



THE

BEGONIAN

November/December 2012

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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Front cover: A festive display of Rex begonias for the holiday season. At the top is a shimmering silver rex, *B. 'Salamander'* and the at the bottom is the fiery pink *B. 'Lorraine Clossen'*
 Photo by Tony Pinto

Back cover: *B. 'Barely There'* was the first place winner in the Standard Cane division at the recent ABS 2012 Convention. Mike Flaherty was the exhibitor. Photo by Gary Hunt

President's Message

Well, the Holiday Season is here; Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Christmas and New Years and it's a busy time for all of us. There are so many begonias that remind one of this joyous time of the year; *B.* 'Merry Christmas', *B.* 'Christmas Curl', *B.* 'Mini Merry', *B.* 'Happy New Year' and *B.* 'Christmas Candy' are but a few of them that come to mind. Our favorite plant group brings us cheer throughout the year.

Of course gift giving is often a part of holiday festivities and what better gift than an ABS membership to friends who enjoy begonias. Also the ABS Bookstore is full of wonderful items to give to your special friends. In this issue of *The Begonian* take a look at the great selection that is available; the new "U" number update is out and available now. If you purchased the last "U" publication compiled by "U" number Co-Director's Mary Bucholtz and Charles Jaros you need only to purchase this latest update. If you don't have this publication you can purchase this and the new update all in one. The newest update features descriptions and pictures of new "U" number assigned and updates on already established "U" numbers.

Also available through the ABS Bookstore are collared polo shirts with the ABS logo embroidered on them. They are wonderful shirts and a great thing to wear to all gardening and non-gardening events. I have even worn mine to work.

All ABS Bookstore items can be viewed through our ABS website and can be ordered through the website via paypal or

through our Bookstore chair Janet Brown.

I want to thank all those individuals and branches who donated to make this November/December issue possible and I want to thank Holiday Issue Chair Wanda Macnair for her tireless work in helping to make this happen.

This issue is also the convention issue with ABS Service Award winners, Division Trophy winners and Cultural Award winners being recognized. I want to thank Convention Chair Dean Turney and his committee for a truly wonderful convention. I especially want to thank our Second Vice-President Mike Flaherty and Laurel & Paul Carlisle for all their wonderful entries they brought down to share with all of us conventioners; you truly are superb growers.

In the closing of 2012 I want to wish each and every ABS member and their families a healthy, happy and joyous Holiday Season.

Good Begonia Growing!
Charles Jaros, ABS President



Socializing at the recent ABS convention in San Diego. (Left to right) Thelma O'Reilly - Dean Turney Susan Turney and Maureen O'Reilly
Photo by Virginia Jens

Proceedings Of The Annual Business Meeting

San Diego, CA, August 11, 2012

President Charles Jaros opened the meeting and asked Stephanie Rose to read the Aims and Purposes of the Society. No quorum was needed since all members can vote at the annual meeting.

The proceedings of the board meeting in San Antonio on May 19, 2012, were approved as published in the *Begonian* and were thus upgraded to minutes.

Treasurer Carol Notaras presented the financial report for August 1, 2011, to July 31, 2012. The beginning balance was \$15,997.75 and the ending balance was \$12,023.61 for the checking accounts. This was based on income of \$261,728.89 and disbursements of

\$265,703.03. These amounts are large due to Morris Mueller's bequest of \$204,753.79, which was received and then transferred to a money market fund temporarily. Savings accounts had an initial balance of \$69,960.43 and an ending balance of \$267,777.09. The combined checking and savings totals were \$85,958.18 initial and \$279,800.70 final. The report was accepted and filed for audit.

Nomenclature Chair Gene Salisbury requested all hybridizers to register new hybrids with ABS. He will help with the application.

Bookstore Chair Janet Brown announced that U-numbers lists and updates are available through the bookstore and website.

President Jaros announced that Rekha Morris submitted a grant request for collecting Begonia in India in 2012. The executive board recommended that \$2000 of current funds be granted for this trip and that \$1565 allocated but not voted on in 2011 be added for a total of \$3565. A motion to accept the recommendation and grant \$3565 for this collecting trip passed.

Membership Chair Paul Rothstein submitted a report showing that ABS has a total of 968 members. This number is made up of 816 domestic, 105 foreign and 47 domestic business/school/garden members. All but 64 are paid members. The 64 are free and include 30 foreign and 34 business/school/garden members.

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Branch relations Director Tom Keepin reported that Johanna Zinn has worked very hard to set up a Yahoo site for National Directors to have a forum to talk about problems, ask questions, share programs, et cetera. She has sent out invitations to join the site to known National Directors but could not get a complete list. National Directors who have not received an invitation should contact Johanna or Tom. They should also contact Membership Chair Paul Rothstein to get on the list of Directors. Tom Keepin also reported that the Miami Branch has been inactive in recent years but President Jaros said they are meeting again.

Dianna Wilkerson submitted a report as liaison representative between ABS and the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. The report was quite detailed but the essence is that the plants are in good shape and are well cared for by Debbie Garret and the volunteers and they deserve our thanks and continued financial support.

Holiday Greetings Chair Wanda Macnair urged branches and individuals to contact her with a donation this year. Over \$1641 has been donated so far.

Branch Reports were read for Rhode Island, Southwest Region, Astro, Delaware Valley, Atlanta, Joan Coulat Sacramento, Westchester, Margaret Lee, Buxton, San Gabriel and Long Beach Parent Chapter.

Howard Berg reported on the status of converting Jack Golding's files to digital format. The project is nearly complete. The records had to be removed from storage a few boxes at a time, copied and more brought out. We were initially going to copy only the species and the group

files but the endowment from Morris Mueller allowed all the records except the photographs to be copied. The files to date fill about 30 CD disks, all chock full. According to the financial records the cost of copying the files thus far is \$9997.71. The files will be available in a 16-gigabyte external drive. The ABS will decide how to index and distribute the files. Howard proposed that we name the records to incorporate Morris Mueller's bequest in the name. A motion to name the files "The Morris Mueller Endowment Fund for Jack Golding Records" in recognition of Morris Mueller's bequest passed.

Tampa Bay Branch proposed to hold the 2014 convention in Tampa, Florida. A motion to accept the proposal passed unanimously.

Steven Haba reported on the research programs at Ohio State University. He is working on determining the viability of Begonia seed including how long it remains viable in storage.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Macnair, Secretary



Howard and Barbara Berg at the ABS 2012 Convention in San Diego. Photo by Virginia Jens

Holiday Greeting 2012

A big thank you to these contributors whose tax-deductible gifts help fund our ABS journal, The Begonian.

Bronze

Tamsin and Bruce Boardman
Delaware Valley Branch
Greater Atlanta Begonia Society

Silver

Thomas Cootz and Stephanie
Joan Coulat Sacramento Branch
Doug Frost Branch
Cheryl Lenert
Bobbie Price
San Francisco Branch
San Gabriel Valley Branch
Santa Clara Valley Branch
Westchester Branch

Gold

Alamo Begonia Club
Barkley Branch
Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches
Howard and Barbara Berg
Janet Brown
Linda Lawson
Mid America Begonia Society
Palos Verdes Branch
San Jacinto Branch
South Bay Begonia Branch

Platinum

Astro Branch
Austin Area Branch
Buxton Branch
Merle Deland
Houston Satellite Branch
Long Beach Parent Chapter
Lulu Leonard
Mabel Corwin Branch
Richard and Wanda Macnair
Carol and Peter Notaras
Potomac Branch
Rudolf Ziesenhenn Branch
Southwest Region, ABS



Species Old and New: The Remarkable *Begonia* Diversity of Sumatra

Article and photos by Mark Hughes, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Sumatra is the sixth largest island in the world, and forms the westernmost part of the archipelago nation of Indonesia. The Barisan Range of mountains forms the backbone of the island, running 1500 km along its length and reaching altitudes of 3800 m at the majestic peak of Gunung Kerinci. The combination of its equatorial position and rugged topography means Sumatra is home to some of the richest forests in Southeast Asia. The mega-diverse genus *Begonia* has radiated in these forests over the past 5 million years, producing some incredible beautiful species. Botanists from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Bogor Herbarium and Botanic Garden in Java and Andalas University in Padang have been exploring Sumatra over the past 5 years in an attempt to completely document the *Begonia* species found there. Currently there are forty-three species of *Begonia* recognized as native or endemic to Sumatra. They are split between 5 sections of the genus: *Begonia* sect. *Reichenheimea* (15 species); sect. *Petermannia* (12 species); sect. *Bracteibegonia* (9 species); sect. *Platycentrum* (4 species) and sect. *Sphenanthera* (3 species).

Sumatran species in sect. *Reichenheimea* (Fig.1) have a rhizomatous habit and do not produce any upright or erect stems. Some larger species with petioles up to 60 cm long grow on the

forest floor, but most are restricted to the sides of boulders and rocky cliffs where they do not face so much competition from other plants. In common with most other species, they are usually very narrow endemics and some are restricted to limestone habitats. One of a number of species recently described from Sumatra is the delicate *B. droopiae* (Fig.2) which is found only around caves on two neighbouring limestone peaks in West Sumatra. Another striking new species, as yet un-named, was collected in 2011 from a nearby limestone



Fig. 1 A remarkable new species in sect. *Reichenheimea* from West Sumatra.

Fig. 2 *Begonia droopiae*, named after the collector Jane Droop.

Fig. 3 Missing for nearly 2 centuries: *Begonia sublobata*.



Fig. 4 The pendulous flowers of *Begonia padangensis*.

Fig. 5 The elongate male inflorescence of *Begonia racemosa*. Fig. 6 Female flowers of *Begonia racemosa*.



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cliff hidden behind a rubber plantation. It has very thick, succulent peltate leaves, and will be described in an upcoming publication produced in collaboration with botanists from Scotland and Indonesia. Also in sect. *Reichenheimea* is *B. sublobata* (Fig. 3), which was first collected by the Aberdonian botanist William Jack and described by him in 1822. The bulk of Jack's collections were destroyed in a ship fire in 1824 as they started their journey to Europe, and no trace of the species was seen until our team of botanists from Edinburgh, Bogor and Padang re-traced Jack's steps to the tiny island of Palau Pagang off the western coast of Sumatra. There small colonies of *B. sublobata* were found, growing in shade on rocks behind the beach forest and in the centre of the island. This rare species is now in cultivation, after being missing for nearly 2 centuries.

Begonia sect. *Petermannia* is richest on Borneo, but still presents some beau-

tiful cane-like species on Sumatra. *Begonia padangensis* (Fig.4) is particularly striking in the deep shade of the thick montane forests on the neighboring volcanoes Gunung Merapi and Gunung Singgalang to where it is endemic, its large pale flowers seeming to glow in the undergrowth. *Begonia racemosa* (Figs. 5,6) is also in sect. *Petermannia* and is another species described by William Jack in the early 1820's; its identity was only clarified following our expedition in 2010 to Bengkulu Province where he first collected the species. It is a very tall-growing species and has distinctive female flowers with three equal tepals, and large pseudo-racemose male inflorescences of whitish or coral-pink flowers.

Begonia sect. *Bracteibegonia* perhaps presents the greatest challenge to taxonomists on Sumatra, with many new species waiting to be uncovered both in the field and herbarium. They tend to be low-growing, repent herbs, often with red hairs on the stem, leaves and fruits. The boundary between this section and sect. *Petermannia* remains a source of confusion, with some species showing a mix of characters and DNA evidence not revealing a clear picture. Two of the many undescribed sect. *Bracteibegonia* species are shown here, one found in 2009 a few hours drive from Padang city in West Sumatra and the other in 2010 along a roadside in Bengkulu. The type species of sect. *Bracteibegonia*, *B. bracteata* (Fig. 7), is another of William Jack's discoveries which had not been seen for 190 years prior to our 2010 expedition. Jack described it as growing "near the foot



of Gunung Bunko in the interior of Bencoolen”; we scaled the slopes of the same isolated mountain, now known as Gunung Bungkok, and found *B. bracteata* growing in the thick peaty soils at about 600 m altitude.

The allied sections *Platycentrum* and *Sphenanthera* have some of the widest-spread species on Sumatra, such as *B. longifolia* (sect. *Sphenanthera*; China to Sulawesi) and *B. areolata* (sect. *Platycentrum*; throughout the mountains of Sumatra and western Java). An exception to this is the beautifully variegated *B. tuberculosa* (Fig. 10), which is found only on the lower slopes of the volcano Gunung Sinabung in North Sumatra. This species was described only recently, and was named after its ability to produce tiny pea-sized tubers on its fibrous root system. Even though sect. *Sphenanthera* (Fig. 11) on Sumatra was taxonomically revised last year (Gardens Bulletin Singapore 62 (2011) 239–251), yet another potential new taxon has recently come to light from Gunung Daun in Bengkulu province, and we are currently considering if this is sufficiently different from the allied *B. scottii* to be recognised as a distinct species. Each successive expedition continues to surprise us with considerable numbers of new *Begonia*, and much botanical work remains to be done on this remarkably diverse and beautiful island.

Fig. 7 A dainty new species in sect. *Bracteibegonia* from Bengkulu Province. **Fig. 8** This new species of sect. *Bracteibegonia* has a blue sheen to the leaves in certain light. **Fig. 9** Unprepossessing but taxonomically important: *Begonia bracteata*, recently rediscovered and photographed for the first time. **Fig. 10** *Begonia tuberculosa* is endemic to the lower slopes of Gunung Sinabung. **Fig. 11** A potential new species in sect. *Sphenanthera* allied to *Begonia scottii*.





Rugose leaf surfaces. *B. goegoensis* (above). Photo by Jackie Duruisseau
B. rajah (top, right). *B. phutoensis* (bottom, right).
 Photos by Tony Pinto

A Word with You: Rugose

By Claudia Goodridge,
New Haven, CT

*E*ven – no hills, no dales; nothing raised, nothing sunken. That sounds like an expertly plastered wall or a perfectly sewn hem, but it’s the term applied to a perfectly smooth leaf surface. Then there’s a list of leaf surface variations, including *rugose*.

Mr. Webster says *rugose* comes from the Latin *ruga*, a wrinkle (I’m seeing a few of those these days, unfortunately). He adds “having or full of wrinkles; corrugated; ridged; as, a *rugose* leaf.” Corrugated or *rugose*. Yes, cardboard is corrugated, but so is the skin of a couple friends who over did their sun worship. Remember when we did that? *Rugose* might become a gentler, more politically correct description for future discussions.

Just before this definition, in my dictionary, was *Rugosa*, “an order



ABS Service Award Winners 2012

By Charles Jaros, ABS President

Herbert P. Dyckman Award

This year's recipient of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award is someone we all know. Their tireless work with our favorite plant group **Begoniaceae** has resulted in articles, lectures, displays and seeds. Our winner often endures many hardships in their research of begonias. The results of this research is astounding, with new species being discovered as well as those thought lost to cultivation. Our winner is a remarkable advocate for begonias. The winner of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award is Dr. Rekha Morris.

Eva Kenworthy Gray Award

This year's recipient of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award is a long time member of ABS. Our winner has served in multiple areas of the ABS from committee chair to Executive Officer and is still volunteering their time to ABS. This commitment to ABS has taken years of patience, research, perseverance and love for the ABS. This year's winner of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award is Howard Berg.

Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award

Everyone knew Rudy Ziesenhenné and loved the work he did, not only in hybridizing, but also for all the tremendous collecting of information regarding begonias. This year's recipient goes to someone who has been outstanding in writing and contributing to the world of Begonias. Our winner has served on various committees, as well as being an executive officer. This year's winner has been editor to a wonderfully informative monthly newsletter publication for several years and has also contributed to *The Begonian*. The winner of the Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award goes to Janet Brown.

Marge Lee Award

This year's recipient of the Marge Lee Award is a long time member of ABS and is one who likes to remain in the background without fanfare, but who is also ready to step in and do what is necessary when asked. Our winner's Southern background shows in their sunny, congenial nature. One of the main contributions to ABS is the resurrection of one of our branches from the edge of extinction. The winner of the Marge Lee Award goes to Margaret Fisher.

Gene Salisbury Award

The winner of this year's Gene Salisbury Award has exhibited great knowledge and enthusiasm over the years with their begonias. The result of their cultural abilities has been proven time and again with the many awards, trophies and Cultural Certificates they have won. Our winner is always willing to share their experiences and plants with others. This year's winner may cheat because they live in Begonia Heaven, but they do recognize that fact and do give it credit. The winner of the Gene Salisbury Award goes to Mike Flaherty.

Alfred D. Robinson Medal

The winner of the Alfred D. Robinson Medal is a wonderfully sturdy begonia that can easily grow to 6' or more. Its flowers hang in beautiful umbels. This begonia was developed in 2000, bloomed in 2004 and was first distributed in 2004. It was registered with ABS in 2007 with registration # of 997. The recipient of this award is a past recipient as well. The winner of the Alfred D. Robinson Medal goes to *B. 'Pagoda'* hybridized and developed by Freda Holley.



between which are convex (wrinkled) with irregular elevations." Examples he mentions are *B. goegoensis* and *B. rajah*.

B. goegoensis also has peltate leaves. Remember that term? Pictures of it show strikingly patterned leaves. Both *B. goegoensis* and *B. rajah* are in the section (remember that one?) *Reichenheimia*; both are Asian species; both are creeping rhizomatous types. Goegoensis comes from Goego,

Sumatra. I can feel the humidity just reading that location. *Rajah* comes from the Malay Peninsula, but is no longer found in the wild, making it an endangered species.

Wouldn't you know someone crossed these two and got two cultivars, *B. "Mumtaz"* and *B. "Sansouci"*, both of which sport *rugose* leaves. There are more terms to describe leaf surfaces, but I'll save them for later. Hopefully they'll all improve, if not enliven, my politically correct conversations.

B. "Mumtaz" (left) and its attractive flowers (right).

Photos by Tony Pinto

of extinct corals." The corals I know are pretty wrinkled. My treasured piece of brain coral is decidedly corrugated (on the sides) – something I hadn't really focused on before looking at *rugose*. But I also think of *Rosa rugosa*, which does have wrinkled leaves. I suspect that these correlations may help me remember the term going forward.

But back to begonias. Jack Golding says *rugose* begonias are "covered with reticulated [a network] veins, the spaces



Rhizomatous
Distinctive Foliage –
B. sizemoreae
Exhibitor – Dean
Turney

Tuberous – *B.*
dregei ‘Glasgow’
Exhibitor – Paul &
Laurel Carlisle

Tuberhybrida – *B.*
‘Fred Martin’
Exhibitor – Paul &
Laurel Carlisle

Contained Atmosphere, Single Variety
– *B. bogneri*
Exhibitor – Dean Turney

Species – *B. peltata*
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty

Unidentified Species – *B.* U475
Exhibitor – Paul & Laurel Carlisle

Hanging Container – *B.* ‘Tiny Gem’
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty

Novel Grown – *B. boliviensis* cv.
‘Bonfire’
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty

Artistic Photograph – *B. boliviensis* cv.
‘Bonfire’
Exhibitor – Charles Henthorne

Arts – *B.* ‘Angel Glow’
Exhibitor – Colleen Janee

Crafts – *B. luxurians* Mosaic
Exhibitor – Julie Vanderwilt

San Diego Hybrid –
B. ‘Mrs. Fred T. Scripps’
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty

Exhibit – Tuberhybrida Display
Exhibitor – Paul Carlisle & Mike
Flaherty

2012 ABS Convention

San Diego, California

August 7- 12, 2012

101 Entries

14 Exhibitors

Best of Show

B. dregei ‘Glasgow’
Paul & Laurel Carlisle

Sweepstakes

Mike Flaherty
25 Blue Ribbons

Show is Sharing

Mike Flaherty
33 Entries

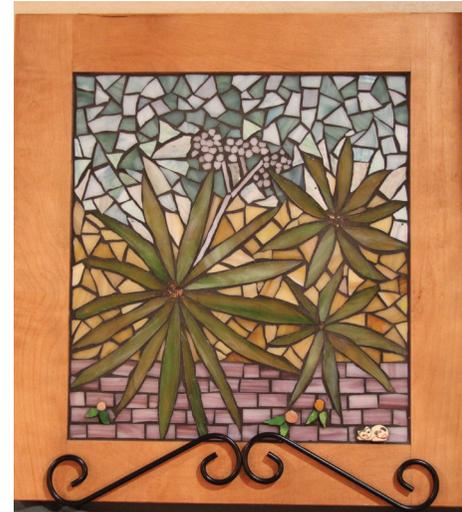
DIVISION AWARDS

Cane-Like – *B.* ‘Dennis Franz’
Exhibitor: Mike Flaherty

Shrub-Like – *B.* ‘Gary Hunt’
Exhibitor: Mike Flaherty

Rhizomatous – *B.* ‘Troll’
Exhibitor: Mike Flaherty

Rhizomatous Unusual Growth or
Foliage – *B.* ‘Mr. O’Flaherty’
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty



CULTURAL CERTIFICATES

Ingeborg Foo
B. metallica – 95 points

Dean Turney
B. sizemoreae – 97.6 points
B. bogneri – 98 points
Paul & Laurel Carlisle
B. ‘Fred Martin’ – 99 points
B. ‘Allan Langdon’ – 98 points
B. dregei ‘Glasgow’ – 98 points
B. Narcissa Form ‘Orange’ – 98 points
B. ‘Fred Martin’ – 98 points
B. ‘Snowbird’ – 97 points
B. ‘Billie Langdon’ – 97
points

B. ‘Guinevere’ – 96 points
B. ‘Santa Fe’ – 96 points
B. Multiflora ‘Orange’ – 96 points
B. U475 – 95 points
B. #82 – 95 points
B. ‘Jessica’ – 95 points

Mike Flaherty

B. boliviensis cv ‘Bonfire’ – 98 points
B. ‘Pink Sabers’ – 97.5 points
B. ‘Mr. O’Flaherty’ – 97.2 points
B. ‘Barely There’ – 97 points
B. ‘Tiny Gem’ – 96.5 points
B. peltata – 96 points
B. pearcei Hybrid – 96 points
B. ‘Gary Hunt’ – 96 points
B. ‘Mrs. Fred T. Scripps’ – 96 points
B. boliviensis cv ‘Bonfire’ – 96 points
B. ‘Two-Tone Tuttie’ – 96 points
B. ‘Troll’ – 95.6 points
B. ‘Angel Glow’ – 95.5 points
B. ‘King Cobra’ – 95.5 points
B. ‘Pink Eye’ – 95.3 points
B. ‘Cracker Jacks’ – 95 points
B. foliosa – 95 points
B. ‘Dennis Franz’ 95 points



Top, left: *B.* ‘Troll’
Grown by Mike Flaherty
Top, right: *Begonia luxurians*
mosaic made by Julie
Vanderwilt, Bottom, right:
B. ‘Fred Martin’
Grown by Paul &
Laurel Carlisle
Photos by Gary
Hunt



2012 ABS Convention in San Diego





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← Previous pages 220-221

1. Stained glass terrarium created and shown by Gary Hunt; *Begonia staudtii* grown by Mike Flaherty.
 2. *B. 'Bonfire'* first place Novel Grown - first time a tuberous begonia has ever been grown into a wreath shape, exhibited by Mike Flaherty.
 3. *B. dregei* 'Glasgow' winner of Best in Show, exhibited by Paul & Laurel Carlisle.
 4. *B. 'River Nile'* first place - Recycled Container, exhibited by Mike Flaherty.
 5. Stained glass lampshade made by Gary Hunt, inspired by *Begonia 'Erythrophylla'*.
 6. *B. sizemoreae* cultural certificate winner exhibited by Dean Turney.
 7. Tuberous begonias from left to right, *B. 'Jessica'*, *B. #12*, *B. 'Billie Langdon'*, *B. 'Falstaff'*, *B. 'Allan Langdon'*. Exhibited by Paul Carlisle and Mike Flaherty.
- Photos by Gary Hunt

2012 ABS Convention in San Diego



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1. RL and Freda Holley. Freda won the Alfred D. Robinson Medal for her hybrid *B. 'Pagoda'*. In are background, Chuck and Joan Ades, Mike Kartuz, Dr. Tain, Thelma's O'Reilly's daughter Janet and husband Bob and two children.
2. Michael Ludwig, Mike Flaherty, Charles Jaros, Maxine Zinman's hair in Michael Ludwig's shade house.
3. Rekha Morris was awarded the Herbert P. Dyckman Award.
4. Shirley Rapp and Dian Parr tour the Ludwig garden.
5. Tim and Thelma O'Reilly. Thelma was presented with a painting of her new hybrid, *B. 'Violet Bell'*, named after her mother. The painting was done by Pat Belkham, who also did paintings for the trophies at the convention.
6. Maxine Zinman, Lou Welsh, Julie Vanderwilt and Gary Hunt singing at the banquet.

Photos by Michael Ludwig

The KOLZ Begonia Research Center

A highlight of the 2012 ABS Convention in San Diego was a tour of the KOLZ Begonia Research Center - named for Carrie Karegeannes, Thelma O'Reilly, Michael Ludwig, and Rudolf (Rudy) Ziesenhenn. Started in 2006 by Michael Ludwig this is a library which contains material collected and left to Ludwig by the Research Center's namesakes and others. Check out the website, at www.kolzbegonia.com. The Beginnings page gives you the story of KOLZ, while the other pages tell and show resources.

"See the herbarium specimens that Rudy, Carrie and Thelma made and preserved for their studies. Read horticultural literature that Carrie and Rudy tracked down and copied. Look at the thousands of index cards that they and Thelma used to keep track of data before the dawn of computers. Books that they used for information and the dictionaries they used to translate them from Latin or the authors' original languages. View slides that Carrie and I used; or the rolls of film negatives that Rudy used to photograph literature, print the pages and then put them in notebooks. Most of these were falling apart they were so old but they have been transferred to newer bindings. Photographic prints, old catalogs, botanical prints, art, drawings and sketches are all part of the collection." - from the KOLZ Begonia Research website



Michael Ludwig and Dr. I. Peng (**top**) pose in front of part of the large collection of books at the KOLZ Research Center. Herbarium specimens, prints, letters, and more capture the history and study of begonias from a legacy of ABS members. Touring the Research Center, (**above from left to right**), Mike Flaherty, Gary Hunt, Bob Clark, Charles Jaros and Maxine Zinman. Mark Tebbitt, Michael Ludwig, and Laura Tebbitt (**opposite page**) in KOLZ Begonia Research Center. Photos from Michael Ludwig



Begonia bipinnatifida

This attractive plant from New Guinea is one of the approximately 200 members of the *Petermannia* section. It was first mentioned in a publication in 1906. The name, *bipinnatifida*, roughly means - twice pinnately cut, like a pinnate leaf whose sections are again pinnate. Those leaf cuts give the plant its ferny appearance. Photos by Tony Pinto



The Begonian

Eat Your Spinach!

By Freda Holley, Choudrant, LA

Turns out your mother was right, but not for the reason she thought! Eat your spinach so you can have the left-over carton to start your rhizomatous and rex begonias. Lettuce leaves can be found in these boxes as well.

I am a casual propagator using the easiest material and methods I can find. As a result I am quite often not successful with these two classes. But last winter we had several of these boxes left over and as usual I hate to waste anything, so I decided to try them for propagation under the lights in my greenhouse. Lo, I had the best results I had ever had at getting these to propagate.

In the summer, I move everything and all my efforts outside. My babies had been shifted to growing pots and I still had those boxes left. I filled them again and stuck them anywhere I could that would get no sun - hugging up to the base of a large water oak, under a bench, tucked into a pot with a lemon tree. Keep in mind we had temperatures over 100 in May, June, and July. Thank goodness it moderated in August, but to my surprise they worked just as well outside as they had in the greenhouse. I also tried a plastic shoebox, but it leaked water onto the plants whenever I watered or it rained so I gave it up.

I removed the labels on the boxes in the greenhouse where there was low light, but left them on outside. I took pure perlite, wet it in a pot, and spread a thin layer in each box. I used both

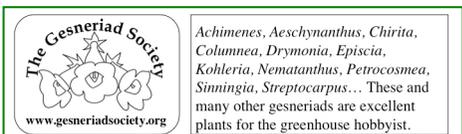


Successful cuttings (above) thriving in a recycled spinach container (left). Photos from Freda Holley

wedge cuttings; leaf parts with stems, and cone leaf cuttings. All worked well.

I also used the method on a few small cuttings of trailing scandents I've had problems propagating; that worked well too.

Eat your spinach!



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From Kit's Garden

Article and photos by Kit Jeans Mounger, Afton, TN

The “mixed bowl” (**opposite page, top**) is my first (successful) attempt to get *B. amphioxus* to grow for me—and that only happened when I put it into a bed of moss with other species. In this case, I believe, is Rekha Morris’ *B. imperialis*, *B. picta*, a smidgeon of *B. ‘Wanda’* and a soupçon of *B. bartlettiana* (although this specimen is a bit darker than the one I have in a cookie jar of its own). So far I’ve not been able to get the color quite right. I think I may take it out in the sunshine and see if I can photograph it in natural light to get its proper yellow-gold.

I saw a double bloom on this *B. leprosa* (**opposite page, bottom two**) - the same plant which was pictured in the last issue of *The Begonian*. I initially thought these were “conjoined twins” of which it appeared one bloom was male and the other female. However, on looking closer, I realized that one of the blossoms had both male and female parts: stigma and stamen, which I thought was an interesting anomaly.

Blooms from *B. ‘Benitsubomi’* (**above**).



Haraella odorata: A Miniature Orchid for the Terrarium

Linda Tamblyn, Merriam, KS

A lot of orchids died in my search for a miniature that would do well in a terrarium. The ones that did live seemed to suffer mightily in the airless confinement until the *Begonia prismatocarpa* and the *Selaginella* finally overtook them. But I didn't give up looking and, finally, I found a miniature

orchid with an attractive bloom that enjoyed terrarium life.

Haraella odorata (syn. *retrocalla*) has a great tolerance for the humid atmosphere of a terrarium. These plants have surprised me with a nearly constant parade of brilliant yellow flowers with a merlot-colored face.

The trick, I find, to success is to grow these little orchids mounted on a raft of cork bark. These plants aren't really fussy - once they have a piece of wood to call home and a nice humid terrarium - but they do ask for a couple of things. Distilled water or other pure water seems to be a must. Also, they like to dry out a bit before they get the next watering. They like the high humidity in the air but they do not like water on their leaves.

If all that isn't enough to convince you to try a *Haraella odorata*, it's also fragrant. Lift the lid when the plant is blooming and you might catch the lemon-vanilla scent.



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Branch Show and Sales

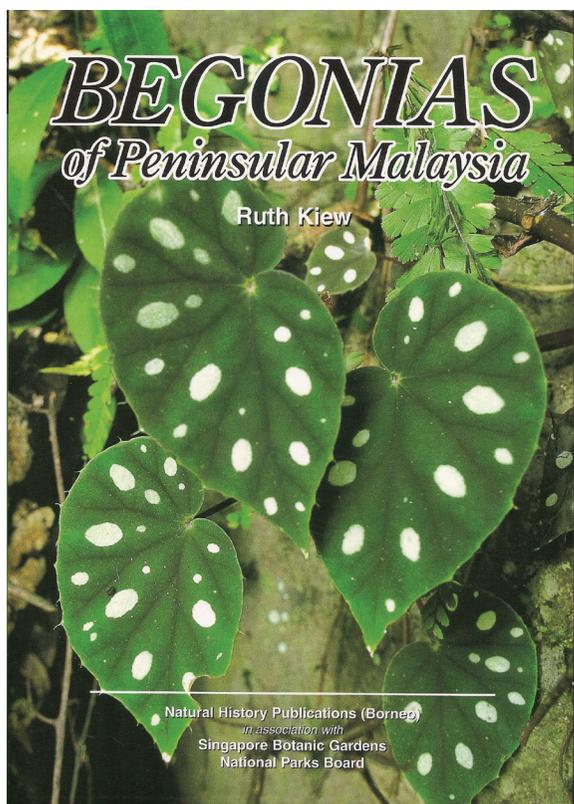
The **Buxton Branch** held its annual show and plant sale (**photos at left**) in September at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. It was a beautiful weekend with a large attendance, a record number of show entries, and great plant sales. Best in Show was *B. 'Raspberry Swirl,'* won by Anita Bazdegian in the novice class. Wanda Macnair received the Sweepstakes award for the most blue ribbons, as well as the Showing and Sharing award for the most plants entered. Attendees enjoyed programs throughout the weekend. Tony Pinto shared photos from his travels to remote destinations across the world, photographing plants and fish in their natural habitats. Henrietta Light talked about her experiences with seven of her favorite begonias. Bonnie Lambert discussed a variety of growing options for begonias, from growing begonias as tropical bonsai to growing them on a log. A very successful show! Thanks go to our show co-chairs, Ann Tanona and Linda Kammerer. -Reported by Sally Savelle, Buxton Branch



The sales tables (top) were full of beautiful plants at the Buxton Branch sale in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Judges, Julie Crocker, Bonnie Lambert, and Charles Jaros, were assisted by Buxton Branch clerks (bottom). Photos by Tony Pinto



The **Mid America Begonia Society** held their 3rd Annual Show and Sale at Loose Park Garden Center in Kansas City, MO on the last weekend of September. There were 38 entries including the Best in Show winner, a stunning *Begonia masoniana*, the Iron Cross begonia (**above, top left**), exhibited by Mary Ann Bjorgaard. As the group has done in the past, the show and sale was held in conjunction with the Heart of America Gesneriad Society's event (**above, top right**). One of the most popular plants was Brent Tucker's *Ceropegia sandersonii*, the Parachute Plant (**bottom, left**) in full bloom and grown in a wreath form. Besides a nice selection of begonias and gesneriads there were also baby staghorn ferns (**bottom, right**) on the sale table. Photos by Jem Wiseman



NEW: Unidentified Species Listing, Update, August 2012

by Mary Bucholtz & Charles Jaros, Co-Directors

Second Edition includes U Numbers 001 through 621. Looseleaf format for easy addition of new material. Notebook not included.

Domestic: \$45.00
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NEW: B. U 604-621 to add to the August, 2010 Unidentified Species Listing

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NEW: 2013 Calendar by Dr. Rekha Morris (limited number).

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NEW: Tips for Begonia Beginners

by Dorothy Patrick, Illustrations by Kit Jeans Mounger,

Published 1992 by American Begonia Society. A great little how-to book from SWR.

\$3.00

Raising Cane: Experiences in Growing the Species Cane Begonias

by Freda M. Holley
A wonderful work on the cane species with color photographs.

\$15.00

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

Begoniaceae, Edition 2, Part I: Annotated Species List, Part II: Illustrated Key, Abridgement & Supplement

Jack Golding & Dieter C. Wasshausen, 2002, Smithsonian Institution, Volume 43: 1-289
\$55.00

Seeing Begonia

by Jack Golding
2003, Revised 2005. Jack Golding's last work. "...dedicated to the many who look at their Begonia but do not see the details."

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Begonia Hybridizing: A Primer

by Freda M. Holley, 2007

An invaluable source book for the beginning or advanced begonia hybridizer.

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Begonia Notes

by Rudolf Ziesenhenn

Reissued by the Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund. Originally printed in the Santa Barbara Branch, La Begonia Barbareña.

\$15.00

Begonias – 1984 Update

by Mildred L. Thompson,
Reissued 2009, "An addendum for particular portions of *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide* (Times Books, 1981). Includes species and hybrids and many pictures.

\$18.00

Begonias of Peninsular Malaysia

by Ruth Kiew

A magnificent work with glorious pictures.

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To order: Prices include domestic shipping. Send check payable to the American Begonia Society and your order to Carol Notaras, 2567 Green St., San Francisco 94123 or order online at begonias.org by PayPal. For questions and availability, email or call Book Store Chairman Janet Brown, begoniabrown@yahoo.com 310-670-4471.

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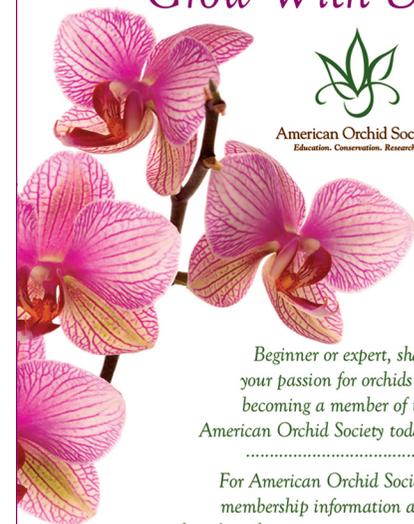
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Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

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The Seed Fund now offers a PayPal option. This option is available through the ABS Website. Go to the Seed Fund Page and select the link "Current Seed Listing pay with PayPal". There is a small "PayPal" fee plus the "shipping and handling" fee to cover the cost of using PayPal. Choose the fee amount in the drop down menu at the bottom of the page as with the shipping and handling drop down menus. By policy, new seed additions are made after they are first published in *The Begonian* and updated as supplies vary while filling orders. This is the best source for the current available seed list. By policy, new seed additions are made after they are first published in *The Begonian* and updated as supplies vary while filling orders. This is the best source for the current available seed list. 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.

**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:

New Seeds from Rekha Morris' 2012 trip to India. All seeds are \$3.00:

<i>B. aborensis</i>	RM-AR-1093
<i>B. burkillii</i>	RM-AR-1096a
<i>B. burkillii</i> var. <i>ferruginea</i>	RM-AR-1096
<i>B. griffithiana</i>	RM-AR-1084
<i>B. griffithiana</i> (maroon form)	RM-AR-1124
<i>B. iridescens</i>	RM-AR-1097
<i>B. limprichtii</i>	RM-AR-1101
<i>B. palmata</i> (mixture of variegated forms)	RM-AR-1103a
<i>B. silletensis</i>	RM-AR-1116

Seeds of the three species listed below were collected from plants originally from Arunachal and Meghalaya now growing in a shade house in south India.

<i>B. palmata</i> (form from Meghalaya)	RM-M-701
<i>B. acetosella</i> var. <i>acetosella</i>	RM-AR-988
<i>B. roxburghii</i>	RM-AR-821

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:



One of my hybrids which I call *B. 'Come'*, this begonia is in very good condition due to the extra protection from being grown in a foam box over winter. From Joe Romeo in Australia.

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...continued from previous page

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DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. The species names (in

italics) reported here are correct based on the latest information from *BEGONIA-CEAE, 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.



B. "Pink Sabers" won a cultural award at the San Diego ABS convention. Grown and exhibited by Mike Flaherty. Photo by Gary Hunt.

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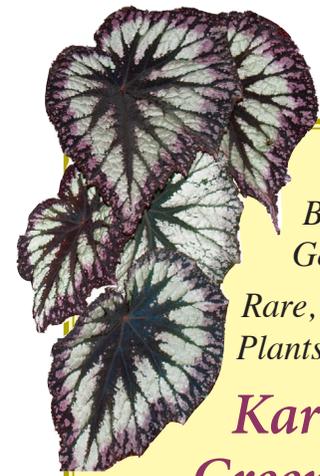
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