

# The BEGONIAN



MARCH 1970

*Devoted to the Sheltered Garden*

VOL. 37 NO. 3



Silver Jewel

Photo by Walter J. Harring

## GENERAL OFFICES

GENERAL OFFICES, dues, address changes, or magazines: Pearl Benell, Membership Secretary, 10331 South Colima Road, Whittier, California 90604

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

## OPEN LETTER TO BRANCHES & MEMBERS

Every organization has a President and Staff of Officers, elected and appointed. It's a TEAM and each member of that team has a duty to perform. Are you sure the TEAM of your Branch is performing at its full capacity? In October of 1969, as Public Relations Director, I sent letters to each of the 45 Branch secretaries requesting a List of Officers and News of Branch activities. This is February 1970 and thus far I have received exactly 22 Lists of Officers. News of activities have come from less than 6 Branches. Did Your Branch Members know of the letter sent to them? It should have been read at your November or December meeting for it was an "Open Letter" to all American Begonia Society Members. Your Officers, be they Local or National, need your help to fulfill their duties. If somehow the letter sent to your Branch was lost, forgotten or just overlooked, find out WHY. Now that you have heard my Gripe — How about your Gripes? Let your voice be heard in your Branch and in the National.

**Join Your Team      Join My Team**

Martha Rader  
*Public Relations Director*  
American Begonia Society

## NOTICE

If you do not receive "The Begonian" as soon as you think you should, take a minute to realize what goes into putting out "The Begonian".

We rely on the U.S. Mails for both the delivery of articles to the Editor and delivery of the magazine to members of the Society. Weekends and holidays close to our deadlines play havoc with our deadlines. Rather than leave half the magazine blank we have to wait for the mailman to deliver the articles so they can be edited, typed and sent to the printer. Printers need time to do their work and they too have problems with weekends and holidays.

So that the material in "The Begonian" is as up to date as possible we would rather wait for the material to come in than to have to move back the deadline for material to be sent in for each issue.

The Editors

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## COVER PICTURE

*Begonia* Silver Jewel was originated by Mrs. Susie Zug and registered in 1958. It is the result of a cross between the species *imperialis* and *putulata*. It is a rhizomatous plant and grows compact with leaves averaging 3"x 4", with silvery leaves blotched emerald green between the veins.

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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.

# MOSS WALLS WITH BEGONIAS

by Margaret Ziesenhenné

We miss seeing the moss walls of the plant-rich thirties when the American Begonia Society was first organized in Southern California. A product of a desire to grow plants in a natural setting, to gain privacy and to take advantage of every inch of space. At first, moss walls were placed against existing structures, 2 x 4 studs were attached to the plywood backing and after moss, faced with chicken wire was stapled to the studs, the spaces behind were filled with rich *Begonia* soil. This soil lasted too short a time and was difficult to replace, so the successful method of plywood, covered with black building paper, and faced with sphagnum-lined wire on which plants in containers could be hung and easily replaced when necessary was evolved.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Weitz, founders and first presidents of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of the American Begonia Society in Ventura, had a moss wall covering one side of their garage and screening the sheds in the back of the yard. When we visited him, Mr. Weitz explained that the most important step in constructing the wall is the application of the wire. He would take a roll of wire large enough to cover the desired space and roll the wire upward as he lined it with moss, stapling it to the paper-covered board at about one-foot intervals so the wire would be strong enough to hold heavy plants which would be hung on it. Although some growers used wooden baskets for their plants, sphagnum-lined wire baskets were

found more satisfactory as the medium blended better into the background and the moss permitted a more natural growth for plants.

Mr. and Mrs. Weitz's cloth-covered house proved ideal for rex *Begonias*, ferns and all the other *Begonias* which they loved. When one entered their yard, it was as if one were transferred to the shady dells of the Northern California redwoods where Mrs. Weitz, a full-blooded California Indian, had been born and where she and Mr. Weitz visited every year, bringing back the lovely native ferns which they grew to perfection. Although their garden was only 50 feet from the busy Thompson Blvd. — U.S. 101 highway through Ventura, the calm and beauty of their moss wall and the flagstone-paved walks will always be cherished.

On the walls were hanging tuberous *Begonias*, rexes whose silvery, mottled, banded and colored leaves would have dominated were it not for the five-fingered and other ferns interspersed between them.

*Begonia limmingbeiana* and the scandens types clambered over the moss, and plants in pots at the foot of the wall leaned against it, rooting gratefully in the moist medium. Rhizomatous *Begonias*, leaves drooping, became beautiful specimens.

At the foot of the wall, the path was edged with smooth, stream-rounded stones behind which *semperflorens* were placed. Occasional 3-inch pots of new *Begonias* had special conditions for growth there.

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Moss Wall in the 1940 Garden of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Weitz of Ventura, founders of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch and the Santa Barbara Branch of the American Begonia Society. Photograph by Rudolf Ziesenhene.

## BEGONIA REX 'BLACK MONARCH'

by Elda Haring

*Greenwich, Connecticut*

On tables and stands nearby were huge pots of mist ferns, tuberous *Begonias* and rexes, while baskets hung from the rafters.

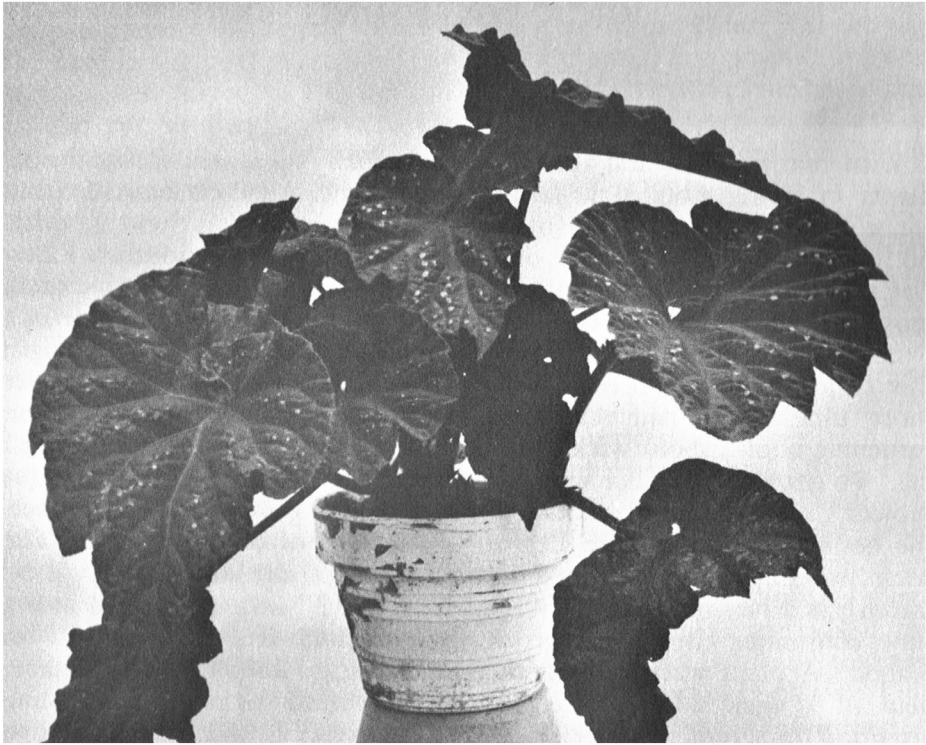
When we first met the Weitz's, they were retired, he from business, she from an active career as a restaurant owner. Brought up at the San Francisco Mission, Mrs. Weitz was an excellent cook and her hospitality extended to all *Begonia* society members who met her standards of sincerity. Past President Clarence Hall touched on this interesting couple in his talk at the 1969 A.B.S. Convention banquet when he told of their entertaining the dean of *Begonia* growers, Alfred D. Robinson, who visited Santa Barbara and Ventura shortly before his passing. I learned that night from her that the huge outside leaves of the cauliflower are a nutritious and delectable vegetable and should not be discarded. From her we heard tales of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake when she, as a young woman, joined the refugees in a public park, nursing and cooking for the injured and homeless.

From Mr. Weitz we learned of their romance -- how she had come to his home to care for her nephews after her sister, the first Mrs. Weitz, had passed away. The nephews, in a typically Indian and natural gesture, approving of her as a substitute mother, placed her shoes under Mr. Weitz's bed and started a happy relationship which lasted until Mr. Weitz's death. The venerable couple organized and guided another young branch when the Santa Barbara Branch of the American Begonia Society was organized in May 1940. They were also active in promoting the success of the national program of the A.B.S.

Among the bewildering array of Rex hybrids there is a large group with leaves so dark a red as to appear black. One such is B. 'Black Monarch'. It is spiral leaved and a mature plant will produce leaves 8 inches wide and 12 inches long. The flowers are large, dark pink and held well above the foliage. Some *Begonia* enthusiasts remove the flowers from the Rexes but I enjoy them as I do the flowers of all *Begonias*.

As is well known when Rex *Begonias* are quite small the leaves are not typical of the mature plant. In this one there is no hint of spiraling on small plants produced from cuttings but the deep coloring is retained. The leaf is lightly spotted with silver but this in no way detracts from the midnight black of the leaf. While many Rexes are temperamental I have found this one amenable to any conditions I give it. The plant in the photo has grown as happily in the East window of my living room as it has under the fluorescent lights. When the leaves began to grow to maturity the plant took up so much room that it was relegated to the greenhouse where it was placed on the top of a double decked bench but protected by a canopy of muslin. I had expected that with the full light of the greenhouse the deep coloring of the leaves might fade out but this has not been the case. It receives slanting sunlight which

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**'Black Monarch'**

Photo by Walter Haring

has served only to enhance the silvery dots. Many of my Rexes tend to take a resting period now and then, usually in autumn when they drop a few leaves. This one indicates its desire to rest by simply not growing any new shoots or leaves during the summer months but in late September it starts to grow and sends up its lovely clusters of flowers.

*Begonia* 'Black Monarch' has the odd habit of producing adventitious growth at the base of the mature leaves but in my experience only when growing under fluorescent lights. I have permitted these new plantlets to stay on the old plant until the mother leaf starts to brown on the edges before removing it. The mature leaf is trimmed back close to the new little plant and 1½

inches of the stem inserted into the rooting mix placed in such a way that the base of the plantlet is resting on the mix. These root very quickly and make very handsome little plants. While I have had other varieties show adventitious growth, B. 'Black Monarch' is the only one of the rexes in my collection to exhibit this unusual behavior.

#### **ATTENTION SECRETARIES!**

The President, the Secretary and the Public Relations Director of the National Board are badly in need of the names and addresses of the OFFICERS OF YOUR BRANCH. If you have not already done so, please send this information as soon as possible.

# WICK WATERING

by Oldrich Otypka, *Minneapolis, Minnesota*

With two hundred and fourteen plants in flower pots in a garden room — in addition to the plants in 60 linear feet of ground beds; on a hot summer day, watering took almost one and one half hours.

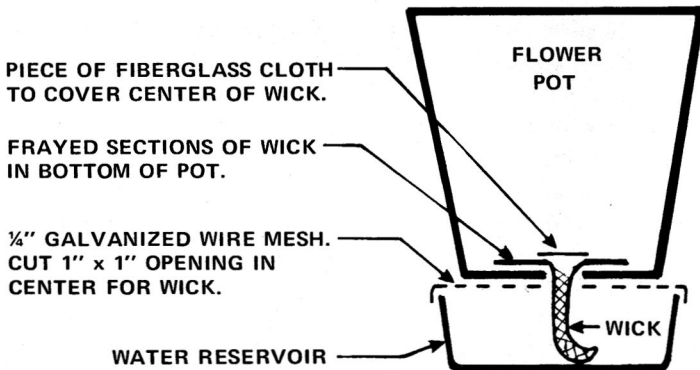
Something had to be done about this chore! I remembered that a short time ago I had read in a gardening book\* about wick watering. To get more familiar with the subject I re-read the information in the book and this time the idea of wick watering started to look attractive as a means to cut down the time consuming chore of watering plants. A plant watered with the help of a wick does not require attention for several days.

Wick watering was developed about 1950 by Professor Kenneth Post at Cornell University. It utilizes capillary action to supply water to the plant from a water reservoir beneath the pot.

The accompanying sketch shows the arrangement. Wicks can be made from burlap or cloth — but these materials rot away in several months. Fiberglass wicks are permanent — these may be purchased ready made as a rope and then cut to desired length (Park Seed Co.) They are cheaper if you make them yourself from fiberglass cloth. (Boat dealers sell fiberglass cloth which is used for the repairing of boats.) Use fiberglass cloth of burlap texture. The fiberglass is cut into a rectangle 5" long and 3" wide and rolled into a roll 5" long and 3/8" or 1/2" in diameter, to keep the roll in shape, nylon thread (or nylon fishing line (6 lb. test) is wrapped from one end to 1 1/2" of the other end. The unwrapped portion of the roll is cut with scissors lengthwise into 3 or 4 narrow sections and these are bent back at right angles from the roll.

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\* Dorothy Sara, "The New American Garden Book", Page 323-324, 412, 1962 Edition



WICK WATERING ARRANGEMENT



The prepared wick is then inserted from the inside of the pot through the hole in the bottom and the cut sections are frayed in the bottom of the pot so they form a circle approximately 3" in diameter. The center of the wick should be covered with a piece of fiberglass, otherwise sand and soil from the pot will escape through the hollow center of the wick.

The frayed sections of the wick in the bottom of the pot are then covered with a layer of sand, followed by a layer of soil. These two layers are firmly compressed and the plant is then planted in the usual way. (Caution: Do not work with fiberglass where food is prepared or consumed. Fiberglass when worked — cut and rolled — releases small splinters — vacuum areas inside of the house where work with fiberglass is being done.)

The water reservoirs can be used cereal or soup bowls or any shallow container. I used cereal bowls which were small, only 25 cubic inches (one cup is 14½ cubic inches). Such a reservoir is good for small plants such as African Violets. For larger plants, bigger bowls are necessary. To take advantage of wick watering I formed 50 and 100 cubic inch bowls from plexiglass. (50 cubic inches is almost one quart and 100 cubic inches a little less than half a gallon.

When I was all ready to put plants on the wick watering method, one question still remained, which plants? I searched in books and found no answer to that question. Alfred B. Graf in *Exotica III*. on page 10, says only: "Automatic watering by means of a wick is a great boon to plants, especially if growing under artificial lights." and

Dorothy H. Jenkins in "Encyclopedia of House Plants" (at the end of the chapter: Equipment For Planting and Maintenance) mentions that the reservoir for African Violets on wicks need to be refilled on an average of once in ten days.

Obviously not all plants are suitable for wick watering. Certainly not those which are supposed to be kept dry, but to "keep plants dry" is a relative term. Some people keep all plants dry, even African Violets and Coleus. So I started with a process of elimination and trial and error method. First, cacti and succulents were eliminated as well as geraniums, secondly, I put wicks on all plants which were "thirsty ones": Browallia, Coleus, Chrysanthemum, Gesneriads, impatiens, and third I wanted to know how *Begonias* would perform. I put on wick watering all *Begonias* in pots 4" and larger, even if I knew that some have to be kept dry, such as *B. leptotricha* and hirsute *Begonias*.

Within two weeks I transplanted and put on wick watering 125 plants. Fifty nine of them were *Begonias*. The results were interesting and in some cases surprising. Let's talk about *Begonias* first.

As expected *Begonia leptotricha* did not like it on wick watering. I had two plants: one was 15" tall and flowering, the other only 5" tall. After four weeks on wick watering the small plant started to die. The large plant stopped producing flowers. Both were taken off the water reservoirs, left to dry and kept dry. Both recovered and the tall plant started to bloom two months later. Two *B. cathayana* plants were on wick watering, one

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started to flower but the buds fell off and the plant started to rot. After it was taken off wick watering it sprouted again. The other *B. cathayana* did not recover. *Begonia palmaris* showed somewhat different behavior. For the first two weeks on wick, (three plants were used) they were vigorous and lush. Then they started to droop. Their thick stems, when cut, appeared to be water logged. They were on wick four weeks. They continued normal growth after they were taken off; in December one of them started to bloom.

*Semperflorens Begonias* were most interesting. Seven plants were used: Three single pink, two double (one red and one pink) and two B. 'Charm'. The single ones stopped blooming after five weeks. One week later they were taken off wick watering. All were lush. The two smaller plants started to bloom again within 3 - 4 weeks. The large plants (18" wide and 29" tall) was more than one year old and never started to bloom again. The double pink was on wick for three months, gradually slowing in production of blossoms. The double red likes it on wick, produces more and more flowers and is growing to a large specimen (20" wide, 29" tall and hanging down 17"). The production of blooms is greater than before the plant was put on wick. *Begonia* 'Charm' was taken off wick watering after six weeks because it stopped blooming. Three weeks later it started to bloom again, but the blossoms are appearing sporadically, although both plants are healthy and growing nicely. It will be interesting to note if cuttings taken from these plants will ever bloom.

Rhizomatous *Begonias* provided a surprise. Just about every book advises to keep these plants on the dry side. Yet all rhizomatous *Begonias* I put on wick liked it, grew beautifully and bloomed profusely. I tried these *Begonias*: 'Beatrice Hadrell', 'Bow Chancee', *boweri nigramarga*, 'Bunchii', *heracleifolia*, *imperialis*, *silver pustulata*, 'Ricinifolia', 'Zanja'. *Begonias* 'Beatrice Hadrell' and 'Zanja' at times showed some leaves drooping and the wick was several times lifted from the reservoir for a few days. B. 'Bunchii' leaves turned almost white after three months on wick. Since I did not know if it was caused by wick watering or not, the plant was taken off wick and moved into more intense light, the leaves gradually turned green although a few are still white. B. 'Ricinifolia' showed spectacular growth. When it was put on wick watering in August it measured 15" wide, 17" long and 10" high. The rhizome was 9" long. Four months later it grew to a specimen 45" long, 37" wide, 13" high with 14" long rhizome.

*Hirsute Begonias* are not subject for wick watering. I could not keep *hirsute Begonias* before, but nevertheless, I tried three plants of *B. bradei*. Within six weeks they had to be taken off. They looked sick but revived and are nice plants now.

The reaction of angel wing *Begonias* to wick watering is very mixed; some refuse it, some bloom little and some thrive. This I found to be true even within a group of the same species. I had a group of plants of *Begonia picta rosea*, which is a form of *B. coccinea*, all were raised from seed. At the time I put

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them on wick watering all were about the same size, within a few inches apart and five were blooming. After three months I had to discard four of the group of seven plants. They were losing leaves heavily. From those left two are 30" tall and one is six feet tall and blooming. B. 'Pink Shasta' and B. 'White Mountain' had to be taken off after three months since they were losing leaves. They have recovered but haven't bloomed yet. B. Orange Rubra has been on wick watering for five months. It is blooming much less than before. B. 'Corallina' De Lucerna' is growing well but blooming little in comparison with another plant which never was put on wick watering. B. 'Sophie Cecile' and B. 'Grey Feather' were started on wick watering as plants 21" and 25" tall. Both grew in four months to a height of 37" but did not bloom. It is yet to be seen if they will bloom on wick watering. All summed up it looks like Angel Wing *Begonias* are better off without wick watering.

*Begonias* which are hard to put into any special group, I tested B. *listida*, B. *convolvulacea* and B. *convalliodora*. *Begonia listida* was taken off after two months, and was kept more on the dry side. Now it is doing even poorer than on wick. It appears that it has to be kept fairly moist but does not tolerate the degree of moisture supplied by wick watering. One of the *Begonias* which really thrives on wick watering is B. *convolvulacea*. Five plants were put on wick watering as plants 7" to 12" long. After five months one is hanging down 54" in length, the other four vary in length from 29" to 43". All bloom profusely with numerous clusters of small

white flowers. Three plants of B. *convalliodora* were started as very small plants, 5" to 7" in size. After five months on wick, they grew to a height of 32".

Tuberous *Begonias* are totally unsuitable for wick watering. On the other hand rex *Begonias* are good candidates for this type of watering, their home land is Assam where annual rainfall averages well over 400 inches, which means that the soil is constantly moist. Since I don't grow any rex *Begonias* it will be up to some other grower to test wick watering on the rexes.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

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## SLIDE LIBRARY

The Slide Library is in need of new slides. This is a "must" as slides are discarded from time to time as no longer useable. Slides of the newer cultivars are especially needed as well as slides of the older varieties. Please share pictures of your treasures with others so that a more diversified collection of slides will be available for slide programs.

Donations will be appreciated. Copies made of your slides can be arranged by contacting the Slide Librarian. All donations will be gratefully acknowledged.

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# 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 per copy.

## No. 1 — *B. lubbersii* —

Brazil. Accidentally introduced in 1880 to the Botanic Garden of Brussels, Belgium, on a tree fern.

In its native home it is said to become five to six feet tall, but in cultivation it rarely exceeds twenty inches although some are grown here in California that attain a height of three feet or more. Stalks are cylindric, slender, slightly swollen at the nodes, erect, reflexed at the top, smooth and green, later becoming brown and rough. Leaves are entire, glabrous, peltate, rhomboidal, obliquely lanceolate, the upper lobe short and acuminate, the lower elongated and slightly wavy. They are two inches wide and six inches long, the upper face very dark green, chatoyant and sprinkled with silver spots, which often disappear with age. The lower face is smooth and dark carmine. The petiole is fleshy, short, cylindric, glabrous, pinkish and upright. The stipules are quite large, entire and grow against the stem, where they remain after they dry up.

Inflorescences are in the axils of the upper leaves and usually of six flowers which droop on short green peduncles and pedicels. Seed pods are light green and very large. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

Comment: Seeds have been pollinated by hand from a plant that

is exactly like the description given here. I personally, removed the ripe seed pods from the plant, however, this *Begonia* was grown as a basket type but can be grown upright but sometimes needs staking. Good *Begonia*.

## No. 2 — *B. Rex Hybrids* —

From some of the choicest rex *Begonias* grown — contains B. 'Lady Frances' a beautiful, large, spiral rex, hardy out doors where climate permits and the lovely rex B. 'Curly Silversweet' — We grow this one with a piece of fern wood for support and it grows to about two feet high, has spiral leaves silver on top and maroon underneath. This is a sport developed by the Lees in San Diego, California, while B. 'Lady Frances' was developed by Leatherman's Garden, El Monte, California.

Suggestions: 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 seedlings room to grow undisturbed as long as 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 discarded as they may turn out to be worthwhile plants. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

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The Begonian

### No. 3 — *sutherlandi*

South Africa. Slender; stems and branches drooping, green or purplish green; leaves lance-shaped, toothed, bright green, sometimes red-petioled and red veined; flowers yellow to orange. Graceful and suitable for hanging. Price 50 cents per pkt.

### No. 4 — *fernandoi-costae*

Eye-stopping *Begonia* with fleshy-green, cupped, roundish leaves; inconspicuous hairs; white flowers, tendency to trail; might be good in baskets and will grow slightly more moist. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

### No. 5 — *B. tomentosa*

(Means "woolly") Brazil. Thick, succulent leaves of rich green with downy hair beneath, pink rimmed white flowers with short red whiskers. Choice. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

### No. 6 — *B. 'Azellia'*

Cane type that has produced some very interesting plants — large clusters of pink flowers, leaves sometimes cut and silver spotted. Price 50 cents per pkt.

For our *semperflorens* growing friends we offer the following:

#### *B. sc 'Patria'* —

3 to 6 inches tall, bronze foliage, clear rose bloom. Superior for out doors and in pots. Price 50 cents per pkt.

#### *B. sc 'Red Comet'* —

Excellent in pots. Best bronzed foliage in out door trials. Compact all season. Price 50 cents per pkt.

#### *B. sc 'Rose Comet'* —

Really pink, bronze foliage and showy. Price 50 cents per pkt.

### Fern Spores —

*Asplenium nidus-avis.* —

Also known as "Bird's Nest Fern". Attractive epiphyte rosette of simple oblanceolate, stiffly spreading shining friendly fronds of thin leathery texture with blackish midrib and wavy margins and black scales at crown. Price 50 cents per pkt.

*Phyllitis scolopendrium* cv 'English Heart's Tongue Fern' —

Rhizomatous hardy fern with simple, oblong, lush bright green fronds. Price 50 cents per pkt.

### Bromeliads —

*Aechmea Luddenmanniana* —

Arching green leaves. The panicle is crowded with lavender flowers maturing into a dense head of blue and white berries that eventually turn purple and last for months. A good house plant or can be grown out doors where climate permits. Germination one hundred per cent in seventeen days. Price 50 cents per pkt.

*Canistrum lindeni var roseum* —

Not as easy to grow as some other Bromeliads but their handsome foliage makes them highly decorative. This one has rose colored bracts and white-and-green flowers. *Canistrums* are highly recommended. Price 50 cents per pkt.

*Billbergia venezuelana* —

Tubular species with leaves patterned with chocolate brown and silver bands, a startling combination. The scape is equally bold, laden with broad usually pink bracts and purple petals. Grows drier than some of the other Bromeliads. Price 50 cents per pkt.

*Episcia dianthiflora* —

A greenhouse plant of great

(CONTINUED)

beauty. Small elliptic, pubescent, vivid to dark green, crenate leaves with purple mid-rib, in a miniature clustering rosette, sending out prolific rooting branches; free-blooming with glistening white, deeply fringed flowers, appearing singly in leaf axils. Price 50 cents per pkt.

### **Haemanthus katherinae** —

Beautiful house or greenhouse plant, robust with broad leaves having prominent veins, and bearing a large umbel of tubular, 5-lobed red flowers with long, thread-like stamens on a separate thick stalk. Seeds are large and scarce therefore we cannot supply more than TWO seeds to each customer. Price TWO seeds for 25 cents. They will germinate and grow quickly under normal conditions.

Apology: Seed of B. 'Winning Way' cane type were offered in January "The Begonian" — ample time was allowed for them to arrive from a wholesale dealer in Southern California, however, they were lost in the mail along with other valuable seed and we were unable to fill requests as planned. The post office has not located the package and it looks as though it will not be found. We are sorry for the disappointment and please blame the UNITED STATES Postal Service this time. We have no control over their activities and they have no explanation to offer.

### Interesting Comment:

Report from a grower in Illinois "The African sp. (I believe it was distinguished as *cameroun* sp.) has foliage reminiscent of *B. herbacea* Vel (Brazil) and is blooming now. I can't recall that there has been any information in "The Begonian"

as to whether it has been correctly identified; do you know yet what the species is? So far I have had nothing but pistillate flowers, but I assume eventually I will get pollen and hopefully some seed for you. For me it has been much easier to grow than *herbacea* Vell."

### Correction:

*Begonia* number one in February "The Begonian" should be spelled *B. capanemae* — with a SMALL C.

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

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## NOTICE TO ALL EASTERN BRANCHES

The site of the 5th Eastern Begonia Convention Sept. 17, 18 and 19, 1970 has been changed from New York City to the Island Inn Motel, Old Century Road, Westbury, Long Island, New York. Please keep these dates open so your members can attend the convention.



### AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

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EMBLEM STICKERS . . . . . .50  
GARDEN SIGNS . . . . . 1.00

Price includes postage  
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MRS. VERA NAUMANN  
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## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Interest in high in flights, many are the size of a book. The excitement of new seedlings and their progress. The finding of adventitious growth where it hasn't been noticed before. The sharing of ideas, seeds and plants help to make the flights an important part of our life.

### **B. evansiana:**

To get a full summer's bloom on the hardy tuberous species *B. evansiana* in colder climates, Ruth Stanley of Bellefontaine, Ohio, suggests bringing tubers indoors in winter -- even though they are hardy in the ground -- and storing them until March, then starting them into growth. She has had them in bloom in June this way. They set seed and many bulbils after the early start. Carrie Karegeannes in Annandale, Virginia, had early bloom also when she started seed early indoors and grew the seedlings in a sunny window until frost danger was past, before transplanting to the garden. In her area, tubers left in the ground do not send up spring shoots till late May or even early June and do not bloom till late in the summer. Chuck Tagg in Fullerton, California finds that *B. evansiana* bulbils barely get a chance to bloom the same season. They form tubers then, and the next year the plants are nearly mature along with first-year plants. Walter Pease, Chuck said, stores tubers of *Begonias* cool during winter. When he wants to start them, he puts them in flats of damp leaf-mold on top of his fluorescent lights for mild bottom heat from the transformer. They sprout quite quickly.

### **B. taylori:**

Seed of *B. taylori* from the Seed Fund came on well for Grant McGregor of Ottawa, Canada. He was interested in the dark markings on the leaf, radiating from the base at the leaf petiole. Leaves varied somewhat, ranging from almost none to a deep almost purple.

### **B. solananthera:**

The *Begonia* species provisionally named *B. 'Brazillian Heart'*, now identified as *B. solananthera*, is one of the best trailers of the genus, Chuck, believes. It makes a magnificent basket when there are enough stems to make it full and has one of the most beautiful fragrances of any flower. Ben Marcus of Brooklyn, N.Y. noted that *B. solananthera* likes to climb like a morning glory -- twists around any close object.

### **B. 'Abel Carriere':**

Two new shoots were growing from the bottom of a tuber on the rex *evansiana* hybrid *B. 'Abel Carriere'* for Carl L'Hommedieu of Oakdale, Long Island, in December. Each shoot had an enlarged growth, like two new tubers starting from the old one. He planned to remove one and plant it to see if it would form roots.

### **B. Bhotan species:**

Mae Blanton of Mesquite, Texas had tiny seedlings of a Bhotan species from seeds from Ghose of India. Growing in a pot inside a covered glass jar, on perlite, very humid, they were beginning to put out little roots above the rooting medium. The base looked fuzzy and more like a rhizome than a

(CONTINUED)

tuber, thus far, and she thought they were beginning to put out leaf buds in more places than one -- again like a rhizome -- though they were too tiny to be sure. Tiny leaves were yellow green, longer than wide, with pronounced point and ruffling. Veins appeared pinkish red, but she could not be sure if on top as well as underneath, or were just showing through the thin leaves.

### **B. Picta:**

Mae also had seedlings from Ghose seed labeled *B. picta*, an Indian tuberous species. They had round leaves with silver dots in patterns between the veins, with a silver hair in each dot. One or two had dropped all leaves and left tubers in the soil. Round lobes overlapped and leaf, overall, reminded her of a tiny version of *B. versicolor*, round with zones of silver dots. After reading that the part of India *B. picta* comes from has 100 inches of rain in July and another 100 inches in August, Mae kept them soggy during her high summer heat in Texas and they survived. One seedling was different from all the rest, which were nearly identical; it was more like a baby rex, with faint patterns of different greens on its three little leaves. Carrie's seedlings from ABS Seed Fund seed of *B. picta* had round leaves and looked like the sketch Mae included, but did not have the silver dots. They had textured leaf surface with variable bronze to almost maroon to green coloring, which became greener as they grew older (maybe sunlight would have kept the bronze coloring better than the fluorescent light they were under?). They were given to vanishing suddenly if conditions altered

unfavorably, but -- being tuberous -- would reappear later. So don't throw these away too quickly.

### **Tuberous rexes:**

Ben Marcus bought seed of "tuberous-rooted rex *Begonias*" from Dobies of England. Seedlings were showing good color in November. Most of them, on the fifth leaf, were brilliant silver with purple edging. Some were scalloped like *B. 'Helen Teupel'*. One removed from its pot showed a tuber, already the diameter of a dime.

### **Bloom:**

In October, Chuck Tagg reported he didn't think his *B. versicolor*, varicolored Chinese species grown in a terrarium, had stopped blooming since last January.

### **Adventitious Growth:**

Mae Blanton found a tiny leaf growing on a leaf of her plant *B. 'Confererate Gray'*, a seedling of *B. 'Sunderbruchii'*. Carl L' Hommedieu placed part of a leaf from *B. 'Templini'* (variegated sport of *B. 'Phyllomaniaca'*) that had small leaflets growing on it on damp peat moss in a closed container. The leaf rotted away, leaving the plantlets to grow in the moss. Two plantlets were variegated -- and up to that time all the adventitious plantlets had been green.

### **Hybridizing:**

Mae's *B. boweri nigramarga* x *B. 'Zip'* (provisionally named species) seedlings were beginning to come peltate in October, confirming her hope that the seed parent had actually been pollinated by *B. 'Zip'* when she propped the flowers

(CONTINUED)



against each other. Most had char-  
treuse centers with various patterns  
of black edges, and all *B. nigramarga*  
pairs and eyelashes. One seedling of  
the reverse cross was remaining tiny,  
with about nine or ten leaves and  
the whole plant less than one-half  
inch long. Other seedlings of *B.*  
'Zip' in the reverse cross were dark  
or mottled, getting more solid with  
each leaf. One of them was peltate  
and all but the midget had eyelashes.  
All the plantlets were of much thick-  
er texture than *B. boweri nigramarga*.  
Carl reported yellow flowers on his  
seedling from *B. cinnabarina* x *B.*  
*pearcei* cross. Chuck's *B. micranthera*  
*venturii* x *B. echinosepala* seedlings  
didn't bloom this year but were  
forming little tubers. A friend crossed  
*B. purpurea* with *B. masoniana*, ob-  
taining a shallow-lobed star leaf with  
the texture and some of the back-  
ground coloring of *B. masoniana*'s  
leaf, but without the iron cross. It  
grows to a tremendous size, beauti-  
ful with its winter bloom. Chuck  
thought it was to be named *B. 'Elda'*.

#### Radiation:

Mae wondered if x-rayed *B. sem-  
perflorens* varieties that did not  
branch had the gene for branching  
killed by the radiation. A friend  
had x-rayed seed that germinated  
but seedlings would not make roots.  
More often x-ray will give results  
you do not want than worthwhile  
changes, she noted, but that's the  
hazard of the game. (John James  
in his "Great New Flowers and  
Plants -- Indoors and Out" says that  
the chance of worthwhile mutations  
may be one in a thousand but a few  
may be worth it all.)

#### Pesticides:

Carl always takes his plants out-

doors (from porch and house) when  
he needs to spray -- 500 or 600 of  
them. He always uses a respirator  
over nose and mouth and rubber  
gloves. When he was using deadly  
gas in the greenhouse at Planting  
Fields, he used gas mask and rubber  
gloves. He notes that the systemics  
Demeton (systo), Dimethoate (cygon),  
and Meta-Systox are very toxic and  
dangerous to use. Even sodium  
selenate, also a systemic, is not  
recommended by the Department  
of Agriculture. Regular spraying  
with other materials should be suf-  
ficient. Pyrethrum and rotenone  
are about the safest since they have  
low toxicity for most mammals.  
Malathion is a good broad spectrum  
phosphate insecticide of relatively  
low toxicity -- if you can stand the  
smell.

#### Scale, Mealy Bug:

Mae warned that *B. rotundifolia*  
was very susceptible to scale and  
mealy bug. She had had trouble  
and noted reports from others also.

Painting greenhouse woodwork  
and benches with house roach and  
insecticides would stop ants from  
spreading an infestation from one  
plant to others.

If you would like to join a flight.  
tell me about how you grow *Be-  
gonias*, your main interests in *Be-  
gonias* and your choice of flights.  
Write . . .

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

PATRONIZE BEGONIAN  
ADVERTISERS

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## IN MEMORIUM

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*They are not lost who find the light  
of sun and stars and God.*

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### HARLEY J. TITLEY

Harley J. Titley, husband of Elsie Titley, passed away suddenly Tuesday, January 27th. Mr. Titley had been a member of the Glendale Branch of the American Begonia Society for many years. He served as president in 1965, and had been treasurer of the Branch since that time. He will be missed by his many friends.

### ETHEL M. SHULER

Mrs. Ethel M. Shuler passed away suddenly January 21st after suffering a heart attack. Mrs. Shuler was a well known flower grower and a charter and founding member of the Indoor Gardening Society of America. She also held memberships in a number of other gardening societies. Her many friends in the ABS will deeply mourn her passing.

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## BRANCHES ATTENTION!

If you want to know what is going on in the National Board Meetings, request your Secretary to write to the National Secretary for the current copy of the National Board Meeting Minutes. These minutes will not be condensed and will be sent to your Branch as soon as possible after the Board Meeting. Please state whether you wish them sent each month. Include a self addressed stamped envelope for your first copy.

## REPORT OF THE RESEARCH DIRECTOR

January 26, 1970

Mrs. Elaine Wilkerson is still busy supplying *Begonia* plants to the Southern Universities. She is sending more plants to North Carolina University upon their request. Elaine is to be commended for her efforts to have the *Begonia* family introduced to so many people that are interested in plants.

Having access to a large library in Ottawa, Dr. McGregor is able to study the horticultural abstracts in which he is able to keep informed of the trend in all classes of plants. A report on the abstracts that are relevant to *Begonia* growers would be of great interest to all of us. We hope he will give us a report in "The Begonian" on some of the abstracts in the near future.

Recently, I received a publication from Dr. Doorenbos of the Netherlands on "Chromosome numbers in *Begonia*". It is a report of the work by Dr. Doorenbos and Dr. Legro which extended over a period of five years. The somatic chromosome number of 100 *Begonia* species were counted. Of this number, 72 have been determined for the first time. Dr. Doorenbos collected, grew and identified the plants and Dr. Legro did the cytological work. A little over half of the species now in cultivation have been investigated, and now they have started an investigation of another hundred species. It is interesting to note that the investigation is of importance for hybridization, as chromosome numbers may give an indica-

(CONTINUED)

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 8:15 p.m. on January 26, 1970 in the South Gate Auditorium.

Walter Pease let the Pledge of Allegiance. Pearl Benell read the Aims and Purposes. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved as corrected.

Walter Barnett reported November 18th balance of \$665.73; receipts \$2,447.41; disbursements \$2,221.66; leaving a balance of \$891.48. The Seed Culture Bulletin Fund is \$2.45. Balance on hand as of January 18th, 1970 is \$893.93.

Anne Rose reported receipts for two months, November 18, 1969 to January 18, 1970, were \$70.20. Unpaid accounts \$62.50

Pearl Benell reported for two months, November 18, 1969 to January 9, 1970; new members, 74; total members in good standing, 2,152; total Begonians disbursed 4,938.

Mrs. Naumann asked the Editor to have an article in "The Begonian" reminding branches that any representative may request copies of the minutes and Treasurer's report.

Virginia Barnett presented a bill for the premium for General Liability and Automobile Liability Insurance, amount \$52.00. The motion was made by Anne Rose, seconded by Mabel Anderson, that the insurance be renewed.

Gene Danuels reported that he had brought the group pictures of the Whittier Branch. This was their prize for bringing the most plants to the show.

The secretary read the Round Robin report that five flights had come through and four new requests had been received.

The secretary read a letter from Carleton L' Hommedieu in which he explained his proposed use of a Research Fund. Walter Barnett made the motion: that the Research Director be empowered and authorized to write to branches and individuals to solicit funds for research purposes, and to deposit such funds in a Research Fund of which he will be the sole signer, and that he make a monthly financial report to the Board of Directors. Further, in the event there is a change of Directors, the Fund should be turned over to a new Research Director, in case one is appointed. The motion was seconded by Walter Pease. Motion carried.

The slide Librarian reported three requests for programs.

Ruth Pease reported that the Santa Barbara and Knickerbocker Branches are having training meetings at which the members bring in plants which are classified and judged by accredited judges according to the A.B.S. classification. These study meetings are valuable training for future shows. The Judges Course and Classification Book as well as the Point Scoring Book continue to be purchased by various garden clubs throughout the United States. A list of A.B.S. Judges is being compiled and will be ready before the end of the month.

Lydia Austin reported a balance of \$189.91 in the Library Fund. She then displayed a book from England on Tuberous Begonias which the publishers indicated they would like to sell to A.B.S. directly. Mrs. Austin was instructed to write for quantity prices, discount, etc.

Everett Wright, Flower Show Chairman, read a letter from the Fern Society Soliciting an ad in their Show Program. Anne Rose moved to put a display in the Fern Show; also to send \$20.00 for the ad which will give A.B.S. a page and one-half in their program. Motion seconded by Mabel Anderson. Carried.

Mr. Wright announced that Gene Daniels has accepted the Co-chairmanship of the National Convention and Show in Ventura. Chuck Tagg has agreed to be in charge of plant sales. The same classification that was approved by the Board last year will be used again this year. The License Agreement for use of Fairground Facilities in Ventura (Building and equipment) was signed by Vera Naumann.

Martha Rader reported that all Public Relation Chairmen have accepted their posts for 1970. Twenty-one branches have sent lists of their officers. Twenty-four have not been heard from to date. Mrs. Rader requested the Board's approval of Theodosia Burr Shepherd's revision of their Constitution and By-Laws. Motion was made by Gene Daniels, seconded by Gertrude Winsor, to approve. Carried.

A motion was made by Gene Daniels to start a News Letter on a six month trial basis in an effort to improve communications between the National Board and the Branches. Seconded by Walter Pease. Motion carried. Mrs. Naumann appointed Gene to be in charge.

Mr. Daniels brought up the matter of a letter of appreciation to Mae Tagg for a job well done. The secretary was instructed to write the letter.

Following the Branch reports, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Irene Grannell, Secretary

Report of the Research Director (Continued)

tion of whether or not the cross is likely to succeed. A considerable number of crosses have already been made and will be described by Drs. Doorenbos and Legro in further papers.

Mr Carleton L' Hommedieu  
*Research Director*  
370 Locust Avenue  
Oakdale, N.Y. 11769

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The "news letter", edited by Gene Daniels, will be called, "Rocking The Begonia Boat". It will be sent to Branch Secretaries. Members at large — 6-months subscription \$1.00 and six self addressed labels or envelopes.



**A. B. S.  
LIBRARY  
BOOKSTORE**

The following selection of books are  
**FOR SALE**

- \*Gesneriads And How To Grow Them. . \$7.95  
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- \*Rex Begonias As House Plants . . . . \$1.00  
by Virginia Withee
- \*All About Begonias . . . . . \$5.95  
by Bernice Brilmayer
- \*So Say The Experts . . . . . \$2.00  
by Ruth Pease
  
- Classification Guide Compiled by. . . \$1.25  
the Westchester Branch, A.B.S.
  
- \*Ferns We Grow by Sylvia . . . . . \$3.85  
Leatherman and Dorothy Behrends
  
- The Begonian—Complete reprints . . . \$6.00  
of the four years 1934 to 1937
  
- The Begonian— 1968-1960 25c per issue  
1959-1950 40c per issue  
1949-1939 50c per issue
  
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### RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS \$1.25 each

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### FIBROUS BEGONIAS \$1.00 each

'Annabelle', 'Argenteo-Guttata', 'Bleeding Heart', 'Peach Leaf', *echinosepala*, 'Green Medora', 'Helen', 'Helena', *incarnata*, 'Jean Pernet', 'Medora', 'Spring Song', 'Sir Arthur', *acida*, 'Corbeille de Feu', 'Digswelliana', 'Thurstonii', 'Blue Lake', 'Gray Feather'

### FIBROUS BEGONIAS \$1.25 each

'Otto Hacker', 'Elaine', 'Frances Lyons', 'Pinafore', 'Robinson's Peach', *coccinea rosea*, 'President Carnot', 'Sophie Cecile', 'Ross Swisher', 'John R.', 'Alasco', 'Nora Hanson', 'Tingley Mallet', 'Tempelina'

### HAIRY FIBROUS BEGONIAS \$1.25 each

'Alto Scharff', 'Chocolate Soldier', 'Conbow', 'Credneri', 'Campenes', 'Dwarf Houghtonii', *Hugellii*, 'Margarita', 'Nelly Bly', *metallica*, *prunifolia*, 'Irene', 'Raphael'

### REX BEGONIAS \$1.00 each — Leaves 35c each

'Amy', 'American Beauty', 'Black King', 'Bertha McGregor', 'Blushing Ole', 'Cardoza Gardens', 'Crimson Glory', 'Cora Miller', 'Curly Stardust', 'Dottie', 'Evergreen', 'Fiesta', 'Fairy', 'Forty-Niner', 'Glory of St. Albans', 'Green Countess', 'Green Gold', 'Helen Lewis', 'Helen Teupel', 'Mikado', 'Jack Frost', 'Lillian', 'Les Matheson', 'Lucy Closson', 'Merry Christmas', 'Mountain Haze', 'Old Smokey', 'Peace', 'Shirt Sleeves', 'Sue Zug', 'Silver Lake', 'Sandy', 'Winter Gardens', 'White Lace', 'Venetian Red', 'Red Berry', 'Sir Roy Yewell', 'New Blue Bell', 'Purple Petticoat', 'Prince Charming'

**Send 10c for a complete list of plants we grow.**

# BRANCH DIRECTORY

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

## BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy., Kent, England

## BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Herbert Hurley, Secy.  
11 Woodland Rd., Lexington, Mass. 02173

## 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 Stuart, Berkeley, Calif.  
Charles Badcock, Secy.  
2325 Esmond, Richmond, Calif. 94804

## EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Natural Gas Co. Bldg.  
Crossroads Shopping Center, Bellevue, Wash.  
Edith Lange, Secy.  
9905 Belfair Lane, Bellevue, Wash. 98004

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Gladys Mattuket  
314 N. Rural Drive, Monterey Park, Calif. 91754

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
First Methodist Church, Marshall Hall  
3205 D Street, La Verne, Calif.  
Mrs. Madge Borden, Secy.  
602 North Angelino, Azusa, Calif. 91740

## 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. Frances Perkins, Secy.  
3712 Revere Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90039

## 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. E. H. Claggett, Secy.  
4415 Austin  
Houston, Texas 77004

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Western Federal Savings Bldg.  
355 E. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, Calif.  
Lola Somes, Secy.  
4849 W. 130th St., Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

## KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

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

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m.  
Glendale Fed. Sav. & Loan Bldg.  
5535 Stearns St. Cor. Bellflower, Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Bernita McClanahan, Secy.  
1020 Poppy Ave., Compton, Calif. 90221

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Sear's Garden Center  
6201 Florida St., Baton Rouge  
Mrs. Wilma Simpson, Secy.  
3105 Belmont St., Baton Rouge, La. 70808

## 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 Placentia Ave., Coral Gables, Fla. 33134

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m.  
Members' Homes  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Mrs. Lynne K. Wood, Secy.  
626 W. Charles, Independence, Missouri 64055

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
American Legion Post No. 560  
East 59th and Orange, Long Beach  
Ruth Hurd, Secy.  
2942 Sawyer St., Long Beach, Calif. 90805

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 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. Anne Stiles, Secy.  
East Delaware Trail, R. D. No. 2, Medford, N.J. 08055

## PORTLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Lavene Jenkins, Secy.  
9920 S. W. 53rd Ave., Portland, Oregon 97219

## 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 Northup, 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. Dora Hale, Secy.  
9770 Carmencito Ave., Sacramento, Calif. 95823

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Asbury Methodist Church  
Marlborough & Polk St., San Diego, Calif.  
Mrs. Mary L. Hoffman, 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  
Mr. Allen Sweet, Secy.  
139 Beverly St., San Francisco, Calif. 94132

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum  
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.  
Mrs. Virginia Barnett, Secy.  
1213 Mullender Ave., West Covina, Calif. 91700

## SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Porter Hall 7:30 p.m.  
University & La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa  
Mrs. Margaret Leo, 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. Helen Yost, Secy.  
888 La Milpita Rd., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105

## SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., Loyal Heights Field House  
21st Ave., N.W. and N.W. 77th St.  
Virginia Level, Secy.  
13770 1st Avenue N.E., Seattle, Wash. 98125

## SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Y.M.C.A. Bldg., 5200 Telegraph Rd., Ventura, Calif.  
David Dichter, Secy.  
3280 San Luis St., Ventura, California 93003

## SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Members' Homes  
Miss Verna Fowler, Pres.  
920 Sheridan, Salina, Kansas 67401

## SOUTH CAROLINA BRANCH

Mrs. Leonard Thomas  
333 Harrow Dr., Columbia, S. C. 292910

## 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., Forth 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.  
Barbara Mack, Secy.  
424 Oregon St., El Segundo, Calif. 90245

## 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  
Phyllis Ferguson, Secy.  
10722 Wiatt Way, La Habra, Calif. 90631

## WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Noon, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Murdock Davis, Secy.  
256 Broughton Lane, Villanova, Pa. 19085

# CALENDAR

**MARCH 3** — Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch 7:30 p.m. Chuck Tagg "Winter Begonias — Blooms to Bubbles". Visitors always welcome — Plant Table.

**MARCH 5** — Westchester Branch, Sylvia Leatherman "Container Gardening".

**MARCH 5** — Whittier Branch, Speaker — Ray Eppley, "Terrarium Planting".

**MARCH 8** — Long Beach Parent Chapter, Speakers — Wilbur and Bee Olson.

**MARCH 10** — Glendale Branch, Mr. Kenneth Drennon will speak on "Seed and Sowing".

**MARCH 11** — Inglewood Branch, Walter Pease, "Tuberous Begonias".

**MARCH 11** — San Miguel Branch 8:00 p.m., Rudy Ziesenhenne, Speaker — "Begonias Found in Botanical Gardens of Europe", Colored slides.

**MARCH 12** — Orange County Branch 7:30 p.m., Speaker — Sylvia Leatherman, "Ferns".

**MARCH 13** — San Gabriel Branch, Speaker Mrs. Laurel Woodley — Topic, "Succulent Plant Family".

**MARCH 15th to 22nd** — Elsa Fort Branch will participate in Spring Flower Show at Philadelphia Civic Center.

**MARCH 17** — Sacramento Branch 8:00 p.m., Norman Ownes of Oroville, Calif., noted grower of Rex Begonias will speak on "Rex Begonias and How to Grow Them".

**MARCH 23** — ABS Board, 8:00 p.m. South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, Calif. Meetings are always open to members.

**APRIL 2** — Whittier Branch, Speaker — Kenneth Drennon "Our Begonias and Their Care".

## ABOUT THE BRANCH DIRECTORY

Is the information in the Branch Directory correct? Please check the listing as it appears in the Branch Directory of "The Begonian". If it is not correct, please send the changes to the EDITOR as soon as possible!

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