



The
Begonian

January/February 2005

The **Begonian**

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American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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E-mail: ingles@cox.net

Cover

Front: One of the places the editor missed visiting in San Diego at Convention 2004 was Casa Pacifica and seeing **Johanna Zinn's** photos would make anyone regret it. There were begonias everywhere!

Back: Here is another beauty from **Jackie Davis**. She grows it as *B. cinnabarina*, but has not been able to verify that it is; readd her letter on page 4.

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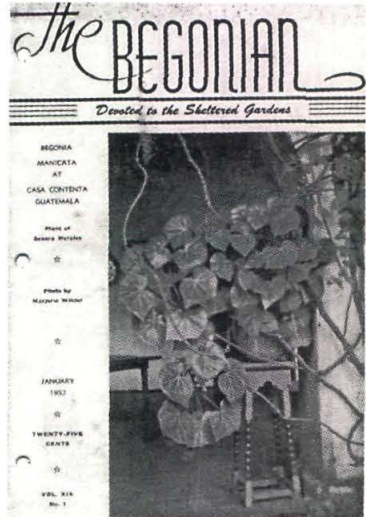
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Here is the January 1952 Cover of The Begonian - a reminder from 50 years ago as we begin the 72nd volume that this is a journal with a long and impressive history!

Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads **200503 or 200504**, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

President's Message

The financial results are in for the San Diego Show and convention and they are really impressive. Our California members had great planning and execution and their effort really paid off in terms of an enjoyable and profitable convention. Many of our activities are financed by our convention proceeds so a successful convention allows us to help sponsor research and conservation and helps support the publication of the *Begonian*.

Our Tampa Branch and the USF Botanical Gardens are hosting the 2005 Winter Board Meeting February 24 to 26. One of the high lights of the trip is a visit and brunch to Charles Jaros' home and a chance to view the begonias of one of our premier growers. Last years meeting featured a very attractive selection of sale plants and the University's collection of Begonia Species. So bring your camera and your begonia-buying budget and we'll see you in Florida in February. Make your reservations early because the schools in the Northeast are on spring break at the time and cheap airline seats disappear early. If you don't have the information about the hotel and other meeting details, e-mail **Shirley Brown** at srbrown11@msn.com and she'll send it to you.

Dallas has volunteered to host the 2005 convention on May 18 to 22nd. Make your plans now to attend. More information will be in the next *Begonian*. We're grateful to the Dallas branch for volunteering to host the convention on such short notice.

Our Seed Fund problems seem to be behind us, thanks in large part to **Ed Bates** volunteering to help address the problem and get the fund back on track. Also, the Seed Fund needs your help in building its supply of seeds so if you are a species

grower, take a little time to pollinate your plants and send the seeds to Ed. Hybrid growers can send the results of their crosses and open pollination to the seed fund since it's fun to grow these grab bag collections and see the variety of plants you get from hybrid crosses..

Our three strongest geographic areas are California, the Southwest Region and Florida. They all have one thing in common; strong leadership, shared activities between branches and a keen interest in knowing and growing both species and hybrid begonias.

Howard Berg

Letters to the Editor

Enclosed is a snap of *B. cinnabarina*. Here again is one that is very seldom in any publication I have seen. In fact, I went through Thompson's *Begonias* trying to verify if it really was *cinnabarina* and there were no pictures that really showed the plant. I found one in a Japanese book I have, but even it didn't show a nice display. I really feel that this one started basket type tubers. Everyone that sees it wants me to start some for the club. I set seed and am sending it to the seed fund. I always enclose a picture when I do so. If I am mistaken and it isn't what I send, they can throw it away! I thought I'd send one to you too.

You can't imagine how surprised and thrilled I was to make the back cover of March/April last year. Wow.

Jackie Davis
170 Wingfoot Way
Aptos, CA 95003

Jacie, it is we who are thrilled that you share with us, both seed and photos!

Winter Board Meeting

February 24-26, 2005 - USF Botanical Gardens Tampa, Florida

The Begonia Society of Tampa Bay and the USF Botanical Gardens are looking forward to hosting the Winter Board meeting which will be held on Saturday, February 26. We have a wonderful schedule lined up for your enjoyment, including but not limited to renowned speakers, **Dr. Mark C. Tebbitt** from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, **Dr. Rick Schoellhorn** from University of Florida, and our own **Charles Jaros**.

The Bus Tour is scheduled for Thursday, February 24 and is limited to 55 passengers, so please send a check for \$20.00 to reserve your space to: Begonia Society of Tampa Bay, c/o Shirley Brown, 1804 Curry Road, Lutz, FL 33549-3704.

Schedule of events:

1. Wednesday, Feb 23

- a. ABS board arrives and checks into Wingate Inn

2. Thursday, Feb 24

- a. Bus Tour includes brunch
 - i. 9:00 am Leave Wingate Inn
 - ii. 11:00 am brunch at Charles Jaros' home
 - iii. 1:00 pm Central Florida Ferns
 - iv. 2:00 pm Harmony Foliage Farms
 - v. 6:00 pm Arrive at Wingate Inn

3. Friday, Feb 25

- a. 10:00, 12:00, & 2:00 Lectures at the USFBG
- b. 12:00 Lunch available for a donation
- c. 4:30 ABS invited to **Shirley Brown** home for heavy hors d'oeuvres

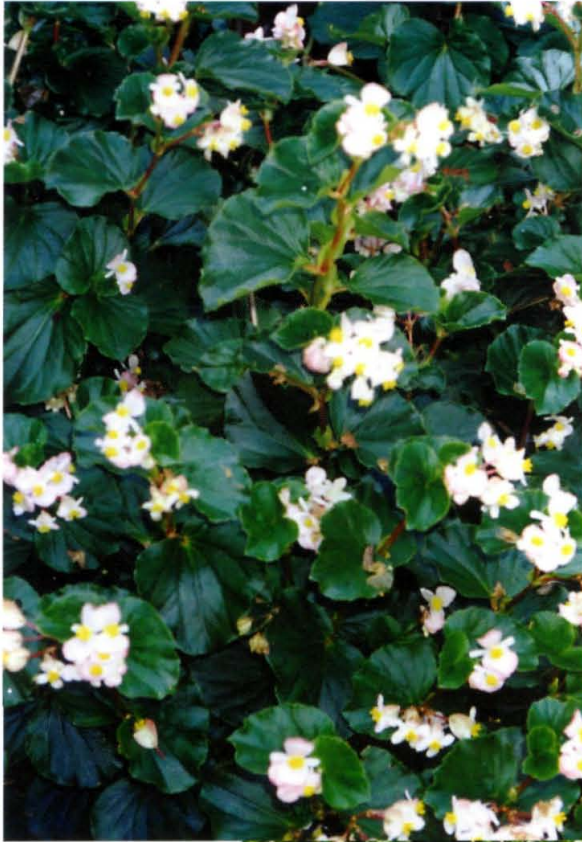
4. Saturday, Feb 26

- a. 10:00 & 12:00 - Lectures at the USFBG
- b. 12:00 - Lunch available for a donation
- c. 1:30 - 3:30 ABS Board Meeting

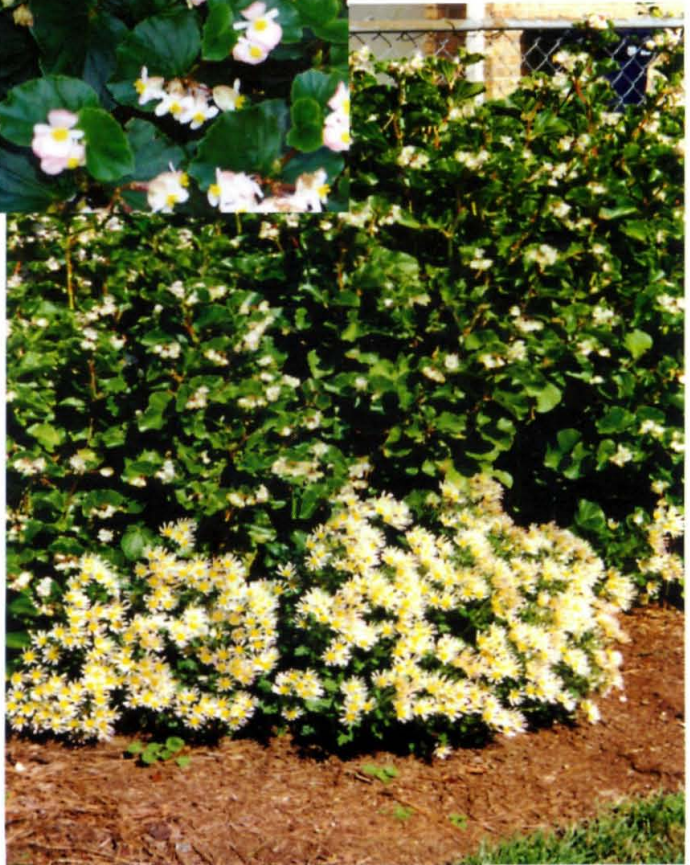
Accommodations:

The Wingate Inn USF/Busch Gardens is pleased to accommodate our hospitality needs for the ABS Winter Board Meeting beginning February 23 through 27th.

Continued on Page 32



*B. 'Barbara
Rogers' closeup and
on the fence below.*



An Old Begonia Gets a New Name

by **Rekha Morris**

In a general article on begonias which I wrote for the December 2001 issue of **Carolina Gardener** I described a fibrous rooted semperflorens begonia, which was referred to as the 'Friendship Begonia' because it has been passed along among several generations of family members and friends. As best as I have been able to determine, it originated somewhere in the Norfolk, VA area before finding a home in the garden of a friend, **Barbara Rogers**, who also gave it to her neighbor in Anderson, SC. On a visit to Barbara Rogers' garden I was astonished to see it not only growing in full sun in the inexorable heat of a South Carolina July but also at its size. While Barbara's plants were a couple of feet high and as wide, those in her neighbor's garden growing against a 5' high chain link fence were almost as high as the fence and equally wide. Covered in white flowers they looked as happy and comfortable as though they were ensconced in the cool, moist rain forests of the Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico.

Since that momentous encounter I have introduced this begonia, now known as 'Barbara Rogers', to **Dr. Alan Armitage** of the University of Georgia, who after growing it in his trial fields has given it a rating of 4 out of 5 for performance and hardiness to zone 7. After a recent lecture of mine at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, NC on a trip to document begonias in Veracruz earlier this year [April 2004 trip to be described in the *Begonian* later this year], a prominent southeastern plantsman, **Tony Avent**, inquired about any begonias I might be familiar with which might be hardy to zone 7. *B.* 'Bar-

bara Rogers' was the first to come to mind, and since then I have been able to pass along a clump of this begonia to Tony to propagate at his renowned nursery, Plants Delight Nursery, Inc., at Juniper Level Botanic Gardens.

It will not be long before *B.* 'Barbara Rogers' makes it way not only across the southeast but perhaps also across the continents, as widely dispersed clients of Plants Delight Nursery begin to learn of its tolerant and easy going disposition accompanied by a propensity for rapid and robust growth which enables a well established specimen to grow some five feet in one season.

New Addresses

Note these new email addresses:

Micahel Ludwig:
seedfund@cox.net

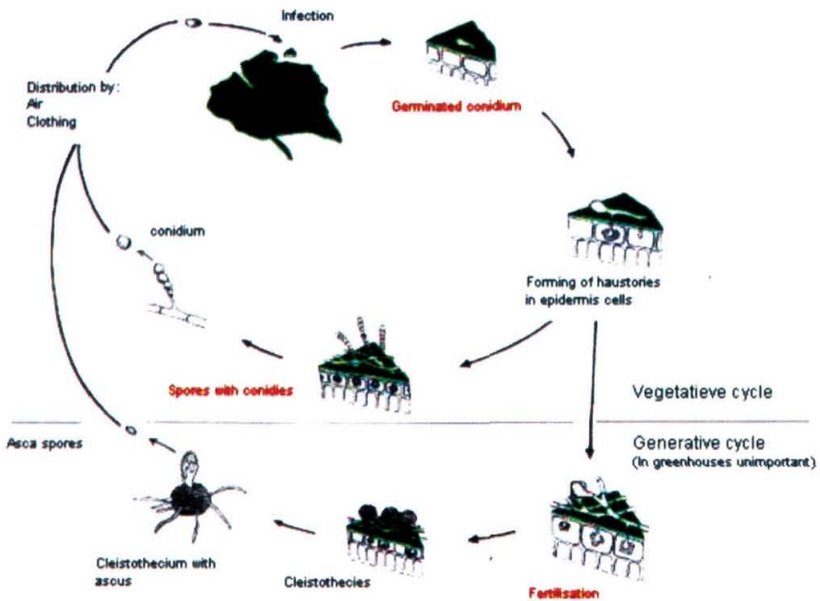
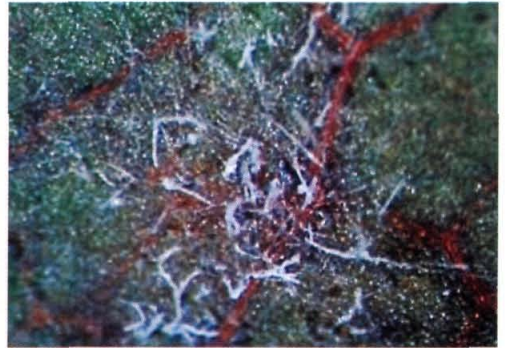
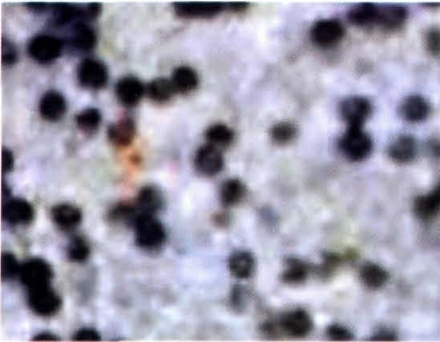
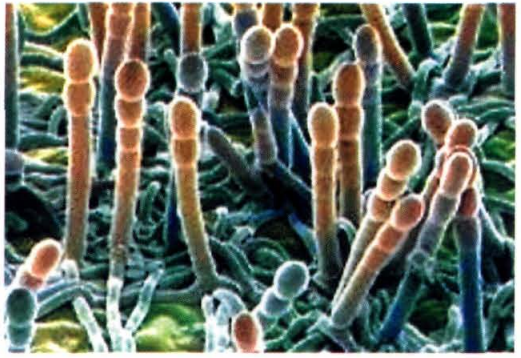
Carol Notaras:
cnotaras@sbcglobal.net

Mary Sakamoto:
m.sakamoto@sbcglobal.net

Derek Telford (England):
derek.telford2@ntlworld.com



Left, powdery mildew on leaf and below
Cleistothecium.
At right, above
Conidiospores and below,
Hypal threads.



Powdery Mildew in Begonia

Antoon Hoefnagel

Introduction:

Powdery mildew (*Oidium begoniae*) is next to botrytis one of the most important fungus diseases in pot plants.

Plants infected with powdery mildew are easily recognizable through the presence of a white layer of fungus threads, usually on the upper surface of the leaves or flowers.

This layer is easily removed with one's fingers because powdery mildew only grows superficially.

Severe damage to the plant is easily detectable, because it may also result in diminished growth.

In the Netherlands powdery mildew creates problems in different potting plants, such as Saintpaulia, potted roses, potted Gerberas and Kalanchoë.

In the U.S. problems with powdery mildew also arise in Poinsettias.

Powdery mildew also leads to problems in Gerberas and cut roses.

In different plant families not all species have the same sensitivity, sometimes there are varieties that have a level of resistance to powdery mildew.

There are also differences in resistance to powdery mildew within the Begonia family.

If this resistance could be included next to the magnificent leaf colours and forms and the beauty of the flowers, begonias should give much more pleasure to all of us.

The fungus:

Powdery mildew is caused by the fungus *Oidium begoniae* and belongs to the section Ascomycetes. *Oidium begoniae* creates generative and vegetative spores. On the basis of these spores we are able to determinate the family of the fungus. The fungus is called *oidium* if the spores are vegetative. In general powdery mildew can only infect a specific plant species. This means for example that the powdery mildew on a Saintpaulia does not infect a Begonia.

On the other hand it means that the powdery mildew of a Begonia cannot infect a Saintpaulia. Fungus families, that cause powdery mildew are obligatory parasites. The syndrome of mildew can vary by species and by cultivar. The reaction of the plant to the fungus has influence on this syndrome. *Microsphaera begoniae* creates smooth white spots on one Begonia cultivar, while it creates an irregular shape of mildew on another one. The powdery mildew created by *M. begoniae* on Begonias infects leaves, but infection of the flowers is also possible.

A mildew colony begins with a few traces on the leaf surface. Out of these traces grow hyphal threads which branch off several times. Special cells (haustories) grow out of these hyphal threads through the leaf surface and settle in a surface cell of the leaf (epidermis cell). The fungus receives nutrition from this epidermis cell of the plant. These hyphal threads continue to grow and multiply regularly. A colony can be visible

within days. This depends on which mildew species is involved. This is also called the latency period. From the hyphal threads grow new spores, on these spores new spores are produced. Under the microscope this is visible as a chain of spores.

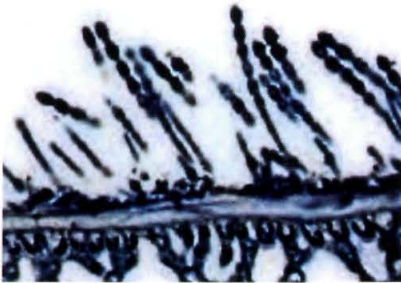
When the spores are mature they can easily come loose and can be spread by the wind. When the spores come down on a susceptible leaf they can germinate and form a new colony. This cycle can be completed within days if the circumstances are favourable. This cycle is the vegetative cycle of the fungus. There is also generative cycle, but this is rarely involved in the development of a disease in horticulture.

Incease and Distribution:

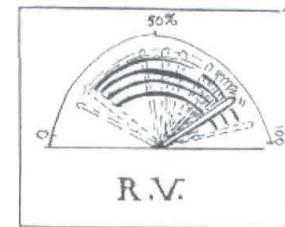
Infection by mildew is highly dependent on temperature. Most powdery mildews have an optimum temperature of 21 °C (Celio & Hausbeck, 1998). The germination of spores is less efficient at higher temperatures. Also the growth of hyphal threads will be curbed at higher temperatures. There is no infection if the temperature is above 30 °C. Research has found that the maximum temperature is 30 °C for appressorium-formation, while the colonies die at a temperature of 32 °C (Quinn & Powell, 1982). Mildew will not die at lower temperatures, but its growth will decrease. Although mildew is not dependent on liquid, humidity

can be important for the infection. The fungal spores contain 70% liquid, so they do not need water from the outside to germinate. (Agrios, 1997). So infection is possible at low humidity, in contrast with other fungi like botrytis and rust, these need high humidity for germination and infection. Never the less some research shows that high humidity promotes infection of mildew.

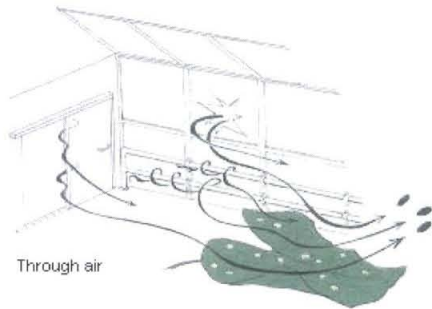
Furthermore humidity influences spore formation and the release of spores. Sud-



Conidio spores at epidermis.



Changing RV causes release of spores



Through air

den changes in humidity can result in release of the spores. Finally there is also litera-

ture describing infection in combination with light (Quinn & Powell, 1982). Light can affect the release of spores, because maturation is dependent on light. In contrast, light can have an effect on the lifespan of the spores. Increased radiation results in a lower survival rate of the spores. The effect of climate on epidemic mildew is complex; so it is difficult to give an unambiguous advice to change it so that you can control infection. It must be recommended to prevent big fluctuations in the climatic circumstances. Control:

Between cultivars within one plant species there can be differences in sensibility to mildew. By hybridisation the resistance can be crossed into new cultivars. Through on the years various publications have been issued about the sensibility to mildew in plants. (De Gelder & vd Wurff, 1994; Strider, 1976; Strider, 1980). Resistance breeding is still insufficiently used for improvement in the florist sector.

In practice the mildew in potting plants is controlled by the use of chemical fungicides, or such as sulphur vaporisers.

Next to chemicals, it is possible to take growing measurements to avoid the spreading of infection. You could think of removing the dead plants or plant parts, avoiding draft spots in the greenhouse and realizing a climate with no big fluctuations.

Research shows that silicium provokes thicker cell walls, especially in the epidermis of the leaf. With this treatment plants will resist mildew infection better. There are several examples with 'plant enhancers'; at first sight they give good results. The only disadvantage is that the plant have to be sprayed at regular intervals; and therefore the plants will be more wet and that is not to recommended.

July 2004

Antoon Hoefnagels
Vossenpelsestraat 63
6663 KH Lent
The Netherlands
hoefn@cs.com

Antoon is our friend from The Netherlands whom we first met in Houston in 2001 and you read about in that year's convention report. He has written articles he has written since then for us. He attended the convention in San Diego and has become a steadfast member of ABS.

Propagation from Leaves

Although we expect to be able to propagate some begonias from leaves, it is a surprise to find that others can be. In the issue on *B. bogneri* in this issue, it is reported that the tiny leaves of this one will produce new plants, and tiny babies they are.

It was also a big surprise to me to find that the true *B. coccinea* which is classified as a cane (And we know that canes

cannot be propagated from leaves -- or do we?) is easily propagated from a leaf.

A surprise to me as well was to find that the beautiful shrub *B. listada* propagates from a leaf. *Begonia grandis ssp. evansiana* has to be the champion propagater as you can get new ones from leaves, stems, bulbs, bulbils and leaves. Many thick stems will reproduce from leaves as well.

The lesson is that if you have a plant you really love and want to spread it around, try propagating its leaves.

2005 AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ANN SALISBURY, AWARDS CHAIRMAN

They are the American Begonia Society's "Magnificent Seven". Yes, there are seven awards to be given in 2005. There have been three new ones added and the criteria will be listed below.

We will be joining together in Dallas, Tx. and will present the most prestigious and honored awards that the society hands out to its members. All of these awards recognize the outstanding service and achievements that have been done for the national organization by its members. You, the membership, are responsible for making the nominations. Please take the time now to write up your nomination. The nomination must contain the name of the award, the recipient's name and reasons that make them or the plant eligible for the award.

There are many worthy members that are possible winners for these awards. Some have become less active but should be honored with one of these awards. If you have nominated someone in the past and they have not won, please nominate them again. The committee may present only one of each of the awards each year.

I must receive these nominations by March 1st, 2005. Please mail all nominations to:

Ann Salisbury, Awards Chairman
P. O. Box 452
Tonkawa, Ok. 74653

AWARD CRITERIA:

The **Herbert P. Dyckman for Service** is presented to a member who has rendered long-term or very out-standing service for the American Begonia Society above and beyond the normal duties of a member or officer.

The **Eva Kenworthy Gray Award** is given for contributing original material toward helping the rank and file members further their study of begonias.

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

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

The **Tim O'Reilly Award** is given to a spouse who contributes so much to our society and does not grow begonias.

The **Marge Lee Award** is given to a person who contributes something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among members.

The **Gene Salisbury Award** is given to a grower who exemplifies the very best in cultural practice, but who also bring to us by their careful work the new species and hybrids. These are growers who contribute to our society simply through their excellence in growing begonias.

These awards may be received only once. The Alfred D. Robinson Medal is presented to a cultivar and may be won more than once by a hybridizer.

Recent past recipients of these awards:

| Year | Dyckman Award | Gray Award | ADR Medal |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1995 | A. Salisbury | M. Blanton | B. 'Silvermist' |
| 1996 | C. Notaras | K. Mounger | B. 'Sweet Diane' |
| 1997 | J. Coulat | none | none |
| 1998 | E. Calkins | G.&A. Salisbury | none |
| 1999 | G. Salisbury | M. Bucholtz | none |
| 2000 | M.Sakamoto | F. Holley | B. 'M.Sakamoto' |
| 2001 | R.& W Macnair | B. Thompson | B. 'Little Miss Mummy' |
| 2002 | R & L Fuentes | H. Jaros | B.'Flamingo Queen' |
| 2003 | J. Brown | C. Lenert | B. 'Cowardly Lion' |
| 2004 | M. Zinman | C. Jaros | B. 'Black Gold' |

Year Rudolf Ziesenhenn Award

| | |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 2001 | Ed and Phyllis Bates |
| 2002 | Tamsin Boardman |
| 2003 | Freda Holley |
| 2004 | Karen Bartholomew and Chuck Anderson |

Conservation Comments

Bill Claybaugh

Conservation Chairman, ABS

South West Region Web site

Over the past few months, a web site has been developed for the South West Region of ABS. The web address is <http://swregionabs.com>. The web site is still under development, but is worthwhile visiting even now. As of today, the site has seven major sections:

1. South West Region Information – This section gives a brief history of the SWR, presents its Constitution, and tabulates information on Officers and other key contacts. Also included is information on how to join the SWR.

2. Calendar – This section will be used to post events and dates for both SWR activities and for all associated branches. This will typically include notices of annual conventions for SWR, and notices of branch shows, sales, and other activities.

3. Branch Information – Each member branch will be able to post their meeting time, meeting place, and who to contact for more information. Also included will be pictures taken at branch events such as local flower shows, Christmas parties, and picnics.

4. Convention Pictures - Pictures of people and plants from SWR Conventions will be an integral part of this web site. At present, we have over 70 pictures covering the 2000 and 2001 convention. If pictures from the 2003 and 2004 conventions become available, they also will be posted.

5. Fort Worth Botanical Gardens – Information and pictures from the FWBG are contained in this section. A list of

species begonias currently in the Species Bank is included. Plants in the cultivar collection will be listed as time allows.

6. Programs – This section is a collection of articles, papers, and seminar and workshop handouts that should be helpful in developing good branch programs. So far the content consists of items in the following categories: (1) Plant Descriptions, (2) General Plant Care, (3) Growing Under Lights, (4) Terrarium Culture, (5) Plant Propagation, (6) Nomenclature, (7) Field Trips, (8) Seasonal Events, and (9) Workshop/Group Events. The material is by several authors including **Jack Golding**, **Freda Holley**, and myself. This will be a dynamic section, growing with time, to include material that can potentially make Branch programs even better and easier to prepare.

7. Plant Culture – A brief description of how to grow begonias. Topics cover show classifications, growing information, vegetative propagation, growing from seeds, and pollination. This section will probably be phased out and replaced by information in the “Programs” section.

This new web site is intended to generate interest for all ABS members, and the SWR members in particular. Initial emphasis will be placed on accumulating good “program” information and making it available to everyone. I invite you to send me your picks of the past years programs, and I will include them too, for others to share.

**Happy New Year
to All!!**

The Fun of Hybridizing Begonias

by John Clare,

Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia

John Clare is one of the greats of Australian hybridizing where stars abound. The editor found in this article from the September 2004 Begonia Australis, the Journal of the Association of Australian Begonia Societies, fascinating insights. Thanks for allowing us to quote from it. Questions about subscribing to this journal may be directed to Peter Carter at pcarter@netconnect.com.au.

Would you like to build a bigger, better begonia or a smaller more compact one with red spots or silver stripes? Why not try? It's a lot of fun.

A friend once said to me, "I see you have the leaf shape from one parent and the other from the other." The begonia he was talking about took nearly three years and dozens of different crosses to get what I wanted but, along with the plant I was aiming for, I got many others that were worth keeping as a bonus.

Some growers will tell you that the leaf shape comes from the female and the leaf colour from the male (or is it the other way around?) but I have found that it depends on which parent is dominant. Some plants will have only a few characteristics that dominate, e.g. habit of growth, leaf shape or maybe texture. Here is a short list of plants that I have used in the past with their dominant characteristics that may be of help to someone starting out.

- . With cane-type X rhizomatous or rhizomatous X cane-type, the cane-type is usually dominant. (NOTE: the female plant is always written first in the description of any cross.)
- . Thick-stem X rhizomatous or rhizoma-

tous X thick-stem, the thick stem is usually dominant.

- . *B. glandulosa*, the leaf (shape and texture) is dominant which ever way you cross it.
- . *B. heracleifolia*, the leaf shape is dominant.
- . *B. manicata* 'Crispa', the leaf colour is dominant, the crested edge usually comes through in about 10% - 30% of the seedlings depending on the other parent.
- . *B. hydrocotylifolia*, the round succulent leaf is dominant.
- . *B. 'Morning Mist'*, the silver leaf colour is fairly dominant depending on the other parent.
- . *B. 'Bedford Delight'*, the brown leaf stitching is fairly dominant with the curled leaf bases turning up in about 20% - 50% of the seedlings. If the other parent has curled leaf bases the percentage is higher.
- . *B. 'Joe Hayden'*, the black leaf colour is dominant.
- . *B. 'Balco'*, the brown leaf colour is dominant.
- . *B. concifolia var rubrimacula*, the red spot in the center of the leaf usually comes through in about 10% - 20% of the seedlings.
- . *B. 'Lowana'*, the yellow colour is dominant; also the curled leaf bases will come through in about 20% - 50% depending on the other parent.

It seems easy - for a yellow leaf use *B. 'Lowana'*; for a brown leaf use *B. 'Balco'*; for a red spot in the middle use *B. concifolia var rubrimacula* or for a

star-shaped leaf use *B. heracleifolia*. The only catch is that you might get the leaf colour that you want but not the shape or the markings.

It is fairly easy to predict the outcome of a cross between two species, a species being a plant originally occurring naturally in the wild. When you start crossing with hybrids a lot more factors come into play. The hybrid you are crossing with is probably crossed with other hybrids and all sorts of shapes and colours can surface in the seedlings. Some of these shapes and colours may not show in the parent and only come out in a later generation. This is what makes hybridising so interesting. There are hundreds of species and thousands of hybrids out there so why not try hybridising? You never know what you will come up with!

Would you like to read about the hybridizing techniques that John Clare uses? That is in another part of the article from which this quote was taken. Would you like to see some of John's hybrids? (We did show a few along with John's photo in the September/October 1999 issue of the Begonian on page 167.) Perhaps John might oblige us with a few new photos if you let the editor know; write and I'll print you letters and run more of this article if you do. I might add that Ross Bolwell, also of Australia as you know, is developing a searchable data base of existing hybrids. When he completes this and makes it available to us, we can add columns for plant characteristics and then show parents from which these may have come. It will be an exciting tool for both identification and research. Ross Bolwell is also one of those star hybridizers and has numerous beautiful hybrids, one of which B. 'Flamingo Queen' is the winner of the ABS Alfred D. Robinson Medal.

In Memory: Mabel Corwin

Members of the southern California branches of the ABS mourn the passing, early this summer, of Mabel Corwin. She was a grand lady of begonias and mentor to all members of our branches. Mabel was experienced and knowledgeable about nearly all aspects of studying and growing begonias and could be counted on to have an answer to any of our questions. Mabel grew many begonias from all parts of the world to perfection in a large lath house, a greenhouse, and in an indoor light garden. Every year Mabel, with her husband Ralph, loaded their camper with show quality begonias and drove off to the begonia show wherever it was in California. She almost always won several trophies and often the best-in-show award. They also attended begonia shows and conventions in other locations but did not enter plants because travel was likely to damage the plants.

Mabel joined the ABS in 1944 and was an active member of the San Gabriel Branch for 26 years. Soon after she moved to Vista in 1975, she participated in the formation of the Palomar Branch (now named the Mabel Corwin Branch) and served as president for several different terms. Mabel was elected President-elect of the ABS in 1963. Since then she had also served as president in 1964, advertising manager, branch relations director, round-robin director, question and answer editor, and awards chairman. She carried on an extensive correspondence with begonia experts and growers the world over

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Looking at the index, it appears that:

Mary Bucholtz contributed the most photographs this year.
Rekha Morris, other than authors of regular features, contributed the most articles.
Begonia 'Normand' was the most mentioned and photographed hybrid.

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| <i>pudica</i> 135-6 | U279 33 | U463 | 215* |
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| <i>sericoneura</i> syn. <i>hypolipara</i> | U295 46 | | |
| 30, 180 | U295 47* | | |

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND LISTING

January/February 2005

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

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

DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. The seed fund cannot guarantee that the identification is correct. The species names (in italics) reported here are correct based on the latest information from **BEGONIACEAE**, Ed. 2; Golding, and Wasshausen. The descriptions published are from the literature and apply to the name submitted for the offerings.

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

Most packets of species seeds are \$1.50 all packets of cultivars (including open pollinated) seeds are 50¢ per packet. Very rare seeds and newly collected seeds will be \$2.00 or more per packet. California residents please add 7.75 % sales tax. All orders must be accompanied by check or money order, payable in US funds ONLY, to **The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund**.

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Please send comments, suggestions, or complaints to:

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Carlsbad CA 92009-5914
e-address: epb888@adelphia.net

Master Seed Fund List

This list is an inventory of seeds in the Seed Fund at the beginning of 2005. Keep this list handy to order from. Order from this list by name at any time during the year. The listings in each issue will post new seeds to be added to the list and also items to be deleted because the supply has run out. Descriptions of many of these plants have been published in the seed fund in the last few years. For descriptions of specific items contact Ed Bates at the address above. Each issue new seeds and selections from this list will be highlighted and brief descriptions will be provided.

B. aconitifolia A. De Candolle, Brazil
B. albo-picta W. Bull, Brazil
B. biserrata Lindley, Mexico
B. boliviensis A. De Candolle, Bolivia
B. cardiocarpa Liebmann, Central America
B. carolineifolia Regel, Mexico
B. cinnabarina W.J. Hooker, Bolivia
B. coccinea W.J. Hooker, Brazil
B. crassicaulis Lindley, Guatemala
B. cubensis Hasskarl, Cuba
B. cucullata v. *cucullata* Willdenow, Brazil
B. cucullata var *arenosicola*
B. diadema Linden, Asia ?
B. dichroa T.A. Sprague, Brazil
B. dipetala Graham, India
B. dominicalis A. De Candolle, Dominica
B. dregei Otto & Dietrich, South Africa
B. dregei syn *partita*
B. echinosepala Regel, Brazil
B. echinosepala v. *elongatifolia*
B. edmundoi Brade, Brazil
B. egregia N.E. Brown, Brazil
B. fagifolia Fisch., Brazil
B. fischeri Schrank, South America
B. foliosa Kunth, Columbia
B. grandis sbsp. *evansiana* Irmscher, China
B. heracleifolia Schlecht. & Cham., Mexico
B. heracleifolia v. *sunderbruckii*
B. hydrocotylifolia Otto, Mexico
B. imperialis Lemaire v. *smaragdina*, Mex.
B. johnstonii Oliver, Tanganyika
B. kellermanii C. De Candolle, Guatemala
B. kenworthyae Ziesenhenné, Mexico
B. leathermaniae O'Reilly & Karegeannes, Bolivia
B. lindleyana Walpers, Guatemala
B. ludwigii Irmscher, Ecuador
B. luxurians Scheidweiler, Brazil
B. malabarica Lamarck, India
B. nelumbiifolia Schlecht. & Cham, Mexico
B. nelumbiifolia v. *rubra*.
B. obscura Brade, Brazil
B. pedata Liebmann, Mexico
B. peltata Otto & Dietrich, Mexico
B. petasitifolia Brade, Brazil
B. popenoei Standley, Honduras

B. reniformis Dryander syn *vitifolia*, Brazil
B. reniformis Dryander syn *vitifolia* Brazil
B. robusta Blume, Java
B. schmidtiana Regel, Brazil
B. sericoneura Liebmann, Central America
B. subvillosa Klotzsch, Brazil
B. subvillosa v. *leptotricha*
B. thiemei C. De Candolle, Mexico
B. tomentosa Schott, Brazil
B. ulmifolia Willdenow, Venezuela
B. valida Goebel, Brazil
B. veitchii J.D. Hooker, Peru
B. venosa Skan, Brazil
B. versicolor Irmscher, Yunnan
B. wollnyi Herzog, Bolivia

Unidentified

B. U #049
B. U #074
B. U #103
B. U #315

Cultivars

B. 'Bumblebee'
B. cane hybrids, mixed
B. egregia op
B. 'Jumbo Jet' op
B. 'Kentwood'
B. nelumbiifolia 'Rubra' hort.
B. odorata 'Alba' hort.
B. sericoneura op
B. Tuberhybrida mixed

Hybridizing Tuberous Begonias by Dennis Need

Below are the concluding paragraphs of this article continued from page 229 of the November/December 2004 Begonian. Again thanks to the Summer Bulletin of The National Begonia Society of the U.K. and editor Derek Telford.

Growing from seed is as easy as growing most annuals, in fact you will find it far more interesting as you can use the result of your hybridising for bedding purposes. Although planting in full sun

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scorches the first leaves, leaves developing thereafter are able to stand the full effects of the sun without any signs of damage. Bedding out your seedlings will create a more interesting and colourful display than the majority of bedding plants, and the added interest of something worthwhile coming from your efforts, brings in a new dimension to your begonia growing. Every day can become exciting as the flower buds develop, and whilst most of the resulting flowers will not be champions, it is wonderful to see new flowers developing over the summer months.

Once you make your first cross, sow the seeds and see the results of your efforts, I am sure you will continue with this new interest in begonia growing.

**Dallas in May
will be beautiful!**

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STROLLING THROUGH THE YEARS

BY ANN SALISBURY

One rainy day in Oklahoma, with nothing real exciting to do, I found myself looking through the old issues of the *Begonian*. It was with a twofold purpose as Gene and I were doing a program in Houston, Texas for the Astro Branch and I needed some information for my part of the program. I became so engrossed that I spent hours reading and writing down things that were enlightening. I hope you enjoy the facts that are forthcoming.

During the depression days there was little to do as most people did not have much income and looked for ways and means to survive and be entertained.

Herbert Dyckman came to the rescue by forming the California Begonia Society. He was the first president and had a large group of 95 members.

When he finished his term as President, these were his parting words: "I wish to thank the members for their fine cooperation with me in building up this fine society that we all get so much pleasure from. I hope you will all give our incoming president the same cooperation and also wish all the success in the world to carry on. I will always be willing to give what help I can to advance and interest other people in our society."

I think his departing speech was very worthy and well worth remembering. Mr. Dyckman was very active in the begonia society until his death in 1958.

Among members who were very active and mentioned quite a lot were **Clayton M. Kelly** and **Alfred D. Robinson**.

In 1934, the California Begonia Society voted to change its name to American Begonia Society and elected to copy-write.

1934, Clayton M. Kelly wrote the first classification schedule for their first show, which was held in Long Beach, California. It was mentioned in this writing that there were still 95 members and dues were \$1.00. It did not mention if the dues were for one member or the family.

In 1935, the Clayton M. Kelly seed fund was formed. Mr. Kelly died in 1942 and seed fund was named for him and today is still called the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

Rudolf Zieshenne joined the society in 1934. Rudy wrote the first point scoring system for the American Begonia Shows. The point scoring is still being used today and as I understand the system, there were very few changes made in the update. Rudy has served as Classification Chairman, Awards Chairman, and Nomenclature Director and he has never served as president of the organization. His comment to me many years ago was that he left that duty up to Margaret, his wife. He has traveled into Mexico and has many registered Begonias and has founded new species, which he has shared with many of our members. Rudy also advertised in the *Begonian*. His specialty was Rex seeds.

The American Begonia Society board met once a month and the *Begonian* was printed on a monthly basis.

Advertising was offered in 1936. Constitution and by-laws were written in the same year.

Other names mentioned frequently in the back issues were, **Leslie Woodriff**, **Joy Logee** (Martin), **Bessie Buxton**, **Eva Kenworthy Gray**; these are a few of our pioneers.

1937, bank balance was \$85.08 and the second annual show was held with over 2000 visitors. By 1939, the organization had grown to 900 members and ABS held their first annual meeting. It was voted and passed to raise dues to \$2.00.

There was a column called the "Question Box". Curiosity got the best of me and I read some of the questions and answers and was astounded that the same questions were being asked then that are being asked today.

The ABS was growing rapidly during the war years. There were ten branches listed in the March, 1940 issue. The bank account was \$342.40. In June, 1940, there was a Spring Garden Show in Oakland, CA. ABS entered a display and won first prize. It was stated that over 100,000 visitors attended the show.

1941—25 branches and 2000 members.

1942-Alfred D. Robinson died and the ground-work was made by resolution for the Alfred D. Robinson Medal.

1942-The first change in the Constitution and by-laws.

1943-Motion made and carried that all past presidents would become life-time members.

Alice Clark made her debut into the Begonia world in 1943. She was becoming very well known for her drawings. Many of you have her book with her drawings. If you should have a few moments, stop and look at how beautiful her work is. To my knowledge, there are no books available now.

1948-There were 3000 members and 38 branches. The first woman president was elected and it was **Edna Korts**.

1953- The Aims and Purposes were in the December 1953 issue. This was the first printing of the Aims and Purposes and they were written by **Robert Terrell** of San Moreno, Ca. Mr. Terrell died in 1991 at

the age of 100 years.

1954 - 46 branches. The ABS was having a hard time raising money to print the *Begonian*. It appears they needed about \$1,600. per month to pay for printing and money was not plentiful. It was decided to have a fund raiser and they elected to have a gigantic rummage sale. Well, guess what, they had the rummage sale and the income was \$163.32. It was not profitable as they would of liked it to be and nothing more was said about fund raisers.

Another big project in 1954, it was voted to write the duties of all Board members. It does not state who wrote the duties.

In 1956, Nomenclature was asked by the Horticulture Congress to become and act as International Registration Authority. Our Nomenclature Department still holds this honor.

In 1956, an inquiry came as to how to define a hybrid or a cultivar. This was printed in the *Begonian*. "A hybrid is a cross between two species, a cultivar may be a cross between 2 hybrids or a hybrid and a species cross". This was written and published to clarify the nominations for the Alfred D. Robinson Medal.

The first Alfred D. Robinson medal was given in 1945 for *B. 'Silver Star'*. The first Eva Kenworthy Gray Award was give in 1955 to **Bessie Buxton**. The first Herbert P. Dyckman was presented in 1968 to co-winners, **Florence Gee** and **Herb Warrick**.

In February and March, 1962 issues there is a reprint of **Helen Krause** 1942 article "History of Begonias" For those of you who have those issues, it is must read article. It is certainly worth your time.

In 1962, 2,071 members.

1963 was a big year for advertising. Some of the advertisers were Knotts Berry Farm, Logees, Rudolph Zisenhenne, and

Michael Kartuz.

April, 1964, dues were raised to \$4.00.

November, 1967—50 Round Robins with 400 members.

March 1972—2,195 members

1975—An article appeared in which Millie and Ed Thompson’s original book was introduced. It was contained in 3—3—ring binders. I am fortunate enough to have purchased one from an older member and it is a very nice set and very easy to work with. Millie and Ed did a wonderful job .

In February, 1976, it was voted to increase dues to \$5.00 per year.

In 1975, the advance amount to the host of the annual show and convention was \$300. Today, the start up amount is \$2,000.

May, 1976—membership 3,997

April, 1977—membership 4,253

January, 1978—membership 4,121

In one instance where there was a convention in May, 1978, the following room rates were listed.

| | | |
|--------|-----------|-------|
| 1 bed | 1 person | 16.00 |
| 1 bed | 2 persons | 21.00 |
| King | 1 person | 18.00 |
| King | 2 persons | 23.00 |
| 2 beds | 2 person | 23.00 |

It also listed the registration fee as 15.00 and it included the banquet meal.

April, 1979—95 Round Robin flights. Membership 3,341 and in January, 1980, there were 2,373 members. There was no explanation as to why there was a drop of 1,000 members. This was the year that the Board voted to change the meetings to every other month.

1981—The ABS voted to invest some of their funds. The Interest rate was 16 1/2 %. Would that rate be nice to have in the year 2004.

Alice Clark died in 1981.

When Gilbert Estrada left office in October, 1981. He made the following statement, “Let this be a new beginning and everyone work for the betterment of the society”. Something to think about!

1981 — Millie and Ed Thompson book *Begonias—The complete Reference Guide* went on sale. This was the single copy. Millie and Ed Thompson autographed each book they sold. This book is not available today but the Thompson’s gave permission to reprint the book and many were sold. These copies were Xerox and the first printing was black and white and the next printing had the color pictures.

1983—a new beginning. The *Begonian* went to bi-monthly.

1984—membership dropped to 1,728 and in 1985, dues were increased to \$15.00 per year

August 1994—73 life members, 136 institutions, 1,351 paying members, 13 International societies, 42 USA branches.

At this point, I had to give up my quest for information as time had run out and I had to prepare my paper for the Houston Astro’s program.

As most of you know, I do the mailing of the *Begonian*. At the last mailing, there were 1,023 members, institutions, and life time members. And 123 International members.

Hope you have enjoyed my little tidbits and I must tell you that there is a wealth of knowledge in the back issues. Please take time to read and enjoy your old copies.

It is not possible to list all the founders of our society but those of you who helped are very much appreciated and Gene and I have the priviledge of knowing a lot of you. You are all appreciated.



Here was the editor's favorite at the 2004 Convention Show - Brad Thompson's new beauty, B. 'Emerald Maiden', grown by Mike Flaherty of course! And the photo is by Janet Welsh

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Continued from Page 5.

The following rates will apply before and/or after the dates of the Board Meeting:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
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| Double Occupancy Suite | \$75.00 |
| Jacuzzi Suite | \$149.00 |

Rooms will be on hold until January 23, 2005 when they will be released although the Inn will honor these rates even after the cutoff date as long as they have a room available. The above represents a greater than a 40% reduction in the established room rates for 2005.

The Inn provides free shuttle service Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 7:00pm for anywhere within 5 miles of their location. A list of local restaurants will be made available to the attendees. Shirley lives 3.5 miles from the Inn which is located within walking distance to the gardens.

Reservation Method - Please call 813-979-2828 directly to the hotel. Ask for the reservation department, mention your group name and refer to VIP Code 8998.

Please visit www.wingatetampa.com for more information on the Wingate Inn.

ABS Convention 2005

Get Ready for Dallas, Texas!!**

For a great place to visit, and to see fellow Begoniacs, start planning for a get-a-way trip in 2005 to Dallas, Texas for the combined ABS Convention/SWR Get-Together which will be held on May 18-22, 2005.

Alrady we have started planning bus trips, seminars, greenhouse tours and this year we are planning a special event that will cause a lot of excitement and which we hope will become a regular event in future conventions. More about this later. If anyone would like to do, or have a special "happening" please let **Leora Henthorne** (Show Convention Chairwoman) know.

We are planning on being at the

Embassy Suites at Midpark in Dallas, which is approximately 15 miles from Love Field, and 18 miles from DFW Airports. There are many eating establishments available in the area, and lots of possibilities for outside activities on those days when you can tear yourselves away from the convention.

We will be giving more details in the March-April *Begonian*, so start planning now for a fun filled adventure, and lots of fellowship in Dallas, Texas in May, 2005.

**Approval of Dallas as the site is pending the February Board Meeting, but we are all sure it is going to occur!



Above is *B. 'Lady Sakamoto'*, another new Brad Thompson hybrid exhibited at the 2005 Convention in San Diego. This is one of his rhizomatous at or below the soil with upright stems, a category with which Brad said he is fascinated and in which he has produced a number of new hybrids

Begonia bogneri

by Rudolf Ziesenhenne

Excerpts from the *Begonian* April, 1973

Ann Salisbury in this issue writes about strolling through the Begonian pages of the past and the people you will meet. But there is also invaluable information about begonias there. I had been trying to get someone to write about B. bogneri to go with a photo taken by Janet Welsh in 6/04; this begonia was also beautifully present at the San Diego Convention Show. But looking in an old Begonian, I found that the perfect article had already been written, more than 30 years ago, and it is as relevant today as then. I have taken excerpts below, but it is worth while to search out this edition of the Begonian and read the whole.

A chance remark to **Josef Bogner**, inspector of the Munich botanical Garden, Germany, when I visited the garden in August 1969, that not half of the world's begonia species have yet been discovered and named, was the opening which gave me an opportunity to see a most unique begonia which Mr. Bogner had recently discovered, and subsequently to grow, propagate, and now describe the new species.

The recent discovery of *Begonia bogneri* had occurred on January 23, 1969 in the Malagasy Republic (formerly Madagascar), while Mr. Bogner was visiting the very little-explored mountainous Presqu'île de Masoala in an area called Hiataka which has an average annual rainfall of about 3500 mm (140") and a yearly average of 230 rainy days. He was looking for aroids but found at an elevation of about 50 meters (165') in the deep shade of steep, mossy, granite cliffs the grass-like begonia we are naming *Begonia bogneri* covering the naked rocks among mosses, ferns and sometimes *Pothos scandens*. The locality of this new species is very small, no larger than one hect-

are (2.471 acres); the mountains at Hiaraka arising from sea level immediately to about 1000 m. (3300'). Mr. Bogner climbed to the top but found no other place where the begonia was growing.

Hiaraka can be reached only on foot or by boat and Mr. Bogner was brought there by motorboat from Maroantsetra, traversing the Baie d'Antongil, by Mr. A. Peyrieras, entomologist at ORSTOM (Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique Outre-mer) in Tananative.

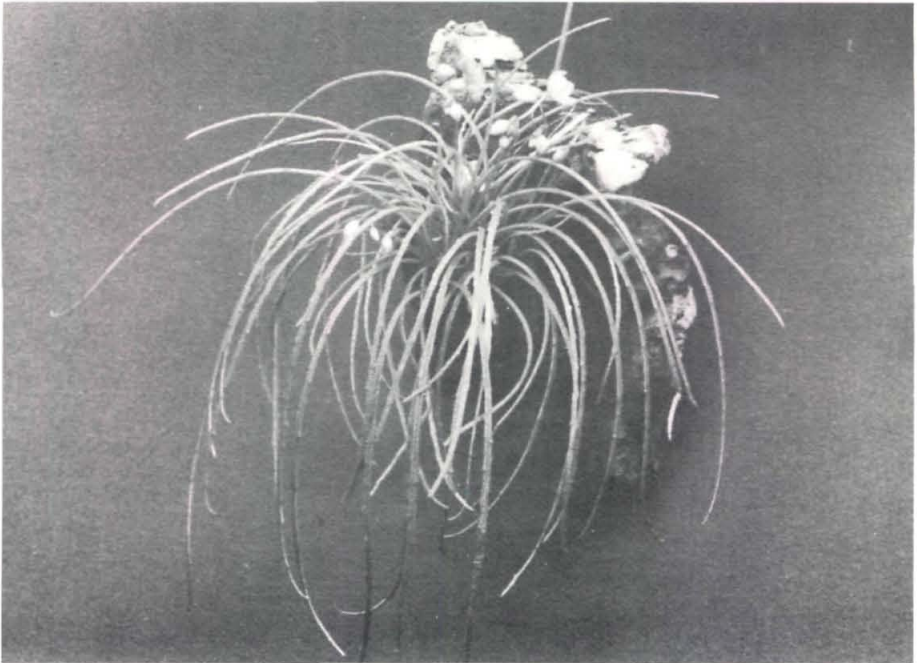
Mr. Bogner collected living plants and herbarium specimens of the new begonia under his number Bogner 261. Living plants were sent to three botanical gardens in Europe, but they survived only in Munich where the plant was propagated.

After Mr. Bogner sent me plants of this unusual begonia, I studied the begonia literature in order to determine whether it had already been described and named; it appears it has not.

I have grown this begonia in a terrarium where the plant readily produced male flowers, but it was not until the plant was put under fluorescent lights indoors that a female flower appeared. A study of the flowers placed the plant in Begonia section *Erminea* A. DC. Plants in this section have male flowers with four tepals and female flowers with six tepals. *Begonia bogneri* has an erect stem, a leafstalk which is not readily discernible, the dried leaf and its petiole being 9 cm (3 1/2") long and 1.5 mm (1/16") wide. The leaf is essentially the same width its entire length, being strap-like in shape; the nerves are arranged like a feather, but the side nerves are not visible. ...



Above is Janet Welsh' photo of B. bogneri and below is the photo by J. Bogner that accompanied the original article in 1973. Even the editor has been able to keep this little jewel alive so if you can find one, by all means try it!



The plant Mr. Bogner designated from the wilds as the type specimen is only 10.1 cm. (4") tall. However I will first describe the plant as I know it in cultivation.

This plant is being named *Begonia bogneri* in honor of its discoverer. Its outstanding characteristics are its narrow and long leaves (Figure 1.) The leaves of the growing plant are about 2 mm. (1/8") wide and 15.2 cm. (6") long, medium green with the upper surface shiny without any appendages. The leaf remains the same width its entire length; the tip comes quickly to a rounded point. Little pits appear here and there on the upper surface of the leaves (only visible by a lens.) That there is one nerve running the entire length of the leaf is easily observable because it is depressed into the leaf. No side veins are visible although a study of the cross section of the leaf does reveal lateral nerves each of which terminated in a little saw tooth. On the edge of the leaf. ... When grown in the open greenhouse without artificial light, the plant has a dormant period of a plant which produces a swol-

len stem base. ... The plant I received from Munich appeared at first to be stemless. With time the stem became visible, reaching by January 1973 a length of 3.1 cm. (1 1/4")....

To me *B. bogneri* is a most unusual plant and a valuable addition to any begonia collection. I like the plant as it is, but wonder what hybridizers will do with it.

I have found *B. bogneri* to be an excellent terrarium plant and under lights it has been evergreen. I have grown the plant in sphagnum moss, in a mixture of peat, vermiculite, perlite and limestone, as well as in my regular soil mix, and have had good results. In my opinion the plant is most attractive grown in moss or fibrous peat on cork as a hanging plant as Mr. bogner grows it as shown in the photograph. In cultivation the plant develops into a clump consisting of a number of stems all arising from the one tuberlike body. ...

And a wonder to me is that if the tiny leaves, either whole or in part, are planted in moss, they eventually produce new plants!

Officers' Page

Why do we run an Officers' Page in each issue? It is to assist you as ABS members in getting the help and information you need; it is to assist you by giving you the person to contact if you have a complaint; it is to facilitate communication between members. For example, if you have a question about growing a particular begonia, contact the Horticultural Correspondent; if you have a question about a begonia name, contact the Nomenclature Director; and so forth.

The Members-at-Large representative is particularly important to members without a branch affiliation. She is there to help you find any help that you might

need. And remember she puts out a quarterly newsletter aimed at providing help as well; don't forget to send your \$5 annually to *Arlene Ingles* if you wish to receive this newsletter. Our current chair, *Sandy Boyd*, also would welcome any article or letter that you might wish to contribute.

You will also find addresses there from which to order books, back issues of the *Begonian*, or seeds. There are also slide shows that may be borrowed from the Slide Library.

Use this resource! It is important to make your contacts from the latest issue, because names and numbers change almost every issue. Email addresses are being added as they become available.

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COMING EVENTS

February 24-26, 2005 Winter Board Meeting: University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, Tampa, Florida. See Page 5 for details.

May 18-22, 2005 ABS Convention 2005, Dallas, Texas. See page 32 for more information and the March/April issue for full details.

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.

**See Page 12 for the 2005 Awards Call
And Don't Wait: Get your Nominations in Today!!**

Due date for articles for the February/March *Begonian* is January 1, 2005; announcements due by January 15.

And the Editor *needs* articles!

The Begonian

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