



THE

# BEGONIAN

March/April 2017

# 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.



Seedling pots. *B. angularis* (top). Mixed begonia seedlings (bottom). Grown and photographed by Freda Holley

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**Cover photo:** *Begonia pteridiformis* (red form). A little beauty from Thailand. Read why this little beauty is a prized possession, page 49.

**Back cover:** One of the hybrids named for an ABS member, this *B. 'Brad Thompson'* was grown by Dee Stewart. Photo by Bob Stewart. More on page 62.

Dear ABS Friends and Members,

## President's Message

With spring upon us, most of us feel an overwhelming urge to start gardening, reaffirming our belief in the promise of growth and renewal. Likewise, our American Begonia Society leadership needs to grow and renew. With our Executive Board officers reaching the end of their 2-year terms, it is necessary to elect new Board Officers this coming summer.

As you read this, our Nominating Committee of Janet Brown, Freda Holley, and Virginia Jens will soon finish their work in finding candidates for vacancies as well as polling the current office holders in regard to their desire to continue for another term. They will submit a slate of candidates for office to be published in the next edition of *The Begonian*, to be voted on by you soon after.

I thank several people who have already come forward to stand as candidates. Please come forward to see how you can help. The more new people, the more new ideas, thus ensuring that the ABS will remain strong and vibrant for years to come. If you are interested in a position, please contact a Committee member so that your name will be placed on the list of nominees - A little competition is healthy, and never hurts.

Remember that the benefits we receive from our membership in the ABS are proportional to the effort that we're willing to give to make it function.

I look forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio.

In Friendly Contact, Martin

---



Nothing conjures up thoughts of springtime like a pot of newly germinated seedlings - especially begonia seedlings! Grown and photographed by Freda Holley



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## Two Tuberous Begonias

Paul Carlisle grew these tuberous begonias. The one on the left is *B. sutherlandii* sp. and the giant one on the right is *B.* 'Allan Langdon'. Mike Flaherty (pictured) displayed these plants at the convention. Photo by Gary Hunt.

Dear Editor,

Concerning our seed fund, it could be helpful to encourage people to pollinate their

species plants with pollen from another plant of the same species whenever possible. Encourage people to exchange pollen with others who grow the same species when they can.

Continual selfing of a species will eliminate the natural variability found within the species and will be detrimental to the long-term survival of the species. Continued selfing will result in inbreeding depression with decreased vigor, fertility and viability. This is especially true if the plants being grown in cultivation are from a limited introduction, as is often the case with species with all the individuals of the population being closely related to each other to begin with. That being said I understand it is difficult enough to get people to contribute seed to begin with but at least that way people will know it is better to cross than self the species.

Randy Marek, Granville, MA

### Letter to the Editor

# Happy 85th Birthday American Begonian Society!

Photos and article by  
Norman Nakanishi,  
Anaheim, CA

January 16, 2017 was the celebration of our 85th birthday party for ABS in Lakewood, CA. The Long Beach Chapter provided a gorgeous and tasty birthday cake (Fig 1) for the celebration.



This great group of folks

(Fig 2) came to participate in the festivities – and eat some of that delicious cake, of course! Dean Turney (Fig 3) presented a very fitting program. He had some handouts of the begonias that were around when ABS started. Many of the plants couldn't be found and he wondered if any of these still existed in anyone's collection.



## Can cultivar and hybrid be used interchangeably?

That's a very good question. The answer is no. According to the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, cultivars are variants of named plant species that have a desirable character. If you look at true potatoes (blue, yellow, red, white, fingerling, etc.), they are all the same species, *Solanum tuberosum* and really represent cultivars developed over time.

From Kathleen Burt-Utley

[Note: cultivars must be vegetatively propagated in order to retain their "desirable character".  
–Nomenclature Editor]



## Bowiea volubilis

By Linda Tamblin, Merriam, KS; plant grown and photographed by Jem Wiseman

The Climbing Onion, *Bowiea volubilis*, is related to hyacinths – though you probably would never guess that.

The bulbs can get quite large - bigger than softballs - but often they split before that and form new bulbs. Propagation is by bulb scale cuttings (which is quite an interesting process) or from the

seeds produced by the insignificant springtime blooms.

The name "volubilis", from Latin for twining or twisting, nicely describes the habit of the long foliage it produces.

A native of South and Eastern Africa isn't too particular about culture. It will give its best performance in bright, warm conditions where the soil is allowed to reach dryness before giving it a drink.





## ***Begonia pteridiformis***

*Article & photos by Priscilla Purinton,  
West Kingston, RI*

**I**n September of 2016 I fell in love with a begonia. It was *Begonia pteridiformis* (red form), a new discovery from Thailand. Grown by Darrin Norton of Mountain Orchids, and entered into the Buxton Branch show, everyone who saw it was captivated by the unusual color and shape. Darrin was a vendor as well, but that particular species of begonia was out of my price range. Fast forward to the Branch holiday party in December. I was given a 2" cutting of my heart's desire! Now, only a month later, on that tiny little plant, there are the tiniest pink blooms I've ever seen. What a great way to start the new year!

# New Registration: *Begonia* ‘Splish Splash’

From Priscilla Purinton, Hybrid Registrar



## Official International Registration #1019

*Begonia* ‘Splish Splash’

Seed parent: *B.* ‘Ben’s Back Yard’

Pollen parent: unknown

Propagated more than 100 times. Originator is Walter Dworkin, 8 Rugby Rd., Westbury, NY.

Developed in 1991 and first distributed in 1993. Mentioned in the Southwest Region Begonia Leaflet in March, 2014 on page 3.

Registration applied for October 24, 2016. Approved November 23, 2016.

*Begonia* ‘Splish Splash’ is a cane-like begonia that matures to a compact 15 inches. The 6” x 2.5” lime green, slightly glossy leaves are liberally covered

with silver dots of all sizes. With one main vein the asymmetric leaves are undulate marginally. Petioles are 0.75”, green and hairless. The stipules are pale green and persistent, measuring 1” x 0.25”. The underside of each leaf is a pale green.

*B.* ‘Splish Splash’ is summer flowering with brilliant, deep pink flowers that contrast beautifully with the light green leaves. The plentiful flower clusters have up to 16 male and 16 female flowers. Four oval tepals make up the 1” diameter male flowers, five tepals on the 0.75” female flowers. The flowers develop their most vivid color with stronger sun and then fade to a soft pink as they mature. The ovaries are white and pink.

This hybrid has been tested by and is available from Dominique Permingeat of Le Jardin de Rochevieille, Viviers, France. It is available in the US from Taylor Greenhouses in Portland, NY.



This *Begonia* 'Splish Splash' (pictured above and opposite page) was purchased at an ABS plant sale, perhaps in Texas 2005 by Dominique Permingeat of Le Jardin de Rochevieuille, Viviers, France. She has grown the plant since that time. According to Dominique it's an easy-to-grow begonia. The plant has an upright habit. It branches easily, produces many flowers, and has a long bloom time.

Photos by Dominique Permingeat

# New Species of Begonia Discovered in Indonesia

By Nigel Kerby; Photos by Gede Wawan Setiadi

Researchers have discovered a new species of begonia in Indonesia, on Seram Island, the main island of the Moluccas. The rare, newly-described species, believed to be endemic to the island of Seram, was discovered during an expedition to Manusela National Park.

Lead researcher Erosi Undaharta from the Bali Botanic Garden, who took part in the expedition, said: “we had to traverse steep cliffs and follow a river system, documenting a variety of plant species in the forest before we finally found this begonia”.

“The species has been named *Begonia nephrophylla*, from the ancient Greek word *nephros* meaning kidney and *phyllus* meaning leaf, referring to the shape of the leaf which resembles a kidney,” said Ms. Undaharta.

These latest findings were part of a collaboration with researchers from the Bali Botanic Garden, led by Erosi Undaharta and co-author Wisnu Ardi from the Bogor Botanic Garden, in consultation with foreign experts. This new research has just been published in the peer-reviewed Journal, the Gardens’ Bulletin Singapore.

According to Ms. Undaharta, *Begonia nephrophylla* may only exist in Manusela National Park where it grows in lowland rain forest close to rivers. “The new species can be easily distinguished from other begonia species by its moderately dense layer of fleshy, red scales on the stems” she said.

“With the discovery of this species, nine species of begonia have now been identified in the Moluccas, seven of which are endemic,” explained Ms Undaharta.

“*Begonia nephrophylla* has potential as an ornamental plant, suitable for both indoor and outdoor display and could in the future be used as a parent plant for further hybridization.”

According to Ms Undaharta, there is still much to learn about the diversity of plant species in the Moluccas. “Our botanic knowledge is very limited in this region. I think it is still very likely that we will discover more new species there in the near future,” she said.



*Begonia nephrophylla* is distinguished by the dense layer of fleshy red scales on the stem (Fig 1). The newly discovered *B. nephrophylla* (Fig 2). A look at the begonias in the Bali Botanic Garden, which displays the most comprehensive collection of begonias in the world. (Fig 3).





## Fertilizing Begonias

by Greg Sytch,  
*Horticultural Correspondent,  
New Port Richey, FL*

Often I am asked what to fertilize with, or what do I use, or what is the best way to fertilize. There is no direct answer, because we all have different conditions that require different fertilizer options. In Tampa Bay, our begonias grow all year round, mostly outdoors, some in the landscape. Because our winters are mild, and we can experience warm spells that last a week or more, fertilizing continues 12 months of the year. However, from Halloween through February, no matter where you live, fertilizing should be cut back to half of normal, whatever your normal is.

I feed three ways -liquid, time-release and through foliar feed. I use all three

### *In the Mailbox*

depending on the variety, conditions, and size of the plant. As a general rule, larger plants receive time-release. Time-release does just what it said, release fertilizer over time. If I am potting a large plant, or planting it in the landscape, I usually use a handful just prior to closing the planting hole for good. My strong preference has been Miracle-Gro Shake and Feed 13-7-13 (Orange) for Citrus/Avocado/Mango. I find the softly coated pearls easy to work with and non-burning as the orange color also helps

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*B. 'Loxahatchee'* one of my newer hybrids, is a cross between a rex and a rhizomatous. With its heavy fragrance and large growing habit featuring unique, mocha curled leaves, this plant shows much promise. This one (above) is responding well to proper fertilization.

Photo by Greg Sytch

me visually see if fertilizer has been used, or used up. The micronutrients are important, too. In summer, time-release lasts about 8 weeks here with our high heat, heavy rains, and rapid growth. In winter, it lasts about four months. I adjust accordingly. If it is time to refeed, I simply place the amount needed on top of the soil and try to water it in lightly, if it is not to rain soon.

Canes feed heavier than the remaining begonia varieties, so I am especially careful to ensure proper nutrition. Rhizomatous and Rex can go with less fertilizer, so I am less concerned with keeping up. Cuttings newly rooted do not get time-release until they get potted in my potting mix and out of the propagation mix. So what about cuttings?

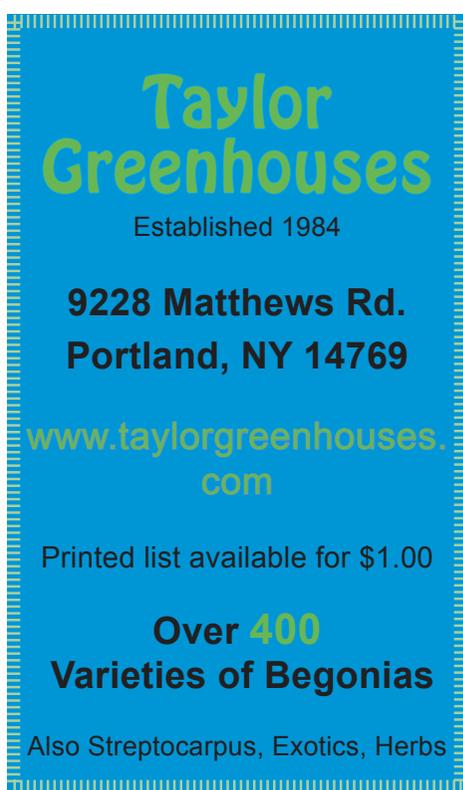
Foliar feed is how I go with cuttings. I fill my sprayer with a fungicide, and then color it with my choice of foliar feed. Since I grow many orchids, and they are all outdoors, I use orchid fertilizer in my sprayer so that I can give them what they need, too. Orchids do not care for urea nitrogen, which most fertilizers use. Begonias do not appear picky on their fertilizer, so using orchid food in my sprayer keeps everyone happy. I tend to use higher phosphorus such as 15-30-15.

Liquid fertilizer is used in tubs. I have them strategically placed to catch rainwater so I can just dump in what I need - yes, I "eyeball" just like Rachael Ray - according to the season. During heavy periods of growth I prefer high nitrogen, such as 24-8-16, and usually do not use bloom food. My canes bloom enough and time removing spent and

spoiled blossoms can take what seems like forever. I do add calcium a few times per year, mostly because my orchids love it so the begonias get a quick pickup. Calcium helps the plant's immunity. These are my simple rules for fertilizing. A well-fertilized plant has lush leaves, good blossoms, and a good root system. An over-fertilized plant usually aborts what it doesn't need, but one of the signs of burning can be limp stems and branches, or browning tips. It is usually better to slightly underfeed than overfeed. An example of a well-grown and fertilized plant (pictured left) is one of my new hybrids, *B. 'Loxahatchee'*, and you can see how the leaves show the good fertilizing principles used.

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## Q&A with Brad Thompson: Nonstop Begonias



Hello Brad.

Last year I planted Nonstop Tuberous Begonias, which grew well. There were two yellow plants and two red plants. The plants and flowers looked as I thought they should.

In September of last year, I took the pot, with the tubers in it, and hung it in my basement, which is kept at 55 degrees. In late May, I began to see new growth. I took them to a shaded location and began watering. Is it my imagination? These begonias are *not* the same begonias I planted last year. Both the leaves and flowers are distinctly different. Is this possible?

This spring I started to see new growth sprouting and began watering and nurturing the begonias. THIS is what I have. (Figs 1–3)...

But what I remember having, is THIS (Fig 4)...

*Thomas David, New York City, NY*



After wintering over his nonstop begonias, Thomas David got these plants (Figs 1–3) the following spring. However, this is an example of a red nonstop type tuberous begonia (Fig 4) he thought he had the previous year. This photo is similar to the examples that Thomas sent which were copyrighted so couldn't be included. Photo by Brad Thompson.

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Thomas,

Thanks for this question. I can only conclude from seeing your pictures that you both either had both and lost the ones you remember, or that you're remembering incorrectly. There isn't any way to accidentally get what you have now from what you remember having. Your new begonias are like the current 'hot' items in tuberous begonias, which are *B. boliviensis* hybrids. While the idea is not really new, there are a lot of new hybrids currently on the market and have been for the past few years. The white one is what convinces me that these are not accidental seedlings of

the double ones crossed with *B. boliviensis* since you would not get white in the first generation. Also the likelihood that you would lose two or more tubers that would be replaced by an equal number of replacement seedlings is not very likely. I can't say if what you have were the Bassa Nova Series, ... but only that they are of same particular series. If you give yours a little bit stronger light, you will have more flowers than you're currently getting. Lower light makes taller plants, larger leaves, and fewer flowers - so have to conclude that yours could probably take a little more sunlight or brighter light.

What you have is actually harder to get and more expensive than what you remember, since the double ones are available practically anywhere in the spring. *B. boliviensis* hybrids are actually tougher, easier to grow, and have less disease or culture issues than the double ones (tuberhybrida), even the nonstops. Winter storage of the tubers is exactly the same as for the tuberhybridas with one exception. *B. boliviensis*, and often its hybrids, grow extremely large tubers so you have to take extra care to make sure they dry out completely before storing to avoid rotting. They contain so much water that it isn't hard to get rot started and it often ruins the tuber completely.

Back to the pure white color, while white is a common begonia color, breeding to get white - unless both parents are white - is generally not possible or a fluke. With tuberous begonias, white with your flower type is even harder to get, since it takes *B. bolivien-*sis to get that type flower, and the species is



orange/red to red in color. No matter what you crossed it with, it you would be unlikely to get a white result. if not impossible. Red crossed with yellow would give you reds, oranges and a possible yellow; red crossed with red would give you red; red crossed with white would give you pinks; red crossed with pink would give you reds and pinks. Having done those crosses hundreds of times with the very plants in question, I can tell you from experience that it takes selfing or crossing siblings of the first generation, or even the second, before you get the occasional white or even yellow results. If you decide you like them and would like more, just self-pollinate your flowers and save the seed to plant. More than likely they are patented, so I can't recommend cloning from cuttings.

Tuberous can be started from cuttings but you need to do it early enough in the season for the cutting to root and then form its own tuber before going dormant. The professional growers do not recommend dividing the tuber, so I follow that practice. Making, saving, and growing seed is a much easier

continued on next page



way to have more of the type you have in your picture. Both should come reasonably true from seed, not exact duplicates, but very similar with a little variety of leaf shape, size, and color. Selfing the white will give you all white results, and selfing the red all red or mostly red results, and crossing them together will give you pinks. The white one I would buy myself if I ran across it in a local store, it would save me some time in breeding more whites of my own hybrids.

It's also possible that when you bought them last year they were treated with a growth regulator to keep them short and compact. More light will accomplish the same thing, though it has to be done gradually or they could burn. If you get burning or your white flowers start getting a pink tinge to them you will know that you are giving them too much sun. White flowers often turn pink because they can get sunburn just like people. You probably had them in fairly correct light last year or they would have started stretching then. Dappled sun is about the right exposure depending on where you live. I live in CA but the area I live in is kind of marginal for tuberous begonias, sometimes we get too much fog and cold so they get mildew or rotting, or we have heat waves with low humidity which ruins the flowers. Last year was a good year for them and this year even better, they



A table full of first and several generation crosses of *B.* 'Crackerjacks' and *B.* 'Mission Bells' (Fig 5). Take notice that white is not a prominent color in this mixture.

*B.* 'Mission Bells' (Fig 6), which is a first generation cross between and nonstop and *B. boliviensis*.

Second generation cross of *B.* 'Crackerjacks' which is a *B. boliviensis* hybrid. This is one of very few white that come even from the second generation.

Photos by Brad Thompson

even sprouted a month early.

I have too many to unpot and pack every year so I wait until they start going downhill and dropping stems. Then, when I think any are ready, I tip those pots on their side so they don't get watered. When the majority are going downhill, I tip them all over, whether they are ready or not, and force them to go dormant. Once the pots of soil are dry, I remove all the stems at the tuber. If they didn't fall off yet or there is a piece left it usually breaks off easily if you wiggle it. Leaving a piece of stem can cause rot or occasionally does something weird like forming an extra little baby tuber. When clean and all the foliage has been removed, I use one of my outdoor benches and cover it with plastic then put the pots in flats usually two layers high. The flats keep them from sitting directly on top of another pot, so there is some room if they sprout. I then cover the entire bench with another layer of heavy plastic and staple it down to the bench to keep the pots from getting rained on or frosted. There are always some we forgot somewhere else or just never got laid on their sides for the entire winter and nearly all of them still come back the next spring. I have some in the back yard that didn't even get that and those came back also, even the couple I planted in the ground.

There are a few species tuberous that don't like that treatment and if you try to store them, you often lose them. So those I just leave as they are. One is a truly hardy species called *B. grandis* var. *evansiana* and the other is *B. sutherlandii* from South Africa. The second one would not be hardy where there are actual freezes but the first one is hardy to zone 5 or something like that. Both of those species make multiple tubers in the

pot and *B. grandis* also makes like bulbils in the leaf axels that fall in the pot or anywhere else and come up the next spring.

If you like the Nonstop® type of tuberous begonias, and would like to get an upgrade, there are a few places that sell them by mail order. Some of them are not cheap, but the flowers when grown in optimum conditions can be dinner plate size. Though I know there are others, the most noteworthy one is Blackmore and Langdon in England. They do, or did, ship to the US directly but I know there are companies in the US that carry their tubers. I can find out about other US companies if you'd like to know for next spring. Some start selling them in the late fall or winter. Nonstop begonias can be purchased from lots of places, those are lovely and easy to grow but were specifically bred to be easy and long lasting for everyone but nothing compared to the flowers on ones bred for large fabulous flowers. Nonstops are for the common gardener or garden, while the others are for those people who want to specialize or have higher-grade flowers. You can also grow many different ones from seed mixtures, but you'd have to write again for specialized information on how to start those. They have to be started early, usually under lights or in a greenhouse so they are large enough to move outdoors at the right time. When you can move them inside varies by area. Here I can start them in January or February because I can move them outside in March or April, or the greenhouse if they get too big beforehand. Probably more info than you wanted to know but if interested there is also a book in the ABS bookstore that is by a top grower in Australia or New Zealand where tuberous are very popular.

continued on next page

Q&A with Brad Thompson: *continued*

It's by Mike Stevens I believe. So that info is FYI, hope you have good luck with your tuberous begonias

....Brad Thompson

Brad,

**T**hank you for all the helpful information. I am inclined to agree with you 100%.

I must have liked the looks of this hybrid since I purchased 4 growing plants in a salmon color this season. I planted all 4 plants in a large pot and placed the pot where it gets dappled sun most of the day. The plants are more compact and have more flowers (the red and the white are in full shade).

I will gradually move all of them to a position of full/half sun, since I would prefer them to be compact and floriferous.

Also I am glad you pointed out the proper drying of the tubers. Last year I only placed the pot, with wet soil, in the basement and forgot about it - no light, no water. I thought they had died until I saw tiny growths begin in early June - I was going to throw the old soil in the compost bin when I made the discovery. I was lucky they didn't rot during their first month of induced dormancy.

This fall I will follow proper drying proto-

col, in hopes of planting the individual colors in separate pots next spring (I will label all of them as soon as I send this email).

Thanks again for sharing your knowledge.

Regards, Thomas

PS - For the life of me, I can't remember what happened to the "nonstop pots". If indeed, I had them at all.



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# Begonia ‘Sweet Nellie’ from Steve’s Leaves

By Don Miller, Dallas, TX

Steve’s Leaves is a tropical plant company founded by owner, Steve Rosenbaum, 40 years ago in Dallas, Texas. When Steve was 13 years old he began growing tropicals in his parent’s home. With the encouragement of his mother he turned his hobby into a business when he was 18 years old. His small company quickly grew from one backyard hobby greenhouse to two greenhouses in a very short time.

As the company expanded, he leased commercial greenhouse space outside of Dallas and moved out of his mother’s backyard. Later he moved into new greenhouses on his own 4 acres in Lewisville, Texas, north of Dallas.

Steve grows a vast assortment of tropical plants. And, as a begonia enthusiast and Charter member of the Dallas Area Branch of ABS, he has included many begonias in his private collection.

*B.* ‘Amigo’ (with red flowers) and *B.* ‘Amigo Pink’ (with pink flowers) are shrub-type begonias that are sometimes included in the semperflorens group. Their genetic background is similar to the currently popular *B.* ‘Dragon Wing’ varieties. The Amigo cultivars were sold by Park’s Seed Co. and were developed so that they could be grown, true from seed.

Steve had ordered seed of *B.* ‘Amigo Pink’ and planted it. This seed produced many good looking green leaved seedlings. But one seedling showed a strong yellow mottled variegation in the leaves. Steve has grown this gorgeous new variegated seedling for many years in his private collection. It has remained stable and developed into a beautiful cultivar. When

propagated by cuttings it retains its lovely yellow and green foliage.

This variety has a full, bushy growth habit. The leaves are bright green with a strong lemon yellow mottling. It blooms all year with nice clusters of large pink flowers.

When Steve started selling plants through his internet company, stevesleaves.com, it was initially sold as *B.* “Variegated Amigo Pink.”

Now, Steve has decided to give this gorgeous cultivar an official name. He has named this *Begonia* ‘Sweet Nellie’ after his mother, Nellie, who at 93 years old still encourages him to pursue his passion for growing tropical plants as a commercial business.



*Begonia* ‘Sweet Nellie’

# ABS and Hybrids: The People and the Plants

By Sally Savelle, Concord, MA with editorial assistance from Gloria Utzig, Princeton, MA

**W**e all love begonia hybrids, with the great variety of forms, leaf textures, and flowers. But have you ever wondered about the hybrids named for people and been curious about the background story? For example, who hybridized the beautiful Rex *B.* ‘Wanda Macnair’ and if you have not had the pleasure of meeting her, just who is Wanda Macnair?

I have long been curious about these hybrids and recently did a program for Buxton called *ABS and Hybrids: The People and the Plants*. It turns out that many of the people for whom hybrids have been named, have made significant contributions to ABS. It is my pleasure to tell you some of what I learned when researching this program. I hope that you enjoy connecting the hybrid with the face and the life of the person for whom the begonia was named. My gratitude to the many ABS members in the U.S. and abroad who shared with me their time, photographs, and information about the people and the plants!

Since I consider Wanda Macnair to be my mentor, I will start with her. Wanda and her husband Dick have been members of ABS for over 45 years and received the Herbert Dyckman Award in 2001. Wanda is a Past-president of Buxton, National Director, Chair

of Buxton plant sales, and attends every national convention. She is known for growing and sharing terrarium begonias, so much so that a national show award for best contained atmosphere has been named for Wanda and Dick. In my conversations with other ABS members about Wanda’s service to ABS, all described how friendly and outgoing Wanda is to new members. Charles Jaros said, “Wanda was the first person I met when I went to my first ABS function, which was the 1975 Eastern Region Convention that was held in Boston. Wanda was, of course, plant sales chair and I had brought some plants for the sale and was promptly put to work. Wanda made me and my mother feel so very welcome. It is something I will never forget.” *B.* ‘Wanda Macnair’ was hybridized by Tim Anderson, Florida.

Brad Thompson is a prolific hybridizer and his hybrid, *B.* ‘Brad Thompson’, is a beautiful eyelash rhizomatous begonia. In addition to hybridizing hundreds of begonias, his scholarly contributions include serving as editor of *The Begonian* and creating a website, Brad’s Begonia World ([www.BradsBegoniaWorld.com](http://www.BradsBegoniaWorld.com)), a great resource for learning about different types of begonias, care and culture, growing for show, and more. A *Begonian*

article said this of Brad, “His handiwork was everywhere at the Convention! He worked the computer for the show registration, his artwork adorned the convention literature, his framed artwork went to show



winners, the boutique offered more of his works.” Wanda Macnair fondly remembered the time that Brad served as emcee at an ABS Convention dinner, doing a takeoff of the Academy Awards as he presented the ABS National Awards. Brad has received the Alfred D. Robinson Medal at least four times and also has received the Eva Kenworthy Gray and Ziesenhenné Awards. *B.* ‘Brad Thompson’ is rhizomatous; its parents are *B.* ‘Angel Glow’ and *B.* ‘Palomar Prince’.



Jan Brown and Mary Sakamoto are among many ABS past-presidents with hybrids named for them. Mary belongs to several ABS branches and for the past 11 years has been the treasurer for Orange County. She previously served as ABS 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president, is a senior ABS judge, and for many years has served as the ABS Convention Advisor. *B.* ‘Mary Sakamoto’, a cane, is one of several begonias that Brad Thompson has hybridized and named for Mary. Others include one called ‘Bloody Mary’! Mary received the Marge Lee Award in 2009, an award given for contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among members.



Jan also belongs to several ABS branches, has been involved with many ABS conventions, currently manages the ABS Bookstore, and received the Dyckman Award in 2003. She enjoyed knowing Irene Nuss, and regarded Irene as her mentor. Jan says that she has always loved ABS, and her favorite begonias are thick-stemmed. Brad Thompson hybridized *B.* ‘Janet Brown’ a rhizomatous begonia; its parents are *B.* ‘Little Brother Montgomery’ and *B.* ‘Charles Jaros’.



Irene Nuss is described as one of the best hybridizers in ABS history and also as a great mentor and a role model to many. Irene once told Jan Brown, “If you belong to an organization, then you help!” Irene began hybridizing “just for the fun of it” and very much cared to make distinctions between her hybrids. Several ABS



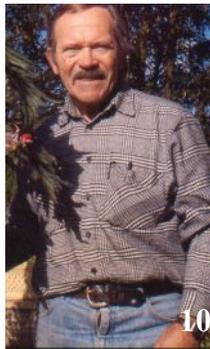
Wanda Macnair (Fig 1) and her namesake begonia, *B.* ‘Wanda Macnair’ (Fig 2), photos by Sally Savelle; Hybridizer Brad Thompson (Fig 3) photo by Chris Baker; see back cover for photo of *B.* ‘Brad Thompson’; Mary Sakamoto (left) and Jan Brown (right, Fig 5) photos by Sally Savelle; *B.* ‘Jan Brown’ (Fig 5) photo by Julie Vanderwilt; *B.* ‘Mary Sakamoto’ (Fig 6); photo by Gloria Utzig

members I talked to told stories about how Irene would throw away hybrids she thought were lacking distinction, so that no one else would retrieve them and grow them up! *B.* ‘Irene Nuss’ is a beautiful cane hybridized by Irene. Its parents are *B.* ‘Kentwood’ and *B.* ‘Lenore Olivier’.

Millie Thompson and her husband Ed wrote *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide*, described by several ABS members as “the bible of begonias.” Millie, though described as quiet and shy, was recognized internationally as a begonia expert and scholar known for her meticulous research, and for making hard-to-find information available to botanists and horticulturists around the world. Millie and her husband received the Eva Kenworthy Gray and the Herbert P. Dyckman Awards and Millie was an ABS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president. *B.* ‘Millie Thompson’ is a very beautiful rex hybridized by Gordon Lepisto; its parents are *B.* *versicolor* and *B.* ‘John Blais’.

Several hybrids are named for another ABS writer and scholar, Thelma O’Reilly, who recently turned 99-years old! Thelma is a recipient of at least three ABS awards: the Alfred D. Robinson Medal, Eva Kenworthy Gray Award, and the Herbert P. Dyckman Award. Thelma is described as “an unbelievable force” in the begonia world, being very knowledgeable about begonias and instrumental in the naming of several new begonia species. Thelma contributed to scholarly

writings with Jack Golding and Carrie Karegeannes, headed Members-at-Large, and contributed monthly articles to *The Begonian* in the 1970s and 1980s.



*B.* ‘Millie Thompson’ (Fig 7) photo by Sally Savelle; Thelma O’Reilly (Fig 8); Charles Jaros holding *B.* ‘Sir Charles Jaros’ (Fig 9); Hugh McLaughlan (Fig 10) and specimen of *B.* ‘Hugh McLaughlan’ (Fig 11); *B.* ‘Don Miller’ (Fig 12) Don Miller (Fig 13)

*B.* ‘Thelma O’Reilly’ and *B.* ‘Madame O’Reilly’ were hybridized by Brad Thompson and named for Thelma (as is *B. thelmae*, named by Dr. Lyman Smith of the Smithsonian Institute, in 1981).

Charles Jaros and his family have almost more hybrids named for them than can be kept track of. Charles has been an ABS member since 1972. He has served two terms as ABS President (the only person to do so), has attended all but three conventions, has twice been ABS Convention Chair, Co-chairs the ABS Judging Department, is an ABS Senior Judge, runs Entries & Classification for ABS Conventions and Southwest Region Get-Togethers, Co-chairs the ABS Unidentified Species Listing, and has received the Herbert P. Dyckman, Eva Kenworthy Gray, and Gene Salisbury Awards. Hybrids named for Charles include *B.* ‘Charles Jaros’ and *B.* ‘Sir Charles Jaros’. There are also hybrids named for each of Charles’ parents. *B.* ‘Chuck Jaros’ is named for his father. *B.* ‘Helene Jaros’, *B.* ‘Sister Jaros’, and *B.* ‘Lady Helene Jaros’ are named for Charles’ mother. Helene was also very involved with ABS, co-chaired the 1978 Eastern Region Convention, served as an ABS senior judge, and received the Eva Kenworthy Gray award. She joined ABS in 1972, was a member of three ABS branches in Florida, and was a charter member of the Palm Beaches Branch.

*B.* ‘Hugh McLaughlan’ is named for a very active and respected member of both the Scottish Begonia Society and ABS. Hugh was Vice-president of the Scottish Begonia Society for more than ten years, ultimately serving as President. He became involved with ABS when he and his wife, Betty, were visiting their daughter in America. She took them to a flower show in her area where they met a very young Charles Jaros and his parents. From then on until the year that Hugh passed away, he visited the U.S. often and was a banquet speaker at several ABS conventions. Hugh traveled throughout the world in pursuit of his begonia passion, including rainforests. *B.* ‘Hugh McLaughlan’ was hybridized by Antoon Hoefnagels. Before it was named, Antoon sent this plant to Samuel Kennedy, Scottish Begonia Society, and asked them to name the plant. They chose to name it for Hugh. Antoon feels that this colorful begonia was well named for a colorful begonia friend.

Most people know Don Miller for his active and important work with the Southwest Region and the Begonia Species Bank at the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden (FWBG), his hybridization of begonias, and work with Steve’s Leaves. He has written many scholarly articles for *The Begonian*. Don has made begonia-related travels across the world, including collecting begonias in the wild in Ecuador and Malaysia. Don says, “I am always looking for a new begonia or seeing how begonias grow in different environments.” Bobbie Price, another volunteer at the FWBG, remarks that Don is an active and “fantastic” volunteer at the FWBG, and that they would “sink” without Don Miller!

Maurice Amey is an ABS member who lived in Dallas and was very active in the Southwest Region. He is described by all as a worker bee and having a lively, fun personality. After being introduced to begonias by Don Miller, Maurice became “obsessed” with begonias (as are we all). Becoming editor for the *Southwest Region Leaflet*, he used his abilities as a professional graphic artist to turn the *Leaflet* into a professional publication. He received every service award in the Dallas Branch and the Southwest Region, served as chair and master of ceremonies of



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Southwest Region Get-Togethers, and eventually became an ABS judge.

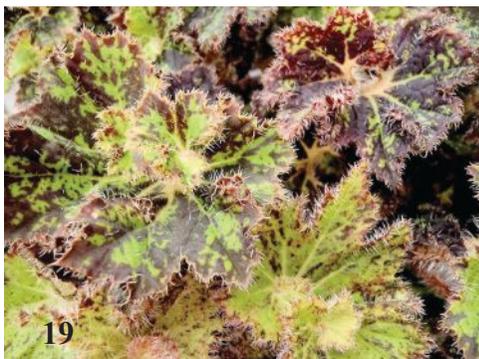
Interestingly, *B.* ‘Maurice Amey’ has the same lineage as does *B.* ‘Don Miller’. Don Miller provides the best description: “When visiting Begonia hybridizers, Stew (Naron) and Barbara Stewart, who live near San Antonio, the Stewarts were showing us some new seedlings from one of their crosses. This was a cross of *B.* U062 and *B.* ‘Torch’. There were two seedlings that were spectacular; one was bright silver pink with a thin edge of silver. This plant they wanted to name *B.* ‘Maurice Amey’ and the second seedling was covered with tiny silver spots, sometimes so many spots that it looked almost solid silver. This silver seedling was to be named *B.* ‘Don Miller’. This was such an honor to have to magnificent new cultivars named after us.”

*B.* ‘Bobbie Price’ was hybridized and named by none other than Bobbie Price, hybridizer and volunteer extraordinaire at the FWBG; in fact Bobbie just celebrated 20 years of volunteering at the FWBG. Bobbie lives in Ft. Worth, belongs to several ABS branches, and has been a member of ABS since the early 1980s. When asked what her favorite begonias are, Bobbie replied, “I love every one of them.” In May, 2016, the Southwest Region recognized Bobbie as “Ambassador for the Begonia,” as “there isn’t any place she goes that she doesn’t say, ‘Have you seen our begonia collection?’”

*B.* ‘Bobbie Price’ is a beautiful cane with pink flowers whose parents are *B.* ‘Benigo’ and *B.* ‘Nancy Cummings’.

Joan Coulat lives in Sacramento and joined ABS in 1974, saying that she went to one branch meeting and “I was hooked.” The Sacramento branch of ABS is named for Joan. She has four begonias named for her: *B.* ‘Joan Coulat’ hybridized by Rudy Ziesenhenne, *B.* ‘Curly Coulat’ and *B.* ‘Joan’s Fantasy’ hybridized by Paul Tsamtsis, and *B.* ‘Madame Coulat’ hybrid-

ized by Brad Thompson. In Sacramento Joan is known as the “Begonia Lady.” Joan tells a recent humorous story where just before having minor surgery, the anesthesiologist came in the room and said, “Aren’t you the Begonia Lady?” He then proceeded to pepper Joan with questions about his failing begonia, stopping by to visit Joan post-surgery. Joan’s six-year old granddaughter loves begonias, recently asking Joan for a *B. polilloensis*,



*B.* ‘Maurice Amey’ (Fig 14); Maurice Amey, displaying a *B.* ‘Maurice Amey’, joined by Barbara and Naron Stewart (Fig15); *B.* ‘Bobbie Price’ (Fig 16), photo by Butch McDole; Bobbie Price (Fig 17), photo by Sally Savelle; Joan Coulat (Fig 18); *B.* ‘Morris Mueller’ (Fig 19), photo by Paul Tsamtsis; Rudolf (Rudy) Ziesenhenne with Eva Gray Kenworthy (Fig 20)



even pronouncing it correctly; perhaps a future begoniac in the making? Joan has served as ABS national show chair and co-chaired the San Francisco ABS Convention.

Morris Mueller was an ABS member from Sacramento who traveled internationally to collect begonias. He wrote many articles for *The Begonian*. His service to ABS included a term as ABS President and being a strong participant in the ABS Save-Our-Species program. In addition to his interest in begonias and involvement with ABS, he was a strong supporter of animal humane organizations and a beloved math teacher. When Morris passed away, he very generously left a portion of his estate to ABS specifically to support scholarship, collecting of begonia species, and for financial support of begonia research expeditions. Morris received the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award. *B.* ‘Morris Mueller’ is a beautiful rhizomatous begonia with bright green leaves.

Rudolf (Rudy) Ziesenhenne lived in Santa Barbara, and was affectionately known as “Mr. Begonia.” He was a prolific hybridizer and talented grower. He researched and wrote extensively about begonias and was very involved in nomenclature for ABS. He was instrumental in issuing *A Suggested Guide to Classification of Begonias for Show Purposes*, which systematized the judging process and allowed all ABS branches to judge in the same way such that an award given by one branch had the same meaning as an award given by another. He wrote many articles for *The Begonian* and served as keynote banquet speaker seven times at ABS Convention banquets. Rudy hybridized many well-known begonias and named them for his sons, Fred (*B.* ‘Freddie’ and ‘Red Fred’) and Rudolf (*B.* ‘Skeezer’). The Santa Barbara Branch is named for Rudy. The Rudolf Ziesenhenne Award was established in Rudy’s name in 1998 for exceptional editorial contributions in the field of begonia studies; he was the first recipient. Rudy also received the Alfred D. Robinson, Eva Kenworthy Gray, and Herbert P. Dyckman Awards.



Examples of sessile features.

The carnivorous plant, *Drosera capensis* (Fig 1), features both stalked and sessile glands to produce the mucilage used to trap its unfortunate prey. Sessile and short stalked glands, the red dots, can be seen in the center of the leaf shown above.

Photo courtesy of Géry Parent, <https://flic.kr/p/nmQrFW>

*Quercus petraea* (Fig 2), a European oak species, is commonly known as the Sessile Oak. The origin of that common name becomes quite apparent with a look at the tight fit of the acorns to the stem. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Very short petioles (indicated with an arrow) on *Begonia fuchsioides* leaves (Fig 3), are categorized as being sub-sessile. Photo by Bob Stewart



## A Word with You: Sessile

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

**A**gile, mobile, hostile or docile, volatile, even juvenile. Literally hundreds of English words have the *-ile* suffix. *Sessile* comes from the Latin *sessilis*, “of or fit for sitting; fixed in one place; immobile...” yet another *-ile* suffix, that comes from the Latin *ilis*, which means “relating to, capable of.” Cassell’s defines *sessilis* as “fit for sitting upon. Low, dwarf.”

Then there’s the botanical *sessile*, “having no stem, as a leaf issuing directly from the stem.” It’s an adjective. Pronounced either with a long or short *i*. One also finds *sub-sessile/subsessile*, meaning those appendages are very short. What a seamless fit.

And the combination rather makes sense, immobile. Mr. Webster defines *sessile* “in botany, attached by a base; as, a *sessile* leaf, one issuing directly from the main stem or branch without a petiole or footstalk; a *sessile* flower, one having no peduncle or pedicel.” *B. foliosa*, for example, has a very short petiole. So does *B. fuchsoides*. In a botanical study of six new species from Vietnam, *B. melanobullata* is described as having a pistillate flower “sparsely dotted with sessile glands,” and *B. circularis* a pistillate flower “with sparse sessile or subsessile glands.” Take a look at <https://as-botanicalstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40529-015-0089-3> for the rigorous scientific description of the six new species, but also some beautiful illustrations and photographs.

I didn’t find *sessile* in Tebbitt or Golding glossaries, but it was in Thompson’s glossary, defined as “without stalk.” It’s cold and gloomy in New England right now, couch potato time; immobile, juvenile, docile, *sessile*.



## ***Building a Begonia Dome***

*By Mike Flaherty; Photos by Gary Hunt*

Have you seen begonias grown this way before?

I made this Begonia Dome last February 20th with plans to enter it into the LA show in September. I won blue ribbon for Novel Grown.

To start the project I found a plant saucer, added drainage holes, and put in a layer of soil (Fig 1). Then, artificial turf was rolled jellyroll style. The artificial turf was tied with wire to keep it from expanding. I used the turf because I knew if I just used soil I would not be able to lift the dome. Soil was then mounded over the artificial turf roll (Fig 2), patted into shape, and covered with the wire frame from an old hanging basket (Fig 3). The whole dome was covered with moss (Fig 4). After planting the begonias, I cut off all the old foliage (Fig 5). A sprinkler came on twice a week to water the dome.

Here it is on December 18, 2016 (Fig 6). The plants are *B.* 'Brown Derby' and *B.* 'Golden Glow'.





## Cleaning Clay Pots

*By Wendy Corby, Sacramento, CA*

With the cooler weather, I finally have time for other chores (besides watering). So I spent a day cleaning clay pots (Fig 1). It requires a little elbow grease and some time, but the results are well worth it. Here's what I do to clean clay pots.

First, remove any dirt and debris from the pots by scrubbing the inside and outside of the pot with a brush or scrub pad.

Then fill a bucket with one part vinegar (a gallon jug is only \$2 at Big Lots) to three parts water. Submerge the pots in this solution for 20 to 30 minutes (Fig 2). Remove the pots.

Next, scrub any remaining dirt or mineral deposits off each pot and rinse with water.

Finally, load the clay pots in the dishwasher (Fig 3) and run a wash cycle (without detergent). Let them air dry.

The clay pots are clean and ready for use (Fig 4).



# Locule or Stipule?



Cutaway of ripening seed pod  
Photo by Linda Tamblyn  
Can you spot the locule?

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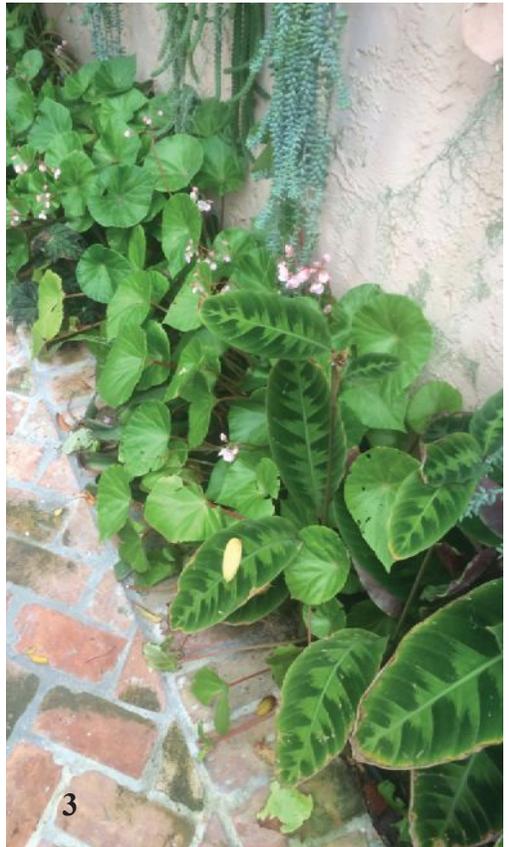
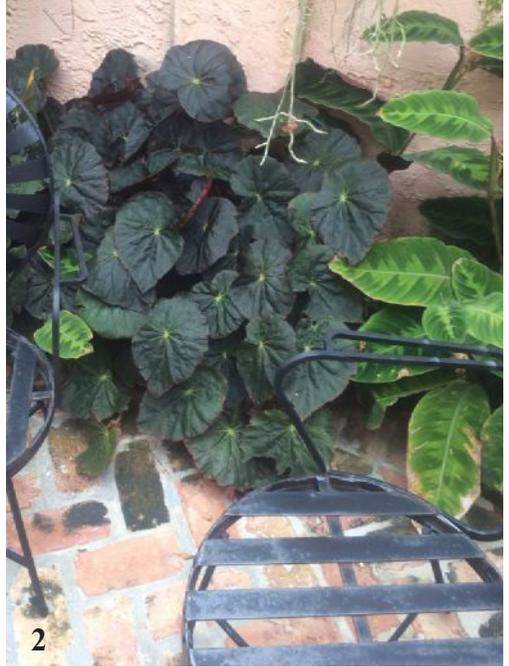
## Last month's answer to Picture Quiz

2016 November/December, page 229

## Cuneate or Foveolate?

**ANSWER: Cuneate.**

**Cuneate** is wedge shaped. See Vol 82, Jan/Feb 2015 p. 32. Foveolate is marked by minute depressions or pits. See vol. 80, Sept. Oct. 2013, p. 174.



## *Hospitality to a Florida Visitor*

By Charles Jaros, DeBary, FL

**D**on Miller recently made a visit to Florida to give a program to the Palm Beach Branch. Of course, that was an opportunity to visit several Gardens.

This *Begonia reniformis* (Fig 1) grows in the garden of Merle DeLand, president of the Tampa Branch. At the Garden of Palm Beach Branch member, Polly Reed, we saw this dark-leaved *B.* 'Caribbean Corsair' (Fig 2) and a *B. hernandioides* (Fig 3).

Don, Johanna Kitson, and I visited a beautifully landscaped estate, Casa Phippsberger, situated on 6 acres in Palm Beach. Bob Eigelberger is the owner and the grounds are fabulous (Figs 4–6).



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## NEW for March:

### ***Species Begonias Of The Eastern Himalayas Of Arunachal, India***

by Dr. Rekha Morris, Feb. 2017, Published by The Dr. Cecilia Koo Botanic Conservation & Environmental Protection Foundation, Taiwan. Rekha spoke at the September Convention in Los Angeles about this book. It is a description of species collected by Rekha on her many trips to India and Arunachal. Beautiful pictures and descriptions of begonia species.

**Domestic: \$25.00; International: \$35.00**

## NEW for at the Convention:

### ***The Invisible Begonia: An Introduction to Begonia Genetics with My Experiences in their Use in Hobby Hybridizing***

by Freda Holley, August, 2016.

Freda introduced this amazing book at her seminar at the convention, Sept. 8. You will learn how she creates her stunning hybrids, scientifically, and see the beautiful results in many full color photos. This is the third book in her hybridizing series and a 'must have' for beginning & established hybridizers as well as collectors. Proceeds go to the ABS Millie Thompson Publication Fund.

**Domestic: \$25.00; International: \$35.00**

### ***Begonias Of The Month***

Written by ABS members. Compiled by Wendy Corby, 2015, 116 color pages sponsored by the Sacramento Branch and published through the ABS's Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund.

This booklet is a compilation of monthly write-ups by ABS members from 2000 through 2010. *Begonias Of The Month* includes a variety of begonias with information on the plant's origin and growing tips from that grower's experiences and locale.

**Domestic: \$20.00 International: \$30.00**

### **The first new ABS pin in many years**

is now available just in time for your holiday giving. It was designed and produced by Cheryl Lenert. Surprise and delight begonia lovers on your list with this beautiful pin .

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### ***Brad's Begonia World***

by Brad Thompson. Edited & Compiled by Wendy Corby, 2015.

A compendium of Brad Thompson's web page with 189 color pages of photographs, published through the ABS's Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund. The first section is on the different types of begonias. The second section is on the growing and care of begonias. The book is a wonderful set of articles to provide begonia enthusiasts with information and delight them with incredible full color photographs of your favorite begonias.

**Domestic: \$35; International: \$55**

### **NEW: *Understanding Begonia***

by Samuel Kennedy, Photographs & Art Work by Elizabeth Kennedy

Published in the United Kingdom, 2015, ISBN #978-0-9932897, 95 pages, full color photographs. First half of the book covers begonia history, types, sections, growing, fertilizing. Second half is devoted to growing tuberous begonias. A glorious book containing valuable information from the Jack Golding archives.

**Domestic: \$20.00; International: \$30.00**

### **Begonia Note Cards**

featuring Begonias of Borneo found in the new Ruth Kiew book. **\$15.00**

### ***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 Ziesenhenn. The pictures are many and stunning.

**Domestic: \$21.00;**

**International \$26.00 (Includes postage)**

***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: \$33.00; International: \$42.00**

**B. U604–621 to add to the August, 2010 Unidentified Species Listing**

**\$7.00**

***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**

***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's last work. "...dedicated to the many who look at their Begonia but do not see the details."

**\$15.00**

***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**

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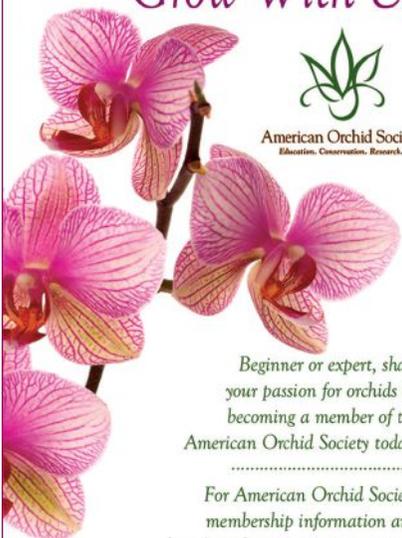
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**Treasurer...** Carol Notaras, 2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123; 415-931-4912; cnotaras@sbcglobal.net

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## The Begonian

### May/June 2017

## Submissions

## Due

## March 21

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**begoniaskc@yahoo.com**

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