

THE

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BEGONIAN



The Begonian

Publication of the American Begonia Society

American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932

by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

To stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.

To encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

To gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation, and culture of begonias and companion plants.

To issue a bulletin that will be mailed to all members of the society.

To bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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Linda Kammerer

PO Box 6261

Providence, RI 0240

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Begonia minutifolia

Photo by Jacky Duruisseau

ABS Online at: <http://www.begonias.org>

The webmaster's email address is:

webmaster@begonias.org

Editor, Art Direction and Design:

Linda Tambllyn, 5635 Woodward St.,
Merriam, KS 66202; 913-231-1020;
begoniaskc@yahoo.com

Consulting Editor: Jan Brown,

begoniabrown@yahoo.com

Nomenclature Editor:

Kingsley Langenberg, 3293 Country Lane,
Waukegan, IL; 847-336-9104,
kingsley.langenberg@gmail.com

Interim Nomenclature Editor:

Dr. Mark C. Tebbitt

Editorial and Identification Assistance:

Tom Keepin, Jem Wiseman

Advertising Staff:

Display Ads:

Linda Tambllyn, begoniaskc@yahoo.com

Holiday Greetings:

Frances Drescher, 11529 Riverchase Run
West Palm Beach, FL 33412; 561-625-5404;
fdrescher1@comcast.net



The newest registered hybrid - *B. 'Apple Jack'*.
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Begonia ningmingensis
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Cover photo: *Begonia boliviensis*
Photo by Tony Pinto

Back cover: Gabon - Where begonias grow. Article pg 218
Photo by Jacky Duruisseau

President's Message

Hello to all,

I want to thank the Delaware Valley Branch for hosting the ABS Annual Meeting. ABS officers, outgoing and incoming, as well as many ABS members from near and far, enjoyed a delightful weekend. While the weekend included several meetings, all enjoyed this opportunity to get to know more members of the DVB as well as a tour of Longwood Gardens, not to be missed if you are in the area. The DVB had heartfelt gifts for attendees, each receiving a *B. scharffii* grown by the branch and given in cele-

bration of Bernie Wiener; *B. scharffii* was Bernie's favorite begonia.

President Martin Delgado opened the Annual Meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of those whom we have lost in the past year, including Charles Jaros, Peter Notaras, Bernie Wiener, Normand Dufresne, Vera Miller, Diana Wilkerson, and others. Following the ABS Annual Business Meeting, incoming ABS officers were installed by DVB Vice-president, Stephen Maciejewski.

Bayou fever was in the air, as we enjoyed tidbits of information about the upcoming ABS Convention in New Orleans. Please check the ABS website often, as this is where you will find information and updates!

I wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

Sincerely,
Sally Savelle,
ABS President



Our new ABS Board (from left to right) Butch McDole, 1st Vice-President; Stephanie Rose, 2nd Vice-President; Martin Delgado, Past President; Carol Notaras, Treasurer; Randy Montes Kerr, Secretary; Sally Savelle, President. Thanks to all for their service!
Photo by Stephen Maciejewski

DVB Hosts the ABS Annual Meeting

Photos by Stephen Maciejewski

The 2017 ABS Annual meeting, hosted by the Delaware Valley Branch, was enjoyed by all. Besides the meeting, the event included a tour of the fabulous Longwood Gardens and a flower show. (Photos on pages 205–206.)

A couple inches of water covers the floor of the Exhibition Hall (Fig 1) at Longwood Gardens. It helps to create the perfect environment for tree ferns, but drains quickly for parties. The Gardens' five acres of Fountains (Fig 2) are guaranteed to delight and bring out the child in everyone. Adding to the experience are friendly and very informative docents (Fig 3) who happily share stories about this wondrous place.





More highlights from the DVB hosted ABS Meeting - An Award of Merit for a *Begonia coccinea* hybrid (Fig 4) in the flower show hosted by the Garden Club of Pennsylvania (Fig 5). The show featured many begonias.

And, of course, members of the ABS brought many plants (Fig 6) to share after the Business meeting.

2018 ABS Convention/SWR Get-Together

“Begonias, Tres Bien!”

April 2–8, 2018 New Orleans, Louisiana

Hilton New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, Louisiana

800-872-5914 Reservations 504-469-5000 direct

More details www.begonias.org

New Orleans is a city of echoes—300 years of history reverberating between river and lake, gulf and swamp, destination for all world travelers. When you visit this sub-tropical crescent city, you can hear echoes wherever you explore.

On our Friday tour during the April convention you will hear the sounds of spring in the New Orleans Botanic Garden in City Park—a jewel of flora and art set in 1300 acres of live oaks, lagoons and urban life. The loudest echo here in the garden is from Katrina—both its destruction by wind and flood and its re-birth aided by near neighbors and friends of horticulture worldwide. Our

shuttle bus from the hotel will provide transport to and from City Park, making sure everyone, including judges who must work in the morning, have a chance to see it. Also in the park the Besthoff Statuary Garden, free and



entirely outdoors, will be an equal attraction, \$25 million dollars worth of art is nestled in landscaped settings. For those who crave something indoors, the New Orleans Art Museum is nearby. Speaking of cravings, next door to the garden, a Morning Call beckons with café au lait and real New Orleans beignets!

Post-convention Sunday you can choose between visiting the WWII Museum or taking a 3 hour bus tour around the city. Started as a museum to commemorate the Higgins Boat (landing craft) invented and built in New Orleans, the museum has exploded (boom!) into the memory bank for WWII. Veterans visit free but our entry is covered by your tour charge, or your charge pays for the local guide if you opt for the tour of the city. In the afternoon we will shop the French Market, stroll Crescent Park with a superb view of the river and visit a wine bar if this makes you thirsty. Next issue we will talk about Wednesday’s tour to Houmas House—America’s largest and most historic ante-bellum sugar plantation. You read about the Tuesday tour to the Rural Life Museum in the last *Begonian*.

Seminars will lead off with three international guest speakers: Dr. Mark Hughes of the Royal Botanic Edinburgh of the U.K., Antoon Hofnagels of the Netherlands, and Rosario Rubite of the University of the Philippines. Don Miller will be giving us an overview of Southwest Region hybridizers on Saturday morning.

...continued on next page



**2017 ABS
Holiday Greetings
Champagne**

Begonia Society of the Palm
Beaches
Margaret Lee Branch
Carol Notaras
Palos Verdes Begonia Society
Rudolf Ziesenhenné Branch
Southwest Region, ABS
Dean and Susan Turney

Platinum

Astro Branch
Austin Area Begonia Society
Buxton Branch
Frances Drescher
Mabel Corwin Branch
Richard and Wanda Macnair
Malcolm McCorquodale III
Brad Neugebauer
Potomac Branch



Gold

Alamo Begonia Club Branch
Fred A Barkley Branch
South Bay Begonia Branch

Silver

Janet B. Brown
Dallas Area Branch
Doug Frost Branch
Joan Coulat - Sacramento Branch
Cheryl Lenert
Orange County Branch
San Francisco Branch
San Gabriel Branch
Santa Clara Valley Branch
Westchester Branch

Bronze

Ronald and Patricia Ellico
Florida West Coast Begonia
Society
Greater Atlanta
Begonia Society
Stuart B. Price, Jr



**At the close of another year
we gratefully pause
to wish you a warm and happy
Holiday Season.**



“Begonias, Tres Bien!”

continued

A complete description of meetings, seminars, and tours will be posted on the ABS website on or before October 15 and we hope to have the registration documents posted there by November 1. Anyone who cannot access these documents may call Freda Holley at 318-251-2296 or email her at gehrtii@icloud.com if you must receive them by mail. Hotel reservations may be made now: rates are \$119. per night not including taxes, with ABS code, for up to 4 occupants with one king or two double beds. Rooms should have refrigerators, but request a microwave if you want that. You should receive a voucher for a half-price breakfast each morning with free parking for those who drive in.

Cindy Moran and Freda Holley, Convention Co-Chairs



ABS and Conservation

ABS members and branches are encouraged to make donations in support of upcoming *Begonia* expeditions by Ludovic Kollmann (pictured above). The ABS Board has approved financial support for Mr. Kollmann's grant from the ABS Conservation & Research Fund. Mr. Kollmann's grant, however, cannot be fully funded, as this fund has finite resources.

Ludovic Kollmann is originally from France, but living for the past 30 years in the Brazilian state of Espírito Santo. He is a member of ABS and the French Begonia Society, AFABEGO. Ludovic has a Master's degree in Tropical Biology, and in addition to studying Begoniaceae, studies Bromeliaceae and Orchidaceae. Ludovic has conducted extensive research in Brazil, including describing 14 new species of *Begonia*.

Ludovic plans to collect *Begonia* species, photos, and information about the habitat of

ABS Branches and Members Benefit from the Work of Begonia Researchers – Please Support the Expeditions of ABS Member from Brazil, Ludovic Kollmann (pictured above)

the species to further study their cultivation. Different areas to be visited during the rainforest expeditions include Mato Grosso, Parana, Sao Paulo, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro and Acre.

Contributions should be sent to ABS Treasurer, Carol Notaras, at 2567 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. Donors may indicate on the memo line of the check if the contribution is to support Ludovic's expeditions or the unrestricted support of any future Conservation & Research Grant Awards. Donations made out to ABS and sent through Carol Notaras, ABS Treasurer, are tax deductible.

Please feel free to contact me for more information. Your support is appreciated!

Stephanie Rose, Chair,
Research & Conservation Committee
sjroseborn@aol.com



New Registration: *Begonia* 'Apple Jack'

*From Priscilla Purinton,
Cultivar Registrar*

Official International Registration #1024 *Begonia 'Apple Jack'*

Seed parent: *B.* 'Kentwood'

Pollen parent: *B.* 'Dumbo'

Hybridized by Walter Dworkin,
8 Rugby Rd., Westbury, NY 11590.

Developed in 1991 and first distributed in 1993. Tested by the late Virginia Ketler of Houston, TX, who donated it to the Ft. Worth

Botanic Gardens where it has been growing for over two decades. Registration applied for August 3, 2017 and approved September 21, 2017.

Begonia 'Apple Jack' is a cane like begonia that will grow to about two feet tall at maturity. The upper surface of the ovate leaf is a dark green with a red sinus and some silver speckling. The undersurface has a pale red blush. Leaves up to 10" by 5.5", with an undulate, angular margin and one main vein. The leaf surface is smooth and softly glossy. The petiole is 1.75" and green. Apple green stipules are 2.25" by 1" and persistent.

B. 'Apple Jack' is a summer bloomer. The four dark salmon tepals of the male flowers are ovate and 1.75" in diameter. The four tepals of the female flowers are also ovate and slightly larger than the males, having a diameter of up to 2". The ovaries are a lighter salmon color. The flower clusters, while not plentiful, are large, with up to 48 male flowers and the same amount of female flowers. The 7.5" peduncle holds the flowers well clear of the foliage, creating a huge, round display of bloom. The umbel is up to 10" in diameter. When grown in strong light the salmon flowers take on a cerise coloring.

This strong, vigorous begonia is available from Taylor Greenhouses in Portland, NY.



In Memoriam: *Dianna Wilkerson*

To Our ABS Family

My family and I want to thank you for the outpouring of cards, emails, thoughts and prayers which we have received in the wake of Dianna's passing.

While I am still grieving, I am also remembering the 46 wonderful years we had together. We loved each other and took care of each other through the good times and the bad times.

Our marriage was blessed with two children and three wonderful grandchildren. Her *B.* 'Oteka' is named after our only granddaughter.



Dianna grew begonias for almost 25 years, and while she and I really enjoyed working with these amazing plants, we were truly blessed by all the wonderful people we have become friends with along the way. As Doug Byrom has said for many years: We came for the plants and we stayed for the people.

It was her long-standing wish (with my complete agreement) that her begonias go to the Begonia Species Bank upon her passing. Debbie Garrett and Bobbie Price attended the funeral, came out to our greenhouse after the service and took many of the terrariums back to Fort Worth that day. Debbie and her grandson came back two days later with a small U-Haul truck. With help from my son in law and local Barkley Branch member Mark Howerly, we got all the plants loaded and Debbie reports they are growing well in Fort Worth.

Again, many thanks for your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Kenny Wilkerson

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A Word with You: Suffrutescent

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

Spoken, it sounds like the name of an artificial sweetener or a stage of childhood development. But reality is far simpler. In the begonia world *suffrutescent* stands with herbaceous. *Begonia* stems are either herbaceous (non woody) or suffrutescent (woody at the base). The Thompsons include it in their glossary as “slightly woody; woody at the base.” Golding says, “The stems of *Begonia* are very varied. They are usually herbaceous [not woody] and more or less succulent [fleshy-juicy], or *suffrutescent* [woody at the base].” Tebbitt directly describes certain begonia stems as woody at the base, eliminating a trip to the glossary or dictionary.

Suffrutescent is rooted in Latin, as usual. Cassell’s has ‘sub,’ meaning under, and ‘fruticosus,’ bushy or ‘frutex,’ a shrub, bush or “term of reproach, blockhead;” one could apply frutex to a lot of public figures these days. Mr. Webster defines *suffrutescent* “in botany, woody at the base, but herbaceous above, as sage, thyme, hyssop, etc.” He might have added certain begonias.

Words with ‘sub’ as a prefix are usually of obvious derivation, as subterranean, subscribe, subside, suburban. But subpoena stumped me. It’s ‘under penalty.’ If you’re wondering how we get from ‘sub’ to ‘suf,’ the b in ‘sub’ changes to f in front of an f word. It is so easy to look online for definitions, but the joy of scrolling down a page or two in the dictionary is without comparison. I wondered what other ‘sub’ before f words were there, and indulged myself for a moment in suffer, ‘sub’ and ‘ferre,’ to bear; suffice, ‘sub’ and ‘facere,’ to make; suffix, ‘sub’ and ‘figere,’ to fix; suffocate, ‘sub’ and ‘fauces,’ the gullet, throat.

Begonia examples abound, as in *B. cubensis*, *B. foliosa*, *B. hispida*, *B. luxurians*, and *B. oaxacana*. As I wander through my late summer garden, I can see many plants normally considered annuals with *suffrutescent* bases, but herbaceous above, and those will give me added cleanup work next spring. *Suffrutescent* adds one more observation point to my botanical world, hopefully to yours too.



Begonia leathermaniae showing the woody stems at the base of the plant.



Begonia komoensis

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

I had to liberate a few roots (formerly entrenched in the floor of this terrarium, and now restored) and move this stem a bit, to photograph these, once modestly tucked away, male flowers of *Begonia komoensis*.

As with a number of scandent/trailing African *Begonia* species – *B. mannii* and *B. loranthoides* come to mind – *B. komoensis* gives a good imitation of being dioecious (producing flowers male, or female, but not both). On a different stem, perhaps under different lighting conditions, flowers of the other kind may emerge. Nothing is promised.



1

Begonia ningmingensis (Fig 1) growing in a 60-gallon tank. The lid is kept slightly ajar to accomodate just enough ventilation.

Begonia ningmingensis and var. *bella*

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

This bella “beautiful” variety of an always lovely species, *B. ningmingensis*, section *Coelocentrum* comes to of China. This plant, *Begonia ningmingensis*, and more recently received *B. ningmingensis* var. *bella*, both came to me from Darrin Norton’s MountainOrchids.com.

As Darrin notes on his website, as with many cliff and crevice dwelling species, care must be taken not to overwater. He adds limestone bits to his growing medium to accommodate the needs of this limestone native species.* My medium consists of akadama, in part to accommodate that same quality which necessitates a growing medium of slightly higher pH for best results, PRO-MIX BX pumice and a bit of perlite. Though growing in a terrarium, this plant grows potted to accommodate its specific needs. I added holes to the sides of plastic pot holding this plant to increase oxygen availability in the root zone. The pot is recycled from the lower part of a liter water bottle.

Many ‘single use’ water, soft drink and juice bottles, cut to appropriate height with a hacksaw (mind the digits!) or an old mismatched steak knife (but not the good bread knife!) make excellent pots once drainage holes are added. I sometimes saw those holes into place. Though a long nail held in place with sturdy pliers, heated over a gas burner, pierces plastic quickly. Please wear safety gloves, in either case. I almost forgot, two-pronged Bar-B-Q skewers are also on the “Not for Extraneous Uses” list.

My plant, *B. ningmingensis* var. *bella* grows in a 60-gallon tank (Fig 2), with the lid slightest ajar. I found that the leaves of my other, not *bella*, but still pretty, *B. ningmingensis* var. *ningmingensis*, from northern Vietnam, quickly developed dark necrotic areas where condensation, or any water, remained on the leaves, or if one leaf remained resting on another for too long, or if a leaf remained in contact with the moist medium. Fortunately, these dark spots do not spread. But they are unsightly. The plant of variety *bella* (Fig 2) occupies a pot about 4 inches tall, in part to address some of those issues. I should add that my older *B. ningmingensis* now has leaves about five inches across, so a bit of space is required. The leaves of var. *bella* remain much more compact. The terrarium var. *bella* occupies is on the uppermost level of an

Continued on page 216



The advertisement features a collage of various Begonia plants, including some with large, patterned leaves and others with smaller, more delicate foliage. A central banner contains the following text:

Mountain Orchids
www.mountainorchids.com
8 Pierce Rd, North Springfield, VT 05150
(802) 245-3159

At the bottom of the advertisement, a white box contains the text: **Select *Begonias*, small-growing Orchids, & other choice plants**



industrial shelving unit. Because warm air rises, this tank is warmer than those below it. The consequent greater evaporation helps mitigate the perils of overwatering. It is important that I touch the medium, rolling a bit between my fingers, every few days to assess its moisture level and the need to water. The addition of akadama to the medium also serves to buffer moisture levels (excess water simply runs past it, while the water absorbed is slowly released) and increases oxygen availability.

Both these varieties of *B. ningmingensis* that I grow have been generous bloomers, my older plant entering its second bloom just six weeks after the last one finished. *Begonia ningmingensis* readily sets seed, male flowers preceding the first female, with considerable overlap. I suggest



Begonia ningmingensis var. *bella* (Fig 2) lives in a tall pot to help meet it's specific cultural requirements; the same plant (Fig 3) just before pollination.

saving a bit of pollen for the last, solitary, female flower.

I find that growing a new plant via leaf cutting, of *B. ningmingensis* (non *bella*), requires a bit more care than is typical of rhizomatous species because of this species' aversion to dampness. My successes have come with akadama and with straight Pro-Mix. I think moisture level is more important than the medium itself. The leaves of *bella* seem much less moisture sensitive. As a result, I have nearly 100% successful propagation when leaves of var. *bella* are placed in a terrarium, with 1/8 inch of the petiole covered by medium.

Look for seeds to become available at the Seed Fund!

Happy growing!

*The members of section *Coelocentrum* typically grow on limestone.*



3rd Trip To Gabon

May 29 / June 30, 2017 Part 1

By Jacky Duruisseau, Bois France; Photos by Colette Bridon and Jacky Duruisseau

After trips in 2003 and 2010, we return to Gabon for a third adventure. Adventure, you say? Yes, it is. Let's go !

There are just the two of us, Colette and I. We have chosen June because it is the dry season, and so I can easily drive a 4x4 on the Gabon roads without problems with the rain.

Gabon is a small country in equatorial Africa where the forest is the most beautiful of all those we know in Africa, Madagascar and South America (Fig 1). This area is very rich in plants of the *Begonia* genus, especially the yellow-flowered ones, of sections *Loasibegonia* and *Scutobegonia*.

Marc Sosef is an important Africa

Begonia expert from The Netherlands. He explains in his thesis "Refuge *Begonias*" that the mountains of equatorial Africa (in Gabon: the Crystal Mountains, the Chaillu Range and the Doudou Mountains) were refuges for *Begonia* during the colder and dryer glacial periods. During the Pleistocene Era, forests and plants didn't stretch outside these mountains but remained within them. From which it follows that there are many endemic plants and vegetative propagation instead the sexual multiplication. The proof of this is the lack of self-fertilization and the few fruits we see.

After long and difficult negotiations (several months!), I got from Gabon authori-

The equatorial forest in the Crystal Mountains (Fig 1); *Begonia baccata* (Fig 2)



ties (ANPN, National Agency of the National Parks and its scientific unit) permits to go, search and collect plants in the parks. In addition, I must also have, but didn't get, an export authorization issued by the Herbarium which was closed when we came back to Libreville. As the people of the scientific unit knew, I planned to export plants. It was risky having begonias and seeds in my luggage at the airport. So, I brought back only one bag. It is getting more and more difficult to botanize in Gabon!

This time, we have planned to pass through São-Tomé both ways, and so we transit via Lisbon. We take off from Nantes on May 29.

São-Tomé (from May 31 to June 2 and from June 26 to June 29)

The small island (about 5.6 sq. mi.) of São-Tomé-Príncipe, independent since 1975, is an extinct volcano which is 6,600 feet at its highest point. All the mountains

are covered with rainforest and tops are often in clouds.

Why São-Tomé? Begonias, of course! No yellow-flowered begonias here, the island is too young relative to the continent where Gabon is, but there are many endemic plants because this island has been isolated for a long time: São-Tomé is in the Atlantic, 220 mi out from Gabon, at the equator. However, we can see interesting begonias, such as endemic and emblematic *Begonia baccata* (Figs 2/3/4/5)

We encountered them often on our first trek from Bom Sucesso to Bombaim - not really a walk in the park (12 mi, in mountains, 90°F in the shade!) *B. baccata* grows everywhere, from sea level to 5,000 feet. It is a spectacular begonia, often erect, and so it is 1½ high, sometimes hanging on slopes and lava cliffs or epiphytically on trunks. It is often in bloom now and we

Continued on page 222



In full bloom (Fig 3); Fruits of *Begonia baccata* (Fig 4); Ripe fruit (Fig 5); *Begonia crateris* (Fig 6); *Begonia annobonensis* and *B. baccata* on a lava cliff (Fig 7); *Begonia annobonensis* (Fig 8)



4



5



7



6



can see many berry-like fruits in the process of formation. They will be ripe when we come back in June, when they will be red. We see many seedlings on slopes and on the walls of the ruins of old portuguese cocoa farms dating from before independence.

Our guide today was Antonio who said: *Begonia baccata* is the tallest begonia. But he does not know *Begonia parviflora* from Ecuador!

During this trek we also find *Begonia crateris* (Fig 6) near an old crater. This species looks like *B. baccata* but the plant has an indumentum of scattered small hairs and the leaves are peltate and thick; it seems to be less tall than *B. baccata* but perhaps we have seen only young ones? No flowers, no fruits, it is less common than *B. baccata* and it is limited to altitudes between 3,000 and 5,000 feet.

During the second stop on São-Tomé, after Gabon, we travelled along the sea on the west coast. We again saw *B. baccata* on damp lava cliffs with another small annual species, *Begonia annobonensis* (Fig 7/8) which is also found on Annobon island (at 125 mi south-west of São-Tomé), hence its name. On this begonia we noted a tuft of hairs at the junction of the petiole with the leaf blade.

The main goal at São-Tomé was to find *Begonia thomeana*, a terrestrial and climbing begonia, not endemic (we can see it in Chaillu Range in Gabon). Adilson, our taxi driver, takes us to Bombaim and we meet Francisco, a guide who knows the forest very well. I have a GPS spot at 2 km from Bombaim but unfortunately, it is impossible to reach this place because of a very complicated route. We slog through mud for four hours on difficult paths and still we don't come close to the point

A forester comforts us with a tasting of palm wine he had just made... Francisco stocks up for his lunch, with... big beetle larvas found in a rotten stump!

We find in this area *Begonia ampla* (Fig 9). This species is not endemic here - it grows all over equatorial Africa. Only one is in bloom, but we see many epiphytic seedlings on trunks.

On São-Tomé, we could also have seen *B. molleri*, *B. loranthoides* subsp. *loranthoides* and *B. subalpestris*, of the *Tetraphila* section. But we needed more time ...

Begonia ampla (Fig 9); *Smile santomeen* (Fig 10); When the pirogues come back at Neves (Fig 11); *Begonia clypeifolia* (Fig 12); *Begonia lacunosa* (Fig 13)

After these two brief, but intense stops, we leave São-Tomé and its very kind inhabitants. This island is not a paradise, but we hold excellent memories of smiling people (Fig 10), especially those of the west coast fishing villages when the pirogues (canoes) come back (Fig 11).

Crystal Mountains area (from June 4 to June 9)

Libreville: a visit to ANPN, where we meet Flora Koumba Pambo of the Scientific unit who set up my preliminary inquiry. Thanks to her I got authorizations for entering and searching in the national parks. We take the 4x4 and start towards the Crystal Mountains in north-west Gabon.

June is the beginning of the dry season and the sky is often grey in the morning. The road is disastrous from about sixty km from Libreville on, I guess from rainy season problems!

At Kougouleu, we leave the major road and go north. We pass several villages, Mela, Nkan and Song and we explore some small streams coming down the mountains. We find *Begonia hirsutula*, many *B. clypeifolia* (Fig 12), *B. macrocarpa*, and *B. sciaphila* (this one looks like *B. auriculata*, but fruits of *B. sciaphila* have four wings and those of *B. auriculata* have three).

We look in vain for *B. aggeloptera*, noted frequently by Marc Sosef in the forest near Nkan. We follow the road in the evening in the rain: the meal will be in the 4x4 trunk, before camping in the boondocks without electricity, except for our camp lamps. We live on sun-time: to bed at 7 pm, rise at 7 am ...

The next day, in the morning, we go off



again exploring the streams past Nkan. Many begonias: still lots of *B. clypeifolia*, *B. auriculata*, two forms of *B. lacunosa*: one is really nice, dark with the main nerve light green (Fig 13) and another one with bullate blade, very dark, almost black (Fig 14).



14

Then I find a nice species (Fig 15) and I don't know it : leaves peltate, entire margin, dark and asymmetrical blade, I think of *Begonia peperomioides*, a rare endemic of the Crystal Mountains. Unfortunately, *B. peperomioides* has no peltate leaves! Marc Sosef thinks it is a form of *B. clypeifolia*. Disappointing!



15

Epiphytic begonias are present near this stream too: *B. elaeagnifolia* and *B. eminii* in full light, in bloom and with red fruits (Fig 16).

On rocks of this very rich place we see a nice small *Impatiens* and many *Costus englerianus* with white flowers.

We leave the edge of the park and go towards Kinguélé, in the same park. A new camp and a severe nighttime attack of "fouroux" (vernacular name for *Simulium*). These tiny, fearsome, and blood-sucking flies slip through the mosquito-net that we put over the car windows (we keep them open for ventilation during the night). Sure - and many bites!

Kinguélé: formalities with guards who check my authorizations; then visit the house rented by ANPN with the JT, the guide (in French, JT means "Journal Télévisé"!). We must have a guide when we visit a park. It is obligatory. He makes sure we respect rules and takes care of our safety. A small green snake meets us in the house! JT tries to put it out but has no success and then, says : "I kill it." No way. We politely ask the snake to leave... It does!!!



16

In the afternoon we explore the forest under the power station of Kinguélé, along the left bank of the Mbei river. We meet *Scutobegonia* section species: *Begonia hirsutula*, *B. scutulum* (endemic to Gabon) which looks like the previous one but with peltate leaves and *B. erectoricha*, a rare species (Fig 17). We also find *B. elatostemmoides* and *B. auriculata* of the *Filicibegonia* section.

We start very early the day after at 2 km from

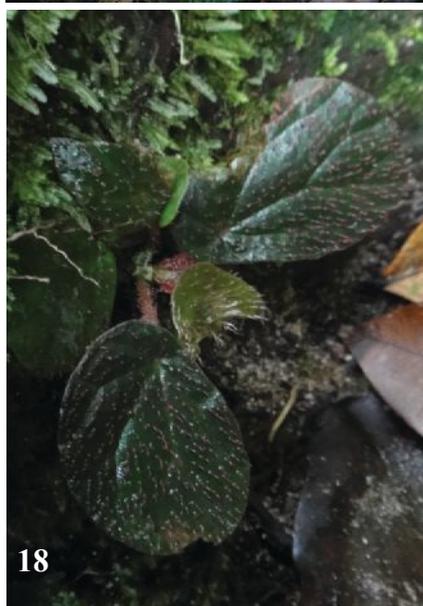
Kinguélé to explore the Mbivame river (a tributary of the Mbei river). Many begonias here too: *B. lacunosa* is very very frequent in this place, especially the sparsely bullate and dark form; only a few are in bloom and some have immature fruits. We also find *B. clypeifolia*, *B. scutulum*, *B. erectotricha* and one - only one, *B. heterochroma* (Fig 18). *Begonia sciaphila*, *B. auriculata* and *B. elatostemmoides* are present, too. A Gesneriaceae with black leaves and white flowers covers the ground and a very nice small *Impatiens* grows on the rocks (Fig 19).

In the afternoon we go on the Kinguélé-Tchimbélé road: several small rivers come down from the Crystal Mountains. We try to find again the “cave” that we saw in 2010 with three species: *B. vittariifolia*, *B. susaniae* and *B. letouzeyi*. But the road has been widened and I think the cave was destroyed! When we return, we stop in Makabane, a small village where the chief, a woman (yes! in Gabon, the chief may be a woman...) shows us her garden. In the end, we go up a stream with many rocks where we find two forms of *B. letouzeyi*: one with a glabrous blade, and one with a hairy blade (Fig 20/21). *Begonia susaniae* is here too: the typical form, very bullate, and another with dark suborbicular but not bullate blade (Fig 22). Nice day with many discoveries. We drink a well-deserved beer (the last ones we have...)

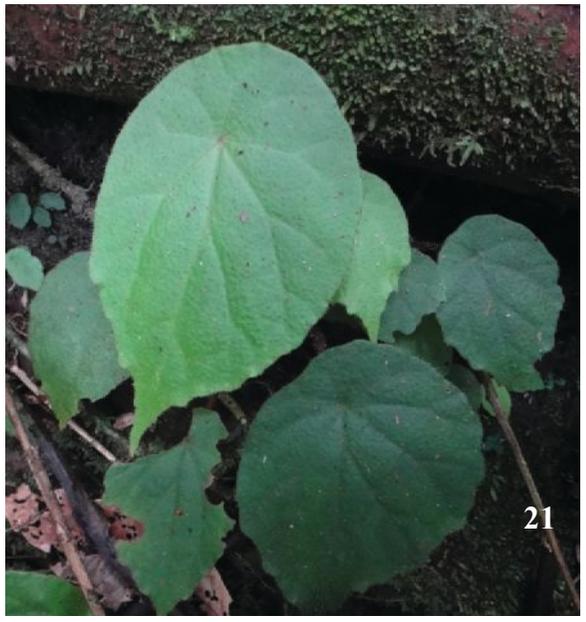
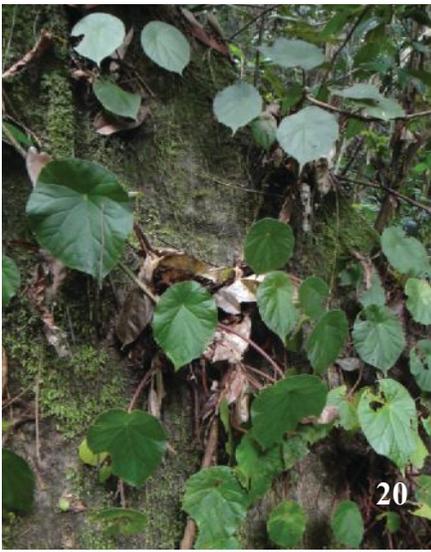
Final day in the Crystal Mountains: we walk on the SEEG (Société d’Eau et d’Electricité du Gabon) path north of Kinguélé. *Begonia lacunosa* is everywhere, a dark form and a green one (Fig 23). We visit the waterfall (its name is “Chutes de Kinguélé”) but there’s little water now. However, some begonias here: *B. erectotricha* and *B. sciaphila* with fruits. A final river (photo 24) with *B. scutulum* in bloom, *B. hirsutula*, *B. letouzeyi*, *B. lacunosa* (again!) and *B. auriculata*.

Back to Libreville with its traffic jams and the rutted roads. We go for food supplies.

To be continued...



Begonia lacunosa: another form (Fig 14); No! It is not *B. peperomioides* (Fig 15); Fruits of *B. eminii* (Fig 16); *Begonia erectotricha* (Fig 17); *Begonia heterochroma* (Fig 18); *Impatiens* sp. (Fig 19) **More photos on page 226.**



3rd Trip To Gabon continued

Begonia letouzeyi, glabrous leaves (Fig 20); *Begonia letouzeyi*, hairy leaves (Fig 21); *Begonia susaniae*, dark form (Fig 22); *Begonia lacunosa* still another form (Fig 23); A begonia river in Crystal Mountains (Fig 24 - see back cover)



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Begonia blancii

From Charles Henthorne, Mustang, OK

Discovered in 2009 by Patrick Blanc and Pascal Heni in El Nido, Palawan, Philippines, *Begonia blancii* appears in a variety of leaf colors. An epiphyte, it only grows vertically on boulders in the wild - gaining nutrients and moisture from the surfaces where roots are established. As you might imagine, *B. blancii* does very well in a terrarium environment.

Pictured above are the male and female flowers laid on the plant's attractively mottled leaves.



Misnamed Plants

Article and photos by Mike Flaherty,
Santa Barbara, CA

After the 2017 ABS convention in San Antonio last spring, I toured gardens in several states in the south. While in Mississippi I visited a huge garden center in Jackson. They had some begonias that I was surprised to see and among them was a begonia named ‘Pegasus’.

This plant looked very much like *B. ‘Gryphon’*. I did some research and found this is Proven Winners’ name for this hybrid from Pan American Seed. This got me wondering what other begonias are renamed or misnamed.

In 1980 Mabel Corwin hybridized *B. ‘Christmas Candy’*. She crossed *B. rubriflora* and *B. Semperflorens-cultorum* group hybrid by Pan Am Seed. In 2000 W. Atlee Burpee & Co. (division of Pan Am Seed) released the hybrid ‘Dragon Wings’ and used this same *B. rubriflora* and *B. Semperflorens-cultorum* group. This semp shrub cross is listed online as a shrub.

Famous begonia grower Ross Bolwell of Australia has hybrids that have been marketed by Lowes under different names.

B. ‘Bill Morris’ as *B. ‘Hairy Thing’*

B. ‘Marge Rickard’ as *B. ‘Forever Autumn’*

B. ‘Blazing Sun’ as *B. ‘Silky Lustre’*

Here are some more begonias I have found in nurseries and on the internet that have been renamed:

Begonia ‘Sophie Cecile’ as *B. ‘Sylvia’* and ‘Sophie’s Choice’

B. ‘Irene Nuss’ as *B. ‘Irene’*

B. ‘Lois Burks’ as *B. ‘Tango’*, ‘Lois Burke’ (This plant is often misspelled. Patrick Worley, the hybridizer, gave me this spelling.)

B. ‘Benitochiba’ as *B. ‘Pizzazz’*

B. ‘Selph’s Mahogany’ as ‘Seth’s’.

B. ‘Reddington Shores’ as ‘Red Shore’.

B. ‘Withlacoochee’ as ‘White Dove’

Begonia acuminata or *B. acutifolia* as

White Richmondensis Begonia

B. ‘Art Hodes’ as ‘Pigskin’, *B.*

‘Penny Lahn’ as ‘Penny Lane’, and for,

B. ‘Lospe-tu’ – I have seen at least 3

names.

B. ‘O’Flaherty’s Folley’ as ‘Locura’, ‘Paul Hernandez’, ‘Elegance’.

Some of the nurseries I contacted were responsive and changed the names. However, some don’t care and others have the tags made so they just keep on using them. When I found *B. ‘Robert Golden’* with the wrong name the Florida nursery changed it.

The Michael Kartuz hybrid, ‘Brown Derby’, was labeled Darby by A-D nursery. I told them but they never changed to the proper name.

B. ‘Ruth Pease’ is now distributed as Ruth Please. Ruth would not like this.

B. ‘Gary Hunt’ is being sold as ‘Ramirez’. These begonias are similar in color, but not in leaf shape. There is also another ‘Ramerez’, spelled with an ‘i’, ‘Alto Scharff Rameriz’ by Woodriff. I can’t tell the Ziesenhenne ‘Ramirez’ and the Woodriff ‘Rameriz’ apart.

Another, *B. ‘Don Miller’* is being sold as ‘Frosty.’

The begonia being sold as 'Red Bluff' is not the true *B.* 'Red Bluff'. I have Rudy Ziesenhenne's plant of 'Red Bluff' and it does not look like the one produced by A-D nursery.

B. 'Red Fred' is being sold as 'Red Freddie', I almost named the plant 'Reddie Freddie'.

The old hybrid from 1847, *B.* 'Ricinifolia', is a parent of many hybrids and anything looking similar is often just called 'Ricinifolia'. I look at the old, original botanical prints to be able to identify the true begonia. Below is a list of begonias often identified as just 'Ricinifolia'.

- B.* 'Fischer's Ricinifolia'
- B.* 'Immense'
- B.* 'Lowe's Ricinifolia' (1972)
- B.* 'Dwarf Fishers Ricinifolia' (1950?)
- B.* 'Indian Ricinifolia'
- B.* 'Ricinifolia v. Rosea Grandiflora' (1911)
- B.* 'Ricinifolia v. Sambo' (1861 Java)
- B.* 'Rudy's Fischer's Ricinifolia Mutant' (1956 Ziesenhenne Santa Barbara)
- B.* 'Ricinifolia v. Maculata' (1860)
- B.* 'Ricinifolia v. Gigantea Odorata' (1905)
- B.* 'Ricinifolia v. A. Dietrich' (1911)
- B.* 'Ricinifolia v. F. Wehleena' (1911)
- B.* 'Ricinifolia v. Grandiflora Gerbe Rose' (1912)
- B.* 'Watchorn's Ricinifolia'

B. 'Ricinifolia' (Fig 1); *B.* 'Rameriz' (Fig 2); *B.* 'Gary Hunt' on the right, *B.* 'Rameriz' on left (Fig 3); *B.* 'Gary Hunt' (Fig 4)





***Begonia jiewhoei*: A Rare and Critically Endangered Species from the Limestone Hills of Peninsular Malaysia**

Article and photos by Ong Poh Teck.

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Selangor, Malaysia

B*egonia jiewhoei* Kiew is the only cane-begonia found on limestone hills in Peninsular Malaysia (Kiew, 2005) (Fig 1). *Begonia jiewhoei* is named after Mr. Tan Jiew-Hoe, patron of plant taxonomy and various botanical explorations, hence the common name Jiew-Hoe's Begonia.

This begonia is endemic in Peninsular Malaysia and is known only from Gua Musang district, Kelantan. It is restricted to limestone

hills where it grows as a lithophyte on vertical limestone cliffs in fissures (Fig 2) and also as a terrestrial at the base of limestone hills. When young, the plant is erect but will gradually with age become pendent and hang down from the limestone rock face.

Begonia jiewhoei is perhaps one of the most attractive begonias among Peninsular Malaysian species with its velvety, malachite-green, silver or white-spotted leaves and glossy red stems. Kiew (2005)



suggested that this species could grow well in hanging baskets due to its pendent habit.

The recent find of *Begonia jiewhoei* is only the third population and fourth collection of this species. It was first collected in 1962 by the UNESCO Limestone Expedition, then in 2000 and 2009 from the type site and most recently in July and August 2017. Interestingly on the second visit, the plants



Fig. 1. *Begonia jiewhoei* growing as terrestrial at the base of limestone hill

Fig. 2. *Begonia jiewhoei* growing on vertical limestone wall. Seen in July 2017

Fig. 3. *Begonia jiewhoei* plants seen in August 2017 were bare of leaves, suspected to have been eaten by serow

had all their leaves missing leaving just the stems. It is suspected that serow, a wild goat (*Capricornis sumatranensis*), that inhabits limestone hills of Peninsular Malaysia had eaten the leaves of *B. jiewhoei* (Fig 3) because serow droppings were spotted

continued on next page



in several locations where *B. jiewhoei* was found (Fig 4).

In recent years, the botany team at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) has been active carrying out surveys of limestone flora in Peninsular Malaysia. One reason for the explorations was to focus on limestone hills under threat of destruction by cement quarries, construction of hydroelectric dams, oil palm plantations and other development activities. Limestone vegetation is one of the most threatened vegetation types in Peninsular Malaysia (Kiew *et al.*, 2017). At present, most limestone hills in Peninsular Malaysia are not legally protected (Chua *et al.*, 2009; Tan *et al.*, 2014).

Begonia jiewhoei is listed as Critically Endangered (CR) under the Malaysia Plant Red List due to its very small and restricted population (IUCN, 2001). One of the most significant conservation proposals made by Chua *et al.* (2009) is to gazette limestone hills in Peninsular Malaysia as Totally Protected Areas or at least to gazette the limestone hills under the Permanent Reserved Forest network. It is hoped that the recommendations to conserve limestone flora will be accepted by the relevant authorities. Only then, long-term conservation of

not only *Begonia jiewhoei* but the limestone flora as a whole can be achieved.

Since *Begonia jiewhoei* is a cane-like begonia, it can easily be propagated using stem cuttings without the need to take the entire plant for *ex-situ* conservation. For planting *B. jiewhoei*, a wide but shallow pot is preferred. Smaller pots can be used if shorter stem cuttings were made. The base of the pot is filled with pumice. Then a thin layer of akadama soil mixed with perlite (1:1 ratio) is scattered above the pumice. This is followed by a thin layer of sphagnum moss on top of the potting mix. The stem cuttings are placed on the sphagnum moss. Then the plants are placed in a shady and humid spot. New growth should take place between 2-4 weeks after planting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Imin Kamin, Mohd. Hairul bin Mohd. Amin and Sabri Zoo for assistance in the field; to Ruth Kiew for comments on the manuscript; to the Malaysian Government for financial support through the "Towards conservation strategy/policy for limestone hills in Peninsular Malaysia: Understanding and documenting plant biodiversity focus on Kelantan and Perlis limestone hill (Phase 1)".

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Fig. 4. Serow dung found not too far away from where *Begonia jiewhoei* were growing

Fig. 5. *Begonia jiewhoei* can easily be propagated using stem cuttings and planting in shallow pots. The plants prefer a shady and humid spot in the nursery

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Cauline v. Bullate?



Cauline or bullate? Which one is indicated by the yellow arrows.
B. 'Sparks Will Fly' Photo by Craig Boyajian

**Watch for the answer in your next *The Begonian*
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Last month's answer to Picture Quiz

Cuneate v. Muriccate?

ANSWER: CUNEATE – wedge shaped leaf base, see *The Begonian* Jan/Feb 2015. Muriccate leaf surface has uniform, low obtuse elevations (*The Begonian* Sept/Oct 2013).



***B.* 'Polonaise'**

Another of my hybrids of *B. sizemoreae*. I call this one *B.* 'Polonaise'. It is a second generation of *B. sizemoreae* crossed with an unidentified Chinese species. Our winters are mild here in Queensland, Australia and it grows under shade cloth all year. Every year it makes a great show. The foliage can grow quite large and will shade neighboring plants, but that is not really a problem for me.

Cheers for now,

Bernard Yorke...still hybridizing away at 77!!



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Newest Freda Holley: *Those Majestic Begonias, Growing and Hybridizing the Upright Rhi-*

zomatous Begonias, by Freda Holley, 2017. This lovely book premiered at the Convention in San Antonio and sold out. But the next printing is ready for you. The front cover is a picture of magnificent *B. 'Rudy'*, one of the most beautiful of these stately begonias. Picture by Julie Vanderwilt of her plant. The book is 54 pages with many pictures. A must-have for anyone who "loves and grows begonias".

Domestic: \$15.00; International: \$25.00

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: \$35.00; International: \$55.00

The Invisible Begonia: An Intro- duction 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.

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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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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

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

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 Ziesenhenné. 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

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Jack Golding & Dieter C. Wasshausen, 2002, Smithsonian Institution, Contributions from the United States National Herbarium, Volume 43: 1-289

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Convention Advisor... Mary Sakamoto, 13362 Mount Hood Dr., Santa Ana, CA 92705; 714-852-3695; m.sakamoto@sbcglobal.net

Convention Co-chairs... Cindy Moran, 225-766-0201; cindyabs83@gmail.com & Freda Holley, 251 Pylant Rd., Choudrant, LA, 71227; 318-251-2296; gehrtii@icloud.com

Entries/Classification... Vacant

Facebook Manager... John Boggan; dcbezonias@gmail.com

Grants Committee... Stephanie Rose, 1128 S. Granada Ave., Alhambra, CA 91801; 626-289-2250; sjroseborn@aol.com

Historian... Sandra Threadcraft, 3058 Weslock Circle, Decatur, Georgia 30034; 404-243-8686; Sunmoontrine@yahoo.com

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begoniaskc@yahoo.com

Horticultural Correspondent... Gregory Sytch, 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653-4301; 727-237-3106; gsytch@cs.com

Internet Editor... Malcolm McCorquodale; webmaster@begonias.org

Judging Co-chairs... Johanna Zinn, 4407 Jensen Place, Fairfax, VA 22032; 703-323-7513; jazinn@cox.net & Betsy Szymczak, 3 Maple Avenue, Natick, MA 01760-4312; 617-750-1422; szymczakb@gmail.com

Members-at-Large... Sandy Boyd, 5 Walnut Circle, Chico, CA 95973; 530-891-5760; smacboyd@gmail.com

Membership Registrar... Linda Kammerer, PO Box 6261, Providence, RI 02940; 401-484-8854; amerbeg-membership@gmail.com

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

Cultivar Registrar... Priscilla Purinton, 129 Queens River Dr., West Kingston, RI 02892; 401-782-8154 or 401-688-0678; ppurinton@gmail.com

Parliamentarian... Linda Lawson, 525 Terrace Place, Norman, OK 73069-5034; 405-524-1261 or 405-326-4566

Public Relations... Mary V. Early, 3629 Treadwell Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73112; 405-943-2230 or 405-816-3394; mary.early@sbcglobal.net

Publications Committee... Freda Holley, 251 Pylant Rd., Choudrant, LA, 71227; 318-251-2296; gehrtii@icloud.com

Save Our Species Coordinator... Johanna Zinn, 4407 Jensen Place, Fairfax, VA 22032; 703-323-7513; jazinn@cox.net

Seed Fund... Michael Ludwig; 6040 Upland Street San Diego, CA 92114-1933; claytonmkellyseedfund@yahoo.com

Slide Library... vacant

Unidentified Species (U Numbers)... Mary Bucholtz, 1560 Lancaster Terr., #1008, Jacksonville, FL 32204; 904-353-9111 & Randy Montes Kerr, 1279 N. Harper Ave, #105, West Hollywood, California 90046; justrandy2@yahoo.com

