

The
Begonian

March/April 2007

The **Begonian**

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American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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Cover

Front: **Rekha Morris** leads us down a path in **Tom Keepin's** Houston garden.

Back: This fascinating bloom of *B. U498* was photographed by **Mary Bucholtz**.

In This Issue

This issue might be said to have a main theme of "benefits of ABS". From upcoming fellowship meetings to articles about the seed fund and **Johanne Kitson's** actual article under that title, there are ample reminders here of why ABS is important to us all and deserves our unified support in the interests of our favorite plant. And we skip over some older unidentified begonias to bring a listing of the very latest numbers.

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B. thiemei



If winter comes...

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President's Message

The American Begonia Society and the Tampa Bay Branch have suffered a terrible loss with the passing **Shirley Brown** on December 8, 2006. The Charter for the Tampa Bay Branch was received by Shirley as founding president from **Mary Bucholtz** in Feb. 2004 at the Winter Board Meeting of ABS. It was a very happy time for all of us.

We extend our sympathy to Shirley's husband of 40 years, Mel, and to her family. Services were held in South Pasadena, California on December 19 and **Mary Sakamoto, Margaret Fisher** and I were able to attend to represent the ABS. Shirley was one of the greatest people I have ever known. We will always miss her enthusiasm, her charming smile and her friendship. We can never replace her.

Congratulations to **Thelma O'Reilly**, the Margaret Lee Branch, **Julie Vanderwilt** and **Ann Salisbury** on the publication of **Rudolf Ziesenhenné's Begonia Notes**. The 92 page book is beautifully done and a treasure that all begonia lovers and scholars should have in their library. As you pore through the pages you will see the remarkably detailed and precise studies that Rudy made to produce this work. He was a genius and you are the beneficiaries of his greatness.

Here are some upcoming things that I need to nag you about. First, is the annual call for the awards and the details appear in this issue of the *Begonian*. Awards Chair Ann Salisbury and her committee work very hard to make these work and they can only be successful if you, the ABS members, nominate your preferences. This can be done by e-mail now which makes it even easier to do. Second, we have an election coming up very soon. The Nominating Committee, Chairman **Tom Keepin** (Texas), **Dale Sena** (Florida)

and **Joan Coulat** (California) is readying their slate of candidates and now we ask you to VOTE! The ballots will be in the May/June *Begonian* with a description of the candidates. We urge you to take an active part in the running of the American Begonia Society.

You can also take part in the ABS by attending these important meetings of the year. Saturday, March 31 the Tampa Bay Branch invites you to their show to be held at the Spring Garden Bazaar. Then, in late April the Southwest Region will have their annual Get-Together in Oklahoma City. Besides tours and displays we will have the ABS Winter/Spring Board Meeting. Oklahoma is a great place, always interesting and many great begonia growers will be there to welcome you. July 23rd plan to arrive in Edinburgh, Scotland for the Scottish Begonia Society's first Ceilidh for the American Begonia Society. The tour of Scotland begins on July 24, continues for several days ending in Glasgow on July 28. We then spend a week with a base in Glasgow that includes several local bus trips and the wonderful Ayr Flower Show as the finale. With a month to regroup we will expect you in Los Angeles for the 2007 ABS Convention September 4-9 where you will be entertained with fabulous tours, interesting speakers, a fantastic show and fantastic plant sale. There is no time to be bored this year! And don't forget your local shows and sales.

I am always happy to hear from you and I hope to see many of you at our 2007 events.

Good begonia growing to all.

In friendly contact,

Janet Brown

**See page 76 for more on the
ABS Convention in LA.**

Two New Branches

The Directors of the Southwest Region, along with the branch Presidents of the SWR, established a goal to find new ways to increase membership in the ABS. We decided that the best way to do this would be to go to areas where we had no branches and stimulate interest through education and good fellowship.

Our first venture turned out to be more rewarding than we could ever have hoped.

Many groups and individuals from the St. Louis area jumped at the chance to help and be a part of our Get-together. We received huge publicity and great media coverage.

We left St. Louis with many new members and a stack of potential new member contacts. The Missouri Botanic Garden was well supplied with species begonias. Powell Gardens, a botanic garden in Kansas City, received species and has since established a dedicated begonia species area.

The most exciting thing of all was the commitment from several new members to establish branches in St. Louis and in Kansas City.

Most new branches are started by members who have at least a working knowledge of begonias. Think how disconcerting it can be for new members who have no one in residence to guide them! For that reason we have come up with an idea for these groups or any other group that needs assistance.

We are establishing **MEETING IN A BOX**. We will coordinate a series of learning programs with the support to back them up.

For instance: The Houston Astros will send them a package of canes, rhizomatous, trailing, etc. with directions for propagating and growing and then one of

us will be available during their meeting to answer questions by telephone. They need never feel like they are all alone.

We have some dynamic branches with good resources. I would like to challenge all of you to help out. I'm sure even some of our smaller branches would benefit from this type of program.

If you have suggestions or if you would like to participate please contact me.

Cheryl Lenert
281 897-0155
lenert@flash.net

SWR Get-Together ABS Board Meeting April 25-28, 2007 Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, OK

Some great tours are being planned. Although some of you may have visited the Cowboy Hall of Fame before, it has been totally renovated with numerous new exhibits. It is on the schedule along with nearby Cole Gardens. Seminars are being planned that will be of interest to all.

Of course, the antiquing in OKC is always great.

Plants are being grown that will be a temptation to all: older cultivars, species, and unidentifieds will abound.

Come and enjoy OKC!

A Miniature Garden of Eden

by *Rekha Morris*

Since I began exploring for begonias in 2002 I have felt that the closest experience one can have of the lost Garden of Eden is in the cool, mountain rain forests where begonias thrive. It was about this time that I first visited **Tom Keepin's** garden in Houston, and looking back at my slides I realize that I was so absorbed in enjoying it that I took barely half a dozen slides. So this June when I was invited to give talks on Indian begonias in Dallas, Austin and Houston, and attended a garden party at Tom's house, I was careful not to allow my immersion in the garden to outpace the use of my camera.

No doubt the mythical Garden of Eden was on a scale and grandeur we can only imagine, but for those of us who are passionate about begonias and gardens, Tom's garden is a close facsimile albeit of miniature proportions. The overflowing pot of begonias under the magnificent magnolia tree in the front barely hints at what lies beyond, and what lies beyond beggars description.

Two views of the garden are simultaneously visible as one turns the corner of the driveway on one side of the house: a path of irregular paving stones defined by dark green mondo grass meandering through its interstices, and an intimate sitting area with a wooden bench. Both are as densely and luxuriantly planted as a rain forest setting but without the intrusive rank and random growth of the latter.

The path is lined by crotons, ferns, oxalis and other such herbaceous plants, but dominating these are begonias varying in height, foliar forms, textures and leaf color. Instead of the proverbial primrose path enticing us into perilous realms of indulgence, here is a begonia path which draws us ever deeper into unseen corners of this visual fantasia.

Enervated by the unexpected heat of Texas and overwhelmed by the sudden sensory intensity of my surroundings, I made my way to the bench to collect my reeling thoughts.

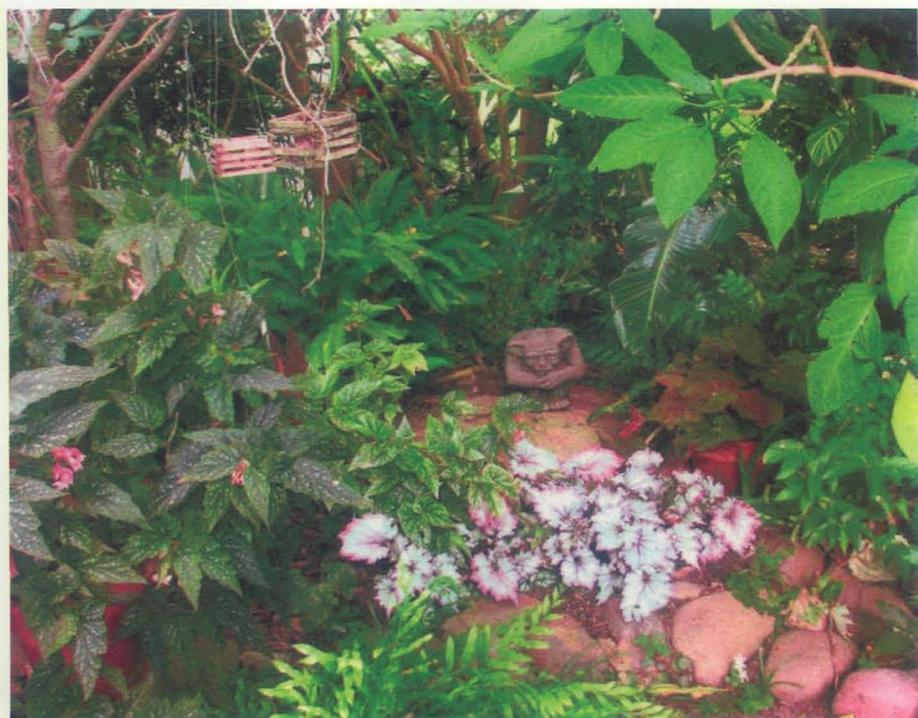
Surrounded though I was by dozens of begonias grown to perfection, my usual compulsion to identify and learn more about this genus was supplanted by a quiescent observation of the skillful placement of plants massed as they were in pots, hanging baskets, between rocks, on and around benches, birdbaths and statuary.

A bemused and relaxed hobbit-like figure sitting with his head resting on his knees in a secluded corner with begonias above and around him in many shades of green, highlighted by those with silver and russet leaves, reflected my own leisurely enjoyment of this quiet corner.

A magnificent *Firmiana simplex* [Chinese Umbrella Tree] with smooth, silver-gray trunk and large, palmately lobed leaves dominated much of the rear garden. Under its sheltering canopy tropical plants with foliage in shades of garnet, burgundy



Rekha Morris' photos visit the many rooms of Tom's garden with glimpses of the creatures scattered about, illustrating that the begonia garden is a tropical garden.



and russet abounded amongst those whose leaves ran the gamut of greens from the palest hues of celery and celedon to the richer, darker depths of mint, sage and olive. Their placement amongst this green luxuriance was deliberately and precisely orchestrated to animate the garden with a stunning syncopation of color.

Begonias from 10" to 4' were layered in vertical succession both for a full and sumptuous display and to function as verdant walls around the several secluded nooks comprising this garden, each with its distinct focal point.

A birdbath with an owl as its centerpiece was set amidst foliage whose colors echoed each other in rhythmic resonance. The red veins of *B. nelumbifolia* var. *rubra* were picked up by the more prominent red markings of a white and green caladium, the red of a bromeliad, and the dangling rosy-red blossoms of a tall cane begonia behind the bird bath.

Such charming and skillfully composed vignettes irresistibly drew me deeper into a garden of endless surprises despite its size, approximately 30' by 60'.

A large, low, two tiered bird bath encircled with tropical plants in shades of purple, claret and glossy green was the special haven of stone frogs at dalliance in this cool and private world. Elsewhere frogs sat singly in thoughtful reverie or as couples reading in companionable silence.

Gargoyles whose hideous and fearful visages have made generations of visitors to medieval European cathedrals recoil in horror appeared chastened and stripped of their ferocity in this benign begonia habitat. Whether hung on walls or set on benches, these images, once used to frighten sinful mortals of the tortures awaiting them in the afterlife, here set off and highlighted the joyous exuberance of this floral world dominated by begonias.

This irrepressible fecundity continued in the garden room where rare and demanding anthuriums of prodigious size hung from rafters, and ferns and bromeliads mounted on branching tree trunks created ascending helical curves in shades of green, rose, silvery white and carmine.

Misters not only supplied the moisture requirements of these tropical begonia companions, but considerably raised my comfort level unaccustomed as I was to the searing dry heat of Texas.

Fully conscious of this desiccating heat of Texas and the toll it takes on the environment, Tom has set up a simple and ingenious means of conserving water. A large, black plastic trough set under a drain pipe collects rain water. This is constantly aerated by using a pump which circulates water, piping it through the mouth of none other than another gargoyle forced away from its usual fear instilling role into life giving service.

Although Tom's insignia as "The Frogman" is amply and repeatedly underscored by the multitudinous frog imagery scattered about the garden and garden room, it is the image of the wizard holding an orb under a towering cane begonia in bloom which epitomizes both the garden and its creator. Nothing short of sensitive and masterful wizardry lies behind the creation of this miniature masterpiece.

Continued from page 49

the Margaret Lee Branch and donating seed to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund so other members of the American Begonia Society can grow and save this treasure.

**Join Michael and save seed
from *your* species.**

Beyond the Dust...Saving our Species

by Michael Ludwig

August 1997, **Eleanor Calkins** receives the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund of the American Begonia Society. She's new, the director after the Margaret Lee, the then San Miguel Branch decides to take it on as a club project. She receives mailing supplies, a box filled with over a hundred vials with various amounts of seed and a type written list of the vial numbers and the names of the begonia in each vial, who donated it and when. It was a numerical listing which made it difficult to look up a name and see if it was in the inventory. So I volunteered to enter the information into a database so that she could have a numerical and alphabetical listing of the seed, additional lists could be by donor or donation time. I added a column that would list the amount of seed in the vial since as I was checking the list against the vials I ran into vials that were empty or nearly so.

I separated these empties out and read the beauties they once contained: *peltata*, *hypolipara*, *lyman-smithii*, *capaniamae*, *ampla*, U numbers and numerous other common and unusual species and hybrids, even now invalid names. In some of these I saw a few grains of dust in the vial or attached to the lid, was this seed or chaff? Perhaps it was viable seed, so I sowed them to see if I could save the last remnant of these seed. Most yielded nothing but a few had germination of a couple of specks. I transplanted these and kept them growing. One of them, I had two plants in a small pot, they had two leaves each and they just sat there. The leaves started to yellow and one by one they disappeared. Had I lost them forever?

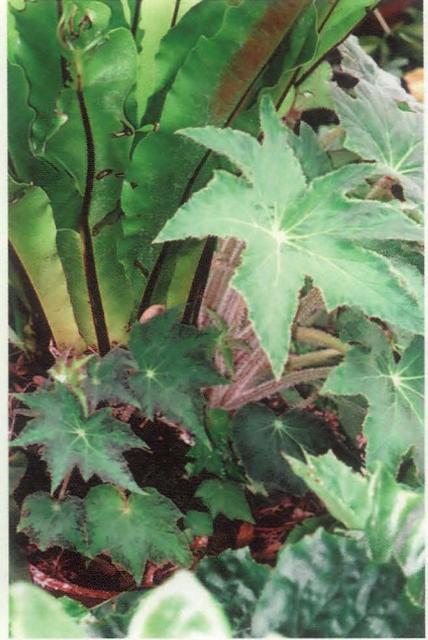
I carefully moved the fine mix where the leaves once were. YES! They

were there, TUBERS, about the size of a pea. Well, at least that's what I thought those masses were. Just like **Thelma O'Reilly's** article said there would be. What was this special treasure? *Begonia novogranatae* A.DC 1864. See Thelma's article and cover photo in the July-August 1985 issue of the *Begonian* to discover more about this begonia.

I let them sit, 2 tubers, after maybe six months; they began to sprout a new leaf, each of them almost in unison. I watered and the next day the leaves had dropped. It was several weeks before more leaves started to emerge. This time, no water. Leaves, about 2" across a couple per tuber, grew and sat. Water was added when the leaves looked in need to keep them from dropping. The leaves remained on the plants for a couple of months and then dropped off. And I think the tuber is larger, ever so slightly larger. This went on for many years.

It's 2004; something different is appearing as the tubers are breaking dormancy, we have rain and it rots off, leaves follow as in the past. In 2005 it again sends up this sprout, it turns out to be a bloom but I'm unable to self it. In 2006, it again sends up a bloom stem, the bracts covering the flowers drop to expose the developing flower buds. I wait in anticipation. The flowers open, I self it and the next day the petals stay closed, did it take? The petals stay closed and the ovary and wings are changing. More flower stems are emerging but we encounter some of the hottest weather in years and these stems drop. But the first stem holds several pods and they mature. I harvest the seed. I'll be testing the seed, sharing plants with members of

Continued on page 48.



B. 'Wind Dancer' which came up on limestone rocks along the edge of a little pond. is to the left above and to the right unknown seedlings which came up on a fern base. Below, B. heracleifolia (green version) seedling coming up on coral piece. All photos by Johanna Kitson.



Coming Up Begonias

by Johanna Kitson

To get something to happen usually, it only takes time and money. Well, I have plenty of time, but in this case it took no money at all. Perhaps 13 or 14 years ago I planted an ordinary little bird's nest fern in a 16-inch clay pot and over the years it has grown quite tall and wide. The base of the fern is only a few inches tall and stays moist all the time. The pot actually sits in a saucer of water. After gardening in the front and side yard all spring, I finally late last summer began working seriously in the back yard to reassemble it after our previous fall's hurricanes.

To give you an idea of my yard's conditions I have listed the following: In the summer humidity can be in the 90%+ range and temperatures in the 85-95° range. Fall is generally around 70° and humidity about the same. Winter (all 10 days of it), has been down to 37° in my yard. For the last ten years I have mulched my yard with the oak and cypress trees providing additional leaf litter mulch. The soil above the Florida sand layer is quite organic after all these years. I fertilize with Nutricote twice a year, palm fertilizer about four to five times a year, and occasionally with extra magnesium and potassium. For the most part, the plants are all getting high filtered shade/sun.

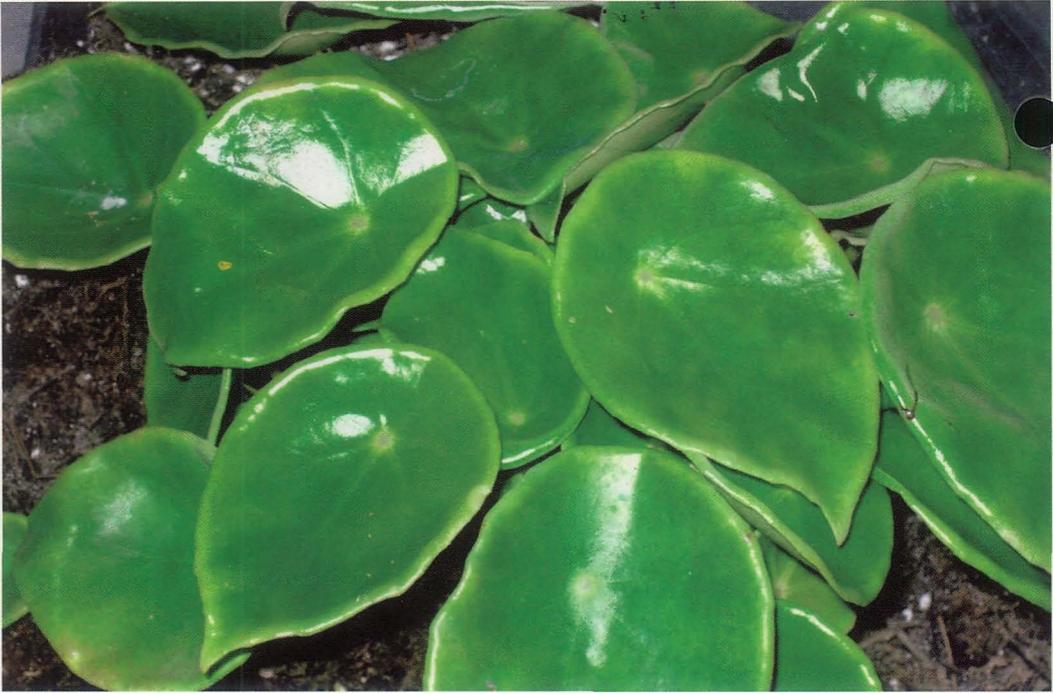
One of my goals since the hurricanes is to get many plants out of pots and planted into the ground. As I was clearing out an area, de-potting, and planting as many begonias, aroids, and ferns as I could, I happened to look up and was surprised to see several begonias coming

up on the base of the previously mentioned bird's nest fern. As those of you who grow begonia from seeds know, many of the baby plants look different with slight variations among the brood. There is never a way to tell which plants are the parents in this accidental sprouting, but it is always fun to guess by what begonias are growing nearby. In my yard that may be a bit difficult as I have 147 begonias in the landscape the last time I took an inventory. These new begonias have star shaped leaves and very hairy petioles.

After seeing these little seedlings I decided to take a closer look around the yard and I discovered other places that had baby begonias coming up. The first area germinating begonias was a little coral wall. It was quite plain to see these were a green variety of *Begonia heracleifolia*. The parent of these plants is located about 25 feet away and is a plant that a friend had given to me after collecting in Mexico.

Along the edges of my ponds are limestone rocks. As in the case of the fern base, these rocks stay moist all the time and make ideal places to germinate begonias, ferns and some aroids. On these rocks I have found *Begonia nelumbiiifolia* growing from seed and another unknown hybrid that I have named *Begonia* 'Wind Dancer'.

On some decaying stumps I have found recently germinated seeds too small to even think of identifying. But, alas, I have time to wait and see what exciting things develop.



*Charles Henthorne photographs his *B. lyncicorium* above while Rekha Morris's photo below shows us the cave entrance where it was found.*



B. lyniceorum K. Burt-Utley

by Charles Henthorne

While Leora and I grow many of the more common varieties of begonia species in our terrariums, we also have many of the more rare and unusual varieties of begonia species as well. One of these is *B. lyniceorum*. Our initial plant of this most interesting begonia was obtained at the ABS Convention, "Begonia Madness", held in Dallas Texas, in 2004. **Dr. Rekha Morris** brought several of these begonias for the silent auction, and I was very excited that I had obtained one at that time.

Rekha stated that it was not necessary to grow this in a terrarium, and we bravely made the attempt to grow this outside under our enormous shade tree.

We watched it closely throughout the summer, and though we cried over it, and babied it, and then ignored it, thinking that that was what it needed, it deteriorated to the point of near death. At that time I grabbed the remnants of the rhizome and headed for an empty terrarium. After placing it into its new growing environment, I held my breath for several weeks. Later in the fall it decided to take off and we now have many sturdy plants of this wonderful begonia. All of course are in our terrariums. Our climate here in Northern Texas is just not conducive to good growing conditions for most begonias, and we have found that most of the ones we love, will do much

better in our terrariums. *B. lyniceorum* is no different. We are anxiously awaiting our first blooms from this plant.

Burt-Utley describes *B. lyniceorum* as a diminutive species which forms colonies by thin, glabrous (smooth), creeping rhizomes. The type description (Burt-Utley 1983) erroneously describes the leaves as chartaceous (paper-like). This is true of the dried leaves but fresh material shows the leaves are distinctly thick and succulent, of the texture of *B. peltata*.

After placing it into its new growing environment, I held my breath for several weeks... Later in the fall, it decided to take off.

Leaves 5-12 cm long and 3-9 cm wide, very thick and succulent when fresh, ovate with abruptly acuminate tips with distinctively peltate leaf attachments, mar-

gins crenate-dentate. The upper leaf and lower leaf surfaces and petioles are glabrous with the upper surface darker green and the lower surface much lighter. She goes on to say that it grows on exposed rock of limestone and sandstone formations (epipectric) and in surrounding shallow soil pockets of evergreen tropical forests at low elevations. She makes note of the fact that the species has been found growing in the twilight zones of caves and is found in close association with *B. imperialis*. *B. lyniceorum* is placed in the Sect. *Weilbachia*; however, there is some evidence that there might be enough new information that would place it in Sect.

Gireoudia.

In his paper entitled "The Begonias of Veracruz, Additions and Revisions," **Patrick D. McMillan** of Clemson University, Dept. of Biological Sciences writes that *B. lyniceorum* Burt-Utley is endemic to Veracruz, and that with the new collections of mature, fertile capsules recently brought back by Rekha Morris, that the distinctions with that species can now be quantified beyond the simple lack of pubescence in *B. lyniceorum* that is noted by Burt-Utley(1983). *B. lyniceorum* has glabrous ovaries, and glabrous foliage and petioles and a more narrow, creeping rhizome, than is found in some members of section *Gireoudia*. With Dr. Morris' recent rediscovery of the species in 2004 there have been major revisions to the original description which includes leaf texture, which is decidedly succulent and thick coriaceous when fresh, drying to subcoriaceous, or chartaceous. Also more precise floral descriptions and the first description of the capsule and increased ranges for several vegetative features such as rhizome width and leaf dimensions. Habitat is not addressed in the original description, other than the note that it was reported as growing on limestone walls of large karst-sink and springhead in selva mediana. Dr. Morris states that this species is critically endangered in the wild and may be the rarest of the Mexican species, with very little available forested habitat remaining in this area of Veracruz despite the remoteness of the region.

It is interesting to note that prior to the discovery of living plants by Dr. Mor-

ris this species was known only from the type collection by Wendt, Villalobos and Navarrete (2529, CHAPA, MEXU, GH) along the border of Veracruz, Oaxaca and Chiapas, through the plant has only been recorded from Veracruz. The type station has apparently been destroyed by slashing. The species description contains no information about the natural habitat of the species, nor does it contain accurate information on the foliage or blooms, as it appears that the live plant was not available for Burt-Utley to examine as her description of its foliage is inaccurate, and she did not have a seed capsule to describe. Dr. Morris is doing a great service to the plant world as she travels in Mexico and now in

With Dr. Morris' recent rediscovery of the species in 2004 there have been major revisions to the original description...

India, to discover, to rediscover, and to verify existing locations for begonias. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

As Leora and I advanced in growing this species we found

that it adapted rapidly to our growing conditions in the terrarium. Even though it is found in low light in the wild, it seems not to be suffering from being in strong fluorescent lighting. We are presently in the process of evaluating it in low indirect natural lighting. With the addition of several more plants we can experiment more now with various lighting and moisture situations. I am anxious to keep this in our collection, as its' succulent leaves and stems are very different from all the other begonias we raise. This is one begonia that everyone should try. If one should want to try it they would find it a very satisfying experience.

**American Begonia Society
Fall Board of Directors'
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
Hilton Saint Louis Frontenac, St. Louis, MO
September 14-16, 2006**

President **Janet Brown** called the meeting to order at 3:50 PM. **Quorum:** A quorum of the ABS National Directors was determined of twenty-two votes. Dale Sena, member of the Begonia Society of Tampa Bay, passed out the voting cards.

Appointments: **Dale Sena, Time Keeper.**

Donna Marsheck, Secretary Pro Tem.

Minutes were approved as distributed by ABS Board.

Treasurer's report was accepted by the Board. Copies available.

Recommendations from the Executive Committee:

1. **Julie Vanderwilt** ratified as ABS Internet Editor due to the resignation of **Sandy Boyd**.
2. To restate recording of meetings and who receives the recorded copies.
 - a. Two [2] separate recordings of Board Meetings: #1 Recorder is Secretary.
 - b. **Gene Salisbury's** restatement of motion that the 2nd recording of Board Minutes goes to ABS Historian and ABS President.
 - c. A motion that the 2nd recording goes to the ABS Historian and ABS President and that Gene Salisbury be the 2nd officer/recorder."
3. A written Motion submitted from Editor Freda Holley: That the Rudolph Ziesenhenné Award be broadened to include recipients in addition to the Editor of the *Begonian* to include editors of other publications, both International and U. S. The criteria, however, must be specific to editors rather than writers and would be: "An Editor who collects and edits for publication, the works of others: a. ...who encourages a broad array of writers both scientific and practical to write and contribute articles. b. who issues a publication on begonias that is both excellent in design and content and which contributes to our knowledge and appreciation of begonias." [Janet Brown asked and received permission from R. Ziesenhenné's son to change the rules for the Award and asked Freda Holley to write the new rules. The new rules in no way will change the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award.]
4. Motion as read: The U #'s Committee publish the U #'s information through U #502, for general Begonia Society information, with simple field notes to include: person of discovery, country discovered, temperature/growing conditions, elevation, etc., whatever is available; the Who, How, What, When, Where, Why, with a one-year time frame to complete the collected information on U #'s up to #520 and a six [6] month time clock for each new U#.

Motion/s seconded and carried with one [1] in opposition.

Director/ **Written Report from Branch Relations Director, Mary Bucholtz** read by **Janet Brown:**

The ABS has thirty-four [34] branches.

Reports: In March, information *re* branch formation in Seattle, WA was sent to **Bob Clark**. A name request from The Santa Barbara Branch of the ABS to the Rudolf Ziesenhenné Branch of the ABS was granted at the March 4, 2006 Board Meeting. Janet requested Mary Bucholtz write a letter to send to the branches in regards to ABS dues; she read the letter. [Letter attached] Dale Sena made the motion to accept the read letter from Mary Bucholtz to be sent to ABS Branch's: Motion seconded and carried.

Discussion:

1. A second letter be drafted by Mary Bucholtz, stating a branch will loose its Charter due to nonconformance of ABS Bylaws.
2. Dues collected should include both ABS and Branch dues.
3. Branch Bylaws should be updated to be in compliance with ABS dues structure.
4. Do not accept branch dues if ABS dues have not been made.
5. Pull Charter if not in compliance with ABS.
 - a. Point of clarification: A Charter cannot be pulled unless branch membership is below 7 members.
6. Have a positive statement in the letter that all branches must include all dues.

Recommendations will be forwarded to **Mary Bucholtz**.

Membership Report: We have three [3] Branches whose President is not a current dues paying member of ABS: **Raymond Escobar**, President of San Gabriel Valley Branch [due March 2006]; **Lee Sinoff**, President of Miami Branch, FL, and **Dianne Klages**, Knickerbocker Branch, NY. We have one National Director who is not current with dues, **Houston Knight**, South Bay Branch, CA. We have 54 paid Life Memberships. [Report attached to official minutes]

Advertising: **Ann Salisbury** reported anyone may advertise in "The Begonian". \$1,205.00 has been collected for advertisements.

Book Store: **Cheryl Lenert** reported that the sale proceeds from the Book & CD's, "ABS List of Begonia Cultivars", by **Howard Berg** during the Miami Convention was donated to the ABS. Howard shipped, at his own expense, the books and CD's to Miami. A correct count was made after the Convention with over \$600 made. [Written report left at home.] **Tim Anderson** has the remaining unsold books from the Convention.

Conservation: Dr. Bill Claybaugh announced that he and **Rekha Morris** were the Conservation Committee and the committee has more than doubled with the addition of **Jack Golding**, **Brad Thompson**, and **Tom Keepin**. The last Conservation Program was from 2002 to 2006. A new Conservation Program will be implemented for 2007-2010. It will be expanded to include species cultivated in other countries and will be published soon. The Committee has nine [9] other activities that can and will be implemented soon.

Nominating Committee: Janet Brown announced that Tom Keepin will be the Chairman with **Joan Coulat** and **Dale Sena** as committee members.

Parliamentarian: Janet Brown thanked **Ann Salisbury** for serving the Society as the Parliamentarian. She asked that the assembly vote to accept the very capable **Linda Lawson**, serving as Parliamentarian Pro Tem, to become the ABS Parliamentarian.

Ann Salisbury so moved, it was seconded and carried by unanimous acclamation.

Research: As research Chair Howard Berg has accumulated and scanned and copied to a computer file well more than 100 copies of botanical prints, academic articles, flora, and other material pertaining to begonias. I will bring some CDs with these articles on them to the SWR get together. Some of the material comes From Jack Golding, **Millie Thompson**, **Freda Holley** and much of it is out of my collection of botanical books. I have a complete set of Curtis Botanical Magazine and any member who would like a copy of a Curtis Botanical print of Begonia can request one. Howard Berg

Convention: The Palos Verde Branch, with the aid of other branches in California, will host the 2007 ABS Convention on September 4-8 at the Ayres Hotel in Hawthorn/Manhattan Beach, CA. Convention theme "Begonias In Paradise, California Style". Convention Advisor: **Mary Sakamoto**; Convention Chairman: **Margaret Fisher**; Convention Treasurer/Registrar: **Louise Korobkin**, 23126 S. Kent Ave., Torrance, CA 90505-3527 [310] 375-7594.

The hotel is 3 1/2 miles from the Los Angeles International Airport. Rooms will be \$109 with double beds, \$139 for Junior Suites, and \$169 for Executive Suites. Paul Carlisle will provide a display in the Hotel lobby.

Brad Thompson as Show Class/Entries Chairman. Mike Flaherty as Convention Banquet MC. Jeanne Jones, Tours Chairman proposed tours: #1, Tuesday September 9th, will have 3 private

gardens in Beverly Hills, #2, Wednesday September 10th will go to Lotus Land. Janet Brown and Thelma O'Reilly will schedule all Seminars. There will be a plant sale.

Grants Committee: Cheryl Lenert requested that \$500 be awarded to Dr. Rekha Morris' for her trip to India that she is on right now. Request was seconded and carried.

New Business:

Janet Brown announced that the Scottish Begonia Society has issued an invitation to the Ayr Flower show to be held at the Glasgow and Edinburgh Botanic Gardens in July/August 2007.

Ann Salisbury requested that the Fred A. Barkley Branch be accepted to host the 2007 Board Meeting during the ABS South West Region Get-Together in Oklahoma City in April. Request was seconded and carried. Motion by Ann Salisbury: "I move that an Invitation/Registration Packet be mailed to each ABS member with ABS and the SWR each to pay half of said cost." Motion seconded and carried.

Appointments: Charles Jaros, Chairman and Linda Lawson were appointed to update the ABS Bylaws and Constitution and bring said proposal to the next Board meeting.

Motion by Gene Salisbury: "I move that the Board consult with Maxine Zinman, Judges Chairman, and her Committee, for information needed for "Judge's standing" of shows judged in order to move to next Judge's level". Rational: Fewer Shows are held and it would be helpful for the Committee to get information from Judge's as to number of shows judged and their current Judges standing. Motion was seconded and carried.

Morris Mueller requested that branches send their newsletter to each other for new program ideas. Cheryl Lenert has some new program ideas and will soon share these with the branches.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Marsheck, Secretary Pro Tem

*These minutes have been edited for purposes of space. A complete copy is available upon request from the Secretary **Richard Macnair**, address on page 79.*

A Mallet By Any Other Name...

Is there a more confusing word in Begonia language than mallet?

When I first heard the word used for a class of cane-like begonias, my only reference point was my dictionary definition of mallet as a hammer-like object used in order not to mark wood or to drive a ball as in croquet. My vision then was of a stick with a stumpy leaf on top, but this did not match at all the fine, beautiful but delicate leaved forms of begonias such as *B. 'Margaritacea'* to which this term seemed to apply. Then from M. and

Ed. Thompson's *Begonias*, I figured out that the term originated from begonias like those originally developed in France by gardeners of Arthur Mallet. Thus, *B. 'Arthur Mallet'*, *B. 'Tingley Mallet'*, etc. This book says that they mostly have mahogany-red foliage with red hairs.

Well, good enough, then; at least there was some logic to this application of the name although it leaves me still confused as to how to apply the definition to today's plants. I believe I recall **Brad Thompson** classing his *B. 'Arabian Sunset'* as a Mallet. Might other newer

Continued on page 62.

In the Mailbox

by Greg Sytch,

Horticultural Correspondent

The mailbox has had quite a few emails fly in regarding whether they have received begonias as gifts. Because of the various types of begonias available, they can often be confused with other types of plants. The suggestion that I made to each could be used to try and figure out if you also have a specific variety.

First, do a Google search hitting the variety that you would like a picture of. For example, if you put in Begonia 'Cracklin Rosie', you will receive hits for several articles that include a picture of the plant. This way, you can better identify what you have. However, the only drawback is that you must be correct in your spelling. Try a few different varieties, and often Google can help with alternatives.

One of the advantages of using this search is that there are often old articles of *The Begonian*, and they can offer some cultural advice. There are other search engines which you can use, so try your favorite and search away! I have found it to be a wonderful addition to my internet studies on horticulture, as it works for all types of plants. Hopefully, it can help you.

And ... Advice for Beginners

On Growing high altitude Begonias

After Mildred Thompson's fantastic article on *B. bipinnatifida*, I thought that some begonias fairly new to growing begonias should be aware of some basic culture requirements of species from higher altitudes.

While still in the tropics, these are

areas with fairly constant, cool temperatures that vary little from season to season and from day to night. Therefore, they cannot tolerate any chill OR heat. Heat means anything above 85°F for an extended period of time. Chill means anything under 55°F for extended periods. Therefore, growing indoors is essential.

Most begonias from these habitats grow in cloud forests, so humidity must be constantly high - usually nothing below 70%. That require a terrarium type of environment. Light levels are bright but not high, so fluorescent lights work great. If you do not have this set up, then an east or shaded south area would be ideal. Growing in poorer, shallow soils, do not plant deeply.

While the cloud forests that these species call home are rainy, the shallow soils also mean they hold moisture but are not sopping wet. Include some drainage, and never allow them to stay wet. I have always found that watering terrariums is infrequent, because the contained environment holds moisture well. Fertilize at half-strength.

If you can adapt to these conditions, growing these species is very rewarding. While nothing is set in stone, use these directions as guidelines and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

My email address is gsytch@cs.com or snail mail me at 6329 Alaska Ave, New Port Richey FL 34653. 727-841-9618.

Greg has added an important component to his column - advice for beginners. Relay the questions you hear from new growers to he can make this column more useful to them.

Benefits of the American Begonia Society

by Johanna Kitson

Sometimes we have a tendency to take things for granted. For instance, we just assume we will get all the latest, greatest begonias because it seems we always have. We are fortunate to have members, such as **Rehka Morris, Scott Hoover, Don Miller, Charles Jaros, Mary Sizemore**, and other members from the United States and abroad, supplying ABS with these desired begonias.

We are fortunate to be able to have Harmony nursery in the state of Florida growing all the latest species discovered and many newly developed and released hybrids. They in turn grow them for our board meetings, conventions, and local branch sales.

The Fort Worth Botanical Garden has been extremely generous with the American Begonia Society, as well. The local chapters nearby are afforded the occasional opportunity to take leaves and cuttings from the greenhouse areas. We benefit from all of this.

The ABS *Begonian* magazine keeps us abreast of the who, what, and where of begonia discovery and growing.

The ABS supports dedicated begoniacs to further our education and curiosity of the *Begoniaceae* in several countries—SE Asia, Mexico, Java, and Puerto Rico to name a few. Again, we all benefit.

ABS board meetings, conventions and the SW Region Get-together further our education. Besides members sharing their ideas and plants with one another at these events, the programs feature local and World-Wide speakers, some in recent years from the Netherlands, Scotland, and Viet Nam. Also, a part of these ABS meetings, are tours that enable us to see what local gardeners are doing in their yards,

local events in the host city, and what the local botanical gardens have to offer. For instance, at the last SW Get-together in St. Louis at the Missouri Botanical Garden, we had the opportunity to see behind-the-scenes herbarium specimens collected and signed by Charles Darwin when he took his trip on the *Beagle* and the 1753 two volume set of *Species Plantarum* by Linnaeus. More benefits!

All this for only \$25 a year membership!

Unexpected benefits are the many friends I have made over the years. These benefits? *Priceless.....*

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY IN SCOTLAND

If you haven't already made your reservations for the fabulous tour of Scotland you may still have time.

Check the ABS web site for details or contact:

Jan Brown
310 670-4471
JBBrown3@aol.com

Cheryl Lenert
281 897-0155
lenert@flash.net
Please use the word "begonia" in your subject line.

Conservation Comments

Bill Claybaugh
Conservation Chairman, ABS

Conservation Program, 2007-2010

The ABS Conservation Committee has been expanded and the Conservation Program for the period of 2007 through 2010 has been redefined. This article is a brief outline of that program and a beginning for the first item on the agenda.

First, some history. For the past four years, 2002 through 2006, **Rekha Morris** and myself have constituted the Conservation Committee. Our program was preliminarily formulated from interactions with various ABS members and then published in the *Begonian* May-June 2002. This program was then expanded and finalized after a large meeting in July 2002 in Houston at the National Convention. We now have expanded the Committee to officially include three persons who were already major contributors to the program, namely **Mildred Thompson, Jack Golding,** and **Tom Keepin.**

As a committee, we have reviewed the past program and expanded/extended it to *nine major tasks* which may be summarized as follows (more details are available and will be published as space allows):

1. Conduct a survey to determine what species are currently in cultivation and request digital photographs of these species.
2. Continue to publish on the internet pictures of species plants, leaves, and flowers.
3. Continue to publish on the internet information about, and pictures of the Uxxx plants.
4. Support the discovery and collec-

tion of known and unknown species begonias.

5. Develop better programs to interact with major repositories of species begonias.
6. Continue to promote the growing of species begonias by ABS members through the "Adopt a Species Program" and the "Save Our Species" newsletter.
7. Actively pursue the identification of new begonia species and varieties.
8. Broaden the number of species begonias available to members and the public.
9. Encourage the publishing of a broad range of information on species begonias.

Most of these are ongoing programs, and all items will extend into the foreseeable future.

Expanding item one above gives:

A. Conduct a survey to determine what species begonias are currently in cultivation and request digital photographs of those species. Include plants known by their species names, synonyms, temporary names, cultivars of species, and/or Uxxx numbers.

A. Break the survey into three distinct parts, namely:

- a. Survey U.S. ABS members, Botanical Gardens, Universities, and appropriate commercial growers. Publish requests in the *Begonian*, on the Astro web site, plus ask each ABS branch to participate.
- b. Ask International Begonia Societies (Australia, Belgium, Canada, England/Wales, France, New Zealand, Japan, and Scotland) to conduct a similar survey.
- c. Request information from other

botanical gardens, worldwide, which are thought to grow begonias.

B. Publish this information in multiple places.

a. Update the Astro website information which currently covers over 600 listings from the 2002 survey.

b. Include selected information in future updates of the Begoniaceae Species List.

c. Publish the results of the survey in the Begonian as space allows.

Note: This published information will not include where or who is currently growing the plant. Past surveys indicate growers do not want this information in print.

The response of our members in 2002 was very good. At that time, we listed 316 species, 71 synonyms, 68 temporary names, 60 cultivars of species, and 103 Uxxx species in cultivation. That list is currently available on the Astro website at <http://absastro.tripod.com/salpha/found-species.htm>. **I am now asking each ABS member to re-inventory their plants** and send to me their updated list of species. In addition, when available, please send me print or digital photographs of (1) the plants in general, (2) a close-up of one or two leaves, and (3) close-ups of the flowers, both pistillate and staminate.

Information on what species are currently in cultivation will be of interest to everyone and should lead to more discoveries/collections and better preservation of the plants. The photos of these plants, to be published on the Astro website, will greatly improve everyone's ability to identify species.

Begonia phutoensis

by Normand Dufresne

This is taken with thanks from the Buxtonian, newsletter of the Buxton Branch, Vol. 34, No. 3, December 2006 where Normand contributes a "Plant of the Month" column.

Begonia phutoensis is a fairly new species from Phuto and Tanh Hoa provinces in Vietnam. It was described in 2003 by Hieu Quang Nguyen, a young botanist working on his doctorate degree specializing in begonias. I've been told that he plans to return to Vietnam and do extensive exploring for begonias.

B. phutoensis is a rhizomatous begonia with a creeping rhizome. It is acaulescent or stemless and grows to about a foot tall. The leaves are petlate, almost round (5 1/2" x 6 1/2") with an acuminate tip. The surface of the leaf is glabrous, bullate or puckered. The edge of the leaf is moderately hairy. The underside of the leaf is also glabrous except for the palmate pinnate veins which have sparse red hairs. The petiole is brownish tomentose; its length largely accounts for the height of the plant. **Charles Jaros** told me that last winter his plant lost all of its leaves. I'm anxious to see if my plant will do the same here in the Northeast and prove the plant to be deciduous.

The flowers of *B. phutoensis* are small white pink, sometimes sparsely ciliate. They arise from the rhizome on a tomentose peduncle of 5 to 8 inches. So far my plant seems to be everblooming. All summer I got only male flowers which fell without opening. Here we are at the beginning of November and I now can see female flowers. I hope some of my male flowers will now open since I don't get any pollen if the flower doesn't open

naturally.

B. phutoensis is a robust plant and not too difficult to grow. I think it would like a tad more humidity than it gets in my small greenhouse.

I checked my plant twice before entering it in our blower show, but a sharp-eyed judge was able to spot a mealy bug so it was removed from the show. It is a beautiful uniform grower so I will keep it mealy bugs and all.

Continued from page 57.

begonia fit this class - say *Begonia* 'Sinbad', 'Don Miller' or 'Benigo'.. Dare I declare one of my own hybrids a Mallet begonia?

Now if that confusion were not enough to leave me sleepless in Louisiana (or whichever state I happened to be in at the time these questions initially arose!), I have the term "mallet cutting". On first hearing this term, I was really taken aback! Was this a cutting of the Mallet begonias? Or one where the end of the stem went under my hammer?

Finally, I learned that this was the term for a cutting taken of a stem which had a branch or branch bud so that a new plant grew from the emerging branch. Now what logic led to this definition of a cutting? It is a definition almost impossible for a beginner to comprehend by the way, as if there weren't enough natural questions arising with these mallet cuttings. Does a mallet cutting grow as quickly as a tip cutting? Does a plant grown from a mallet cutting make a better basket plant? Will the plant it produces be smaller than that from a tip cutting?

Oh, Shakespeare, where art thou when such imponderable questions enter the head of a begoniac? Would someone out there want to write a more definitive paper on these two, doubtlessly scientifically important topics? If so the editor would love to publish them!

~FH

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This issue thanks go to **Jackie Davis**, **Thelma O'Reilly**, and **Michael Ludwig** for fresh seed of the begonias described above that are featured this month and to **Kingsley Langenberg** for *B. rex*.

Species Seed

B. rex Putzeys (Sect. *Platycentrum*) [India, Himalaya]. **New!** Rhizome succulent, creeping below ground; leaves 8-12 in. long, 6-8 in. wide, obliquely ovate, wavy-margined, wrinkled, rich metallic-green with a 1 in.-wide zone of silvery-gray above, reddish underneath, petioles red, hairy; flowers pale rosy-pink, in cymes above foliage, male flowers 2 in. across, with 4 unequal tepals, female smaller, with nearly equal tepals, ovary 3-angled, with 1 long and 2 short wings. Winter. Assam. The principal progenitor of the *Begonia* Rex-Cultorum Hybrids. These very special seeds are priced at \$2.50 per packet."

B. boliviensis A. DeCandolle (Sect. Barya) [Bolivia, Argentina], 'Skagums'. A Horticultural variety of a tuberous species from Bolivia. This variety has much larger blooms than the species.

B. carolineifolia Regel (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Mexico, Guatemala] Large erect rhizome; large palmately parted leaves on long petioles; flowers large, pink, with dark pink spots; late winter to early spring.

B. crassicaulis Lindley (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Guatemala] Erect rhizome; glossy, dark green, palmately lobed handsome leaves drop in late winter; blooms on bare rhizome then leaf out after the blooms have faded.

B. dipetala Graham (Sect. *Haagea*) [India] The name means two petalled. Two feet tall. Thick stemmed, rigidly erect, brown rarely branched. Leaves medium, ovate-pointed, doubly toothed, green with scattered bristly hairs, red beneath. Large, soft white to pink fragrant flowers in pendulous clusters. Collected in the Bombay area; has annual rainfall over 80 inches from July

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to October; sandy loam; temp. 68[F]—86[F].

B. fischeri Schrank (Syn. U129) (Sect. *Begonia*) [Central & South America] A highly variable shrub with many varieties. Var. *fischeri* has erect red stems to 2'; medium, puberulent green leaves, red flushed on back; palmately veined; pink blossoms and winged carpels throughout the year. Very prolific

B. heracleifolia Cham. & Schlecht (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Mexico & Central America] Rhizomatous; leaves 1 foot across, hairy, 5-9 deep narrow lobes, toothed, bronzy green tinged with black near margin; petioles 10-18 in. long, stout, tinged with red, prominent ruff below the blade; flowers rosy pink, fragrant; peduncles 2-4 feet long. This specimen collected in Chiapas, Mexico. R. Ziesenhenné advises this is the true species.

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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.

DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. The species names (in italics) reported here are correct based on the latest information from *BEGONIACEAE*, Ed. 2; Golding, and Wasshausen. Hybrid names from *ABS Check List of Begonia Hybrids* edited by Howard Berg dated 9/13/2005.

Editor's Note

Mary Fuqua has let me know that **Jim Hunter** says the cover photo on the November/December 2006 issue is of *Begonia aptera*. Mark your copy.

In Memory

SHIRLEY BROWN

On December 9th, 2006 the Tampa Bay Branch lost one of its charter members and its first Branch President, Shirley Brown. Shirley passed away from complications of a stroke that occurred the day after Thanksgiving.

What can one say about Shirley, she was one of the driving forces in the creation of the Tampa Bay Branch. Without many of her efforts, there would not be the thriving Branch there is today. Shirley was full of great ideas and always had a "can do attitude". Shirley always said "of course we can do it" and she was right, with a successful outcome as well.

Shirley was the first President of the Tampa Bay Branch and through her leadership the Branch grew and thrived. Shirley was instrumental in arranging the ABS Board Meeting in conjunction with the University of South Florida's Annual Begonia Bash. This was one of the most successful ABS Board meetings with over 50 participants.

Shirley will probably be remembered most for the 2006 ABS Convention Hospitality Room. It was Shirley's idea to have theme nights at the hospitality room to encourage more participation. With the help of other Tampa Bay Branch members it became one of the most memorable hospitality rooms of any ABS convention. We will all remember the pajama party.

Condolences can be sent to her husband **Mel Brown** at 1804 Curry Road, Lutz, FL. 33549-3704. This gentle, caring woman will be missed by all. Shirley is now in the Rainforests of the sky, tending her begonias.

Charles Jaros

Editor's Notes

During the last week while the winter rages outside, I have enjoyed the cozy coolness of the greenhouse where slowly but surely flower stem after flower stem of the rhizomatous and thick-stem begonias creep up out of the leaves and then reach for the roof. Because they are now on benches and at eye-level, I can enjoy them as I never could outside.

Each bloom stem is unique, each is a marvel as it unfolds. Amazingly, despite the similarities the blooms show, each species bloom is very different. I photograph them as often as I can, but truly I would have to take photos each morning to capture how much change occurs overnight.

I am also struck by the uniformity of emergence among different plants of the same species. What great sensitivity to light waves and day length has to occur to get that timed emergence! Yet each species is slightly different from other species in timing, dancing to its own drummer.

Here and there a timid cane is also beginning to send out a bud or two and those undaunted *Semperflorens* just keep on blooming no matter what cloudy days come their way.

Remember to take time to enjoy them, but not so much that you forget that I need articles! As I've told you the *Begonian* is a hungry beast that gobbles the articles as quickly as they come in and I'm really short for the May/June issue. February is surely the month when gardening demands have slackened and you can take an hour or so to write about your latest begonia find or an old one that you will always enjoy. Readers really like to get the scoop on any new begonia that you may have come across, your source, and how it responds for you. Write me: letter or article! I want them all!

FH

TO STIMULATE AND PROMOTE INTEREST IN BEGONIAS AND OTHER SHADE LOVING PLANTS

.....The KOLZ Study Center
By Michael Ludwig

The door opened for the first time January 28, 2006. Members of the Margaret Lee Branch of the American Begonia Society were the first in for their regular monthly meeting and it was toasted with champagne as a great resource at lunch. Then in the afternoon, the board of the Mabel Corwin Branch had their meeting. It was late afternoon before they finished and I declared a very triumphant launching of the KOLZ STUDY CENTER.

Looking in and around the 24 x 16 foot space you see book cases, file cabinets, drawers and card catalogue. The shelves are filled with books, note books and papers. Opening file drawers reveal folders filled with letters, notes, copied materials, pictures, even occasional pressed leaves or flowers. Drawers smelling of moth balls protect herbarium specimens from invading insects and the card catalogue has thousands of cards listing begonia names, articles, authors, and books. That's the visible KOLZ but lying behind all the physical items are lifetimes of begonia love, research, and study. The lifetimes? *Carrie Karegeannes, Thelma O'Reilly, Michael Ludwig and Rudolf Ziesenhenn*e and countless correspondents through time and from around the world.

In the Spring of 2002, I receive a breathtaking letter. Carrie Karegeannes, ABS's nomenclature director was moving beyond her lifetime dedication to nomenclature and research and wanted to send her collection of research and library materials to me. She had been talking with her friend and partner in study, Thelma O'Reilly. How does she make sure that

her materials are safe from a change of directors or directions in an organization, education or botanical center that has decided to dispose of her work because they're moving in another direction or losing funding? An individual dedicated to begonias with time ahead of them to continue the work! Thelma had suggested me and Carrie agreed. She started to send boxes. I'd arrive home and find a five foot stack of boxes. This continued for months. The contents neatly bundled in alphabetical order, file folders; file cards; books; slides; herbarium specimens and so many other treasures all were welcomed to their new home. My father died September 13, 2002, I had a difficult time dealing with my emotions and these volumes helped me through it by allowing me to get lost in them, reenergize and then face the world again. Thank you Carrie for so many things.

My dear friend and mentor, Thelma O'Reilly, has been passing on various newsletters, papers and books over the years. She has shared her knowledge and enthusiasm with me, Margaret Lee Branch members and everyone else in Begoniadom and continues to do so with each conversation and every meeting with her.

While visiting Mr. Begonia, Rudy Ziesenhenn, he would often joke with me about needing a truck to remove all his study and research materials when he was gone. Then during my visit in August of 2005, he took me upstairs in his home to his study room. There was a room full of shelves and cabinets filled with his life. He pointed to a couple of ceiling high book-

cases filled with binders and other material and told me he was sending them home with me, if I wanted them. I looked through them as I took them from the shelves and loaded them in boxes and saw the wealth of knowledge they contained. There were copies of pages of antique books from the beginning of nomenclature, in every language. I loaded books, back issues, newsletters, papers and over 30 binders into my truck and brought them home.

It was clear this growing wealth needed a proper home and place to be shared. Walls finished and painted, carpeting, and lighting were put in place. Shelves, cabinets, tables and chairs were arranged and readied. The materials from Carrie, Rudy, and Thelma were moved in. They joined my library of materials covering all manner of gardening and plants. I've been collecting for over 35 years. Materials received from **Marge Lee's** family, which helped fill the void left when my adopted grandmother died in 2004, also moved in. I could feel Marge and Mabel Corwin watching over me in this venture.

Every time I walk into KOLZ, I feel each and every one of these people. As I read the letters, I'm a part of their discussions and feel the frustration of not being able to get that last bit of information that will unlock and solve the puzzle but then, in the next letter, the excitement of the discovery that finally put every thing in place, a mystery solved or identification is proven.

KOLZ has continued to grow since opening, adding more file cabinets and bookshelves, making room for the wonderful books authored by **Dr. Ruth Kiew** and **Dr. Mark Tebitt**. Ruth and Walter Pease and June Rakestraw's family donated materials and the San Diego Floral Association donated more back issues of *The Begonian*. I received more of Rudy's

material from **Fred and Skee Ziesenhenn**e in October and at the November meeting of the Margaret Lee Branch we opened Rudy's herbarium press and discovered the last specimens he pressed. Arrangements are in the works to move the rest of his collection to KOLZ before the rest of his property is turned over to the Santa Barbara Bowl. Thelma continues to share material including the new *Begonia Notes* by Rudolf Ziesenhenn, made possible through the Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund. The internet has been a great source for material with many interesting articles, thesis and dissertations on many aspects of begoniaceae culture and nomenclature, free for the downloading. This includes the *Smithsonian Contributions to Botany* with its *Annotated Species List* by **Golding**, Karengéannes and *Seed Micromorphology of Neotropical Begonias* by **A. de Lange** and **F. Bouman**. Other items have been found on the web but require subscription or fees and will be added as my funds are available. I'm always watching for new material and sources for it.

KOLZ is being inventoried and a database being created to keep track of the information. It's a slow process; I get involved with the information as I'm entering it and live a new adventure with each file, book or slide. The volumes are being entered and the begonias in them will be indexed. As I find duplicate materials, I'll sell them in order to obtain new materials and keep the Center up to date. I look forward to years of study and research with Carrie, Thelma, Rudy, their correspondents as well as the many new friends these materials will bring in my continuing study.



Michael Ludwig's photo captures the Branch hard at work above and a visit to the Center by President Janet Brown below.



Unidentified Begonia Species List

by Thelma O'Reilly, Project Director

Begonia U496

Vietnam. Seed collected by **Mary Sizemore** in spring of 2002. Tuberous. **Mary Bucholtz** has written a comprehensive article about this fascinating new species for the Begonian. See Vol.73, July/August 2006, pages 151-153. Note color cover.

Begonia U497

Bangkok, Thailand. Plant purchased by **Dale Sena** at a plant market June, 2005. Rhizomatous. Leaf blades ovate, glabrous, dark reddish green with pinkish red eye at umbo and same color veins extending over upper blade surfaces, under surfaces burgundy red. Margins slightly dentate with short, pale red hairs. Petioles red with scattered pale red hairs and beige scattered lenticels. Stipules are most interesting. About 1 inch long with several keels and long hairs on keels and margins, quickly deciduous. Male flower buds glabrous, bright pink opening to white flushed pink with 4 tepals. Possible new species reported by **Hieu Nguyen**.

Begonia U498

Texas, Fort Worth Botanical Garden. Plant labeled ANON#3. Rhizomatous. Upper leaf blade surfaces soft green covered with short white hairs, under surfaces and veins covered with slightly bristly red hairs. Marginally red and ciliate. Petioles, green, succulent, densely covered with red hairs and trichomes. Peduncles and pedicels have sparse black hairs. Flower buds covered with reddish black hairs opening into white flowers with blackish hairs sometimes tinged red at edges of tepals' backs. Ovary, with at least 6 wings, sparsely covered with black hairs.

Begonia U499

Asia. Plant material collected by **Mary Sizemore** prior to Fall 2004. Rhizomatous. Leaf blades iridescent apple green. Petioles red. Flowers white. Possible new species reported by Hieu Nguyen.

Begonia U500

N. Vietnam. Plant material collected by Hieu Nguyen prior to October 2005. Leaf blades green sparsely covered with red hairs. Margin edged red. Hieu Nguyen reports this is a new species.

Begonia U501

Asia. Plant material collected by Mary Sizemore in summer of 2005. Leaf blades green, undersurfaces red. Margins edged red. Petioles maroon with white pubescence.

Begonia U502

Asia. Plant material collected by Mary Sizemore in summer of 2005. Leaf blades green, undersurfaces red with red veins.. Margins edged red. Petioles red, covered with bristly red hairs. Male flowers white and pink with 4 male tepals.

Continued on page 75.



Above: **B. U498**; above right: **B. U502**. Below, **B. U501**. All photos by Mary Bucholtz.



2007 AWARDS - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ANN SALISBURY, AWARDS CHAIRMAN

They are the American Begonia Society's "Magnificent Seven". You have an opportunity to make 7 nominations for 2007. Note that the Ziesenhenné Award criteria has changed.

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

There are many worthy members that are possible winners for these awards. If you have nominated someone in the past and they have not won, please nominate them again. Note the new criteria for the Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award this year. The committee may present only one of each of the awards each year.

I must receive these nominations by **July 1, 2007**. Remember the Board has approved email nominations. However, by mail or email, **one nomination per page!** Please mail all nominations to:

Ann Salisbury, Awards Chairman

P. O. Box 452

Tonkawa, Ok. 74653

Email: geneann@sbcglobal.net

AWARD CRITERIA:

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

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

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

The **Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award** is presented to an Editor who collects and edits the works of others for a publication either U.S. or international and: a. who encourages a broad array of writers both scientific and practical to write and contribute articles. b. who issues a publication on begonias that is both excellent in design and content and which contributes to our knowledge and appreciation of begonias.

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

The **Marge Lee Award** is given to a person who contributes something of a

spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among members.

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

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

Recent past recipients of these awards:

O'Reilly

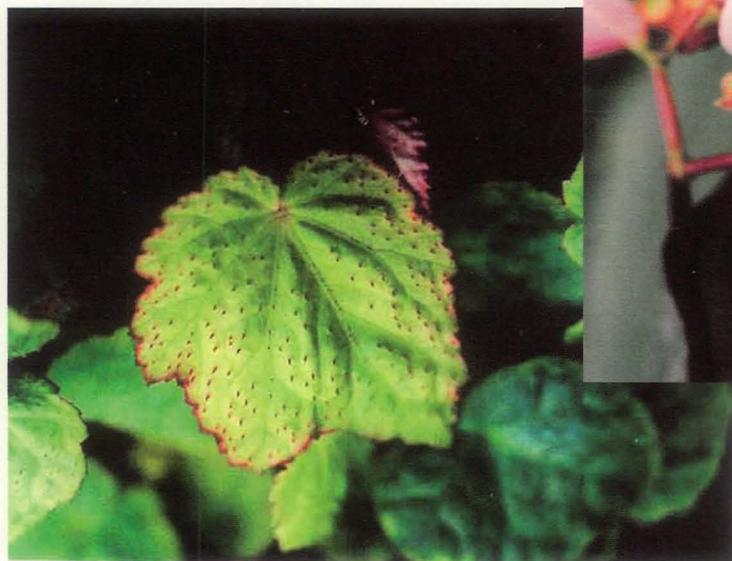
<u>Year</u>	<u>Dyckman Award</u>	<u>Gray Award</u>	<u>ADR Medal</u>	<u>Award</u>
1995	A. Salisbury	M. Blanton	B. 'Silvermist'	
1996	C. Notaras	K. Mounger	B. 'Sweet Diane'	
1997	J. Coulat	none		
1998	E. Calkins	G. & A. Salisbury	none	
1999	G. Salisbury	M. Bucholtz	none	
2000	M. Sakamoto	F. Holley	B. 'M. Sakamoto'	
2001	R. & W Macnair	B. Thompson	B. 'Little Miss Mummy'	
2002	R & L Fuentes	H. Jaros	B. 'Flamingo Queen'	
2003	J. Brown	C. Lenert	B. 'Cowardly Lion'	
2004	M. Zinman	C. Jaros	B. 'Black Gold'	
2005	Michael Kartuz	Don Miller	B. 'Holley Moon'	Tim O'Reilly
2006	Johanna Zinn	Rekha Morris		Charlie Lenert

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ziesenhene Award</u>	<u>Salisbury Award</u>	<u>Marge Lee Award</u>
2001	Ed and Phyllis Bates		
2002	Tamsin Boardman		
2003	Freda Holley		
2004	Karen Bartholomew and Chuck Anderson		
2005	Brad Thompson	Gene Salisbury	Tom Keepin
2006		Charles Jaros	Cheryl Lenert

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Above, leaf of B. U509 . Above Right is B. U508 with its flower shown below right and below left is B. U500.



Begonia U503

Atlanta Botanic Garden. Plant material acquired by **Charles Jaros**, June, 2004. No information was available. Leaf blades green, succulent, with burgundy undersurfaces. Petioles green.

Begonia U504

Asia. Plant material collected by **Mary Sizemore**. Rhizomatous. Leaf blades green, upper and under surfaces have a bronze cast, peltate, acuminate. Dainty pink flowers rise above the foliage.

Begonia U505

Asia. Plant material collected by Mary Sizemore prior to November 2002. Rhizomatous. Leaf blades green, lightly spotted, pustular, ovate. Margins ciliate. Petioles hairy.

Begonia U506

Asia. Plant material collected by Mary Sizemore prior to October 2005. Rhizomatous. Leaf blades green, iridescent, lightly spotted, red netted veins on both surfaces. Margins ciliate. Petioles red and pubescent.

Begonia U507

Asia. Plant material collected by Mary Sizemore prior to July 2005. Rhizomatous. Leaf blades green, unevenly iridescently silver splashed. Margins ciliate. Petioles red, pubescent.

Begonia U508

Lyon, France. Plant material obtained by Charles Jaros from **Cheryl Lenert**, TX who purchased it in France November, 2005. The begonia supposedly originated in Malaysia. Rhizomatous. Leaf blades silvery maroon/black, undersurfaces burgundy, cordate, acuminate. Rhizomes upright. Petioles burgundy, pubescent. Flowers pinkish white.

Begonia U509

Peru. Plant material collected by Mary Sizemore, 2005. Classification undetermined, but appears to be thick-stemmed or upright rhizomatous. Leaf blades silvery green, ovate, with white pubescence. Margins serrate. Petiole green blushed red. Peduncles and petioles green flushed red. Flowers pink.

Begonia U510

Asia. Plant material collected by Mary Sizemore prior to November 2005. Rhizomatous. Leaf blades green, thinly textured with white pubescence on upper surfaces. Margins dentate. Petioles red, covered with short white hairs.

Note: I was unable to attend ABS Convention in 2006. Unidentified begonias in the above listing were examined and assigned U numbers by **Mary Bucholtz**, Charles Jaros, **Hieu Nguyen** and Dr. **Mark Tebbitt**. Some of these Asian species can now be purchased. They are being listed to make information available to collectors. ~ TO'R

ABS Convention 2007
September 4-9, 2007
Southern California

A Preview of the Seminars

This is a preview of the seminars to be presented at the ABS Convention and Annual Meeting in September. By the time you read this article the program will be set. The plan is to begin the seminars on Wednesday evening, continuing on Thursday evening and finishing on Saturday morning. There will be three at each sitting.

We are very pleased to announce these amazing begonia experts who have agreed to speak at the ABS Convention, 2007.

THE EXPLORERS AND BEGONIA COLLECTORS:

CHARLES JAROS - Thailand, 2006
HIEU NGUYEN - Vietnam, 2006-7
REKHA MORRIS - India & Mexico

CALIFORNIANA

JOAN COULAT - Sacramento
EVELYN WEIDNER - Leucadia
MICHAEL LUDWIG - San Diego

INTERNATIONAL

These are tentative at this time because of the difficulties of travel on the international scene but we are hoping that all goes well and these wonderful speakers will be able to be with us.

SAMUEL KENNEDY - President, Scottish Begonia Society
EWEN DONALDSON - Director, Glasgow Botanic Gardens
WILLIAM ASH - Rare & Exotic Begonia Species - England

There are many reasons to attend this convention and certainly the seminar speakers are one of them. Our evenings will be filled with interesting begonia lore and fascinating tales of collecting begonias in the wild. Don't miss it!

Janet Brown and Thelma O'Reilly, Seminars Committee

Plus

Plans for private garden tours on Tuesday 9/4/07 are being finalized at this time; more information will be provided when these are finalized; the planned location will be the Beverly Hills area. This will be a "one-time" opportunity! Don't miss this tour!

Wednesday, 9/4/08, the buses will be going to Lotusland in Santa Barbara and The Gazebo in Montecito. ABS Convention Banquet MC **Mike Flaherty**, owner, plans on putting in some special displays for our attendees. They are always spectacular.

Jeanne Jones, Tour Director, for convention is currently working on additional tours to the nurseries in the Vista/San Diego area, Huntington Library & Gardens in Pasadena, Desanco Gardens in LaCanada/Flintridge and Getty Villa in Malibu are all possibilities. Days for these to be determined.

Margaret Fisher, Convention Chair

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COMING EVENTS

April 25-28, 2007 Southwest Region ABS and ABS Board Meeting, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Embassy Suites.

2007 American Begonia Society Convention^A: Scotland! Contact **Janet Brown** or **Cheryl Lenert** at addresses shown on page 79 for information and to get your name on the reservation list.

September 4-8, 2007 American Begonia Society Convention^B, Los Angeles, CA, Palos Verdes Branch hosting. See page 16 of the January/February 2007 *Begonian* and page 76 of this issue.

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

**Closing Date for May/June
Issue is March 1, 2007.**

The Begonian

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