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September/October 2010

The Begonian

Publication of the American Begonia Society

American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

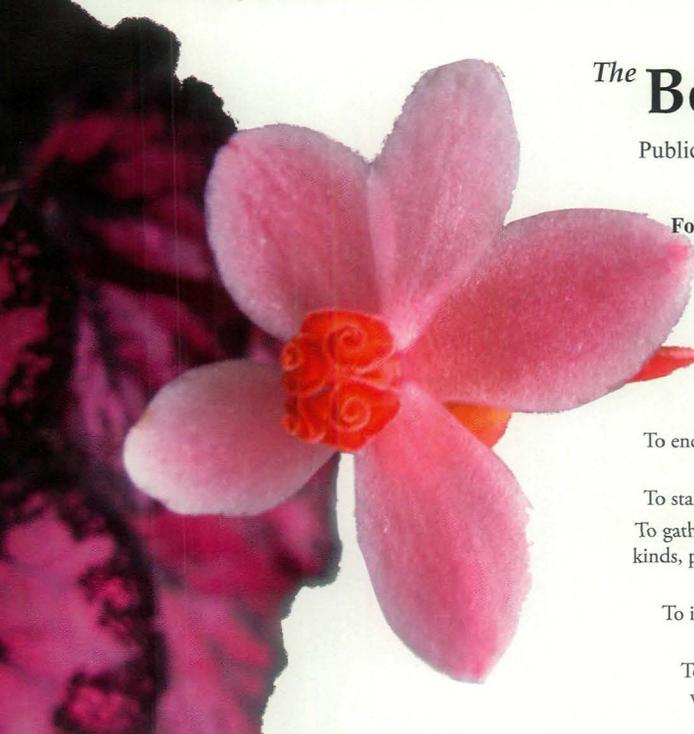
To encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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



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Begonia 'Helen Teupel' Photo by Tony Pinto



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On The Cover

Begonia 'Majesty' a new cultivar from Charles Henthorne. A sport of 'Peridot' this plant has been propagated through four generations. Photo by Charles Henthorne

Back Cover: *Begonia lyallii* var. *lyallii* f. *masoalensis* in situ. A Madagascar species. Photo by Jacky Duruisseau

Magnificent Hybrids

President's Message

I spend a great deal of time talking and communicating with members from all over. I enjoy hearing the reasons they are members of the ABS. I never cease to be amazed by the different areas of interest that attracts people to this organization.

Anyone who knows me knows that I am passionate about discovering and maintaining species. The world is such that it is imperative that we take this responsibility.

Many members are only interested in the amazing diversity of our cultivars. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the many talented hybridizers who have given us our impressive legacy.

Hundreds of newly developed begonias have been created and then, for whatever reason, have disappeared from sight. Others have been around for many decades. They have to be tough or really special to be able to remain in existence for a very long time. It's the ones that have the staying power that I would like for us all to celebrate.

If you are growing or know of a begonia that has been in cultivation for at least twenty five years I want you to tell



us about it. Send a few lines or an entire article to Linda for the *Begonian*. If it is one your grandmother grew and you don't know what it is, send us a picture. If it has a special meaning or event attached, share it with us.

So often I hear that someone doesn't know much about gardening but they have such fond memories of the begonia that some dear neighbor or relative tended with loving care. These are the same impressions we are making on those around us.

Memories are made of this-
Cheryl



Above, left: *B.* 'Tingley Mallet'
Photo by Jem Wiseman
Above, right: *B.* 'Morocco'
Photo by Mary Bucholtz
Right: *B.* 'Silver Jewell'
Photo by Mary Bucholtz

B. amphioxus for Australia

I am a member from Western Australia and I wondering if you could possibly put a request in The Begonian, for anyone that is growing *B. amphioxus* and willing to try and pollinate this plant and send the seed to your seed fund. If that happens we can order the seed from ABS seed fund and hopefully get it growing here.

It appears that we no longer have this plant in Australia and our only hope is if someone in The American Begonia Society is willing to set some seed.

Letter to the Editor

I have checked on the "Permitted seed listing" for Australia and this plant is listed in that list.

From what I have read in The Begonian the plant is relatively easy to grow and I am hoping easy to pollinate. I know there would be many happy people if we are able to get this plant growing in Australia again.

Regards
Geoff Bishop
geoff.bishop@live.com.au



Just More Reasons To Love Begonias

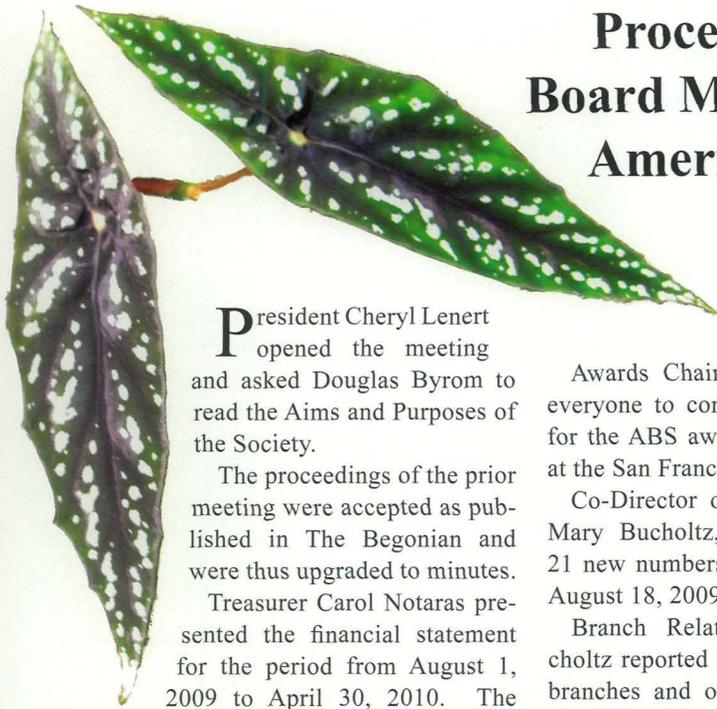
By Johanna Kitson Photos by Polly Reed

This last spring was interesting in discovering new begonias that sprouted in the yard. In addition to many seeds sowing themselves on the limestone and coral rocks located around the fish pond, two new areas have revealed themselves.

While grooming my yard for a recent garden tour, I discovered these *Begonia heracleifolia* seedlings coming up on an old detritus filled bromeliad leaf (pictured left). They have since been transferred to pots and are growing well.

While taking a morning stroll through my yard recently, a small group of new begonia leaves caught my eye. Lo and behold, these seedlings (pictured right) had come up upon a now half rotten stump left over from the hurricanes of four years ago. They even bloomed this spring as evidenced by the tall seed spike. I am not sure what the mature plants will look like later on this summer. However, the seeds will be planted and hopefully a beautiful new hybrid will result. South Florida's summer heat and humidity are always a challenge to live through for we people, but the begonias are loving it.





Proceedings of the Board Meeting of the American Begonia Society

May 21, 2010,
Fort Worth, Texas

President Cheryl Lenert opened the meeting and asked Douglas Byrom to read the Aims and Purposes of the Society.

The proceedings of the prior meeting were accepted as published in *The Begonian* and were thus upgraded to minutes.

Treasurer Carol Notaras presented the financial statement for the period from August 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010. The general fund began with a balance of \$5482.04 and ended with a balance of \$13,641.59. The increase was due primarily to the success of the West Palm Beach Convention. Total income was \$49,827.77 and disbursement was \$41,668.22. The seed fund showed beginning and ending balances of \$308.49. Savings accounts had a beginning balance of \$69,884.56 and an ending balance of \$68,371.91. Combined checking and savings totals were \$75,675.09 beginning and \$82,321.99 ending. The statement was accepted.

Holiday Greetings Chair Wanda Macnair explained that the donations collected in this program support publication of *The Begonian* and take up minimum space in the magazine. Thus, maximum space is available for pictures and articles. The donation categories are Bronze \$1 to \$50, Silver \$51 to \$100, Gold \$101 to \$150 and Platinum \$151 plus. She urged both branches and individuals to make donations. The deadline for receipt of donations is September 1st, 2010, so that results can appear in the November-December issue of *The Begonian*.

Awards Chair Ann Salisbury requested everyone to consider making nominations for the ABS awards that will be presented at the San Francisco Convention in August.

Co-Director of the U-Numbers Project, Mary Bucholtz, reported in writing that 21 new numbers have been assigned since August 18, 2009, the last one being U602.

Branch Relations Director Mary Bucholtz reported in writing that ABS has 37 branches and one regional branch. Four new groups have shown interest in branch formation in Alabama, Florida, Indiana and Missouri. The latter two have held formation meetings. A motion to grant a branch charter to a group in Oregon who wish to be known as the Cascade Branch carried and a charter was signed and will be delivered.

A recommendation was made by the Executive Board in the form of a motion to approve formation of a publicity committee. The objective of the committee would be to investigate ways ABS could get more publicity and thereby generate new members and to investigate methods to fund the publicity effort. It follows that the committee would take appropriate action after approval by the board. The motion passed.

Binders that have the proper ring spacing for Begonians have become scarce or impossible to find. It appeared desirable that a new source be investigated.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Macnair, Secretary

Above: *Begonia* 'Lubbergei' – a cross between the cane *B. lubbersii* and the semi-tuberous *B. dregei*.
Photo by Tony Pinto

Flore Du Gabon, Volume 39, Begoniaceae

Reviewed by Normand Dufresne

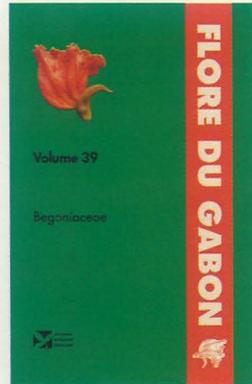
This is a 110 page paperback and a joy for Begonia enthusiasts. It is written in French and all of the pages are in black and white. Of the 57 species depicted, all but 5 are accompanied by excellent line drawings which include leaf shape variations when such is the case. There are 16 species listed as endemic to Gabon.

Although written in French, some of the technical words such as “endémique, glabre, ovaire, ellipsoïde,” and even phrases as “Limitée aux forêt dense etres humide” are easy to understand.

Some plants are listed as edible. *Begonia macrocarpa* is eaten as a spinach substitute. *Begonia elatostemmoides* is used as legume or as an herbal tea for a dry cough. *Begonia poculifera* is used as a decoction to stimulate breast feeding, and *Begonia fusialata* var. *fusialata* is used as a spinach substitute and for women’s problems.

Ecology Translations

Talus	Slope, embankment
Massif	Mountainous
Parois rocheuse	Rocky face
Desséchées	Dried out
Ruisseaux	Stream
Calcaire	Chalky, limestone
Cours d'eau	Water course
Plat ou pentes	Flat or sloped
Sêches et ombragées	Dry and shaded
Chute d'eau	Waterfall
Vieux troncs	Old tree trunks
Vielles forêt secondaire	Old secondary forest
Marécageuse	Swampy, boggy
Forêt ombrophiles	Tropical rainforest
Parfois saxicole	Sometimes growing among rocks



Creating and Maintaining A Terrarium, Second Edition

By Wally Wagner

Everything you need to know to successfully create
and maintain a terrarium.

31 Pages of instructions, illustrated, step by step, plus lists of plants suitable for terrariums. Includes new section on creating Bubble terrariums and Book list for information on raising begonias. Also includes guidance on selecting a terrarium, making the foundation soil, choosing plants that do well in terrariums, and instructions on planting, lighting, and watering.

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Southwest Region Plants

Five spectacular Rex begonias (**top**) surrounding a large pot of Hawaiian Schefflera in the hall of the Fort Worth Texas Botanic Gardens Center and Conservatory where the Southwest Region Gathering show plants were displayed for judging.

A close up view (**middle**) of one of the five Rex begonias in the hall display. If you like color and style this one has it all and there were even more breathtaking ones displayed as show plants.

Bottom, from left to right: *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross) It's awards are First Place (Blue Ribbon) and also Best of Division (the rosette). The trophy is for Best of Division. This plant was entered in Division EEE Class 68 - Unusual surface and/or coloring Medium-leaved (generally 3-6 inches). *B. 'Red Robin'* This plant was entered in Division F - Rex Cultorum Medium-Leaved (3-6 inches) in Class 74 - Non-spiral. It's awards are First Place (blue ribbon) Best of Division (rosette) and the Trophy is for Best of Division. *B. mazae* This plant was entered in Division H - Trailing-Scandent in Class 84 Trailing Species.

All photos by Tom Anderson. Identification assistance from Tom Keepin.

The Lazy Gardener ...and the price to pay!

by Greg Sytch, *New Port Richey, FL*

I have always been the one to tout using only the best potting mixes. Over the years, I caught on to Fafard, and began using their brand faithfully until 5 years ago when their formulas began changing. I was later told they were having issues with peat consistency. In retrospect, perhaps I should have stuck with what worked.....not!

This spring was a hectic time for me. After the 2nd coldest winter in Tampa Bay recorded history, come March there was much to do. My yard, front and back, had sustained damage from the cold, wet winter and required a lot of cleanup. My shadehouses fared much better, as the measures of protection I utilized during the two-week January freeze period worked well, and I only lost a few plants here and there, with a few more that succumbed due to heavy rains and wet soil, or dripping on them from a plant above. As a teacher, it was a most difficult school year with a new principal, a pregnant Assistant Principal, and new guidelines for students to be placed in my reading classes. I usually get the most challenging, but this year they mixed students creating greater challenges. I rather prefer ONLY the difficult students because I can set up a motivational, incentive-based classroom they buy into.

Anyway, I digress. As March rolled around, I also taught after school students who were asked not to come onto campus, again the more “challenging” teenagers. This cut into both my play time with the plants and my energy level. By April, I was so overwhelmed with yard and shadehouse work, that I began using the bagged Fafard I had on hand rather than mix my own, as I suggested in earlier columns. Including my usual amendments such as pine bark fines, tiny charcoal, and perlite, I was sure the plants requiring repotting

would do fine. And they did - for a while. Then mid-May came, and the heat and humidity returned. The plants suffered.

I was not noticing the usual blast of growth on my begonias. Not all, but too many for my comfort. May is a hot month here with little cloud cover and increasing humidity with higher night temps. The higher the humidity, the less plants dry out. By early June, as the school year was almost out, my homebound teaching waned and I had a little more time with the long evenings. But what a challenge I had created. Soil was staying too wet. I had to water everything with a hose because of a general lack of rain since early April (typical), and so some plants were just not drying out. In fact, they were stagnant. What to do?

Well, as school was out by the 9th, I began having to repot many plants. I do summer sales to supplement my meager teacher pay, and these plants just were not my quality. I went back to my regular mix of fluffy peat with the charcoal and perlite, and added aerolite (tiny styrofoam balls) as an added measure of lightness and to drain the pots. This is still in progress. What a task!

The moral of this story - practice what you preach! It takes far longer to mix it myself, rather than just throw it in a tub, use your hands to ensure mixing is thorough, and water more carefully. While the larger begonias and plants did not appear to mind that much, the smaller plants were suffering. Now, almost to the end of June, I have done as much as I can, and with a little rain from above, all is improving, slowly. Rain seems to wash through the soil leaving it less clogged and free of salts. A dose of fungicide at soil level should also help. Do take the time to ensure you are consistent in your potting mixes. If it works, do not fix it!

Begonia ludicra A. de Candolle

By Rekha Morris, Pendleton, SC

It is a truism that the enormous diversity of begonia foliage is what enthralls all those who are addicted to this genus. Among the 1500 species worldwide there are some species whose foliar forms

are so varied that I keep a lookout for them no matter how many times I have documented them before. *B. palmata* [from the eastern Himalayas to Taiwan] and *B. heracleifolia* [from Mexico to Central America] are two which have continued to fascinate me since 2002 when I first began documenting species begonias in Mexico.

B. ludicra, also from Mexico, is another species which has fascinating foliar diversity. Between 2003 and 2006, when I was in the process of documenting all the begonia species of Veracruz, I had great difficulty finding this species in Veracruz. Eventually I located a colony of a small, angular leaved form with its crenate, slightly undulate margins finely defined in red. The entire riverbank for about 50' was covered in this lush growth of *B. ludicra*.

Unfortunately on my last visit to this site in April 2010 I was distressed to see that almost the entire bank had been cleared of *B. ludicra* to make way for a wide entrance to a private coffee estate. A narrow line of these plants managed to survive as they grew at the base of a barbed wire fence demarcating another property above the riverbank.

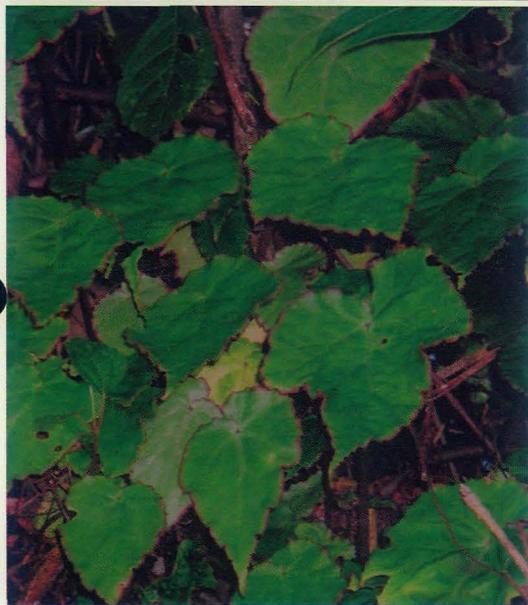
Since then I have documented at least

another half a dozen forms, all of them in Oaxaca, where they thrive both epiphytically and terrestrially at higher elevations [4000-6000'] in or near waterfalls and cascades.

Their oblique, acuminate leaves vary from ovate to palmate with either shallow lobes or lobes which are deep and slender. Other parts of the leaves are equally varied. The cordate base of the leaf may be cuneate or broadly rounded with overlapping basal lobes, the leaf margins crenate, dentate or ciliate, and the leaf surface glabrous or pubescent, varying in color from several shades of green to a bronze-green, blue-green, muted maroon and glistening burgundy.

Both the male and female white flowers have two narrow and two wider, orbicular tepals. Unlike *B. heracleifolia*, which has abundant panicles of flowers, held well above the foliage, *B. ludicra*'s pristine white flowers appear two or three to a stem, and are often barely visible among the foliage. I have yet to collect the capsules of *B. ludicra* in the wild although I visit at least two or three sites where they flourish on an annual basis. I suspect that their most prolific bloom time is either during the rainy season or shortly after it. I avoid visiting begonia habitats in Mexico in this season as this is the time when roads are blocked by landslides, overflowing rivers and streams, broken or washed out bridges, and a plethora of biting and bloodsucking insects not to speak of beetles, spiders, scorpions and other such noxious and toxic creatures. Here in Pendleton, SC they bloom in late May and early June.

It is often difficult to examine the



mass of a green form of *B. ludicra* which cascaded down the lower edges of a cliffside and spread across a shallow water runoff channel. I had never before seen this form with erect stems nearly 3' high, with deeply lobed leaves close to 10" across, with their undersides a vivid crimson-maroon.

Dramatic as this form is, it is a diminutive form with glabrous, ovate plum colored leaves, which are a deep crimson on their undersides, which I find most enticing. This is a form which I have encountered infrequently as it tends to favor shady, cavernous sides of waterfalls.

There is another form of *B. ludicra*, which I documented recently, which appears to be even rarer than the one mentioned above. I have found a single sparse colony of this form with apple green, ovate or shallow lobed leaves with silvery-white maculation along its veins. On first seeing a couple of these leaves I did not realize that they were the leaves of *B. ludicra* as they were so damaged by insect bites that only fragments of foliage survived. Despite its fragile appearance and small, slender rhizome, this form of *B. ludicra* has turned out to be a fairly sturdy plant, which has grown readily in a terrarium.

All forms of *B. ludicra* I have documented so far respond well to terrarium culture where their several leaf forms in shades of lettuce, mint, teal, maroon, damson and plum create a lively and vivid medley of color, form and texture.

Rekha Morris
June 9th 2010.

Opposite page: *Begonia ludicra* with white maculation.
This page, top: Variegated *B. ludicra* in bloom in South Carolina **Bottom:** *Begonia ludicra* with crenate leaf margin outlined in red.

length of the repent stems, as in the wild the leaves are so profuse as to form a thick ground cover. However, in their epiphytic form it is apparent that the stems are long and slender, attaining lengths between 2' - 4' or more, and widely spaced internodes. In 2008 I was astonished to see a mass of lobed, blue tinged, maroon leaves held several feet above a tangled

A Word with You: Hair

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

“Indumentum absent.” What?

Webster says *indumentum* is an outer covering such as hairs or down on a plant or leaf. That hairy covering is also known as *vestiture*. It can be found on leaves, bracts, stems, veins, flowers, and other parts. Digging further I found a dazzling array of adjectives describing types of plant hairiness. What fun. The ‘60s saw us immersed in “long, straight, curly, fuzzy, snaggy, shaggy, ratty, matty, oily, greasy, and fleecy” hair, if I may quote the beloved song of the era. The vocabulary

of plant hair is equally long and amusing. Scrabble players take note.

Those hairs can be:

- arachnose* - with many fine, entangled hairs giving a cobwebby appearance
- bearded* - with long, stiff hairs
- ciliate* - short hairs on the margins; fringed
- floccose* - lots of soft, wooly hairs - easily rubbed off
- hirsute* - short, stiff, rough hairs
- pilose* - soft hairs clearly separated or scattered
- pubescent* - short, soft, erect (synonym)
- scabrous* - short, rigid hairs, rough to touch
- scale* - flat clusters of hair
- scurfy* - a loose scaly crust
- sericious/sericeous* - long, fine hairs lying flat
- stellate* - star shaped; with multiple branches
- strigose* - short, rigid hairs lying flat
- tomentose* - soft, wooly and matted hairs
- villous* - long, soft, and curled; shaggy
- ... and more



Or they can be *glabrous*, meaning smooth; having no hair, down, or fuzz – bald. I read this one a lot in begonia literature.

I looked at the hairiness definitions and found myself visualizing the vast array of human hair. The begonias were harder to match, but in the 2010 issues of *The Begonian*, I did find mention of *Begonia palmata* with tomentose stems and leaves that vary from glabrescent to softly tomentose. *B. pseudodaedalea* has villous lower veins and a strigose leaf surface; *B. morrisiorum* peduncles are villous; the female flowers of *B. goudotii* have papillose surfaces; *B. longifolia* has glabrous foliage while *B. ciliobracteata*'s leaves are edged in cilia and it has ciliated stipules and bracts. Given its name, that's no surprise. An interesting chart on p. 19 of Vol. 77 compares four begonia species. Armed with the above list, those of us new to begonia hair vocabulary should be able to differentiate. And then there are the just hairy leaved shrubs, and

lots of them Brad Thompson discusses on p.64-67 of Vol. 77.

What purpose do hairs (*indumenta* or *indumentums*) actually serve? I found nothing in my begonia literature about the function of hairs, but in the wider plant world they are protection against large and small predators, sun, frost, wind, transpiration, and they help trap humidity. They are also important in distinguishing and categorizing begonias.

One doesn't need to memorize these terms in order to appreciate the incredible diversity of indumenta that help make begonias so visually appealing. While reading my begonia literature, I'll be glad to realize that this vocabulary relates to hairiness and I'll now take a closer look at the hairy ones in my collection. "Splitting hairs" takes on new meaning.

What adjectives would you use for these hairy begonias? **Opposite page - left:** *Begonia versicolor*. Photo by Tony Pinto **Right:** *B. ciliobracteata*. Photo by Johanna Zinn.

This page, left: *Begonia sizemoreae*. Photo by Jem Wiseman

Center: *B. 'Crestabunchii'*. Photo by William McLaughlin, US Botanic Garden **Right:** *B. 'Mrs. Fred T. Scripps'*. Photo by Brad Thompson



B. guaduensis (U439?)

Article & photos by Tom Keepin, Houston, TX

Each year the members of the Astro Branch are given a Challenge Plant. At the January 4, 2009 meeting the members were given a plant that we were told was *B. U439*. Since we could not find any published information on *B. U439* there was no information to share with the group. The members were on their own - with a real challenge.

At a few of the meetings the group was asked how their Challenge Plants were doing. We got vague answers. There were some that stated their plant died shortly after they got it home; others stated theirs were just "OK."

Right before the meeting I contacted Dianna Wilkerson (Choctaw, OK) to ask about her *B. U439*. Dianna's plant provided the offsets we distributed at the meeting and her plant came from Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. She told me that there was another name on the tag. One side was printed with *B. U439* and *B. guaduensis* on the other.

I went to *Begoniaceae*, Edition 2 by Jack Golding and Dieter C. Wasshausen. *B. guaduensis* was on

page 63. *B. guaduensis* was found in Venezuela, Columbia and Panama as early as 1825 by Kunth. There's a nice plate (No. 20.35 on page 439) in *Begoniaceae Part 1* by Lyman Smith, Dieter C. Wasshausen Jack Golding and Carrie Karegannes.

On June 7, 2009 the Astro membership brought back their Challenge Plants. Twenty-two plants were returned. They ranged from clinging to life to very lush. During the refreshment break members were asked to vote for the plant they thought was the best (the largest and most lush was not voted upon by request of the grower). After the break while the votes were being counted the owners of the Challenge Plants returned were asked about how they grew their plants.

Ruby Lenert (who turned out to be the winner) told us she gave her plant John's Recipe by Lady Bug at ¼ strength each time she watered and would change to Super Bloom every few waterings. The plant was grown in dappled shade. The large plant, not voted upon, was grown by me. I grew it on the dry side with both morning sun and afternoon sun from 2 P.M. to sunset. It was fed full strength Peters 20-10-20 once a week.

Our plants started blooming in mid January and stopped in mid May. The blooms are small and white in color on

Unlike most begonias *B. guaduensis* has brown bark-like stems - not the usual green.





In brighter light more red coloration appears in the leaf backs of *B. guaduensis*.

an inflorescence held nicely above the plant. So, it is a Winter to early Spring bloomer. For me, this plant enjoys being fed. It also likes bright shade to full early morning and late afternoon sun. One of our members is growing hers on her pool deck in the full sun and says it is doing just great. We will be interested to see how it does in July and August.

We have found that the brighter the light the stronger the red coloration on the leaf underside. Propagation is quite easy and it grows quickly when it isn't overwatered. And, it grows very lush when fed at regular intervals.

One interesting thing about this plant are its light brown stems that look like bark - not green like most begonias. The coloration is very similar to that of *B. dregei*. We don't think this plant is *B. U439*, but are anxious for some informa-

tion on this U-number to surface.

The Astro Branch voted to adopt this plant as a club so we can study it more. We are interested to see it mature to a well-grown specimen. In keeping with the Save our Species program, we also want to propagate it and get it more widely distributed. As we learn more we will keep you informed.

Until then.....Happy Growing!

UPDATE: The plant that was being grown in the full sun by the pool thrived all summer long under the watchful eye of member Meador Wigington. Unfortunately *B. guaduensis* does not like snow or temperatures of 25 degrees. Meador does not have a greenhouse to store her plants in the winter. For the rest of us that were able to protect our plant they are doing just fine.

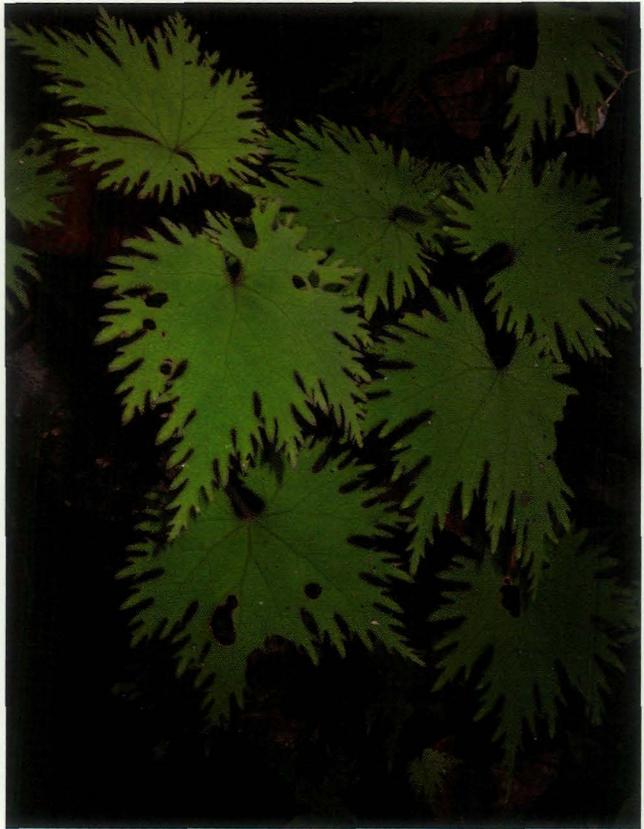
Begonia lyallii A. de Candolle var.
lyallii f. *masoalensis* Aymonin & Bosser,
Madagascar, Section: *Nervioplacenteria*

Article and photos by Jacky Duruisseau, Bois, France

We found this very nice plant in December 2009, in the rain forest (primary or old secondary) of the Masoala peninsula, in northeast Madagascar. On December 2, we started from the coast where we had our camp and we went up the Varimena River for two hours. At an altitude of about 200 m, 50 m from the river, in a rocky and not easily accessible place, we came upon a green carpet of several square meters: *Begonia lyallii* variety *lyallii* forma *masoalensis*!

I have grown this plant with difficulty for a long time! Finding it here, at the Ends of the Earth, in nature, will live with me as a great memory. Moreover, the plant was in blossom, with some ripe fruits and we packaged some seeds.

M.Kéraudren-Aymonin (1) describes *B. lyallii* var. *lyallii* A. de Candolle and its other varieties: *pubescens* Keraudren, *grandiflora* Keraudren, *urschii* Keraudren and two forms of *lyallii* var. *lyallii*: f. *moratii* and f. *masoalensis* Aymonin & Bosser (as new species at that time). All these begonias are endemic ones from Madagascar. They grow in the northeast



Leaves of *Begonia lyallii* variety *lyallii* forma *masoalensis*

of Madagascar, only on the Masoala peninsula.

Henri Laporte (a begonia lover who traveled eleven times to Madagascar and died from malaria after his last trip in 2001) had found this begonia in the same place and it is the one we grow. He also brought back *B. lyallii* var. *lyallii*, the type of the species. This plant, which we



Another form of *B. lyallii*?

still grow, is not exactly the same as *M. Kéraudren* described because *M. Kéraudren* wrote that the female flowers are pink with four tepals and the ones of the plant we grow are white with 2 or 3 tepals, the third one very small when it is present. Henri also grew the very nice *urschii* form; but, unfortunately, we lost it.

At the same place, after seeing *Begonia lyallii* var. *lyallii* f. *masoalensis*, we saw another begonia, perhaps another form, with a similar leaf blade but less denticulate, distinctly cordate, with an auricle fully formed (see the picture); this plant covered the ground as did *lyallii* var. *lyallii* f. *masoalensis* but the carpet was smaller and separate from the first one.

I do not think that *Begonia lyallii* var. *lyallii* f. *masoalensis* is epiphytic. In this place, there was just one on a tree. It is rather creeping or climbing as *M. Kéraudren* wrote. When she described this

plant, *M. Kéraudren* had not seen flowers, only fruits.

Description:

Creeping plant that may form a very large mat, sometimes climbing on rocks and trunks; stems are fine (diameter is 2 or 3 mm size), more or less ligneous at the base (but it is very difficult finding the start because under the leaves, it is a tangle of roots!) and they are 3 or 4 meters long; they have roots on the nodes.

Stipules (a stipule is a small foliaceous appendage, often two, at the base of the petiole) are almost triangular.

Leaves are small (about 5 cm x 3 cm); the **blade** is asymmetrical, green above, pale green-grey under, very denticulate, irregularly jagged and tri-pentalobated (with 5 lobes, each one divided 3 times) to palmatilobed (divided in lobes arranged around the petiole connection); the

continued on next page



Above, left: *Begonia lyallii* variety *lyallii* forma *masoalensis* male flowers. Above, right: Female flowers.

margin is reddish, denticulate, crenate; the **petiole** is longer than the blade and may be 10 cm long.

Inflorescence has 2 or 3 flowers and it is shorter than the leaves; male flowers have two orbicular pink tepals (6 x 8 mm); the androecium with about 12 stamens with a white column; female flowers have 4 pink tepals; the ovary is spindle-shaped, pale green, 5/10 cm long with 3 wings, one is distinctly longer than the other ones, triangular and rounded at the top; the styles are white-yellowish.

Cultivation:

This begonia is very rare in cultivation. It is a very delicate plant, not easy growing and it is very difficult to keep it.

- Roots need good aeration and growing in a pot often kills it. Watering packs down the substrate and roots are asphyxiated (this is true for all begonias!)
- In the Masoala area, the rain reaches 6m a year and the temperature is between 25°C (77°F) and 35°C (95°F). And near the rivers, humidity is higher. In cultivation, this begonia needs high humidity and a constant temperature about 25°C (77°F) In winter, it cannot

tolerate low temperatures.

- It seems that the light is not a problem and artificial light is desirable but not obligatory.

Of course, all these conditions require the use of a terrarium or a warm greenhouse for humidity above 80% and temperature above 25°C (77°F) in winter.

Since several months ago, I have grown this begonia in a large terrarium on living Sphagnum: first, I put a mix of perlite (50%) and peat compost (50%) on the bottom (7 or 8 cm high); then I moistened it; I put living Sphagnum above; Sphagnum retains much water and induces a high humidity. We do not need to water! Spraying from time to time (with rain water) is enough: results are spectacular! The plant spreads on the surface and makes roots on the Sphagnum. Then, roots grow spontaneously down the substrate.

Important: I never put roots in the earth, I put a stem (with leaves but without roots) on the Sphagnum and I spray! That's all! By the way: living Sphagnum grows too... and we get a very good biotope [area of environmental conditions] similar to the natural one. I also use

this way to propagate this begonia. The main difficulty is finding living Sphagnum (it is not the same as the dry Sphagnum from Chile.)

Unfortunately, I still have not gotten flowers. Perhaps, soon...the adventure goes on...

(1) (Flore de Madagascar et des Comores / Famille 144 / Bégoniacées, publication posthume mise au point par G.G. Aymonin et J. Bosser, éditée par le Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris en 1983)

Begonia lyallii var. *lyallii*
f. *masoalensis* (pictured
right), in situ



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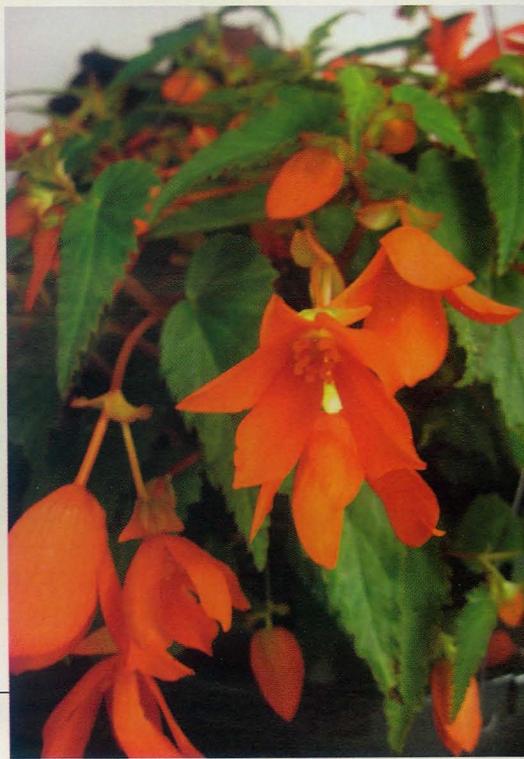
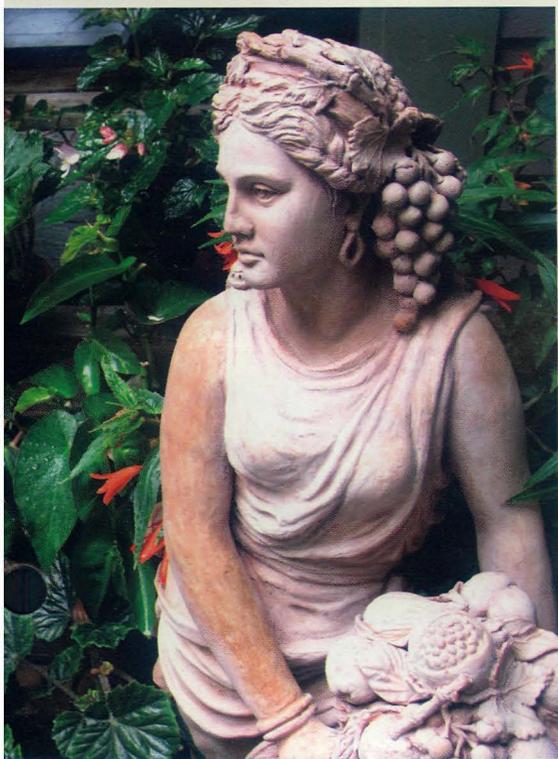
Buxton Begonia Society Judging Course

Article & photos by Tony Pinto, Brighton, MA

The Buxton Begonia group arranged for Mary Bucholtz and Charles Jaros to come down and deliver a course on Begonia judging during the weekend of June 12 and 13, 2010. More than 15 Buxton members attended the course, with one begonia enthusiast travelling from as far away as Pennsylvania. The venue for the event was the Tower Hill Botanic Gardens in Boylston, MA. The judging presentations were excellent and the members were made aware of judging responsibilities. There was an excellent variety of begonias which were eventually judged by the members. Thanks to everyone who brought food and refreshments for the event. Hopefully Buxton will have more judges for the Begonia shows in the future.



Clockwise. **Above:** *B. 'Art Hodes'* **Center, top:** Everyone joins in for the sample judging. **Center, middle:** *B. 'Cathedral'* **Top, right:** *B. 'Kismet'* **Far right, edge:** Mary Bucholtz during her demonstration. **Far right, center:** Charles Jaros presents a lecture. **Bottom, right:** *B. boliviensis* hybrid 'Starfire'
Bottom, center: Begonias at Tower Hill



B. 'Richmondensis' and Friends

Article and photos by Brad Thompson, Vista, CA

Over the years some shrubs have become so used in landscapes and gardens that they have somehow become 'common' and are often overlooked. It was the very traits that made them useful that also made them common and we should take a few moments to consider the great attributes of these 'common' varieties. *B. 'Richmondensis'* is the most famous but I'm including other begonias in this article

because of their similar traits.

Some were considered so 'common' they are in danger of becoming 'rare' because no one propagates them or buys them at club sales much anymore.

B. 'Richmondensis' has been grown widely since its introduction in 1939. In California it is so widely used in landscaping that many begonia growers put it in the same box as the semperflorens and consider it just another bedding plant. *B. 'Richmondensis'* is much more than that. It is probably one of most versatile begonias ever created. Just a few of its winning traits; it doesn't get mildew, it can grow in conditions from full sun to nearly full shade, blooms continuously, grows as easily into a hanging basket as it does in the ground, can be pruned and hacked to any shape and size for the situation. Sounds more like a super begonia than a 'common' begonia. Here in CA you can grow it in full sun where even the leaves glow red. It is also readily available from nearly every garden center, which is a big plus if you need a lot of them.

B. acuminata (also sometimes circulated as *B. 'White Richmondensis'*), and *B. 'Catalina'* offer many of the same fine traits as *B. 'Richmondensis'* but with green leaves and either white or pink flowers. All are great on their own or are a great contrast to *B. 'Richmondensis'* in a group planting. Some of their identi-





What a wonderful variety of easy to care for shrub begonias.

This page: *B. acuminata* (left) and *B. 'Catalina'* (center) on display at Gazebo show. Photo by Gary Hunt.
Opposite page - Top: *B. 'Richmondensis'* Photo by Dan Houston. **Second, down:** *B. 'Concord'* Photo by Julie Vanderwilt. **Third down, left:** *B. 'Catalina'* Photo by Julie Vanderwilt. **Third down, right:** *B. 'Mirabel'* Photo by Julie Vanderwilt. **Bottom, left:** *B. acutifolia* Photo by Brad Thompson.
Bottom, right: *B. acuminata* in display at Gazebo show. Photo by Gary Hunt.

ties and/or names may be in question; I'm only going the names they were circulated under in CA.

B. 'Concord' is a truly underrated begonia. It was hybridized by Michael Kartuz in 1967 and has been a popular mainstay ever since. It is often one of the first begonias people are exposed to. In my case it was my first begonia and my first begonia to win a trophy and cultural award at my first show. Although not as widely used as *B. 'Richmondensis'* it should be, since, in addition to sharing all the fine qualities, it also has the additional quality of nearly black foliage. Like *B. 'Richmondensis'*, *B. 'Concord'* can grow in full sun or nearly full sun in coastal California and other places with similar conditions. It can bleach out to a dark brown in the sun in some growing conditions but will have the best foliage color with some shade. *B. 'Concord'* is not as upright growing as *B. 'Richmondensis'* so really lends itself to making

great hanging baskets with little effort.

I guess this article wouldn't be complete without a mention of *B. 'Digswelliana'*, the ancestor of many of the aforementioned begonias. Although more challenging than the others, it has one thing the other's lack, bright red flowers. It does best as a hanging basket.

All the begonias mentioned above are easy to care for with a minimum effort which is one of the biggest reasons they are now taken for granted. Since they are all ever-blooming, a simple haircut once a year to make them put up basal growth and stay full are about all they need other than occasional shaping. As with all begonias regular feeding when they are actively growing and water when dry.

As always I hope this article spurred some interest in these begonias for you and that you will consider some of these begonias the next time you're planting a row of semperflorens. Semps are underrated too, they all go great together.

What's in the name – *B. salesopolensis*

By Kingsley Langenberg, Nomenclature Editor



which likes to sprawl, so I grow it as a hanging plant. The leaves have undulating margins which gives them a frilly look. It flowered for me during January-March with sparse white flowers.

This is one of many rarely-grown species that I obtained as seed purchased from Mauro Peixoto (brazil-plants.com). My plant is now in its third year of growth.

Part of the charm of this species from Brazil is saying its name, *Begonia salesopolensis*.

The many syllables, “sal-e-sop-o-len-sis”, tumble from the tongue bringing to mind a cascading mountain stream which, as I found through research on the Internet, is quite an appropriate image.

The Latin ending “-ensis”, means “from the place”. So, reading backwards as one must often do when parsing Latin, the name means “Begonia from the place Salesopol[is].”

Salesópolis, according to Wikipedia, is a municipality in the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo. The area gives rise to the Tietê River, which continues to flow down through the city of Sao Paulo. Laws were passed in 1975 which control land use and industrialization of the area so as to minimize pollution of the river at its source. There are parks with hiking trails but no roads south of the town. People come up from the city to enjoy nature and play in the cascades of the mountain streams.*

B. salesopolensis is a shrub-like species



Above, left: Vista of Salesópolis, SP, Brazil Found on Wikipedia.com. Above, right: Frilly leaves of *B. salesopolensis*. Photo: Kingsley Langenberg

Even its habit of growth reinforces the tumbling image evoked by pronouncing the name, *salesopolensis*.

*A YouTube video of a couple enjoying the trails and waterfall can be downloaded at: <http://youtubevideo.isgoodness.com/watch/video/id/PZkEXCt1JhQ> (as of 1-Aug-2010.)

A Season of Transition

By Greg Sytch, Horticultural Correspondent

Autumn is the time for growers in the northern areas to prepare for winter. Once again, checking plants that summered outdoors for critters should be numero uno. For me here in Florida, ants are our main pest. Insects rarely bother my begonias, except for a slug or snail, and perhaps a lubber here and there. But ants - they get everywhere. In pots, nested along the side of the inside, in the bottom. They can bring destructive insects as they harvest aphid juice or mealybug cotton, but usually they are just a nest. I try to eradicate with granules, and check nearby pots. First use the least invasive method to rid the begonias of insects before turning to the primo sprays. Often soap and water mixed with alcohol can do the trick.

Remember to check the heights of canes and shrubs, as they may be too big if they come indoors. In my area, our winter cold and storms preclude me to hack my larger, taller plants back. They are easier to cover in case of a cold snap or less likely to blow down in a winter cold front. Even one full day left fallen over can lead to tall growth being disfigured.

Try and wait until the last possible moment to bring them indoors. The cooler nights will slow down growth and make the transition indoors less painful. Often, a cover or blanket for an early cold spell will suffice when warmer fall weather returns. A small percentage of begonias may be quite sensitive but by now you should know which ones.

Our summers are usually sodden with rainfall, and this July has been no exception. June was hot, humid, muggy and dry. Less than 2" fell at my house. July has been hot, very humid, very muggy, and wet with over 14" as of this writing. That kind of heavy rainfall can also leach out time-release fertilizers, so

be aware of when they are due. If plants are about to go indoors, a half-strength feeding a few weeks prior will help the transition be a smooth one. A foliar spray incorporating soap and fertilizer, with baking soda, will kill three bugs with one stone. No sense in creating more work when you can "throw it all in" at once!

Q: Heavy summer rains have left a few pots wet and not allowing them

to dry out. What can I do?

A: A common problem in hot, rainy areas. Peat-based mixes dry out slowly in humid conditions. When I notice a plant not drying out and faring poorly, I remove it from the pot, tap off excess soils lightly, and move without a pot to a shaded, dry area protected from rainfall. Left there for a few days, the rootball will dry out and be ready for a new pot. Repot so it can barely fit, and water in lightly. You should see new life as the rootball dries out and growth begins anew. REMEMBER: Send your questions to me. I will reply as soon as I can. gsytch@cs.com.

In the Mailbox

Begonia 'Red Petticoat'
Photo by Tony Pinto



CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

The Margaret Lee Branch, San Diego County, CA

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

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

Listed to the right are the newly received seeds now available from the Seed Fund. A special "thank you" to Rekha Morris for her contribution of these seeds:

Seeds collected in India, Dec. 2009 – Jan. 2010

Seeds marked with [*] are offered for the first time

The following set of seeds included require clarification with regard to their origins:

Please refer to the January/ February issue of the *Begonian* for a list of all available seeds.

Packets of seeds of species and U numbers are \$1.50. All packets of cultivars (including open pollinated) seeds are 50 cents per packet. Very rare seeds and newly collected seeds will be \$2.00 or more per packet. California residents please add 8.75% sales tax. All orders must be accompanied by check or money order, payable in US funds ONLY to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

Please send your order with payment to:

American Begonia Society, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund, Dean Turney, 467 Fulvia Street, Encinitas, CA 92024,

e-address: dean @deansmail.us

Cost of mailing: US only: 1-12 packets \$1; 13-24, \$1.35; 25-36, \$1.71; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.30; 49-60, \$2.66. Canada only:

- B. acetosella* var. *hirtifolia*RM-AR-961
New for India
B. burkilliRM-AR-1010
B. cathcartiiRM-AR-965
B. x. chungii [*]RM-AR-815
(a natural hybrid of *B. longifolia* X *B. palmata*) *New for India*
B. dioica [*]RM-AR-1041
B. dipetalaRM-SI-891
(leaf underside maroon)
B. dipetalaRM-SI-890
(regular form of this sp.)
B. integrifoliaRM-SI-649
B. nepalensis [*]RM-AR-1042
B. palmataRM-SI-992
B. scintillans [*]RM-AR-1012
B. sikkimensis [*]RM-AR-1036
B. sikkimensis var. *kamengensis* . .RM-AR-1953
New varietal form
B. xanthinaRM-AR-1051
Seeds of 2 species collected in Taiwan in Oct. 2009
B. formosana [*]RM-TW-899
B. longifoliaRM-TW-900
B. x chungiiRM-AR-815
(The seeds of this batch of *B. x chungii* are from plants collected in Jan. 2009, currently in cultivation.)

1-12 packets, \$1.10; 13-24, \$1.46; 25-36, \$1.82; 37-48 (2 cans) \$2.35; 49-60, \$2.71. Mexico only: 1-12 packets, \$1.15; 13-24, \$1.51; 25-36, \$1.87; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.50; 49-60, \$2.81. All other international mail: 1-12 packets, \$1.85; 13-24, \$2.68; 25-36, \$3.68; 37-48, \$4.68; 49-60, \$5.68.

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

Seed Fund Identification: Correction

By Rekha Morris, Pendleton, SC

I must correct an error I made in the identification of seeds sent last year, i.e., from my trip to Arunachal Pradesh in Jan. 2009.

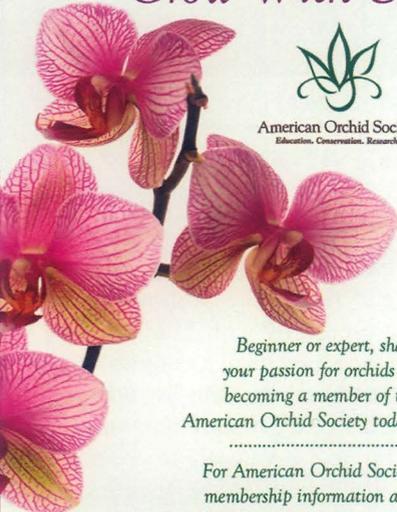
The seeds I sent marked as *B. picta* were seeds of *B. dioica*. This mistake arose from my seeing a single leaf of *B. picta* at this precise location in 2005. So when I saw the capsules in Jan. 2009 I assumed these belonged to *B. picta*. This January i.e. Jan. 2010, I returned to the site of *B. dioica* where I found capsules and tubers. I also returned to the site of *B. picta* where I had collected capsules last January I found more capsules and tubers, and in comparing them with those of *B. dioica* I realized that I had made a terrible error in identifying *B. dioica* as *B. picta*. Please correct your labels: what was iden-

tified as *B. picta* in 2009 turns out to be *B. dioica*. Both are tuberous species. Please accept my apologies for this error.

A few suggestions for success with these seeds:

[1] Most of these seeds come from higher elevations, approximately 1500'-5000'. Their habitat is enveloped in mist

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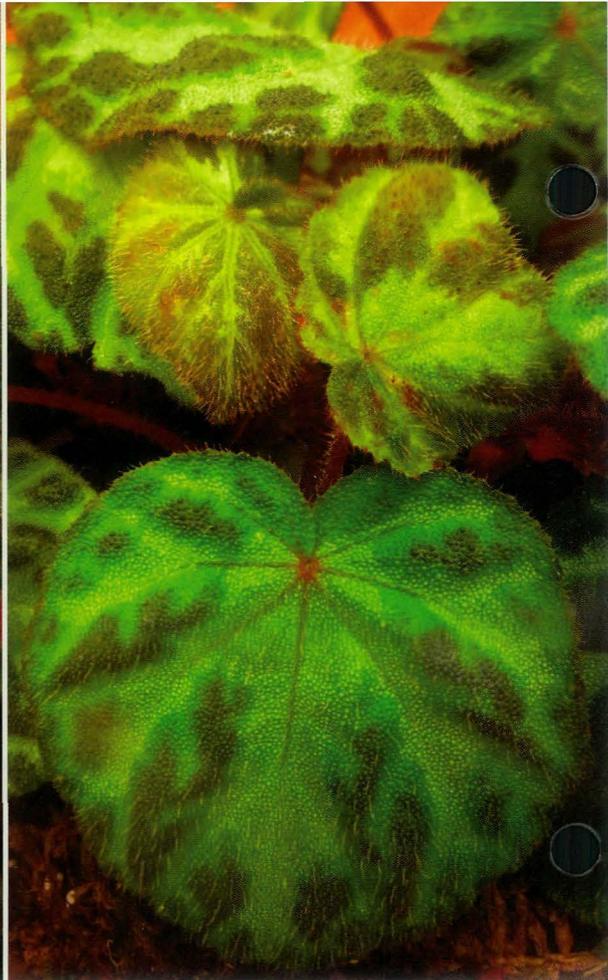
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B. U043. This plant is old and has not been named. Photo by Thelma O'Reilly



Left: *Begonia imperialis* Right: *Begonia turrialbae* Photos by Tony Pinto

Seed Fund Identification: Correction ...continued from pg. 187

and fog by early afternoon. In the summer it is better not to grow them with either bottom heat or under artificial lights as they are from fairly cool habitats. I grow them in a well lit green house where they do not get direct sunlight, and are not under lights.

[2] Before sprinkling seeds I drench the seed starting medium with a solution of dry powdered neem leaves in water as this kills fungi, and the seedlings do not suffer from die back.

[3] After sowing the seeds I cover the seed trays with a clear plastic cover, and forget about them till I see little green dots! Do not overwater!

[4] Some seeds take much longer to germinate... almost as long as 6 months to a year, so do not give up on them prematurely! Keep the soil moist and be patient especially with *B. scintillans*!

[5] Once they have a couple of leaves I begin adding a little kelp /sea weed fertilizer on a weekly basis. I only use organic fertilizer, and I continue to use powdered neem when I water the seedlings/plants on a weekly basis to prevent infestation by spider mites, and other such pests.

[6] Remove the cover on the seed trays gradually: from about 15 minutes daily for 4 or 5 days, then for 30 minutes, and so on.

New Cultivars Official International Registration 1003: *B. 'Majesty'*

Gene Salisbury, Nomenclature Director

Applications to register begonia cultivars may be obtained from Gene Salisbury, PO Box 52, Tonkawa, OK 74653. Forms must be typed or printed in ink and accompanied by a \$2.00 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 'Majesty'

No. 1003. Sport of 'Peridot'. Propagated through 4 generations.

Originator: Charles Henthorne, 2200 Glen Forest Lane, Plano, TX 75023.

Developed in 2007. Non-bloomer. First distributed in 2008.

First mentioned in a publication in the April-May 2010 Begonia Leaflet newsletter.

Description of Cultivar

Begonia 'Majesty' is a creeping, non-spiral Rex cultorum. Leaves: Color- variegation prominent-slight purple tinge, veins-dark green/blue silver overlay. This stitch leaved Rex has leaves which measure 2.25 – 2.75 inches. The margin is angular and the surface is hairy. There are 6 main veins. The hairy, red petioles are 1-3 inches. Stipules are also red, hirsute and measure 1/8" in length and 1/8' in width.

Description

Description: Some would consider this a small rhizomatous with distinctive foliage. Height at maturity in 4-5 inches for this plant. Leaves variegated with dark avocado green base and blue



Begonia 'Majesty' was shown at the SWR Get-Together where it placed First in its class.

silver overlay and slight overall purple tinge, shape of leaf does have a very slight rex spiral and dimensions are 2.25-2.75 inches, non-peltate and the veins are palmate. Leaf margins angular, stems red, 204 inches and hirsute covering of both leaf and stem, texture is coriaceous type, with surface being rugose.

This variety has been tested and recommended for registration by Charles Henthorne (address listed above) who also prepared this description. Date registration was applied for was May 25, 2010. Registration was approved on June 23, 2010.

Leora's Garden in Plano, TX

Article & photos by Charles Henthorne, Plano, TX



Leora always works hard and we always have a beautiful yard. This year the canes, and rhizomes, as well as the semps have done very, very well in the ground, and are now in full bloom. This is the best year ever for our begonias in the ground. Besides begonias there are several shade loving plants, which act as companion plants to our begonia plantings. There are caladiums, hardy ferns of all kinds, toad lillies, ground orchards, hostas, columbines, and spiderworts. All of them make a colorful display throughout the summer months and late into the fall.



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Ornament Terrariums

By Johanna Zinn, Fairfax, VA

A few years ago, I saw a photo in a magazine showing clear glass ornaments filled with red berries and photographs, and thought of using them as mini-terrariums. I finally found the ornaments last year, thanks to a gardener at the USBG, and planted them. It was more difficult than I had thought, but worth the effort. It requires a fair amount of effort to gather the materials, so plant several at a time. They make great gifts, and are attractive decorating a north window, a tree, a mantle, or a table.

Supplies needed:

- Long handled tweezers
- Clear glass ornaments
- Moistened sphagnum moss
- Wooden spoon or stick
- Small paintbrush
- Scissors, large and small pair
- Medicine dropper
- Small box or plastic container
- Cotton balls or pieces of paper towels
- Plant or cutting
- Funnel
- Ornament stand [optional]

Planting the ornament

Trim lightly moistened sphagnum moss into ¼ inch or smaller pieces. Smaller pieces of moss pass through the narrow end of the funnel more easily. Also, since the ornaments are quite small, more finely cut pieces are more in scale with the container. In addition, the small plants suitable for the ornaments often root and grow better in finely cut moss. Perlite and charcoal are visible when the ornament is displayed, so I do not use them in the ornaments.

Place the ornament into a tight fitting box or plastic container to hold it upright so that you have both hands available for planting.

Place the funnel into the top of the orna-



Happily growing in its tiny bubble is *B. bogneri*
Photo by Johanna Zinn

ment and push the moss into the ornament with the handle of a wooden spoon. Fill the ornament approximately one third full. Make a hole in the moss the size of the root ball or the cutting stem with the handle

...continued on next page

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Above: *B. prismatocarpa* "Variegated" **Below:** Tools needed to build an ornament terrarium
 Photos by Johanna Zinn

of the spoon. If the plant you are using needs more 'head room', use slightly less moss.

Use the tweezers to lower the plant or cutting into the depression in the moss. If the plant has branches that might break while slipping them into the ornament, lay the plant on a small section of paper

towel, gently move and hold the branches upward, and roll the plant up in the paper towel. Lower the paper towel cone into the ornament and gently remove the paper towel with the tweezers. Put the plant into the depression in the moss and firm the moss around the plant roots or the cutting with the spoon handle.

Clean the sides of the ornament with a folded piece of paper towel or a cotton ball held by the tweezers. Tweezers that are curved at the end make it easier to clean the sides of the ornament. This is often the most time consuming part of this process. Foliage may be cleaned with gentle strokes with the small paint brush.

Water lightly with the medicine dropper if needed. Use room temperature or slightly warmer water. Do not use the medicine dropper and water to wash the moss from the glass; the ornaments have no drainage holes, and the moss will get too wet. Removing extra water from the ornament would be very challenging.

Replace the ornament lid, and place the ornament wherever you would place a terrarium. Use the box in which the ornaments were sold or a display stand to hold the ornament upright.



Pruning/Grooming:

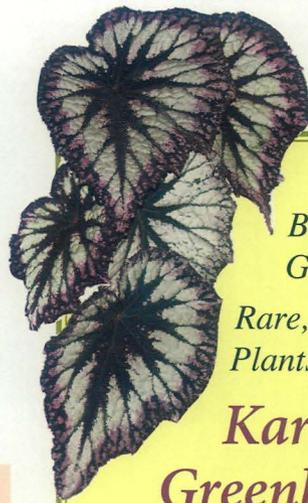
Even the smallest of begonias will eventually fill the ornament. Grooming and pruning are a challenge because of the small opening. I use a pair of small scissors to prune unruly growth and cut out dead leaves. Long handled tweezers work well to remove the debris from the ornament. A small paintbrush can be used to clean off leaves and to push bits of sphagnum on the glass or push roots growing on the glass down into the moss.



Miniature fern and ficus sitting on 1 1/2" diam. toy wheel Photo by Linda Tamblin

Suitable plants:

Because planting the ornaments is time consuming, I like to put plants into the ornaments that do not need frequent trimming, or that will outgrow the ornament quickly. Suitable plants include *B. prismatocarpa*, *B. prismatocarpa* 'Variegation', *B. 'Peridot'*, *B. bowerae* var. *nigramarga*, *B. 'Five and Dime'*, and *B. 'Small Change'*. Miniature ferns, ficus, orchids, selaginella, and micro-mini sinningias will also work. *B. prismatocar-*



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pa 'Variegation' has worked best for me. It grows slowly, looks attractive against the moss, and blooms well under lights. My biggest mistake was putting a small, sad piece of *B. U012* into an ornament. I now have a very healthy *B. U012* growing in the ornament, and no way to safely get it out.

Suggestions for finding supplies:

Clear glass ornaments: Craft/hobby stores, on line

Long handled tweezers: Medical supply stores, bonsai tweezers

Long handled scissors: Medical supply stores, on line vendors

Small paintbrushes: Craft/hobby stores

Medicine droppers: Grocery/drug stores

Single or multiple ornament display stands:

Craft/hobby stores, on line

-Enjoy!

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Begonia wollnyi

A distinctive and easily identified species, *Begonia wollnyi*, (right and opposite page) inhabits higher altitude forests in Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. Give this plant excellent drainage and bright light for the best form and color. As the plant matures the stem becomes trunk-like. Interestingly, both peltate and non-peltate leaves can be seen on the same plant.

Photos by Thelma O'Reilly





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Clockwise from top, right: *Masdevallia* Orchid.
Bottom right: Unidentified *Streptocarpus*. Bottom
left: *B.* 'Snowcapped'. Center: *Chirita* 'Diane Marie'.
Opposite page: Coleus. Photos by Tony Pinto





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The inflorescence of *B.* 'Violet Bell' - a recent cross with *B.* Frost's 'Dorothy Behrends' x *B. carrieae*. Cross & photo by Thelma O'Reilly

Quotable

My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view. ~H. Fred Dale

One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides. ~W.E. Johns, *The Passing Show*

I have never had so many good ideas, day after day, as when I worked in the garden. ~John Erskine

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B. albo-coccinea. This begonia was collected by Dr. Rekha Morris around 2006 or 2007 while on an expedition to Western Ghats of peninsular India. Photo by Tom Keepin



