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DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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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.

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Begonia on a Totem Pole

By Margaret B. Taylor
Aneheim, California

The begonia is *mazae*. Introduced to begonia lovers in 1947 by Rudolph Ziesenhenné, it was discovered growing in Mexico by Thomas MacDougall and named for the owners of the ranch on which it was found.

It is a species, fibrous rooted. It may be staked to produce a tall plant or it may be used as a large basket plant. It is ideally suited to be grown on a totem pole.

The plant itself is very bushy, sending up many slender stems in a year's growth. The leaves are round, pointed at the tip, and a bronzy-green color. The markings on the veins are deep brown and toward the edge of the leaf. The underside of the leaf is deep red and, in the correct light, this red shines through the leaf. The sinus is white and very pronounced.

This begonia is found in two leaf coloring, a light leaf and a dark leaf. A discription said that the dark-leaved *mazae* was just what its name implied. This is simple to understand if the beginner knows that there are two and the accent is placed right when reading the sentence. Place the accent on dark-leaved, not on the name *mazae*.

The blooming period is late winter or early spring. The flowers, held well above the foliage, are white to pale pink with the rear dotted current red.

Mazae has been used extensively in hybridizing. It is responsible for the satiny sheen now found in many of the newer cultivars which had been lacking in rhizomatous begonias.

Rudolph Ziesenhenné crossed *B. mazae* with *B. 'Reichenheimi'* to produce *B. 'Joe Hayden'*. This begonia has the intensified color of the fibrous parent and the root-stalk of the rhizomatous parent.

Marie Turner crossed *B. 'Cristata'* with *B. mazae* to produce 'Ricky Min-

ter'. This begonia is so very well known and loved.

In 1952, Louise Schwertfeger crossed *B. dayi* with *B. mazae* to produce *B. 'Helen Krauss'*. There is a picture of this cross in a 1953 *Begonian*. In the picture it looks the most like its *mazae* parent but the discription is different. The leaves are heavy in texture and the undersides are light green with the maroon-red on the veins spreading out a little onto the in-between portions. The top sides are bright spinach-green with veins chocolate to black and have a dull satin sheen. The flowers are light pink with red spots on the outside. This is a begonia worthy of the name it carries.

These are only three of the many crosses using *B. mazae* for one parent. The 'Stitch Leaf' begonia is probably a variety but is more dainty.

Eastern Editor Appointed

Mrs. Percy I. Merry, of Needham, Massachusetts, has been appointed Eastern Editor of *The Begonian*, by President Carl E. Naumann.

Mrs. Merry brings to this office a wide experience in growing plants as well as telling about them. She is a lecturer and writer on garden topics, and has been active in a number of horticultural organizations, both local and national in scope.

Together with her husband, Percy Merry, a commercial photographer whose profession ties in especially well with their many interests, she has helped to make The Merrys of Sunrise Knoll known throughout New England.

We are proud to welcome Mrs. Merry to the staff of *The Begonian*.

COVER PICTURE

Begonia 'Shippy's Garland.'

—Photo by Bernice Brilmayer

Some *Platycerium* Notes

By Alex D. Hawkes
"The Tropical Gardener"
Editor, *Tropics Magazine*

Some time ago, in the pages of *The Begonian*, an article of mine on the Stag-Horn Ferns (genus *Platycerium*) was published. This caused a gratifying amount of comment, and when some further comments on this fascinating group of ferns appeared in the initial issue of *Tropics Magazine*, a truly extraordinary quantity of correspondence arrived on my doorstep from persons interested in this group in all parts of the world.

In the next issue of *Tropics*, soon to appear after a series of regrettable and unfortunate delays, I am publishing several illustrated articles on the *Platyceriums*, their botany and their culture. In the interim, however, I believe the following random notes concerning this fern group — which is popular with so many of us everywhere — may be of interest.

Initially, I should mention that there is now a special organization devoted to the study of this group of ferns, the *Platycerium Society*, with headquarters in California. I have been informed, too, that a complete book-length study of the genus *Platycerium* is now in progress, again in California, by the noted pteridologist, Dr. Barbara Joe Hoshizaki. This will certainly be welcome, since it becomes increasingly apparent that a very large percentage of the *Platycerium* in cultivation today are incorrectly identified, and the nomenclature of the genus as a whole is in a truly frightful state of confusion.

For instance, in a recent revision of the genus in Madagascar (now officially the Malagasy Republic) by the French botanist, Mme. Tardieu-Blot, four kinds of *Platycerium* are found there, these being *P. Ellisii*, *P. madagascariense*, *P. alcornae*, and *P. quadridichotomum*. The second one, *P. madagascariense*, comes as no parti-

cular surprise, being a very characteristic species which is found today in a few especially comprehensive collections in this country; it is noted as being endemic to Madagascar (meaning that it occurs only there — and nowhere else in the world). *Platycerium Ellisii* is also indicated as being endemic to Madagascar — which is peculiar, since this species has long been known in horticulture as an epiphyte from the Congo region of Continental Africa! *Platycerium quadridichotomum* (pronounced kwad-ri-dye-kot-oh-mum, by the way), again an endemic, is an apparently handsome species, originally described in 1917 as *P. bifurcatum* var. *quadridichotoma*. It doesn't appear to be present in cultivation outside of its native haunts as yet, though it would form a welcome addition to any collection of Stag-Horn Ferns.

But now the very important and interesting species in Mme. Tardieu-Blot's discussion — *Platycerium alcornae*. As is well known, this name has in the past always been applied to the handsome Australian species. But in an article which she published in a technical French journal in 1959, Mme. Tardieu-Blot points out that this is not the case! It is a complicated matter, but in essence it contains two different ferns which were both named *Acrostichum alcornae* by two different botanists at different times. The one which concerns us now was transferred to *Platycerium* by Mme. Tardieu-Blot in 1959, this being based on a matter of nomenclatorial priority. She also incorporates *Platericum stemaria* of Christensen (1932) as a synonym, but whether this is the plant in our collections also known as *P. aethiopicum* is still not clear. The distribution of this "new" *Platycerium alcornae* is designated as ranging from

(Continued on Page 53)

Bumblin' Along With

Mrs. T. R. of Pennsylvania asks: How did the name "Begonia" come into existence — just how did these plants come to bear the name? My dictionary and books at hand do not tell me.

Dear Mrs. T. R.: Checking my library books, the most conclusive information I find is on page 1 of Helen K. Krauss' book, *Begonias for American Homes and Gardens*; and I quote:

"Begonias were discovered in 1890 by Charles Plumier, a Franciscan monk and devotee of science, while accompanying his patron, Michel Begon, Marine Administrator of France and Governor of Santo Domingo, on a scientific expedition to the West Indies. Six species were discovered which bore no relationship to any other known genus. Plumier brought only fragmentary herbarium specimens to Europe. Joseph Pitton Tournefort named the new genus in honor of his friend, Michel Begon, and established the genus by publishing the facts of Plumier's discovery in *Institutiones Rei Herbariae* in 1700. Three years later Plumier published brief descriptions of his discoveries in *Plantarum Americanum*. Linnaeus introduced this material in the first edition of *Genera Plantarum* among the fragments for lack of fully detailed descriptions. Two of these six first-known begonias, *B. rotundifolia* and *B. macrophylla*, are in American culture."

Mrs. C. C. of Burns, Oregon, asks: I am writing to you for information on rex begonias. I have them planted in leaf compost (commercial) and I don't overwater or underwater, but the leaves turn dry around the edges and then completely dry up and fall off. I have one whose leaves just fall over and wilt. What causes that? Can

you tell me what to do before I lose them?

Dear Mrs. C. C.: Your question is difficult to answer because enough is not known about the growing conditions. However, after a general discussion by the Study Group and reference to several texts, we will set forth the best known causes of leaf drying and wilt:

1. Dormancy. In late fall and winter most rexes go completely dormant or at least take a rest of a month or more. Some will drop all their leaves. The cooler and drier the air, the more likely they are to go dormant. If any of your plants have lost all their leaves, test the rhizome. If it feels firm, just let the plant rest. Set it aside, keep it well protected, just slightly moist, and do not fertilize. If you have a glasshouse, you can put the plant on its side under a bench where it will not receive too much water. Watch for new sprouts toward spring. My guess is that dormancy is your problem. However, check the following possibilities to see whether they might apply.

2. Soil too alkaline. A sample of your soil can be sent to your County Agricultural Agent for testing.

3. Air not humid enough. Rexes love humidity.

4. Temperature too low. Rexes like 70 degrees or more.

5. Draft or chill winds. Rexes must have fresh air, but cannot stand draft or temperature changes.

6. Over-fertilizing.

7. Lack of fertilizer.

8. Drainage. Even with careful watering, if there is not sufficient drainage this is a trouble area.

9. Soil too heavy.

10. Temperature too high. While

rexes like 70 degree or more, a temperature that is too high will dry out the potting soil and dry the plant. This also causes wilting.

11. Earthworms. If pots are on the ground, earthworms can enter the pots through the bottoms. They will break off new roots and effect food absorption. This causes wilt.

12. Water. If water is alkaline, a salt deposit may form and burn the margins of leaves. Watering in the sun may cause a sun burn. (However, your Oregon water should not be your trouble since you probably have pure mountain water.)

13. Direct sunlight. Rexes like light, except when they are resting, but they should not have direct sunlight.

14. Wilt disease. A plant with wilt disease usually has blackened roots. A fungus in leaf mold is thought by some to be the cause. Leaf mold should be sterilized before using.

Rexes in nature grow under trees and tropical plants where they are always protected and kept moist in a loose, porous soil. The more these conditions can be imitated, the better your plants will be.

Do not give up or discard your plants as long as there is life in the rhizomes. By spring, your rexes will bring you joy renewed. Good luck.

Mrs. D. V. of Pennsylvania asks: Is *B. 'Fleecealba'* related to *B. kellermanni*?

Dear Mrs. D. V.: No. *B. kellermanni* is a species from Guatemala. *B. 'Fleecealba'* is a cross (*sunderbruchi* x 'Woolly Bear').

D. N. of Iowa asks: Are there any angel wing begonias that make good basket plants?

Dear D. N.: Yes. *B. 'Helen W. King'*, *B. 'Pink Wave'*, *B. 'Limminghei'*, *B. 'Ellen Dee'*, *B. 'Marjorie Daw'*, and *B. 'Guinea's Wing'*. There are, no doubt, many others. Anyway, if you are having success with a particular angel wing, please drop us a line and we'll pass the news along.

Mrs. O. G. of California asks: We are planning a trip to Colorado this

summer. We have travelogs telling about national parks and monuments but we would like to visit botanical gardens. Where can we write for information?

Dear Mrs. O. G.: In Buffalo Creek, Colorado, you will find the Glenmore Arboretum, which specializes in vegetation grown at an altitude of 7,000 feet that will stand temperature to 50 degrees below zero. The Arboretum is open week-ends from spring to mid-fall. Director Lee F. Johnson, 2401 S. Dahlia Lane, Denver 22, Colorado, will furnish further information.

In Denver you may see the Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York Street. In its 160 acres, there are many gardens — roses, iris, annuals, Colorado wild flowers, etc. — as well as a library and herbarium. It is open to the public at all times.

What is your question? For an answer, write to:

Bee Olson,
13715 Cordary Avenue,
Hawthorne, California.

Judging Class Speakers

The second in the series of lectures for the Shade Plant Judging Class, scheduled for Friday, March 8, will be "Principles of Exhibiting and Judging Fuchsias," by Muriel L. Merrell.

For the third lecture, Rudolf Ziesenhenné will speak on "Judging Begonias," scheduled for March 22.

For the fourth lecture, on April 12, "Judging Bromeliads" will be the subject of a lecture written by Victoria Padilla and delivered by Jean Kerlin.

On April 26, the lecture will be on "Judging Ferns," by Barbara Joe Hoshizaki.

Other lectures in the series will be announced at a later date.

Classes are held at the South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Avenue, South Gate, California. Registration will begin at 7:30 p. m. and lectures will start promptly at 8 p. m.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1 — *B. froebeli* —

Tuberous species discovered in the Andes of Ecuador, near Guaranda on the eastern slope of the Chimborazo. Growth shrubby, 25-30 cm. high. Tubers medium large, hemispherical, chestnut brown. Petioles sessile, 5-8 cm. long, red-fleshy, succulent, almost bare at the base, covered with wooly hairs toward the leaf blade. Leaves asymmetric, elliptic, wavy, and crenate; on top with seven to nine veins, dark green, hairy in some areas, beneath reddish, densely covered with wooly hairs. Flowers are fairly large, brilliant red, orange-red at the periphery 5-7 cm. in diameter. Blooms in winter and grows cool. Tuber should be kept in soil in the pot while resting. Rare and beautiful species not often found. Seeds are from the greenhouse of Michael Kartuz. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2 — *B. Rex hybrids* —

Repeat. From a large and outstanding collection in Santa Barbara, California. Seeds were produced especially for the Seed Fund, and will yield plants of many colors and types. Because they are such complicated hybrids, they will not all come true from seed. One seed pod seldom produces two plants alike.

Rex seeds are touchy about warmth. Bottom heat is desirable. Seeds require from three to four weeks to germinate, sometimes longer. Sow them especially thin, to give the seedlings a chance to grow undisturbed as long as possible before transplanting. Don't try to transplant them until they have produced the second set of true leaves. True characteristics will not be evident until at least the fourth set of adult leaves appear, and sometimes they are not permanent, as they can change color and texture during the first three years. Small or slow growing seedlings should not be destroyed as they may turn out to be beautiful and worthwhile plants. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 3 — *B. vellozoana*

Brazil. Repeat. Sensational species rivaling *B. masoniana* in beauty and popularity. Dark green taffeta leaves accented by light veins and ethereal pink tinges. White flowers, hairy outside, on tall spikes. Will root at the stipules. Therefore easiest begonias to grow from seed. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4 — *B. masoniana* —

Syn *B. 'Iron Cross'*. Introduced in England in 1952 by Mason. Said to be one of the most begonias in cultivation. Leaves are large and puckered, Nile-green, marked with a contrasting bold pattern of brown-red, resembling the German iron cross. Stems are white-hairy and reddish. Flowers are waxy, greenish white, with maroon bristles on the back. At first the plants will resemble the rex type begonia but, according to authorities on the subject, *B. masoniana* bears to relation to this group of plants. Seeds should germinate in four to five weeks under proper conditions and we suggest that ample time be given for plants to appear before you get discouraged and give up. Sometimes a year has elapsed before all seeds from a small packet have germinated. Not many seeds available. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 5 — *B. lecco* —

Medium tall, erect, branched; leaves ovate-pointed, olive-green, silver spotted, silver splashed at the tip, red beneath. Flowers large, deep pink, in drooping, short clusters. Similar to *B. 'Geneva'* but not as tall. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 6 — *B. 'Yates'* —

Pink dwarf cane type. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 7 — *B. 'Corallina Lucerne' x B.*

'Orange rubra' —

25 cents per pkt.

No. 8 — B. Mixed

Many types. No semperflorens. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — B. 'Lucifer' —

Fi hybrid semperflorens. Brilliant scarlet flowers with deep bronzy foliage. Excellent outdoor bedding plant, lasting for many months. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10 — B. 'Calla lily' —

Several types and colors. Not difficult to grow if a few simple rules are followed. Calla lily begonias do not liked to be moved about. Give them a good location and leave them alone. Keep them cool, about 65 degrees by day and slightly less at night. Water sparingly and only when the soil is completely dried out. Protect plants from hot sun in summer, but give them enough light to insure compact growth and bloom. 35 cents per pkt.

OTHER GENERA

Aloe distans —

South Africa. Little, elongated stems with creeping branches set distantly with thick, short, blue-green, scarcely-worted leaves, tipped with a sharp point, the margins with horny teeth. Tubular flowers red, tipped green on tall stems. 25 cents per pkt.

Incarvillea variabilis —

Beautiful fern-like leaf. Blooms similar to slipper gloxinia, cream or combined with delicate pink or orchid. Blooms all summer but is showiest in the fall. 25 cents per pkt.

Emilia flammea —

Sometimes called Cacalia. Showy, erect, one to two feet high, with alternate, more or less elliptic leaves that are narrowed to a winged stalk. Flower heads are loosely clustered, about one-half inch in diameter, without rays, red or scarlet. Popular plant for borders. 25 cents per pkt.

.. Ardisia paniculata —

New foliage is a rosy pink and the berries go through the same colors as the foliage before they turn the jet black of ripeness. Seeds are sown by pressing lightly into soil. Green-

house plant in cold climates. 25 cents per pkt.

Murrea exotica —

Orange jessamine. Handsome, ornamental, evergreen shrub, dense with glossy-green, odd-pinnate leaves and sweetly fragrant, bell-shaped, white flowers in clusters, succeeded by small, vivid red berries. Blooms several times a year. 25 cents per pkt.

Rohdea japonica —

Extremely durable, modest plant with thick rhizome. Basal rosette of oblanceolate, arching, channeled or plaited, thick leathery leaves, densely arranged in two ranks, matte, green. White flowers aroid-like. Fruit is a red berry which holds on many months. Good pot plant. Five seeds for 25 cents.

Veltheimia viridifolia —

Bulbous plant having broad, lance-shaped, bright green leaves with undulate margins. Arching, long, tubular, nodding flowers, yellowish green shading to rusty red, and spotted, tipped green, on long, red-spotted stalk. Winter blooming. Popular house plant. 25 cents per pkt.

Cyclamen mixed —

Versatile plant for greenhouse or shade garden. Easily grown. Seed germinates in three to four weeks at about 65 degrees. 25 cents per pkt.

Clivia —

Belgian hybrids. Bulb-like plant with fleshy roots, with long, waxy, strap-like, arching, dark green leaves, broad, bell-shaped, erect, orange-red flowers, in stiff umbels. Easily grown from seed. Will grow rapidly in loose, fertile soil. Feed at frequent intervals with fish emulsion. Beautiful plant for the shade garden. Five seeds for 25 cents.

Mrs. Florence Gee
Seed Fund Administrator
234 Birch Street
Roseville, California

PATRONIZE BEGONIAN
ADVERTISERS

Index of the Begonian for 1962

This index is divided into four sections. The first is an index of American Begonia Society affairs, the second is a general index of subjects, the third is a list of contributors, and the fourth is a special begonia index. (Begonias listed in Supplement No. 2 of the *Buxton Check List* are not included. See page 89). An asterisk (*) indicates an illustration.

These four pages can be removed from the magazine and filed.

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Buxton Check List of Begonias

The Buxton Check List of Begonias is a "must" for hybridizers to check on previously registered names, and is a valuable reference book for identification and origin.

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THE SPEEDY WAY

By Terry Olmsted

I'm sure many of you haven't tried to grow begonias from seed because it sounded so complicated. It isn't, really. Let's take it in short, quick steps, and your seed will be up before you know it.

First, take a gallon jar with a large mouth and wash it well with hot water, soap, and a little household chlorine bleach (Clorox or similar) to help sterilize it.

Then take some good peat moss and wet it thoroughly with water that has a bit of bleach in it. Squeeze out the peat moss until it crumbles. With the jar laying on its side, spread the peat moss inside it and smooth it down.

Now don't sneeze! From the little paper packet that came from the Seed Fund, place the seeds on a sheet of paper. Aren't they tiny? Under a microscope they are round and some of them are fuzzy. I'll show them to you if you come visiting.

Now roll the paper up from the sides until it will go into the mouth of the jar. Insert it about an inch and blow the seeds gently into the jar. Easy does it or they will all be at the back of the jar. With a little practice, you'll spread them out nicely.

Fill the bottle of a Windex sprayer with warm water and add Semesan or one of the other fungus-controlling preparations. Spray the inside of the jar and the soil with this. It's gentle enough so that if you see any fuzz appearing later, you can spray the seedlings again.

Then place a piece of saran or plastic cloth, that you have also sprayed, over the mouth of the jar, and slip a rubber band over it to hold it tight. As the seedlings come up, you can poke holes in it for air to harden them off for transplanting.

Place the jar in a warm, light spot and watch the seedlings grow.

Start with a hardy type and later work up to the more difficult kinds.

Awards Committee

Appointed

President Carl. E. Naumann has appointed the following members to serve on the Awards Committee:

Mrs. Jean Kerlin, Altadena, California; Chairman, (one year).

Mrs. Alice Schlanert, Santa Ana, California, (one year).

William Meyn, Whittier, California, (two years).

Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Dracut, Massachusetts, (two years).

Mrs. C. E. Cooper, Houston, Texas, (three years).

Herbert Fitch, Sacramento, California, (three years).

PLATYCIERIUM . . .

(Continued from Page 44)

Madagascar, the Comoro Islands, and Mauritius (in the Mascarene Islands), to Mocambique, and other parts of Tropical Africa.

Upon inquiry to authorities in Australia, I have been informed that the so-called *Platynerium alcornone* of that contry is correctly *P. Hillii*! The other two species in Australia are *P. grande*, which is widespread there, and *P. bifurcatum*, to be found only in North Queensland.

Finally, the large species *P. Wilhelminae-Reginae* has been re-located in Northeast New Guinea, and is certainly distinctive from all others in the genus. A comprehensive illustrated article on this will shortly appear in *Tropics Magazine*, to which interested persons are referred.

The confusion in *Platynerium* continues, but at last some definite efforts have been made to straighten out the amazing muddle which exists here. If we can only now convince our commercial dealers in these ferns (and others) of the importance of accurate and correct identification of the specimens they sell, all of us will benefit in our collecting of Stag-Horn Ferns.

THE EARLY YEARS

By Lola E. Fahey
Librarian, A. B. S.

A familiar name — Theodosia Burr Shephard — but did you know that the Ventura Branch of the American Begonia Society was named for this early Ventura resident, who was one of California's first flower and seed growers?

This Branch was formed by Mrs. Katherine Weitz and her husband in 1937. They had been driving ninety miles each way to attend the Long Beach Branch every month, arriving home about 1 a. m.

Theodosia Burr Shephard became a begonia enthusiast in 1870, when some *semperflorens* were given to her. Later she acquired 'Hybrida Multiflora'. Eager to possess other varieties she had heard of in Santa Barbara, she was given cuttings of 'Odorata Alba', 'Edmondsoni', and *evansiana*.

In 1884 she had a small greenhouse with a handful of plants, mostly begonias, planted in tomato cans. Very soon her place was known as one of the show places of Southern California. Many people traveled from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara to see "Mrs. Shephard's famous begonias."

The lath-houses were filled with begonias, great bushes of 'Odorata Alba', 'Gilsoni', *fuchsioides*, *coccinea*, and *robusta* filled the gardens of Ventura, and the town became known as the "Home of the Begonia."

In her catalog in 1891, twenty-four varieties of fibrous begonias and many unnamed rexes were listed. 'Gigantea Rosea' was her novelty for that year.

She shipped plants to England, New Zealand, Australia, Algeria, and Hawaii.

Many were listed in her catalog in 1902 and in her last catalog in 1906, in which she listed sixty-three varieties of fibrous begonias, nine rexes, and nine *semperflorens*, as well as many tuberous-rooted begonias.

Begonia 'Marjorie Daw' is the only

Begonias To Exhibit At International Flower Show

Begonia growers will have an opportunity to display their finest specimens when New York's 46th International Flower Show opens at the New York Coliseum from March 9 to 17.

Sponsored by the Horticultural Society of New York and the New York Florists' Club, the show will feature displays by both professional and amateur growers.

The amateur exhibits, supervised by the Horticultural Society, will include nine sections and forty-six classes for begonias.

Playing an important part in this show, New York's prelude to spring, will be members of the Knickerbocker Branch of the American Begonia Society working under the chairmanship of Margaret Sessa. Other begonia growers, from various areas near New York, will have entries, too.

The overall show theme will be "Gardens Are For Living." In addition to more than forty trophies and medals to be awarded, there will be special certificates and cash prizes in almost all of the 249 show classes.

Begonias on Display in Houston

The Texastar Branch of the American Begonia Society will present an exhibit of begonias in the city-wide show, "Blossom Time Houston," in the Garden Center of Houston, Texas, on March 30 and 31. An educational exhibit of seed growing will also be shown, with seed from the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

one of Mrs. Shephard's begonias that still bears the name she gave it. Eventually all of her collection was lost to root rot and all other plants about town were lost, and Ventura ceased to be known as the "Home of the Begonia".

From *The Begonian* for December, 1941, and July, 1937.

SOUTH BAY TO PRESENT SPRING ORCHID SHOW

Featuring the theme, "Wonderful World of Orchids," the South Bay Orchid Society will stage its third annual Spring Orchid Show on Saturday and Sunday, March 9 and 10. Co-sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, the show will be held in the Alondra Park Community Building, 3535 Redondo Beach Boulevard (between Crenshaw and Hawthorne Blvds.), Lawndale, California.

Open to the public without charge, this two-day display has been viewed by more than 10,000 persons each year, according to Loren Paulsohn, Show Chairman.

Show hours will be from 1 to 10 p. m. on Saturday, and from 11 a. m. to 7 p. m. on Sunday.

A special two-hour period from 9 to 11 a. m. on Sunday has been set aside for camera enthusiasts.

AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW IN LONG BEACH

The Long Beach African Violet Society will hold its annual show in Norway Hall, 681 Redondo Avenue, Long Beach, California, on Saturday and Sunday, March 6 and 7.

Theme of the show will be "Suddenly it's Spring."

The show will be open to the public from 1 p. m. to 9 p. m. on Saturday, and from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. on Sunday. Admission will be 25 cents.

Mrs. Dorothy Powell, President of the Society, will be the Show Chairman.

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INGLEWOOD TO HAVE AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

"Violets for Memories" is the theme of the ninth annual African Violet Show which opens to the public on March 29 and 30 at the Professional Women's Clubhouse, 820 Java Street, one block east of South La Brea near Arbor Vitae Street, in Inglewood, California. The event will be sponsored by the African Violet Society of Inglewood.

New varieties of African violets, on display for the first time, will be featured. Outstanding plants, chosen for perfection of form and color of blooms, will be exhibited.

Prize-winning plants will receive trophies including Sweepstakes, Queen of the Show, Princess of the Show, Council Award, and Novice Award. A trophy will also be given for the best African violet exhibition by a member who grows fewer than twenty-five plants in the home.

There will be a good selection of plants on sale, as well as pots, fertilizers, soil mixes, insecticides, and other supplies.

Mrs. Lillian Gisbrecht, president, and Mrs. Dorothy Powell, show chairman, are in charge of show preparations.

The show will be open Friday from 1 p. m. to 9 p. m. and Saturday from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. Admission will be 25 cents.

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CALENDAR

March 5—Inglewood Branch: Charles Monagian will be the guest speaker, featuring a program on the things we should be doing in our gardens and greenhouses during March.

March 7—Westchester Branch: Sylvia Leatherman will be the guest speaker. Her topic, which will be new and interesting, will be "The Awakening of Spring."

March 7—Whittier Branch: Jean Kerlin, of Altadena, will speak on "Spring Increase of Begonias," and explain various methods of propagating begonias.

March 8—Judging class at South Gate City Auditorium. Subject will be "Principles of Exhibiting and Judging Fuchsias" by Muriel L. Merrell.

March 8—San Gabriel Valley Branch: A representative from the Southern California Greenhouse Manufacturing Co. will discuss greenhouse and lath-house care and maintenance. There will also be illustrated slides and a demonstration of controls.

March 14—Orange County Branch: Pot-luck dinner at 6 p. m. with the Branch furnishing ham. The speaker will be Rudolf Ziesenhenné, who will speak on "Things to Look For in Grooming Plants for Show."

March 22—Judging class at South Gate City Auditorium. "Judging Begonias" by Rudolf Ziesenhenné.

March 22—Rendondo Area Branch: Whoopee Party. Everyone attending should bring a plant or gadget. Fifty cents charge per person.

March 27—Glendale Branch: Program will be given by Mr. Frank Paucker, featuring slides of begonias and ferns, also pictures he has made on various trips.

April 2—Inglewood Branch: Presidents' Dinner at regular meeting place. Speaker to be delightful and

witty Jean Kerlin on the subject, "Begonias Hilarious." Theme of the program will be "The Gay Ninety." Special entertainment plus a delicious dinner.

Correction

The award-winning plant test-grown by Mrs. Korts, as reported in the minutes of the November meeting of the National Board which were published in the January issue of *The Begonian*, was a plant from the gardens of Percy and Ruth Merry, The Merrys of Sunrise Knoll, 109 Brookside Road, Needham, Massachusetts.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Winifred D. Caseley, of Long Beach, California, passed away December 21, 1962, after a long illness. As a member of the Long Beach Parent Chapter, she was an active worker. She was president for two years and vice-president during 1962.

Her husband, Dr. Caseley, was an early president of the chapter, serving in 1939.

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AT NURSERIES AND GARDEN STORES

Report of National Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order by President Carl E. Naumann on January 28. Twenty-five officers, chairmen, and representatives responded to roll call.

The Treasurer, Earle E. Budd, reported as follows: balance \$1084.73, income \$2326.41, disbursements \$1235.59, transferred to reserve fund \$338.74, balance \$1836.81.

The report from Florence Gee for Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund was read as follows: From December 24 to January 28, balance \$100.00, income \$79.58, expenses \$19.58, remitted to Treasurer \$60.00, balance in revolving fund \$100.00.

Dorothy Waddington, Membership Secretary, reported 91 new members and 295 renewals; monies received \$1092.48, which included \$100.00 advance payment from the Knickerbocker Branch for cultural bulletins; expenses \$47.50. *Begonians* mailed - 2,318 in December and 2,205 in January. Mrs. Waddington read a letter from Canada and one from Australia, both expressing pleasure in membership in the Society and with *The Begonian*.

The report of the Advertising Manager, Ruby Budd, was given as follows: receipts \$104.30, accounts receivable \$58.00.

Bert Slatter, Show Chairman, reported that the Society will put in a display in the World Flower and Garden Show at the Pan Pacific Auditorium from February 22 to March 3. He asked for plants for this display.

Lola Fahey, Librarian, reported that she had received sixty letters requesting from one to six books. Most of these requests were not from the Los Angeles area. Orders will be filled as the books become available. Persons returning books should note that there is a cheaper postal rate for books. Eight *Buxton Check Lists* have been sold.

Roy Joyce, Slide Librarian, reported four requests for slides. These cannot be filled if the slides are not returned promptly each time they are borrowed.

Mrs. Korts reported on the judging school. The dates of each lecture and the names of speakers will be announced in *The Begonian*. Mrs. Perz moved that the American Begonia Society advance \$50.00 toward expenses and that the charge be \$1.25 per lecture. The motion was seconded by George Schlanert and carried. There are now for sale the twelve lectures of the 1960 course for \$8.00, and the five lectures of the 1961 course for \$5.00.

Mrs. Korts submitted to the Treasurer a check for \$7.50 for bound *Begonians*

sold, and a check for \$13.00 for lectures sold.

The trophy show case at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, which is now the property of the San Gabriel Valley Branch, will be dedicated at a future date to the American Begonia Society. It was voted that a card be placed in the show case, giving information about the San Gabriel Valley Branch, which holds its meetings at the Arboretum.

John Thieben, reporting for the South Coast Botanic Gardens, said that his committee was considering a joint project with the fuchsia society and the fern society to install a lath-house. A price of \$656.00 for a lath-house 16 feet by 24 feet was quoted. Mr. Thieben will investigate further.

President Naumann appointed Mrs. Lester H. Fox of Dracut, Massachusetts, on the Awards Committee, and Mrs. Percy I. Merry of Needham, Massachusetts, to be Eastern Editor. These appointments were approved by the Board.

Vice-President Howard Small reported on the die for the Alfred D. Robinson medal. After ten years, the die will require some repair but is still obtainable. With an order for one dozen medals at \$12.50 each, or an order for six medals at \$15.00 each, the die will cost \$45.00, or the die may be purchased for \$60.00. Since there is no need for a supply of medals at this time, Mrs. Lee moved that the die be bought for \$60.00. Seconded by Mrs. Perz, the motion carried.

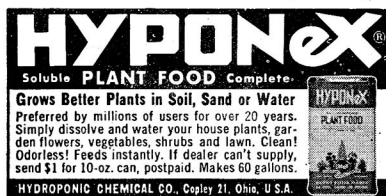
It was moved by Past President Schlanert that the Editor be authorized to increase the magazine by four pages whenever material warrants. Seconded by Mr. Slatter, the motion carried.

The following Branches reported: Glendale, Inglewood, North Long Beach, Orange County, Redondo Area, San Gabriel Valley, Westchester, Whittier, Alfred D. Robinson, and San Miguel.

Margaret B. Taylor
Secretary.

COPY DEADLINE

All material for publication in THE BEGONIAN must be received by the Editor not later than the fifth of the month preceding month of publication.



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Branch Directory

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy., Kent, England

BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Miss Synthia Webber, Secy.
5 Hillside Ave., Bedford, Mass.

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Members' Residences
Mrs. Ruth Cook, Secy.
923 S. Edgefield, Dallas 8, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School
Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California
Miss Dorothy F. Osburn, Secy.
5015 Cochrane Ave., Oakland 18, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Daisy Morrow, Secy.
2821 Musgrove Ave., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
La Verne Community Bldg.
2039 Third St., La Verne
Mrs. Arma J. Shull, Secy.
313 W. 2nd St., San Dimas, Calif.

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:30 p.m.
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central
Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle, Secy.
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

2nd Saturday, 1:00 p.m. (except Dec. & Jan.)
Seacoast Hall, 3rd and E St., Encinitas, Calif.
Mrs. Charles Calloway
1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.
Hoquiam Public Library or
Messingale and Rosenear Music Store
Aberdeen, Washington
Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Wash.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. Adolph Belser, Corr. Secy.
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Georgina Barton, Secy.
2821 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. V. O. Harman, Secy.
306 Cody, Houston 22, Texas

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Lololet, Calif.
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., American Legion Hall
3208 West 85th St., Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Elyse M. Willick, Secy.
13214 Merkel Ave., Paramount, Calif.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.
157 West 58th St., New York
Murray D. Morrison, Secy.
2109 Matthews Ave., New York 62, N.Y.

LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, Members' Homes, 10 a.m.
Mrs. M. F. Scribner, Corr. Secy.
1422 Marfa, Dallas 16, Texas

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Linden Hall
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Vera Ohlson, Secy.
1925 Maine Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Thomas D. Day, Secy.
4056 Hollywood St., Baton Rouge, La.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Ray Rosengren, Secy.
5530 N.W. 21 Ave., Miami, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 1 p.m.
World War Memorial Bldg., Linwood and Paseo
Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. R. H. Hyatt, Secy.
6812 Hunter St., Raytown 33, Mo.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.
3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach
Mrs. Rebecca Anthony, Secy.
153 Ellis St., Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Daisy G. Austin, Secy.
1510 Kimberly Ave., Anaheim, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on Call, Homes of Members
Col. C. M. Gale, Secy.
40 N. San Rafael, Pasadena 2, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes
Mrs. Anne W. Stiles, Secy.
R.D. No. 2, Box 43B, E. Delaware Trail,
Medford, N. J.

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each Month
Lincoln School Recreation Center
Ernest and Vail Sts., Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Margaret Buell, Secy.
1441 - 21st St., Manhattan Beach, Calif.

RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members
Miss Ruth Harrington, Secy.
372 Lloyd Ave., Providence, R.I.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Shamel Park
3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Lillian Maddox, Secy.
1609 W. Lewis St., San Diego 3, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
Constance D. Bower, Corr. Secy.
1609 W. Lewis St., San Diego 3, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
Elmer A. Thomas, Secy.
913 Sonoma Way, Sacramento 22, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall
2717 University Ave., San Diego
Leah Jones, Secy.
3734 - 40th St., San Diego 5, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Golden Gate Park
9th Ave. and Lincoln Way
Lilian A. Beach, Secy.
3006 Castro St., San Francisco 12, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Lillian Hale, Secy.
113 N. Ardmore Drive, San Gabriel, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.
Andy Conely, Secy.
19 East Cresta Way, Chula Vista, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta Del Sol
Elnora Schmidt, Secy.
3346 Calle Cita, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Meeting locations will vary; call the secretary at
SUnset 2-2234
Miss Bernice Moore, Secy.
2842 West 59th St., Seattle 7, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Barlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Claremont Morris, Secy.
539 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.

SMOKY VALLEY RANCH

3rd Thursday of each Month
Mrs. Robert Nease, Secy.
410 South Phillips, Salina, Kansas

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Burbank School
319 B. St., Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Evangeline Muller, Corr. Secy.
36937 Cherry St., Newark, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy.
South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.
West Side State Bank, Fort Worth, Texas
Mrs. E. E. Flippo, Secy.
1916 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

1st Tuesday Night in Members' Homes
E. Weaver,
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

TEXASTAR BRANCH

1st Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas
Mrs. J. L. Linkenhoger, Secy.
45 Caroline Trail, Houston 24, Texas

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club
8020 Alverston St., Los Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. Walter W. Pease, Jr., Secy.
8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. O. S. Lash, Secy.
1228 Oklahoma Drive, Pittsburgh 16, Pa.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive
Anne L. Rose, Secy.
1225 Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. Griscom Bettle, Jr., Secy.
331 Station Road, Wynnwood, Pa.



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