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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.

LETTERS

The following letter is published for several reasons. First, because it is an answer to one of our December letters. Second, because it describes my goals for The Begonian—"simple enough for the novice, advanced enough for the expert." And third, because it presents a new idea for branch programs which would be beneficial to the branch, to each individual member, and to the Board of Directors.

Thank you, Mae, for sharing this letter with us.

Editor

Dear El,

Congratulations to you and all the members of your newly organized South Carolina Branch of the A.B.S.

I, too, know the thrill and excitement of helping to form a new branch, as we have just organized the Mesquite Branch. So perhaps I can qualify to give you a REAL good answer to the question you asked Mae Tagg: "Why should we join the A.B.S.?"

I presume you have formed a group to study Begonias and other shade plants. That was the primary reason our group got together. I am already a member of the Dallas County Branch. However, many of the Begonia hobbyists I know could not go to the meetings of that Branch because of the time of meetings, distance and traffic involved. Asked if they would be interested in a local club (Mesquite is a suburb of Dallas), their response was instantly and eagerly affirmative.

Now, we have the Begonias to study or know where we can get them, but to STUDY them—all the hows and whens—we needed an authority or a textbook, simple enough for the novice, advanced enough for the expert. *The Begonian* fills the bill—and so much more! It NEVER grows old (our group whole-heartedly voted to require local dues in order to build a library of past *Begonians*). I have shared my *Begonians* with some of them and they WANT to receive their own each month. I have just renewed my membership for my third year, having first joined in September, 1966, and I heartily recommend *The Begonian* for required reading (required for fun with Begonias!).

To encourage our group to get their money's worth, we'll have a short report each month on one department of the Society—and there are more than enough for our first twelve meetings. The member making the report will be asked to contact the chairman of that department for a statement of what that department has to offer the members. One of the first will be the Round Robin Director. Ah! there's a

(Continued on Page 9)

COVER PICTURE

Begonia herbacea is a rhizomatous Brazil species of the *Begonia* Section *Trachelocarpus*. *B. herbacea's* epiphytic habit is orchid-like. In its native Brazil it grows on tree trunks without any vine or root extending to the ground. See "*Begonia herbacea et al*" on page 4.

Drawing by
Millicent Rader Harris

Begonias Galore—

BEGONIA HERBACEA ET AL.

By CARRIE KAREGEANNES, Annandale, Virginia

Begonia leaves copy all the other plants, we often hear. There are "palm trees" and "ivy leaves," and *B. philodendroides* reminds us of a split-leaf philodendron. Both the tiny-leaved *B. foliosa* and the deeply and finely cut *B. incisa* have been compared to ferns.

One of the most unusual is *B. herbacea* Vellozo, a rhizomatous Brazil species whose almost equal-sided, narrow, lance-shaped leaves, tapering into "winged" petioles (leaf stems), have been compared to leaves of the hart's tongue fern and even to an orchid's. More orchid-like is *B. herbacea's* epiphytic habit; in its native Brazil it grows on tree trunks, without any vine or root extending to the ground. Since it is not a parasite, it grows well even on dead trees and in cultivation is said to grow best mounted on a slab of giant tree fern fiber. Four or five other very closely related and very similar species from Brazil also have been identified.

The white flowers of *B. herbacea* (and the flowers of the other species in the Section *Trachelocarpus* of the genus *Begonia*) are not showy like those of orchids, but they are unusual. The two-petaled male (pollen-bearing) flowers look much like those of many rhizomatous Begonias and are borne on clusters of four or five to six or seven all-male blossoms on a peduncle (flower stalk) shorter than the leaves. However, the female (seed-bearing) flower—three-petaled or, rarely, four-petaled—is solitary, with an unusual ovary or seed capsule. The ovary is connected to the rhizome by only a rudimentary pedicel, so that it almost rests on the rhizome itself, and it is separated from the rest of the flower by a long neck. Females are thus down in the foliage below the males, where pollen can drop on

them, although the late *Begonia* authority Dr. E. Irmscher of Germany commented that male and female flowers rarely occurred on the same plant at the same time.

EASY TO GROW

Moyses Kuhlman of the staff of the Sao Paulo (Brazil) Botanical Gardens described *B. herbacea* in *Flores do Brazil* and a translation was printed in the September 1959 *Begonian*, with photographs. He reported that it was easy to grow and that on a support of hard tree fern fiber or in a pot containing pieces of fiber, kept moist, minimum care would produce many rhizome divisions, from which would emerge "almost year around, healthy, light green leaves with silver spots." The curator of the Glasgow Botanical Gardens, in the August 1966 *Begonian*, agreed that it grew best on tree fern, others have found it easy to grow—some in sphagnum moss.

Male flowers bloom in succession for several months, Kuhlman said, with pink or white heart-shaped buds opening to show golden anthers. Silvery spots become more evident and flowers almost snow white on plants grown in the shade. In sunlight, spots are not so clear and the leaf, flower margins, and back of leaf are tinted red or pink.

Since the rhizome branches profusely, sections can be taken readily for new plants. Some A.B.S. members have grown plantlets from leaf cuttings, but it took months: leaves rooted readily but took three to six months to show plantlets. Season or age of leaf may have been factors.

OTHER SPECIES

Kuhlman had found "two of this species" in the state of Sao Paulo—

B. herbacea Vellozo, which he showed in photographs (spotted, elliptical leaves with winged petioles), and *B. attenuata* A. de Candolle, which grew on tree trunks in a higher region.

J. D. Hooker, writing in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* in 1873, felt it probable that species described by Alphonse de Candolle in *Prodromus*—*B. rhizocarpa* Fischer, and *B. attenuata* A. de Candolle—were varieties of *B. herbacea*, with *B. rhizocarpa* differing in its white-spotted leaves with fewer nerves (veins) and shorter male peduncles, and *B. attenuata* differing in the fewer nerves, two-flowered short male clusters and long petioles. In 1958, Dr. Irmscher, after examining the early herbarium specimens and descriptions, retained de Candolle's three species, saying they were similar but had traits sufficiently different to separate them. He also noted examples of *B. attenuata* with many-flowered cymes as well as two-flowered and that length of petioles in both *B. attenuata* and *B. herbacea* varied greatly. He distinguished them, rather, by leaf shape and *B. herbacea's* winged petiole. In fact, Dr. Irmscher listed five very similar, epiphytic species in Section *Trachelocarpus*, as well as two varieties of *B. herbacea*. I doubt if all are in cultivation, but some may be in collections as *B. herbacea*. Detailed descriptions of the species and varieties accompany this article.

A key prepared from descriptions and dried specimens by Dr. Lyman B. Smith of the Smithsonian Institution's Department of Botany is in essential agreement on these species, except that it includes *B. velloziana* Walpers (not *vellozoana*), and does not include *B. angraensis* Brade, which Dr. Irmscher lists. Both include *B. fulvo-setulosa* Brade. These last two were described in 1943 and were not known to Hooker and de Candolle; they probably do not enter into the confusion among the first three. They are distinguished from *B. herbacea* by toothed and ciliate female flower petals, and *B. fulvo-setulosa* is hairy.

Hooker said *B. attenuata* had long been cultivated at Kew in England, which had received it from the Berlin Botanical Gardens. One also had been sent to him from Manchester Botanic Gardens for determination. *B. attenuata* bloomed freely in March. *B. herbacea* leaves he described as oblanceolate, shiny pale green, with seven to eight oblique nerves on each side. The cluster of male flowers was composed of four to six two-petaled white flowers one-half to three-fourths inch across. Three-petaled female flowers were down in the leaf axils, with the three-winged ovary contracting into a one-third-inch-long beak. The drawing accompanying a brief description by Bessie Buxton in the January 1944 *Begonian* was from *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* and must be Hooker's plate. It shows no spots.

H. B. Edmunds of Essex, England, in the August 1956 *Begonian* also described *B. herbacea* as having six-inch, light green leaves when he saw it in the Municipal Greenhouses in Paris. In the June 1960 *Begonian* he mentioned that he first saw it in Zurich, five or six years before, when he obtained a plant, and also had seen it in Hamburg. He found it one of the easiest to grow in his greenhouse, which had a minimum air temperature of 45°, although bench heating was slightly higher. He kept it on the dry side in winter, like his other begonias, and had given away many pieces of rhizome. It bloomed in April.

Charles Chevalier in *Les Begonias* (1938) also said *B. attenuata*, grown at Zurich Botanical Garden, was closely related to, if not identical to, *B. herbacea* as described in the *Botanical Magazine*. He did not mention spots on its green leaves and he did not list *B. rhizocarpa* in his book. A. B. Graf's *Exotica 3* (1963) describes *B. herbacea* as "fresh green." Graf does not include *B. attenuata*, but gives *B. rhizocarpa* as a rare, low-growing species from Brazil with short, thick, creeping rhizome and almost symmetrical, narrow-ovate, pointed, saw-toothed, often white-spotted leaves.

He says *B. herbacea* has no petioles, the leaves arising directly from the rhizome (which would refer to the "winged" petiole of other descriptions), but that *B. rhizocarpa* has two to two-and-a-half-inch petioles. Female flowers of both have ovaries sitting on the rhizome, with long tubes to the flowers, and male flowers are in bunches, with two large, fringed, green bracts. Photographs shown of the two are very similar.

A.B.S. GROWERS' EXPERIENCES

A.B.S. members are growing both plain green and spotted-leaf *Begonias* under the name of *B. herbacea*, reporting that the spotted leaves retain the spots whether grown in shade or sunlight. I wonder if close examination of leaf forms in comparison to the descriptions might show we are growing the first three species found—*B. rhizocarpa*, *B. attenuata*, and *B. herbacea* (both varieties)—or if some of the others are now in cultivation, all under the name *B. herbacea*.

Dora Lee Dorsey of Tampa, Florida reported her spotted variety bloomed all winter, but the plain green one did not bloom until April. Elaine Wilkerson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana had two terrariums of "both green and silver-spotted *B. herbacea*," growing full and loaded with blooms in April. Rosetta White of Newton, Kansas grows a plain green one which bloomed from April through June. My still-developing seedlings are plain green, no spots, with short but distinct petiole (not winged so far) and an elliptical leaf. Could this be *B. attenuata*? Leaf shape may still change as it grows, however. A November 1959 *Begonian* photograph of a branch trophy winner for a new species—imported from Brazil by Sylvia Leatherman and grown by John Thieben—shows a plain leaf; the petioles are not visible, but leaves appear to be elliptical with tapered base. Photographs with Kuhlman's article show spots, as noted.

Some A.B.S. growers have found *B. herbacea* goes dormant while others

report they have no dormancy. Dora Lee in Florida said hers do not go dormant, but Arline Peck in Rhode Island reported complete dormancy. She almost discarded her plant once, thinking it dead. In Louisiana, Elaine's rest a short time in fall or winter; they were in active growth last December 19. She recommends good air circulation for seedlings, which would accord with the preference for a porous medium. Ruth Pease in California said *B. herbacea* did not like to be too wet and that it came out of dormancy better in a warm, protected place.

Francis Michelson of Miami, Florida grew plants from a ripe *B. herbacea* seed pod and, on first transplanting, set them individually on three-inch squares of hard tree fern in a large-mouth, one-gallon glass jar. They grew well. When seedlings were established, slabs were put into three-inch pots outdoors. My seedlings have done well for some months in sphagnum moss under Gro-Lux tubes.

Leaf cuttings took months to produce plantlets for Rosetta, Bob Dalggaard of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a member in Texas. These cuttings were all taken the same season by Rosetta, who sent them to the others. Leaves were cut in the fall, without any rhizome attached; they rooted readily for all, but did not show plantlets till spring. Bob's were rooted in vermiculite in September and then moved to potting soil, kept under fluorescent lights. Plantlets were appearing in March. In the spring, Rosetta put more leaves to root, in vermiculite had one plantlet by July 1.

BEGONIA SECTION TRACHELOCARPUS

All epiphytic species with creeping rhizomes on which sit slanting "almost knifeshaped or petioled leaves." Inflorescence is unisexual, males on stemmed cymes, females almost sitting in the bracts, singly, on the rhizomes. Ovary and capsule run into a "beaklike elongation" bearing the

petals and pistil. Habitat, Brazil.

B. rhizocarpa Fisch. Best known of this section in 1843, when Alphonse de Candolle described three species in *Prodromus*; was already in European cultivation. Leaf bare with base of blade blunt, obtuse (rounded), edge finely toothed. White spots on upper surface. Male inflorescence shorter than the leaves. (Synonym *B. depauperata* Schott.)

B. attenuata (Kl.) A.DC. Leaf bare with acute-angled and narrowing (wedge-shaped) base, blade widest in the middle with both ends tapering in nearly the same way: oblong-elliptical. Blade distinct from narrow petiole, which is not winged, ciliate, or toothed. Petiole varying in length. Blade finely toothed, with five side veins, flower petals bare: male clusters may be two-flowered or many-flowered and cymes are about half as long as the leaves.

B. velloziana Walp. (*B. repens* Vell. not Lam.; not *B. vellozoana*, which is now *B. olsoniae* S&S). Not mentioned in Dr. Irmscher's key, but is included in Dr. Smith's. Base of leaf tapered. Blade distinct from rather narrow, not-winged petiole. Leaves entire, spotted. (De Candolle said this plant was of uncertain position because Vellozo's plate did not show female flowers. A synonym may be *B. lanceolata* Vell., which both de Candolle and Dr. Irmscher regarded as a questionable species because the plate in *Flora Fluminensis*, Table 33, appeared inaccurately drawn.)

B. herbacea Vell. Leaf bare with acute-angled, narrowing (wedge-shaped) base, wider toward the top but tapering at both ends: obovate-lanceolate. Margin finely toothed. Petiole winged, toothed, pinnate, with blade passing gradually into it, rather than distinct (also described as "stem-like leaf tail" or "stem form" or "stem-like segment"). Seven to eleven side veins. Flower petals bare: male cymes many-flowered and half as long as

the leaves.

B. herbacea variety *typica* Irmsch. Obovate-lanceolate blade.

B. herbacea variety *ellipticifolia* Irmsch. Oblong-elliptical blade; one herbarium specimen showed round white spots on upper leaf surface. (Dr. Irmscher proposed that this combination of *B. attenuata*'s oblong-elliptical blade with *B. herbacea*'s winged petiole was a new form and named it *B. herbacea* var. *ellipticifolia*. Noting that male and female flowers usually occurred at different times on one plant, encouraging cross-fertilization, he thought it possible that this variety "could be traced back to be" a natural hybrid between *B. herbacea* and *B. attenuata*.)

B. angraensis Brade. Described by Brade in 1943. Included in this section by Dr. Irmscher, but not given in Dr. Smith's key. Leaf of *B. herbacea* type, very stretched and narrow, bare, with an almost entire margin. Female flower petals toothed and ciliate — chief distinguishing trait.

B. fulvo-setulosa Brade. Described by Brade in 1943. Included in this section by both Dr. Irmscher and Dr. Smith. Leaf of *B. herbacea* type, but wide and short, with hair on both sides (densely pubescent) and margin thickly ciliate and toothed. Female flower petals toothed and ciliate. Dr. Irmscher thought it must be regarded as a derivative of *B. herbacea*.

Descriptions were developed from: Irmscher, E. "Systematische Studien über Begoniaceen des Tropischen Sudamerikas, Besonders Brasiliens," from *Botanische Jahrbucher*, Stuttgart, 1953 (pp. 30-38 translated from the German by Rudolf Ziesenhenné, August 1968). Smith, Lyman B., Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution. Excerpt from manuscript key to Brazilian species of *Begonia*, provided August 1968. *Index Kewensis*, 1893-1895 and Supplements to 1925.

BEGONIAS PUSTULATA AND IMPERIALIS

By ELDA HARING, Greenwich, Connecticut

Photographs for this article by Walter J. Haring.

There are two species Begonias which I find most fascinating and which according to some experts are difficult to grow. These are *B. imperialis* and *B. pustulata*. I first saw *B. silver pustulata* in a large commercial establishment in Florida. It was in a hanging basket in a lath house, deeply shaded by a live oak tree. The owner refused to sell it or any of his small cuttings because he had found it most difficult to grow in the Florida climate. My disappointment was so acute that he finally relented and gave me a cutting from the hanging basket. This cutting made the trip to Connecticut in a small box held on my lap in the airplane. Much to my surprise, it rooted quickly in vermiculite and this original plant is now in a seven-inch pot and has won for me several blue ribbons in garden club flower shows. Cuttings and small plants have been given to many friends, some of whom could not succeed with it; others consider it the pride of their collections.

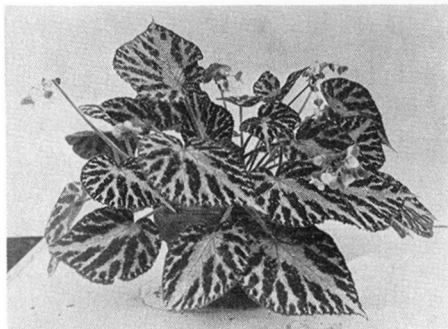
The species *B. pustulata* which was discovered in Mexico has somewhat nubby, rounded leaves, hairy with brownish green veins. *B. silver pustulata* is similar but has irregular silvery streaks. Seedlings seem to vary some-

what. *B. pustulata* has rose-pink flowers but my *B. silver pustulata* blooms in spring and summer with flowers of greenish-white. In morning sun, it becomes overlaid with red adding to its attractive appearance. It thrives in our regular house plant mix of two parts garden loam, one part peat with a four-inch flower pot of lime added to each bushel of soil. It does equally well in the east window of my living room and on the bottom half of a double deck bench in the greenhouse, where it gets slanting morning sun. The living room temperature is a steady 70° in winter, and the greenhouse is kept at 60° nighttime temperature. Under the fluorescent lights, the edges of the leaves tend to brown a little.

B. imperialis, which also comes from Mexico, has leaves as Bernice Brilmayer once wrote "upholstered in finely nubbed olive-brown plush, emerald green at the veins. *B. imperialis* var. *smaragdina* is smoother and brilliant green." I used cuttings of *B. imperialis* as the basis for an experiment last spring. One was placed in my regular potting mix; one in pure sand — builders' sand, the "brown sugar" kind. Both were watered as needed and each fed with one-quarter strength Ortho-Gro each time they were watered. In the photo, the one



B. silver pustulata



B. 'Silver Jewell'



B. imperialis on the left is growing in pure sand. The one on the right is in potting mix.

on the left is in sand. Although it is a little smaller than the plant in soil, it has bloomed more profusely.

B. 'Silver Jewell', which I obtained from my friend, Paul Lowe of Goulds, Florida, is a cross of *B. imperialis* x *B. silver pustulata*. It also does equally well in the house and in the greenhouse. The leaves are dark green with silver streaks—a really lovely variety.

Because of my experience with these lovely Begonias, I cannot agree with some authorities that they are difficult to grow. I hope more Begonia hobbyists will acquire them and enjoy them as I have.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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LETTERS

(Continued from Page 3)

host of friends waiting to share their experiences in growing Begonias, anxious to help overcome problems, writing page after page of valuable, down-to-earth, practical methods of growing from seeds and cuttings, swapping and sharing same, but most of all giving of themselves, sharing a bit of their own joy of living with Begonias. Then another department to be investigated will be the Seed Fund, the source of hard to find and downright rare seeds, plus a long history of Begonia descriptions and their native habitat (a valuable hint on conditions needed for success).

The Research Director, the Cultural Adviser—look in the front of *The Begonian* for a long list of officers, both elected and appointed—all are dedicated growers of Begonias with a job to do: to help each and every member enjoy to the utmost their membership in the American Begonia Society, Inc.—and to get their money's worth!

Why not put them to work for the South Carolina Branch?

Sincerely,
Mae Blanton, Pres.
Mesquite Branch
Rt. 1, Box 558
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Companion Plants—

FERNS COMPLIMENT BEGONIAS

By DORA LEE DORSEY, Tampa, Florida

Can you imagine a more pleasing sight than a colorful *rex* or a showy rhizomatous specimen against a background of lush green *Nephrolepis* (Boston fern) or surrounded by a sea of misty green *Adiantums* (Maiden-hair ferns)? What shade garden is complete without ferns to add the impression that Nature arranged it this way? Then why not try growing some of Nature's most complimentary plants?

There is hardly a locality to be found that does not have some type of fern and with our modern heating and cooling systems for our homes and greenhouses, we can improvise an atmosphere for ferns where none exists. Of the more than 9000 species and varieties, there must be a few that can be grown in your locality. Explore your area and you will probably find hardy varieties to be had for the digging that will grow in a shady spot in your garden along with your more hardy and overgrown Begonias which you like to put outside for summer. Of course, you should have permission of the property owner or Conservation Department. In taking ferns from their natural habitat, try to sim-

ulate the condition as nearly as possible where you plant. Take note of soil type, bog or well drained, sun or shade, shallow or deep growing rhizomes, perhaps clinging to stones.

For those less adventurous who prefer to stay on the pavement, there are many cultivated varieties and man-made hybrids available. See the ads in *The Begonian*. These may be propagated by crown divisions, bulbils that form on the fronds, sections of rhizomes or suckers or pups, as the new buds from the roots of *Platyceriums* (Staghorn ferns) are called. These are the faster methods for securing mature plants. Another and somewhat more fascinating way is by spores.

The vegetative divisions need only be potted into good friable mix of compost, dairy fertilizer (cow manure). (I seem to recall someone asking why you fertilized a dairy, on hearing the term "dairy fertilizer" which is familiar to Florida gardeners.) To this should be added lime in some form as stone chips, oyster shell or dolomite. Being careful not to set too deep or water too heavily. At first, leave the crown of stolens above the soil. The rhizome sections and bulbils



Drawing from *The Begonian*, August, 1956

should be anchored to the surface of the potting medium by means of a long staple. *Platycerium* pups can be mounted on various bases or baskets with the use of sphagnum moss as a medium to hold moisture for the roots, until it becomes attached to the mount. A slab of tree fern, a slat basket or clay pot filled with sphagnum and a hole chipped in the side for the roots are some of the methods of mounting. Manure watered into these once a month is sufficient for most ferns or commercial liquid fertilizers may be used, being careful to not make it too strong. Over-fertilization can cause the *Nephrolepis* to grow coarse plain leaves when the usual character is multi-pinnate and ruffled.

To grow from spores seems to be as varied in method as there are growers. To be sure you grow what you plant and not some common unwanted variety, airborne or present in the mix just waiting for the proper temperature and moisture, the mix should be sterilized. Use autoclave (pressure cooker) or oven hot enough to kill weed seed and bacteria; 240° F., one hour in autoclave or 350° F., two or three hours in the oven. This should be enclosed in a plastic or glass container that will submit light and retain moisture for many weeks. After the prothallia form, more moisture can be added by pouring on the inside wall of the container to run down into and under the mix or by setting the container in a tray of water to soak up through holes in the bottom of the container. After planting spores, put in a warm 70° to 75° F. shady spot or cover with a layer of paper until green shows, then gradually increase the light but never full sun, also admit a little air from time to time but never let dry.

"Germination" time will vary with the varieties. Patience is necessary for this method but if you forget the time element and enjoy observing the changing phases of development, they soon reach the stage of forming small fronds and you begin to lift them in small clumps into small pots. To be

sure these small transplants do not dry out, an old fish aquarium has been a convenient piece of equipment for me. At another time, it has been made into a terrarium by adding a few chunks of charcoal, soil mix, an appropriate sized stone or two and planting spores of several types on the stones and soil mix and keeping covered with plastic wrap. A peek into that old tank is like a visit to a forest in miniature. There is a way to enjoy your miniature *Begonias* also, especially those which require the constant humidity so hard to maintain in your home.

This is only an outline of the information available on fern culture. Again let me urge you to try some ferns to compliment your *Begonias*. Our good Round Robin Director, Anita Sickmon, will be happy to add your name to a Fern Specialty Robin where you will meet some very enthusiastic fern growers. Some who even go on fern collecting safaris into their native areas.

Our seed fund affords us spores in many listings. Try some, and who knows, you might become such an enthusiastic grower you will want to join one of the fern societies to learn more about these fascinating plants and their many interesting legends.

WELCOME

Welcome Mesquite-os! We are proud and happy to have with us a new branch. The Mesquite Branch of the A.B.S. officially became one of us at the November 25th meeting of the Board of Directors.

This new branch is located in Texas and is our sixth in that state. We are thankful to Mae Blanton, Branch President, and Margie Sikkelee, Southern Public Relations Chairman, for the work involved in getting them organized.

If you live near Mesquite and are interested, see the Branch Directory on page 22 for the secretary's name.

Chuck Tagg,
Public Relations Director

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Instructions—

"Begonias From Seed—Sowing and Growing," reprinted from the December, 1968 *Begonian*, gives step by step easy-to-follow instructions and encouragement for beginning seed growers. Price 25 cents.

No. 1—*B. ficicola* Irmsch.—

West Africa. First named as "fig-loving" from having first been discovered growing on a Ficus. Dwarf plant with plain green peltate leaves up to five inches long and bullate texture rather than like *B. masoniana*. The flowers are bright yellow with a hint of orange on the back of the petals. Seed scarce. *B. ficicola* is very difficult to grow and requires humidity and almost NO light. Therefore, if you cannot give it these requirements and have not grown Begonias from seed before, we suggest you let someone else try the seed and perhaps furnish them to the Seed Fund later. See photo. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. decora* Stapf—

Meaning elegant. Brazil. Coveted species with sweet-scented white flowers; plushy brown-green leaves sharply etched with light veins. Also scarce. See photo. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—*B. cathayana*—

China. Silk-velvet leaves zoned ruby-red and emerald-green reversed underneath, glowing rich when light shines through. Rare orange flowers. Requires warmth, protection from

drafts and high humidity. Avoid sun/light and shocking with cold water. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 4—*B. listida*—

Fairly new species from Brazil. Beautiful Begonia, scarce even in its native country. It is small, only about one foot high. The leaf is smallish, dark green above with an emerald green band surrounding the mid-rib, hairy and red beneath. Flowers are two-toned from the leaf axils. A real beauty. (See photo, Jan. 1968 *Begonian*.) Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 5—*B. 'Joe Hayden' x B. mazae*—

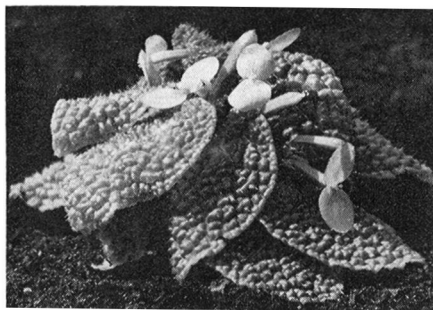
This is a hybrid with very handsome six inch black leaf with red underneath. Long green stems covered with long, silky white hairs, full compact grower. Variations will occur. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 6—*B. micranthera* var. *ventura*—

Favorite tuberous type. Grows to a branching plant twenty-four inches high; laden with bright orange blooms for about five months. Blooms are as large as those of the multiflora types, sometimes measuring two inches across. Scarce in cultivation and an excellent Begonia. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

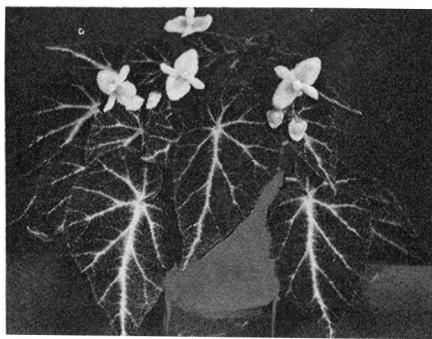
No. 7—*B. Brazil species #10*—

First offered in *The Begonian*, Nov. 1966. A member in Southern California grew plants of this one and has selfed it for seed to be distributed to



B. ficicola

Photo by J. Doorenbos



B. decora

Photo by J. Doorenbos

those who missed it then. She describes it as one of the best. Seed scarce but all will germinate. Therefore, packets will be small. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 8—*B. Brazil species #8*—

First offered in *The Begonian*, Oct. 1965. One of the finest unidentified Brazilian Begonias. Large, white flowers, oblique, shiny acuminate leaves to six inches wide, red on black. Leaves are very fluted as they emerge from the stipules, full grown leaves have a rippled appearance. Seed few in number but all will germinate. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 9—*B. rubro-venia*—

Caulescent, elliptic, lanceolate, acuminate leaves, can easily be recognized by its rose-red veins especially on the under surface of the leaves and by the greyish-white, large irregular patches on the upper surface of the green leaves. Flowers are white borne in axillary peduncles usually branched near the top. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 10—*B. rotundifolia* Lam.—

Pygmy creeper that stays terrarium-size for years. Small round leaves, yellowish-green; flowers pink. See photo. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 11—*B. richardsiana*—

Africa. Lacy-looking dwarf with finest-cut maple leaves; flowers, white to pale pink. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 12—*B. epipsila*—

Brazil. Thick, polished, leathery green leaves coated with red-brown wool underneath. Grows low; droops attractively. White flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 13—*B. rex* seedlings—

German type. Many colors and combinations can be grown from German *rex* seed which we have just received. Because they are such complicated hybrids, they will not come true from seed. One seed pod seldom produces two plants alike. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

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 room to grow undisturbed as long as



B. rotundifolia

Photo by J. Doorenbos

possible before transplanting. Do not try to transplant until they have produced the second set of true leaves. True characteristics will not be evident until at least the fourth set of adult leaves appear, and sometimes they are not permanent as they can change color and texture during the first three years. Small or slow growing seedlings should not be destroyed as they may turn out to be worthwhile plants.

No. 14—*B. viscida*—

Distinctive tuberous species from Mexico. Upright, hairy and dioecious (male and female flowers on different plants). Leaves are six by four inches, golden green with sparsely scattered silver spots, covered with short bristly hairs on upper surface. Lovely pale green flowers. Seed from Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, California who says, "I obtained a male and female plant of *B. viscida* from Rudy Ziesenhenné in June, 1967. They grew side by side in the lathhouse; each producing an abundance of lovely medium sized soft green blooms. I crossed the two plants so that this rare species could be shared via the Seed Fund. The seed was planted at four successive intervals and showed no germination. Rudy Ziesenhenné advised me to try a wetter medium. This was unsuccessful, too, so I threw the remaining seed pods into the trash. In August of 1968, I found the envelope marked *B. viscida* and there were a

(Continued on Page 14)

SEED FUND

(Continued from Page 13)

few seeds clinging inside. Just for fun, I sprinkled the few remaining year-old seeds on some medium. I still cannot believe that four days later every one of those seeds started to germinate. I now have nineteen seedlings about three inches high showing true characteristics of mature plants. Again, I pollinated the plants for the Seed Fund and can only say that if your first planting does not succeed, try again. This plant is worthy of the effort." Price \$1.00 per pkt.

Other Genera—

Veltheimia viridifolia—

Liliaceae. Bulbous plant having broad lance-shaped, bright green leaves with undulate margins, and arching; long tubular, nodding flowers, yellowish-green shading to dust-red, and spotted, tipped green, on long red-spotted stalks. Blooms in winter. Price five seeds for 25 cents.

FREE SEED

B. schmidtiana—

Please send postage if other seed are not requested.

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

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Happy New Year to All! As we look to 1969, we do so with faith for a more enjoyable year growing Begonias. We hope to solve many of our problems and, who knows, we might come up with some very new Begonias.

Rex:

El McWhorter, Columbia, South Carolina experimented with his plant of *B. 'Gorgeous George'* by putting one plant in a four-inch pot and one in a three-inch pot and found the one in the three-inch pot did much better than the one in the four-inch pot; he had used rather rich soil.

Bessie Paul, Freeport, Illinois uses a turtle glass box with an inch of scalded sphagnum moss to root her *rex* Begonia leaves. She reports it works quite well and intends to use more of these boxes if she can find them.

Yvonne Wells, Mesquite, Texas grows her *rexes* in a mix of three parts peat moss, five parts perlite and one part sheep manure. She reports her plants grow great in this mixture.

B. humilis:

Bea Blake of Barneveld, New York had *B. humilis* from the February Seed Fund in bloom in a south window by late June—a nice little plant for a window, too. Outdoors in the summer, it was subject to mildew, but indoors under Gro-Lux lights this fall, there was no mildew problem.

B. staudtii:

Lucile Mearns of Louisville, Ohio made a further report on *B. staudtii*, from the Seed Fund. She had had lots of bloom on four plants, with five or six bloom stalks on one plant. Each stalk had three male blossoms and one female, deep yellow, very similar to *semp* blossoms with two large petals and two small. She couldn't find any pollen, but wanted to try again when they bloomed again. One that had not yet bloomed had buds on it in August, growing near an east window with a curtain in between. Two leaves were starting little plants, but were slow. Lucile believes *B. staudtii* will take a home-growers care. "If they take mine, they aren't delicate."

B. 'Cinnabar':

Lucile was also growing a plant from seed labeled "*B. 'Cinnabar'*" (seed was in a robin). It was tuberous with small leaves of typical tuberous Begonia appearance, and had a one-and-a-half-inch center bloom on one bloom stalk, single with four orange petals and a center about like a *B. s. c. 'Cinderella'*. On each side of this bloom were similar flowers with female buds on each side of them. (Ed.

note: Could this be the species *B. cinnabarina* Hooker or one of the *B. 'Cinnabarina'* hybrids listed in the *Buxton Check List?*)

Frangrance:

When Stefanie Swatsek of Hawthorne, California watered her *B. 'Lenore Olivier'* she noticed a delicate fragrance, faintly like night Jasmine. She didn't believe it, moved the plant to another room with windows closed and an hour later asked her whole family to sniff. All agree—it was fragrant. Two more tries confirmed it. (In the October 1961 *Begonian*, p. 197, Belva Kusler described her hybrid—a dark leaved cane, *B. dichroa* x *B. 'Elaine'*, as having large clusters of fragrant, two-toned, salmon-pink flowers with white ovaries all year.)

B. 'Carousel':

Stefanie told of seeing *B. 'Carousel'* at the National A.B.S. Show. It is a rhizomatous Begonia with leaves rather heartshaped and serrate, somewhat striped with brown in a way that suggested *B. mazaе* parentage. The plant carried a bunch of pink flowers in the middle.

B. *jussiaeicarpa*:

The trailing African species with succulent leaves, *B. jussiaeicarpa* has very large seed according to Mac MacIntyre of Liverpool, England. Like those of *B. eminii*, they could be sown individually. They are encased in a fibrous substance that makes it difficult to extract from the seed pod.

Unusual:

Pat Burdick, Burnsville, Minnesota is experimenting with some of her crosses. She had some of the plants of *B. kenworthyi* x *B. 'Bow-Nigra'* outside this summer, they got such a dark red she could hardly see their black markings. They stayed small though. The parent *B. kenworthyi* is rather unusual. It is a very dark red while the usual *B. kenworthyi* is gray-green. Belva Kusler suggested that it may be caused by the amount of light in the

greenhouse, but placed under the bench this summer, it stayed red. Pat is growing a plant of Belva's *B. kenworthyi* near her red one to see if they are really different.

Pat's own hybrid *B. 'Apple Jack'* has an unusual marked leaf, easily distinguished from other Begonias and easily propagated from the leaf.

Mae Blanton, Mesquite, Texas wrote in November, "I saved two *B. rotundifolia* from Seed Fund seed and one is still tiny with leaves small as typewriter keys and the other is tall (about six inches) with leaves about three and a half inches across; still round though. I have rooted some of the leaves but plantlets are not showing yet. Both plants germinated at same time under same conditions."

Mae has some angel wings from x-rayed seed that are getting mighty pretty. She got a three inch cutting of *B. dichroa* this summer; it rooted and is growing. It has one male blossom, no other buds. It is not open but one petal juts out farther than the other and it is colored green just on the extra part and has tiny white spots like a leaf. Her *B. 'Nancy Gail'* is still putting on clusters of "Siamese twin" blooms but will not set seed and hadn't had any additional growth from the roots as yet.

Mae had a leaf of *B. 'Bunchii'* (sport of *B. 'Erythrophylla'*) in perlite and vermiculite mix and while it was rooting, it grew a lot of unusual extra ruffles. Anita Sickmon, Cheney, Kansas reports hers did the same. They report adventitious growth on rooting *B. 'Needham'* leaves.

Carrie Karegeannes, Annandale, Virginia was thrilled with seedlings from a cross made by Geraldine Daly. It is a back-cross onto *B. 'Orange Rubra'* and is blooming with deep bright orange blossoms. The cane is dainty small one, brightly silver-spotted.

Mrs. Anita Sickmon
Round Robin Director
Route 2, Box 99
Cheney, Kansas 67025

CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

By RUTH PEASE, *Chairman*

Our purpose is to classify Begonias to a new classification outline which will accommodate the new Begonias. Hybridizers are bringing plants into the Begonia World whose parentage is so varied that to enter these in shows with the classification we had would be difficult. Some of the "new" species which have been introduced in the past few years also present questions of classification for show purposes—their habits of growth are different from any we had seen.

About 1200 Begonia names are listed for classification. We started with the "Guide," and members of the committee added to the list from their own files, collections and knowledge of Begonias in their areas. We also referred to catalogs of Logee's, Begonia House, Mike Kartuz, Tropical Paradise, the Eastern Show schedule of 1967 prepared by Toby Lothman, lists of Herb Warrick's and Bob Schatzer and Jerry Sausaman's collections.

Copies of the list were given to each of the members on the committee. Rudy Ziesenhenne, Director of Nomenclature, prepared a basic outline as a classification guide for Begonias. The members of the committee revised this outline. When completed, they submitted their classification information which the chairman posted to cards.

As the work became more involved, the committee, originally formed under the Department of Nomenclature, became a part of the A.B.S. Board of Directors with the Nomenclature Director continuing as an active member. The most recent and final work on the outline was done at our meeting on November 9. This work could be completed now since the members had had an opportunity to see for themselves where changes should be made after using the outline at the Westchester Branch Show, the National Show, and the San Miguel

Show. These three shows demonstrated how the outline can be used to prepare show schedules for small, medium, and large shows and brought out some faults which needed to be corrected.

The Chairman is in the process of sending letters to members and nurserymen with sizable Begonia collections, research people and directors of botanical gardens requesting their assistance. It is not felt that the members of the committee, even with their extensive backgrounds and knowledge of Begonias and shows, should rely alone on the information they have without checking with others. Quite naturally, no one person on the committee feels he or she knows all of these Begonias. It is felt that we must have several opinions to base the classification list upon, and to feel that the Begonias have been checked thoroughly as to classification for show purposes.

Some other things may be derived by writing to others for assistance. The committee and the A.B.S. officers, such as the Director of Nomenclature and the Research Director, may find the information useful; learning whether all are speaking of the same Begonia, to exchange information for mutual benefits and to create a feeling of willingness to work together. The information will also be helpful to the Director of Nomenclature in revising the *Buxton Check List*. The committee is learning much about Begonias and is willing to impart the information to the directors and chairmen who need it.

The committee includes: Rudy Ziesenhenne, Nomenclature Director; Sylvia Leatherman, Judges Course Director; Carl L'Hommedieu, Research Director; Thelma O'Reilly, Research Department Representative; Jim Somes, Show Chairman; Walter Pease, President; Margaret and Paul Lee; Chuck and Mae Tagg; and Margaret Ziesenhenne.

PLANT DORMANCY

By HERB WARRICK, *Seattle, Washington*

Is there such a term as "dormant plant culture" or should it be "culture of dormancy"? Technically, both of these terms are somewhat ambiguous. A better title might be "information about plant dormancy" or "physiology of plants during their dormant periods."

Well, regardless of the accuracy of these titles, nature has built a wonderful system in which plants can survive the unfavorable periods of their natural seasonal environmental cycles. If we try to raise plants in our local natural environments, which may be other than ideal, we must be prepared to modify and adapt our conditions to obtain at least minimum maintenance for our plants at all times of year.

First, let's consider our tuberous Begonias. All of the natural species and varieties, as well as all of our beautiful man-made hybrids, still retain from their ancestors a very positive resting or dormant period in their annual growing cycle. The tubers must rest in a rather dry and cool condition for a minimum of several weeks. All of our local tubers have probably been resting a couple of months already this fall. In order to meet an ideal mid-August flowering date for our show, we will probably need to keep our tubers resting for another month. If we were to choose another flowering date such as early April, like some eastern growers do for their shows around New York City, we would have to start our tubers earlier. After a short early fall resting period those growers start their tubers about the first of December and use supplementary light and heat to get the early flowers. Four to six hours of extra light per day are needed and a temperature of minimum 60° is used. If we want late fall blooming, we start the tubers later in spring or early summer and supply extra heat and light in fall and winter.

The physiology of dormant tubers has not yet been researched suffi-

ciently to disclose the changes that take place within a Begonia tuber to cause it to wait awhile before becoming responsive to a favorable environment for growth. However, the studies which have already been completed indicate that stimulating and inhibiting chemicals are constantly in operation and opposition. The influence of the inhibiting chemicals decreases with time and eventually the stimulating chemicals can then respond to the favorable environments that we provide to obtain the growth and flowers that we have scheduled for these plants. Do not let your tubers become badly desiccated (dehydrated) or they will not be able to respond with roots and shoots when you want them. If they appear to be shriveling too much, place them near some damp paper tissues or peat moss but still keep them cool, in the 40° to 50° range. Begonia tubers will die if exposed to freezing temperatures.

Second, let's consider our Fuchsias. These plants all have a capability of resting or becoming quite dormant if our storage conditions cause it. However, they are also capable of growing continuously if we desire that and can provide the proper environment throughout the low temperature and short daylight hours of winter. The internal chemistry of a resting Fuchsia has, like the Begonia tubers, not been studied completely. But Fuchsias are like many plants, their chemical operation almost ceases below 50° and with short daylight hours. The hardiness of Fuchsias is a relative matter. Many hybrids can withstand short periods of freezing temperatures if the plants have been hardened slowly to cool weather in the fall. However, very few can withstand long and severe freezing periods.

The upper stems and branches may freeze and die, yet new growth appear from the roots if the ground temperatures have not allowed the roots

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BEGONIAS FROM COFFEE CANS

By ANNETTE E. MEEHAN,
Lyndhurst, Ohio

Losing Begonia seedlings in transplanting is disappointing and frustrating. Carefully I prepare my seed flats which are reusable aluminum baked potato pans. These pans go into a plastic covered hot bed until the first seeds germinate. Everything usually goes quite well up to this point, but then the problems always develop after I remove the pans from the warm moist conditions of the hot bed. Seeds that have not yet had an opportunity to germinate, rarely do, and a fair number of the new seedlings begin to collapse and die.

I have discovered both of these problems can be remedied by placing the pan in a used coffee can which has been spray painted inside and out to prevent rust and snapping the lid tightly closed. Inside the can the environment is warm and moist. The seedlings do not collapse and the slow germinators have the proper conditions to insure their success. I set the can under fluorescent lights: General Electric's 40 watt Gro-Lux plant light works well for me. Over the next couple of weeks, I begin to transplant the seedlings to their own individual pots. I also keep these newly potted plants in large coffee cans under lights for several weeks. They very quickly grow into stocky healthy specimens in their own can terrariums.

I also find the cans are exceptionally useful when I will be away for several days. The young plants in their little pots need a great deal of attention; often in a dry home they will require water every day. In their coffee can terrariums, sitting on half an inch of vermiculite, they stay properly moist until I return home to care for them.

My experience so far has been very satisfactory with these wonderfully

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NEW PLANTS AND CULTURAL EXPECTANCY

In our club there are several members who occasionally order seeds, bulbs, tubers, and small plants of orchids, ferns, Gesneriads, non-tuberous Begonias, etc. All of us, of course, have great expectancy for the resultant mature plants. Horticulturally there are many differences among these plants when we receive them. For some plants we must wait many months or even longer before we get flowers or beauty in foliage or form. This thought occurred recently to one member who received an air mail shipment of 25 non-tuberous Begonias from Connecticut. Every plant arrived in a perfect unmarred condition. Every plant was a small edition of a full sized and mature plant. Ferns are another form of plant that arrive as small replicas of their mature forms. There are probably many other types of plants that have similar characteristics.

What is the special appeal of these "almost complete plants?" It appears that one factor is the immediate conversational value of these small editions. Color and form of foliage, branches and stems provide other immediate attractions. But perhaps the most important factor is an intangible one. This one is physiological. The

(Continued on Page 19)



AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

INSIGNIA PINS	\$4.00
EMBLEM STICKERS	\$.50
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(Calif. residents, add 5% tax.)

Order from
CHARLES E. TAGG
2123 West West Ave.
Fullerton, Calif. 92633

DORMANCY...

(Continued from Page 17)

to completely freeze. Thus, Fuchsias can be considered either as capable of a form of dormancy or instead, can just slow up all activity as long as the temperatures are low.

The third form of plant growth covers almost all so-called tender plants or house plants. Most of these do not have any rest period nor can they stand the low temperatures and poor light of winter in our Puget Sound area. As temperatures drop, nearly all of these types of plants show signs of reduced growth. Leaves may discolor and drop, the growth may become spindly or the plants may die back partially or completely. The weakened plants may permit molds and mildews to grow on leaves and stems which also may result in death of the plants. Our efforts to avoid loss of these types of plants should add extra hours of light, provide adequate ventilation and raise the air temperatures around them to a minimum of about 60°. Every type of these plants has different requirements for minimum maintenance of growth and for good continuous growth. We must learn these requirements empirically or get the data from books or from friends who have already determined the proper environments. Our club and its study groups provide lots of good information about summer and winter life of these three classes of plants.

BEGONIAS

(Continued from Page 18)

plastic-lidded coffee cans. Using this method is especially helpful in growing any of the Begonias which demand a warm moist environment. If we can just keep our plants growing the first two months after germination, their chances of survival appear to be quite good.

NEW PLANTS

(Continued from Page 18)

plant may be easy to grow or intermediate in need for special care or it may be very difficult in its requirements for proper environmental conditions. If you like tolerance, vigor, hardiness or heartiness in plants, then an unknown plant may become a joy or disappointment to you. If you like horticultural challenges, then you may thoroughly enjoy the plants that keep you figuring and searching every minute of their lives.

Or if you enjoy the difficult situations, then the plants which grow continuously throughout the whole year will give you perpetual problems and pleasures. Which type of plant do you enjoy most? It is not necessary to record your decision but it is very instructive for us to ponder this phase of plant life.

From *Shady News*
October, 1968
Seattle, Washington

*Palos
Verdes*

Begonia
Farm

4111 - 242nd St., Waltheria, Calif. 90505

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

COMPLETE SELECTION OF BEGONIAS
AND SHADE PLANTS

FUCHSIAS—CAMELLIAS—FERNS
OPEN DAILY

Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop
1½ Miles E. of Redondo Beach
Hi-Way 101

The Seattle Begonia Society

Wishes to extend

Best Wishes

For the happiest of New Years.

PROGRAM IDEAS FOR BEGONIA BRANCHES

This list is submitted by Herb Warwick of Seattle, Washington. We hope these suggestions will be of help to the Program Chairmen of all our branches.

1. Tuberous Begonia Culture
2. *Semperfloren* Begonia Culture
3. *Rex* Begonia Culture
4. Rhizomatous Begonia Culture
5. Fibrous Begonia Culture
6. Hirsute Begonia Culture
7. Rare Begonias and Their Culture
8. Fertilizers—Theory and Use
9. Feeding of Plants via Soil and Foliage
10. Insecticides—Theory and Use
11. Fungicides—Theory and Use
12. Weedicides—Theory and Use
13. General Propagation
14. Judging Show Plants
15. Grooming Plants for Growth and Show
16. Light—Natural, Artificial, etc.
17. Soil Mixtures
18. Hybridizing
19. Plant Physiology
20. Growing from Seed and Spore
21. Seed Production
22. Plant Growth Demonstrations
23. Meristematic Tissues
24. Plant Dormancy
25. pH Studies and Requirements
26. Rooting Media Study
27. Potting Media Study
28. Temperature Requirements
29. Light Requirements
30. Humidity Requirements
31. Soil Moisture Requirements
32. Ventilation Requirements
33. Rooting Stimulants
34. Growth Stimulants
35. Growth Inhibitors
36. Drying Flowers
37. Miniature Plants
38. Novelty Vases and Containers
39. Flower Show Plans
40. Show Exhibits and Gadgets

Suggestions for developing these ideas into programs for branches would be a welcome addition to *The Begonian*.

IN MEMORIAM

Helen T. Bailey, 77, died from cancer November 21, 1968. She was a charter member of the San Diego Branch and a co-founder when the branch was organized August 19, 1941 and members met at each other's homes.

She was well-known for her work in identifying Begonias with their correct names. She was chairman of the National Begonia Show held in San Diego in 1946 which was an outstanding display of Begonias. She was a loyal worker in our branch and we shall miss her greatly.



A.B.S. LIBRARY BOOKSTORE

The following selection of books are FOR SALE

- *Gesneriads And How To Grow Them..\$7.95
by Peggy Shultz
- *Rex Begonias As House Plants.....\$1.00
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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MINUTES OF THE A.B.S. BOARD

November 25, 1968:

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. Chuck Tagg led the Pledge of Allegiance and Vera Naumann read the Aims and Purposes. Eleven officers and nine National Directors (National Representatives) answered the roll call. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

President Pease reported that six Board members and various other members from Southern California attended the San Francisco Branch installation. A very delicious dinner was served followed by the installation ceremony and an interesting program.

Walter Barnett reported a balance of \$605.71, receipts of \$1,233.80, disbursements of \$849.58, leaving a balance of \$989.93.

Muriel Perz presented the bill for the safety deposit box.

The Advertising report showed \$64.05 in paid ads.

Ruth Pease read a report concerning the work of the Classification Committee. Walter Barnett made a motion, seconded by Jim Somes, expressing a vote of appreciation for the Committee's work. Carried. (See page 16.)

Chuck Tagg, Finance Committee Chairman, made a motion to have reprints made of the article "Begonias From Seed—Sowing and Growing" to sell at 25 cents each. The reprints would be handled only through the Seed Fund Administrator, Florence Gee. One-half the profit from these sales would go into a savings account under the direction of the Treasurer to be used as a publishing fund. Mr. Terrell of Riverside seconded the motion. Carried.

The Editor requested permission to reprint the Robin Flyers. She also asked for permission to solicit ads to finance printing of a Begonia Research Bulletin consisting of

32 pages. Chuck Tagg made the motion, seconded by Walter Barnett. Carried.

Pearl Benell reported 99 new members this month making a total of 2,512 members in good standing. 2,829 *Begonians* were dispersed this month.

Walter Pease read the Research Directors report. Claire Roberts of New Mexico has resigned because of business pressures. Elaine Wilkerson is donating Begonias to the Rip Van Winkle Gardens in Louisiana.

The Flower Show Chairman announced the 1969 Show will be held September 6 and 7 at Hawthorne Auditorium. No report is available yet on the last show.

Chuck Tagg presented a request for a charter for the Mesquite Branch in Texas. Mae Tagg moved, seconded by Pearl Benell that it be granted. Carried.

President Pease appointed Carrie Karegannes to the Awards Committee, covering the years 1969, 1970, and 1971. Chuck Tagg moved, seconded by Vera Naumann that the appointment be approved.

Discussion concerning the Show, results, location, etc. was considered.

After the Branch reports the meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Virginia Barnett,
Secretary

SHOW DATE

The South Carolina Branch of the A.B.S. presents their First Begonia Show in the state.

Date: January 25, 1 to 9 p.m.
January 26, 1 to 6 p.m.

Where: Home Federal Savings and Loan Assn., 832 Bush River Road, Columbia, South Carolina.

Entries: Contact: El McWhorter, Pres., 2010 Rockland Road, Columbia, S. C. 29210. Phone 254-0548.

This is our first state show and we hope fellow Begonia lovers will make every effort to enter their plants. We welcome any member to visit us during the show. The President will be glad to be host to any out of state visitor. We feel the show will be a success. Our members (which are few) are working hard toward this show and its big success.

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BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Nancy Alvard, Secy.
48 Norton Rd., Quincy, Mass. 02169

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., Members' Homes
Mrs. Mae Blanton, Secy.
Rt. 1, Box 558, Mesquite, Texas 75149

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School
Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California
Miss Dorothy F. Osburn, Secy.
5015 Cochrane Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94618

EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Natural Gas Co. Bldg.
Crossroads Shopping Center, Bellevue, Wash.
Mrs. Mildred F. Shirley, Secy.
12229 N.E. 68th St., Kirkland 98033

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Miss Lenore Schroeder, Secy.
1828 So. 7th St., Alhambra, Calif. 91803

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, 1:00 p.m.
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
628 Beach Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J. 08044

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand
Mrs. Irene Grannell, Secy.
1431 Coronado Ter., Los Angeles, Calif. 90026

GREATER BATON ROUGE BRANCH

Mrs. Charles H. Smith, Secy.
4177 Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge, La. 70814

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.
Western Federal Savings Bldg.
355 E. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Belle E. Chohanin, Secy.
15700 Larch Ave., Lawndale, Calif. 90260

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
McAlpin Hotel, New York City
Mrs. Philip Sama, Secy.
37 East 30th St., New York 10016

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m., Members' Homes
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

MESQUITE BRANCH

Mrs. Loretta Gibbons, Secy.
3209 Hula Dr., Mesquite, Texas 75149

MIAMI BRANCH

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

MISSOURI BRANCH

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

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Post #560
East 59th and Orange, Long Beach
Mrs. Ruthelene Stark, Secy.
6802 California, Long Beach, Calif. 90805

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

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

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

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

PORTLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Ruth Olsen, Pres.
9207 N. E. Hancock Dr., Portland Oregon 97220

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.
R. H. Dana School Cafetorium
135th St. and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif.
Mrs. Dora Aaron, Secy.
4820 W. 135th, Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Robert Northrup, Secy.
555 Kingstown Road, Peace Dale, R.I. 02883

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Dales Recreation Center
3936 Chestnut St., Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Tim 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. Pamela Palmer, Secy.
3120 El Camino Ave., Sacramento, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall
2717 University Ave., San Diego
Mrs. Mary L. Hofmann, Secy.
2327 33rd St., San Diego, Calif. 92104

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Golden Gate Park
9th Ave. and Lincoln Way
Mrs. Lillian Lee
738 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, Calif. 94121

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. Marilyn Nielson, Secy.
16 Plumas, Goleta, Calif. 93017

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Loyal Heights Field House
21st Ave., N.W. and N.W. 77th St.
Mrs. Phyllis A. Wright, Secy.
536 N.E. 98th, Seattle, Wash. 98115

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Barlett, C.C., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy S. Moen, Secy.
470 MacKay Ave., Ventura, Calif. 93003

SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Members' Homes
Mrs. Ruth Beineke, Secy.
1921 Highland, Salinas, Kansas 67401

SOUTH CAROLINA BRANCH

Charles W. Crawford, Secy.
30 1/2 Briarcliff Dr., Charleston, S. C. 29407

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Wm. Moshier Field House
430 So. 156th, Burien
Mrs. Arthur Johnson
12216 8th South, Seattle, Wash. 98168

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 77640

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 Alverstone 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. Francis D. Crew, Secy.

CALENDAR

January 2—Westchester Branch: "Begonias From Seed" by Chuck Tagg. 7:30 p.m.

January 8—Inglewood Branch: Meeting at Western Savings and Loan Bank Building, 355 East Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

January 11—San Gabriel Valley Branch: The 29th Birthday Dinner and Installation of Officers at the T & J Restaurant, 8526 E. Valley Blvd., Rosemead. Social hour 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Master of Ceremonies, Ralph Corwin; Installing Officer, National President, Walter Pease; Program by Bee and Wilbur Olson. Tickets are available through your branch secretary or write or call Mr. Serl Watson, 4241 E. Live Oak, Arcadia, Calif. 91006; phone 446-7638. Guests are most welcome.

January 24—Redondo Area Branch: "Films on Gesneriads" by Ed Sherer. 7:30 p.m. New meeting place, R. H. Dana School Cafetorium, 135th St. and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif.

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

February 1—DEADLINE for all material for the March *Begonian*.

EDITOR'S NOTE

We welcome three new branches to our Branch Directory this month. Please check the listing for your branch. If it is not correct, send your corrections to me immediately. The Branch Directory will appear in the May, August, and November issues this year.

Mae Tagg

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