



*The*

# Begonian

July/August 2006

# The Begonian

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Publication of the American Begonia Society

## American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

### Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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## Cover

**Front:** Mary Bucholtz grows *Begonia U496*. Read all about it on page 151.

**Back:** Johanna Zinn and other conventioners were captivated by the Chihuly glass exhibits at Fairchild Gardens.

# In This Issue

ABS Convention 2006 “*Begonias: I Never Knew It Could Be Like This*” was held in Miami, Florida and what a convention it was! ABS’ Janet Brown, Johanna Zinn, Mary Bucholtz, Charles Jaros, Ann Salisbury, and Janet Welsh bring it to life again for us in this issue. Tours, seminars, and both plant and people winners are described and illustrated.

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## Quick

Check your mailing label.  
If it reads  
**200609 or 200610**, your  
membership is about to  
expire. Please renew! We  
don’t want to lose you.

## President's Message

This issue of the *Begonian* will bring you to Miami, Florida for the 2006 Convention. The plants were beautiful, immense, perfect and very interesting. Congratulations to **Joyce and Doug Pridgen** who took Best In Show (*B. 'Morocco'*) and a record number of cultural awards for their entries. **Charles Jaros** was the Seminars Chairman officially and the convention cochairman unofficially. They couldn't have done it without him! And congratulations to the award winners, all very deserving. Enjoy the convention news that follows.

I am very pleased to announce that the 2007 Convention will be held in Los Angeles, probably in September. Convention Advisor **Mary Sakamoto** has named Palos Verdes Branch (President **Don Caseltine**) as the hosts and **Margaret Fisher** as the Convention Chairman. We should be able to announce the dates and hotel in the September/October issue. Plans are already underway for the tours (Chairman **Jeanne Jones**), the seminars (Chairmen **Janet Brown & Thelma O'Reilly**) and Margaret has already captured **Mike Flaherty** for M.C. And don't forget about Scotland in early August. 2007 will be a real celebration of begonias.

I had the great pleasure of attending the first meeting of the newly restored and renamed Rudolf Ziesenhenné Branch (the old Santa Barbara Branch) on March 26. Rudy would be very happy to see his namesake branch up and running again. The new President is Michael Flaherty and the National Director is **Julie Vanderwilt**. The name change was announced by Branch Relations Chairman **Mary Bucholtz** and approved at the board meeting in Miami. The first meeting was held at Julie Vanderwilt's home (a begonia paradise) and they will meet bimonthly at

members homes. We wish them a long life and many new members.

Hurricane Katrina will leave its mark on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast for many years to come. We noted damage to Fairchild still remaining from Hurricane Andrew in 1992 as well as new damage from the 2005 storms. New Orleans Botanic Garden was hard hit and they are in the process of rebuilding and restocking lost trees and plants. The gardens reopened on March 4 this year and although this is very good news a great deal remains to be done. Due to flooding that remained for almost two weeks the vast majority of their collection was lost. With no electricity available to keep the air conditioning and automatic watering going orchids, staghorns, ferns (and possibly begonias) were lost. ABS has long wanted a branch in New Orleans and perhaps a show of support from us during this trying time would help that project along. You may download a form for contributions from the New Orleans Botanical Garden web site [www.neworleanscitypark.com](http://www.neworleanscitypark.com) or mail contributions to New Orleans Botanical Garden Foundation. c/o **Genevieve Trimble**, President, P.O. Box 993, St. Francisville, LA 70775.

To the ABS members in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast: We would like to know how you and your begonias were affected by the storms and how we can help. Please let us know. Membership Chairman **Donna Marsheck** has been tracking down people displaced by the hurricanes. It has been a difficult job adding to her already awesome task but slowly it is getting done. We are grateful for her efforts.

The Southwest Region Get Together will be in St. Louis, Missouri on September 14, 15 & 16. The ABS Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday and I urge you all to attend. The Missouri Botanical Garden will be the highlight of the

weekend and they are having a Chihuly exhibit in the gardens much like the one at Fairchild. Don't miss it! Please let me know if you have any items you would like on the agenda for the meeting. One of the motions passed in Miami requires the agenda to be presented to the board 30 days before the Annual Meeting. We are already working on it.

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of **Ann Salisbury** as Parliamentarian of the American Begonia Society. Ann has served in this position for many years and was the choice of **Marge Lee** as her successor. Ann has done a great job and has guided several presidents through the thorny paths of Robert's Rules of Order. We thank her for her service and also for recommending her successor.

**Linda Lawson** is perfectly qualified for the post of Parliamentarian. She has many years of experience in many gardens clubs in Oklahoma and the Southwest. Linda attended the convention in Miami this year and helped out at the board meeting. She speaks on the subject, gives classes and we are very pleased and happy that she has accepted the position for the American Begonia Society. Her first job will be the annual meeting in St. Louis in September. Janet Brown

Enjoy the summer season. We hope for no hurricanes, tornadoes or earthquakes to mar our growing. Mark your calendars for the September meeting and meet me in St. Louis! And a hammock is a group of trees of the same kind usually on a raised piece of ground.

In friendly contact,

**Janet Brown**

## Letters to the Editor

### Not Love at First Sight

I have found a nursery about one and a half hours from home that sometimes has begonias. I try to get there several times a year.

This day they didn't have much to offer that I didn't already have. There was an all green rhizomatous with white dots. I looked at the tag which said *B. "Jelly Roll Martin"*. I thought, "Why would they name it Jelly anything?" But it did have a curl at the stem and several stalks of flowers. I bought it and took it home and to my surprise under shady conditions all the new leaves are light burgundy, red veins, dark red underneath. Really nice!

A leaf was damaged, only half there so I broke it off and put it in a jar of leaves I keep on the window sill. In a very short time it had plantlets.

Its not the prettiest in my collection, but a very nice surprise.

Don't pass up the ugly duckling.

Ann White,  
Tillamook, Oregon

*Ann, I wish everyone would share an experience such as yours! Our readers like to hear about individual experiences with begonias. And I encourage you to keep up with B. 'Jelly Roll Martin' as I have seen plants exhibited in shows that were both gorgeous and unusual.*

**Convention 2007 will be incredible!  
Plan now to be there!!**

# ABS Convention 2006:

## Begonias – I Never Knew It Could Be Like This

### Miami, Florida, February 28 – March 5, 2006

*As many of you know, the editor was unable to attend the convention this year and would like to thank the writers who have helped out in describing what was undoubtedly one of the memorable ABS Conventions. First **Janet Brown** gives us an overview in the words that follow, then **Johanna Zinn** and **Mary Bucholtz** describes the seminars arranged by **Charles Jaros** that were unusually enriching this year. **Charles Jaros** gives us the plant winners and **Ann Salisbury** introduces us to this year's ABS Award Winners. .*

## The Tours

We began on Day 1, Tuesday with the long awaited trip to Key West and the Southernmost Point in the U.S.A. Beautiful California type weather was with us from start to finish topped off at day's end with a most spectacular Florida sunset.

Day 2, Wednesday we were off to Fairchild and one of the high points of the trip—The Chihuly Glass Exhibit. One of these glass sculptures is shown on the back page. These beautiful creations were scattered throughout the amazing Fairchild, popping up among the bromeliads, cactus and palms, hanging from trees, floating in the lakes, twining with the exotic plants in the conservatories. A row boat in the lake was filled with gorgeous colors and shapes. We were most fortunate to have seen this. [I have just discovered that there will be a Chihuly show like the one we saw in Miami at the Missouri Botanic Garden this fall when we have the ABS annual meeting and the Southwest Region Get-Together.]

The second tour was Pinecrest Gardens and it was most interesting. Lots of plants and lots of iguanas and birds. Used to be the Parrot Jungle.

Day 3. Thursday was **Tim Anderson** day and Palm Hammock Nursery. One thing we learned: what a "hammock" is. Do you know? See the end of the article to find out. Tim and **Ann Anderson** were there to meet us as the buses pulled up to this wonderland for begoniacs and plant lovers. You would never know that just a few months ago the place was laid low by first Katrina and then, even worse, Rita. Tim and his staff have brought it back and we were all very grateful as we shopped and shopped and shopped. What an incredible selection of begonias! We had a great lunch there and then off to Ernesto's Good Earth and one of the greatest collection of tropical plants I have ever seen. Our hosts took us all through the greenhouses and open areas (some of these devastated by the hurricanes, as well). They collect all over the world. Most of the plants were too large to even think about taking home but we were amazed and delighted with what we saw.

Day 4. Friday was judging day. While the judges and clerks were hard at work we went to the Orchid Show, had lunch, visited Miami Beach, took in the amazing Wolfsonian Museum and ended again at the Orchid Show for some more shopping and gawking. The judges and clerks had a special bus to bring them to the show in the afternoon. JB I found a tiny, tiny orchid on a tiny piece of log that I was able to bring home safely. It has a tiny, tiny, tiny flower and I will never know what it looks like as it is too small to see!

## The Plant Sale and Show

The Plant Sale was lovely and with many tempting choices as we figured out how to get them back home. And the Boutique had some very interesting items, the **Ruth Kiew** book and **Howard Berg's** new comprehensive hybrid list.

The show was outstanding with **Joyce** and **Doug Pridgen** taking Best in Show with a gigantic (all their plants were gigantic) B. 'Morocco'. It was almost perfect and three feet across with only one slightly bent leaf. The Pridgens also won Sweepstakes, Showing Is Sharing and earned a record number of culturals, well over 20. Charles Jaros also had many beautiful plants entered including a magnificent B. *silletensis* and B. *handelii*. They can really grow begonias in Florida. And they had Katrina and Rita to contend with and still managed one of the best and most interesting shows ever.

## The Banquet

The banquet on Saturday night was lovely and the decorations really amazing done by the children of **Armando** and **Maggie Nodal**. There were all kinds of pink flamingoes, small, medium and life-size. Really clever and festive. **Mike Flaherty** his usual perfection as banquet M.C. He told us that Rudy had told him if he was to be the M.C. he had to dress up! He sure did! And of course he was very funny, very funny!

Awards Chairman Ann Salisbury presented the years winners with their trophies in a very moving ceremony. Congratulations to the very deserving winners.

One final word about the most popular place in the hotel - The Hospitality Suite on the 12th floor and the girls of Tampa Bay in charge. What a tremendous

job they did and we all had a marvelous time. The Pajama Party was a huge success and of course our Mike F. won the prize for an indescribable outfit! **Rekha** and **Michael Morris** had their PJs hand embroidered (with begonias, of course) in India—gorgeous. And **Charles Jaros** in black silk PJs. Wow!

Thanks to Tim and Ann Anderson and all their committees for a wonderful begonia celebration.

~Janet Brown

## The Seminars

### Reviews by Johanna Zinn

**Begonia Prints from Curtis's Botanical Magazine**  
by Mary Bucholtz

In 1787, the first issue of William Curtis's Botanical Magazine was published. **Mary Bucholtz** showed us slides of most of the Begonias prints included in this magazine starting with the first Begonia print published in 1812, *Begonia grandis*, and finishing with six Begonias published in 1990.

For each print, Mary included the print name, its current name, if different, the collector and the area where the plant was collected, the author who published the original name and description, the plate number, volume and date of publication, the meaning of the Latin name, the section, and a brief physical description of the plant.

**Dan Haseltine** took photographs of prints from library copies of CBM for most of the slides. Mary took photos for the last several slides from more current

issues, and researched the information pertaining to each print.

We all enjoyed looking at projections of our favorite plant family. As a print collector, the seminar was particularly interesting to me and provided me with inspiration to continue collecting and learning about the plants depicted in the prints.

## Vietnamese Begonia

by Nguyen Quang Hieu

Hieu Nguyen is a Doctoral candidate at the City University of New York. A native of Vietnam, he received his B.S. at Hanoi National University. He received his M.S. [2002-2004] from the University of Missouri-St. Louis where his Master's program focused on the Begonia section *Platycentrum*. This section includes *Begonia rex*, *B. cathayana*, *B. decora*, *B. hemsleyana*, *B. limprichtii*, *B. versicolor*, and *B. xanthina*.

Hieu divided his talk into several sections corresponding with different regions of Vietnam and islands off the coast of Vietnam. He talked about the amazing diversity of Begonia in Vietnam and the different climates and habitats in which they grow. Hieu discussed and showed photos of *Begonia alveolata*, *B. baviensis*, *B. boisiiana*, *B. fimbriatipula*, *B. sinuata*, *B. rupicola*, and many others, some of which have not yet been identified/named.

He also discussed *Begonia pierrei*, which grows only around the small opening of a single cave, and *B. hahiepiana*, a new species named after his parents.

Several pieces of information discussed by Hieu may be helpful for those of us who grow Vietnamese Begonia. In some parts of Vietnam, temperatures from May to September are greater than 100 degrees [40 C]. Many of the beautiful

begonias in Vietnam grow on limestone. Most Vietnamese begonia species grow as understory plants.

In Vietnam, Begonia leaves are used to impart a sour taste to soup. Also, steaming hot begonia leaves are used to clean wounds.

For those of us who will not have the opportunity to travel to Vietnam to see the country and the begonias, Hieu's presentation was an enjoyable substitute.

Addendum- In the May/June, *Begonian*, **Bettie Crandall** of the Leslie Hatfield Monterey Bay Branch requested cuttings, seeds, or plants for the Arboretum at UCSC. Hieu had a Visiting Scholarship at the Arboretum of the University of California, Santa Cruz from January 2005 to August 2005. While in California for the San Francisco board meeting, several of us traveled to the Arboretum at UCSC to see the Vietnamese begonia seedlings started while Hieu was there. We hope that the seedlings are thriving.

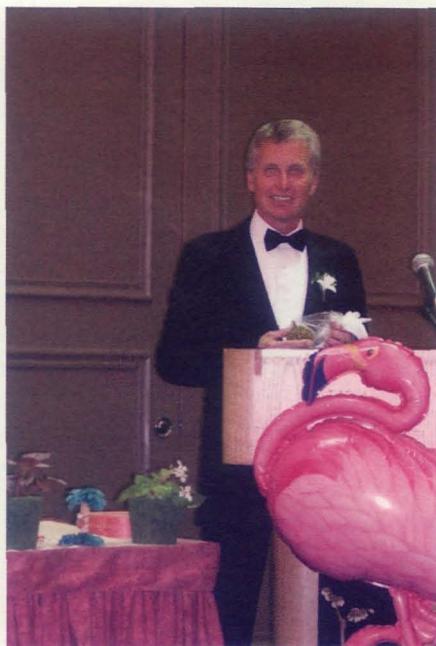
## Reviews by Mary Bucholtz

### Propagation and Logee's Greenhouse

by Byron Martin

Byron began his seminar with a rich family history of Logee's which was founded in 1892, 114 years ago, as a floral shop. Having worked in a business, owned by one family for 110 years, I can fully appreciate the devotion to presenting a quality product and personal attention toward the customer.

Logee's famous Citrus Limon 'Ponderosa' was picked up from the train station in 1900 by horse and wagon. The catalog business began in 1931. **Ernest Kimball Logee**, Byron's grandfather, was a founding member of our Bessie Buxton



*On tour, Johanna Zinn captured *B. masoniana* var. *maculata* at Palm Hamock Orchard Estate below while Mary Bucholtz watched the mice enjoying *Begonia* 'Paul's Pride'. Janet Welsh catches Mike Flaherty dressed up for the Banquet above right.*



Branch. Ernest Kimball also hybridized the Thimbleberry series, giving us the double Semperflorens. Today there are four of these remaining in cultivation. It was at the funeral of Ernest Kimball Logee that **Joy Logee** met **Ernest Martin**. To quote Byron, "the rest is history."

Byron has brought his family's business into the Twenty First Century. Their expertise in tissue culture has made it possible to propagate with unimagined success. He shared with us the magic of tissue culture - a step by step view through their laboratory intricacies and fertile process of producing a plant from only a spec of a leaf.

Logee's has name recognition that is the envy of any establishment. Pick up almost any magazine or book portraying plants, rare or popular, and the source guide will refer you to Logee's.

### **Begonias: Cultivation, Identification, and Natural History** by **Mark Tebbitt**

Begonia history is rich in species. In the mid-1800's there were about 80 known species cultivated in Europe. Today we recognize some 1500 plus species. Approximately 400 of these are known to be in cultivation. This makes *Begonia* one of the largest genus of the flowering plants. Named hybrids number 16,000 or more. As we know, *Begonia* is known for its diversity. This was our introduction to a seminar presented by Mark Tebbitt, Horticultural Taxonomist at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and recent author of *Begonias*.

Several groups of *Begonia* stand out in commercial cultivation: the Rex, tuberous, including the winter flowering Reigers, and the semperflorens. This is the public face of begonias. *Begonia* 'Dragon Wing' (unknown Semperflorens x U014)

by **Patrick Worley\***, is the number one begonia commercially. From this begonia, 'Dragon Wing', Mark says we can look for, in the future, double flowers and variegation. The semperflorens begonia brings in \$60 million annually to growers in the United States.

In the future we can hope to see a new group of cold hardy begonias. Today only *B. grandis* is cold or frost hardy to Zone 6. Also, progress for more heat tolerant begonias for the climate of the deep south is coming.

Unfortunately hundreds and hundreds of species will be extinct before they are discovered.

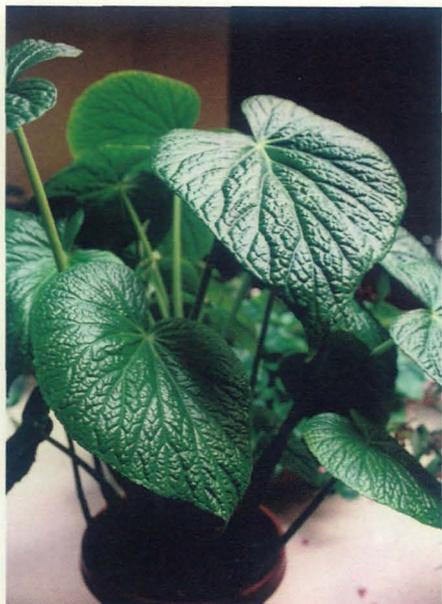
On the more positive side, there are several more botanists working with the begonia species in China, Vietnam and others parts of Asia, as well as England and the United States.

Our last monograph of *Begonia* was published in 1864. We are hoping to see a new monograph published in the not too distant future. What a positive for we who love *Begonia* to have young people working with our favorite plant.

*\*Editor's note: It is my understanding that although Patrick Worley did make a cross of a named Semp x U014 resulting in a plant similar to B. 'Dragon Wings' (spelling varies - I have seen both singular and plural used), his cross was not developed commercially. Also Mabel Corwin did another similar cross with the name B. 'Christmas Candy', but the commercial B. 'Dragon Wings' was developed by a wholesale seed house I believe. If anyone has the full story, please write a letter to the editor!*

### **Improvements in Begonias for the European Market** by **Antoon Hofnagels**

An owner of a two and one-half acre nursery in the Netherlands since the age of 23, Antoon Hoefnagels grows no Elatier begonias, only beautiful leaved begonias - Rex and rhizomatous. The Netherlands,



Beautiful winners! Above, **Charles Jaros** won Best Species with *B. sillentensis* ssp. *mengyangensis*. And *B. handelii* (U480) earned Charles a Cultural Award. *B. 'PHOE Cloe'* brought **Joyce and Doug Pridgen** an award for Best Florida Hybrid. First and last photo by **Mary Bucholtz**, and top right by **Johanna Zinn**.



the most densely populated country in Europe, supplies 80% of cut flowers for Europe.

Antoon's crop of begonias, in five inch pots, have just eight weeks to grow and mature before being sold. The nursery is always looking for a way to bring down the costs of production. Intense attention is paid to temperature, humidity and preventive spraying for fungal damage. Labor costs are high in the Netherlands and, of course, having the varieties that appeal to the public is a must. The choice of which begonia to grow is difficult for a begonia lover. Antoon has a consultant to help him cull his collection down to a manageable and profitable production. In an effort to reduce production costs Antoon is investigating producing his crop of begonias in Africa.

Always looking for ways to increase the use of begonias by the public, his company produces a color catalogue, under the name of Botanica, naming the varieties available. This catalog is available to florists and garden centers.

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### **A Note on Begonia B. *sillentensis* ssp. *mengyangensis*. And *B. handelii* (U480)**

These two species pictured on page 131 are recent imports from the far east and not well known to most of us. Mark Tebbitt on page 208 of his new book *Begonias* talks about these in some detail. They are in the same section *Sphenanthera* as *B. roxburghii* and are similar species. He notes that "*Begonia handelii* differs...most noticeably by having a creeping, rather than erect stem....Both varieties are uncommon in cultivation and like *B. roxburghii* have fragrant flowers." There are two varieties: *B. handelii* var. *handelii* and *handelii* var. *prostrata*, but we have no indication of which of these we see pictured.

Antoon places begonia displays at fairs and auctions and the Kukenhoff Flower Show. At the Floriade, which is a major show produced in the Netherlands, only every ten years, you will find a magnificent display of begonias by Antoon's nursery.

### **Chihuly at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**

Dale Chihuly innovated glass blowing; his passion for color and the extraordinary creativity has given us a display of glass among tropic foliage that seems to belong to nature. Does his blown glass evoke nature or does nature evoke his glass? A question I cannot answer.

This exhibition is not to be missed. I had only seen Chihuly glass in a museum setting and it was a delight. To see his work among natural items in a garden is a majestic, absolutely breathtaking experience.

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He notes that *Begonia silletensis* subsp. *mengyangensis* "is another close relative that I introduced into cultivation in the United Kingdom in 1995 and which Bob Cherry independently introduced in Australia slightly before that... It is a spectacular, easy to grow foliage plant with creeping stems and large broadly ovate leaves measuring up to 27 x 27 cm. It too has fragrant flowers." *B. roxburghii* is dioecious, that is male flowers on one plant, female another, which is a rare trait in begonias, but there is no indication if these two varieties share that trait although I've heard that *B. handelii* does and that until recently we had plants of only one sex growing in the U.S. I believe that has now changed!

~FH

# ABS Convention 2006:

Begonias – I Never Knew It Could Be Like This  
Miami, Florida, February 28 – March 5, 2006

## Show Winners

*By Charles Jaros*

**Best of Show**

**B. 'Morocco'**

**Exhibitor – Doug & Joyce Pridgen**

**Sweepstakes**

**30 blue ribbons**

**Doug & Joyce Pridgen**

**Show is Sharing**

**44 entries**

**Doug & Joyce Pridgen**

**217 entries by 23 exhibitors**

## DIVISION TROPHIES

### **Division A:**

Cane-like, Superba    *B. 'Miniperba'*    Doug & Joyce Pridgen

### **Division AA:**

Cane-like, all others    *B. 'Splish Splash'*    Doug & Joyce Pridgen

### **Division B:**

Shrub-like    *B. 'Homosassa'*    Doug & Joyce Pridgen

### **Division C:**

Thick-stemmed    *B. 'Boomer'*    Doug & Joyce Pridgen

### **Division D:**

Semperflorens    *B. 'Pink Avalanche'*    Doug & Joyce Pridgen

### **Division E:**

Rhizomatous    *B. 'Speculata'*    Doug & Joyce Pridgen

### **Division EE:**

Rhizomatous Unusual Growth

And/or foliage    *B. 'Sisquoc'*    Doug & Joyce Pridgen

**Divison EEE:**

Rhizomatous Distinctive Foliage, Unusual surface

And/or coloring *B.* 'Silver Jewel' Doug & Joyce Pridgen**Division F:**Rex Cultorum *B.* 'Benitochiba' Mike Twyford**Division G:**Tuberous *B. natalensis X  
suffruticosa* Doug & Joyce Pridgen**Division H:**Trailing-scandent *B.* 'Morocco' Doug & Joyce Pridgen**Division I:**

Contained

Atmosphere *B. polilloensis* Mary Bucholtz**Division J:**Species *B. sillentensis*  
*ssp. mengyangensis* Charles Jaros**Division K:**Unidentified Species *B.* U402 Doug & Joyce Pridgen**Division L:**Hanging Container *B.* 'Panasoffkee' Doug & Joyce Pridgen**Division M:**Novice *B.* 'Emerald Lacewing' Janice Gorgoglione**Division N:**Florida Hybrids *B.* 'P.H.O.E. Cleo' Doug & Joyce Pridgen**Division O:**Novel Grown *B. egregia* Doug & Joyce Pridgen**Divison Q:**Traveling Begonias *B.* Rex Cultorum Joan Coulat**Division R:**

Planters/Dish Gardens/

Collections "Semi-Tuberous  
Babies" Doug & Joyce Pridgen**Division T:**Commercial *B.* 'Caribbean  
Princess' Phil Iloo/Stelmar Gardens**Division W:**Artistic Photos *B. bogneri* Charles Henthorne

**Division X:**

Photos – Computer

Enhanced

*B. chloristicta*

Charles Henthorne

**Division YY:**

Companion Plants

*Lidisia discolor*

Doug &amp; Joyce Pridgen

**Division Z:**

Crafts

*B. masoniana*

Needlepoint pillow

Mary Bucholtz

**Division ZZ:**

Special Exhibits

*B. geminiflora*

Jean Marie Kunze

**Cultural Certificates**

<b>Plant</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Exhibitor</b>
<i>B.</i> ‘Charles Jaros’	96.6	Shirley Brown
<i>B.</i> ‘Emerald Lacewing’	97	Janice Gorgoglione
<i>B.</i> ‘Caribbean Princess’	96	Phil Iloo/Stelmar Gardens
<i>B. polilloensis</i>	97	Mary Bucholtz
<i>B. prismatocarpa</i> ‘Varigated’	96	Mary Bucholtz
<i>B. U496</i>	96	Mary Bucholtz
<i>B.</i> ‘Withlacochee’	96.5	Phil & Loucee Spool
<i>B.</i> ‘Big Joe’	95.5	Phil & Loucee Spool
<i>B.</i> ‘Bunny Hug’	95	Phil & Loucee Spool
<i>B.</i> ‘Passing Storm’	95	Phil & Loucee Spool
<i>B. sillentensis ssp mengyangensis</i>	98	Charles Jaros
<i>B.</i> ‘Charles Jaros’	97.5	Charles Jaros
<i>B. handelii</i>	97	Charles Jaros
<i>B. handelii</i>	96.3	Charles Jaros
<i>B. hatacoa</i>	95.5	Charles Jaros
<i>B.</i> ‘Dan Castletine’	95	Charles Jaros
<i>B. hatacoa var meisnerii</i>	95	Charles Jaros
<i>B.</i> ‘P.H.O.E. Cleo’	99.5	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Lanata’	99	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Morocco’	99	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Sisquoc	97.7	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Speculata’	97.5	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Palmgarten’	96.8	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Passing Storm’	96.7	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Miniperba’	96.5	Doug & Joyce Pridgen

<i>B.</i> ‘Splish Splash’	96.5	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Boomer’	96.3	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B. natalensis x suffruticosa</i>	96	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B. malabarica</i>	96	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Pink Avalanche’	96	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Cowardly Lion’	96	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B. hernandioides</i>	96	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B. egregia</i>	96	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Cubinfo’	96	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Silver Jewel’	95	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Withlacoochee’	95	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Homosassa’	95	Doug & Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> ‘Moon Maid’	95	Doug & Joyce Pridgen

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## ABS Annual Awards

by Ann Salisbury

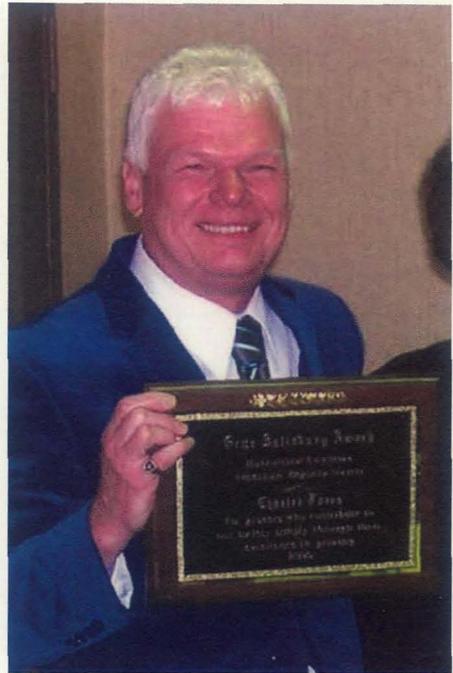
Greetings, ladies and gentlemen. It is my pleasure to present the 2006 Awards. This is probably one of the highlights of my life being the Awards Chairman. After the banquet I asked that all winners to come forward so that pictures might be taken to put in the *Begonian*. Nominations were good this year. We had several in five out of seven categories.

### Herbert P. Dyckman Award

The first presentation is the Herbert P. Dyckman Award which is presented to a member who has rendered long term or very outstanding service for the ABS above and beyond the normal duties of a member or officer.

This years winner is a long time member in good standing with the ABS. A very well known member and outstanding in their duties. Some of the things done by the winner are articles submitted to the *Begonian*, very knowledgeable of the species, excellent photographer and has served on numerous committees for the ABS, has been Show Chairman, and has served in a capacity to further the knowledge and love of begonias. It is my pleasure to bestow the prestigious Herbert P. Dyckman Award to:

**Johanna Zinn**



*Rekha Morris holds her award in the pajamas made in India that she wore to a Convention slumber party. Charles Jaros right above receives his Gene Salisbury Award. Below left, Cheryl Lenert holds her award and she also accepted the Award for her husband Charlie. Johanna Zinn below right with the prestigious Herbert P. Dyckman Award. Photos by Rekha Morris, Janet Welsh, Janet Welsh, and Mary Bucholtz, respectively.*



## **Eva Kenworthy Gray Award**

This next presentation is for the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award. This award is given for contributing original material toward helping the rank and file members further their study of begonias.

This person has been a member for a few years and has proven herself very worthy of winning. Some of the credits given to this person is writing wonderful articles for the *Begonian*, doing excellent photography and collecting begonias.

This winner is like a sponge, absorbing everything in the way to hear and learn more. One of the virtues of this individual is the knowledge of collecting and sharing her information.

This year the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award is presented to:

**Rekha Morris**

## **Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor**

There is no Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor recipient this year. Plant must be registered for 5 years and under 15 years of cultivation. No eligible winners were nominated this year.

## **Rudolph Ziezenhenne Award**

There is no award this year as no eligible candidates were nominated.

## **The Tim O'Reilly Award**

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

This year's winner is not a plant person, but is married to one. The winner is very patient and listens politely when the conversation is dominated by begonias, be it species, hybrids, or printings of the latest literature. This person has found a niche in his life by ignoring the long winded telephone conversations, his spouse working on the computer or entertaining a begonia visitor. He quietly entertains himself by cooking steaks for everyone.

This presentation is made to Max's Best friend,

**Charles Lenert.**

## **The Gene Salisbury Award**

The Gene Salisbury Award is presented to a grower who exemplifies the very best in cultural practices, but who also brings 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.

This year's winner is a person who has filled all of the qualifications for winning and fulfilled all of the criteria that is required to be elected for the award. Many begonias

have been grown and shown by this person; he probably has more ribbons, trophies, and cultural awards than anyone in the ABS. He has given many seminars which have helped us to emulate his skill at growing beautiful begonias.

This year's winner is:

**Charles Jaros**

### **The Marge Lee Award**

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

There is no doubt that the winner this year has gone above and beyond the criteria.

This person has never met a stranger and there is always a hug and a warm smile and to my knowledge has never lost their cool in a crisis. A quality that comes from this person is the ability to smooth over rough spots and is famous for calming things down when needed. This person has entertained many begonia people in the home and with some staying as long as two weeks. Now I would call this cementing goodwill. This winner is a very valuable asset to the ABS.

Our winner is Max's other friend.:

**Cheryl Lenert**

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## **A Novice's Faux Pas**

Innocently, inexperienced, and ambitiously, I eagerly began preparing my four begonias for entering in the Miami Begonia Show and was the first exhibitor to enter the showroom. Three of my plants would be entered in the Novice class as I had never before entered. The fourth plant was a hybrid named B. 'Charles Jaros' that I intended to enter in Division EE – Rhizomatous Unusual Growth and/or Foliage, Class 59 Rhizome jointed at or below soil with erect stems - since I wouldn't have to compete against myself. Several begonias were scattered around the room waiting for their owners to attend to them.

I started my grooming on 'Charles Jaros'. Very little pruning was necessary

but many leaves needed the brown edges trimmed. About halfway through, I was thinking, "I thought my plant was in better shape than this." After about 15 minutes, I finished the job and went on to my other entries.

Meanwhile, the real **Charles Jaros**, fellow club member and friend [thank goodness], began accepting entries. When I was ready, I placed B. 'Charles Jaros' on the table in front of Charles and when he looked up, he said, "That's my plant."

"Are you sure? I have a pot just like this," I replied. But of course, he was sure and showed me his nametag. My face

*Continued on page 143.*

# 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 Priority 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 Coo,  
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: jkldur@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:

Samuel Kennedy, 17 Meadowhead Road,  
Plains, Airdrie ML6 7JF Scotland.  
Ph: 4401236 754012 fax same.  
E-mail: Samuel@kennedy1934.fsnet.co.uk

Ph: 310-378-7527

## 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:** Doris L. Smith, 4505 Long Branch Ave., San Diego, CA 92107-2333, Ph: 619-222-1294.

**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:** Ingeborg Foo, 1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083, Ph: 760--724-4871

**Leslie Hatfield Monterey Bay Area Branch:** Karen Crummey, 25105 N. Crmel Hills Dr., Carmel, CA 93923-8302

**Orange County Branch:** Mary Sakamoto, 9682 Featherhill Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861, Ph: 714-637-8787.

**Palos Verdes:** Jeanne Jones, 1415 Via Margarita, Palos Verdes, CA 90274-2143,

**The Joan Coulat Sacramento Branch:** Morris Mueller, 163 Hartnell Pl., Sacramento, CA 95825-6609, Ph: 916-927-4921

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

**San Gabriel Branch:** Ken Dahlquist, 696 McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA 91767-3226, Ph: 909-622-6125

**Rudolf Ziesenhenné Branch:** Mike Flaherty, Pres., 1505 E. Valley Rd., Santa Barbara, CA

**Santa Clara Valley Branch:** Mary Ann Leer, 1220 Webster St., Santa Cruz, CA 95062-1626

**South Bay Branch:** Houston Knight, 13455 Hadley, Whittier, CA 90601, Ph 562-693-1973

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

**Westchester Branch:** Janet Brown, 7825 Kentwood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045-1150; Ph: 310-670-4471; JBBrown3@aol.com

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

#### Delaware Valley

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

Ph: 918-333-0091

## Florida

**Begonia Society of Tampa Bay:** Charles Jaros, 200 Maureen Dr., Sanford, FL 32771, Ph: 407-328-0618

**Miami Begonia Society:** Tim Anderson, 9995 SW 66th St., Miami, FL 33173, Ph: 305-274-9813

**Begonia Society of Palm Beaches Branch:** Virginia Jens, 12352 Westhampton Cir, Wellington, FL 33414, Ph. 561-798-0593

## 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:** Esther Detlefsen, 3336 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60634, Ph: 773-282-2255

## Massachusetts

**Bessie Buxton Branch:** Eugenia Cooke, 6 Bridle Path Cir., Framingham, MA 01701

## New York

**Knickerbocker Branch:** Nikki Taussig, 233 Harison Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904-1815 email: nytaussig@netscape.net

## 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,

## Pennsylvania

See Delaware Valley above

## Texas

**Alamo Branch:** Lucille Dyess, 3971 Flagle, San Antonio, TX 78237

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

**Dallas Area Branch:** Don Miller, 2342 Dorrington Dr., Dallas, TX 75228-5855, Ph: 214-823-1070

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

**Houston Satellite Branch:** Pat Foreman, 217 E. Schreck Street, Baytown, TX 77520-1953, PH: 281-424-1648

**San Jacinto Branch:** Lisa Holmes, 315 C.R. 417, Dayton, TX 77535, Ph: 713-562-2376

## Virginia

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

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**Please check your listing  
and if it has an error,  
notify the editor before July  
10 so that corrections may be  
included in the next issue.**

*Continued from page 139.*

turned purple and I admitted, "I've already groomed it," to which Charles said with sincerity, "Thank you."

Although I was mortified, I moved his plant back where I got it looking for my own. Sure enough, after I found mine, it was indeed a better-looking plant and only needed a little trimming. Since Charles entered his B. 'Charles Jaros' in a different class, both plants went on to win first place and received cultural awards. Later, I asked Charles if he worked any more on the plant I had prepared and he said, "No." How's that for a Novice?

## **In The Mailbox**

**by Greg Sytch, Horticultural  
Correspondent**

Lately, I have received many inquiries regarding where to purchase begonias. This has become a more difficult quest as there are very few mail order companies left. Logee's in Connecticut always ships quality plants, as does Kartuz in California,

but often begonias are looking for growers nearby that they can pick up plants in person.

I would like to know from Begonian members and readers if you come across any growers offering begonias locally. I will compile a list so that I can refer readers and those that ask where to go. If it is a small city, kindly remark as to a larger city nearby so that I know exactly where it is offered. Please inform me if the grower is commercial or retail. Here in Tampa Bay, Selby Gardens in Sarasota and USF Botanical Gardens in Tampa both have begonias available for sale, and during their Plant Festivals that occur a few times per year. I do have some available in my shadehouses at all times. Just email the info and I can keep track.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me or go to the website where my link occurs! Have a great season!

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

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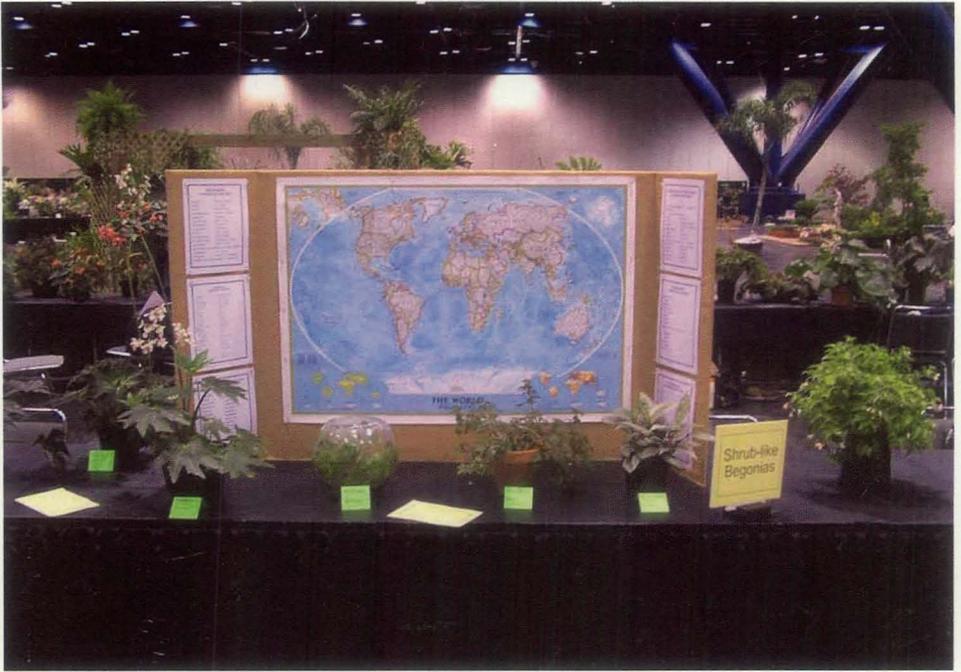
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NALS Executive Secretary  
P.O. Box 71, Owatonna, MN 55060  
For further information: [www.lilies.org](http://www.lilies.org)



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<http://www.hobbygreenhouse.org>



*Few people realize where our begonias grow; the Astro Branch showed them in the above display and below there were plenty of begonias to wow any audience in the Extravaganza on May 6, 2006 in downtown Houston. Photos are by **Bill Claybaugh**.*



# Houston Flower and Plant Extravaganza

Bill Claybaugh, Tom Keepin, and Orval Love

The Astro Branch participated in the first annual Houston Flower and Plant Extravaganza, held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston. The overall show was organized by the Houston Orchid Society and ran for three days, May 4 through May 7. Numerous other local plant societies participated, but the begonia display was second only to those of the Orchid Society. The Astros exhibited 120 begonias of all types and sizes grown by members of the branch. There was a good number of canes, rexes, and rhizomatous cultivars, with a lesser showing of thick-stem, semperflorens, and semi-tuberous. Numerous species of all types were also included. Overall, more than 20 branch members participated with plants and/or by "manning" the show.

This event was a rare opportunity to meet a large number of people from the Houston "flower community" and tell about begonias. The public showed a strong interest and were amazed at their beauty and diversity. In addition to the large number of plants shown, there were three large educational displays that drew considerable attention. One included a map of the world, tabulating some of the species found on different continents, and showed several typical plants. (*B. subvillosa*, South America; *B. kingiana*, Malaysia; *B. heracleifolia*, Mexico; *B. dregei*, South Africa; etc.)

A second display dealt with typical questions asked by those new to begonias. One-page handouts were available for each of three subjects, i.e. 1) horticultural types, 2) culture, and 3) propagation techniques. The third display touted the advantages of belonging to the ABS and included copies of the *Begonian*, the Astro newsletter *The Chatter*, and general information on

meeting places, times, etc. for the local branch.

The Branch did not sell plants at this show, but may in the future. The primary reason for participating in the event was to generate local interest in begonias and to locate new ABS members. We anticipate our new contacts will result in 10 to 20 new members, or more. We will keep you informed

Two pictures of the exhibition are included with this article, and many more are available on the Astro website. Just visit <http://absastro.tripod.com> and enjoy.

*Bill Claybaugh is also ABS Conservation Chair and you may contact him at the address shown on page 159.*

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# Conservation

## Comments

by Bill Claybaugh

Conservation Chairman, ABS

### *Begonia staudtii* and *microsperma*

The recent article on *B. staudtii* by **Charles Henthorne** stimulated me to finish an analysis of the same species that had laid around incomplete since last fall. Henthorne's article not only described his growing conditions and observation, but he included two excellent pictures. One of these pictures showed the total plant including the red colored leaf petioles. This turned out to be half of the information that I needed to complete a comparison of *B. staudtii* with a true "look-alike" species, *B. microsperma*.

I have been growing *B. microsperma* for several years, the original plant being purchased at the SWR Convention in San Antonio in 2000. (I'm sure everyone remembers the lush quarters we all enjoyed at that meeting.) Since that time, it has been a profuse bloomer, fairly easy to propagate and I have distributed numerous small plants to members of our local Astro Branch. Fairly recently, February of 2005 while at the Winter Board Meeting in Tampa, I saw and purchased what I thought was the same plant but under the name *B. staudtii*. Later, I was able to purchase two more *B. staudtii* at different ABS sales. Then this winter, while cleaning my terrariums I realized I had six nearly identical plants that were labeled either *B. staudtii* or *B. microsperma*. If you have grown these two plants side by side, you will appreciate that they look exactly alike; well almost exactly. Realizing this,

I was challenged to find a reliable way to tell them apart.

I first asked **Jack Golding** for reliable descriptions of these plants and he sent me copies of articles by **Dr. M. S M. Sosef**, Wageningen University Papers, published in 1994. These were very detailed descriptions of both plants, written in the same style and format by the same person. Unfortunately, most of the descriptions of plant parts had enough latitude in them caused by natural variation or by maturity of the plant, to make the differentiation very difficult. Never-the-less, I boldly noted several differences, some examples shown below, and attempted to use them for the separation. (Note: for this work S = *staudtii* and M = *microsperma*) My comments are in square brackets.

#### **Rhizome:**

S ...glabrous but especially the younger parts and around the leaf axils hirsute...

M ...usually glabrous, sometimes with long hairs around the leaf axis ... [No difference found]

#### **Stipules:**

S...medium green, glabrous or the midrib hirsute on the back...usually ciliate;

M ...at first dark red-brown but soon losing its colour and turning light green: not ciliate.

[S appeared to have small hairs on the margin but M did not]

#### **Leaf Petiole:**

S...light or bronze-green to dark red, densely hirsute with long, patent, wavy white hairs when young, less dense to only sparsely so when old.

M... completely glabrous to sparsely hirsute with long, patent, wavy, white hairs.

[A strong difference, S being very hairy and red and M being almost glabrous

and green]

**Blade margin:**

S...sometimes with a few coarse and shallow teeth in the upper part...margin usually denticulate, sometimes more or less entire...usually densely ciliate...top acute, rarely blunt.

M...margin entire to denticulate, especially in the upper half, sparsely to fairly densely ciliate...top acute. [No difference found]

**Blade upper surface:**

S...usually densely bullate with small bullae in compound groups of 3-4, each bulla crowned with a stiff erect white hair, the center of the blade usually with a tuft of hairs.

M...sharply conically bullate, the bullae solitary and topped with a single stiff erect white hair, some hairs at the center of the blade with a red base. [No difference found, both had bullae in compound groups and topped with a stiff white hair]

**Blade Main Nerves under surface:**

S...prominent, medium green and hirsute to densely so with patent white hairs, smaller secondary nerves prominent, variable hirsute...

M...prominent, medium green and hirsute with rather short, patent, stiff hairs which are white with dark brown-red base. [Little difference found, but S tended to be more hairy]

**Female Flower ovary:**

S... 4 locular, 4-winged all along... wings patent [spreading], narrowly elliptic, 0.25-1.7 mm wide, pale greenish, the margin glabrous.

M... 4-locular, not or very narrowly 4-winged all along ... wings (when present) patent, ribbon-shaped or narrowly elliptic-obovate, 0-1.4 mm wide, pale green, the margin entire, glabrous. [For my plants, only M has bloomed and it is clearly without

wings]

I carefully examined each of my six plants for each of the above criteria and a few more not shown. When everything was complete, I was only able to use one of the criteria with any degree of confidence, namely the description of the leaf petiole. I found that the three plants I had purchased as *B. staudtii* had petioles with a very heavy covering of hair, i.e. they were "densely hirsute" and were dark red at the base fading to green near their top. The other three plants which are clones of my original *B. microsperma* had petioles that were almost hairless, i.e. "completely glabrous to sparsely hirsute" and were uniformly green throughout. Using the stipules to differentiate has promise, but the elements are very small and difficult to see. The last criteria of interest, and the one that is probably the most reliable, is the winged or un-winged ovaries. Unfortunately, my *B. staudtii* had not bloomed yet so I could not confirm the ovary had wings, but my *B. microsperma* ovaries were clearly wingless.

In frustration, I called Charles and asked if his plants had female blooms and if so, did the ovaries have wings. He responded with exactly the information needed. He and **Leora** have a set of plants, both *B. staudtii* and *B. microsperma*, and he sent me numerous photos. Included in these photos were several that clearly showed *B. staudtii* with four wings on the seed capsule. He also photographed leaf surfaces, petioles, and the undersides. All of the photos confirmed the above analysis.

In conclusion, when trying to differentiate *B. staudtii* from *B. microsperma*, one should compare the leaf petioles and the female flower ovaries. The *B. staudtii* petiole will be red in color, very hairy, and the ovary will have four distinct wings.

*B. microsperma* will have green petioles that are only sparsely hairy, and the ovary will most likely, but not always, be wingless.

---

## A Begonia Quiz

1. What is the begonia whose name means it is "without a stem?"
2. Name a begonia with only female flowers on one plant and male flowers on another?
3. What plant is *Begonia's* closest relative?
4. Begonias have inferior ovaries. What does that mean?
5. Begonias have wings. What does that mean?
6. Who maintains the world's definitive Begonia species listing?
7. What are begonia stipules?
8. What is the function of stipules?
9. Name three begonia species with peltate leaves.
10. What begonia sometimes exhibits a hastate leaf.
11. Which begonias have a fibrous root system?
12. Are begonia inflorescences dichasial or monochasial?
13. Name a begonia with parted leaves.
14. Name a begonia with lobed leaves.
15. Name a begonia with cleft leaves.
16. What is a hybrid?
17. What is a cultivar?
18. How many described species of *Begonia* are there?
19. What organization provides the rules and regulations governing the scientific naming of begonias and other plants?
20. How many sections of *Begonia* are there?

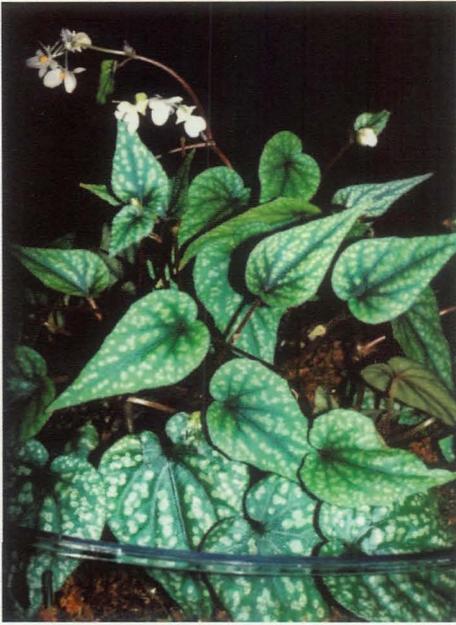
What's your score? If you don't know all the answers to these questions and many more, then you must order **Jack Golding's** invaluable publication *Seeing Begonia*. It is available at \$12 including postage from:

**Ann Salisbury**  
P.O. Box 452  
Tonkawa, OK 74653  
Ph: 580-628-5230  
Email: [geneann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geneann@sbcglobal.net)

Want to see more quizzes? Why not make one up and send it to the editor? If you want the answers to this one in the next issue, email the editor at: [fredaholley@bellsouth.net](mailto:fredaholley@bellsouth.net).



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*Mary Bucholtz' photos convince us that B. U496 is indeed a captivating species. For more fascinating aspects see page 151..*



# *My Four Year Old Begonia Now Has a U Number - B. U496*

by Mary Bucholtz

On my very first visit to **Mary Sizemore's** greenhouse, I saw a small, but enchanting begonia growing in with some larger leaved varieties. I had never seen anything like it before!

Mary explained it was just something with a very pretty leaf that she had picked up somewhere in Vietnam. You see, Mary is very fond of variegated leaved plants and those with patterned leaves. Is it no wonder we are thrilled with the begonias she shares with us from her collecting trips?

From that visit, spring 2002, I came home with a tiny rooted leaf. Tiny, it was the size of a penny, and I was ever so happy it was mine. This "baby of mine" sat in a mix of sphagnum and perlite, in a medicine cup, in a tiny terrarium for nine months. And sit it did, but at least it was alive. One day there was a new leaf, then another. At last, I had a begonia that was growing. After several moves, it reached a ten inch bubble, where it remained for a year or so.

In the fall of 2004, it was ready for a 16" floor terrarium. I placed it at the entrance to my balcony, just where the living room ends and the balcony begins. It is eight feet from floor to ceiling window light, which it receives each day until about 1:00 p.m. I would call this low light. It is also adjacent to a 20" industrial type floor fan. The fan pulls cool air from the living room so there is that cool air circulating around and under the terrarium. This, I believe, keeps the planting mix at a cooler temperature. In this location with the ceiling fans, this seems to be sufficient to keep the begonia happy during our hot summers

when temperatures on my balcony can reach 110 degrees.

The begonia filled the terrarium and first bloomed May, 2005 and continued through August of the same year. It is fed only twice a year with Peters 20-20-20. It continues to grow in the sphagnum-perlite mix as described in Millie and Ed Thompson's book, *Begonias*.

I was delighted to be able to share this treasured begonia with ABS members at our recent 2006 Convention in Miami. It made its debut at the show and not only received a Cultural Certificate, but more importantly the Unidentified number of *U496*.

*Begonia U496* is tuberous, growing from a round tuber. The round succulent stem is maroon, weak, and often falls and roots at nodes. It is slightly pilose and seldom branched with leaf arrangement alternating at about 2 inch intervals. The glabrous leaf stems are lighter maroon. The 3 3/4 inch pea green leaves are triangular elongated; base is deeply cordate (heart shaped), with no overlap, and no acute apex. The leaf margin is entire, crenulate and ciliate, red-maroon palmate venation radiating from a dark maroon dot at the leaf attachment, fading to a darker green as it extends the leaf. Leaves are soft and thin, covered in silver-white dots, and a soft, short hair protrudes from each dot. Dots appear on all leaves. The dots do not touch the veins. The underside is a lighter pea green, veins lighter maroon, entire surface sparsely covered in same short white hairs. Underside margin is edged in light maroon.

Inflorescence appears on the ter-



*The leaves are not only beautiful, they also grow babies while still on the plant.  
Photos by Mary Bucholtz.*



mination of the main stem and are pure white. The male flower opening first, has four tepals. The female flower has five tepals. Both male and female flowers are 1 1/2 to 2 inches in size Blooms appear May through August.

Plantlets form at the end of each leaf very quickly. They do not even have to touch the medium for this to occur. Also plantlets can form at the end of each vein at the margin of the leaves.

Hieu Nguyen, Taxonomist and Horticulturist, Begonias and Vietnamese Native Plants, and a doctoral student at the New York Botanic Garden is from Vietnam and he thought *B. U496* to be a new species. The seminar Hiew presented at our 2006 Convention featured many new begonias from his homeland. So much of Vietnam is yet to be explored; it is rich in begonias. As I'm sure you can guess, I am anxious for these new species to appear.

---

## Holiday Greetings

It is time to demonstrate support for the *Begonian* in the way of holiday greetings.

In the November/December holiday issue, the magazine will devote its pages to begonias with a special page that shows the greetings and support of holiday donors.

Both branch and individual donors will be designated in the following categories.

Platinum	over \$100
Gold	\$51 to \$100
Silver	\$26 to \$50
Bronze	\$1 to \$25

Remember no donation is too small as the costs of printing and postage are continuing to increase. Current membership dues do not cover the cost of publishing and mailing six issues. Member support through the annual convention, commercial ads, and such donations as this make it possible to continue with six issues. We hope that you will send your support to make these issues possible.

Individual donations are very important as well as branch donations to make it possible to reach our goals.

Remember donations are tax deductible and if you wish an acknowl-

edgement for this gift, please so indicate.

Wanda will be unable to attend the SWR Get-Together this year, so it is important to mail her your check by September 1 made out to ABS with the notation that it is "For holiday greetings." Branches received a letter with the last meeting minutes.

Mail donations to;

Wanda Macnair  
ABS, Holiday Greetings Chair  
59 Walker Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

---

**If you want your branch event listed on the Coming Events page, please mail or email a listing (see page 158 for format) to the editor at the address shown on page 158.**

# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND LISTING

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*The seed fund is a service to members only.  
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The seed fund is a project of the Margaret Lee Branch. At our monthly meetings members help to clean and package seeds for the seed bank. All seeds are tested for germination by various members before they are added to the list and made available in the *Begonian*.

Each year, in the Jan/Feb issue, a complete inventory of available seeds is prepared and printed in the *Begonian*. In each issue new additions to the inventory are listed along with deletions of "sold out" items. Seeds can be ordered by name from the inventory list at any time in the year.

There is insufficient room for descriptions of the entire list each issue. All new additions to the seed fund and selections from the inventory list are described in each issue of the magazine.

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

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**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. Hybrid names are made consistent with the "ABS Check List of Begonia Hybrids" edited by **Howard Berg** dated 9/13/2005.

Please delete from the master inventory list  
*Begonia* U014, U415, and *dregei*

Thanks to **Thelma O'Reilly** for these additions to the seed fund inventory this month.

*Begonia* U442 from Brazil, syn J11, (limited quantity)

*B. kenworthyae* Ziesenhenné [Mexico] (Sect. *Gireoudia*). Erect succulent green thick rhizome to 6 in.; 12" X 8" leaves, unequally sharply lobed, basally cordate, serrate, red-ciliate, fleshy, slate grey, green veins, covered with a grey bloom; white flowers in many flowered cymes; winter.

### Descriptions

*B. hirtella* Link [West Indies and S. America] (Sect. *Doratometra*) herbaceous annual to 2 feet, shiny green stems and petioles with entangled white hairs; green leaves, upper leaf surface finely pubescent, oblique heart shaped with scalloped margins; white flowers on peduncles from the leaf axils; all parts somewhat hairy.

*B. incarnata* Link & Otto [Mexico] (Sect. *Knesebeckia*) Shrub-like with small, bare, green leaves and fragrant rose-pink flowers.

*B. paleata* Schott ex A. DC. (Brazil) Shrub like with distinctive foliage. It has rough textured leaves.

*B. paranaensis* (Brade) Brazil. Thick stemmed; sparse green leaves with sparse small bristles over the upper surface; white flowers.

*B. peltata* Otto & Dietrich var. *peltata*, [Mexico, Guatemala] (Sect. *Gireoudia*) Stems 1-3 feet, succulent, hairy; leaves peltate, ovate, acuminate, green with white felting above; flowers white on long erect peduncles in winter.

*B. pinetorum* A. de Candolle [Mexico]

(Sect. *Gireoudia*) Rhizomatous; leaves thin, palmately 8-10 veined, upper surface tawny tomentose but easily rubbed off leaving bare patches, lower surface sparsely tomentose except thicker along veins; petioles 5-10" long; flowers white to pink held high above the leaves. The contributor assures us that this is the true species.—\$2.00 per packet.

***B. pustulata***

***B. robusta***

***B. roezlii***

*B. sericoneura* Liebmann [Honduras] (Sect. *Gireoudia*) (Syn. *hypolipara* Sandwith) Rhizome trunk-like non-ramified; leaves basifixed cordate, dull green, thick, soft, oval, entire to 20 inches; prominent veins and reddish hairs; profuse large white flowers in spring.

*B. solananthera* A. de Candolle [Brazil] (Sect. *Solananthera*) trailing scandent; green leaves; fragrant white flowers with red centers.

*B. ulmifolia* Willd. [Venezuela] (Sect. *Donaldia*) Tall growing, thick stemmed, erect to 6 feet, branched, light green; hairy leaved, medium leaved, to 5 in., ovate-oblong, doubly serrate, somewhat rough-hairy, green; flowers many, 1/2 in., white, spring. The name means foliage like an elm tree.

*B. venosa* Skan [Brazil] (Sect. *Begonia*) Erect thick-stemmed; fleshy, deeply cupped green leaves with white scurf, short petioles; white blossoms with a spicy fragrance on moderately long peduncles in winter and early spring. The begonia was found on an island near the Brazilian coast and is unusual in its structure. Due to the dry, persistent large stipules and the heavy tomentum covering the leaves, it requires less moisture than most begonias. When grown in the shade, this plant has greyish green leaves; given morning and late afternoon sun the leaves appear almost white. Refrain from overwatering this begonia during the winter season, and

keep only slightly moist in summer. Use a medium light soil and allow for excellent drainage.<SF Jul-Aug 2006.doc>

## Editor's Notes

I am still adjusting to growing in sandy soil. If it doesn't rain, one has to water everything except established trees and shrubs every third day. That takes a lot of time when you are trying to get new things established. This is an area meant to be lived in the shade and if you grow begonias that means planting trees everywhere. Although I have three large shady areas, you know that is not enough for a begonia grower! Once established though trees and shrubs become outsized, some shrubs are larger than I would have believed possible. And the dogwood, crepe myrtle, and red bud trees I'm accustomed to growing small can tower.

My special thanks to all those who helped me out by contributing to this issue. I only wish I could include *all* the great photos; what a beautiful convention it was.

I hope you have enjoyed the article by **Mary Bucholtz** on her unidentified begonia. I know many of you are growing unidentifieds about which we know little. If only you too would write to tell us about them!

**Johanna Zinn** took a beautiful photo of B. 'Tangeluma' at Palm Hammock and if anyone if Florida could write a few paragraphs about that plant I'd love to use the photograph. It's a beauty. Johanna also took a lovely photo of *B barsalouxiae* and if anyone has experience growing that I could use a few paragraphs about that one to use with the photo as well.

Remember, your articles don't have to be long, but oh how I need them! I'm short for the next issue!! Use the hot days to write -gives an excuse to be inside!

~FH

---

## Membership Notes

by Donna Marsheck

Our Branches are picking up new members: PalmBeaches Branch-6, Sacramento Branch-7, San Gabriel Valley Branch-2, Orange County Branch-1, Fred A. Barkley Branch-2, Westchester Branch-2, and Astro Branch-2. PayPal has brought ABS 21 new members from: NY-6, CA-3, TX-3, IN-2, MD-1, IL-1, CO-1, OR-1, OH-1, and PA-2.

Other internet and/or mail activity has resulted in 14 new members from: KY-1, NY-2, SC-2, CA-1, LA-1, AL-1, MN-1, NM-1, WI-1, VA-1, Japan-1, and France-1 for a total of 57 new members. All members in the U.S.A. have received a reminder notice except for those whose dues are due in November and December.

As of April 30, 2006 we have 971 mailing labels in the U.S.A. and 90 overseas mailing labels; many of these are multiple member households. Members whose dues were delinquent as of the May/June issue of the *Begonian* were taken off the mailing list.

The list grows nearly every day as dues come in. Let's hope that by the next mailing of the July/August issue most of our dues will have been sent in and we can start getting an accurate number of active members.

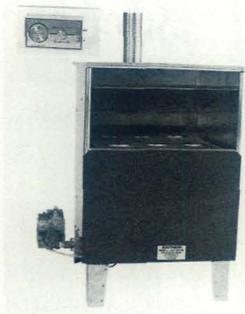
Until next time,

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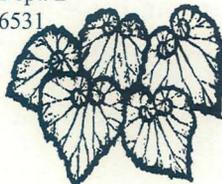
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## COMING EVENTS

**Sunday August 27, 2006 Palos Verdes Begonia Society Branch show and sale 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.** at the South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274, (310) 544-6815, Ample, easy and free parking. жжGarden admission fee unless otherwise indicated. ж For information contact: Becky Coffey, Show Chairman, (562) 429-7158, email: beckkyc@hotmail.com

**September 14, 15, 16 2006, Southwest Region Get-Together and Annual ABS Board Meeting**, "Meet Me in Saint Louie", Hilton St. Louis Frontenac, 1335 South Lindbergh Blvd. South, St. Louis, Missouri, 63131, \$89 plus tax per night. Free Airport transfers. Seminars and tours are planned.

**2007 American Begonia Society Convention<sup>A</sup>: Scotland! Details to come.**

**2007 American Begonia Society Convention<sup>B</sup>, Los Angeles, CA, Palos Verdes Branch hosting. Details to come.**

**March 22-26, 2008, Association of Australian Begonia Societies Convention in Brisbane, Australia.** Begin you plans! More information to come.

*Due Date for Sept./Oct. Issue is July 1, 2006!*

---

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