

THE

BEGONIAN

May/June 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.



Blossoms of *Begonia cleopatrae*, a small creeping rhizomatous begonia endemic to Cleopatra's Needle on the Phillipine island of Palawan. Photo by Jacky Duruisseau

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Cover photo: *B. ferox* C.-I Peng & Yan Liu growing on limestone outcrops in southern Guangxi, China. Read more (pg 88) in A Word With You. Photo by Dr Ching-I Peng.

Back cover: Fields and fields of tuberous begonias at Golden State Nursery. Changes are ahead, though... See pg 104. Photo by Laurel Carlisle

Dear Friends & Colleagues,
I belong to a number of volunteer

organizations, some service-oriented, some professional, and others which many would call hobby, interest or leisure groups, such as our American Begonia Society (ABS). I don't use the word "leisure" lightly. On the contrary, ABS membership has provided me with the greatest satisfaction and pleasure. Admiring and studying the most unusual of creatures, relaxing with like-minded friends - What could make life better? It doesn't matter if the branches of my favorite organization happen to be the furthest from my home and workplace. Everyone deserves and needs some leisure time to rest.

Nevertheless, long ago I reevaluated my original thoughts about ABS membership as purely leisure. As many of our veteran ABS members no doubt feel, we help to "beautify the world." I remember the time that the gardener for the venue that hosts our Westchester Branch's monthly meetings had savagely cut down the *B. 'Richmondensis'* extensively adorning the landscaped grounds fronting the boulevard, potentially killing these plants. Soon after, I heard that the branch Vice President, Jim Jaeger, active member and friend Janet Brown, and other members, had obtained permission to nurse them back to health and beauty, with evident success. I also thought of the hard, meticulous work being done at the Begonia Species Bank at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden, where begonias are being carefully maintained in cultivation because they are endangered in the wild due to destruction of their habitats.

I own an old book entitled *Word People: Being an inquiry into the lives of those persons who have lent their names to the English language* (1970), by Nancy Caldwell Sorel, filled with brief biographies of individuals whose own names have provided words in English. While most of the people included are either famous or infamous, ranging from men such as de Sade, Guillotine and Lynch, to the ladies named Bloomer and de Pompadour, this book also includes a one-page (p.17) description of civil servant Michel Bégon, in whose honor our favorite plant, the begonia, was named. As the appointed government commissioner to the French colony of Santo Domingo (today's Haiti) in the late 1600's, Bégon's mission was to enforce a policy "of protecting the natives from the less enlightened designs of the merchants." He "was particularly concerned with the religious and medical needs" of the inhabitants, and also "amassed a large library, which he opened to the public." It's reasonable to conclude that Michel Bégon was a public servant in the best sense, a "good guy," so to speak, committed to the public welfare.



Michel Bégon

The author of the book concludes that Bégon, "in all probability, carried the begonia back to France [and] to the botanists of Europe." This was just one more good service by Michel Bégon, perhaps as important as any other.

In Friendly Contact,
Martin E. Delgado, American Begonia Society

2017 Holiday Greetings Challenge: Donate “Champagne”!

Champagne for the holidays? Of course, and who better to suggest it than the Margaret Lee Branch? However, this time the members are not busy reaching for a corkscrew, but instead are issuing a challenge to donate to this year’s Holiday Greetings at a brand new level — Champagne, for donations over \$300!

Donors to this fund are able to offer their holiday greetings while also supporting ABS. Thanks to your generosity, \$4312 was donated last year! The money raised helps with the expense of printing *The Begonian* and in turn helps to keep the cost of dues down. Please help spread the word about this annual program and request that it be added to the agenda of your next meeting. It was good to see many branches increase their level of donation last year; maybe this year your branch could consider that, too. Champagne, anyone?

All donors will be listed by category of donation on a single page of the November/December issue. The donation categories are: **Bronze, 1-\$50; Silver, \$51-100; Gold, \$101-150; Platinum, \$151-300; and NEW for 2017: Champagne, \$301, plus!**

The contributions, which are tax-deductible, should be made out to ABS Holiday Greetings and sent to Frances Drescher, 11529 Riverchase Run, West Palm Beach, FL 33412. The deadline for donations is September 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Frances at fkdrescher1@comcast.net. Thank you.



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**Vote today for
the ABS Board
and return
your ballot.**

**Voting deadline
July 15, 2017.**

**Slate of officers and
Ballot on pages 115–117.**

Save the Date for ABS Board Meeting

The Delaware Valley Branch is pleased to announce that it will host the fall ABS Board Meeting on September 22–23 at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Malvern, PA. <http://www.desmondgv.com/>

All ABS members are welcome, but attendees are urged to make their hotel reservations early, prior to August 25. In order to obtain the special rate of \$149 per night they must do so by calling 800-575-1776 and mention the ABS meeting.

There will be an Executive Board meeting on Friday evening, with an open board meeting on Saturday morning and a tour of world-renowned Longwood Gardens www.longwoodgardens.org on Saturday afternoon, followed by dinner in the hotel restaurant. Information on how to register for the tour will be forthcoming at a later time.



Begonia × hiemalis 'Cindy Franje'

Courtesy of Longwood Gardens longwoodgardens.org/plants/winter-flowering-begonia-6



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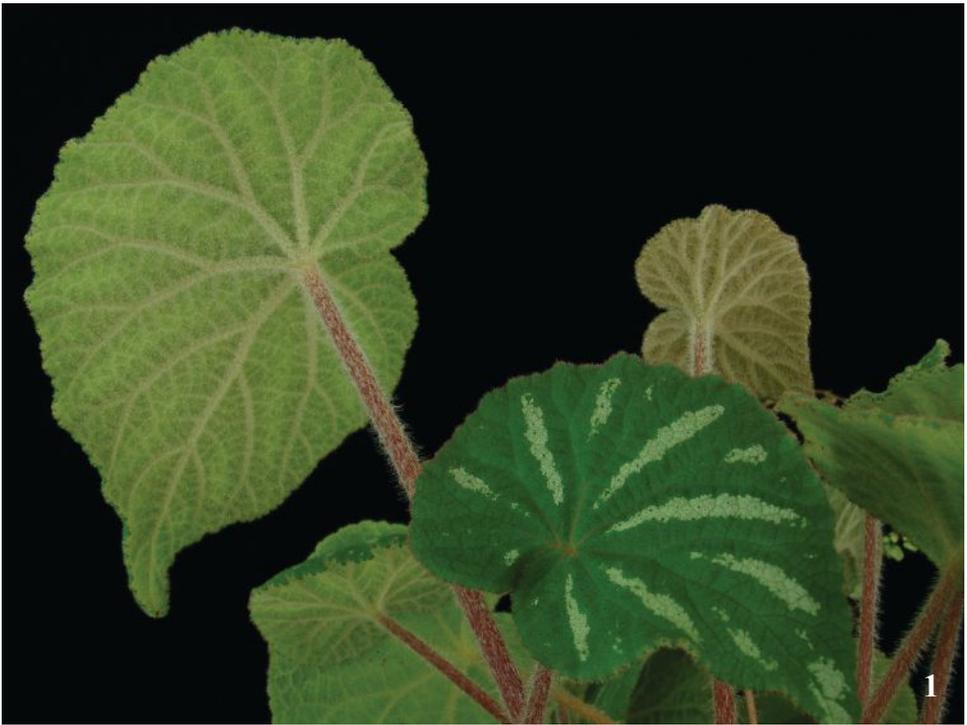
***ABS/SWR Convention and Get-Together:
April 2-8, 2018, New Orleans Airport Hilton Hotel***

As you are reading this, we should all be enjoying the 2017 ABS/SWR Convention and Get-Together in San Antonio, Texas. But look ahead as soon as you get home to begin your planning to help Louisiana celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the city of New Orleans with all its history and magic to love. The restaurants and food are world renowned; the sights are sure to appeal with both Southern plantations and modern museums available not to mention a renewed New Orleans Botanical Garden at City Park with its over 2000 native plants.

The tours, the seminars, and the show and sale will be celebrated as usual. You will see swamps, bayous, and the source of the Katrina flood, Lake Pontchartrain.

Next issue, we'll bring you an overview of that 300 years of history that New Orleans has seen. We can hardly wait for you to come to Louisiana!

'Laissez les bons temps rouler!'



A Word with You: Adaxial, Abaxial

Once again, reading through as_botanicalstudies.springeropen.com, partly because it's beautifully illustrated, interesting, and partly to see what I don't know, I found a discussion of *B. caobangensis*, from Vietnam, with "leaves alternate, *adaxially* lime green, *abaxially* reddish to crimson." I didn't find *adaxial* or *abaxial* in my standard begonia references, Tebbitt, Golding, or Thompson, but they are in Webster. They're adjectives.

I know the components, *ab*, *ad*, and *axis*, but was mystified by their application to leaves until I found the terms elsewhere used to describe a new, unfurled leaf. The inner part of the new bundle, the one facing the stem/axis, is *adaxial*. The process of elimination yields *abaxial* as the opposite. Unfurled and mature that translates to leaf top and bottom...usually. Most leaves have

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT
distinctive top and bottom surfaces, and looking for *adaxial* and *abaxial* led to many references to leaf stomata, and even color and vestiture differences.

We know the earth rotates on its axis, a visual etched into my brain in grammar school. In botany the axis is the "longitudinal support on which organs or parts are arranged, the stem..." Then we have the prefix duo *ad* and *ab*. We even had an *ad* word in AWWY, adventitious. In Latin *ad* means to, toward in space or time. *Ab* means away from. They remind me of re-duplicatives like tit for tat, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, easy peasy. You can't have one without the other. Lots of useful words incorporate them; advocate, admit, adjust, abrade, abscond, absurd. Mnemosyne helps me when I summon up ad nauseam and abnormal. Direction is clear in both.



2



3

B. filiformis Irmischer (Fig 1), a field photo from China, showing upper and lower leaf surfaces.

B. ferox (Fig 2), which was discovered by Dr. Ching-I Peng growing on a limestone hill in China, illustrates another example of adaxial and abaxial surfaces. The discovery was later published in 2013.

B. caobangensis C.-I Peng & C. W. Lin (Fig 3) taken in Vietnam on Dec. 21, 2016. Both adaxial (top or upper) and abaxial (bottom or lower) leaf surfaces are shown.

Photos by Dr. Ching-I Peng



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How Do *Your* Begonias Grow?

Share your tips, tricks, success and failures, photos or questions with your fellow begonia lovers. Send your submissions to *The Begonian* at: begoniaskc@yahoo.com

New Registration: *Begonia* ‘Guardian Angel’

From Priscilla Purinton, Hybrid Registrar

Official International Registration #1020

Begonia ‘Guardian Angel’

Seed parent: *B.* ‘Ben’s Back Yard’

Pollen parent: *B. maculata*

Hybridized by Walter Dworkin, 8 Rugby Rd., Westbury, NY.

Developed in 1991 and first distributed in 1993. Tested by the late Virginia Ketler of Houston, Texas, who shared the plant with the Fort Worth Botanic Garden where it was grown for many years. Registration applied for September 7th, 2016 and approved December 15th, 2016.

Begonia ‘Guardian Angel’ is a cane-like begonia that reaches 20” at maturity. The ovate, medium green leaves have one main vein and are slightly undulated and indented. The softly



The undersides of the leaves of *B.* ‘Guardian Angel’ have a maroon blush (Fig 1). With its profusely spotted leaves (Fig 2) and fat umbels of pink flowers (Fig 3), *B.* ‘Guardian Angel’ creates a dramatic display.

Photos by Walter Dworkin

glossy surface is liberally dotted with silver spots of various sizes. This 'Angel' has its own halo; a very thin line of tiny dots decorates the entire margin of each leaf. The undersides of the leaves have a maroon blush that is more intense along the pattern of the veins.

The green petioles are hairless and 1.5" long. The apple green stipules are 1.5" by 0.75".

This hybrid is a spring and summer bloomer. The oval tepals and the ovaries are pink and white.

Both male and female flowers are 1.5" in diameter. The inflorescences have an average of 28 male flowers followed by about 24 female flowers. Male flowers have 4 tepals; 2 large and 2 very small. Female flowers have 5 tepals; 4 large and 1 that is smaller and thinner than the others. The flower clusters are held well out from the foliage on 5.5" peduncles.

B. 'Guardian Angel' has the beautiful leaf shape and dots of its pollen parent *B. maculata* plus the vigor and strength of *B.* 'Ben's Back Yard'. It maintains a full, bushy appearance and is a good bloomer as well. While not readily available commercially, cuttings are being distributed to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Before too long we may be able have our own 'Guardian Angel' watching over us!



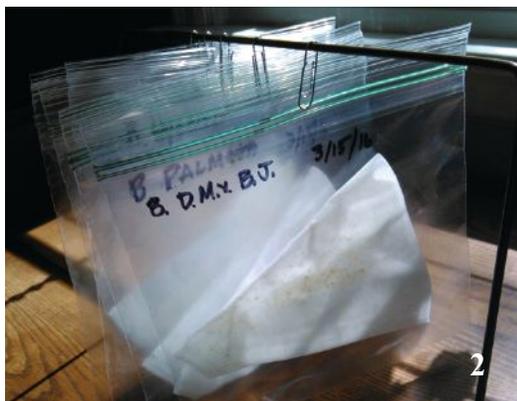
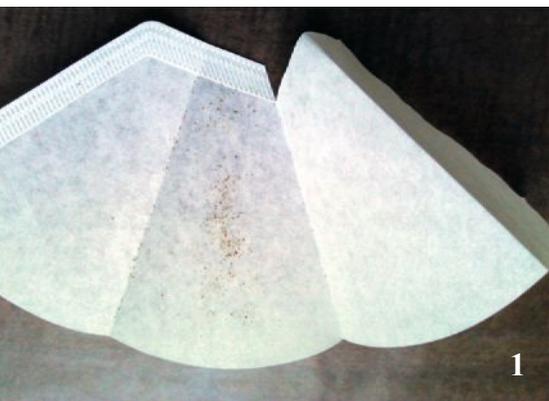
An Alternative Method for Starting Begonia Seeds

Article and photos by Michael Mack, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA

Begonia seed starting can be a challenge for the home grower. In many cases pre-emergence attack by damp off fungi can result in poor germination. This problem can be overcome using a technique developed by Norman Deno for perennials¹. In this case seed is started on damp paper towels. A slight modification of this is the use of coffee filters², which are less likely to be treated with any kind of chemicals. A #4 white coffee filter with seed is shown in Fig. 1. The coffee filter is slit open and folded in half as shown. The seed is dusted with Captan, a fungicide, to ensure that the seed, itself, is not source of disease or damp off fungi. The coffee filter is folded closed, again in half but with the seed inside, and then moistened using water, which has been boiled and cooled. As a precaution to ensure sterility latex gloves are worn during operations involving the seed and new seedlings. The coffee filter is then inserted into a zip lock sandwich bag to await germination. Small seeds such

as begonias often require light to germinate so that the zip lock bags are hung in a frame in a bright or partly sunny window (Fig. 2). It is important that the filters are held vertically so the roots grow between the filter paper sections and not into the paper. Begonia seeds typically take 3 to sometimes 6 weeks to germinate. Not all seeds will be viable. Germination can be determined by holding the bag with the coffee filter up to light. The begonia seedlings are extremely small but the green cotyledons, the seedlings' first leaves, are usually visible through the coffee filter. Occasionally, mold spots may appear on the coffee filters. Depending on the status of the seeds this may need to be cut out with a clean razor knife.

With adequate germination the seedlings must be pricked out into a longer term growing medium. To aid in preventing damp off the growing medium should be acidic and free draining³. Milled sphagnum, vermiculite and perlite are often used in such mixes. Sphagnum contains spores for bacteria that



inhibit the growth of damp off fungi⁴. A good mix for begonias is one part milled sphagnum, one part vermiculite and three parts medium perlite. With NoDampOff milled sphagnum, and Hoffman vermiculite and perlite this mix has a pH (acidity) of 6.4, which is in the correct range for begonias and low enough to discourage damp off. Typically it is recommended that fertilizer not be applied until after the first true leaves form on the seedlings. However, with a low nitrogen, high potassium fertilizer the starting mix can be wetted with fertilizer that has been prepared in boiled water. High nitrogen encourages damp off and so should be avoided while high potassium bolsters the seedlings' defenses. A good mix for this is ¼ teaspoon DynaGro Bloom Food (3-12-6) in a gallon of water. Into this solution ¼ teaspoon of DynaGro ProTekt (0-0-3) is added. The two concentrated fertilizers cannot be mixed directly as a low solubility precipitate will form in that case. The extra phosphorus in the Bloom Food is high for long term maintenance and may result in excessive salt in the pots with bottom watering and so should be discontinued when the seedlings are large enough to put into individual pots. DynaGro

Foliage Pro is a good choice at that point. Municipal tap water in homes often has been pH adjusted to near neutrality (pH 7.0) to prevent corrosion of water pipes. In addition the ProTekt is quite alkaline so adjustment of the pH may be necessary. A pH gauge or test kit is necessary for this. White vinegar can be used to lower the pH to between 6.0 and 6.5³. Several products for adjusting aquarium pH are also available and useful for this. The container that will hold the growing mix and the seedlings should be sterilized using a diluted Chlorox-water solution³⁻⁴. Similarly if that container is to go into a clear container to enhance humidity then that container also should be similarly treated.

To prick out the tiny seedlings an Exacto knife is handy as is an illuminated magnifying lens of 4 to 6 power. Most begonia seedlings are even tinier than those shown in Fig. 3. Dipping the knife into alcohol and allowing it to dry before using ensures sterility. The zip lock bag and coffee filter should be opened on a clean surface such as a sheet of waxed paper. Again latex gloves will ensure that you do not contaminate the containers or seedlings with disease.



A #4 white coffee filter with seed (Fig 1); Zip lock bags are hung in a frame in a window (Fig 2); Prick out the tiny seedlings with an Exacto knife (Fig 3).



Species begonias as well as hybrids seeds grow well with my method (Fig. 4).

The seedlings are placed on the growing medium surface. This is a tedious process, which makes it unsuitable for commercial use but still well suited for home propagation. With this technique you know exactly how many seeds germinated and how many seedlings to expect after they are pricked out on their growing medium. Once all the seedlings are placed on the growing medium the surface is gently sprayed with the fertilizer solution. If seeds that have not germinated remain on the coffee filter, it can be refolded and returned to the zip locked bag. The seedlings are too tiny to actually plant and so putting the seedling container into a closed transparent container is helpful to raise the humidity and allow the roots to grow and penetrate the growing medium. A shop light is a convenient way to illuminate the seedlings using about a 14-hour exposure per day. Some ventilation of the closed container is important.

Otherwise condensation may occur on the cover at night and this can drip onto seedlings giving a wet surface and encouraging damp off. The growing medium must not dry out nor must it become truly wet. Watering from the bottom leaves the surface moist but not wet and encourages roots to grow down. When watering only enough water should be used that with time the surface becomes moist. If left in water until the surface becomes moist, the mix will be too wet. When the seedlings have 4 to 6 sets of true leaves they can be transplanted to individual pots.

This technique is very suitable to situations where seed count is limited and is useful for species begonias as well as hybrids (Fig. 4).

- (1).Norman C. Deno, Seed Germination Theory and Practice, <https://naldc.na.usda.gov/download/41278/pdf>
- (2).<http://www.robsplants.com/seed/baggy.php>
- (3). <http://tomclothier.hort.net/page13.html>
- (4).<http://www.sonomamg.ucanr.edu/files/29875.pdf>

B. rex Seed Pods : An Observation

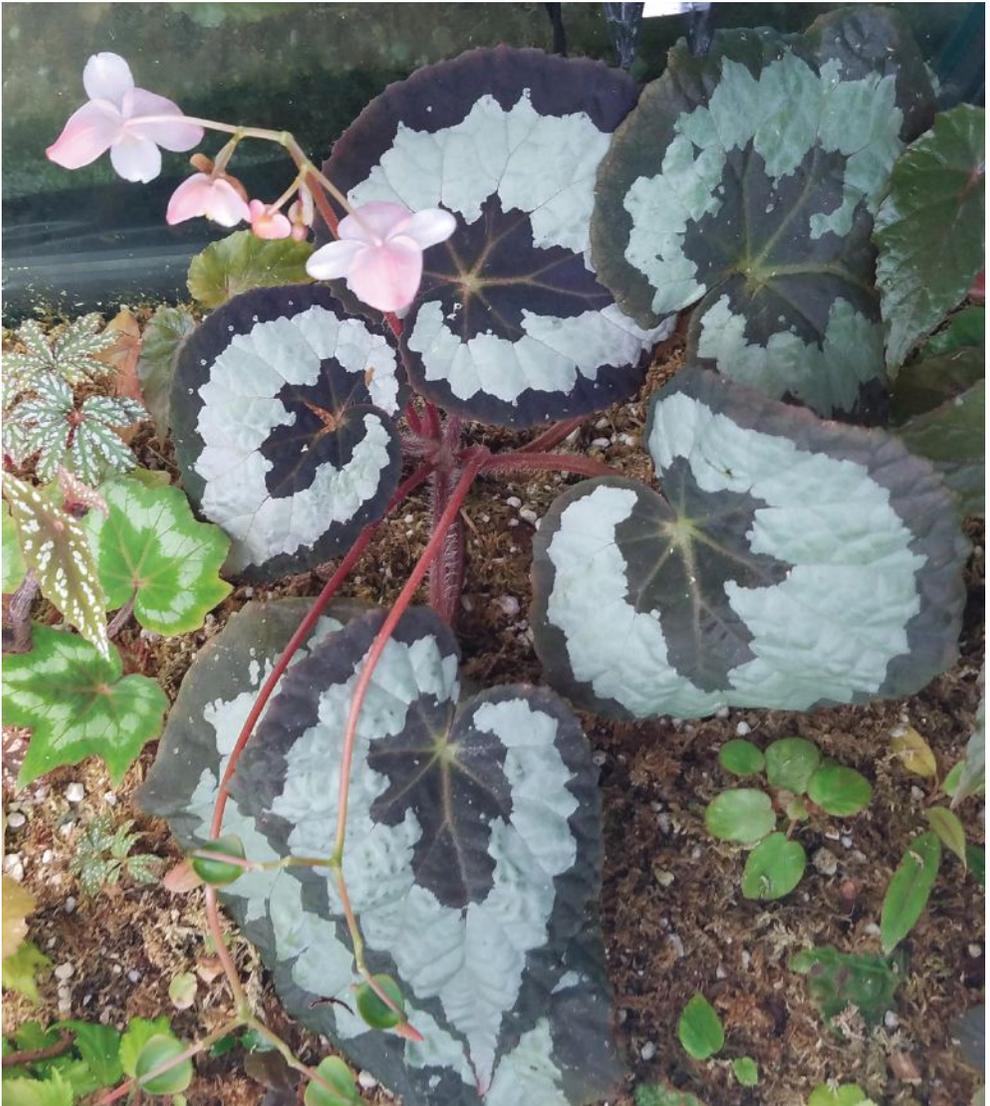
Article and photo by Randy Montes Kerr, West Hollywood, CA

I would like to pass on an unusual observation I've made regarding maturing *B. rex* seed pods.

This morning I found a green, still fleshy, *B. rex* seed pod had begun to rot. Not the most auspicious beginning for a story,

right? Only a small outer layer had begun to peel back, becoming soft. But, that would only spread.

I felt rather frustrated because I have tried to keep humidity from going too high in that 120 gallon tank, knowing that high humid-



My *B. rex*, with seed pods, growing in a terrarium (Fig 1).



After drying, all the seeds look good (Fig 2).

know it's a stretch. But maybe this meant the pod was ripe.

Well, clearly if I let the rot continue, it will be compost. (I suspect that *B. rex*, in its native lands, flowers during a drier, less humid season). So, I placed the seedpod in a mini Tupperware container, adding in two desiccant (drying) packets, to stop the rot.

ity is often hazardous to maturing seed pods, and condensation remaining on seed pods frequently 'terminal'. Seedpods are, after all, a highly concentrated nutrient source. It is not, therefore, surprising what various fungi, which need a moist environment to reproduce, might find them a tasty morsel.

My efforts to moderate humidity included leaving the lids at both ends of the tank slightly open. And even occasionally running a variable speed PC type fan in the terrarium.

Yet, I was looking at a rotting seedpod, a seedpod I had looked at with hope for six or seven weeks. And now, just compost.

Or *maybe, just possibly*, not.

A week ago, I found another *B. rex* seedpod in the same condition. (I may have said a bad word.) As I reached in to remove that potential fungal incubator, planning to throw the rotting pod away, I noticed that the peduncle (a stalk bearing a flower or seedpod/fruit) was also rotted.

Hmmm. When the peduncle dries this is an indicator a seedpod is ripe for picking. So, maybe, since it rotted, which is *kind of* like drying out, (bear with me) in that the peduncle gives up the ghost. I

Think "mummification".

I buy those packets online, adding one to all my pollen saving bottles. Before closing the bag containing my unused desiccant packets (they are often called *sachets*), I always suck all the air out to keep them fresh.

Seeing the desiccant packets swollen from the humidity they had captured, I replaced them every couple of days with fresh packets. In a pinch, one can use the desiccant tabs included in some pill bottles to keep the medication dry.

Seeing, this second rotting seedpod, I decided this would be a very good time to see if the first seed pod was completely dry, and whether it contained *any* good seed. There might be a few good seeds, after all.

And guess what?

All the seeds look good. Hurrah!!

They will be available from the ABS Seed fund.

If you would like to look at your seeds under a "high tech" microscope like the one I used to take this photo, search for 'mini microscope x60' on EBay or Amazon. Plan on spending about \$5.

Happy growing!

B. egregia

Article and photo by Randy Montes Kerr, West Hollywood, CA

If any doubt the merit of *B. egregia*, let them remember that, by its name, it is Excellent. Latin, *egregia*, being the feminine singular of *egregius*, meaning one that stands out, i.e., excellent. The root of the Latin *egregius*, being “from *ē*- (“out of, outside of”) + *grex* (“herd”) + *-ius*, “outside of the herd”, from Wiktionary.org. I love that kind of stuff.

B. egregia, native to eastern Brazil, is also quite singular in that it is the only member of section *Tetrachia*. It bears minutely bullate (puckered or blistered in appearance) leaves. My mnemonic, my meaning reminder, for bullate is bullet. Its conical tip is bullate. Bullets took their name from Latin *bulla*, bubble, when bullets were round.

One distinguishing trait of *B. egregia* is that it may have both peltate (back attaching) and non-peltate (side attaching) leaves on the same plants. I can recall another thick stemmed species, from western Brazil and thereabouts, whose individual plants may also bear lovely leaves of both types: *B. wollnyi*.

B. egregia is an easy grow species, demanding lower humidity than many species. It is not harmed by temperatures down to the mid-thirties, and may tolerate a light frost. A well draining medium is called for, excellent drainage. Potted specimens need larger than usual containers, with clay pots being ideal.

Readily grown from cuttings and seed, *B. egregia* should begin blooming during its second year, soon attaining 3 to 4 feet in height under optimal conditions.





Balboa Park, San Diego

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT; Photos by Bill Goodridge

Balboa Park is a huge center city park with 17 museums and the zoo. Landscaping includes magnificent trees planted by a U C Berkeley female horticulturist over 100 years ago. Many gardens are maintained on the 1200 acres, including Palm Canyon, the Japanese Friendship Garden, 1935 (Old) Cactus Garden, and the Australian Garden. Two ficus trees are jaw dropping gorgeous, and fenced off! Guess they don't want enthusiastic climbers or graffiti carvers. On a sunny weekend day the park is bustling with people doing things, or sun bathing. Parking is free ...when you can find it. Also the park has the largest outdoor organ in the world. On Sundays, they offer free concerts. Generally a wonderful quality of life place for the region.

Snakelike rhizomes on the *B.* 'Freddie' (Fig 1) serpentine around the rocks in the garden at Balboa Park. Delicate pink buds rise above this unidentified begonia (Fig 2). Surrounded by ferns and moss another unidentified begonia at Balboa Park (Fig 3).





B. U646



B. U304





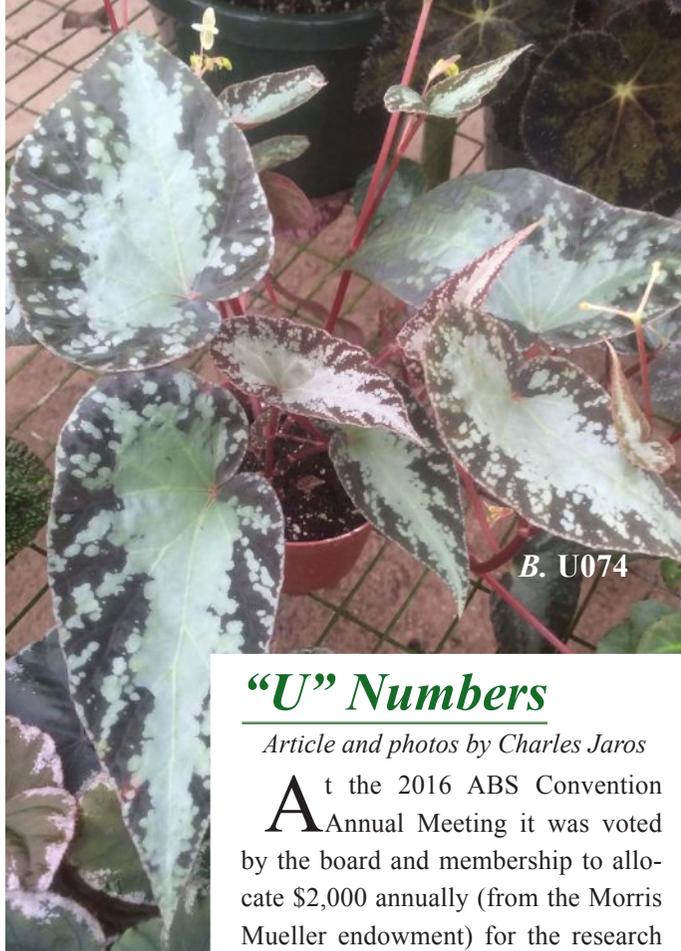
B. U074



B. caobangensis (B. U555)



B. U309



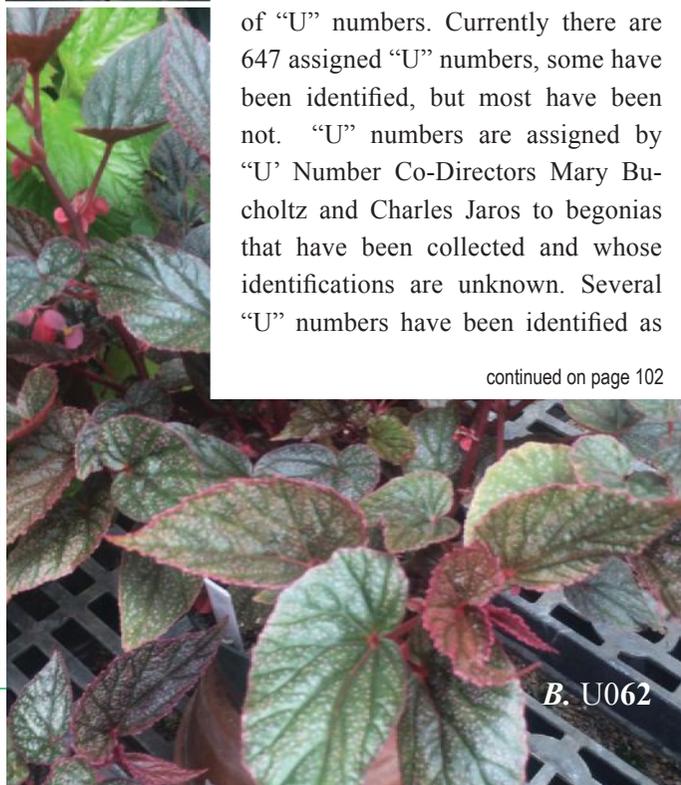
B. U074

“U” Numbers

Article and photos by Charles Jaros

At the 2016 ABS Convention Annual Meeting it was voted by the board and membership to allocate \$2,000 annually (from the Morris Mueller endowment) for the research of “U” numbers. Currently there are 647 assigned “U” numbers, some have been identified, but most have been not. “U” numbers are assigned by “U” Number Co-Directors Mary Burcholtz and Charles Jaros to begonias that have been collected and whose identifications are unknown. Several “U” numbers have been identified as

continued on page 102



B. U062



B. U604

“U” Numbers

continued from pg 101

new species such as *B.* U555 (*B. caobangensis*), others have been identified as already possessing a species name.

“U” Numbers (unidentified species) was instituted in 1981 by the American Begonia Society as a system of listing species begonias whose identity was unknown. The purpose of this system is so that collectors, researchers, and growers are talking about the same begonias while research is being conducted. The “U” number is not reused and will be synonymous with the species name. Past “U” numbers directors were Phyllis Bates and Thelma O’Reilly.

Collectors, researchers, and growers are encouraged to apply for “U” numbers from Co-Directors Mary Bucholtz and Charles Jaros; their contact information is listed in *The Begonian*.

Those who are interested in the grant for research of “U” numbers should apply to the Grant Review Committee and to the “U” Number Co-Directors.



End of an Era

By William Schramm, Salinas, CA

In the November/December 2016 issue of *The Begonian* I wrote an article titled “*The Tuberhybrida Begonia- Elegant and Beautiful*”. In that article I discussed the growing of tuberous begonias by the Golden State Bulb Growers the largest grower of begonia tubers in the world and the only large scale such grower in the United States.

Sadly, after more than 100 years in the business, the Brown family has decided they are going to cease growing tuberous begonias. They will remain in the bulb business with a continued emphasis on Callas, but stop growing begonia tubers. Increased overhead costs and changes in state regulations are some of the factors contributing to the decision to get out of the tuberous begonia business.

The last planting of tuberous seed in the Golden State fields has taken place. These plants will grow during 2017 and the tubers will be harvested at the end of the year. Those tubers will then be sold in the spring of 2018 as in previous years, but no more seed will be planted in 2018.

For four generations the Brown family has worked to provide gardeners with beautiful tuberous begonias. They have given us new and ever more beautiful plants for our gardens across the United States and around the world and for this we can be thankful.





3

Golden State white narcissiflora (Fig 1); Golden State propagation house (Fig 2) full of dames and sires; Golden State 2013 Pac Trials (Fig 3). Photos by Laurel Carlisle



Begonia ‘Autumn Twist’ a New Small-Leaved Rhizomatous Cultivar

By Don Miller, Dallas, TX

When I started the begonia breeding program at Steve’s Leaves Nursery in Texas one of my objectives was to create some new miniature rhizomatous cultivars. I used as the female parent *B.* ‘Angel Glow’. This Australian hybrid has medium to small leaves with a nice spiral shape. What I like most about this compact plant is how the leaves change colors with temperatures and light conditions. The leaves can be yellow changing to copper and then to reddish shades. I thought this would bring some unusual colors to the offspring. The choice for the male parent was *B. bowerae* var. *nigramarga*. This Mexican species has very small leaves and has been used in the past as a parent for some of the older miniature rhizomatous cultivars.

The offspring were varied, as there were some miniatures with nice colors and some others with small leaves. Of the small-leaved seedlings there were two that had a very nice spiral. I selected these two individuals because of the shape and colors of the leaves. One of these had dark coppery green leaves with dark markings. This one I named *B.* ‘Kevin Whitecotton’ after a close friend who lost his life to cancer at the

...continued on page 107



A chameleon-like plant, *B.* ‘Autumn Twist’ (Fig 1), a new introduction, from Steve’s Leaves, in its yellow-green stage. The female parent of ‘Autumn Twist’ is *B.* ‘Angel Glow’ (Fig 2).

Photos by Don Miller.



3



4

The male parent of *B. 'Autumn Twist'* is *B. bowerae* var. *nigramarga* (Fig 3), chosen to bring miniature qualities to the new hybrid.

From the same cross, *B. 'Kevin Whitecotton'* (Fig 4) has nice color and spiral to the leaves.

Photos by Don Miller

When *B. 'Autumn Twist'* (Fig 5) moves to the dark phase, it's easy to see why the name fits perfectly.

Photo by Dinesh Sembukuttiarachchi



age of 43. The other one, *B.* 'Autumn Twist', I introduced at the Los Angeles convention. When it was introduced it pretty much had leaves that were a copper-red with dark markings. But the leaves of 'Autumn Twist', change colors with light and temperatures. As you can see in the pictures the leaves can be shades of yellow to rust to copper-red with dark markings. One would almost think they were different varieties but they are the same. You have to grow this charmer for yourself to see how it changes its colors.



B. 'Tampa Bay' (Fig 1) was deemed Best Begonia at the Fair, exhibitor - Merle DeLand. *B.* 'Sierra Silver Mist' (Fig 4); exhibitor; Janice Gorgoglione. The judges (Fig 3): left, Joyce Pridgen; center, Doug Pridgen; right, Carolyn Hawkins. Photo by Dale Sena. The Tampa Bay Branch Florida State Fair display (Fig 4).

Tampa Bay Branch and the 2017 Florida State Fair

Article and photos by Charles Jaros, DeBary, FL

For many years the Tampa Bay Branch has participated in the Florida State Fair in Tampa, Florida with an educational begonia display created by branch members. This year the Horticulture Division of the Florida State Fair is under new management and the Branch approached the Fair with the idea of having a judged show at the Fair. The State Fair committee suggested using begonias as the Featured Plant in the horticulture section. The Fair would provide the ribbons and cash awards and the Branch could use American Begonia Society Begonia Judges, which enabled deserving plants to receive ABS Cultural Certificates. The Branch sponsored the Best Begonia in the Fair Award.

After discussion with branch members and Fair personnel this show came to fruition. Thirty-one beautiful begonias were entered in the Begonia Show at the 2017 Florida State Fair. Judging was held on February 6, 2017 with ABS Judges Doug Pridgen, Joyce Pridgen and Carolyn Hawkins judging the entries. Clerks were Cheryl O'Berry and Gail Benton. Show Co-Chairs were Merle DeLand and Dale Sena.

Congratulations to the following ABS Cultural Award Winners:

Semperflorens Hybrid – 95 points

Exhibitor: Mary Collins

B. longimaculata – 96 points

Exhibitor: Marsha Fielland

B. foliosa – 95 points

Exhibitor: Debbie Impiccini

B. 'Sierra Silver Mist' – 95 points

Exhibitor: Janice Gorgoglione

B. minutifolia – 95 points

Exhibitor: Dale Sena

B. 'Madame O'Reilly' – 96 points

B. 'Tampa Bay' – 96 points

B. 'Black Truffles' – 95 points

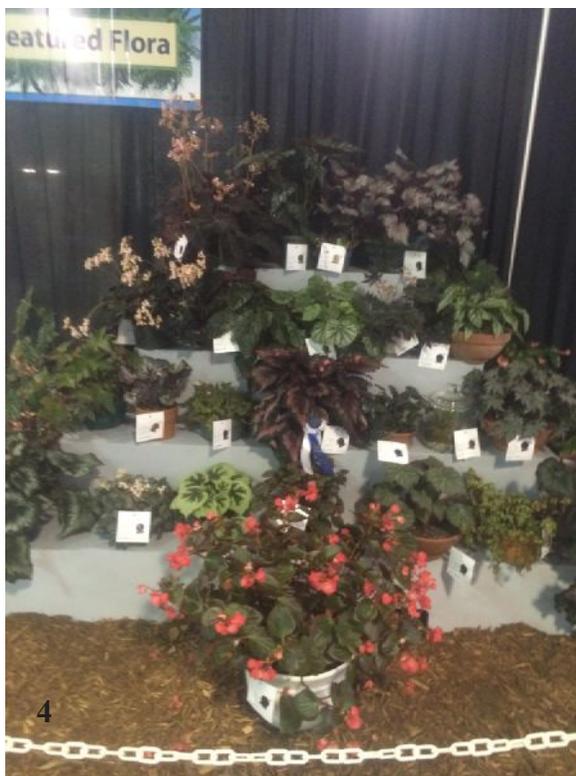
B. 'Cardoza Gardens' – 95 points

B. 'Pink Diamond' – 95 points

B. 'Stilleteo' – 95 points

Unknown Rex Hybrid – 95 points

Exhibitor: Merle DeLand



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 .

\$10.00

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 Ziesennehenne. 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.

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Adventitious or Acaulous?



A tuberous *Begonia marinae* from Bolivia and Argentina. How well do you remember the A Word With You vocabulary? Is this plant illustrating adventitious or acaulous?

Photo by Mark Tebbitt

Watch for the answer in the next *The Begonian* brought to you by A Word With You!

**Answer to Picture Quiz 2017 March/April page 73
Locule or Stipule?**

ANSWER: Locule.

LOCULE small chamber in the seed capsule containing the seeds. Stipule is the temporary cover of an emerging leaf. Locule defined in September/October 2015, pg 168.

2017 Slate for Officers of the ABS

FOR PRESIDENT - SALLY SAVELLE

My name is Sally Savelle. I am a member of Buxton (my home branch) and several other ABS branches. While I have always loved my flowerbeds, I became very interested in begonias around 2007 when I received cuttings of *B. 'Argenteo Guttata'*, a plant my grandmother had received some 45 years ago and that my mother shared with me. I have become particularly interested in species thanks to ABS members who generously share cuttings and their knowledge of begonias. I have enjoyed serving as ABS 2nd VP the past two years and the opportunity to get to know ABS members from afar! A particular pleasure this fall was preparing a program on hybrids that are named for ABS members who've made significant contributions to ABS.



FOR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT - BUTCH MCDOLE

My name is Butch McDole and I've been a member of the ABS since 2006 and a member of the Atlanta Branch since 2005 where I am currently serving as treasurer and National Director for our branch.

I've been interested in begonias since my wife brought home a most unusual plant 43 years ago from her workplace. I asked her what was it and she said her friend said it was an Angel Wing Begonia. It would be another 20+ years before I found the true name was *B. 'Corallina de Lucerna'* (the power of the internet). When I found out that begonias were such a large diverse family, I started buying plants online for a few years to fill my new greenhouse before making our first trip to Miami's annual sale and show in 2005. It's been a continuous affair ever since then.



FOR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT - STEPHANIE ROSE

I attended my first club meeting of the Westchester Branch of the American Begonia Society around 1984. Since then I've traveled to many conventions visiting cities, nurseries and botanic gardens both public and private. The ABS has enabled me to travel here in the United States as well as Scotland. Since the society has been very good to me by enriching my life with fabulous plants and kind and giving people, plus

continued on next page



2017 Slate for Officers of the ABS continued

unique learning experiences, I feel a duty and the need to return my gratitude to the society by being an active contributing member. During the past 25 or 30 years I've been the Westchester Branch president twice, the vice president, secretary and hostess. I'm currently the National Rep for the San Gabriel Valley Branch, past member of the Buxton Branch and try to get to San Diego for the species study group meetings of the Marge Lee Branch. This past summer the Westchester Branch honored me at their annual show. To top it all off, I received the Marge Lee Award at the convention in California last year.

FOR SECRETARY - RANDY MONTES KERR

A resident of sunny West Hollywood, California, Randy Montes Kerr is an enthusiastic advocate of species begonias, growing some 200. He is a regular contributor to *The Begonian*, and has been privileged to speak to several Branches and groups on that topic, encouraging the preservation of species by growers like us. Randy loves sharing seeds and plants, and is deeply appreciative for all he has learned from fellow Begonia



Folk, and for the cheerful kindness that he has found A.B.S. members to unfailingly possess. Randy's home Branch is Westchester, belonging also to the Joan Coulat, Marge Lee, and Mabel Corwin Branch.

FOR TREASURER - CAROL NOTARAS

My name is Carol Notaras and I have been a member of the ABS since 1976. Since then I have been President of my local San Francisco branch 3 times, and then I served the ABS as President 1991–1993. From there forward I have been your treasurer, and I am looking forward to more years serving this wonderful Begonia society.



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The ABS Bylaws Article VII – Elections Section 5 state: “The Committee shall invalidate any ballot containing any writing other than the marks necessary to register votes for candidates nominated under the procedures provided for under these Bylaws...”

The Ballot Counting Committee reminds members that the ballot is voided if personal remarks or additions are made on the ballot. Comments may be made on a separate sheet of paper. Ballots should be returned to reach the Ballot Counting Chair no later than July 15, 2017. Photocopied ballots will be accepted from households with two or more members receiving only one *The Begonian*.

Mail to:

Ballot Counting Chair
Melissa Worton
3722 Tanner Lane
San Diego, CA 92111

The ABS online!
begonias.org

Take a look today!

The Nominating Committee, having received no further nominations, submits the following slate for officers of the American Begonia Society, to serve from the Annual Meeting 2017 to the Annual Meeting 2019. Please confirm your selection and return to the Ballot Counting Chair to be received by or before July 15, 2017.

Official Ballot ABS Election 2017

► *President*

Sally Savelle
Boston

► *1st Vice-President*

Butch McDole
Atlanta

► *2nd Vice-President*

Stephanie Rose
Westchester

► *Secretary*

Randy Montes Kerr
Westchester

► *Treasurer*

Carol Notaras
San Francisco

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ABS Elected Officers

President... Martin E. Delgado, P.O. Box 39685, Downey, CA 90239; 562-310-8380; mdlibrarian@consultant.com
Past President... Virginia Jens, 2483 Waterside Dr., Lake Worth, FL 33461; 561-568-0124; vjens2483@gmail.com

1st Vice-President... Carol Orozco, 4731 Lorelei Dr., San Antonio, TX 78229; plantnut45@att.net

2nd Vice-President... Sally Savelle, 65 High Pine Circle, Concord, MA 01742; 978-287-4837; sally.savelle@gmail.com

Secretary... Connie Saenz, 13627 Stoney Hill, San Antonio, Texas, 78231; csaez56@yahoo.com

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

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Convention Co-chairs... Martin E. Delgado, P.O. Box 39685, Downey, CA 90239; 562-310-8380; mdlibrarian@consultant.com; and Candace Nakanishi 714-995-9327; normlegend@hotmail.com

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The Begonian

July/August 2017

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Due

May 21

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Nomenclature... Dr. Kathleen Burt-Utley, 6150 36th Ter N, Saint Petersburg, FL 33710-1716; kburtutl@uno.edu

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