
The
Begonian
January/February 2007

The **Begonian**

ISSN 0096-8684

Publication of the American Begonia Society

American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Membership - Subscription, dues, circulation, inquiries, and address changes: Donna Marsheck, 5218 Brock Dr., Bartlesvile, OK 74006: Ph: 918-333-1587; Email: dmarsheck@yahoo.com

Cover

Front: This magnificent *B. barkeri* grew in the Garden of the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach, Florida where **Mary Bucholtz** photographed it in February of 2002. Seed of *B. barkeri* will be available in this year's annual Seed Fund Listing on Page 33.

Back: The theme of this year's SWR Get-Together (See page 16) will be "Back to the Good Old Days" featuring heritage begonias. No doubt you will find sale plants of *B.* 'Sophie Cecile', one of our older cane-like begonias; Mary Bucholtz found and photographed a lovely example of this one at Longwood Gardens in Florida in March of 2002.

In This Issue

In this issue we are most pleased to welcome back to our *Begonian* writers **Millie Thompson** who brings us a new article on *B. bipinnatifida* and **Kingsley Langenberg,** well known among internet begonia correspondents, with his article differentiating *B. tayabensis* and *B. hernandioides.* **Charles Henthorne** continues his series on terrarium begonias and **Rekha Morris**, even as she is off to Mexico once again, brings more on her begonia discoveries in Mexico. And new to our pages **Michael Higson** updates us on the New Orleans Botanic Garden recovery.

Index

Articles

Regular Features

Happy New Year to All

If you haven't yet paid your dues,
they are due!
Send Them to the Membership Chair Today.

President's Message

Happy New Begonia Year to you all. 2007 will be a very busy year for us with many interesting events. First is the Southwest Region Get-Together in Oklahoma City at the end of April. Then we go international as we journey to Scotland at the invitation of the Scottish Begonia Society in early August. And for the grand finale you are all invited to Begonias in Paradise—California Style, the 2007 ABS convention in Los Angeles, September 4-9. We hope you will be able to attend all three of these events as they are all very special. In Scotland you will have a chance to see the fabulous Ayr Flower Show as part of the itinerary and that is something that every flower and begonia lover should see in their lifetime. It is fabulous!

I had the great pleasure in early October of attending the San Diego branches begonia show at Balboa Park. Three branches put this show on every fall, the Margaret Lee, Mabel Corwin and the Alfred D. Robinson. These branches are quite small but as you will remember put on a superb convention in 2004 for us. This was the first time I had been at their local show and it was a magnificent display of begonias with a great plant sale as well. Kartuz Greenhouses and Ades & Gish had display tables that were delightful. The members brought some lovely plants for the show (it was not a judged show) and there was quite a good turnout on both Saturday and Sunday. Balboa Park is a great place to visit on its own and it is always crowded with all kinds of events going on. Just in the time I was there I met people from all over California and the U.S. including two from Oklahoma who were very interested in what they saw. They were told about begonias in their area and given information about joining ABS.

My point is *The Importance of Shows.* Yes, they are a lot of work. I have been Show Chairman for Westchester Branch since 1992 and was Convention Chairman in 1999 for the ABS so I do know how much work they are. But they are worth it! Shows bring us new members and open the world of begonias to everyone. If your branch can put on a show just do it. And if several branches get together to share the work and the profit that's even better. Shows bring us together in friendly contact with old and new members and our communities as we work together to promote begonias and the American Begonia Society.

A REQUEST FROM BRANCH RELATIONS CHAIR MARY BUCHOLTZ: Either Presidents or National Directors should have received the letter ***Mary Bucholtz*** sent out in October regarding membership in the American Begonia Society. When you have signed up your members at the start of the new year would you please send Mary a list of your paid up branch members as soon as possible. This way we can see how things are going and will help to determine what actions we will have to take when the board meets at the end of April. We hope that Mary's letter will have the desired effect and that all branch members will be ABS members.

Be sure to visit **begonias.org** to see the newest additions. You may download (very easily) the Joan Coulat Sacramento Branch's Plant of the Month which is done by **Paul Tsamtsis, Morris Mueller, Julie Vanderwilt** and others. These are beautiful and interesting publications that you will love. Thanks to Julie, Paul and Webmaster **Mary Rafferty** for their hard work in getting these articles online. And I would like to thank Julie Vanderwilt for her fine and innovative work as Internet Editor. Our site gets better and better.

Check it out!

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope you will make your plans to attend our very special events in 2007.

In friendly contact,

Janet Brown

Letters to the Editor

DROWNED , BUT NOT OUT.....

At a passing glance, the scene from 600 feet is strangely disorienting, a lake of blue waters from which several large buildings protrude, surrounded by a canopy of trees. But this lake that extends throughout the 1,500 acres of New Orleans City Park & well beyond, is no normal lake. What the camera has captured is the flooded & ravaged Botanical Gardens in the immediate aftermath of hurricane Katrina (Aug 29, 2005). This is not rainwater but brackish water from the Gulf that will now sit up to four feet high in the greenhouses & the Conservatory for a week, before receding as the Corps of Engineers slowly pumped the city dry. It is a scene of devastation, as the receding water reveal a muck of disorder: downed trees and limbs, plants torn from their original homes, and a thousand rose bushes that would have to be pulled.

At its genesis in 1936-38, during Roosevelt's WPA program, twelve acres of City Park were planted as a rose garden, to which was added statues by the noted sculptor, Enrique Alverez. The roses were set among the existing live oak trees, themselves a beleagued remnant of a much larger forest of an ikonic tree. One has only to think of duels under the oaks, or of Spanish moss to begin to understand this tree's significance. Somehow they survived the saline water; the magnolias, on the other hand, did not.

With the decline of local financing in the early Eighties, a volunteer organization - Friends of City Park - emerged as a pivotal body in the re-creation of the Garden with more facets than its parent. So was born the New Orleans Botanical Gardens, a repository of plants indigenous to the Gulf South as well as sub-tropicals from many parts of the world. The Gardens are now self supporting through plant sales; seminars, and rental of its space in the Pavillion of Two Sisters which along with the Conservatory was built in the classical Palladian style.

It was under the glass dome of the Conservatory I was shown some recent plantings of Rex begonia. They had been given pride of place - had come from Florida along with three varieties of cane-like begonias planted in the Tropical Garden. My guide was unsure of their exact origin. The Gardens "old" stock of Begonias had disappeared in the flood.

The story of the Gardens recovery is one of an outpouring of volunteer effort from many parts of the country, **Anne Raver** reporting with some astonishment (in the *New York Times*) at the rate of progress in mid- February, mentioned the involvement of the Garden Conservancy who had brought in crew of professional gardeners from New York and Rhode Island; and of help from the Smithsonian, the Rio Grande Botanic garden in Albuquerque, and a host of groups and individuals. Some of the heavy-lifting was provided by members of the National Guard who, it may be recalled, patrolled the city for several months after the storm .

To recover fully the Gardens will have to replenish its lost plant stock consisting, I was told by the Director **Mr. Paul Soniat**, of two thousand species. His

Continued on page 24.

B. bipinnatifida J. J. Smith

by Mildred L. Thompson

For a very long time I have wanted to grow a *Begonia* species with fern-like leaves. I had seen species with this characteristic among references that I was studying, but, unfortunately, it was not cultivated in this country during the 1980's before we closed our greenhouse and stopped growing begonias. Within the last two years I started to grow a few species in a very small fluorescent light garden. When I searched in the Kartuz Greenhouses catalogue, I found one of these species, *B. bipinnatifida,* and immediately I ordered one. I have been fascinated with *B. bipinnatifida* ever since.

B. bipinnatifida was found and collected in 1903 in Netherlands New Guinea (western New Guinea) during the explorations of **Prof. Wichmann**. It was found in primeval forest growing high on Mount Horne in rocky places. This species was introduced in a live state by **Mantri Djibdja** to the Botanical Garden of Buitenzorg. In 1906, **J. J. Smith** published the original citation of *B. bipinnatifida* in *Bulletin du Departement de l'Agriculture aux Indies Neerlandaises.* In this citation it was noted that this species resembles the Asian *Aralis.*

For botanical classification *B. bipinnatifida* was placed in the section ***Petermannia*** with *Begonia* species with like characteristics**.** This section is one of the largest sections in the genus *Begonia* with approximately 200 species. Typically female flowers precede the male flowers in this section**;** this is ordinarily not found in the genus *Begonia.* Some other Asian species in this section that are presently in cultivation are *B. aequata, amphioxus, augustae, borneensis, brevirimosa, chlorosticta, cumingii, malachosticta, palmata, polilloensis,* and *serratipetala.*

B. bipinnatifida is shrub-like with erect and semi-erect cylindral deep red stems that are branched. Stems rise from the base of the plant. The mature deep red stems are somewhat zig-zag from thickened node to thickened node. Average mature leaves on my plant measure 5 inches in length and 2 inches wide. The upper surface of the leaves is deep green; in contrast, the undersurface is deep red. Leaf shape is obliquely oblong-ovate with an acute apex and an obliquely obtuse or slightly semi-cordate base. The leaf is deeply twice-divided outward on both sides of the deep red midrib into twelve to sixteen narrow taper-pointed divisions with the divisions decreasing toward the apex of the leaf. The name *B. bipinnatifida* comes from the Latin *bipinnatus* which means twice pinnate**;** each division of the pinnate leaf is also pinnate. The somewhat translucent very pale pink stipule at the base of the petiole is oblong and the apex is acute. The margin of the stipule is entire.

The identification of *B. bipinnatifida* and *B. warburgii* has been confused and questioned because they look very much alike. The distinquishing characteristic for *B. bipinnatifida* is the entire margin of the stipules (see photo). *B. warburgii* has stipules with serrated margins. **Dr. Lyman Smith** determined this after studying the herbarium specimens of both species. (See: ***Begoniaceae*** **Ed. 1** page 20)

J. J. Smith, in his original citation, mentioned that *B. bipinnatifida* blooms infrequently in cultivation and the flowers are tiny. Additionally he mentioned that he was only able to examine one male and one female for the citation. The inflorescences are short, one to three-flowered and are bisexual. However, up to the present time, I

Photos by Millie Thompson.

have only had one-flowered inflorescences with female flowers. The pedicels are deep red. The female flowers have five slightly unequal pink tepals that are oblong or elliptic-obtuse. The styles and stigmas are golden yellow; threadlike erect styles are diverging and the velvety semi-crescent shaped stigmas are somewhat twisted. The deep pink ovary has three wings with two equal in size and one smaller; the base of the wings is broadly ovate and widens toward the broadly acute apex The fruit is not berry-like; it is dehisent. Male flowers have two kidney-shaped pink tepals. The club-shaped stamens number approximately thirty-three and form a cone; the short white filaments are slightly flattened and the anthers are erect turning outward.

A factor in the successful growing of *B. bipinnatifida* is to consider the growing environment. When making this decision, it is important to get information about the native habitat for the species; this information can be found in the original citation. J. J. Smith writes that it was collected in primeval forest in rocky places high on Mount Horne. A primeval forest is a forest with substantial wooded areas untouched by humans or fires. It has a thick forest floor usually made up of fallen trees in various stages of decay. This combined information suggests that it was found in the cooler temperature of the higher altitude in the tropical climate of western New Guinea. The facts of the natural habitat also indicate that this species would probably require filtered sunlight or filtered bright light; the amount of filtering should be decided according to the geographic location where *B. bipinnatifida* is being grown. Additionally, it suggests that high humidity is required; this can usually be accomplished in a greenhouse or in the contained atmophere of a terrarium

I do not have a choice, I must grow this species adjacent to my small fluorescent light garden in a terrarium. It is placed on a table touching the light shelves, but not directly under the shelves with fluorescent lights. This environment has proven successful for me. I have some air conditioning in the warmer weather and some heating during the colder months; neither the air conditioning or heating is controlled by a separate thermostat. *B. bipinnatifida* is challenging, but it is definitely worth the effort. I live in the northeast in southeastern New York.

The terrarium that I use is made up by using two clear plastic ice buckets with one ice bucket inverted over the other one; the resulting size of the terrarium is 12 inches wide and 18 1/4 inches high. The growing medium is prepared long fiber sphagnum moss and perlite. The sphagnum moss is prepared by placing it in the hottest water possible for at least 5 minutes. Then the moss is drained and cut it into small pieces. Four parts of the prepared moss is mixed with one part perlite. To pot the mature species I use a squatty plastic container with drain holes that measures 8 inches wide and 4 inches deep. At the bottom of the container a layer of small white Alpine marble chips is placed and then a layer of perlite is placed over the chips. The marble chips and perlite help to neutralize any acids formed by the peat moss and give some drainage space so that the medium is not too wet. The container is placed inside the terrarium with the cover very slightly open. Presently my plant is approximately fifteen inches high from the surface of the growing medium. However, when the plant is younger and smaller, it is best to use a smaller container according to the size of the plant; this will produce a more compact plant.

For a healthy and strong plant, periodic fertilizing is important. When the growing medium is slightly dry to touch, water sparingly using a constant feed fertilizer, the kind that you would use for indoor plants. I use Schultz or Hyponex

fertilizer and I follow the instructions on the box. The plant should never be soaking wet because it will quickly rot, but rather water very carefully until the growing medium is slightly moist. If it is watered excessively, tilt the terrarium or container to the side and syphon off the extra water with a kitchen type baster or something similar.

Grooming is a another significant factor.The removal of dead leaves is important for a clean and healthy plant. For a more compact plant, it is advisable to take stem cuttings and then propagate the stem cuttings so that they are not wasted. The sharing of cuttings and small plants with other begonia enthusiasts and commercial growers who specialize in begonias is extremely important so that these rare species remain in cultivation and are available to more growers.

Propagation of *B. bipinnatifida* is not difficult. Place one or two leaves in the growing medium in the same container as the mature plant. Stem cuttings and leaf cuttings can also be placed in small individual pots using the same sphagnum/perlite mix and then placed inside a large clear plastic container with a clear plastic cover. Place the prepared cuttings and leaves under fluorescent lights preferrably the bottom shelf where there is no additional heat underneath from another fluorescent light. For a few days, the stem cuttings and leaf cuttings may look very limp, but they will revive and in time the cuttings will become small plants.

I asked *begonia* enthusiasts in different parts of the country and Australia about the growing environment where they choose to grow this species and their results. Most replies indicated the use of fluorescent lights and placing *B. bipinnatifida* in a terrarium. Some growers have controlled air conditioning for the warm weather and controlled heating for the cold weather; they have good results with this species. In the south where the temperature is high, it is difficult to successfully grow this species regardless of the environment unless the temperature and humidity are controlled. However, growers wth greenhouses regardless of their geographic location can grow this species successfully provided there is sufficient humidity and the temperature is controlled. Most growers report that this species can be a very tempermental species that will collapse without warning. I also asked questions about the flowers and the amount of flowers. Some growers have never had flowers, some have had some flowers, but no one indicated that it was floriferous.The following growers have shared information concerning their growing environment and their results: **Mary Bucholtz** (northern Florida), **Carmel** and **Ken Browne** (Australia), **Bill Claybaugh** (southern Texas), **Joan Coulat** (northern California), **Charles Jaros** (southern Florida), **Michael Kartuz** (southern California), **Tom Keepin** (Southern Texas), **Gene Salisbury** (Oklahoma), Linda Shires (northern Texas), **Mark Tebbitt** (Brooklyn), **Paul Tsamtsis** (northern California), and **Johanna Zinn** (Virginia).

I would like to thank **Jack Golding** for generously sharing copies of many botanical references and botanical observations and comments and, in addition, copies of observations by **Carrie Karegeannes** and her translation of the original citation of *B. bipinnatifida.* Additionally I would like to thank **Mark Tebbitt** for his observations and comments.

Begonia leprosa, *flowers above and full plant below. Photos by* ***Charles Henthorne****.*

BEGONIA leprosa

By Charles Henthorne

At this time of the year, Leora and I are getting ready for the cooler temperatures that are just around the corner. We find that along with the cool weather comes an increase in the growth of most of our terrarium begonias. *B. leprosa* is certainly not an exception to this, as our inspection of the begonias this past week showed all three of our terrariums of this begonia doing quite well. We have our big mother plant in a large 16 inch terrarium, a back up in a 8 inch terrarium, and several starts going in another 8 inch terrarium. We hope to see some blooms this fall, even though *B. leprosa* is a shy bloomer, and does not bloom every season. However the plant itself is enough of a show stopper that we enjoy having it in a main area of our plant room where we can readily observe its beauty and growth.

Mark Tebbitt in his book *Begonias* says that *B. leprosa* is from China, in section *Leprosae*. It is classified as a creeping rhizomatous type, and was formerly called *B. U333*, or more commonly called the "Japanese Begonia". It has medium green broadly cordate almost circular leaf blades, which are 3 x 3 1/2 inches in diameter, and bracts with eyelash-like hairs on their margins, which help to distinguish and identify it. The leaves have a satin finish, flat green color, crisp texture, rarely peltate, with petioles pink, sparse to densely long haired, blades above are dull green, hairless, and beneath are paler green with pink hairs on veins, and have white to pink flowers. The inflorescence is short, four to nine flowered, and are typically bisexual. The male flowers have four tepals white to pink, and the female flowers also have four tepals with the same color as the males.

B. leprosa was first discovered in 1881 near the southern Chinese port city of Guangzhou, then known as Canton. Mark Tebbitt says that it appeared in the United States in the early 1980's when it was imported from a Japanese garden and distributed by **Rudolf Ziesenhenne** under the collection #RZ 275. In the wild, it has been documented as growing in moist shady areas among rocks, or on moist cliffs in dense tropical forests at altitudes of 1200-1500 m. The name *leprosa* is Latin for "leprous" and refers to a crusty coating often found on the species' lower leaf surfaces after the plant has been pressed and dried.

We have found *B. leprosa* is a most desirable species, which is very easy to grow for us. For some reason it is not cultivated as frequently as it should be, and is classified as rare in cultivation. As I said above, it flowers sparsely from late summer to late winter. It requires humid terrarium growing conditions under lights, or in a greenhouse.

When *B. leprosa* puts new leaves out, they are covered with small white spots, that remind Leora of fawns' spots. As the leaves reach maturity those same spots fade away, leaving the more typical colored mature leaves. It is a vigorous fast growing begonia and we enjoy it immensely. We have given many starts from our mother plant to begonia growers all over the United States. We have placed terrariums with this plant in many different places in our plant room, giving it numerous different growing conditions, which involve different lighting, different temperatures, and different heights for the terrarium, thinking to find the ideal growing conditions for it. All locations we have placed it in seem to be satisfactory. If we can conclude anything from

our experience with this begonia, it is that it does not like to become dry. We keep it barely moist at all times, and we leave it in a high humidity environment. Our potting medium is the same as **Millie Thompson** uses, and again this seems to be very satisfactory for *B. leprosa*.

We have included a photo of the immature leaves, as well as a photo of the blooms. Both show very well what I have described above. The blooms are beautiful, being a little larger than I had expected. However, if one enjoys blooms, the amount of time between each blooming cycle does leave a lot to be desired. When the plant does bloom it makes it all the more precious and enjoyable for us. Then when new leaves come out on our plants we get the chance to enjoy the spots for awhile, before they disappear. We have all our *B. leprosa* terrariums where we can see them each day and enjoy the show that they give us. That is why I encourage everyone who has not tried this wonderful begonia to give it a try. Who knows -maybe there will be another person out there in begonialand who finds that this begonia brings them as much joy and satisfaction as it has brought to us.

Nomenclature Notes *Begonia tayabensis* Merrill by Jack Golding

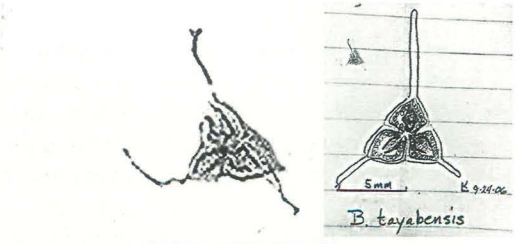
In the **Begonian,** 70:62-3, 2003, I discussed the question whether *Begonia tayabensis* Merrill belonged in Section ***Diploclinium*** or ***Reichenheimia***. These two sections are distinguished by the type of placenta branches in their capsules. The former has two per locule while the latter has only one. I had asked those growing this species to cut and examine a cross-section of a mature capsule.

Thanks to **Kingsley Langenberg** we now have the answer. His photo and drawing clearly shows that the placenta branch is forked and therefore confirms that *Begonia tayabensis* belongs in Section ***Diploclinium.***

See the following fine article by Kingsley about the differences between *Begonia tayabensis* Merrill and *Begonia hernandioides* Merrill.

I have seen many photos that have been labeled *Begonia tayabensis* that neither conform to the original description by Merrill nor the Type specimen. Some have leaves with the upper surface bronze colored and dark red underneath, others are all green, and some have different leaf shapes.

Please advise if the leaf color of your plants change if they are grown in different light intensities. Also fertilize the female flowers with pollen from the same plant. Observe the plants that grow from those seeds. If all the plants are the same you have a species, if they are different you have a hybrid.



Begonia tayabensis Merrill
capsule cross section by Kingsley Langenberg, Sept. 24, 2006.

Begonia tayabensis Merrill - distinct from *Begonia hernandioides* Merrill

by Kingsley Langenberg

A pair of little Philippine *Begonia* species have charmed me over the past twenty years. First there was *B.* U-166 which led me to use Smith & Wasshausen's **Annotated Key to Begoniaceae** to tentatively identify (since confirmed) as *Begonia hernandioides* Merrill. A few years later, I ordered from the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund some seed of *Begonia tayabensis* Merrill, a similar species - or so I thought based upon pictures in the *Begonian*. Both species send up fountains of peltate leaves, making them unusual because most *Begonia* have basifixed leaves.As my seedlings developed, I saw leaves appear that were distinct from those of *B. hernandioide*s. These leaves were elongated with acute apices (longer and sharply pointed), rather than round-shaped leaves with obtuse or nearly apiculate apex (wide-angled point.) The texture of the leaf blades differed too. *B. hernandioides* had fleshy leaves, while *B. tayabensis* had thinner, leathery leaves. The leaf margins of the former were entire and tended to roll under, while the margins of the latter were somewhat undulate and very shallowly denticulate, giving them a wavy, frilly look.

I grow *B. tayabensis* as I do most of my *Begonia* outdoors in pots and/or the ground in bright indirect daylight during the warm months and then in my heated garage under fluorescent lights over the winter. In my experience, it is not at all fussy about growing conditions and is a tough little *Begonia*. I also have successfully set seed on my plants several seasons and have grown at least three generations of *B. tayabensis*. I have not observed any variation in the color or shape of the leaf blades in successive generations, leading me to believe that I am growing the species rather than a hybrid.

When he named *Begonia tayabensis* while living in the Philippines in 1918, **Elmer Drew Merrill** described it as follows (in part):

A subglabrous herb, the stems creeping.. stipules deciduous, broadly ovate, acuminate...Leaves prominently peltate, the petiole inserted 2 to 4 cm from the base of the leaf, membranaceous, somewhat oblique, ovate to oblong-ovate, 15 to 20 cm long, 10 to 12 cm wide, base broadly rounded, apex acute or somewhat obtuse, margins subentire, not at all lobed, with a fringe of scattered, tooth-like, short cilia, both surfaces, with widely scattered short hairs, ultimately glabrous or nearly so; basal nerves radiate, about 9, prominent, the reticulations very prominent on the lower surface; petioles about 12 to 15 cm long...Inflorescences ... dichotomous, few-flowered... Staminate flowers white or slightly pink... Capsules about 1 cm long and 1.8 cm wide, base rounded, apex subtruncate, one wing very much larger than the other two....

Note that he said the leaf was membranaceous, 1.5 to 2 times as long as wide, with reticulations on the lower surfaces. My leaves were not quite as long as his, probably due to my less-than-ideal growing conditions, but they did have similar length-to-width ratios, were membranaceous in texture and reticulated on both

surfaces. **Fig. 1** shows the elongated shape and acute apex of the leaf of *B. tayabensis* in contrast to *B. hernandioides*. I have observed leaves of *hernandioides* that were sometimes more elongated with more acute apices than exhibited in my dried specimen, but they were consistently more orbicular than those of *tayabensis*. The acuteness of the leaf apex is the most consistent and distinctive feature of *Begonia tayabensis* relative to *hernandioides*. **Fig. 2** compares the reticulation of my live leaf surface to that of Merrill's. I found the reticulations to be much more prominent on the shiny upper surface than on the duller underside. Merrill, of course, was working from his dried type, No. 29054, where the color and luster of the leaf surfaces are not as evident as in a live plant. My leaves were light medium green in young leaves to dark green and shiny on top in mature leaves and light green, opalescent under. Also not described by Merrill is the deep red color of the flower buds when the plant is grown in bright daylight. One tepal of both the male and female flowers appeared reddish due to the coloration of the reverse noted above. (See the photos of my *B. tayabensis* flowers that accompany **Freda Holley's** article on this species, ***Begonian***, 70:59-62, 2003.) I must admit I was a bit apprehensive when I read that part about the the hairs on the leaves and petioles. At the end of his article, Merrill states that these hairs scarcely exceed 1 mm in length. So I grabbed my magnifying glass and applied it to my plant and beheld ~~tiny pilose [or~~ short fine~~]~~ hairs on the leaf surface, petioles, and especially on the peduncles, which were not apparent to my naked eye.

Returning to *Begonia hernandioides,* also published by Merrill, who described it as follows (again, in part):

A subglabrous herb...stem creeping, rooting, covered with numerous, large, brown, ...stipules...Petioles ...glabrous. Leaves peltate, slightly inequilateral, suborbicular or orbicular-ovate, 7 to 9 cm in diameter, membranaceous, glabrous, shining, radiately about 9-nerved, the base broad, rounded, the apex somewhat lateral, acuminate, margins entire or nearly so...Peduncles glabrous... Staminate flowers... pink...

I must say I was disappointed in this description. One of the most endearing attributes to the close observer of my *B. hernandioides* was the vestiture of the leaves which comprised a single red hair atop the umbo and scabrous red hairs along the nerves on the underside of the blade. The petioles were sparsely pilose as well. One would think Merrill, who did note the tiny 1 mm hairs on *B. tayabensis,* would have noticed 5 mm long, erect, bright red hairs on *B. hernandioides.* In addition, I would not describe the leaf texture as membranaceous, rather it was somewhat fleshy and often bullate (again, Merrill was looking at a dried specimen.) The surface of the leaves was generally not as shiny compared to *B. tayabensis*. I did confirm that the flowers are consistently pink in *B. hernandioides*, rather than white as in *B. tayabensis.*

All in all, I am confident that I am growing *Begonia tayabensis* Merrill. I have just harvested fresh seed and hope to germinate these soon.

Recently, I have seen pictures of *B. tayabensis* "Bronze" and "Green" forms. I have not yet grown these but would like to obtain seed to grow and compare to what I have. However, it is my impression, based on the variability of the leaves with less-acute apex, lower length-to-width ratio, rolled margins, and red backs that these forms are hybrids between *B. tayabensis* and *B. hernandioides* (and/or perhaps another *Begonia.*)

Begonia tayabensis *Merrill – distinct from* **Begonia hernandioides** *Merrill*

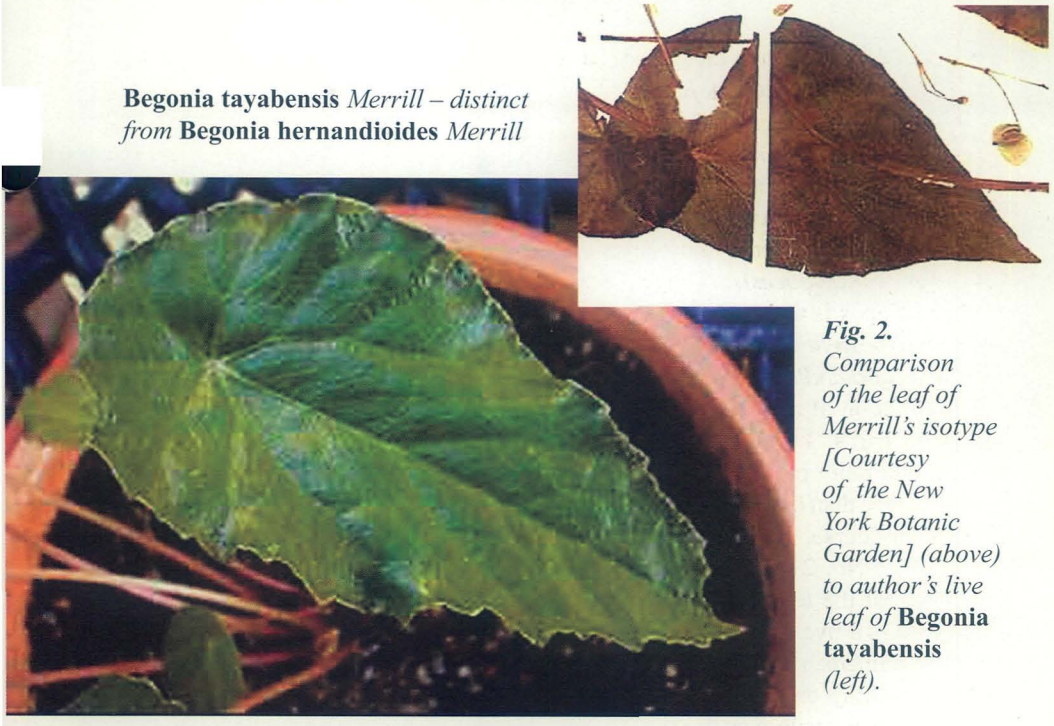
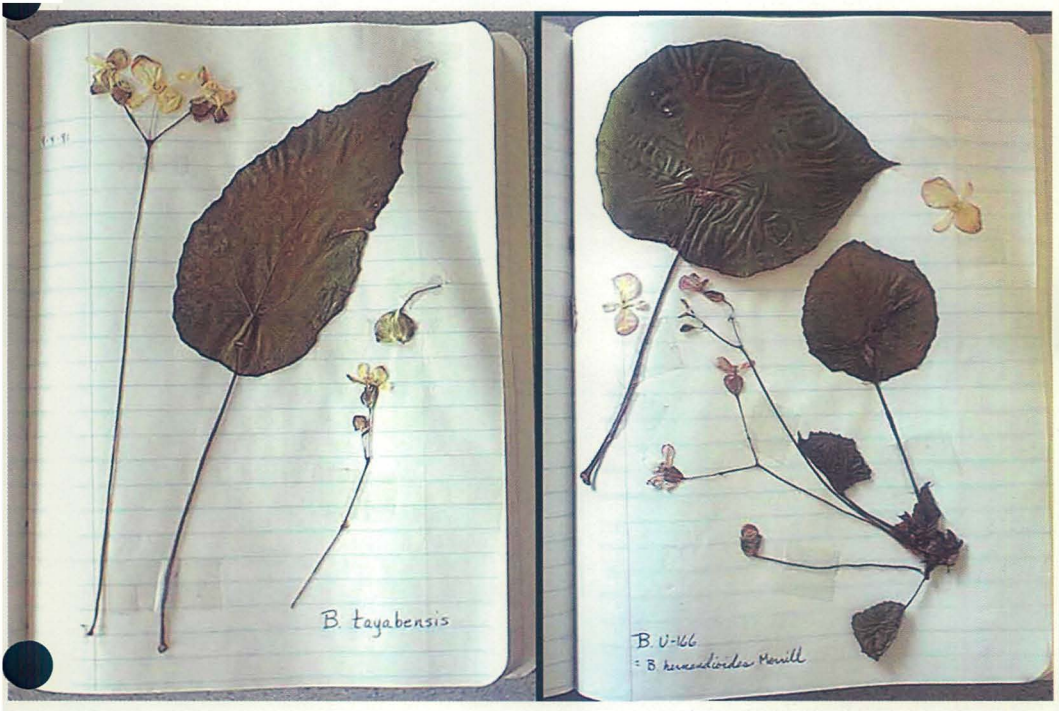


Fig. 2. *Comparison of the leaf of Merrill's isotype [Courtesy of the New York Botanic Garden] (above) to author's live leaf of* **Begonia tayabensis** *(left).*

Fig. 1. *Pressed specimens of author's* **Begonia tayabensis** *(left) and* **Begonia hernandioides** *(right).*



Convention 2007, Los Angeles Update

by Margaret Fisher, Convention Chair

Below is some of the updated information including group code information and transportation information from LAX

The Palos Verdes Branch of American Begonia Society is hosting the 2007 Convention, beginning on September 4 thru September 8, 2007. There will be a pre-convention tour on Tuesday September 4th of private gardens to be named at a later date. On Wednesday, September 5, 2007, we will offer a tour of Lotusland in Santa Barbara, CA and will include a stop at "The Gazebo" which is owned by fellow ABS member, Mike Flaherty.

The Convention, entitled "Begonias in Paradise,- California Style will be held at Ayres Hotel, Manhattan Beach/Hawthorne/LAX, 14400 Hindry Avenue, Hawthorne, CA 90250, Phone (310) 536-0400. This beautiful hotel is located approximately 3.5 miles south of Los Angeles International Airport; located in the South Bay Area where many fine restaurants and great shopping are close, many within walking distance.

The group code for reservations is GRPABS and is under the name the American Begonia Society. Sleeping room rates are as follows: $109.00 per night for 1 & 2 persons and $119. for 3 & 4 persons, 139.00 per night for Junior Suites and $169.00 per night for Executive Suites. You can make your reservations beginning immediately using the above code. These prices will be good also 3 nights prior and 3 nights after the Convention. If anyone should need dates outside the block, please call Lori Pavey, Director of Sales, Ayres Hotel. Her direct line is 310 -220-6447. Reservations for rooms must be received by the hotel no later than 8/10/07 to guarantee rates.

Information regarding transportation from and to LAX is as follows:

Taxi - $15.00 - $17.00
Prime Time Shuttle: 1-800-REDVANS $10.00 each way per person; must reference Ayres Profile #201197 for that special rate.
Elite Transportation Limo Service: 661-212-1114 (rates vary)
Corporate Coach: 3120-210-1171 (large tour coaches)

Regarding tours on Thursday and Friday, will advise when details are more complete.

Plans are underway to have convention information on the ABS website.

SWR Get-Together
ABS Board Meeting

April 25-28
Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, OK
Back to the Good Old Days
Featuring Heritage Begonias

Coming Up: New Places to Visit, New Things to See, Lots of Begonias to Purchase.

Oklahoma will celebrate 100 years with a full 2007 of Centennial Celebration Ann Salisbury, Chairman says the Oklahoma helpers promise a good time on the prairie!

Begonian Index 2006

2006 Convention Issue - July/August 2006

Regular Features

Articles

Contributors

Artists & Photographers

Authors

Individuals

Begonias

Hybrids

Species

THE BIG BEGONIA CEILIDH
In the land of Burns
by Cheryl Lenert

Samuel Kennedy and the Scottish Begonia Society have extended and invitation to all members of the ABS and their guests for a rare treat to coincide with the Ayr Flower Show August 2007.

We have all shared the beauty of this national treasure by word or pictures with *Hugh McLauchlan, Bill* and *Muriel Ash* and *Jan Brown*. Now is our chance to see it in person.

The following is the suggested itinerary for your journey:

MONDAY
Evening reception at Glasgow Botanic Gardens in the conservatory of the Kibble Palace. Meet SBS members.

TUESDAY
Glasgow Botanic Garden, guided tour of the national collection and glasshouses with talks by the curators and staff.
Lunch
Visit members greenhouses

WEDNESDAY
Tour of Glasgow. (Points of interest to be determined.)

THURSDAY
Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden tour
Lunch
Tour Edinburgh old town: Edinburgh Castle, Hollyrood Palace, Royal Yacht Britannia at Leith docks.

FRIDAY
Ayr Flower Show

SATURDAY
Bus tour of Loch Lomond, the Trossachs, Callander

SUNDAY
Bus tour of Ayrshire, land of Burns (Scotland's National Poet)
Visit Burns Cottage, Culzean Castle

MONDAY
Depart for home.

We have made arrangements for those who would like to arrive on July 23 in order to tour the west coast of Scotland.

It is **imperative t**hat you contact either me: **Cheryl Lenert at 281 897-0155 or lenert@flash.ne**t or **Jan Brown at 310 670-4471 ot JBBrown3@aol.com** right away if you think you might be going to give us an idea how many will be planning to attend.

We have up-to date information about cost and destinations available on-line at **www.begonias.org.** We have included suggestions for what you need to know for traveling abroad.

Continued from page 5.

abbreviated 'Wish List' is to be found on the web site:
http:/www.neworleanscitypark.comnobg.php

Sad to say Begonias do not get a mention but, said Mr. Soniat, cuttings would of course be welcomed. The number to call is 504 483 9386. And remember! Spring comes early in southern Louisiana.

Michael Higson
NewOrleans
michaelhigson@gmail.com

Michael has been an at-large member of ABS since 2002. He wrote in October that he had lived in New Orleans since 1968. He and his wife and two dogs evacuated the city three days after Katrina struck and went to Washington State - the Puget Sound area. They stayed five months. And thank you Michael for the news update!

Membership Notes
by Donna Marsheck

ABS has 53 new members since September.

Branch New Members:

Astro Branch - 4; Houston Satellites Branch - 3; Buxton Branch - 2; Delaware Valley Branch - 3; Orange County Branch - 1; Westchester Branch - 4; Rudolph Ziesenhenne Branch - 5; Miami Branch - 4; Palm Beaches Branch - 4; Tampa Bay Branch - 1.

New Members not in a branch:

PA - 3; KS - 1; VA - 1; TX - 3; WA - 1; CA - 2; MA -1; FL - 2; MN - 2; NY - 1; TN - 1; MD - 1, LA - 1; GA - 1; NJ - 1.

To all of you who have sent your 2007 dues in early -

A BIG THANK YOU!

We purchased a bigger mail box with a lock; that made the postman happy. He said, "I hope all these people don't send you a Christmas Card!"

As of November 9th, 2006 we have 1,058 mailing addresses in the USA and 100 on the mailing list outside the USA.

Let us all wish for a very good 2007 begonia year!

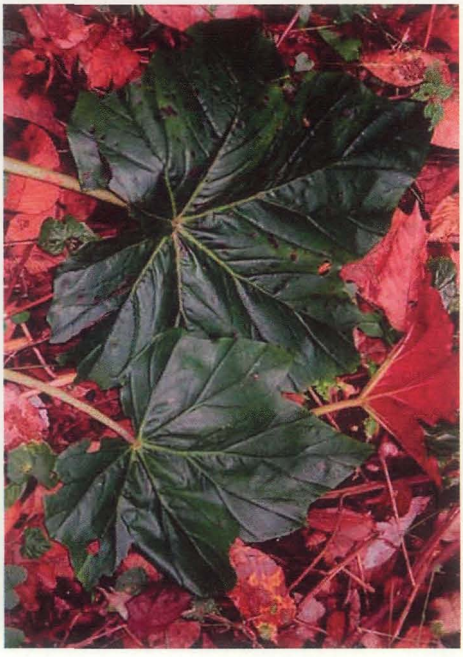
God bless, Donna

Reward Donna and make us all Happy! If you haven't sent in your dues for 2007, get them off to her today at the address on Page 38. .

Above, **B. U494**
Right, **B. U463**
Below left, **B. U462**
Below right, **B. U 464** *in 2001*

All photos by ***Rekha Morris***

See also page 31.



Some Natural Hybrids from Mexico

Rekha Morris

In the Nov./Dec. 2004 issue of **The Begonian** [pp.212-218], I briefly describe several natural hybrids which I encountered during explorations in Veracruz in March 2004. Uncertain of their identify, I requested **Thelma O' Reilly** for U numbers. One of these, *B. U461*, has now been securely identified as B. involucrata, a species never before recorded for Mexico, and discussed at some length in a publication for **Acta Botanica Mexicana,** 75: 77-99 [2006], "The ***Begonia*** *of Veracruz*: Additions and Revisions," by **Patrick D. McMillan, Graham Wyatt** and Rekha Morris. The 4 others with U numbers have been observed growing here in South Carolina, and deserve to be better known as not only are they plants with dramatic, often sumptuous presence, but require minimal care and attention to make their presence felt indoors or out in the garden.

One of these four hybrids, *B. U462*, which I documented at several locations in Veracruz and once in Oaxaca, is a cross between *B. heracleifolia* and *B. nelumbifolia*. The first time I encountered this was as a large clump growing amongst grass some 3'- 4' high. Since I did not recognize it as a hybrid, I thought it was a new species I had not documented before, and ran out into the grass beating it down with my walking stick so I could get closer to this unusual species which grew among a robust and thick stand of grass. In the process I stirred up every chigger within a radius of ten feet, and was covered with itchy red welts for months afterwords.

Since there was not a single *B. nelumbifolia* in sight, although *B. heracleifolia* grew about a hundred yards or so away on a cliff side, I continued to think of this as a species rather than a natural hybrid. The same day I encountered several large plants of *B. U462*, and this time it grew intermingled with *B. nelumbifolia* and *B. heracleifolia*, suggesting for the first time that this might be a natural hybrid of these two species whose habitats often overlap. Both these were in the Los Tuxtlas region of Veracruz.

In searching for *B. imperialis* and *B. lyniceorum* in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Veracruz in 2004, we drove through a small village, and on the far side of this I noticed a lush growth of *B. nelumbifolia* on a 15' high bank. As I walked along photographing these, I noticed several large clumps of **B. U462**. There was not a single plant of *B. heracleifolia* in sight, however, hidden behind a shed some 50 ft. away were several plants of *B. heracleifolia*. While all these examples of *B. U462* had large lobed leaves, from about 5" to 10", none of these were peltate, so it appeared that *B. heracleifolia* was the dominant parent.

However, on our fourth and final attempt to find *B. imperialis* I noticed a short stretch of some 5 or 6 large plants of *B. U462* at the edge of a boulder strewnembankment. The light filtering through the trees backlit several leaves which appeared to have a rosy glow. I walked over to photograph these, and for the first time encountered a peltate form of *B. U 462*. Although there were no plants of *B. nelumbifolia* and *B. heracleifolia* within about half a km. or so, the huge, dust covered boulders which punctuated the flat terrain we were driving through were sprinkled with both these species, accounting for this stand of their progeny.

An unusual hybrid which I have

encountered only once in the environs of Orizaba and Cordoba in Veracruz is a cross between *B. pinetorum* and *B. carolineifolia*, *B. U463*. In walking around a huge 'Caldera' where I had previously documented *B. heracleifolia, B. carolineifolia, B. pinetorum* and *B. wallichiana*, I was searching for a cliff side where I had seen large clumps of *B. carolineifolia* and *B. pinetorum* growing together on a gigantic boulder which I had been unable to photograph on the previous trip due to the tangle of vines and shrubs which impeded a clear view of these two species growing in close proximity. On this trip, **Patrick McMillan**, Curator of the Herbarium at Clemson University was with us, and I had alerted him to this interesting grouping which I was trying to locate. Fortunately a huge storm a few weeks prior to our arrival had brought down several trees, and with them the tangle of vines had been pulled off the boulders. Patrick and I climbed up amongst the boulders brought down by the trees, and there amongst both the species I had recorded on a previous trip was one plant of *B.U463*, taller than any *B. pinetorum* we had seen there but considerably shorter than the clumps of *B. carolineifolia* around. The glossy, dark green leaves were tomentose and flushed maroon on the underside like *B. pinetorum*, but instead of the dissected compound foliage of B. carolineifolia , those of B U 463 have 5-7 shallow lobes. In the crevices of these boulders I documented several juvenile plants of this hybrid form. Although these did not survive the trauma of being dislocated from their habitat, I had collected seeds from a *B. pinetorum* growing adjacent to this hybrid form. These resulted in numerous seedlings of *B. pinetorum* which I distributed to ABS members, and a single hybrid seedling of *B U463*. This fortunately continues to thrive here in South Carolina, and I have begun to propagate others from stem cuttings.

My interest in natural hybrids was sparked several years before I encounteredeither *B. U462* or *B. U463*. On the very first trip I took to Veracruz in 2001, I photographed and brought back herbarium specimens of some large, glossy, dark green, shallow lobed leaves with rich maroon undersides. The parent plant grew among a thick stand of what I later identified as *B. barkeri*. These spilled down a steep cliff in the environs of Orizaba / Cordoba, where their prodigious 16" – 24" foliage epitomized rain forest verdure. Sprinkled along the lower edge of the cliff were a few plants of *B. incarnata*, and a number of large plants of *B. carolineifolia*. Although this is one of two sites where I have documented this hybrid, *B U464*, in 2004 Patrick and Michael, my husband, went off to explore a hill close to Tropical World as I was busy unpacking and organizing our suite of rooms prior to taking off for the Los Tuxtlas region. Despite several encounters with snakes on the way up, they managed to reach the top. Here in bright sunlight grew *B. barkeri* and *B. carolineifolia*, and among them was a handsome *B. U464*. Seeds from this plant collected by Patrick resulted in one magnificent specimen whose foliage is an intense maroon on the reverse like the original specimen I found in 2001. However, the mature leaves of this specimen are dentate but unlobed as is also another specimen I found elsewhere in Veracruz. The plant grown from seed has grown robustly for the past couple of years, and now inexplicably appears to be weakening.

At two locations, both in the environs of Orizaba / Cordoba, I have documented a begonia with prominent red veins. The foliage of this begonia, which I have registered as *B. U494*, is cordately elliptical with an acuminate apex with prominent red veins. Since both *B. barkeri* and *B.*

manicata grow along this stretch of the hill side, it is possible that this is a hybrid between these two species especially as the general shape of the leaves is somewhat like those of *B. manicata*. However, *B. U494* lacks manicata's rufus collar and red hair along the veins on the reverse side of its foliage. Although two other species, *B. carolineifolia* and *B. incarnata* are also intermingled along this hill side, *B. U494* is probably not a hybrid between *B. barkeri* and *B. incarnata* as I have seen a natural hybrid of these two as well in the wild in Veracruz. I am eliminating *B. carolineifolia* from its parentage as there are no lobes on any of the several plants of this form [*B. U494*] I have found along this hill side.

Among the several plants of *B. U494* I have propagated from rhizomes collected in Veracruz, the prominent red venation either diminishes or is entirely absent on mature leaves. However, I now have one large plant about 2 1/2 years old, whose mature leaves retain this attractive trait, and make it worthwhile for me to attempt to propagate several more from leaf cuttings.

Although I have little interest in hybridizing begonias, I am enthralled by natural hybrids, and continue to look for these as I explore for begonias both in the Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico and the eastern Himalayas of India.

Editor's Notes

I have mentioned before that one of the worst things about doing the annual index is discovering the errors I made that had gone undetected till then. Well I discovered a whopper this time. On the article on page 139 of the July/August issue, on the article "A Novice's Faux Pas" no author was shown. I was horrified and went back to my original file where the name did appear, but somehow in the printer's translation of the file, the author's name was dropped - with PageMaker it sometimes happens - and I had not caught the error when proofing the proof! Anyway, the author is **Shirley Brown** and to her my biggest **apology** ever!! You are properly entered in authors in the Index.

A number of rhizomes have done far better for me in Louisiana than they ever did in Oklahoma. Others simply find it too hot. One that has prospered for me here is my plants of *Begonia nelumbiifolia* and *Begonia roxburghii* Even with the intense heat and drought of this summer, they toughed it out and are now prospering. I have started seed I have saved of a number of rhizomes that I no longer had to see if they too might grow here.

In fact, I went through my stored seed and planted more than I have started in a long time. Some of these seed were from as far back as 1994 and they have germinated superbly. Despite have being moved across 4 states and being taken in and out of refrigeration although I did make every attempt to keep them cool in transportation and storage. If you save seed, remember that dryness before storage and refrigeration after are the great essentials. As usual, I have planted much too thickly and the rectangular cake pan of 1 inch cups looks like a St. Patrick's Day celebration cake. So now I face the drudgery of endless transplantings. Not to

be daunted, however, I am looking forward to a greenhouse winter where I will be able to gather new rhizomatous seed. I will have to curb my self to keep from oversetting seed. I have killed rhizomes before, including in particular my lovely female *B. roxburghii*, from simply letting it bear itself to death.

I would like to thank all those authors, photographers, and artists in this year's index for their contributions last year and once again want to encourage each of you to consider writing an article or at the very least a letter to the editor to share with others your love of begonias. I hear there were some lovely new plants available at the St. Louis SWR meeting and those of who who couldn't be there to share in the purchases, would love to hear your finds and experience with them. Write the editor! *~FH*

IN THE MAILBOX
by Greg Sytch

Having been away from the Begonian for some time, several questions have popped up from the internet that are about tuberous begonias and winter storage. Here is some help if you need it..

Q. *We had a sudden freeze before I could move my plants (tuberous) in for the winter. It went down to 17F for a night. Can I save the plants or bulbs?*

A. Generally speaking, you should be able to save your bulbs if they were protected under the soil and in a protected area, and if the freeze was not prolonged. To check, take the bulbs out of the pot and scrape off some of the bulb. If you see greener growth, the bulbs are okay. If it is brown and mushy, chances are they will not make it. If okay, remove them and place in a dry baggie with sawdust or other inert ingredient, that is also dry. You can place a little fungicide inside, or use baking soda (anti-fungal). Store in a cool and dry spot until next spring.

Q. *Can I take cuttings of my tuberous?*

A. Yes, cuttings taken during summer root well and form small bulbs for the following year. Follow the same procedure as you would for any stem cutting, but concentrate on allowing the plant to form the bulb. Feed with a high phosphorus/potassium ratio (10-20-20) to encourage bulb development. Store cool and dry as usual.

Q *What is the best plant fertilizer to feed my begonias?*

A. That is a difficult question to answer, as it depends on the type and conditions. In my area, Tampa Bay, begonias grow outdoors and actively all year. Therefore I feed constantly. The general rule of thumb in a fertilizer is: 1st number is for leaves; 2nd number is for flowers; 3rd number is for root production (or bulb in tuberous). Therefore, to get them to bloom, use a 15-30-15. In cooler winter areas with less light, feed less often. Rhizomatous may need a little fertilizer in late fall to prepare for winter blooms, but otherwise allow the growth to dictate feeding.

GROWING TIP: To keep large canes nice and green, use a liberal handful of Magnesium Sulfate when repotting. Mix in well. This will break down over time and encourage lush, green leaves. Add a few pinches after that and mix in lightly.

With the winter doldrums, this ia an excellent time to start seeds saved from the previous season. Even experimenting with open-pollinated hybrids can produce some exciting results. good luck and look forward to spring! Regards- Greg Sytch, ABS Horticultural Correspondent gsytch@cs.com

*Above is one more of **Rekha Morris**' finds in Mexico:* **B. U464**.
Photo by Rekha Morris

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

LAURAY OF SALISBURY
Begonias, Gesneriads, Orchids
Cacti & Succulents
432 Undermountain Road, Rt. 41
Salisbury, CT 06068-1102
Call ahead (860) 435-2263
2007-8 Catalogue $2
http://www.lauray.com

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

Plan Now to Discover Scotland and LA in 2007!

Bonnie's Greenhouse

We grow Angel Wing Begonias, perennials and hardy ferns.

Begonias:

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

Ferns are in 4" pots. Begonias are in 3 1/2" deep rooting pots. More begonias soon.
Shipping by priority mail.
Call toll free: 1/888/799/8202

Bonnie's Greenhouse
5498 Orchard Lane
Waco, TX 76705
email: bonnied@flash.net

Check out the All New Web Page at:
www.begonias.org

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

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

Pacific Horticulture
a quarterly journal about plants and gardens of the West
PUBISHED BY THE NON-PROFIC PACIFIC HORTICULTURE FOUNDATION
MAKES A FINE GIFT FOR GARDENERS
SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE $20/YEAR USA, $23/YEAR CANADA AND MEXICO, $25/YEAR OTHER COUNTRIES.
SEND CHECK, VISA OR MASTER CARD TO:
PHG, BOX 485, BERKELEY CA 94701-0485

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND LISTING

The Margaret Lee Branch, San Diego County, CA

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

This issue thanks go to **Jackie Davis**, **Thelma O'Reilly**, and **Michael Ludwig** for fresh seed of the begonias described below that are featured this month. These new seeds are being added to the seed inventory.

B. cucullata Willdenow var *arenosicola* Smith & Schubert [**Begonia**] Argentina, Paraguay; succulent stems to 3', green, little branched; green leaves to 4"; white flowers much of the year. Variety *arenosicola* is distinguished by the narrowly elliptic leaves, rounded at the tip, narrow unequally cuneate at the base; and large subentire roundly obtuse stipules.

B. dregei Otto & Dietrich [**Augustia**] South Africa; stem with enlarged caudex, some-times referred to as semi-tuberous, 1-2 feet; small maple-leaf-like leaves; blooms early spring to late fall; very subject to mildew.

B. glandulosa W.J.Hooker [**Platycentrum**] Mexico Rhizomatous; Obliquely orbicular-cordate, peltate, acuminate, wavy margined, glossy yellow green leaves with deep chocolate brown veins above, dark red underneath; flowers small, greenish-white, fragrant, male flowers with 2 tepals, female with 5, ovary unequally 3-winged. Blooms in late winter and spring. Synonyms: *dayi*, *hidalgensis*, and *nigrovenia*.

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

B. manicata Brongniart [**Gireoudia**] Mexico. Succulent rhizomes sometimes erect; distinc-tive collar of coarse red hairs at top of petiole; ovate green

Above left is **B. U331**, *believed to be* **B. sericoneura**, *at the U.S.F. Botanic Gardening Feb. 2004. Right above is B. heracleifolia in* ***Virginia Jens'*** *garden in Florida. And below is* **B. heracleifolia** *var.* **nigracans** *at the Mounts Botanical Garden in W. Palm Beach, FL, February 2002. Try seed of these species from the seed fund. All photos are by* ***Mary Bucholtz***

leaves with toothed ciliate margins; pink flowers on long stems.

B. U320 Ecuador. Similar to U237 (see *Begonian* Nov. 1995:208) Collected in vicinity of Villacabamba by Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL in 1989. Terrestrial and lithophytic, it grows on soft conglomerate cliffs with *Tillandsia tectorum* and *T. secunda.* Elevation about 1600 ft. in dry thorn scrub on steep slopes.

Send orders, comments, suggestions, or complaints to:

Edgar A. Bates
13232 Ocean Vista Road
San Diego, CA 92130
e-address:
epb888@san.rr.com

Packets of seeds of species and U numbers 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.**

Please send your order with payment to:

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND
Edgar A. Bates
13232 Ocean Vista Road
San Diego, CA 92130

Costs of mailing:
US only: 1-12 packets $1; 13-24, $1.35; 25-36, $1.71; 37-48 (2 cans), $2.30; 49-60, $2.66.
Canada only: 1-12 packets, $1.10; **13-24**, $1.46; **25-36**, $1.82; **27-48** (2 cans) $2.35; **49-60**, $2.71.
Mexico only: 1-12 packets, $1.15; **13-24**, $1.51; **25-36**, $1.87; **37-48** (2 cans), $2.50; **49-60**, $2.81.
All other international mail: 1-12 packets, $1.85; **13-24**, $2.68; **25-36**, $3.68; **37-48**, $4.68; **49-60**, $5.68.

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.

MASTER SEED FUND INVENTORY JANUARY 2007

Order from this list by name. Seeds may be ordered from this list at any time in the year. In each issue a list of additions and deletions will be published. Brief descriptions of all begonias in the seed fund list will be published, a few at a time, in subsequent issues of the *Begonian.*

The following have been tested and shown to have good germination. Some varieties are in very small amounts and will sell out early. Please help us keep this valuable resource going. Pollinate your species and send a few seed pods to the seed fund.

eSpecies

Seed packets in this list cost $1.50 or more as indicated for rare or limited amounts.

B.barkeri Knowles & Westcott, **[Gireoudia],** Mexico
B. boliviensis A. De Candolle [**Barya**], Bolivia
B. carolineifolia Regel [**Gireoudia**], Mexico

B. crassicaulis Lindley [**Gireoudia**], Guatemala
B. cucullata Willdenow **var *cucullata*** [Begonia], Brazil
B. cucullata* var *arenosicola C. De Candolle, Argentina
B. dipetala Graham [**Haagea**], India
B. dregei Otto & Dietrich [**Augustia**], South Africa
B. fischeri Schrank [**Begonia**], Central & South America
B. glandulosa W.J.Hooker [**Platycentrum**], Mexico
B. gracilis Kunth var *martiana* [**Quadriperigonia**], Mexico
B. heracleifolia Schlecht. & Cham. [**Gireoudia**], Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador #1
B. heracleifolia #3 white flowers
B. heracleifolia #4
B. heracleifolia #5
B. heracleifolia collection #1
B. heracleifolia **collection #2**
B. incarnata Link & Otto **Knesebeckia**], Mexico
B. johnstonii Oliver ex J.D.Hooker [**Ros-trobegonia**], Tanganyika, Kenya
B. lindleyana Walpers [**Gireoudia**], Guatemala
B. ludwigii Irmscher [**Knesebeckia**], Ecuador
B. malabarica Lamarck [uncertain], India, Ceylon
B. manicata Brongniart [**Gireoudia**], Mexico
B. peltata Otto & Dietrich [**Gireouda],** Mexico
B. pinetorum A. De Candolle [**Gireouda**], Mexico, pk fl
aff. B. roezlii Regel [**Cyathocnemis**], Peru
B. sericoneura Liebmann [**Gireouda**] Central America
B. stigmosa Lindley [**Gireoudia**] Mexico
B. ulmifolia Willdenow [**Donaldia**], Guyana, Venezuela
B. wallichiana Lehmann]**Doratometra**], Mexico
U #083
U #320
U #412
U #443
U #444

Hybrids and cultivars
Seed packets in this list cost $0.50.

B. 'Cachuma' Ziesenhenne, R#439 (*B. carrieae* X unknown) *B.* (*cucullata* var *arenosicola* X unknown)
Mexican species seed, mixed
Mixed Canes
Large red Semperflorens
Large white & pink flowered Semperflorens
Pink Semperflorens
B. 'Glamour Rose Picottee' Semperflorens

The following members have made this listing possible: **Howard and Barbara Berg, Beatrice Huckriede, Bill O'Geary, Dominique Senchal, Eleanor Calkins, Iris Bird, Ingeborg Foo, Jackie Davis, Jacky Duruisseau, Janet Brown, Thelma O'Reilly, Shirley Brown, Scott Hoover, Gene and Anne Salisbury, Rehka Morris, Normand Dufresne, Morris Mueller, Michael Ludwig, Johanna Kitson, New England Tropical Conservatory, Roberto Brin**. Along with many others that have contributed over the years.

Make your resolution today to save some seed in 2007 and send them to the seed fund.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 31, 2007, Woodmont Clubhouse, 415 Woodmont Ave., Temple Terrace, FL 33617, This is in northeast Tampa, not far from the USF campus (that many ABS members are familiar with.) The show will be in conjunction with the annual Spring Garden Bazaar, which will also include vendors selling plants and other plant paraphernalia, a bake sale, and music. For more information, contact Dale Sena: dalesena@cs.com.

2007 Southwest Region ABS and ABS Board Meeting, April 25-28, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Embassy Suites. See page 16 for more info and contact Ann Salisbury, geneann@sbcglobal.net for more info.

2007 American Begonia Society Convention[A]: Scotland! Details to come.
2007 American Begonia Society Convention[B], Los Angeles, CA, Palos Verdes Branch hosting. See page 16. More info to come.

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

Deadline for March/April Issue is January 1, 2007

The Begonian

Editor: Freda M. Holley, 251 Pylant Drive, Choudrant, LA 71227; Ph: 318-251-2296. Email: fredaholley@bellsouth.net
Consulting Editor: Jan Brown.
Nomenclature Editor: Jack Golding, 33 Ingram Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831-4641, E-mail: JGBEGNOM@aol.com
Quick Tips: Dianna Wilkerson, 15356 Pheasant Run, Choctaw, OK 73020, E-mail: begoniafiend@cox.net

Advertising Staff:
Display Ads: Ann Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653, Ph: 580-628-5230. Email: geneann@sbcglobal.net
Plant Society Ads; Holiday Greetings: Wanda Macnair, 59 Walker St., Cambridge, MA, 02138, Ph: 617-876-1356, Email: wmacnair@msn.com
Send inquiries about address changes, missing copies, dues, subscription and circulation to Donna Marsheck, 5218 Brock Dr., Bartlesville, OK 74006; Ph: 918-333-1587; Email: dmarsheck@yahoo.com

ABS Elected Officers

President...Janet Brown, 7825 Kentwood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045-1150; Ph: 310-670-4471; JBBrown3@aol.com
Past President.....Howard Berg, 16 Highview Terr., New Canaan, CT 06840; Ph: 203-966-7693; email: howber@optonline.net
1st Vice-President.....Mary Sakamoto, 9682 Featherhill Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861; Ph: 714-637-8787; m.sakamoto@sbcglobal.net
2nd Vice-President...Cheryl Lenert, 13014 Chavile, Cypress, TX 77429, Ph: 281-897-0155; lenert@flash.net
Secretary.....Richard Macnair, 59 Walker St., Cambridge, MA 02138; Ph: 617-876-1356; RNMacnair@msn.com
Treasurer.....Carol Notaras, 2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123; Ph: 415-931-4912; E-mail: cnotaras@sbcglobal.net

Appointed Chairmen and Directors

Audit.....Paul Tsamtsis,
1630 F St., Sacramento, CA 95814-1611
Awards.....Ann Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653, Ph: 580-628-5230. Email: geneann@sbcglobal.net
Back Issues.....Donna Marsheck, 5218 Brock Dr., Bartlesville, OK 74006, Ph: 918-333-1587, dmarsheck@yahoo.com.
Ballot Counting.....Ingeborg Foo, 1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083; Ph: 760-724-4871
Book Store.....Cheryl Lenert, 13014 Chavile, Cypress, TX 77429, Ph: 281-897-0155; lenert@flash.net
Branch Relations.....Mary Bucholtz,
1560 Lancaster Terrace #1008
Jacksonville, FL 32204; Ph: 904-353-9111
Business Manager.....Gene Salisbury,
P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653; Ph: 580-628-5230; geneann@sbcglobal.net
Conservation.....Bill Claybaugh, 1702 Country Club Dr., Crosby, TX 77532, Ph: 281-328-5133; absastro@hotmail.com
Convention Advisor.....Mary Sakamoto, 9682 Featherhill Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861; Ph: 714-637-8787; m.sakamoto@sbcglobal.net
Convention Chair: Margaret Fisher, 7552 Danube Dr., Huntington Beach, Ca, 92647, Ph: 714-847-1889.
Entries/Classification....Vacant
Grants Committee: Cheryl Lenert, 13014 Chavile, Cypress, TX 77429, Ph: 281-897-0155; lenert@flash.net
Internet Editor...Julie Vanderwilt, 710 Mission Park Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93105, Ph. 805-687-8033, email: vanderwilt@cox.net
Historian ....Jeanne Jones, 1415 Via Margarita, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-2143; Ph: 310-378-7527
Horticultural Correspondent....Gregory Sytch, 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653-4301; Ph: 727-841-9618; GSytch@cs.com
Judging...Maxine Zinman, 2770 Kimble Rd., Berryville, VA 22611; Ph: 540-955-4555; begonia@visuallink.com
Members-at-Large...Sandy Boyd, 5 Walnut Circle, Chico, CA 95973; Ph: 530-891-5760
Membership...Donna Marsheck, 5218 Brock Dr., Bartlesville, OK 74006; Ph: 918-333-1587; Email: dmarsheck@yahoo.com
Nomenclature....Gene Salisbury,
P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653; Ph: 580-628-5230; geneann@sbcglobal.net
Parliamentarian...Linda Lawson, 525 Terrace Place. Norman, OK 73069-5034, Ph: 405-364-2425
Public Relations.....Virginia Jens, 4398 Evelyn Place, Lake Worth, FL 33463, 561-964-8871; email: virginiajens@hotmail.com
Research.....Howard Berg, 16 Highview Terr., New Canaan, CT 06840; Ph: 203-966-7693; email: howber@optonline.net
Round Robin.....Virginia Hamann
1169 Lincoln Ave., Chester IA 52134-8508; Ph: 319-565-4208
Seed Fund.....Ed Bates, 13232 Ocean Vista Road, San Diego, CA 92130-1862, Ph: 858-703-4154, Email: Hortbeg@san.rr.com
Slide Library.....Charles Jaros
200 Maureen Dr., Sanford, FL 32771; Ph: 407-328-0618.