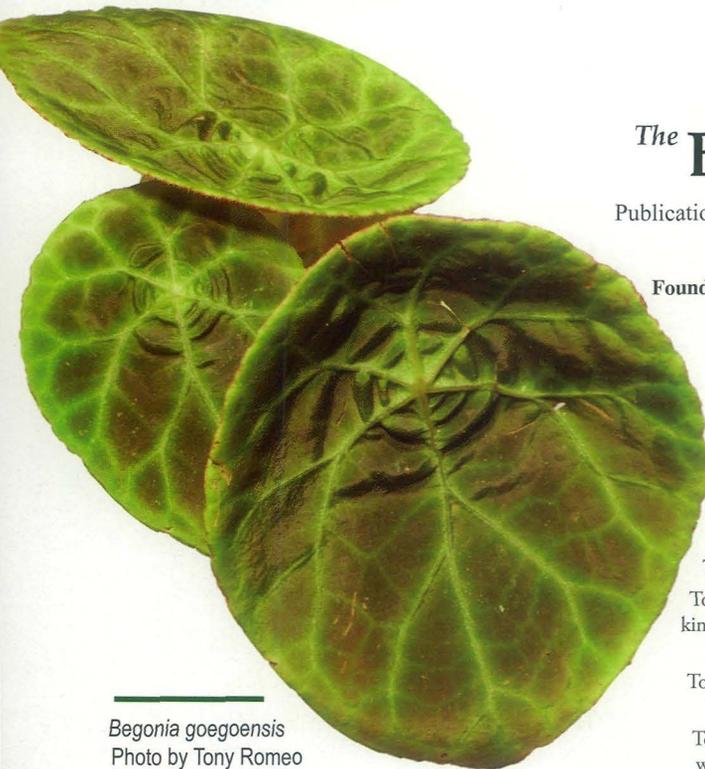


THE

BEGONIAN

January/February 2011





The **Begonian**

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American Begonia Society
Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

- To stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.
- To encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.
- To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.
- To gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation, and culture of begonias and companion plants.
- To issue a bulletin that will be mailed to all members of the society.
- To bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

Begonia goegoensis
Photo by Tony Romeo

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On the cover: This Rex is one of the ones I picked out as having promise. I have named it *B.* 'Broken Heart' the cross being *B.* 'Silver Twist' x Mixed Rex pollen. The begonia at the bottom is a spotted cane x *B. radicans*. Plants grown and photographed by Tony Romeo, Australia.

Back cover: *B. x chungii*, an exciting "NEW" species from India. Rekha Morris details her find on page 18.



Begonia letouzeyi pg.



Begonia sericoneura pg. 14



B. x chungii pg. 18

President's Message

A few issues back I asked everyone to send a short (or long) remembrance about a special begonia from their past. It can be about one you have grown for many, many years or one you remember that someone close to you grew. Linda (editor of *The Begonian*) tells me she hasn't received a single note about begonia nostalgia.

Please share your stories with us.

With the New Year upon us I have been thinking of ways to make this a better year for all of us. I find I am working more toward simplifying so I can actually spend time doing more of what gives my life the most enjoyment. One of those things, (as you might have suspected) is my begonia collection. I am also vowing to see to it that I share that love with more people.

If each of us could find just one place to share begonias I think it would make a very large difference. Find a place - your beauty salon, bank, and restaurant - where you can place a begonia. Include

an easy-to-read card that says something like: "Want to grow begonias like this? Call ___", or, "If you love begonias call ___". You get the idea.

Carry some of these cards with you to place on bulletin boards at stores and especially nurseries.

This could be an individual or a Branch effort. It will educate the public to the fact that there is more to life than semps. Don't you just love it when someone asks, "Is that really a begonia?" You will have "spread the word" to one more person and you just might get a new member.

My goals are to learn from the past, be thankful for the new and live in the miracles of each and every day.

Share the joy!

Cheryl

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations and start grooming your entries for the exciting Oklahoma Convention and Get Together in May.



The best of a batch of hybrid rexes. *B. masoniana* in the background that won a Best Species trophy. Plants grown and photographed by Tony Romeo.

2011 ABS Awards - Call For Nominations

By Ann Salisbury, Awards Chairman

They are the American Begonia Society's "Magnificent Seven". You have an opportunity to make seven nominations for 2010.

Join us in Oklahoma City, OK in 2011 when we present these awards that recognize outstanding service and achievements in our society. Please take the time now to write up your nomination. The nomination must contain the name of the award, the recipient's name and reasons that make them or the plant eligible for the award.

If you have nominated someone in the past and they have not won, please nominate them again. The committee may present only one of each of the awards each year.

I must receive these nominations by **April 5, 2011**. The Board has approved e-mail nominations; however, by mail or e-mail, **one nomination per page!** Please mail all nominations to:

Ann Salisbury, Awards Chairman

P. O. Box 452

Tonkawa, OK 74653

Email: geneann@sbcglobal.net

AWARD CRITERIA:

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

The **Eva Kenworthy Gray Award** is given for contributing original material toward helping the rank and file members

further their study of begonias.

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

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

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

The **Marge Lee Award** is given to a person who contributes something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among members.

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



THE AMERICAN
IVY SOCIETY INC

AIS is the International Registration Authority for Hedera, provides sources for new and unusual ivies: publishes three ivy newsletters, *Between the Vines*, and one *IVY Journal* a year with reports on research hardiness testing, life-sized

photos of ivies. Each member also receives an ivy plant.

Membership: General \$20; Institutional \$30; Commercial \$50.

Information: American Ivy Association, P.O. Box 2123, Naples, FL 34106-2123



Left: Peter Sharp checks out a blooming begonia in the Sydney Botanical Garden. Center and far right: Examples of the hedge planted begonias. Just lovely! Photos by Antoon Hoefnagles

Great News! A New Trend Is Born - Begonias as Hedge Plantings

By Antoon Hoefnagles, Netherlands

I would like to tell you about the latest news in the begonia world. You will want to dig up all your boxwood, privet, conifers and other hedge plants and get ready for this new trend in the plant world. This type of landscaping is beautiful to behold and should be of special interest to commercial growers.

During the last Australian convention I was able to tour the magnificent Sydney Botanical Garden with Peter Sharp. It was absolutely wonderful to see the creative use of begonias by Peter and his team.

They have created a rainforest and a sunny area with *B. venosa* and assorted semperflorens. There is a deep shade garden with *B. listada* and *B. paulensis* and in the center of all this Peter has his very own bench with his name on it under some tall cane begonias.

Being a former Englishman, he has created a cottage garden with a hedge of *B. oxyphylla*.

Just as in the US, I have found the Australian begonia people to be very friendly and seem to be infected with the same begonia "disease" we all share.

The days of this convention were filled with very good speakers. The private gardens we visited were awesomely beautiful. They were truly amazing. I have not often had the opportunity to see such beautiful begonia displays.

So put the next Australian convention in March 2011 on your schedule and buy your tickets. You must see this Mecca for begoniacs at least once in your lifetime.

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About my trip to Gabon

By Jacky Duruisseau, Bois France

Dear friends,

As you know, Colette, my wife, and I traveled to Gabon last May/June. It was a great trip, but a difficult one. They were not holidays! As I often say to my friends, I have my holidays at home, before starting...

There were three parts to this expedition. First, the Crystal Mountains, in the North: many begonias, many species in this area. Then the Doudou Mountains in the South: no such luck! No begonias (the GPS information I had gave latitude and longitude accurate to minutes (for example: 02° 15' South) but between 02°15' S and 02° 16' S, there are 1800 m! In the forest, 1800 m is enormous!) Moreover, we had a very difficult access trek (about 15 km) before reaching the top of Doudou Mountain (3 hours!). And finally, the Chaillu Range, in the center of Gabon: no better luck, because on the road between Lebamba and Mimongo (about 100 km), after 40 km, our way was blocked by a very big fallen tree! No possibility for phoning (no network!). The only solution: go back! It would be difficult to go by another route because we could not find fuel anywhere in Gabon! So we went along the Ogooué River towards Ndjolé and did find some species there.

On the bright side, we saw many begonias - about twenty of them - and I brought some back! On the other hand, we brought back few seeds because the begonia fruits were green or absent. But the plants I am growing now are new strains and I hope to have success in pollination with the ones I grew before the trip and so get some seeds.



I want to thank the ABS members who have helped me. I have sent them some seed from Gabon species. Since that time, I received \$1000 US from Carol Notaras, the ABS Treasurer. This money will be used for the next trip. And next time I hope to do better! Anyway, if I have success with my pollinations, if I get seed, I will not forget my ABS friends. I told that to Cheryl Lenert, the

ABS President, when she came here with Tom Keepin. We had a very nice time.

Thanks so much again.

I plan to write an article about this trip. Soon ...

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Begonia letouzeyi Sosef 1994

Section: Loasibegonia

Article & photos by Jacky Duruisseau, Bois France

This yellow-flowered begonia was dedicated to Dr. René Letouzey (1918-1989) who studied Tropical Africa flora. *B. letouzeyi* grows in Equatorial Africa, from West Cameroon to West Congo through Gabon, and very probably Equatorial Guinea too. We have seen it in Novem-

ber 2003 and last May/June in the Crystal Mountains of north Gabon. We have not found it in the south, but Marc Sosef, who described this plant in 1994, has examined specimens from Mayombé, in the South of Gabon (Begoniaceae, sections Loasibego-

Continued on next page

More on the Begonia Database

Dear Members,

Thank you for your kind donation of \$500.00 in support of the International Database of the BEGONIACEAE. It is wonderful to have the American Begonia Society involved with this project. The funds will be used to continue the hosting of the database on the web so that all may continue to use it.

There is still much work to be done for the long-term future of the database, and I intend to continue its development by adding new begonias and photos as well as update information on the plants already listed (about 17,000 of them). I will also improve the look and feel of the database and hope to include more features such as: an extra photo page for more detailed photos; a section to include taxonomist published descriptions of species; a section on endangered species; information on which plants are known in cultivation as well as a glossary of terms so that more technical jargon is quickly explained as you scroll across the data.

I still need much more information and hope to encourage members to be proactive in their support. For instance I need photos of many more begonias and would be happy to accept .jpg files via e-mail so that I can upload them. Members would

be credited for this on the web site. I also need information of any new begonias that members are aware of that aren't yet in the database. Members can also help update any missing information on any begonia they grow that does not appear in the database. This can be achieved by using the "wiki" tab in the database. This is set up for anyone to submit data easily. All you need to do is type the data in the various fields on the "wiki" page and scroll right down the bottom and click "save record" and the information you have submitted will automatically be sent to me to review and update after verification. It is so easy.

I encourage member's involvement and look forward to working with you in the future to ensure the long-term viability of this project. I have a number of e-mail addresses but the easy one to remember when you wish to enquire about the database is:

update@ibegonias.com

The Society will receive acknowledgement of your kind donation on the "Acknowledgement" page of the database web site. Once again thank you and may I wish you all good begonia growing.

Yours Sincerely,
Ross Bolwell



Begonia letouzeyi (above, left) with swollen ovary. Female *B. letouzeyi* flower (top, right).
Male *B. letouzeyi* flower (bottom, right).

nia and *Scutobegonia*.)

The first time I saw this plant, I did not know it. I took some pictures and Marc Sosef identified it as *B. letouzeyi*. In the Crystal Mountains, *B. letouzeyi* grows sometimes on the floor of the rain forest, and often we have seen it on the banks of rivers and on the slopes near roads. Often it grows on vertical rocks and on mossy tree trunks where it is epiphytic.

A very beautiful memory from our recent trip to Gabon: on June 1st at the entrance to a hollow near the road between Tchimbélé and Kinguélé, in the Crystal Mountains: on the right, on a vertical rock was *B. susaniae* (about ten plants), on the floor, *B. letouzeyi* (a carpet!), and on a rock at the bottom, *B. vittariifolia* (a swarm of plants!) Wonderful! Fantastic!

Unfortunately, we did not find this plant in blossom - no fruit, nor any seed! The

only flowers I have seen are the ones I got in my greenhouse each year for several years. The flowers are the largest of the section *Loasibegonia*.

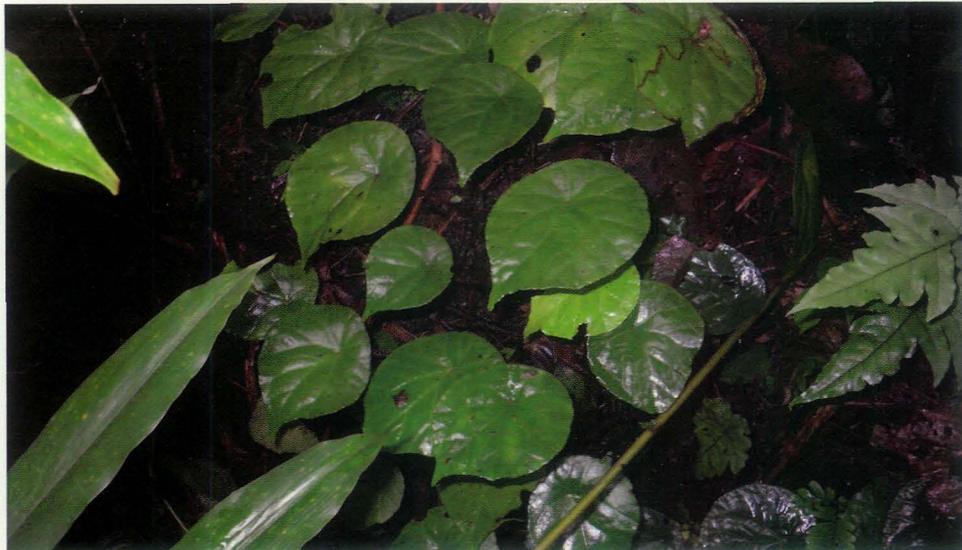
Description:

The plant is about 25 cm high in the wild, shorter in cultivation a rhizomatous begonia, the rhizome being stout, hirsute, the terminal part not ascending the stipules are usually triangular, bronze green to reddish the leaves are peltate, the petiole runs in line with the midrib, inserted 5 to 10 mm from the margin, 10 to 25 cm long, often red but sometimes green, often very hirsute with white hairs; the blade is borne more or less horizontally, 5-15 x 3-10 cm in size, is almost symmetrical, ovate or elliptical, acuminate, gradually tapering with shallow teeth to the apex, has about ten palmate main nerves, entire margins, green, smooth, hirsute with white hairs, the underside is pale green with hirsute veins the same color as those above, slightly raised from the lower surface.

The inflorescence has 3 or 4 male

Continued on pg. 36

The Afabego website is now on line.
The address is www.afabego.fr. Visit
the photo gallery to see many of
Jacky's pictures of African species.



Begonia letouzeyi (above) growing in habitat in the Crystal Mountains Gabon, Africa.

Notice the hairy stems (below, left).



3 to 9 mm long and brownish-green to reddish, hirsute with white hairs; usually 4 locules and 4-winged in the apical part, however wings are not always present; the peduncle of the fruit is not recurved towards the soil, rather the fruit is erect

Cultivation:

This begonia is rare in cultivation. It is not easy to grow and it is difficult to maintain, as are all Equatorial Africa species.

It requires a terrarium or a warm greenhouse

You must maintain humidity above 80% and temperature between 18°C (65°F) in winter and 30°C (85°F) in summer. In the Crystal Mountains, the temperatures range from 22°C (72°F) during the dry season, May to September, to 30°C (85°F) during the rain season. The temperature range is narrow. Humidity is between 85 % and 95 %. Keep that in mind!

Roots need good aeration; in the terrarium, grow it in the soil rather than in a pot. Don't forget: in nature, *B. letouzeyi*

flowers and 1 terminal female, with the flowers often hidden under the leaves; the peduncle is 1.5-10 cm long, usually reddish, hirsute with long white hairs; the bracts are 3 to 8 cm long, circular and bronze-green to pale red; male flowers have an orange pedicel; tepals are often elliptical with the base rounded, 1.5 to 2 cm, orange-yellow outside, red nerves inside; they have 15 to 40 stamens female flowers are the same size and colors as the male the ovary is nearly obovate and is

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Walter Pease: In Memoriam

Janet Brown, Westchester Branch

With great sadness we report the passing of a begonia legend, Walter Pease. He was 87.

Walter and his beloved wife Ruth were charter members of the Westchester Begonia Society, September 1959. By 1968 Walter was the American Begonia Society President, Awards Chairman, and Parliamentarian. And he had served as Westchester President from 1965 to 1967 and many other offices. Walter received a special ABS Award for his exceptional service to begonias and the American Begonia Society from Past President John Provine in 1973.

Walter Pease was an amazing grower. His specialty was the tuberous begonias. He had an extensive collection of the species, *B. boliviensis*, *sutherlandii*, *pearcei*, *cinnabarina*, and he grew beautiful tuberhybrida such as *B. 'Santa Barbara'*, *'Venturii'* and *'Bumblebee'*. His gorgeous orange tuberous won Best in Show at Westchester in 1996. At our yearly shows Walter was Placement Chairman and wife, Ruth, did the registration. Walter gave us many enlightening and entertaining programs on how to grow these beauties.

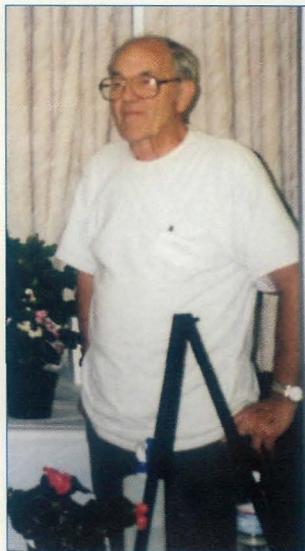
Before Walter Pease became President of the ABS the convention banquets were pick-up spaghetti dinners. When he was in charge he began the banquet tradition. Cornish game hens were the breakthrough main course. Some were so shocked that they threatened to quit the society and boycott the banquet. But those who stayed were delighted and the tradition of superb cuisine continues to this day, saving us all from spaghetti!

Walter was a builder by profession and an excellent one. He supervised the building of the Congregational Church of

the Messiah where Westchester Branch holds their meetings. He was also a 'builder' of the American Begonia Society. Here is an excerpt from his President's Message, *Begonian*, Vol.

36 February 1969: "In a recent letter to our editor the question was asked, 'Why should we join the ABS?' I suppose the reasons for joining any organization are many. Some join for social activity, some for a feeling of civic responsibility. However, I believe the main reason for becoming a member of the ABS is to share in the search for knowledge and the pleasures of growing these wonderful plants. Nature has provided that man be inquisitive. He is not satisfied that things just happen; he must know why, and the plants of the family *Begoniaceae* probably provide more "whys" than any other plant family known to man." And he ends his message: "Remember, 'To do is to learn'." Walter Pease

Westchester's Motto is: Know, Grow and Show Begonias. Perhaps it was Walter Pease who gave us this maxim. He certainly lived by it and his leadership, knowledge and enthusiasm were our guide for many years. I can say and many others will confirm that Walter Pease was a good man who built a tradition of good will and service in the American Begonia Society. We will always remember him in friendly contact.



Critter Control

Article & photos by Claudia Goodridge,
New Haven, CT

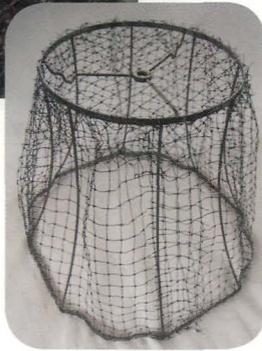
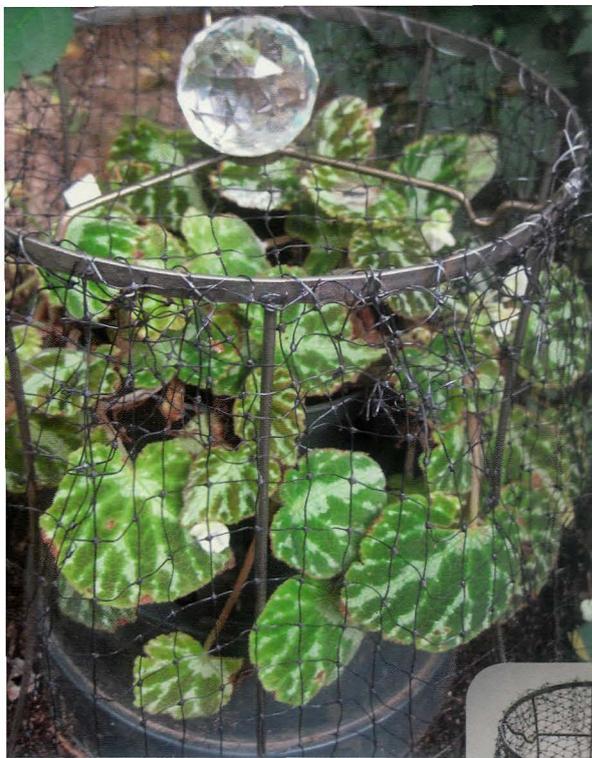
teenage boy – he tormented me. All my beans, my okra, the few tomatoes that survived the ravages of the late blight, my eggplant, my coleus, my shiso, herbs, dahlias, and even my beautifully flowering *Begonia boliviensis* – particularly vexing. Nothing was spared. I waged war on him (another article), but lost the battle and then winter arrived. This spring he reappeared very early, so protective measures were readied. With the advice of two exterminators I was able to relocate him, and one of his brethren, to a large piece of land where he won't disturb other gardens, but I KNOW there are other woodchucks out there and some of the other city critters are almost as harmful in their own right.

I'm an inveterate recycler and collector of stuff that "might be useful," so when I had to replace a ratty but beautifully shaped lamp shade with a new one, I kept

the old figuring I'd find a use for it. I did. Stripped of its silk and bindings, and covered with thin, black plastic mesh designed for the landscape, it became an attractive cover for some begonia seedlings I didn't want to become part of the salad bar. It took on a rather sexy, woman-of-a-certain-age look, so it's allowed to reside in the public part of my yard. I also recycled others that still have their ratty covers, but are useful critter control and additionally provide shade for new seedlings and begonias; but I hide the ratty ones in the working part of the yard.

One can tailor the mesh to fit the shade form, or drape it haphazardly according to time and taste, but some stitching

...continued on next page



We live in a medium sized city, but a city nonetheless. Our lot is small and has similarly sized houses on all sides and a busy street in front. One would think that critters, other than squirrels, wouldn't be a problem. But we have lots of critters: chipmunks, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, turkeys, rabbits, moles and voles, and birds galore. The other day a flock of green parrots – they've managed to naturalize in our cold northeast – were squawking and quarreling over the berries in the large tree in my back yard. All the aforementioned do damage and I'm the closest thing to a "natural enemy" they have.

But the worst is the woodchuck, aka groundhog. Voracious doesn't cover his eating habits. Eating machine might do it. Last summer he – I say "he" because he has the sleeping and eating habits of a

A recycled lamp shade and some plastic mesh (above) keep the critters away from delicious begonias.

Opposite page: The begonia gourmet - busted!

“Going Wild in Oklahoma”

By Tom Keepin, Houston, TX

The 2011 National Convention and Southwest Region Get-together will be hosted by the Fred A. Barkley Branch on Wednesday, May 11th to Sunday, May 15th 2011 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Our hotel is the Biltmore Hotel Oklahoma located at 401 Meridian Avenue (1-40 @ Meridian) Our room rate is \$65.00 per night plus tax. For reservations please call 1-800-522-6620. A free breakfast buffet each morning of your stay is included. Check out their website at www.biltmoreokc.com.

The Biltmore is a one of a kind hotel. There are others around the country, but each is individually owned and not part of a chain. This Biltmore Hotel has a western theme as they cater to Horse Show and rodeo attendees and participants.

The convention will kick off on Wednesday May 11th with tours starting at 9:00 A.M.

(Oklahoma City and the surrounding area has some great antiques. If you are interested in antiques as part of a tour please let Dianna Wilkerson know as soon as possible at 405-390-4228 so arrangements can be made if we have enough that are interested.)

Here are just a few of the tours we have planned for you.

Bustani Plant Farm is a must see if you like tropicals, perennials and just

the unusual you can visit their website at www.bustaniplantfarm.com.

You can take a look at the **Mabee Gerrer Chapel, Museum and School** by going to Google. The Chapel was built in 1875 and run by monks. The Chapel today is still run by monks and is a working monastery; there is a museum and small college on the property.

We'll visit the **Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Gardens**. OKC spent millions of dollars redoing the grounds over the last 4 years. Mark Howery, of the Barkley Branch, will walk with us and help identify plants and wild birds.

Seminars include Steve Owens of Bustani Plant Farm speaking the evening before we visit his nursery. Dr. Rekha Morris will describe her latest collecting trip. And, Mark Howery will give us an insight into trailing scandents.

And start grooming your plants – there will be a judged show! This is your chance to show your plant at a national level. Remember – if you don't enter you can't win.

These tours and seminars are just a sample of what we have planned for you. Oklahoma City is a beautiful city with a lot of things to see. We are looking forward to having you come and visit and be treated to real Western hospitality Oklahoma-style.

Critter Control - continued from previous page

with mono filament fishing line helps keep it all together. A thin stick through the top hole, capped with something decorative, keeps the shade in place. Landscape fabric pins work too.

It seems to discourage all the critters except the chipmunks. I'm using smaller mesh next year – maybe they'll be discouraged too. I can provide more detailed assembly instructions if you're interested— contact me at

Claudia.Goodridge@gmail.com.



Begonia sericoneura: Beautiful Bloomer

By Maureen O'Reilly, Hidden Valley Lake, CA

Dr. Mark Dimmitt, Director of Natural History at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, traveled to South America on a bromeliad collecting expedition in 1994. After exploring Columbia he crossed the border into Ecuador heading towards the Guayllabamba River. From a distance he saw plants sporting masses of pink blooms near the river's edge. Reaching the river he discovered a wide, long bed of large begonias covered with tall bloom stalks topped with beautiful pink flowers. Dimmitt collected seed and upon returning to Arizona forwarded some of the seed to his friend, Thelma O'Reilly, who was Coordinator of the ABS Unidentified Species Project at the time. She assigned *B. U331* to the seed.

B. U331 was soon identified as *B. sericoneura*, section *Gireoudia*. *B. sericoneura* is widely variable in leaf size and

bloom color. It has been collected in Columbia, Ecuador, Mexico and Central America. Because of its variability and wide distribution it has received several U numbers and synonyms over the years including; U084, U172, U173, U253, *B. lanuginosa*, *pilifera*, *nicaraguensis*, *biolleyi*, and *hypolipara* among others.

I chose *B. sericoneura* for my 2010 study species for the Save Our Species project of the Margaret Lee Branch in San Diego. The plant I studied was grown from the seed collected by Dimmitt as described above. I have a special interest in this species as I had collected its seed in Chiapas, Mexico in 1989 (*B. U253*).

B. sericoneura can grow to over 4 feet in diameter. Originally classified as a thick-stem, many experts believe it is more properly classified as an upright rhizomatous. The rhizome is fleshy, green, covered with persistent stipules, and turns silvery gray with age. It is upright or semi-upright, becoming decumbent, then rooting and growing erect again.

Leaf size varies from medium to as

B. sericoneura (below left) is a large plant which can grow to 4 feet in diameter. Several views of the floral display (below, right and opposite page).

Photos by Thelma O'Reilly



large as 8" in length with long, straight, soft hairs above and long, tangled, woolly hairs beneath. Some varieties have a red leaf margin. The petioles, 12-18 inches in length, are light green, suffused with golden-reddish tipped hairs with a red eye on upper side of petiole leaf-joining.

The bracts are marginally ciliate and deciduous. One interesting feature is the unusually large, green, ciliate, denticulate bracteole. What a pleasure to watch it open.

The peduncle can measure up to 24 inches in length and greatly extends above the foliage. Every part of the peduncle and inflorescence is pilose and deeply suffused with red or pink with the exception of the flowers which are usually glabrous and either white, white suffused with pink, or pink. The plant I studied, though grown from seed collected from pink flowering plants, had white flowers tinged with pale pink. Whether this was due to my greenhouse growing conditions or variability I don't know. Next year I might try growing it outdoors to see if this affects the flower color.

While *B. sericoneura* is very easy to grow in a normal begonia soil mix, an important clue to success is to allow it to dry



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out between watering as it stores water in its rhizomes. Overwatering causes rot. Also, the plant should be well-staked to keep the rhizome from becoming decumbent. It grows well in temperate climates but should be protected when the temps dip into the 40s. In year round warm climates, *B. sericoneura* would probably do well growing outside in the ground where it could form lovely bush-like plants. When I collected its seed in Mexico it was growing on the top of a Mayan temple at Ruinas Bonampak demonstrating its affinity for rock and limestone.

I love this rewarding and beautiful species and hope many of you will be encouraged to grow it. Seed is available from the ABS Seed Fund.



Companion Plants - *Amaryllis*

Bill Claybaugh, ABS Conservation Chairman



In the “Aims and Purposes” of the ABS, we note that one of our goals is to “...gather and publish information in regards to kinds, propagation and culture of ... companion plants”. The conventional thinking on companion plants for begonias leans towards ferns, bromeliads, gingers, and similar plants, which like begonias, can be grown in humid, shady locations. However I live on the Texas Gulf Coast, Houston, and we have begonias which grow outside in gardens in full shade, part sun and some in full sun. Thus the definition of a companion plant can be greatly expanded. Looking at past issues of *The Begonian* I find numerous articles on companion plants (ferns, coleus, gingers, hydrangeas, caladiums, bromeliads, african violets, etc.) but none on amaryllis. That is about to change.

I began growing amaryllis in the early 80’s, but only started hybridizing them in 2002 after practicing on begonias for a few years. I crossed *A. ‘Minerva’* with *A. ‘Apple Blossom’* and got about 10 small plants one of which I named for my wife, *A. ‘Marian’*. Three years later, the plant bloomed and gave a flower with a pale red-orange exterior and a white and green throat. Since then, I have developed one or two new amaryllis hybrids each year. Two of these hybrids are shown in the accompanying pictures. Note that *A. ‘Marian’*

is growing in half-day sun along with the begonia species *nelumbiifolia*. Also note a 2005 hybrid *B. ‘Orange Blossom’* is growing along side my begonia hybrid *B. ‘Stars and Stripes’* (*B. nelumbiifolia* x *B. sericoneura*) in almost full sun. I now have over ten different amaryllis hybrids (hundreds of individual plants) growing along with numerous begonias in my flower beds, and they are loving it. Some of the begonias involved are *B. nelumbiifolia*, *sericoneura*, *fischeri*, *cucullata*, ‘Stars and Stripes’, ‘Caribbean King’, ‘Suncana’, ‘Washington State’, ‘Wrong Number’, ‘Star Search’, ‘Chuck Jaros’, and more. Now a few notes on hybridizing and growing amaryllis, because you may want to try this yourself.

Hybridization

Nothing could be easier. Merely break off a filament and anther from one flower and dab the pollen on to the stigma of another. Done! Now Mother Nature takes over. Note that *Amaryllis* have flowers that, like almost all other plants, are defined as both “complete” and “perfect” - each flower has a gynoecium (ovary, style, and stigma), an androecium (filament and anther), petals and sepals i.e. they have both sex parts on each flower. Begonias on the other hand have flowers that are both “incomplete” and “imperfect”, having only one sex part on each flower, meaning they are either a pistillate (female) flower or a staminate (male) flower. A typical amaryllis flower lasts for more than one week, so I try to do the pollination when the flower is two or three days old and fully open. If the pollination is successful, the flower will start to wilt by the next day and be gone in two or three days. The remaining seed pod will slowly swell and over a couple months will turn brown and pop open, re-

vealing the small, flat seeds inside. These seeds can be collected, dried for one or two days, and then planted.

Planting seeds

I use an eight inch plastic pot to initially germinate the amaryllis seeds. A typical begonia potting mix, peatmoss and perlite, is used for the planting medium. The seeds are scattered over the top of the medium, and then are covered with about 1/8 inch of medium. The pot is watered with a dilute soluble fertilizer and put into a bright but relatively cool and protected place. After a few weeks, the seeds germinate and small plants appear. The plants can be left in this starter pot until late fall or even the next spring before being separated and placed into individual 4 inch pots. One can expect to get 25 to 50 small amaryllis from each seed pod.

Planting seedlings

Seedlings can grow in their 4 inch pot for several months to almost one year. However, the sooner they are transferred to their permanent location, the better. Amaryllis bulbs should be planted such that the top 1/4 or so is above the ground

level. For a small plant this doesn't seem to be too important, but for large bulbs it is critical. These plants are not particular regarding potting soil, just about any typical mix will do. When moving seedlings to sunny locations, they should be shaded for a while, then as they gain in size and strength, they can tolerate the full sun. Amaryllis like moderate fertilization so use a balanced mix in the early spring and fall and watch those beauties grow.

Problems

The only problem I have encountered with amaryllis is a yellowing of the straps as the summer progresses. A fungus causes this so it can be cured with one or two treatments of a systemic fungicide. The straps on amaryllis should stay green throughout the spring, summer and into the fall. In late fall, when the straps are obviously dying, they can be cut off about two inches above the bulb and discarded. The bulb will remain dormant

continued on page 26

Opposite page: *Amaryllis* 'Orange Blossom'

This page: *Begonia nelumbiifolia* grows in harmony with *Amaryllis* 'Marian'

Photos by Bill Claybaugh



Begonia x chungii: A Natural Hybrid “New” for India

Article & photos by Rekha Morris, Pendleton, SC

In January 2009, on my way back to Lohit from Anjaw district on the far eastern edge of Arunachal Pradesh, I was back at the collapsing bridge we had crossed two days earlier. This time a work crew was busily clearing some of the broken and many rotting boards necessitating an even more cautious crossing than previously. Uncertain that the partially dismantled bridge would sustain the weight of the vehicle, I dismounted and after the car had made it safely across I followed. By clutching the metal rail and, concentrating on each step I took over the numerous gaps left by the dismantled boards, I finally made it across. Then I found myself having to walk through the mud and slush churned up by the crew working in the path of water gushing downhill from a stream that was swollen and overflowing its banks due to the heavy rain earlier that day.

When I finally made it to drier ground I found myself at the base of a jutting cliff overgrown with bamboo, ferns, vines, and assorted brambles. Swaying down from the upper edges of this cliff were long branches of *B. longifolia*, which I had missed on my way to Anjaw due to the unrelenting heavy downpour all that day. Hoping to collect some of the baccate fruit dangling below the foliage I cautiously began moving aside some of the bramble to begin my ascent, and in the process uncovered plants of a begonia species I did not recognize.

Growing between 12” to 24” these plants had red stems and petioles, dentate, elliptical foliage with asymmetric, cordate base, acutely pointed at the tips. Although I found no flowers or fruit, there appeared to be two forms of the plant. One had dark green foliage with a silvery-green band

whose reverse was either entirely a deep wine red or pale green lightly flushed red. The other form had light, apple green, red edged foliage with its mid-vein and the lower sections of some of the other veins defined in red. On the reverse there was a wide swath of red on either side of the mid-vein, and the red along the leaf edges flowed over to form a wide, irregular red border. A pale celery band was barely visible between the two vividly articulated areas of the leaves of this form.

Intrigued and fascinated by this ‘new’ species I all but forgot the baccate fruit of *B. longifolia* higher up on the same slope. Smaller plants of *B. longifolia* interspersed with this “new” species, which I later registered with the ABS as *B. U574*, were too immature to produce fruit. On returning to the bottom of the slope I noticed clumps of a dark green form of *B. palmata* loosely encircling the base of this slope.

With dusk fast approaching I hurriedly collected the few capsules of *B. palmata* I found, some immature fruit of *B. longifolia*, and samples of both forms of *B. U574*, and continued my long drive through the hills of Lohit. With the sun barely visible as a golden aureole sinking behind layers of hills, the valleys and lower slopes were soon obscured in the enveloping mist rapidly rising upwards. Driving through the eastern Himalayas at twilight when the endless mountain ranges are suffused in shades of violet, blue and indigo is a haunting experience, which on this evening with yet another “new” species in my lap, had been so intensified that I could hardly bear to return to what awaited me: hours of cleaning, washing, drying, sorting, labeling and



pressing all the seeds and plants I had collected.

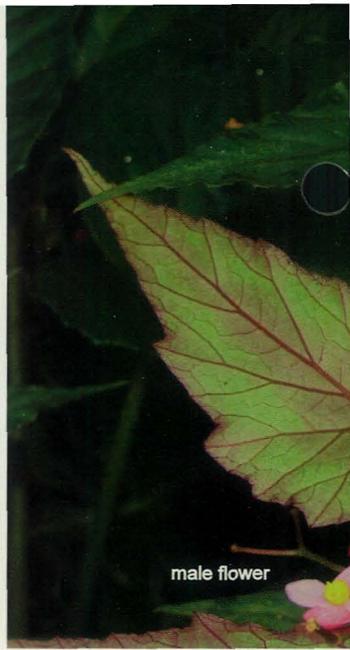
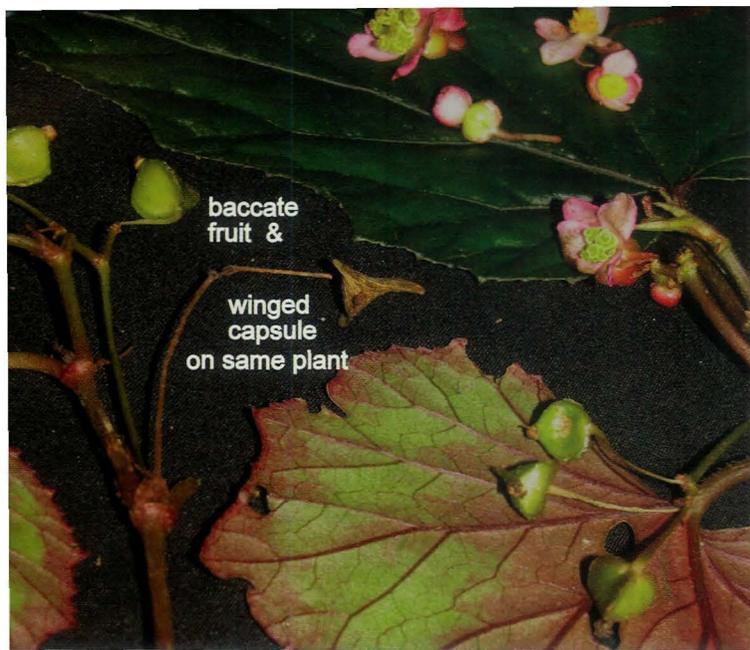
On returning to Delhi my first act was to select the largest and most robust plants and courier them to be immediately planted in the long, terraced shade house of my friend on a coffee estate at about 3000' in south India. It is here that the species I document in India survive and flourish when many of them succumb to the rigors of dislocation and ruthless cleaning they are subjected to in order to pass inspection by the USDA.

It is in this salubrious setting that *B. U574* grows and flourishes to flower and set seed in profusion. Returning to India in October of the same year I was able to photograph male and female flowers, and collect seeds of this species, which finally enabled me to identify it.

For months I repeatedly examined the photos of *B. U574*, which I felt was vaguely reminiscent of some species I knew but could not pinpoint. It was

Above: There are male flowers and either female flowers or capsules on the same plant demonstrating that *B. x chungii* is monoecious.

during these disturbing and restless months of uncertainty that Dr. Ching-I Peng arrived in Pendleton, SC to visit my collection of species begonias from India. Within hours of his arrival I began showing him the dozens of pictures of *B. U574* I had taken both in the wild and in cultivation in south India. As we looked through these Dr. Peng wondered if I had considered the possibility of it being a natural hybrid, and my instant response was an affirmative as I had begun to tentatively consider that it might be a hybrid of *B. longifolia* and *B. palmata*, the only two species growing in the vicinity of *B. U574*. This response jogged Dr. Peng's memory of a similar hybrid from Taiwan on which he had published an article. Both *B. longifolia* and *B. palmata* have an extremely wide range, and are to be found from the eastern Himalayas, i.e., eastern



Clockwise starting with above: *B. x chungii*'s bright cerise buds flowers show up nicely against the dark green leaves. **Left, bottom:** Detail of the flowers. **Left, top:** *B. x chungii* is a hybrid of *B. longifolia* and *B. palmata*. This is demonstrated in this image, as having both winged and baccate fruit on the same plant. **Centerspread:** Male and female flowers on the same plant. **Opposite page, far right:** *B. longifolia* growing with *B. x chungii*

Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and Arunachal Pradesh [after my documenting trips there from 2005], through China and on to Taiwan.

On his return to Taiwan Dr. Peng not only sent me his article on the hybrid he had named *B. x chungii*, but over the next few weeks questioned me about various aspects of the growth habit of *B. U574*. It was during these weeks as I addressed the doubts and questions posed by Dr. Peng

that my certainty regarding this hybrid, *never before recorded for India*, began to solidify.

In order to eliminate the possibility of *B. U574* being a cross between *B. acetosella* var. *acetosella*, and to demonstrate that it was indeed a hybrid of *B. longifolia* and *B. palmata* and to be identified as *B. x chungii*, I spent hours scrutinizing my photos detail by detail over a number of weeks. I have now concluded that *B.*



Female flowers and baccate fruit



U574 is to be identified as *B. x chungii*, a natural hybrid of *B. longifolia* and *B. palmata*. This establishes *B. U574* or *B. x chungii* as the first instance of such a hybrid to be documented from India, and possibly from elsewhere in the range of its two parent species, other than Taiwan.

I have eliminated the possibility of *B. acetosella* var. *acetosella* as one of the parents of *B. x chungii* on several grounds. There were only 2 species within several km of *B. U574*, and these were *B. longifolia* and *B. palmata*. Moreover, I have not documented *B. acetosella* var. *acetosella* anywhere in either Anjaw or Lohit districts. More importantly *B. acetosella* var. *acetosella* is dioecious, that is, it produces male and female flowers on separate plants, while both *B. longifolia* and *B. palmata* are monoecious.

As a hybrid of *B. longifolia* and *B. palmata*, *B. U574* should also be monoecious, which it is as seen in the photos illustrating this article. *B. acetosella* var. *acetosella* has berry-like fruit with four locules, while *B. longifolia* is supposed to uniformly have fruit with 3 locules. I have collected fruit of both species and can confirm that all the fruit of *B. ace-*

tosella var. *acetosella* I have collected to date have 4 locules. *B. longifolia* on the other hand has fruit which for the most part have 3 locules, but there are a number among these which have 4 locules. Moreover, there are distinct features, which distinguish the baccate fruit of *B. acetosella* var. *acetosella* from those of *B. longifolia*, so the unusual number of locules in some of the fruit of the latter species is not a decisive factor.

In examining the details of the dozens of images of *B. U574*, I was pleasantly surprised and relieved to find a couple of images of the fruit of *B. U574* which unequivocally demonstrate its lineage, i.e., that its parents are *B. longifolia* and *B. palmata*. In a couple of instances for which I have visual documentation, the same plant has a winged capsule tracing back its lineage to *B. palmata*, and baccate fruit which it inherits from *B. longifolia*.

I take great pleasure in introducing *B. x chungii* as a "NEW" find from India, and as a natural hybrid begonia documented for the first time not only in Arunachal Pradesh, but among the begonia species so far recorded for India.

Nov. 22, 2010

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 below are the seeds available from the Seed Fund in sufficient quantities. Others listed in past issues may also be available, on request, but are too limited to include in this listing. "Thank you" to all our contributors this past year. You make this list possible.

<i>B. angularis</i>	<i>B. grandis</i>	<i>B. palmata</i>
<i>B. arborensis</i>	<i>B. grandis</i> spp <i>grandis</i> v	<i>B. palmata</i> U677/567
<i>B. 'Astrida'</i>	white	<i>B. pearcei</i>
<i>B. barkeri</i>	<i>B. griffithiana</i>	<i>B. peltata</i>
<i>B. 'Beingo'</i>	<i>B. incarnata</i>	<i>B. 'Raintree Delight'</i>
<i>B. boliviensis</i>	<i>B. involucrata</i>	<i>B. red semp/tuber</i>
<i>B. 'Bonfire'</i>	<i>B. karwinskyana</i>	<i>B. reniformis</i>
<i>B. 'Braemar'</i>	<i>B. kellermanii</i>	<i>B. semp</i> red fl
<i>B. cane fr sf red fl</i>	<i>B. kenworthyae</i>	<i>B. semp</i> wh/pk fl
<i>B. carolineifolia</i>	<i>B. longifolia</i>	<i>B. sericoneura</i>
<i>B. cinnabarina</i>	<i>B. ludwigii</i>	<i>B. sericoneura</i> x unk
<i>B. crassicaulis</i>	<i>B. luxurians</i>	<i>B. sericoneura</i> x unk rh
<i>B. cucullata</i> v.	<i>B. manicata</i> rm8-295	<i>B. 'Shanzii'</i>
<i>arenosicola</i>	<i>B. martii</i> rm8-352	<i>B. suffruticosa</i>
<i>B. cucullata</i>	<i>B. 'Million Kisses</i>	<i>B. tayabensis</i>
<i>B. curtii</i>	<i>Elegance'</i> wh/pk	<i>B. U083</i>
<i>B. dipetala</i>	<i>B. 'Million Kisses</i>	<i>B. udisilvestris</i>
<i>B. dregei</i>	<i>Romance'</i>	<i>B. ulmifolia</i>
<i>B. dregei/suffruticosa</i>	<i>B. multinervia</i>	<i>B. 'Vanderveldiana'</i>
<i>B. echinosepala</i>	<i>B. nelumbiifolia</i>	<i>B. vitifolia</i> red
<i>B. egregia</i>	<i>B. oaxacana</i>	<i>B. vitifolia</i>
<i>B. fisheri</i>	<i>B. obliqua</i> pink fl	<i>B. wallichiana</i>
<i>B. glabra</i>	<i>B. obliqua</i> wh fl	

Packets of seeds are \$2.00. Very rare seeds and newly collected seeds will be \$3.00 or more per packet when noted. 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](mailto: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: 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.

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NEW: *Note Cards from the Jack Golding Collection* Eight cards with envelopes, each card a different begonia species. This collection of botanical illustrations is part of a series of renderings by Jack's daughter, Marilyn Golding White. The cards were used as Jack's Season's Greetings cards to his friends and associates. \$15.00

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For questions and availability, email or call Book Store Chairman Janet Brown, begoniabrown@yahoo.com 310-670-4471.



Immature *B. rajah* leaf
Photo by Jem Wiseman

A Word with You: Teeth

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

from the Latin *crena*, a notch; serrate from the Latin *serratus*, pp of *serrare*, to saw; dentate from the Latin *dens*, tooth. Diminutive forms are crenulate, serrulate, and you guessed it, denticulate. Crenate edges have rounded teeth; serrate edges have sharp teeth, like saw blades, pointing toward the tip of the leaf. Dentate are sharp too, but point outward. I know now without looking that those beguiling grasses have serrated teeth – probably serrulate, but don't let the diminutive term fool you into stroking it.

So what are we really talking about here? Ivories, choppers, fangs, incisors, molars, grinders, tusks? There are no weapons in the begonia world, but as usual, I need visuals to guide my memory and thus see crenate with a profile like molars, or visually rounded, as in *B. amphioxus*, *B. egregia*, *B. goegoensis*, *B. gracilis*, and *B. luxurians*. A serrate margin looks like the teeth on a saw blade or in a shark's mouth – they're teeth that point toward the tip of the leaf as in *B. boliviensis* 'Bonfire', *B. bowerae* (which has a serrulate margin), but they won't hurt you.

Then there are the dentate edges or margins. Those teeth point outward on the leaf. They include *B. limprichtii* (in our last issue on p. 216), and *B. quadrialata*, which is denticulate toward its apex.

Not all begonias have teeth, but enough do that the vocabulary is useful. Not all leaves with teeth cooperate and fall into a single category either. But at least this begonia teeth inquiry got nibbled down to a few terms and none of them bite.

Look closely to see the teeth of *Begonia egregia* (above).

Photo by Kingsley Langenberg



Teeth...in humans they are things of beauty, utility, and sometimes pain. In other animals and fish they can also be lethal. But, in botany they define the notches on the edges of leaves, aka the margins of the blades, pretty harmless most of the time. Begonia leaves have at least three types of teeth, each with a diminutive form, and to my knowledge none are lethal or even dangerous.

That graceful ornamental grass, *Miscanthus sinensis*, the one that dances with the breezes, has dangerous teeth on its margins. Rub it the wrong way and you have sliced yourself. No wonder the deer won't eat it. Our begonias aren't so menacing, but they do have teeth: *crenate*, *serrate*, and *dentate* teeth. Crenate comes

Begonia Shade Garden at Florida's Winter Park Garden

By Randal Knight, Horticulturist and Garden Curator

What can be done to keep a shady, semi-tropical public garden showy during winter in Central Florida? I have been trying to figure this out since I became the garden curator at the sculpture museum four years ago. I have several interesting begonias growing with the caladiums, ferns, impatiens and other foliage. There were cane, rhizomes, semps and some I didn't know. They survived and looked reasonably well most of the year. They filled in when the tropical foliage was not at its best.

The cold February last year helped influence our selection of this attractive plant species. We were very pleased with the way our plants survived and showed diversity, color and foliage variation during late winter and spring. We will take precaution this winter with frost blankets to insure minimum damage should a freeze occur. The south side of Lake Osceola affords some protection.

I found out about Greg Sytch in a local gardening magazine. He advised me on begonias he was growing 100 miles south of here. He gave me a copy of the American Begonia Society's *The Begonian*. After I joined the ABS, I had the pleasure of meeting Charles Jaros only thirty miles away. He was very helpful. He identified my forty or so plants and told me where to locate a wholesale grower near Orange County. From that greenhouse, I obtained another fifty interesting specimens that have really made the begonia walk special. Our collection now includes nearly 100 different species, including rex, semperflorens, cane-like, rhizomes, trailing and others.

This is an invitation to all begonia enthusiasts visiting Central Florida to stop at the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens to see our begonia collection. I am also hopeful there will soon be enough people in the area interested in forming a club: 633 Osceola Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789, 407-647-6294 www.polasek.org



Begonias are winning the hearts of the staff at Winter Park Garden. Not only do they add a beautiful touch but they look good nearly year-round.

Photos by Claire Ponsonby





Amaryllis 'Orange Blossom' shares a spot in the garden with Bill's own hybrid *Begonia* 'Stars and Stripes'* Photo by Bill Claybaugh

Amaryllis Continued from page 17
until spring, then burst alive with straps and flowers.

Long-term care

A typical amaryllis hybrid grown from seed will bloom in the third or fourth year. In this first blooming there may be two, three, or four blooms per inflorescence but only one inflorescence per bulb. In

the fourth or fifth year, there will certainly be four, five or six blooms per inflorescence and often two inflorescences per bulb. The fourth or fifth year is also when one typically sees offsets around the original bulb. Small bulbs will usually have two offsets, but large vigorous bulbs often have five to nine offsets. By the fifth year, and every other fall thereafter, one can dig up the bulb, remove the offsets, trim the roots to 2 inches length, trim off the dying straps and replant everything with new spacing. The young offsets should bloom in one or two years.

If you have never hybridized amaryllis, I suggest you try. Just use your knowledge about begonia propagation and adapt it to this new challenge. You will be pleased with the results and have a new companion plant for your first love, your begonias.

*Not to be confused with B. 'Stars & Stripes', a rhizomatous hybrid of Australian Mickey Meyer.
- Nomenclature Editor

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Sepals and petals, a new approach to Brazilian Begoniaceae

By Ludovic Jean Charles Kollmann

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The differentiation of sepals and petals in begonias has always been problematic and, depending on the author, has been given different nomenclatures like perianth segments, sepals and petals in male flowers and tepals in female flowers or tepals in male and female flowers.

The ensemble of the sepals is called the calyx and the ensemble of the petals, the corolla and the set of the two, the perianth. When you cannot distinguish the sepals and petals they are called tepals. The male flower is also called the staminate flower and the female the pistillate flower.

The genus *Begonia* has male and female flowers in different inflorescences (e.g. *B. herbacea* Vell.) or together in the same inflorescence. When the inflorescence is bisexual the male flowers open first and the female flowers open later, thus they are “temporally dioecious”.

In male flowers there are clearly sepals and petals, the sepals being outer and bigger (“outer tepals”) and petals inner and smaller (“inner tepals”) (Fig. 1). In some cases the male flowers bear only sepals, the petals being absent or deciduous, as seen in Brazilian species such as *Begonia egregia* N.E.Br., *B. grisea* A.DC., *B. subacida* Irmscher (Fig 2), *B. umbraculifera* Hook., *B. ulmifolia* Willd. etc.

In the course of studies of Begoniaceae from Espírito Santo state, Brazil, specifically *Begonia crispula* Brade, an endemic species of this state, an observation triggered particular attention to the perianth of *Begonia*. Indeed, *Begonia crispula* has a little “waxy crest” on the petals of the male flower (Fig 3) as well as on three

of the five tepals of the female flower of the same plant (Fig 4). Therefore, it was hypothesized that if only the petals in the male flower have a waxy crest, then only the petals of the female flower should have a waxy crest. With this concept in mind, all the available Brazilian female flowers were studied.

In general, in female flowers, the two sepals are identical in size and form. One petal, usually smaller, is located in between the two sepals and the other two petals on the opposite side of the flower. Petals are in general asymmetric or not of different size as in *B. angularis* Raddi (Fig. 5), *B. leathermaniae* T.O’Reilly & Karegeannes (Fig. 6), *B. platanifolia* Schott (Fig. 7)). Sometimes the two sepals are smaller than the petals as in *B. glabra* Aubl. (Fig. 8), *B. saxicola* A.DC. (Fig. 9), and *B. U402* (Fig. 10). Where six tepals are found in the pistillate flowers, two are sepals and four are petals, as in all pistillate flowers of *B. egregia* N.E.Br, *B. misteriosa* L.Kollmann & A.P.Fontana, or occasionally in only some pistillate flowers of *B. bullatifolia* L.Kollmann, *B. leopoldinensis* L.Kollmann, and *B. itaguassuensis* Brade (Fig. 4).

When the pistillate flower is observed from the front or back, it is easy to see the sepals in spatial position relative to the petals (Fig 11). The stigma (for “stigma” read style and stigma - the style is the support of the stigma with their stigmatic papillae) positions are important to locating sepals and petals: one stigma is in front of each sepal and one between the two petals, which are also the directions of

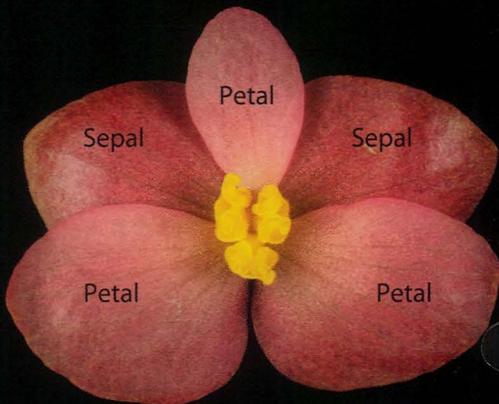
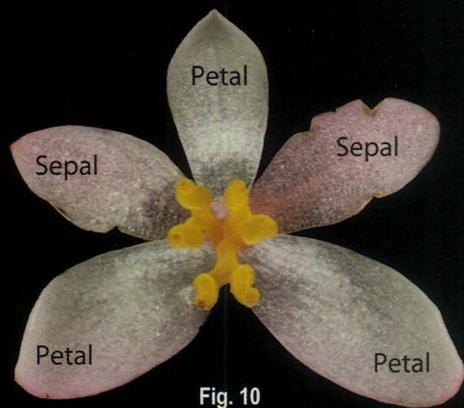
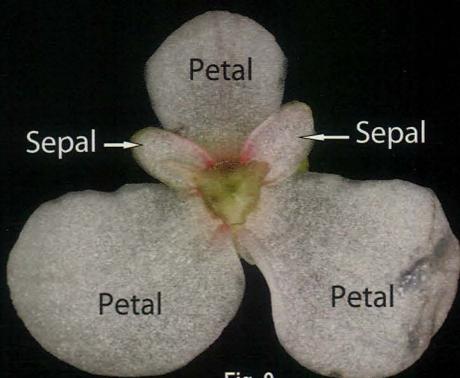
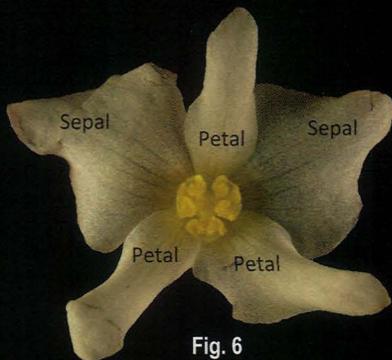
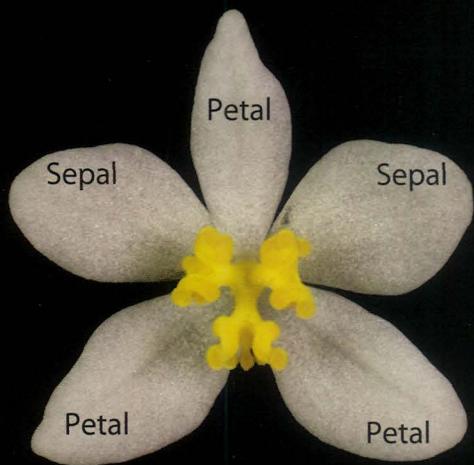
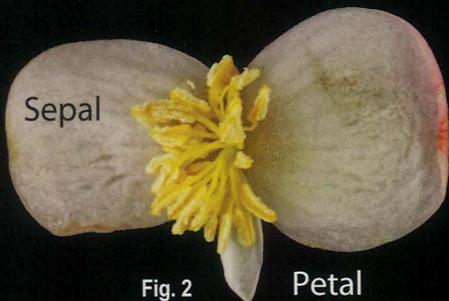
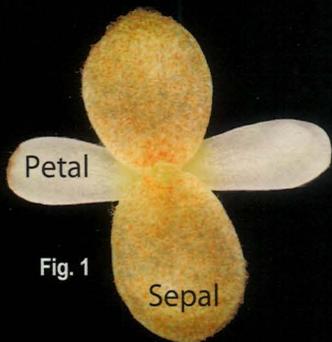
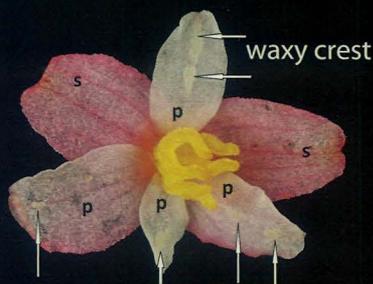




Fig. 3



waxy crest Fig. 4

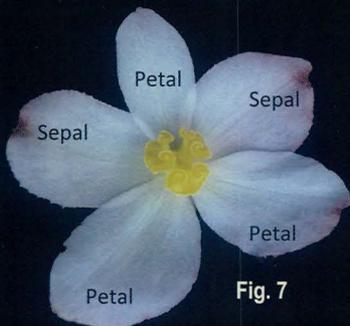


Fig. 7

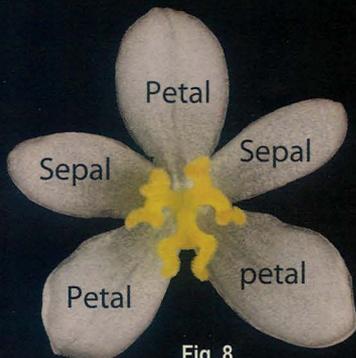


Fig. 8

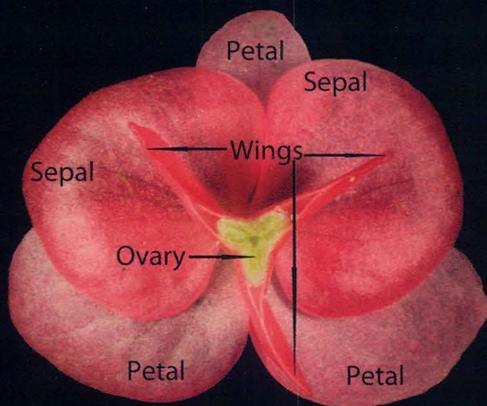


Fig. 12

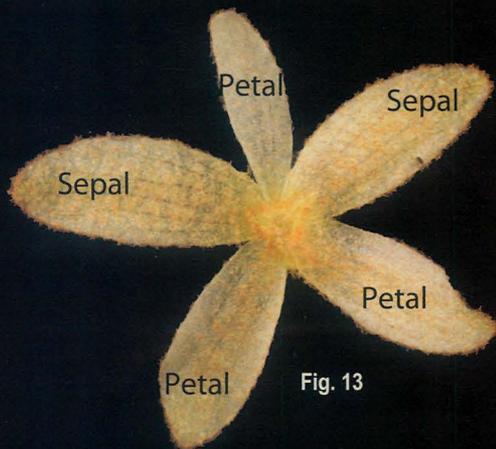


Fig. 13

Fig. 1: *B. novalombardiensis* male flower, back view; Fig. 2: *B. subacida* male flower with one petal, front view; Fig. 3: *B. crispula* male flower, front view; Fig. 4: *B. crispula* female flower, front view; Fig. 5: *B. angularis* female flower, front view; Fig. 6: *B. leathermaniae* female flower, front view; Fig. 7: *B. platanifolia* female flower, front view; Fig. 8: *B. glabra* female flower, front view; Fig. 9: *B. saxicola* female flower, back view; Fig. 10: *B. U402* female flower, front view; Fig. 11: *B. maculata* female flower, front view; Fig. 12: *B. maculata* female flower, back view with ovary; Fig. 13: *B. novalombardiensis* female flower, back view

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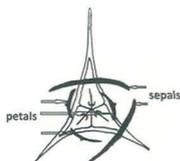
the central axes of each locule and each wing of the fruit (Fig 12). With this method it is easy to find sepals and petals in begonia flowers, looking for the direction of the stigmas or wings. However, if the female flower has six tepals it is more difficult to associate sepals and petals with stigmas or wings.

Figure 13 is a floral diagram of the male flower (2-sepals, 2-petals and 18-stamens) and female flower (3-wings, 3-locules, 3-ovary, 2-sepals, 3-petals and 3-stigmas) of an imaginary begonia species.

Sometimes an indumentum* is present on the perianth. Male flowers may have hairs (Fig 1) or scales on the sepals and in the perianth of the female flowers all the sepals and petals may have hairs (Fig 14) or scales. This characteristic is because hairs or scales are a protection to the perianth and in the male flowers the petals are



Fig. 14: floral diagram of Begonia



inside the bud and protected by the sepals.

The color of the perianth of Brazilian Begoniaceae are generally white, pinkish or pink, but some species have red flowers as in *Begonia coccinea* Hook, *B. radicans* Vell., *B. corallina* Carriere and *B. macduffieana* L.B.Sm. & B.G.Schubert (Tebbutt wrote in **Begonias: Cultivation, Identification, and Natural History**, that *B. macduffieana* is

a synonym of *B. corallina*. However *B. macduffieana* comes from the Amazon Forest and *B. corallina* looks like a form of *B. maculata* Raddi from Rio de Janeiro, Atlantic Forest). *Begonia dichroa* Sprague and *B. lunaris* Jacques have orange flowers but these two species should be synonymous. Fragrance is rare in *Begonia* but *Begonia egregia*, *B. integerrima* Spreng., *B. leathermaniae*, *B. dichroa* and *B. lunaris* have scents.

*indumentum – any covering, such as hairs or scales

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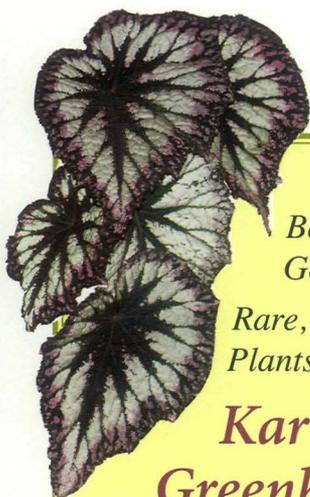
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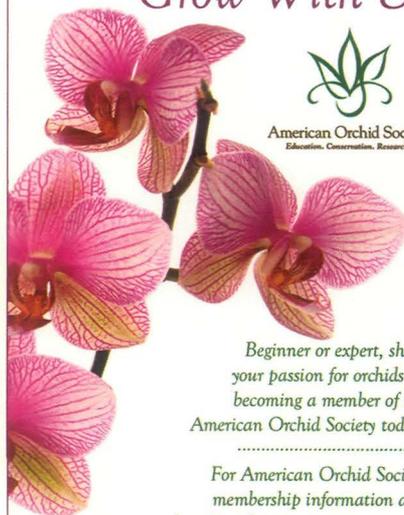
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Begonia letouzeyi Sosef 1994

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grows on rocks, on trunks or on soil nearly without compost. When it rains, the water goes down and does not stay on the roots.

To induce flowers, I use artificial light from September to April to provide 14 hours light each day (in the beginning, I didn't use artificial light and I didn't get blossoms); with that, it blooms very easily.

In cultivation it is the first yellow-flowered begonia to bloom, usually in April/May; the flowers are the largest ones of all these plants. Unfortunately, as you know, the begonias of sections Loasibegonia and Scutobegonia are usually not

self-fertile. I brought back too little seed from my last trip to Gabon, but I did bring back some plants. They are other strains and I hope to pollinate them with the ones I grew before.

But it is easy to propagate it with leaves (cut the petiole about 1 or 2 long). I use live sphagnum. As I do for *B. lyallii* var. *lyallii* f. *masoalensis*, I put a leaf on the sphagnum and I spray! Preferably in spring. That's all! Usually we must wait for a start for several months. The begonia grower learns how to be patient ...

By the way, **good news**: in my last continued next page

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Jack Harris of the Greater Atlanta Chapter
Photo by Butch McDole

In Memorium: Jack Harris

By Mary Elizabeth Moultrie, Atlanta, GA

The Greater Atlanta Chapter of the American Begonia Society is saddened to report that our beloved Jack Harris has died. For several years, Jack had been struggling with Alzheimer's but not once did he let his condition diminish his love for all of the members here in Atlanta and most especially for his beautiful Janet.

Jack and Janet had been married for 52 years, and 25 of them had been spent in the U.S. Navy. They had lived all over the world from California to Australia to Turkey; but no matter where they were, they were at home with plants especially begonias and gesneriads, cats and people who loved them.

Both Jack and Janet have always been known for their generosity and hard work. Many of you who came to the convention in Atlanta in 1998 or to Palm Beach in 2000 met them in the plant sale room. One of the highlights of our begonia year was our September meeting when we would go to Jack and Janet's house for our begonia dig. This was an exciting occasion because Jack would lovingly plant Janet's cull begonias out in the yard. By September, the culls had turned into plants that we all wanted to have - so much so that we had to draw numbers and take turns at the dig. What a glorious day! And, if by chance, you did not get that one special begonia you had your eye on before enjoying Janet's delicious lunch then you knew that the excitement would be repeated the next year.

There are many reasons that we are going to miss our Jack. We loved him very much, and he spoiled us with his love and generosity.

B. letouzeyi

continued from previous page

article about *B. lyallii* var. *lyallii* f. *masoalensis*, I told you that this plant had still not blossomed. It has now - for two days! Next adventure: seed?

Bibliography :

Marc Sosef / Begoniaceae, sections Loasibegonia and Scutobegonia

Another yellow-flowered species
from Gabon, Africa -
Begonia letouzeyi.



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