BEGINNIN VOL

AUGUST, 1974

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

VOL. 41, NO. 8



Monthly Publication of the American Begonia Society, Inc.

GENERAL OFFICES:



Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman January, 1932

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COVER PICTURE — B. 'TENCE'

By Gordon Lepisto St. Paul, Minnesota

The semperflorens are a dependable, friendly group of begonias that are always fresh looking, constantly in flower and pleasing to even the most discriminating grower.

The single flower semp shown on the cover is being grown indoors under humid (85%) conditions, moderately warm temperatures and under cool-white fluorescent lights. I use long-fibered sphagnum moss, the same growing medium I use for rex begonias for which my climate-controlled plant room has been designed. (Described in next months *The Begonian*)

The foregoing is somewhat contrary to standard semperflorens culture, but *B.* 'Tence' has performed beautifully. I have never grown it out of doors or on a window sill in natural light. I am not sure how it will react under different climatic conditions.

Out of fifty or so seedlings, a cross of unnamed bedding begonias (seeds irradiated), this is the only retained semp cultivar that survived. The rest were sent to the outdoor garden.

B. 'Tence' is an extremely compact, dwarf plant. Grown under existing conditions for over a year, it has never reached 6" in diameter. It has never been drastically pruned

but has had occasional clippings.

The satin green leaves are streaked light green and yellow ½ to 1½ inches long. The one-inch single flowers are coral-red and at times completely cover the plant.

Since I have grown this plant in damp moss under such low light and humid conditions, you might expect stem and leaf rot to be prevalent. This has not been the case and I often wonder if it could be grown, if need be, in a closed terrarium!

In Minnesota, our climate isn't the best for growing begonias out of doors. Sometimes it is hostile such as a June 20th wind and hail storm which almost wiped out everything. We grow mostly the hardy bedding semps in semi-shade. Our favorite bronze foliage semps like B. 'Melody' and B. 'Jewelite' have done well for us in border use, providing location and soil preparation is correct. Our sandy soil is greatly supplemented with peat moss.

Among all begonias outdoors, we have been consistently successful only with semperflorens, some basket rhizome begonias being the exception. I suspect some of our local growers with more outdoor talent have successfully grown many more types of begonias.

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.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

During this past year, we have tried some new ideas with *The Begonian*. The first was the use of a theme for each issue. Ed Bates decided in advance what the subject of each issue would be for the entire year. We then solicited articles and a cover picture to fit the theme. After several issues, we received a mixed reaction to this idea. Some felt that more diversity was needed; others liked to see a broad treatment of one type of begonia.

In the last two issues, we have not followed the theme approach but have offered a more diverse selection of articles.

Secondly, in our quest for interesting and beautiful covers for *The Begonian*, we have found that we must reject some pictures solely because they could not be cropped to the square format we normally use.

Several members have expressed a desire for a full page picture with the title showing through in reverse, that is in white rather than black. When Ed and I were selecting the pictures for the July through October issues, we were pleased to have two slides from Don Worth which we could try out with the full page format. The first was B. olsoniae which appeared on the July issue. The August and September issues will revert back to the square format, and the October issue will be a full page picture of B. serratapetala

The new format doesn't solve the problem we have with slides or prints taken horizontally. If they can't be cropped to be square, then

we can't use them. We have had to reject many excellent contributions because of this. However, the beautiful semp on the cover of this issue was a horizontal print that fortunately we could crop.

During this next year, we will need good photos from which to choose for our covers. If you have a picture you are proud of, check to see if it can be used as a square picture without loss of interest, or if it can be used as a full page vertical picture. Send it to Ed for consideration. We are always in need of good photos.

The above problems don't exist with black and white photos used inside the magazine. We can generally fit them in regardless of shape or size.

We are very pleased to be able to use during the next year a series of Alice Clark paintings for some of our covers. Members of long standing are familiar with her extraordinarily beautiful work, and we are sure that all members will enjoy these covers. We feel that her contributions will greatly enhance the spirit of artistry in begonia growing.

Both Ed and I are very interested in your reaction to the theme approach for *The Begonian*, and to the

(Continued on Next Page)

ARALIAS — BROMELIADS — FERNS PALMS, ORCHIDS, UNUSUAL PLANTS

Free List

TRADER HORN P. O. Box 167538 Miami, Florida 33138

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 1974 American Begonia Society Convention and Show is drawing closer. We hope you are all planning to join us on September 6 through 8, 1974, at Francisco Torres, 6850 El Colegio Rd., Goleta, about 10 miles from Santa Barbara. Gene Daniels has an article about the convention and if you will study the program, you will be sure to find many topics to interest you. Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of Ventura is helping Gene, the show chairman, to put on one of the greatest shows yet. Santa Barbara is one of the greatest plant-growing areas in the world; if you have not been here, you must plan on it in September.

We wish the Ninth Eastern Convention of the ABS to be held in Hempstead, Long Island, September 12-14, with the new Long Island Branch as hosts, the greatest success. We've tried to pattern our convention after the more sophisticated style of the two Eastern Conventions we have attended. Several of us are looking forward to attending this year's.

We're announcing many seminars for the National Convention; we will have discussion groups, too,

FROM THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 200) new format for the color covers. If you have other suggestions to help make *The Begonian* a more interesting magazine for you, please write to Ed and let him know. He will be taking over as editor in September, and your thoughts are important in giving him direction.

Marjorie Kirchoff, Editor

about begonia branch problems, membership and publicity ideas, finance, research, nomenclature, etc. We will have all our activities under the same roof with plant sales tables near the pool which will be open to all guests.

This is a formal convention center, with meetings throughout the year for a few to a thousand persons; we may expect more regimentation than in a motel, and meal hours, etc., will have to be strictly followed. There will be no penalty other than inconvenience to yourself if you stay elsewhere. For a dollar fee daily you may attend all the seminars and meetings, take your meals if you have reserved and paid for them one week in advance, and enjoy all the facilities of the lovely premises. Snacks are available. We will not charge the public to view the show.

Santa Barbara Branch has mailed out brochures to all branches, and we will send them to individuals if you will write to me or to Mrs. Ethel Arnold, 1734 Pampas Ave., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101.

Margaret B. Ziesenhenne, President

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Notice to all Round Robin members lucky enough to be attending the National Convention: don't forget to check in at the Round Robin Booth as soon as you get there! This is your chance to meet some of your friends you know so well but have never seen in person!!

It's surprising what comes up in various robin flights in the same period of time. Debi Miller, California, told of a method of growing African Violets she heard about, called "Texas Style." She said they poke two rows of holes around the sides of their plastic pots. They fill the pot to the second row of holes (about 2" above the bottom for a 4" pot) with poultry health grit (which contains lots of minerals and goodies). They plant the plant in growing mix on top of this, set the pot in a saucer of water up to the first holes (right at the bottom of the pot). The grit not only works as a wick for bottom watering, but seems to contribute to the health of the plant. Debi was shown two plants that were said to have been identical in size just 40 days before. One was repotted in the usual way. The other, repotted the "Texas Style," was almost twice the size of the first. She was told plants grow so big that people who use this method repot their plants "Texas Style" only five months before a show or plants would grow too large. Debi is experimenting with her begonias using this method.

Herb O'Mullane of Australia grows his cuttings in fine gravel in plastic ice-cream containers. He fills the ½ gallon container with gravel, pokes a few holes around the sides about 1" from the bottom, puts in cuttings, then waters them. He doesn't put the cuttings into the water in the bottom inch—just down to the water. He can't overwater because the water runs out of the holes around the sides.

Gordon Lepisto, Minnesota, mixes about a quart of mixture containing 2 parts unmilled sphagnum moss, 1 part each of perlite and vermiculite in which he plants his seeds. He wets it down good with warm water which was premixed with a mild fertilizer at the rate of 1/16 teaspoon (pinch between fingers) per gallon water. After squeezing out excess water, he places mixture in one of those plastic oven bags (don't forget to cut slits in top of bag, he warned). This bag of mix is placed in oven at 300° for 45 minutes or so. He sterilizes the flat and small containers he uses with a solution of household bleach. After the medium is spread in containers and cooled, he takes the fine seeds, places them on a creased piece of clean paper and gently taps them onto the mixture so as to keep seeds from "bunching" together. planting, he inserts the containers into zip-loc plastic bags, puts under lights until well after germination. When seedlings are only 1/8" high, he transplants selected seedlings into another tray, using the same method of sterilization, then places tray into a new bag. There they remain until ready to go into individual pots. He said he does use a

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magnifying glass when transplanting, too!

Grace Schillinger, Illinois, learned some new macrame knots and was making some unusual hangups for plants. Her son gave her a large spool of very heavy white cord, about 1/4" in diameter, which she was using. She said it looked lovely with white wicker furniture in garden rooms or patios when supporting pots of begonias and shade plants.

At his supermarket, Dan Haseltine, Illinois, noted some plastic containers of an unusual shape with holes in the bottom for drainage. They were made for draining cutlery but were perfect to make small hanging-basket-type containers, lightweight with rounded corners on the top.

Ed Leach, Ohio, believes the lack of humidity is one of the secrets of raising Rieger begonias successfully. His was growing great and blooming its head off in March. He gives it plenty of full sun (southern exposure) in winter and the forced air heat in his home causes a low humidity. This causes some of the other begonia leaves to turn black around the edges but the texture and color of the Rieger leaves were something to behold, he said.

Please contribute slides of Begonias to the A.B.S. Slide Library.

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Carolyn Wegener of California bought her first rex begonias and bubble bowls about two years ago at a begonia show. Bubbles are full of rexes — bright and beautiful. About every other month she opens them, removes a leaf or two that threatens to touch the glass (then they rot). She has never watered. Only when bowl is opened, she sprays the foliage lightly with a foliar food.

Fiffi Kline, New York, finds roots of her tuberous begonias want to grow horizontally so she grows some of them in fern-fiber pots 10" wide and only 21/2" deep.

When rhizomes grow over the side of the pot rim or too much to one side of the pot, Dora Lee Dorsey of Florida prunes off the tips. This makes them put out growth from the back of the rhizome and become more symmetrical.

Ed and Millie Thompson, New York, find *B. polygonoides* a very unusual begonia. They have it growing in a moss basket and it is already one of their pets with its white flowers and very delicate look.

Even if you are very NEW to growing begonias, you will enjoy belonging to some of the robins. Casey Carsten, Texas, summed up the advantages nicely: "We can all save each other so much time, money and failure just by sharing our experiences. I am in five robins and wish I were in five more. I love 'em and two years ago I had never grown a healthy philodendron!!" Join us.

Mrs. Mae Blanton Round Robin Director 118 Wildoak Drive Lake Dallas, Texas 75065

BEGONIA WORLD 1974

By Gene Daniels

Featuring the biggest begonia plant table in ABS history from sources all over the world, plus an even dozen seminars on all aspects of begonia knowledge, the American Begonia Society International Convention and Plant Show entitled "Begonia World" encompasses a whole new concept for ABS members. The three-day event will begin Friday, September 6, at 10 a.m. with a series of seminars for members only, while the judging of the show goes on in the big hall.

Probably the most unusual talk for the day will be by our very enthusiastic member from Japan, Mr. H. Arakawa who has proved his enthusiasm by being the very first ABS member to apply for reservations at the Francisco Torres Convention Center near Santa Barbara, California! Mr. Arakawa is the proud owner of a new coffee shop in Nishinomiya, Hyogo, Japan and, believe it or not, its name is "BEGONIA" and its sign proudly states: "Coffee with Green!" It features many begonias and ferns and he changes the begonias ". . . . once a week because the cane-types' flowers fall down." Fortunately this is scheduled for Friday afternoon as the judges and show personnel won't want miss it!

But this is only one talk! If you want to learn the problems of collecting in the wild and see it on slides, none other than our own glamour girl, Thelma O'Reilly, returned safe and now rested from an

amazing jungle trip in Mexico, will tell all.

And the list continued: Northern California's Ms. Tuberous, Hyacinth Smith, will bare her soul and her culture tricks on growing ten-inch tuberous blooms. Well, almost 10 inches!

You've seen the famous begonia trees? Ventura's biggest, and toughest, and gentlest raiser of begonias, J. O. Gilden, called "J.O." by his friends, will tell you the secrets of this unique growing method.

Rudy Ziesenhenne will delve into the intricacies of nomenclature and I urge you beginners to get acquainted with the names of begonias at this talk. Instead of being afraid of them, listen to Rudy and suddenly you will find it really isn't so difficult.

Some of you may say, "How do we leave our begonias for the three days of the convention?" Gene Daniels, the traveling photographer, will show details of his "vacation garden." This is a collection of some 400 begonias, including a hundred or so tubers, which have wat-



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ered themselves with no assistance for over two years! He has been away from them for a month at a time with no one in the garden; they not only survive, but really hold up amazingly well! In addition to this he will give up some of his tips on how to photograph begonias and gardens in the manner of so many of his color covers on our BEGON-IAN magazine.

Now that is only five speakers, leaving another seven for you to wonder about. But this convention is not just lectures. Those of you who are Round Robin members or want to become one, will enjoy the "Coffee" hosted by Debi Miller—finally a chance to meet your distant friends! The Robin enthusiasts are pleading for you to come; they all want to get together.

A note to you spouses who can get "Begoniaed to death" — Saturday morning we have a three-hour scenic tour of Santa Barbara — the famous mission and vacation city only a few miles away. Of course you will be subjected to the most unusual natural botanic garden in the West. Situated in a canyon, the gardens permit one to stroll through

the woods, along the stream, to the waterfall in the oaks; the wildflowers should be great. The waterfront and the Old Santa Barbara Mission are major tourist attractions. Sunday you will enjoy the private gardens of Santa Barbara.

The annual meeting this year will start with a luncheon; the Saturday evening banquet will feature our most interesting Research Director, Carl L'Hommedieu from Long Island, New York.

And I almost forgot — the Friday evening show preview has a bonus for you. Every plant for sale on Friday evening will be lowered in price for members only — and this means everything from the rare begonias of the Ziesenhenne nursery, to the 8-inch pots of double-flowering Rieger begonias, and the fabulous new hybrids of the famous begonia family of Woodriff. But remember; the prices go back to normal for all on Saturday and Sunday!

Bring yourselves, bring your family and friends, bring your show plants, and bring a few plants for the plant table. But regardless of what you bring, please come and enjoy!

CALENDAR

August 3, 1974—Picnic and Garden Tour of Mrs. Laughlin's Estate, Southampton, New York. Branch plant sales will be held at the Thompson's in Southampton, who have one of the most varied collections of begonias in the east.

August 23—Redondo Area Branch — 7:30 p.m. at Dana School, 135th Street and Aviation Blvd. Program: "Our Little Flower Show," refreshments. Public invited.

August 13, 1974—The Alfred D. Robinson Branch will present a "Mini Show," commemorating its birthday. A show of begonias in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Tuesday, 11:00-3:00 o'clock. Admission free.

REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

Note: The American Begonia Society is the International Registration Authority for cultivars of the genus Begonia. Information regarding registration may be obtained from Rudolf Ziesenhenne, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

No. 404—Begonia (B. rex cultorum unnamed varieties) 'Royal Swirl'

This chance seedling was developed in 1958, first bloomed in 1960, and was first distributed in 1961. The uneven heartshaped leaves are royal purple in the color pattern and the balanced swirl makes it distinctive. The leaves are $5 \times 7''$, margin dentate with silver points at vein ends; texture is a smooth taffeta sheen; veins depressed top, red under; petioles 6-8", red when new, fading to green, sparsely hairy; stipules red, 3/4". Blooms in fall, twotoned pink, 11/2", on 3-5" stem. Available from originator, Dora Lee Dorsey, 8110 N. Edison Ave.. Tampa, Fla. 33604. Registered Jan. 31, 1974.

No. 405—Begonia (B. unnamed rex x B. 'Helen Teupel') 'Memory Beryl Allen'

Developed in 1968 by Dora Lee Dorsey, address above, this rex first bloomed in 1969, and was first distributed in 1972. The leaves are modified rex-type, 7 x 9", margin dentate, shallow-lobed; textured with short, stiff, red hairs; petioles have red hairs; stipules 1" red; color green, silver and purple. Flowers a deep rose, 3/4", on stem 3-5"; season variable. Registered January 31, 1974.

No. 406—Begonia (B. unnamed rex x B. unnamed rex) 'Blue Ridge'

A blue misty overcast characterizes this rex whose 8 x 10" leaves are green silver from stem with distinct netting under green areas; margin is dentate, slightly lobed; texture is quilted, bubbled, sparse hairs; fine veined; petioles dark maroon, with heavy, soft pink hairs; stipules maroon 1". Flowers yellowgreen, 1½", on 5-6" stems. Originated 1968, first bloomed 1970, and distributed 1971 by orignator, Dora Lee Dorsey, address above. Registered Jan. 31, 1974.

No. 407—Begonia (B. unnamed rex x B. 'Can Can') 'Silver City'

This rex has 6 x 8" leaves, slightly serrate, undulating with a taffeta sheen; veins are slightly raised, red beneath; petioles 8", red, hairy; red stipules 1"; has small bronze zone at base, silver with irregular areas of bronze at margin. Flowers in spring and fall, pink, 4-5" stem. Originated by Dora Lee Dorsey, address above, in 1968, first bloomed in 1970, and first distributed 1973. Registered Jan. 31, 1974.

No. 408—Begonia (B. 'Marion Louise' x unnamed rex seedling) 'Purple Ghost'

Dora Lee Dorsey, address above, originated this large rex in 1968, it first bloomed 1970, and was distributed in 1971. Leaves are rex-diadema, less lobed, 8 x 10"; margin undulating, short silver-pink hairs; texture glabrous with few hairs; veins slightly depressed; petioles burgundy stippled green with heavy red hair, 5-6"; stipules red, pointed,

EXHIBITORS, EXHIBITS, AND EXHIBITING

By Ruth Pease

As a rule, show committees work a year reviewing the last year's show and trying to improve it, and drawing up the show schedule and show rules for the current year's show. These individuals usually volunteer their services working independently and then together at meetings called by the show chairman.

One of several reasons for putting on a plant show is to give growers an opportunity to enter and display plants they have grown into beautiful specimens. Additionally, it is a way to interest the public in our plant societies, to share our knowledge and love of plants. This, in itself, should be enough cause for all to be courteous to each other, to have patience, and to enjoy being together for a weekend here and a weekend there at different shows throughout the year.

hairy; color dark wine purple center, silver to edge with margin of purple under burgundy and green. Flowers throughout year, deep coral pink, tepals lighter, on 6" stem. Registered Jan. 31, 1974.

NOTE: The name of the originator of *Begonia* 'Virginia Owen', No. 397, published in *The Begonian*, Vol. 41, Page 96, April 1974, was inadvertently omitted; it was developed in 1968 by Helen Short, 14701 Los Angeles St., Baldwin Park, Ca. 91706, and was first distributed in 1973.

Rudolf Ziesenhenne Nomenclature Director

Since the show rules are for the benefit of the exhibitor as well as for the success of the show, they must be read carefully and followed by all. There is that belief held by some that rules are made to be broken! Consider the fact that if the rules are broken by five exhibitors asking for special considerations, and what must follow . . . harried show personnel trying to accommodate, changes to be made in the schedule of entries, moving of plants already placed and other exhibitors becoming increasingly impatient while waiting their turns to be registered and to have their plants classified and entered.

For instance if the show rules call for only three entries in a class, all differently named plants, then it behooves the exhibitor to enter only three and not four or more in that class and all differently named.

If the show rules state that plants that are infested with insects will be disqualified, the exhibitor must be certain that he takes only clean plants to the show. It is unfair to the fastidious exhibitor to allow infested plants into the show.

If exhibitors will check the show schedule and rules when they are first published, they will have time to look over their plants and to see which are show material. They will be able to concentrate on them for a few months before the show itself. This means pruning to keep the plants symmetrical or within bounds of the container, grooming to keep

(Continued on Page 214)

1974 BEGONIA WORLD PROGRAM

Thursday, September 5

10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Show Entries (Rule No. 4 to be enforced)

1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Guest Registration

Friday, September 6

7-8 a.m. Breakfast

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Guest Registration

10 a.m. Judging Starts

10 a.m. Seminar, "Begonias in Landscaping & Art"

11 a.m. Seminar, "Humidity and Temperatue in Greenhouses."

Noon - 1 p.m. Luncheon

2 p.m. Seminar, "Begonia Growing in Japan" — H. Arakawa, Japan Japan

3 p.m. Seminar, "Tree Begonias"— J. O. Gilden, Ventura

4-5 p.m. Seminars, "Begonia Collecting in Mexico" — Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa

5-5:30 p.m. "Preparations for a Mexican Collecting Trip" — Thelma O'Reilly

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner

7-8 p.m. ABS Board Meeting

8-10 p.m. Show Preview; plant bargains.

Saturday, September 7

7-8 a.m. Breakfast

8 a.m. - noon Guest Registration

8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Scenic Tour

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Show Open to Public

8:30 a.m. "Plant Photography" and

9 a.m. "Automated Garden" both by Gene Daniels, Show Chairman 9:30 a.m. "Tuberous Begonias" Hyacinth Smith, San Francisco Branch

10:30 a.m. "Begonia Nomenclature" Rudolf Ziesenhennne, Seminar Chairman

Noon - 3 p.m. ABS Banquet Luncheon and Annual Meeting

5:30 p.m. Round Robin Coffee

7 - 10 p.m. ABS Annual Banquet and Installation of Officers.

Chairperson:

Margaret Ziesenhenne

Speaker: Carleton L'Hommedieu, Research Director

Presentation of Awards: Walter Pease, Awards Chairman

Sunday, September 8

7-8 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 - 11:30 Garden Tour

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Show Open to Public

Noon - 1 p.m. Luncheon

2 p.m. Seminar, "Terrariums vs. Bowls" Charles Tagg, Past President

3 p.m. Seminar, "Begonias as House Plants" James Wyrtzen, New York

4 p.m. Seminar, "Growing Begonias" Walter Hansen, Vice President

5 p.m. Show and Convention Closes

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Monday, September 9

7-8 a.m. Breakfast (last meal) Checkout time is 1 p.m. each day for registered guests.

RESERVATION APPLICATION

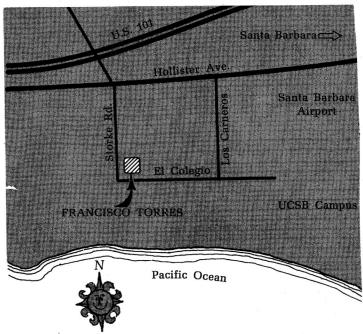
RETURN TO:

ABS CONVENTION 1974 1734 Pampas Ave. Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101

NOTE: Reservation applications should be in by August 16 and payment in advance by August 23.

YES, I would like to register for the ABS Convention 1974 Sept. 6-8 My travel plan is as follows: (Auto bus train

My travel plan is as follows. (Auto, bus, train, or plane, give arrival time)
(Please Print or Type Information)
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INCLUSIVE DATES, WITH BEGINNING AND ENDING HOUR: Septam/pm to;am/pm. INDICATE NUMBER IN PARTY FOR EACH TOUR: Saturday a.m. Scenic Tour; Sunday a.m. Garden Tour



THE PHOTOGRAPHIC DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL SHOW

To all growers who live outside the two hundred fifty mile radius of our National Show at Santa Barbara.

Our begonias are in their full beauty now. Share their beauty with us and send slides, black and white or colored prints to me to enter into the photography division of the show. We had a good response last year and hopefully this year we will have an even better exhibit.

Please put your name and address and the name of the plant on each slide.

I have had many inquiries about the availability of the Slide Program.

ANNUAL SHOW RULE NO. 4

4. All entries must be made Thursday September 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Any person entering more than 10 plants must arrive by 7:00 p.m. or make prior arrangements with the show chairman by phone or mail. Any person or family planning to enter more than 15 plants must send or telephone a list of these plants with pertinent data to assist the classification chairman, Mrs. Nettie Daniels, P.O. Box 83, Camarillo, Ca. 93010, phone (805) 482-4935 not later than Wednesday, September 4; or Thursday until 3:00 p.m. at (805) 968-0711. This list need not be absolutely accurate as it's purpose is to minimize the problems of classification and registration, and no penalty will be enacted if the actual entry differs a bit from the list. However, more than 15 plants may not be entered without adherence to the above rule!

The program consists of one hundred (about) slides in all classes. There is commentary on each slide. It consists of a little history of the plant, species of hybrid and some culture. It makes a full program. In the future I would like to be able to meet the needs of special groups and work up specific programs. The cost is \$3.00 and the group pays the return postage.

Katharine Alberti Slide Librarian 3322 Troy Dr. Hollywood, Ca. 90068



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LONG ISLAND BRANCH BEGONIA SHOW

By Gene Moglia

If this is a Begonia Show, where is the strawberry Begonia? It was that time of the year again when the Long Island Branch of the A.B.S. held its Second Annual Show at the Walt Whitman Mall, Huntington Station, New York, May 2 through 5. Dazzling the crowds with the enormous array of begonias, the L. I. Branch began its annual task of impressing the average person with the multitude of form and color that makes the begonia our favorite plant.

The 133 entries covered all classes and tested the skills of our able judges. Sweepstakes was won by Lois Schneyer of Malverne, New York, in her first showing at a major Begonia Show. The Best in Show

Award was won by Terri Babinski who traveled 70 miles with a beautiful B. 'Alice-Mac' to cop top honors.

The Show Chairperson, Wendy Stuart, did a wonderful job coordinating all the tasks that go into a show, such as arranging for ribbons, trophies and tables from the Merchants' Association of the Mall.

Our dozen new members who joined us and the many more who asked questions about begonias were a gratifying part of the Show. With this show under our belt, our President, Millie Thompson, looks forward to a breath-taking display at the Ninth Annual Eastern Convention to be held Sept. 12-14 in Hempstead, N.Y. and hosted by the Long Island Branch.



Terri Babinski with B. 'Alice Mac'

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

These pamphlets are a great help to the new Begonia grower:

Begonias from Seed —
Sowing and Growing \$.25
Begonias in General —
basic culture .50

Ag 1—Tuberhybrida

These were collected in the beach area in Los Angeles, Calif. It includes both singles and doubles, reds, pinks, yellows and oranges, from very healthy plants.

per pkt. \$.50

Ag 2-B. fenicis

Species from the Philippines. Rhizomatous, with completely smooth, oval, green leaves on red petioles, and loose panicles of white flowers. It is easy to grow and very floriferous; unfortunately, it has a rather loose habit. per pkt. \$1.00

Ag 3-B. hemsleyana

Rhizomatous from India — compound leaves and large pink flowers. Grows to 2 ft. per pkt. \$.50

Ag 4-B. lindeniana, Cuba

Shrub-like, growing to 2 ft. white flowers, and closely related to *B. cubensis*. per pkt. \$1.00

Ag 5—B. maculata

Species from Brazil. Cane-like, but with white to light rose flowers. per pkt. \$.50

Ag 6-B. squamosa

Rhizomatous from Costa Rica. Leaves oval with red, serrate and fimbriate edges. Blooms pinkish white. per pkt. \$1.00

Ag 7-B. wollnyi

Cane species from Brazil and Bolivia. It forms a thick trunk, about 1 ft. high. The leaves are palmately lobed, spotted with white. Flowers transparent, with deep orange anthers. per pkt. \$1.00

Ag 8—Species from Malaya

Unidentified. This originally came from the Japanese Begonia Society, is a very pretty stemless plant, with smooth, shiny, greyish green, peltate leaves and pink flowers with crimson ovaries and pedicels. (see picture)

per pkt. \$1.00

Ag 9—Species from Venezuela

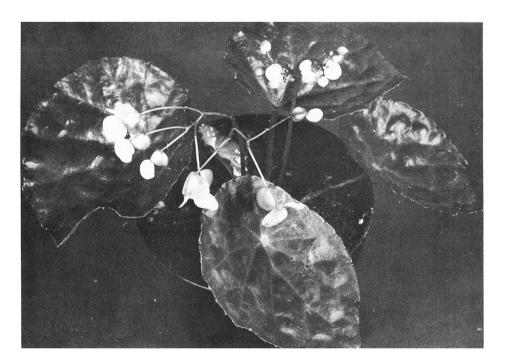
Unidentified; is related to *B. guadensis*, but is smaller, a spreading shrub to 1 or 2 ft., more compact, and very floriferous. per pkt. \$.50

For those who purchased the seed of *B. olsoniae* — the leaves will not be exactly the color reproduced on the cover of the July *The Begonian*. The color reproduction is somewhat more blue than the plant appears when growing.

My apologies to those of you who are waiting for your orders to be filled. I'm pushing hard and will get them to you real soon.

Make checks payable — "Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund', and mail to: Mrs. Pearl E. Benell, 10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, Ca. 90604.





Ag 8 — Species from Malaya (unidentified)

FAIRYLAND PRESENTS . . .

- B. 'BROWN EYES' A miniature with textured leaves of silvery green with brownish purple spiderwebbing diffusing to a soft purple glow between veins. Truly an indescribable plant and winner of Best New Rhizomatous Introduction and Best New Introduction in the 1973 ABS Fullerton Show. (See cover and article)
- B. 'TIGER STAR' A medium sized star with $5^{\prime\prime}$ leaves of a soft lime green overlaid with rich chocolate brown tiger striping.
- B. 'DONALD DUCK' Double Red Tuberous x B. solananthera An elegant basket plant accented with Bright red single and semi-double 2" flowers. A YEAR ROUND BLOOMER.

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B. 'Brown Eyes', **B.** 'Tiger Star' and **B.** 'Donald Duck' were exhibited at the 1973 ABC Fullerton Show and are now available in very limited quantities. Shipment of plants starting in July on a first-come-first served basis.

The Woodriff's

FAIRYLAND BEGONIA GARDEN
1100 Griffith Rd., McKinleyville, Cal. 95521

EXHIBITS

(Continued from Page 207)

the plants free of spent blooms and damaged leaves, staking if necessary - one stake to a stem, changing the container to a clean one if the plant is in a container that simply cannot be cleaned enough to pass the keen eyes of the judges. There are many reasons why exhibitors should work with plants they hope to enter into competition. Why bring them to the show to put into competition if they are not in tiptop condition? Exhibitors should be proud enough of their entries to bring them in to the show as healthy, well-grown, well-groomed, mature specimen plants. Plants and containers should be proportionate to each other. Tall plants in shallow containers are often off-balanced and appear to be awkward. Likewise, tall plants in hanging containers need not be trailing types but they should be of a size suitable to the container.

Petals of tuberous begonias may have to be manicured to rid them of any slightly browned edges.

Containers are personal in a way since each grower has his own way of growing plants . . . some prefer plastic containers over the clay pots or redwood tubs; others prefer decorative containers. So far, our shows have not opened a division for decorative containers. This may become a reality however someday in the future, as has a division for plants grown in water without benefit of a soil medium. If such divisions are

(Continued on Page 218)

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DEVELOPMENT OF TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

By George Otten Reprinted from *The Begonian*, February, 1939

As early as the year 1847 the tuberous rooted begonias made their first appearance in Europe. In this year Mr. Henderson, a floriculturist, received seeds of these begonias from a man in Bolivia, named Bridges. Henderson called this introduction "Begonia cinnabriana". This was the only tuberous begonia at that time in England.

Soon after Mr. Waddell, of Bolivia, discovered a bulbous begonia, which Alphonse de Candolle, the great Swiss botanist, called "B. boliviensis."

In 1864 the world firm of Veitch in England sent their travelling botanist to Bolivia to search for plants or seeds of any interest to floriculture. Among others, he sent back tubers and seeds of begonias. Veitch's foreman, named Seden, took great interest in these new importations and

IN MEMORIAM

"The Sacramento Branch regrets the passing of three of its members in recent weeks.

Mrs. Laura Sutter who was a Charter Member of The Sacramento Branch passed away in the latter part of March.

Mr. Ed Fehr passed away on the 28th of April. He had been a member since 1957.

Mrs. Carrie Hughes passed away on the 3rd of May. She had been a member since 1956. She was President of the Branch in 1970.

These long time members will certainly be missed by all who knew them."

created many different varieties. Most of the crossings were poor; only one showed real value. The firm named this one after their foreman, "Sedeni", which is today on the market.

Occasionally we find among our seedlings tuberous begonias, some with prettily marked foliage. This very likely originated from B. tuberosa pearcei. This species was found by Mr. Pearce in Bolivia in 1866, and sent to Veitch, through which firm it was introduced. Begonia socotrana was discovered in 1881 on the island of Socotra, by Dr. J. J. Balfour, who sent it to Kew Garden, England. It blooms from November to February and has pretty pink flowers. Our winter blooming tuberous begonias are a cross of B. socotrana and present fibrous and tuberous begonias.

The Woodriff's

FAIRYLAND BEGONIA GARDEN

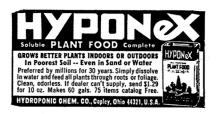
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MINUTES OF THE **BOARD MEETING.** MAY 30, 1974

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. in the South Gate Auditorium, South Gate, California, by the president, Margaret Ziesenhenne; nineteen Board members were present. There were four guests. The flag salute was led by Evelyn Shute while "Aims and Puposes" were read by Jerry Rike.

Mrs. Ziesenhenne made a short statement in that this was the first meeting where she presided as president of the Society. She stated that in the past four weeks she had received many complaints and comments as well as constructive suggestions, and that she was progressing as fast as possible to clear up procedures and that it was her intent to supervise closely what was happening in all departments. She called attention to Section 2 of the "Standing Rules" which

"2. All correspondence involving complaints shall be referred to the head of the department concerned for preparation of a reply to be returned to the president for approval, typing and signature."

She would like to have all department

heads comply with this standing rule. Minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was given, indicating a balance on hand of \$3,675.32. Walter Barnett reported, however, that the printing of THE BE-GONIAN was not listed in the expenses for the month, so the large balance should not give the Board members a false sense of security. Income for the month, however, was \$1,993.55. The printing bill will be large, since the number of pages required for the index was 12 rather than the anticipated 8 pages.

Branch reports were given; Westchester Branch reminded everyone that the American Begonia Society special general membership meeting will be held in con-junction with that branch's Thursday, June 6, meeting at the Westchester Women's Club. Subject of the special meeting is the letters of non-profit status for which a vote is required; at least fifty members must be present to constitute

a quorum.

The membership chairman reported that Jacqueline Garinger, 6333 West 84th Place, Los Angeles, California (90045) is the mailing service employed to mail out THE BEGONIAN for the next three months. All members in good standing will be getting their back issues if they have not already received them. Any complaints about non-receipt of issues should be directed to Norma Rike and she will see to it that copies are sent. A discussion of membership renewal policies ensued. Charles Richardson took the chair while Mrs. Ziesenhenne expressed an opinion that mailing of THE BEGONIAN should not be discontinued immediately in order to allow branches time to process renewals of membership. Mrs. Benell explained how it had been handled in the past. At the end of the discussion, Mrs. plained how it had been handled in the Benell was requested to put the procedure in writing, but it was understood that in the future the system will include the "pink" reminder being inserted into THE BEGONIAN the month before membership expires and the "gold" slip being in-serted the month after membership expiration (skipping the month in between); this latter slip states that it is the last copy that will be sent. This procedure will allow members time to get their dues paid and the branch membership chairmen, in turn, time to send the money to the membership chairman so there would be no loss of continuity in the subscription, as provided for in the By-Laws.

Mrs. Ziesenhenne announced that the present BEGONIAN editor, Marge Kirchoff, will not be available after September and, although Ed Bates will be working on the magazine, a co-editor is needed.

The Awards Director, Walter Pease, reported that nominations had come in for the major awards, but that more would be welcome. The Judges Course report was read noting income of \$26.25 from course sales, expenses being \$14.02. The librarian, Lydia Austin, was not present and it was noted that the Board had not been notified of the fact that her husband had passed away in December; belated condolences and flowers are to be delivered to her by Henry Myers. A motion to this effect was made by Peggy Mc-Grath, seconded by Muriel Perz and passed unanimously. On behalf of the Librarian, an appeal was made for old files of THE BEGONIANS so that they would be available for sale. Consensus of the Board indicated that sales of all publications, including "Begonias in General" should be made through the Librarian and also sale of the ABS pins should be incorporated into that position rather than having so many places to write about individual items. Pin sales handled last month by the President, amounted to \$17.50.

The report of the Research Director was read and it was noted that articles for THE BEGONIAN have been prepared by those receiving grants and will be published as room permits. These are the results of the various students and universities doing research with begonias. The seed fund director gave her report, indicating more seeds are needed. To date the seed fund has netted \$2,002.53 and represents a great deal of work. The slide librarian stated that her department has been active in providing programs for many branches. The Show chairman was not present but Mrs. Ziesenhenne has been in contact with him; the decision has been made that judging will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The public relations director presented a new branch charter for the Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch; there are twenty-three charter members. A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath, seconded by Jerry Rike, that the branch be accepted in membership. The motion was passed

unanimously.

Walter Pease, chairman of the nominating committee, presented his report. According to Article IV, Section 3, of the Constitution, "The incumbent President Elect shall be deemed elected for the two year term as President commencing August, 1974." Accordingly, there was no nomination for president this year. Walter Barnett was nominated for Treasurer; Margaret Ireton was nominated for Secretary and the following were nominated for Vice Presidents: Charles Richardson for first Vice President; Walter Hansen for second Vice President. Two names were submitted for third Vice President: Margaret Lee and Peggy McGrath. Each of the officers will fill two year terms upon election. There were no nominations from the floor.

Finance chairman John Provine moved that the president, secretary and treasurer each be paid a corporate allowance of twenty-five dollars per month. A discussion followed involving social security reporting procedures with the issues remaining unresolved. Margaret Lee moved to table the motion until next month. Muriel Perz seconded the motion and

the motion to table passed.

Walter Barnett brought up the subject of the masthead of THE BEGONIAN and how Wally Wagner's name should be listed. He had obtained an opinion from a "registered parliamentarian" that the listing should read "Wally Wagner Past President, resigned." There was no mo-

tion on the suggestion.

A motion was made by Walter Pease, seconded by Pearl Benell that the ABS participate in the advertising for the Los Angeles International Fern Society by taking a full page ad, four branches of the Society also sharing another page. The motion passed. The Fern Society will also be printing a monthly newsletter and ads will be traded between THE BE-GONIAN and that publication.

Mrs. Ziesenhenne announced that a new committee was being formed and would become a part of the Board. It is a committee composed of past presidents of the Society. She has appointed Margaret Taylor as chairman. Mabel Corwin was requested to prepare a list of past presidents for Mrs. Taylor's use.

A list of complimentary subscriptions was turned over to the president by Peggy McGrath for evaluation and a decision about whether or not each should

be continued.

Rudy Ziesenhenne moved that the Librarian be authorized to purchase as needed the cultural bulletins being issued by the Long Island Branch of the Society. Jerry Rike seconded the motion and it was passed.

The meeting for June was set for June 24, at 7:30 p.m., again in the South Gate

Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted, Margaret Ireton, Secretary



P.O. Box 2224-T

Menlo Park, California 94025

EXHIBITS

(Continued from Page 214)

included in future show schedules, exhibitors will have to become decorators in a way since judges will no doubt look for attractiveness, suitability of the container and the plant. Some judges may feel that loud, colorful containers detract from the plant; others may note the container and not the plant! Problems will arise and judges will have to become selective and judges chairmen will have to be selective in assigning judges to such divisions! The division for decorative containers has already been requested!

We have mentioned exhibitors and their exhibits, now to the exhibiting itself. In most show rules there is provision for the placement chairman and his committee to place the entries in their proper divisions after they have been processed through registration and classification. Occasionally, there is an exhibitor who for various reasons comes late to the show with a great many entries, this means the placement chairman must then move exhibits already located in their proper divisions, turned so they are shown at their best (yes, show committees are considerate of their exhibitors and want their entries to be seen to the best advantage and to have every opportunity to win an award). It doesn't take much imagination to know what must happen to those entries already placed in order to make room for the latecomers. For this reason many show committees require pre-registration of entries. This means exhibitors must decide what they will bring to the show, and pre-register them, allowing the committee time to plan on how much room will be needed for so many entries. This has been tried but to no avail in some communities while being very successful in others. It means that exhibitors must be cooperative, considerate and realize why this is necessary.

As an exhibitor, how would you go about classifying your plants when pre-registering them? With all of the publications available to you there should be no difficulty doing this in the confines of your own home or garden. If there is a problem, this can be noted on the preregistration form and the registration and classification chairmen will be ready to check the entry when it arrives at the show. They review the classifications of all plants when they come to the show, but it helps them to know ahead what and how many exhibits to expect.

Even if pre-registration isn't required, as an exhibitor you may still be helpful by listing your entries on a piece of paper according to the show schedule, divisions and classes in order. The classification chairman will check them easily and the recording chairman will be able to post the entries without having to flip pages back and forth! By the end of the evening, this chairman flipping pages back and forth could very well begin to make errors in posting! Consequently, entries are found to be posted on the wrong sheets the morning of judging. What does this mean? It means clerks must leave judging teams to check the incorrect

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entry and judges may move on thinking they will come back to the entry in question when the corrections have been made — the trend of thought is lost, an exhibit thought to be a blue-ribbon winner may become a second-place winner as the judges study all the other entries a bit more closely. This sounds as though the judges do not scrutinize all exhibits carefully. They do, but it is human to move on to the next thing at hand when there is so much to do. Judges try to be fair at all times, but sometimes it takes that few minutes away from the exhibit in question to warrant a change in thinking.

Taking your plants to the show means transporting them carefully if they are to arrive at the show in good condition! Taking time to arrange them in whatever conveyance you use to transport them to the show will pay off. Be certain they are secure and will not topple. Take extra time with those that are fragile such as tuberous begonias or those that are in glass containers. A good rule to follow is to water your plants thoroughly and give them Vitamin B1, allowing time for them to drain, then load them to take to the show. By giving them a good watering and Vitamin B1 when you bring them back home after the show, you will be protecting your plants and should have no problems with them.

For those exhibitors who have lovely plants but feel they have won enough ribbons and awards, there is no reason why they too should not enter their plants — in non-competitive exhibits — if they want to share the beauty of their plants. Their reward comes in having an exhibit of

their own with their names listed as non-competitive exhibitors.

About the awards, most shows will list those that are available to the exhibitors. These should be studied carefully. They are given as stated and exhibitors may want to work towards winning a particularly coveted award. Only by studying the rules and the list of trophies will he know which he may be eligible to receive.

Remember, select your plants according to the show schedule and rules, ready them for the show, list them according to the show schedule, unload them when you arrive at the show, obtain your exhibitor's entry number from the registration chairman (this will then be on all of your entries). When it is your turn to be processed, show the classification chairman all of your plants to be entered, have them checked and your classifications reviewed (corrected, if necessary), complete the entry tags and place them on your plants, wait with your plants if you wish until the placement chairman or a member of his committee takes them to place them in the appropriate divisions. For those of you who may be putting in table displays, you will be shown where to set up and for those who may be putting in collections or arrangements, you will also be shown where to place them by the placement chairman.

Keep in mind that your entries can win as well as the next fellow's, but should you not win this year, plan to next. We don't expect exhibitors to jump over the tables, but it is nice to witness good sportsmanship. May the best plants win!

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