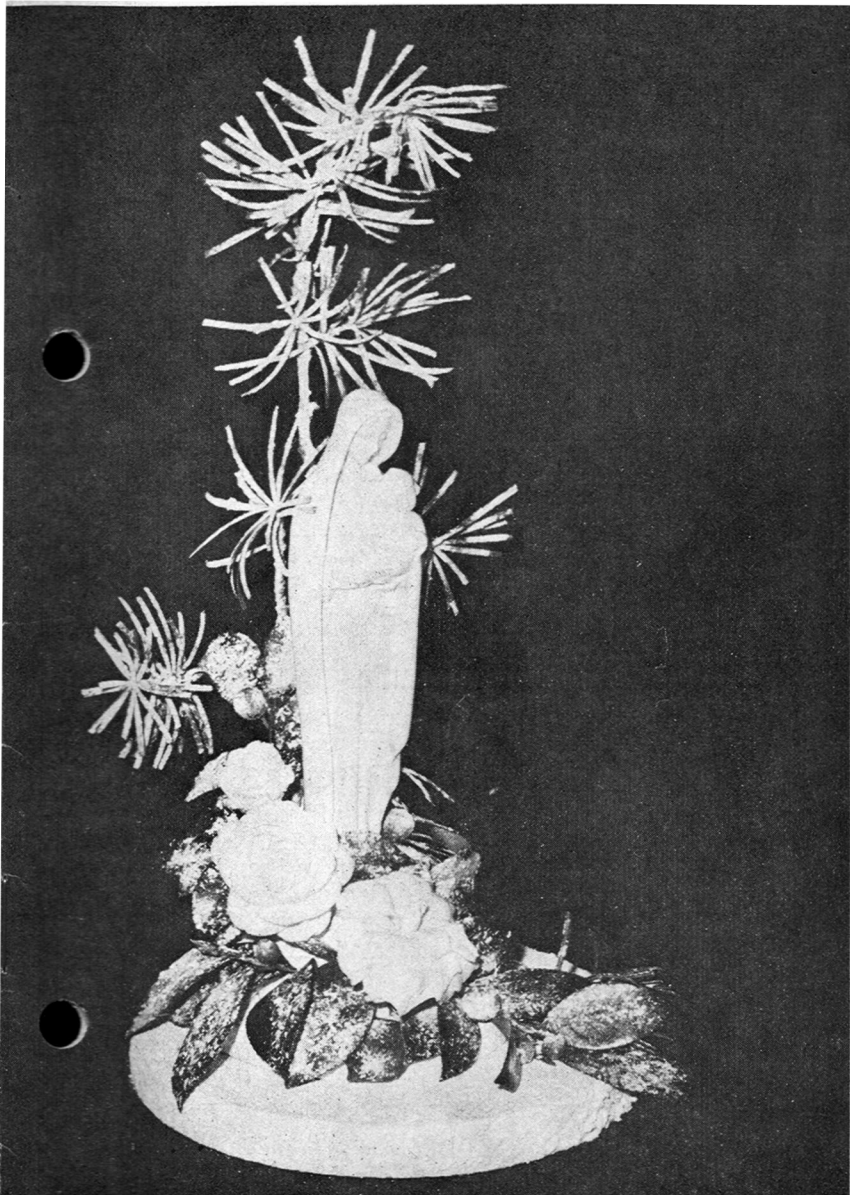


The BEGONIAN

DECEMBER, 1967

VOL 34 • NO. 12



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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: To stimulate
and promote interest in Begonias and other shade-lov-
ing plants; To encourage the introduction and develop-
ment of new types of these plants; To standardize the
nomenclature of Begonias; To gather and publish in-
formation 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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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily
those of the Editor, the Society, or its officers.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As your President, I would like to know how you, the members, feel about the cost of membership in the A.B.S. I understand that many would be willing to have an increase in the dues in order to be able to keep the organization solvent. Others are afraid that an increase of fifty cents in the dues would lose us too many members.

We have been operating the A.B.S. with an income of \$2.50 per member per year, since 1951. During this sixteen years, prices of everything else have increased at a fantastic rate.

In the past, several of the branches have made very welcome contributions to the budget of the A.B.S. Often, this has been the only way we could maintain the funds to continue printing *The Begonian* on a monthly basis. There have been proposed dues increases which have not passed. We are still struggling at the edge of bankruptcy trying to provide the best we can.

We all enjoy the benefits of the A.B.S. These include seed available from the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund, membership in the Round Robins, a library containing many valuable books available nowhere else, a cultural adviser, a judges' course, a slide library, departments for nomenclature, research, hybrid registration, public relations, branches to bring our members together, and *The Begonian*. All of these departments

COVER PICTURE

PEACE ON EARTH! "It was one of the loveliest arrangements I ever entered—all white against a midnight-blue velvet background. The flowers are "Purity" Camellias, one of our California shade gardens' winter bloomers. This arrangement won the blue ribbon in its class and Best in Show."

Arrangement by Thelma O'Reilly,
La Mesa, California.

Photo by Ron LaChance, Daily News
Newport, Rhode Island

WANT to work. The members of the board would like SOMETHING to show for their efforts. Projects for this year have already been started in the faith that somehow, somewhere the money will be available to finish them.

The Buxton Check List is almost sold out. A newer up-to-date issue is badly needed but where are we to get the money? Must we ask branches and individuals for donations again as we had to do for the Creighton Research Fund? The budget of the A.B.S. has no surplus available for work of this type.

At the present time, *The Begonian* costs \$3.26 per year per member, including postage. There is no money available for some of the improvements that have been suggested, much as we have appreciated them. It has been suggested that we make the December issue a 24-page magazine in order to accommodate the Christmas ads without making space by deleting articles. How? This is financially impossible. We are desperate for the income from these ads just to maintain our present standards.

Advertising has been one of our most important sources of income, and has made the net cost of *The Begonian* \$2.77 per member per year, which is \$.27 more than the dues, but that amounts to \$641.52 per year. In order to remain solvent, we have depended on the sale of library books, the seed fund, our show, and even an ice cream social, a hamburger dinner, a rummage sale and donations from branches and members.

As your President, I would be happy to hear from any of you on this subject. Is it worthwhile to pay the cost of taking a ballot for a dues increase? Are the members willing to pay enough to allow the A.B.S. to finance projects which will further the Aims and Purposes we profess to support? Neither the President nor any other member of the Board of Directors can make any sensible estimate of the opinion of the members unless we hear from you. It is YOUR A.B.S.

Chuck Tagg

PROPAGATION OF THE KUSLER HYBRIDS

MY EXPERIENCE AND OBSERVATIONS

By HAZEL M. HARMON, *Ottawa, Kansas*

A friend asked me about propagating the Kusler Hybrids. I am very fond of these lovely and interesting Begonias, and enjoy growing all of those listed in the June, 1967 *Begonian*, "Tally of Kusler Hybrids." Having read "Let's Get Down to Cases" in the February, 1967 *Begonian*, I am happy to share my experiences in propagating this group of plants. You may not agree with my methods, but it is my way, and is successful. The important thing about the method is that it works.

Many growers have elaborate propagation boxes for growing seeds and cuttings. I have nothing against this, but find such a set up too much trouble in my home. I usually root my cuttings in water, but not by filling a glass with water and cuttings and placing it on a window sill. Only one or two cuttings are grown in a glass of the right size and shape. The glass is either placed under fluorescent lights in a warm room, or next to the stock plant if it is doing particularly well.

Take a long, hard look at the quality of the cuttings. They should be neither too soft nor too hard, but when you have no choice do your best. Plants that are resting do not provide good cuttings; wait until they are ready. Underprivileged plants often root fast. The plant may need food, more regular watering, or to be repotted; a plant that is struggling to live. This does not include sick or infested plants.

Sever the cutting with a sharp razor blade. Never use scissors or pinch a cutting—this bruises it and invites rot. Leave at least one node near the base of the cutting. This node must contain a leaf bud, not one which has flowered.

As soon as the roots are well formed in water, fill a pot with your favorite mix, make a hole with your finger, in-

sert the cutting, and fill the hole with coarse vermiculite or a rooting mix. Tap the pot and press gently on the soil surface to settle the plant, and water. Place the pot where the cutting was rooted until well started. You may have to try several locations before you find the ideal spot for any particular variety.

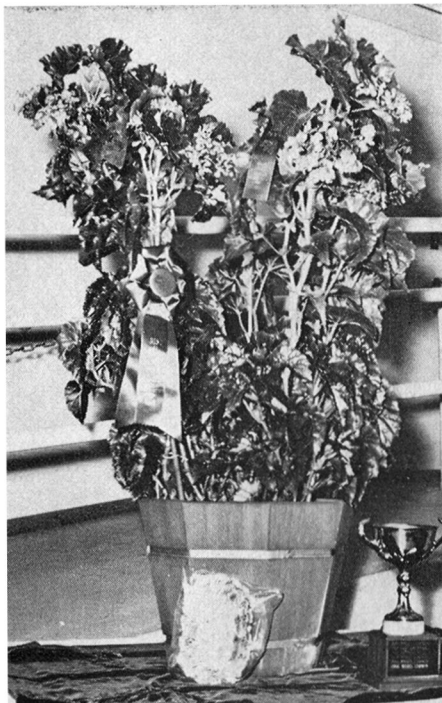
I have about seven hundred plants in my home, which helps keep the humidity high. They take six or seven gallons of water a day. With the living room thermostat at 72° during the day (67° at night), the bedroom temperature varies from 70° to over 75°. This is where most of my plants are started. The largest number of plants are in the basement, where I grow under fluorescent lights. The basement has two heating vents, so is usually 68° to 75°, and never below 65°. We heat with gas (forced air). During the summer I open the seven basement windows as needed, as it does get hot here.

Mrs. Kusler's hybrids include the vigorous cane Begonias 'Anna Christine', 'Lenore Olivier', 'Laura Englebert', 'Sophie Cecile', 'Gigi Fleetham', 'Jeanne Fleetham', 'Margaret Stevens', 'Peggy Stevens', and 'Freda Stevens'. I've had no problems propagating any of these. They start easily and several begin to bloom almost as soon as they start to grow. My B. 'Rosalie Wahl' is a young plant, ten inches tall, but I believe it will grow large, too. I haven't tried cuttings of it yet.

Another group of canes includes the Begonias 'Dorothy Barton', 'Delphine Fasmò', 'Frances Lyons', and 'Nancy Gail'. These are not as vigorous and need consistent pinching to keep them shapely. Some growers have suggested that B. 'Dorothy Barton' is difficult to propagate. The stems of B. 'Dorothy Barton' and B. 'Nancy Gail' are not as sturdy as the larger canes, and the cuttings should not be too long. If the

stem collapses when they are rooted and potted, cut out the collapsed stem and you will have two plants if you are lucky in rooting the top portion. If the stem collapses while rooting in water, keep removing the end until the cutting stays crisp. I've had the same experience with B. 'Gigi Fleetham' once, and am sure the cutting was too long. My B. 'Frances Lyons' is young, so I've only tried one cutting, but it was easy and quick. This seems to be quite a sturdy plant. B. 'Nancy Gail' is smaller—even fragile—compared to the vigorous B. 'Peggy Stevens'. It is a contant bloomer, making it difficult to find good material for cuttings.

Begonias 'Gwen Lowell', 'Jill Adair', 'Swirly Top' and the basket type 'Victoria Kartack' are fibrous. I have heard one person say "B. 'Gwen Lowell' isn't as glamorous as some of the others." Maybe so, but it is a joy to grow, always shapely, easy to propagate, and blooms well. B. 'Jill Adair' stays shapely and blooms, but I haven't tried to propagate it. A friend has grown this one from a leaf. I just love to look at B. 'Swirly Top'. The leaves come thick and fast, swirly or curly. I haven't



B. 'Margaret Stevens' grown by Mrs. Mabel Corwin, Rosemead, California.

Photo by Ralph Corwin

tried to propagate it. I've heard from several that B. 'Victoria Kartack' is hard to grow and propagate. I was concerned about this plant when I first bought it in 1964, I think. When I heard of the problems, I began extensive propagation carelessly using poor leaves and tip cuttings, but still lost very few. It always surprised me that such poor leaves will grow such nice plants. This one grows better in the basement and blooms continuously. Most of the time our plants present problems only until we discover their needs or when we are too careless with them.

Begonias 'Jean Herr' and 'Raquel Wood' are rhizomatous. B. 'Jean Herr' is a very different and distinctive upright rhizomatous Begonia which I've had for several years. I first tried propagating it this year. I guess I was afraid, but had no problems. I've made three or four tip cuttings and about

(Continued on Page 236)



B. 'Gigi Fleetham' grown by Mrs. George E. DeCoursey, Paoli, Pennsylvania.

Photo by Hertha A. Benjamin

HOW TO REGISTER BEGONIAS

Application blanks for registering Begonias may be obtained from the Nomenclature Director of the American Begonia Society. The Society was designated in 1955 as the international registration authority for the genus Begonia by the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants of the International Union of Biological Sciences. This is a serious responsibility for any organization. Since the nomenclature registration started, 247 Begonia names have been registered as new hybrids.

At the time the registration blank is requested, the hybridist should mention the proposed name of the new plant so that the Nomenclature Director may check his files to be sure the name has not been used before for a Begonia.

The application blank should be carefully filled in so that proper identification will be on file. Acknowledgment will be sent to the registrant when the new plant has been registered.

What entitles one to register a Begonia name? The Begonia produced must be new to Begonia culture. This may be accomplished several ways.

An observant person may discover a "sport" leaf, stem, or flower on a plant which proves possible to propagate vegetatively and comes true to the original "sport." As an example, I had a plant of *B. stigmosa* on which one leaf was narrower and thicker than the normal leaves, the veins being much more extended below the leaf. Plants rooted from this leaf are entirely made up of these unusual leaves. The plant could be named as a horticultural variety of *B. stigmosa*.

Crossing two Begonias to obtain seed is the favorite method of creating new Begonias among Begonia hobbyists. A simple way of hybridizing is to take a matured male flower from one plant and dust the pollen from it onto the stigma of a female flower on a different plant. B. 'Joe Hayden', for instance, was produced

by taking pollen from *B. mazae* and dusting it on the female flower of *B. reichenheimi*. The resulting plants were named for my friend, Mr. Joe Hayden, one of the original members of the A.B.S., with whom I had a spirited contest to obtain the blackest star-shaped-leaved Begonia. Since all the seedlings resembled each other closely, they were all named B. 'Joe Hayden'. In time, however, some individuals varied a little but were still B. 'Joe Hayden'. Two plants finally varied sufficiently to be easily identified under differing conditions. One became entirely black and did not have the green area in the center of the leaf. This I named B. 'Joe Hayden' variety Elizabeth Hayden in honor of Joe's wife. One other seedling was all black but it always produced small leaves which were cut differently. This I named B. 'Joe Hayden' var. Toto Hayden. Toto was the ever-present Pekinese dog of the Haydens.

Another way to produce new plants by seed is to self-pollinate a hybrid plant. In this case pollen from a male flower is placed on the stigma of a female flower on the same plant. Seeds from the plant will give rise to all sorts of variations with some plants looking much like the original parents. Using B. 'Joe Hayden' again as an example, some plants will look like *B. mazae* and some like *B. reichenheimi* but many plants will exhibit various combinations of the characteristics of both parents. Some may be worthy of being named because they are different from the parent plants.

If a person has a new plant, the question he must answer is, "Should it be named and registered?" Why do we want to name a Begonia in the first place? Things, plants, animals, and people are given names for the purpose of communication. We must have names for Begonias so that when we speak or write about a particular plant, we will all understand what plant is being referred to. This is why it is not wise to use a name which has

already been used, even if it appears to have been out of cultivation for many years.

A plant to be named must be sufficiently unlike any other Begonia so it will not be confused with other plants under varied growing conditions.

The name to be used for the new Begonia should also be unlike any other Begonia name so that its similarity to another name will not cause confusion.

Hybridizers should be sure of their plants before naming a seedling. It is not an unusual occurrence for a new hybridizer to name a seedling of a species because it is more vigorous than the parent. Seedlings usually are vigorous but a "more vigorous" plant will become like the parent in time.

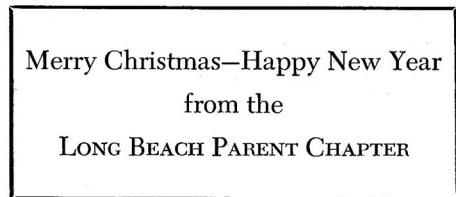
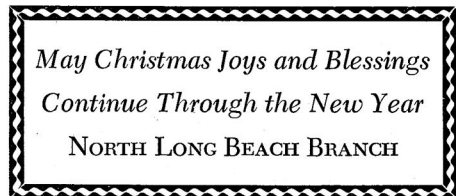
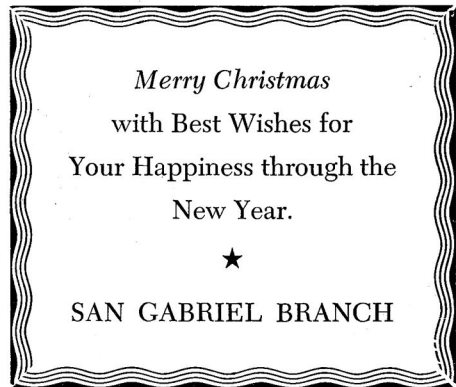
Another frequent mistake is to pollinate a flower, harvest the seed, plant it, and then have only one seed germinate. When this happens, one does not have sufficient material to make a valid statement of parentage. It could very possibly be a stray seed from another source. A good cross would produce hundreds of plants.

Sometimes I have made a cross and found one plant among the hundreds of seedlings which resembles the seed parent. One may assume that this plant is the result of self-pollination; this may be proven by self-pollinating the seedling.

One Japanese student discovered that certain varieties of *semperflorens* hybrids will produce good seed without pollen simply by stimulating the stigma papillae with a clean brush. This illustrates how confusing hybridizing can be; we must be sure that an identifiable cross has been made.

If you are interested in registering a Begonia, a copy of the Begonia Registration form would be helpful. I shall be happy to send a copy to any of you who request it.

Rudolf Zieshenne
Nomenclature Director
1130 North Milpas St.
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103



NORTHEAST BEGONIAS IN DECEMBER

By ELDA HARING

December is a busy time in the Northeast. Even though Old Man Winter has us in his icy grip, we hurry about with plans for the holidays and are very busy. My Begonias do not usually grow during December but they do receive daily care. They are checked to see if they need water. On dull or dark days, I enjoy taking them to the kitchen sink to wash the dust off, always using lukewarm water and permitting pots to drain and leaves to dry before placing them again at the windows.

Most people know the so-called "Christmas Begonia". Begonias 'Lady Mac' and 'Marjorie Gibbs' are favorites which are always offered for sale at Christmas time by the commercial florists. They bloom their heads off (see picture) and to keep them in good condition, they should have faded flowers removed every day. They are best kept in a cool room where they receive plenty of sunshine and they should be kept moist but never wet or soggy. For a long time I thought the only place I could grow these was in my greenhouse, but this year I purchased a small plant of *B. 'Marjorie Gibbs'* and planted it in a ceramic container which has a drainage hole and its own saucer. Since July, it has been kept in a west window, partly shaded from the sun. As these Begonias need extra humidity, I wash off the leaves once a week and see to it that the soil is kept moist. It is fed every two weeks with Plant Marvel. I am happy to report that, as of this writing, it is a lovely compact plant which bids fair to reward me with flowers at Christmas time.

The "Christmas Begonias" include *B. cheimanthia*, which means winter flowering, and is a group descended from *B. socotrana* x *B. dregei*. Some authorities assert that they are very difficult to propagate and maintain to the next year's flowering, suggesting it

is better to purchase a new plant every winter. If you have a gift plant and would like to try to grow a new one, it is always worth the effort to try growing new plants from the old one. If properly cared for, *B. cheimanthia* will bloom for several months after which it will show signs of wanting to rest. The pot can be placed in a cool, light, airy place until new growth begins. It should be watered only enough to prevent wilting. Temperatures of 60° to 70° are best. When new growth begins, repot carefully in fresh soil. Leaf cuttings can be taken from the plant in January or February and these will root nicely in a mix of one part each of vermiculite, perlite and milled sphagnum. It is a slow process to get a good plant from a leaf cutting but what a sense of satisfaction results if you are successful. If it is possible to take a shoot with several branches, a beautiful compact plant will result. I like to use an aluminum foil loaf pan as a propagating tray. As soon as the leaves or shoots have rooted, they are potted up into three inch pots and shifted to four's and five's as they grow. For potting soil I use a mix of two parts garden loam, one part peat moss and one part sand, adding a four inch flower pot of superphosphate to each bushel of soil. If you must use packaged soil



Photo by Merry Gardens

The Begonian

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Perhaps your own Begonia variety or a lovely hanging basket would make a Christmas present for a robin member—as well as lots of airmail stamps! A recent robin heading for England was mailed flat, like a book, it carried so much reference material.

Ideas: Sue McCarthy, new member from Alsip, Illinois, used her husband's drill to make holes in rims of plastic pots, then picture wire and cup hooks to make hanging pots. Easy, economical.

Zack Monesson of Lakewood, New Jersey, is dividing his plant center greenhouse in half, with one side for the sales area. The other side of a simple fence will hold an Oriental water fountain, lava rock, driftwood, and his personal collection of Begonias, ferns, camellias, and foliage plants.

Tuberous Questions: The tuberous specialty flight started off full of questions to study: Are the Gigantea varieties as beautiful as advertized? Are winter-blooming tuberous Begonias easy to grow in normal house conditions or do they prefer a greenhouse? What fertilizer for summer bloomers? Have members tried buying seedlings instead of tubers? Are plants better started from seed than from tubers? What are the secrets of growing from seed? Do the best plants from tubers come the first year, with inferior plants in succeeding years? What is the best way to store summer tubers over winter?

Hybridizing: Winifred Smith of Hillsboro, Oregon, kept two plants of her cross of a big green star Begonia and *B. rotundifolia* (both rhizomatous). They apparently will have star-shaped leaves, one plain green, one marked and wavy-edged. She gave them Indian names, *B. 'Puntzi'* and *B. 'Nimpo'*.

mixes, add a pint of vermiculite to each package of the mix to help make the mixture a little spongier and moisture retentive.

Muriel Perz of Long Beach, California, experimenting with crossing *B. phyllomaniaca* (often reported sterile) and *B. 'Norah Bedson'*, planted seed from one pod, but none developed from the other. Her *B. phyllomaniaca* had bloomed in the glass-house nine months and still had buds.

Toby Lothman of Flushing, New York, had ten pink-flowered plants out of two hundred seedlings from his cross of *B. semperflorens* 'Caffra' and *B. leptotricha*. The rest were white. A member wondered if this result were an example of "trace pink" mentioned in a January 1946 *Begonian* article on dominance.

Ruth Pease of Los Angeles reported her *rex-evansiana* seedlings had the growth habit of *B. evansiana* above ground and *rex* foliage with varied colorings. She had not yet investigated for tubers, was wondering if seedlings would have *B. evansiana's* dormancy, was also experimenting with rooting leaves. Her *B. dregei* x *B. rex* cv. seedlings made lovely plants, with many shoots from the soil. Losses in transplanting may have been due to the nature of the cross, but plants that remained were most enjoyable.

Ruth's cross using *B. metallica* and *B. mazaе* (hairy fibrous and rhizomatous) yielded plants almost all like *B. metallica* but with something noticeably different in the foliage. She has noticed that *B. richii* seems to receive pollen well; *B. macdougalli* and *B. carolineaeifolia* have abundant pollen; and *B. 'Ruby Jewel'* always has pollen.

Ruth Wille of Jackson, Mississippi, had a delightful group of *B. sunderbruchi* grex (which to her means a group or family of siblings from the same seed pod), varying from very small to huge, from green to deep color, and from slight to dense hairiness. All had the collar on the petiole and most had red hairs. Several of her *B. dregei* x *B. rex* cv. seedlings ran to miniatures, a beautiful reddish brown.

Seed: *B. 'Orange Rubra'* (orange-flowered cane) seedlings had mostly

(Continued on Page 235)

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

No. 1—*B. platanifolia*—

Brazil. Rare species, mostly ornamental because of the foliage which is very regal with huge leaves; the form similar to the plantane tree (Bailey's). The leaves are eight to twelve inches and five-lobed, hairy above and below, the lobes acute dentate (tooth-like). The color is dark green with silver overlay. A vigorous plant, glabrous, with annual rings. The flowers are very large, white tinted with pink, grow in tall racemes. *B. platanifolia* is a voracious plant in its food requirements and should be grown in light, rich, well drained soil. Easily grown from seed or side shoots. Experiments have been made with growing from leaves but this method has not met with success. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. caraguatatubens*—

Brade. New Brazil species indentified by Ziesenhenne. Leaves up to one foot across beautifully shaped and textured, dark red on underside, plants about two feet tall, tall panicles of white flowers. At the upper end of leaf petiole, are several red-hairy bristles, red wings, or collars. See cover of *The Begonian* for October. The answer to a large leaf exotic Begonia. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—*B. 'Verde Grande'*—

This is a hybrid and variations will occur. *B. 'Verde Grande'* is the seed parent. An exceptionally fine, fairly recent star-leaf of smoothest green satin trimmed with blue-black braided markings on the edge; pale eye and radiating veins. Strong, vigorous and adaptable. Price 50 cents per pkt.

PLEASE NOTE: Only the original hybridizer has the privilege of naming and registering the result of crossing. Seeds of hybrids are offered for the enjoyment of those who find it difficult to increase their collections. Many beautiful plants may be grown from a packet of seed.

No. 4—*B. 'Verde Grande' X B. manicata crispa*—

This is a cross made by Peter Rutherford, Australia. See notation under item No. 3. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 5—*B. 'Waltanna' X B. 'Jill Adair'*—

This is a hybrid. *B. 'Waltanna'* is a seedling of *B. scharffiana* introduced by Ruth Pease of California and *B. 'Jill Adair'* was introduced by Belva Kusler, Wisconsin. This cross was made by Edna Stewart, Pennsylvania. Plants used in this cross are beautiful and outstanding and something special should develop. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 6—*B. semperflorens*—

From second generation x-rayed *sempreflorens*. We have had many requests for the above and now we have them from Peter Rutherford who has done a great deal of important work with *sempreflorens* Begonias. No seed that we have offered over the past few years has caused so much comment and given so much pleasure as the x-rayed *sempreflorens*. Many Calla type plants have been grown as well as other interesting variations. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 6A—*B. semperflorens*—

From x-rayed seed, has variegated flowers. Vigorous plants that produced blooms of soft, deep pink attractively mottled or variegated. Plants in a ten inch pot were more than one foot across and about ten inches high with about five hundred blooms to each plant. Leaves were quite different in shape to normal *sempreflorens*; almost like angel wing types, definitely wavy on the edges and blotched with bright red. Peter Rutherford's show plant. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7—*B. semperflorens*—

A good percentage of double form ranging from white to dark red in color. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Tuberous—

Now is the time to sow seed of the gorgeous and exotic tuberous Begonias. We offer the best seed available from the originator on the Pacific coast. The preferred seeding medium is a partially rotted hardwood leaf mold. This should be sterilized to insure destruction of all harmful organisms. Water with fine spray being careful not to overwater and a minimum of 74° top and bottom temperature should be maintained to insure an even germination within eight days.

Roseform Tuberous—

Pink salmon flowers. The ultimate in perfection of classic beauty. Upright. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Ruffled Tuberous—

Dark red; deep, many petaled flower with many frills and ruffles born on still stems. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Pendula Type Tuberous—

Yellow flowers. Their hanging habit, with great masses of blooms, makes them favored plants for greenhouse, patio or porch, where they can be protected against strong winds and light. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. evansiana—

Bulbous type with pink flowers. Hardy outdoor type with bulbils in the leaf axil which fall to the ground and spring up in early summer. Easy from seed and a good plant in semi-shade garden. Price 25 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Momolena primulaeflora, Hook.—

Family *Melastomaceae* and similar to *Bertolonia*. Leaves opposite without marginal teeth, flowers solitary in terminal clusters, usually mauve in color. Grow the same as Begonias. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus rexii—

From South Africa. Small fibrous-rooted, stemless plant with long narrow, quilted leaves in rosette hugging the ground. Several flower stalks bear trumpets of pale lavender lined with

purple in the throat. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus saundersiae—

From South Africa. No description from the collector. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus eylesii—

From South Africa. No description. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus are relatives of *Saint-paulias* and *Gloxinias*, but do not require as high temperature. They are often grown under lath here in California. Like the *Sinningias*, the flowers are trumpet shaped and are from one to five inches in length depending on variety. The flowers are held well above the foliage usually with two to a stem.

The foliage is completely basal with the leaves resembling those of an English primrose. This gives rise to the '*Streptocarpus*' common name, 'cape primrose', however, it is definitely a *Gesneriad*. The plants have very long seed pods, often six inches in length, that are twisted. When the pod ripens, the seams separate and the pod untwists to release its seed. This accounts for its name (from the Greek) streptos meaning twisted and karpus meaning fruit or seedpod. Easily grown from seed and should be treated the same as Begonias or *Gloxinias*.

Fern Spore—

Davallia solida—Polypodiaceae—

Brown hairy rhizome with broadly massive, stiff leathery three-pinnate fronds to two feet high, the leaflets ovate-rhomboid and crenate. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Diplazium cristatum—25-0—

Rare fern from Puerto Rico grows about two feet tall with attractive fronds. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Doryopteris pedata var. palmata

One of the most attractive ferns of the genus. It is characterized by its two distinct types of fronds and the

(Continued on Page 239)

USEFUL LABELS

By DAVIDA ARNOLD

If you are a beginning plant collector, begin now to develop good habits concerning your plants. Keep the labels neat and clean and filled with useful information.

Always keep your plants labeled with the correct spelling of the plant name and keep track of where you got the plant. If you lose it, this is the best source for a replacement or, if there is any question about its identity, you can always go to the original owner.

One person, who wanted to learn about parentage, labeled his plants first with the name and then put the parents in parentheses. Every time he groomed or repotted or admired his plants, he read the label and learned a great deal about his plants.

Many people do not keep labels on their plants because they seem to know their plants very well without them. But I find these people are unable to accurately name the cuttings they are so free to give, causing a nomenclature problem for their friends.

Most people like to keep track of the age of their plants and how fast they develop. Labels marked with the dates cuttings were taken and rooted, plants potted and repotted is valuable information for these people.

Some people have tried keeping a book with all types of information about each plant. This takes a very conscientious person. Most people never make it from the potting bench to the book so it becomes outdated.

Some people who enjoy taking off a few days now and then and must hire someone to water, find it very helpful to list culture notes on their labels. "Keep moist", "Likes to be dry", "Subject to mildew", "Rots easily" are helpful hints for the helpers.

Big label, little label, one label, two—it doesn't matter even what color or colors you use as long as you get the utmost value out of them. You are the one who must decide what infor-

mation would be most useful for you. Remember, it's better to have too much information than too many questions. You can always throw some out later.

So if you are a beginning plant collector, develop good habits concerning your plants. Keep your labels neat and clean and filled with the most useful information for you.

Warm Greetings and Best Wishes

for a Happy Holiday and a very

Happy New Year.



SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Merry Christmas
with Best Wishes for

Your Happiness throughout the
New Year.



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*Sends Holiday Greetings and
Best Wishes*

for the

New Year

PROPAGATION NOTES

Seed: Lily Fine of Brooklyn found that putting seed pans directly on top her light fixtures gave too much heat. Now she puts paper plates underneath. Once germinated, she places pans four inches below the lights, keeping them covered with plastic lids or bags. They require watering only once a week or less. She gives very mild feedings with each watering. After all have germinated and made some growth, she gradually uncovers. A sudden change from completely protected to unprotected environment may cause collapse.

Edna Stewart's tuberous Begonias from seed were starting to bloom at the end of July—both the upright and the pendula plants. These are very tiny at first and it seems as if they will never reach blooming size. Her first transplanting is to a flat of very loose mixture, well moistened and sitting on wet sand. It may stand a day or two before planting to let the top layer dry a bit. The first transplanting is critical because the root system is small. Edna uses a potting stick to make a tiny hole, then to push the medium gently around the seedling. The next critical step is transplanting to pots. She avoids top watering; Begonia seedlings — even semps — need careful watering.

Chuck Tagg of Fullerton, California, examines his seed under a magnifying glass to see which is plump and which is dried or damaged.

Cuttings: Elaine Wilkerson of Baton Rouge, finds a new product—Terra-green, a red clay compressed and baked to an equivalent of crushed clay pots—is an ideal substitute for coarse sand. A rhizomatous Begonia cutting in a two-and-a-half-inch pots, sealed in a plastic bag, rooted in less than two weeks without losing a leaf. Alice Roberts of Encinitas, California, discovered that taking cuttings from the main stem of B. 'Ramirez', velvety leaved seedling of *B. laeteviridea*, was almost sure death for the plant. B. 'Ramirez' is a beautiful Begonia, best grown in a basket.

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and the Happiest of New Years
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CORRECTION

(October, 1967, page 186)

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu, our Research Director, is a professional horticulturist who was, for several years, technical assistant in floriculture at Planting Fields, a division of the State University of New York.

After the Friday dinner at the Eastern Conference, Mr. L'Hommedieu showed colored slides of the Begonias at Planting Fields. He would like to clarify that these Begonias were given to the State of New York by Bernice Brilmayer and Elaine Cherry and are the property of the State University. They are not his own personal property and were never used except for State purposes.

Mr. L'Hommedieu reports that this collection is still being maintained at Planting Fields Campus where anyone may be privileged to see them.



A.B.S.
LIBRARY
BOOKSTORE

The following selection of books are FOR SALE

- *Buxton Check List of Begonias\$6.00
- *All About Begonias\$5.95
 by Bernice Brilmayer
- *Begonias Slanted Toward The\$3.00
 Beginner by Dorothy Behrends
- *So Say The Experts by Ruth Pease\$2.00
 Classification Guide—Compiled by\$1.25
 the Westchester Branch, A.B.S.
- *Ferns We Grow by Sylvia Leatherman \$3.85
 and Dorothy Behrends
- The Begonian—Complete reprints\$6.00
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Send your orders to:
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4508 West 133rd Street,
Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

(Continued from Page 229)

orange-red or orange-pink flowers, and few really orange, for Lucile Mearns of Louisville, Illinois. They were very slow.

X-Ray: Mae Blanton of Mesquite, Texas, interested in pollen dabbling after a branch "how-to" program, has raised plants from seed her dentist x-rayed for her. Some have had some unusual leaves, and one had unusual crested male flowers. She plans future tries, planting seeds from these plants and also x-raying one seed pod from a plant while saving the rest for comparison.

Ferns: If anyone who has never grown ferns from spores wants a sure-fire result, Aleks Bird of Jamaica, New York, recommends starting with one of the *Pteris* group. *Pteris wilsoni* grows like a weed for him. Dora Lee Dorsey of Tampa described a way to mount staghorn ferns (*Platycerium*s) in a pot with a hole knocked into the side. Roots are put through into sphagnum or other medium, making re-planting easy.

***B. goeensis*:** Chuck Tagg's corrugated, lily-pad-leaved, Sumatra species, *B. goeensis*, was not doing well on his patio in Fullerton, California, with half a day of sun and no wind protection. In a globe under lights, it became beautiful.

***B. 'Pink Spot Lucerne'*:** Grace Shatto of Idaho Springs, Colorado, wondered what the author of *Begonias Indoors/and Out* does with *B. 'Pink Spot Lucerne'* (cane Begonia) that he finds it easy to grow. Hers sulks if she "even breathes on it." One time last winter it had four stalks about six inches high, a big cluster of bloom on each—and about two leaves; a strange sight. It cannot stand a draft and it needs to be dry before watering.

***B. metallica*:** Grow this hairy-leaved fibrous species in very loose soil, on the dry side, and in good light but not strong sun, recommends Arline Peck of Pascoag, Rhode Island. Too much sun dries leaf edges. She had trouble, also, until she added sphagnum and sand to loosen her mix.

***B. scandens*:** A trailing species, *B. scandens* is also beautiful on a totem pole, Stefanie Swatsek of Los Angeles says. It flowers profusely, tiny white flowers. It gets leggy in winter, but when cut back grows out very slowly. Cuttings root easily.

***B. sceptrum*:** Peg Scott of Ashland, Nebraska, finds that *B. sceptrum*, upright species with dark green leaves cut deeply like antlers, likes being grown warm and dry.

***B. socotrana*:** Pinching back winter-blooming *B. socotrana* at the right time will keep basal growth coming on, Jane Cullen of Hinsdale, Illinois, reports. She tries to keep two stems on each plant and pinches alternately. Occasionally she removes an entire plantlet with some root growth and places it in a cutting box a while before potting. A leaf cutting, taken with stem tissue, does better for Jane in water than in the cutting box.

***B. 'Bertini'*:** Bob Shatzer of Albright, West Virginia, likes *B. 'Bertini'*, a hybrid of the tuberous species *B. boliviensis*, better than the species itself. It has larger leaves and is very floriferous, with semidouble flowers—a most attractive plant with all the best qualities of the parent. He noticed that the hybrid grown from a cutting had small foliage the first year, but after the tuber had rested the foliage was larger and more compact.

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WHITTIER BRANCH

CLASSIFICATION OF BEGONIAS

Universities and Horticultural Societies throughout the United States have purchased copies of *A Guide—Over 500 Begonias Listed as to Type and Suggested Classifications*, and expressed their interest in Begonias and appreciation for our efforts.

The original 100 copies have been sold and a second printing of 100 has been prepared. This handy *Guide* (5½ x 8½) has two parts. In the first, Begonias are listed alphabetically with type and suggested class page for use when entering plants at shows. In the second, Begonias are listed under the suggested classifications.

The Westchester Branch takes pride in being able to make the information in this *Guide* available to all A.B.S. members, but printing costs have gone up, and we must now charge \$1.25 per copy.

Copies may be obtained through the A.B.S. Library Bookstore or by sending a check made payable to the Westchester Branch, A.B.S. to the Branch President:

Mrs. Ruth Pease
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Los Angeles, California 90045

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MISSOURI BRANCH

PROPAGATION BY HARMON

(Continued from Page 225)

ten leaf cuttings and have lost only one leaf cutting. I especially like the dark pink blooms on B. 'Raquel Wood'. The leaf is shiny and mottled, darker when grown under lights, but I prefer it grown in natural light. I haven't tried to propagate it yet.

I consider B. 'Crispie' a collector's item. I bought it in 1964, had a good plant, and propagated several. When we moved, I left it with friends, as I thought it would be easier to replace than move. Then I was unable to get a good plant, so have had my problems. I shouldn't complain, I've now started two good ones, and have three more cuttings potted. I lost two other cuttings which rooted quickly in water but didn't seem to like my pot mix—from now on I'll use a soil-less mix. I have heard that B. 'Crispie' is susceptible to mildew, but have not had this problem.

B. 'Miyo Berger' is small and very pretty. Each cutting appeared to form a bulb, but it was just an enlarged tip. Shoots broke at the nodes and started to grow before this one rooted. I finally potted this one before it rooted, covering it with a plastic bag for some time. When I repotted it, it had filled the pot with roots. The others grew roots more quickly, but leaf cuttings are slow.

B. 'Grace Lucas' has some of the leaf color of B. 'Miyo Berger' but grows much larger. B. 'Mivo Berger' has red hair. On B. 'Grace Lucas', the upright white hairs give it a frosted look. It roots easily and grows normally.

If you wish to experiment, be sure to have extra stock so you won't lose the variety if you make a mistake. My B. 'Sophie Cecile' was two feet high when I cut it back to six inches, leaving one or two sprouts for later. It grew well, so I cut off all the sprouts again. It has lush growth now so I'll let it grow. Another Begonia I cut back severely almost died. Don't be afraid to try when you have a spare plant.

I hope this article will help those who are interested in propagating these plants. If you are satisfied with your present methods, don't change unless you want to experiment.

Best Wishes for the Holidays and
Happiness Throughout the
New Year.

ELSA FORT BRANCH

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MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER A.B.S. BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the A.B.S. was called to order by President Tagg at 7:55 p.m. in the South Gate Auditorium. After Past-pres. Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice-pres. Olson read the Aims and Purposes.

Eleven officers and seven Branch Representatives answered the roll call.

The following report was made by Pres. Tagg on the Awards Committee: Existing members of the committee: Serving 1966-68 are Mrs. Margaret Lee, San Diego, Calif., Chairman; Mrs. Beryl Allen, Tampa, Fla.; M. Carleton L'Hommedieu, Long Island, N.Y. Serving 1967-69 is Mrs. Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, Calif. New appointments for 1968-70 are: Mrs. Dorothea Orndorff, El Cajon, Calif. and Mrs. Paul Maslin, Linthicum, Maryland. The President requested the extension of an additional year to the appointment of M. Carleton L'Hommedieu through 1969 in order to have two vacancies appearing each year from now on, as originally specified in the Bylaws. Muriel Perz made a motion, seconded by Walter Pease to accept these appointments. Carried.

Mr. Tagg appointed Gene Daniels official photographer; motion made by Pearl Benell, seconded by Everett Wright that he be accepted. Carried.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

Everett Wright reported approximately \$200.00 in plants were still available from the Convention plant table.

The financial report given by Walter Barnett showed a total of \$1,756.66 receipts, disbursements of \$968.81, leaving a balance of \$787.85.

Lucile Wright, Librarian, reported that *All About Begonias* is available.

Pearl Benell, Membership Secretary, reported 235 memberships processed, with a total of 2,669 *Begonias* dispersed.

The Research Director had no report at this time, but sent a note.

Round Robin reported two new flights launched last month, bringing the total to fifty, and many letters sent out.

Editor Mae Tagg asked for ideas, pictures, articles to be sent in. Even if ideas weren't ready to print, send them so they can be worked on to make new and better material for the magazine.

Advertising Manager, Anne Rose, gave her report. She asked that the ad for the Hemerocallis Society Magazine be clarified. Muriel Perz made a motion, seconded by Floyd Neff that their ad in *The Begonian* be limited to a one inch quarterly ad, since their magazine is issued on that basis. Carried. The Light Gardening Society requested an exchange ad for publication. After some

discussion, it was voted that we not accept the request at this time.

The auditing committee for the Judges Course books reported that they were in order.

Herb Warrick wrote that the 1936 *Begonians* were finished and available from Lucile Wright, Librarian.

Walter Barnett gave the Convention report. Total receipts were \$692.11, expenses were \$616.11, leaving a balance of \$76.00 net proceeds. Bert Slatter also gave a general summary of the show.

After the Branch reports, the President gave a message concerning the Society, its Aims and Purposes, and membership dues were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Virginia Barnett
Secretary

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Librarian, Mrs. Lucile Wright, is happy to announce that the 1936 *Begonian* reprints have been mailed. If anyone is missing a year from his order, please let Mrs. Wright know.

The *National Historian* would like to receive, from each Branch, meeting notices and clippings of newspaper releases starting from September 1967. She will need this material in order to keep a more complete history of the whole organization. Please send any information of historic value to

Mrs. Edna Burkett
National Historian
 3341 Hedwig Road
 Los Alamitos, Calif. 90720

The Judges' Course is still available on a correspondence basis. Cost for the complete course is \$5.00. Anyone interested should write

Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman
Judging Course Director
 2637 North Lee Avenue
 South El Monte, Calif. 91733

Our Research Director states that Mrs. Thelma O'Reilly is very much interested in the adventitious growth on Begonias. She asks that members of the Society who discover this growth inform her of the plant and the type of growth it develops. Send information to:

Mrs. Thelma O'Reilly
Research Committee
 10942 Sunray Place
 La Mesa, Calif. 92041

KELLY SEED FUND

(Continued from Page 231)

production of plantlets at the junction of the petiole and blade. Petioles and midribs are dark brown and are highly polished. The dark brown sori along the entire border of the frond emphasize the brilliant green of the blade, adding to the beauty of the fern. Price 50 cents per pkt.

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CALENDAR

- December 7 — Westchester Branch: Whoopee Party 7:30 p.m. Bring your friends.
- December 8 — San Gabriel Valley Branch: Christmas Potluck dinner at 7:00 p.m.
- December 13 — Inglewood Branch: Christmas buffet supper and exchange of gifts at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dollar gift marked "His" or "Hers". Installation of officers.
- December 14 — Orange County Branch: Christmas Party with goody table 7:30 p.m. Donations for the Leper Colony in Louisiana requested.
- December 15 — North Long Beach Branch: Christmas Potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. Chuck Tagg will be guest speaker. Installation of officers.
- December 22 — Redondo Area Branch: Whoopee Party 7:30 p.m. Bring a dollar gift for exchange.
- January 1 — DEADLINE for all material for the February issue.

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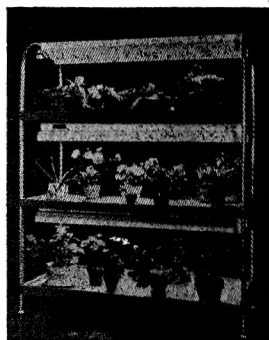
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