or more apparent blades is a compound leaf and each apparent blade is a leaflet.".... "When these leaflets all originate from an apparent common point at the end of the petiole, the leaf is palmately compound."

The ten begonia species that have palmately compound leaves are *Begonia carolineifolia*, *digitata*, *hemsleyana*, *incisoserrata*, *luxurians*, *pentaphylla*, *semidigitata*, *thiemei*, *U076*, and *U404*.

The two species that have been listed by the Thompsons' *Begonias The Complete Reference Guide* as having compound leaves, but do not, are *B. circumlobata* and *B. incisa*. The synonyms of *B. thiemei* commonly found in the literature are *B. macdougallii*, 'Macdougallii var. Purpurea' hort, 'Purpurea' hort. and 'Richii' hort.

Rather than do the usual study of these plants from articles and references in the *Begonian*, I wanted to do something different. I wanted to use the *Begoniaceae* dichotomous key to study what makes each of these plants similar to each other, and what makes them different. To this end, I went through an analysis of these species using *Begoniaceae Edition 1, Part 1: Illustrated Key* by **L. B. Smith, D. C. Wasshausen, J. Golding**, and **C.E. Karegeannes**. I then sent my analysis to Jack Golding for his comments. He not only commented on my work, but gave me his complete analysis including comments. Jack's work followed a more conventional approach than mine, so we decided to co-author this article and include his work as follows:

"The *Artificial Key to the Species of Begoniaceae* designed by Lyman B. Smith for *Begoniaceae Ed. 1*, and the *Abridgement and Supplement in Begoniaceae Ed. 2*, use an indented key with its dichotomous couplets [divided into branches with opposing definition of the same character] to separate the large groups of *Begonia* into 34 subkeys.

The path to the position of a species in the Keys is determined by selecting the branch that best fits the description of the plant, and then following the lead to the next character.

To demonstrate tracking of these species, annotated portions of the Key from *Begoniaceae Edition 1* are reproduced here, with the couplets' numbers further identified by -1 for the first branch and -2 for the second branch. Only the couplets needed for these species are recorded. Some explanatory definitions have also been added. (i.e., Jack's comments are in parenthesis) Both branches of the couplets are given, but the branch that is not used is struck out. The text from the keys is in bold type.

Main Key

- 1-1. **Flowering plant leafless.** [plant has flowers before they have leaves]
- 1-2. **Flowering plant foliaceous.** [plants flower after they have leaves]
 - 2-1. **Blades peltate.** [the umbo (place of petiole attachment) is within blade margin]
 - 2-2. **Blades basifixed.** [umbo at the blade margin]
 - 4-1. **Blades divided or strongly lobed.** [includes compound leaves]
 - 4-2. **Blade shallowly lobed to entire.**
 - 5-1. **Nerves digitate; blades mostly ovate and broadest below the middle.**
[veins palmate (divided like an outspread fingers of a human hand), outline of the blade ovate (egg-shaped) and broadest below the middle]
 - 5-2. **Nerves pinnate; blades mostly broadest near the middle.** [Secondary veins arranged on each side of the mid vein, like a feather].
 - 6-1. **Inflorescence** [the arrangement of flowers on an axis (the peduncle) is a branch system], **dichotomous at base** [the base of the inflorescence is the initial branching from the top of the peduncle is dichotomous (divided into equal branches)]. **(exclusive of pedicels).....Subkey 4**
 - 6-2. **Inflorescence with a simple axis or essentially none (exclusive of the pedicels) the primary branch often dichotomously branched.** [the first branches from the peduncle are not dichotomous but later branches may be]...
.....**Subkey 5**

Subkey 4

- 1-1. **Blades compound; staminate tepals 4** [The leaf has two or more blades (leaflets radiating from the primary petiole (leaf stalk), the male flowers have 4 tepals (similar sepals and petals, or perianth parts)].
- 1-2. **Blades simple.** [leaf with only one blade]
 - 2-1. **Inflorescence once dichotomous; [main] stems branching, 25-35 cm. high, China: Yunnan, [Fig. 4.1].** [The illustration number in *Begoniaceae Ed. 1*].....
.....**B. hemsleyana**
 - 2-2. **Inflorescence several times dichotomous; stems simple, bambusoid** [resembling bamboo], **several meters high. Brazil.**
 - 3-1. **Petioles muricate** [furnished with numerous short hard excrescences] **Rio de Janeiro. [Fig 4.2].**.....**B. pentaphylla**
 - 3-2. **Petiole glabrous or variously pubescent but not muricate:**
 - 4-1. **Leaflets evenly serrate.** [having an even saw-toothed margin].
 - 5-1. **Leaflets sessile** [without a stems]; **capsule broader than long. Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo. [Fig. 4.3].**..... **B. luxurians**
 - 5-2. **Leaflets petiolulate** [have small stems] **Rio de Janeiro [Fig. 4.4].**.....
.....**B. digitata**
 - 4-2. **Leaflets lobulate** [with lobes] **as well as serrate.**

- 6-1. Flowers very numerous; tepals 2-3 mm long. Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná. [Fig. 4.5]..... *B. incisoserrata*
 6-2. Flowers rather few; tepals 10-12 mm long. Rio de Janeiro. [Fig. 4.6]..... *B. semidigitata*

Subkey 5

- 1-1. Inflorescence compound [two or more from the same peduncle], **paniculate with central axis** [An indeterminate, branching inflorescence, whose primary axis bears branched secondary axes and pedicellate flowers], **sometimes foliaceous-bracteate**. [having leaf-like bracts].
 1-2. ~~Inflorescence simple, racemous, fasciculate, or one-flowered:~~
 2-1. Blades compound; staminate tepals 2.
 2-2. ~~Blades simple:~~
 3-1. Leaflets subentire. Central America: Honduras. [Fig. 5.1]..... *B. thiemei*
 3-2. Leaflets distinctly cut.
 4-1. Leaflets coarsely and densely dentate [close together saw-like teeth], **unlobed**. Mexico, Guatemal. [Fig. 5.3]..... *B. carolineifolia*
 4-2. Leaflets laxly undulate-dentate, [loose with wavy and dentate margin], **some or all with a single large lateral lobe**. Mexico. [Fig. 5.3, as *B. macdougallii*]..... *B. thiemei*

The above analysis shows how eight of the species with palmately compound leaves were placed in the Key. Let me now try to summarize briefly what this analysis means on a practical day-to-day basis.

- + Six of the eight species have an inflorescence divided into two parts at the base and have four tepals on the staminate flower.
- + The five species from Brazil are cane-like or shrub-like, depending on your point-of-view.
 - They all can reach nine feet in height, with seldom or non-branching bamboo-like stems.
 - Their inflorescence can have several dichotomous branches.
 - *B. pentaphylla* has short, hard excrescences on the petioles.
 - *B. luxurians* leaflets have no petiolule, but *B. digitata* does. Both plants have leaflets which are evenly serrate.
 - *B. incisoserrata* and *B. semidigitata* both have leaflets with lobes and serrated margins, but the former has tepals about 1/8 inch in length and the later has tepals about 1/2 inch in length.
- + The one species from China in this group, has a rhizome at or below the surface and has branching stems of only 12 to 16 inches in height.
- + Two of the eight species, those that have what we would consider a normal rhizome, have a panicle type inflorescence, sometimes with bractoles. The male flowers have two tepals.
 - The leaflets of *B. carolineifolia* are coarsely and densely dentate, and unlobed.
 - The leaflets of *B. thiemei* are somewhat wavy and dentate, and often have a large lateral lobe.
- + We do not yet have similar descriptions of the two unnamed species, *B. U076* and *U404*, but when we do, they could also be placed in the Key.

As can be seen from the above work, the *Begoniaceae* dichotomous keys are a powerful tool to help identify species and to differentiate one from the other. What we

now need is to get more proficient in their use. To that end, the first author will be conducting a workshop on "Begonia Description and use of the *Begoniaceae* Keys" on afternoon of August 29th (see page 135) and the morning of August 30 at the South West Region meeting in Fort Worth. We will spend the day learning descriptive nomenclature and using the Keys to identify numerous example species. This will be a real "hands-on" session with everyone participating. I hope to see you there.

* The *Begoniaceae*, Edition 1, also lists a stemless species from Madagascar, *B. leandrii*, that has palmately compound leaves with only three leaflets.

Begonia Species Bank Update

by Linda Shires

The Begonia Species Bank at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden exists to prevent the loss of Begonia species. We accomplish this by:

- * Maintaining a living and expanding collection of Begonia species.
- * Continuously compiling a cross-referenced library of Begonia publications.
- * Exchanging plants and information with institutions and individuals around the world.
- * Educating the public through greenhouse tours, begonia species displays and outreach programs.

One of the most important points of this mission statement is the exchange of plants with individuals. ABS members are the most generous in sharing their begonias, so that we can keep our "bank in the black". We need to expand our collection continuously so we can protect a rapidly disappearing species. If you would like a current copy of our species list, please write to us at:

Fort Worth Botanic Garden
Begonia Species Bank
3220 Botanic Garden Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
or email us at begonia@airmail.net

Any members that share species that we do not have in our collection, will receive 25 begonias of their choice with free shipping. We no longer ship begonias on request unless it is an exchange. However, any ABS member may come to our "Cutting Parties" that we have twice a year and take as many cuttings as they wish. Our next cutting party is Dec. 6, 2003, from 10am-3pm at the Begonia Collection Production Greenhouse at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Refreshments will be provided and begonias are the entertainment as well as visiting with your fellow ABS members. Cuttings will also be permitted at the ABS-SWR Get-Together in Aug. 2003 during the propagation workshop which will be taught at the FWBG production greenhouses.

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: Peter Carter, 807 Winter Street,
Bunninyong, Victoria 3357, Australia, Ph:
(03) 5341 3542, carter@netconnect.com.au

The Victorian Begonia Society, Inc.:

Mrs. Lyn Beasley, 49 Flinders St., Keilor
Park, Victoria 3042 Australia. Ph: (03)
9336 7601

The Melbourne Begonia Society: Mrs.
Val Sayers, 17 Giotte Street, Canterbury,
Vic. 3198, Australia. Ph: (03) 9836 9300

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

Alan Gibson, 18 Priority Court, Balkham
Hills, NSW 2153 Australia. Ph: (02) 9624
5637

The Queensland Begonia Society, Inc.:

DMrs. C. Browne, 'Paradise', Browns
Road, Belli Park 4562, Queensland,
Australia, begoniataalk@bigpond.com.au

South Australian Begonia Society Inc.:

Mrs. Myrnie Jennings, 4 Kinnaird Crescent,
Highbury, SA 5089, Australia. Ph: (08)
8264 6490

The Begonia Society of Western

Australia: Mrs. Shirley Lancaster, PO
Box 427, Cloverdale WA 6985 Australia.
Ph: (08) 9361 4564

South Coast Begonia Society: Mr. Colin
Hingley, 35 Acacia Street, Gwynneville NSW
2500 Australia. Ph: (02) 4229 4742

Belgium

Societe Belge du Begonia: Piron Gilles,
Pres., Chemin de Lancree, 4 B-4970 Coe,
Belgium

Canada

British Columbia Fuchsia & Begonia

Society: Loma Herchenson, Pres. 2402
Swinburne Ave. North, Vancouver B.C.
V7H 1 L2 Canada

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:

Alan
Harris, 7 Babraham Road, Sawston,
Cambridge, CB2 4DQ, England, Ph: 01223
834202 alanharris392@aol.com

France

Assoc. Francoise de Amateurs de Begonias:

Mr. Jacky Duruisseau
3 route du Puy Lanete Maisonneuve
17100 Le Douhet, France. Ph; fax: 05 46
74 38 90

New Zealand

Canterbury Begonia Circle.

Mike Stevens, 47 Burnside Cres.,
Christchurch, New Zealand 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: Janet Brown, 7825 Kentwood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045-1150; Ph: 310-670-4471, JBBrown3@aol.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: 310-378-7527

Sacramento Branch: Paul Tsamitis, 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: Beverly 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 Pomeroy 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

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

Miami Begonia Society: Armando Nodal 930 E. 14th Pl, Hialeah, FL 33010, Ph: 305-619-8193 or 888-922; magienodal@aol.com

Palm Beaches Branch: Johanna Kitson, 14206 Greentree Drive, Wellington, FL 33414; oetkbttyc@aol.com

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

Dorothy Caviness Branch: Laura Stranger, 3904 Fairview, Bartlesville 74006, Ph: 918-333-0091

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: Verna Lawrence, 5008 Cedar Creek, Dickenson, TX 97539, Ph: 281-337-1780. Email: loumac00@cs.com

San Jacinto Branch: Helen Spiers, 4322 Iroquois, Pasadena, TX 77504; Ph: 281-991-4848

Virginia

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

August 28-September 1, 2003, Southwest Region Get-Together & Judging School

Ft Worth, TX.

**Includes ABS Annual Board meeting and installation of ABS
officers.**

Hotel will be Hyatt Regency DFW. Tentative schedule is as follows:

Thursday will be judging school and show and sale set-up.

Friday will be tours, a special seminar by **Bill Claybaugh** (1 to 4 p.m.) on using the Smithsonian key to identify species; ABS Board (4 p.m.); SWR meeting (5 p.m.) and opening of show and sale.

Saturday: Claybaugh seminar continuation (8-11 a.m.); leave for Ft. Worth Botanic Gdn. (11 a.m.); lunch; propagation workshop by **Linda Shires**; cutting party; 7 p.m. banquet; ABS installation of officers; Barkley grant auction.

Sunday: Show and sale, nurseries tour; show closes.

Monday: Tour to North Haven & Nortex.

For registration information contact **Tamsin** or **Bruce Boardman** at 254-728-3485 or by email at bcbnt@lipan.net. Packets scheduled to be mailed by May 26th.

See you there!

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MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Oklahoma City, OK, April 26, 2003

President Morris Mueller opened the meeting and announced that no comments were received on the minutes of the prior meeting held on September 7, 2002. Those minutes were thus considered approved.

Treasurer **Carol Notaras** presented the financial statement for the period August 1, 2002, to March 31, 2003. The General Fund beginning balance was \$15,143.56, income was \$42,992.42, disbursement was \$48,645.33 and the ending balance was \$9490.65. The combined Seed Fund, *Begonian* mailing and General Fund beginning balance was \$15,318.07, income was \$49,696.25, disbursement was \$53,008.14 and the ending balance was \$12,006.18. Savings account totals were \$57,064.17 beginning, income \$497.03, transfer in \$7,565.55, transfer out \$2,517.86 giving an ending balance of \$62,608.89. The combined checking and savings totals were \$72,382.24 beginning and \$74,615.07 ending. Thus, there was a \$2200 plus increase during this period.

There were 35 board member votes present for this meeting.

Membership Secretary **Arlene Ingles** presented membership statistics for the period January through March, 2003. Total membership went from 1331 to 1333. We gained 77 new members but this was offset by loss of prior members. What we need to do is get more current members to renew. Branches and the internet continue to be the best source of new members.

Back Issues Chair **Ann Salisbury** thanked everyone for all their help and cooperation on the back issues project during her tenure and introduced her successor, **Donna Marshek**. The board approved Donna Marshek as the new Back Issues Chair.

Nominating Committee Chair **Johanna Zinn** confirmed the slate of officers nominated for the coming year as published in the *Begonian*. A ballot is enclosed with the May-June issue of the *Begonian*. Please urge everyone to vote. For the record, the nominees are President **Howard Berg**, 1st V. P. **Janet Brown**, 2nd V. P. **Mary Sakamoto**, Secretary **Richard**

Macnair and Treasurer **Carol Notaras**.

Bookstore Chair **Cheryl Lenert** announced a new addition to the available items. It is a translation of the Japanese book that became available last year.

Branch Relations Chair **Mary Bucholtz** sent a written report indicating a newsletter was mailed the first week of April to National Directors. An inquiry from **Richard Frazier, Jr.**, about a possible new branch in Palm Coast, FL, was followed up but she has had no response as yet.

Tom Keepin requested formal approval of constitution and bylaw changes for the Astro Begonia Study Group. The changes rename the Group as the Astro Branch and make the fiscal year coincide with the calendar year. The board approved the changes.

President Mueller expressed the desire to form a budget committee consisting of the Treasurer, Business Manager, and either the 2nd V. P. or past president. The matter was tabled to see if budget authority is assigned to the Finance Committee by the Constitution. [Secretary's Note: The revised edition of the ABS Constitution (September 2001) shows that the Finance Committee membership is nearly identical to that suggested for a budget committee. The 1st V.P. is a member rather than the 2nd V.P. and the Chair is the Past President. The responsibilities of the Finance Committee are not specifically stated in the Constitution so it could be interpreted either to include or exclude budget responsibility. It appears that the Board has two choices. It could amend the constitution with specific language to include budget authority (and other duties) as Finance Committee responsibility or it could direct the Finance Committee to prepare an annual budget and report to the board periodically on how well we are managing it.]

Business Manager **Gene Salisbury** reported that the ABS has had a good year and is recovering from recent losses.

Conservation Chair **Bill Claybaugh** summarized his written report covering the location of over 400 species of begonia, education efforts in several publications and workshops, begonia photographs on the web, support of botanical gardens (including both species exchange and monetary donations), growing species begonias and building a DNA data-

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base. Activity on the Astro website has tripled this year indicating worldwide interest in the begonia photographs.

A request for support was received from the University of South Florida Botanical Garden. President Mueller suggested that branches and individuals support the USFBG with donations and included the Fort Worth Botanical Garden and the New England Tropical Conservatory in that suggestion. A motion to donate \$300 from the ABS General Fund for use on the begonia collection at the USFBG was seconded and passed. A second motion to donate another \$300 for the Fort Worth Botanical Garden begonia collection passed and was immediately followed by a third motion to increase the FWBG gift to \$500 which also passed.

Convention Advisor **Mary Sakamoto** reported fielding numerous questions from **Ann Salisbury** and **Mike Ludwig** concerning the Oklahoma City Convention this year and the anticipated convention in San Diego next year. We all know that Convention 2003 ran smoothly and plans are going well for Convention 2004.

Mike Ludwig invited everyone to San Diego next year. The exact dates will be determined by hotel availability. As a formality the board accepted San Diego as the next convention site. Mike Ludwig's current email address is on page 159. Other addresses are obsolete.

Awards Chair Mike Ludwig deferred the awards announcements to the banquet. He expressed disappointment that nominations were sparse this year and urged all members to work harder on nominations next year. He reminded everyone that ABS Showing is Sharing Certificates are available for the asking at no charge. Branches may award these at their own shows or at other shows in which they participate.

Convention Chair Ann Salisbury thanked everyone involved in making Convention 2003 a success including those attending.

Seed Fund Administrator Mike Ludwig reported an increase in seed inventory and sales this year by about 50% over last year. Seed packets were sent to **Arlene Ingles** for new members. He thanked Knickerbocker Branch for their \$50 donation, and all those who sent or ordered seed and especially the members of the Margaret Lee Branch for their support. He

urged everyone to send more seed and turned over \$1000 to the ABS General Fund.

Entries and Classification Chair **Leora Fuentes** reported that the show had 244 entries and 24 exhibitors. She observed an exceptional number of miss-entries and other errors during the entry process at this show. This tends to slow down setting up the show. Thus, for future shows she urged all exhibitors to study the schedule more carefully, ask questions ahead of time and fill out entry forms before bringing plants to the show to help reduce errors.

Grant Review Committee Chair **Janet Brown** briefly reviewed the 2002-2003 grants to **Scott Hoover** and **Rekha Morris** and stated that Scott Hoover's collecting trip was postponed due to political unrest in Indonesia. Donations will be returned to ABS to be put in escrow until the trip is rescheduled. Two new grant requests were received and recommended for funding. A motion to grant \$1500 to Rekha Morris for collecting in Mexico was seconded and approved. A motion to grant **Cheryl Lenert** \$250 for collecting in Bolivia was also seconded and approved.

President Mueller brought up the suggestion that the board establish a deadline for receipt of grant applications to allow ample time for committee review and board discussion and to assure that available funds can be apportioned among all grant applications received each year. A motion was made and seconded to set a deadline of November 15 of the preceding year for receipt of grant applications. The motion carried.

President Mueller discussed the suggestion that the *Begonian* be made available on the internet. The major objection to doing so is that there is no way to prevent recipients from passing on a secure access code to other people. This situation would ultimately discourage membership in ABS so the suggestion was rejected and considered a dead issue.

President Mueller announced that the current Historian has been removed from the position due to inactivity and he is looking for someone to fill the vacant position. Nominations and/or volunteers will be considered.

The subject of judging schools was brought up and all were reminded that any course given must use the *ABS judging manual*

to allow the student judges to receive adequate training and to be recognized as ABS judges.

The Horticultural Correspondent is no longer a member of ABS. President Mueller will contact him to urge him to rejoin. If he does not do so the position will become vacant.

The Member At Large Newsletter Editor **Jerry Baird** died recently and there is a strong possibility that the newsletter will be discontinued because there are only 34 paid subscriptions out of more than 100 being mailed. If you want to see it continue, send your \$5 to Arlene Ingles and urge others to do so too.

Nomenclature Co-Chair **Gene Salisbury** resigned his position and passed his duties on to Mike Ludwig making him Nomenclature Chair.

Parliamentarian **Margaret Lee** submitted her resignation with a great deal of reluctance citing personal physical problems. **Ann Salisbury** was nominated to succeed her. The board accepted both the resignation and nomination.

President Mueller announced that **Bruce Boardman** is going to have the 7 Reasons reproduced and distributed. Branches are requested to record their identification on the application therein so that the membership secretary can track the member source. Prospective members are urged to affix preprinted address labels on the application for legibility.

Slide Librarian **Charles Jaros** announced that three new slide programs should be completed this summer. The new programs cover the U. S. Botanical Garden, Begonia Classification and Landscaping with Begonias.

A topic for thought and future discussion is whether or not the ABS should have an official photographer who would take pictures at conventions. Pictures could then be made available to anyone for purchase. For Convention 2003 in Oklahoma City, **Bill Claybaugh** will have pictures of the exhibit plants posted on the Astro Branch website.

Other items to think about are changes to the *Begonian* format making more room for technical articles. This could be done by taking out non-technical pages such as officers, branch information and the index and enclosing them separately with the magazine. The down side

of this is that it makes much more work to collate the mailing. Also, the loose pages could be lost. These disadvantages seem to offset the advantages completely.

Internet Editor **Kathy Goetz** reported that we have an updated ABS website and urged everyone to check it out. **Mary Rafferty** has done an excellent job on this. Many more things could be added as well but it requires participation. She urges members to suggest things and provide input for them. The web address remains www.begonias.org.

Wanda Macnair reported that the plant society exchange ad has been changed to reflect the dues increase. She announced that the request for holiday donations for the *Begonian* is to be enclosed in the envelope with these minutes. She noted that the dues increase does not kick in soon enough to help very much with publication of the *Begonian* this year so she urged branches and individuals to increase their donation category.

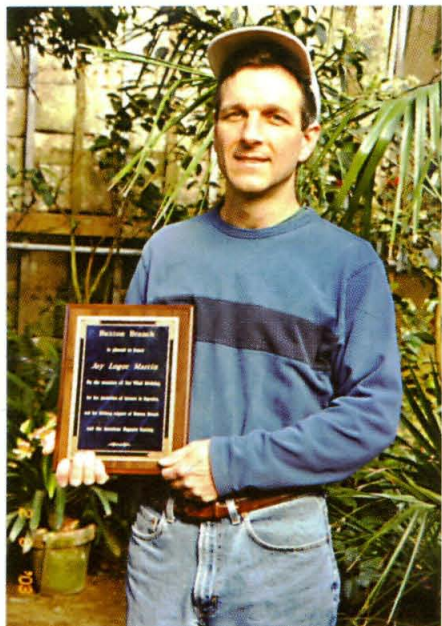
President Mueller urged Branches and individuals to embrace the concept of adopting new members by contacting them and making an effort to include them in activities.

Past President **Charles Jaros** submitted a proposal for an endowment committee to set up guidelines for ABS to accept endowments. A motion to form a committee to investigate this matter further and report findings at a future board meeting carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Macnair, Secretary

The Latest Issue of the
Save Our Species Newsletter
is a winner so adopt a species by
contacting **Rekha Morris** and
get a free copy (or send \$5 to get
a subscription to Arlene Ingles,
address on page 158). You may
contact Rekha at
318 Woodland Circle, Pendleton,
SC 29670-9433 or email her at
shivavana@juno.com.



Left above is Byron Martin receiving the award to Joy Logee Martin from the Buxton Branch and to the right is B. 'Guy Savard', Ellen Todd's winner. Photos by Wanda Macnair. Below is Begonia 'Little Brother Montgomery' with the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches music theme illustrated in the background of their display. Photo by Mary Bucholtz.



News from the Buxton Branch

by Wanda Macnair

On February 9, 22 members of the Buxton Branch had a field trip to Logee's Greenhouses. The last two years they have celebrated **Joy Logee Martin**'s birthday on the occasion of the field trip. This year they presented a plaque to **Byron Martin** for his mother honoring her in appreciation of her inspiration and support over the years and in celebration of her 92nd birthday. The inscription on the plaque reads: "Buxton Branch is pleased to honor Joy Logee Martin on the occasion of her 92nd birthday for her promotion of interest in begonias and her lifelong support of Buxton Branch and the American Begonia Society."

Ellen Todd of the Buxton Branch won the Thompson Award for her *Begonia* 'Guy Savard' in the New England Spring Flower Show in Boston. She was also awarded the Cunningham Award for Excellence for the same plant.

*The American Begonia Society also expresses its appreciation for plants donated by Logee's for the recent convention in Oklahoma City. The editor also noted in the April issue of the Buxtonian that at the New England Spring Flower Show **Normand Dufresne** won a blue for one of his begonias and that **Corliss Engle** won a number of blue ribbons as well.*

News on the Palm Beaches Begonia Society

by Mary Bucholtz

Begonia 'Little Brother Montgomery' and *B. U404* were in the display presented by the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches at the Palm Beach Tropical Flower Show, February 20-23. The theme this year was "Rhythms of Nature", hence the musical notes in the background of the photo shown. Their display was lovely. Their booth was divided in half, one for their display and the other half, their sales area.

In just 3 hours Thursday, they had made \$500 in sales and I hear they sold out. I do not doubt that for their plants were robust and they had a great variety of begonias. This is one branch whose membership is growing.

Best Begonia of the show, in all Horticulture Classes, was *B. U402* exhibited by **Elizabeth Mateus**. It received the Paul P. Lowe Award provided by the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches which was founded by **Paul Lowe**. Judging of the Begonia Class was done by ABS Judges **Johanna Zinn**, **Charles Jaros**, and **Mary Bucholtz**.

*From the Begonia Broadcast, Newsletter of the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches, the editor learned that this branch also won big at the Mounts Botanical Garden standard flower show where **Elizabeth Mateus** again won the Horticultural Excellence Award (aka Best of Show), this time for her Begonia 'Flamingo Queen'. Then at the Palm Beach Garden Club Show on April 24-25 at the Society for Four Arts, **Polly Reed** and **Vicki Denton** won prizes for their gorgeous plants. On May 31, they will participate in the Mounts Garden Get Together where plant societies are showcased. The branch will do a garden tour and a propagation demo and sell begonias. They will have special begonias at \$1 each for kids to give their moms (great idea!).*



Above is *B. reneformis* in a photo which appeared in the Westchester (CA) Branch Newsletter in December of 2000. Below is a photo of *B. U304* taken by **Johanna Zinn**; it will give you a hint of what is in store for the next issue as it was displayed by **Gene Salisbury** in the 2003 ABS Show and because the competition was so stiff, it did not even win a ribbon despite its beauty!



Begonia reniformis

by Normand Dufresne

Begonia reniformis, which means kidney-shaped, was described by Dryander in 1791. *Begonia longipes*, *palmifolia*, *vitifolia* and its varieties are all synonyms.

B. reniformis is thick-stemmed. It forms a small tree, with large hairy leaves. The hairs occur on both the surface and underside of the leaf, and are quite short. You have to look closely to see them. My leaves are not large. I suspect too much benign neglect. However, the leaves are getting larger as the plants get taller. Maybe all I need is for the plant to grow another foot or so. When planted in open ground, thick-stemmed begonias are said to grow to a height of as much as 12 feet. Grown in a pot they should be pot bound to promote basal growth. My plant is not severely pot bound, but the rootball stays intact when I knock it out of the pot. A clay pot is recommended when the plant gets tall to keep it from toppling over.

Numerous small, white, long lasting flowers appear at the top of the plant on dichotomous cymes (flat or convex flower cluster with center flowers usually opening first). Bloom time is in winter. *B. reniformis* can take a wide range of temperatures. The ideal temperature is said to be 62-65 degrees F.

Humidity is no problem, with 62-65 considered best. I have taken cuttings from this plant which spoils it as a show plant, the plant being so open you can see where cuttings were made.

This article is taken from the February 2003 Buxtonian, newsletter of the Buxton Branch where it is one of Normand's articles on the Plant of the Month. B. reniformis has always been one of my favorite thick-stemmed begonias because it is so hardy. It grew with particular happiness in Arkansas, but does not do as well here in Oklahoma where the heat is too high and the humidity too low; however it does survive the hottest months given deep shade. Because I now cannot give it enough light, however, it has bloomed sparsely for me here while it did so freely in Arkansas. In the high humidity of Nacagdoches, TX its leaves grew more amply and much larger than here where the lower leaves tend to fall. I crossed it this winter with Tim Anderson's B. 'Caribbean Prince' and I'm anxious to see what the cross presents.

~FH

Begonia U304

Begonia U304 was offered in the 2000 *Begonian*, p.112 Seed Fund with no description. **Thelma O'Reilly** reports that its source was **Eleanor Fischer** in Florida in 1992, seed coming from **Charles Jaros**. It was supposed to have come back from Thailand, but originated from Columbia coming to Thailand with an orchid. Thelma thinks however that it has the elegance of Asian species and doubts its Columbian origin. Whatever its origin it is truly a beautiful species. It is reportedly somewhat difficult to grow except in Florida. The plant here photographed by **Johanna Zinn** in Oklahoma City in April was grown by **Gene Salisbury** in his greenhouse. It is not obvious from the photo, but the plant is actually a compact, smallish grower. Its leaves with their dramatic umbo are certainly the plant's charm.

~FH



Here is Begonia 'Joe Hayden' exhibited in the Denver Botanic Garden. Photo by Peter Szilagyi

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Begonia 'Joe Hayden'

by Peter Szilagyi

My infatuation with *B. 'Joe Hayden'* began sometime in the late spring or early summer of Nineteen Seventy-One. I remember walking past a flower shop on Third Avenue in New York City during a lunch hour. When I casually looked at the plants displayed in the store's window, my breath was taken away. I had never seen such an awesome and extraordinary thing!

I had to have it! So I simply went inside and bought it. In hindsight, twenty dollars for a plant in Nineteen Seventy-One seems like a lot of money. But I was young, recently graduated from college and had no one to whom I had to justify my extravagant purchases.

I remember bringing it back to the office where I was working at the time and proudly putting it on the windowsill across from my drafting table. The very stark white architect's office I was working in desperately needed the color and texture this plant provided!

The plant thrived in the north light of Fifty-Seventh Street and Lexington Avenue. It did so well and grew so big, that it became obvious to me, a mere plant novice, that it was time to divide it.

So I purchased three large clay pots and saucers, along with a bag of perlite, one of a peat-moss, and a third probably of vermiculite.

The next day at lunchtime, I spread out several sheets of newspaper on my drafting table and poured out the contents of these bags. Just when I had finished mixing and mounding, resulting in a mountain of soil, my Boss, **Richard Meier**, the architect for the now famous Getty Museum in Los Angeles, approached my desk. Surprisingly, he said nothing. He just shook his head and continued to walk by.

I cut the very large rhizome into fourths, potted each section and watered them. In a few weeks the plants were ready to give away which I did do.

I don't remember what happened to the original plant. I certainly took it with me when I left Meier's office so I must have taken it home with me.

In Nineteen-Eighty, I moved into a house in Fort Lee, New Jersey; after all, isn't that what one is supposed to do, move from an apartment to a house?

I took some of my plants with me thinking that my youngest sister, who had moved into my apartment would take care of the rest until I picked them up. However, instead of tending them, she ignored them and they all, including 'Joe Hayden', died. In the ensuing years, I never tried to replace this plant or any of my other begonias, until...

Twenty-nine years later, two years ago when I read an article about begonias in the Denver Botanic Gardens Newsletter. It mentioned the enormous *B. 'Joe Hayden'* plant inside and to the left of the Garden's Conservatory entrance. It obviously rekindled a latent obsession and longing within me. I immediately searched for and found the ABS website and asked where I could find 'Joe'.

Greg Sytch called and gave me the names of a number of mail-order houses to contact. I got in touch with one and ordered *B. 'Joe Hayden'*.

'Joe Hayden' is now back in my life, along with numerous other begonias. It's as if he had never left!

Thank you, Greg Sytch!

I've read in the *Begonian* that Rudy Ziesenhenne bred it, many years ago.

When Peter sent this article in, he also sent a copy to **Rudy Ziesenhenn**e and asked him who Joe's parents were and why he named the resulting cross 'Joe Hayden'. This was his reply:

B. 'Joe Hayden' is a cross between *B. reichenheime* X *B. maza*e. *Begonia maza*e is not rhizomatous, but has thin upright stems about 1/8" in diameter. It grows upright, but falls over and then tries to grow upright again. However, it has leaves that are dark red below and that makes the leaves (on 'Joe Hayden') dark brown.

B. 'Joe Hayden' was produced in 1947.

Mr. Hayden was an early Begonia member who retired and lived in Vista, CA. We had a little contest to see who could find the darkest leaved rhizomatous begonia. In his working life, he was an Englishman who went out from London on to the colonies establishing motion picture theaters in the early days."

Peter goes on to add:

Being a music lover myself, I naturally assumed that the plant was named for the Austrian composer and fellow countryman, Joseph Hayden. I was wrong.

It was nice to have an article from one of our Colorado friends. Peter also tells us that Gary Davis who was in charge of the Denver Botanic Gardens Conservatory (where we probably saw that B. 'Joe Hayden' during our convention there) has moved on to work for the City of Denver and that the number of begonias at the Conservatory has declined dramatically. Peter hopes to engage the new director and work to increase them again. You may write to Peter at 12060 West Burgundy Avenue, Littleton, CO 80127 or call him at 303-933-1522.



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In Memory

On March 23, 2003, we lost our good begonia friend **Jerry Baird**. Jerry was the *Members-at-Large Newsletter* editor for the last two years. He was a member of the Palm Beaches Branch of the ABS as well as the Boca Raton Bromeliad Society. Whenever something needed to be built, dug, or planted, he was there with tools or a shovel. Over the last four years he was active in the local branch by holding office as the Corresponding Secretary and Branch Newsletter Editor. He was also involved with conventions, board meetings, growing lots of begonias and lending assistance in planting the Mounts Begonia Garden in West Palm Beach. Always with a smile on his face or a good story to share. Jerry will be greatly missed by all.

Johanna Kitson

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**.

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; 37-48 (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:

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

The CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND is managed by the Margaret Lee Branch of the ABS in San Diego County, California. The donors this month are **Barbara Berg, Leora Fuentes, Thelma O'Reilly, and Tom Keepin**.

This fresh seed for this issue should be added to the Master Seed Fund List for 2003:

ML3: *B. echinosepala* Regal

ML3: *B. popenoei* Standley

ML3: *B. heracleifolia* Cham. & Schlecht.
var. *sunderbruckii*

ML3: *B. aconitifolia* A. de Candolle. These seeds are from plants grown from a seed packet obtained at the Arenal Botanical Garden in Costa Rica in 1999. **Thelma O'Reilly** has grown the plant, self-pollinated it, and collected seeds for the Seed Fund.)—\$2.00

ML3: *B. paulensis* A. de Candolle. These seeds are from **Rudy Ziesenhenné's** clone that is said to be easy to grow. This seed is limited.—\$2.00

ML3: *B. U #388* Limited—\$2.00

BEGONIA DESCRIPTIONS FOR SEED FUND

Descriptions for **ML03** are being published in installments. In this issue are *B. echinosepala*

to *B. grandis*.

B. echinosepala Regel [Brazil] (Sect. Pritzelia) Two foot tall shrub with small, elongated, narrow, serrated ribbon like leaves, gracefully arching stems; fragrant white flowers with white hairs on tepal reverse. The name means prickly sepaled, sometimes called "peach tree begonia"

B. echinosepala* var. *elongatifolia

B. edmundoi Brade [Brazil] (Sect. Gaertdia); shrubby to 2 feet, dark erect thin brittle stems; dark green upper and red under leaves, dentate margins; large flowers white with pink margins.

B. egregia N. E. Brown [Brazil] (Sect. *Tetrachia*) Thick-stemmed, stem 2'-4'; leaves peltate, 6"-11" long 2"-3" wide, lanceolate, somewhat cupped, brittle, pebbled, grey-green; many white flowers in winter; ovary 4-celled, 4-winged.

B. epipsala Brade [Brazil] (Sect. Pritzelia) Erect, branched woody stems; small, dark glossy green leaves, 2 x 3½ inches, obliquely ovate, underside red and rusty wooly; white blooms in many flowered cymes in spring.

B. fagifolia

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.

B. foliosa HB&K [Columbia, Ecuador, Venezuela] (Sect. *Lepsia*) A shrub having many-branched floppy stems to 3 ft., slender, branched, arching; leaves. ½ - 1 ½ in. long, many, densely 2-ranked on short, shaggy branchlets, ovate-oblong, slightly toothed, dark green to bronzy green.; red stems and petioles; small pinkish-white flowers from spring to autumn.

B. foliosa* var. *miniata

B. glabra Aublet [Central America] (Sect.

Wageneria); scandent species forming roots at nodes; heart shaped, medium green, waxy leaves, light green stems and petioles; pale green flowers.

B. glandulosa Hook. [Mexico] (*Platycentrum*) Rhizomatous; lvs. Obliquely orbicular-cordate, peltate, acuminate, wavy margined, glossy yellow green with deep chocolate brown veins above, dark red underneath; flowers small, greenish-white, fragrant, male flowers with 2 tepals, female with 5, ovary unequally 3-winged. Blooms in late winter and spring.

B. gracilis* var. *martiana A. deCandolle (sect. *Quadriperigon*) [Mexico], (Sect. *Quadriperigon*) Also known as "the hollyhock begonia" the upright, unbranched glabrous stem to 2 feet arises from a tuber; orbicular to lanceolate, crenately toothed fleshy pale green leaves; blooms with very short peduncles grow up the stem among the leaves like hollyhocks; at the axils of older leaves bulbils form which fall off and start new plants. The plants go dormant in cool weather and the tubers will not survive cold weather. The plant tolerates bright light and demands high humidity. It comes from high altitude.

B. grandis Dryander subsp. *evansiana* (Andrews) Irmscher [China] (Sect. *Diplocinium* II) Erect stems to 1 foot; medium green leaves with purple veins narrowing towards pointed tips; bright pink flowers in summer; bulbils that form in the leaf axils drop to the ground to grow new plants in the spring. This species is quite hardy. The tubers in the ground can withstand temperatures below freezing for an extended period if well mulched. Cultivated variety 'Alba' has white flowers..

B. grandis (Dryander) ssp. *evansiana* (China) known as the hardy begonia will withstand quite low temperatures, 2-3 ft., green to bronze leaves, pink blooms. See article Jul/Aug 1998 pg. 131.

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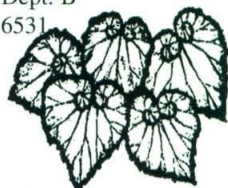
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AGGS Membership Secretary

Robert Clark

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COMING EVENTS

July 19, 2003, 9-5 p.m.: Westchester Begonia Society Annual show and Sale. We are in a lovely, spacious new location. Covenant Presbyterian Church, 6323 W. 80th St. (Corner of 80th & Sepulveda)n, Los Angeles, CA 90045. This year's show theme will be "A Little Night Music" to honor Michael Kartuz hybrids - *Did you know he started out as a music major?" Admission is free. Easy and plentiful parking. For more information contact **Janet Brown** at JBBROWN3@aol.com or at 310-670-4471.

July 31-August 3, 2003: Orange County Fair; Orange County Begonia Show & Sale. Judged Show. At. 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA. For information contact Mary Sakamoto at 714-637-8787

August 15-16, 2003: Mike Flaherty's Gazebo Begonia Show. Montecito, CA. For information contact Mike Flaherty at 805-682-2229 or MikeFlaherty@cox.net

August 14, 2003: Palos Verdes Show & Sale. South Coast Botanic Gardens. For information contact Jeanne Jones at 310-378-7527

August 28-September 1, 2003, Southwest Region Get-Together & Judging School
See Page 143.

September 20, 2003, 12 noon to 3:30 p.m.: Buxton Branch will present its annual show and sale at the U. Mass. Eastern Extension Center, 240 Beaver St., Waltham, MA. This is a judged show, sharing the hall with the NE/AGGS. Admission is free. For further information, contact **Wanda Macnair** at 617-876-1356, or email her at wmacnair@msn.com.

2004 ABS Convention, San Diego, CA: Information coming soon!

Closing Date for September/October Convention Issue will be July 15, 2003!

The Begonian

Editor: Freda M. Holley, 2015 Elvin Dr.
Stillwater, OK 74074. Ph: 405-385-0484. E-mail: fholley@provalue.net

Consulting Editors: Tamsin Boardman
and **Jan Brown**.

Nomenclature Editor: Jack Golding,
33 Ingram Drive, Monroe Township, NJ
08831-4641, E-mail: JGBEGNOM@aol.com

Quick Tips: Dianna Wilkerson, 15356
Pheasant Run, Choctaw, OK 73020, E-mail:
begoniafiend@aol.com

Advertising Staff:

Display Ads: Ann Salisbury, P.O. Box 452,
Tonkawa, OK 74653, Ph: 580-628-5230.
Email: geneann@cableone.net

Plant Society Ads; Holiday Greetings:
Wanda Macnair, 59 Walker St., Cambridge,
MA, 02138, Ph: 617-876-1356, Email:
wmacnair@msn.com

Send inquiries about address changes,
missing copies, dues, subscription and
circulation to Arlene Ingles, 157 Monu-
ment, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617,
Ph: (707) 764-5407;
E-mail ingles@humboldt1.com

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Back Issues.....Donna Marsheck, 5218 Brock Dr., Bartlesville, OK 74006; Ph: 918-333-1587; dmarsheck@aol.com

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Business Manager.....Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653; Ph: 580-628-5230; geneann@cableone.net

Conservation.....Bill Claybaugh, 1702 Country Club Dr., Crosby, TX 77532, Ph: 281-328-5133; absastro@hotmail.com

Convention Advisor.....Mary Sakamoto, 9682 Featherhill Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861, Ph: 714-637-8787

Convention Chair: Ann Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653; Ph: 580-638-5230; geneann@cableone.net

Entries/Classification....Leora Fuentes, 2200 Glen Forest Ln., Plano, TX 75023; Ph: 972-964-6417

Grants Committee: Janet Brown, 7825 Kentwood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045-1150; Ph: 320-670-4471; JBBrown3@aol.com

Internet Editor...Kathy Goetz, 935 W. Isabella Street, Lebanon, Oregon 97355; Ph: 541-258-7517; goetzk@begonias.com

HistorianNorma Pfrunder, 1958 Sycamore Ct., McKinleyville, CA 95519-3900

Horticultural Correspondent...Gregory Sytch, 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653-4301; Ph: 727-841-9618; GSytch@cs.com

Judging...Maxine Zinman, 2770 Kimble Rd., Berryville, VA 22611; Ph: 540-955-4555; begonia@visuallink.com

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Membership....Arlene Ingles, 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617; Ph: 707-764-5407; ingles@humboldt1.com

Nomenclature.....Michael Ludwig, 6040 Upland St., San Diego, CA 92114-1933, begoniagrowing@hotmail.com

Parliamentarian...Ann Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK, Ph: 580-628-5230, geneann@cableone.net

Public Relations.....Virginia Jens, 3126 SW Curcuma, Port St. Lucie, FL 34953; Ph: 772-873-8270, virginiajens@hotmail.com

Research.....Bruce Boardman, P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale, TX 76433; Ph: 254-728-3485; bcbnt@lipan.net

Round Robin.....Virginia Hamann 1169 Lincoln Ave., Chester IA 52134-8508; Ph: 319-565-4208

Seed Fund.....Michael Ludwig, 6040 Upland St., San Diego, CA 92114-1933, Ph: 563-262-7535; begoniagrowing@hotmail.com

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