

The

Begonian

January/February 2008



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: Lou Welsh shows how we were greeted by begonias as we entered the hotel for Begonias in Paradise, California Style.

Back: Doug Pridgen photographed the Best of Show winner B. 'Anniversary' entered by Paul Carlisle.

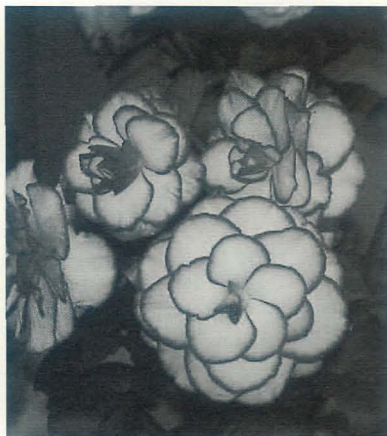
In This Issue

Take a look at the volume number below! This issue begins the Volume 75 of the *Begonian*. What better way to celebrate than with a Convention Issue? It was a lovely convention that we will long remember and it make us never want to miss one!

2007 Index 17

Articles

ABS Convention 2007	6
Convention Winners 2007	8
Cultural Certificates	9
ABS Awards 2007	12
Call for Awards 2008	15
Within Ourselves our Future	
Lies	24
2007 Hybrid of Distinction:	
B. 'Red Fred'	29
ABS Convention Banquet	31
<i>Begonia U475</i>	35



Tuberous begonias were everywhere at Convention 2007. Original color photo by Johanna Zinn.

Regular Features

President's Message	4
Letters to the Editor	5
Conservation Comments	32
Seed Fund	35
Coming Events	38
Officer's Page	39

**Remember
All Dues
Should be In by Now
to the Membership Chair**

President's Message

It is hard to believe that 2008 is already here; 2007 went faster than I can believe. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and it is almost time to get ready for spring. I hope we are getting some rain here in Southern California because we really need it after the devastating fires we had in October.

The final results are almost complete (remember I am writing this in October) from the convention in Los Angeles. I have been given a rough number in the vicinity of \$18,000 profit from **Margaret Fisher**, the show chairman. The show was a great success and I want to thank the Palos Verdes Branch, Margaret and the other branches for all the time and hard work that they put into this convention to make it a success. Everyone I talked to said they had a wonderful time.

Did all of you have a chance to visit the new begonia web site? **Julie Vanderwilt** has taken over being web master from **Jesse James** and is doing a marvelous job. I must admit that I know nothing about what she is doing, and truthfully I don't want to learn. She is still adding more and more pictures to the site so keep checking back every so often and see what she is doing. Julie needs our help. Go on to the site and under meetings and locations send her your clubs information on where you meet, time and date etc. Julie has a form for you to fill out and e-mail it to her. If you don't have e-mail just drop her a note in the mail. She would also like to update all the names of the national reps and presidents. So if all of you could do that it would be a great help to her.

In the November/December issue of the *Begonian* are the proposed changes in the constitution and bylaws that were approved at the business meeting in September. Please take a moment to vote on

these changes if you haven't already done so. Directions on what to do are in that issue. I would like to thank **Charles Jaros** for his time and work that he did to bring the constitution up to date.

Did you see the picture of the brown *B. chlorosticta* on the cover of the November/December issue of the *Begonian*? It was just beautiful. **Charles Henthorne's** article was very enlightening. While I was reading it I remembered that I had seen another variation of a plant of *B. 'Freddy'*. We all know that *B. 'Freddy'* is green, but this one was a dark red. **Mike Flaherty** got a leaf of it at Hi-Mark before Brad left and propagated it. [Read more about this one on page 29.] He has given some cuttings to **Tom Keepin** to have at the convention in Houston in May. One more reason to go to the 2008 convention.

Good Growing,
Mary Sakamoto

Letters to the Editor

Convention 2007 Begonias in Paradise

The recent national meeting of the American Begonia Society, in September '07, was held in Hawthorne, California. The event can be summarized as an annual happening of visiting friends, laughter over the activities of the previous year, daily excursions, exhibitions, lectures, and a delightful dinner at the conclusion of the activities.

What were the outstanding occasions during the congregation from the states, Europe, and Japan? Each member probably differs over the choice of the spectacular opportunities afforded by the hostesses of the Palos Verdes Branch, but these selections are mine.

We begin with the overwhelming vistas of Lotus Land. Many of our

members had visited this jewel during a previous meeting several years ago. The grandeur of the gardens was reinforced by a second look at the landscaping, exotic specimens, and areas dedicated to specific species such as the cactus garden adjacent to the main building. The guided tour was beautifully enhanced by knowledgeable docents who regaled us with tales of the Madame, her numerous husbands, and the acquisition of wealth on their demise. Fortunately a spectacular estate resulted from her personal interest in horticulture and it is supported by adequate funding. We certainly hope that this private garden is preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Another day was spent at the amazing Huntington Gardens in Pasadena. This facility is a gem with its beautiful buildings and horticulture. The docents were informed, interesting, and voluble in descriptions of the specimens, geography, and history. The exposure was brief, but the hurried taste of manna in the desert was a spectacular opportunity for the more distant guests particularly those of us from the Middle Atlantic States.

Other well selected destinations included the Getty Villa, the Harlan natural scene and the densely planted home of **Julie Newmar**. Each scene displayed a personalized organization and choice of horticulture. I leave future comments to memories and photos taken by the members.

The concluding event, a dinner in the hotel quadrangle, was beautifully planned, well attended, and resplendent in congeniality. Awards were bestowed upon deserving members for their contributions to the Society. We commend each honored individual for their contributions to the ABS, wish them well, and anticipate their continued interest in the Society.

And finally, we express our appreciation to the host branch, Palos Verdes,

whose organization made the 2007 convention a truly memorable experience. Thank you, our West Coast friends, for sharing your community and your hospitality with us.

*Louis W. Welsh,
Pennsylvania*

A First Convention

Los Angeles was my first begonia convention (I've only been growing begonias for 2 years) and I have to say I was completely thrilled with all aspects - the tours, the boutique, the hospitality room, the seminars, the plant sales, and the wonderfully, friendly members.

The planning and execution of the convention must have required long hours and lots of organization. I just want to thank everyone who was involved for making this a truly breathtaking experience. I am looking forward to Houston.

*Lynne Horn,
Long Beach Parent,
Doug Frost Branches*

And A Request for Help

My name is **Nicola Burton** and I work at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, UK. I am currently conducting research into the phylogenetic relationships in *Begonia* species (Section *Gireoudia*). At present we are using accessions from Glasgow Botanic gardens as well as here and also some material recently collected in the wild by *Rekha Morris*. I am writing to ask for your help in obtaining some accessions of the rest of the section. We would very much appreciate it if you could circulate our request to your members through your publication the *Begonian* and by any other means you see appropriate. I have attached a list of *Begonia* species that

Continued on page 22.

ABS Convention 2007

Begonias in Paradise, California Style

I can only feel sorry for those folks who have not discovered that a plant lover's convention makes absolutely the greatest vacation ever. It always delights me to read about that discovery by those attending a convention for the first time.

This year was a particularly prime example of that. We stayed at a wonderful hotel at a hard to believe rate right in the heart of everything California. I kept noticing the wonderful art and furniture and on our final day asked the desk manager about that. He told me that this was the first built-to-order hotel in the Hawthorne Suites chain and the owner had spent more than two years in travel before building it to pick up art, furniture, and architectural elements from all over the world. It was time well spent!

There were the great tours that you can read all about in **Louis Welsh's** letter to the editor and enjoy some of the views in the photos. We thank **Jeanne Jones** for the tours and the buses to get us all to our destinations.

This year in doing a SWR Region survey, I discovered that members there value the meeting seminars right in there with the plant sale, which is high indeed. This convention was blessed with great seminars! There were tales of collecting from **Charles Jaros** in Thailand, **Hieu Nguyen** in Vietnam and Laos, and **Rekha Morris** in India. We had **Evelyn Weidner** and **Chuck Aides** (see his article later in this issue) with ideas to help our branches grow; **Joan Coulat**, **Paul Carlisle**, and **Mike Flaherty** on begonia culture in California; **Michael Ludwig** on the Seed Fund; and I did one on hybridizing. I think members were impressed with both the variety and quality of the seminars that

Janet Brown and **Thelma O'Reilly** had brought together for us.

Then, of course, there was a magnificent show with species and hybrids, new and old. Of course, those of us from the hot hinterlands were amazed and wowed with the beautiful tuberous begonias. **Paul Carlisle** and **Mike Flaherty** just outdid themselves to surround us with beautiful plants from the lobby forward. In the show room, other exhibitors also outdid themselves. You will see some of the entries here and others in future issues.

Then, there was the plant sale for which we all live. This one was amazing and much to my pleasure, by looking in the back and at the ends of the benches, I was able to find member started plants of species I longed to replace after my latest moves. The Rexes simply took the breath away too. R.L. thinks that the only begonias are the tuberous with those flowers and the colorful Rexes. There were many of both available. As usual, he bought a bunch to give away here in Ruston. He is a far better begonia ambassador than I!

Finally, there were plenty of opportunities to socialize in an oh-so cordial hospitality room complete with some fabulous wines donated by **Jeanne Jones's** son and all kinds of goodies in constant supply. Somehow, the hospitality committee just kept the good things coming. Thank you **Shirley Rapp** and all your helpers! Since breakfast was included with our rooms, there were opportunities early and late to visit with old friends and make new ones as well.

We all have to give Palos Verdes Branch a resplendent thank you for a marvelous convention and all the other California branches that provided help and

Continued on page 14.



Everywhere we went we saw begonias! At Huntington Botanic Gardens we saw this *B. ruhlandina*. At Mike Flaherty's Gazebo was this *B. boliviensis* 'Bonfire'. Also at Huntington was this outsize *B. brevirimosa* subs. *brevirimosa* (Edinburgh form). Photo top right by Johanna Zinn, other photos by Mary Bucholtz.



ABS Convention 2007:
Begonias in Paradise – California Style
by Charles Jaros

Winners

Best of Show – B. ‘Anniversary’
Exhibitor – Paul Carlisle

Sweepstakes - Mike Flaherty – 8 Blue Ribbons

Showing is Sharing - Mike Flaherty – 20 entries

Hybrid of Distinction - B. ‘Red Fred’
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty

Division Awards

Division A: B. ‘Lomita Lady’
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty

Division B: B. ‘Pink Cloud’
Exhibitor – Janet Brown

Division E: B. ‘Dawn Davenport’
Exhibitor – Charles Meyer

Division EE: B. ‘Careless Whisper’
Exhibitor – Diane Parr

Division F: B. Rex Cultorum
Exhibitor – Robert Golden

Division G: B. ‘Anniversary’
Exhibitor – Paul Carlisle

Division I: B. *venosa*
Exhibitor – Carol Knight

Division L: *B. bogneri*
Exhibitor – Dean Turney

Division N: *B. ‘Allegro’*
Exhibitor – Al Palacio

Division O: *B. ‘Corallina de Lucerna’*
Exhibitor – Virgil & Janice Griffith

Division Q: *B. ‘Red Fred’*
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty

Division S: *B. dregei* ‘Glasgow’
Exhibitor – Laurel Carlisle

Division T: *B. ‘Pink Minx’*
Exhibitor – Tom Keepin

Division U: Unknown Begonia Blooms
Exhibitor – Johanna Zinn

Division W: Stained Glass Lamp
Exhibitor – Gary Hunt

Division Y: *Oncidium* species
Exhibitor – Tom & Stephanie Cootz

Division Z: Tuberous Display
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty
Paul Carlisle

Division ZZ: “How it All Started”
Exhibitor – Long Beach Parent
Chapter

Cultural Certificates

Janet Brown
***B. ‘Pink Cloud’* – 95 points**

Laurel Carlisle
***B. dregei* ‘Glasgow’ – 97.3 points**

Paul Carlisle

B. 'Anniversary' – 96 points

B. 'Fairylight' – 95.5 points

Mike Flaherty

B. 'Red Fred' – 96.5 points

B. 'O'Flaherty's Folly' – 96.1 points

Virgil & Janice Griffith

B. 'Strawberry Creme' – 96 points

B. *U475* – 96.7 points

B. 'Corallina de Lucerna' – 96.6 points

B. 'Benitochiba' – 95 points

Robert Golden

B. *Rex Cultorum* - 96 points

B. 'Fairy' – 95 points

Carol Knight

B. 'Kissimmee' – 95.3 points

Charles Meyer

B. 'Dawn Davenport' – 97.3 points

Katsuko Nakagawa

B. *quadrialata* – 97.8 points

Carol Notaras

B. *herbacea* – 97.3 points

Al Palacio

B. 'Allegro' – 96.3 points

B. 'Tiger Kitten' – 96 points

Diane Parr

B. 'Careless Whisper' – 95.7 points

Dean Turney

B. *bogneri* – 98.7 points



B. U 176, at left, won a blue ribbon for Janet Brown., *B. dregei* 'Glasglow', above, won Division S, *B. 'Dawn Davenport'*, below left, won Division E. *B. 'Mission Bells'* was just beautiful! First 3 photos by Mary Bucholtz; last by Janet Welsh.



ABS Awards 2007

by Ann Salisbury

It was my pleasure to present the awards to the deserving winners for 2007. The nominations were plentiful this year and I am very pleased. Those of you who nominated and the person did not win. Please nominate them again next year. For the exact criteria for each award, see the awards call that follows this article.

The Herbert P. Dyckman Award

This year's winner has been a member since 1966 and is a well known member who has been outstanding in the duties performed. He has produced the book and file on hybrids with all the proceeds going to ABS. He has also been active in organizing and aiding the publication of the *Begonian* on DVD. He has assisted materially as well in the revision of the ABS website.

I am proud to announce a very deserving person as winner: **Howard Berg**

The A. D. Robinson Medal of Honor

This year's winner is a beautiful rhizome with chartreuse leaves and a darker border. It has been grown very successfully throughout the United States. This year's winner has ABS Registration #980 and was registered October 23, 2000. The deserving winner is *B. 'River Nile'* and the hybridizer is **Brad Thompson**.

The Eva Kenworthy Gray Award

This year's winner is somewhat on the quiet side, but very impressive in writing about begonias. He is also a very dedicated begonia grower and has been for a large portion of his life. He loves to share

plants and information locally, nationally, and internationally. He is very knowledgeable about begonias and has written many articles for the *Begonian*, the *SWR Begonia Leaflet*, and his local branch newsletter.

It is my pleasure to award the Eva Kenworthy Gray award to none other than the man from St. Louis: **Morris Mueller**

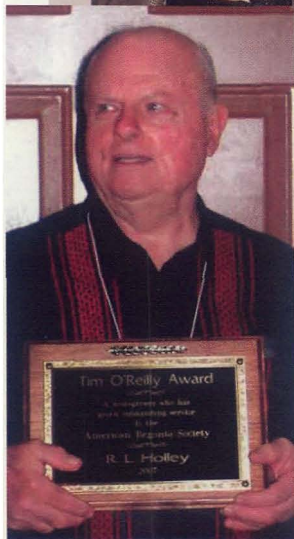
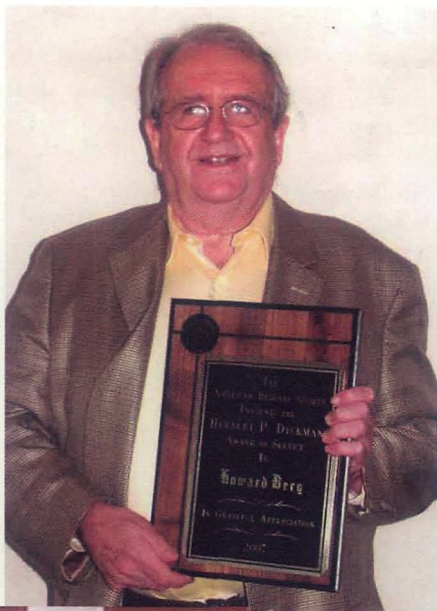
The Rudy Ziesenhenné Editorial Award

This award is presented to an editor who collects and edits the work of others in an exemplary way. This year's winner is a very long standing member of the ABS. This person has edited a newsletter for a branch for at least 15 years, maintaining a very high standard of reporting club activities and education. Each issue has at least one or two informative articles about a specific begonia with a picture or pen and ink of the plant. Local and national news activities are also listed. The winner has a great love for the begonia world and the dedication to quality make this person a perfect winner.

It is my pleasure to award the Rudy Ziesenhenné Award to the editor of *Begonia Chatter*: **Tom Keepin**

The Tim O'Reilly Award

This year's winner definitely does not grow begonias, but is a great supporter of his spouse's efforts. He is very famous around the hospitality room for filling in when the host or hostess needs to be away for awhile and has also been seen in the plant sale room checking to be sure that help could be given if needed. The greatest attribute



*Clockwise, award winners **Howard Berg**, **Morris Mueller**, **Carol Notaras**, **Tom Keepin** and **R. L. Holley**. All photos are by **Johanna Zinn**.*



in this winner is proof reading. It appears also that he possibly owns a considerable share of stock in U-Haul because of the frequency of moving.

This year's very deserving winner is: **R.L. Holley**

The Gene Salisbury Award

This year's winner discovered begonias in the early Nineties. He is very well known for the excellence in growing and has won many awards for the beautiful begonias grown. He also has a very special talent for hybridization of the Rex begonias. It is my understanding that orchids and ferns were put on hold while he learned about begonias.

It is my pleasure to present the Gene Salisbury Award to the man with the "golden arm", none other than: **Bob Golden.**

The Marge Lee Award

This year's winner is indeed qualified in all the categories, has endeavored to cement good will between branches and people. And believe me, she knows how to get a harmonious session going. **Marge Lee** was her mentor and they spent a lot of time together at conventions. They shared so much between them. This person has never met a stranger.

Our winner of the Marge Lee Award this year is none other than ABS treasurer: **Carol Notaras.**

Continued from page 6.

support for this memorable event.

Convention 2007 is one that I will long remember. Now, can we all stand the wait until Convention 2008 and if you are a member who has never attended, do take the opportunity to meet us all in Houston for what I know will also be a great time.

~FH

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We are no longer shipping plants, but our plants are now available from Portland Nursery (Division Street store) in Portland, Oregon.

Begonia Books:

**Know Your Begonias* by Jack Krempin --\$47.

**Growing Begonias* by Peter Sharp -- \$29.50

(book prices include U.S. shipping. International shipping is extra.)

*Begonias *Gesneriads *Tropical Plants

2008 ABS 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 2008. Note that the Ziesenhenné Award criteria has changed from its original form.

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

There are many worthy members that are possible winners for these awards. 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. The committee may present only one of each of the awards each year.

I must receive these nominations by March 20, 2008. 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:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dyckman Award</u>	<u>Gray Award</u>	<u>ADR Medal</u>	<u>O'Reilly Award</u>
1995	A. Salisbury	M. Blanton	B. 'Silvermist'	
1996	C. Notaras	K. Mounger	B. 'Sweet Diane'	
1997	J. Coulat	none	none	
1998	E. Calkins	G. & A. Salisbury	none	
1999	G. Salisbury	M. Bucholtz	none	
2000	M. Sakamoto	F. Holley	B. 'M. Sakamoto'	
2001	R. & W Macnair	B. Thompson	B. 'Little Miss Mummy'	
2002	R & L Fuentes	H. Jaros	B. 'Flamingo Queen'	
2003	J. Brown	C. Lenert	B. 'Cowardly Lion'	
2004	M. Zinman	C. Jaros	B. 'Black Gold'	
2005	Michael Kartuz	Don Miller	B. 'Holley Moon'	Tim O'Reilly
2006	Johanna Zinn	Rekha Morris		Charlie Lenert
2007	Howard Berg	Morris Mueller	B. 'River Nile'	R.L. Holley

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ziesenhenné 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
2007	Tom Keepin	Bob Golden	Carol Notaras



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Begonian Index 2007

Regular Features

ABS Election & Ballot 101, 220-2
 ABS Meeting Minutes 225
 Coming Events 38, 78, 118, 158, 198
 Conservation Notes 60, 107, 143, 193, 216
 Editor's Notes 29, 65, 66, 116, 125, 165, 206
 In the Mailbox 30, 58, 96, 133, 182, 215
 Letters to the Editor 5, 85, 230
 Membership Notes 25, 103, 180
 Officers' Page 39, 79, 119, 159, 199, 239
 President's Message 4, 44, 84, 124, 164, 204
 Seed Fund 33, 63, 99, 138, 190, 232

Articles

Begonia bipinnatifida J. J. Smith 6
Begonia leprosa 11
 Nomenclature Notes 12
Begonia tayabensis 13
 Convention 2007 16
 Index 2006 17
 SWR Get-Together/ABS Board Meeting 16
 The Big Begonia Ceilidh 24
 Some Natural Hybrids from Mexico 27
 Two New Branches 45
 SWR/ABS Board Meeting 45
 A Miniature Garden of Eden 46
 Beyond the Dust 49

Coming Up Begonias 51
B. lynceorum 53
 Fall Board/Annual Meeting Minutes 55
 A Mallet by An Other Name 57
 Benefits of ABS 59
 ABS in Scotland 59
Begonia phutoensis 61
 In Memory: Shirley Brown 66
 To Stimulate and Promote Interest in Begonias 67
 Unidentified Species Listing 70
 2007 Awards Call 72
 ABS Convention 2007 76
 Some Begonias from Peninsular India 87
Begonia chitoensis 93
B. 'Enchantment Aureola' 107
 Update on 2007 LA Convention 108
Begonia hirtella 109
Begonia parviflora 111
Begonia multangula 112
 The Computer is the Best Method to Reach Out 115
Begonia acida x *Begonia venosa* 116
 2007 Holiday Greetings 125
Begonia amphioxus 126
 Corrections 130
 Unidentified Species Listing 131
Begonia xanthina 134
 Challenges 137
 Are We Missing a Bet? 139
 Walk-in-Terarium 144
Begonia handelii 148
 In Memory: **Nettie Daniels** 150
 In Memory: **Kathlyn Calvert** 150

In Memory: **Maybelle Greene** 151
 The Buxton Branch Goes to The Boston Flower Show 153
 Yes, You Can 153
 Letter from a Hybridizer 155
 A Curious Thing 156
 Seed Germination in Bali 166
 Dominican Begonias 171
 Begonias Under a Calabash Tree 175
 Changes: Directory of Begonia Societies 178
Begonia U512 179
 Crested Margin Begonias 181
 Nomenclature Notes on Crested Margin Begonias 181
 New Cultivars 185 Why Do You Grow Begonias? 189
 A Begoniac's Reference List 192
Begonia U508 196
 Holiday Greetings 205
 Begonias in the Shade of Bat Flowers 206
Begonia santos-limae... *Begonia kautskyana* 210
 Begonia Growers 214
 Invitation from Australia 219
 Begonias of Java and Bali 219
 Proposed American Begonia Society Constitution and Bylaws 220
 Changes 220
 Why grow begonias in terrariums? 222
 Ballot 222
Begonia dipetala Graham

var. *hydrophila* 223
 Summary of ABS Board
 Meeting Minutes 225
 Some Propagation Tips
 226
 Oh, no! This Can't be
Begonia chingii! 228
Begonia chlorosticta

Variations 235

Contributors

Artists &

Photographers

Mary Bucholtz 1, 3, 34, 40,
 43, 71, 74, 80, 110, 132,
 202
 Bill Claybaugh 223, 249,
 194, 217, 229
 Charles Henthorne 10, 52,
 106, 110, 201, 234
 Tan Jieu Hoe 132
 Freda Holley 43, 184, 188,
 192, 229
 Charles Jaros 184
 Johanna Kitson 50
 Santhosh Kumares 224
 Jeanne M. Kunze 156
 Kingsley Langenberg 15,
 183
 Harry Luther 212
 Wanda Macnair 152
 Patrick McMillan 173
 Rekha Morris 26, 31, 34, 41,
 47, 81, 83, 88, 91, 121,
 135, 140, 161, 173, 177,
 207, 240
 Gene Salisbury 120, 234
 Gede Wawan Setiadi 167
 Mildred Thompson 7, 95,
 129
 Johanna Zinn 146

Authors

Ed Bates 33, 63, 99, 138
 J.-R. Briois 230
 Janet Brown 4, 44, 84, 124,
 164

Carmel Browne 109
 Ken Browne 219
 Mary Bucholtz 111
 Dorothy Caviness 155
 Bill Claybaugh 60, 104,
 112, 143, 148, 193, 126,
 230
 Isabel Crossley 181
 Normand Dufresne 62
 Margaret Fisher 16, 76, 108
 Mary Fuqua 219
 Jack Golding 12, 181, 210
 Charles Henthorne 11, 53,
 107, 137, 179, 135
 Michael Higson 5, 85
 Freda Holley 29, 57, 66, 98,
 109, 125, 139, 165, 192,
 196
 Diane Horne 150
 Charles Jaros 66, 151, 220
 Johanna Kitson 51, 59
 Santhosh Kumares 223
 Jeanne M. Kunze 156
 Bonnie Lambert 153
 Kingsley Langenberg 13
 Cheryl Lenert 24, 45
 Michael Ludwig 49, 67
 Wanda Macnair 125, 153
 Richard Macnair 226
 Barry Mann 214
 Dot Mann 226
 Donna Marcheck 25, 55,
 103, 180
 Patrick McMillan 171
 Rekha Morris 27, 46, 87,
 134, 175, 206, 204, 228,
 230, 236
 Thelma O'Reilly 90, 131
 Ruth Pease 150
 Walter Pease 150
 Mary Sakamoto 204
 Gene Salisbury 116, 185
 Ann Salisbury 72
 Hartutingsih M. Siregar 166
 Greg Sytch 30, 58 6, 133,
 182, 215
 Mildred Thompson 6, 93,
 98, 126
 Dean Turney 190, 232
 Bernie Wiener 115
 Patrick Worley 85
 Johanna Zinn 144, 222

Individuals

Amrita Abraham 92
 Tim Anderson 56, 179
 S. Anthonysana 126
 Bill Ash 76, 124
 A. Bacon 126
 Anne Jno Baptiste 176
 Ed Bates 35, 65, 165, 232
 Howard Berg 14, 36, 56,
 164, 192, 205
 Barbara Berg 36, 205
 Iris Bird 36
 F. Bouman 68
 Roberto Brin 36
 J.R. Briois 230
 Shirley Brown 29, 36, 44,
 66
 Janet Brown 5, 24, 36, 44,
 55, 57, 59, 69, 76, 78, 84,
 92, 118, 136, 158, 164-5,
 204, 205, 209
 Mel Brown 66
 Ken Browne 9, 219
 Carmel Browne 9, 109
 Mary Bucholtz 3, 9, 43, 44,
 55, 56, 70, 75, 83, 110,
 116, 128, 163
 Eleanor Calkins 36
 Kathlyn Calvert 123, 150,
 155, 179
 Merrill Calvert 179
 Paul Carlisle 56
 Dorothy Caviness 155, 179
 Bob Clark 55, 103
 C. B. Clarke 134
 Bill Claybaugh 9, 56, 60,
 104, 112, 126, 128, 148-9,
 163, 165, 193-5, 216-7,
 229, 230, 236
 Joan Coulat 9, 44, 56, 76,
 84, 92, 136, 209
 Isabel Crosley 181
 Nettie Daniels 123, 150
 Jackie Davis 33, 36, 63
 A. DeLange 68
 Srimati Sadhna Deori 136,
 209
 Mantri Djibdja 6
 Ewen Donaldson 76, 124

- Jan Doorenbos 112, 114, 192
 Normand Dufresne 36, 61, 92, 94, 136, 153, 209
 Margaret Fisher 16, 44, 56, 76, 108, 124
 Mike Flaherty 56, 76, 165
 Ingeborg Foo 36, 125, 190
 Ben Franklin 225
 Mary Fuqua 65, 236
 Sarah Glemboski 153
 Robert Golden 118
 Jack Golding 9, 12, 56, 60, 81, 104, 112, 131, 192, 206, 209, 213, 235-6
 Maybelle Green 123, 151
 Stewart Hammer 103
 Stuart Hammer 153
 Doris Happel 178
 John Harrington 153
 Charles Henthorne 3, 10-1, 52-3 83, 92, 104, 123, 128, 131, 136, 165, 179, 203, 209, 235
 Leora Henthorne 92, 128, 136, 209
 Michael Higson 3, 24, 85
 Tan Jieu Hoe 132
 Antoon Hofnagels 92, 209
 R.L. Holley 205
 Freda Holley 14, 56, 94, 98, 124, 125, 184-9, 192, 196, 228
 J.D. Hooker 134
 Scott Hoover 36, 59, 111, 233, 236
 Diane Horne 151
 Beatrice Huckriede 36, 190
 Jim Hunter 65
 Abe Jain 92
 Uma Jain 92
 Jesse James 164, 204
 Charles Jaros 9, 57, 59, 61, 75, 76, 110-1, 116, 124, 128, 131, 133, 151, 164, 196
 James Johnson 178
 Jeanne Jones 56, 76, 205
 Carrie Karegeannes 9, 67
 Michael Kartuz 9, 128, 179
 Robert Kautsky 212
 Tom Keepin, 9, 46, 56, 59, 84, 92, 104, 128, 136, 209
 Marla Keith 198
 Samuel Kenedy 24, 76, 124
 Ruth Kiew 68, 126
 Johanna Kitson 36, 43, 50-1, 59, 84
 Louise Korobkin 56
 GeneKosinski 153
 Ann Kosinski 153
 Santhosh Kumares 223
 Jeanne M. Kunze 156
 Ming-Jou Lai 93
 A. Lamb 126
 Bonnie Lambert 153
 Kingsley Langenberg 3, 12, 13, 63, 164, 184-5
 Linda Lawson 56-7, 124, 164, 205
 Marge Lee 68
 Cheryl Lenert 24, 45, 56, 57, 59, 75, 78, 101, 134, 164, 179, 196, 204, 205, 226, 236
 Lulu Leonard 92, 136, 205, 209
 Penny Light 153
 Tang-Shui Liu 93
 Michael Ludwig 33, 36, 48-9, 63, 67, 69, 76, 232
 Harry Luther 212
 M.L. MacIntyre 236
 Richard Macnair 102, 164, 205, 226
 Wanda Macnair 125, 153, 204-5
 Shirll Manes 193
 Barry Mann 214
 Dot Mann 226
 Donna Marsheck 25, 57, 103
 Rae Matthews 219
 Hugh McLauchlan 12
 Patrick McMillan 28, 54, 163, 171, 173, 175
 Elmer Drew Merrill 13
 Don Miller 59, 179, 235
 Graham Milne 178
 Cindy Moran 84
 Rekha Morris 3, 26-7, 31, 36, 43, 46-7, 52-4, 56, 57, 59, 76, 83, 87-8, 91, 104, 123, 134-5, 163, 173, 175-7, 179, 203, 205, 226, 230, 236
 Morris Mueller 4, 36, 92, 94, 128, 136, 209, 232
 Brad Neubarger 205
 Hieu Nguyen 70, 75-6
 Peter Notaras 92, 136, 205, 209
 Carol Notaras 92, 102, 136, 164, 205, 209, 226
 Bill O'Geary 36
 Thelma O'Reilly 33, 44, 63, 67, 70, 76, 92, 99, 123, 131, 136, 179, 190, 209, 214, 232-3
 Tim O'Reilly 92, 136, 209
 Sri Michi Paku 209
 Sri Panthri 136, 209
 Cynney Passavant 153
 Bruce Pearson 131
 Ruth Pease 150
 Walter Pease 150
 Mauro Peixoto 214
 Tony Pinto 153
 Mary Raferty 4, 84
 Anne Raver 5
 Mary Sakamoto 44, 56, 101, 164, 204, 225
 Ann Salisbury 26, 36, 38, 44, 56, 57, 72, 84, 92, 99, 124, 136, 164, 166, 198, 209
 Gene Salisbury 9, 36, 83, 84, 116, 124, 128, 136, 155, 179, 209, 235
 Martin J. S. Sands 126
 Dale Sena 38, 44, 55, 56, 70, 84
 Dominique Senchal 36
 Srimati Manju Sing 136, 209
 Sri S. K. Singh 136, 209
 Hartutiningsih-M. Siregar 166
 Mary Sizemore 59, 70, 75, 111, 131
 J.J. Smith 6
 Lyman Smith 6
 Carol Smith 128
 Fukumi Smith 193
 Paul Soniat 5
 Greg Sytch 30, 58, 83,

96, 133, 182, 215
 Akira Tanaka 107-8
 Ann Tanona 153
 Nikki Tausig 205
 Mark Tebbitt 9, 11, 68,
 76, 111, 148, 178, 180,
 206, 236
 Vjoo Thimmaiah 92
 Timmy Thimmaiah 92
 Mildred Thompson 3, 6, 7,
 12, 56, 58, 59, 83, 93, 95,
 98, 104, 123, 126, 137,
 144, 154, 192, 216, 225,
 136
 Brad Thompson 57, 225
 Ed Thompson 58, 154, 192,
 216
 Paul Tsamtsis 4, 9
 Dean Tuney 165, 178, 191-
 2, 223
 Julie Vanderwilt 4, 44, 55,
 84, 116, 164, 204
 Wally Wagner 214
 Evelyn Weidner 76
 Bobbie West 205
 Bernie Wiener 115
 Joyce Williams 232
 Ted Williams 232
 Ruth Wills 179
 Patrick Jesse Worley 98,
 226
 Skee Ziesenhenne 11, 44,
 67, 99
 Maxine Zinman 57, 124
 Johanna Zinn 9, 92, 101,
 103, 123, 136, 144, 146,
 179, 205, 209, 222, 226
 Donna Zody 205

Begonias

Hybrids

Sophie Cecile 3, 40*
 Cachuma 36
 Bonfire 146*
 Glamour Rose Picottee 36
 Wind Dancer 51
 Arabian Sunset 57
 Arthur Mallet 57

Tingley Mallet 57
 Margaritacea 57
 Sinbad 62
 Don Miller 62
 Benigo 62
 Enchantment Aureola 106*-
 7
 Bunchii 181
 Crestabruhii 181
 Ricky Minter 181-2
 Hiro 181
 Madame Butterfly 181
 Essie Hunt 181
 Fernberg 181
 Hazel Isobel 181
 Honey 181-2
 Lettuce Magic 181
 Muddy Waters 181
 Cathedral 181-2
 Ruth Littlemore 181-2
 Madame Queen 182
 Oliver Twist 182
 Iris Shepherd 184*-5
 Pagoda 184*-5
 Holley's Beauty 186-8*
 Taylor Anne 186-8*
 Deco Dart 195
 Simple Simon 195
 Bob Cochran 195
 Marion Claybaugh 195
 Kit Kat 195
 Gertrude 195
 The Seventh Star 195
 Erthrophylla 195
 Wild Pony 195
 Cowardly Lion 195
 Caravan 195
 Layer Cake 218
 Stars and Stripes 229*
 Suncana 229*
 Big Mac 174
 Red Doll 154
 Dido 154
 More Change 154
 Silver Jewell 154
 Dorothea 155
 Juanita Jewel 154
 Bethlehem Star 156

Species

acida 83, 116
aconitifolia 186
albo-coccinea 81*, 83, 89,
 144
albomaculata 143
amphioxus 126-9*, 154
ampla 49
antsiranensis 143
arborensis 143-4, 206, 209
asperifolia 143
atracha 143
barkerii 1*, 3, 28, 35, 138
bipinnatifida 3, 6, 7*-9, 58,
 154, 195
boliviensis 35, 63, 138, 144,
 146*-7, 216
bowerae 174
breviramosa 147
burkillii 143, 206-7*-9, 236
capanemae 49
carolineifolia 28-9, 35, 63,
 138
carrieae 99, 190
cathayana 93
chingii 143, 165, 169, 203,
 228-9
chitoensis 83, 93-5*-6
chivatoa 143
chloroneura 144, 147
chlorosticta 201*, 103, 195,
 201*, 203, 234*-6
cinnabarina 169
circumlobata 93
clarkei 216
concanensis 87
convalliaradora 174
convolvulaceae 109
coursii 169
crassicaulis 36, 63, 138, 232
crenata 87, 89*
cucullata 109
cucullata var. *arenosicola*
 33, 36, 138
cucullata var. *cucullata* 36,
 138
davisii 216
dayi (see *glandulosa*)
decora 93, 154
dioica 143

- dipetala* 36, 63, 88*-9, 91*,
 138, 190, 203, 223
dipetala var. *hydrophila*
 223-4*
domincalis 172
dregei 33, 36
egregia 169
fagifolia 109
fimbriata 143
fischeri 36, 65, 109, 138
formosana 93
formosana var. *albomaculata*
 93
fusca 174
glabra 109, 178
glandulosa 33, 36, 138
gracilis 147
gracilis var. *martiana* 33, 36,
 136, 147
grandis 99, 114
griffithiana 143
handelii 144, 148
handelii var. *handelii* 148-
 9*-150
hatacoa 93, 147
hatacoa var. *rubrifolia* 93,
 143
hatacoa var. *viridifolia* 93,
 143
hayatae 93
hemsleyana 93, 154
henryi 143
heracleifolia 27, 36, 50*, 65,
 138, 232
heracleifolia v. *nigracans* 3*
hernandioides 3, 13
hidalgensis (see *glandulosa*)
hirtella 83, 109, 169
hirtella 169
hispidissima 169
hoeheana 143
humilis 109, 173*
hypolipara (see *sericoneura*)
imperialis 27, 154, 174
incarnata 29, 36, 138
integrifolia 88*-9, 143, 236
involuta 178
iridescens 143, 206-7*-9
johnstonii 36, 138
karwinskyana 143
kautskyana 203, 210-2*-4
kellermanii 169
kenworthyae 190
leprosa 3, 10*-12, 195
letestui 143
limprichtii 93, 195
lindleyana 36, 138
longipetiolata 147
ludicra 143
ludwigii 36, 138
luzonensis 154
lyman smithii 49, 99, 144,
 147
lyniceorum 52*-4, 143, 174
maculata 186
malabarica 36, 89-90-1*
malachosticta 144, 195
manicata 28, 33, 36, 138
mariti 143
masoniana 85
mollicaulis 109
multangula 83, 112-3*
multinerva 178
multistaminea 143
muricata 169
nelumbiifolia 27, 19, 51,
 174-5, 229
nelumbiifolia var. *rubra* 48
nigrovenia (see *glandulosa*)
novagranatae 49
oaxacana 178
obliqua 172-3*, 178
obscura 169
octopetala 97
odorata 172-3*
paleata 174
palmata 93, 201, 203, 206-9,
 240*
parviflora 83, 110*-1
pearcei 216
peltata 49, 138, 190-1
phutoensis 61
pinetorum 3, 28, 138
platanifolia 185
plebeja 99
polilloensis 154
polygonoides 147
prismatocarpa 154
pustulata 174
rajah 146*, 154
rex 63, 93, 195
robusta 109
roezlii 36, 138
rosiflora 216
roxburghii 29-30
santos-limae 203, 210-2*-4
sartorii 174
scapiegera 154
scintillans 206-7*-9
semperflorens 169
sericoneura 34*, 36, 49,
 138, 174, 178, 190-1, 229
sizmoreae 93, 144, 147, 195
socotrana 216
squamulosa 147
squarosa 174
staudtii 144-7, 154
stigmosea 36, 138
subpeltata 230, 236
tayabensis 3, 12*-15*
 U047 147
 U074 154
 U074 195
 U083 36, 138
 U103 99, 232
 U237 233
 U309 154
 U319 99, 232
 U320 35-6, 138, 232
 U331 34*
 U404 154
 U405 169
 U412 36, 138
 U443 36, 138
 U444 36, 148
 U461 27
 U462 26*-28
 U463 26*-28
 U464 26*-28, 31*
 U475 147
 U492 190-1
 U494 26*-9
 U496 70
 U497 70, 216-7*-8
 U498 43, 80*, 70-1*, 147
 U499 70
 U500 70, 74*
 U501 70-1*
 U502 70-1*
 U503 75
 U504 75
 U505 75
 U506 75
 U507 75
 U508 74*-95, 163, 196*,
 230

U509 74*-5	U518 131	<i>var. maculata</i>) 147
U510 75	U519 131-2*	<i>veitchii</i> 216
U511 131-2*	U520 131	<i>veitchii</i> 85
U512 131, 163, 179-180	U521 132	<i>venosa</i> 83, 116
U513 131	U524 88*-9	<i>versicolor</i> 93
U514 131-2*	<i>udisilvestris</i> 178	<i>wallichiana</i> 36, 138
U515 136	<i>ulmifolia</i> 36, 138	<i>xanthina</i> 93, 121*, 123, 131,
U516 131	<i>variabilis</i> 154	134-5*-6, 160*
U517 131-2*	<i>variegata</i> (syn <i>masoniana</i>)	<i>xanthina</i> var. <i>pica</i> (see
		<i>xanthina</i>)

Continued from page 5.

we would like to find samples of, either seed or silica dried plant material (flowers or buds are best for DNA extraction). We would like accessions collected from the wild if possible, but any will be useful. We will pass on information derived from the DNA analysis of the samples to the donors and acknowledge them in any publication.

In return for your help, I would be happy to write a short article on my planned work for your publication.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance,

Nicola Burton

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UK

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All begonias in Section Gireoudia are included in Nicola's list. She has a complete listing of these begonias which she will be happy to send you via email.

On *B. handelii* var *handelii*

In the *Begonian* of July/August 2007 I was very interested to read in Bill Claybaugh's article on *B. handelii* var. *handelii* that only male flowering plants are being grown in U.S. I am growing this begonia which I was given a good num-

ber of years ago by Dorothy Miller. She had received her plant from Bob Cherry (I believe he returned from a Camellia collecting expedition in China with this treasure of the Begonia world). Our plants have only female flowers. Some years ago I sent a start to *Kathy Goetz* in Oregon maybe she still has it growing.

One fascinating piece of information that came from this contact was that the plants flowered at the same time even though one was in the Northern Hemisphere and the other in the South! Let's try to correct this! Our 9th Australian Convention could be an ideal opportunity. I'm open to suggestions.

Carmel J. Browne,

aboutbegonias@bigpond.com
Australia

Convention Hospitality

As a new participant working at a convention, I had to let you know that my husband Bob (bartender) in the hospitality room and myself, Shirlee Rapp, had a great time.

Over the years I've read so many names in the *Begonian*. It was great fun to finally put faces to the names I've read so much about.

It was nice to see so many that came such a long distance from Japan, England, the East coast to the West Coast.

I hope all who came to the hospitality room to chat and eat enjoyed themselves.

Continued on page 33.

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Within Ourselves Our Future Lies

by Chuck Ades, California

Here lie the remains of a once great organization "The American Begonia Society". Is that the epithet for the ABS? I knew that the ABS was losing members even before I went to the ABS convention in Hawthorne, California in September 2007. I had heard the complaint many times "we are dying off faster than we are getting new members." I don't know the exact figures, but the ABS was once at least four times larger than it is now and is decreasing in membership yearly. Too often we suffer from myopia and only see that which is close to us i.e., our plants and our meetings. It is time that strong immediate action be taken to reverse the organization's membership problem. It is more than a problem. It's a death notice.

First you must understand that it is not a phenomenon unique to the ABS. It permeates almost all clubs and organizations. My wife and I are avid square dancers. The square dance clubs are also having the same problem. However, there are exceptions to this. There are two plant groups in the San Diego area that are experiencing not only good growth, but one has had phenomenal growth. The first is the plumeria Society. They seem to be getting new members at every meeting. The other is the San Diego Horticulture Society. In the last 11 years, while everyone else has been losing members, it has grown from 40 members to about 1500 members. They have between 200 and 400 people at their **monthly** meetings. At their regular monthly meetings their attendance is equal or double the attendance at this last ABS convention.

This Hort Society has a lot going on at their meetings: They always have a good program, usually a well-done slide show by a very knowledgeable speaker.

They have a show and tell table. People bring plant material in from their garden. It is placed on tables in front of the members and is available for them to look at and marvel at before and after the meeting. They have a person that really knows his plant identification and is knowledgeable about plants. He goes down the table, plant by plant, telling about each plant, sometimes with the help of the person that brought the plant(s) in. They have a plant raffle table often supplied with material connected with the program presentation. Raffle tickets are then sold.

They have a plant exchange area. People bring plants bulbs, seeds and cuttings in to the meeting to be given away. They receive a Ticket that allows them to take anything from the exchange table or they can save the ticket to exchange at some other meeting, no charge.

They video all of their programs. These videos can be checked out for a given time and then returned. They have a book lending library. Books can be checked out to be returned at a later date. No charge. They have vendors attend their meeting who sell unusual and hard to find plants. They give a free raffle ticket to anyone that brings in a new member.

This is all free, no charge. If a person joins, he receives the societies monthly, slick finished, color magazine. To join costs about \$25 per year. The magazine recaps the speakers program, the plants brought in and horticultural happenings in the area. They also have pertinent articles such as plant nomenclature, a specific plant or plant family, etc.

They have published two books on the trees of San Diego and give yearly scholarships to worthy horticulture students. They sponsor the local garden show

held at the fair grounds, which includes full garden landscaping inside one of the cavernous building at the fairgrounds.

This is a large undertaking. However, it didn't happen over night, obviously starting out with only 40 members. It was accomplished one step at a time. They have bucked the trend of dying clubs and organizations. **THE ABS CAN TOO.**

It is important to understand the phenomenon that is causing this shrinking of clubs. There was a book written about it entitled "Bowling Alone". It talks about the people that grew up in the 60's. They are the "I'll do it on my terms and when I want to" generation. When asked if they would join a bowling league, they reply "I love to bowl, but I don't want to be tied down to going on a specific day and every week. I'll bowl when and if I want to." Also, with the computer and so many other readily available types of entertainment, people have to set priorities. We just have to make the begonia meeting their number one priority.

I view the ABS as a franchise with the National being the franchiser and the branches as the franchisees. As the franchiser, the national has an obligation to provide direction and assistance to its branches. Referring back to the eight points of the San Diego Hort Soc., some of these items could be undertaken by the National and others by the individual clubs.

The convention provided a perfect opportunity for the ABS to greatly enhance the meetings of the various branches. The show floor, with all its wonderful entries, could have been video'd including the primary winning begonias, perhaps accompanied with short talks by the big winner exhibitors. They could describe their growing conditions, how long they grew it, its culture and perhaps their secrets. Included in this segment could be

the buying frenzy and the boutique. All of the speakers could have been videoed also. Perhaps with some special add on information by the speaker. A simple suggested syllabus could be written to facilitate a discussion at the branch when the video is shown. Pictures could also be taken of the various tours that were offered. The homes would be interesting and the special tours of public places would be like a travel log.

If this videoing could be accomplished at the next National convention, this would be a meaningful addition for a meeting for any branch, especially those that are new or with few members. The special culture talks could be kept on file for use in future years.

Another thing that could be done at the next convention is to have a large sign advertising the ABS and its various branches. Make it known that we need and welcome new members. Stress that the ABS and its branches offer a wealth of information about begonias. Have information on all the branches and the national web-site. Put rex and rhizomatous leaves in ziploc bags with the ABS website and local branch meeting information plus the name of the begonia. Offer these free to non-members. Have a little starter kit available with a small pot of soil enclosed in a ziploc with instructions on the ziploc. They can then plant the leaf in the ziploc with the pot of soil, water it and zip it up. Then anxiously wait for the miracle to happen. Miracles do happen you know. Maybe the miracle of them joining will also happen.

It is not too late to accomplish some of the above points from the last convention. I'm sure many of the attendees would gladly make their slides available to the ABS for use to make a slide series for distribution to its member branches. Another examples of videos that could be made would be principles of hybrid-

izing done by a few of the most prolific hybridizers and, also, the seed fund, how it operates, why it exists how the seed is tested, the difference between species, hybrids and cultivars, etc. That might be a worthy project of the seed fund branch itself. Perhaps with the aid of some other begoniac with video expertise.

Most of the remaining items listed being done by the San Diego Hort. Assoc. with the exception of the book publishing, could be done by the various branches on their own. Additionally, they could set up a buddy system. Assign someone to take new attendees under their wing. This person could invite them to their home to see their begonias. The branch should try to get all members active in some way. Give everyone an assignment such as bringing something they saw or read about begonias to the next meeting. Be sure to have a plant table.

Additionally, I view the whole begonia organization as a three-legged stool: the national, the branches and its members. The burden of growth falls most heavily upon the members. This can be done by giving talks at other garden clubs, fairs, etc. All other clubs are also looking for speakers all the time. Bring ziplocked leaves and pots to your talks with other garden clubs with the information about your branch and meeting times. Give begonia plants as gifts when you visit someone's home. Mention your branches meeting date and offer to give them a ride to the meeting. Can you imagine what would happen to the ABS membership if every member brought only one person in during the year and only one in four joined? A twenty five percent increase, repeated year after year. Maybe this should be a goal. Be sure that the meeting you bring them to is an exciting one. Also try to make all of your meetings **exciting**.

I also thought about what Ades

& Gish Nurseries could do. One of the most exciting things that can happen at a meeting whether its local or at a national, is getting new plants to add to your collection. This became very obvious to me at the plant sale in California. It was like a shark feeding frenzy. I also experienced this the first time I invited a begonia branch to tour the nursery. I started the tour telling about the nursery and the plants other than begonias that we were growing. Someone in the back kept shouting, "where's the begonias". Now I step aside and say I'll give a tour later for those that want it. With that in mind Ades & Gish can make two offers:

1. Make plants available for future conventions even in the Midwest. For approximately 50 cents more per 4" plant than the cost locally, in southern California, we can box and ship plants into this area. There will be certain requirements that will have to be met. The order will have to be for a minimum of 1500 plants. Since Kartuz Greenhouses is located so near us, orders given to him could piggyback on our order. There will have to be some flexibility in the delivery date. They have to be shipped in semi trucks and the truck has to be full. Spring and early summer are the best times for a delivery. Also, we would have to have the order 6 months before the ship date in order to have the plants available. The order cannot be variety specific, but can be type (cane, rhizomatus, etc) specific. Payment can be made by check at the time of shipment. This availability of plant material to be offered for sale in such a large area, should make it possible to have future conventions in other states that couldn't be considered before because of the difficulty of having sufficient plants for a plant sale. We cannot, however, ship to Florida because of their regulations on California shipments.

2. Make small orders in multiples

of 20 plants available by FedEx. These shipments would be for the plant tables. The plants would be assorted, growers choice, but could be type specific i.e. cane, rhizomatus, etc. FedEx orders are terribly mishandled. This makes them more difficult to pack and more expensive to ship. It would cost approximately \$2.75 extra to ship a 4" pot, above what the lucky southern California begonias pay. However, it would probably still not be prohibitively high, especially for out of the way branches. The shipments would have to be shipped prepaid. We do not accept credit cards. Additionally, we can make these shipments to Alaska and Hawaii. If there seems to be an interest in this option, Ades & Gish will set up a special site on our website for ABS clubs to place an order. Also, we are not retailers and will ship only if we have your branch resale card on file.

This article is only an insight into what I can foresee and suggest. Think of

the many other possibilities that are out there to be discovered. Some branches have members that don't live near them. These distant people join because these branches have such great bulletins. Maybe their secret could be shared with other branches. Perhaps a special membership committee should be set up. They could get information from our most successful branches and from other successful organizations. They could then make a pamphlet on suggested ways for successful membership growth to be provided to all the branches.

I end this article with great hope in the future for the ABS. When I graduated from High School I was given a book *I dare you to Succeed in Life!* Now, ***I dare you, the ABS, to Succeed in Membership Growth Beyond Anyone's Greatest Expectations!***

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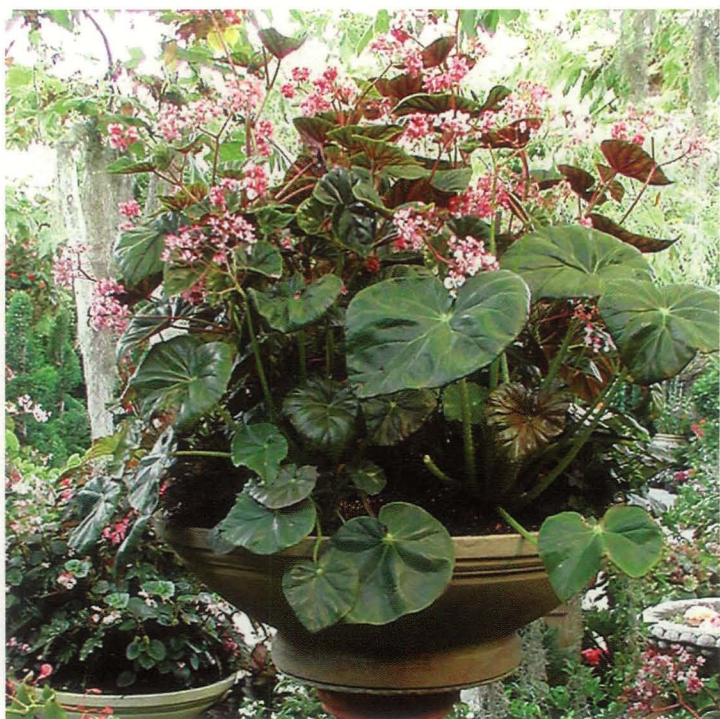
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Above, *B. 'Red Fred'*, photo by *Johanna Zinn*, and beside it a viewing showing the red reverse, photo by *Janet Welsh*. For contrast, to the right is a photo of *B. 'Freddie'* by *Mike Flaherty*.



Hybrid of Distinction: B. 'Red Fred'

by Mike Flaherty

Everybody was wowed by the newest hybrid in the show. At Mary Sakamoto and the editor's request, Mike describes its discovery and care.

I knew from the moment I saw the sport of B. 'Freddie' ('Red Fred') that it was a very special begonia. The leaf had the red that B. 'Freddie' has on the reverse side on the top. I put the plant first in the greenhouse and then when winter came I moved the plant into my house and grew it under lights where I could watch B. 'Red Fred' more closely. I fertilized with 16-16-16 half strength once a month and soon had a bloom. I was happy to see that the bloom on B. 'Red Fred' was a much darker color than its parent B. 'Freddie'.

After growing B. 'Red Fred' for a year I gave a plant to **Janet Brown** to test. Janet found the plant easy to grow and her plant held the red color.

When Los Angeles was chosen for the 2007 convention, I decided It was time to show B. 'Red Fred' to the ABS members. I stopped taking leaves off for propagation and moved 'Fred' to my special place to grow prize winners, my living room.

I have never had a begonia get so much attention, and when **Tom Keepin**

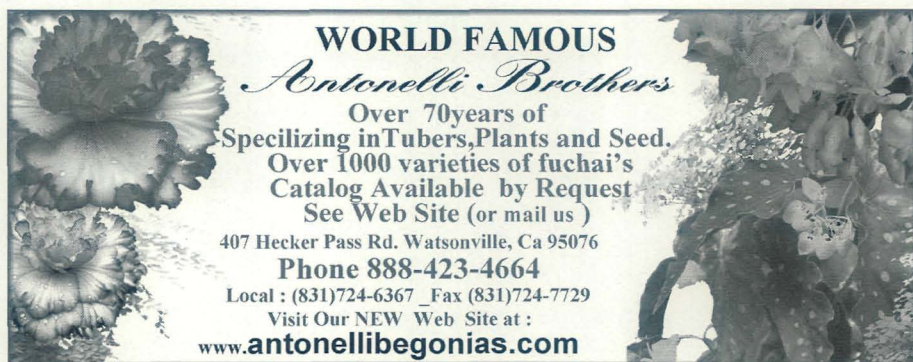
asked me to share B. 'Red Fred' so it could be grown for the plant sale at the next convention in Houston I didn't hesitate to give Tom leaves.

When Brad Thompson was at the end of his tenure at Hi-Mark Nursery, he discovered among 100' s of 2" B. 'Freddie', one that had red leaves and one that was variegated. Brad put the red one aside, and I bought the variegated one. The variegated one did not hold it's color but the red one did.

When Brad moved to Vista I assumed he would take the red leaf B. 'Freddie', but he didn't. I had a feeling that it was going to be lost in the shuffle so I took one leaf and as it turned out I saved the plant because the new owner of Hi-Mark did not want to grow begonias and did not know this begonia was special.

Although Brad Thompson discovered the sport, I saved and named B. 'Red Fred'.

Look at the photos and start planning your trip to Houston so that you too may have this plant. Tom, better have plenty of them!



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ABS Convention 2007 Banquet

One of the most enjoyable events of each convention is one that rarely gets reported on - the annual no host cocktail party followed by the convention banquet. This takes place on the evening before the last day of the meeting, usually a Saturday evening. Over the years, I've attended these, they have varied in style from very formal to very informal, but regardless of that everyone is usually more dressed up than for any other event of the meeting. This year was no exception, but one thing we've never had before was anyone in full Scottish dress! We had that this year in celebration of the awarding of the first ever Scottish trophy awarded to **Michael Flaherty** who coincidentally was the Master of Ceremonies.

Janet Brown talked to **Sam Kennedy** in Scotland who confirmed that this trophy was selected by **James Allen** who is the "Show Conveener" of the Scottish society and at the meeting there in August attended by many ABS members he was in full kilt at the presentation at the Ayr Show. ABS presented a trophy to the Scottish society and they in turn presented one to ABS to be given annually at our show. Janet says the perpetual trophy is not of silver, but rather of pewter and is presented for the "Showing is Sharing" award. This type of trophy has a history; according to the information coming with the cup, "It is known as the Highland Quaich". Traditionally the 'Quaich', which originated in the Scottish highlands was used both for a 'Cup of Welcome' and also when offering a farewell drink. The Quaich was originally made from the primitive 'staved' wood, then later from horn or leather, eventually pewter and silver becoming popular as it became the favorite drinking cup throughout Scotland. Being derived from the Gaelic word "cuach" meaning "shallow cup" the distinctive design has remained unchanged for centuries - a shallow drinking bowl with 2 handles, colloquially known as 'lugs'."

As you can see at the left, the cup was presented to Mike by **Charles Jaros** and **Maxine Zinman** both in full kilt from their trip to Scotland. All they needed were bagpipes!

The entire evening is one at which we get to visit with many members both at the reception and the banquet. Since the seating is open, one almost always gets to meet new members and gets to know a bit more about them. This year where our meal was in an open patio filled with greenery was no exception.

Then, Mike Flaherty who is always an entertaining master of ceremonies gave us some of his best lines. Unfortunately Mike had some kind of bug and swears he was barely aware of this speech, only proving that Mike could be funny in his sleep! He had everyone smiling and in a good mood for **Ann Salisbury** who presented all of this years award winners (see page 12). Janet Brown received an award for her years as ABS President and our new President **Mary Sakamoto** was introduced along with the officers for the next two years (see page 39) .

However, the fun doesn't end with the meal; in recent years the tradition has developed to have an auction to end the evening. This year was special in that the **Ziesenhennes** had contributed some of the collectibles of **Rudy**. Just to be able to view these was a treat, but Sotheby's and E-Bay have nothing on this auction since our bidders, always eager, were especially anxious to take home these lovely items.

Conservation Comments

by Bill Claybaugh,
Conservation Chairman, ABS

ABS Species Survey, 2003 and 2007

The following list contains the names of over 390 species found in the 2003 and the 2007 ABS Species Survey. To conserve space and improve readability, a few names have been shortened by omitting the variety name when it is the same as the species name, i.e., *B. bowerae* var. *bowerae* is shortened to *B. bowerae*. Also, none of the names are in italics as is normally done in the *Begonian*. There were many members and botanical gardens that contributed to this list and I thank each of them personally for their time and effort. This list is a valuable resource for those of us who are concerned about the long-term preservation of begonias.

The list is as follows: *Begonia acaulis*, *acerifolia*, *acetosa*, *acetosella*, *acida*, *aconitifolia*, *acutifolia*, *admirabilis*, *albo-coccinea*, *albomaculata*, *albo-picta*, *alice-clarkiae*, *alnifolia*, *amphioxus*, *ampla*, *angularis*, *angulata*, *annulata*, *ant-siranensis*, *aptera*, *arborescens*, *arborescens* var. *oxyphylla*, *areolata*, *aridicaulis*, *asplenifolia*, *atracha*, *barkeri*, *beccariana*, *beddomei*, *bipinnatifida*, *biserrata*, *bogneri*, *boisiana*, *boissieri*, *boliviensis*, *bowerae*, *bowerae* var. *major*, *bowerae* var. *nigramarga*, *bowerae* var. *roseiflora*, *bradei*, *breviramosa*, *bufoderma*, *burkillii*, *calcareia*, *capensis*, *capillipes*, *cardiocarpa*, *carolineifolia*, *carpinifolia*, *carrieae*, *cathayana*, *cavallyensis*, *chingii*, *chitoensis*, *chivatoa*, *chloloneura*, *chloroneura*, *chlorosticta*, *ciliobracteata*, *cinnabarina*, *circumlobata*, *coccinea*, *comata*, *conchifolia*, *conchifolia* var. *rubri-*

macula, *convolvulacea*, *cooperi*, *corallina*, *cordata*, *coriacea*, *coursii*, *crassicaulis*, *crassirostris*, *crenata*, *crispula*, *cristobalensis*, *cubensis*, *cucullata*, *cucullata* var. *arenosicola*, *decora*, *deliciosa*, *dentatiloba*, *depauperata*, *dewildei*, *diadema*, *dichotoma*, *dichroa*, *dietrichiana*, *digyna*, *dioica*, *dipetala*, *domingensis*, *dregei*, *dregei* var. *macbethii*, *duncan-thomasi*, *ebolowensis*, *echinosepala*, *echinosepala* var. *elongatifolia*, *edmundoi*, *edulis*, *egregia*, *elaeagnifolia*, *emeiensis*, *emini*, *epipsila*, *erythrocarpa*, *falciloba*, *fenicis*, *fernando-costae*, *fimbriata*, *fischeri*, *fissistyla*, *floccifera*, *foliosa*, *foliosa* var. *miniata*, *foliosa* var. *putzeysiana*, *fonsecae*, *formosana*, *francoisii*, *friburgensis*, *fruticosa*, *fusca*, *gabonensis*, *gehrtii*, *glabra*, *glabra* var. *corallipetala*, *glabra* var. *cordifolia*, *glandulosa*, *goegoensis*, *gracilis*, *gracilis* var. *martiana*, *grandis*, *grandis* ssp. *evansiana*, *grandis* ssp. *evansiana* var. *simsii*, *griffithiana*, *grisea*, *guaduensis*, *guttata*, *handelii* (male), *handelii* (female), *handelii* var. *prostrata*, *hatacoa*, *hatacoa* var. *viridifolia*, *hatacoa* var. *rubrifolia*, *hayatae*, *hemsleyana*, *henryi*, *heracleifolia*, *heracleifolia* var. *nigricans*, *heracleifolia* var. *sunderbruckii* hort., *herbacea*, *hernandioides*, *hirsutula*, *hirtella*, *hispida*, *hispida* var. *cucullifera*, *hoehneana*, *holtonis*, *homonyma*, *hookeriana*, *huberti*, *hugelii*, *humbertii*, *humilis*, *humilis* var. *porteriana*, *hydrocotylifolia*, *imperialis*, *imperialis* var. *smaragdina*, *incarnata*, *integerrima*, *integrifolia*, *involucrata*, *iridescens*, *isoptera*, *itaguassuenssis*, *johnstonii*, *juliana*, *karwinskyana*, *kellermanii*, *keniensis*, *kenworthyae*, *kingiana*, *kisuluana*, *komoensis*, *kuhlmannii*, *lanceolata*, *larorum*, *leathermaniae*, *leprosa*, *leptoptera*, *letestui*, *letouzeyi*, *limprichtii*, *lindleyana*, *listada*, *longifolia*, *longimaculata*, *longipetiolata*, *loranthoides*, *loranthoides* ssp. *rhopalocarpa*, *lubbersii*, *ludicra*, *ludwigii*, *lunatistyla*,

luxurians, luzonensis, lyman-smithii, lynceorum, macduffieana, macrocarpa, maculata, maculata var. wightii hort., madecassa, malabarica, malachosticta, manicata, manicata var. aureo-maculata, mannii, mariti, masoniana, masoniana var. maculata, maynensis, mazae, mazae forma nigricans, mazae forma viridis, meridensis, metallica, meyeri-johannis, michoacana, micranthera var. foliosa, microsperma, minor, molleri, mollicaulis, montis-elephantis, multangula, multi-nervia, multistaminea, muricata, naumonien-sis, nelumbiifolia, nepalensis, nigritarum, nummulariifolia, nurii, oaxacana, obliqua, obscura, octopetala, odetiantha, odorata, olbia, oligandra, olsoniae, opuliflora, organensis, oxyanthera, oxyloba, oxysperma, paleata, palmata, palmata var. difformis, paranaensis, parilis, parva, parvifolia, paulensis, pavonina, pearcei, pedata, pedatifida, peltata, peltata var. auriformis, peruviana, petasitifolia, philodendroides, phuthoensis, picta, pinetorum, pinnatifida, piurensis, platanifolia, plebeja, plumieri, polilloensis, polygonata, polygonoides, popenoei, potamophila, princeae, pringlei, prismatocarpa, prostrata, pruinata, pseudolubbersii, pudica, pulchella, pustulata, quadrialata, quadrialata ssp. nimbaensis, radicans, rafael-torresii, rajah, ramentacea, ravenii, reniformis, rex, rigida, robusta, rockii, rotundifolia, roxburghii (female), roxburghii (male), rufa, sacrophylla, salaziensis, salicifolia, sanguinea, santos-limae, sartorii, scabrida, scapigera, scharffiana, scharffii, schmidtiana, scintillans, scutifolia, seemanniana, sericoneura, serotina, serratipetala, sharpeana, sicca-caudata, sikkimensis, silletensis ssp. mengyangensis, socotrana, solananthera, solimutata, sonderiana, sousae, sparsipila, squamulosa, squarrosa, staudtii, stigmosa, stipulacea, strigillosa, subnummularifolia, subpeltata, sub-scutata, subvillosa, subvillosa var. leptotricha, sudjanae, sunorchis,

sutherlandii, sychnantha, taiwaniana, taiwaniana var. albomaculata, tajiqua, taliensis, tayabensis, tenuifolia, tenuifolia, tequiesta, teuscheri, teysmanniana, thelmae, thiemei, thomeana, thomsonii, toledoana, tomentosa, turrialbae, ulmifolia, umbraculifera, undulata, urophylla, valida, variabilis, veitchii, velloziana, venosa, venusta, versicolor, violifolia, warburgii, wollnyi, and xanthina.

This list is also available on the Astro website at <http://absastro.net/salpa/foundspecies.htm>. For more information on these species, consult the Smithsonian Institution publication, *Begoniaceae, Edition 2*, by **Jack Golding** and **Dieter Wasshausen** and/or see subsequent revisions published on Compact Discs.

Two additional lists will be published in the next *Begonian*; one for the Synonyms under which some of these plants are being grown, and another for those U numbered plants presently being grown.

Continued from page 22.

I wish to thank all who helped Bob and me.

Gratefully,
Shirley Rapp,
 Wilmington, CA

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Above is *B. U. 475*, photographed by **Johanna Zinn**. Below, for contrast is *B. taliensis* photographed by **Paul Tsamtsis**.



Begonia U475: From Happy Birthday Plant to a Cultural Award to Janice and Virgil Griffith

Two years ago, **Janice Griffith** got to pick her birthday plant from the plant table at a Palos Verdes Branch meeting; she chose this plant in a 3" pot labeled *B. taliensis*. At the 2007 ABS Convention Show, Janice and **Virgil** won a cultural award for the plant shown at the left with 96.7 points.

However, when Janice chose the plant it had been labeled *B. taliensis*, but at the show she was advised that that was not the correct name, but that her plant is *B. U475* instead. The confusion of the two is evidently widely spread as some photos labeled *B. U475* are also of *B. taliensis*. However, these are distinctly different plants as the two photos at left illustrate. The bottom photo by **Paul Tsamtis** is taken from the ABS website.

Moreover, *B. taliensis* is apparently tuberous, and **Mark Tebbitt** in his book *Begonias*, where there is another excellent photo, says that it is hardy at Heronswood Nursery in the Northwest Pacific area. *B. U475* is clearly rhizomatous. Hence, the identification in September at the ABS Convention show of this plant as *B. U475* appears to be correct.

From that 3" pot, the Griffiths moved it up regularly until it was placed in the terra cotta pot shown in the photo. There the plant grew in that pot on the north side of their house under the eaves where it was really neither cold nor hot. The Griffiths fed it regularly with Nutri-cote and a once monthly dose of liquid Grow-power.

The plant prefers the warmth of the Los Angeles summer, but it withstood 5 days earlier this year when the temperatures dropped into the 20's. Janice said the plant receives little pruning other than the regular removal of any bad leaves. She further reports that since the show, its leaves have grown even larger and it is blooming at last. It is rhizomatous, but at bloom time, it sends up a stout stem with leaves and the bloom emerges from that. This would likely mean that we can label this plant as "rhizomatous at or below the soil with upright stems."

The unidentified species listing says of *Begonia U475*: "Collected by **Mary Sizemore**. From China. Rhizomatous." Now we can add a photo and more information to this description.

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Thanks go to **Ed Bates, Iris Bird, Janet Brown, Shirley Brown, Eleanor Calkins, Jackie Davis, Normand Dufresne, Ingeborg Foo, Birgit Hubatka, Beatrice Huckreide, Johanna Kitson, Carol Knight, Kingsley Langenberg, Michael Ludwig, Rehka Morris, Morris Mueller, Bill O'Geary, Thelma O'Reilly, Gene and Ann Salisbury and Dean Turney** for their seed contributions.

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B. bolivensis
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B. carrieae
B. coccinea
B. crassicaulis
B. cucullata var cucullata
B. cucullata var. arenosicola
B. dipetala
B. fischeri
B. gladulosa
B. incarnata
B. johnstonii
B. kenworthyae
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B. ludwigii
 Mexican species seed, mixed
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B. peltata
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B. rex
 Semp Large red
 Semp Large wh/pk fl
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B. sericoneura
B. U #083
B. U #412
B. U #443
B. U #444
B. U 492 = B. bracteosa
B. ulmifolia
B. 'Vanderveldiana'
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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 are made consistent with the *ABS Check List of Begonia Hybrids* edited by Howard Berg dated 9/13/2005.

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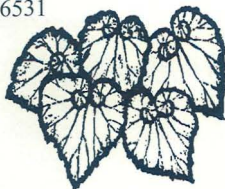
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COMING EVENTS

March 22-26, 2008, Association of Australian Begonia Societies Convention in Brisbane, Australia. Begin you plans! See page 219.

May 14-18, 2008, American Begonia Society Convention/ Southwest Region Get-Together, Houston. Houston is furiously making things ready for ABS Convention 2008. You know you can count on Texas hospitality and lots of begonias. The Sheraton Hotel Brookhollow is the hotel and it is half way between our two major airports. Mark your calendars for May 14 through 18. Ya'll come and see us. **Cheryl Lenert**

**Deadline for the March/April 2008 issue is
January 1, 2008**

*Remember: A New Editor is Needed! Volunteer
Yourself or Someone Whom You Know Would be Good
- Contact Mary Sakamoto, President!*

The Begonian

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