

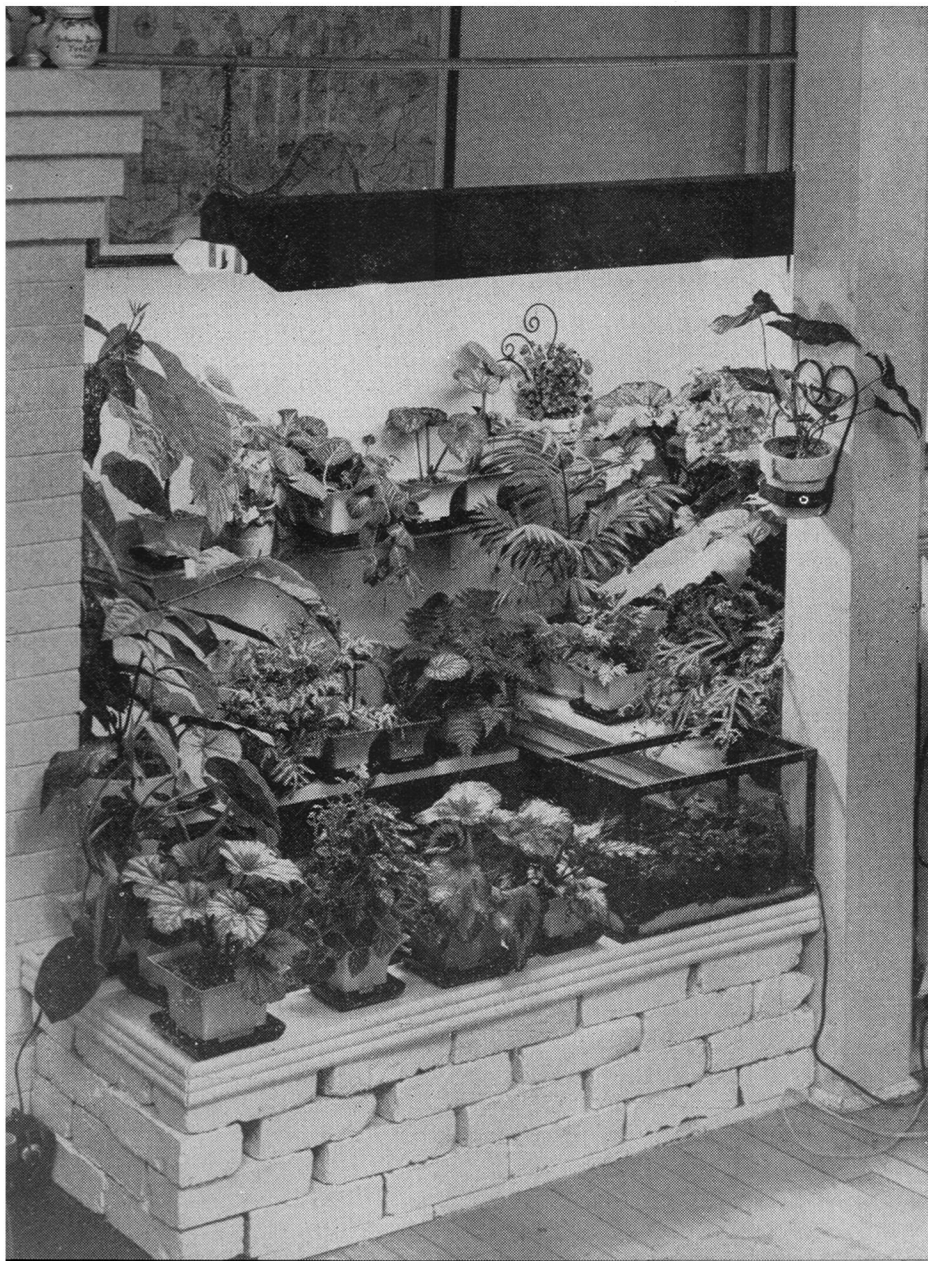
# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

MAY, 1958

PRICE 25 CENTS

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 5



Editor.....Adelaide Brest, 3207 W. 186th St., Torrance Calif.  
Advertising Manager.....John Thieben, 6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

Copyright 1958 by the American Begonia Society, Inc.—Affiliated with The American Horticultural Society, The American Horticultural Council, and The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

General Offices, Dues, Address Changes or Magazines:

Bill Walton, Membership Secretary, 1415 Acacia, Torrance, Calif.

Annual Subscription, \$2.50. Branch members pay dues to branch.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Torrance, California, under the act of March 3, 1879.

## AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: to 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 which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

## ELECTED OFFICERS

President Emeritus.....Herbert P. Dyckman  
73543 Joshua Drive, Twentynine Palms, Calif.  
President.....Frank Coe  
28904 Cliffside Dr., Malibu, Calif.  
President-Elect.....Bert Slatter  
4600 Sixth Ave., Los Angeles 43, Calif.  
Past President.....Calvin Trowbridge  
5231 Fox Hills Ave., Buena Park, Calif.  
Secretary.....Irma Jane Brown  
3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.  
Treasurer.....Charles R. Lovejoy  
827 Woodward Blvd., Pasadena 10, Calif.  
Vice-Pres., 1 yr.....Mrs. Nancy Alvord  
48 W. Norton Rd., Quincy 69, Mass.  
Vice-Pres., 2 yrs.....Mrs. Alva Graham  
515 El Centro, South Pasadena, Calif.  
Vice-Pres., 3 yrs.....Herbert Fitch  
1125 54th St., Sacramento 19, Calif.

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

Editor.....Mrs. Adelaide Brest  
3207 W. 186th St., Torrance, Calif.  
Eastern Editor.....Mrs. George E. DeCoursey  
Box 791, Paoli, Pa.

National Board Meets 4th Monday, 7:30-10 P.M., Echo Park Clubhouse, 1632 Bellevue Ave.

Membership Secretary...W. E. (Bill) Walton  
1415 Acacia St., Torrance, Calif.  
Advertising Manager.....John Thieben  
6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.  
Nomenclature.....Mrs. Edna L. Korts  
3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.  
Slide Library and Speakers Bureau  
Mrs. Mabel Anderson  
1064 Davis Ave., Glendale 1, Calif.  
A.B.S. Librarian.....Mrs. Lucy A. Sault  
26938 Dapplegray Lane, Rolling Hills, Calif.  
Seed Fund.....Mrs. Florence Gee  
4316 Berryman Ave., Los Angeles 66, Calif.  
Parliamentarian.....Roy Joyce  
1435 Coronado Ter., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

Research and Test Gardens  
Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman  
2637 North Lee Ave., El Monte, Calif.  
Identification Garden.....John Thieben  
6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.  
School of Judging..Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger  
1450 Cantera Ave., Santa Barbara, Calif.  
Historian.....Mrs. Pearl Bauer  
1482 Buena Vista, Ventura, Calif.  
Awards Committee.....Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle  
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Public Relations Director.....Clarence Hall  
17153 Sunburst, Northridge, Calif.  
Northwestern Chairman...Mrs. David Talbot  
6209 Riverside Drive, Vancouver, Wash.  
Eastern Chairman.....Mrs. Elsa Fort  
6123 Cedar Ave., Merchantville, N.J.  
Southern Chairman.....E. Weaver  
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas  
No. California Chairman  
Mrs. John H. Smith (Hyacinth)  
2479 29th Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.

Northeastern Chairman  
Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury  
225 Lee Street, Brookline, Mass.

# California in a New York Living Room

By BERNICE BRILMAYER

THROUGH our window. November looks dark and drab and dreary. But our living room is bright and cheerful with the green of growing things—because we brought summer indoors for the winter.

We didn't know in September, whether the goldfish and other wild life in our small garden pool could survive a New York winter. And because we're softies, we cared. Thus began one of our craziest—and most rewarding—projects, an indoor pool.

In our big old living room, between fireplace and stairs, is a nook we used to call Hobby Corner, because it was suitable for nothing but the battered old desk where Bob built ship models. Into this, Bob fitted a frame he made from ancient two-by-fours salvaged when the neighbors rebuilt their attic. And into the frame, the local sheet metal man fitted a galvanized iron tank three feet by four feet by one foot deep.

Bricks built a wall to conceal the frame, and were painted white like the fireplace. Shelves around the top jutted out far enough to provide some shade for fish who like it, and also to provide a show place for my fanciest house plants. Two coats of paint on everything, a four-foot fluorescent light fixture hung from above, and with small cost and smaller effort we had a source of endless pleasure.

In the water, of course, we put attractive oxygenating plants—in small pots, with gravel on top of the soil to keep it from seeping out and muddying the water. A thin layer of gravel, too, over the bottom of the pool—more rustic. And in the center, a "castle" of colorful pieces of rock built up slightly higher than the surface of the water.

From the outdoor pool came a varied assortment of creatures. Goldfish of all sizes, three tadpoles which might grow into frogs. (imagine chasing them around the house!), two American salamanders which lazily "sun" themselves on the big rock. From the aquarium store, baby catfish that dart briskly up and down and all 'round. From the five and dime, pop-eyed, velvety black moors. And scavenger snails of all kinds—live-bearing and egg-laying. Some laid eggs!

Water evaporating from the surface of the pool provides humidity for many plants I could never grow in the living room before. The ferns are lush and green. Rex begonia leaves don't dry up on the edges. A tropical-looking palm, flowering begonias, even a waxy-leaved avocado grown from seed, thrive and thrive.

Maintenance? The work is negligible. We turn on the lights when we get up, turn them off when we go to bed. To keep the living creatures lively, dried fish food every other day, with weekly treats of daphnea and duckweed which they gobble like crazy. Once a week we dip out a bucket or two of water and replace it with fresh. That's all. The scavengers do any necessary cleaning and scrubbing.

It makes our living room look and feel like California. Now, our visitors don't seem to take note of our somewhat child-battered furniture. All eyes—even those of the laundryman and plumber—are attracted to the pool and plants. Our young 'uns keep daily track of the underwater life. And we old 'uns enjoy a kind of relaxing therapy in watching the unhurried, unhectic movement. It's a delightfully refreshing thing to live with!

# New York Flower Show, 1958

By MRS. GEORGE E. DECOURSEY

MRS. ELSA FORT had been asked to suggest judges who were familiar enough with begonias to judge this genus and who were able to get to New York. It was a great pleasure to me to find myself judging at this show with Mrs. Channing Way, president of the William Penn Branch; Richard Logee, who grows begonias commercially and is a member of the New England branch and a tireless student of begonias; E. Webber, who has helped Mrs. Fort so often with her plants; and Mrs. Fort herself, who has a large collection of begonias.

In an effort to have each exhibit judged most fairly the horticultural committee of the New York Flower Show tried a new system of judging: each member of the judging team arrives independently at an appraisal of each plant and gives each plant on its separate sheet of paper the deserved number of points on each of seven counts; by adding the points earned the plant gets its rating. It takes a great deal of time on the judges' part and by not consulting together you lose the benefit of the experience gained by any judge who has grown and is familiar with any given plant. In as large a genus as begonias it is unlikely that every judge has had equal experience with every plant which is exhibited. In our case Richard Logee had certainly the widest experience of begonias over the greatest number of years and Mrs. Fort had grown the next largest number of plants; even so it is possible that I might have had experience with a plant they had not owned. However we did our best to arrive at our evaluations separately and it will be interesting to see if this new method of judging turns out to be an improvement on the accepted way; it may well take a couple of years before a final opinion can be reached.

There were two gardens of begonias to be judged; the first was entered by a commercial firm and they are to be congratulated on their magnificent display

of tuberous rooted begonias. The strong healthy plants with heavy, straight stems, luxurious foliage in splendid condition were crowned with enormous white blooms. The only criticism was that the white was tinged with green. According to our score sheets this garden rated 80, losing points on no labeling and a lack of design. The second garden was quite interesting to us as Mrs. Fort had entered it. She and Mr. Webber withdrew from the judging of this exhibit. The garden showed a good variety of plants and great richness of color; there was a representative number of species, hybrids, and rexes; outstanding were fine specimens of *B. "Lillian Sloane"* and Mrs. Fort's own hybrid, *B. "May Drew."* An average of our scoring sheets gave this garden 84 points. May Mrs. Fort have more competition next year; now that she has broken the ice it is to be hoped that more of A.B.S. members will exhibit. This exhibit was well labeled which entitles it to be called educational as well as decorative.

All five judges participated in the five classes of potted plants. All these entries were clearly marked but alas not all correctly. It is hard for growers to get names for the plants they buy and the names they are given are sometimes not correct; in one instance *B. "Thurstoni"* was entered in a class calling for rexes. This is the first year that this show has had so many classes for begonias and undoubtedly next year the classes will be better filled. There was a fine specimen of *B. "Cleopatra"* and a beautiful blooming plant of *B. "Black Beauty"*; other outstanding exhibits were *B. "Calla Lily,"* which is hard to grow south of Boston and apparently very easy to grow north of it. Richard Logee thought that *B. "Arthur Mallet"* and *B. rubra-venia* were very fine specimens, as well grown as he ever had seen them.

A most enjoyable part of the show  
(Continued on Page 119)

# *The Tuberos Begonia in England*

By W. WILLETTS, F.R.H.S.

*(Continued From Last Month)*

When the roots are working nicely around the sides of the pots, this is noticeable by the plants drying out more frequently, it is time to get them safely potted into the final pots. Use the same compost as before but leave the loam for this potting in a rather rougher state. To remove the plant from its pot, turn it upside down in the left hand and with the aid of the right hand give the rim of the pot a sharp rap on the edge of the potting bench, then it should come away cleanly with the soil ball intact. The soil should be thoroughly moist before attempting this. If continual rapping is required to dislodge the plant it is a certain sign that the plant has become pot bound and valuable roots will be destroyed in the process. When this condition does arise it is far better to sacrifice the pot by cracking it rather than harm the plant. The remedy is to pot on the plants a week or so before they are fit rather than let them reach such a condition. Remove the old drainage material from the base of the soil ball by easing it out with the point of a plant label, before placing it in the new pot, which, needless to say, must be prepared in a likewise manner as the earlier potting. During the whole of the growing season one should aim at maintaining a night temperature of around 60 degrees, rising a little during the day to 70 degrees. The ventilators should also be freely used when weather conditions permit, and the atmosphere kept moist by frequent damping down of the floors and the benches, especially in the mornings. The grower should, of course, rely on his own discretion as regards damping down. Watering must be attended to as required or grave repercussions may occur at a later stage. When the plants are well established, usually about eight weeks after the final potting, they will need extra nourishment in the way of plant food. No plant, however, must be stim-

ulated in this way unless it healthy. Continue watering weakly specimens with clear water until they are healthy again. Plant foods may be applied in two forms, namely, solid and liquid. When applied in the liquid form they are more quick-acting, as they have not to be dissolved by the soil water before they can go into action. These types of foods are termed as Liquid Manures, and they allow for a convenient method of feeding plants which are being grown in pots. Perhaps the most common form of liquid manure is that made by suspending a sack of either horse, sheep or cow manure in a tank of water and allowing it to stand for a few days prior to use. When prepared correctly it should be the color of weak tea. When applying propriety brands of either liquid or solid foods the instructions should be followed very closely. In any case, no food plant foods must ever be applied unless the soil has been thoroughly moistened beforehand. Soot water made in exactly the same way as animal manures is also very beneficial to the begonia and will impart a delightful sheen to the foliage. The golden rule when feeding plants is to give it little and often.

Early staking and tying up is a job which must never be neglected. And, from the exhibitors point of view, the removal of all flower buds until the plants are of a good size is a 'must.'

Pests and diseases must be dealt with promptly before they get a real hold on the plants. Should mite or thrip appear, usually denoted by a rusty appearance or dark streaks on the undersides of the foliage, the house should be fumigated with a nicotine fumigant, and repeated at least twice at ten day intervals until these pests have been eradicated. Other pests which may be met with are the caterpillars of the Tortrix Moth family, and, if not detected in the early stages, they can certainly cause a great deal of damage to leaf and bud. Derris blown into the

foliage seems to be the best protection against these pests.

Mildew is, perhaps, the worst disease with which the grower will have to contend with throughout the whole of the growing season. Usually it is first denoted by the presence of dirty, grey woolly specks on the undersides of the foliage, and, if these are allowed to spread, they will ultimately ruin all infected plants. Mildew takes so many different forms, each one being closeted with different types of plant life, but sulphur in one preparation or another seems to be the only real protection against the disease. Flowers of sulphur blown into the plants is very effective, but the powder must be directed to the undersides of the foliage in order to give any real protection. The use of all sulphur compounds must, of course, be discontinued as soon as the plants are coming into bloom. Stem-rot, another common disorder, is most and generally caused by neglect on the part of the grower. Only the broadest of raffia should be used when tying up the plants, which, needless to say, must never be tied so tightly that there is no room for stem expansion. When removing surplus growth (taking cuttings) or decayed foliage use a very sharp knife and immediately dab the wounds with sulphur.

And it's not a bad idea at all to pick up each plant daily and give it a light rap on the bench in order to dislodge any material which may have fallen into the stipules. Any such material is always apt to decay and set up rot at a later stage. And now to that period which every begonia grower looks forward to—the time when the petals begin to show color. However, this is also a critical time for the grower, and especially more so for those who want to get their plants on to the show bench. From this stage onwards a very moist atmosphere must be avoided at all costs, and free use of the ventilators adhered to, especially when weather conditions allow. Damping down of the floors and benches should be less frequent, and plants must on no account be allowed to dry out. To do so at this stage will mean the loss of many would-be choice

blooms, because dryness at the roots is a common cause of bud dropping, especially if a dry period is followed by a heavy watering. A house with its moisture content at saturation point and the plants in a dry state will also produce this effect. The remedy lies in the growers hands. When the blooms are showing plenty of petals and the single blooms have been carefully removed, the most critical time for damping of the blooms is at hand. The remedy here is to try and maintain an even temperature, even to the extent of putting on a little artificial heat at night. The frequent use of highly concentrated nitrogenous fertilizers will have a tendency to cause damping of the blooms, so the best policy is to give only plain water. Perhaps the most common occurrence is caused by the sap which has percolated out of the petals during the warmer conditions of the day remaining on the petals during the cooler conditions of the night. This sap being unable to return eventually produces a spotty effect on the petals which later turn brown. Artificial heat is the only remedy. Protective measures should also be taken against drip from leaking sash bars and the roof glass. Perhaps the best method here is to take advantage of the polythene sheeting now on the market. Failing this, the grower must rely on sheets of paper pinned to the roof bars. The bloom, now getting heavy, should now be supported at this stage with the aid of a 'parrot' support, the crutch part of which must be padded with some soft material.

And to would-be exhibitors, even if you are only beginners, don't be too discouraged if your efforts seem puny compared with those of the old campaigners. Remember that the experience you will gain will be indispensable in other and more successful years.

To sum up—'Hasten Slowly.'

139 Powto Lane  
Black Heath, England

—B—

The new Buxton Check List makes a fine gift for any occasion—be sure to put it in your list this year.

# Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

## *Trees and Shrubs From Seeds*

MOST of us are quick enough to start annuals and non-woody perennials from seed. Plants like zinnias, columbines, begonias, and gloxinias are all easy enough to raise from seed if their cultural requirements are met.

Few amateurs raise shrubs and trees from seed. This is probably due to two reasons. First of all, it takes much longer to raise a mature woody plant from seed. Secondly, and probably the more important, there is a aura of mystery surrounding the whole idea of raising a giant tree from a seed that may be smaller than a pea.

As for the length of time it takes a woody plant to reach maturity, part of the enjoyment is watching the seedling develop and grow into mature plants. You'll be amazed at the excitement that comes with watching the plant develop

new leaves that are ever changing their shape as more and more leaves are added. And then there is the thrill that comes when the plant forms its first bud and finally burst forth into bloom.

Our seed fund, as always, has a fine stock of good fresh tree and shrub seeds on hand. While you will enjoy trying your hand at raising any of these I would like to specifically mention three of particular interest.

The proteas are good shrubs because many of them have spectacular blossoms. The spikey foliage vaguely reminds you of its cousin the macadamia. The flowers are somewhat reminiscent of those of an artichoke and, according to species and variety, will run from greenish-white to dark red.

The seed fund is also offering seed of another cousin of the protea, the silver tree (*Leucandendron argenteum*). This

(Continued on Page 106)

## *Mary Gillingwaters Honored*

Riverside branch of the American Begonia Society participated in Arbor Day festivities by planting a magnolia tree in honor of Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters on the grounds of the new Ramona high school, Magnolia avenue, Riverside. Officers and members of the branch heard Mrs. Ethel Prior, past-president and corresponding secretary, give the dedicatory speech.

Mrs. Gillingwaters, who lives at 1083 N. Benson avenue, Upland, has been a member of the branch for five years and at present is national director. She is a begonia hybridizer of considerable note and has been a great help to the branch by showing members how to groom show begonias. She developed B. "Benny," which was named for the late L. W. Bentley, a past president. This was the ninth tree planted by the branch.



TREE PLANTING AT RIVERSIDE

Left to right: Mrs. Rowland Maddox, president of Riverside Branch; Mrs. Ethel Prior, past president; and Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters plant a tree.

# Library Notes

The loan of books and printed material, if we have them in the Library, has been a pleasure to your Librarian. A number of times we have been slow in answering letters or in mailing material. This is not because we are neglectful or indifferent. Many times the book requested is out on loan, and by waiting a little while, we send it out as soon as it is received here. To add to the delay, the virus did not pass us up.

It is interesting to note how much enthusiasm is shown in the art of growing begonias. Through our Library, we have supplied printed matter to all of the United States, and to many foreign countries, including Europe and Africa. Our services also include procuring of books which members wish to purchase. We have been able to get almost all the books which have been ordered.

Many pen pals have been made through correspondence inquiring about books and our publication, the *Begonian*. Unfortunately, we do not have the complete years of some of our back years of the *Begonian*, but are glad to furnish what we can.

To those of our members who have waited considerable time before they received a reply to their letters, we would like to state that this job as Librarian is almost a full time job. With our membership at somewhere near the 2500 mark, letters are constantly pouring in, and your Librarian is carrying this load alone. So please be patient, and we will get to your requests as soon as possible.

Much progress has been made in the Library since we took over about three years ago. Many news books have been added, and old ones replaced. As new books come out, we usually publish a brief description of them so that they will be available to our membership for loan purposes. The Check List of Begonias by Buxton, which was published by our Society, is useful in identifying

begonias, but there are no illustrations.

If any of the Branches are having flower shows or exhibits, the Library will be glad to furnish some of our back numbers of the *Begonian* to be used for display purposes.

We have just received a new shipment of "Ferns of the Ottawa (Canada) District" and "The Ferns (and) Allies of British Columbia." Both of these books are very interesting. A very outstanding book is now available, the new "Exotics," with over 200 illustrations, many of which are in color. The plant descriptions are excellent. This is a large book and sells for \$17.50, but you will find it is money well spent. The National Council of State Garden Clubs has published "The Handbook for Flower Shows, Staging, Exhibiting, Judging." We have this book in stock.

There is still much work to be done to enlarge and strengthen the Library. But we must have the cooperation of the membership. You all know that when borrowing books, they are to be returned within 30 days from the day you receive it. We have had members who kept their loan books from two months to over a year. There is no excuse for this, and those who are on the waiting list are prone to be impatient. It very embarrassing to your Librarian to have to write to these members. So Please get your loan books back on time.

At present, we are working on a revised list of all the publications in the Library. When completed, this list will be published in the *Begonian*.

And last, but not least, when you write us a letter and sign it as in "Jane Doe," please let us know if it is Mrs. or Miss. Also complete your street address, by placing after the name either Street, Place, Avenue, Boulevard, Way, Lane or Drive.

LUCY A. SAULT, *Librarian*



# Philadelphia Flower Show

## *This Year Begonias*

by MRS. GEORGE E. DECOURSEY

THE AMATEUR section of the Philadelphia Flower Show is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. About a sixth, I must admit this is a guess and may not be an accurate estimate, of the floor space managed by them and every year they plan exhibits of small gardens, flowers or plants used in a section of a room, niches for various sizes of flower arrangements and all the classes for the exhibits are signed up ahead of time, by flowers arrangers, gardeners and representatives of various amateur garden activities. For many it is a very attractive part of the show and the aisles in this section are always so jammed that it is hard to see all that you want. This year under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ballard the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society had several classes of horticulture open for the first time in some years. There was a little uncertainty about the classes being filled but the response was so great that Mrs. Ballard must feel recompensed for all her labours and worries and the Society feel that it has sponsored a very popular move. There were classes for begonias, African violets, miniature narcissus, narcissus and artistically arranged growing house plants. All classes were interesting and well filled; I was most interested in the begonias and pleased to find that begonias were brought in by two Branches of ABS, Philobegonia and William Penn, by the Berwyn Garden Club and by several unaffiliated growers. I am sure that next year there will be more classes, more space devoted to begonias and the few improvements which can be made will be attended to. It was a most successful first venture. The plants shown compared well in variety and condition with those shown in New York. It is lovely to find these house plants represented in all three Eastern shows.

I was asked why the big eastern shows,  
(Continued on Page 107)

## *Impressions*

MRS. H. CURTIS PASCHALL

THE PHILADELPHIA Flower has come and gone, but its breathtaking beauty and loveliness still linger on. In my mind's eye I will see it for months to come. It is nothing short of a miracle this flower show. A barren building with nothing but four walls is completely transformed in a few days' time to gorgeous gardens, inviting woodlands with twinkling waters, flower lined walks and every where you look plants, trees, and flowers, the biggest and best you ever did see.

This year for the first time begonias were introduced in competition. I could hardly wait to find them. Before long they came in view. I hurried down the aisle expectantly, for I am a member of the Philobegonia Branch of the ABS and knew that our group had made six entries. If we could only have won something! My eyes scanned the cards and what a thrill. Mrs. Charles J. Allen Jr., had won two blue ribbons and an honorable mention. First prize for her beautiful *Boweri Major* and first for *B. "Dewdrop,"* a dear little miniature. Also honorable mention for *B. sunderbruchii*. Truly I expected it of Ruth Allen—she can grow anything better than anyone else. Did my eyes deceive me? No, honorable mention to Mrs. Wm. J. Browning for her *B. manicata aurea-maculata* Var. *Crispa*; Becky grows on a radiator and her results are fantastic. Another grower in our group who gets wonderful results on a window sill is Mrs. J. Perry Long. She did not disappoint me for here was an honorable mention tagged to her *B. ricinifolia*. Such a lovely thing! her plants grow, I do declare, just because she loves them so much. We had one more exhibitor, Anna Reuter. I knew she would be a winner for like Ruth Allen she gets wonderful results. Yes, sure enough, Mrs. F. O. Reuter, third prize for her *B. "Loma alta,"* We had hit the jack pot. Six entries and six winners.

# A Visit to the Boston Show

By MRS. P. I. MERRY

FOR THEIR initial effort at the Boston Spring Flower Show, the New England Branch undertook a most ambitious project, the staging of a 1,000 foot patio garden featuring begonias in a choice location in Grand Hall. The exhibit was designed and executed under the able leadership of the president, Mrs. Nancy F. Alvord and featured a right-angled pink stucco wall with a rose tile overhang, a bird bath set on an octagonal pink stucco base.

In the open area there were large symmetrical beds of many varieties of semperflorens begonias, edged with *bedera belix* and *schizocentron elegans*. Miscellaneous large plants used for accent against the wall included *fiscus pendulata*, *alsophila australis*, aralias, dracenas, *eucalyptus*, *olende* oleander, bambo, and an especially fine *platycerium*. Large specimens of *B. manicata aurea maculata* and *manicata aurea maculata crispa*, and *B. "Templini"* were most effective against the pink wall and contrasted well with the tall *B. luxurians*, "*Thustoni*," "*Brocade*," "*Mrs. Fred Scripps*," "*Pres. Carnot*," "*Joe Hayden*," and *sunderbruchii*.

Of the many other varieties planted in the beds against the walls that deserve special mention were *B. Leslie Lynn*," *paulensis*, *gogoensis*, "*Annette Sue*," "*Iron Cross*," "*Marion Louise*," *boweri*, *acida*, "*Green Pastures*," "*King Edward*," "*Gundi Busch*," "*Glory of St. Albans*," *fruticosa*, *reseda*, "*Skeezar*," *foliosa*, *incana*, "*Verde Grande*," "*Alba scandens*," *bunchi*, "*Medora*," "*Schmidtiana*," and many varieties of *rexes*. The dark foliage of "*Beatrice Haddrell*" as a fine accent against the pink stucco, evidenced by three large specimens in full bloom placed at strategic intervals on the base of the bird bath. Space limits listing every begonia. Various small ferns such as *nephrolepis* Duffy, *cyrtomium falcatum*, and *polypodium vulgare* were used to advantage as were hanging baskets of *davallia fe-*

*jeensis* and *schizocentron*. Through the arch in the rear wall could be seen a large *scharffi*, "*Pink Parade*," and "*Margorie Gibbs*" still in full bloom.

Members cooperating were Mesdames Frederick Kingsbury, George Greenlaw, Charles Dennison, Harold Sheehan, Lester Fox, Percy Merry, William Huyghe, Ralph DeLoid, Herbert E. Hurley, Charles Scrymgeour, and Messrs. Merry, Hurley, and Scrymgeour. The exhibit was awarded a first prize, with 87 points, a blue ribbon, and Silver medal. In all, there were 80 varieties of begonias displayed.

—B—

## Trees, Shrubs

(Continued From Page 103)

tree is extremely interesting in its juvenile stage and is often grown as a tub plant to be discarded when it becomes too large for its container.

It is very easy to germinate but is prone to damp off and a little difficult to transplant. To combat the damping off fungus use Anti-Damp as directed. Covering your seed with milled spagnum moss will also help prevent damping off. which later may be put right into the ground is the easiest way to handle seeds of plants that are difficult to transplant.

Another very interesting and showy flower being offered by Mrs. Gee this month is the Calliandra or powder puff plant. The Calliandra bears three inch puffs of red or pink stamens in the spring that make it a real stand out. Its seedlings look for all the world like the seedlings of the sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*). But this is not surprising considering that they are members of the same sub-family of the bean family. While the Calliandras do not fold up when touched they still exhibit the sleep movements of many legumes and the leaflets close up at night or during bad weather.

# The Amateur Gardener

We have learned to make our soil, neutral or alkaline. Now we must learn to place our plants in the soil which they require for good growth. The following is a small list of plants, by their common names, which require neutral or acid soil:

## *Neutral Soil*

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Ageratum          | Hibiscus       |
| Aster             | Hollyhock      |
| African Marigolds | Iris (bearded) |
| Bachelor's Button | Larkspur       |
| Candytuft         | *Lily          |
| Chrysanthemum     | Lobelia        |
| Coral Bell        | Peony          |
| Cosmos            | Petunia        |
| Daisy             | Pinks          |
| Day Lily          | *Primrose      |
| Delphinium        | Snapdragon     |
| *Foxglove         | Wisteria       |
| Freezia           | Zinnia         |

## Geranium

## *Acid Soil*

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Azalea    | Ferns        |
| Begonia   | *Gardenia    |
| Campanula | *Heather     |
| Cineraria | Rhododendron |
| Clematis  | *Rosees      |
| Columbine | Violet       |

Notice that the plants which require a neutral soil are those we generally class as "sun" plants, while those acid-loving plants are generally known as "shade" plants. There are exceptions starred \* in each of the above lists. Primroses, foxgloves and some lilies do best in some shade or filtered sunlight while the gardenia, rose, and heather do best when planted in full sun.

May is a month of GLORY IN THE GARDEN. Our gardens are a riot of color. Those plants that are not yet in bloom are all green and lovely at this time of year in California. Our garden cleanup has been finished and we are now enjoying the fruits of our labor and planning.

Our main tasks now are to weed, water,

and spray for insects and mildew. A very good spray mixture to use all summer is Malathion for the insects and Orthocide No. 50 or Fermate for the mildew. These may be combined for the two purposes and do not forget to add some Epsom's Salts and a small amount of detergent to all spray material.

Braid the leaves of your Narcissus, or Daffodils as they are commonly called; fold and tie them down so that they will not be conspicuous as they become dry and brown. Remove the leaves only when they have separated from the bulbs naturally. Never cut them off.

Remember that any and all annuals which you plant should be pinched back at the time of planting. This takes a lot of fortitude when many of them are blooming in the flats from which they come. You will be well repaid if you pinch out the center stalk, or pinch it back if there is only one stalk. You will soon have a nice compact, branching plant instead of a lank, spindly one.

—B—

## Philadelphia

*(Continued From Page 105)*

New York, Boston and Philadelphia were held so early in the year. I suppose that we are all anxious for a foretaste of spring; certainly you hear over and over again people saying that the smell of the warm earth and the fragrance of the flowers and the lovely colors of the gardens and flower arrangement are what they come to see; some do come for ideas about what to do with their grounds and gardens. The date is set so that the Flower Shows open three weeks before Easter for all this material in our climate has to be forced and many greenhouses are filled for months or weeks with plants for the Show. The Easter flowers need three weeks in the greenhouses to be forced to the height of their beauty so all the Show material must move out of their way.



KEY TO ABOVE BEGONIAS (see diagram right)

- |                      |                          |                        |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. "Froncosa"        | 7. "Sarabelle"           | 13. "Orange Dainty"    |
| 2. "Tingley Mallet"  | 8. <i>sanguinea</i>      | 14. "Silver Star"      |
| 3. <i>luxurians</i>  | 9. Cuban species         | 15. <i>subvillosa</i>  |
| 4. "Abel Carriere"   | 10. <i>phyllomaniaca</i> | 16. "Jinnie May"       |
| 5. "Calla Lily"      | 11. "Ricky Minter"       | 17. "Zee Bowman"       |
| 6. <i>lindleyana</i> | 12. "Stitched Leaf"      | 18. <i>schmidtiana</i> |
| 19. "Speculata"      | 20. "Joe Hayden"         |                        |

# Begonias

By ERNESTA DRINKER BALLARD

*Reprinted by permission of the author from the forthcoming book Garden in Your House, to be published later this year by Harper & Brothers, New York.*

OF ALL house plants, no group can equal the begonias for performance, amenability, and beauty. Being native to tropical and sub-tropical countries, they grow best in temperatures of not less than 58°, but as a group they do not require the high humidity that many tropical plants must have. Since the light intensity is low in the northern part of the United States in winter, begonias generally do best in south windows, though some kinds can be kept healthy and attractive in east or west exposures. In spring and summer, all will need protection from the noonday sun.

There are several hundred species, and the number of varieties runs into the thousands. Begonia growers, professional and amateur, have made countless new and worthwhile hybrids, and, since seedlings from hybrid seed all differ from one another, more varieties are put into circulation all the time. Begonias, of course, can be propagated vegetatively by leaf or stem cuttings, depending on the

type, and the characteristics of any desirable seedling can be perpetuated in this way.

Most reference books classify the species according to the structure of the roots or stems, rather than according to the foliage. The four divisions are bulbous, tuberous rooted, rhizomatous and fibrous rooted. Of these, the fibrous rooted and the rhizomatous are the kinds most often grown indoors.

The bulbous type started with but one representative, *B. socotrana* from the Indian Ocean island of Socotra. It has been crossed with other types over the years and is the ancestor of the very floriferous begonias sold in florists' shops at Christmas time. "Lady Mac," "Marjorie Gibbs," "Melior," "Emily Clibran," and "Gloire de Lorraine" are members of this group. They do not make good house plants because of their predilection for cooler temperatures and a high degree of humidity. Best let the florists fuss with them.

Most of the tuberous rooted types are familiar to all—if not first hand, at least from the advertisements in the garden magazines. They too, are hybrids developed from crosses made on species found in the mountains of South America. They are excellent shade plants for the garden or terrace in those parts of the country where summer nights are cool. Because they bloom only in summer and are completely dormant all winter, they are not suitable for the house, although there are always a few gardeners who try to bring them into flower off season. In the same group are two semi-tuberous plants that can be grown indoors and are generally referred to as maple leaf begonias, *B. dregei* and *B. weltoniensis*. These bloom and grow profusely during most of the year but usually droop and ask for a short rest in early winter.

While some begonias of the rhizomatous group are gigantic, needing far more



space than can usually be afforded, there are a large number of suitable size for a window sill and a few charming dwarfs that would melt any gardener's heart. *B. bowerri*, *rotundifolia*, and "Maphil" are in this diminutive class. More familiar are the large star *Begonias*, *ricinifolia*, *sunderbruchi* and "Joe Hayden." The popular beefsteaks, *B. erythrophylla*, and *B. bunchi* are also in this group. All rhizomatous begonias have a thick stem or rhizome, from which the leaves, flowers and roots grow. They do not need deep pots, as the root system is never as big as you would expect from the size of the plant. They send up spikes of pink, white, or red flowers from the very early spring through early summer. Propagation is easy; simply break off a piece of rhizome, imbed it part way in your cutting box, and wait for roots and leaves to appear. Another method of propagation is by leaf cuttings; and main vein, when severed, will produce a new plant. This method is slower, however, and not always so easy for home gardeners.

Many of the colorful rex begonias are also rhizomatous. These are all descended from a plant found in the Indian province of Assam. Many prefer to spend the winter months in more or less complete dormancy and for this reason are not very satisfactory house plants. Also, they need higher humidity than they are apt to get in today's centrally heated houses. Often, however, you will find a variety that adapts itself to your location. I have had great success with small plants under my fluorescent lights in winter, the only difficulty being that they soon outgrow the limited space.

The fibrous rooted begonias may be further divided into four sub-groups, the semperflorens, the cane-stemmed, the small-leaved branching types and the hirsute or hairy begonias. True to their name the semperflorens are fine flowering houseplants. Many kinds are available, with single or double flowers and leaves of various shades of green and red. Their fibrous roots are more vigorous than those of the rhizomatous types, and repotting may be needed more often. Take care,

however, not to overpot, for too much room tends to give the roots too much water.

The cane-stemmed group is familiar to all, for sooner or later everyone seems to have an oversize "angel wing" to cope with. There is no need to let one of these giants crowd you out of the house. They can either be renewed by spring-rooted cuttings or kept down to size by pruning away the old canes and roots in the spring or summer.

The small-leaved branching begonias are becoming legion. They are apt to be everblooming, of manageable size, and many have colorful leaves and stems. Two rather new seedlings hybridized in Germany, *B. "Preussen"* and *B. "Sachen,"* have bloomed steadily for me for over two years.

The hairy begonias have large, pink or white, fuzzy flowers and cause more comment than any others in my collection. Their foliage is sometimes hairy, too, though some have shining, leathery leaves. They make attractive, fast-growing house plants, and are apparently unharmed by low humidity. *B. scharffi*, a universal favorite, turns up in the ancestry of most of these.

Because of the enthusiasms and success of begonia breeders the world over, many plants have been developed that fit none of these groups exactly. One thing they all have in common is attractiveness. Once you become interested in begonias, all your other house plants are in danger of having their places usurped.

Begonias are a speciality, and there is extensive literature on the subject. Just to list and describe the varieties commercially available would require a small volume, and cultural hints for the difficult kinds would fill another. The picture shows some of my favorites.

—B—

### Copy Deadline

All copy for *The Begonian* must be received by the editor not later than the first of the month preceding date of publication.

## Minutes, National Board, Mar. 24

THE MARCH meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order by President Coe at 7:30 p.m. on March 24, 1958. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Past President Cal Trowbridge. Pres-Elect. Bert Slatter then read "The Aims and Purposes of the Society."

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

President Coe read a letter from Mrs. Bernice Brillmayer relative to the New York Flower Show. The booth at the Show which Mrs. Brillmayer put in won a prize of \$50.00 and an "Award of Commendation." Mrs. Brillmayer wrote that the display attracted the attention of a great many people, some Begonia literature and membership blanks were handed out to those who seemed interested in becoming members of the Society. Two memberships were taken during the first two days of the Show. President Coe expressed his appreciation of the work done by Mrs. Brillmayer on behalf of the A.B.S. Motion was made and carried that a letter of thanks be sent to Mrs. Brillmayer.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved. A report from Mr. Thieben, Advertising Manager was read by Mr. Lovejoy, there was 54 inches of advertising in March and \$100.01 remitted to the Treasurer. Mrs. Gee, Seed Fund Chairman, was unable to be present at the meeting, her report was also read by Mr. Lovejoy. Approximately \$10.00 was remitted to the Treasurer by the Seed Fund Chairman. Motion made and carried that a delayed bill for pictures used in the 1957 Convention number of The Begonian be paid. Motion made and carried that a bill of \$10.00 for flowers for Jack MacLanahan memorial services be paid. Pres-Elect Slatter gave a brief report on the display at the International Flower Show. Mr. Walton gave his report as Membership Secretary—65 new members and 111 renewals. He stated he would soon need a new supply of seed packets to send new members. Mrs. Leatherman stated she had some seed that could be used and Mrs. Korts advised that he would package it. Mr. Walton stated he had been receiving correspondence from the State and County Arboretum.

He also stated he thought that the Arboretum should be advised who is the official representative for the A.B.S. so that correspondence could be sent direct to them. President Coe stated he did not believe an official Arboretum representative had ever been appointed. Mrs. Leatherman, Research Director, gave her report on the activities of her department. Mrs. Leatherman made a motion, seconded by Bert Slatter, that letters be written to Mr. Philip Chandler of U.C.L.A. and Dr. Atkinson, Garden Club Editor of the Mirror News, thanking them for the publicity given the A.B.S. by the use of begonias in their displays at the International Flower Show. Motion carried. Mr. Hall, Public Relations Director, gave his report. Advised he had a letter from the eastern public relations chairman stating she believed advertising on radio WWCW, Waterbury, Conn., might be a very good idea. Motion made and carried that the A. B. S. underwrite the expenditure of \$25.00 for advertising on the Conn. station. Past President Trowbridge suggested that any advertising to be used be sent to the

National Board for approval before being released on the radio. Mrs. Lucy Sault, National Librarian, gave a complete report on her department. Mrs. Mabel Anderson, Chairman of the Speakers Bureau and slide library gave a report on her department. She stated that it is difficult to get new speakers and that she has not yet been able to get the list of speakers printed but hoped to have it complete before long. Mrs. Pearl Bauer, A. B. S. Historian, gave a report of her work and asked that each branch send her notices pertaining to special branch activities. Nomenclature Chairman, Mrs. Korts, gave a report on her department. She also gave a final report on her chairmanship of the judging Classes and stated her reports are ready to be turned over to the new chairman, Mrs. Schwerdtfeger. Branches reporting: El Monte, Glendale, Hollywood, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Branch, Orange County, Redondo Beach, San Gabriel, Ventura and West Valley Branch. Motion made and carried that dues be paid for membership in the American Horticultural Society. A general discussion followed as to a future meeting place for the National Board. It was decided that the Echo Park Clubhouse is not very suitable, due to the noise of the Freeway. Various members volunteered to canvas available locations and report at the April meeting. The April meeting will of necessity be held in the Echo Park Clubhouse.

President Coe appointed Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle, Chairman, Mrs. Edna Korts and Mr. Cal Trowbridge as members of the Nominating Committee for the 1958-59 ballot.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Irma Jane Brown  
Secretary

### Calendar

- May 2—Smoky Valley Spring Flower and Begonia show, Salina Kansas.
- May 3-11—Spring Garden Show, Oakland, Calif., Oakland Exposition Building.
- May 28—May Festival, Glendale Branch, Louise Schwerdtfeger, "Begonias As I Know Them." Plants, goodies, Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central, 8 p.m.
- May 28—San Gabriel Valley, Gordon Baker Lloyd, "What's New in Shade Gardening."
- June 14—Competitive Flower Show, San Gabriel Valley Branch, Oakhurst Gardens, Arcadia. Potluck-5oc. Proceeds, Arboretum Glasshouse.
- June 28-29—Annual Fuchsia Show, Long Beach Municipal Auditorium.

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

**No. 1 B. kellermanii**—(Guatemala)—Fibrous rooted species with peltate, oval leaves yellow-green to rose-colored, white scurfy beneath; flowers pink. .50 per. pkt.

**No. 2 B Maphil**—(Walker)—a hybrid having light yellow-green leaves with deep brown markings—velvety and shallow lobed. Medium growth and makes a good pot or basket plant. .35 per. pkt.

**No. 3 B. Joe Hayden**—A hybrid—Rhizomatous with large, maple-like, satiny, dark bronzy green, lobed leaves—red beneath; flowers red. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 4 B. macbethi**—African species. Leaves are small, lobes deeply cut, bright green. Flowers white. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 5 B. Kathe Teicher**—Semperflorans with light green foliage and large carmine flowers. One of the most satisfactory for bedding or in pots, flowers continuously throughout the summer. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 6 B. Heterosis Organdy**—Mixture of many F1 hybrids. This is a most satisfactory group of plants, we have never grown any thing that has given as much pleasure with so little effort. The plants are 5 or 6 inches high and are beautiful when planted in beds or used as a border plant—last year we grew some in pots for the patio and they were outstanding altho' they require a little more attention than those grown in the open ground. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 7 B. Heterosis Tausendschoen red**—Dark deep red, dwarf and compact and covered with blooms over a long period of time. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 8 B. Rhizomatous**—mixed—We have had so many favorable reports on these seed, we have decided to offer them again—Some of the members who have bought them are growing plants for garden clubs and other worthwhile activities. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 9 B. Cane (?) type.** From Philippine Islands and is described as having red leaves and pink flowers. .25 per. pkt.

## Greenhouse plants—

**Chirita lavandulacea**—Gesneriaceae—(Malaya) Erect, branching, rather succulent with large ovate, soft hairy, opposite leaves with toothed margins and whorls of auxillary flowers with white

pouch like corolla tube and sepals of pale lavender blue, yellow marking in throat. .25 per. pkt.

**Streptocarpus grandiflora hybrids** — A friend in So. Africa sent these seed to the seed fund. All the most popular colors and large blooms. .25 per. pkt.

**Rechsteinaria cardinalis**—Brilliantly flowered, tuberous plant with round, emerald green leaves topped by large, curved, tubular flowers, white downy over bright scarlet, purple markings in throat. .25 per. pkt.

**Pitcairnia tabubaciformis** — Bromeliaceae — Pitcairnia, generally speaking, require more moisture and shade than some of the other members of the terrestrial groups. They do well in out door gardens in California; in the green house they make good foliage plants and blooms remain colorful for many days. Flower are tubular and are usually red and yellow altho' a few are lovely in orange and white. .25 per. pkt.

**Tillandsia tenuifolia**—Bromeliaceae—Most of the plants in this group are epiphytic, finding trees as their natural habitat. This characteristics assists in making them good subjects for naturalistic plantings in trees; also interesting specimens for greenhouse when mounted on slabs of bark, driftwood or potted in osmunda fiber. Tillandsias feed through their leaves rather than their roots. Flowers are tubular in shape, having violet-blue color and those with spreading open petals are usually quite fragrant. .25 per. pkt.

**Epiphyllum hybrids** — Many colors from a choice collection. Not hardy out doors in cold climates. .25 per. pkt.

**Primula malocoides** — "Snowstorm." Pure white, all double. Outstanding as a pot plant or can be grown out doors in the shade garden. Seed should be started in doors. .25 perfl. pkt.

**Primula rosea gigas karminrote** — From Germany. .25 per. pkt.

## Fern spores—

**Platyserium willinckii**—(Java) Choice. A distinct epiphyte having forked basal leaves and densely silvery-pubescent fertile fronds, erect at first, later completely pendant, very narrow and several times



forked into long slender lobes. .50 per. pkt.

**Platyserium hillii**—(Queensland) Handsome fresh green species with round basal leaves, covering the root stock; fronds are erect and fan like dividing into numerous pointed lobes. .50 per. pkt.

**Adiantum tenerum scutum roseum** — Beautiful plant with medium sized fronds beautifully tinted red when young, later dark green on shiny black stems. .35 per. pkt.

Germination on above has been perfect and spores have been imported from Germany for the special benefit of the seed fund patrons who like to grow beautiful and unusual plants.

We have received spores from Phillipine Island called "Lechos de Alambre" as we have mentioned before, there is no information on a fern by this name therefore, can only assume it is a name used locally—The collector states it is of the Adiantum family. .25 per. pkt.

**Other genera—**

**Tibouchina semidecandra**—(So. Brazil) "Glory bush." Free branching shrub with light green, four inch ovate leaves densely covered with soft white hairs; large violet-blue flowers blooming over a long period of time. .25 per. pkt.

**Abutilon pink**—'Flowering maple.' Herbaceous shrub with bell-like, pink flowers. Colorful shrub for out doors in mild climates but can be grown in the green house where climate is not suitable for out door planting. .25 per. pkt. Also one called **A. Fraseri** with no description. .25 per. pkt.

**From So. Africa**—Two varieties of the lovely Protea namely: **P. Cynaroides**—The "King Protea." Immense flower heads with white satiny sheen covering the pink bracts. Also **P. longifolia**—White with dark beards, prolific bloomer and most attractive. A little care should be given in planting the above—they will germinate readily if given warmth and not too much moisture. Mixed pkts. of Protea .25.

**From So. Africa—Leucodendron nutans**—Proteaceae—'Silvertree'. Beautiful tree with leaves covered silvery pubescence which glistens like silver in the sun, flower heads are yellow. Many handsome specimens of this tree can be seen growing along the California coast

but they make beautiful greenhouse plants and can grow several years in a pot or container. In addition to the one mentioned also have one called **L. Catherinae**—Mixed pkts. .25.

**Callistemon speciosus** — Myrtaceae—Australia. Small shrub with shoots silky when young—flowers are scarlet-red tipped by yellow anthers. .25 per. pkt.

**Kalanchoe hybrida Thiede.** Crassulaceae—Fiery scarlet, tall stems, dense leaves. .25 per. pkt.

**Portulaca**—'Rose-moss. succulent plant with low, spreading branches; sun loving, many colors. .25 per. pkt.

Still available are many seed of **B. Manda's woolly bear**, **B. Schmidtiana** and **B. semperflorens mixed**. They are yours without charge if postage is enclosed—if other seed are requested, postage is not required.

At this point the seed fund is very low on all types of seed and especially begonia seed, we would appreciate hearing from any one who has anything at all to offer.

Mrs. Florence Gee  
Seed Fund Administrator  
4316 Berryman, Ave.  
Los Angeles 66, California

BEGONIAS, FUCHSIAS & A COMPLETE  
SELECTION OF ALL PLANTS  
FOR THE SHELTERED GARDEN

**RAINBOW NURSERY**

1635 W. Florence Ave.  
PLeasant 3-6121 Los Angeles 44, Calif.

We Use, Recommend and Sell  
**BLUE WHALE**

**A. B. S. STATIONERY**

(Cost Price to Branches)

|                    | per 100 | per 50 | per 25 |
|--------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| Letter, sm. ....   | \$ .80  | .40    | .20    |
| Letter, lg. ....   | 1.10    | .55    | .30    |
| Envelope, sm. ...  | 1.25    | .65    | .35    |
| Envelope, lg. .... | 1.55    | .80    | .40    |

For A. B. S. Stationery, Pins and Signs

Write to: Mrs. Alva Graham  
515 El Centro, South Pasadena, Calif.

# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

ELSA FORT

The Elsa Fort branch met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jones, Camden, N. J., to celebrate our eighth birthday. A delicious dinner was served by our hostess and co-hostess, Mis Lola Price. The history of our branch was compiled and ready by charter member Mrs. Marion Thompson. Plans were made for the display of begonias and fresh and dried flower arrangements for the Art and Social Club of Mt. Holly, N. J. There was some discussion of the begonia party to be held at the home of Mrs. Mildred Tait in Ashland, N. J.

—B—

GLENDALE

We invite all members of all branches and their friends to our May Festival scheduled for the evening of May 28 at the Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central, Glendale.

Come early, meet old and new friends, and enjoy the many unusual features being planned for this event. There will be tempting goodies, hard-to-find plants, and the gratifying experience of hearing a noted speaker, hybridizer, and award winner, Louise Schwerdtfeger, of Santa Barbara. Her topic will be, "Begonias as I Know Them." You cannot afford to miss this opportunity. See you there?

HOLLYWOOD

Two of the small leaved begonias, *fuchsioides* and *foliosa*, of the fibrous group, highlighted the March program. Mrs. Mabel Anderson, a former president of the Glendale Branch, gave some interesting facts about them—the first with its pendant flowers resembling miniature fuchsias, and the latter with foliage so fine it resembles a fern. Mrs. Cora Lee Walters, of Temple City, had a flat of fuchsioides cuttings ready to transplant and showed how she does it and the soil medium she uses. These cuttings were taken from a plant as tall as her lath house. She says these varieties are becoming somewhat scarce and that more should be grown.

We are happy to announce that Dr. W. C. Drummond has completed a fern project for Griffith Park, after much time and effort on a complete herbarium mat display of ferns growing in Fern Dell. The exhibit will be in the Nature Museum in Fern Dell, which will be open to the public at 5375 Red Oak Drive, Los Angeles.

—B—

INGLEWOOD

Last month we again arrived at the season for our President's Dinner, held in honor of our National and all Branch

*We use, recommend and sell Blue Whale*



This year we are offering the most complete selection of new 1958 introductions available in Southern California.

FINE PLANTS IN THREE INCH POT SIZE NOW READY.

Limited stock of some kinds, so order early.

Also our usual fine selection of patented and standard kinds

*Manhattan Garden Supply*

305 N. Sepulveda Blvd.

Open every day 8:30 A.M. till 6 P.M.

Manhattan Beach, California

Phone FR. 2-2635

Presidents. An annual Homecoming, so to speak. The time when all members, old and new, from near and far, get together to once again compare notes, exchange news and views, in the friendly atmosphere of a good meal, happy companions, and pleasant surroundings.

Our speaker, Rudolf Ziesenhenné, discussed "Ailments of Begonias," the cause and cure of which is a never ending problem to most of us. Mr. Ziesenhenné brought with him a number of his finer varieties which were available at the Plant Table.

To all members and friends who worked so hard and long to make the exhibit at the International Flower Show such a success, many many thanks. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Color slides of our display are available and will be ordered for you on request.

—B—

#### MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM

Our March meeting was postponed because of the storm, which left most of us without transportation, light, heat, and telephone. April 1, ten members and guests enjoyed luncheon at the home of Mrs. Odes Steele, Langhorne, Pa. This was followed by reading and discussion of an article in the *March Begonian*, "Begonias in Landscape," reported by Margaret Ziesenhenné. Several members brought seedlings and cuttings, which were distributed to those attending.

#### MISSOURI

The Missouri branch of the A.B.S. met in regular session the third Tuesday of March. Mrs. Amy Breshears, program chairman, gave a very interesting talk on "How to Start Begonias From Leaves and Cuttings," bringing a fine display of them to show, as well as telling us how. Mrs. Thoman had charge of the round table discussion.

—B—

#### PHILOBEGONIA

The March meeting of the Philobegonia branch of the A.B.S. met at the home of Mrs. Allen with an attendance of eleven.

It is with pride that we announce the winning of six prizes by our group. Our begonias were entered in the Philadelphia Flower Show. Mrs. Allen won two firsts, one for *B. "Dew Drop"* and one for *B. boweri major*; and one honorable mention for *B. sunderbruchii*. Mrs. Reuter won a third prize for *B. "Loma Alta,"* Mrs. Browning an honorable mention for *B. manicata aurea maculata crispa*, and Mrs. Long won a nnonorable mention for *B. ricinifolia*.

After a delicious luncheon served by our hostess, one of our members, Mrs. Browning, surprized us with a gaily decorated cake in honor of the winners. A trip was planned on April 25th to Mr. Arnts' greenhouses in Hightstown, N.J.

## New Originations in Rose Form and Ruffled

# TUBEROUS BEGONIAS



Exactng quality in color and form, from the prize-winning Pacific Strain originated by Frank Reinelt. The very finest obtainable!

## Vetterle & Reinelt

Dept. B Capitola, California

1958 COLOR CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

## RHODE ISLAND

The month of April saw the organization of the Rhode Island branch of ABS, by Mrs. Howard L. Withee, well known to readers of the *Begonian* as a contributor each month. Pre-organization of the group took place at Daly's Gardens, in Coventry, R.I., the only retail grower of begonias in that state. Groundwork for the forming of the group was carefully done, with newspaper publicity, announcements at the various shows recently held in the east, and through various other garden groups. We are awaiting the reports on this first meeting, as we go to press. Since this is to be a state-wide organization, and purposes and the proposed program has been so excellently presented to the interested public, we confidently expect fine reports from our youngest member-branch.

—B—

## SACRAMENTO

There was a round table discussion moderated by Herb Fitch on "What to do with Begonias and Fuchsias Now," at our March meeting. Mel Newfield answered questions on Fuchsias; Frances Flannigan on Fibrous Begonias; Ruthanne Williams on Rhizomatous Begonias and Herb on Tuberous Begonias.

—B—

## SAN FRANCISCO

April meeting of the San Francisco branch was privileged to have Hyacinth Smith and Beth Sackman share a portion of the evening. Hyacinth carried on with her tuberous lore, and Beth showed us how to prune and handle fibrous begonias at this time of the year. Our guest speaker was Mr. George H. Kelley, whose subject was "Bringing the Garden Into the Home."

—B—

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

"California Native Flowers for Use in the Home Garden in This Area" was discussed and illustrated with colored slides by Edward K. Balls at the San Gabriel Valley branch Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Mr. Balls, horticulturist at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden at Claremont, is a well qualified plant collector who collects native California plants and their seeds so they may be grown for study and research at the 80 acre Garden. It is the purpose of this garden to collect in one area as many native species as possible; to hybridize them to make better garden subjects than the wild plant; and do generic research, taxonomy and micro-organism study.

San Gabriel Valley branch invites all members of A.B.S. to a competitive flower show June 14, 12 p.m.-5 p.m., Oakhurst Gardens, Arcadia. Displays must be in place by 10:30 a.m. There will be a 50c potluck and all proceeds will go to the Arboretum Glasshouse Fund for Begonias.

—B—

## SMOKY VALLEY

Although, as you might have witnessed by the newspaper reports "Spring Is Going to Be a Little Late This Year," the Smoky Valley Begonia Society has engaged the machinery which it hopes will produce a spring flower show second to none.

The theme itself, "A May Basket Fantasy," suggests the gaiety of the spring season and the miracle that is nature.

We have been able again to acquire Blair Hall in the basement of the Presbyterian church as a setting, and to judge what should be a highly competitive affair will be that distinguished young associate editor of Flower and Garden Magazine, Mr. Elvin McDonald.

After discharging his duties as judge, Mr. McDonald will present a lecture on the culture and care of begonias and will also present a series of color slides of begonias and other plants that he filmed in the greenhouse of Mrs. Dillard in Kansas City.

By popular request of the flower loving people of Salina and surrounding area we also are staging a plant sale which will be open to the public.

The date for this festive affair is set as the second of May.

## SOUTHERN ALAMEDA

The Southern Alameda County Branch of the American Begonia Society held a party at Onstad's Smorgasbord, San Leandro, at which time the new officers for 1958 were installed by Mr. Harry Nagel, director of the American Fuchsia Society. New officers installed were, E. L. Kappler, President, Helen Fouche, vice President, Wm. Simon, Treasurer, Ruby Rogers, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Edith Slutter, National Representative, and Mrs. Ann Bartlow, Corresponding Secretary.

It was a very stormy night on March 20, 1958, and the rain came down very hard, but the Southern Alameda County branch of the A.B.S. had a good turnout considering the weather. Guest speaker of the evening was Glen Colby, of the Colby Nursery of Hayward, Calif. He spoke on the begonias, and the type of plants that make complementary background planting for them. Questions and answers followed his talk. It's always a joy to learn and hear of things to make our homes and yards a pleasure in which to dwell.

The well known Mr. Peter Borree is chairman for the exhibit to be displayed at the Spring Garden Show, which is held May 3 to 11, 1958, at the Oakland Exposition Bldg., Oakland, Calif. Mr. Borree is well experienced in putting on shows and we are proud to have him as one of our members in our society. Plants are growing now and plans are being carried on with the idea that we will have a very good display at the show this year.

We would be happy to meet our friends at the Garden Show and tickets are now being sold.

Refreshments were served, and a plant table held our interest for the remainder of the evening.

—B—

## TARRANT COUNTY

We held our March meeting at the lovely ranch home of Mrs. Joe Schad in Saginaw. We worked on our Easter project, making "happiness" boxes for the Tarrant County home for the aged—

each containing items of personal nature. It was such a pleasure to make these for those less fortunate.

After a nice luncheon our president, Mrs. Hall, and Mrs. Schad, who had brought some of their lovely begonias, led us in a discussion concerning their identification and habits.

—B—

## TEXAS STATE

This branch of the A.B.S. has not been too diligent in reporting, but we have, nevertheless, been interested in the work of the society and, too, most of us have been busy growing a large number of shade plants. Officers elected to serve during 1958 are as follows: E. Weaver, president; Mrs. W. N. Foster, vice-president; Mrs. R. J. Wilson, secretary; Euclid Hudson, director.

We meet the second Tuesday evening of each month in the home of one of the members. We do not have any difficulty on this score as always there is a member present at the meeting who invites us to meet at his or her house for the next meeting. Our meetings are not long, but interesting, informative and pleasant. Ours is not a large group, but we are striving to find people who are interested in the growing of shade plants and who will contribute to the good of the group.

We invite members from all over the country to visit with us in Port Arthur. It would be most interesting to have a phone call from someone who lived in another section of the nation telling one of us that you are in the vicinity and would like to drop by for a visit, a cup of coffee, and a look-see at what we are growing here in this part of Texas.

—B—

## WHITTIER

Mr. U. B. Schoonover entertained us with color slides telling of "Life in Africa." Mr. Schoonover is well noted for his huge variety of beautiful pictures from far-away lands as well as home lands.

**WANTED**  
**Old Lists of Begonia Names**  
 Also Lists of Praetorius Begonias  
 by Nomenclature Director  
**Mrs. Edna Korts**

**BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS**  
*Houseplant Specialists for 50 Years*  
 Illustrated catalogue, 1,000 varieties, 10c  
**LOGE'S GREENHOUSES**  
 Danielson, Connecticut

NEW BEGONIA  
**'IRON CROSS'**  
*A rhizomatous beauty from Malaya, large,  
 Nile green, puckered leaves with bold,  
 palmate pattern in brown-red.*  
 Small Plant \$3.50  
 Medium Plant \$5.00  
**JULIUS ROEHRS CO.**  
 R U T H E R F O R D , N . J .

**CHOICE**  
 Rex Begonia Hybrid Seed  
**\$1.00 per Packet**  
**RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE**  
 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**HYPONEX**<sup>®</sup>  
 SOLUBLE PLANT FOOD COMPLETE  
**Grows Better Plants in Soil, Sand or Water**  
 Simply dissolve and water all your house  
 plants, garden flowers, vegetables, shrubs  
 and lawn. Feeds instantly. If dealer can't  
 supply send \$1 for 1 lb. Makes 100 Gal.  
 HYDROPONIC CHEM. CO., Copley, Ohio, U.S.A.



**ARAGRO FISH CONCENTRATE**

ESPECIALLY GOOD ON  
**SHADE PLANTS**  
 NO BURNING OR ODOR  
*Recommended and Sold  
 by*

**JENSEN'S GARDENS**  
 9515 E. FLOWER AVENUE  
 BELLFLOWER, CALIF.

*We Feature African Violets and Begonias*

**AFRICAN VIOLETS—Plants—Leaves**  
 Many New Varieties and  
 Best of the Old  
**VISIT OUR NURSERY**  
 Open 9-5 Daily Except Thurs.  
 45 Min. From San Francisco  
**ORCHARD NURSERY & FLORIST**  
 Midway bet. Orinda & Lafayette, Calif.  
 Turn at Acalanes Valley



**BEGONIAS, FUCHSIAS, TROPICALS**  
**HOUSE PLANTS**

*The Best of Everything for Your Garden*  
**FIFTH AVE. NURSERY  
 AND GREENHOUSE**

2510 W. Manchester, Inglewood, Calif.  
 Don & Ron Stanley Pleasant 1-0874

**Knott's Berry Farm  
 & Ghost Town**

BUENA PARK, CALIF.

(From L.A., take Santa Ana Freeway to  
 Buena Park, then South 2 miles.)

*In Our Nursery at the South End  
 of the Large Berry Market...*

FUCHSIAS

BEGONIAS

FERNS

SHADE PLANTS

SUPPLIES

STAY FOR DINNER

*Chicken Dinners + Snack Bars + Steak House*

12-8:30 p.m. Daily 12-8:30 p.m.

ex. Mo. & Tu. 12-9 p.m. ex. Friday

**RARE STAGHORN FERN**

Platycerium Hillii

Beautiful Mounted Plants

**\$6.50 Each F.O.B.**

(Can be shipped only via Railway  
 Express, freight collect.)

**Leatherman's Gardens**

2637 N. Lee Ave.

El Monte, Calif.

**HOUSE PLANT**

Achimenese, Gloxinia, Smithiantha, Kohleria,  
 tubers. Ferns and Begonias. Columnneas, Rech-  
 steinerias, many rare & unusual House Plants

Catalogue 10c

**TROPICAL PARADISE**

3724 Jackson Ave., Kansas City 28, Mo.

# New York Show

(Continued From Page 100)

was Mrs. Bernice Brilmayer's booth of begonias and A.B.S. information. The plants, mostly if not all, belonging to Mrs. Brilmayer were attractive and many peo-

ple stopped to look at them and ask questions. Mrs. Brilmayer was there to offer their services as hostesses. I feel sure that Mrs. Brilmayer was there most of the week with little help. With the good start that has been made this year of bringing begonias to the attention of the public, I feel sure that the interest shown in the exhibits in New York, Boston and Philadelphia will spur us on to bigger and better classes next year. identify and discuss any begonia and it was very entertaining to listen in for a few minutes. It is unfortunate that the three big eastern shows all come the same week for few of the members from New England nor from Philadelphia were free.

**ILLUSTRATED CATALOG 25c**  
 . . . listing 200 varieties of Begonias, 350 Geraniums, 300 odd plants plus Herbs and Perennials.  
 Price List Free on Request  
**MERRY GARDENS, Camden, Maine**

*Palos Verdes* **Begonia Farm**  
 4024 Pacific Coast Hi-way, WALTERIA, Calif.  
**TUBEROUS BEGONIAS**  
 COMPLETE SELECTIONS OF BEGONIAS AND SHADE PLANTS  
 FUCHSIAS — CAMELLIAS — FERNS  
 OPEN DAILY — CLOSED MONDAY  
*Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop*  
 1 1/2 Miles E. of Redondo Beach  
 Hi-Way 101

**FUCHSIA LAND NURSERY**  
 4699 Centinela Blvd., L.A.  
**FUCHSIAS THE YEAR AROUND**  
 Ferns, Begonias, and Shade Plants  
 Open Daily — EXmont 1-2127  
 Yes, WE Have  
**SPOONIT**  
 FLOWER FOOD  
 Send Post Card for Information and Sample  
**PLANTSMITH**  
 Box 818 Palo Alto 2, Calif.

## C O N T E N T S

California in New York . . . . . 99  
 New York Flower Show . . . . . 100  
 Tuberos Begonias in England . . . . . 101  
 Mary Gillingwaters Honored . . . . . 103  
 Seeds, Seedlings, and Hybrids . . . . . 103  
 Library Notes . . . . . 104  
 Philadelphia Flower Show . . . . . 105  
 Philadelphia Impressions . . . . . 105  
 Visit to the Boston Show . . . . . 106  
 Amateur Gardener . . . . . 107  
 Begonias . . . . . 108

POSTMASTER:  
Return Postage  
Guaranteed  
1415 Acacia  
Torrance, Calif.

# The Blue Whale Story



*Acme Peat Products  
Limited of Canada  
introduce to  
gardeners everywhere*

**LIQUID WHALE FERTILIZER**

**Liquid WHALE** a worthy sister product of  
the well-proven *Blue Whale Soil Builder and Conditioner.*

*(Liquid WHALE will be available after MARCH 1st, order from your dealer in advance.)*

Totally Organic *Liquid WHALE* is not made from a waste or by-product but contains the concentrated non-fatty nutriment from whole whales, which are processed for *Liquid WHALE* while in the freshest possible condition, so that the full value of all the Sea-Rich minerals, vitamins, nutriment, and trace elements are fully retained.

The Whale itself is nature's largest Organic Factory on land or sea. All the nutriment which have gone into the growth of this immense mammal are contained in *Liquid WHALE*. The natural feeding habit of the Whale is the reason *Liquid WHALE* does provide a truly consistent, dependable, and completely balanced diet for the plant.

*Whale Sea-Power Nutrients  
will make your garden  
produce abundantly.*

