



The

Begonian

July/August 2004

The **Begonian**

ISSN 0096-8684

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.

The Begonian is published bimonthly by the American Begonia Society, Inc. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the society, its officers, or the editor. Contents, except where labeled otherwise, may be reprinted without limitation, provided credit is given to "The Begonian, magazine of the American Begonia Society."

Membership (subscription) \$25., US, Mexico, and Canada. \$45. Overseas airmail except Mexico and Canada.. Added member, same household, no charge. Consult Membership Chairman for sustaining, benefactor, life membership dues. U.S. currency only. Back issues (current volume) \$2.50.

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@cox.net

Cover

Front: Doug Pridgen captured this *B.* 'Caribbean Corsair' grown by Joyce Pridgen and hybridized by Tim Anderson. What a beauty!

Back: Janet Welsh photographed this *B.* 'Silver Jewel' at the Philadelphia Flower show.

In This Issue

Directory of Begonia Societies 140

Sadly, this year we lose the Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau Branch from our directory, but welcome a new branch in the Tampa Bay area (see page 139).

Articles

<i>Begonia U446</i>	127
Miami Begonia Show	129
Want to Start a Lot of Begonias in a Small Space	129
Trip to Gabon	131
The Wholesale Himark Nursery	133
Romancing the Begonia, II	134
Holiday Greetings	139
Begonia Society of Tampa	139
NETC Seminar	148
<i>Begonia oxyloba</i>	150
Spreading the Word	152
<i>Begonia U388/Begonia longiciliata</i>	154

Letters to the Editor	124
ABS Board Minutes	144
Editor's Notes	148
Conservation Comments	149
Coming Events	158
Officers' Page	159

*Editor has a new
email:*

fmholley@cox.net
**also Membership
Chair new email:**
ingles@cox.net

Regular Features

President's Message	124
---------------------	-----

Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads
200409or 200410, your membership is
about to expire. Please renew! We don't
want to lose you.

President's Message

If you haven't made your plans to attend the ABS convention in San Diego at the end of August, now's the time to do it. San Diego begonia growers have always hosted great conventions with interesting programs and seminars. This year there is a chance to visit Kartuz Greenhouse and buy special begonias, tours of gardens of outstanding begonia growers and, of course, a show room full of some of the best show begonias you'll ever see. In addition, you'll see old friends and make new acquaintances and have a chance to acquire begonias in the sale room you might never find elsewhere. Whether you're a branch member or a member-at-large, it's your convention; plan on attending. I hope to see you there. Speaking of conventions, Barbara and I are thinking of attending the 2005 convention in Australia.

A number of ABS members and I have had an opportunity to view **Mark Tebbitt's** book on begonias. As a collector of botanical books and especially begonia books, I can assure this book is like no other. While it does contain some cultural information, the book is for the intermediate to advanced begonia grower. I learned more on species classification and the assignment of begonias to sections than from any other begonia book I've read. Of great interest to me was Mark's discussion of *B. solanathera*, one of my favorite species, that Mark contends has been widely grown under the wrong name. I'll leave it to Mark, hopefully in an article in the Begonian to give you the details, but in any event, I'm anxiously awaiting the publication of this fine book.

One of the joys of being ABS president is that I get a copy of all those branch newsletters. Many of the newsletters are extremely well done and have interesting

articles about hybrids or species that are well researched and informative. I've long thought that we should have an annual competition at our convention-show for branch newsletters. Their excellent work and contribution to ABS should be recognized.

Many of you have contacted me saying you haven't been getting seeds you ordered. **Michael Ludwig** tells me the supply problems and seed sorting have been corrected and everyone's seeds should be on their way to you.

Howard Berg

Letters to the Editor

Advice, Please

I would like to ask for suggestions on how to clean the mineral residue off glass terrariums. I have tried mild abrasives, soaking them in vinegar and water, using CLR, ---even the bartender's trick of swishing lemon juice, rock salt, and ice cubes in the terrarium. Most helped a little, but the terrariums still have a white residue or perhaps etching on them.

Johanna Zinn

4407 Jensen Place
Fairfax, VA 22032
Ph: 703-323-7513

Contact Johanna with your advice, but please let the editor know as well so your advice can be shared with our readers.

Pattern Request

I would like to find someone with a counted cross-stitch pattern of begonias. I love doing botanicals, but cannot find a begonia pattern.

Donna Zody,
yzodz@aol.com

Again let Donna know, but the editor as well.

San Diego!

Last night as I was reading through some recent copies of the *Begonian*, my mind wandered off (as it is prone to do) and I penned this little rhyme.

San, Dee, Aye, Go. 2004

**“Go west Young Man” became the call,
there’s room out there for one and all
Just head toward the setting sun
some say, “That’s how the West was won”**

**Go west, the call cries out again
Go west by air, by road, by trail
For out upon the western shore
Convention time is here once more**

**In August you’ll be wanted there
a wondrous time, for all to share
so pack your bags, it’s time to go
and head west to, San Dee, aye, go**

**Here speakers stand and tell their story
See Show plants there in all their glory
Learn what the future still has in store
And begonia sales to temp you more**

**So how could you just not want to go and
meet your friends at San, Dee aye, go.**

Regards,
Barry Mann
Australia
culmara@bigpond.com

*How, the editor loves this column where you
never know what delight will be in the next mail!*

Fresh Ideas

I wanted to thank you on behalf of our contributors for you kind remarks in the March/April *Begonian* about the Queensland Begonia Society journals.

It is my turn now to thank the ABs for allowing articles from the *Begonian* to be published in the QBS journals. Distance precludes many members from attending

meetings and therefore from accessing the large number of *Begonians* held in our library and available to attendee members. As there is much valuable information to be gleaned from your publications, I usually include one *Begonian* article in each of our journals so that ALL our members will benefit from the information they contain.

In early years, when the fledgling QBS was being established, your allowing this information to be printed in our journals was especially appreciated.

In your article you pleaded for items to be written for publication. It seems that editors everywhere have a common problem - empty page syndrome. Fortunately, at each of the QBS meetings, three begonia talks are presented, which means I have nine articles for each quarterly journal, and that is a good base with which to start before I even begin to look for more material. However, as much as these talks make well researched and informative reading, and however thankful I am for them, I too long for extra contributions to use. New contributors especially, I feel, would add extra zing to the journals, as each contributor has his/her own writing style, and this must make for more interesting reading. Surely this is what we all desire.

Now - what to do about those reluctant authors? How can members be persuaded to contribute? Perhaps you could offer a free year’s ABS subscription to the person who contributed the most articles in a year. Your Board wouldn’t be too happy if perhaps ten winners each contributed three articles, but I think there would be a broad grin on your face!

Please accept my best wishes for a bulging mail box.

Kind regards,
June McBryde, Editor
Queensland Begonia Society
84 Pateena Street
Stafford 4053, Brisbane
Queensland, Australia

What think you reluctant writers - what would persuade you? June’s ideas are certainly worth considering - and I’ll bet she would welcome US writers there too! Thank you, June, for both your journal and your ideas!



Mary Bucholtz photographed this B. U446 and the inset is a close up of the bloom photographed by Johanna Zinn.

Begonia U446

by Charles Jaros,
Sanford, Florida

B. U446 is a shrub-like begonia that was collected by **Mary Sizemore** in the fall of 1996. Mary collected this beautiful begonia in BA-VI National Park, North Vietnam, this area is near Hanoi. *B. U446* was found growing at approximately 2000' in an understory forest and growing terrestrially, the plant was approximately 2' tall. *B. U446* has shrub-like growth, light green leaves with veins that are slightly red. Leaves are 5 1/2" long and 1 1/2" wide. Flowers are a light pink and occur along the stem of the plant at each leaf/branch axil.

I acquired my plant of *B. U446* in a 4" pot from **Tim Anderson** of Palm Hammock Orchid Estates, Miami in 2000. No "U" number was assigned at this time so the begonia was labeled unknown shrub-like, Vietnam, Mary Sizemore. *B. U446* was placed in my shade-house on an upper shelf where it flourished until our hot Florida summer heat came along.

Often my shade house temperatures can reach the high 90's to 100 degrees. I use 70% shadecloth on my shadehouse and a fiberglass roof to control watering. I noticed the leaves becoming singed and growth decreasing. I immediately moved *B. U446* to a lower shelf in a shadier spot. *B. U446* was much happier, but did not like the heat. It limped along until fall when the temperatures became cooler. When this occurred *B. U446* revived from its doldrums and started growing vigorously.

This growth occurred all through the winter and spring until summer came along again and growth slowed considerably. *B. U446* was now in a 6" pot and not enjoying the Florida summer. I decided at this

point to move *B. U446* out of the shadehouse to under my liveoak trees in the front yard. There it received filtered light and shared the area with Aroids, ferns and other begonias. *B. U446* loved the spot and started showing vigorous growth again. It was now moved into an 8" pot, no flowers as of yet. I also started using Spray N' Grow on my begonias along with my Nutricote time released fertilizer with excellent results.

I decided to take *B. U446* to the Oklahoma City ABS Convention, although not a show plant I wanted to display it and see if any ABS members knew anything about it. Also **Thelma O'Reilly** was attending the convention and I hoped to have a "U" assigned. *U446* was assigned by Thelma O'Reilly shortly after the convention.

B. U446 has continued to flourish; seems I had finally found the right growing combination: Under the liveoak tree in the summer, shadehouse the rest of the year. *B. U446* is now in a 14" container and is 3' tall.

This winter *B. U446* bloomed for the first time with an abundance of flowers along the stem of the plant from the leaf/ branch axels.

Through trial an error I finally found the growing environment that *B. U446* enjoyed and it has certainly paid off. I am still trying to find that right spot for *B. luxurians*.

Charles is a master begonia grower, past ABS President, and currently takes care of the ABS Slide Library for us. You may write him at 200 Maureen Dr., Sanford, FL 32771.



Above left is always striking *B. maculata* grown by **Joyce Pridgen** at the 2004 Miami Show. And at right we have a new **Doug Pridgen** hybrid! This is *B. 'Speck Tackle'* also grown by Joyce. What a name, Doug! Below, **Armando Nodal** shows us how to grow a spectacular *B. fagifolia*! Plant it on a rock! Great show, great photos.



Miami Begonia Show

by Doug Pridgen

The Miami Begonia Society held its 36th annual show and sale at Fairchild Tropical Garden on April 10, 2014

Well, they did it again!!! 25 participants entered 233 plants. (That's not a typographical error; it was 233!!!) This was our largest show ever. And talk about quality: 45 cultural certificates were issued by the distinguished panels of judges headed up by **Charles Jaros** and **Tim Anderson**.

Begonia 'Little Brother Montgomery', exhibited by **Joyce Pridgen** was recognized as "Best in Show." Joyce also received the "Showing is Sharing" award and the "Sweepstakes" award. Joyce received a total of 14 division awards. *B. masoniana*, exhibited by **Yvonne Shelley**, received the "People's Choice" award. It also was a division winner. Yvonne also received a division award for *Begonia* 'Withlacoochee'.

Other division winners included *B.* 'Little Rascal' by Charles Jaros. *B.*

'Marion Palmer' by Charles Jaros, *B. diadema* by Palm Hammock, *B.* 'Fireworks' by **Miguel Quezada**, a begonia rainforest display by **Armando Nodal, Jr.**, a rock garden by *Mike Twyford*, a succulent dish garden by *Marion Palmer* and a "Lord of the Rings" begonia exhibit by *Julie Echaniz*. Tim Anderson's *B.* 'Dark Crystal', exhibited by **Angelina Galvez** won best new introduction (commercial grower).

The Miami Society puts on a show that is certainly worthy of a lot more visitation and/or participation by other ABS members from across the country. You should mark this in on next year's social calendar.

We want to especially recognize some of our more senior members for their active participation in this year's show. A special thanks to **Maybelle Green, Alma Crawford, Helene Jaros, and Sylvia Ben.**

Want to Start a Lot of Begonias in a Small Space?

by Dale Emblade

Here's the idea - start off with small baby food jars and put a lid on them. That lid can be plastic wrap with a rubber band around it (or Sigma, P.O. Box 14508, St Louis, MO 63178, www.sigma-aldrich.com/order, ph: 800-325-3010, has a plastic lid to fit them -- Magenta B-Cap, 25 for \$15.50, 100 for 42.50, item number B 8648, for easy usage -- these are autoclavable. Sigma also sells the jars).

Start with the baby food jar and wash it well. Then use some 50% bleach solution and rinse. Add to it a moisturized (preferably with distilled water although I use tap water) seedling mix. Then sterilize in the microwave

for about 1.5 minutes each or about 3 or 4 minutes maximum (cover with plastic wrap or each). Let them cool down. Cut your begonia leaves up to many pieces (up to 10 or so sections) or more depending on the variety and how many jars you want for each variety. Use a clean (sterile) knife to make holes in the poi to plant the leaves and firm the soil around them. Top the jars with clean lids (from Sigma or plastic wrap).

Of course, this only works with those begonia that start from leaves, i.e. not canes and some others. I doubt that that much sterilization is really necessary; at least I have not found it to be so with seed if you are using Jiffy Mix or other soilless seedling mix. You might try it both ways to see. You may write Dale at 3414 McKibbin, St. John, MO 63114, ph: 314-429 0108 or by email: plantdale@aol.com.



There was room for only a few of the photos Jacky sent, but these give an idea of the beauty and difficulty of the terrain at the location shown in the map and of



the yellow-flowered beauties he found on the forest floor.



Trip in Gabon : In Search of Yellow Flowered Begonias by Jacky Duruisseau

Flight AF 976 on November 26 th 2004, from Paris-Charles de Gaulle to Libreville: We take off at 11:15 PM as planned. We are four people: **Charles and Huguette Salamone**, Colette and I. I prepared for this trip since... two years. I come back to Gabon where I had lived from 1966 to 1971. At that time, I didn't know what a begonia was. Moist warmth is here when we get down from the plane about 6:00 AM : 25°C (77° F) with at least 95% in relative humidity! Putting up in Tropicana Hotel we go towards the town center in a taxi. We take last preparations: Mistral Agency with which I planned the Igotchi stay in the South of Gabon; bank to change euros into Francs CFA; **Jean Philippe Biteau** our contact in Libreville, who will drive us to Tchimbélé in the North in ten days and who grows in a very nice garden, many orchids from Gabon and some begonias; first meeting with mythical yellow flowers begonias ...in pots and in blossom. Then, shopping at the last minute: camping gas, sardines in oil, Vache qui rit (cheese spread), Mosquitos, maps, etc... Tomorrow, we set off in search of adventure !

November 28th : We come back to the Libreville international airport! To Gamba, after a little stop to Port-Gentil, **Hervé Bakker** is waiting for us: he is the boss of a forestry development who is taking us with his plane to Igotchi and we must stay in his home. The plane takes off safely and we fly over the Nyanga River. Hervé hedgehops to show us elephants and buffalos who live in papyrus swamps. Georgous ! We are really in Africa ! Landing on a road as a track and installation in the Bakker's family house, a wooden one built by Hervé. We had brought hammocks and mosquito nets : pointless! We will have air-conditioned bedrooms ! We'll have our meals (in the evening because we will be in the forest during the day) on the terrace above the Nyanga River. We will have a pick-up 4x4 at our

disposal for going on expeditions in the forest with a driver and guide, **Guy-Roger** who knows the forest very well.

November 29 th: The GPS shows 2° 1' South and 10° 37' Est ...Let's go! At the begonias! Guy-Roger will stop when we meet rivers and rocks (and he will make a note of the mileage). Rivers are the only access to the forest : there is not any track. With the 4x4, we drive on the road which goes to Doussala, 80 km towards the North and which is used for wood unloading.

Km 3°: the first river and the first begonia on the slope : a white flowers one, probably *fusialata*. We paddle in a clear and warm water (and it is the beginning !). Charly uses machete for opening the way and Guy-Roger watches the strange tourists we are... Km 4 the second river gives us another species, *elatostemmoides*, very hairy, with pink flowers and the third, a nice rhizomatous one with veined leaves and with a fruit : *B. hirsutula* Km 32, Stop! rocks on a steep slope : rhizomatous species again, with iridescent blade, flat on the soil, with buds : our first yellow flowers begonia, *B. mildbraedii*!

Picnic near a trunk as a table! Sardines in oil or paté (Take your pick !), bread, Vache qui rit and banana, will be planned at each lunch time. A storm happens when we are just eating. Ponchos will be useful for men, on the back of the pick-up, while Colette and Huguette are inside the car, sheltered! The track becomes very difficult and Guy-Roger in spite of his experience, gets stuck but succeeds in clearing it. We turn and go back. Stop near a pulled tree we can see epiphytic begonias, *B. komoensis* and *B. elaeagnifolia*, and many orchids. A very promising first day! At nightfall, the insect attack in hundreds: those minuscule dipterans settle in hairs, on ears, and sting as mosquitoes. All the parts of the body without a protective layer are spattered with red spots! And with very strong itching! Huguette will keep marks for some weeks ! They attack in the morning and disappear in the evening and disappear when the sun is rising or the night falls, about 6 PM. Evening meal on the terrace with lyophilised food, pineapples and water ... but with the sight of equatorial storms in the distance and the

nocturnal moths and insects, drawn by the lights, for company.

November 30th: We start again on the Doussala track until km 36. Guy-Roger shows us a cliff, in the distance, emerging from the forest. Coming? Yes, no problem! No path of course! Guy-Roger leads the way with the machete. It is dull. We are in primary forest. We reach the cliff after an hour walking. Magic! We are to the end of the earth and this place is unchanged since thousands of years. We would not be surprised if a dinosaur came here! We will know, after, that Guy-Roger had accepted to go here because we were five people: the place is actually haunted by the spirits... The cliff, bare at the top, is, down, a true upright garden. Aracea, ferns, impatiens, but not any new begonia. We climb with difficulty and we follow an elephant trail: wonderful view of the forest. Picnic on the track about 3 PM! On return, we stop at km 1 to visit a river : a big snake has a siesta on the slope then dives with an incredibly speed! We find another impatiens in blossom and... a known begonia : **B. komoensis**. A big storm during the night.

December 1st: Early in the morning, we cross the Nyanga on the Hervé's boat. To-day, Guy-Roger drives us towards Tchibanga, in the South of Igotchi. After Mouenda, we leave the main track and follow a forest one. We arrive in an savanna area, " La Plaine", after the Dourekiki mountain, then to the "Vieux Tonneau" village where Guy-Roger's family lives. We greet the village chief and we cross the "Plaine" towards the Nyanga found again near forest areas. Guy-Roger announces cliffs in the forest. We see some wonderful terrestrial orchids **Eulophia cucullata**. We find actually two great cliffs after a very difficult progress in the forest: the first one, metamorphic one, has, at the base, many, many begonia plantlets: seeds come from a withered annual begonia which grew on the cliff. We collect some seed. The second cliff is a limestone one where we can see another withered begonia, taller than the first one. We will not find other begonias to-day. Yet, in the cliff, a cave, and in the cave, hundreds of bats. They have set down guano on the soil over the years : what a bad smell !

We have a picnic to "Vieux-Tonneau". Thunder rumbles on the Nyanga. Return under the rain on the pick-up. We cross back the Nyanga while an aigrette looked on. A difficult day!

December 2nd : Return on the Doussala road. We meet a leopard on the track: the animal lets us come near it until 50 meters, then jumps into the bush, but in fact, it is here, on the side and we can watch it during some seconds ; then it disappears really. Unfortunately, the track becomes unfit because there are too many trees fallen on the track, and some ones are very big. The road is almost covered with vegetation, not used any more because foresters have stopped their work here. Return on the first track: Guy-Roger knows a waterfall on the Mbani river. After walking an hour, we find a georgous place where begonias may grow! Nothing on the rocks in spite of a very luxuriant vegetation. After clearing the waterfall, Charly and I go upstream for about five hundred meters . We find a new species on the slope: **B. atroglandulosa**. Guy-Roger, who makes easy work of looking for begonias, discovers one : we will call it 'Begonia Guy-Roger' before determining its name (**B. macrocarpa**). This plant would be edible ! On our return we meet **Johan van Valkenbourg**, a Dutch botanist in charge of the Libreville University Herbarium, on expedition in the Igotchi area : he brings us an epiphytic begonia found on a blown down tree, **B. letestui**. We had a supper in the air-conditioned house, invited by the Bakker family who has got a succulent "poulet au nyomboué", a Gabon typical dish. For dessert, we enjoy the delicious Gabon's pineapples. To-morrow, Charly invites: Sicilian pasta... In the evening, at nightfall, Hervé drives us on the Doussala track to meet elephants. During the week, except the ones we had seen from the plane, we have seen many, many trails, countless dung, but not any elephants! Stop, lights out, motor out, we listen to the African forest. Fright! Unforgettable ! But not any pachyderm! Return and tasting of Charly's pasta with the Bakker family. To-morrow, we leave Igotchi. Will we come back to this paradise spot ? Friends Bakker, when and where will we see you again ?

December 3rd: We fly in the opposite direction to the November 28th flight. Hervé takes us greeting the elephants at low altitude. No problem coming back to Libreville where we prepare the second part of the trip. We buy machetes at the Mont Boët market and look for the "guiseur" for sharpening them. We go on to-morrow...to the Cristal Mountains, in the North. The Cristal Mountains: a dream... which is going to come true, and a botanic

sanctuary where may grow many yellow flowered begonias...

To be continued.

Jacky Durisseau is President of the French begonia society as well as a member of ABS and has written articles before for the Begonian. We thank him for sharing his adventures with us. His address is on page 140.

The Wholesale Hi-Mark Nursery by Jeanne Jones

One of California's great places to shop for begonias had a humble beginning in 1951 when **Mark Bartholomew's** father returned from W.W.II and the Air Force. He purchased some acres in Orange County and began growing bedding plants. His father had 45 acres of orange trees. As time passed the land became too valuable for orange trees and plants so in 1976 they moved north to Carpinteria. They bought seven acres and grew bedding plants and perennials. Mark had begun college at California Poly Pomona; hated it, and switched to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He quit when he realized he had more experience than college could teach him. So father-son grew mostly perennials after 1977.

I met Mark and family one day maybe 25 years ago as I wandered into their greenhouse just for any kind of plant. It was a great place - dogs, kids, and plants everywhere. Not yet into begonias, Mark had 2 tall plants of *B. 'Decker's Select'* in a corner. He gave them to me. Many bus trips stopped here and cuttings were exchanged. Mark liked Irene Nuss canes so these cuttings began.

About 2 years ago, **Brad Thompson** moved up north to grow with Mark.

They now have 3 greenhouses full of a kinds of begonias. Many of these are in gallon pots. It was a veritable fairylar for begonias and these can be purchase via internet at www.himarkbegonias.com

Jeanne took the editor to Hi-Mark one and it truly is a magnificent nursery. The sizes of the plants are simply unbelievable. Unfortunately, California bedding plants are on hard days because of some insect or disease and many states have banned CA plants so Hi-Mark has discontinued web sales, but those who pass near on the way to the August convention might stop by. Information is still available at the indicated web site. Jeanne is president of the Palos Verdes Branch and also a local historian. As the latter she always looking for ABS memorabilia. You may write her at 1415 Via Margarita, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-2143.

**Don't Miss Out:
Come to
San Diego in
August!**

Romancing the Begonia

by Rekha Morris

Continued from the May/June issue.

I had been looking forward to finding *B. multistaminea* some 10 or so km north of Altotonga, however, we never made it that far. As we headed north from Altotonga we saw signs warning us that the road was closed due to the collapse of a bridge over a river further up. We decided to disregard this and drive as far up the road as we could, and I secretly hoped^o that the sign was obsolete. About 8 km north of Altotonga I stopped to photograph and collect seeds of *B. incarnata* with pink flowers. Among these was one remarkable small *B. incarnata* with the most vivid purple-burgundy reverse foliage and red flowers. We had hardly driven a km from this site and were quite possibly within another km of *B. multistaminea* when we found our way blocked by ropes stretched across^o the road which ended in a morass of mud.

Dejected, we headed back towards Altotonga as I pored over maps trying to decide where to proceed. Somewhere in my research I had found a cryptic reference indicating that *B. fusca* had been documented at km. 350 on the road below Tezuitlan." This was inducement enough for us to circle westward and head for Tezuitlan. I kept a lookout for distance markers, but found none which were even close to "km. 350." No matter how much I concentrated on scanning the cliffs, there was no sign of *B. fusca* regarded as having the largest leaves among begonias of Mexico and Central America. To add to my frustration, fog crept up the valleys and hills and obscured further attempts to locate begonias even though it was barely 2:30 in the afternoon.

A couple of hours later we came across signs pointing to a waterfall, Cascades Tomata. Since there was no fog here and still about half an hour of light left, we decided to walk down and explore the environs for begonias. As we started walking down a path towards the waterfall I noticed a large moss covered rock in the shadows of a towering, near vertical cliff. Fascinated as I am with both mosses and rocks, I could not resist veering off the path to look closer. And the closer look revealed what to me, an avid rock gardener and begonia collector, was the stuff of dreams. Growing on and around the large, moss covered, disk shaped rock were several small plants of *B. nelumbifolia* placed randomly yet selectively as if this were done by conscious deliberation for maximum aesthetic impact. But for the numerous much larger plants of *B. nelumbifolia* along the path to the waterfall, we saw no other begonias around Cascades Tomata.

Finding no suitable accommodation in Tlapacoyan, we headed towards the coast thinking that we might have to spend the night in Nautla. As if I had been a protagonist in some fable set in never-neverland, quite suddenly I saw a sign for Paradise Hotel or Hotel Paraiso. Signs such as these had on previous trips led us unknowingly to accommodations which we later found were used primarily as trysting places for illicit affairs, places one takes "a mistress to and not a wife" as a Mexican resident later explained to Michael. Fortunately this one was a charming hotel built around a courtyard with a central fountain and numerous potted plants, and not a dive for prurient transgressions.

On the morning of the 12th we headed back towards Tlapacoyan past Cascades Tomata through a settlement also known as Tomata. This route took us through landscape where layers of hills receded into the distance, with the farthest

layer visible as a hazy silhouette along the horizon. The valleys in the foreground were either under cultivation or given over to grazing pastures for cattle. Where the road encircled cliffs too steep for cultivation, some of the native flora flourished albeit invaded here and there with introduced plants. Along one such cliff we saw our first group of begonias since Cascades Tomata, several large clumps of *B. nelumbifolia* and one large clump of *B. barkeri* beside several *B. heraclifolia*. Further along this road not only did we encounter innumerable clusters of *B. nelumbifolia* growing for long stretches along the edges of the tree line and the cleared slope immediately alongside the road, but on rock ledges there were more plants of *B. manicata* than I had seen until then. Among these I also found a few small plants of *B. ludicra* barely visible among the profuse undergrowth, and one little patch of *B. glabra* which I noticed only because one stem had begun to climb above the ground cover and up a small tree. Although I did not find *B. multistaminea*, I did find several small clumps of a begonia I had not seen until then, and which might be *B. hydrocotylifolia*. Well before noon we reached the end of the road, where a work crew had blocked the road with a bank of sandbags and a large backhoe as they worked further up to repair the bridge.

We headed back north towards Tlapacoyan and then east to Martinez de la Torre. From there we headed south on the Misantla – Naolinco road to the habitat of *B. multistaminea* south of Yecautla. The clear, sunny morning had given way to an overcast afternoon with intermittent heavy showers which slowed our progress, and made me apprehensive about reaching *B. multistaminea* when it would be too dark to photograph them well. Luckily, about 4.00 P.M. the sky cleared miraculously, and as we turned a sharp corner to

go up a steep incline I saw dozens of gunnera with the sunlight gleaming off droplets of fresh rainwater on their gigantic foliage. It was a sight I had not encountered since our trip to southern Chile over half a dozen years ago. I got out to photograph these and realized that among these giants grew not only *B. multistaminea* but also *B. manicata* and scattered plants of *B. incarnata*, none however, in bloom. Many of the clumps of *B. multistaminea* were too high to photograph but a few grew lower down the cliffs, and it was from among these that I was able to bring back a couple of rhizomes.

By the time I finished savoring an photographing this unusual clustering of begonias beneath and among gunnera, and collecting herbarium samples and rhizomes, the sun had gone down behind the hills plunging us in twilight and putting an end to begonia collecting for the day. As I walked down hill to the parked car I noticed yet another begonia, one similar to the one I had seen on highway 105 at Heujutla and tentatively identified as *B. pudica*. We arrived on the outskirts of Xalapa around 8.30 P.M. but did not find accommodation until nearly 10 P.M. that night.

The following day, October 13th, I spent the morning at the herbarium house at the Center for Ecological Studies just above the Xalapa Botanical Garden, and that afternoon once again set out in search of *B. fusca*. This species had been documented in a gorge past a concrete bridge on a dirt road which meandered into the mountains between Xico and Cuittitlan southwest of Xalapa. This dirt road turned out to be a rock strewn obstacle course which at times became a stream bed, so that it took us nearly 21 minutes to cover 3 km! We stopped and looked in vain around gorges beside three concrete bridges for *B. fusca*, which I now began

think of as the botanical equivalent of the Holy Grail. Since we had come as far as we had along this horrendous road winding upwards in a bucolic landscape with clusters of small huts among patches of corn and lush grassy meadows, we decided to continue as far as we could. The distant tinkling of bells from the surrounding hills called our attention to small herds of goats grazing along the cliffs above us, and these, together with the slash and burn practices common in these parts of Mexico, were probably the reason why there were no begonias left anywhere within sight.

On Oct. 14th after another visit to the herbarium in Xalapa we headed south to Teocelo stopping periodically to photograph isolated patches of *B. heracleifolia* and *B. manicata*. The drive to look for *B. peltata* along a subsidiary road to Jalcomulco proved futile as the area was almost entirely under cultivation. Equally disappointing were our attempts to explore along subsidiary roads where *B. hydrocotylifolia*, *B. oaxacana*, *B. peltata*, and *B. polygonata* had been documented as these were impassable due to the heavy rains of the past few months.

Between the 15th and the 18th we drove and hiked in the hills around Orizaba in search of begonias, and among a cluster of *B. barkeri* found one plant with prominently defined red veins. Examination of its flowers by **Patrick MacMillan**, curator of the herbarium at Clemson University confirmed its identification as *B. barkeri*. Braving the hairpin curves of the road which led into the hills to La Cuesta to find *B. pudica* proved to be as difficult and futile as the road from Xico to Cuititlan in search of *B. fusca*. Despite the difficult terrain, the hills were dotted with tiny hamlets clinging to the cliffs which had been denuded of their flora to make way for patches of corn. Barranca San Cristobal

which lies above the main road between Puebla and Orizaba was another habitat where *B. fusca* had been recorded. These steep cliffs are unassailable at many points except by experienced rock climbers. Nevertheless the lure of *B. fusca* was irresistible. We found no *B. fusca* during the several hours spent searching along this difficult terrain but located huge clusters of *B. carolineifolia* and among them a few *B. heracleifolia*.

There remained two other areas I had planned on exploring during this trip. The first of these was the summit of Tuxpango ridge. Here along the upper sections there were drifts of *B. heracleifolia* of varied sizes and forms despite the obvious slashing of everything within fifteen feet of the road whether the terrain was flat or steep. The second area was one visited and described by **Virginia Jens** in the *Begonian* [Jan./Feb. 1996]. I wanted to explore the route she had been taken on to collect and identify the small leaved begonia she had recorded. We contacted her guide who not only remembered her but also showed us the exact spot where she had fallen!

The steep path up this mountainside, if it can be called a path, meandered over boulders often so large and slippery from wet mud that I had to crawl across them on my hands and knees. For long, steep stretches we moved gingerly from one muddy rock to the next sticking out of puddles of water and more mud. My mud encrusted sneakers felt several pounds heavier as I dragged myself up unending stretches of massive boulders.

For the first hour or so I saw several clusters of the small leaved begonia which I believe is *B. falciloba*, a tuberous species with pink flowers, red stems, and bulbils along the stem axils of mature plants. After 3 1/2 hours we walked up a narrow path, more a trench with steep sides than a

path, and stepped into a hollow planted with corn. I almost cried with disgust and disbelief that I had endured a torturous climb some 7000' up to find yet another patch of corn on land which belonged to our guide's mother. Stepping further out I saw large panicles of white flowers held on stems some 2' to 3' high on boulders where no corn would grow, and for one brief moment wondered if I had finally found *B. fusca*. Virginia had mentioned finding these large leaved begonias which resembled *B. barkeri*, and indeed these were *Begonia barkeri* making a defiant and breathtakingly gallant stand against human encroachment.

Many had set seed so I collected as many as I could reach, and under pressure from our guide that it would soon be dark we headed across one side of the corn field as for the first time we were informed that there was an easier route which we would take to go down. As we reached this easier path, our guide announced that there were more large leaved begonias some 20 minutes up the hill. Being slightly hypoglycemic I was about to faint, and told Michael that I had better sit and munch some toffees, but that he could take one of my two cameras and follow the guide. I was certain that these large leaved begonias would be more *B. barkeri*, and was unwilling to make another Herculean effort, this time through the thick growth which our guide had to hack with his machete as he and Michael disappeared from view. Forty minutes later hearing voices I sat up and saw Michael emerging with one huge leaf and a floral stalk, while the guide carried a small plant which was none other than *B. fusca* I had been searching for all this trip!

That night I could not sleep as all the many possibilities for serious accidents flooded my thoughts. And among them was one continuous if slim thread of joy

at finally finding a spot which had escape destruction and allowed *B. fusca* to flourish. On the following days every time passed a high and steep cliff, I felt that from high above us *B. fusca* by the dozen looked down tauntingly, defying us to come and get them.

Seeds collected on this trip:

- [1] *B. barkeri*, 2 sites: [a] Barranca Manzanaxtla, elevation about 7000' [b] Barranca Coscomatepec, red veined foliage.
- [2] *B. falciloba*: Lower slopes of Barranca Manzanaxtla.
- [3] *B. fusca*: Ridge of Barranca Manzanaxtla, 7000'
- [4] *B. incarnata* from two sites: [a] Between Altotonga and Atzalan [b] Los Dos Puentes, near Huatusco.
- [5] *B. karwinskyana*: 25 km north and 12-14 km south of Molango, hwy. 105.
- [6] *B. nelumbifolia* from two areas: [a] Between Tlapacoya and Altotonga. [b] Xalapa Botanical Garden.
- [7] An unidentified but vigorous semperflorens begonia [probably an hybrid] growing in front of an abandoned shack!

Herbarium Specimens as well as Roots & Rhizomes:

- [1] *B. barkeri* two sites: [a] Barranca Manzanaxtla, about

7000' [b] Route 125. A red veined form also from this area.

- [2] *B. carolineifolia*: Barranca San Cristobal
- [3] *B. falciloba*: Lower slopes of Barranca Manzanaxtla
- [4] *B. fusca*: Barranca Manzanaxtla
- [5] *B. glabra*: Between Tlapacoyan and Altotonga
- [6] *B. gracilis*: hwy. 105.
- [7] *B. heracleifolia*: [a] Barranca San Cristobal [b] Tuxpango Ridge [c] Barranca Teocelo [d] Zongolica
- [8] *B. hydrocotylifolia*: Between Tlapacoyan and Altotonga.
- [9] *B. incarnata*: [a] north of Altotonga [b] hwy. 105
- [10] *B. karwinskyana*: [a] 12-14 km south of Molango [b] 23 km. north of Molango
- [11] *B. ludicra*: Between Tlapacoyan and Altotonga
- [12] *B. manicata*: [a] Between Tlapacoyan and Altotonga [b] Barranca Teocelo [c] Xico [d] Barranca Coscomatpec
- [13] *B. multistaminea*: 10 km south of Yecautla.
- [14] *B. nelumbifolia*: Between Tlapacoyan and Altotonga
- [15] *B. pinetorum* : Zongolica
- [16] *B. pudica*: hwy. 105 and south of Yecautla.
- [17] An unidentified, bright red stemmed begonia growing at

the edge of a garden in the Orizaba/Cordoba area. Possibly *B. balmisiana*.

Acknowledgements

I take this opportunity to thank the ABS Grants Committee, the Alamo Branch, the Astro Branch, the Buxton Branch, Palm Beaches Branch, the San Jacinto Branch, the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, Carol Notaras, Howard Berg, and Tom Keepin for their generous contributions which made this trip possible. As with each trip I have taken to document begonias in Veracruz and adjacent states, the facilities of Tropical World and above all its manager, Sr. Abel Rodriguez, have been of enormous help. In Xalapa my visit to the herbarium of the Instituto de Ecologia was facilitated by Dr. Sosa, the director of this institute, and Sr. Castillo Campos, the curator of the herbarium. I am grateful to both for greatly furthering my efforts to document the begonias of Veracruz.

**Subscribe to the
Members-at-Large
Newsletter!**

**Send \$5 per year to
Arlene Ingles,
157 Monument
Rio Dell, CA 95562-1627**

**Sandy Boyd is producing an
outstanding publication.
Don't miss out on it!**

HOLIDAY GREETINGS 2004

by Wanda Macnair

In Past years ABS branches and individuals have donated to show support for the *Begonian* by way of holiday greetings. You have been very generous, but this year you are especially encouraging more individual gifts. There will be a one-page ad listing donors, including branches and single donors in the following categories:

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

Letters have gone out to all officers and branch national directors. Please send your checks made out to ABS with a notation "For holiday greeting," by September 15th to:

**Wanda Macnair, Holiday Greetings Chair, ABS
59 Walker St., Cambridge, MA 02138.**

The reason for the early cut-off date is because of Freda Holley's own deadline for getting copy ready for the November-December issue. However, if you are late, we can always credit you and list your name next year. Thank you.

Welcome, The Begonia Society of Tampa Bay

by Mary Bucholtz

It's official! At the February 28, 2004, Board Meeting of the American Begonia Society, the Begonia Society of Tampa Bay was approved for branch status, **Shirley Brown** is President and **Charles Jaros** is National Director.

These new members hosted, not only the February ABS Board Meeting in conjunction with the University of South Florida Botanic Garden's "Begonia Bash", but a weekend filled with begonia events that would make anyone thrilled to have been there.

A hearty welcome and congratulations to this enthusiastic group of begonia lovers. Inquiries for membership in this newest ABS Branch should be directed to Shirley Brown, 1804 Curry Rd., Lutz, FL 33549

August is the Month: Don't Miss San Diego!!

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: Carmel Browne, 'Paradise', Browns Road, Belli Park, Qld 4562, Australia; Ph: (02) 54470204, begoniataalk@bigpond.com

The Victorian Begonia Society, Inc.: Mr. Bruce Blanchonette, 22 Romsey Avenue Sunshine North 3020, Australia; Ph: (03) 93367601

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 Priory Court, Balkham Hills, NSW 2153 Australia. Ph: (02) 9624 5637

The Queensland Begonia Society, Inc.: Mr. Peter Henderson, 79 Chuter Street, Staford, Qld, 4053, Australia; Ph: (07) 3359 4319

South Australian Begonia Society Inc.: Mrs. Myrnie Jennings, P.O. Box 118, Highbury SA 5089, Australia. Ph: (08) 8264 6490

The Begonia Society of Western Australia: Mrs. Lyla Kilpatrick, 26 Penzance Street, Bassendean WA 6054, Australia, Ph: (08) 9279 5415

Belgium

Societe Belge du Begonia: Piron Gilles,

Pres., Chemin de Lancre, 4 B-4970 Coov, Belgium

Canada

British Columbia Fuchsia & Begonia Society: Lorna 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, email: 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 Email: jkdur@club-internet.fr

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 Tsamtis, 2630
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: Ken Dahlquist, 690
McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA 9177-3226,
Ph: 909-622-6125

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: Houston Knight,
13455 Hadley, Whittier, CA 90601, PHH
562-693-1973

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

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

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

Delaware Valley

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

Florida

Begonia Society of Tampa Bay: Shirley Brown, 1804 Curry Rd., Lutz, FL 33549

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, Hiataeh, FL 33010, Ph: 305-619-8193 or 888-922; magienodal@aol.com

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

Georgia

Greater Atlanta Branch: Rekha Morris, 318 Woodland Circle, Pendleton, SC 29670-9433, PH: 864-646-3584, email: shivana@juno.com

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

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: Kenny Wilkerson, 15356 Pheasant Run, Choctaw, OK 73020, PH: 405-390-4228; email: begoniafiend@cox.net

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: Johanna Zinn, 4407 Jensen Place, Fairfax, VA 22032, Ph: 703-323-7513

New England Spring Flower Show

Wanda Macnair exhibited *B. bogneri* in a 10" bubble where it was blooming it's head off. Everyone was wowed! (She may have some new plantlets to share at SWR.) Her **B. chlorosticta** was touching the side and top of a 16" bubble and had to be trimmed back to exhibit. She had a gesneriad 'Pink Brocade' which won a blue and a cultural as well as the Ann Crowley Award for the best gesneriad and the Libby Stephenson Award for the most meritorious entry grown under light.

Ellen Todd won the Thompson Award for an unnamed Rex begonia that was very striking. She also won a blue and a cultural certificate for her window box. **Gail Burnett** received five blue ribbons and three cultural certificates. She has an outstanding tropical terrarium. **Bonnie Lambert** in her first time won two blues. **Timmy Shapiro** won the Caruso Cup for her rabbit's foot fern. **Phyllis Podren** won two blues also.

Isn't it great when our branches take the begonia beauties to outside shows where they teach others about our plant family.

Bonnie's Greenhouse

We grow Angel Wing Begonias, perennials and hardy ferns.

Begonias:

Tom Ment \$4.	Torch \$3.
Lynda Dawn \$3.	Maurice Amy \$3.
Don Miller \$3.	Lois Burke \$3.
Benigo \$3.	Ming Fern \$4.
Autumn Fern \$4.	Foxtail
Japanese Painted Fern \$4.	Asparagus \$4.

Ferns are in 4" pots. Begonias are in 3 1/2" deep rooting pots. More begonia soon.

Shipping by priority mail.

Call toll free: 1/888/799/8202

Bonnie's Greenhouse

5498 Orchard Lane

Waco, TX 76705

email: bonnied@flash.net

THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY, INC.

A Society to Promote the Culture of Lilies



We would like to invite you to add the Genus *Lilium* to your garden--the true Lilies. Join us by sending annual dues of \$20 for 1 year or \$55 for 3 years.

Send to: **Dr. Robert Gilman**
NALS Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 71, Owatonna, MN 55060
For further information: www.lilies.org



The Association for plant & flower people who grow in hobby green houses and windows!

Quarterly Magazine and Newsletter * Growing & Maintenance Help & Advice
Dues: USA \$28/yr, Canada/Mexico \$30/yr, Overseas \$31, (US. funds/bank, MO)
Sample magazine \$3.50, *Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers & Distributors* \$2.50

Hobby Greenhouse Association
8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048
<http://www.hobbygreenhouse.org>

**MINUTES OF BOARD
MEETING
AMERICAN BEGONIA
SOCIETY**

Tampa, Florida, February 28, 2004

President **Howard Berg** opened the meeting and thanked the members of the Begonia Society of Tampa Bay for hosting the meeting and the University of South Florida Botanical Garden for the meeting site and especially **Dale Sena** for organizing everything.

Eleanor Calkins read the Aims and Purposes of the Society.

A moment of silence was held to honor all of our members recently lost including **Marge Lee, Joy Logee Martin, Edward Thompson** and others.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as mailed to the board members.

A life membership was presented to **Morris Mueller** for his services as President.

President Berg appointed a planning or steering committee to set goals of the society within the constitutional framework and to select pathways to reach these goals. The committee was asked to determine what the Society should do and what it should become and to do so without changing its aims and purposes. Members appointed to this committee are **Janet Brown, Mary Sakamoto, Johanna Zinn, Maxine Zinman, Charles Jaros, Gene Salisbury, Mary Bucholtz** and **Bill Claybaugh**. **Joan Coulat** will also be asked to serve on this committee. The Committee was instructed to report their preliminary views to the board at the San Antonio meeting in May of this year and their complete recommendations at the Annual Meeting in San Diego, if possible, with a final report to follow after the meeting.

There were 36 member votes present

for this meeting.

Treasurer **Carol Notaras** presented the financial statement for August 1, 2003, to January 31, 2004. The general fund had a beginning balance of \$16,618.84 and an ending balance of \$8,362.55 with income of \$17,363.54 and disbursement of \$25,619.83. The main reason for the high expense and lower balance was the cost of three Begonians. The combined checking accounts balance that includes the Seed and Begonian Mailing Funds was \$18,008.62 initially and \$11,706.90 finally. Savings account balances totaled \$64,438.04 beginning and \$64,267.80 ending and were stable in spite of disbursing \$1500 for **Scott Hoover's** collecting trip. Combined totals were thus \$82,446.66 initially and \$75,974.70 finally. Although not obvious in these figures, the recent dues increase is beginning to provide increased income. The report was accepted.

President Berg discussed the membership report submitted by Membership Secretary **Arlene Ingles**. The report shows a modest increase in membership from July 1, 2003, to January 31, 2004. Total membership is in the neighborhood of 1400 members at this time. The new member report from September 2003 to January 2004 shows that branches and the internet continue to be major sources of members although former members rejoining and those joining from unknown sources are also significant in number. Palos Verdes, Palm Beach and Astro Branches topped the new member acquisition list for this period. Comments from the floor indicated that there are some problems with the membership records. Close examination of the statistics in the report leads to the same conclusion. President Berg tabled the report until the next meeting and asked the Planning/Steering Committee to meet with the Membership Secretary to find out what we are doing now and determine what we should do to

Begonias plus fragrant and flowering tropicals!
LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES
141 North Street
Danielson, CT 06239
Phone toll free: 888-330-8038
Or visit our website: www.logees.com

Begonia Cuttings and Plants
Send \$2.00 for 2004 list
Kay's Greenhouses
207 W. Southcross Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78221-1155

Join the National
Fuchsia Society
MEMBERSHIP \$15 per year includes bi-monthly FUCHSIA FAN. The new A to Z on Fuchsias abridged version \$6.95 plus \$1 shipping (CA residents add \$.42 tax.) Mail to: National Fuchsia Society, 11507 E. 187 St., Artesia CA 90701

Shop our Advertisers!
...And tell them who sent you!

LAURAY OF SALISBURY
Begonias, Gesneriads, Orchids
Cacti & Succulents
432 Undermountain Road, Rt. 41
Salisbury, CT 06068-1102
Call ahead (860) 435-2263
2003-4 Catalogue \$2
<http://www.Lauray.com>

**LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL
FERN SOCIETY**

INVITES YOU TO JOIN
GROW HARDY AND TROPICAL FERNS
MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:
SUBSCRIPTION TO LAIFS JOURNAL
(6 issues) WITH FERN LESSONS, SPORE
STORE, BOOK STORE, SUPPLY STORE,
LENDING LIBRARY,
GENERAL MEETINGS HAVE LARGE
PLANT TABLES
DOWNEY STUDY GROUP
SOUTH COAST STUDY GROUP
PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER OF
\$25.00/USA, Canada, Mexico; or \$33.00 Other International
payable in US dollars to:
LOS ANGELES INT'L FERN SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 90943
PASADENA, CA 91109-0943

Plan Now to Discover
San Diego in 2004!



THE AMERICAN AIS is the International Registration Authority for Hedera, provides sources for new and unusual ivies; **IVY SOCIETY INC** publishes three ivy newsletters. Between the Vines, and one IVY Journal a year with reports on research hardiness testing, life-sized photos of ivies. Each member also receives an ivy plant. Membership: General \$20; Institutional \$30; Commercial \$50.

Information: **American Ivy Association, P.O. Box 2123, Naples, FL 34106-2123**

Pacific Horticulture

a quarterly journal about plants and gardens of the West
PUBLISHED BY THE NON-PROFIT PACIFIC HORTICULTURE FOUNDATION

MAKES A FINE GIFT FOR GARDENERS
SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE \$20/YEAR USA, \$23/YEAR CANADA AND MEXICO, \$25/YEAR OTHER COUNTRIES.

SEND CHECK, VISA OR MASTER CARD TO:

make the records accurate and more useful.

Branch Relations Director **Mary Bucholtz** reported that a newsletter was distributed to the National Director of each branch in September of 2003. There are possibilities for formation of new branches in Knoxville, TN, Austin TX, and Palm Coast, FL. On behalf of the Begonia Society of Tampa Bay, Mary requested that the board grant the group a Branch Charter. This was done on the basis that the Branch Relations Director had received proper credentials. The new charter was presented to the new branch at the meeting. **Charles Jaros** is the National Director of the Begonia Society of Tampa Bay Branch.

Treasurer Carol Notaras reminded everyone that the ABS is a nonprofit organization under paragraph 501(c)3 of the tax code. The ABS has an identification number (EIN) but each branch is assigned its own number under that umbrella. The IRS mails the individual number to each branch. These numbers are generally needed for opening bank accounts for a nonprofit organization and sometimes for charitable donations received. Branches should contact Carol to obtain or confirm these identification numbers. Her email address is cnotaras@juno.com. She advises providing all the pertinent numbers to the banks and letting them choose the ones they need.

President Berg commented on liability insurance reminding all branches that individual members could be liable for accidents at a branch function if the branch is not incorporated or has no insurance or lacks enough insurance. Branch Relations Director **Mary Bucholtz** was asked to gather information on insurance and disburse it to the branches.

Business Manager **Gene Salisbury** reported that the ABS has been stable and there have been a minimum of complaints.

Grant Review Committee Chair **Mary Sakamoto** reported that two grant requests had been received and reviewed. One was from **Linda Shires** at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden for the purpose of scanning **Millie Thompson's** files and the other was from **Rekha Morris** to collect Begonia in Mexico. Although the requests were for \$4000 and \$3500, respectively, the committee recommended \$1000 each. A motion was made to grant Linda Shires \$1000. This motion was tabled so that more information on the project could be obtained. This will also allow ABS time to establish some policy on funding other work on historical records such as **Jack Golding's** files as well as other types of projects and determine how limited funds should be apportioned. A second motion to grant **Rekha Morris** \$1000 for her collecting trip passed. There was some discussion of the Southwest Region contributing to these grants in some way but no action could be taken at this time.

President Berg acknowledged **Charles Jaros'** prior proposal to form an endowment committee to set up a procedure for accepting endowments. Since the board voted to do this, he asked Charles to begin a discussion at the next meeting on how to accept endowments using a book on gifting provided by the president.

Public Relations Director **Virginia Jens** endorsed introducing the new Showing is Sharing award to as many non ABS shows or exhibitions as possible where begonias are shown. She also suggested that branches could arrange for a grower to name a plant after a local celebrity and present one to him/her as well as sell them at plant sales.

Judging Chair **Maxine Zinman** announced that ABS has 8 new judges. **Joyce** and **Doug Pridgen** were each awarded their judging certificates at this meeting. The other new judges are **Bar-**

bara Orange, Willie Mae Nilson, Louise Korobkin, Kathy Goetz, Iris Bird and Donna Marsheck. In addition, cultural awards were sent to Buxton Branch.

President Berg appointed **Johanna Zinn** to the Finance Committee and reappointed **Gene Salisbury** as Nomenclature Director. The board approved the appointments.

President Berg observed that many years have passed since a new book on begonia growing was published and suggested that ABS find a way to get one published. A potential author is **Charles Anderson**, former co-editor of the *Begonian*, who has the experience and is willing to tackle the project at no cost to the ABS. The president asked permission to continue discussion with Anderson. There was no vote on the matter but no objections were raised regarding continued talks.

Paul Tsamtsis announced that the Sacramento Branch has changed its name to the Joan Coulat Sacramento Branch of the ABS.

Freda Holley submitted written proposals in the form of a motion for three new awards: The Marge Lee Award for contributing to the fellowship of the Society; the Tim O'Reilly Award for contributing/supporting spouses who aren't growers; the Gene Salisbury Award for excellence in growing begonias.

After some discussion this motion was tabled and given to the Awards Committee for close examination. It will be discussed further at the San Antonio and San Diego meetings. The board was hesitant about adopting the awards without further discussion because it did not want to risk diluting the meaning or significance of the present stable of awards. Also, there was recollection that the Society had voted years ago not to name any more awards after people. It was also recalled that some awards have been rejected in the past for

this reason and these should be revisited before new awards are accepted..

Paul Tsamtsis suggested that the ABS consider taking responsibility for selected functions of a national convention. The purpose would be to take pressure off host branches and even allow small branches to host a convention. Functions that ABS could assume would be seminars and registration and probably others. This suggestion was well received and was assigned to the Conventions Committee for further consideration and recommendation to the board.

The *Begonian* needs an influx of money. Business Manager Gene Salisbury was assigned the task of scheduling financial increases for ads in the *Begonian*. It was suggested that several modest increases at relatively short intervals could be more productive than a large increase at one time.

Save Our Species Newsletter Editor Rekha Morris produced issues #3 and #4. They were distributed at the meeting. There was only one newsletter (#3) in 2003 due to personal reasons but two are planned for 2004. Issue #5 is planned for later this year.

Convention Committee Chair **Maria Sakamoto** gave a report on the scheduling of events planned for the San Diego convention.

The Member At Large Newsletter has been improved recently and the cost now down to \$91 per issue. Although this is reasonable it is not necessarily paying for itself in subscriptions. President Berg indicated that the board should weigh the cost against the benefit and decide whether to continue it in the same or some modified form or abandon it. The discussion will be resumed at the San Antonio meeting.

A suggestion to send a welcome letter to every new ABS member describing functions and benefits of the Society was

accepted informally. The task of generating such a letter and selecting a means of transmittal was given to Charles Jaros and the Planning/Steering Committee.

President Berg announced that **Ross Bolwell** of Australia is interested in generating a database of Begonia hybrids. The board favored the idea and encouraged the president to discuss the database further with the objectives of integrating **Wally Wagner's** database into it at minimum cost and making it available on the internet. Presumably the resulting integrated database would include hybrids worldwide and have broad interest and application.

The idea of expanding the use and function of the ABS website was discussed briefly. The new Planning/Steering Committee was asked to discuss this with Internet Editor Kathy Goetz and to consider how we can integrate our website and the internet into other ABS activities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Macnair, Secretary

Editor's Notes

I have been blessed recently with articles and photos! If you didn't see your submission in this issue, it will probably be in the next issue. Keep them coming! I need a store of items to put together interesting issues. And remember readers always thank those contributors whom you meet - after all *they* make the *Begonian* special for all of us.

In this issue you read about the Miami Show and Sale and the Philadelphia Flower Show. If your branch or city has a show featuring begonias, be sure to give me a writeup so others can enjoy what you have seen. Soon vacations will begin as well. Won't you take photos of any begonias you see and share them with readers. Be sure to label your photos on the back

Continued on page 152.

A New Seminar Has Been Added to San Diego Schedule

A Two-Part Seminar from NETC:

A slide show on collecting expeditions completed and planned, followed by some modest proposals for the future of the ABS.

Scott Hoover will present slides from his collecting expeditions, 2002 and 2004. Highlights include the trek to the central mountains of Halimun National Park where the team collected a new species, this year's expedition to Mt. Slamet and Sumbawa, where they found *B. atricha* in flower and fruit and several other species that are possibly new. NETC and the Bogor Herbarium will begin explorations of Sulawesi in 2005. Scott will show slides from the 1998 reconnaissance to give a preview of what we expect to find there.

NETC has benefited greatly from and depends on the ABS for expertise and sharing plants. We are very grateful for funding provided for our expeditions. We want to support the future of the ABS. We believe there are opportunities for the ABS to build on existing and develop new relationships with botanic gardens, universities and other educational institutions. These organizations can provide resources, expertise and introduce a wider public to the beauties and pleasure of Begonia. For Part II, **Mary Fuqua** will join Scott for a discussion on this topic. We will outline some possibilities and will report on public reception of our summer-long exhibit of *Begonia* in a small, restored Lord and Burnham greenhouse at The Park McCullough House, a tourist attraction in North Bennington, Vermont.

Mary Fuqua

Conservation Comments
Bill Claybaugh
Conservation Chairman, ABS

***B. dregei* – a continuously changing species:** It's common knowledge that plant leaves change shape, and some even change color as they develop but I have recently been growing *B. dregei* and find the leaf changes astonishing in their complexity. *B. dregei* is a semi-tuberous begonia species from South Africa, named by Otto and Dietrich in 1836 and listed in Section Augustia by **J. Doorenbos**. It was described in Latin by the Swiss botanist **A. de Candolle** in his famous "Prodromus" of 1864. My translation of part of that work is as follows:

B. dregei (Otto and Dietr. Allg. Gartenzeit. 4, p 357), tuberous, glabrous, purplish, stems erect branched almost flesh-colored; leaves unequally ovate-reniformis subcordate larger than usual angled-lobed crenate-dentate; stipules ovate-lanceolate or ovate-oblong obtuse blunt or setose-mucronate; inflorescence few-flowered; bracts broadly ovate mostly obtuse, caducous; male flower sepals rounded, petals lacking; female flower without bracteoles, lobed obovate subequal; capsule base often obtuse; wings 3 subequal, medium, above obliquely cut. [note: my underlines]

There are two very interesting portions of this description, namely the mention of the flesh-colored stems [as contrasted to purplish or green] and the unusually complex description of the leaf shape. These statements take on an interesting meaning as one learns more about this unique species.

My experiences with *B. dregei* began in the fall of 2002 when I obtained cuttings of two *B. dregei* varieties from the

Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. One was labeled *B. richardsiana*, a synonym of *B. dregei*, and the other was *B. dregei* 'Glasgow', a cultivated variety of *B. dregei*. Both plants have similar shaped leaves, much as described by de Candolle, with *B. richardsiana* leaves being a dull green, without spots, but tinged in each of the numerous blade sinuses with red. *B. dregei* 'Glasgow' on the other hand has leaves that are a glossy medium green color with rather large (1/8 to 9/16 inch) white, irregularly shaped spots. These leaves are also lightly red in the sinuses. Both of these varieties have green veins on both the upper or lower blade surface but a faint reddish hue on all stems and with some imagination, some light pink coloration even on the petioles. Both of my plants were propagated from stem cuttings, so being semi-tuberous, developed swollen nodes but did not have caudexes.

When the plants were about one year old, I pollinated several *B. dregei* (syn. *B. richardsiana*) pistillate flowers, but was unable to get *B. dregei* 'Glasgow' to set seeds. The seeds germinated rapidly and gave about 30 nice plants. When the seedlings were very young, the leaves were almost round with small rounded lobes, very shallow incisions, medium green in color, and white spotted. As the plant grew (about 4 to 6 months old) the leaves retained some of their spots but lost much of their green coloration, rather turning a pale shade of creamy pink (flesh-colored?). The leaves continued to have a broadly ovate shape but they slowly developed more distinct lobes, however nothing as distinct as the parent plant.

As the plants matured, in the six-month to twelve-month period, the pink coloration disappeared from the leaf blades, but the stems, petioles, and blade underside developed a much stronger red color, much redder than the parent plant.

The blade upper surface slowly acquired a dull dark green color with strong but irregularly shaped white spots. The leaf shape continued to be broadly ovate but the lobes were somewhat more definite.

At the age of twelve months, almost to the day, a forth and, what I believe to be, final major leaf shape and color change occurred. The newly formed leaves were suddenly all deeply lobed, more so than either of the original varieties, and had the dull, dark green coloration of *B. richardiana*. Some of the leaves had an incision [sinus] almost to the umbo, much as a palmately compound leaf. Also in many leaves there was only a slight hint of small white spots. The new stems, petioles, and leaf undersides all continued to show the intense red color that developed earlier. Overall, the new plants raised from seed are more attractive than the parent,

and have a large caudex as an added bonus.

Assuming the changes are now complete, these seedlings went through four distinct shape and coloration changes on their way to "adulthood". For me, this is both exciting and educational. We obviously must use fully grown plants when trying to identify a new species using such tools as the *Begoniaceae* Keys.

At the SWR meeting in August of '03 I gave away about 20 of these *B. richardiana* seedlings to participants in the Begoniaceae Key workshop. The plants were about five months old at the time and most had leaves of the pale creamy pink color. If you received one of these plants, I would be interested in your plants appearance now. Please e-mail me with any comments at absastro@hotmail.com. Thanks in advance.

Begonia oxyloba

When you go and visit **Gene** and **Ann Salisbury**, you can never tell what new wonder you will see. On the opposite page, you will see what I saw in a recent visit. I was so impressed by that huge egg looking seedpod that I asked Gene to take this photo (right) for you. It is *B. oxyloba*. You may have noticed it at the 2003 Oklahoma City convention where it was displayed and photographed by **Mary Bucholtz** (see photo right) showing the entire young plant in bloom.

So what is the history of this fascinating begonia with fruit like eggs?

Mark Hughes wrote about other fascinating begonias of the Socotra Arhipelago in the November/December 2001 issue of the *Begonian* (page 209). About the same time he visited Madagascar and I believe it was here that he found *B. oxyloba*. Back home in Edinburgh where he was a participant in the *Begonia Research Group of the Royal Botanic Garden*, he raised a plant and got seed. At about the time he wrote the referenced article he sent me seed that he had gathered from this plant. I

passed it on to the seed fund.

From this seed, I grew some plants which prospered in the winter but died off in the heat of summer. Gene also raised plants, however, and in his ideal setting the plants prospered and set seed. He thought the behavior of these seed quite unusual as well. They took forever to ripen and I know he gathered some of these early because of this, but I believe that some also ripened eventually on the plant. I hear that he has reaped quite a bit of seed.

There is an article about this begonia in the June 1981 *Begonian*, page 136-138 by **Jan Doorenbos**. Whether it was ever in cultivation before in the U.S. is not certain. It was described in 1895 by Warburg. Doorenbos says it has been found from Guinea to Tanzania and possibly from Madagascar. It is very variable he says as well, even to the fruit shape. It is described as easy to grow and he also says it is of no great beauty, but I find it a lovely plant when it is small with nice leaf color. Doorenbos places it in section *Mezierea*. He says he got seed and distributed it, but I found no other evidence of it in the *Begonian* indexes.

Whoever thought we would be gathering eggs from our begonias? ~FH

Leaf Shape of selected *B. dregei* varieties

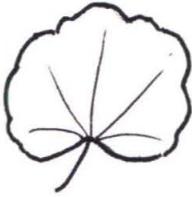
B. richardsiana



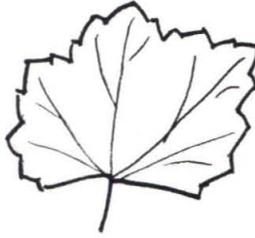
B. dregei 'Glasgow'



B. richardsiana seedlings
at 3 months



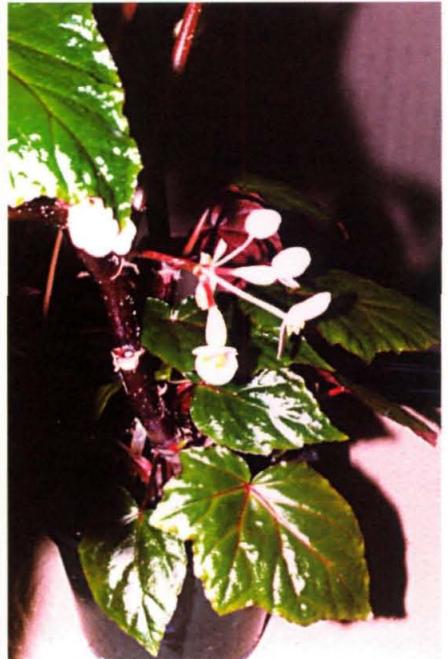
at 6 months



at 12 months



Above are leaf sketches discussed in **Bill Claybaugh's** article. Below is a photo of the egg shaped seed pod on *B. oxyloba* and to the right its flowers.



Spreading the Word

by Janet Welsh,
President, Delaware Branch

One of the ways to foster the love and knowledge of begonias is through flower shows. In this venue, our favorite plants, begonias, can be revealed at their best and excite the unsuspecting novice.

The spectacular world of begonias was most evident at the recent Philadelphia Flower Show. The largest indoor flower exhibition in the Northern Hemisphere celebrated its 175th anniversary during a week long show covering ten acres. Begonias were found in gardens, designs and the horticultural court.

Many American Begonia Society members contributed throughout the week as committee members, lecturer, exhibitors, and judges.

Bernie Wiener, the Delaware Valley liaison to the American Begonia Society, in a practical seminar discussed the propagation and cultivation of begonias and provided sample plants and information sheets to the audience.

More than 2400 individual entrees were displayed in the Horticultural Court. Because of their diversity, begonias, big and small of many types, were shown in a variety of classes. These settings included Wardian cases, terrariums, hanging baskets, miniatures, and magnificent potted specimens in 3" to 25" containers.

American Begonia Society judges came from around the United States to critique these exhibits.

With over 250,000 captive visitors the show helps to fulfill the aims and ob-

jectives of the American Begonia Society and thus bring new members to the Delaware Valley Branch and the American Begonia Society for the future.

From far and near, I hear the praises for this great show and for the ABS members who contribute to it. What a wonder it must be! You may remember that Mary Bucholtz mentioned her visit there last year in an article in the last issue with photos. You may write to Janet Welsh at 2236 Deerpath Rd., Huntingdon Vale, PA or call her at 215-947-6279 or email her at jwbegonia@comcast.net.

Continued from page 148

(use a photo pin or a label), and it is better if you send me copies as they often cannot be returned.

I have a gorgeous drawing by **Joy Porter** of *B. limprichti* from China that I am dying to use, but I need an article by someone who grows it. You'll be happy if you write one and get to see a print of this one!

My begonias look really sad here. After a hard winter, they are going through a spring when I have had little time to give them what they need. We have not had our usual spring rains so everything is very dry. Newlyweds **Charles** and **Leora (Fuentes) Henthorne** came and gave the Barkley Branch a wonderful seminar on terrarium growing and made it sound so attractive for busy people that I may become converted!

~FH



Above is the magnificent *Begonia attenuata* (synonym *B. lanceolata*) grown by **Sylvia Lin** and below is an display of begonias including an unidentified begonia, *Begonia* 'Tittle Tattle', *Begonia* 'Billken', and *Begonia echinosepala* in the background. All were at the Philadelphia Flower Show and photographed by **Janet Welsh**.



Begonia U 388 is **Begonia longiciliata** C. Y. Wu

by Jack Golding

Begonia U 388 was collected November 6, 1996 by Mary Sizemore Parker in North Vietnam. This was approximately 300 miles from the areas where **Begonia longiciliata** Chen-Yui Wu, was collected in 1936, 1958 and 1960. The following original citation and illustration was published in *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica*, 33(3):271, pl.17, 1995.

Acta Phytotax. Sin. 33(3)271, 1995

Begonia longiciliata C. Y. Wu, sp. nov. (Det. Peter Raven, Kew)

Species nova ab affinis distinctissima foliis supra squarosis longisque hirsuta et margine longo ciliato.

Herba perennis. Rhizoma terete, noduliforme, radices numerosae longae adae. Folia basale petiolata, laminae inaequaliterovales, ambitu ovato-rotundatae, 6—12 cm longae, 5—8.9 cm latae, apex acuminatae, basi obliquae, latere angustiore rotundatae, latere latiore auriculatae, nervulis supra ad 1—2.2 cm longis, margine irregulariter denticulatae, dentibus triangularibus apice pilis 3—4.5 mm longis vestitis, supra squarosis vestitis, sparse longisque hirsutae vel subglabrae, subtus vestitae, venae suberectae, palmatae 6—7 nervis, nervis supra inconspicuis subtus prominentibus, nervis 6—11.2 cm longis, longitudinaliter angulatis, nervis bracteato-hirsutis, stipulae membranaceae, brownae, cadentes. Scape usque ad 10—13 cm alta, longitudinaliter angulata; bracteato-hirsuta 2-florata; bracteis ovato-lanceolatae, rubrae, pedicellis 1.3—2.1 cm longis, longitudinaliter angulatis, subglabris. Flos staminatus, tepala 4, 2 exteriora oblongo-ovata, circ. 1.3 cm longa, 8 mm lata, apex rotundobtusae, 2 interiora oblongo-lanceolata, circ. 9 mm longa, 3.5 mm lata, numerosa staminibus, filamentis 2 mm longis. Flos pistillatus ignotus. Capsula 1.2—2 cm longa, 3-ala, una ala maxima late lanceolata 1.5—2.5 cm longa apex rotundata glabra conspicue nervata, reliquis alis duabus minoribus angustioribus hirsuta circ. 3.5 mm longis, venis numerosis, bracteato-hirsuta, oblonga, laevi.

Collected (采集地): Anhui (安徽) P. 1, alt. 900 m, in crevices of valley, 1960-05-11, Guifeng Exped. (贵风队) 5117 (holotype, KUN, neotype PU); same locality, alt. 1000 m, in dense forests of valley, 1960-06-12, Guifeng Exped. (贵风队) 4349; Xingzi (兴子) P. 2, alt. 1000 m, 1958-08-09, Anshan Exped. (安山队) 157 (KUN); Chendong (崇东) P. 1, 1936-09-29, S. W. Tseng (程浣序) 50097 (A, B, K).

本种以叶下面有稀疏短长的硬毛、边缘有长硬毛区别于近缘种。

Translation by Jack Golding, November 10, 2003

New species very distinct from its relatives by the upper side of the leaves with very scattered and long hirsute [coarse stiff hairs] and with the margin long ciliate.

Perennial herb. Rhizome terete [circular in transverse sections], nodule-like, putting forth numerous long roots. Leaves with petiole at the base; blades with unequal sides, outline ovate-circular, 6—12 cm long, 5—8.9 cm wide, apex acuminate, base oblique, narrower side rounded, wider side auriculate [with ear-like lobe], auricles up to 1—2.2 cm. long, margin irregularly denticulate [with very small teeth], teeth triangular with hair at the tip 3—4.5 mm long, on the upper side intensely green, scattered and long hirsute or almost glabrous, underneath greenish, sparsely downy with very short soft hairs, palmately 6—7 veins, veins inconspicuous above prominent below; petioles 4—11.2 cm long, longitudinally angled, densely brown-hirsute; stipules membranous, brown, dropping off early. Scape up to 10—13cm tall, longitudinally angled, monochasium with two flowers, bracts ovate-lanceolate, falling off early; pedicels 1.3—2.1 cm long, longitudinally angled, almost glabrous. Staminate flowers: with 4 tepals, 2 exterior oblong-ovate, about 1.3 cm long, 8 mm wide, apex roundly-obtuse, 2 interior oblong-lanceolate, about 9 mm long, 3.5 mm wide; numerous stamens; filaments 2 mm long. Pistillate flower unknown. Capsule 1.2—2 cm long, 3-winged, one wing greatest broadly lanceolate 1.5—2.5 cm long apex rounded glabrous and conspicuously veined, two other wings smaller narrowly crescent-shaped about 3.5 mm long; seeds numerous, brown, oblong, smooth.

I have added this description of the pistillate flowers that were not known to C. Y. Wu.

Pistillate flowers: tepals 5, obovate, subequal; pistil with 2 forked styles, stigma on arms in spiral band to crescent apex; ovary with two locule, placenta axillary, bifid, 3 winged, largest oblong, round tip, others smaller lunate.

Tsue Chih Ku in the *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae*, 52(1):258, 1999, listed ***Begonia longiciliata*** as a synonym of ***Begonia rex*** J. Putzeys but that is not correct because the upper surface of the leaves of ***Begonia rex*** are glabrous. The following excerpt is from the original citation by Jules Putzeys, *Fl. Serres Jard. Eur.*, II, 2:141, pls. 1255, 1258, 1857.:

“...;leaves large, cordate with unequal sides, base deeply two-lobed, tip acuminate, with sinuate and coarsely dentate margin; above glabrous, dark green and embellished with a circular silver middle region;...”

For the complete descriptions and some early illustrations see my “*B. rex* — the species that started it all” *Begonian* 47:70-75, 1980.

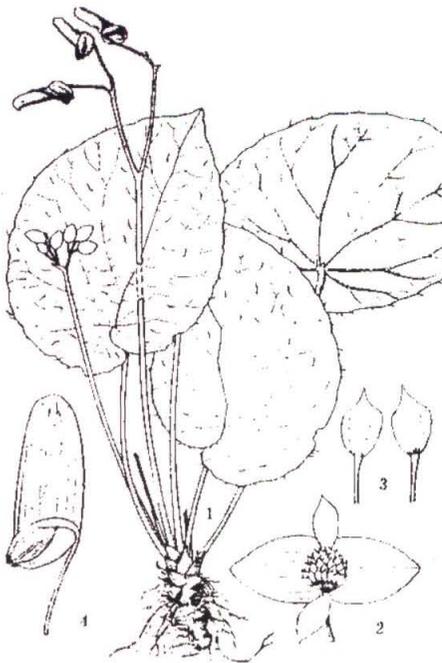


图17 长纤秋海棠 1.植株;2.雄花;3.雄蕊;
4.果实。(吴锡麟绘)

Fig. 17 *Begonia longiciliata* 1. habit;
2. male flower; 3. stamens; 4. fruit.

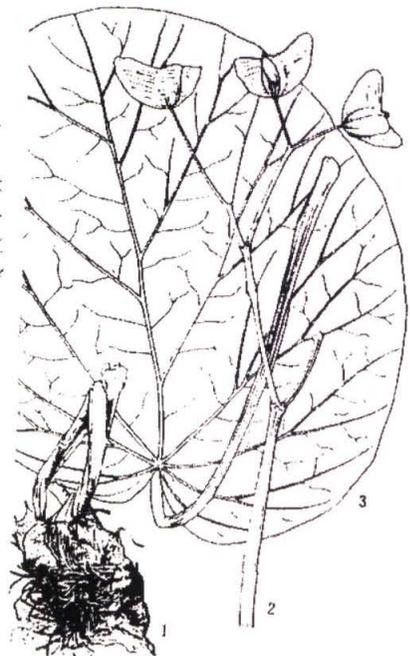


图18 大叶秋海棠 1.根状茎;2.果序;
3.叶。(吴锡麟绘)

Fig. 18 *Begonia megalophyllaria* 1. rhizome;
2. infructescence; 3. leaf.



October 21, 2003



November 6, 2003



staminate flower, Oct. 21, 2003



staminate flower, Oct. 21, 2003



pistillate flower, Nov. 17, 2003



pistillate flower, Nov. 17, 2003



fruit, November 19, 2003

Begonia longiciliata C. Y. Wu
Jack Golding photos

Antonelli Brothers
BEGONIA GARDENS
 2545 Capitola Rd.
 Santa Cruz, CA 95062
 Phone (831)475-5222
 Fax (831)4757066
WORLD FAMOUS
 Antonelli Hybrid Choice Select
 Tubers, Seeds, Plants
CATALOGS : Tubers, Jan-April
Spring Catalog: Fibrous/Fuchsias
On Request
 URL: <http://www.infopoint.com/sc/market/antnelli>

Southern Burner Co.

Vented Greenhouse Heaters.

Specialists
in the heating
needs of the
hobby grower
since 1923.



Model A-1 25,000 BTU
Vented Orchid House Heater

Dependable vented orchid house heaters.
Economical heat on natural or LP gas.
"No Electricity Required."
Millivolt controls available with "Setback"
thermostat for day & night temperatures.
For literature and prices, give us a call or drop us a line.

Southern Burner Co.

P.O. Box 885· Chickasha, OK 73023
(800) 375-5001 * (405) 224-5000
FAX: (405) 224-0500

Weiss' Gesneriads

Plants Grown for Distinctive Foliage

Episcias **Sinningias**
Begonias **Chiritas**

Plants - Cuttings
Free Catalogue

(216) 321-6785
2293 S. Taylor Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118



Your begonias will feel right at home growing with gesneriads!

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

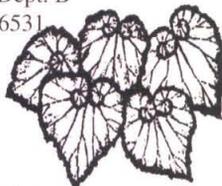
Annual dues: \$20. Outside U.S.: \$25
Quarterly Journal, extensive seed fund,
judging schools, annual convention

Visit us online at: www.aggs.org

Begonias - Gesneriads
Rare Flowering Plants & Vines

Kartz Greenhouses

1408 Sunset Dr., Dept. B
Vista, CA 92083-6531
760-941-3613



Catalog:
\$3.00. Free to
ABS Members

<http://www.kartz.com>

Advertise in the Begonian!

Contact:

Ann Salisbury
580-628-5230

Email: geneann@cablone.net

ROB'S VIOLETS

Specialists in African Violets & Gesneriads
7-time winner, Best New Cultivar Award
8-time winner, Best Commercial Display

We grow Begonias too!

We offer a good selection of small and
miniature varieties at \$4 each, your choice

10 different varieties, our choice \$30
Add \$12 per order for shipping

We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime
(ask us about winter delivery)
SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED!

FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG, SEND \$2
WWW.ROBSVIOLET.COM

PO BOX 696, NAPLES, NY 14512
PHONE: 585-374-8592

COMING EVENTS

July 17, 2004: Westchester Branch Annual Show and Sale: July 17, 2004, 9 a.m - 4 p.m. One day only. Honoring the lifetime work in begonias of **Thelma O'Reilly**. Thelmas will also be judging the show along with **Mary Sakamoto** and new judge **Louise Korobkin** (her debut). A beautiful and interesting show and gigantic plant sale featuring begonia species and hybrids as well as other shade plants. Covenant Presbyterian Church, 6323 W. 8th St. (8th & Sepulveda in Westchester), Los Angeles, Ca 90045. For information contact **Janet Brown**, 310-67004471; jbbrown3@aol.com.

August 8th, 2004—Palos Verdes Begonia Society will hold a judged show and plant sale at the South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes, Ca. Sunday, 9am to 4pm. Further information, contact **Louise Korobkin** at Loumar3@socal.rr.com

August 24-29, 2004, ABS Convention: Back to the Future, San Diego, CA. Town and County Convention Center. Packets were mailed out in April. For information, email: 2004absconvention@cox.net.

2005 Association of Australian Begonia Societies National Conference in Beautiful Ballarat. Friday March 11 through Sunday March 13, 2005. Registrations are being taken by the Treasurer, 9 Kelley Grove, Preston, 3072, Victoria, Australia. Accommodations are limited so register early. Convention Chair is **Diana Lawrey** who may be contacted at (03) 9898 8863.

**September/October due date for all feature articles:
July 1, 2004. All announcements must be in by July 15.
Please Note: New Editor's Email: fmholley@cox.net**

The Begonian

Editor: Freda M. Holley, 2015 Elvin Dr. Stillwater, OK 74074. Ph: 405-385-0484. E-mail: fmholley@cox.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 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617, Ph: (707) 764-5407;

E-mail ingles@cox.net

ABS Elected Officers

President...Howard Berg, 16 Highview Terr., New Canaan, CT 06840; Ph: 203-966-7693; email: howber@optonline.net

Past President.....Morris Mueller, 163 Hartnell Place, Sacramento, CA 95825; Ph: 916-927-4921

1st Vice-President.....Janet Brown, 7825 Kentwood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045-1150; Ph: 310-670-4471; JBBrown3@aol.com

2nd Vice-President...Mary Sakamoto, 9682 Featherhill Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861; Ph: 714-637-8787; m. sakamoto@worldnet.att.net

Secretary.....Richard Macnair, 59 Walker St., Cambridge, MA 02138; Ph: 617-876-1356; rmacnair@msn.com

Treasurer.....Carol Notaras, 2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123; Ph: 415-931-4912; E-mail: cnotaras@juno.com

Appointed Chairmen and Directors

Audit.....Paul Tsamtsis, 1630 F St., Sacramento, CA 95814-1611

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

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

Ballot Counting.....Ingeborg Foo, 1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083; Ph: 760-724-4871

Book Store.....Cheryl Lenert, 13014 Chavile, Cypress, TX 77429, Ph: 281-897-0155; lenert@flash.net

Branch Relations.....Mary Bucholtz, 1560 Lancaster Terrace #1008 Jacksonville, FL 32204; Ph: 904-353-9111

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; m.sakamoto@worldnet.att.net

Convention Chair: Michael Ludwig, 6040 Upland St., San Diego, CA, 2114-1933

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

Grants Committee: Mary Sakamoto, 9682 Featherhill Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861; Ph: 714-637-8787; m. sakamoto@worldnet.att.net

Internet Editor...Kathy Goetz, 8005 Rowell Creek Rd., Willamina, Oregon 97396, PH: 503-87905652; email kgoetz@begonias.com

HistorianJeanne Jones, 1415 Via Margarita, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-2143; Ph: 310-378-7527

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

Members-at-Large...Sandy Boyd, 5 Walnut Circle, Chico, CA 95973; Ph: 530-891-5760

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

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

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

Public Relations.....Virginia Jens, 12352 Westhampton Circle, Wellington, FL 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: 619-262-7535; begoniagrowing@cox.com

Slide Library.....Charles Jaros 200 Maureen Dr., Sanford, FL 32771; Ph: 407-328-0618.

Visit Today!
www.begonias.org

