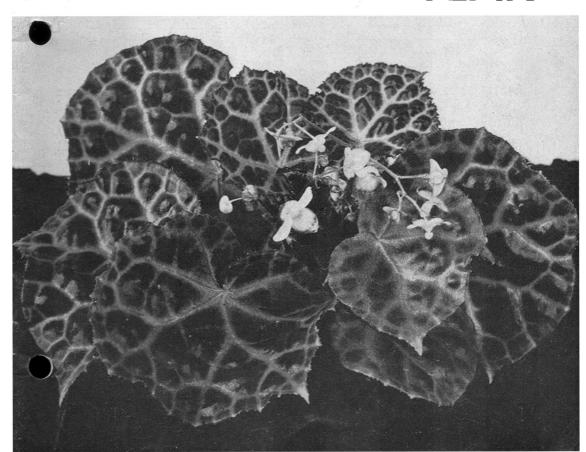
JANUARY, 1968

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HAPPY

NEW

YEAR



Monthly Publication of the American Begonia Society, Inc.



Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman January, 1932

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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-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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Views expressed in this magazine are no	necessarily

those of the Editor, the Society, or its officers.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again, I would like you, the members, to seriously consider an increase in the cost of membership in the A.B.S. All of you should be interested in the report of the Finance Committee, printed on page seventeen of this issue. That astronomic proposed deficit is a definite indication that something must be done—and right away.

Ways and Means projects are to be given careful consideration. Our officers have given heavily of their time to hold rummage sales, ice cream socials, hamburger dinners, etc. and those efforts have been a big help in the past. But is this what our officers are for?

Branches have helped and that help has been sincerely appreciated. But is it fair to expect the branches to support a "poverty program?" Prices have risen faster than income since 1951—and are still rising.

Unless income can be increased, costs will have to be reduced. The A.B.S. cannot follow the precedent of the U.S.A. and make deficit financing a way of life. The President of the A.B.S. has neither the power nor the desire to decide for you. You are the members and must make your own decisions. As May Taft Drew says, "It is ridiculous to try to run a national society on the income of a Ladies' Sewing Circle."

Chuck Tagg

COVER PICTURE

B. rajah, Ridley was introduced by Sander in 1894. From Malaya, it is a charming dwarf rhizomatous species. A rare and exotic Begonia requiring greenhouse or terrarium care. Seed of this lovely specimen is offered in the Seed Fund on page ten.

The editor regrets that this picture is not in color and that proper credit cannot be given for either the plant or the picture.

FROM THE EDITOR

At the beginning of a New Year, it is good to consider where we have been, where we are, and where we are going-THE PAST, THE PRES-ENT, AND THE FUTURE. I have attempted to select articles for this issue to provide a little food for thought along these lines. Our writers range from one of the oldest members. Gladys Dyckman, to one of our newest members, Davida Arnold. Geographically our writers span the breadth of the United States. The subjects covered are quite varied as I am trying to provide material which will be of interest to each of you. I hope that I have succeeded.

The love of Begonias is by no means an isolated love. It is a growing love which has sprung up all over the world making the A.B.S. an international organization. There is a letter in this issue from Japan. Read it with interest and hope with me that one of our members will be able to provide the help this young man requests.

Rummaging through the files the other day, I came across an article dated 1936. I have printed it again because it provides an opportunity for us to learn from the past experiences of others. Many of our branches have trouble informing the public of their existence and getting people interested in joining. This article is a perfect "sales gimmick" for branches and perhaps some of you might like to try it. The original response was remarkable.

Each month space in *The Begonian* is devoted to the Minutes of the A.B.S. Board Meeting. The title on this page is large in hopes of drawing your attention to it and encouraging you to read it. This is your opportunity to keep up with what is going on and I sincerely hope that you take advantage of it.

Thoughts about the future are expressed in "What Future For Begonias?" and "What Future For The Novice?" The report of the Finance

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IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning, it was known as the California Begonia Society. In July, 1934, this organization changed its name to the one it bears today, the American Begonia Society. Though the events in this article occurred before that time, the reference to the present name is used because this is THE BEGINNING of the organization as we know it today.

Editor

The scrapbook pages are brittle with age. The pictures are of Begonias and of people interested in one thing —beauty in Begonias and the study of

their development.

As early as 1910, Herbert P. Dyckman dreamed and thought of Begonias when he was ranching in Montana. When he came to Long Beach, he simply spread his interest in all directions. He found that other men were interested and toward the end of 1931, seven men, led by Herbert Dyckman, decided to form a club to "experiment in propagation and collect Begonias." Six other Charter Members – Fred Riedman, Leland Wylie, Ray Mc-Gaughty, Carl Fisher, Clayton Kelly, and Roy Berry-met in January of 1932 at Mr. Dyckman's invitation. From this nucleous 36 years later, the American Begonia Society has members and branches all over the world. thanks to these pioneers and the other dedicated members devoting their time to promoting the beauty of Begonias.

In the beginning it was hard to meet. Distance was the obstacle to overcome, for they lived many miles apart from Capitola to San Diego. But meet they did, raising plants from seed, contacting collectors in Mexico. sharing cuttings with each other, and

hybridizing too.

One of the early newspaper articles from Long Beach proudly told of a "Country Store" meeting where homemade jellies. jams, cakes, home produce or anything grown or made was shared by all and the prime object of the meeting was to talk about Be-

gonias. They had many garden visitations all over Southern California and attracted newcomers to their ranks. As early as 1932, Mr. Dyckman proposed a registration policy for Begonias, at the same time, he was active in civic beautification, home gardening for food (Thrift Gardens they were known as then), helping to plant the city of Long Beach with flowers for the Olympic Games visitors, adult gardening classes, and besides — he worked every day.

It is hard to believe that the second meeting of the American Begonia Society was attended by twenty members in January, 1932 when only 1000 varieties of Begonias were known. The rarest of them was *B. smaragdina* from Mexico and *B. goegoensis* from Sumatra. Herbert Dyckman had 125 varieties at that time. His friend and fellow founder, Roy Berry, was growing rexes at Torrance and developing many new miniatures.

We have honored Mr. Dyckman in many ways and at many branches. Rudolf Ziesenhenne named one of his seedlings for "Pop" Dyckman. Glendale was honored to have "Pop" as a judge of their show April 27, 1941. He and his charming wife carefully preserved his judge's ribbon in their fascinating scrapbook, full of Begonia meeting notices and news events during all the years he participated.

This man and his wife helped literally hundreds of people beautify their homes with lath shelters and starts of Begonias. They traveled promoting knowledge and fun and wherever they happened to be, they never failed to get in a word about their favorite

plants.

One evening Mrs. Edna Korts visited with Mrs. Dvckman and talked of "Pop" and the fine people they knew and the progress of the Society he was so proud to have founded. Mrs. Dyckman has attended our banquets and shows, and to her belongs great credit for her self-effacing way of entertain-

THE BEGONIA CLUB OF AMERICA

By IRVING H. GRAY

On March 21, 1931, Rev. Gray gave as his address 37 Russell Street, Burlington, Vermont. This article was originally submitted to the Editor of the Free Press and published by him. A copy of this article with permission to reprint it in THE BEGONIAN was sent to me by Rev. Gray's daughter, Mrs. Elsie Bean of Niantic, Connecticut.

Editor

When the writer, some two years ago, began making inquiry for Begonias, he was surprised to find that many plant growers did not stock them at all and others carried but a limited number of varieties. In fact, his inquiries were frequently met with a tinge of sarcasm on the score that he was seeking something that had had its day and was no longer to be found, except for occasional species which women were wanting to exchange one with another.

Through diligent and persistent search we have been able to collect about 80 varieties. But what is more to the point, we have discovered that there is a genuine and wide-spread interest in this plant. There are several professional growers throughout the country, who specialize more or less in the Begonia. There are large numbers of collectors, and many of these are men, who are doing much to preserve and perpetuate this beautiful group of plants.

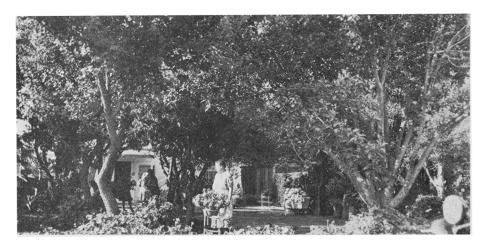
One does not need to go far to find them. An afternoon's drive in any direction out from Burlington will reveal scores of houses with from one to

ing and accompanying Herb in pursuit of his hobby. He was such a happy "giving" man and she helped to make him so. We appreciate the privilege of peeking into the past record so carefully kept and preserved for flower lovers. Thank you, Mrs. Dvckman, for sharing your treasures with us. a dozen varieties. And it is not at all unusual to find a rare specimen. Then too, Begonia lovers generally know others, who belong to the same class. Introductions are always welcome. Thus many delightful acquaintances may be formed with people who are decidedly congenial.

Through this community of interest there has been organized a Begonia Club with members from California to Massachusetts, representing ten different states. The club operates by the circulating of a packet of letters to which each member contributes before sending it to the next. Thus experiences are exchanged, descriptions compared and varieties perpetuated. This club long ago passed the experimental stage, having been in existence for several years. Among its objects are the rediscovery and preservation of the older and rarer varieties and, ultimately, the standardization of Begonia nomenclature.

The writer has just returned from a meeting of a group of the club members at Northampton, Massachusetts. One of the members has traveled widely in this country and in Europe, being always on the outlook for Begonias. After viewing the Northampton collection, which by the way has been made by a man, she pronounced it to be the best that she had ever seen. In this collection there are about 70 rex varieties and about 85 of the tree and bush growing kinds.

Frequently surprise is expressed over the size of this plant family. But in its native haunts it is numbered by the hundreds and these numbers are being constantly increased by hybridization. So there is in store for the Begonia hunter an almost inexhaustible stock of thrills—new plants coming in from India and China, from Mexico and Brazil: and still more new plants being produced by the skill of the hybridizer. It is a real game and there is no end of fun.



Treasure Grove

TREASURE GROVE

From a letter by GLADYS DYCKMAN

"Who's the elderly lady at the head table?" This was a question asked by newcomers to the National Banquet. The answer is "Mrs. Gladys Dyckman, wife of Herbert P. Dyckman, founder of the A.B.S."

Editor

I am enclosing a picture of our yard in 1940, two years after we moved here. We rented it for six years, had accumulated so much shrubbery and plants, that we decided to buy the place. Folks from the other streets would come to see it and named it "Treasure Grove". It was really a pretty sight! Fuchsias hung in the trees in baskets; geraniums at the base of all the trees, each different colors; and petunias.

Our Begonias were in the lath house on the next lot.

There were 27 trees. They were apricots, apples, peaches, walnuts, and crabapples. It took lots of work. We spent many happy hours with our friends and family here.

Enough said for gardens. It's just pouring, I do not think I can even get to the mail box. I hope this will not bore you, I just wanted you to see what it was once like.

BEGONIA HISTORY

Reprinted from the "Monthly Bulletin," Vol. 1 No. 2, February, 1934.

Editor

Prior to 160 years ago Begonias grew only as wild plants in their native tropical habitat. When they were discovered, brought to civilization and classified botanically they were found to be only distantly related to other living plants. They were grouped in a new family — Begoniaceae — honoring M. Begon, a French patron of botany.

The first Begonia to be introduced into Great Britian, in 1777, came from Jamaica and is still grown commercially as B. nitida, meaning shining leaves. Other early introductions were: B. humilis from West Indies (1788) and B. macrofolia (B. macrophylla) from Jamaica (1793). Early in 1800, many more fibrous types came from Brazil and two from the Cape of Good Hope, B. dregei and B. diptera. The originals of the semperflorens groups came from Brazil in 1828.

As botanists and plant-explorers penetrated unexplored tropical countries, other new species were added until 350 natives are known, half of which have horticultural value. As late as 1908, China gave us a new species, *B. cathayana*. Around 1860,

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FREE BEGONIAS

This article appeared in Sunset Magazine in 1936. It is a perfect "sales gimmick" for branches and one would hope that the results would be as tremendous today as they were in 1936.

Editor

Four years ago a group of mutual Begonia lovers of Long Beach met to form a plant society. You've all heard the terms-Fuchsia addicts, rose friends, people afflicted with cactitis that are applied to zealous members of other plant societies. Well, they've got nothing on Long Beach Begonia bugs. In four short years this society has gone to town in a big way. This "peppy" friendly group has a monthly turnout of 300 members at the meetings. There is always an interesting lecturer, a question box, a plant sale and informal refreshments. There is an interesting round of continuous activities. Many members open their gardens for regular tours. One branch has been formed in Ventura, one in Inglewood, and one is destined to start in the San Francisco Bay region. The society has gone national, for a branch club was recently formed in Massachusetts, and another is expected in Florida.

At the Third Annual National Begonia Show in Long Beach, last August, thirty rare Begonias were exhibited. They came from India, Mexico, Panama, Brazil, and the Andean section of South America. Some of them were voted worthy of wider culture.

Two of the thirty, *B. evansiana* and *B. sutherlandi*, have been occasionally grown in California gardens. Both are of the tuberous rooted species. The pink flowers of *B. evansiana* are delicately fragrant. It hails from southern China. The small orange flowers and fine foliage of *B. sutherlandi* are greatly admired. This Begonia comes from South Africa. Both plants are easy to grow, both as pot plants and out-of-

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FAMILY BEGONIACEAE

By ALVA Graham

"The genus Begonia was created in 1690 by Charles Plumier (1646-1704) who dedicated it to Michel Begon (1638-1710), French governor of Santa Domingo and patron of botany in the seventeenth century. It constitutes almost by itself the Family Begoniaceae. The other genera: Hillebrandia, Symbegonia, Begoniella and Semibegoniella, are not represented in cultivation."

Thus begins Charles Chevalier's Les Begonias, written about 1938. Recently several of the other genera have been found by travelers and interest in them has followed the curiosity they occasioned. For this reason the descriptions in this authoritative work have become important as among the earliest descriptions found.

The greater part of Begonia species are localized in a determined place. This is also the case with the genus Hillebrandia, its one species, Sandwicensis, being found only in the Sandwich Islands, Hawaii. The genus Symbegonia is found in New Guinea, and the three species in the genus Begoniella are endemic to Colombia. A German botanist, Irmscher, in 1914 created a fifth genus which he named Semibegoniella.

"The genus Hillebrandia is distinguished by a semi-inferior ovary and the presence of ten petals presented in two circles alternating and of the same number. In Symbegonia the stamens are numerous, the petals of the male flowers free, and those of the female flowers are joined to a certain height. The Begoniella have few stamens; the petals of the male flowers and of the female flowers are entirely joined."

The *Hillebrandia* was discovered in Hawaii about 1865, and has been found on all the large islands except Hawaii. A single plant on Oahu was known to Dr. Hillebrand, and Rock is also said to have known it. The

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NORTHEAST BEGONIAS IN JANUARY

By Elda Haring

By January, winter has its icy grip on the Northeast but to those of us who live where our gardens are put to bed early, January brings a promise of a new gardening season. After two months of short days, the daylight hours gradually lengthen. By midmonth Begonias which bloom in late winter and early spring should be given more water and a feeding program should be begun. It probably does not matter really which fertilizer you use, it is important to encourage these winter-flowering Begonias to set blooms. Personally, I like to use Rapid-Gro or Plant Marvel at half the recommended strength every other week at this time of year. It is important, however, to make sure that the plant is moist before applying fertilizer.

If you have been grooming your plants and pinching out the growing tips to ensure a more bushy plant, now is the time to stop this practice. A great many Begonias produce their flowers at the tip end of their branches and any further pinching will inhibit profuse bloom.

Do not keep Begonias too wet at this time of year but do keep them moist. Plants in full sun or near radiators will dry out faster than those which can be kept cooler and in more subdued light. Begonias in the greenhouse do not need as much water as those growing under fluorescent lights because the humidity in the greenhouse is considerably higher. When watering Begonias at this time of year, use lukewarm or room temperature water if possible. Cold water shocks many of the more sensitive kinds.

On cold, windy nights in January and throughout the rest of the winter, protect the plants from chilly drafts by removing from the window sill or placing cardboard or newspaper between the window and the plants.

Most of my Begonias thrive at daytime temperatures of 70° to 72° with a nighttime drop to 65°. In our home greenhouse where we grow our Begonias along with many other plants whose needs are varied, we find that the Begonias thrive at 60° to 65° low temperature. By experimenting we have found that while Begonias will live at lower temperatures, they are healthier and happier in the warmer temperatures and set bloom earlier in the season than those grown cold.

REMARKS

By HAZEL M. HARMON

I have a few remarks which are contrary to some experiences which were related in *The Begonian*—mostly in the Round Robin Notes. It just goes to show, it is hard to make cut and dried remarks.

First, I have a large *B. foliosa* about twenty inches in diameter. It is a good and full plant. It has never been out of the basement. It was suggested this was a delicate plant which would not grow well in the basement. I know this plant can present problems.

Second, I have grown B. serratipetala for about five or six years. I did have problems at first. I have decided that most of us are afraid or concerned that the plant won't grow well. I think that causes a person to pay too much attention to the plant and overdo on care. I've taken dozens of cuttings of this plant. I always take hardened cuttings and always make them short. This plant needs to be cut back occasionally and will let you know the time by starting new growth from the base. This plant, when in active growth, will require regular watering. I would not water unless the soil is dry. You may lose your plant if you over-water.

Third, "Give your enemies a cutting from a blooming stem"—from The Be-

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

When winter cold slows outdoor gardening, robins turn to indoor plants with increased enthusiasm. Of the many robin projects flying, Specialty #23 sent a sheet around for members to add their experiences with certain Begonias.

B. manicata aureo-maculata: Muriel Perz of Long Beach, California, finds the variegated-leaved sport of the upright rhizomatous B. manicata likes food, does not like wet feet. Helen Matsubu of Fruitland, Idaho, lost her leaf cutting, because of too moist a medium she thinks; stem rotted easily. Hazel Shear of Beaumont, Texas, also failed to root her leaf cutting, thinks this Begonia should grow on the dry side. Geraldine Daly of Coventry, Rhode Island, has never been able to root a leaf cutting. She uses rhizome cuttings, and then is careful to see that the medium is not really wet. Anita Sickmon of Cheney, Kansas, agrees that the plant likes to be drier than many.

B. 'Sophie Cecile': Muriel finds this cane-stemmed cultivar a good grower; it branches and sends up new shoots whenever a cutting is taken. Hazel has no trouble growing her rooted cutting. Geraldine had three nice large plants, but never had bloom. In another robin, Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, had an eighteeninch plant blooming in August in a ground bed. It received morning sun, none after 11 a.m. Plants in her greenhouse had no bloom, though the greenhouse fiberglass was unshaded.

B. foliosa: Helen lost her plant of this tiniest-leaved ("fern-leaf") Begonia. It was very easy to root, but she thinks she did not give enough humidity; perhaps too much water was the cause of constantly dropping leaves. Muriel lost her plant from overwatering. Hazel believes overwatering kept hers from growing as it should. Lynnie Milam of Tampa, Florida, has better luck with her *B. foliosa* growing in a pot on the ground, just under the edge of a bench. She

has a nice plant now, but bought half a dozen before trying this position. Geraldine grew them in her greenhouse without special trouble. Anita had success with only one, a piece stuck into coarse sphagnum. It had no soil, only an inch of sphagnum, goes almost to wilting without dropping leaves, is well proportioned. Warmth and high humidity have been recommended for *B. foliosa* in other flights.

B. semperflorens 'Charm': Muriel finds this yellow-blotched, pink-flowered semp does not like to be wet or have too much fertilizer. Hazel agrees it does not like too much water and adds that it likes cool weather, will hardly live through a Texas summer. It will grow well outdoors in Virginia, another member had found, but has more yellow in the leaves in cooler weather. Anita thinks her winter difficulty is because she has given too much water and too little light. Helen believes seedlings, however, need as much moisture as other Begonia seedlings in early stages. Geraldine has no trouble when she grows B. 'Charm' like other semps, finds it nearly as pretty as a white-variegated calla lily Begonia. She wishes someone would cross with a red-flowered calla for a red-flowered version of B. 'Charm'. In another robin, Ruth Stanley of Bellefontaine, Ohio, reported she was unable to set seed on her B. 'Charm' at all.

Hybridizing: Jane Neal of Worthing, England, saw chromosomes actually at work on a TV program on microscopes—the whole of mitosis enacted. She was not prepared for the speed or the ordered chaos of the operation. Jane's seedlings from B. dregei X B. 'Orange Rubra' drop male flowers, indicating probable pollen sterility, so she plans to backcross them with B. 'Orange Rubra' as pollen parent again.

Ruth Wille of Jackson, Mississippi, hearing how the chemical colchicine increases the chromosome count of plants, is planning to test it on some low - chromosome - count Begonias to

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CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

No. 1-B. rajah-

(See Cover Picture). Malaya. Charming, dwarf, rhizomatous species with roundish, rich reddish-green, bullate, silky leaves and contrasting veins of yellow-green; under surface dull red; flowers pink. Very rare and exotic requiring greenhouse or terrarium care with warmth and humidity. If you can not provide these conditions, don't try to grow it as we have only a few seed and do not want to see them wasted. About three years ago a Botanist friend in Holland informed us that he was trying to find a plant or leaf of B. rajah but no one seemed to have it. He finally found the plant in another country and has been successful in setting seeds for the Seed Fund. We consider this a real accomplishment and it is a pleasure to offer them to you now. Price \$1.50 per pkt.

No. 2-B. listida-

New species from Brazil (see picture). This Begonia is indescribably beautiful and very few plants are grown even in its native Brazil. B. listida is small, only about one foot high. The leaf is smallish, dark green above with an emerald green band surrounding the midrib, hairy and red beneath. Flowers are two toned from the leaf axils. A real beauty. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—B. 'Gee-Gee' X B. Philippine species—

Cross made by Chester Nave, California. B. 'Gee-Gee' is his own introduction and crossed with B. Philippine species makes a charming basket type plant. However, we must caution you, that all plants may not be true but a few basket type with dark red, very large flowers may be grown from a packet of seed. New and different. Price 50 cents per pkt.

We are pleased to know that so many A.B.S. members are asking for seed of the new and modern type semperflorens Begonias. They are ver-



Begonia listida
Photo by Michael J. Kartuz

satile and easily grown from seed and will provide months of color as bedding or pot plants in sun or partial shade. Seed may be sown in January for spring and summer bloom. We offer the following which, in our opinion, are the very best obtainable.

B. 'Scarlette'-

Bright scarlet red. Best for vivid color and uniform dwarf compact habit. All plants bloom freely, at once and early. Dwarf, in pots three to five inches; outdoor beds six to eight inches. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. 'Red Comet'

Excellent in pots and the best bronze foliage, flowers red. Remains compact all season. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. 'Othello'-

Scarlet - orange with deep waxy bronze foliage. Equally in pots or outdoors. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. 'Pink Profusion'-

Intermediate. Light pink and best

used for outdoor bedding. Green leaves with red veins. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. 'Red Pearl'-

Luminous red. Excellent pot plant, early and free flowering. Price 50 cents per pkt.

The five varieties named above may be purchased at \$2.00 for the entire collection. Otherwise priced as noted.

Greenhouse Plants Streptocarpus— 'Wiesmoor hybrids—

Fringed, orchid-like flowers four to five inches across in shades of pink, red, blue, and lilac. Long blooming season. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Close Out Sale Number One

B. itaquassuense—

New from Brazil. Rhizomatous type, large, velvety leaves.

B. valdensium-

Brazil. Foliage plant shaped like the grape. A novelty.

B. masoniana syn. 'Iron Cross'-

One of the most beautiful Begonias in cultivation with bold pattern resembling the German iron cross.

B. lubbersii-

Exotic Begonia with boat-shaped leaves. Brazil species.

B. limmingheiana-

Brazil. Basket type and most satisfactory.

B. convolvulacea-

Fast growing robust species suitable for walls or trellises or in greenhouse. Requires cool conditions. Grow outside where climate permits.

B. caraquatatubens-

One of the most beautiful species from Brazil. Red-hairy bristly, red wings or collars at upper end of petiole constitutes the ornamental value of this Begonia.

B. venosa-

White felted leaves, spicy white flowers; grow dry.

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*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 of the four years 1934 to 1937	
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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

(Continued from Page 9)

see if it will make them cross with high-count Begonias next blooming season. She plans to water the soil with a solution of it, obtained by prescription for experimental purposes.

Sterility: Jane Neal finally obtained one seedling of B. Erythrophylla' var. helix, but it took enough seed to cover the soil to produce this one. All this group of cultivars are considered sterile, but botanists say that fertility is never zero—if you can find the one pod with a fertile ovule or two.

Ferns: Variable time to fertility causes problems in crossing ferns, but can be overcome with enough observant patience, notes Chuck Tagg of Fullerton, California. He suggests first testing by sowing Type A in one pot and Type B in another at the same time. If Type A shows fronds three weeks before Type B, then, for the cross, sow Type B three weeks ahead of Type A, in the same pot—and hope.

Cuttings: Peg Scott of Ashland, Nebraska, starts leaves in terrariums, in fine vermiculite mixed with clean sand. She sterilizes the bowls when they are taken out and puts in new material for the next group of slips. Eleanor Slee of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, roots rex leaves in a little water in a soup dish enclosed in plastic. Any other way, the leaves rot for her.

Seeds: Margaret Aman of Plant City, Florida, who had eighteen of 21 sowings up when she reported, sows seed in large-mouthed gallon jars on vermiculite, not too wet, not too dry. It may take longer, but she puts jars under greenhouse shelves (or outside under a bush in warm weather) and forgets them. Then one day she has plants ready to transplant. In her last transplanting, she transferred seedlings from the jar to shallow pans, disturbing them as little as possible. When they were larger, she transplanted them to small pots. These are doing much better than the others.

Edna Stewart uses peat moss screened with vermiculite, half and half, plus a bit of limestone and granular superphosphate, soaked before sowing—for Begonias, Gesneriads, perennials, annuals, vegetables, everything. Her selfed B. 'Orange Rubra' and B. manicata aureo-maculata var. crispa gave fine germination. Selfed B. dayi did well. Selfed B. 'San Miguel' pods dropped, but dried and produced seed that germinated and grew.

To join a round robin, write:

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WHAT FUTURE FOR BEGONIAS?

By Carrie Karegeannes

Will the future of Begonias match

past achievements?

Robert L. Shatzer, Retiring A.B.S. Research Director, reviewed the present age of plastics, chemicals, computers, rapid transportation, and continued plant exploration at the Saturday Luncheon of the Eastern Conference of the A.B.S. in Lexington, Massachusetts. He concluded, "Tomorrow will be a better Begonia day."

The age of plastics provides a myriad new products to aid seedsmen, planter, and propagator. The age of chemicals is developing everything from hormone stimulators to growth regulators. Methods of multiplying and altering chromosomes have opened new possibilities in hybridizing undreamed of before. Soilless planting mediums, electric lighting, growth chambers with every factor controlled—what more will tomorrow bring?

The modern computer age may soon facilitate translations of studies of Begonias by scientists in other countries, making much information widely available and helping to untangle Begonia nomenclature. The International Union of Biological Sciences has made great strides in standardizing nomenclature and encouraging formation of recording registries, such as that maintained by the A.B.S. as its important contribution.

Almost every month, the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund offers intriguing species seed—many new to cultivation, some reintroductions – constantly enlivening the *Begonia* genus with new blood. Collection in the wilds continues and the influx of new material will bring new cultivars in many areas of the world. Modern transportation will bring them to us more rapidly than ever before. And the new A.B.S. Hybridization Registration Committee -a record-keeping unit, not one to pass judgement or restrict crosseshas begun to collect information on hybridizing results that will be of great help to future growers.

Indications of a better tomorrow are numerous and vigorous.

REMARKS

(Continued from Page 8)

gonian. This statement is mostly true. I would never consider a blooming stem as a good cutting, but my first start of B. 'Tingley Mallet' was just that—a bloom at every node. A friend of mine who has a large greenhouse gave it to me. I had no choice and to my surprise, the cutting branched at every joint regardless of bloom. So I thought about that and tried a cutting of B. 'Richmondensis' – a blooming stem. After it was rooted, potted and growing, I cut off the top. It looked good and sat in the pot for a year; did nothing. This spring all at once, it sent up six shoots. The original stem died back.

Fourth, my *B. lubbersii* did not die when I topped it. It didn't have a leaf on the stub which I left. It has grown a good shoot from the base. It also began to grow from the top of the stub. When this was long enough I cut it again. Now I will let it alone because it has another shoot near the top and a nice shoot from the base. My two cuttings grew.

When you have enough patience, good stock, and provide proper care,

queer things can happen.



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WHAT FUTURE FOR THE NOVICE?

By Davida Arnold

The life of a novice plant collector is a frustrating one indeed. The reason for this is simply the fact that there are no set formulas or rules for doing anything. Everything depends on where you live, how you grow—whether in container or the ground, how you water, what you use for a soil medium, how much or what kind of space you have for growing, and, of course, what kind of plants you like to collect.

The most fortunate novices are the ones who are members of flower society branches and are able to attend meetings and visit other members' homes. It is always helpful to visit others and see how they do things and have them return the visit with a spattering of advice thrown in when they see your growing condition and how you do things. In this way, there is an opportunity to do a lot of oral research—question asking. It's a wonderful experience to stick your finger into the soil medium used for cuttings and see how dry it is kept when the person involved is very successful at propagating in this manner. It is nice to get different theories about how to water and then be able to decide for oneself which would be best for him.

Next to having the living beings on hand to visit is the opportunity afforded all our members to become a member of a round robin and do the same thing in writing. How many times does the question come up of "What am I doing wrong?" There are always a dozen answers and still the decision of which is best for which individual must be made. A list of five formulas for soil medium and all of them acclaimed to be THE BEST can be very frustrating and lead to a long series of disappointing losses before the discovery of THE BEST for any given individual.

Unless a novice has an "accidentally green" thumb, he must spend quite a bit of time doing research of one

kind or another. When we were in school, research was what we did in the library. That is very true even here and the first thing I suggest for any novice is a trip to the public library. It costs nothing but time and will be an "eye-opening" experience when you realize how few books have been written on the Begonia. Also, it is always wise to know just what type of written help is available and to keep up to date on information that is constantly being published in the form of books, pamphlets, and magazines.

In science labs at school, we were taught to do experiments and this too is a form of research. Many of the experienced growers keep more than one of each plant around so that they can experiment by giving one more water or light than the other and seeing for themselves just what effect it has. Giving one type of food to one plant and another type to another of the same kind may help you decide which would be better under your particular circumstances.

I have been using the work "research". I hope it does not scare you as a novice plant collector. If you are to go on to become a more experienced grower and to thoroughly enjoy growing Begonias as a hobby, an avocation or an occupation, your life will be filled with research. The more plants you collect, the more curious you will become and the more questions you will ask. It is seeking the answers to these questions that will fill your time and, in seeking those answers, you will be doing research whether you realize it or not.

The most surprising thing about it is the fun you will have doing it and the wonderful people you will meet as a result. I'm sure that you will find the more experienced growers welcoming you to ask questions and encouraging you to try this or that to see how it works for you. You will be

surprised how soon you will be classed as an experienced grower and how often you will have the right answer when other novice asks "What am I doing wrong?"

FREE BEGONIAS

(Continued from Page 7)

doors. These plants, now dormant, reproduce easily from bulbils. The American Begonia Society, in order to acquaint Sunset readers with these Begonias, are willing to send free of charge, several bulbils and a small packet of seed to anyone who encloses a stamped self-addressed envelope. The address is: The American Begonia Society, Research Department, 285 Park Avenue, Long Beach, California. Subsequent write-up A.B.S. (extract)

"We have received 2500 replies in a week and letters continue coming at the rate of 200 a day. By next week we may have to retract our offer. We are much gratified by the response from *Sunset* readers."

> C. M. Kelly Research Editor

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FAMILY BEGONIACEAE

(Continued from Page 7)

genus was named by Oliver for Dr. Hillebrand, a resident of Honolulu who is credited with bringing to Hawaii, from all parts of the tropics, the many colorful trees and shrubs that make it a flowery paradise. He had a three-acre place that became known as Foster's Garden, Mrs. Foster being his daughter.

Otto Degener, a botanist connected with the New York Botanical Garden, is an authority on the plants of Hawaii. He said that in 1930 he sent some rhizomes of the *Hillebrandia* back to New York and that they grew and flowered successfully under glass. His drawing of the plant and the complete description of it appeared in the June 1950 *Begonian*. Several have written that they could not find seeds in the trips they made to the wet ravines where it grows, but in 1959 our seed fund offered seeds.

The Dictionary of Flowering Plants, Seventh Ed., 1966, published by Cambridge University, sums up the Family Begoniaceae as: "Begonia L.—900 tropical and subtropical species, mostly American; Begoniella Oliv.—five species in Colombia; Hillebrandia Oliv.—one species in Hawaii; Sumbegonia Warb.—twelve species in New Guinea; and Semibegoniella C.DC.—two species in Ecuador."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Librarian, Mrs. Lucile Wright, asks that library users check carefully when returning books to be sure they are being returned to the proper place. Several books from A.B.S. Library have been returned to branch libraries and have remained lost there for several years. These books belong to all of us so do be careful.

Our President recently received a request for a list of fragrant Begonias. Is there anyone in our organization who has made a practice of collecting these plants or keeping a record of them? If so, would you please write Mr. Tagg and give him whatever information you can.

LETTERS

Maizuru, Oct., 1967

Dear Editor A.B.S.

Receiving your Journal I am very much delighted to see the paper, but at the same time I am sorry the sentences are too difficult for me to understand in details. Is there any Japanese in the members of the A.B.S.? I shall be very much pleased to have the honor to exchange the correspondence or to exchange the seeds of plants etc.

Allow me my unpolite writing. Hoping your kind introduction.

Faithful yours, Toichi Mukainaka 31 Matsukage Maizuru-Shi Kyoto Pref, Japan

FROM THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 3)

Committee shows what future for the A.B.S. It is impossible to predict what tomorrow will bring but it is always good to speculate and plan.

I do not plan to make this theme an annual occasion, but because of the problems which now exist in our organization, I feel that it is good for each of us to consider THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE.

Mae Tagg, Editor

BEGONIA HISTORY

(Continued from Page 6) two entirely new types were found, B. rex (1857) in Assam, India in the Himalaya Mountains and on the East side of the Andes, several tuberous varieties. In Natal, South Africa, was found another tuberous, B. sutherlandi. Later, from the island of Socrata in the Indian Ocean, came a winter blooming semi-tuberous or bulbous one. B. socotrana.

Hybridizers early began working with these native species and have developed the hundreds of improved garden varieties we now have in the four groups—fibrous, tuberous, semituberous, and rex.

Contributed by C. M. Kelly

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

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:58 p.m. Everett Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Aims and Purposes.

Ten officers and seven Branch Representa-

tives answered the roll call.

Mr. Tagg made the following appointments: Show Chairman—Everett Wright; Bylaws Committee — Walter Pease, Everett Wright, and Muriel Perz. Gertrude Winson made a motion, seconded by Floyd Neff, that these appointments be accepted. Carried.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Tagg reported that Carl Naumann, President-Elect, was home from the hospital and doing better. Cards are still appreciated. (see Officers List, page 2). Walter Barnett gave the treasurer's report. With \$827.73 receipts for the month, disbursements of \$668.47, we have a balance of \$947.11.

Muriel Perz reported that she had secured a lock box for the valuables belonging to the Society and is establishing a book of records for the transactions of her department.

Lucile Wright reported she has been very busy sending out books and reprints of the old bulletins.

Pearl Benell reported a total of 257 members processed, and 2604 Begonias mailed.

The secretary read the report from the Research Director. Mr. L'Hommedieu stated that Dr. Grant McGregor is working on the Begoniaceae family other than the Begonia genus and Mrs. O'Reilly is collecting all the information available on the adventitious growth of Begonias.

Carrie Karegeannes reported flight #51 is about to fly with a new member from Australia in the group. She sent out fifty letters from her department this month.

Since Vera Naumann was unable to be present, her report was made by the secretary. Vera reports that the Southern Chairman is having lots of activity in her area. Also, Lily Fine, Eastern Chairman, will have her name back in the magazine again. It was omitted accidently at the change of publishers.

Anne Rose reported a busy month. She also takes care of our official stationery.

A report from the Budget Committee was given by Everett Wright. Discussion followed concerning the proposed disbursements. Gertrude Winsor made a motion, seconded by Pearl Benell that the budget be accepted. Carried.

Mr. Tagg told the Board the supply of Begonia Society membership pins was low, and the price from the manufacturer has gone up. Everett Wright recommended (after consulting the Budget Committee) that we purchase 50 pins. They will sell for \$4.00 plus tax now. Walter Pease made a motion, seconded by Anne Rose that the pins be purchased. Carried.

Margaret Lee notified the Board that she received a request from Kirkland, Washington asking for replacement of an Award that was damaged. Everett Wright made a motion, seconded by Muriel Perz that the Award be replaced without charge. Carried.

Walter Barnett asked if there is any news from Dr. Creighton. It was reported that both our research director and our editor are corresponding with her.

After Branch reports, the meeting ad-

journed at 9:45 p.m.

Expected Income:

Mr ---- 1- ---- 1- !--

Virginia Barnett Secretary

PROPOSED BUDGET 1967 - 1968

Membership	\$5800
Advertising Manager	1100
Seed Fund	1000
Library	300
Show and Convention	300
Buxton Check List	36
	\$8536
	φοσσο
Proposed Disbursements:	
Begonian Printing	\$5760
Editor's Allowance	720
Membership Sec. Allowance	600
Membership Sec. Expenses	700
President's Allowance	180
Seed Fund Administrator	333
Register of Copyrights	72
City of South Gate-Rent	60
Insurance	90
Pins Purchased	153
Buxton Check List	36
Treasurer's Expense	15
Secretary's Expense	100
Advertising Manager Expense	30
Stationery	30
Arboretum Dues	10
Advertising	420
Sales Tax	. 50
Editor's Expenses	60
Two Ballots	300
South Coast Botanic Gardens Dues	10
	\$9729
ESTIMATED DEFICIT	\$1193
a	· .

Submitted by the Budget Committee:

Everett Wright Chairman Muriel Perz, Business Manager Walter Barnett, Treasurer

BRANCH DIRECTORY

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

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CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Sunday of each month Mrs. Peggy E. Fratus, Secy. 1363 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, Conn. 06475

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Monday, 10 a.m., Member's Homes Mrs. George Wilkins, Secy. 3625 N. Fitzhugh St., Dallas, Texas 75206

FAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California Mrs. Edmund H. Ellerbusch, Secy. 1051 Ordway, Albany, Calif. 94706

EASTSIDE BRANCH

Ath Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Natural Gas Co. Building
Crossroads Shooping Center, Bellevue, Wash.
Mrs. Mildred F. Shirley, Secy.
12229 N.E. 62nd St., Kirkland 98033

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes Sylvia B. Leatherman, Secy. 2637 N. Lee Ave., So. El Monte, Calif. 91733

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m. La Verne Community Bldg. 2039 Third St., La Verne Mrs. A. Esther Smith, Secy. 309 E. Foothill Blvd., Pomona, Calif. 91767

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Miss Lola Price, Secy. 628 Beach Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J. 08044

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m. Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand Mrs. Edna L. Korts, Corr. Secy. 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90039

GREATER BATON ROUGE BRANCH

Mrs. J. R. Coxe, Secy. 5757 N. Afton Park Way, Baton Rouge, La. 70806

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m. Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy. 12601 Broken Bough, Memorial Station Houston, Texas 77024

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Business and Professionals Women's Club 820 Java St., Inglewood, Calif. Mrs. Lydia Austin, Secy. 15329 Eastwood Ave., Lawndale, Calif. 90260

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y. 157 West 58th St., New York Mrs. Philip Sarna, Secy. 37 East 30th St., New York, 10016

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m. Social Hall of Community Savings and Loan, 3901 Atlantic Mrs. Mabel Gage, Secy. 3214 Delmar Ave., Long Beach, Calif. 90807

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

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

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Simpson Memorial Garden Center Miss Rosemond Meriweather, Secy. 1552 Plascentia Ave., Coral Gables, Fla. 33134

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m. Member's Homes Kansas City, Mo. Miss Nina Austin, Secy. 1104 Askew St., Kansas City, Mo. 64127

NEW LONDON COUNTY-NUTMEG BRANCH

2nd Saturday, Members' Homes Mrs. Donald Beck, Secy. R.F.D. 1, Mystie, Conn. 06355

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m. 3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach Mrs. Ruthealene Stark, Secy. 6802 California, Long Beach, Calif. 90805

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Constitution Branch
2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Mrs. William M. Hastings, Secy.
621 Orchid St. Corona del Mar, Calif. 92625

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes Mrs. Anne W. Stiles, Secy. R.D. No. 2, Box 43B, E. Delaware Trail, Medford, N.J. 08055

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. 92066

RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members Mary E. Tourgee, Secy. 92 Rodman St., Peace Dale, R.I. 02833

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Shamel Park 3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif. Mrs. Jim Smith, Secy. 8631 Clearview Pl., Riverside, Calif. 92509

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 12 noon, Homes of Members Constance D. Bower, Corr. Secy. 1609 W. Lewis St., San Diego, Calif. 92103

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., Garden Center 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif. Mrs. Carrie Hughes, Secy. 2709 Florence Place, Sacramento, Calif. 95818

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 Linda Priest, Secy. 6 Locksley Ave., Apt. No. 1-D San Francisco, California 94122

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. 91780

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif. Mrs. Margaret Lee, Secy 1852 31st St., San Diego, Calif. 92102

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History 2559 Puesta Del Sol Mrs. S. E. Wilband, Secy. 1542 Marquard Terrace, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m. Loyal Heights Field House, 21st Ave., N.W. and N.W. 77th St. Miss Sally Harding, Secy. 11632 1st Ave. S., Seattle, Wash. 98168

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Alice Barlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif. Mrs. Delores M. Kemsley, Secy. 1492 Arrowhead Ave., Ventura, Calif. 93003

SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday of Each Month Mrs. Ruth Beineke, Secy. 1921 Highland, Salina, Kansas 67401

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Lorenzo Manor School 18250 Bengal Ave., Hayward, Calif. Elma Midgley, Secy. 16105 Via Descanso, San Lorenzo, Calif. **94580**

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m. Members' Homes Mrs. F. E. Mahler, Secy. 1815 Sixth Ave., Fort Worth, Texas 76110

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

4th Thursday, Sabine National Bank Bldg. Port Arthur, Texas Mrs. R. J. Wilson, Secy. 4620 Evergreen St., Port Arthur, Texas 08055

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 8020 Alverson St., Los Angeles, Calif. Mrs. Velma Hansen, Secy. 5840 Compass Dr., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members Mrs. Irene Fediaczko, Secy. 125 Arlington Ave., Butler, Pa. 16001

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center,
5703 S. Palm Ave., Whittier
Mrs. Martha J. Rader, Corr. Secy.
10934 E. Flory St., Whittier, Calif. 90606

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Noon, Homes of Members Mrs. Robert E. Waite, Secy. 209 N. Locust Lane, Exton, Pa. 19341

CALENDAR

January 4—Westchester Branch: "Soil Mixes for Begonias" by Mr. Ed Sherer. 7:30 p.m.

January 10—Inglewood Branch: Mr. John Bingenheimer, "Use of Systemics in Control of Insects on Plants." 7:30 p.m.

January 12—San Gabriel Valley Branch: Installation Dinner at "Henry's" Restaurant, 125 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia. Dr. Mildred Mathais, guest speaker. 7:00 p.m.

January 22—A.B.S. BOARD: South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

February 1—Whittier Branch: Chuck Tagg, "Begonias from Cuttings— Why and Which How." 7:30 p.m.

February 1—DEADLINE for all material for the March issue.

SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE

Is your name listed correctly in the Branch Directory? Is the date, time and place of your branch meetings correct? If not, please send this information to me, the Editor, IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT WAIT FOR A DEADLINE. You may forget.

Mae Tagg, Editor



"THE BEGONIAN" Advertising rates Once Monthly Full Page \$30.00 \$25.00 Half Page 18.50 15.00 Quarter Page 10.00 8.50 Per Inch 3.00 2.50

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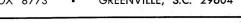
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