

The Begonian

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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From The Editor—

We are adding a few more pages to this issue to make up for the 4 we had to take last month for the show schedule. So many articles are coming in from a great number of new correspondents that we thought you might enjoy their comments and ideas.

The cover picture is part of the lovely garden of our President Mabel Corwin. This is the approach to her three full greenhouses of beautiful rexes and cane begonias. Some of them will be at our coming National Show. (cover photo by Ralph Corwin)

Two letters to Mr. Alsop we have included in this issue which should be of interest to all begonia growers. We have to continually remember that most of our readers are new in the field of begonia growing and according to our mail enjoy the non-technical articles.

Show time is around the corner, not only for the National but also for many of our Branches. Support them for they need all the help you and your friends can give.

For a long time the Fluorescent Tube Service has been buying regular ads. They have all sizes of tubes for tube houses. You ought to see Mrs. Corwin's! They fill a great place in the patio garden. Patronize these good folks in Los Angeles. (see their ad)

Edna Korts, our Business Manager, will have an article on cane type begonias in the September issue. Also an article from Marie Turner on her favorite begonias. These top authorities have done so much for the ABS and it will be good to see articles from them again.

In November you will have a new editor along with many new faces on the board. We know the coming editor will do a great job!

From The President—

It is rewarding to know that many members are continuing to use the facilities of our Library, Seed Fund, Slide Library and Speaker's Bureau, Research, Round Robin Activities, Nomenclature, Identification, and related American Begonia Society services. Our splendid Chairmen in charge are wonderful, dedicated people, and most deserving of our thankful appreciation for their efforts. It is my sincere hope that new members and branches will avail themselves of these services which our society sponsors.

A few members have written to criticize us for using space in the Begonian for the minutes of the board meetings. Then others have written asking for more detailed information about the business affairs of the society. Some say the minutes are the first thing they read when they receive their magazine. I do wish we could know what are the wishes of the majority.

Please mark your ballots and exercise your right to vote. Perhaps you feel your vote isn't important, since there is only one candidate for each office. But you have no idea how good it will make these people feel to have your vote of confidence.

SOPHIE CECIL

By BELVA NELSON KUSLER
Fredrick, Wisconsin

Sophie Cecile came very close to not being introduced at all. My husband didn't think I should name and distribute it because it did not fill the ideal I was seeking of small, free-blooming window-sill plants. I continued to feel that it would make a good background plant for greenhouses and for outdoor growing in California and Florida, as well as a specimen plant for the house, as it grew so vigorously. I thought anyone could grow it, even under conditions less than optimum.

I was sending some plants to be tested for registration and decided to enclose a cutting of this cultivar with its cut-leaves and attractive coloring. I wanted someone else to grow it before I decided definitely to reject it. After a time the grower wrote to me that the cutting had grown into a beautiful plant. She was very enthusiastic about it and advised me to name and introduce it. I did — Sophie Cecile.

I had saved this plant as the best of a group of more than fifty seedlings resulting from crossing Lenore Olivier on *sceptrum*, a specie. All of the seedlings were strong, some large, some medium, several blooming most of the year, all definitely pointed-leaved and silver-splashed. Using these parents one might well have guessed that a large plant could result, though Lenore Olivier has small parents, Elaine and *dichroa*. But I wanted to see if I could combine the quality of leaf of *sceptrum*, with its silver markings and deep lobes, with the free-blooming characteristics of Lenore Oliver.

In growing *sceptrum*, if my plant was bushy and the leaves beautiful, it didn't bloom. Only when the stalks got long and gawky, the leaves smaller and chlorotic from starvation, did it come into bloom, and then it blossomed continuously. In spite of this performance, it seemed to me to have

possibilities for hybridizing because of its leaf-structure and the unusual glistening particles on the leaf-surface.

I'll give a quick description of Sophie Cecile so that those of you who haven't seen it can visualize it. It's a tall cane, branching, with many stems coming from the soil, quickly growing to an arresting specimen. The leaves are large, dark green with red beneath, deeply lobed, with a finely serrate and ruffled edge, having large silver spots between indented veins. The flowers, rose-pink in sizable clusters, are typical of cane-stemmed begonias.

I am loathe to introduce a hybrid that any of my family doesn't think is worthy, though in this case I'm grateful for having done so. My husband says that this is one time that the old



adage of "Father knows best" failed. But his judgement on the matter is understandable. With Sophie Cecile standing among hundreds of my other hybrids and species filled with blossoms, he thought it a "plain Jane". It wasn't a dainty dwarf, tailor-made for the small window-sill.

One of the more difficult features of hybridizing is that one is obliged to reject thousands of plants, knowing full-well that among them are sure to be some that would prove to be "favorites" of other growers. The penalty of my chosen isolation is that rarely, of those who see my plants, is there a begonia fancier. It's sometimes valuable to get a consensus of opinion.

Note: Seed named Sophie Cecile is being distributed. I do not know who produced this seed, or if it is Sophie Cecile crossed with another begonia or upon itself, but because it is a cultivar it is unlikely that it will produce Sophie Cecile plants in any event. For those of you who buy this seed, thinking that you will be raising plants identical to the original, I regret your disappointment. However, if you have purchased it with the idea of enjoying a surprise, you may well get some beautiful plants with much variation. I would be interested to know what results you get.

**THE
BEGONIAN
NEWSLETTERS . . .**

Did you see Flower and Garden for July? A great article on "Foliage or flowers, Begonia is the answer" . . . From "The Knicker News" of the Knickerbocker Branch is this idea on growing Rexes. "Remember that patience is of the utmost importance in growing Rex Begonias from seed. Here are a few mixes for use in starting the seed: plain milled sphagnum; milled sphagnum and perlite half and half by volume; Cornell mix with out any fertilizer; vermiculite. All containers used for germinating seed should have drainage holes. Never use containers that do not have provisions for drainage."

The East Bay Branch of the ABS reports that "with cold weather we have been having, makes it necessary to watch our plants for mildew. There are several sprays on the market and they all will burn blossoms. The one found the least apt to burn is Faltan. Use about 1½ good teaspoons per gallon of water."

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"The Begonia Leaf" from the Sacramento Branch suggests "a mulch of leaves, sawdusts, or moss will help to hold the moisture while allowing slow evaporation, thus keeping the plants cooler." In the East when you use any type of sawdust be sure nitrogen is added, otherwise the sawdust draws the nitrogen from the soil causing leaf yellowing and dwarfed seedlings of all types. In the West we have several products all prepared. One called Big R, is the only one composted and leached for one year, ready for seeding, soil preparation, and mulching. Tests show it lasting in the shade garden as a mulch up to 4 years!

★ ★ ★

The Seattle Begonia Society reports in the "Begonia Chatter", "We should all grow some type of fern as they are excellent plants for backdrops and companion plants for all the shade loving flowers." Mrs. Dorothy Behrends and Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman, well known in our Begonia Branches and for articles they have written for the Begonian, have just published a book on ferns called "Learn of Ferns we Grow."

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Idea for raising "monies" for a club. In 1949 a cook book was compiled by the old Hollywood Branch of the ABS. 48 pages on a spiral binder. They were famous for their pot luck dinners and as a result a book! You might do the same by memographing or offset. Fun going back and looking at recipes from Mary Hazel Drummond, Dorothy Behrends, Maria Wilkes, Susie Coup, Zella Otto, and many others. Try it in your branch!

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Your area no doubt has some very fine local garden magazines that should get plugs in your own branch. Perhaps you should review them frequently for members who cannot attend meetings. In the California area we must say hat's off to "California Garden" in its 56th volume! In July issue great articles on so many things with special interest to shade lovers on camellias, and one on gardenias.

(Continued on Page 160)

BEGINNERS LUCK

by HELEN MATSUBU
Fruitland, Idaho

I joined the Begonia Society in March of this year and upon joining received an envelope of mixed B. seeds. So many seedlings came up that I filled several containers and now they stand about three inches high. Many of the seedlings seem to be in the Semp. class.

I have a built-in water heater and found it is an ideal place to start my seeds. Even more so than a heating cable, since my seed flats do not come into direct contact with any heating element. Also the heat is evenly distributed under the seed pans. B. Lubbersii was started on top of the counter above the water heater and about 10 days to 2 weeks later my seeds sprouted. Semp. take even less time, about a week.

Having no light system at all, I have to depend on the light source from my living room window and am having quite a bit of success with my plants. I do have trouble with the leaves drying on the edges from lack of humidity. I hope to obtain a lighting system of some kind before the cloudy days of fall and winter arrive.

The medium I use for my seeds is one part each of garden loam, sand, and leaf mold sifted together, then sterilized in my oven. I have noticed that after soil has been sterilized in this way, water does not soak through quickly, so I water the medium and let it soak in well before using it for my seed pans. I was wondering if others had trouble with sterilized soil. (Like Mr. Phillip Seitner of Chicago, Illinois, I am one of those isolated people and must rely on the information in the Begonian). Then a fine layer of sifted milled sphagnum goes on the top. I put three different types of seed with about the same germinating time in one container. Then a plastic bag goes over the containers.

After sprouting occurs I use a large

plastic bread box to put the seedlings in until they are large enough to handle. If one does not have a greenhouse or lives in a drier area this seems to be a good way to keep the humidity contained in a small area. The seedlings are on their third set of true leaves. As I live on a farm and work out during the summer and fall and am busy canning and freezing, this method keeps my seedlings in good health until I can get to them. I only have to check them occasionally for moisture. Gloxinia and Rex begonia seedlings also seem to thrive this way.

I have not given them any fertilizer as yet, but when I do use one it is a whale fertilizer. My Tuberous Begonias seem to respond to it very well. I have a Tuberous Begonia that has leaves nine inches across and a little over a foot long. They are in the ballerina class.

I've grown outdoor bedding plants for a number of years but growing begonias has been a most rewarding experience, though I must say it takes a great deal of patience. It becomes a challenge for the grower as soon as the first seed envelopes are opened. I feel I am doing quite well with my beginners luck.

BUXTON CHECK LIST OF BEGONIAS

A reference book for identification and origin of begonias.

An aid to hybridizers to check on previously registered names.

Price \$6.00 (In Calif. add 24¢ sales tax)

Order from:

Mrs. Terry Olmsted, Librarian
1926 E. Mission Road
Fallbrook, California 92028

SO SAY THE EXPERTS

By RUTH PEASE

PROPAGATION

This is a continuation of the 'Propagation' article which appeared in the April Begonian:

Sponge Rok is very good for *cuttings*; sand is considered poor; and watch the watering when using vermiculite.

Another idea presented to us is the use of material that you have already used; the theory being that new material is hard to grow cuttings in.

Each person has his own way, and here are some of the suggestions given us on propagating slips and cuttings. They do not have to be large. It is better to have cuttings with three or four nodes; taking off all the leaves with exception of a small piece of a leaf. Put about two nodes into the prop material. Place them down so that there is no pocket of air and press the soil around them.

Put your cuttings in a cellophane bag so that they will not dry out. This is not only a good idea when you are pruning, but also when you are sharing cuttings.

Leaf cuttings — Leave the leaf cutting sitting up just a little with about $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ stem inserted in the prop material. Here we have learned to tear our cuttings and not to cut them with a knife or shears. By tearing the leaf for cuttings, the plant cells will not drip their moisture. Do not lay the leaves down. Take leaf portions; anything with a good vein. Plants will grow from all of these cuttings.

When little leaves come up from a leaf cutting, spread the small leaves, grouping about three together and plant them. They will take off better than planting the whole little mass of plantlets. This speaker takes the leaf and cuts most of the outer edge and uses a stem cutting about 4" long. She lays the stem on the side barely in the medium and plantlets come from the stem as well as from the sinus.

On *rex* or *rhizomatous cuttings*, wipe off the hairs on the stem before planting the leaves. Cut the excess off around the leaf itself and take that part and each wedge or part will grow. Make clean cuttings. Do not break them off. This damages the tissues we are advised by another eminent speaker. Personally, I am willing to try any of the methods suggested by these experts. They are the first to tell us that if we have a successful method of our own, use it.

Rhizome cuttings — Every node of the rhizome can be slipped. Use a razor and cut off at each node.

The *cane* and *hairy fibrous begonias* do not propagate from a leaf. They do better from *stem cuttings*. At a joint, use the leaf with the bud offset. Use a full cutting instead of cutting up into several cuttings if you want to get a bigger plant.

Soft cuttings of *canes* (side shoots) are best for cuttings.

Hammer cuttings — Use rootone on both ends and lay the cutting down in the prop medium. Soil should be so that you can squeeze moisture out of it or else have something that will absorb the excess water. Label the prop beds.

On bedding begonias, take the bottom new portion of the stem (two eyes) for propagation. Another suggestion, when taking cuttings of *semps*, is to use side shoots where flowers have not grown. Do not plant the cutting straight up. Tip them so that the eyes are just barely above the soil. Do not bury them too deeply.

Hybridizing

It has been suggested that we take new species when hybridizing so that we may keep up the market of having new begonias in the plant world. Usually, the male plant gives the color of the leaf and the flower; and the female plant is likely to give the shape of the leaf to the new hybrid.

You can cross canes with rhizomatous and rex with rex, et cetera. Many interesting begonias have been brought to us by giving *thought* to what we would like to achieve in making our crosses.

Be sure to make a record of your crosses, listing the female plant first and the male plant last.

Put a string and label on each seed pod. Better seed is formed if the plant is kept on the dry side. Set the pod in a dry, warm place with a label on it, and be sure to put the name on it whenever you plant the seed and wherever the seedlings are transplanted.

Fertilizing

The following are some of the suggestions given to us by the experts when they spoke of fertilizing our begonias: When pinching and pruning begonias, you must feed also. Each time you water, put in a trace of instant fertilizer.

Wait from January to April for full watering and fertilizing. Leave plants alone until they leaf out on their own, and then water and fertilize. Don't syringe plants at night. Flood plants and then fertilize.

In recent years, we have heard that some are feeding their plants $\frac{1}{4}$ strength once a week all year so that the plants have something to sustain them even at their resting or dormant period.

Soil Mix

Soil mixes prescribed by the experts are varied. Here are some of the suggestions given to us by them. $\frac{1}{4}$ fine sand and $\frac{3}{4}$ fir bark for begonias in baskets; $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ for pots and tubs was the mix discussed by one authority. This is if you are trying the U. C. Mix method. (To obtain the U. C. System Manual No. 23, send \$1.00 to Agricultural Publications, University of California, Berkeley, 4, California.

Avocado and eucalyptus leaves have been suggested as being the best source of leaf mold to be used in our mixes. Still another source, ceanothus leaves, has been recommended by a well-known grower.

We have been told that soil is the

product of the climate. Too much salt in the soil causes plants to wilt in hot weather when the soil is still moist. Additional advice given to us by this authority is to mix phosphorus into the soil when potting because it is the only time the plant will really get any phosphorus. The plant will not get much from fertilizing with phosphorus.

The use of a soil mix composed of 50% peat and 50% sponge rock was recommended; however, this would mean a good fertilizing program would have to be followed.

An excellent grower has found the use of one part Blue Whale Peat Moss and two parts leaf mold to be very satisfactory in growing begonias and ferns.

BEGONIAN NEWSLETTERS . . .

(Continued from Page 157)

Shade gardens or not, most of us grow other things too. Check the new little book "What every rose grower should know" by Lewis and Allen, 1965, by American Rose Society. Great handbook . . . and if you want to know all about plant names, meanings and stories read "A Gardener's Book of plant Names" by A. W. Smith, 1963, by Harper and Row Publishers.

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From the "San Francisco Begonian", top newsletter for the SF Branch, is this paragraph warranting the attention of everyone. "Hyacinth Smith has just finished the Branch's annual distributions of flats of seedlings to various charitable institutions in the Bay area. Hyacinth has been handling this program for the last 8 years. She and Hal go down to Capitola and get the seedlings from, here's that wonderful name again, Pat Antonelli and bring them up to Hyacinth's greenhouse. Usually they are picked up by such as the Shriner's Hospital for Crppled Children and the Lighthouse for the Blind, etc. We are sure that the lovely flowers do so much to brighten up many a lonely child, as well as those less fortunate than us".

ABS Convention
September 4, 5, 6, 1965

"Dear Mr. Alsop"

Dear Mr. Alsop:

I'm not one of the "more learned and expert members", but have had success with various begonias — even prize winning; ribbon winning success, just growing on window sills, or plant stands, in my house.

Among those that do well for me are:

Bow-Nigra	Any of the "Semps"
Bunchi	Joe Hayden
Calla Lily	Lucerna
Erythrophylla	Scharffiana
Erythrophylla-Helix	Sir Percy
	South Park

I enjoy B. Cubensis as a trailer, also Limminghei. Can't seem to get B. Marjorie Daw going.

These are old named begonias, but do beautifully in the house without much humidity. Of course I think when plants are all together there is a small amount of humidity given off. At times in the middle of winter when the heater is going steadily, only cooling down at night to about 65 degrees, I place a large bowl of water among the plants on the sill. It is noticeable how evaporation takes place over night.

How would you like to join our "Round Robin Flight #12"? Sponsored by American Begonia Society? It will give you lots of ideas on "what", "how", and "where" with begonias. I'd love to have you, says me, as chairman of the Flight.

Here's to growing success.

Cordially yours,
Anne Stiles
Medford, New Jersey

★ ★ ★

Dear Mr. Alsop:

When the eighteen members of the William Penn Branch of ABS met this month they were interested in contributing the following list of begonias which have done well for some of us, which we feel will be easy to grow indoors and to have exceptionally interesting and/or beautiful foliage.

Since we live in the suburbs of Philadelphia and Wilmington our growing conditions may be much like yours. Few of us have greenhouses, some have heated, enclosed porches but the majority raise their plants in houses run for the comfort of people; the problems of too much dry heat and the difficulty of getting the air humid enough is familiar to all of us.

The hirsute group stands house conditions well as a rule since hairy leaves are often found in hot, dry locations in nature; B. Scharffi is one of the best, a universal favorite which blooms intermittently during the year but relies on the lovely texture and beautiful coloring of its leaves for its popularity; B. viaude is a strong grower which provides height in this group; B. metallica is another old favorite with great vigor and fine coloring; B. prunifolia provides foliage of a rich, dark red and does well in a north window; many begonias have better color in the leaves and fewer flowers when grown in north light; B. Ramirez can be grown upright in a large pot but often the stems are lax and the strong growing plant sprawls over a large area, in either case the leaves are very plushy in texture and of a delicate and attractive color; among the medium sized begonias B. cucullafera has very pale green leaves which looks velvety and are covered with adventitious leaves which never fail to catch the eye.

Among the rhizomatous begonias which are especially tough for the thickened stems hold reserves of food and moisture there is an enormous diversity in size, color and texture ranging from Fisher's ricinifolia which practically can't be killed, has large light green leaves, petioles with coarse red hairs and a general air of great vigor all the way to B. Boweri, the begonia with the eyelashes, a fascinating and enchanting miniature which flourishes if it likes you and fades away if it isn't suited; B. Jo Hayden & B. Black Knight are fine dark leaved plants with distinctive foliage and great style; B. Ricky Minter has round

bronze leaves with very prominent sinuses, as well as curling themselves the leaves have ruffled edges. This is a superb plant and should be trained from youth to be either upright or sprawling as the rhizomes become very brittle as they age; no collection of easy to grow begonias would be complete without several representatives of the erythrophylla group, *B. erythrophylla* is one of the oldest known hybrids and such a good one that after nearly two hundred years it is still obtainable commercially; All this group are good as small plants or grown on for years as specimens. This type has round leaves, a dark green polished surface and is not fussy as to where it is grown, *B. erythrophylla helix* has leaves which curl, *B. Feasti* is an erythrophylla with ruffled edges. Mrs. Townsend is another begonia which is easily grown and makes handsome and undemanding specimens; among the best of the medium sized rhizomatous begonias are *B. Maphil* with strongly patterned leaves of bronze and chartreuse, *B. Beatrice Haddrell* with dark leaves with light green along the veins, *B. fuscomaculata* whose medium green foliage is marked with chocolate spots; Any of the *manicata* group add interest to any group; the most fascinating to me are the true truly miniature rhizomatous which fit on a narrow window sill or on a shelf, try *B. Boweri*, *B. Bowjo*, *B. rotundifolia* and *B. Mazae*.

With so many round leaves and low growing plants you will want some tall growing ones and if you have the room there are plenty of good ones to get; try *B. Lucerna*, an old favorite and a handsome high note, *B. Sophie Cecile* which is a new hybrid with great vigor which has good oak-shaped leaves strikingly marked with silver (if by accident this plant is broken off at the root just wait a few weeks and a new one will be apparent), Mrs. Wallow whose fine wavy leaves cast a red glow, a most unusual begonia is Mrs. Fred Scripps whose handsome foliage is silvery-green and which will grow both tall and buxom.

As is natural with any genus with over twelve hundred species and innumerable hybrids there is a class called 'miscellaneous' and many charmers are to be found here; most of this class is apt to be free blooming but *B. venosa* with its pleated leaves thickly covered with matted white hairs is good foliage plant, so is *B. macrocarpa pubescens* with small red hairy leaves and a drooping manner of growth, *B. foliosa* which somewhat resembles a fern in appearance and needs the same growing conditions of shade and dampness makes a pleasant change in shape; *B. Paul Bruant* is a plant with personality carrying its elegant leaves with such an air that any of this variety are outstanding.

One of the easily found hanging begonias is *B. Limminghei* which was a valuable sport found in a Belgian greenhouse, it grows easily and quickly, since it blooms freely it must have some sun. Marjorie Daw is an even handsomer plant which is worth hunting for; *B. Ellen Dee* (a hybrid of *B. Limminghei* and *B. dichroa*) is very fine but in my experience and that of some of my friends is not a dependable plant; *B. scandens* is a small leaved plant which is reported to cling to a wall, for me it grows very drooping from a pot; *B. dichroa* is a drooping plant which grows slowly but it is covered with quantities of large orange flowers nearly all the time so must have sun; some begonias which are not truly drooping types nevertheless develop lax stems and give the same effect, *B. Schariffi*, *B. macrocarpa pubescens* and some of the rhizomatous have done this for me.

One difficulty in assembling a good collection of begonias in the east is the scarcity of places where you can buy many varieties, and where the sellers can identify the plants and give you cultural advice. If you order begonias from the middle or from the far west where you can find all the varieties that you might want you will have to be very careful to see that your order is shipped by air mail in the spring or fall to avoid freezing

or frying. Even then you have to plan to be home for two weeks or more so that you can be certain of opening the package as soon as it is delivered. There are a few places in the east where you can order begonias from good growers but alas only in two inch pots; here the best thing to do is to order in the spring and grow your plants on during the best growing season. The North Street Greenhouses, Danielson, Merry Gardens, Camden, Maine and Michael Kartuz, Wilmington, Mass. are very good. If you are in the vicinity visit any or all of them for they sometimes have extra plants which are too large to ship. The eastern Branches of ABS exchange plants and cuttings at their meetings. It was in order that begonia growers along the Atlantic seaboard might meet, exchange plants and share their experiences that the Begonia Party was started some years ago. By now there have been meetings in September in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. We all bring plants for sale to help defray the expenses of the party and to help distribute begonias more widely; sometimes we have old varieties which are no longer in general circulation, sometimes there will be rooted cuttings of some of the newer ones; always there has been a good selection of well grown plants to start the house off for the winter with attractive window sills. This year the Begonia Party will be held in our home in Paoli on Saturday, September 18th. From nine to eleven guests arrive bringing plants and to look at the garden. At eleven the Party opens with a display of Dichroa and her hybrids, the sale starts and lasts until a box lunch is served. Besides our home grown begonias, Mr. Kartuz will have a station wagon of his lovely plants for sale; this will bring some New England plants to Pennsylvania. In the afternoon Mr. Kartuz will speak to us on the growing of begonias which he does so well.

We would be delighted to have you join us and you might find something that would appeal to you. Route 40 to Wilmington and then route 202 to

Paoli would bring you within a quarter of a mile of our house; as you approach Paoli there will be signs out to guide guests.

Hoping that this short list may be of some help to you,

Yours sincerely,
Marian W. De Coursey
Mrs. Geo. E. De Coursey

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Gertrude White of Huntington Park, California, passed away on June 23, 1965. She had been a member of the American Begonia Society for many years, in the Glendale Branch and the Long Beach Parent Chapter, being a representative to the National Society for several years.

She will be remembered by many for her faithful and sincere leading of the Pledge of Alligance to the Flag of our Country, at the opening of the many meetings she attended. As a member of the Auxiliary to the Union Sons of Veterans, she felt honored and proud to be of that service, as it meant so much to her. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and by the various branches and National Society, who admired and loved her for her loyalty and for herself.

Mrs. Gertrude White was born November 8, 1867 in Boston, Massachusetts, and in 1870, when three years of age, her parents came to California in a covered wagon and settled in Riverside, where she lived for fifty years from early childhood, received her education and had her own little family. In 1920 she came to Los Angeles to live with her daughter, Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle, who also is very active in the American Begonia Society.

Besides her daughter, she leaves a grandson, George Arbuckle and a great-grandson, John Arbuckle, who live in Washington, D.C. and who were her pride and joy.

Mrs. White's daily life was a living testimony to her principles, character and faith. She was a member of the Episcopal Church in Riverside, and was laid to rest in the Riverside Cemetery beside her parents.

"BUMBLIN' ALONG WITH BEE"

By BEE OLSON, *Research Director*
13715 Cordary Ave., Hawthorne, Calif.

L. F. of Brooklyn asks. My "Masoniana" rhizome is spreading rapidly, but all new growth is at least one-half inch above soil level and with no soil-contact there are of course no roots. There is plenty of new leaf formation, and in general the plant seems to be thriving. However, was wondering if the entire plant should not be re-set so that all parts of the rhizome are in contact with the soil, instead of growing in the air, as it were?

Dear L. F.: I believe it would be advisable for you to re-set your plant so that all parts of the rhizome are in contact with the soil. I have a vir-bob seedling that has very large star type leaves that grew into quite a large plant and did very well for about two years, then it grew as your Masoniana — good end growth but with the rhizomes exposed — gradually the plant went down grade until I felt that it was just not going to make it. I took rhizome cuttings but found them quite difficult to start. In the meantime we carefully worked new potting mix over the entire top of the basket and carefully under the exposed rhizomes and now I am happy to report that the plant is growing very well again though of course has not had time to return to its original size. I have started another basket of the new rhizome cuttings and hope to have another specimen plant.

By providing new potting soil to all parts of the rhizome you will in time get new growth along the rhizome, however your plant will still be an 'older' plant and many authorities feel that it is better to start with new rhizomes. In other words the growth at the end of the rhizomes should be well rooted and then carefully removed from the long bare portion of the rhizome and perhaps three of these rhizome cuttings placed in one large basket or pot to make a nice plant. In this way, you have a 'younger' plant that

brings you satisfaction for a longer period.

Many rhizomatous begonias grow their rhizomes over the pot quickly and in a short while become unsightly. I had such a plant a few years ago that had rhizomes growing over the pot on both sides. The late John Theiben demonstrated to me that you could carefully remove this plant from the pot, carefully separate the growth and reset the plant so that it was artistically arranged in the pot and make a specimen plant. Much to my surprise this plant immediately made new growth and in general became more healthy even though some of the rhizomes had been cut in the process. In the case where a plant just gradually grows over the pot with leaf growth only at the end of the rhizome (and where it is your only plant and perhaps difficult to start) I have prepared a pot ready for planting and placed it along side the plant and carefully placed the leafed out end of the rhizome in the center of the new pot and anchored it with wire and left them side by side until the leafed out end made a root system into the new pot — at that time you can sever the rhizome or partially cut the rhizome and leave them together and cut deeper into the rhizome in a week or ten days and make the final separation a week to ten days later.

M. A. of Coronado has a problem with a new glass propagating box as follows:

I had our local glass man make me a propagating box from an 18 x 18 flat. The sides are 6 inch glass and a glass cover over the top. In the bottom I placed a soil cable — suitable length for a flat — 70 degree thermostat. Over this I placed ½ inch sand covered with unmilled sphagnum moss. I planted the seed in about 5 x 7 fiber trays using sterile milled sphagnum cover on top. The next morning I

had a lovely forest of gray mold. At the same time I planted some seeds in dishes made from plastic bleach bottles covered with plastic bags, no bottom heat, and these all germinated nicely. Fortunately I had kept some seeds from each package, so I started all over again. Except that I used sterile strained peat moss and leaf mold. I put them in the glass case, turned on the soil cable and waited. Now I had germination but very poor, 5 or 6 plants per flat. Now, I'm sure from what I have read I should have better germination with bottom heat — but I simply don't for some reason. The second time I had absolutely no mold — but there is an awful lot of drip in spite of an air space where the cable goes into the side of the glass. Do you think the sand and moss over the cable makes too much moisture — or perhaps my medium is too moist to start with. I want to try again, but I hate to waste seed and all that good time. Do you have any suggestions?

Dear M. A.: I feel the prime reason you do not have better germination is because you do not have sufficient ventilation. If I correctly picture in my mind this propagating arrangement you have a top over the trays in which you planted the seed as well as a glass cover over the propagating box. I find that most authorities suggest plastic over a flat, the end of a glass jar, etc. because plastic allows the flow of air yet retains the moisture content of the container. Since your box is all glass enclosed and you have considerable drip it is possible that you start with more moisture than desired. Also are you sure of the amount of heat from your heating cable? In so small a box completely enclosed in glass you are going to have a higher degree of temperature than where there is a free flow of air. Have you checked your heating cable. I had a similar arrangement except that I had a larger area enclosed only in plastic with good ventilation and yet I did not get good germination and in some cases I had good germination but the plants did not live. Finally my husband ran a continuous check on the

cable and found that the thermostat was faulty and that the heat fluctuated and at times climbed to well above 80 degrees and literally cooked my young seedlings. With a new and better thermostat he has again checked and the temperature reading does not fluctuate at all. I would suggest that (1) You check your cable temperature for accuracy (2) cover the flat with plastic or place a block on one side under the top glass to provide ventilation and (3) use less moisture in your starting medium. I do hope that you will continue to experiment with your propagating box for there are many seeds that require bottom heat to germinate that will bring you great joy which you would otherwise not have — once you have 'licked' this little propagating box.

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Round Robin News

HERB WARRICK, ROUND ROBIN DIRECTOR

6543 26TH AVENUE, N. E., SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98115

Dear M.C.S.:

Judging from the comments in the various robins I find that as window sill growers they are continuously experimenting with their plants to find the exposure best suited to each individual plant. For winter bloom a good deal of light is necessary for the plant so the winter bloomers would no doubt end up facing south. Most begonias with the exception of those that grow very large are grown by window sill growers. Many report on the glorious blooms of their fibrous, cane and rhizomatous begonias. *Rexes* are grown by many but a good many others find them difficult to grow through the winter months since a good many of our *rexes* go dormant at this time. The *semperflorens* are preferred by many because of their constant bloom. The good old standbys *Feasti* and *Bunchii* grow exceptionally well in the house. *Iron Cross* (*B. masoniana*) and the *Calla lily begonia* are praised by window sill growers yet many find both of them difficult to grow. I would suggest that aside from the extremely hard to grow begonias, it would be wise to grow those that especially appeal to you and experiment on their placement.

Now as to the "cigar smoke tolerant begonia" I have noted the following:

Pat Woodman of Flight 12 states: "I use Cold Water All now and again on my plants because of cooking grease and tobacco smoke and just plain dust. So far, none of the plants have been hurt by it (it also got rid of a few aphids last fall) and they all look clean and sparkling after their bath. I suit the water temperature to the air temperature when possible so that there is no shock to the plant." Pat recommends swishing them in a good strong solution and then rinsing them well.

Esther Ridenour of Flight #11 says: "The only bugs which have given me

trouble are springtails which I seem to get anytime I use leaf mold. Have found that these can be eliminated with a dusting of tobacco dust on the soil or even a good lung full of tobacco smoke into a plastic bag with the plant. Am not sure that this is an orthodox method but it seems to work. I get the bag as full of smoke as possible and tie it tight overnight. This has not damaged any seedlings. I use tobacco dust rather routinely on the top of the soil."

From the latter comment it would seem that your cigar smoking will not harm your plants and may even benefit them to the extent of keeping them pest free. Then, when they no longer shine and sparkle you have a method whereby you can remove the excess 'cigar smoke residue' from your plant. So now, after you have started your favorite begonias and provided for their needs, you can tip back that chair, put your feet on the old porch rail, light up your stogie and relax. Fun, huh?

Remember for several Begonian issues we were discussing our little 'worm' and how to get rid of him? Well, Laurel Livingston of Flight #11 says:

"My sister had the little worms in her plants and she poured cold coffee on the affected plants and the "beasts" disappeared." Laurel says neither she nor her husband drink coffee but they purchased some and cooked up a 5 quart batch of strong coffee and then used about a cup and a half in a two quart watering can, filled it with water and proceeded to water her plants. She mixed it up so that the grounds and all went in while watering. She has treated the plants twice and hasn't seen a "critter" since the first dose. She mentioned this to her husband and his remark was "What does it do to the people that drink COFFEE?"

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

MRS. FLORENCE GEE, SEED FUND ADMINISTRATOR
234 BIRCH STREET, ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95678

No. 1 — *B. boweri nigramaraga* —

New species from Mexico. Small, dainty, rhizomatous, with white hairs bordering edges of leaves. Leaves have black margins similar to *B. boweri*, plant creeps on top of soil in a shallow pot; good basket or terrarium plant. Price \$1.00 per pkt. We saw a beautiful specimen of this plant a few days ago in the greenhouse of Norman Owens, Oroville, California and we would like to add that anyone living in the Sacramento, California or northern part of the state, would be thrilled to see the gorgeous rex, cane type and just about every thing you could mention growing in Norman's greenhouses. The rex are the largest and most beautiful we have seen anywhere — he also grows many orchids, gesneriads and bromeliads.

No. 2 — *B. foliosa* —

Columbia. It is the most fern-like and smallest-leaved member of the genus. Medium, smooth, bushy; stems and branches arching or drooping; leaves very small, ovate, toothed, deep green; flowers white or pink tinged, usually in pairs, suspended from slender, almost thread-like pedicels. One hundred per cent germination from tests made. Many requests for *foliosa* seed and packets will be small. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 3 — *B. barkeri* —

Mexico. Habit of growth medium, to two feet or more, whole plant covered with brown scurf; stems thick, rigidly erect, few-branched; leaves long-petioled, broad-ovate, pointed, to six inches long by four and one half inches wide, shallowly lobed and toothed, usually depressed in center, basal lobes usually overlapping, bright green, reddish at the margins; flowers large, pink, showy in branched inflorescences. Can be used as a specimen plant outdoors where climate permits and will grow much larger out

side than in a pot. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4 — *kenworthyi* —

Mexico. Herbaceous perennial. Stems erect, thick fleshy, inverted egg-shaped, five and one half inches long, three quarters of an inch in diameter wide. The deeply lobed, red-colored leaves are covered entirely when the plant is in bloom like that on a plum, giving a blue-gray appearance. *B. kenworthyi* was discovered growing on cliffs, in moderately dry country; therefore very little water is required. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5 — *B. Philippine Islands No. 4*

Upright plant with light green leaves borne on long petioles 6-8 inches long. New plants form at the base, flowers are borne on foot long spikes, white and remain from March to December. Price 25 cents per pkt.

No. 6 — *B. 'Credneri'* — (*B. scharfiana* x *B. metallica*) —

Sometimes called 'Hariy Thurstoni' — also resembles *B. sanguinea* with a white beard. Leaves thick, often cupped or the opposite. Flowers pink. Price 25 cents per pkt.

No. 7 — *B. epipsila* —

Brazil. Thick, polished, leathery-green leaves coated with red-brown wool underneath. Grows low and makes an attractive basket begonia. Flowers are white. Price 25 cents per pkt.

No. 8 — *B. manicata aureo-maculata* —

Medium; rhizomes stout and twisting, sometimes ascending; leaves ovate, fleshy, smooth with yellow blotches. Collar of coarse red hairs at top of leaf stalk. Tall panicles of many, soft-pink, drooping flowers. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — *B. 'Maphil'* also known as *B. 'Cleopatra'*. (*boweri* Seedlings) —

Sprightly satin star begonia with sharply marked veins, artistically spat-

tered between with gold or chartreuse and chocolate-brown; dainty sprays of pink flowers. Good begonia for pot or basket. Needs no pampering. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 10 — B. *ulmifolia* —

India. 'Elm-leaved' begonia. Favored for its oddity and imitates the elm in leaf shape and color, with added rough hairs. White flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11 — B. 'Weltoniensis'. (B. *sutherlandii* x B. *dregei*) —

Another 'maple-leaf' type. Larger, all green leaf with purple veins; pink flowers. Price 25 cents per pkt.

No. 12 — B. 'Vernon' —

One of the first *semperflorens* type having bronzy-red foliage. Scarlet flowers. Price 25 cents per pkt.

No. 13 — 'Hardy Star begonia' —

From a grower in Texas who has the following information to offer: It is rhizomatous, grows well out doors in total shade with no extra care. Sends up a mass of flowers in February which remain on plant for four months, meanwhile the old leaves die back and a new set appears. Will stand about twenty degrees cold and yet bloom vigorously on schedule without leaves. Price 25 cents per pkt.

No. 14 — B. 'Orange Rubra' (B. *dichroa* x B. 'Coral Rubra') —

Clear green leaves sometimes silver spotted; sometimes not. Ornate clusters of large salmon-orange flowers out-shine the foliage. Good begonia. Price 35 cents per pkt.

Below is a comment from a grower in Mississippi — we would appreciate hearing from anyone who has had similar experiences.

I am still puttering with the x-ray semps one of which is now about fifteen inches tall, has leaves about eight inches in diameter and immense blooms. Others, at this time, are spotted with white, and several are an unusual silver color, all over. The white plants are slower than the all green and not having any experience with the 'Calla' types, I believe the white plants would come under this classification. I think the silver leaf ones are something different.'

Note: We sent out dozens of packets of x-rayed *semperflorens* seed and are anxious to know if any one is growing anything different or unusual — Please let us hear from you.

Seeds listed below are from our very good friend in Brazil — without his help, the Seed Fund would not be able to offer so many good Brazil species.

No. 15 — B. Brazil sp. —

Collected on the road from Sao Paulo to Caraguatatuba — at an elevation of 2300 feet. Tall, palmate plant with large heads of white flowers, numerous slender leaflets on each leaf, the entire leaf is eighteen inches wide and is peltate, palmate. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 16 — B. Brazil sp —

Small, 'foliosa' type leaf found growing on moist, rocky canyon wall at 1100 feet. Very pretty plant. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 17 — B. Brazil sp. —

Plant about three feet tall with large, oblique, acute light green leaves. Showy flower spikes with conspicuous pink and chartreuse seed pods. Collected at 2300 elevation. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 18 — B. Brazil sp. —

Collected from rocky canyon in dense shade, very humid. Price 50 cents per pkt.

IN MEMORIAM

The San Francisco Branch was saddened by the death of Miss Marjorie Y. May on April 29, 1965. Miss May joined The American Begonia Society in 1942 and became a life member in 1951.

Her love of gardening was one of her motivating factors and the begonias which she grew will long be remembered by those who saw them.

Her friends will miss this lovely and gracious lady.

**ABS Convention
September 4, 5, 6, 1965**

ABS CONVENTION NEWS

September 4, 5, 6, 1965

Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, Calif.

Here is the event you have been waiting for! This event comes only once a year. This is the time all members of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY have a chance to get together—meet the outgoing Officers of A. B. S. to talk about the things they are interested in—exchange ideas—and generally live it up after a year's hard work of promoting Begonias and other shade plants. Following are some of the plans that have been made for you:

The Convention will have an excellent Flower Show and top quality plants to sell in conjunction with the Show. Saturday evening at the ELK'S HALL in Arcadia will begin the big evening.

Installing Officers will be: Mrs. Margaret Zieshenne of Santa Barbara, California. It is always interesting to hear the installing officer explain the duties to the new officers and administer the oath of office. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Mr. Clarence Hall of Sacramento. Members should be there in strength to witness the event and show the new staff that the Society is right behind them.

Speaker of the evening will be: Mr. Stary Gange of Visalia, California. He is a prominent Olive grower and civic

leader in Tulare County. He is particularly known for his enthusiastic presentations about America's future. His talks have been heard by National and Regional groups during conventions by clubs in large and small communities, as he has been Guest Speaker in all 50 States. Mr. Gange's topic will be: "Here Comes Tomorrow" and I am sure the talk will inspire his listeners. Everyone should afford themselves of this opportunity to hear him.

The Menu will include: Roast Beef, Green Salad with French Dressing, Potatoes Au Gratin, Pie and Beverage.

There will also be Door Prizes: Mr. Rufus Neas of Neas Grower's Supply Co. will provide a fluorescent fixture complete with Gro-Lux Lamps as one of the door prizes. Mrs. Mabel Corwin, President for the past year, will furnish some specimen plants as other prizes. These are all valuable door prizes.

Surely you will all agree this is going to be the biggest event of the season. The \$3.00 charge for the admission ticket is merely an "open sesame" to a really fine evening of food and fun — and will present an opportunity to renew acquaintances as well as meet new friends. Plan now to attend. Your Branch President has tickets and

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We will be looking for you. Plan your vacation to take in the whole convention. Help with your plans, such as: Motel reservations, restaurants, tickets, etc. may be received from: Robert I. Wilson, 1249 East Millbrae Avenue, Duarte, Calif. 91010.

SPECIAL CHARTER FOR CENTRAL AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCHES

Have you ever seen the National Convention? Well, if not, here's your chance. This year it will be held in Arcadia at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, on September 4, 5, and 6. We would like to know if some, or for that matter all, of our members would be interested in going down. To take the strain off the menfolks we are thinking of chartering a bus. Gordon Baker Lloyd Tours, Inc., has a package deal which would include transportation down and back and during the convention with overnight accommodations during the convention at the fabulous Flamingo Motel, close to the convention hall. This does not include meals, but does include some touring exclusive with our group. Greyhound Scenic Cruiser with rest rooms, air conditioned, will be our means of transportation. Since this is the Labor Day Week end, reservations must be made quickly for this event. If you are interested, write Paul Riviere, President, S.F., ABS, 2475, 33rd Ave., San Francisco 16. Complete fee for the event, including your two nights at the Flamingo is \$45.00.

CONVENTION VISITORS

If you need help in finding a motel or hotel, be met at the plane or train or bus—contact Anne Rose, Chairman of the Hospitality Committee, 1255 Ramona Dr. Whittier. Don't wait till the last minute to make reservations. This is a Labor Day weekend for our convention and late reservations will be hard to get!

Special Announcements

Begonia lovers everywhere are invited to a Begonia Party to be given by the William Penn Branch, in the garden of Mrs. George Earl De Coursey, Mill Rd., Paoli, Pa., Sept. 18, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be Begonias on exhibit, Begonias on sale and Begonias discussed by Mr. Michael J. Kartuz, of Wilmington, Mass. Box lunches will be ready for those who have sent \$1.25 with reservations.

The North Long Beach Branch is having its 3rd annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show Sept. 24-25, 1965 at Machinist Hall, 728 Elm St. in Long Beach. Entries will be taken Sept. 24, from 2 to 7:30 p.m. Show is open Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mr. Joe Littlefield will be the master of ceremonies for the day and answer garden problems. Syivia Leatherman will conduct a special plant table. Snack bar and a ways and means table will also be conducted. 25 cent admission entitles holder to free cup of coffee. Holders of merchandise tickets need not be present. For further information call GA 3-7083.

The Rhode Island Branch will have their annual Begonia Exhibit and Plant Show Sept. 11-12 at the University of Rhode Island. Calla Lily Begonias are to be featured. Show chairman is Mrs. Virginia Withie, Hield Farm Rd., Coventry, Rhode Is.

The ABS Librarian says that there are several books out of the library which were loaned in good faith. They are long overdue. If these books aren't returned the list of names and costs will be published. Contact librarian Mrs. Terry Olmsted at once!

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NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by the president, Mrs. Mabel Corwin, in the South Gate Auditorium.

The president-elect, Mrs. Muriel Perz, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, followed by the reading of the Aims & Purposes of the Society.

The secretary, Peg McGrath, called the roll with 20 officers, chairmen, and representatives of branches present. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary and approved as read.

Mabel Corwin reported that the Begonia, nominated at last month's board meeting for the Alf. Robinson award, is not eligible. To be eligible for this award a Begonia must have been released to the public at least 5 years. This Begonia, Sophie Cecile, was introduced in 1961.

Muriel Perz reported on the South Coast Botanic Garden flower show held on June 18-19-20, and showed two ribbons and an award won by the Begonia Society. Mabel Corwin reported on the display she is preparing, with the assistance of other ABS members, for the Festival of Lights at Descanso Gardens.

Terry Olmsted, past-pres. told briefly of the trip she and Perry took to the Bay area and Sacramento recently. They visited with numerous friends of the Begonia family including Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Hall, R. E. Hale, Mrs. F. Gee, and Chester Nave. She brought "Best Wishes" from the northern branches of Calif.

The report of the treasurer, Harold Burkett, showed a balance on hand on June 18, 1965 of \$425.23.

The membership secretary, Daisy Austin, was not present. Her report was read by the secretary and showed 58 new members, 84 renewals, and 2543 Begonians disbursed.

The advertising manager, Miss Anne Rose, gave her report showing \$63.25 received and \$57.75 receivable.

Public Relations Director, Vera Naumann, reported she has heard from 14 branches and the charter of the Eva Kenworthy Gray branch has been returned because the branch has again disbanded.

Edna Korts, Business Manager, presented the bill for renewal of Workman's Compensation. Payment was authorized on the motion of Muriel Perz.

Bert Slatter reported that show plans are going forward in a satisfactory manner.

Margaret Taylor, Awards Chairman, reminded the representatives to ask their branches to recommend Begonias eligible for the Alf. D. Robinson award.

Alva Graham, nomenclature chairman, reported on the card file she is compiling on begonias. This work is also including England and Australia.

Branches reporting were: Foothill, Glendale, Inglewood, (they have a new meeting night, and a new meeting place in August), North Long Beach, Orange County, Redondo Beach Area, San Gabriel Valley, and Whittier. Eastside reported by mail to Mrs. Naumann.

The next board meeting will be a regional meeting at Glendale Federal Savings Building on July 25.

Announcement was made of the death of Mrs. Gertrude White. Mrs. White and her daughter, Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle, are long time members of Long Beach Parent branch.

Daisy Austin has asked for additional copies of the Begonian due to a decreased number received from the printer, leaving an insufficient amount to meet the needs of the society. The president will discuss this with the printer to see if satisfactory amounts can be obtained without adding too greatly to the printing costs.

Mabel Corwin stated that wonderful plans are shaping up for the Convention and Show on Labor Day week end, and it is hoped that many of the members living outside of Southern California will be able to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.
Peggy McGrath, Secretary

ABS Convention

September 4, 5, 6, 1965

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CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

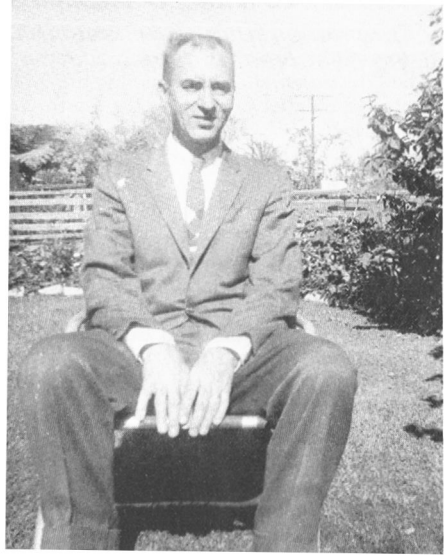
AUGUST 13 — San Gabriel Valley Branch — Olive Westcott will show slides of the gardens of the Pacific.

AUGUST 15 — The Redondo Area Branch will have their "Annual Fund Raising Dinner" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, 4692 W. 141st St., Hawthorne. Only \$1.00 will be the charge for a Deluxe Hamburger Dinner. The dinner will be served from 2 to 7 p.m. Come and help support one of the oldest branches in the Begonia Society. Door prizes will be drawn every hour.

AUGUST 19 — Long Beach Parent Branch — "Grooming of plants for showing" will be subject of talk by Jean Kerlin of Altadena.

AUGUST 21 — Foothill Branch — note time change to Saturday. Meeting will be at home of Betty Jo Miller, 868 Sunkist in West Covina. Tour of gardens begins at 4 p.m. Pot-luck at 6 p.m. Betty Jo will discuss problems and successes in growing plants under Gro-Lux lamps. Colored slides too.

AUGUST 27 — Redondo Area Branch — A pot luck dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, 4692 W. 141st St., Hawthorne will precede the "Annual Little Flower Show". Mr. and Mrs. Martin will furnish the meat, buns, and pickles. Please bring your table service, and one or more of your favorite plants to enter in the show which will begin at 8 p.m.



Vice-President Wilbur W. Olson



President elect Everett Wright

ABS Convention September 4, 5, 6, 1965

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THESE ARE YOUR CANDIDATES

President-elect: Everett Wright of Hawthorne, California has been active in garden clubs over 30 years and a member of the American Begonia Society 6 years. He has served 4 terms as president of the Hawthorne Garden Club and 5 years as Show Chairman. He is now retired and plans to spend more time than ever with his plant growing and garden club activities.

Vice-President: (three years) Wilbur W. Olson has been a member of the American Begonia Society since 1959, serving the Inglewood Branch as Treasurer for two years. He is also active in the Los Angeles International Fern Society in the capacity of Treasurer and Research Director. Born in Iowa, he received his B.A. degree at the University of Omaha in Nebraska and his Master's degree at the University of So. Calif. For the past 25 years he has been teaching radio and electronics at the Inglewood High School.

Secretary: Evelyn Keaster is a grower of begonias and companion shade plants while working actively in many organizations. At present she is a member of the Orange County Branch of the American Begonia Society. She has served in various capacities as president, secretary, or treasurer in several organizations. During the past 3 years Mrs. Keaster has served as secretary of the Costa Mesa Branch of the Fuchsia Society.

Treasurer: Harold B. (Hal) Burkett is a candidate for re-election. He is a charter member of the North Long Beach Branch. He was educated at Kansas State Teachers College and La Salle Extension University, and has worked in the accounting and auditing fields for many years. He is a certified public accountant and does income tax work. He has served as Treasurer for the American Begonia Society for the past year.

Ballot for OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

For PRESIDENT-ELECT:	Everett Wright	<input type="checkbox"/>
For VICE-PRESIDENT:	Wilbur W. Olson	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SECRETARY:	Evelyn Keaster	<input type="checkbox"/>
For TREASURER:	Harold B. Burkett	<input type="checkbox"/>

Voting instructions — For Members

Make a cross in the space provided opposite the names of the candidates you wish to elect. Vote for one candidate for each office.

Cut ballot out of magazine and mail to:

Mrs. Peggy McGrath, Secretary
1724 Solejar Drive
Whittier, California

"Only ballots received by the Secretary seven days prior to the annual meeting (September 4 shall be counted." Ballots received after August 28, 1965, will not be counted.

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
Mrs. Percy Merry, Secy.
109 Brookside Rd., Needham 92, Mass.

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Monday, 10 a.m. Member's Homes
Mrs. George Wilkins, Secy.
3625 N. Fitzhugh St., Dallas, 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.

EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Natural Gas Co. Building
Crossroads Shopping Center, Bellevue, Wash.
Lois C. Donahue, Secy.
2508-108th St. N.E., Bellevue, Wash.

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. Isabel A. Hall
358 E. Arrow Highway, Upland, 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
Mildred Radcliffe, Corresponding Secretary
1607 Kenneth, Glendale, Calif.

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12601 Broken Bough, Memorial Station
Houston 24, Texas

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, 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. Frances Jean, Secy.
8212 Reading Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.
157 West 58th St., New York
Luis Lopez, Corr. Secy.
421 East 64th St.
New York, N.Y. 10021

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Social Hall of Community Savings and Loan,
3901 Atlantic
Mrs. Mabel Gage, Secy.
3214 Delmar Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Sear's Garden Center
6201 Florida St., Baton Rouge
Mrs. Louis Sicard, Sec'y.
4520 Clark St., Baton Rouge, La. 70811

MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday 8:00 P.M.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Miss Rosemond Meriweather, Secy.
1552 Plascentia Ave., Coral Gables, Florida

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m.
Member's Homes
Kansas City, Mo.
Miss Nina Austin, Secy.
1104 Askew St., Kansas City 27, Mo.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.
3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach
Ruby Tessier, Sec'y.
1625 Appleton
Apt. H Long Beach, Calif. 90802

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Maybelle L. Woods, Secy.
604 S. Helena St.,
Anaheim, California, 92805.

PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on Call, Homes of Members
Col. C. M. Gale Secy.
2176 N. Roosevelt Ave., Altadena, 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.
Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.
1304 N. Poinsettia Ave., 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.
7172 Mt. Vernon St., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 12 noon, 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.
Miss Marie E. Smith, Secy.
5218 J St., Sacramento, Calif. 95819

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall
2717 University Ave., San Diego
Mrs. Nellie Castillo, Secy.
5443 Bonita Dr., San Diego, Calif. 92114

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. Ruth Eppley
9133 E. Longden Ave., Temple City, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Irene Cretin, Secy.
3060 Crane St., Lemon Grove, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta Del Sol
Mrs. A. D. Yost
888 La Milpita Rd., Santa Barbara

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Loyal Heights Field House,
21st Ave., N. W. and N. W. 77th St.
Mrs. Janice W. Barnette, Secy.
2735 N. E. 53rd St., Seattle, Wash., 98105.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH.

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Barlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Truman Stearns, Sec.
230 E. Vince St.
Ventura, Calif.

SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday of each month
Mrs. Lyle L. Melvin, Secy.
833 E. Jewell, Salina Kansas 67401

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Lorenzo Manor School
18250 Bengal Ave., Hayward, Calif.
Jack Dunaway, Corresponding Secy.
1650 Plaza Drive, San Leandro, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

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

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. F. E. Mahler, Secy.
1815 Sixth Ave., Fort Worth, Texas

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

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

TEXASTAR BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas
Mrs. V. O. Harman, Secy.
306 Cody, Houston, Texas, 77009

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club
Sec. Mrs. Frances Jean
8212 Reading Ave.
Los Angeles 90045

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. Alfred Slee, Secy.
211 Arlington, Butler, Pa.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive
Mrs. Evelyn Shute, Cor. Secy.
15344 E. Leffingwell Rd., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH


3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. Ernest C. Drew, Secy.
635 Moreno Rd., Narberth, Pa.

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