



THE
BEGONIAN

November/December 2013



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.

Begonia U400 - from the Buxton Branch Show and Sale.
Photo by Tony Pinto

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An unnamed Kartuz hybrid pg. 228



Ride for the Roses pg. 238

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Front cover: *Begonia* Wonderland! From the Buxton Branch Show and Sale, see page 226. Photo by Tony Pinto

Back cover: A tuberous begonia from Jacky Duruisseau's trip to Madagascar. Read Part 2 starting on page 216. Photo by Jacky Duruisseau

Happy Holidays to you all. May the coming year bring you all beautiful begonias to fill your life with happiness.

We've been working diligently to fill vacant ABS chair positions. John Boggan, Potomac Branch, has agreed to serve as Nomenclature Chair. Priscilla Purinton, Rhode Island Branch, has agreed to serve on his committee as Cultivar Registrar (ie hybrid registrations). Cheryl Lenert, Houston Astro Branch is serving as Awards Chair. The new Convention Chair (which changes each year) is Peggy Sporer, Tampa Branch. Jeanne Jones has retired from the Historian position and Millie Santandreu, a Member-at-Large from Ocala, FL has agreed to take on the position. Frances Drescher (not the actress but the Treasurer of Begonia Society Palm Beach) has agreed to take over Holiday Greetings from Wanda Macnair who is retiring from that job. Please note changes to the Conservation Committee. Johanna Zinn, Chair, has agreed to integrate Research and Save Our Species in to this Committee. Julie Vanderwilt has agreed to take over once again as Web Master, at least temporarily. We are all very grateful for that and her hard work on the site.

The generosity of our members raised \$4810 for the Holiday Greetings, which supports the publication of the Begonian. I am grateful for Wanda's dedication to this project. She will be training Frances Drescher to take over for next year.

I am pleased to announce that the Executive Committee of the ISHS (International Society for Horticultural Science) at its review meeting held recently in Beijing re-appointed ABS as the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for Begonia.

President's Message

This was based on a review of Gene Salisbury's report to the Commission for Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration which are conducted every 4-5 years. The ISHS was founded in 1864 and has over 6500 members in 146 countries today.

I think by now all of you have been notified of the death of Gene Salisbury at the time of our annual meeting in Palos Verdes. He leaves an enormous legacy and "big boots" to fill. His dedicated service to ABS is well known and extensive. Our hearts go out to Ann Salisbury for her personal loss, even as we try to cope with the loss to ABS.

Information packets should be available for the Tampa Convention soon. I hope to see you all there.

Virginia Jens, President



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2014 SWR/ABS Get-Together/ABS Board Meeting, Shreveport, LA

Shreveport will be the site of the first ever Get-Together in Louisiana May 22 – 24, 2014. The city has a population of just under 200,000, but that is somewhat deceptive because it is a twin city located on the west bank of the Red River with its twin Bossier City located on the east bank. Together, their metropolitan area population swells to almost half a million. It is the third largest city in the state, and the commercial and cultural center of the AR-LA-TX, the area where the three states come together.

It is a city with a colorful past since it was founded in the mid 1800s as a river port city after a log jam that spread 160 miles, called the "big raft" was finally cleared from the Red River when dynamite became available, allowing river traffic to reach the Mississippi. Shreveport was briefly the capital of Louisiana during the Civil War. Its once large manufacturing base suffered a big loss when the GM plant making the Humvee was closed recently. Gambling is now a large employer in its many very large casinos. Barksdale Air Force Base is another. Surprisingly, Shreveport now has the third largest film industry in the U.S., earning it the nickname of the "Hollywood of the South." You would recognize the long list of films made there with one of the latest being *Olympus Has Fallen*.

Horticulture is also important. You will be visiting the largest rose garden in the U.S., but will miss the largest iris nursery in the U.S. because it closes after the bloom of the iris in March and the daylily in April. The Burden Center is a large center downtown where garden clubs meet and hold their sales. There is also a large farmer's market nearby. All in all, it will be an interesting city to visit.

The Begonian January/February 2014

Deadline: November 28

Send your photos, growing tips, or articles to:
begoniaskc@yahoo.com



PLATINUM

- Astro Branch
- Austin Area Begonia Society
- Beg. Society of Tampa Bay
- Beg. Society of the Palm Beaches
- Bob Brooks
- Janet Brown
- Buxton Branch
- Mabel Corwin Branch
- The Doug Frost Branch
- Thomas Keepin
- Lula Mae Leonard
- Long Beach Parent Chapter
- Richard, & Wanda Macnair
- Carol & Peter Notaras
- Margaret Lee Branch
- Palos Verdes Begonia Society
- Potomac Branch
- Southwest Region, ABS
- Rudolf Ziesenhenn Branch
- Johanna and Jeff Zinn

GOLD

- Alamo Branch
- Antoon Hoefnagles
- Fred A. Barkley Branch
- Doug Frost Branch
- San Jacinto Branch
- South Bay Branch
- Julie Vanderwilt

ABS Holiday Greetings

SILVER

- Doug Byrom
- Thomas Cootz, Stephanie Rose
- Freda & R.L. Holley
- Linda Lawson
- Joan Coulat, Sacramento Br.
- Cheryl Lenert
- Mid-America Begonia Society
- Orange County Branch
- Bobbie Price
- San Gabriel Branch
- San Francisco Branch
- Santa Clara Valley Branch
- Westchester Branch

BRONZE

- Phyllis Adams
- Greater Atlanta Begonia Society
- Bruce & Tamsin Boardman
- Mrs. D. I Zody
- Delaware Valley Branch

*Best Wishes to ALL!!
Thank you from the ABS
and The Begonian!*



2014 ABS Convention in Tampa

The Tampa Branch is excited to announce the lectures planned for the 2014 convention March 19 – 23. We have 3 great speakers lined up for Saturday morning. First up is Rick Schoellhorn from Proven Winners who will talk about begonia trials and the marketplace. Next we have Dr. Katherine Burt-Utley who will talk about Mexican begonia species. Travel along with her and see so many familiar species who are the parents of so many of our hybrids. She will be followed by her husband, Dr. John Utley, who's topic is Mexican/Central American plants and their habitats. This Dr. Utley also studies and collects bromeliads.

Our Wednesday evening program will be presented by D & D Herb Growers, a very popular local couple who will talk about how to be successful growing herbs. The talk will cover plants that are easier to grow, hints to help grow difficult herbs and anything in between. Herb plants to smell and taste and buy are always part of his presentation. Suggestions about culinary uses are shared, as well as samples of cookies or oils.

On Thursday evening we will be showing the fascinating film, "How Plants Communicate" from the award winning PBS NOVA/NatureSeries. This will have every plant lover glued to their seat from beginning to end.

The prodigious Tom Keepin has agreed to be our banquet Master of Ceremonies, and we are reviving an old tradition and will have a banquet speaker this year. Penny Carnathan has been the garden writer for each Tampa newspaper for the past 10 years. She is popular and well known among local garden groups for her lively and entertaining programs. "Begonias and Beyond: Garden Inspirations" will be her topic of the evening.

Of course there will be a Judged Show and a plant sale. This year, in addition to begonias, we have invited growers of other "companion" plant families to sell at the sale as well – ie: gesneriads, bromeliads, orchids, cactus & succulents (so far.)

So start making arrangements and plans to be there. Secure our special group room at the Marriott/Westshore by calling 800-346-7079 and using our group name, American Begonia Society.

Hope to see you all there! In the next issue we'll tell you all about the fabulous tours.

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Clifford Eugene Salisbury

7/6/1930 - 8/20/2013

Clifford Eugene "Gene" Salisbury, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013, at his home in Tonkawa. He was 83 years old.

Gene was born July 6, 1930, in Independence, Kan. the son of Clifton A. and Lola J. Salisbury. In 1936, the family moved to Bartlesville, where his father assisted in building the foundry for Reda



had moved to Tonkawa and with the assistance of Albert Wetmore and his family, had founded the Tonkawa Foundry in 1950. Gene and Carolyn moved to Tonkawa and Gene joined Cliff in operating the Tonkawa Foundry. The Tonkawa Foundry is still in operation and being run by a third generation, Jim Salisbury and Sandy Salisbury Linton.

Over his lifetime

Pump Company where he was also foundry manager. Cliff, Lola and Gene were all pilots, with Gene getting his pilot's license at age 16. Gene was a 1948 graduate of Bartlesville High School. He then attended Coffeyville College of Arts, Science and Vocations, earning an Associates of Arts degree.

Gene married Carolyn Nell Sturgeon in 1952. Together they had three children. Carolyn preceded Gene in death in 1983.

Gene entered the Air Force and graduated from cadet school class of 1952E. He then attended instrument flight school and combat fighter pilot school. He was assigned to the 68th All Weather Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Eighth Air Force. He was stationed at Fukuoka, Japan, and served during the Korean Conflict (War), flying numerous missions over the Korean peninsula. Thomas Eugene was born in Japan during this time. Gene was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1957.

While Gene was in the Air Force, Cliff

Gene had many interests and passions. His earliest passion was flying and he owned several airplanes through the years. Water skiing, trapshooting and bird hunting were also among his diversions. For many years, Gene and family were active in breeding and showing horses. Awards in this field are too numerous to mention. Gene also had a love of old Hudson-Essex-Terraplane automobiles and through the years worked and restored many to mint condition. Awards received for his cars were also many.

Gene married Anna Lee Price in 1987. He and Ann were very active in both the Oklahoma and American Begonia Societies. Gene served in many offices in both organizations including President of the American Begonia Society. His begonias won numerous prizes both on the state and national level.

Gene is survived by his wife; his children, Thomas Eugene, James Donald, Sandra Lee and stepson Mike Price, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who

continued on next page



The Mid America Begonia Society held their Show and Sale on September 27 and 28 in conjunction with the Heart of America Gesneriad Society. This beautifully colored *B. rajah* (above) was in the show. Photo by Jem Wiseman

Salisbury continued

were the light of his life.

Gene was a proud man with strong opinions and the drive to back them up. His service to the Tonkawa community was broad. Over the years he served as a city councilman, mayor, member of the Tonkawa Industrial Authority, and the Tonkawa Pride Committee. In 2006, he was named Tonkawa Citizen of the Year. The Tonkawa Foundry operated by Gene, Jim and Sandy was named Business of the Year in 2011.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 4:30 p.m. at First National Bank Annex, Tonkawa. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Begonia Society, c/o Carol Notaras, Treasurer, 2567 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94123 or Hospice of North Central Oklahoma, 1904 North Union, Suite 103, Ponca City OK 74601.

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Two Giants from So. Cal

By Mike Flaherty, Santa Barbara, CA

Mrs. Harcourt's *B.* 'Lotusland' (pictured, top) I planted this Lotusland begonia about 5 years ago for Mrs. Harcourt. At the end of last winter we took all the bad leaves off the plant and put time-release fertilizer, mucho.

THIS is the most magnificent begonia I have ever seen. The home belongs to Mrs. Harcourt of the famous publishing family and is located directly behind Lotusland.

This begonia was named *B.* 'Hazel's Front Porch' (pictured, left) because Hazel Snodgrass of Ventura California claimed it just came up near her front porch. Many people think it is actually *B.* 'Rose' however, I have compared the two and they are very different. The one thing they have in common is they both get HUGE. Ventura California in the 1950s had one of the largest ABS branches and thousands of people came to my high school where the begonia show was held. Hazel was for many years the driving force behind the Ventura branch and a good friend of Rudy Z. By the way, the picture of *B.* 'Hazel's Front Porch' was taken by her office door.



Proceedings of the Annual Business Meeting American Begonia Society

Torrance CA, August 24, 2013

President Charles Jaros called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence to honor Gene Salisbury, ABS Business Manager and Nomenclature Director and also Past President, who passed away his week.

The Aims and Purposes of the Society were read by Wanda Macnair.

The proceedings of the board meeting in Austin, TX were approved as published in the *Begonian* and thus were upgraded to minutes.

The financial report was unavailable due to the absence of the treasurer. It is expected to be published separately in a future *Begonian*.

Branch reports were presented for Tampa, Buxton, Southwest Region, Westchester, San Gabriel Valley, Mabel Corwin, Orange County, Doug Frost, A. D. Robinson, Alamo, Dallas Area/Mae Blanton, Santa Clara Valley, Palm Beaches, Astro, Delaware Valley and Joan Coulat Sacramento Branches.

The executive board recommended funding three student grants at \$1000 each for the study of Begonia. One was for Steven Haba to study chromosome counts and the other two were for students of Prof. Mark Tebbitt at the California University of Pennsylvania. Funding for all three grants was approved.

The executive board recommended that ABS give \$1500 to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden for care of the Begonia species bank. The recommendation was approved.

The executive board recommended that \$500 be given to the International Begonia Database managed by Ross Bolwell. The donation was approved.

Audit Committee Chair Paul Tsamtis sent a report stating that the books of the ABS appear to be in order and applauded the treasurer for her professional effort. He also made several recommendations. The efforts of the *Begonian* editor to keep production costs down should be acknowledged and commended. The digital version of Jack Golding's files should be made available to botanists around the world as soon as possible. The Society should prepare a calendar of reporting requirements for branches to follow to maintain their tax exempt status. The inventory of ABS t-shirts should be made available to branches at ABS cost to be sold at local events.

Bookstore Chair Janet Brown reported an updated inventory of items including new items on hybridizing, unidentified species listing, additional U-numbers and a 2013 calendar.

Branch Relations Director Tom Keepin reported negotiations for two possible branches in Florida and Tennessee. The branch National Director yahoo group is becoming more active and he urged branch officers to make sure that their national directors join the group. If they are not on it already they should contact Tom or Johanna Zinn for an invitation.

Convention Co-chair Peggy Sporer

...continued on next page

B. evansiana

By Charles Henthorne,
Oklahoma City OK

My *B. evansiana* (pictured left and opposite page) here in Oklahoma City.

The patch is 18 months old and approximately 4 ft. in diameter. These plants have been loaded with blooms this year due to the high moisture (20 inches above normal this year!), and that has allowed them to thrive both in full sun and partial shade without damage.

B. evansiana was the first begonia I started with almost 50 years ago and are the ones that started my lifelong interest in begonias.



Proceedings of the Annual Business Meeting Continued from previous page

invited everyone to Tampa, March 19–23, 2014, for a very interesting and informative program. Dale Sena sent some convention news. The hotel is the Marriott West Shore at \$110 per night. Tours will include Tarpon Springs and Selby Gardens. There will be an entertaining banquet speaker.

Membership Chair Paul Rothstein sent a report indicating ABS has 904 members. This number breaks down to 784 domestic, 91 foreign and 29 business/school members. Of the 904 there are 43 free memberships and 18 free past presidents. However, it is noteworthy that since June 1 this year there have been 31 new memberships (not renewals) from all over the country as well as Australia .

Holiday Greetings Chair Wanda Macnair reported a total of \$3700 donated as of meeting time. After the meeting it increased to over \$4000.

Seed Fund Chair Dean Turney reported that new batches of seeds have been received from Rekha Morris and Steven Haba.

Ballot Counting Chair Ingeborg Foo reported that 133 ballots were received in the election. Many favorable comments were received about the separate ballot mailing.

New officers elected were Virginia Jens, President, Mike Flaherty, 1st V. P., Martin Delgado, 2nd V. P., Connie Saenz, Secretary, and Carol Notaras, Treasurer. The new officers were installed by Cheryl Lenert.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Macnair, Secretary





Begonia floccifera

Beddome

by Freda Holley, Choudrant, LA
and Tom Keepin, Houston, TX

Finding a plant that survives summer's humid heat in both North Louisiana and Houston is difficult enough, but finding one that seemingly thrives on it is rare indeed. *Begonia floccifera* fits that niche although Tom still has doubts about that outside in Houston.

Rekha Morris brought seed back from India a few trips back and both of us grew it out. We got a number of plants and although the seed was listed as of garden origin, there seems no doubt it is the true species. Rekha said in correspondence that the seed were from a private botanical garden, and that she had seen it in other botanical and private gardens, but no one seemed to know of its origins. She has not seen it in its natural setting which should be the southern tip of India.

Millie Thompson has a photo and listed it, but no articles about *B. floccifera* have been found. Freda had never seen it in a show or sale until this year's convention when Tom brought one and won a Division award for his plant. Millie Thompson classified it as rhizomatous medium-leaved, entire/subentire (generally 3 to 6 inches at maturity).

Doorenbos shows this species as having been found only in India and placed it in the *Reichenheimia* Group I family along with the more familiar *B. coriacea*, *goe-goensis*, and *rajah*. It is listed as having 32 chromosomes. *B. floccifera* certainly

lacks the glamour of these brethren, but the felted leaves are nonetheless captivating. Freda has always been intrigued by the way the leaves of *B. peltata* and *kellermannii* thicken and grow more heavily felted before bloom. *B. floccifera* shares this trait although it is not as pronounced.

In North Louisiana, it has taken no special care, growing happily outside from about April to October and in the greenhouse other months. *B. floccifera* definitely does not like winter, tolerating it so long as the temperatures stay above 60. Below that it definitely sulks and can be lost in very low temperatures. *B. floccifera* is reluctant to root from leaves or even a stem tip in winter. No attempts have been made in high summer, but hopefully it will prove easier at higher temperatures. As is the tendency with seedlings, one outgrew the others and is now blooming. Its bloom stem is quite tall and the dainty little white flowers at the tips are very nice. So far no bloom has set seed, but hope lives on! It seems to have a long bloom period, beginning in early spring in the greenhouse and still blooming as this is written. Plants below show the grower's uneven care and erratic fertilization, but fortunately seem to overcome both and continue to live and grow!

Here in Houston *B. floccifera* had a very rough start. The seed from Rekha were planted in November 2010. The seeds germinated with no problems in about 10 or 11 days. *B. floccifera* was slower to grow than the rest of the other seed planted. The seedlings sat and did nothing for almost a

year, they got dry on several occasion and were watered and fed. Finally the decision was made to go ahead and pot them up and perhaps that would get them started. After being potted up they continued to just sit there, it was decided that they would be put under lights in the garden room and they were on their own from then on. It seems this was the best decision for them as they started to put on new growth followed by blooms. As Freda stated there is always one that takes the lead and outgrows the rest and the one that went to convention in Austin was that plant. The plant that went to Austin is still going strong and has not stopped blooming. Being in a cold low light showroom didn't seem to bother it in the least. In years past the plants that I would take to show usually declined and died shortly after being brought home.

I am starting more plants and will start to distribute plants and hope to have some for the plant sale in Shreveport, LA in the spring. I would highly recommend *B. floccifera* for anyone to grow. It really does not want to be pampered. It really likes to be left alone and will reward you with a beautiful plant.



B. floccifera at home in Houston, TX (opposite page). Photo by Tom Keepin. Tom Keepin's plant of *B. floccifera* (above) at the 2013 Convention in Austin with a glimpse of it's ribbons. Freda's plant of *B. floccifera* (below) in April. Photos by Freda Holley.

Madagascar: Our Second Trip

January 20th / February 19th, 2013

Part 2

Article & photos by Jacky Duruisseau, Bois France



Thursday January 31: After staying a day in Antananarivo, we take off towards Maroantsetra in the north of Madagascar. We again see Clément, our guide, who waited for us at the airport. On the way to the Coco Beach Hotel, we note that the bridge that was broken in 2009 has been rebuilt! We are the only guests at the Coco Beach because the power has been out for two weeks after the local transformer was struck by lightning! Maybe too, thieves have taken away some electrical wires. Now, it is very quiet and a generator allows cooking for us. In the evening, warm and wet, we hold a briefing with Clement and Denise, his wife, who will be our cook during the expedition. We have set up the plan: we want to explore a part of the Makira Forest from Vodiriana village, which lies 30 kilometers from Maroantsetra on the western bank of Antongil Bay. In 2009, we only “visited” the Vodiriana area. This time we plan to try cross the cultivated and burned areas in order to reach the primary forest. The Makira Forest is immense (450,000 ha) and it is not completely explored. But it is surrounded by many villages; the rural pressure is high and the forest edge is disappearing, slowly but surely! The Malagasy peasants grow rice (mountain rice, not flooded field rice), clove trees, vanilla and pineapple. We hope that this trip will allow to us to go far into the forest and make some nice dis-

Fig. 1 To Vodiriana
Fig. 2 Toys made in...Madagascar
Fig. 3 Expedition departure



coveries.

Friday February 1: Before starting, we go to the market of Maroantsetra with Clement to complete the supplies with two live chickens. The taxi is late (we are in Madagascar) and we are delayed two hours! The road is still very difficult and the bridge, with a step of 50 cm (20 in) high, is a problem for the tired 4x4 and for the passengers! Colette is in the front near the driver and she breathes exhaust fumes because the gearshift gaiter has a big hole in it! The boat ferries us across the Voloina river before arriving at Vodiriana. Robert, the village chief, is waiting for us and he asks us to drink toasts of betsabetsa (the local rum) the first to introduce his new wife (**photo 1**) who is the teacher of the nursery school and the second, to celebrate my birthday. Clement sets out the plan and he negotiates the help of four porters. Robert, who knows the area,

will come with us. As in 2009, we install our hammocks in the nursery school and we are the attraction of the village during the evening (**photo 2**). Two children, who have not met a vazaha (European), cry and are frightened when they see Colette. All the village laughs. Denise and Robert’s wife cook the dinner (only one chicken left now) and we go to bed early. Warm and wet evening. Tomorrow will be a difficult day.

Saturday 2: We leave Vodiriana at about 7 am (**photo 3**). We follow the Voloina river and meet some forest remnants separated by areas burned or cultivated. We walk slowly on uneven ground where the temperature (more than 30°C = 86°F) and the humidity are high! Luckily we meet the first begonia (**photo 4**) and we forget our difficulties. We know this nice tuberous begonia (certainly not a described one) that we saw in 2009 which grows on a verti-



Fig. 4 The first begonia
 Fig. 5 *B. lyallii* var. *lyallii*
 Fig. 6 Ramatokely soa (pretty girl)



cal rocky slope in a very shady and damp place. Some fruits are on it and I get seeds (this begonia was in blossom in December 2009). Farther, we find *B. lyallii* var. *lyallii* with flowers and fruits. This creeper covers an area greater than 10 square meters (about 100sq ft) and nearly takes over rocks and trunks (photo 5). Wonderful! *B. lyallii* has many varieties described by M. Keraudren-Aymonin in the Flora of Madagascar. Here, we are faced with the type and I meet it for the first time. We cross many cultivated places with rice fields and backwaters - we are still not in the Makira Forest! We stop in a camp (3 or 4 huts) to eat and rest while amazed children and adults look on (photo 6)! The heat is terrible; shade is rare in the village and we begin to feel tired! Clement had planned 5 hours walking. Malagasy people



do not estimate time and distance as we do: first, they have the time, second, they walk all day long! In fact, this first day, we walk nearly 9 hours and the GPS shows 17 kilometers. We start off again and meet another begonia on the ground, near the path, a tuberous one; we'll find



7



8



9

it often during the next week on rocks at Masoala. We cross areas where the forest is only a memory (photo 7). What a pity! We

join Ambaninindrano village at about 4:30 pm. Porters and Denise have been waiting here a long time. We set up hammocks in the “case de passage” of the village before washing in the river, as all the people do. The cool water is a good cure for the tiredness.

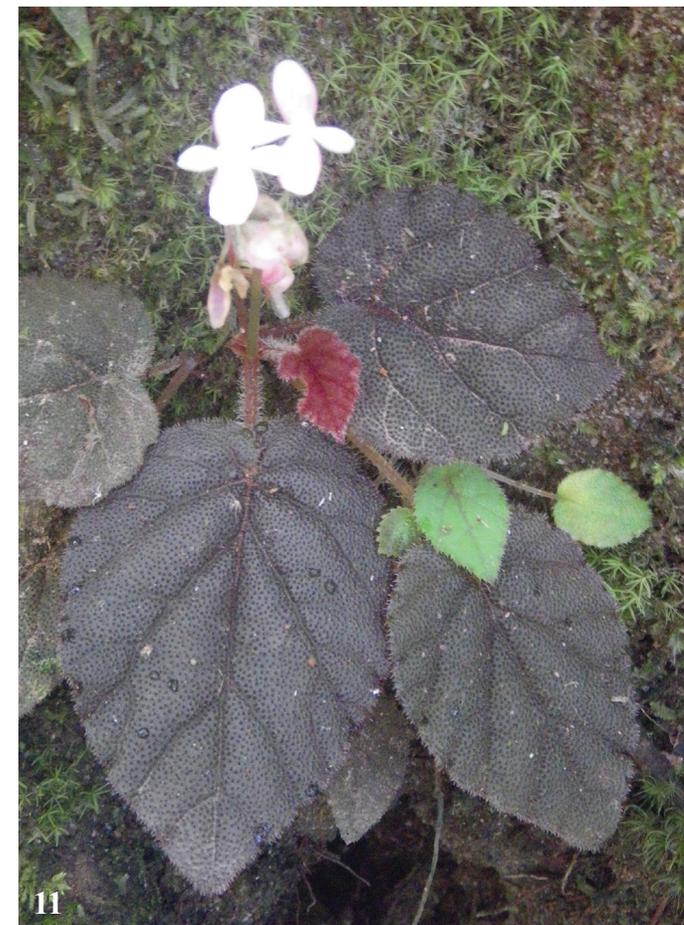
Sunday 3: Overcast sky this morning when we leave Ambaninindrano at 7 am. Then the sun comes out and we are again overcome by the heat! The ground is less uneven but often muddy. We have a picnic at Vinanibe, a small village at the Makira Park entrance. We must cross the Makira and Voloina rivers, the confluence is just after the village (photo 8). Many planted fields in this area and no begonias. We enter a mountain region and I find a tuberous begonia on a tree (photo 9). A very nice one in blossom. I explore all the surroundings but, nothing! That was the only one. We finish the ramble at Anjahely at about 4 pm after walking 18 kilometers. As yesterday, the installation of hammocks and washing in the river before having a splendid meal of rice, sardines in oil and Malagasy onions. Thanks so much Denise. It is difficult to go to sleep with the heat, we are soaking wet with sweat!

Monday 4: This day will be the best of this part of our trip. Just after leaving at 7 am, as usual, we arrive at last (and unfortunately it is the last day in the Makira) in the actual Makira forest, the original one, without plantings, without burned areas, without villages (photo 10). Splendid! We’ll have in this magic place, some extraordinary encounters: begonias, of course, and es-

pecially a nice tuberous one, with green or bronze velvety leaves (photo 11 and 12 - on back cover), pink blossoms, and with capsules! Without the lobe at the leaf base, this one would be symmetrical. It grows in large quantities, often on the ground but also as an epiphyte on rocks and trunks. Another tuberous species (photo 13) the one we met on the first day, grows on rocks; it is in blossom and with fruits (mature?). We also find again *B. lyallii* var. *lyallii*, but with the leaf less round, totally asymmetrical, with one very strong lateral lobe. We are lucky enough to meet a pair of owls (*Ninox superciliaris*) perched on a branch, amazed that tourists walk here, then we see the wonderful *Urania madagascariensis* (photo 14), a true winged jewel. I knew this butterfly but seeing it in its biotope will stay with me a long time! More, we meet the Newton Hawk and a blue kingfisher. At last we discover an *Impatiens* sp. unknown, which covers the ground with dark green leaves and pink veins (photo 15) and white flowers with orange spots! A wonder! The end of the day is hard: difficult terrain, water stock empty and porters a long way in front of us. One of



10



11

Fig. 7 What a disaster!
 Fig. 8 Crossing the Voloina river
 Fig. 9 An epiphytic tuberous begonia
 Fig. 10 In the Makira primary forest
 Fig. 11 A tuberous one, dark form



them arrives with bottles but no food! He starts off again and comes back (barefoot and running) with nourishing noodle soup. We are saved! And we can finish the journey. We arrive after an hour to Ambalamahogo. The roof of the "case de passage" has a sheet metal roof and I think it is about 40°C (about 100°F) inside. We'll set up only a hammock! Forget the washing in the river, it's overpopulated here but that doesn't bother the Malagasy people. Just before sleeping, thunder rumbles towards the west, but no rain comes. Yet, we would like to take a shower...

Tuesday 5: Veloma (bye bye) Makira! We'll come back! But for now, we are finding civilization again! We leave early in morning, at about 5.30am to take the boat that goes down the Antainambalana river each day from Ambinanitelo, where we arrive at 7 am, at Ankampy, after two hours of navigation. Epic travel on a overloaded barge (**photo 16**) that goes from one bank to the other, unloads goods and passengers, and



loads other ones without any quay on the bank! We stop to take on a sick old woman and we must carry her to the boat and she wants to get off before the terminus! All that with good spirits ...At Ankampy, the competition is keen to get a taxi towards Maroantsetra. We return to the Coco Beach Hotel but the electricity has not come back! Briefing with Clement and Denise for preparing the third part of the travel: Masoala. In the evening we are still the only guests and we savor gambas with green pepper but without bread. I think of the next expedition to the Makira Forest with a different plan: walk from Vodiriana, reach the primary forest, set up a camp and explore the surroundings during two or three days; begin again in other places several times without trying to reach villages in the evening; less walking each day, less tiredness, and more detailed exploration and more quiet. But we must persuade the guide and porters to sleep in the forest, not in the villages! We haven't won yet!

Wednesday 6: We take a break today in Maroantsetra. We go into town and to market. Weather is nice but thundery. With Clement and Denise, we prepare the supplies for Masoala in the afternoon. In the evening, the thunder rumbles towards the east. We are in the middle of the rainy season, but we have gotten very little rain this week.

to be continued...



Fig. 13 Another tuberous one
 Fig. 14 *Urania madagascariensis*
 Fig. 15 *Impatiens* sp.
 Fig. 16 Question: can they embark? Answer: yes !

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A Word with You: Roots and Stems

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

Bulbs, rhizomes, tubers, corms. It's that time of year as I write; fall with its spring flowering bulb planting, garlic planting, and colocasia, alocasia, canna, dahlia, and tuberous begonia retrieval and storage. I talk about storing these fleshy plant parts, share them with friends and fellow gardeners, and hear the terms used imperfectly. Sometimes I think I know the terms fairly well, but someone else's confident delivery can shake my confidence, so I go back to the literature – including the “infallible” internet - and often find the terms used casually and incorrectly there too. Perhaps some begoniacs feel insecure too; but thank goodness our beauties only produce *rhizomes, tubers, or caudices* in this fleshy *stem* category. Begonias don't have *bulbs*

or *corms*

Their fleshy stems are specialized stems, not roots – swollen stems, surface or slightly buried creeping stems, underground stems, but stems. All the fleshy stem types do send out roots to anchor themselves and gather nutrients, but they are not roots themselves. Begonia *stems* can be *simple*, (just the classic and its mass of roots) but the fleshy ones are *rhizomatous, tuberous, or caudiciform* (and we've covered *caudiciform*). Begonia *roots* are all the fibrous/branching type (pictured above), thank goodness; there's not a tap root among them. You've seen these fibrous roots so many times you probably pay no attention to them any longer. Look closer next time you repot.

continued on next page

The seed fund is a service to members only. It is a privilege of your membership. Please self-pollinate your

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

The Margaret Lee Branch
San Diego County, CA

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. 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. 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.

New Seeds from Rekha Morris' 2012 - 2013 trip to India:

Arunachal Pradesh:

<i>B. acetosella</i> var. <i>acetosella</i>	RM-AR-1162
<i>B. acetosella</i> var. <i>hirtifolia</i>	RM-AR-1136
<i>B. griffithiana</i>	RM-AR-1167
<i>B. handelii</i>	RM-AR-1202
<i>B. iridescens</i>	RM-AR-1174
<i>B. limprichtii</i>	RM-AR-1201
<i>B. palmata</i>	RM-AR-1203

Western Ghats:

<i>B. dipetala</i>	RM-SI-2005
<i>B. malabarica</i>	RM-SI-1191

New Seeds from Ohio State University, OPGC, Steven

Haba:

<i>B. dregei</i>
<i>B. echinosepala</i> var. <i>elongatifolia</i>
<i>B. schmidtiana</i> 'Chaurly'
<i>B. subvillosa</i> 'Teddy Bear'
<i>B. tayabensis</i>
<i>B. wollnyi</i>

continued on page 227

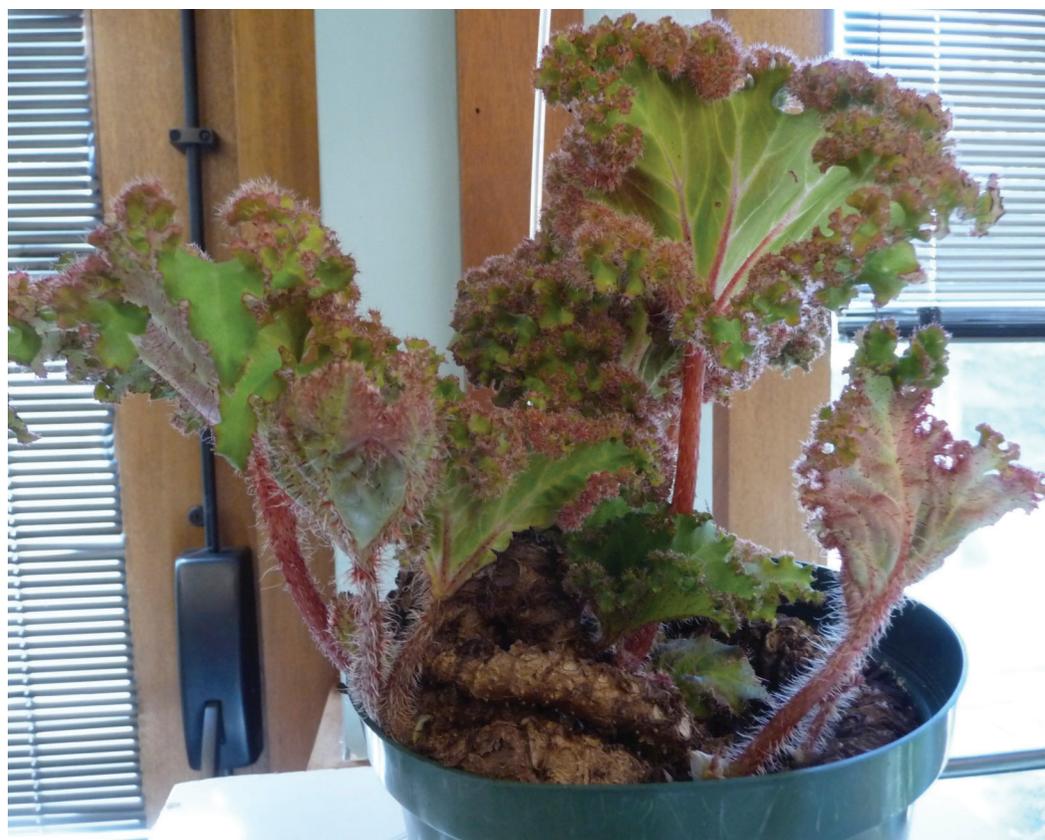
Mr. Webster says a *rhizome* is “a root-like stem under or along the ground, ordinarily in a horizontal position, which usually sends out roots from its lower surface and leafy shoots from its upper surface.” Clear enough. He says a *tuber* comes from the “Latin tuber, a swelling. In botany, a fleshy, rounded part of a subterranean stem ...” Cassell's says that the Latin *tuber* is “a swelling, protuberance, hump.” Mark Tebbitt defines *rhizome* as “a persistent horizontal stem bearing roots and leafy shoots.” Jack Golding says *tubers* are “enlarged irregularly rounded underground

stems.”

So, why did begonias and other plants develop these fleshy stem appendages? Apparently it's a survival strategy. The *rhizomes* and *tubers* in the plant world offer enhanced storage of nutrients, vegetative as opposed to seed reproduction, and possibly protection and longevity. Climate, critters, fire, and pathogens may destroy the plant above ground, but there is some protection for the underground parts. Now if the squirrels, chipmunks, and woodchucks would just get that message about my fleshy stemmed beauties.



The Buxton Branch Show and Sale



The Buxton Show room (top). Photo by Linda Kammerer. *B.* 'Crestabruhii' entered by Normand Dufresne in Educational Division for rare and unusual plants (bottom). Photo by Gloria Utzig. Tuberous begonia entered by Nick Alteri (p. 227 top). Photo by Tony Pinto.



Award which is given to the exhibitor receiving the greatest number of blue ribbons. Twenty-six cultural certificates were awarded among 14 different exhibitors.

Attendees enjoyed two special programs. On Saturday, Gloria Utzig gave a program on conservation of vulnerable species focusing her remarks on the ABS Save Our Species program, telling attendees how to adopt and propagate endangered species. At the conclusion of Gloria's program, a free raffle was held for non-Buxton members; Gloria distributed newly germinated *B. ludwigii* and *B. sericoneura*, young plants of *B. sizemoreae* and *quadrialata* ssp. *nimbaensis*, and seeds of *B. salaziensis*.

Buxton Branch recently held its annual show and plant sale in conjunction with our good friends from the New England Chapter of The Gesneriad Society. The show was held at the Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. For the second consecutive year, we had a record number of entries (181) as well as record plant sales! Alan Winn was in charge of staging and did a masterful job organizing the many entries into their divisions.

Wanda Macnair entered her *B. sizemoreae*, receiving Best in Show, the Bessie Raymond Buxton Memorial Award for best contained atmosphere and the Orpha C Fox Award for best species begonia. Gloria Utzig received the Ed & Millie Thompson Showing and Sharing Award as well as the Sweepstakes

On Sunday Nick Alteri, a member of the Rhode Island Branch, gave a program on tuberous begonias, beginning with a discussion of history and propagation. Nick described thirteen types of tuberous begonias varying in many beautiful ways, including single, cristata, picotee, and hanging types. Nick talked about where to purchase tuberous begonias, when to start the tubers, growing requirements, plant care and winter storage.

It was a very successful show. Many thanks to our show chair, Phyllis Savage, and her team.

Seed Fund continued from page 225

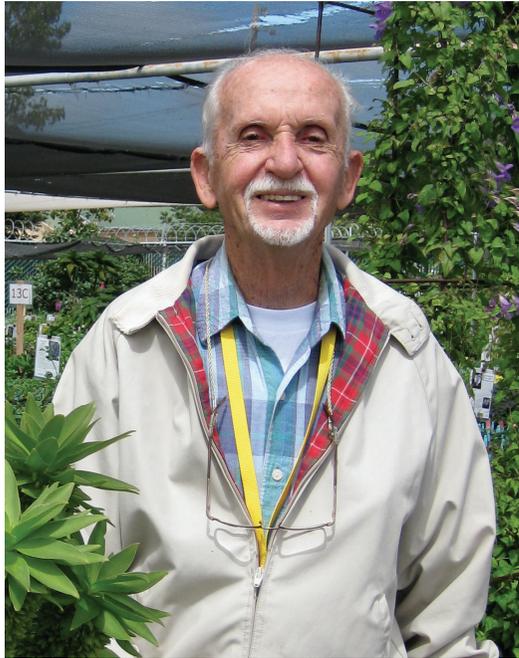
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DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. The species names (in italics) reported here are correct based on the latest information from *BEGONIACEAE*, Ed. 2; Golding, and Wasshausen. Hybrid names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

Mike Kartuz:

Renaissance Man With a Green Thumb

Article and photos by by Lee Sinoff, Miami, FL.



Mike Kartuz, visiting a nursery in the San Francisco area, in 2010.

Anyone associated with the American Begonia Society will recognize *Mike Kartuz* as one of the most important and productive contributors to the family *Begoniaceae* ever.

We also recognize Kartuz Greenhouses as a major epicenter for “Things Begonia”, not only nationwide but also worldwide. And, of course, Kartuz Greenhouses has been located in Vista, CA, for close to 40 years.

Vista is a medium-sized community in San Diego County, with about 100,000 residents, roughly midway between Long Beach to the north and San Diego to the south, and seven miles inland from the Pacific. From about 1924 until some time after World War II, agriculture flourished

in the area, with tomatoes, celery, citrus and

avocados as the major cash crops. In fact, by 1948, Vista was known as the “Avocado Capital of the World”.

But, agriculture began to decline after the War. Southern California’s warm climate drew people in like the Gold Rush, more than 100 years before, and the land was needed to meet the growing demand for housing.

New York City?

Since Mike and the Greenhouses have been in Vista for almost 40 years, people might think that was the nursery’s first home. After all, the warm, gentle SoCal climate is perfect for growing begonias as well as gesneriads, cloxinia, passiflora, hoyas and other varieties which have held Mike’s interest for decades.

There is only one thing wrong. Mike didn’t move the nursery to California until about 1977. But, his Website declares that Kartuz Greenhouses has been offering “distinctive rare and exotic plants for 53 years”. Hold it... 1977... 53 years... is it 2030 already ?

You may be surprised to learn that Mike spent the 1950s wearing a coat and tie, working in an office in Manhattan. Yes, *that* Manhattan, not the one with ‘Beach’ attached to its name.

Born in Flushing, NY, he got his introduction to plants and flowers at home. “My mother was an avid gardener,” he explained, “She taught me to appreciate that flowers and plants

are more than just pretty things to look at.”

One of the first plants to catch his eye was a *Sinningia*, in the *Gesneriad* family. “I was determined to grow that plant myself.”

As an adult, Mike began attending the New York Flower Show. That led to his growing ‘show-worthy’ plants in a very small backyard greenhouse at home. Eventually he began exhibiting at the New York Flower Show.

In 1958, in New York, Mike met Elvin McDonald who, seven years before, had started the spark which became the American Gloxinia Society. In fact, Mike actually went to the very first meeting of the Greater New York Chapter of the AGS, hosted by Elvin. Coincidentally, Elvin based the AGS on his own exposure to the ABS. He also established *The Gloxinian* magazine, with co-editor Peggy Schultz, based on *The Begonian*.

No, Massachusetts

Already introduced to begonias by Bernice Bernimeyer, a close friend,



Kartuz Greenhouses: Top: A tropical paradise beckons. Center: Got Begonias? Bottom: In the heart of things, under shade cloth.



Mike was growing plants for sale but eager to do that on a broader scale. He knew that doing that in the New York metropolitan area wouldn't work so, after considering other locales, Mike moved to Wilmington, MA, just outside of Boston.

He formally established Kartuz Greenhouses in 1960, with Mike literally building his own greenhouse, from the ground up.

Mike continued to operate out of Wilmington, with local and mail-order sales, from 1960 through 1976. During that time, he met Patrick Worley at an ABS Convention in Minnesota, and the two begonia devotees became friends and, eventually, partners.

In about 1974, with the oil crisis in the Middle East, the price of oil dramatically increased. That included heating oil, which was essential to keep the greenhouse in Massachusetts warm, and Mike and Patrick saw the writing on the wall. They began considering relocation options in Florida and California, and friends in California knew of an available property with a greenhouse and shade-house already on it. It 'felt' right and, as the saying goes, the rest is history.

Speaking about history, after growing and hybridizing begonias for decades, does Mike ever still have problems with some begonias? "I'll just say that Rexes can be challenging."

Renaissance Man

As a younger man, Mike studied music — more precisely, the piano. He even took music courses at NYU and considered a career in music. "I quickly realized I just wasn't good enough for a career in music." He still loves Classical music, including the traditional,

In the Kartuz Greenhouses
Top: This way to the kings' quarters. Second, third and bottom: New hybrids, as-yet-unnamed Kartuz begonias.

modern and contemporary composers. "I simply can't live without classical music in my life."

As for a hobby, Mike had one answer: Photography. There are several websites with samples of his work, but one on Flickr features 124 stunningly beautiful photographs by Mike. Each one reaches out to grab the viewer with vivid colors, intriguing subjects and tight compositions. Amazing plants, interesting faces, engaging landscapes and 'electric' emotion, all captured in sharp, vivid, intimate detail.

Looking at those photos, it's clear that Mike could have worked for National Geographic, if he had pursued photography rather than floraculture and horticulture. Fortunately, National Geographic's loss is our gain!

Lee Sinoff (*professional_resources@att.net; strategic-branding@att.net*) is a Past President of the Miami Begonia Society, and a Marketing & Communications, Operations, Sourcing and Project Management generalist and consultant, operating out of Miami, FL.

Top, Center and Bottom: New hybrids, as-yet-unnamed Kartuz begonias.



Begonias of Southern California

First Annual Show & Sale

Sherman Gardens, Corona Del Mar, CA September 7 & 8, 2013

By Janet Brown, Los Angeles, CA Photos by Larry Farley

Nine Southern California branches, including two from San Diego, and the Long Beach Parent Chapter under the chairmanship of Norm Nakanishi with lots of help from his wife Candy, put on the first regional Southern California show. This event was long-talked about but it took Norm's leadership to finally make it happen. And it was wonderful. Each branch contributed a small sum for the funding and plants for the show room. It was decided not to have a judged show for the first run. The show room was the meeting hall and restaurant of Sherman Gardens and was a perfect setting for our beautiful begonias. Sherman Gardens has an amazing collection of begonias and has many of Irene Nuss' original hybrids that she donated several years ago.

Although the show was not judged we did have a People's Choice Award. It was won by Arlene Hoskins, this year's winner of the Gene Salisbury Award. Arlene entered several plants and swept the first 3 places. *B. masoniana* captured 1st place followed by *B. 'Navajo Sunrise'*, second place, and *B. 'Lalomie'* (a Mabel Corwin gem) third. Martin Delgado had to settle for fourth place with his stunning *B. 'Susie'*.

One hundred and eight begonias were entered. Two hundred and thirty four votes were cast for the People's Choice Award. The plant sale was very successful and the branches will get their money back and then some.

We have voted to have our second show next September, hopefully again hosted by Sherman Gardens. Bobbie West reports that "the attendance for this weekend at Sherman Gardens equaled the attendance for the whole summer." That is really good news for Sherman and for the American Begonia Society.

Thanks to Norm and Candy Nakanishi, Bobbie West, who was a master of organization, and to Sherman Gardens and their staff. We hope the show will go on for many years to come and will bring into friendly contact many more who love and grow begonias.



Fig. 1 *B. masoniana* - First Place winner at the 2013 SoCal show (Exhibitor Arlene Hoskins); Fig. 2 *B. 'Teen Angel'* and Fig. 3 *B. 'Cinnamon Sabers'* (Exhibitor Norm Nakanishi); Fig. 4 *B. 'Lalomie'* and Fig. 5 *B. 'Navajo Sunrise'* (Exhibitor Arlene Hoskins); Fig. 6 *B. 'Susie'* and Fig. 7 *B. 'Susie'* closeup (Exhibitor Martin Delgado)



B. 'Lady Vanderwilt'

Yes, I grew it and I have the hybridizer information. Brad keeps (too) many of his hybrids and names them after everyone he knows. I just lucked out with this one!

Hybridizer information - Begonia name: B. Lady Vanderwilt'; Type; cane; Parents; Sophie Cecile x Lomita Lady; Hybridizer: Brad Thompson; Where; California; When; 2001.

From Julie Vanderwilt, Santa Barbara, CA, pictured above with her namesake

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Rex vs. Rhizomatous

In the Mailbox

I have received several inquiries regarding the difference in care and culture of these types of begonias. In the past decade, we have blurred the lines even more with hybrids that combine the best of both worlds, and some new species that perhaps we are not sure of. Some of these new species seem so *rex*-like.

The initial species, *B. rex*, is actually rhizomatous, which is why these two types cross so easily. However, this species is also native of warm, humid areas - but not hot. Elevation reduces the afternoon temperatures into the lower 80's F (about 27C) and nights are generally in the middle 60's F (about 19C). That is a clue to their environment. They mostly inhabit shaded forested areas where light is moderate.

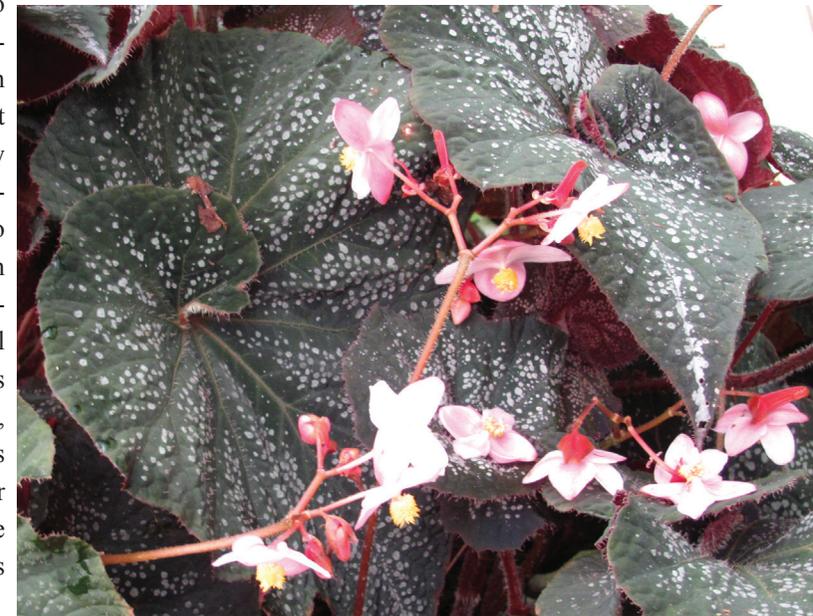
Alternatively, rhizomatous species have been collected from true equatorial conditions to high elevations barely above freezing.

Most, however, adapt to general growing conditions easily. Here in Tampa Bay, with our hot nighttime lows (usually 77-80°F) and abundant rainfall, Rexes do poorly in summer. With some exceptions, rhizomatous do very well and grow fast. Rexes can bloom anytime, while most rhizomatous bloom in late winter or spring. Again, here in Tampa Bay, that is usually March to April. Our longer nights in winter mean the initiation of flowers is a little later

in winter. As days get shorter in more northerly climates, that initiation begins earlier. This is called a phototropic reaction - reacting to longer nights or days.

With this information in mind, Rexes generally prefer moderate temperatures and light and rhizomatous can survive almost to (or below) freezing and yet thrive in Florida's high summer heat, and can tolerate low light to some direct sunshine depending on the variety. Both varieties detest wet feet!

On a more general note, I hope to see our members in areas without branches logging onto ABS-MAL in YAHOO GROUPS and joining. This group is here to provide assistance, share pictures, stories, or just to see what other begoniacs are doing. It is easy and convenient. Always feel free to contact me at gsytch@cs.com.



A classic combination of Rex and rhizomatous, 'Island Magic' is a hybrid I created that combines the best of both worlds. While my paperwork was lost in Hurricane Jeanne (in 2004) and I cannot retrieve the parents, I can tell you it was a cross of both. It looks great in summer, yet keeps its shape in winter.

The colors also change with the seasons.

NEW: *Begonia Hybridizing:*

By The Hybridizers, Edited by Freda Holley, published through the Millie Thompson Publication Fund, March 2013. This great new book by Freda Holley is filled with articles written by some of our most famous, prolific and successful hybridizers. It is a philosophy of hybridizing divided into three parts and includes articles by Ross Bolwell, Walter Dworkin, Freda Holley, Gregory Sytch, Chuck Ades, Brad Thompson, Patrick Worley and Rudolf Ziesenhenné. There are many stunning pictures.
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ABS Bookstore

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Jack Golding & Dieter C. Wasshausen, 2002, Smithsonian Institution,
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The Ride For the Roses

Submitted by Cheryl Lenert, Hockley, TX

Antoon Hoefnagles, owner of Hoefnagles Nursery in The Netherlands, his son and daughter, along with some of his employees completed "The Ride For the Roses" on Sept. 9, 2013 which is a bike ride for charity in the Netherlands. Look closely at the uniforms (top, right). They are from his business and have begonias on them.

The family picture (bottom, right) is Antoon with his arm around Ans, his wife, next to Thomas their son. The girl in shorts is Vera, their youngest daughter. The rest are employees. They are in front of a part of his greenhouses.



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