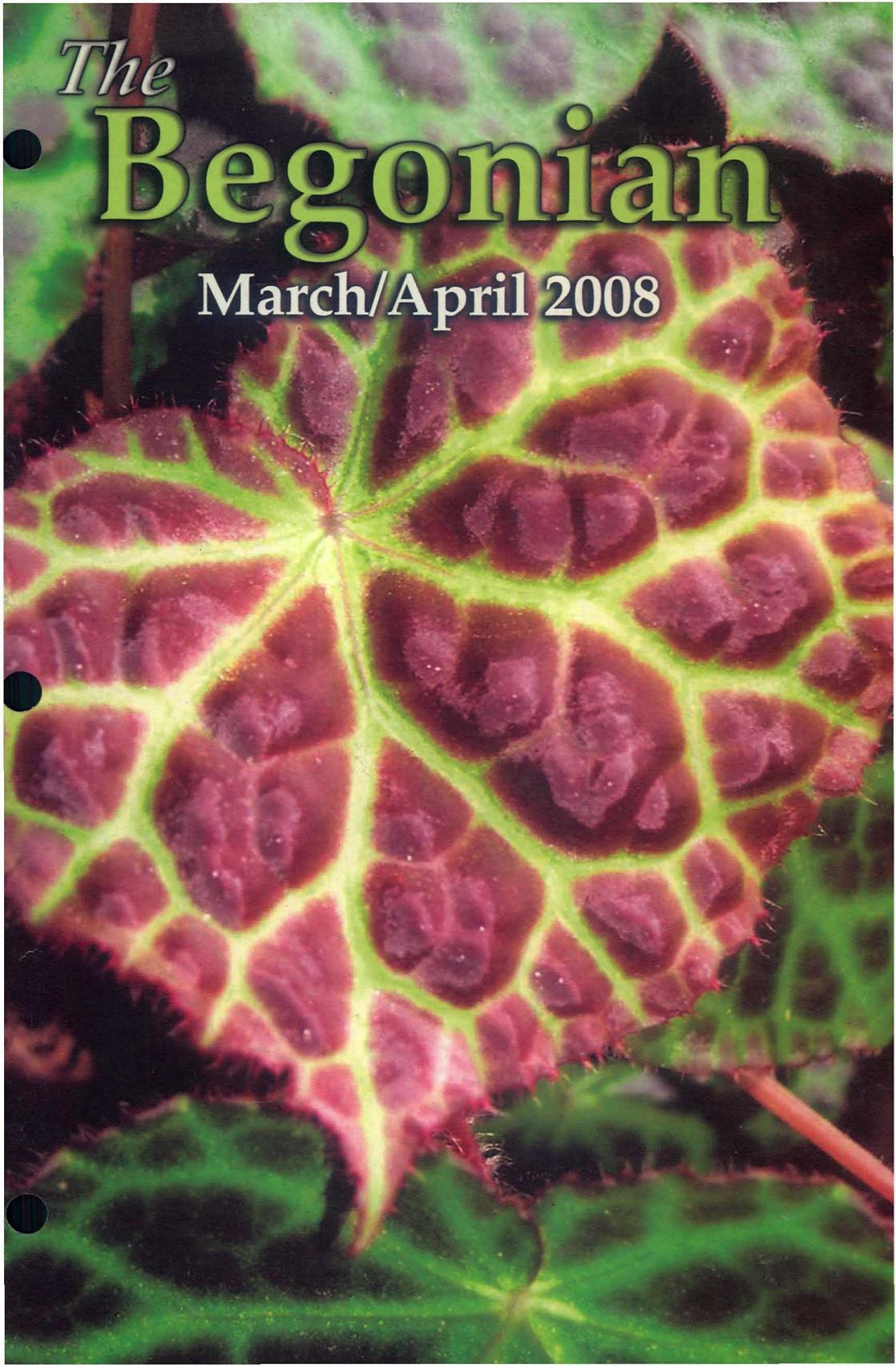


The

Begonian

March/April 2008



The **Begonian**

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American Begonia Society

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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: **Johanna Zinn's** terrarium species begonias are well-known to us and they are always beautiful as is this lovely *B. rajah*. See more on page 67.

Back: **Rekha's** back! And you cannot miss Houston when **Rekha Morris** will tell us all about her latest adventures in India where vistas like this were seen.

In This Issue

Here you will see some of the begonias you are sure to see or hear about in Houston in May. Bill Claybaugh will have us to his house which, I assure you, is a haven for begonias all of us will enjoy; for now, read about his adventures in learning about the Mallets. To read more about our possibilities read page 76. Sadly, this issue also says farewell to Mildred Thompson and Marty Korobkin. It is always sad to lose members, but these two were especially treasured and we will miss them in the days ahead. I would like to remind everyone that ABS' Millie Thompson Publication Fund is in honor of her work in begonia publications and that contributions to that fund in her memory will help further the work for which she was so important.

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

President's Message

On December 10th of 2007 the American Begonia Society lost one of our treasured members, **Millie Thompson**. I am sorry to say that I didn't know her, but I do know the work that she and her husband Ed did in writing their book *Begonia The Complete Reference Guide*. It is a great book filled with so much information about the how, what, and where of growing begonias. The book is no longer in print but sometimes you can find it for sale on Ebay. In this issue **Howard Berg** is writing the obituary on Millie and her life. I am also sorry to report the sudden loss of **Marty Korobkin**, the husband of Louise Korobkin, who, as you may remember, was the registrar and treasurer for the 2007 convention in Los Angeles. All of us in the Palos Verde Branch extend our sympathy to **Louise** and her son. His charming smile and friendship will be missed by all.

In the January/February issue of the *Begonian*, **Ann Salisbury** has put out a call for your award nominations. Please refer to that issue for the explanation of the criteria that is used for each award. Please take the time to make a nomination of a member who you feel is worthy. You can either e-mail or write Ann but be sure to only nominate one person per e-mail or letter.

I can't believe that it is 2008 already. You know what that means. It is getting close to convention time again. This year's convention is in Houston on May 14th through the 18th. **Cheryl Lenert** has reserved the Sheraton Hotel Brookhollow at the rate of \$92 a night plus tax for one/two or \$102 a night plus tax for three/four people. This is an excellent rate. It is getting harder and harder to find hotels at this price. Make your plans now so you won't miss the fun.

I hope every member who has a

computer is checking the begonia web site. I have asked **Julie Vanderwilt** to put **Kingsley Langenberg's** begonia puzzles (and Paul's) on the site. I am not a puzzle person but he has me hooked. I look forward to doing those puzzles. They will be posted every Monday as the puzzle of the week. So be sure and look for them.

Last, but not least we are still looking for a new editor for the *Begonian*. Freda has been editor for ten years and is tired and wants to retire. If you are interested or know someone who would make a good editor let me know. A entries/classification chairman is also needed. They do the entering of plants with the help of a computer program at the conventions. Again, let me know if you are interested.

I will close for now. Hope to see all of you in Houston.

Good Growing,
Mary Sakamoto

Letters to the Editor

Looking for a Begonia

I joined the ABS again after about 25 years, when I was briefly a member, and just yesterday I received the *Begonian* once again. My first issue contained a great article from **Chuck Ades**, entitled "Within Ourselves Our Future Lies." He made many good points, but actually, do you know why I joined again after all these years? I am looking for a begonia.

The show information is somewhat interesting, the species survey is great, seeds available is a very nice feature, and I am particularly interested in finding shows and sales that I might attend. But, actually why I joined again is because I am looking for a begonia. What is in the *Begonian* for a plain, vanilla hobbyist? What about

a section for plants or seeds people are looking for? With the glossy format, the publication costs are probably prohibitive, but cheaper paper might help with that. That glossy paper costs a fortune, but the photos are still an important part of the publication, I suppose.

Now, let me take this opportunity to describe the begonia I am looking for. I lost my house in the Shenandoah River flood of 1985. My house was under 27 feet of water for seven days, so I really feel for the Katrina people – more than I can say. If I would have known the river would get so high, I would have taken the begonia with me. It was rhizomatous, huge lobed margined leaves (12 inches), red hairy stems – hairs at least 1/2 inch long. This specimen was over 4 feet in diameter, with stems 2 feet long, easily.

Unfortunately, I don't have a name, and I would appreciate it if anyone can identify this begonia. I want to find another one. I have been thinking about this begonia for 20 years, and I was hoping the ABS membership could help. Please let me know if you can identify this begonia. I would really appreciate it.

Thanks so much,
Linda Peregrino
lperegrino@earthlink.net

Linda, it is very difficult to identify a begonia from a written description, but today we are lucky to have a number of photo sources on line that might help. Look at the rhizomatous begonias displayed either at www.begonias.org or at www.absastro.tripod.com and you may find your plant. If anyone does think they know the plant, let Linda know.

*Regarding the feature on finding seed or plants, the **Begonian** will run such requests if received. We have had a few of those in the past, but no requests recently. The paper in the **Begonian** is not*

Continued on page 69/

Traveling Begonias

Is this a new class of begonias that creeps out of their pots and goes where they are not wanted? That's what we think of sometimes when we hear about traveling perennials, but traveling begonias are something else indeed. There is a section in most of our begonia shows reserved for begonias that are brought by their exhibitors from afar, sometimes by car and often by plane.

It is a section designed to bring exhibits from other than the convention locale to make for a more interesting show and to permit members to participate in the show even if they live at a distance. The size of entries is limited, usually to a 4" pot in size.

Cheryl Lenert says the Houston sponsors wish to make this a significant section of the ABS show this year. Really, everyone has a chance to enter since a begonia or two can be tucked in a box and carried aboard a plane in a small shopping bag to go in the overhead carrier or under the seat at your feet.

Please bring a few to Houston to make this a very special show event; Cheryl promises as many begonia classes from cane to tuberous as are needed for traveling entries.

Bring a traveling begonia to Houston!

Quick Tip

Nothing perks up a plant like a soak in rain water. Catch a drum, bucket, or bowl of rainwater from the eaves next time it rains. The fresher the water the better it seems to work, maybe it's the fresh nitrogen and neutral Ph in rain water.

Begonia lyman-smithii Burt-Utley & Utley

by Charles Henthorne

There comes a time in every begonia grower's life when a begonia appears and gives a challenge to the grower to successfully propagate and raise it. Even though Leora and I, between the two of us, have grown many begonias successfully, when *Begonia lyman-smithii* appeared in our collection, it was the one which presented such a challenge to us. After many years of growing it, and almost losing it several times, it seems that now we have learned the trick to keeping it alive and healthy.

Begonia lyman-smithii is in the section *Gireoudia* and comes from Oaxaca, Mexico, and was discovered in 1987. Similar species includes *Begonia hydrocotylifolia* and *Begonia tuberhybrida*. It is a herbaceous perennial, and is rhizomatous. Its internodes are very short and glabrous, but its nodes are squamose, with a sparse band of lacerate scales surrounding the petiole base or scales. The leaf blade is chartaceous, oblique, asymmetrically obovate to ovate or broadly elliptic, basally cordate, apically rounded to acute marginally densely lanate, dentate to undulate at the ends of major nerves. The upper surface of the leaf is dull, dark green throughout, submarginally dark red-brown and glabrous throughout, except at the base of the nerves, and in a 1-2 mm submarginal band of dense short villi. The lower surface is a deep red throughout and lanate on the principal nerves.

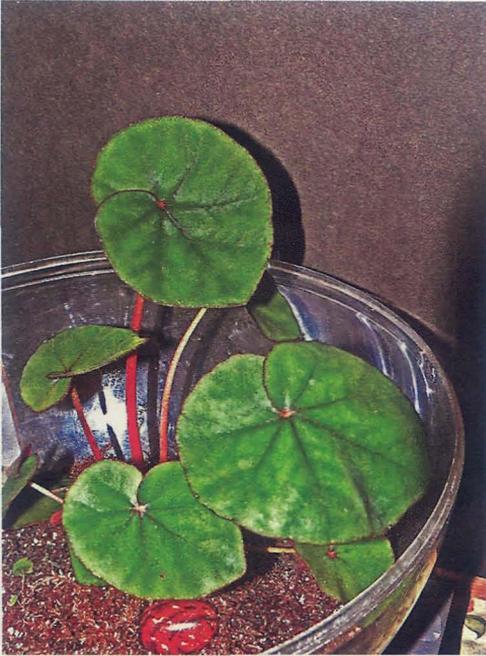
I can now say that, after many trials and errors, I believe we have found the correct way to grow a healthy and vigorous specimen of *B. lyman-smithii*. We tried many different levels of lighting, and many different levels of humidity, and temperature. After years of minimal

success finally this last year, we discovered that, in our Northern area of Texas, *Begonia lyman-smithii* does not like high temperatures. Also we found that we could not grow it outside of a terrarium, as it does require high humidity. It is growing in a 15" diameter bubble terrarium. We give it 90-100% humidity at all times. We now keep it on the lowest level of our growing carts, where it is the coolest, and give it approximately 6 hours of artificial lighting a day. Our *Begonia lyman-smithii* is now at the point where it has several mature leaves, and many new leaves developing on the plant. The new leaves have a large number of spots on the upper part of the leaves. These spots disappear as the leaves become mature.

The rest of the growing conditions are the same as with the rest of our terrarium plants. We use long strand sphagnum peat moss, soaked in boiling water until cool, then wrung dry and mixed with perlite using the formula of 1/2 sphagnum to 1/2 perlite. With this plant it is absolutely essential to let it dry out before adding just a few ounces of water to this size terrarium.

Leora uses Peters 20-20-20 every time she adds water. However she uses only about 1/4 of the normal amount that the box suggests. For the many years that we have been growing it, *Begonia lyman-smithii* has not bloomed for us. However with its leathery textured dark green leaves, it certainly adds a bit of interest to our wide variety of begonias that are in our collection.

Begonia lyman-smithii has certainly proved to be a challenge for us, and we would like to have anyone else growing it to contact us with their successes or



*It is possible to grow **B. lyman-smithii** outside a terrarium as the photo top right and bottom illustrate. Colors of this one seem to vary a great deal depending on the setting in which it is grown. Photo to the left is the lighter color of **Charles Henthorne's** plant in his photo. The photo right above was taken by **Mary Bucholtz** in the New York Botanic Garden's propagation greenhouse. The photo below was taken at one of our shows.*



failures in its culture. We are aware of one or two others in the United States who have grown it in the past. I do believe that seeds have been available, if not at present, in the past through the ABS seed fund. We know there must be others out there who have tried this begonia, and we encourage everyone who would like to have a real challenge to try this most interesting begonia.

We are waiting patiently for blooms and hope that, by the time of the 2008 ABS Convention in Houston, that we will

have a showable mature plant with many blooms.

*Charles and Leora Henthorne grow superb terrarium begonias in their home in Plano, TX. Charles shares their knowledge in his welcome contributions to the **Begonian**. I know we will see some of their beauties at the show in Houston. Be sure that you do not miss that! You may email questions to him at charleshenthorne@verizon.net.*

In Memory Marty Korobkin

Marty Korobkin died in his sleep in November, kissed by God. He was the most popular guy on our trip to Scotland this summer. Everyone loved him and he loved everyone. Even when we had a few bickers Marty was always the calming influence and always had his wonderful smile for us. The only time I saw him frown was when the bus had run out of Cokes and I urged him to try the non-alcoholic Scottish National Drink, IRN BRU. Suffice it to say it is an acquired taste!

Marty's legacy to us is his amazing leaded glass works, truly works of art that have enriched the lives of those lucky enough to have received some of them.

Always artistic and creative, about 25 years ago he decided to try leaded glass. He took a class for 6 weeks, made one practice piece, and then designed and made the magnificent and very large window for the Korobkin's dining room. There was no stopping him from then on.

Marty was a Convention Hero in 1999 when Westchester hosted the ABS Convention, Begonia Kaleidoscopes.

He designed and built 40 Kaleidoscopes that were just beautiful and remain so today. His help to Louise (besides hauling her immense and fantastic begonias and ferns around to the shows) was his construction of her magnificent gardens. He could design and build anything.

We had a beautiful terrarium done by Marty at the '99 convention, another of his contributions to us. **Pat McElderry** was the lucky winner! A few years ago when **Gary Hunt** visited the Korobkin home he was enthralled with Marty's glass works. Gary was inspired to begin a career in leaded glass and Marty gave him a few tips. The result you have seen at various shows and at the Palos Verdes convention this fall. Magnificent terrariums. Marty was a true artist, designing, building, and inspiring

Marty Korobkin is irreplaceable and we will miss him.

Rest In Peace, dear Marty.

Janet Brown

Conservation Comments by Bill Claybaugh, ABS Conservation Chairman

ABS Species Survey, 2003 and 2007, Synonyms and U numbers

The following is a continuation of the listings of *Begonia* species found in the 2003 and the 2007 survey. These lists contains the names of 83 species commonly known by a synonym and 184 species commonly known by a U number. The correct name of each variety follows that of the synonym. Also, 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*. There were many members and botanical gardens that contributed to this list and again I thank each of them for their time and effort. If, as you review these lists you grow something not shown, I would like to hear from you so that we have a more complete listing. Thanks in advance.

The synonym list is as follows: Begonia acuminata (is *acutiloba*), *attenuata* (is *lanceolata*), *auriformis* (is *peltata* var. *auriformis*), *bakeri* (is *cardiocarpa*), *barsalouxiae* (is *plebeja*), *cobana* (is *sartorii*), *crassipes* (is *longipetiolata*), *crenulata* (is *angularis*), *cucullata* var. *hookeri* (is *cucullata*), *dominicalis* (is *odorata*), *dregei* var. *natalensis* (is *dregei*), *fagopyroides* (is *denticulata*), *fallax* (is *malabarica*), *fissurarum* (is *plebeja*), *foliosa* var. *australis* (is *foliosa*), *fuchsoides* (is *foliosa* var. *miniata*), *gigantea* (is *nepalensis*), *gracilipetiolata* (is *longipetiolata*), *haageana* (is *scharffii*), *hastata* (is *angularis*), *hatacoa* (was *hatacoa* 'Spotted'), *hatacoa* var. *viridifolia*

(was *hatacoa* 'Green'), *hypolipara* (is *sericoneura*), *imperialis* var. *brunnea* (is *imperialis*), *incana* (is *peltata*), *jussiaeicarpa* (is *oxyanthera*), *lepidota* (is *manicata*), *leptotricha* (is *subvillosa* var. *leptotricha*), *liebmannii* (is *ludica*), *limmingheana* (is *radicans*), *lindeniana* (is *radicans*), *lobata* (is *rufa*), *lobulata* (is *sartorii*), *longiciliata* (is *sizemoreae*, was U388), *longipes* (is *reniformis*), *macdougallii* (is *thiemei*), *megaphylla* (is *barkeri*), *natalensis* (is *dregei*), *nigrovenia* (is *glandulosa*), *nitida* (is *minor*), *ottonis* (is *guaduensis*), *oxyphylla* (is *arborescens* var. *oxyphylla*), *papillosa* (is *bufoderma*), *partita* (is *dregei*), *parviflora* (is *minicarpa*), *peponifolia* (is *barkeri*), *petropolitana* (is *egegia*), *picta* hort. (is *xanthina*), *pilifera* (is *sericoneura*), *procumbens* (is *radicans*), *putzeysiana* (is *foliosa*), *quadrilocularis* (is *egegia*), *raynaliorum* (is *ciliobracteata*), *repens* (is *velloziana*), *reticulata* (is *angulata*), *rhizocarpa* (is *depauperata*), *rhopalocarpa* (is *loranthoides* var. *rhopalocarpa*), *richardsiana* (is *dregei*), *rubrosetulosa* (is *malabarica*), *rubrovenia* (is *hatacoa*), *rudatisii* (is *homonyma*), *sarcophylla* (is *sartorii*), *scandens* (is *glabra*), *sceptrum* hort. (is *aconitifolia*), *serafinensis* (is *subvillosa*), *similis* (is *pulchella*), *sizemoreae* (was U388), *staudtii* var. *dispersipilosa* (is *staudtii*), *suaveolens* (is *odorata*), *suffruticosa* (is *dregei*), *sulcata* (is *dichotoma*), *tenuipila* (is *plebeja*), *tenuipila* var. *kennedyi* (is *plebeja*), *triflora* (is *scutifolia*), *unialata* (is *convolvulacea*), *vaginans* (is *tomentosa*), *variegata* (is *masoniana* var. *maculata*), *vellozoana* (is *olsoniae*), *vitifolia* (is *reniformis*), *vitifolia* var. *bahiensis* (is *reniformis*), *vitifolia* var. *grandis* (is *reniformis*), *wallichiana* (is *minicarpa*), and *xanthina* var. *lazuli* (is *xanthina*).

And for the U numbers we have *Begonia* U002, U003, U006, U007, U008, U010,

Continued on page 59.

Mallet-Class Cane-Like Begonias - Revisited

by Bill Claybaugh

One of our show classifications in the cane-like area is "Mallet Type". We had a discussion of this class recently at an Astro Branch meeting, and this prompted me to review just what this class constitutes. Here is what I found.

A good, but slightly confusing article by **Dr. Jan Doorenbos** appeared in the *Begonian*, March 1974, page 72 entitled "What is *Begonia* 'Tingley Mallet'?" He begins by stating the plant's correct name is *B. 'Arthur Mallet'*, hybridized by Lionnet, the gardener of **Arthur Mallet** at Jouy-en-Josas France. A picture of the plant appeared in the publication *Revue Horticole* of 1886. From this information we immediately know the word "Mallet"

is a French family name. Being French, the last "t" is not pronounced and neither syllable is emphasized. More to the point, the word is not pronounced like the English word (spelled the same) that means "a short-handled hammer, usually with a cylindrical head of wood".

Doorenbos researched the parentage of this and similar cultivars and concluded that the "female parent ... must have been *B. subpetala rubra* which was first mentioned by Regel in 1866". He also noted this same plant may have been called *B. incarnata purpureacens* and/or *B. incarnata purpurea* and may even be a hybrid of *B. incarnata*. The male parent of *B. 'Arthur Mallet'* is "generally assumed to be *B. 'Eldorado'* ... a hybrid raised by L. L. Liebig at Dresden from the pollination of *B. rex* by *B. Splendida Argentea* ... (a hybrid of *B. robusta*)". He also noted that

the hybrid *B. 'Bettina Rothchild'* could be the male parent. If this all sounds confusing, you are right, it is. The fact is, we just do not know with certainty the parentage of *B. 'Arthur Mallet'*, aka, *B. 'Tingley Mallet'*.

With help from other members of the Conservation Committee, I have found and reviewed other important articles on the subject of *B. 'Tingley Mallet'* and the Mallet type canes in general. Here is what I found:

From this information we immediately know the word "Mallet" is a French family name. Being French, the last "t" is not pronounced and neither syllable is emphasized.

1. Krauss, H. K. *Begonias for American Homes and Gardens*, 1947, p. 132. Discusses the species *B. incarnata* and its derivatives. Several variations of *B. incarnata* are mentioned,

one "red-leaved" variety of which was used in the hybridization of *B. 'Mme. Lionnet'*, 'Arthur Mallet' and 'Glorie de Sceaux'. *B. 'Tingley Mallet'* is recognized as a synonym of *B. 'Lionnet'* and is described as "...metallic-red and red-hairy, margins toothed ... brighter in color than *B. 'Arthur Mallet'*". The cultivar *B. 'Arthur Mallet'* is noted to have foliage which is "purplish red and becomes leaden with age". Also the two Mallet cultivars are noted to have the same parentage. The cultivar *B. 'Gloire de Jouy'* (*B. rex* hybrid x *B. incarnata*) "...leaves are blunter at the apex, bronzy green, stippled with small, ruddy-silver spots from which white hairs arise, red-flushed beneath". *B. 'Margaritacea'* (*B. Arthur Mallet* x *B. coccinea*) "...differs in having duller metallic-purple leaves..."

2. Kusler, B. N., "Tingley Mallet", *The Begonian* Vol. 33, p125, July 1966.



Bill Claybaugh's photo above shows the leaves in clockwise rotation starting top-left; *Begonia* 'Tingley Mallet', 'Arabian Sunset', 'Pink Minx', 'Arabian Sunset', and 'Benigo'. Below is his plant of *B.* 'Tingley Mallet.'



Lists "sister seedlings" as *B.* 'Arthur Mallet', 'Naomi Mallet', and 'Octavie Mallet' ...none of them reputed to be as strong growers as 'Tingley Mallet'. "The overall appearance of the plant (*B.* Tingley Mallet') is red but, on examining the leaves closely, one sees that their upper surface is really very dark, dull green, overlaid with joined dots of rose-silver liberally set with stiff short red hairs. The deep maroon-red of the reverse side shines through."

3. Haring, E. "Begonias Galore-Begonia 'Tingley Mallet'", *The Begonian* Vol. 35, p 201, October 1968. Discusses propagating techniques for this cultivar.

4. Harding, E. "Begonia 'Tingley Mallet'", *The Begonian*, Vol 39, p. 247, November 1972. Describes the plant as "...leaves often measures four to eight inches and are maroon red overlaid with a silvery sheen. Leaf stems are red." She also discusses cultural aspects.

5. Thompson, E. J. and M. L., *Begonias, the Complete Reference Guide*, 1981. The Thompsons describe the Mallet type cane-like begonias as follows "Most Mallet types have leaves that have mahogany-red foliage with red hairs" and added that "The stems of some are not perfectly straight but rather slightly flexuous (angular)". They list eight cultivars as being in this class, namely: *Begonia*:

- 'Arabelle' (Margaritacea X Lulu Bower) Bower 1952,
- 'Arthur Mallet' (as described above),
- 'Faustine' (Margaritacea X Lulu Bower) Bower 1952,
- 'Glorie de Jouy' (unknown),
- 'Grace Lucas' (Tingley Mallet X Laura Engelbert) Kusler 1981,
- 'Margaritacea' (Arthur Mallet X *coccinea*) 1883,
- 'Melisse' (Margaritacea X Lulu Bower) Bower 1952,
- 'Miyo Berger' (Tingley Mallet X Lenore Oliver) Kusler 1973,

'Tingley Mallet' (as described above).

6. *ABS Judging Course*, 1992, (used in the ABS Judging School, Sept 2003). "... Mallets sport a beautiful metallic mahogany red leaf with red hairs. Their stems are more flexuous (angular) than most canes. There are few cultivars of this type grown and they are infrequent entries in shows."

Since the listing in the Thompsons' book in 1981, there are several more varieties that are being exhibited in the Mallet Class. Those that I am familiar with are *Begonia*:

- 'Arabian Sunset' (Shalimar X U062) B. Thompson 1992,
- 'Maurice Amey' (U062 X Pinafore Sport) Stewart 1992,
- 'Benigo' (unknown),
- U062 (species obtained by Bob Cole in 1980, thought to be from India),
- 'OK Mallet' (Wild Irish Rose X U062) B. Thompson 1992, and perhaps
- 'Pink Minx' (unknown) [by Kit Jeans Mounger, *Begonian* 2004, p. 81 photo, p, 83]

A picture of the plant *B.* 'Tingley Mallet' and a picture of other leaves in this Class are included with this article. The leaves in clockwise rotation starting top-left; *Begonia* 'Tingley Mallet', 'Arabian Sunset', 'Pink Minx', 'Arabian Sunset', and 'Benigo'.

After the above review, I conclude the "Mallet type Class" in our shows could now be called the "Red-Leaved Class" (as contrasted to green or silver colored). This appears to be how we are practicing the separation in our shows and is undoubtedly because most of the older cultivars are no longer available, and because new red-leaved ones are taking their place in today's collections.

In Memory Mildred Thompson

Millie Thompson, our ABS member who, in partnership with her husband **Edward**, became an internationally recognized begonia expert passed away on December 10 from heart failure. Millie was 81 years old. Millie was known for her meticulous research and tireless devotion to making hard to find information about begonias available to botanists and horticulturists around the world. Millie and Ed received the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award for contributing original material toward helping the rank and file members further their study of begonias in 1977 and the Herbert P. Dyckman Service Award presented to a member who has rendered long-term or very outstanding service for the American Begonia Society in 1988. She was predeceased by her husband Edward and is survived by her sons Donald, of Massachusetts and Robert who resides in San Antonio, Florida.

Mildred Lewis was born in Queens, New York on March 17, 1927 to Rose and Arthur Lewis. Her father was a plumber. As Millie's son Donald said, "It was inevitable that she become a plumber growing up in the Lewis family". Millie met Edward Thompson who was a plumber from Long Island, New York and married him. Millie joined Ed in building their plumbing business in Southampton, New York.

Millie and Ed came to the attention of ABS in September, 1970, at the Fifth Eastern Begonia Convention in Westbury, Long Island when she won "Best in Show" for a wonderfully grown *B. foliosa*. As Millie remembered the event in an email earlier this year to **Jack Golding**, "I have known you and Dottie since 1971 when Ed and I brought our first begonia, *B. foliosa*, to a show that your branch was having. We

walked in and looked at all the beautiful plants and were going to leave but you and **Murray Morrison** brought us back in with our plant. Nice memories!" At the Sixth Eastern Begonia Convention in Boston in 1971 Millie and Ed won Best in Show, Sweepstakes, and five division awards.

Millie met Jack Golding at these conventions and formed a working relationship with Jack, and **Carrie Karegannes** who were embarking on research projects on begonia species. Millie's early research efforts resulted in a number of pamphlets about begonias which were incorporated in three loose-leaf notebooks. Academic botanists recognized her talent and she was able to enlist them in her research efforts. By 1977 the second edition of three loose-leaf volumes of The Thompson Begonia Guide was reviewed by Arnoldia, a publication of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. The review addressed the unique character and importance of the Guide.

"Because of its significance to both horticulturists and botanists, The Thompson Begonia Guide is being reviewed by a representative of each group. **Corliss Engle**, a Friend of the Arnold Arboretum, is an experienced amateur grower and past President of the Buxton Branch of the American Begonia Society. **Bernice G. Schubert**, a member of the staff of the Arnold Arboretum, is Curator and Senior Lecturer on Biology, with a special interest in *Begoniaceae*."

While Corliss Engle addressed the wealth of cultural information of interest to the growers of begonias, Bernice Schubert extolled the value of the information in the Guide to botanists, "The *Thompson Begonia Guide* is a very impressive,

though unorthodox, document assembled with good taste and complete dedication by the Thompsons, who consider themselves hobbyist-growers and who have other unrelated, full-time careers. Its chief interest, for botanists, is the clearly presented information concerning those members of the Begoniaceae that are in cultivation. This material is not so easily available in as great detail anywhere else to my knowledge.”

Bernice Schubert ended her review with the hope that the three volumes be published in “a single volume real book.” In 1981 “Begonias, the Complete Reference Guide” was published and became and has remained a standard reference work for horticulturists and botanists. Millie who was very protective of her work has specified in her will that no changes can ever be made to her book.

In addition to her research efforts, Ed and Millie were outstanding growers. Southampton College near their home had a greenhouse which Ed and Millie rebuilt for their “begonia museum.” Those of us who were fortunate enough to visit the “begonia museum” saw hundreds of perfectly grown begonias beautifully displayed. The greenhouse was vandalized in an incident that was devastating to the Thompsons which caused them to retreat from their begonia activities which at the time was dominating their lives. Their begonia collection was donated to the New York Botanical Garden and their extensive records were donated to the Fort Worth Botanical Garden. Although she had reduced her research and growing activities, Millie kept in touch with many ABS members who valued her friendship and extensive knowledge. Millie had recently resumed her begonia research activities and has written articles and organized her slides into programs for branches to use.

Millie in her strong partnership Ed produced a unique contribution to the

horticultural and scientific literature of Begoniaceae that will last for centuries as scientific literature is prone to do. In the meantime we are blessed to have known her and ABS will miss her.

The *Arnoldia* Review is available at:
<http://noldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/1029.pdf>

Howard Berg

Millie Thompson - Editor's Note

When I first joined ABS back in the 70's, we had no internet, no emailed photos, and - unless you lived near a branch - no way to learn about begonias except the *Begonian* and the works of Millie Thompson. I bought those notebook manuals that would later become the Thompson's published book and poured through each page. The published book brought something even more precious, color photos! By the time Millie started selling the overstock, that first copy was so worn that I bought another to keep pristine. Later, I wrote to tell her how much her work meant to me and our communication began. She always insisted I call her Millie. Even though I never met her in person, I feel the loss of a personal friend.

Over the years she supplied slides and photos to use in the *Begonian*, always graciously. She was a warm and generous person. After her husband's death, I and many readers rejoiced to welcome her back to writing for the *Begonian*. The *Begonian* and our begonia world has been so enriched by her work

Freda Holley



*Millie Thompson and her husband Ed in the midst of their beloved begonias.
Photo taken from their booklet: **Begonias 1984 Update.***

**PROCEEDINGS* OF
ANNUAL MEETING
American Begonia Society
Los Angeles, CA, September 8, 2007**

President Janet Brown opened the meeting and asked Paul Tsamtsis to read the Aims and Purposes of the Society. There were 41 members signed in.

President Brown summarized major accomplishments this year. A limited access internet Yahoo Group, ABS-BOD, was established for the board of directors which is a big help in getting things done. Begonian volumes from 1934 to 1958 were scanned onto a DVD that is available for \$50 each. More are coming. Thanks for this go to Howard Berg who set it up and provided Begonians and to Gene Salisbury for providing early issues. A new website was generated thanks to Howard Berg who found the designer Jesse James and to Julie Vanderwilt who built the site. The constitution and bylaws were updated thanks to Committee Chair Charles Jaros and members Ann Salisbury, Linda Lawson and Janet Brown. The Scotland trip and the trophy exchange at the Ayr Flower Show was a major historic success. It made friends for ABS in Scotland and the UK and provided a base for future events. In addition, Maxine Zinman and Charles Jaros judged at the Ayr Flower Show, a first time for both the ABS and the Scottish Begonia Society.

Publicity Chair Cheryl Lenert reported that she contacted ABS members in Illinois to provide information on Rieger Begonias to Adele Kleine, a freelance writer, for an article that will appear in the December issue of *Chicago Gardening*. She also is compiling a list of publications for possible promotion of Begonias.

The Audit Committee report by Paul Tsamtsis declared the ABS books in order.

Convention Chair Margaret Fisher was thanked with a round of applause for a successful convention. She reported 206 registrants, 37 exhibitors and 157 show entries. Thirty-seven exhibitors is a record for a national convention.

Awards Chair Ann Salisbury reported numerous well-qualified nominees for awards and urged nominators to re-nominate those not

selected this year for the awards next year.

Ballot Counting Chair Ingeborg Foo reported 46 votes cast for the election this year.

Branch Relations Chair Mary Bucholtz reported that ABS continues to have 35 branches and 1 regional branch. The Rhode Island group has 12 members and is working on a constitution and bylaws. There is a possibility for branches in Knoxville, TN, and St. Charles, LA. Expected Missouri branches have not been formed.

Finance Committee Chair Howard Berg reported \$3000 was well spent on website design. He recommended that the ABS consider purchase of insurance to protect directors and officers against possible liabilities. He also recommended that ABS set up a bequest fund to encourage donations and develop a privacy policy for membership information.

Nomenclature Director Gene Salisbury reported 2 United States registrations in 2006 and 5 in 2007 as part of the International Registry of Begonias.

Convention Advisor Mary Sakamoto reminded the board of the Houston Convention 2008 and asked for site proposals for 2009.

Skee Ziesenhenné presented some memorabilia from Rudy's files. They were a membership for and an article about Herbert P. Dyckman and a paper on the third annual convention in 1941. They were given to Historian Jeanne Jones.

Charles Jaros was appointed Entries and Classification Chair with approval of the board.

Judging Chair Maxine Zinman reported sending cultural certificates for 2 branch shows.

Member at Large Director Sandy Boyd asked for suggestions for MAL activities.

Charles Jaros read the changes in the constitution and bylaws that had been approved by the board of directors. The changes were approved and will now be published in the Begonian for a vote by the full membership.

Begonian Editor Freda Holley reported the Millie Thompson Publications Fund has \$4000 and she would like to build it to \$10,000 for future publications.

Print Advertising Chair Ann Salisbury reported only \$400 in ads sold this year and only one new ad received.

Annual reports were presented for Buxton, Westchester, Delaware Valley, Astro, Joan Coulat Sacramento, Atlanta and Margaret Lee Branches.

Mary Fuqua thanked ABS for its support of Scott Hoover's collecting trips. She also announced and described the New England Tropical Conservatory trip to Indonesia in the spring of 2008 to be led by Scott Hoover.

Holiday Greetings Chair Wanda Macnair congratulated all who contributed this year and reported collecting \$2671 to date. Since then the total has increased to \$3086.

Membership Chair Donna Marsheck sent word that 92 new members have joined since March 5, 2007.

Mike Ludwig reported that Dean Turney is taking over Ed Bates work writing descriptions and mailing seed for the Seed Fund. Mike still handles inventory. The Seed Fund still sends seed packets to branches for seed programs and to the Membership Chair for new members.

Research Committee Chair Howard Berg reported updating the cultivar list as a CD that is available for purchase in the convention Boutique. All proceeds benefit the ABS. He encouraged members to provide input for the cultivar list since much of hybridization activity is unpublished. Included in the CD are some academic articles on Begonias from China.

Save Our Species Director Rekha Morris reported that a list of adopted species is being posted on the ABS website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Macnair, Secretary

*These proceedings will be corrected, if necessary, and approved at the May, 2008, board meeting in Houston, Texas. After approval at that meeting they become minutes.

PROCEEDINGS* OF BOARD MEETING

American Begonia Society

Los Angeles, CA, September 8, 2007

President Janet Brown opened the meeting and asked Ruth Wilson to read the Aims and

Purposes of the Society. A sign in sheet was initiated to record attendance. There were 41 attendees signed in and 43 board positions represented. Iris Bird was appointed timekeeper.

The proceedings (then called minutes) of the board meeting held in Oklahoma City, April 28, 2007, were approved as sent to the board members and published in the *Begonian*.

Treasurer Carol Notaras presented the financial statement for the last quarter April 1 to July 31, 2007, and for the fiscal year August 1, 2006, to July 31, 2007. The last quarter had income of \$61,447.76 and disbursements of \$66,860.75 in the general fund. The beginning balance was \$18,115.27 and the ending balance was \$12,702.28. The total of all accounts was \$79,918.84 beginning and \$74,431.08 ending. The annual report for the fiscal year included income of \$131,784.10 and disbursement of \$123,643.83. The beginning balance was \$4562.01 and the ending balance was \$12,702.28. The total of all accounts was \$70,874.93 beginning and \$74,431.08 ending. The increase was due partly to the \$10,000 bequest from the late Ben Franklin's estate. The report from audit committee chair Paul Tsamtis for the fiscal year stated that the Society books were in order as of September 2, 2007. The financial statement was accepted.

Domestic mailing of the *Begonian* has become too burdensome for one person to handle. A bid was received from Wolf Mailing Service for \$415.68 per issue. This is just \$99 more than what it now costs. The executive board recommended acceptance of the bid. A motion to accept the bid carried.

President Brown announced that the membership termination problem that arose at the April Get-together will be investigated/reviewed by an independent committee of 3 persons minimum appointed by the incoming president. The committee is to report findings to the executive board before the next board meeting. The executive board voted 7 to 1 to resume sending the *Begonian* to the terminated member. These actions will be taken as soon as they can be arranged.

Ann Salisbury was approved as Book Store Chair for one year.

The Scotland trip resulted in an apparent financial deficit due to a stiff cancellation

fee for two members who dropped out at the last minute. However, excess funds collected plus donations cancelled out the deficit and eliminated any problems. To avoid any such financial difficulty on future trips a domestic travel agent should be used and the ABS should not handle the funds.

Convention Advisor Mary Sakamoto made two motions for future conventions. The first motion stated that future convention contracts be approved by the executive board. The first motion carried. The second motion stated that money collected from plant and boutique sales be counted on site each day of the convention by two people, one being the chair of the plant sale or boutique and the other a member of the ABS executive board. The second motion carried.

A motion to initiate the use of proxies for board members not attending future board meetings carried. Proxies should be signed by the Branch President.

President Brown announced that she had previously appointed a committee to revise the constitution and bylaws of the ABS. The committee consisted of Charles Jaros (Chair), Ann Salisbury, Linda Lawson and Janet Brown. Proposed revisions of the constitution and bylaws were read by Charles Jaros. Selected corrections or changes were made during the

reading. Each paragraph was read and approved separately. The changes will be read again at the annual meeting

President Brown announced that the new website is running, www.begonias.org. Many thanks go to Julie Vanderwilt for building the website.

Nomenclature Chair Gene Salisbury announced that U Numbers Chair Thelma O'Reilly has asked to be replaced. She and Gene Salisbury recommended Charles Jaros and Mary Buchholtz as co-chairs for this position. The board approved.

President Brown introduced the slate of officers for 07-08 to be installed at this convention. They are Mary Sakamoto (President), Cheryl Lenert (1st Vice President), Johanna Zinn (2nd Vice President), Carol Notaras (Treasurer), Richard Macnair (Secretary).

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Macnair, Secretary

*These proceedings will be corrected, if necessary, and approved at the May, 2008, board meeting in Houston, Texas. After approval at that meeting they become minutes.

PROCEEDINGS* OF BOARD MEETING

American Begonia Society

Los Angeles, CA, September 9, 2007

President Mary Sakamoto opened the meeting with 16 members signed in.

She announced that her first effort would be to form several committees. These included committees to review the revoked membership case, to look into the privacy policy, to search for liability insurance for officers and directors, to improve the new member packet and to revise the duties of officers.

Parliamentarian Linda Lawson pointed out that reports of board meetings should be called proceedings until they are approved at the next board meeting. The title of this report conforms to this format.

Discussion of privacy policy concluded that a statement was needed to keep the Society operating effectively. A motion was made that "the board advise the president to contact the membership chairman to release all names of ABS members to board members as needed to conduct Society business." The motion carried.

Convention Chair Margaret Fisher reported that the auction brought in \$2100.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Macnair, Secretary

*These proceedings will be corrected, if necessary, and approved at the May, 2008, meeting in Houston, Texas. After approval at that meeting they become minutes.

PROCEEDINGS* OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

American Begonia Society
Los Angeles, CA, September 6, 2007

President Janet Brown opened the meeting. Present were Janet Brown, Linda Lawson, Cheryl Lenert, Mary Sakamoto, Howard Berg, Gene Salisbury, Richard Macnair, Carol Notaras.

A change in the Begonian mailing is needed. A motion to recommend to the board the acceptance of the Wolf Mailing Service bid for domestic mailing of the Begonian carried.

A motion to reinstate the member whose membership was rescinded was disapproved by a 7 to 1 vote. A motion to direct the incoming president to appoint an independent committee to review the case and make a recommendation to the executive board carried.

A motion to recommend approval of Ann

Salisbury as Book Store Chair passed

Cheryl Lenert agreed to provide an inventory of Book Store contents in 2 months.

A surcharge proposed for the Scotland trip to cover a stiff cancellation fee was found unnecessary because the fee was covered by donations and excess prepayments.

It was agreed that a motion be presented to the board to have future convention contracts approved by the Executive Board.

It was agreed that the dual recording of proceedings is in limbo due to recording equipment and replay problems.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Macnair, Secretary

*These proceedings will be corrected, if necessary, and approved at the May, 2008, meeting in Houston, Texas. After approval at that meeting they become minutes.

Continued from page 49.

U012, U014, U025, U029, U030, U031, U032, U043, U049, U052, U053, U059, U061, U062, U064, U067, U068, U074, U076, U078, U082, U083, U087, U089, U093, U105, U106, U110, U115, U125, U134, U150, U151, U157, U158, U163, U166, U167, U168, U168 sport, U170, U172, U176, U177, U189, U192, U195, U196, U201, U205, U237, U251, U252, U253, U258, U260, U265, U274, U282, U303, U304, U304 sport, U308, U309, U315, U320, U331, U331, U334, U335, U336, U337, U340, U341, U343, U345, U346, U347, U348, U352, U353, U354, U356, U357, U358, U359, U360, U363, U367, U381, U383, U384, U385, U387, U388, U400, U402, U404, U405, U409, U412, U413, U414, U415, U416, U417, U418, U419, U420, U421, U423, U424, U425, U427, U430, U432, U434, U435, U436, U438, U439, U440, U441, U443, U444, U474, U475, U476, and U479 through U526.

If you have a species not shown in these lists, please contact Bill at the address shown on page 79 under Conservation.

Continued from page 75.

really know much about. We were told that it would get big so it was planted in the top hole of the jar. However, we did not know how big. As the picture taken in January of 2008 shows you, *B. 'Challenger'* grows really, really big! The strawberry jar has 17 holes and has grown in well over the last year despite the drought we have had in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Standing behind all these plants is owner **Patt Lindsey**, grower extraordinaire. The begonias are grown in a peat and perlite mix, fertilized with Nutricote, and the pot sits in a saucer of water.

Johanna Kitson is a member of the Palm Beaches Begonia Society.

Growing Begonias The "Jungle Way"

by Joe Romeo, South Australia Begonia Society

*This article is taken from the December 2007 issue of **Begonia Australis**, Vol 17, No. 4. Our thanks to The Association of Australian Begonia Society (Inc) and its editor, Marie Sinnot, for this article. For more information you may email the editor at mariets@internode.on.net.*

I have often dreamt of going into a jungle and discovering new species of begonias. This has not been possible yet, so I still dream of jungles!

Reading the American *Begonian*, I have great delight in seeing photos of jungle habitats with begonias growing happily in the undergrowth. There is not a pot in sight, the plants are not evenly spaced a certain distance apart and all perfectly formed, but they look extremely happy.

These pictures inspired me as to how I could produce happy-looking plants. Most of the plants we grow come from tropical regions in jungle areas as understory plants. This made me think about the monsoon systems which sustain these plants.

In the tropics there is a wet season, which corresponds to our summer. During the wet season, there is heat and rain on a regular basis. I copy this by overhead watering every day in summer, for 15 minutes, on my automatic sprinkler time, I only water first thing in the morning. Begonia leaves have a dual purpose. Not only are they solar panels for producing the power to grow the plant, they are also shaped as water collectors, to direct the water down the stem to the roots. Any water not reaching the roots is not wasted. With the heat of summer, the water evaporates from the greenhouse floor and provides humidity for the plants. With the right humidity, the plants will not stress,

unless the temperature stays in the 40's [celcius] for over a week.

The dry season corresponds to our winter season, it is cooler days and does not rain as often. In a South Australian winter we have cooler days but sometimes have some rain. I control the amount of water my plants receive by having a roof of clear sheets with the appropriate amount of shade cloth for the season. I also control the amount of water by not turning on the overhead sprinklers as often. In winter, I may only water once a week if the plants need it. I observe the plants every day and only water when they shout that they need it.

Another way I imitate the jungle is by grouping plants together so that they support or shade each other as is necessary. Any moisture loss from one plant is humidity for its neighbour. Each plant is positioned so that it gets its share of the available light, any delicate plants are put under the shade of others until they are strong enough to be moved to a higher light area.

How do plants get fed in the jungle? They get their nutrients from decaying vegetation and from animal and bird droppings, which make their way to the jungle floor by being washed down by rain or deposited by the animal directly onto the floor. To imitate this cycle, I incorporate into the potting mix some manure-based fertilizer which I put above the roots but not directly in contact with the roots, when I repot young plants. I then put some Osmocote granules on the surface of the potting mix so the nutrients wash into the soil with overhead watering. As added nutrition, when the plants are in full growth, I water them with a tea made from chicken

manure, or you can use rabbit, pigeon or sheep manure.

To make the tea, I put a shovel full into an old pair of my wife's pantyhose. The wide end is tied up to contain the manure which is then put into a 20 litre bucket of water. The toe of the pantyhose is tied to the bucket handle, clear of the liquid, so that the contents can be jiggled to stir up the nutrients. When the tea is ready, I fill a cat food can, approximately 400g in size, and put about 2 or 3 tins full into a 9 litre watering can. With the tea, I water all the

plants which show active growth.

The real secret to growing healthy, happy plants, is to give them what they want, not what you want to give them. Observe your plants every day; if what you are doing is making them grow, continue. If they sulk and go downhill, don't continue doing what you were doing!

Get it right and you can enjoy your own private jungle in your own backyard.

Anyone wishing to visit my jungle is welcome by appointment.

Points to Note Before Entering Show Plants

Australians are now gearing up for their show in March. In th Summer 2007 The Queensland Begonia Society Journal,, Inc. Vol. No. 77 gave some timely tips for preparing plants for the show. Rather than giving these per se, as rules for our show generally have differences, I have used these to prepare a list to help those planning for ABS Show entries in May. At one show, I remember seeing a lovely plant rejected for the show because it came in a forbidden white pot. Everyone always hates to reject a plant so look these over to help in preparing plants for show. Also, request a copy of the show rules as these in the end will rule what is accepted or not accepted for us as well .

*Take care with the grooming of your plants. Remember that each leaf with either holes or debris showing will deduct points from the plant. These should be taken off as early as possible to give the plant time to fill in before the show. If, at the last minute, a flaw is spotted, try to decide how serious that is and if taking the leaf would detract seriously from the plant's appearance; sometimes a lost point is better than an overall loss in ap-

pearance.

*Most of all, pots should be clean. Serious points may be deducted for a dirty or unsightly pot. Sometimes, slipping a plant into a new pot makes all the difference.

*Pots should be terra cotta or green or black plastic. White, colored, or decorative pots are not permitted in general although usually there is a special class for those decorative pots.

*Water your pots the day before you enter them in the show. Dripping pots are not attractive.

*Check that the pot is in proportion to the plant. A pot that is too small or too large for the plant will bring a loss of points.

*The plant should be mature unless entered as a seedling. A plant is often judged in light of its ideal appearance and an immature plant will not meet that scrutiny well. A plant with fresh growth will also show best. Old unsightly leaves or flowers should be removed.

*Stakes are fine, but they should not be obtrusive in appearance or color. A single stem should be on a stake and it

Continued on page 73.

Cultivar Epithets

By Jack Golding

From the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*, 1995. [ICNCP]:

“A cultivar is a taxon [plant] that has been selected for a particular attribute or combination of attributes, and that is clearly distinct, uniform and stable in its characteristics and that, when propagated by appropriate means retains those characteristics.”

Species Cultivars

My article “*Begonia* Species are Variable” in the *Begonian*, 59:10-12, 1992, discussed variations in *Begonia* species found in the wild. A collector upon discovering a population of *Begonia* may select those plants most typical of the group, but more often he will choose those with the most different variations. A botanist, from their observation of only dried specimen, will describe and publish a new species name. However, when live plants of the species are also studied, distinguishable variation can be noted. These may be identified by variety or form epithets. Botanists may also discover other plants that are later determined to be synonyms [the same as] of the original species with the correct name [published first in accordance with the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature]

The grouping of the variants of a species under one specific name is logical and practical for the botanist. But the horticulturist growing the plant in cultivation needs to be able to name a distinguishable variation from the others of the same species. This is not a problem because these cultivated varieties of the species can also be identified by cultivar epithets.

Excerpts from *The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Vienna Code) 2006*, [ICBN or the Botanic Code], Section 6, Names of plants in Cultivation, Article 28:

- “28.1 Plants brought from the wild into cultivation retain the names that are applied to the same taxa growing in nature.”
- “Note 1. Hybrids, including those arising in cultivation, may receive names as provided in App. I (see also Art. 11.9, 40 and 50)” [This appendix discusses the use of a multiplication sign x before an epithet or between species epithets to designate a hybrid or a hybrid formula].
- “Note 2. Additional, independent designations for special categories of plants used in agriculture, forestry, and horticulture (and arising either in nature or cultivation) are dealt with in the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*, where the term “cultivar” is defined and regulations are provided for the formation and use of cultivar epithets.”
- “Note 3. Nothing precludes the use, for cultivated plants, of names published in accordance with the requirements of the ICBN.”

“Note 4. Epithets in names published in conformity with the Botanical Code may be used as cultivar epithets under the rules of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*, when cultivar is considered to be the appropriate status for the groups concerned.”

“Note 5. The *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* provides for the establishment of cultivar epithets differing markedly from epithets in Latin form.”

See the following examples:

Begonia hypolipara Sandwith, Bull. Misc. Inform., :99, 1931, was determined by K. Burt-Utley, Tulane Studies Zool. Bot., 25(1):97-99, 1985 to be the same as *Begonia sericoneura* Liebmann, 1853 and listed it as a synonym. From the *ICNCP* glossary: “a synonym is a name or epithet denoting a taxon in a given taxonomic position which, except for certain circumstances, is not the accepted name or epithet.” However, if horticulturists think it can be distinguished by some different distinctive characters that are stable in their plants, they may be identified by the cultivar name, *Begonia sericoneura* ‘Hypolipara’.

Begonia partita Irmscher, Bot. Jahrb. Syst., 81:143, pl. 10:fig. 2, 1961, is listed as a synonym of *Begonia dregei* Otto & Dietrich, Allg. Gartenzeitung, 4:357, 1836, by O.M. Hilliard in Ross, Fl. South Afr., 22:142, pl. 46:figs. 2p,2q, 1976. But since it differs by the shape and lobes of the leaves it can be identified by a cultivar epithet as *Begonia dregei* ‘Partita’. [Note: There are two or more variations of this plant now in cultivation that will require additional epithets to identify them. {See next issue of the *Begonian*}.]

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Begonia fuchsoides W.J. Hooker, Bot. Mag., 73:pl. 4281, 1847, is a synonym of *Begonia foliosa* Kunth var. *miniata* (Planchon) L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert. Charles Coyle wrote in 2006 his unpublished term paper for the University of Reading, Scotland, "The taxonomic status of *Begonia foliosa* var. *miniata* Planchon (syn. *Begonia fuchsoides* Hooker)". In his conclusions he proposed that "*Begonia fuchsoides* be used to replace as the currently accepted name *Begonia foliosa* var. *miniata*. I agree, but until this determination is published as required by the Botanical Code, this plant can be identified by the cultivar name *Begonia* 'Fuchsoides'".

Hybrid Cultivars

Begonia can be propagated sexually by the pollen from the stamen of the male flower contacting the stigma on the style of the female flower. From this union seeds grow in the ovary as it matures into fruit.

When a species is self-fertilized [by the pollen from the same plant or same species] the progeny grown from those seeds are true [with the same characteristics as the parents].

When the parents are of different species, different hybrid cultivars or any mix of them, the resulting progeny grown from their seeds will be variable having characters from either or both parents. From this group some can be selected if they are clearly distinct [different and be consistently distinguish by one or more characters] from the other plants. These differences must be uniform and stable as the plants mature.

When they are propagated asexually by division, cuttings or by tissue culture, the resulting clones must have the same characters as their parent. It is only after the satisfactory completion of this procedure that a new hybrid should be given a cultivar name.

Since this procedure takes time, a year or even more, to prove that the characteristics of this new hybrid plant are uniform and stable to qualify for a cultivar epithet, it is suggested that the test seedlings be identified by a hybrid formula consisting of the seed parent separated by a x from the pollen parent i.e. *B. dichroa* x *B.* 'Elaine'. These test individuals can be identified temporarily by following a mechanical means such as the hybridizer's initials, a date and series number. i.e. JG.1207-11. A new cultivar should be described and registered with the International Registration Authority for *Begonia*: The American Begonia Society, Attn: Gene Salisbury.

A hybrid cultivar name is written with the genus name in Latin followed by an epithet of one or more words, written in a modern language, with the initial letter of each word capitalized and enclosed in single quotes, e.g. *Begonia* 'Lenore Olivier', *Begonia* 'Crispie'.

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*Johanna Zinn's photographs show the beautiful colors of **B. versicolor**, above, and **B. rajah**, below. Johanna finds both these easy to grow in her terrariums.*



A Few Easily Grown* Terrarium Plants

by Johanna Zinn

*I am defining an easy to grow begonia as one that I have kept alive for several years.

Begonia prismatocarpa, a rhizomatous begonia, is a native of Africa. Its diminutive size makes it a good choice for small terrariums. Its leaves are small, medium green, and lobed; the two-tepaled blooms are yellow to school bus yellow on the inside, and orange/yellow on the outer portion of the tepals. If given enough light [fluorescent lights], *B. prismatocarpa* will bloom much of the year. Blooms are profuse at times.

Begonia versicolor is also a rhizomatous begonia that has a medium-sized, green, rough textured leaf that has white markings between the brown to burgundy-brown veins. The petiole, upper leaf surface, leaf margin and veins on the underside of the leaf are covered with soft, short red hairs. It has a few pinkish blooms occasionally, but it is worth growing for the beautiful leaves-and it will grow well and bloom in a north window.

Begonia rajah, which also has a rhizomatous growth habit, grows well in cool to normal house temperatures, and will grow in a north window or under fluorescent lights. This is another plant to grow for its attractive leaves. The medium sized, somewhat circular leaves are red-brown with depressed apple green to chartreuse areas along the veins. The veins are slightly raised above these depressed areas. The depressions cause the leaf to pucker attractively. The white to pink blooms appear infrequently.

Perhaps readers could send in a short paragraph about their favorite or foolproof terrarium begonias.

As the photos at left illustrate, Johanna Zinn grows truly beautiful terrarium begonias and her assistance is available at your request to help you do the same thing. Just send your questions or comments to her at jazinn@cox.net.

Continued from page 73.

Delaware Valley-1; Houston Satellites-1; Orange County-1; and San Gabriel Valley-1. The Sinica Life Sciences Library in Birmingham, AL and Ribbon Nursery in Bonners Ferry, ID have also joined ABS. A new member from each country through the website PayPal account: Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, and a new member from Scotland have joined ABS.

Happy New Year!
Donna Marsheck

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kathy@begonias.com

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.)

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Below is the current list of seed available from the Seed Fund. Please self pollinate your species begonias, collect the seeds and send them to the seed fund. We depend on your contributions of seed to make a wider variety of species available to the members.

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

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- B. boliviensis*

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- B. curtii*, Smith and Schubert, Wash. Acad. Sci., 45:114, 1955 [sect. *Pritzelia*] Brazil.
- B. descoleana*, Smith and Schubert Lilloa, 23:143, pl, 1950 [sect. *Begonia*] Argentina.
- B. hernandioides*
- B. tayabensis* (see the *Begonian*, Jan/Feb 2007 for an article describing *B. tayabensis* and *B. hernandioides*)

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.

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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.

Continued from page 45.

a significant part of the cost, by the way, compared to whole setup for printing and mailing. I believe most people do prefer the higher quality paper.

Thank you for letting us know about your interests and I hope we can keep you interested in the future.

ABS Membership

Chuck Ades' article in the Jan/Feb 2008 The Begonian is full of suggestions that branches should discuss among their members. Now the question will come up if the decreasing membership has to be solved through national or local means? Chuck goes into details how San Diego Horticulture Society grew from 40 members to 1500 in 11 years with a number of

special features at their monthly meetings. He is hoping that national will consider in duplicating some of these suggestions into ABS conventions.

Then he goes to the branches where they can correct the membership problem easily by each member bringing a friend to an EXCITING MEETING so they eventually become a member. Chuck also wrote how branches should help one another by communicating.

This plea for action should be discussed constantly to stop the membership deduction. I can only say that is wishful thinking, since I wrote an article in the May/June 2007 *Begonian* with a similar theme.. I was hoping to start a line of communication with the long established branches. In receiving their newsletter or their communication, computers could be used to give relatively new branches some helpful pointers. Back to the thought where the responsibility for decreased membership should be corrected through national or the branches efforts. Of course this should be a combined effort and I only hope that whoever reads both articles do something.

Bernie Wiener,
Deleware Valley Branch/ABS
National Director

Bernie, read the good news in Donna Marsheck's report on page 73! We have so many great members who are working already to increase our membership and we must not forget their contributions, from Julie Vanderwilt on the website to Donna on membership and all the Branch leaders, their work is bringing results. As Cheryl Lenert argues, and Chuck Ades' article supports, the best way to increase members is to be sure we have the very best: programs, journal, website, and meetings!! Not to mention the friendliest members!!



To the left is **Janet Welsh's** photo *Begonia* 'Dale Kramer' taken at 2007's California Show. Below is a photo of *Begonia* 'Paul Hernandez' taken at an earlier California show. The strong influence of *Begonia* *gehrtii* can be seen in both plants.



Begonia 'Dale Kramer'

by Freda Holley

One of the most striking plants seen in the 2007 LA Convention Show was a beautiful *B.* 'Dale Kramer'. This is a cross made by **Patrick Worley**. I emailed him to ask about this plant. Here is his response:

"*Begonia* 'Dale Kramer' is a cross of *Begonia odetiantha* x *Begonia ghortii* which is a favorite in this area [near Monterrey in CA]. It is named after my stepfather. It blooms well for me but others can't get it to bloom as abundantly if at all. It is also featured at Lego Land in San Diego. It is all over the place and beautifully grown.

I was doing a series of crosses using the shrub *Begonia ghortii* as a pollen parent. I also made *B.* 'Gathol' using *B. egregia* x *B. ghortii* and *B.* 'Paul Hernandez' [*B. luxurians* x *B. ghortii*]. An all time favorite *B. ghortii* cross is *B.* 'Alhambra' which I still grow, that has leaves that grow vertically like its other parent *B. sarmentacea*. When grown from a leaf a different plant is produced with a very different look and habit. The leaf grown version is *Begonia* 'Ica'.

I tried various crosses with *B. paulensis* as well, but the results were not good growers. I had one disaster using *B. venosa* x *B. ghortii*. The leaves were so crispy they could hardly be touched!!!"

Knowing the background of the plant, I now understand why it does not grow for me. When I lived in Arkansas with its cooler summers, I grew *B. ghortii* well; its leaves reached nearly two feet across. Likewise, *B. odeteiantha* was no problem, both growing and propagating

easily. In all my subsequent locations, despite my many efforts neither have grown well. I was able to keep *B. ghortii* alive here over its first summer from seed (I had prolific seed in AR as well and these were produced in temperatures near freezing.), but it did not grow well. I moved it to the greenhouse in winter here where it lived, but still did not flourish. I put these plants outside in a choice shady spot for the summer. Two of them lived until late in the summer and finally succumbed. I know that **Alton Lee** in the Florida, Tampa area had a similar frustrating result. *B. odeteiantha* did somewhat better, doing okay in the greenhouse in winter, but proving unable to make it the following summer. So little wonder that I have had no luck growing any of these impressive hybrids back home. This adds to my conviction that if a plant doesn't like my conditions (or sometimes, I am convinced, me personally!), it is best not to fight Mother Nature. Unless someone out there in the South has discovered a secret to growing these, I think I will have to be resigned to enjoying these on my visits to cooler climes as we must be with tuberous. With all my moves, I now believe that my best effort in a new location is to find those begonias that really like the conditions there and to concentrate my efforts on those. This means I am denied growing many beautiful begonias, but that is what make visits to different locales most rewarding since I can see the plants that are doing well there.

B. 'Dale Kramer' and its relatives are those I will enjoy most when I visit in California for they are indeed beautiful and impressive plants.

IN THE MAILBOX

by Greg Sytch

A funny thing happened during my annual winter break. We had a freeze! Now, freezes are not unusual here in Tampa Bay. We average one per winter, usually not severe, and usually easy to deal with. But this freeze was different. It occurred after a week of daily highs near 80F combined with high humidity. Why was this different you ask? Because it caught most of us off guard. I now know just how tough begonias are!

Becoming complacent during my time off, when they announced the freeze three days out, I could not believe it. 20°F? It sounded surreal. But, off I go to the attic to get the frost cloth and blankets, a ritual that, by now, is automatic if one wants to grow in an uncovered shadehouse. I cannot possibly bring everything in, can I?

The day before, all my orchids were brought inside, and a few tender tropicals. The rest were on their own under trees. But the begonias were growing, tall canes though cut back in fall had resprouted. Rhizomatous in big bowls, and many smaller plants for future sales. Cover I go, adhering with clips as the wind kept up making life just a little more difficult. By nightfall, everything was covered properly, and it was time to wait. 32°F at 3am! 28°F at 7am, and not above freezing until 9am.

6 hours below freezing! Yikes!

Well, except for a few areas that the frost cloth blew off slightly, everything is ok. Tall canes were toppled sideways to cover. Rhizomatous condensed. Small pots and trays pushed together. They all made it with just a little wear and tear. Begonias are truly tough. Then the surprise!

I went out front and winced as I began to look at my large rhizomatous mounds. I could not believe it. They were fine. No damage. Growing under tall palms and a HUGE *Strelitzia nicolai* that is 25' tall, not a leaf damaged. Tree cover makes all the difference. Now, why would I bring this up when northern growers have greenhouses, sunrooms and crowded houses? To prove a point I have made for years - leave begonias out until the last moment! A quick chill is usually followed by a warm-up. The plants will benefit from their systems slowing down so when they come in for the winter, they will acclimate better.

The frost cloth I use is said to be good to 28°F. It is! Of course, this was a rare no-frost event due to dry air and 5 mph wind, but nevertheless, do not pamper begonias. They are tough as nails!

Q: Before I brought my begonias in for winter, I noticed small black spots on some of the leaves. What is it? Georgia

A: Commonly called mildew, begonias



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become susceptible during long, cool and moist nights. They require air movement and dry leaves. But, since this is difficult, a preventative spraying come fall will help. ANTICIPATE cool, moist nights perfect for mildew and spray. Use any fungicide labeled for begonias, and repeat in 7 days.

Once indoors, the conditions are different. They will outgrow the problem in drier air. Note: Remove affected areas, and debris, so as not to spread the disease!

Contact Greg Sytch ABS Horticultural Correspondent
6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653-4301; Ph: 727-841-9618; gsytch@cs.com.

CContinued from page 61

should be trimmed such that it does not show above the foliage. Also decide if your plant really needs those stakes. They may have been initially needed, but perhaps now the plant would show better without them.

*The plan should be well centered in the pot. Plants should have a rounded, full appearance from every angle.

*Choose the category well in which you enter your plant. Often you have a choice - for example, do you enter your plant in the cane division or as a hanging basket? It may show better in a different category than the expected one.

*In short, study the show schedule and point system. Check off your plant against the criteria to make sure it shows at its best.

~FH

Membership Report

To finish up the 2007 year Membership Report:

New members from across our United States - AZ-1; CA-5; CO-2; CT-1; DC-1; FL-3; HI-1; IA-1; MA-2; ME-1; MS-1; NJ-1;OR-1; PA-1; X-2; UT-1; VA-3; AND WA-1. Our branches increased also: Astro-1; Buxton-3; Houston Satellites-2; Leslie Hatfield Monterey Bay Area-1; Mabel Corwin-2; May Blanton-1; Palo Verde-3; Palm Beaches-6; Rhode Island-1; Rudolph Zieshenhenne -3; San Francisco-1; San Gabriel Valley-1;and Tampa Bay-2. A new member from each country: Indonesia, The Netherlands, Panama and 3 from Canada round out the 2007 year.

We are off to a great start for the 2008 year with membership renewals, several of which are "reinstatements". Many are coming from our website through the PayPal account and I receive handfuls of checks each day through the mail. As of January 3, 2008 we have new members from the following states: AL-1; CA-3; ID-1; KY-1; NJ-1; NY-2; OR-1; PA-3; SC-1;and VA-1. Our branches have increased in membership: Alamo-1; Buxton-5;

Continued on page 67.



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Above we see *Begonia* 'Michelle Handley' in a photo by its hybridizer Peter Handley. Below is Johanna Kitson's photos of the strawberry jar turned 'begonia jar' with *B.* 'Challenger' taking front and center with grower Patt Lindsey.

New Cultivars

Official International Registration 1000

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* ‘Michelle Handley’**
No. 1000 *Begonia* (B. ‘Roy Hartley’ x
B. ‘Venus’) ‘Michelle Handley’

This tuberous begonia has mid-green leaves with a light blue tinge. They have acute tips being narrowly triangular and sharply acute. Leaves are about 11 inches by 6 inches. Margins are serrulate. The leaf surface is glabrous. They have 8 main veins. The petioles are 5” with no hairs. Stipules are 3/4” in length and 3/4” in width. Overall, the plant is 18” at maturity.

Flower tepals are orbicular and pink. The ovary is light green. Male flowers are 6” across and have 36 petals. Females are 3” across with 5 petals. The flower cluster has one male and 2 female flowers. There are many cluster. Flower peduncles are 7 inches in length. It flowers from May to September or up until first frost..

The male flowers are many and double and the plant flowers after dormancy until first frost.

The plant differs from others in that it has much higher and different color pink flower tepals than others. Also, it is very easy to grow and tubers are relatively trouble free. The developer has propagated this cultivar for nearly 20 years and passed plants to many friends who

have grown it it successfully an in turn have passed it on to their friends. They overwinter very well.

This plant has been tested by G. H. Watts for 2 years, Mrs. E. Bohmont for 5 years, and J. Watson for 5 years, all in England. This plant has been propagated approximately 300 times.

This plant was developed in 1985, first bloomed in 1986 and was first distributed in 1989. It was developed and here described on November 24, 2007 by Peter Handley, 18 The Meadows Westwoodside, Doncaster, S. Yorkshire, DN0 2HA, England. It was registered on January 5, 2008.

Begonias Gone Wild!

by Johanna Kitson

In February 2007, several members of the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches got together and assembled strawberry jars with begonia plugs. Everyone brought their own sized jar and planted it with all kinds of begonias. We tried to pick out begonias that we knew had small leaves and would lend themselves to this type of planting. One of the plugs was this new begonia called ‘Challenger’ that we did not

Continued on page 59.

CONVENTION 2008

May 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

Begonias – The Great Adventure

All of us in Houston are having so much fun getting ready for what we think will be a fabulous event. We are still working on the details, but we thought you would like to get an idea of some of the things you can look forward to.

Wednesday the buses will make a couple of interesting morning stops and end up at my house in Hockley, for a Texas-style barbecue. One of the high lights of past Houston conventions has been the barbecue at **Lulu Leonard's** home. Lulu has moved to an elegant new home with a much smaller yard, but her son **Larry** is the one who cooked the barbecue. Larry has graciously offered to do the cooking for us on Wednesday so the quality is assured. We will also have begonia prizes and some plants for sale.

Thursday we will spend the day going through some wonderful yards.

Friday is a special day. **Bill Claybaugh** (ABS Conservation Chairman) and **Marian** have invited us to their home for a super treat. Marian's garden club – Newport Garden Club - is staging a standard flower, judged flower show in the Claybaugh home on Thursday. There will be a special section utilizing begonias in the designs. The designs will be in place for us to enjoy on Friday.

It would be entertaining enough to spend time looking at the wonderful things that Bill grows in the yard and greenhouse but he decided to take it a step further. Several of our members who belong to other plant societies will have displays and maybe a thing or two for sale. (gingers, bromeliads and other tropicals)

Friday will also include a stop at Mercer Arboretum and lunch. We'll get

you back in time to regroup and get in line for a really big plant sale.

Saturday is a day for seminars (some really good ones) and business meeting followed by the banquet.

Sunday wouldn't be a trip to Houston without a visit to **Tom Keepin's** amazing collection and lunch.

We have seminars and discussions planned for Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

I want to encourage everyone to bring some kind of entry. The trophies are like nothing you have ever seen before and we will have lots of possible categories for you to choose from.

The hotel is the Sheraton Brookhollow. It is located half way between Bush International Airport and Hobby Airport. There is an airport shuttle from each location.

The rate for the hotel is \$92. This includes breakfast for up to two people. Triple or quad with breakfast is \$102.

The conventions packets will be in the mail at the end of February with all the completed information.

Ask anyone, Houston begonia people know how to show you a good time!

Cheryl Lenert

Begonias in 2008

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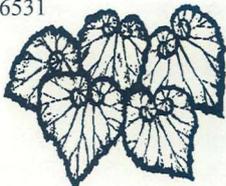
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COMING EVENTS

March 21-24, 2008, Association of Australian Begonia Societies Convention in Brisbane, Australia. For info, phone 617 387-5199.

May 14-18, 2008, American Begonia Society Convention/ Southwest Region Get-Together, Houston. Houston is ready to put on a show! See page 76 for ALL the details. 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 May/June 2008 issue is March 1, 2008

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

The Begonian

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