

The BEGONIAN

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this issue, you will find your ballot for the election of officers for the 1970 Board of Directors of the A.B.S. The privilege of electing these officers is yours; the privilege of serving you is theirs. Their jobs will be much more gratifying if they can serve knowing that they have the support of the entire membership. You can make them aware of this support by sending in your vote. Where two nominees are listed for one office, you have the choice to make. Where only one nominee is listed, mark your ballot as a vote of confidence. Serving as an officer of any society can be much more enjoyable when one knows that those whom he is serving have confidence in his ability to do the job. Exercise the most important single privilege available to you in this or any other society. The officers of the A.B.S. count on your vote.

VOTE AND BE COUNTED.

Walter Pease

COVER PICTURE

Begonia richii is a very large rhizomatous *Begonia* that resembles *B. macdougallii* but is entirely green. When grown outside, it can become spectacular in size but in pots or tubs, the leaf stem remains about eighteen inches. Hybridizing with *B. richii* is intriguing as it does not readily set seed by any pollen but its own. Seed offered in the Seed Fund on page 154.

This plant was grown by Herb Warrick of Seattle, Washington.

Photo by Herb Warrick

THE POINT SCORING SYSTEM FOR JUDGING BEGONIAS

Have you ever wondered how a judge makes decisions on awards presented to *Begonias*? Have you heard of a Point Scoring System used for *Begonias*? As an example, "cultural perfection", 40 points are allowed. What is taken into consideration on the culture of a *Begonia*?

The A.B.S. approved the revised Point Scoring System used for *Begonias*. Through the cooperation of the Classification Committee and the Judges Course Department, a booklet has been printed. This twenty-page booklet, *The Point Scoring System for Judging Begonias*, was compiled by Rudolf Ziesenhenne and reviewed and revised by the Classification Committee. It provides the Point Scoring for all types of *Begonias*, planters, containers, etc. with a comprehensive distribution of points and explanations.

Judges will find this book is an essential tool for judging. Those not interested in judging will find it valuable toward understanding how and why specific entries received awards. Exhibitors will find it valuable in making them aware of how points are used in judging.

This attractive booklet may be ordered at \$1.25 postpaid from:

Mrs. R. G. Leatherman,
2637 N. Lee Ave.,
South El Monte, Ca. 91733
or from
Mrs. Walter W. Pease, Jr.,
8101 Vicksburg Ave.,
Los Angeles, Ca. 90045

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*.

Begonias Galore—

BEGONIA 'LUWALTER'

By ELDA HARING, *Greenwich, Connecticut*

Begonia 'Luwalter', a delightful and unusually pretty *Begonia*, is a cross of *B. incarnata* (seed parent) and *B. mazaе*. It is fibrous rooted with deep coppery-red leaves slightly fringed, adorned with pink flowers. For those in search of dark-leaved *Begonias*, this is one of the best. When I first obtained *B. 'Luwalter'*, I thought it was very easy to grow—one of those "foolproof" kinds. But when it reached a fairly large size, it grew weak and fell over and seemed most unhappy. Such a situation does not daunt me for I believe in that old saying, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." I took the best of the tip-end shoots for cuttings and placed them in a mixture of peat moss and sand. When they were well-rooted, I potted each in a different potting mix. One in my own favorite, the formula for which I gave last month; one in Baccto potting mix and one in a mixture of equal parts of peat, vermiculite and perlite. Each was watered as needed and fed regularly with one-half strength Ortho-Gro.

Neither the plant in my own potting mix nor that in Baccto potting soil did well. When I took a soil test, I was quite surprised to discover that my own potting soil tested at six pH which is acid, and the Baccto tested

at five pH which is very acid. At that time the healthy plant in the photograph in my own mix was at the point of dying. I cut off the top for the leaves close to the soil level in the pot looked firm, and I watered the two pots with a teaspoon of Agri-lime to a quart of water once a week for three weeks. Then the plants began to grow and are now ready for larger pots. As nearly all of my *Begonias* do well in my own soil mix, I concluded, although I have no scientific basis for such a conclusion, that *B. 'Luwalter'* is one of those *Begonias* that needs a sweeter soil in order to thrive. This one, incidentally, is growing under warm white fluorescent lights. In the greenhouse, I keep it in a shady location away from direct sun for the deep red of its leaves will fade out with direct sunshine.

I'VE TRIED...

By EL MCWHORTER,
Columbia, South Carolina

I've tried the following plants in hanging baskets, some are big as bushel baskets. *B. 'Gi-Gi'*, *B. 'Sir Percy'*, *B. 'Fuscomaculata'*, *B. 'Erythrophylla'*, *B. 'Erythrophylla Helix'*, *B. 'Randy'*, *B. 'Crestabruхий'*, *B. 'Beryl'*, *B. 'Argenteo-Guttata'*, *B. 'Bayerne'*, *B. convolvulacea*, *B. 'Verde Grande'*, *B. 'Norah Bedson'*, *B. 'Leslie Lynn'*, *B. sunderbruchii*, and *B. 'Cleopatra'*,

I have them in a mixture of two parts peat moss, one part cow manure, one part perlite, and one part vermiculite. I fertilize with Rapid-Gro about once a month. The temperature is maintained at about 80° average and an average humidity of 70 per cent.

I find the best way to root *B. manicata aureo-maculata* is from mature leaves. Place the leaf in a two-inch

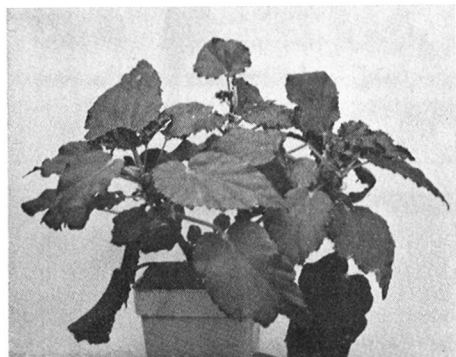


Photo by Walter J. Haring

(Continued on Page 166)

TWO REPRINTS

By IRVING H. GRAY, *Burlington, Vermont*

These articles were originally printed 40 years ago but they are as timely today as they were then.

Editor

USE OF WARDIAN CASE IN SUMMER

With the coming of warm weather, we removed our *Begonias* from the Wardian Case in which they had grown during the winter months. Then we went into the woods and gathered material for a "terrarium." From the side of a babbling brook, we brought two moss-covered rocks which we used to divide the Case into two irregular sections. One, being about two-thirds of the space, we filled with sand up level with the top of the rocks. Over the sand we spread moss gathered from the brookside. Then we set out a small Pine and a Hemlock, ferns, wood sorrel, hawkweed and three delicate little vines, as well as a number of other plants whose names we do not know.

The remaining space we filled with water in which we placed a third moss-covered rock to represent an island. And last of all we put two tiny goldfish into the "pond."

It helps wonderfully on a hot day to see in our living room a spot that looks so cool. And our guests exclaim with interest over the woodsy scene and seem to delight in watching the fish dart in and out under the mossy edges of the rocks.

FOUR MORE

Four more pages have been added to this issue of *The Begonian* in order to accommodate publication of the show schedule and information concerning the conventions. A calendar of Show Dates appears on page 171. I have tried to choose articles to cover a wide range of interest in hopes of having something for everyone.
Mae Tagg, *Editor*

OUR ROCK GARDEN

We have in our garden a heap of rocks and trailing over them are some thrifty plants with beautiful flowers. The effect is pleasing to us who pass by in our daily tasks. Why should we care about what the books say?

Having built a garage on the other side of the house, we tore down the old barn that had stood in the southwest corner of the lot. This left a few rocks that had been used as supports at the corners of the building. Also the approach to the barn had been built up with coal ashes to the depth of two feet. We must dig out these ashes and haul them with the rocks to the dump or discover some way to utilize them.

So we piled up the rocks loosely around the end of the barn approach, leaving many "pockets" which we filled with good garden soil. On the upper side of the pile, which was toward the front of the lot, we planted a row of pink petunias. These conceal the rocks from the view of the street. Around the lower side we planted sweet alyssum for a border. And in the "pockets" are verbenas in varying colors. They have sent their trailing branches out in all directions and the dark green foliage makes a striking contrast with the sombre shades of the rocks which peek through here and there.

What would have been an eye-sore, has become a spot of beauty.

SPECIAL NOTE

The Glendale Branch is hosting the National Board of the A.B.S. at the July meeting, Sunday, July 27. The meeting will be in the Glendale Federal Savings and Loan basement auditorium, 401 North Brand Blvd., Glendale at 1:30 p.m. Refreshments and a plant sale will follow. The plants are to be donated by members from all branches.

Research Report—

EXPERIMENTS WITH *B. SCHMIDTIANA* TRAITS

By JANE NEAL, *Worthing, England*

Jane Neal is an enthusiastic and studious member of several round robins. Her hybridizing work is quite unusual and the knowledge gained and shared here will be of interest and value to hybridizers everywhere.

Editor

"Some species are so dominant as to be completely useless for breeding purposes."

This sentence, written some years ago by an eminent breeder of Iris, started the trail of thought that led to this experiment. It is accepted that *Begonias rex*, *semperflorens*, and *boweri* traits are strongly dominant, "even unto the third and fourth generation." How many others are there, and how many hybrids of these have become accepted as "species?"

The *B. schmidtiana* group emerged from a mixed bag of crosses and were outstanding:

B. (schmidtiana x semperflorens cultivar)

B. (schmidtiana x sutherlandii)

B. (schmidtiana x 'Vesperia')

[*B. 'Vesperia'* is a seedling of *B. 'Viaudi'*.]

B. (schmidtiana x 'Duchartrei')

[*B. 'Duchartrei'* is *B. (echinosepala x scharffiana)*.]

B. (schmidtiana x tomentosa)

[These seedlings have been called *B. Tom Smith grex*.]

B. (dregei x schmidtiana)

B. (pearcei x schmidtiana)

All the seedlings favor *B. schmidtiana*, regardless of whether it was used as the seed or pollen parent. Only a close inspection reveals differences in build, habit, and coloring. In every cross, the flowers are like *B. schmidtiana's*, as is the leaf shape—

but the deep serrations of *B. schmidtiana* tended to give way to regular "saw" edges or sometimes to crenate edges. All the hybrids are larger, more upright and stronger than *B. schmidtiana*. Also, the color and shape of the ovary is distinctive. The ovary of *B. schmidtiana* is brownish-red with the large wing very rounded; not one hybrid has this shape or color.

Seed of some of these crosses grown by other A.B.S. members bear out the strong dominance of *B. schmidtiana*.

B. (dregei x schmidtiana) yielded a moderately tall plant with softly hairy green leaves, no red on the back, and sprays of flesh pink flowers—all female.

B. (pearcei x schmidtiana) gave a stout, white-hairy plant with larger leaves than those of *B. schmidtiana*, with red-flushed backs. The pale pink flowers are of *B. schmidtiana* type and, to date, all male. This hybrid has overwintered very badly—dropping all its leaves and keeping only a bare white hairy stem.

In the other hybrids, the outstanding difference is in the shape and color of the ovary. While all the flowers remained distinctly "schmidt," *B. (schmidtiana x 'Duchartrei')* produced a showy rose-pink ovary with a tendency to produce four-winged examples. The ovary of *B. (schmidtiana x 'Vesperia')* is a distinctive lilac pink. But the *B. (schmidtiana x sutherlandii)* seed produced a weakly group of plants with a deep carmine blotch at the base of the main petals. These plants have wintered badly, too.

B. Tom Smith grex, which is *B. (schmidtiana x tomentosa)*, when mature is some fourteen inches across and about fourteen inches tall. One variety has pink flowers; the other, almost

pure white with faintly pink edges. Leaves are finely toothed with plum-red backs. The whole plant is white-hairy and winters well, never quite going out of flower. A cutting roots well but must come from a basal shoot that is already budding, or the cutting simply goes up into a single stem as do some *semps*.

B. (*schmidtiana* x *semperflorens* cultivar) gave small black-green leaves under a coat of white hair, with deep red backs. A constant supply of deep pink flowers follows the *B. schmidtiana* type. These do well on a window sill, even over winter. Another lot that never quite goes out of flower.

It would be possible to pass several of these hybrids off as the species itself to anyone who lacked the original *B. schmidtiana* to compare them with. Ledyard Stebbins, Jr., the geneticist, has written, "The offspring of two distinct specifics may resemble each other as much as a group of species, and may so resemble one parent as to be indistinguishable. A "specific" is an individual, or group of individuals, in which the characteristics of any particular species are clearly defined.

It should be noted here, that two of the pollen parents used were cultivars—that is, hybrids of man-made origin. He has also stated that if a hybrid is a polyploid formed by crossing two closely related species, with partly homologous chromosomes, many derivatives of that hybrid "will be hardly distinguishable from one or the other of the parent species."

The results obtained in this group of hybrids would seem to bear out, in every respect, these genetic facts.

Great care must be exercised in both the pollination and the keeping of records of all hybrids, for appearance alone is no guarantee of the purity of a batch of seedlings. Only with the F_2 (second-generation cross) does the variation really begin, but, unfortunately, the door is all too often fast shut to this by sterility. One guide to the purity of a questionable species

is its fertility. Any drop in this should be regarded with suspicion, no matter how close a resemblance there may be to the species in question.

It should be remembered that Nature has one golden rule: "Be fruitful and multiply." Failure here leads to final and complete elimination—Nature has no time for those who cannot maintain themselves.

But if the doorway to the F_2 generation can be opened, then the fertile generation is obtained and the breeders are in business. For the F_2 , though very variable, is fully fertile. All who have grown seed of *semps* or *rex* cultivars or tuberhybridias know the truth of this statement. All the varied varieties in these groups today are the result of the breakthrough to the F_2 generation from the first and original F_1 hybrid—and then the continued selection from each generation of the most desirable plants, and the recombination and further selection down the seasons.

BLOOM TIME PROJECT

The Research Department that has been conducting the Bloom Time Project for the past year, would like to terminate it at this time. Anyone who still has charts of their *Begonias* should send them in to the Research Director so that we can complete the project.

We want to thank the members of the Society who have so conscientiously helped in this undertaking. A summary of some of the pertinent facts relating to the project will be in a future issue of *The Begonian*.

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu
Research Director

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Mrs. E. Bolduc

INFORMATION PLEASE

First, I want to thank all of you who took an interest in the column and sent your questions to me. You will find the answers in the column, but should any of you need your answers quickly, please out of courtesy, send along a stamped self-addressed envelope and I will have your answer either by return mail, or as soon as I can get it.

One question that I seem to get a good deal of and one that I need not answer individually, as there were so many of you with the same problem, is "Why do my plants brown at the leaf edges, get crisp and finally fall off the plant?" There are those of you who say that your plants completely defoliated because of this.

Now, it surprises me no end, as I thought everyone who grows humidity loving plants would know the answer to that one. One woman thought that it might be from over or under feeding and couldn't imagine any other reason. Any drying of leaves or browning edges on *Begonias*, Gesneriads, or any plants coming from humid forests means that the area around your plants at home is too dry. There are other reasons (see June, 1969 page 137) but this is the most common and quickest to check. You can test it by going into any department or hardware store and buying a hygrometer. This is an instrument that measures the amount of water in the air and gives you a reading in relative humidity. And, for those of you who do not know, relative humidity is the weight of water vapor in the air as compared to the total weight of water vapor the air is capable of holding at a given temperature. To insure healthy plants it is best to simulate the amount of humidity that exists where the *Begonia* originates. That is not always possible and this is how I solved my problem when my plants were in my basement. I bought some plastic dish pans, the square or oblong kind. Rubbermaid Corp. makes a very good one, is strong and sturdy, and can stand a

lot of abuse. I filled them about three-quarters full of plain water, and put some hardware screening cloth on top of them. On top of the hardware cloth, I put my plants and they were over a continuing evaporation which in my case increased the humidity a great deal.

Of course the window sill grower can not do that so I would suggest you mist your plants morning and night. A botanist told me that the essential thing was that the moisture enter the stomata of the leaf.

Q. From Mrs. V. C. Jackson, Jr., Richmond, Virginia: "What types of *Begonias* could be used in a small glass garden such as a brandy snifter?"

A. Now, Mrs. Jackson is not asking for individual plants but types. Any of the *B. boweri* hybrids (see May, 1969 page 100) especially those that stay small such as *B. boweri*, *B. 'Bow-Joe'*, *B. 'Spaulding'*, and *B. 'Bow-Chancee'*. An excellent terrarium specimen that never grows large is *B. aridicaulis*, a Mexican species. I find that *semps* never do well in terrariums. They are much too succulent.

In a robin that I am in, a question was asked if direct sunlight will bleach the leaves of angel wing *Begonias*. Speaking from my experience, I would say yes. I find that in my greenhouse those angel wings that are exposed to the sun do bleach and even get scorch spots. This is so in spite of the fact that my friend and I built the greenhouse with translucent fiber glass that lets in only 81 per cent of the light.

A private discussion came up at the Knickerbocker Branch at one of its meetings. Some commercial people and professionals list *B. masoniana* (syn. 'Iron Cross') as a *rex*. One famous nursery in Connecticut does in their catalogue. Actually, *rex* means those plants related to *rex* cultivars originating from the species *B. rex* from India. Through hybridization and about 125 years of cultivation, the *rexes* are of

such variety as not to seem a related cultivar in many cases. The most dominant characteristic of *rexes* are the leaves. Though many of the recently developed cultivars of *B. (dregei x rex cultivar)* do not have the same growth pattern, they do have the typical pattern of the *rex* leaf and are classed as *rexes* by the Classification Committee of the A.B.S. *B. masoniana* does not have the typical leaf pattern that makes a *rex* a *rex*. Though many plants such as *B. masoniana* are grouped with *rex* types, they are definitely not *rexes*.

So, until next time, do keep your questions coming and I will answer.

Ben Marcus
1547 West Eighth St.
Brooklyn, New York 11204

FROM THE RESEARCH DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce that Carrie Karegeannes has consented to be a member of this Research Committee. She has been doing considerable research work in gathering information on species from the National Agricultural Institution. During my first year as Research Director, Carrie was of invaluable aid to me in getting established; gave me many leads which led to important contacts for the A.B.S.

Jane Neal reports that a pest called Phylloxera or the Vine Weevil which came to Europe from the U.S.A. around 1860, has been reported as attacking tuberous and rhizomatous *Begonias*. Since this should be of interest to all *Begonia* growers, I hope that Jane will write an article on the subject for *The Begonian* so that growers will be aware of the pest.

Jane also reports that Kew Gardens has a new *Begonia* from Sarawak, North Borneo. She says that its chief interest lies in the fact that it is reported by the collector to grow in profusion on limestone hills. The plant resembles a *B. 'Preusen'* in color and habit.

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu

LOCATION OF TYPE SPECIMENS OF BEGONIAS

By RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE,
Santa Barbara, California

In the valid publication of species Begonias it is essential to include information on the location of the type specimen or herbarium specimen of the plant. Since the type specimen of species Begonias published by Rudolf Ziesenhenné are kept in his personal collection, he neglected including this information within the text of the valid publications. Therefore, we are publishing this information here for you with complete references to all the articles.

Editor

The TYPE specimen of *Begonia viscida* Zies. C. 251 of Mr. T. MacDougall described in *The Begonian* Vol. 36. No. 4. April, 1969 on page 87 is in the herbarium of Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103 along with the other TYPES of Mr. MacDougall's collecting listed below with reference to the articles published in *The Begonian*.

- B. mazae* Zies. Vol. XIV No. 12. Dec. 1947. Page 242.
- B. macdougallii* Zies. Vol. XIV No. 11. Nov. 1947. Page 220.
- B. cavum* Zies. Vol. XV. No. 1. Jan. 1948. Page 20.
- B. hispidavillosa* Zies. Vol. XVII. No. 1. Jan. 1950. Page 14.
- B. chivatoa* Zies. Vol. XVII. No. 3. March 1950. Page 56.
- B. boweri* Zies. Vol. XVII. No. 4. April 1950. Page 78.
- B. kenworthyi* Zies. Vol. XVII. No. 7. July 1950. Page 150.
- B. francesii* Zies. Vol. XVII. No. 10. Oct. 1950. Page 220.
- B. aridicaulis* Zies. Vol. XIX. No. 5. May 1952. Page 106.
- B. philodendroides* Zies. Vol. XXI. No. 12. Dec. 1954. Page 302.
- B. bettinae* Zies. Vol. 32. No. 11. Nov. 1965. Page 227.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Instructions—

"*Begonias From Seed—Sowing and Growing*" gives step by step easy-to-follow instructions and encouragement for beginning seed growers. Price 25 cents.

No. 1—*B. goegoensis*—

Growth bushy, compact, with high creeping rhizomes. Petioles very fleshy, sharply tri-cornered, bare. Leaves almost round to egg-shaped, closed, saucer-like, wavy over the entire surface or rugose; upper side of the leaf olive-green with lighter shading, silky gloss, a little lighter at the margins; beneath reddish, both sides bare. Inflorescence sessile, surpassing the leaves very little in height. Flowers medium large, pink. This plant is a treasure for collectors and fanciers of beautiful foliage plants and should be grown in a well regulated greenhouse or similar conditions. (Beautiful for a centerpiece in a bubble.) Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. listida*—

Brazil. First introduced in this country by the Seed Fund a few years ago. Leaves are narrow, double pointed, hairy, with light green bands down the center. Upright branching habit of easy culture. Flowers are white with red hairs on back, almost two inches across. Constant bloomer. Slow germination. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—*B. richii*—

This is a very large rhizomatous *Begonia* that resembles *B. macdougallii* but is entirely green. When grown outside, it can become spectacular in size but in pots or tubs, the leaf stem remains about eighteen inches. Hybridizing with this *Begonia* is intriguing as it does not readily set seed by any pollen but its own. Price \$1.00 per pkt. (See Cover Picture.)

No. 4—*B. limminghiana*—

Climbing *Begonia* from dense tropical forest on road to Sao Paulo-Piedade., Tapirai, Juguia at an elevation of 2250 feet. Shining green, ovate oblique leaves and vines to 25 feet

in natural habitat and likes fern trunks in particular for climbing. Flowers orange-red. Sometimes known as *B. glaucophylla scandens*. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 5—*B. caraguatatubensis*—

Brazil. Leaves up to one foot across beautifully shaped and textured and dark red on the underside, plants to about two feet tall, tall panicles of white flowers. At the upper end of the leaf petiole, were several red-hairy bristly, rings or collars. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 6—*B. fernandoi-costae*—

Brazil species. Beautiful, ovate acuminate leaves up to one foot across. Light green, cupped with white hairs on top and slightly matted hairs underneath. Medium growth with large, white flowers. Requires mositure. Seeds scarce. please state second choice. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 7—*B. incarnata*—

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

No. 8—*B. sanguinea*—

Thick, leathery, oval leaves, glazed brown over green on top; red underneath. White flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9—*B. nelumbiifolia*—

Large; rhizomes thick, ascending; leaves roundish, peltate, not unlike a lily pad, smooth, green. Flowers white or pink-tinged in tall erect cymes. Effectively grown outdoors where climate permits. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 10—*B. echinosepala*—

Brazil. Tall, much branched *Begonia* and is distinguished by the comparatively small two to two-and-three-quarters inches long and five-sixteenths to one inch wide finely toothed leaves. The flowers are medium large and the white petals of the males have rather large hairs in the middle of the outer side for which this species is named. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 11—*B. engleri*—

Africa. Curious plant curly red-haired stems; dark green leaves with white hairs; pink flowers with red ovaries and hair. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 12—*B. incana*—

Mexico. White-felted, fleshy green leaves attached to the stem near the center, like a lily pad. Drooping white flowers in good measure. Grows dry-ish. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 13—*B. cucullata*—

Brazil species allied to *B. semperflorens*. Medium, smooth; stolons green, creeping a short distance before ascending into erect, succulent stems attaining a height of one or more feet, purple-tinged at joints. Flowers white or pink tinged in terminal clusters. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 14—*B. franconis*—

Syn. *B. parvifolia*. Mexico. Small plant, white flowers. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 15—*B. wallichiana*—

Herbaceous. East Indies. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 16—*B. pilifera*—

Syn. *B. sericoneura*. Central America. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 17—*B. humilis*—

Several *Begonias* listed under this name and we have no definite proof as to the identity of the one listed here. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 18—*B. (olsoniae x listida)*—

B. olsoniae was formerly *B. vellozoana*. This is a cross made by a friend in Europe who states that leaves are like those of *B. olsoniae* and it makes a good basket plant. Interesting to try. This is a hybrid and variation will appear. Price 50 cents per pkt.

***Monolena primuliflora*—**

Melastomaceae. Greenhouse plant of great beauty. Showy flowers in magnificent colors. Price 50 cents per pkt.

REPORT—

Someone who tests seed for the Seed Fund sent the following report: "*B. subnummularifolia* (name should

be cut down) sown April 13th, germinated in about twenty days; germination is good but not easy. Seedlings grow strong in high humidity. *B. decora* only a few to date and looks like a slow one. Needs patience. *B. xanthina* came quickly and very strong grower. All others including Gesneriads up and growing."

Please send requests for seed to:

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

GLENDALE MEETING NOTICE

I can't resist sharing this meeting notice with all of you. It brought a smile to my face and the hope that I would be able to attend.

Editor

June is the month of Love so all us Flower children are holding a love-in!

This will be a peaceful demonstration—no placards, no marching, no national guards, no deans, no faculty—just students of nature doing their thing. This gathering is approved by all inter-denominational churches, the Glendale City Council, the Police Department, bug fighters and fertilizer companies.

Demonstration lead by Hazel Snodgrass from Ventura on Bedding *Begonias*. This is a safe topic as it may be performed out in the open, often in public parks and around the Establishment buildings. Mrs. Snodgrass is an exponent of putting *Begonias* down and also the use of pot. Her favorite colors are white, pink and mostly red. She will show forms and color. Do bring your friends to hear our leader and watch her recruit new members for our Society.

Drinks will be served and soul food at no cost to the consumer.

Remember our Slogan—we shall overcome *Begonia* member drop-outs, soil deficiency, bug attacks and color integration!

Love is the Thing!

**THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL
BEGONIA SHOW**

in conjunction with

1969 AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONVENTION

September 6, 7, 1969

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

PROGRAM

Friday, September 5:

6:00-9:00 p.m. Begonia Show entries accepted.

Saturday, September 6:

7:00-9:00 a.m. Begonia Show entries accepted.
(No entries will be accepted after 9:00 a.m.)

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Judging.

1:00-6:00 p.m. Show open to public.

2:30 p.m. Annual Meeting—Seminar Room.

6:30-7:30 p.m. Social Hour — Banquet Room — Flamingo-Ramada Hotel, 130 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, Calif.

7:30 p.m. Convention Banquet — Flamingo - Ramada Hotel. Speaker, Clarence Hall, a Past-President of the A.B.S. from Sacramento, Calif. Dinner, Cornish Game Hen and Wild Rice. Tickets, \$5.00 per plate —order from Mrs. Pearl Parker, 1114 W. 158th St., Gardena, Calif., or from Walter Pease, 8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Sunday, September 7:

10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Show open to public.

2:00-4:00 p.m. Seminar directed by Rudolf Ziesenhenné—Seminar Room.

5:00-6:00 p.m. Major Prize Drawing.

6:00-9:00 p.m. All entries to be removed during this time.

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

EVERYONE WELCOME

FREE PARKING

RULES FOR THE 37th ANNUAL SHOW

1. The Show Chairman shall have complete charge of all exhibits from the opening to the close of the Show.

2. Competition is open to all who wish to enter. However, only A.B.S. members are eligible to compete for the Perpetual and Challenge Trophies.

3. There will be no exhibitor's fee.

4. All competitive entries must be RECEIVED no later than 60 minutes before judging begins. An entry received after this time will be eligible only for non-competitive exhibition.

5. All entries must be checked with the Classification Committee before registration. Competitive entries must be made according to the Show Schedule or be disqualified.

6. There will be two competitive sections in most Divisions. These are Novice Grower and Grower. A Novice Grower is one who is entering this show for the first time. Each exhibitor will compete in his own section except for Best in Show, certain Specific Awards, and Divisions where Novice Grower and Grower sections are combined.

7. An exhibitor may enter more than one plant in any Class provided each plant is of a different variety. However, each entry may compete in only one Class.

8. All entries exhibited in competitive Classes must have been grown by the exhibitor and have been in his possession at least three months prior to the Show. Artistic Division excepted.

9. Containers and plants must be clean and neat. The Show Chairman shall have the right to exclude, refuse or remove any diseased, infected or unsightly exhibits.

10. All plants should be clearly labelled. Errors will not disqualify, but judges will recognize correctness in close competition. Synonymous names are acceptable.

11. No artificial plant material may be entered in any Class or Division, including the Artistic Division.

12. Exhibitors may not place their plants except under the direction of the Placement Committee. Exhibitors in collection Divisions are responsible for the arrangement of their entries.

13. The Show Chairman shall assume complete charge at the start of judging, and no person will be allowed to interfere with the judges. Only the Show Chairman and personnel authorized by him will be permitted in the Show during judging.

14. No exhibitor or judge may change the Class of an entry without the consent of the Show Chairman. Additional Classes may be opened by the Show Chairman where warranted.

15. Entry cards must remain sealed until the Show Chairman declares all judging complete.

16. The judges shall make awards according to merit only. If the entry is without merit, the judges shall make no award regardless of the number of entries in the Class.

17. Only entries receiving first place Class awards may be considered for Division Trophies.

18. The judges may use only the Point-Scoring System as approved by the A.B.S.

19. An entry must receive 85 points to be eligible for a Division, Perpetual or Challenge Trophy.

20. A Sweepstakes Trophy will be awarded in each section to the exhibitor with the most blue ribbons in Begonia Divisions. Second and third place ribbons will be counted only in case of a tie, on the basis of two points for each second place and one point for each third place.

21. The judges' decision will be final for all awards. If the Show Chairman determines that according to good common judging practices a gross injustice has occurred, it shall be the duty of the Show Chairman to have the questioned exhibit reviewed by a board comprised of all the other judges.

22. The A.B.S. will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits but will not be responsible for loss or damage to the property of an exhibitor. Exhibitors are responsible for watering and other care of their entries.

23. No exhibit or award may be removed before the end of the Show without the consent of the Show Chairman. Any violation of this rule may result in forfeiture of any or all awards.

24. All Perpetual Trophies and those Challenge Trophies not retired must be returned to the Show Chairman four weeks prior to the next A.B.S. Show.

GRO-LUX LAMPS—BLACK LIGHT

All sizes of lamps and fixtures
for residence or business.

FLUORESCENT TUBE SERVICE

13107 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif. 90061

Phone (213) 321-6900

1969 SHOW SCHEDULE OF THE

The basic Class is for the potted plant. Additional Classes will be created for the following types of containers:

- H—hanging container—any container equipped with hanging wires; hung or not.
- W—wall pocket—any container equipped for hanging on a wall.
- T—totem pole—moisture retentive single column to which the plant is affixed.
- E—enclosed container—terrarium, bubbles or other containers providing an enclosed atmosphere for plant growth.
- U—unique container—unusual or imaginative container not normally used.
- N—novel—method of training or growing. Trellis plants may be entered in the basic Class and judged as staked plants.

DIVISION A—CANE-LIKE

Class

1. Superba type as *B. sceptrum*, *B.* 'Superba Azella'
2. Mallet type as *B.* 'Tingley Mallet', *B.* 'Arthur Mallet', *B.* 'Faustine' (green)

All Other Canes:

3. Low canes (under 2')
4. Medium canes (2' to 4')
5. Tall canes (over 4')
6. Trailing as *B.* 'Florence Carrell', *B. limmingheana*

DIVISION B—SHRUB-LIKE

Large Leaved (Bare Leaved):

Class

1. As *B.* 'Dorothy Grant', *B.* 'Braemar', *B. caraguatatubensis*
2. Fleshy stemmed as *B. phyllomaniaca*, *B.* 'Paul Bruant', *B.* 'Gilsonii'

Medium Leaved (Bare Leaved):

3. As *B.* 'Thurstonii', *B.* 'Credneri', *B. odorata*
4. Quite fleshy stemmed as *B. ulmifolia*, *B. parilis*, *B. scabrida*

Small Leaved (Bare Leaved):

5. Acuminata type as *B.* 'Catalina', *B.* 'Richmondensis', *B.* 'Rutherfordiana'
6. Other than acuminata type as *B. foliosa*, *B. fuchsoides*, *B. multiflora rosea*, *B. domingensis*

Hairy Leaved:

7. Wide leaved, upright growth as *B. tomentosa*, *B.* 'Alto Scharff'
8. Narrow leaved, upright growth as *B. bradei*, *B. listida*
9. Compact as *B. olsoniae*, *B. acida*

DIVISION C—THICK STEMMED (NOT JOINTED)

Brittle Stemmed:

Class

1. Large leaved as *B.* 'Rudy', *B. ludwigii*
2. Small leaved as *B.* 'Richard Robinson'

Woody Stemmed:

3. Thick stemmed as *B. pilifera*, *B. incana*
4. Taller growing as *B. kellermanii*, *B.* 'Marie Reed', *B.* 'Tamo'

Thickest:

5. As *B. J-11*, *B. friburgensis* DIVISION D—SEMPERFLORENS CHARACTERISTICS

Species:

Class

1. *Semperflorens* type
2. *Schmidtiana* type

Cultivars:

3. Single flowered
4. Semi-double and double flowered
5. Variegated foliage as *B.* 'Calla Queen', *B.* 'Charm'
6. *Schmidtiana* cultivars

DIVISION E—RHIZOMATOUS

Leaf size will be determined by the greatest dimension of the majority of leaves.

Small Leaved (under 3"):

Class

1. Even margin
 2. Cut or compound
 3. Crested or spiral
- ### Medium Leaved (3" to 6"):

4. Even margin
5. Cut or compound
6. Crested or spiral

Large Leaved (6" to 12"):

7. Even margin
8. Moderately cut margin
9. Deeply cut margin or compound
10. Crested or spiral
11. Giant leaved (over 12")

Rhizome-like Erect Stem:

12. Even margin as *B. manicata*
13. Cut or compound as *B. kenworthy*, *B. carolineafolia*
14. Crested margin as *B. manicata crispa*, *B.* 'Madame Queen'

Rhizome Jointed at Soil, with Erect Stem:

15. As *B. deliciosa*, *B. tenuifolia*, *B. hemsleyana*

Distinctive Foliage:

16. *B. imperialis* and *imperialis*-like plants as *B. pustulata* *B.* 'Silver Jewell', *B.* 'Emerald Jewell'
17. Exotic types (without *rex* blood) as *B.* 'Crystal Lake', *B. rajah*, *B. griffithii*, *B. goegoensis*, *B. versicolor*, *B. crispula*
18. Compact hairy as *B. acetosa*, *B.* 'Laura Jane'

DIVISION F—REX CULTORUM

Leaf size will be determined by the greatest dimension of the majority of leaves.

Small Leaved (under 3"):

Class

1. Spiral
 2. Non-spiral
- ### Medium Leaved (3" to 6"):

3. Spiral
4. Non-spiral

Large Leaved (over 6"):

5. Spiral
6. Non-spiral

Upright Stemmed:

7. Spiral
8. Non-spiral

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

DIVISION G—SEMI-TUBEROUS AND TUBEROUS

Both single and multiple stemmed upright plants are acceptable.

Class

1. Semi-tuberous as *B. dregei*, *B. 'Wiltoniensis'*
2. Tuberous species and first generation (F_1) hybrids as *B. cavum*, *B. pearcei*, *B. 'Santa Barbara'*, *B. davisii*, *B. boliviensis*, *B. 'Torsa'*, *B. hollyhock*
3. Multiflora
4. Single flowered
5. Double flowered
6. Trailing
7. *B. socotrana* and its hybrids as *himalis* types, *cheimantha* types

DIVISION H—BEGONIA COLLECTIONS

(Sections combined, see rule 6.) Exhibitors are responsible for the arrangement of their entries.

Each Plant from a Different Class:

Class

1. Collection of three *Begonias*
2. Collection of six *Begonias*
3. Collection of three species
4. Collection of six species

All Plants from the Same Class:

5. Collection of three *Begonias*
6. Collection of six *Begonias*
7. Collection of three species
8. Collection of six species

DIVISION I—NEW BEGONIA INTRODUCTIONS

(Sections combined, see rule 6.) Entries in this Division are not eligible for any other Division Trophy.

Original stock plants must have been in cultivation for at least 36 months.

Eligible plants may not have been entered in any show prior to twelve months before this show, but may have been entered in any number of shows during this twelve months.

The hybridizer need not have grown the plants; the grower may enter plants with the hybridizer's permission. Entry must show names of both grower and hybridizer.

A plant not in bloom should be accompanied by a description of the bloom and time of bloom.

A plant is ineligible if it has been released either by sale or gifts; distribution of a few plants for testing does not constitute release.

Class

1. New hybrid introductions
2. Other than hybrids as species, mutation

DIVISION J—BEGONIAS FROM SEED

(Sections combined, see rule 6)

Plants must be grown from seed available between 36 and 48 months prior to this show and which were not the result of the exhibitor's hybridizing.

The listings published in *The Begonian* will be the authority for Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund seed.

Class

1. *Begonias* offered by the Seed Fund as new species, not previously known to be in cultivation in this country.
2. Rare *Begonias*—*Begonia* species in limited cultivation in this country and obtained through the Seed Fund.
3. *Begonia* hybrids grown from seed obtained through the Seed Fund.
4. *Begonia* species and hybrids grown from seed obtained from other sources.

RULES FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC ENTRIES

All prints should have the name of the plant or plants on the back followed by the name and complete address of the exhibitor.

Slides should be placed in an envelope (one slide per envelope) with the above information on a separate piece of paper.

A self-addressed stamped envelope must accompany the entry if the picture is to be returned. Pictures which are not returned will be used in the Historian's Book, *The Begonian*, or the slide library.

THIS NOT A PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST. It is the plants which are competing, not the photographs.

Photographic entries must be received by August 15, 1969. Send Entries to:

Mrs. Nettie Daniels
Photo Div., A.B.S. Show
Box 83
Camarillo, Ca. 93010

DIVISION K—PHOTOGRAPHS OF BEGONIAS

Open to anyone regardless of geographic location. Prints 3½" x 5" or 5" x 7". Slides in 2" x 2" cardboard mounts.

Single *Begonias*:

Class

1. Black and white print
2. Color print
3. Color slide

Three *Begonias*:

4. Black and white print
5. Color print
6. Color slide

DIVISION L—PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRANCH GARDEN DISPLAYS AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Open to Branches outside a 100-mile radius of the show. Prints 5" x 7" or 8" x 10".

Class

1. Black and white print
2. Color print

DIVISION M—MINIATURE GARDENS

(Sections combined, see rule 6)

Begonias predominating. Not to exceed 30" square.

DIVISION N—ARTISTIC DIVISION “FESTIVAL OF BEGONIAS”

(Sections combined, see rule 6)

Foliage and accessories permitted in all Classes. Artificial plant materials will not be permitted. Material need not have been grown by the exhibitor.

Arrangements:

Class

1. “Westward Ho”—*Begonia* flowers and foliage (other than *Tuberhybrida*)
2. “South of the Border”—Tuberous *Begonia* flowers
3. “Mission Bells”—*Begonias* and other shade plant material
4. “Tribute to Art”—*Rex Begonia* foliage predominating
5. “Symphony of Leaves”—All *Begonia* foliage—*rex* excluded
6. “A Small World”—*Begonias* predominating—Miniatures not to exceed 5”

FROM THE SHOW CHAIRMAN

Well here we go again telling you to be sure to groom your plants so that they can be in winning condition in time for the show this September. You probably know by now that this will be a *Begonias* ONLY show as there is not enough room for *Begonias* and other shade plants.

I am asking for more help in putting on the show so please say “yes” if you are asked to help on the show by me or one of the committee chairmen. If you know someone with good experience or special skills, please ask them to contact me or you can send me their names and I will contact them.

Show Committee meeting is the third Friday of the month at the South Gate Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. We can use all of the suggestions that we can get.

We have lots of room and lots of coffee so come and join us.

Jim Somes

TROPHY FUND

Branches and individuals wishing to donate to the Trophy Fund should make checks payable to the A.B.S. and send to our Awards Chairman:

Mrs. Margaret Lee
Trophies, A.B.S. Show
1852 31st Street
San Diego, Ca. 92102

TROPHIES AND AWARDS

Each Class will be judged for First (Blue Ribbon), Second (Red Ribbon), and Third (White Ribbon) on merit only (see Rule 16). All Blue Ribbon winners in a Division will be judged for Division Trophies (see Rule 17). An entry must receive 85 points to qualify for a Division, Perpetual or Challenge Trophy. A Perpetual Trophy is never retired. A Challenge Trophy may be retired to an exhibitor who has won it three times not necessarily consecutive.

A.B.S. Sweepstakes Trophies will be awarded to the winner with the most points in the *Begonia* Divisions of the Novice Grower Section and the Grow Section (see Rule 20).

PERPETUAL TROPHIES

Herbert P. Dyckman Perpetual Award for the Most Distinctive New Fibrous *Begonia*. Given by Mrs. Dyckman in honor of her husband, Founder of the A.B.S.

John Thieben Perpetual Award for the Best New Rhizomatous *Begonia* Introduction. Donated by the Westchester Branch.

Jack Taylor Perpetual Trophy for Best Hanging Container *Begonia*. Donated by the Orange County Branch.

Ferd Neels Memorial Perpetual Trophy for Best Wall Pocket *Begonia*. Donated by the Inglewood Branch.

Edna Korts Perpetual Trophy for Best Cane in the Show.

Orris R. Martin Perpetual Memorial Trophy for Best Tuberous in Novice Grower Section.

Redondo Area Perpetual Trophy for Best *Semperflorens* in the Show.

Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch Perpetual Award for the Best Collection of Six *Begonias*, each from a different class.

CHALLENGE TROPHIES

Dr. Edgar Irmscher Memorial Challenge Award for Best Entry in Show. Donated by Chuck and Mae Tagg.

President's Challenge Trophy for Best *Begonia* in Show. Presented by Calvin E. Trowbridge. Only plants which win Division Trophies may be considered for Best *Begonia* in Show.

San Miguel Branch Challenge Trophy for Best *Begonia* in Cultivation 25 years or longer.

Effie Chapman Challenge Cup for the Best Fibrous *Begonia* in the Show.

John R. Williams Challenge Cup for Best Rhizomatous in the Show.

Palos Verdes *Begonia* Farm Challenge Trophy for Best Tuberous in Grower Section.

FOURTH ANNUAL EASTERN BEGONIA CONVENTION

Sponsored by the William Penn Branch of the
American Begonia Society, Inc.

September 19 - 20, 1969

THE TREADWAY INN

Route 30

St. Davids, Pennsylvania

PROGRAM

Friday, September 19:

- 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Begonia Show entries accepted.
- 4:00 p.m. Welcoming Tea and Coffee Hour.
- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Speaker, Dr. Harriet Creighton.
- 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Begonia Show entries accepted.

Saturday, September 20:

- 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Begonia Show entries accepted.
- 9:30 a.m. Buses leave for Longwood Garden Tour.
thru noon
- 1:30 p.m. Lunch—Speaker, Mrs. Carrie Karegeannes,
Annandale, Virginia, Round Robin
Co-Director, A.B.S.
- 2:30 - 10:00 p.m. Begonia Show opened to public.
- 6:00 p.m. Social Hour
- 7:00 p.m. Awards Dinner—Speaker, Rudolf Ziesenhenné,
Santa Barbara, Calif., Nomenclature
Director, A.B.S.

Entries Chairman:
Mrs. George deCoursey
Mill Road
Paoli, Pa. 19301

Correspondence:
Mrs. Ernest C. Drew
635 Moreno Road
Narberth, Pa. 19072

GROUPING *BEGONIAS* FOR SHOW PURPOSES

By RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE, Santa Barbara, California

In this issue of *The Begonian* appears the 1969 Show Schedule of the A.B.S.

This schedule was developed to encourage *Begonia* growers to enter plants in the show with the assurance that their plants will have an equal opportunity to win a first place award.

The method developed is to group like plants together for judging purposes. In planning the classes for the show, it was suggested that if at least five plants were entered in each class, there would be valid competition for the place awards. With the exhibition of five plants in each class under the new schedule, the largest *Begonia* show could have as many as 122 classes, including tuberous *Begonias*. The show schedule as presented may also be used for smaller shows. A small show schedule may be built around the Group numbers only, i.e. Group I—Cane-like (Division A), Group II—Shrub-like (Division B), Group III—Thick-stemmed (Division C), Group IV—*Semperflorens* Characteristics (Division D), Group V—Rhizomatous (Divisions E and F), and Group VI—Tuberous (Division G). A larger show could include group headings and classes of the secondary groupings.

It is realized that in some areas and at some time of the year certain groups of plants are not in condition for exhibition so a show committee may drop them and use only classes of plants which are presentable at that time. In certain areas some groups will be omitted and in others they will be used to their finest breakdown.

In the past we have used the term "fibrous *Begonias*," an ambiguous term denoting presumably a plant with a fibrous root. Since all *Begonias* have fibrous roots, the term should not be used but rather distinction be indicated by the type of growth at and above the ground.

Names have been listed in the show schedule to designate examples of plant types which normally would compete in the class. There may be some exceptions depending on the nature of growth of the individual plant.

In making groupings for plants in a show, it may be necessary to make different classes within a group of similar plants. There should be a group for the majority of the plants, but there are certain *Begonias* which are so beautiful or floriferous that they outshine the others and should be restricted to compete with each other if a sufficient number has been entered. This may be done by putting them into a separate class so the other plants may have a fair chance to win awards. On the other hand, there are some *Begonias* that are below the average in beauty and growth habits and should be grouped so they compete with each other and also have a chance of winning awards. This must be kept in mind in using "The Suggested Guide to Classification of *Begonias* for Show Purposes."

The new terms and their explanations follow:

Group I—Cane-like (Division A): This group contains the tall, straight-stemmed *Begonias*.

Superba type plants are in a separate class to give them a fair chance to win an award, having been derived by hybridizing various plants with *B. faureana* or *B. scepstrum* which go dormant and lose their leaves in cool weather, and have to make a rapid recovery of foliage to be presentable. They are long-jointed, usually leggy, and under garden conditions have sparse foliage.

Mallet-type *Begonias* usually have maroon or reddish foliage with silver spots and should be kept in a class by themselves to give other *Begonias* in

the group a chance to win; because of their coloring, the Mallets are very eye-catching.

Group II—Shrub-like (Division B): There are two parts in this group, bare-leaved *Begonias* which have bare or nearly bare leaves; and hairy-leaved *Begonias*, having a great abundance of hair. The bare-leaved *Begonias* are further divided into large-leaved, medium-leaved, and small-leaved types. Some large-leaved *Begonias* such as *B. 'Dorothy Grant'* make large shrubs. Fleshy-stemmed *Begonias* such as *B. phyllomaniaca* were derived from crossing cane or shrub-like *Begonias* with rhizomatous. These plants usually require staking in order to make them stand up in a shrub-like habit, having a tendency to crawl or clamber.

Medium-leaved *Begonias* are similar to the large-leaved in their breakdown, having smaller leaves and denser foliage, but being divided to make a place for the fleshy, unjointed, often rangy plants such as *B. ulmifolia*.

The first breakdown in small-leaved plants have leaves less than one inch in length. Then come the acuminata-hybrid types which are everblooming and are such powerful plants that they put other plants at a disadvantage. The third class gives an equal chance of an award to the *Begonias* other than acuminata hybrids.

Hairy-leaved *Begonias* are divided into three parts, wide-leaved which are vigorous, rugged plants; narrow-leaved, which are more delicate with beautiful velvety leaves; and compact, as *B. acida* and *B. olsoniae*. These plants have always had to be put in a catch-all group because they are stemmed plants but of low growth.

Group III—Thick-stemmed not jointed (Division C) is a group needing special handling as they compete with other *Begonias* at a disadvantage. Brittle-stemmed *Begonias*, including *B. ludwigii*, are usually dormant in winter, blooming when leafless in the late winter, after which leaves are produced. These are difficult plants

for they usually produce few leaves on the top of the stem and the rest is naked. As they are usually flowerless at show time, they are considered foliage plants. Woody-stemmed plants have hard fibers in their stems and are inclined to branch a little and produce leaves at the top of the stem. They need to compete among themselves in order to win awards. Thick-set plants produce a multitude of stems and make a ball-like plant and have to be kept to themselves in order to give the other plants a fair chance to win an award.

Group IV—*Semperflorens* Characteristics (Division D) includes the species of which there are two types, the tall-growing plants up to three feet, and the schmidtiana-type which are usually under nine inches tall, hairy and usually compact. There are many hybrids or cultivars which are everblooming.

Group V—Rhizomatous (Divisions E and F) is a very large and diversified group, plants which are rugged and can be manipulated in culture. A single named variety could have plants with leaves of one size if grown in similar growing conditions but could have larger or smaller leaves under a different culture. For this reason, it could be entered in different classes according to leaf size of the majority of leaves. If any number of *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross) is entered, they should compete among themselves in a separate class to give the other plants a chance. Rhizome-like stem erect plants in the protection of cultivation grow upright instead of crawling. They are harder to make attractive than other rhizomatous *Begonias*. Rhizome, jointed at or below the soil with erect stems, are best grouped by themselves for they are harder to make attractive and have a dormant period. The distinctive foliage of the *imperialis*-like plants are derived from Mexican *B. imperialis* or similar species and should be in a class by themselves. In the past, they were classed with smaller *rexes* and never had a chance with

(Continued on Page 166)

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Interest is high in robin flights. There may be a little competition between the letter writing and *Begonia* growing but every moment is a most rewarding one.

B. ludwigii:

Chuck described the Ecuadoran species *B. ludwigii* (collected by Camp in 1951) as non-rhizomatous, although the stem does have close nodes and is quite thick. It also is very brittle. It is quite striking. The cross *B. 'Rudy'* was derived from it—also very brittle, hard to move without snapping the stems. Both tend to grow to single stems, seldom branch; it takes a long time to get them to send up more stems. Leaves drop from the bottom as new ones form at the top; hard to make a pretty plant, though he had seen it done, with many stalks on an old plant, all different heights. It is dangerous to cut the tips for cuttings, as the whole stem usually dies. That makes propagation difficult. Rudy Ziesenhenné, Chuck reported, propagates by laying the plant on its side, layering a stem in a flat of mix. After new plants start at nodes, he severs them from the main plant, waits for good rooting before disturbing to pot separately.

B. barkeri:

Daisy, growing the species *B. barkeri* and its hybrids *B. 'Freddie'* and *B. 'Samson'* had noted differences: *B. 'Freddie'* has the red edge, only a slight tinge; an almost smooth leaf; white short hairs; medium to dark green on top and reddish beneath when grown in some sun. *B. barkeri* grown beside it does not have the reddish tone beneath the leaf, nor the reddish edge. Both have the roundish shaped leaf with the small points. *B. 'Samson'* has a different color and shape to its leaves. They get to be huge, are more pointed, and you can see the *B. macdougallii* influence, also in the color. Carrie mentioned the collar of hair and the tufts on *B. 'Freddie'* stems, from *B. manicata*. Daisy saw no brownish scurf on any of the

three—as had been mentioned in some of the widely differing descriptions of *B. barkeri*. Several *Begonias* apparently have been grown under that name, and Chevalier, in his well known *Les Begonias*, described a small-leaved, upright, pink-flowered *Begonia*, Carrie noted. However, she found the original description by Knowles and Westcott in *The Floral Cabinet*, 1840, with a handsome color plate: a very large-leaved, short-rhizomed, white-flowered (with two petals) plant—matching the rhizomatous parent from Mexico that was used as the parent of *B. 'Freddie'* (*manicata aureo-maculata* x *barkeri*) by Ruby Ziesenhenné and of *B. 'Samson'* (*barkeri* x *macdougallii* by Don Horton). Knowles and Westcott had found no female flowers, but Don listed *B. barkeri* as the female parent, it seems. The brown scurfy plants must be different species.

Compound Leaves:

Chuck had looked up crosses using a compound leaved parent, could find none that showed compound leaves in the progeny. He didn't find any that had been worked beyond the first generation. But maybe a recessive trait?

Hillebrandia sandwicensis:

Several years ago a Houston, Texas friend of Elaine Wilkerson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana grew a large plant of this Hawaiian species of another genus in the *Begoniaceae* from the Seed Fund seed. She said it did not seem hard to grow, but she did not find it outstanding so discarded it.

B. serratipetala:

Several growers have reported the light makes a lot of difference in coloring of leaves of this plant. All agree it must be grown dry and resents being moved or repotted.

B. zip:

Mae has *B. zip* and *B. boweri nigra-marga* growing side by side, she believes they like the same growing conditions. Hazel reports *B. zip* as an unidentified species, when she first bought it, it was known as RED HOT because of the red sinus in the leaf.

Seed Germination:

John Yochum of Princeton, Indiana reports good germination on *B. venosa*, *B. 'Orangeade'*; fair germination from *B. rubro-venia* and a German *rex* seed. Pat Burdick reported *B. itaguassuense* seed came up in ten days, *B. cucullata* seed in six days, *B. fagifolia* in eleven days, *B. evansiana* in ten days, *B. 'Orangeade'* in five days, *B. epipsila* in thirteen days and *B. 'Canal Zone'* in sixteen days.

Jean Niggli, Dallas, Oregon reports she has lovely small plants of *B. venosa* and *B. listida* from seeds from the Seed Fund.

Growing Begonias:

Jean says Begonias don't like stale air any better than they do wet feet. Geraldine Daly, Coventry, Rhode Island likes crushed charcoal as drainage in the bottom of pots better than stone or crock pieces. Murray reports his plants grew much better after he increased the speed of his fan to make more air on his plants. His growing area was low in humidity until he increased the air circulation, the fan was in operation only the hours he was at home.

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SEED NOTES

FROM JANE NEAL, *Worthing, England*

I can't find that there is any gain from aging *Begonia* seed. The older it gets the slower it is to germinate, in my experience, but number of plants does not seem to be affected. However, variety of species seems to play a part also. I've been trying with two very fertile ones, *B. dregei* and *B. richardsiana*, and the last lot to go down will be exactly a year old. I used also seed from *B. manicata* and that failed completely at nine months old. My own opinion leans increasingly to the need for adequate amounts of water ALL the time of germination. I should add that I never put out seed straight from the pod. I invariably rest it for around a month before sowing. I've just had two lots germinate in five days—the fastest I've ever known *Begonia* seed to come up.

I might add that getting seed through the post now undamaged is quite a job chiefly because all sorting, etc. is now by machine. A machine that I understand has the action of a steam roller. I was shown quite a stout cardboard box the other day that had been completely flattened in transit. We could only get a similar result by putting a box like it through the electric mangle of the washing machine.

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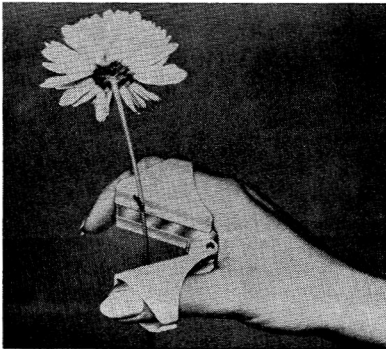
I'VE TRIED . . .

(Continued from Page 148)

plastic pot filled with rotted vermiculite; dampen well and place on an open bench in the greenhouse. Plantlets usually appear from the stem in about six to eight weeks.

Sometimes small plantlets appear on the rhizomes of *B. sunderbruchii*, *B. manicata aureo-maculata*, and *B. manicata aureo-maculata crispa*. I root these by gently removing them and placing them in two-inch pots of rotted vermiculite. I've tried rhizome cuttings of *B. manicata aureo-maculata* but they rot. I placed them in a jar.

At present, I'm trying to root *B. manicata aureo-maculata crispa*, *B. 'Beryl'* and *B. 'Crestabruichii'* as I do *B. manicata aureo-maculata*. All have rooted but no plants have appeared yet.



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GROUPING BEGONIAS . . .

(Continued from Page 163)

the highly-colored leaves of the *rexes*. Exotic types is a grouping of mostly Indian species and contain the parents of the *rex* hybrids and other lovely plants. They are separated to give an adequate chance to the other plants. *Rex cultorum* (Division F) are classified by their leaves but are best grouped by leaf size. They are usually rhizomatous plants with highly-colored leaves in reds, silvers, and greens in various patterns but sometimes have an upright growth. The leaf, rather than growth habit, separates this plant from others. Their showy foliage is too great competition for open competition.

Group VI—Tuberous (Division G) includes *dregei*-like plants and hybrids none of which have a chance with the tuberous species, and are therefore shown separately on the show schedule. The tuberous species and first generation single flowered hybrids are divided into low-growing and tall-growing. Tuberhybrida Voss contains the various forms of highly bred tuberous *Begonias*, but separated are the *hiemalis Begonias* derived from crossing *B. socotrana* Hook and *B. tuberhybrida* Voss. *Cheimantha* or 'Lorraine' *Begonias* are the so-called Christmas *Begonias*. Finally there is the truly bulbous *Begonias*.

It is hoped this procedure will make it possible to combine neighboring classes where necessary and still give all the plants a fair chance of winning an award.

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MINUTES OF THE A.B.S. BOARD

The minutes printed here have not been condensed or altered except for minor editing to conform to The Begonian style.

Editor

April 28, 1969:

The regular meeting of the Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 7:45 in the South Gate Auditorium on April 28, 1969. The Aims and Purposes were read by Vera Naumann and Charles Tagg led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were thirteen officers and nine Branches represented. It was reported with sorrow that Lucile Wright, Librarian, had passed away during the month. Also Gonda Hartwell, a charter member of San Gabriel and past-secretary, had also died. The secretary read the minutes. The correction, that the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award was to remain as it was originally written, and the Senior Judges cards are the only cards laminated. Minutes were then approved.

Charles Tagg reported that Dr. J. Doorenbos had written a booklet on *Begonia* Hybridizing.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,563.35, receipts of \$730.25, disbursements of \$1,067.01, leaving a balance of \$1,260.70 in the general fund.

Margaret Lee reported the Certificates of Awards are on the way to Seattle. (Her husband told us she paints them using any help available.)

Anne Rose reported \$68.00 on accounts paid ads.

Ruth Pease, Classification Chairman, asked Rudy Ziesenhenn, the Nomenclature Director, to explain the point system. He said there are eight main points in judging plants. The new schedule is to be used as a tool for judges and should be used accurately. He made a motion, seconded by Peggy McGrath that the Board accept the new schedule as a substitute for prior ones for all *Begonia* Shows. Sylvia Leatherman made an amendment to motion that it would be used as a guide for judging, seconded by Chuck Tagg. Both passed. Rudy extended greetings from our Japanese Branch, and informed us that they are reprinting some of our books in Japanese so more can learn of *Begonias*.

The Editor received a letter from the Florida State Prison group that over 15,000 people attend the show they have given by the prisoners outside the prison, and featuring *Begonias*. The question of calendar notices for Branches and shows was asked. She requested that information for shows would be sent as early as possible. Mae requested permission to grant approval to reprint the article published in our January, 1968 *Begonian*, "What Future for the Novice" by Davida Arnold in *Writers' Research Digest*. Motion was seconded by Vera Naumann. Carried.

Sylvia Leatherman reported the Judges Courses in Northern area are progressing nicely. Rudy moved, seconded by Walter Barnett that the Judging Course Department handle the printing of the new Point System and the distribution of it. Carried.

Walter Pease asked that Everett Wright continue as Librarian for the balance of the year. Motion was made by Chuck Tagg, seconded unanimously that the appointment be accepted. Carried.

Membership Secretary reported 42 new members, 2,251 members in good standing, and 2,627 *Begonians* disbursed.

Rudy reported he is busy working on publishing new plants.

The secretary read the reports of the Research Director and Round Robin. Mr. Barnett read a letter from Mrs. Gee, Seed Fund Administrator.

Jim Somes suggested that only *Begonias* be used in the Flower Show.

\$36.00 was turned in by Public Relations for signs and pins. San Gabriel Valley Branch charter was presented for approval. Margaret Lee moved, seconded by Mae Tagg, that it be accepted.

Nomination committee will be meeting this month and requests suggestions for the offices open.

The Fern Society had a page and a half of information and ad in their Show bulletin, regarding the *Begonia* Society. The President asked the opinion of the Board on the return of some reprints that were sold. It was agreed that the money be refunded.

Mae Tagg moved, seconded by Jim Somes, that the *Home Garden* ad be renewed. The ad is \$146.88. Carried.

The Branch Representatives gave their reports.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15.

May 26, 1969:

The regular meeting of the Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 7:50 in the South Gate Auditorium on May 26, 1969. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charles Tagg and Vera Naumann read the Aims and Purposes. Twelve officers and seven Branch Representatives answered the roll call. The minutes were read and after these corrections, were approved—there is \$34.11 in the Publishing Fund included in the Treasurer's report to make the balance of \$1,260.70, and the term "point-scoring system" was used instead of the word "schedule."

President-elect, Vera Naumann reported the culture class of San Gabriel was progressing nicely with many Branches represented. The class covers all shade plants.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,226.59, receipts of \$837.66, disbursements of \$1,054.30, leaving a balance of \$1,047.40.

Ruth Pease gave a report for Margaret Lee. She requested letters for the Awards Nominations and sent a list of former recipients.

Anne Rose reported \$75.00 received on accounts from advertising.

Ruth Pease announced that the Point-Scoring Booklet is printed and available at \$1.00 plus 25c for postage.

Editor Mae Tagg requested permission to increase the July issue four pages. Discussion followed concerning the cost of printing. Muriel Perz moved, seconded by Gene Daniels, that the issue be increased if it is necessary in order to publish the Show Schedule and extras at that time. Carried.

The Finance Committee presented a printing bill of \$98.28 and one for \$20.00 for typing, stapling, etc. for the Point-Scoring System. Mabel Anderson moved, seconded by Jim Somes that the bills be paid. Carried.

Muriel Perz brought a request from the Historian for pictures and information for the History Book.

Membership Secretary reported 38 new members, 2,298 members in good standing, and 2,642 *Begonians* disbursed.

The secretary read the Research Director's report and Round Robin reports. The information is to be printed in *The Begonian*.

Jim Somes received a check from the Fern Society for \$50.00 as second prize for the display in the show. The Society has been invited to put in a display at the Fuchsia Show. It will be accepted and various people will help with it.

Lee and Lillian Steinhaus introduced John Provine from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Ruth Pease introduced Bill Kennedy.

The Nominating Committee announced the following nominees for office:

Pres.-Elect—Pearl Benell.

Vice Pres.—Cliff Ebeling and John Provine.

Secretary—Irene Grannell and Cecilia Grivich.

Treasurer—Walter Barnett.

Ballots will be in the July issue. Additional nominees can be accepted according to the Constitution and By-laws until June 18. Walter Pease thanked the Nominating Committee for their work.

Copies of Reprints returned from the Knickerbocker Branch will be sold at Shows since Mrs. Gee has already been paid for these.

The Regional Meeting will be July 27 in Glendale. Annual Branch reports are due at this meeting and is the last meeting for this term.

Walter Pease thanked Mae Tagg for writing the article about Fuchsias.

After the Branch reports, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Virginia Barnett,
Secretary

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MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

The following candidates were nominated at the May meeting of the Board of Directors. By accepting these nominations, they have pledged their services in your behalf. By casting your vote, you have some voice in the affairs of the A.B.S. and will show your confidence in their abilities to serve you.

If you put a 5c stamp on the ballot, you will save the A.B.S. 7c in postage due. If you don't have a stamp handy, the important thing is to get the ballot mailed. Do not enclose the ballot in an envelope; send it as it is already addressed.

You will notice that we have two candidates for two of the positions this year. Let us hope that this will become a regular thing. It is wonderful to have more than just enough ready workers.

YOUR CANDIDATES ARE PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Mrs. Pearl E. Benell

Pearl joined the Whittier Branch of the A.B.S. at a local flower show in May, 1955. In her Branch she has been President, Vice-President, Secretary, Publicity Chairman, Hostess, and Branch Director. She still holds the position of A.B.S. Membership Secretary which she began in October, 1966.

She was born on a farm "several" years ago and inherited her love of growing plants from her mother. It's another case of taking the girl off the farm, but not taking the farm out of the girl.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Cliff Ebeling

Cliff is alphabetically first of these two candidates. He is an enthusiastic recent introduction to Southern California and has been a member of the North Long Beach Branch for a year. He is now the Branch president.

Cliff is an active member of the Los Angeles International Fern Society and is Show Chairman for the California National Fuchsia Society.

John Provine

John is also a new member—from

the San Gabriel Valley Branch. He has a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture and while in the Marine Corps, was an instructor on plant life in a survival school. He is now Head Nurseryman at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Irene Grannell

Irene joined the Glendale Branch in 1965 and has been their secretary for three years. She is also their Branch Director this year.

She is a member of the Pacific Rose Society and the Glendale Branch of the California National Fuchsia Society. Because of her retirement from The May Company last year, she hopes to have more time for these interesting hobbies.

Mrs. Cecelia Grivich

Cecelia is better known as Tootie. She joined the A.B.S. in 1964 and has been Vice-President and Flower Show Chairman for the San Gabriel Valley Branch, where she is now President.

Tootie is a housewife with three sons. She is a prize *Begonia* grower.

TREASURER:

Walter J. Barnett

Walter has three years experience as A.B.S. Treasurer. He is also a member of the San Gabriel Valley Branch and his wife has been A.B.S. Secretary for the past two years.

A.B.S. Nominating Committee

Charles E. Tagg, *Chairman*

Mrs. Walter W. Pease, Jr.

Mrs. Lee C. Steinhaus

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

A ballot for the officers of the A.B.S. is enclosed. Make a cross in the space provided opposite the names of the candidates. Mail your ballot ONLY to the address on the card in order to assure its arrival in time to be counted.

Ballots must be received by midnight, August 29, 1969 and counted on August 30, 1969 (the seventh day prior to the annual meeting as required in the Bylaws, Article VII, ELECTIONS).

We ask that you express your support and confidence in these candidates by voting.

DON'T WAIT! VOTE NOW!

SHOW DATES

- July 12, 13—San Gabriel Valley Branch: 22nd Annual *Begonia* and Shade Plant Show, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif. Hours 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.
- July 19, 20—Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, Ventura: Second Annual *Begonia* and Shade Plant Show. The place is the newly rebuilt Ventura Recreation Center, 1261 E. Main St., Ventura, Calif. This is a non-competitive show put on by an enthusiastic group of nearly 100 per cent of the members. There will be a large plant sale table and a number of special exhibits. The time is from 12 to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. There is no admission charge or donation.
- July 26, 27—Seattle Branch: 15th Annual *Begonia*, Fuchsia and Shade Plant Show, "Puget Sound Shade Gardens." Loyal Heights Recreation Center, 21st Ave., N.W. and N.W. 77th St., Seattle, Washington. Admission 35c. Hours 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.
- August 3—Westchester Branch: Garden Tour—A chance to see the best of the Westchester Branch Gardens. Commencing at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Frank and Phyllis Cappell, 3770 Redwood Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. A map will guide you to the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warren and their fabulous tuberous *Begonias*, Mr. and Mrs. William Kennedy, and finishing at the home of our National President, Walter Pease, and our Westchester President, Ruth Pease. There will be refreshments, plant sale and door prizes at the final garden on the tour. There is no charge and everyone is invited.
- August 15, 16—Eastside Branch: "Patio Gardens in Bellevue Square".
- August 19—North Long Beach Branch: Branch Members *Begonia* and Shade Plant Show with Joe Littlefield as

emcee. Plan to attend.

Sept. 6, 7—A.B.S. NATIONAL CONVENTION AND SHOW, Arcadia, Calif. (see page 156).

Sept. 19, 20—FOURTH ANNUAL EASTERN BEGONIA CONVENTION AND SHOW, sponsored by the William Penn Branch (see page 161).

CALENDAR

- July 3—Westchester Branch: Gene Daniels will show slides of *Begonias*. 7:30 p.m.
- July 3—Whittier Branch: "Fertilizers and Potting Mix" by Kenneth Drennon. 7:30 p.m.
- July 9—Inglewood Branch: Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. with Joe Littlefield as speaker.
- July 11—San Gabriel Valley Branch: Preparation for Show July 12 and 13.
- July 15—Seattle Branch: Show Plans, Grooming, and Demonstration on Floral Arranging with *Begonias*, Fuchsias, and other shade plants. 7:00 p.m.
- July 18—SHOW COMMITTEE: South Gate City Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Less than two months to go. Come help all you can.
- July 23—Eastside Branch: Meeting at Bellevue Square and at the home of Ray Stuart. "Flower Show Discussion and Show Area Inspection." Directed by Jack Eller, Elwood Avery, and Herb Warrick.
- July 25—Redondo Area Branch: "Films of Hawaii" by Connie Volosin. Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.
- July 27—A.B.S. BOARD: REGIONAL MEETING, hosted by the Glendale Branch. Glendale Federal Savings and Loan basement auditorium (rear of the building), 401 North Brand Blvd., Glendale, 1:30 p.m. Donation plant table. Refreshments. All members are invited to attend this meeting. (Note: Annual reports are due at this meeting.)
- August 1—DEADLINE for all material for the September *Begonian*.
- August 29—MIDNIGHT: BALLOT DEADLINE!
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