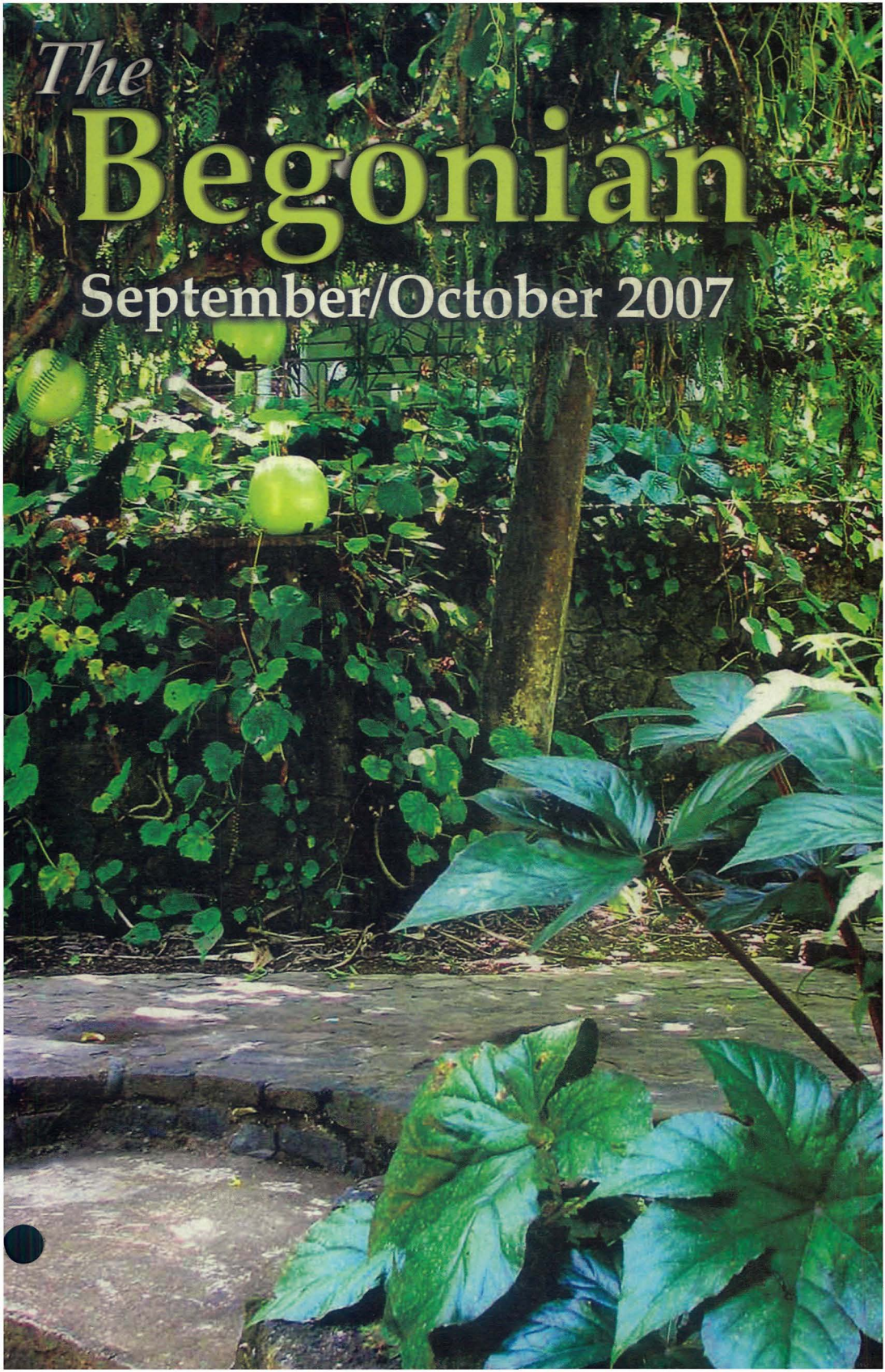

The Begonian

September/October 2007

The **Begonian**

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Publication of the American Begonia Society

American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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Cover
Front: Rekha Morris leads us to see begonias under the calabash tree in this issue.
Back: Mary Bucholtz found these begonias in Lotusland on our last visit to LA. What will we see in September?

In This Issue

We again get to travel with Rekha Morris and **Pat McMillan** in this issue and to learn about growing begonias from seed in Bali. But we also meet crested margin begonias and a couple of unknowns in more detail. **Bill Claybaugh** shares a new way to propagate as well. This is surely an issue you will enjoy.

Articles

Regular Features

Los Angeles: Here Come the Begoniacs!

Remember: Dues can now be paid through Paypal.

President's Message

Two years have gone by in a flash. Now, that wasn't so bad, was it? In fact being president of the American Begonia Society was an enlightening, challenging and at times even fun experience. And, above all, it was a honor to serve this great organization.

The work goes on even after Mary Sakamoto takes over on September 8. The past president remains on the executive board for the next term, is chairman of the Finance Committee and will be the Internet Advisor if approved by the board.

I have been very fortunate to have a great board to help me. Thanks to **Mary Sakamoto, Cheryl Lenert, Howard Berg** and our two pillars of wisdom who have served for so many years, **Carol Notaras** and **Richard Macnair**. The treasurer and secretary are really the most important jobs in the ABS. They keep us going with their experience and I am grateful for the help they have given me.

Thank you to all the branches that have sent their newsletters over the past two years. There are some very good ones and it is a great way to keep current with events all over the country. Please continue to send them to new President Mary Sakamoto.

What have I learned in these two years? First, the American Begonia Society will go on into the future no matter who is in charge. Second, changes will come but they will come slowly—very slowly. Third, the two main jobs of the president are to keep things running smoothly and tomake everyone happy. I hope I have been moderately successful with the first and probably less so with the second. Fourth, I can continue with several projects after leaving office and will describe them below.

Accomplishments: I don't think any of us realized how long and difficult the project of the new web site—begonias.org—would be. At this writing we are close to getting the job done thanks to the very hard work of **Julie Vanderwilt,** Internet Editor. Julie has been working with web designer **Jesse James** over the last several months and the result will be the most beautiful and useful site you can imagine. We want everyone, new, old and prospective members to use it for begonia knowledge, coming events not only national and international but branch as well.

We will have a lively "forum" for exchange of ideas and information. This will be run by long time member **Kingsley Langenberg**. You will be able to join or maintain membership, buy the latest books, participate in the Seed Fund...and order the "*Begonians* on DVD". This, too, has taken a long time and was started in the fall of 2005.

Thanks to Howard Berg and David Sims for getting this great work done. Imagine scanning all the *Begonians* from the 1930's to the new century. That is what David Sims has done using Howard's complete set of *Begonians*. They will be ready for all of us. No more hunting through mildewed, musty copies for that must-have information about a begonia.

Still to be done: Bringing the Constitution and By-Laws up to date. The committee for this project is **Charles Jaros**, chairman, **Ann Salisbury** (past parliamentarian and ABS president), **Linda Lawson** (parliamentarian) and Janet Brown. We will hope to have some of the changes ready to present at the Annual Meeting in September. If approved by the board the changes will be published in the *Begonian* and you will be asked to vote them in. A new Constitution and By-Laws will be printed and copies made available through the Book Store and the

new web site.

Changes in the committees: Thanks to **Virginia Jens** for her long service as Public Relations Chair. She has had to resign this post and it was decided to make this the job of the First Vice-President. This way the post will change every two years, bringing a fresh perspective and covering the many different areas of the country and the world. **Cheryl Lenert** has taken over as Public Relations Chair and will serve through her term as first vice president. Another change to be noted: **Ann Salisbury** is taking over the Book Store post from Cheryl Lenert. Ann has been sending out various new publications over the years and has agreed to take on the Book Store for one year. We will hope to have an inventory in the *Begonian* and on the web site very soon as there are many interesting publications you may want to add to your collection.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to a wonderful lady, Mary Sakamoto, who will be your next President. Mary has served the ABS for many years in a variety of positions. She has been Convention Chairman since 2002, Awards Chair, and she is a senior judge. I wish her good luck in her newest job. She should have been President a long time ago and I know you will all appreciate her management abilities. Please welcome her and make her life easier by helping when she asks. Besides all her other talents Mary is a superb grower and regularly shares her knowledge with our California branches and beyond.

I will continue to serve in whatever capacity needed. Hope to see many of you at the Convention: Begonias in Paradise, California style in a few days.

Good luck to Mary Sakamoto. She has my full support.

Always in friendly contact,

Janet Brown

Editor's Notes

In Louisiana, we have had a spring that created the environment I expected in Louisiana. It has rained almost every afternoon for the last two months. The result is that the weeds have almost overtaken everything in the ground. The grass was always wet and so could not be cut. The bright side is that this has been begonia weather. Right now, my begonias outside would rival those at **Mike Flaherty's!** Leaves are larger than they have ever been; stems grow taller and blooms are everywhere. But alas , the first signs of summer are now appearing.

Rekha Morris, Charles Henthorne, and **Bill Claybaugh** have really come through for the *Begonian* this year. I wish others would take on regular contributions as well. I still would like to see more contributions about the many new unidentifieds and hybrids that I know you are growing out there. I got a hybrid that was new to me at the SWR Plant Sale in April named *B.* 'Mrs. Ludwig'; I have been unable to find any information on it, but it is a beauty - doesn't someone know about this plant? Even a "Letter to the Editor" might help those of us who bought it. Who hybridized it, who is it named for, what care does it like? A species I found was named *B. chingii;* evidently this one has been around for awhile, but I could find nothing about it in my references, other than the *Begoniacea* listing. Someone out there must have grown it before. Please write about it for us..

I would like to welcome **Dean Tuney** to the Begonian in this issue. He will be doing the Seed Fund writeup from now on. **Ed Bates** who has done such an outstanding job with this task for so many years now is taking a well deserved rest. On your behalf, I thank him for his work. Thanks to Ed we have had the most

Continued on page 178.

Begonia's Seed Germination in Bali Botanic Garden: A Report From ABS Seeds

Hartutiningsih-M. Siregar & Sutomo
Bali Botanic Garden, Indonesian Institute of Sciences - LIPI
Candikuning, Baturiti, Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia. 82191

Begonia collection activity in Bali Botanic Garden has started to intensify during the last five years. Today, the Bali Botanic Garden has become one of the botanic gardens in the world which has a quite complete begonia collection. It consists of 192 species which are divided into 70 species of wild begonia collection and 122 in the exotic begonia collection. Those collections are beautifully arranged in a form of thematic park named Begonia's House. The Begonia's House is also used to facilitate the development efforts for commercial purpose and also supporting begonias as a landscape element whether indoors or outdoors.

When you are entering the Bali Botanic Garden's main gate (called *"Candi Bentar"* in Balinese), you will see *Begonia bowereae* along the road side up to the "*Kumbakarna*" statue, the orchid park and the park near the main office. Almost every site in this botanic garden has been "touched" by the begonias. Propagation of *Begonia* has reached thousand of plants so it is appropriate to Bali Botanic Garden to become the Center of Begonias Conservation in Indonesia as proposed by Hoover *et al.* (2006).

Increasing the amount of our collection as well as cooperation and networking nationally and internationally with partner institutions is needed. Since 2006 Bali Botanic Garden has establish a relationship with the begonia lovers' association overseas, the American Begonia Society, thanks to **Mr. Scott W. Hoover** from the New England Tropical Conservatory, USA. It all started when in 2005 Mr. Hoover visited our botanic garden to see the begonia collections and that was his comment that he wrote in the *Begonian* magazine titled "Begonias at Bali Botanic Garden, Indonesia".

In December 2006, Mr. Hoover visited us again in the botanic garden and brought with him 14 numbers of begonia seeds that he obtained from **Gene and Ann Salisbury**, ABS (American Begonia Society), USA to be planted here in the botanic garden (see table for the species list). It is a pity though that Mr. Hoover didn't get the chance to see our begonia collection's development in Bali Botanic Garden. We are gratefull to ABS for its seeds donation. Hopefully, it will make begonias in our botanic garden more fluorishing in the future.

A Brief About Begonia Propagation By Seeds in Bali Botanic Garden

Beside vegetatively, begonias can also be propagated generatively by using its seeds. Seeds propagation can be done with almost all flowering begonias and those from the *Semperflorens* begonia group. The problem with wild begonias is that they are not able to produce seeds easily. This is due to the fact that the flowers morphological shapes are tiny and easy to fall off and also the ripening of

Gede Wawan Setiadi's *photos ilustrate the process followed (figures 1 and 2 above) and the insets (figures 3 and 4) show later steps.*

its polllen is not always simultaneous with its pistil. It is also due to the problem that some begonias have producing flowers.

Our experience in germinating begonia seeds in the green house showed that it was quite easy. Physiologically ripened fruit harvesting is done when the fruits are turning brownish yellow in colour, and the seeds are not dispersed yet. Begonia seeds are very small in size, finely pounded like flour. Generally these seeds are easy to grow at about 11-40 days after they are planted. The usage of the appropriate media helps to accelerate the germination. Such media is "kompenit", a nitrogen fixated compost made by Bali Botanic Garden.

Figure 1, 2 : The dried fruits then opened carefully and sowed on a plastic pot.

Figure 3,4 : After the seedlings have four leaves then they are moved into pots or polybag and are ready to be used.

Photos by **Gede Wawan Setiadi**

Seeds propagation stages can be seen as follow :

- Fruits are picked when it has ripened, put it in a plastic container and then dried by exposing it to sunlight.
- The dried fruits are then opened carefully and sowed on a plastic pot of 15 cm in diameter.
- Pots are prepared containing sterile kompenit. Sterilization can be done by pouring hot water on to the media, covering it with plastic, and leaving it for 24 hours.
- Open the plastic cover and start sowing the seeds untill they are spread evenly on each pot.
- Cover the pots again and tighten using rubber rope.
- Put those pots in to an open large plastic container that has been filled with water to keep them moist.
- Keep them covered untill the seeds germinate.
- After germination open the plastic cover.
- Seedling thinning was done when the seedling had two leaves.
- Prepare a tray and fill it with media.
- Plant the seedling into the tray.
- After the seedling has four leaves then move them into pots or polybag and they are ready to be used.

ABS Begonia Seed Germination

After seeds from ABS were accepted, they were directly planted following the stages as explained above and the data were recorded. From the observation. Results showed that generative propagation of 14 begonia species gave results as shown in table 1. Generally seeds are easy to grow. Two Begonias's species were the fastest to grow: they are *B. dregei* and *B. crassicaulis.* As for the other species generally they need time to grow that may vary from 9 days after planted. Also there were two

species that did not germinate namely *B. egregia* and *Begonia Brazil #5 [B. U405]*.

This result is similiar to what Hartutiningsih, et al. (2004) conducted in Bali Botanic Garden begonia collections. Four exotic begonias (*B. semperflorens*, *B. hirtella*, *B.* 'Argenteo-guttata' and *B.obscura*) were the fastest seeds to grow - in 11 days after they were planted, whereas *B.* 'Silver Queen' needed 40 days after it was planted. In an experiment on some wild begonias (*B. hispidissima*, *B.* sp. Sumba, *B. muricata*) even three months they did not grow. This is an interesting phenomenon to further investigate the cause of this wild begonia's seed germination failure.

As for the other three, *B. coursii*, *B. cinnabarina* and *B. kellermanii*, although they did germinate, failed to continue their growth and died. In four months observation after planting, some seedlings were damaged and died whereas the healthy ones that already had two leaves had to be thinned and transfered to a pot containing a media of mixed soil and kompenit with 1:1 in ratio. Observation then continued untill they reached maturity.

Table 1. Begonia Seed Germination Observations

No.	Species	Registration number	Germination (Dap = days after planting)	No. of Healthy Seedlings 3 months	4 mnths
1	*Begonia fusco*	2006121	9 dap	39	25
2	*Begonia barkeri 1*	2006122	9 dap	2	-
3	*Begonia barkeri 2*	2006123	9 dap	5	5
4	*Begonia barkeri 3*	2006124	9 dap	23	22
5	*Begonia chivatoa*	2006125	9 dap	10	5
6	*Begonia coursii*	2006126	-	-	-
7	*Begonia faliculata*	2006127	9 dap	4	3
8	*Begonia dregei*	2006128	7 dap	2	2
9	*Begonia egregia*	2006129	-	-	-
10	*Begonia evansiana grandis*	20061210	9 dap	20	26
11	*Begonia cinnabarina*	20061211	9 dap	-	-
12	*Begonia kellermanii*	20061212	9 dap	-	-
13	*Begonia crassicaulis*	20061213	7 dap	95	60
14	*Begonia Brazil 5* [B. U405]	20061214	9 dap	1	1

Problems Faced in Begonia Seed Storage

In our begonia collection, not all are from exploration but also some are from seeds exchange or seed donation from national and international botanic institutions. Record showed that as many as 39 species are from seed exchange with Jardin Botanic Garden in France; Glassgow BG, in Scotland, UK; Queen Sirikit BG., in Thailand; Tubingen BG, in Deutschland; ABS (*American Begonia Society*) Tonkawa, OK USA and others. Only some of those seeds could be germinated and grown vigorously. 23 species were unable to germinate and failed to grow. This might be caused by some factors such as the long storage period, the packing method and shipment process.

Begonias have a short storage period capability. Viability test showed, seeds that has been stored for six months coud not germinate. Begonia's seeds are recalcitrans which means that they can not stand long period of shipment and storage, where they lose the water content, become unviable and then fail to germinate. Does ABS could help to overcome this problem?*

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Editor's Note: My long experience with begonia seed storage and germination suggest three problems that might be overcome here: 1) Begonia shipment should be done in highly protected conditions as they crush very easily; request the use a film canister or something similar; 2) Most seed germinate best at a constant temperature of around 70^0 F (21^0 C) (air conditioning may be necessary) and grow best kept under cover until good growth is achieved; 3) begonia storage should always be after seed are a)* ***totally* *dry, b) in air tight storage, c) under refrigeration, d) in glassine envelopes and glass jars. Held that way, begonia seed will germinate 20 or more years after harvest with a very few exceptions. I have found that a few begonia seeds do need an after-ripening period, but otherwise, I've germinated all types all during the year with the constant temperature and low lights (I use 22 watt flourescent light sticks) at 10-12 hrs. per day.*

Dominican Begonias

by Patrick D. McMillan, Clemson University

How many times have you fantasized about traveling to distant lands and roaming through the rainforest to see *Begonia* growing in the wild? Then there is reality, mosquitoes, malaria, bandits, and just plain miserable traveling conditions. There is a place where you can visit primeval rain forest and see *Begonias* growing in the wild without any of the drawbacks: Dominica.

There is a place where you can visit primeval rain forest and see Begonias growing in the wild without any of the drawbacks...

I have had the great fortune in my career to make friends with some of the most interesting and charming people imaginable. My travels have taken me through four continents and countless tracts of wild lands and indescribable scenery but no place and no other people have had such a profound effect on me as a naturalist or as an individual as the people, places and plants I've encountered on the island of Dominica. Let's clear up one thing right from the start; the Commonwealth of Dominica is not the Dominican Republic. Dominica is a small but rugged volcanic island in the inner art of the Lesser Antilles (Windward Islands) located between the French departments of Guadalupe and Martinique. Dominica is blessed with abundant rainfall and as much as 400 inches or more a year can fall at the higher elevations. The island contains no sizable level tracts of land and unlike all other Lesser Antilles, it contains many, not just one volcanic peak. The highest point on the island is Morne Diablotins, which rises to a height of 4747 feet above sea level. The rugged terrain proved a serious impediment to commercial agriculture and exploitation by British and French colonists and as a result Dominica has managed to maintain a small population of under 70,000. The rugged terrain was so impenetrable that the Carib Indians were never extirpated and the last vestige of these hardy people make their home here to this day. The island contains the largest sizeable tract of old-growth rainforest in the Lesser Antilles and contains the largest network of national parks and forest reserves in the region. During your visit you should be sure to take in many

The island contains the largest sizeable tract of old-growth rainforest in the Lesser Antilles...

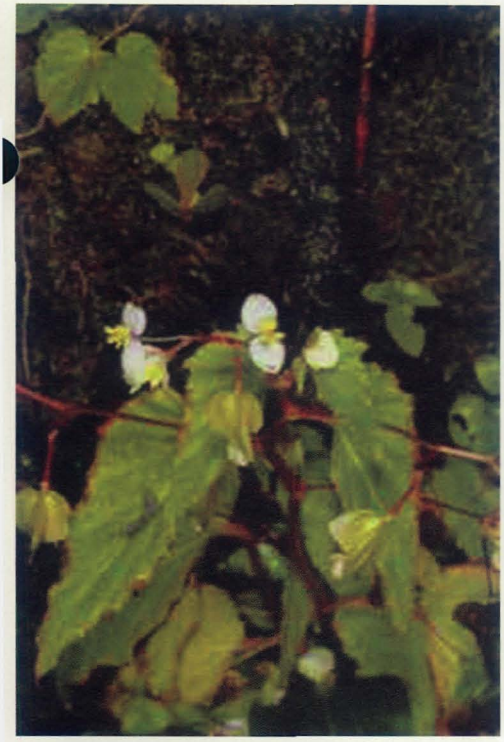
of the attractions which will also produce fine views of the native *Begonia* such as Titou Gorge, Boiling Lake, Trafalgar and Middleham Falls.

What does all this mean for *Begonia*? The extensive tracts of forest contain few exotic species and the rich volcanic soil (high in pH, Mg and Ca) provide ideal conditions for the 1600 or so species of native plants to flourish. In glades and trail margins among the massive Chartanier (*Sloanea*), Gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*) and Karapit (*Amanoa caribea*) are found brilliant patches of one of the native *Begonias*, *B. obliqua*. This plant is the type of the genus and a member of section *Begonia*. The plants from Dominica have been variously treated as part of the Lesser Antillean endemic, *B. obliqua* or as their own distinct Dominican species, *B. dominicalis*. The most recent treatment (Burt-Utley in Nicolson 1991) combines the plant under the former. In my experience, the Dominican plants are smaller flowered and more variable than the plants from Martinique. The Martinique stock is most frequently offered under the "old" name of *B. odorata*. Flower size aside, I much prefer the Dominican stock. The Dominican *Begonia* displays upright stems reaching nearly 3 feet in height and sport masses of several hundred starry flowers with an intense honey-like fragrance that is produced early in the morning and nearly gone by noon. The scent is likely an attractant for the pollinators of this species, bees and carpenter bees. I have seen this plant growing from near sea level along the east coast in Rosalie to the very summit of Morne Diablotins in transitional forest, rain forest and elfin woodland.

The populations in Dominica are amazingly variable. Those from the western slopes typically produce white flowers with very narrow tepals on the female flowers and glabrous light green to rich green foliage. Populations from the eastern slopes, especially in the southeast (from Rosalie south) may be reddish in coloration or produce pink, white and red-flowered forms. A particularly nice form which I have selected from seedlings cultured from these populations with brilliant red outer tepals, bright red capsules and reddish foliage is named *Begonia obliqua* 'Anne.' Plants from the east coast are much more likely to have slightly pubescent foliage which is often densely pubescent beneath.

Populations from the eastern slopes, especially in the southeast (from Rosalie south) may be reddish in coloration or produce pink, white and red-flowered forms.

Begonia dominicalis is easy to cultivate under greenhouse conditions and has survived well under houseplant conditions in numerous office window sills at Clemson University and my home. The species grows readily from seed and may begin flowering as early as 16 weeks after sowing. Provided spent flowers and capsules are removed this species may flower for many months. Clipping back the stems after 12-18 months may rejuvenate plants but they are easily started again each



Upper left, ***Patrick McMillan's*** *photos of* **B. humilis** *and above his red* **B. obliqua** *(see narrative) with inset by* ***Rekha Morris.*** *Below, his photo of his pink* **B. obliqua**, *again with Rekha's inset. Below is Rekha Morris' photo of* **B. odorato**, *Martinique form.*

season for a lovely and fragrant display. I have also cultivated this species in densely shaded woodland gardens in moist soil with success in South Carolina, though flowering is best in the cold months, which precludes much other than foliage in temperate climates. This species does not like to dry out and should be kept evenly moist at all times.

The only other native Dominican species is the diminutive *Begonia humilis*. This species may be found growing along masonry, at the base of rainforest trees and in rocky woods throughout the island's humid forest regions. While not nearly a flashy as its larger cousin the humble *B. humilis* provides subtle beauty and intricacy. This species is extremely easy to cultivate and under greenhouse conditions may become a pest. It may flower within 9 weeks of sowing seed.

The only other native Dominican species is the diminutive Begonia humilis.

Well, if there are only two species of native *Begonia* to see in Dominica why should a *Begonia* enthusiast travel to this island? In a word, Papillote. Papillote Wilderness Retreat (www.papillote.dm) is heaven on earth for gardeners and naturalists alike. This resort is situated at the top of the village of Trafalgar just below the beautiful Trafalgar Falls. The villas and restaurant are set into the surrounding rainforest in such perfection that you are literally dwelling within the rainforest. Other than *Begonia*, Papillote offers fine Creole dining, natural hot pools for bathing and one of the finest botanical gardens I've ever visited. The owners, **Cuthbert** and **Anne Jno. Baptiste** are the real gems of Papillote. Anne, a long time ABS member and dear friend, has spent a lifetime assembling the amazing collection of tropical plants found here and guess what her favorite group is...*Begonia*.. Anne cultivates over 100 species and cultivars of *Begonia* here in a climate perfectly suited to their culture. Her gardens are full to the brim with *Begonia nelumbiifolia*, *B. sericoneura,* the two native species and many other oddities. I am so jealous of her fine planting of variegated *B. pustulata*, a plant which grows but is finicky for me in the Clemson greenhouses that Anne has stunningly displayed in natural conditions. Among the other show stoppers is *B.* 'Big Mac,' a gigantic "macdougali-type" with *Aralia*-like leaves, *B. fusca, B. sartorii,* a fine selection of *B. rex* cultivars, *B. bowerae, B. paleata,* many gigantic canes, fine forms of *B. coccinea* and some new additions such as *B. lyniceorum, B. imperialis*, several forms of *B. squarrosa* and *B. glabra*. If this isn't enough for you, there are the 600 or so other flowering plants including an impressive collection of *Anthurium* and other aroids, orchids and countless Bromeliads

A visit to Dominica is a sure way to experience *Begonias* in a very safe and stunningly beautiful country. Of all the countries that I have traveled in none are as dear to me as Dominica. A visit is sure to produce not just new *Begonias* but also numerous new friends, the Dominican people are the most genuine and friendly people you'll ever meet. So get onto "island time" and experience *Begonia* exploration for yourself.

Begonias Under A Calabash Tree

by Rekha Morris

Having seen begonias in the wild in Mexico, Central America and the eastern Himalayas of India, no begonia planting in a garden setting measures up to the excitement of seeing them in their natural mountainous habitats. Or so I thought until I visited Papillote Wilderness Resort in Dominica [see article by **Patrick McMillan** for detailed description of Dominica & Papillote].

This resort is located not only on one of the more pristine countries of the Caribbean but set within one of the volcanic craters of this verdant and thinly populated island. Nearly fifty years ago Anne Jno Baptiste began acquiring segments of land within this crater, so that today her gardens and resort facilities occupy its inner slopes with two waterfalls and a hot mineral spring. .

Michael and I arrived at Papillote well after dark, and as we turned into the parking area, the car lights illuminated the curious turquoise floral racemes of *Strongyloden macrobotrys* [Jade Vine], which seemed to float free of their anchoring vines hidden in the shadows around us. This surrealistic entry was a fitting introduction to Papillote. Once inside this resort and the encircling steep Tree Fern covered slopes, the rest of the world quickly recedes into oblivion, and the only reality is one reminiscent of an enchanted realm out of time and space as we know them.

As we were led up the slopes to our suite of rooms, the only plants visible in the dimly lit landscape were banks covered with huge *B. nelumbifolia,* which, I was to learn later, were used by Anne to control erosion. Early next morning as I stepped onto the balcony to get a better view of our surroundings, my initial perception of having been transported out of the mundane and the familiar was confirmed. On the terrace immediately below was a peacock standing in such meditative stillness that it might have been a piece of brilliantly crafted statuary. Beyond him was a path between low stone walls entirely covered with begonias. The slopes of the crater were so thickly covered in vegetation that, but for the terrace below and the long, curving drive leading to it, everything else in and around the resort appeared to be untrammeled wilderness.

This obvious dichotomy between design and chaos, contrivance and carefree growth, the planned and unplanned receives varying degrees of emphasis throughout the resort. Frequently traversed areas such as paved terraces, steps, and paths connecting residential areas above and below the centrally placed kitchen and dining facilities are clearly defined. However, the heliconias, curcumas, brugmansias, bananas. anthuriums, bromeliads and above all begonias planted at their edges constantly defy their confined spaces.

As one wanders away from these moderately tended facilities, the distinctions between garden and wilderness are far less perceptible. Unpaved, narrow paths meander up and down the slopes of the crater, and plants native to the island jostle with unusual imports from other tropical areas of the world. Like the Jade Vine from the Philippines, Th*unbergia mysorensis* from the jungles of south India twines and drapes itself around trees, shrubs and balconies; *Spathodia campanulata* from Africa grows alongside tree ferns and heliconias indigenous to Dominica, and begonias from most of

their range in the tropical and sub tropical regions of the world have been carefully planted in micro habitats most conducive to their individual requirements.

Throughout this garden of controlled, carefree plantings, there is a sense of fluid continuity as the medley of tropical genera are not planted in rigid, contrived groups but as profligate nature might have intended their dispersal, with seemingly careless abandon. Another element of continuity is the celebration of water. Tiny rivulets and larger streams flowing from pools at the base of each of the two large waterfalls meander throughout the garden, and water from the mineral spring on the upper level of the crater is channeled into hot mineral pools at well concealed and varying levels of the garden. Coming up a path through a thicket of pink Torch Gingers, I found myself at one of the more memorable of these hot pools.

Sunk into a terraced hillside, the pool is shaded by a Calabash tree with begonias growing below, beside and on it.

Sunk into a terraced hillside, the pool is shaded by a Calabash tree with begonias growing below, beside and on it. As I rested here, I realized that this was a garden where our sensory perceptions were indulged as fully as one might desire. The infinite variations of color, form, and texture singly and in combination are probably the most readily appreciated elements of this resort, but permeating it are the many sounds of water. The soft bubbling of the many small streams increases and diminishes as one approaches or moves away from these, but permeating the entire resort is the deep, sonorous sound emanating from water cascading down the near vertical, rocky ledges of the larger of the two waterfalls.

It was here as I sat surrounded by begonias in the shade of this calabash tree with sounds of moving water lulling my senses that I became fully aware of Anne's special genius. Not only had she shown remarkable discrimination nearly half a century ago in selecting this idyllic spot to give her anchorage, but by subtly and sensitively controlling, directing, selecting, revealing and enhancing this lush natural setting within the crater, she has given this resort its inimitable personal sense of place.

Here on this bit of rock in the Caribbean "where forests ancient as the hills, / Enfolding sunny spots of greenery" is Anne's Xanadu, which she generously shares with the world as Papillote Wilderness Resort.

June 2nd, 2007 Pendleton, SC.

For a relaxing and stimulating begonia adventure contact:

Anne Jno Baptiste
papillote@cwdom.dm
Papillote Wilderness Retreat
PO Box 2287
Roseau, Dominica
www.papillote.dm

The following seeds from Dominica and Central America have been made available for the ABS Seed Fund by Rekha Morris

[redacted]na Morris's photos of this idyllic spot make it look irresistable indeed.

[1] *B. obliqua* [= B.dominicalis] from Dominica. 2 forms:
[a] a white form, which is fragrant in the mornings,
[b] a pink form.

[2] *B. convalliaradora* A tall growing species [6'-10']which grows at higher elevations - about 5000'

[3] *B. glabra* Thrives in moist conditions, and can grow to nearly 15' as it twines up a tree.

[4] *B. involucrata* Another higher elevation species - 5000'. High ambient moisture necessary for it to flourish.

[5] *B. multinervia* Grows to about 5' & prefers semi shady conditions. Has striking glabrous foliage which is a rich maroon on the reverse.

[6] *B. oaxacana* A charming species which requires moist conditions, & seems to do best in cool, shady places.

[7] *B. sericoneura* Easy to grow. Differs from the Mexican form.

[8] *B. udisilvestris* Another lovely species from higher elevations, about 4000-5000' with white flowers, and unusually shaped seed capsules.

Continued from page 165.

complete information on every species for which seed was offered. But as you will see **Dean Tuney** is going to continue this tradition. You will now send him orders and inquiries about your orders as well. Most of all send him the seed you are saving from your begonias.

~FH

Changes to Annual
Directory of Begonia Societies

Add:

Auckland Begonia Circle:
C/- **Graham Milne**
84 Hillcrest Ave
Northshore City
Auckland 6007
New Zealand
Phone (09) 4444 794
Country prefix is 64
email gamilne@ihug.co.nz

They also have a bimonthly journal available at a subscription price of $NZ 10 per annum and overseas $NZ 45 per annum.

Also, evidently the **Canterbury Begonia Circle** of New Zealand may no longer be active.

Riverside Branch: James Johnson, 6493 Nidever Avenue, Riverside, CA. 92504. Ph 951-689 -9654

And correct the national director for:

Begonia Societies of Palm Beaches: Doris Happel, 1958 Anderson Lane, Palm Springs, FL 33406

These are the corrections to the Directory received by the Editor to this date. Should there be others, please let her know.

Also, on addresses, for those of you who do not know **Mark Tebbitt** has a new affiliation and address. Please see the note at the end of the following article.

Begonia U512: Species or Hybrid

by Charles Henthorne

One of the first begonias I received and started to grow almost 30 years ago was the begonia now called *B. U512.*

Part of the excitement and joy I get from raising begonias is the part where I can study their origins. That includes trying to identify the country where the plant originated. Also who else has grown it, and if it would do well in different growing environments.

I'm also interested in blooms, and if the plant would make good material for hybridizing. Occasionally there arises a plant that, no matter how much I try, I cannot find the source or anything else about its origins. Such is the case with *B. U512.* Try as I might I could not get verification of its country of origin, or if it was a hybrid or species. So my quest began and is continuing to this day.

Almost 30 years ago I joined the Fred Barkley Branch of the ABS in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I did this because I had a desire to find out more about begonias and their propagation. I looked forward to finding and growing different kinds and started out in a small way by obtaining cuttings from some of the members of the Barkley Branch at that time. Among the members were **Kathlyn and Merril Calvert, Dorothy Caviness,** and **Ruth Wills**. All were very free with their knowledge and plants. Among the many plants that I started with was a beautiful plant from Ruth Wills. She grew it in a terrarium and called it *B. xanthina v. picta.* I found it easy to grow and it prospered in a terrarium that I set up specifically for cuttings. Ruth gave me no other information on it but did tell me that it was called *B. xanthina v. picta* and not *B. xanthina v. pictafolia* which had yellow blooms. She told me that this one had pink blooms and was called *v. picta* for that reason.

Over the years I showed this plant in many shows, and have won many awards and best of divisions with it. I have looked in many different places and in many different books for some verification of the name. I also asked many of the people I met at the ABS shows, and in various other venues, about the identification of this plant. No one could give me a verification or an alternate identification on it.

Most did agree that since it did not bloom yellow, that it was not *B. xanthina.* The only verification I could find was a photo in Millie and Ed Thompson's book, "Begonias", on page 171. This photo shows an almost exact copy of the leaf from my *"B. xanthina v. picta".* I continue, to this day, to try to verify the name of this plant.

At the OKC SWR Get-Together this year, I found that Harmony was circulating this plant under the name of "*xanthinia* henthorne". It was at that time that I decided to try even harder to get this plant correctly identified. I did not want to cause any more confusion or dissention over a name that could not be verified. I worried that this would spread around the country with an incorrect name, and I want to do all I can to prevent that.

I have also looked for others who have grown, are presently growing, or have seen this plant, and so far have had no success. As far as I know I am the only one who has had this plant consistantly over the last 25-30 years. I have given starts to many people, including **Gene Salisbury, Johanna Zinn, Thelma O'Reilly, Tim Anderson, Michael Kartuz, Cheryl Linert, Don Miller, and Rehka Morris.**

I have recently learned that **Charles Jaros** also has grown this from one of the leaves that I had previously given out. He told me that it grows extremely well outside of a terrarium and under his oak trees. I was very glad to hear this, as one of the other growers had told me that he could not grow it in his greenhouse, and that the only way he could keep it alive was in a terrarium. I also have had little success, either in Oklahoma, or here in Texas, with it outside of a terrarium.

Don Miller and Gene Salisbury have been able to grow it quite well in their greenhouses. I have concluded that it likes extremely high humidity, and cool temperatures, because if it gets too warm it does have a tendency to drop leaves. I also have occasionally had fleeting thoughts that it acts somewhat like a semi tuberous begonia. It does grow as a rhizomatous begonia in most respects.

I had hoped to find the name to this one before now, however I have been unsuccessful. A few years ago, I met ***Mark Tebbitt,*** gave him a plant, and asked him for help in solving this mystery. I have waited to obtain a male and female bloom on this shy bloomer, and have finally this last month obtained both and have sent them to Mark, who has agreed to try to help me get an ID on it. Hopefully we will be successful and I will finally be able to give this a positive name. Until then I have decided not to include photos of it, as I will write another article with photos when we do get it identified.

I am pleased to find out that **Thelma O'Reilly** has given this a U#. It is now *B. U512* and I would like to ask all those who have it to label it with this U# until that time when we can give it a name. It is a great plant, quite hardy, and more than anything else it has very striking leaves.

For those who grow Rexes, and have good luck with rhizomatous begonias, this would be a great plant to try. I would be glad to pass along a start of it to anyone who would like to try it. I hope the ABS Convention plant sale will have some of this plant available this year in California. Look for it there.

Also in the meantime if anyone would like a photo just email me and I'll be glad to send one via email to you. I am very excited about the opportunity to finally after all these years, possibly to be able to give this a solid name and identification. Then we will be able to put the issue to rest. It has surely kept interest high for this plant, and I anticipate that as the years go on, it will show up in more shows, and in more collections. It's worth it.

No obsession is greater than that of a begoniac on the trail of a plant or a plant name. Let's hope that ***Mark Tebbitt*** *comes through with a new name. For those of you who have not heard, Mark now has a new affiliation and a new address: Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of California, Pennsylvania, 15419-1394, USA*

Membership Report

by Donna Marsheck

Since March 5, 2007, we have 93 new members to ABS. Branches that have added new members: Astro 5; Buxton 3; Doug Frost 2; Houston Satellites 5; Mae Blanton 1; Mable Corwin 1; Orange County 1; Palm Beaches 12; Rudolph Ziesenhenne 1; Riverside 1; San Francisco 2; Tampa 1; and Whittier 4. The newly forming Branch in Rhode Island has 6 new paid members!

States that have added new ABS members: AL 1; AR 1;CA 12; CT 2; DE 1; FL 3; GA 1; IL 2; LA 2; MS 1; NC 1; NE 1; NJ 1; NY 2; OH 1; OK 1; OR

Continued on page 195

Crested Margin Begonias

by Isabel Crossley, Australia

A begonia with a crested margin means the margin of the leaf is undulate (wavy), curled and ruffled.

According to my research in Thompson & Thompson's begonia book, there have not been many species found with crested margins. In fact, *B. manicata* 'Crispa' and *B. manicata* 'Aureo-maculata Crispa' seem to be the only two. [Ed. Note: ***Begoniacea, Edition 2*** shows only *B. manicata* and *B. manicata* var. *aureo-maculata* Ziesenhenne, indicating I believe tht both those mentioned above are considered cultivars.*FH]*

The majority of crested margins have large leaves and I find them to be very crisp and easily broken if care is not taken in handling them. When fully grown, they make wonderful plants to behold.

Some examples of crested margin leaved begonias:

B. 'Bunchii' with medium leaf.
B. 'Crestabruchii', large leaf.
B. 'Ricky Minter', rhizome erect, 1952
B. 'Hiro', a Japanese hybrid, medium leaft, 1975
B. 'Madame butterfly', rhizome erect, 1958
B. 'Essie Hunt', rhizome erect, 1974
B. 'Fernberg', Hazel Burley hybrid.
B. 'Hazel Isobel', Hazel Burley hybrid
B. 'Honey', small leaf, registered 1976.
B. 'Lettuce Magic'
B. 'Muddy Waters'
B. 'Cathedral', small leaved
B. 'Ruth Littlemore'.

This article is taken with thanks from **The Queensland Begonia Society Inc. Journal**, *Vol. No. 56 Spring 2002, p. 33.*

Nomenclature Notes — Crested Margin *Begonia*

by Jack Golding

Neither *B. manicata* 'Crispa' selected by F. Sander & Sons in 1903, nor *B. manicata* 'Aureo-maculata Crispa' of unknown origin ca. 1925, being cultivars, are not listed in the **Begoniaceae Species List**.

I have added some notes and the parents of these cultivars listed by Isabel Crossley. Those marked with a * have photos on the to http://astro.tripod.com/

* *B.* 'Bunchii', [a sport of *B.* 'Erythrophylla']
* *B.* 'Crestabruchi', [*B. manicata* 'Crispa' X *B.* 'Sunderbruchi]
* *B.* 'Ricky Minter', [*B. manicata* 'Crispa' X *B. mazae*]
* *B.* 'Hiro', [*B. manicata aureo-maculata* 'Crispa' X *B. ludicra*]
Delete *B.* 'Madame Butterfly'; it does not have a crested leaf margin.
* *B.* 'Essie Hunt', [*B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* X *B. manicata aureo-maculata* 'Crispa']
B. 'Fernberg', Hazel Burley hybrid.
B. 'Hazel Isobel', Hazel Burley hybrid

Delete *B.* 'Honey'; it does not have a crested leaf margin.
B. 'Lettuce Magic'
B. 'Muddy Waters' *[B.* 'Madame Queen' X *carrieae]*
Delete *B.* 'Cathedral'; it does not have a crested leaf margin.
B. 'Ruth Littlemore'

I have added:

* *B.* 'Madame Queen' [*B. manicata aureo-maculata* 'Crispa' X B. 'Leslie Lynn']
B. 'Oliver Twist' [*B.* 'Madame Queen' X *carrieae*]
B. 'Ricky Minter' [*B. manicata* 'Crispa' X *B. mazae*]

IN THE MAILBOX

by Greg Sytch, ABS
Horticultural Correspondent

While I have had many inquiries lately, this column is going to focus on some strategies I use to successfully grow, perhaps struggling or overgrown, canes or rhizomatous.

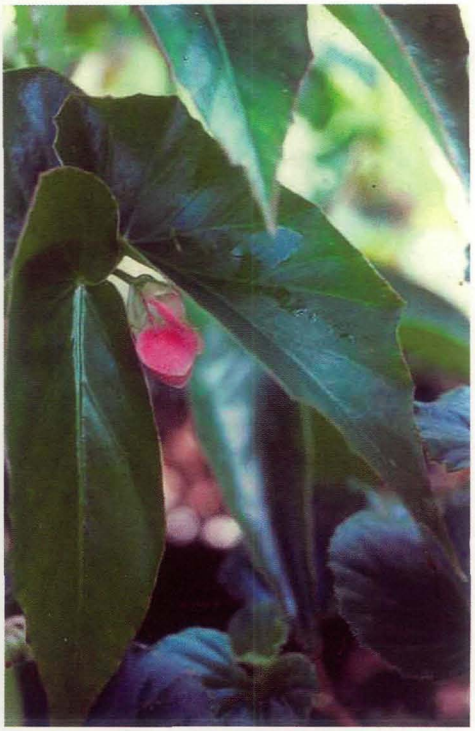
Often, canes can become tall and leggy with age. Woody stems form, bottom leaves drop, and the overall appearance is just not pretty. There is a great way to repot and bring the plant back to its former beauty.

First, I take the plant out of the pot and pound the roots to the ground. If it is not totally rootbound, old soil falls off. I allow the roots to dry out for a few days in a shady, dry area. Then I repot in the same pot or slightly larger, using fresh porous soil. I top dress with magnesium sulfate, some bone meal, and some constant-feed fertilizer, then I water the plant PRAYING for rain! Hopefully, if it rains shortly thereafter, the nutrients will be worked in well. Canes respond this way, yet the confined rootspace allows for better blooming.

Woody stems also root readily, and taking several pieces with growth nodes in a small pot will produce a beautiful plant with some patience. I have found that the woody parts also are less prone to rotting.

When rhizomatous get leggy and overgrown, I usually take the outer rhizomes that have often rooted, and place the smaller tips together in a shallow pot, facing out from another. Using the same nutrient mix as I mentioned earlier, I carefully water the rhizomes in. Then I place them in a shady spot for rooting, gradually expsoing to more light if needed. Often the plant grows quickly and full without my assistance. The older rhizomes left in the pot can also be rooted (or if they have roots planted) then I toss the old plant away. Refreshing is a great way to grow a nice plant quickly.

If you ever have questions about growing, please feel free to snail mail me at 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653-4301; call Ph: 727-841-9618; or email: gsytch@cs.com. Thanks! Greg Sytch



Above is the photo of B. 'Iris Shepherd' and a closeup of a young leaf and flower by ***Kingsley Langenberg.***
Below is the young B. 'Pagoda' and to the right is ***Charles Jaros****' photo of his B. 'Pagoda' grown larger and in higher light*

New Cultivars Official International Registrations 996 to 999 Gene Salisbury, Nomenclature Director

Applications to Register *Begonia* cultivars may be obtained from Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 52, Tonkawa, OK 74653. Forms must be typed or printed in ink and accompanied by a $2 check payable to the American Begonia Society. Clear photos for publication in the *Begonian*, drawings and dried specimens are requested. ABS is the International Registration Authority for *Begonia* cultivar names. In the listing of the cultivar parents below, the female (seed) parent is given first.

Begonia 'Iris Shepherd'

No. 996 *Begonia* (*B.* 'Flamingo x *B.* 'Lenore Olivier') 'Iris Shepherd'

This cane-like, intermediate cultivar attains a height of 3 feet at maturity. It has apple-green leaves that are spotted only when young or grown in very low light. Leaf shape is obovate with a length from 6 to 9" and width from 2 to 3". They have an entire margin that is smooth and shiny. There are 4 to 6 main veins. Petioles are 2" and green to red. Stipules are 1 inch long, 1/2 inch wide, and light green.

Flower tepals and ovaries are orangish-pink. Tepals are broadly ovate with an obtuse apex. Male flowers are 1 1/4" and female 1". Male flowers have 4 tepals and females 5. Flower clusters have 14 to 21 male flowers and 24 female flowers. There are many flower clusters. The flower peduncle is 6". Females are orange scented. It is everblooming.

Flowers are similar to those of the seed parent, but scented. Leaves are much longer, similar to its pollen parent. It is very easy to propagate from stem cuttings either in water or light soil. Abundant showy flowers are year around. Plant does very well either grown in a hanging basket or growing upright. It is said to do well even in high summer heat.

It was named for **Mrs. Iris Shepherd** of Beaumont, TX in about 1983.

This cultivar has been tested and recommended for registration by **Lisa Holmes**, 315 C.R. 417, Dayton, Texas 77535 and by **Marcia Heiner,** 131 Rain Drive, Red Lion, PA 17356.

This cultivar was developed in 1981, first bloomed in 1983, and is here described by **Kingsley F. Langenberg**, 3293 Country Lane, Waukegan, IL 60087.

It was registered May 8, 2007

Begonia 'Pagoda'

No. 997 ***Begonia*** (*B. platanifolia* x unidentified cane-like begonia) 'Pagoda'.

This cane-like, superba has dark green, white splashed leaves which are ovate and up to 1' long x 9" in width. Its largest leaves may be to up 18" x 1'. They are lobed, smooth and bare. It has 5 or more main veins. Petioles are 4 to 5" long, green and without hairs. Stipules are 1" long by 1/2" wide and are green in color.

It has white flowers, both tepals and ovaries. Tepals are heart shaped. Both

males and females are 1" across; males have 4 tepals, females 5. Flowers have 32 males and 64 females. It has few flower clusters in late summer to winter.

This plant can grow very tall, but is best pinched and pruned often, to keep it low growing and increase the number of stems. This and keeping it in very low light will enhance its white coloration and leaf size. It has strong, erect stems with drooping, deeply lobed leaves. Under low light, the white areas on the deep green leaves will almost cover the entire surface. Like its seed parent, *B. platanifolia*, it goes semi-dormant in late winter and will not propagate well at that time. Cuttings are best taken in late spring.

The plant has been grown and recommended by **Charles Jaros**, 200 Maureen Drive, Sanford, FL, 32771.

It was developed in 2000 and is described by **Freda Holley**, 251 Pylant Rd.,Choudrant, LA 71227). It first bloomed in 2004.

It was registered on June 5, 2007.

Begonia 'Holley's Beauty'

No. 998 *Begonia* (*B.* 'Harbison Canyon' x. *B.* 'Joe Hayden') 'Holley's Beauty'

This rhizomatous cultivar is very large with creeping stems. It has bright green, spiral leaves that are 8 to 12" with entire margins and a smooth, bare surface. There are 6 main veins. Petioles are 5 to 6", green in color. Stipules are green.

Flower tepals are white, ovaries are green. Tepals are rounded. Male flowers are 1/4 to 1/2" across; female flowers are 1/2". Its many flower clusters have approximately 128 male flowers and 32 female flowers. Its flower peduncle can be up to 1'. It blooms in winter.

This cultivar is unique in the number and size of its large, spiraled leaves. It has been named best Southwest Region Hybrid and won blue ribbons at a number of shows.

This cultivar has been tested and recommended by **Gene Salisbury,** P.O. Box 451, Tonkawa, OK 74653 and by **Jeanie Dinsmore**, 131 Sadie Lane, Springtown, TX 76081.

It was developed in 2000 and described here by Freda Holley (address above). It first bloomed in 2002.

It was registered on June 5, 2007.

Begonia 'Taylor Anne'

No. 999 *Begonia* (*B. aconitifolia x B. maculata var. maculata*) 'Taylor Anne'

This cane-like, superba cultivar can reach a height of six feet or more with many stems.

Its leaves are deep, dark olive with dark red reverse and distinct white spots. Leaves are ovate with cordate base. Leaves are approximately 6" to 9" long and up to 6" in width. The margin is lobed and the surface is bare. Petioles are about 6".

Flower clusters have 32 male and 64 female flowers. During late summer, fall to winter it has many flower clusters. Male flowers are white with pink rims and females have white ovaries with pink wings. Tepals are heart shaped. Male flowers are 1 1/2" and females are 1" Both male and female flowers have 4 tepals. The peduncle is 4 to 6:

The plant is taller than, but with slender stems similar to the seed parent, *B. aconitifolia.* Its spots are distinctive and non-fading on the olive, superba type leaves. It is vigorous and freely sends up new stems. Its flowers appear bi-color and it seems to adapt to many climates,

Above is B. 'Holley's Beauty' grown by ***Jeanie Dinsmore*** *in 2002 with an inset of its flowers; Below is B. 'Taylor Anne' grown in Stillwater, OK in 2003 with a closeup of a leaf showing its spots.*

but does not like extremely low or very high temperatures, much like *B. aconitifolia.* Also like that parent it undergoes semi-dormancy after blooming and does not reproduce well at that time. Stem cuttings are best taken in late spring after temperatures warm up. An attempt to back cross this cultivar on *B. maculata* in hopes of increasing the size of the spots on its leaves has been unsuccessful and flowers may well be sterile. It was one of 3 unique cultivars from this cross and the only one with olive leaves with red reverse and lasting spots.

This plant was tested and recommended for registration by **Jeanne Jones,** 1415 Via Margarita, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274. It was developed in 1999, first bloomed in 2002, and is described by **Freda Holley**, 251 Pylant Rd., Choudrant, LA 71227.

It was registered on June 5, 2007.

Why Do You Grow Begonias?

I always thought in my case it was simple madness, but in this item from the NSW Australia Begonia Society Newsletter, reprinted in the Winter 2005 Queensland Begonia Society Inc. Journal, I discovered there may be a better reason. Thank you, Australia!

...An old begonia grower told me that besides the fact that begonias can make you live much longer, your complexion will improve every day you have a begonia in your life.

Each day's dreams will come true and teeth with cavities will heal. You may learn a new language or find that your toenails, nay indeed both your feet, have become objects of beauty.

Colours will appear 17% brighter and food will taste 22% better. Deodorant will become unnecessary. Your whole aura will smell fresh and outdoorsy. Butterflies will land on your finger. Each day will dawn more beautiful and good fortune will follow you as the sun shines on your and your begonias.

Remember this is not a guarantee, just something which has been observed by other begonia growers.

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.

ATTENTION: Please note new address and Send seed request to:

Dean Turney
467 Fulvia Street
Encinitas, Ca. 92024
Or e-mail to: dean@deansmail.us

Please self pollinate your species begonias and collect seeds to send to the seed fund. When sending seeds wrap them carefully in a dry paper packet **folded** on all four sides and sealed with tape. It is important that the packet is folded on all four sides so that the seeds will not escape and get stuck in the sealing tape. Do not use plastic envelopes because the seeds adhere to the plastic. Glassine envelopes can be used if the open side is folded twice before sealing.

In this issue thanks for featured seeds described below go to **Thelma O'Reilly, Ingeborg Foo,** and **Beatrice Huckriede** for their seed contributions.

Species:

($1.50 per packet)

B. carrieae
B. dipetala
B. kenworthyae
B. peltata
B. sericoneura

B. U #492

Hybrid and cultivars:
($0.50 per packet)

B. 'Vanderveldiana', hybrid

Descriptions

B. carrieae Ziesenhenne (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Mexico]. Branching rhizomes; large, lime green, rugose, lobed leaves; white blossoms in late winter to early spring.

B. dipetala Graham [India] (Sect. *Haagea*) 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 to October; sandy loam; temp. 68∫F—86∫F.

B. kenworthyae Ziesenhenne [Mexico] (Sect. *Gireoudia*). Erect succulent green thick rhizome to 6

in.; 12" X 8" leaves, unequally sharply lobed, basally cordate, serrate, red-ciliate, fleshy, slate grey, green veins, covered with a grey bloom; white flowers in many flowered cymes; winter.

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

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

U #492 (possibly *B. bracteosa* A. de Candolle [Peru]) (Sect. *Cyathocnemis*) This unidentified begonia was collected in Peru by **Maureen O'Reilly**. Large attractive pink flowers. Thelma O'Reilly suggests planting soon for best result.

Send orders, comments, or suggestions to:

Dean Turney
467 Fulvia Street
Encinitas, CA 92024
e-address:
dean@deansmail.us

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

Dean Turney
467 Fulvia Street,
Encinitas, CA 92024

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; **37-48** (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 species names (in italics) reported here are correct based on the latest information from ***Begoniaceae***, Ed. 2; Golding, and Washausen. Hybrid names are made consistent with the *ABS Check List of Begonia Hybrids* edited by Howard Berg, dated 9/13/2005.

A Begoniac's Reference List

by Freda Holley

I was thinking the other day which of my references would I chose if I could have only 1, 5, 10, or 15 references. I thought some of those just beginning in growing might wonder what such a list would look like. Here's mine for only 1 and 5; if other growers have other references they think should be added, write a letter to the editor!

If I could have only 1 reference,

Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide, Mildred and Ed Thompson. Times Books, New York, 1981 would be it. No other book before or after can compare to this one. Although it is only to be found on places like EBay or on used book sites such as that of Barnes & Noble, I would search one out and pay almost any price to get it if I didn't have one.

If I could have only 5 references,

After the above reference, I would want:

Begoniaceae, Edition 2. Jack Golding and Dieter C. Wasshausen, Smithsonian Institution, Cntributions from the United States National Herbarium, Volume 43; 1-289, 2002. These are still available from Ann Salisbury (address on page 198.) Although I naturally also want the first edition of **Begoniaceae,** this later one is simply essential as the latest list of species.

The Sections of Begonia, J. Doorenbos, M.S.M. Sosef, J.J.F.E. de Wilde, Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands 1998. This too may be no longer available except from used book sources; however, I know of no other source that will both identify the sections and give the characteristics of those sections. It lists available chromosome counts as well.

The Unidentified Species Listing Update, 2007, edited by F. Holley , is also available from Ann Salisbury. It is the only combined source of information on the unidentifieds. Although almost all the information is available in older *Begonians*, it takes a lot of work to dig it out.

The Buxton Checklist of Begonia Cultivars. I believe there still may be copies of this available in the ABS Bookstore. I would also want the new listing *ABS Check List of Begonia Hybrids* edited by Howard Berg, available I believe from him. Addresses are listed on page 199. I would still want the older listing as well because a few of the listings there are included in no later works of which I am aware.

Of course the new CD of all *Begonians* from the 20th Century when it becomes available very shortly will have to fit in my list somewhere!

Conservation Comments
by Bill Claybaugh, ABS Conservation Chairman

Propagating on Paper.

One important aspect of begonia conservation is propagating species for both yourself and for sharing with others. To that end, I am continuously propagating each of the 100 plus species in my collection. In that process, there is nothing more frustrating to me than having the cuttings succumb to fungus before rooting, or for the small plantlets to damp-off soon after forming. Over the years I have tried numerous methods and while they all seem to work to some degree, none of them have given me the overall reliability that I desire. The following is a description of one of these techniques that seems to have promise and certainly deserves more attention. Perhaps you will join me in examining the many variables involved and perhaps we will learn how to get high percentage yields of viable plants.

I was first introduced to **propagating on paper** at a meeting of the Astro Branch in April, 2002 by Mrs. **Fukumi Smith,** a Master Gardener and volunteer at the Houston Mercer Arboretum. Fukumi has been raising plants all her life and in her work with African violets, she developed a propagation technique that was simple and effective. After developing an interest in Begonia, she tried the method on Rex cultorum begonias and had equal success. At the 2002 National Convention in Houston she won three blue ribbons with her rex cultorum entries, all three plants started by the technique now to be described.

Another Astro member, Mrs. **Shirll Manes** has has some success with this method and uses it frequently.

First, the bottom of a clean plastic container (I use "shoe-box" type from Walmart) is lined with several layers of a new, clean white paper towel. The paper towel is then thoroughly wet with distilled water and the surplus water poured off. Next, a leaf from a rhizomatous plant is dipped into a dilute (about 10 percent) Clorox solution for a few minutes then rinsed in distilled water. The purified leaf blade is then cut into many pieces about one inch square, each piece containing a main leaf vain. A leaf will yield about 6 to 30 pieces depending on it's size, with 12 to 14 being more typical. (Note that one can obtain these leaf blade pieces and still retain the leaf petiole and some leaf blade around it for propagation in the usual "leaf-stem" propagation method.)

The leaf pieces are then placed on the wet paper towel in the plastic box, top side up, leaving some space between each cutting. The box is then covered with saran wrap to form a small terrarium and placed in a typical light stand where the temperature and light are moderate.

In three to five weeks, each small leaf part will form roots at the main vein, and many will have numerous small plantlets. The roots will intertwine and cover much of the paper bottom. When the plantlets have several leaves of one-half inch height or more, the leaf piece can be removed from the plastic box. This is not always easy, and sometimes the upper paper layer must be cut to free the individual plantlet. Once free of the terrarium box, the rooted plantlet is placed on a peat moss/perlite mix in a small pot. I like a 50/50 peat moss/perlite mix in shallow three-inch plastic pot. The roots are then washed into the potting mix with a spray bottle of dilute soluble fertilizer, to establish the plant. The parent leaf piece, and perhaps some of the paper towel are included in the potting, without disturbing the roots too

*Above is **Bill Claybaugh's** photo of cuttings rooting on paper and below are those cuttings later potted up.*

severely. They will both disappear with time leaving a clean, healthy plant. I keep the newly potted plant in a terrarium-like environment for a month or more, then slowly start introducing the newborn to the real world of lower humidity. Over all, the process takes three to four months, but the results are most pleasing, and you get many plants from only one leaf.

When I first looked at the procedure, I ask what was different in this than in using perlite or a potting mix directly. The answer seems to be that the system is very easy to keep clean. Only the plastic box itself is prone to contamination, and that can be cured with a good Clorox wash and rinse. The paper towels are naturally free from "gardening contaminants" as is the saran wrap. Few leaf parts rot from fungus attack and the resulting plantlets do not seem to damp-off as easily.

What I have described above is the "main-stream" method that I use for propagation; but I continually tinker with the sundry variables trying to improve the method. Over time I have examined using leaf pieces that contain a small bit of the leaf umbo and those with the "y" in the vain. I have also omitted steps such as the Clorox wash or the distilled water rinse, or even distilled water. I have placed the terrarium box under natural light, florescent lights, in warm or cool places etc. To my surprise, the principal variable doesn't seem to be the actual method used, but rather the plant being propagated. Some plants propagate very easy with this method, and others not at all.

Those plants that appear to propagate easiest with this "paper" technique are the Rexes and many of the Asian species and cultivars. I have had some success with plants of African origin, but only limited success with those of American background. This may not be correct long-term, but it is my results at this time. Let me list some of the plants that this technique has worked with.

Asian: about 10 different Rex cultorum ('Deco Dart', 'Simple Simon', 'Bob Cochran', etc.) , *Begonia rex, sizemoreae, limprichtii, bipinnatifida, leprosa, chlorosticta, malachosticta, U074,* and 'Marian Claybaugh'.

African: *Begonia microsperma* and *staudtii*

American: *Begonia* 'Kit Kat', 'Gertrude', and 'The Seventh Star'.

Failures include: *Begonia* "Erythrophylla, 'Wild Pony', 'Cowardly Lion', 'Caravan' and more.

If you are also looking for an improved propagation technique for your rhizomatous begonias, or you want many plants from one unique leaf, I suggest you try this method. You may be pleasantly surprised. As you progress with the technique, I would like to hear of your results. Just e-mail me at **absastro@hotmail.com.**

Continued from page 180.

1; TN 1; TX 8; and VA 2. I hope some of these new members are already involved in a branch.

We also welcome new ABS members from Bermuda, Brazil, and Kenya.

Of these new members, 24 have paid through PayPal.

We are out of the 2007 January/February and March/April issues. New members will receive the current issue/s and be **prorated according to the amount of dues sent in.** Prorated dues for the remainder of the year to December 31, 2007: September $8.40, October $6.30, November $4.20 and December $2.10. I send out a letter to each new member that explains the dues system. Thanks for keeping me busy sending those new member packets!

Begonia U508
by Freda Holley

I had an extra page, but no color pages left, and I thought this begonia with its dark leaves could still show up here.

The *Unidentified Species Listing* says of this one:

"2007; 75 [that is, in the 2007 *Begonian*, page 75] 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, accuminate. Rhizomes upright. Petioles burgundy, pubescent. Flowers pinkish white. Thelma O'Reilly." *Cheryl says it was a gift from Lyon Botanic Garden.

My plant was purchased in the plant sale in Oklahoma City in April and has had no special care. It is now growing in rather deep shade under an oak tree and is much darker and denser with smaller petioles than the one shown with the writeup. The photo above was taken this morning while dew drops still glistened on its leaves. It is probably doing well because of our unusually wet, humid, but cooler than normal weather this year. The write-up above descibes the blooms as white, but mine seem to be a golden yellow tinged with pink. The flowers have not fully opened yet, however. I have potted it up one size and it is beginning to look as though it should go into yet another size up. It would seem to require the same care as a Rex cultivar, being a rhizomatous with erect stems at or below the soil.

It is one of my favorites from the sale so far. I hope to get seed so that I can determine whether it is indeed a species. Do try this one if you get a chance.

COMING EVENTS

September 4-9, 2007 American Begonia Society Convention, Los Angeles, CA, Palos Verdes Branch hosting. Packets should be in your hands; if not, contact Margaret Fisher at 714-847-1889.

October 6 and 7, 2007, the San Diego County branches of The American Begonia Society will hold a Plant Show and Sale on Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show will be in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Spectacular foliage and blossoms of the begonias will be on display. There will be many beautiful begonia plants for sale. Begonia experts will be available to answer questionsÊ For more information call Marla Keith 760-753-3977.

March 21-24, 2008, Association of Australian Begonia Societies Convention hosted by the Queensland Begonia Society (Inc) in Brisbane, Australia. Easter 2008 from Friday, March 21, 2008 at 3 p.m. and concluding with a bus trip to the Sunshine Coast on Monday, March 24, 2008. Begin you plans! More information to come.

May 14-18, 2008, American Begonia Society Convention/Southwest Region Get-Together, Houston. More info to com.

Deadline for the November/December issue will be September 1, 2007.

The Begonian

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