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Editor.....Mrs. Mae Tagg
2123 W. West Ave., Fullerton, Calif. 92633
Eastern Editor.....Mrs. Hertha Benjamin
1927 University Ave., New York, N.Y. 10453
Southern Editor.....Mrs. Don Wagner
3074 Seeland St., Baton Rouge, La. 70808
Northwestern Editor.....Mrs. Phyllis Wright
536 N. E. 98th St., Seattle, Wash. 98115
Advertising Manager.....Anne L. Rose
14036 E. Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif. 90605

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President-ElectWalter Pease
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Business Manager.....Mrs. Muriel Perz
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APPOINTED OFFICERS (Continued)

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Nomenclature Dir.....Rudolf Ziesenhene
1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103
Parliamentarian.....Walter Pease
8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045
Photographer.....Gene Daniels
Box 83, Camarillo, Calif. 93010
Research Director.....M. Carleton L'Hommedieu
370 Locust Ave., Oakdale, Long Island, N.Y.
11769
Round Robin Dir.....Mrs. Carrie Karegeannes
3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, Va. 22003
Seed Fund Admin.....Mrs. Florence Gee
234 Birch St., Roseville, Calif. 95678
Show Chairman.....James Somes
4849 W. 130th St., Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily
those of the Editor, the Society, or its officers.

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

I'm sorry to say that because of my health, I must resign as your President-Elect. I did not know at the time of my installation that I would be in the hospital a few days later. My situation is such that I don't know from one day to the next whether I will be able to continue working.

I don't feel it is fair to the officers to try to continue. It would not be fair to our new President-Elect for me to be installed as your President and then have to drop everything on him. I feel it is better for me to resign now and give the new President-Elect the next six months to prepare for the office of President.

In 1963 I had the honor of being your National President and know what is required in that position. I am not physically capable of doing things as I feel they should be done.

I appreciate your supporting me with your votes and your continued interest in my condition. I am sorry to have to resign.

Carl E. Naumann

COVER PICTURE

PLANT INSPECTION — Mrs. Walter Pease, President of the Westchester Branch of the A.B.S., and R. G. Wass, exhibit coordinator for the Southern California and Southern Counties Gas Companies, inspect one of the Begonias that has been growing in the experimental greenhouse at the Gas Companies' "Energy" exhibit. Walter Pease (background) is chairman of the display project for the Westchester Branch and our newly appointed President-Elect. (See "The Goin' Gang" on page 87.)

*Photo by Vanguard Photography
Hollywood, Calif.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the past seven months, I have had a pleasure few of you will ever have the opportunity to enjoy. In spite of his severe illness, Carl Naumann has continued to show his usual deep interest in the activities of the A.B.S. His resignation was accepted by the Board of Directors with deep regret. I regret the loss of his valuable experience, but hope his interest and activity in the A.B.S. will continue.

The Board of Directors unanimously approved the appointment of Walter W. Pease, Jr. to replace him. Walter will be installed at the Convention in August.

Those of us who know Walter are happy that we have someone so capable. He was President of the Westchester Branch for two years, is their show chairman this year, and is Parliamentarian on the Board of Directors. As you get to know him, you will feel we are fortunate he has accepted this office.

This message will go to press before we know the results of the ballot count. I hope you voted. It has been wonderful to have letters from so many of you and I am slowly getting them answered. Your letters helped the Board make an intelligent decision. We appreciate your interest and your trouble to let us know how you feel.

This issue shows work being done by the officers. I hope you read it and find it as interesting as articles on Begonias. As stated last month, you are members of an organization not magazine subscribers, and through these Board activities, our knowledge and interest in Begonias is increased.

Chuck Tagg

MYSTERIES OF NATURE

By M. CARLETON L'HOMMEDIEU

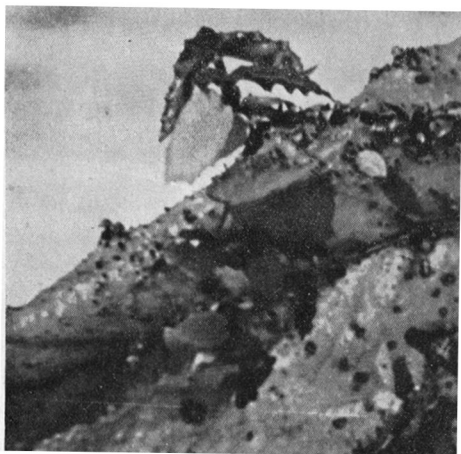
Oakdale, New York

Phyllomania seems to be one of the unsolved mysteries of nature. When a plant produces extra means of survival, nature always has a reason for so doing. Why should certain plants which appear perfectly normal and healthy, exhibit this phenomenon on its leaves and stems; and why should it be confined to just a few species or hybrids and always be prevalent upon these particular plants?

When I was at Planting Fields, I had an opportunity of working with three Begonias which had phyllomania — adventitious growth. These three Begonias were *B. templini* (a mutant of *B. phyllomaniaca*), *B. 'Paul Bruant'* (*B. heracleifolia longipilla* X *B. 'Frutescans'*), and *B. hispida cucullifera*.

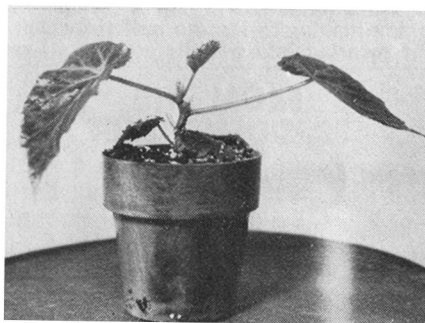
B. templini seems to have plantlets on the older leaves and sometimes on the stem. A full grown plant of *B. templini* is very seldom seen without these adventitious growths.

The plantlets on *B. 'Paul Bruant'* are mostly on the stem. Very few seem to occur on the leaves.



Plantlets on a leaf of *B. templini*. The large plantlet was removed and rooted.

Photo by Hertha A. Benjamin



Plantlet taken from a leaf of *B. templini*. It took about six weeks before it rooted and started to grow. The small leaf at the bottom of the plant shows leaflets on the left hand side.

Photo by Carleton L'Hommedieu

B. hispida cucullifera has a definite leaf pattern of adventitious growth on every leaf; even the very small ones that are just starting to grow. This growth on *B. hispida cucullifera* is not in the shape of a plantlet or seedling, as it is found on the leaves of *B. templini*, but is a single leaf from microscopic size to one inch long. The shape of this leaflet is in the form of a pocket or inverted hood, every one the same shape. This leads me to believe that on *B. hispida cucullifera* the leaflets are a normal leaf growth that nature has provided for some unknown reason.

I had succeeded in removing a plantlet from the leaf of *B. templini*. After it started to grow, it grew like any other seedling and developed into a full size plant. I have seen plantlets on the leaf of *B. templini* which were over an inch high with five or six leaves similar to a good size seedling. There are never any roots on these plantlets. They have to develop after they are transplanted.

I have made many attempts without success, to root the adventitious

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SEED TALK

By EDNA STEWART

Cultural Advisor, Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Seed Sowing—

Begonias and African violets with Gesneriads are the principal "crops" in my greenhouse. The roof is fiberglass and is ideal for the growing of these plants. A nighttime temperature of 55° to 65° is maintained if possible. A windy night of zero and it becomes a problem to keep it up to 55°.

For some time, I have grown Begonias from seed with more or less success. I use a mix of peat moss and vermiculite with some ground limestone added. I use small plastic flats and soak them well in a tray of water before planting seed. It may take 24 hours or longer to wet the peat moss, so that it is entirely wet. After seed is sown, the flat is covered with a pane of glass. Fertile seed may start to germinate as early as a week but most take two to three weeks. Lately, I have read that *B. goegoensis* may take several weeks and here I have been examining mine every day. It is three weeks at that since I sowed it. If the flat has been well soaked, it should not again need watering until germination is completed. I keep my flats on wet sand in which a heating cable is embedded. Thermostatically controlled, it maintains an even temperature. Keep a close check on the seed flats as drying out would be fatal to newly germinated seedlings. If necessary to water, do so by setting the flat in a tray of water, being careful the water is not too deep or you may have the whole thing floating. If necessary to fertilize, the fertilizer can be added to the water in the tray.

For the first time last winter, I selfed and crossed some Begonia flowers. Quite a bit of my seed, I sowed on April 20 and in ten days had fine germination. On October 20, I found a tiny bit of seed of *B. bartonea* which I had selfed. In two weeks, it had germinated. *B. venosa* and *B. lubbersii*

have also germinated. I have quite a large collection of rhizomatous Begonias and I am planning a lot of selfing and crossing of them, keeping a record of what I cross, if it takes, how long, and results. That will be work for me as I hate to keep records.

First Transplanting—

My mix is very loose and I take my dibble stick in one hand, a leaf of the seedling in the other hand and gently loosen the soil with the dibble. I remove the seedling and with the dibble, press the smaller ones back into the mix for further growth. I like to transplant into a large wooden flat for the first transplanting using my potting soil with more vermiculite in it to make it very loose. The flat should be prepared two days in advance, watered and left to drain and dry a bit. Rows are marked lightly and the dibble is used to make a tiny place for the seedling and to gently push the soil around it. Do NOT firm the medium. The lighter they are planted, the less loss. Just ease them in gently. I do not water too close to the plants but rather between the rows. The flat will sit on sand that is kept very wet. The top is kept dry and the seedlings soon root for moisture. The flat is not covered after transplanting but is kept away from the sun until new growth is starting. In my mix of peat moss with lime added, I do not fertilize my seedlings.

Seed—

Not all seed is viable. I had the firm conviction that if a seed capsule stayed on the plant until it was fully ripe, it was viable seed. I have tried several capsules that were dry with the seed shelling out in my hand as I gathered the capsules. Not just dust but separate seeds and not one bit

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THE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

By RUTH PEASE, *Chairman,*
Los Angeles, California

In January, 1967, I began to plan for the Westchester Branch Begonia and Shade Plant Show. Classifying Begonias is an important part of a Show where judging for awards is concerned. To assist the Registration Clerk, a classification list was prepared of Begonias most seen in the last five years at the Branch Show and other Shows. It was conceivable that such a listing would be helpful to show personnel in other parts of the country as well. The result was *A Guide—Over 500 Begonias Listed as to Type and Suggested Classifications.*

At the National Show and Convention in September, 1967, Thelma O'Reilly of La Mesa and I discussed the Begonias noted as controversial in the *Guide*. Thelma had been propagating these Begonias and studying their growth habits for some time. She felt that we now had a whole new class of Begonias. After discussing this with Rudy Zieshenne, Nomenclature Director and Chuck Tagg, President, it was decided that research work on these Begonias should continue. I was asked to be Chairman of a committee under the office of the Director of Nomenclature. A symposium was set for January, 1968. Members who were growing and working with these "controversial" Begonias were invited to attend this meeting to exchange their thoughts and ideas about classification of these Begonias. The Director of Research in New York was invited to participate and correspondence was sent to him as it was sent to others on the committee.

When Jim Somes was appointed A.B.S. Show Chairman, he became a member of the group. We offered assistance in preparing a new show schedule and studying show procedure, as well as in classifying Begonias to be entered in the National Show in 1968.

The Director of Nomenclature prepared a suggested outline of classification for the group to use. This outline was discussed by all of the members and the Research Director in New York participated by mail. The revised and agreed upon outline is to be used in classifying as many Begonias as possible and a list is to be made available for use by the classification and registration clerks at the 1968 A.B.S. Show.

All feel that a new show schedule is needed. The group is preparing one following the new classification outline. The schedule will be different from what we have had in the past, but it will be easy to follow. As one thinks of the show schedule, he also considers the rules and regulations of the show, the trophies to be awarded, the judging of Begonias, and other plants entered in the show.

A meeting was held to review the show schedule and some of the suggested changes. Members of the committee were asked to take on individual projects and to send their information to the chairman to be assembled and copied for further study in their homes. The intent is to get all information together and discussed item by item in order to have the full show schedule ready for printing in the July Begonian.

Classification of Begonias has become a large job and each takes his own list along with 500 or more added Begonias to research the classifications. The lists are then charted for further discussion. The Director of Nomenclature checks his records for correct Begonia names, spelling, and whether or not the Begonias are hybrids or species.

Begonias added to the Classification List are selected from many sources—lists of Begonias in personal

collections, show schedules and records of entries, catalogs, reference books, as well as the *Buxton Check List* and its supplements. The members of the committee add still others that they know of which are not listed, and so the list grows.

The Research Director in the East was asked to check into all of the Begonias known and grown there. This is excellent for the committee since he can personally check Begonias by looking at those available and telling their classifications. He can also check the spelling on these since many are hybrids introduced in the East.

The Classification Committee is planning to prepare a show handbook that will be so complete that any member of the A.B.S. or any Society can use it easily. A show chairman will be able to call upon someone to do the classification and this information will also be available for him to follow as a reference during the registration of Begonia entries at a show.

On March 25, 1968, President Tagg appointed me as Chairman of the Classification Committee, making it independent from the office of the Director of Nomenclature. Members of the committee are: Rudy Ziesenhenné, Nomenclature Director; Margaret Ziesenhenné, Judge; Sylvia Leatherman, Judges Course Director; Carl L'Hommedieu, Research Director; Margaret Lee, Awards Chairman; Paul Lee, Judge; Chuck Tagg, President; Mae Tagg, Editor; Jim Somes, A.B.S. Show Chairman; Thelma O'Reilly, Awards and Research Committees; Walter Pease, Show Chairman, Westchester Branch; and myself as chairman. Each of these members is a valuable part of this committee. All will continue to work together toward the publication of a show handbook and classification guide which will be worthwhile to the members of the A.B.S., to others researching Begonias in Universities and Botanical Gardens, and to the hobbyist who enjoys growing and showing Begonias.

THE GOIN' GANG

By RAY OSBORNE

*Southern California Gas Co.,
Los Angeles, California*

The Westchester Branch of the American Begonia Society is currently participating in a unique experiment involving the growth of plants in an artificial atmosphere.

The group is supplying a variety of plants for the experimental greenhouse display at the "Energy" exhibit opened recently in the science wing of the California Museum of Science and Industry at Exposition Park in Los Angeles.

This unusual greenhouse, referred to as a "natural gas garden," features a showcase of Begonias and other plants growing in an atmosphere principally derived from the flame of a natural gas burner.

Sponsored by the Southern California and Southern Counties Gas Companies, the imaginative exhibit was created by Los Angeles designer Herb Rosenthal and Associates to show the universal and interchangeable forms of energy.

"One of our members heard about the experimental greenhouse planned for the exhibit, and he suggested that our group undertake supplying the display as a project," commented Walter Pease.

Seven species of Begonias, as well as asparagus, ferns, ivy, bromeliads, and muranta (prayer plant) are among the plants in the display.

"A number of plants have been in the display since the exhibit opened in November, and they are doing very well," Pease remarked. "We have had to replace some of the flowering plants like orchids and chrysanthemums with fresh plants since the opening.

"We are very interested in the results of the greenhouse experiment at the energy exhibit," Pease continued. "Many of the plants are doing much better than we had expected."

The idea of growing plants in an artificial atmosphere produced mainly

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Requests are in for special robins on organic gardening, rhizomatous Begonias, hirsute Begonias, miniature Gesneriads, and culture of Belya Kusler hybrids. New robins are forming on rexes, semperflorens, and cuttings. Are you interested?

B. listida:

Several have decided that *B. listida* likes less light than many Begonias, but a friend of Elaine Wilkerson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana has grown about 50 from seed, treating them like semps, giving full sun until about 10 a.m. They were beautiful. Bob Shatzer of Albright, West Virginia also thinks that *B. listida* needs real sun to do well, noted that a collector from the wild found them prone to nematodes.

B. schmidtiana:

Jane Neal of Worthing, England agrees that *B. schmidtiana* tends to be biennial; it deteriorates after a year, though it will grow again if kept going. It comes so easily from seed that that is the best way, she agrees with previous reports. Arline Peck of Pascoag, Rhode Island however, has had a plant two years or more that she thinks has never been out of bloom. It gets little attention; once or twice a year it is trimmed, starts to grow again and bloom.

B. foliosa:

Mike Michelson of Miami, Florida reported seeing this "fern-leaf" Begonia in large baskets suspended from the greenhouse roof at New York Botanical Garden, hanging down at least five feet, in ideal conditions.

B. 'Lulu Bower':

Lillian Bergeron of Baton Rouge, Louisiana thinks this cross of *B. dichroa* x *B. 'Alzascó'* by Constance Bower is one of the prettiest canes she has seen. It has long thick leaves and dark pink flowers, blooms almost constantly.

B. versicolor:

Mae and Chuck Tagg of Fullerton, California put tiny plantlets into pots set inside ice cream containers covered with baggies. They sat from

September to the middle of December with no increase in size. Occasionally, a leaf rotted and another slowly formed. In December, they were moved to clear glass candy dishes, with glass lids. Within two weeks they doubled in size—on the same shelf, under the same lights, at the same distance, no change but from plastic to glass. Friends who succeed with *B. versicolor* keep soil dry, atmosphere saturated, with fresh air daily.

B. 'Thrush':

Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania noted that Carl L'Homme-dieu of Oakdale, Long Island had a seed pod on *B. 'Thrush'*; she has never had one to ripen, though pods hang on a long time. She had several on *B. 'Robin'*, but they dropped also. Edna thinks *B. 'Robin'* is prettier, but *B. 'Thrush'* is the better bloomer.

Terrariums:

Edna finds *B. versicolor* grows best in a terrarium, also *Begonias griffithii* and *rajah*, both rare and fussy species. *B. boweri* should be grown in a terrarium for the house, but kept on the dry side. In her greenhouse, pots sitting on wet sand are hardly ever watered. Many have difficulty with *B. boweri*, she notes.

Species:

Jane Neal learned from the Kew Botanical Garden that new specimens of plants found in the wild are grown at least two generations. If both generations breed true within a recognized pattern, the taxonomists work on it, eventually declare a new species, or perhaps a variation caused by habitat, or perhaps a natural hybrid. Then chromosome botanists go to work. But it takes a number of years to determine a new species.

Under Lights:

Rex Begonias are favorites of Zack Monesson of Lakewood, New Jersey. Having little success, he tried a new approach, bought a dual Gro-Lux fluorescent unit. Increased growth and color change was spectacular. The unit hangs over a one foot by three foot shelf lined on all sides with heavy aluminum foil to reflect light. He is so

pleased with Begonias 'Merry Christmas', 'Gorgeous George', 'Silver Sweet', 'Peacock', and 'Silver Lake' he plans more units. He keeps his plant room cool, 55° to 60°, lets plants get dry between waterings.

Murray Morrison of New York says *B. epipsila* seems to enjoy lights; two cuttings from robin friends are filling up a pot. *B. 'Sophie Cecile'* is a beauty from the top, but light growers still have difficulty supplying enough light to keep bottom leaves from falling off tall plants. His Anthurium is doing well, three huge red flowers in the garden and, two weeks after moving in to lights, three more. *B. templini* seems happier under lights than in the garden, variegation excellent.

Carl L'Hommedieu uses mostly Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum over his benches for small Begonias, Gesneriads, cuttings, and seed. Plants seem to flower sooner. Lights fastened under his cutting bench, to give light to the bench below, provide heat to cuttings above. Carl started all his summer bedding plants under lights last year, had the best year ever:

Gesneriads:

Don't worry about temperature in 40°s for *Columneas*, Carl advises. They will take it, but will probably bloom late. His porch has dropped below 40°, and *Columneas* flowered, but later in the season. *Episcias*, however, usually turn black when temperature gets below 50°.

Ferns:

So many well-known *Platyneriums* are cultivars now that every spore-sowing turns out many variations, as with any cultivar, comments Chuck Tagg.

Adventitious Growth:

Edna Stewart has growth on stems of her *B. 'Gwen Lowell'*, rather like fuzz. Her *B. 'Pink Fairy'* also has fuzz on stems. *B. templini* is carrying adventitious leaflets, and its leaves are beautifully marked. Rosetta White of Newton, Kansas has had no luck rooting *B. hispida cucullifera* leaflets, but is still trying.

Cuttings:

Rosetta would like to know good methods of propagating *B. 'Rudy'* and *B. macdougalii*, has had no success. She also finds *B. 'Curly Fireflush'* rather difficult to propagate, but now has a plant doing well in a terrarium. When Winifred Smith puts a lot of rex leaves to root, she trims off all of each leaf about one inch around the sinus, to save space, then gets one good husky plant from each sinus. Lillian Bergeron says *B. 'Dorothy Barton'*, a beauty, roots easily in water.

Cold:

Frost in Winifred's tubehouse caused some rexes to lose leaves, but none of *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross) showed damage. *B. 'Fire Flush'* (rex cv.) came through, too. *B. epipsila* and *B. serratifetala* were hardest hit, but still alive. *B. fuchsoides* was blooming and growing nicely, but *B. foliosa* was frosted part way back.

Exchange:

Mike Michelson raised two seedlings from the Brazil species offered in the October 1965 Seed Fund, but lost them. He would like to exchange with someone who has this Begonia—a beauty.

To join a round robin, write:

Mrs. Carrie Karegeames
Round Robin Director
3916 Lake Boulevard
Annandale, Virginia 22003

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CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

No. 1—*B. rex* hybrids—

1968 crop. Especially produced for the Seed Fund and grower writes that they are from outstanding plants, highly colored, and have been crossed to bring out the brilliant reds as well as other colors. Both spirals and non-spirals are included and, because rex Begonias are such complicated hybrids, they will not come true from seed. One seed capsule seldom produces two plants alike. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

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

No. 2—*B. convalliodora* C. de Candolle—

Seed formerly listed as *B. Venezuela* species #1003. See cover picture of *Begonian* for July 1967. Unlike other Begonias, *B. convalliodora* has been found growing in various countries. Beautiful and unusual. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—*B. palmaris* A. DC—

Mexico. Stems erect; petioles to four inches long, usually palmately lobed, sometimes merely once-cleft between the base and tip, slightly green, slightly hairy above and on the nerves beneath, margins toothed and ciliate; flowers in dense axillary clusters. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. egregia* N. E. Brown—

Syn. *B. quadreocularis*. Brazil. Long, tapering, pointed, pebbly green leaves drooping neatly from both sides of stem. Flowers tiny pink-tipped hearts. Easy. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5—*B. goegoensis*—

Sumatra. Growth bushy, compact, ten inches high, with creeping rhizome. Petioles are fleshy, sharply tricorned, bare. Leaves almost round to egg-shaped, saucer-lobe, wavy over the entire surface or rugose; upper side of leaf dark olive-green with lighter shadings, silky gloss, a little lighter at the margin; reddish beneath; both sides are bare. Inflorescence sessile, surpassing the leaves very little in height. Flowers medium large, pink; male flowers four petals; female flowers five.

B. goegoensis is a treasure for collectors and fanciers of beautiful foliage plants. It thrives best in a well regulated greenhouse in pots or beds. A friend who collects choice and rare plants has just sent *B. goegoensis* seed and we offer them to you because they are very fresh and germination has been excellent. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 6—*B. rubro-venia* Hooker—

The rhizomes are slender and creeping; petioles long and grooved; leaves oblique, long-oblong-pointed, silvery green, green or red beneath with brown tomentum on the nerves and petioles; flowers white with red veining on the outer side of the petals. Easily grown from seed. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7—*B. 'Patria'*—

Semperflorens. Superior dwarf habit for outdoors or pots. Bright pink flowers, bronze foliage. New. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 8—*B. heracleifolia* nigricans

Robust star-leaf, medium growth, rhizomes procumbent, thick; leaves long-petioled, to a foot across, handsomely variegated with bright and black green, seven to nine finger-like

lobes, taffeta-like in appearance; white flowers in tall panicles. Handsome foliage plant. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Seed is from a collector in Europe and we wondered if this is the plant we know by this name from seed sent from Brazil.

No. 9—B. 'Frosty'—

Semperflorens. Pure white flowers, bronze leaves, dwarf and compact. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 10—B. *incarnata*—

Mexico. Frilly, fluffy plant with light green leaves charmingly fluted and scalloped on the edge; flesh-pink flowers in winter. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 11—B. *macdougalli*—

Mexico. Large leaf, rhizomatous plant that can be grown outdoors in mild climates. Makes a beautiful specimen plant grown in large pots or redwood tubs. Price 50 cents per pkt.

FREE SEED

B. leptotricha (also known as *B. 'Manda's Woolly Bear'*) and mixed rhizomatous Begonias (several varieties). Please do not ask to have them identified until plants are full grown. Send postage if other seed are not requested.

When requesting seed, please save work and trouble for the other officers by sending your requests to:

Mrs. Florence Gee
Seed Fund Administrator
234 Birch Street
Roseville, Calif. 95678

**WANTED
OLD BEGONIANS**

1938 - 1949

Send to:

Mrs. Lucile Wright, Librarian
4508 West 133rd Street
Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

**PROJECTS IN THE
NORTHWEST**

By PHYLLIS WRIGHT,
Northwest Editor,
Seattle, Washington

Speaking of Goodwill Ambassadors, our Eastside Begonia Club located in Bellevue, Washington, a thriving, fast-growing community east of Lake Washington, has surely taken on a project which a good many larger clubs would never think of tackling. They have taken as a project, the growing of some 600 named varieties of Fuchsias to be given as souvenirs for the Delegates to the Convention of the State-wide Women's Garden Clubs to be held in that city June 18, 19, and 20. Their club member, Lois Donahue, is in charge of all the arrangements for the Convention.

This project was started in February. To date these 600 named varieties are all rooted and ready for their two-inch pots, in a short while they will be transferred into their final four-inch pots and will be distributed among their members who have the space for their final stages of growth.

The cuttings, soil mixes, pots and labor are all donated by the club members. What a Labor of Love!

I know of no nicer way to advertise our Beautiful Pacific Northwest, especially the lovely city of Bellevue and its many wonderful Begonia Club members.



**American Begonia Society
INSIGNIA PIN**
for Begonia Society Members

PRICE \$4.00 (includes postage)
Calif. residents add 20c sales tax.

SEND YOUR ORDER TO:
CHARLES E. TAGG
2123 West West Avenue
Fullerton, Calif. 92633

NORTHEAST BEGONIAS IN MAY

By ELDA HARING

May is the month of promise in the Northeast. Fruit trees bloom and drop their petals like falling snow. The birds have all returned and their songs are everywhere. We are out-of-doors all day long, digging, planting, fertilizing, weeding and enjoying the beauty of spring flowers.

It is not wise to put our Begonias outside until the end of the month when days and nights have become warm, for the sudden change from the warmth of house and greenhouse to cool temperatures sets back some of our choice plants. There are usually enough rainy days to permit us to work with house plants. In May, I like to take cuttings of special Begonias as insurance against losses of mature plants. Sources for some varieties are hard to find. If any Begonias need repotting, May is a good time for this chore before they are placed outside for the summer.

While there are many kinds of Begonias which can take outdoor conditions, some of those with delicate foliage like *B. crispula*, *B. acida*, the *B. pustulata* group and *B. imperialis* should be kept inside unless you have a covered porch where they will be sheltered from the sun, wind and rain. Even the "toughies" need to be in a sheltered spot, with diffused sunlight where their leaves will not be damaged by the wind. It is best, if possible, to sink the pots to their rims and a mulch of peat moss is helpful. Those which bloom in winter can be kept in the background and are best grown a little on the dry side, although this does not mean that they should be allowed to suffer for lack of water. Large specimen plants whose roots fill the pots will need careful watering to be sure that the root ball is moist.

May is a good time to study your Begonia catalogs and to order small plants of new varieties or some that you would like to add to your collec-

tion. There is no danger of the little plants suffering in transit and they will have the summer to grow to nice size before winter. When the plants are received, unwrap them carefully, water them and give them light, but no sun, until they have recovered from the shock of having been wrapped for mailing. Within a few days, these should be repotted in your favorite potting mix and in a month, regular feeding should be initiated.

The Begonian carries advertisements for those specialists in the Northeast area as well as other sections of the country and it would behoove you to write for their catalogs. (Be sure to mention that you saw the ad in *The Begonian*.) My own collection includes plants obtained from advertisers in *The Begonian*. These growers properly label each plant and wrap them carefully. They will reach you in excellent condition.

FROM THE SHOW CHAIRMAN

Showtime is coming fast. I am very pleased with the cooperation from our officers and members and although there are still positions open on the show committee, the prospects of a bigger and better show are very apparent.

I hope all of you will begin grooming now and continue grooming until showtime. It is a good habit to develop and beautiful show plants are the result.

We are eager for all of our members and branches to participate and have two Photo Divisions for this purpose. Read the information on page 94 about this section of the Show Schedule and "Enter Your Plants By Mail." We especially hope that our members-at-large will take this opportunity to participate and become an active member of the A.B.S.

Jim Somes

The Begonian

ONE AWARD, TWO AWARDS, THREE AWARDS

It is the time of year to once again consider awarding the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal for a most outstanding Begonia hybrid that has been available to the public for five years prior to its nomination. It must be a registered Begonia and its originator must be a member of the American Begonia Society.

It is also time to consider the matter of another award that is presented by the American Begonia Society. This is the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award. This award is presented to a person who has contributed original literary material which is aiding members in their study of Begonias or who has been outstanding in his promotion of interest in the culture of Begonias and in better understanding between members in their search for knowledge of Begonias. This person

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES

A list of judges accredited by the A.B.S. is badly needed. Requests have been made for lists of judges available in many areas.

Up-to-date information is needed for the Judges List, available to any show committee member. Pertinent information includes how far a judge will travel, whether expenses are expected to be paid for travel beyond a certain distance, etc. Many shows include other types of plants, and it is important that the records indicate a judge's capabilities to judge these.

For those who wish to be included in the list of available judges, the application form may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman
A.B.S. Chairman of Judges
2637 North Lee Avenue
South El Monte, Calif. 91733

need not be a member of the American Begonia Society.

This year the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society has approved the institution of the third annual award to be presented to a person who has rendered outstanding service to the American Begonia Society. This Award is to be known as the Herbert P. Dyckman Service Award, thus honoring our founder.

Nomination for these awards must be in the hands of the Awards Committee no later than July 1 of the year such nominations are made.

Each nomination for the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award and/or the Herbert P. Dyckman Service Award must be accompanied by a list of specific reasons as to why the nominees are deemed worthy of receiving one of these awards, and no nomination will be considered without such a list.

Please give these matters your most careful consideration and make your nominations to a member of the Awards Committee who are:

Mrs. Margaret M. Lee, Chairman
1852 31st Street
San Diego, Calif. 92102

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu
370 Locust Ave.
Oakdale, L.I., N.Y. 11769

Mrs. Beryl Allen
6814 10th Street
Tampa, Fla. 33606

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

Mrs. Paul T. Maslin
514 Shipley Road
Linthicum, Md. 21090

Mrs. Dorothea Orndorff
784 Graves Ave.
El Cajon, Calif. 92021

Rudolph Ziesenhenn
1130 N. Milpas Street
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103

PHOTO DIVISIONS OF THE SHOW SCHEDULE

The new show schedule for the A.B.S. 1968 Begonia and Shade Plant Show will have nine classes in two divisions for photographs.

A division for photographs of Begonias will include the following classes open to anyone regardless of geographic location: (Print size 3½" x 5" or 5" x 7". Slides mounted in 2" x 2" cardboard frames).

1. Black and white print of a single Begonia.
2. Color print of a single Begonia.
3. Color slide of a single Begonia.
4. Black and white print of three Begonias.
5. Color print of three Begonias.
6. Color slide of three Begonias.

The second division will be for photographs of Branch Garden Displays and Education Exhibits and will include three classes open to branches outside a 100 mile radius of the show: (Print size 5" x 7" or 8" x 10")

7. Black and white print.
8. Color print.

Each photograph should have the name of the plant or plants (spelled correctly and printed legibly) on the back of the print followed by the name and address of the exhibitor. Slides should be placed in an envelope (one slide per envelope) with this same information enclosed on a separate piece of paper.

A self-addressed stamped envelope must be enclosed if you want your pictures returned. Pictures which are not returned will be used in the historian's book, *The Begonian*, or the slide library.

Photo entries must be received by August 1, 1968. Mail your entries or questions to:

Mrs. Muriel Perz
Photo Div., A.B.S. Show
2141 West 29th Street
Long Beach, Calif. 90810

ENTER YOUR PLANTS BY MAIL

By GENE DANIELS,
ABS Photographer

The show schedule for the 1968 A.B.S. Begonia and Shade Plant Show includes two divisions for photographic entries. Although this is not a photographic contest there are some photo tips which might help you take the best picture possible.

If you have not used your camera for a while, it is wise to buy a roll of your favorite film and shoot the whole roll to be sure the camera is in good working order. It would be wise to shoot this roll in the location and on the plants you plan to enter.

When planning these pictures, remember that you are entering the PLANTS in competition, NOT the photographs. Therefore, prepare the plant for the picture. Be sure that it is a well-groomed healthy plant in an appropriate container. Study your plant through the viewfinder. Notice what angle makes it look best and be sure that the plant is clearly in focus.

The plant should be the center of interest in your photograph and you should avoid any distraction in the background. This can be done by providing a solid background. Remember that the plant should be identifiable. When using a solid background, be sure that it covers the entire frame of your picture. A black strip, a porch railing, or a post in the background would be distracting.

Before you shoot, study your picture through the viewfinder of your camera. Check the plant for clear focus and the background for clutter.

If you have an adjustable camera, you may like to take more than one picture of each plant, using different exposures. A "perfect" exposure may not show the best leaf detail. From these, choose the one which most accurately shows the quality of your plant.

See the next column for details on entering. Groom, shoot, and enter! Muriel is waiting to hear from you.

FROM THE EDITOR

I am sorry to announce the resignation of Richard Hammond as our Northwestern Editor. Taking over in that capacity is Mrs. Phyllis Wright of Seattle, Washington who has served for several years as Northwestern Public Relations Chairman. Mrs. Wright reports in this issue on "Projects In The Northwest" on page 91.

Taking over in the capacity of Northwestern Public Relations Chairman is Mrs. Eleanor Fariss also of Seattle.

We send our thanks to these ladies for their continued interest in the A.B.S. and our best wishes for success in their new positions.

Mae Tagg

MYSTERIES . . .

(Continued from Page 84)

growth on the leaves of *B. hispida cucullifera*, even by laying the entire leaf on a medium and cutting the under side of the veins where the leaflet was attached to the leaf. I think that if anyone ever succeeds in rooting a leaflet from *B. hispida cucullifera*, it will be an entirely different plant from the parent, since the leaf growths do not resemble it.



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San Francisco, Calif. 94116

THE GOIN' GANG . . .

(Continued from Page 87)

by a natural gas flame is relatively new, according to R. G. Wass, exhibit coordinator for the gas companies. Wass explains the biological process taking place in the greenhouse:

"The natural gas flame gives off the carbon dioxide and heat as well as some of the light and water vapor needed for plant growth, while the plants give off enough oxygen to maintain the flame.

"Special fluorescent lights, which give off mainly red and blue waves, supplement the light provided by the flame and aid plant growth," Wass continued. "The flame can be adjusted to control the rate of growth."

Members of the Westchester Branch take care of providing the plants with additional water and food that cannot be gained from the artificial atmosphere that exists in the greenhouse.

The Westchester Branch was started in 1959 and currently has 65 members. The group is active in the Westchester Beautiful Committee, the Westchester Coordinating Council, and the South Coast Botanic Gardens in Palos Verdes.

Presently, they are making plans for their annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show to be held in August. Proceeds from the event help to provide a scholarship to a high school graduate interested in studying horticulture.

CORRECTION

In the March issue, *B. boliviensis* was listed in the Seed Fund as a semi-tuberous. *B. boliviensis* is a tuberous species and one of the tuberhybrida ancestors.

"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

SEED TALK . . .

(Continued from Page 85)

of germination though flats were kept in ideal conditions. The latest one I tried was seed of *B. Victoria Kartack* which was bee-pollinated. On two different occasions, I had seed capsules that shelled right out in my hand and the seed rolled from my hand to the flat but not one seed germinated.

If seed had been sown thinly enough and was good viable seed, there is enough food in that seed to produce the first true set of leaves. Some seed will germinate but does not have enough food in it to produce its first true set of leaves. Fertilizing does not help either. This is a problem that members have asked about in the robins. I have no answer for I have never been able to make them grow either. Two tiny seed leaves and the plants may stay that way for many weeks before dying. My first experience was with a flat of *Streptocarpus* seed, beautiful germination, evenly

sown and that is the way they stayed until I dumped them.

If a capsule hangs on a plant until completely dry and shells as it is being taken from the plant, why will it not grow? Most plants drop the seed capsules quickly if not fertile. Might the seed need freezing or scari-fying to make it germinate? Has anyone tried either way?

I have lifted the tiny two-leaved plants and they have no roots yet they will stay green for many weeks. I had a flat of tomato seedlings which did the same thing. The plants were a very dark green, germination 100% but they had no roots. In this case the seed was old. When we buy *Begonia* seed, we do not know how old it may be. That may be a large part of the trouble with it. Then we may keep it an indefinite time. Seed that I raised last winter and sowed in April grew very well. Would it grow as well now? *B. bartonea* has germinated and it was last winter's seed. Now to see if it will continue to grow.

THE LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL FERN SOCIETY PRESENTS

THE FIFTH ANNUAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SHOW

Saturday, May 18, 1968 - 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday, May 19, 1968 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Competitive Plants Building

Competition of plants and arrangements — entries open to everyone. No limit on number of plants entered in one class or in the show. Ribbons for first, second, and third winners in every class. Trophy for first, cash awards for second and third winners in each division.

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Valuable magazine-type program — FREE

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m., March 25, 1968. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Past-president Everett Wright. Carl Naumann, President-elect gave the Aims and Purposes. Thirteen officers and nine Branch Representatives answered the roll call.

President Tagg appointed Ruth Pease as Chairman of Classification. Walter Barnett moved, seconded by Carl Naumann that we accept the appointment. Carried. Nomenclature, Show chairman, Research Director, Judges Course Director, Editor and the President will be working with her to publish a booklet classifying Begonias for show purposes.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Carl Naumann reported on a building contemplated at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, which will be 16,000 square feet for flower shows and meetings.

Walter Barnett, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$1,373.99, receipts of \$838.30. Disbursements were \$825.42, leaving a balance of \$1,386.87.

Anne Rose reported \$113.00 in advertising this month.

The Business Manager reported an insurance policy due for property damage and liability. Walter Barnett moved, seconded by Pearl Benell that we pay \$54.00 for the policy. Carried.

Ruth Pease reported one new Judges Course member and a balance of \$307.43 in that Department.

The Librarian, Lucile Wright, reported many requests for books.

Pearl Benell, Membership Chairman, reported 56 new members and 2,689 *Begonians* dispersed.

The Round Robin report showed 50 robins flying and several others in process of organization, besides other new requests.

Plans are progressing nicely for the A.B.S. Show according to the chairman, Jim Somes.

Mr. Tagg told the Board of activity with the Slide Library. Various members are using them in clubs with good results.

Vera Naumann reported Phyllis Wright has resigned as Northwestern Public Relations Chairman. She appointed Eleanor Fariss; Muriel Perz moved, seconded by Everett Wright that the appointment be accepted. Carried.

Mae Tagg announced the resignation of Richard Hammond as Northwestern Editor due to his health, and asked that we accept Phyllis Wright for that position. Walter Barnett moved, seconded by Vera Naumann that the appointment be approved. Carried.

The policy of the Society regarding surplus old *Begonians* was discussed. A motion was made by Carl Naumann, seconded by

Anne Rose, that old copies can be obtained by members or branches for publicity by paying the postage. Carried.

Carl Naumann resigned as President-elect due to poor health. Mae Tagg moved, seconded by Muriel Perz, that we accept with regrets. President Tagg appointed Walter Pease to fill the vacancy. Motion was made by Carl Naumann, seconded by Jim Somes that the appointment be accepted. Carried.

Anne Rose made a motion, seconded by Mae Tagg that we renew the *Home Garden* ad. Carried.

The Branch Representatives made their reports, and the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. followed by refreshments.

Virginia Barnett
Secretary



A.B.S. LIBRARY BOOKSTORE

The following selection of books are FOR SALE

- *The Complete Book of Gardening.....\$4.95
Under Lights by Elvin McDonald
- *Gesneriads And How To Grow Them..\$7.95
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by Virginia Withee
- *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
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Librarian:

Lucile Wright would like to call your attention to the Library Bookstore ad on page 97. All of these books are available for loan as well as for sale. The following new books obtained for loan may be of interest to you.

Gesneriads and How to Grow Them

By Peggy Shultz

The Iris Book By Molly Price

How To Grow Ferns By Frances

Theodora Parsons

The Art of Driftwood Arranging

By Tatsuo Ishimoyo

Ikebana For Beginners

Flowering House Plants Month By

Month By Jack Kramer

How To Prune Almost Anything

By John Phillip Baumgardt

Send your requests to:

Mrs. Lucile Wright

Librarian

4508 West 133rd St.

Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

Agar Gel:

Harold Howard would like to correspond with anyone who has worked with agar gel as a medium for seed propagation. Anyone interested should write:

Harold Howard

3736 West 108th St.

Inglewood, Calif. 90303

Regional Meeting:

Our President would like to announce a Regional Meeting to be held on Sunday, July 28, 1968 at the Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand, Glendale, Calif. The Glendale Branch hosts this event. There will be a donation plant table, plenty of refreshments, and a wonderful opportunity for our members to see the Board in action and to become better acquainted with the officers.

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CALENDAR

May 2—Westchester Branch: "Species Begonias" by Muriel Perz. 7:30 p.m.

May 2—Whittier Branch: "Flower Arranging" by Beverly Jones. 7:30 p.m.

May 8—Inglewood Branch: "Hybridizing Begonias with a Helper" by Irene Nuss. 7:30 p.m.

May 9—Orange County Branch: "Preparing Plants for Show" by Jean Kerlin. 7:30 p.m.

May 10—San Gabriel Valley Branch: Demonstration of shade plant arrangements in shows by Mrs. Vi Bruechner. 8:00 p.m.

May 14—Glendale Branch: "*B. macdougalli* and *B. boweri* Plants" by Rudy Ziesenhenne. 8:00 p.m.

May 16—Foothill Branch: "Cultural Hints for Begonias" by Kenneth Drennon. 8:00 p.m.

May 21—North Long Beach Branch: "Photographing Begonias" by Gene Daniels. May Dinner, 6:30 p.m., food furnished by the Branch. Donation \$1.00. (See Bulletin below)

May 21—Seattle Branch: Panel Discussion on Tuberous Begonias and Fuchsias. 8:00 p.m.

May 22—SHOW COMMITTEE: 7:30 p.m., American Savings and Loan, Hawthorne (one block north of El Segundo Blvd.)

May 22—Eastside Branch: "Soils" by a panel of speakers. 7:30 p.m.

May 24—Redondo Area Branch: "Begonias From Cuttings—Why and Which How" by Chuck Tagg. 7:30 p.m. Donation plant table.

May 27—A.B.S. BOARD: South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

June 1—DEADLINE for all material for the July *Begonian*.

June 6—Whittier Branch: "Bonsai Materials" by Khan Komai. 7:30 p.m.

BULLETIN

The North Long Beach Branch now meets the third Tuesday at the American Legion Post #560, corner of East 59th and Orange Ave., Long Beach.

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SOUTH EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA 91733

HEINLEIN NURSERY

19395 S. W. 248th Street (Dept. B)
Homestead, Florida 33030

FREE BROMELIAD

with potting mix and instructions.

An Easy-to-grow houseplant, if you wish. Grow outside when the
weather is mild.

This is a named variety (OUR CHOICE) either an offset or a seedling
nearly full grown. Bloom in one to two years.

This offer is made to acquaint you with this new and exotic plant.

Start your Bromeliad Collection now.

If you are already familiar with bromeliads, we will send you
six (6) of the above size for \$5.00.

Please send \$1.00 for packing and handling.

Our complete Bromeliad list 10c

ALSO

Rare and unusual plants from around the world.

SPECIES ORCHIDS

FOLIAGE PLANTS

PATIO PLANTS

Airmail, and/or insurance, and special handling must be paid
by the customers.