



November 1974

*The* BEGONIAN



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Dues, address changes, or magazines:

6333 W. 84th Place, Los Angeles, Ca. 90045

Subscription: \$4.00 per year. Foreign (Mexico and Canada) \$4.50. U.S. (Mexico and Canada) 1st Class \$7.00. Overseas Air Mail \$17.00 U.S. (Mexico and Canada) Air Mail \$8.00 Pay in U.S. currency only.

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## THE BEGONIAN STAFF

Co-Editors .....Edgar and Phyllis Bates  
554 Arden Drive, Encinitas, Ca. 92024

Advertising — send copy to Editor; send payments to Treasurer; send inquiries to Business Manager, below.

Circulation Managers .....Arnie and Edie Krupnick  
11506 McDonald, Culver City, Ca. 90230

Contributing Editors  
Elda Haring.....Box 236 Ravenswood Loop Rd.  
Fiat Rock, N.C. 28731

Phyllis Wright.....536 N.E. 98th St.  
Seattle, Wash. 98115

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

Awards Chairman .....Walter Pease  
8101 Vicksburg Ave., L.A., Ca. 90045

Branch Relations Director .....Evelyn Cronin  
88 Ledgeways, Wellesley Hills, Mass. 02181

Business Manager (Acting) ..Charles A. Richardson  
5444 Hartwick St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90041

Historian .....Betty J. Tillotson  
3912 Wildrose Way, Sacramento, Ca. 95826

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

## BEGONIA DREGEI

(Best in Show trophy winner 1974, 95 pts., shown on the cover — Editor's Note)

Two months ago a friend from the Theodosia Burr Shepherd branch was visiting our garden and Lory and I were discussing the potential plants to take to the national show. Frankly we were apprehensive about the number of plants that would be entered because it was so far from the center of Southern California. As I looked at *B. dregei*, fragile in its redwood basket, I wondered if it was worth the effort and risk of breakage to get the plant up to the Convention. We came to the conclusion that every plant in good condition should go to the show, as they might be badly needed to make a success of BEGONIA WORLD 1974.

As it turned out, it was really the right decision!

The comments and questions at the show were many and prompted me to get into print our method of growing. The thing that interested most people was the idea of growing this basically upright plant in a basket. The plant came to us originally from our monthly plant table. Or maybe I should say it came originally from South Africa at an altitude of 4000 ft. through a very circuitous route to our plant table! Our regular growing mix is about 80% very

coarse oak leaf mold, a very difficult thing to find. We add 20% small fir bark, not shredded, and a small amount of barnyard manure. The plant is very susceptible to mildew and needs a lot of air circulation to hold this off. The key to growing this plant is adequate water and letting it dry to exactly the right amount of moisture. This is a tricky decision. Watering too often means mildew, or worse yet, rot. If it dries out just a little bit more, it will drop its leaves.

In 1971 we entered it in the Glendale, Calif. Begonia Show and it took a blue ribbon. This increased our interest in the plant and we noticed that although the stems grew vertical, they were not too strong. I mentioned to Lory that I thought it would make a basket and we agreed to try it. We put some wires on the original redwood tub and hung it in our small tube house with total wind protection. We fertilized about every two weeks with Miracle Grow and encouraged the vertical branches to a downward growth by pruning, weighting, and slacking off on the water as much as we dared.

By National Show time in 1973 it was neither an upright, nor a hanger,  
(Continued on Page 295)

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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*.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Such overwhelming successes were the National American Begonia Society's Annual Convention at Goleta, California on September 6 through 8, and the Eastern Convention at Hempstead, Long Island, New York, on September 13 and 14, that we are left with feelings of joy and gratitude.

It was fun to be in on the planning and execution of the National Convention and then to have more of a spectator's part at Long Island where the huge, two-year-old branch put on an outstanding show, in addition to talks, a tour, two luncheons, and two banquets all of which were most interesting.

With all the meals for over three days channeled through the Convention Committee at Goleta, the work was perhaps more complicated, but the cafeteria-style meals were promptly served and most satisfactory; the Saturday luncheon and evening banquets were excellent.

The important thing at both conventions was the joyous being-together of hundreds of people whose chief interest is the genus *Begonia*.

At both conventions experts gave interesting discussions of all phases of begonia growing and study. These discussions were enthusiastically attended. An unusual facet of the begonia hobby was presented by Rudolf Zieshenne at Goleta when he showed and discussed the many begonia art objects some quite old, he has collected in his 40 years of begonia study. At Hempstead a class for begonia art and crafts was a part of the show schedule and beautiful modern embroideries,

paintings, and china competed for the prizes. The plants and art objects at the Eastern Show were placed on freshly-laundered red table cloths, making a striking picture.

The National Show, with a larger room, included tables for ABS membership, judging school, library, research, seed fund and slide library, as well as branch educational exhibits. A large floor display was entered by Santa Barbara Branch where huge begonia specimens and ferns demonstrated the important use of begonias in a shade garden.

It is estimated that over 5000 people visited the ABS Show at Goleta during the two 7-hour days it was open to the public. Advantage was taken of the plants for sale on the swimming-pool deck by the same 5000, few leaving without having purchased some begonias. Publicity inviting the public to the show in the local Santa Barbara News-Press, the Los Angeles Times, Sunset and Westways magazines, and other newspapers and magazines, as well as radio and television coverage contributed to the great success of this project.

Mr. Zieshenne and I want to express our appreciation for the wonderful hospitality we received at the Eastern Convention and to the ABS Board who made the trip possible. No detail for our comfort was overlooked.

The 1974 National and Eastern Conventions demonstrated the utility of an under-one-roof convention and show. We are encouraged to hope for a combined National ABS and Eastern Convention during the 1976 Bi-Centennial Year at Philadelphia,



Washington, or nearby. With the national ABS's help and the on-the-job enthusiasm of the Pennsylvania branches and members-at-large from that area and with each of the eastern branches taking a separate phase of planning and development it should be our greatest convention.

We have not had an invitation from a branch for the 1975 convention. We would like opinions from branches and members at large as to whether they would like Francisco Torres again, or if they would like to try an institutional or hotel-type meeting and show in the Southern California area. We have not been to San Francisco lately, the generous branch which started the Convention Show Fund after their very successful convention many years ago. We are required to have our annual meeting as close as possible to the Labor Day weekend. It was emphasized in the east that they preferred a convention here in August. Any branches bidding for the convention should keep these preferences in mind.

The 1974 Convention and Show Committees are going to recommend to the ABS Board that responsibility for different activities in connection with the annual convention be given to different branches. The ABS President, of course, is over-all chairman but this officer's responsibility should be confined to the banquets and the annual meeting. The Branch closest to the convention city should be in charge of the housing and space for the show; the Show Chairman might have a separate branch take care of each activity such as the trophies, staging, entering of plants, placing

plants, breaking-up the show, and clean-up, as well as the preview and the judges' luncheon. Plant sales and door prize activities could be handled by different branches. A strong publicity person on the ABS Board should have no difficulty getting country-wide publicity.

We westerners, used to low-humidity, desert-like atmosphere in perhaps nine months of the year, were impressed by the tropical paradise of the eastern outdoors from June through September, when begonias put on a terrific growth and even tuberous begonias hang happily in trees. Our adaptable begonia, happy on a window sill, under lights in a closet or basement, tucked under shrubs, in corners of porches, in small glass bottles, in 20-inch tubs, hanging from trees and guy wires in the natural humidity of the east coast tropical environment; and still happy in protected spots in the dryness of California, Arizona, and Texas. What a challenge for growing, studying, painting, writing about, and enjoying! The warm fellowship of those working together to learn more develops a closeness not experienced by those collecting and studying inanimate things. We have a living, loving, beautiful organization, typical of the plant genus we spend so much time on. Don't let anyone downgrade the *Begonia*; it's an all-year joy!

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## HIGHEST ABS AWARDS GIVEN AT 1974 FLOWER SHOW AND CONVENTION

### EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD

Mrs. Peter (Carrie) Karegeannes of Annandale, Virginia, was awarded the 1974 Eva Kenworthy Gray Award for her contribution of original material which aided members in the study and enjoyment of begonias.

Carrie, a member of the Research Committee and Past Round Robin Director, has spent many years studying and researching begonia material from many parts of the world. She has always been willing to share the results of her efforts with anyone who is interested through articles in *The Begonian*, Round Robins, lectures, personal letters and general conversation. The results of her contributions have been instrumental in creating good will and interest in begonias and our Society at home as well as many other parts of the world. This is what the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award is all about.

Congratulations, Carrie!

### HERBERT P. DYCKMAN AWARD FOR SERVICE

Mrs. Clyde (Hazel) Snodgrass of Ventura, California, was the surprised recipient of the 1974 Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service. Hazel, who is currently celebrating the 42nd anniversary of her 39th birthday, has been a hard-working, conscientious supporter of the American Begonia Society for most of that time. Although her name has not been "up in lights" so to speak, her untiring efforts to work for and support the best interests of the So-

ciety have earned her the right to this fine Award. Her completely unselfish attitude and willingness to continually help others in their search for knowledge and enjoyment in this beautiful world of Begonias have earned her the love and respect of all who know her.

Congratulations, Hazel!

### ALFRED D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL MEDAL

*B. 'Universe'* was the unanimous choice for the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal for 1974. A hybrid of *B. 'Norah Bedson'* x *B. 'Leslie Lynn'*, *B. 'Universe'* was developed by Mrs. Timothy (Thelma) O'Reilly, La Mesa, California, in 1967. Slightly star-shaped leaves of bright green with a brownish-red pattern on top and a dark pattern underneath and bearing white flowers three-quarters of an inch in diameter from March through May, this Begonia is highly deserving of this coveted Award.

Congratulations, Thelma!



### AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

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CARRIE KAREGEANNES  
Eva Kenworthy Gray Awardee





Hazel Snogras  
receiving Herbert P. Dyckman  
Award for Service



Thelma O'Reilly  
receiving Alfred D. Robinson  
Memorial Medal for  
*Begonia* 'Universe'



Thelma O'Reilly congratulating  
Hazel Snodgras on her award.

## ABS CONVENTION 1974 BANQUET

The Speaker at the Banquet was M. Carleton L'Hommedieu, Research Director for the ABS since 1967 and a member of the Long Island Branch. A synopsis of the speech follows.

Mr. L'Hommedieu said that his job has been to establish communications between our members and universities that are doing research with the genus *Begonia*.

Some of the projects in which the research department has been interested in the past six years are: Adventitious Growth; Leaf Disc Propagation; Bloom Chart Project; and the Herbarium Project in which pressed *begonia* specimens were sent to the Herbarium at Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

The research department consists of a director and as many committee members as may be needed. During the past seven years there have been ten ABS members on the committee from all sections of the country. At present there are three members: Mrs. Carrie Karegeannes of Virginia, Dr. Grant McGregor of Canada, and Mr. M. L. MacIntyre of England.

The Research Fund was established in January, 1970. All branches were contacted for donations to the Fund. In the past four years donations have been received from many branches, some individual members and the ABS Board. It was found to be impossible to get anyone to do research on a specific problem unless we had a fund with which to support the project. The future of our research depends upon



M. Carleton L'Hommedieu  
Research Director

continued contributions to the Research Fund.

The problem of adventitious growth has been one of the main projects of interest to the department. Rutgers University was awarded a grant to do research on this phenomenon in 1972. There is enough money in the Fund for a second grant to Rutgers University to carry on the project of leaf-stem propagation of cane *begonias* this year.

This past year a grant was given to Mr. Scott Hoover, a botany student at Colorado College, to study the habitat of *Begonia* in Columbia, South America.

In research the answer to a problem is not easily found. That is what research is all about. It is a case of searching and searching with no guarantee that a positive result will be attained. You cannot put a price tag on research. Although the results of the research may be negative, who is there to say that we should not venture to try to find answers to some of the unanswered questions of the genus *Begonia*.

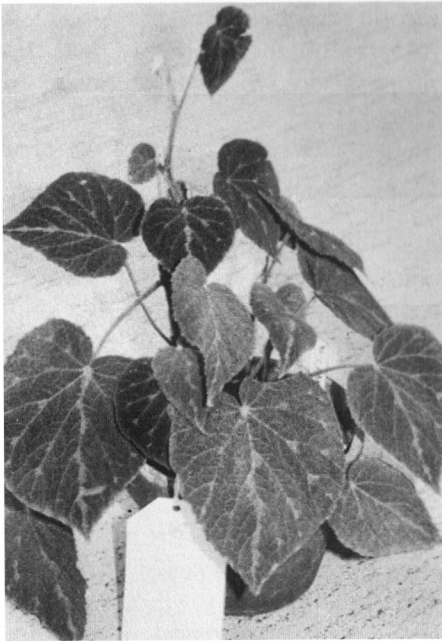
## BEGONIA 'AL CLARK' WILLIAM BOWER TROPHY WINNER

*Begonia* 'Al Clark' introduced by Rudolf Ziesenhenné, Santa Barbara nurseryman, during the year 1973-1974, won the new William Bower Award for the best new hybrid introduction by a commercial nurseryman at the American Begonia Society 1974 Annual Show at Goleta, Calif., in September.

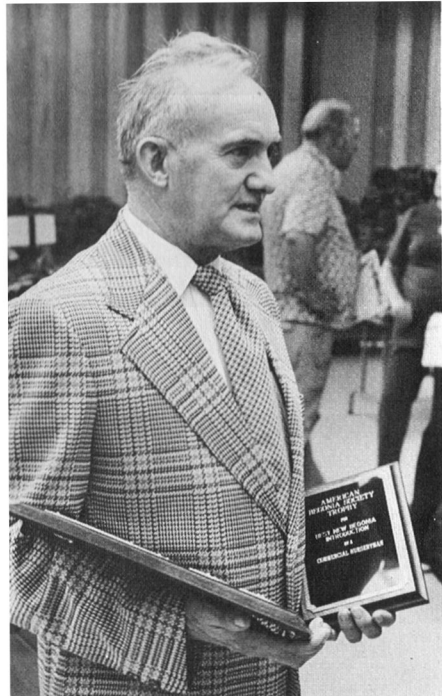
The seed parent of *B.* 'Al Clark' is a plant, probably a species, not yet officially described nor released by Mr. Ziesenhenné. He received it from the late Thomas MacDougall among his last shipment of collections in Mexico. It bears MacDougall's collection number C.317, and is an upright plant with thin woody stems which are covered with very short white hairs as are the

lettuce-green leaves. It is similar to the plant extensively grown as *B. imperialis smaragdina*. The pollen parent is *B. imperialis brunnis*, the type for *B. imperialis*, a creeping plant with dark green leaves with brown areas between the nerves.

*B.* 'Al Clark' is, like the mother plant, a lovely, erect-growing plant, but the green leaves have a silver pattern along the nerves. The flowers are white. The general appearance of the plant is that of a little, bushy-type *B. imperialis*, eye-catching to begonia fanciers.



*Begonia* 'Al Clark'



Rudolf Ziesenhenné  
Photo by Stephen Wells



## THE V. I. B.'s

By Thelma O'Reilly

The V. I. B.'s are the *VERY IMPORTANT BEGONIAS*, the Divisional Trophy Winners at the Annual Show of the American Begonia Society. The competition was especially keen this year and the judges' decisions involved detailed point scoring in most of the Divisions.

With great joy for these beautiful winners and their proud exhibitors, I shall conduct a tour of BEGONIA WORLD 1974.

*Division A* winner of the Edna Korts Perpetual Trophy For Best Cane Begonia is *B. 'Pink Jade'*, an Irene Nuss hybrid entered by Gene and Nettie Daniels of Camarillo. *B. 'Pink Jade'* stands over two feet high with greenish black leaves highlighted by light green veins. It is adorned with heavy clusters of delicate pink flowers which are emphasized by large green ovaries.

*Division B* winner of the Helen Bailey Memorial Perpetual Trophy for Best Shrub-like Begonia is *B. listida* entered by Barbara Phillip of Santa Barbara. Grass green streaks washing from the center vein into the large intensely colored dark green velvety leaves give the impression a watercolorist has been at work. This beautiful species has full upright growth with eighteen inch branches cascading over the sides and front of the container.

*Division C* winner of the ABS Best Thick Stemmed Begonia Trophy is *B. 'Rudy'* entered by Ernest and Metta Thomsen of Santa Barbara. This two-stemmed three-foot-high handsome specimen is a long-

time favorite.

*Division E* winner of the John R. Williams Trophy for Best Rhizomatous Begonia is *B. 'Cathedral'* entered by Ernest and Metta Thomsen. This mutant of *B. 'Erythrophylla'*, with its distinctive green ruffled leaves and red windows, is always an "eye-catcher. Someday the interesting story of its introduction into this country must be written.

*Division F* winner of the Gonda Hartwell Challenge Trophy for Best Rex Begonia is *B. 'Cherokee'* entered by Mr. and Mrs. John Ekstrand of Yorba Linda — an attractive plant with large leaves in rich shades of red and green highlighted with silver bands.

*Division G* winner of the ABS Best Semi-Tuberous or Tuberous Species Trophy is *B. dregei* entered by Walt and Lory Hansen of Ventura. This lovely 2½ x 3½ feet specimen arrests the attention of every viewer. It is incomprehensible that such a large specimen of mildew-prone *B. dregei* could be so culturally perfect. A hanging compact mound of delicate beauty with a profusion of small light green leaves and large angelic white flowers gives a feeling of churches, altars and brides. Walt says it was an accident that developed this winner. It just would not grow erect so he decided to see what would happen if he put it in a basket and let it have its way. Catering to its whims paid off. It goes home with the A. B. S. Perpetual Award for Best Begonia in Show. (See cover photo)

*Division H* winner of the Palos Verdes Begonia Farm Challenge Trophy for Best Tuberos Begonia is a *B. Tuberos Multiflora* specimen entered by Gene and Nettie Daniels. A colorful plant with small rich green foliage set off by lovely, peachy-orange and yellow flowers. Gene and Nettie also captured this trophy in 1970 and 1973.

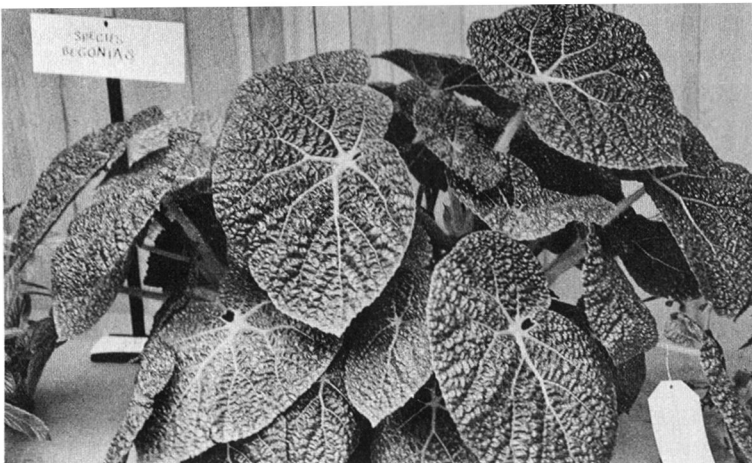
*Division I* winner of the Inglewood Branch Memorial Perpetual Trophy for Best Species Begonia is an unidentified Brazilian species entered by Mr. and Mrs. John Ekstrand. What a distinct "show stopper"! A magnificent giant sized specimen with large, oblique-ovate quilted fresh green leaves and pale-green raised veins. The entire leaf surface and stem are covered with a fine web-like mesh of sand colored hairs. The leaf appears to be peltate and at first glance it looks like a hungry snail ate a one inch morsel at the leaf and stem juncture. Closer examination reveals that the leaf is not peltate but overlaps at the sinus area in a manner that creates what appears to be a hole in the leaf.

*Division J* winner of San Gabriel Valley Perpetual Trophy for Best Begonia Grown in a Contained Atmosphere is *B. rajab* entered by Evelyn Stewart of Ventura. An exotic Malayan species, displayed in a glass bubble, has five inch bullate leaves with yellow-green veins on a reddish-brown background.

*Division L* winner of Ferd Neels Memorial Perpetual Trophy for Best Wall Pocket Begonia is *B. 'Floribunda Rosea'* entered by J. O. Gilden of Ventura. A four feet wide specimen of this old-fashioned looking charmer is delightful.

*Division L* winner for the William L. Taylor Perpetual Trophy for Best Hanging Container Begonia (Basket) is *B. 'Lulandii'* entered by Mr. and Mrs. John Ekstrand. A graceful spreading semi-tuberos plant of spreading habit and masses of large rich pink flowers.

*Division NN* winner of ABS Perpetual Trophy for Best New Introduction entered by a Commercial Nurseryman in Memory of William Bower is *B. 'Al Clark'* entered by Rudolf Ziesenhenné of Santa Bar-



Unidentified  
Brazil  
species

Winner  
Division I  
above

Photo by  
Stephen  
Wells

bara. This is a new Division with an exciting winner created by crossing *B. imperialis brunnis* to a lovely species which will be released by Rudy after it is described. (Ed. Note: See article elsewhere in this issue). The cordate three to five inch finely pustulated leaves are a glowing light emerald green with an irregular silver pattern extending along, and washing away from, the veins. The slender vining stem of upright habit is covered with soft white hairs. *B.* 'Al Clark', with its feeling of lush, verdant, woody nooks, is bound to become a "collector's delight."

*Division O* winner of Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch Perpetual Award for Best Collection of Five Begonias, each from a different class is *B.* 'Silver Jewel', *B.* 'Carlsbad', *B.* 'Leslie Lynn', *B.* 'Neptune' and *B.* 'Norah Bedson' entered by Avril Butler of Ventura.

*Division P* winner of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch Perpetual Trophy for Best Begonia Grown By A Novice Grower is *B.* 'Emerald Jewel' entered by Hattie Lee Keller of Oxnard. A Susie Zugg hybrid that is always admired for its emerald green and silver pustulated leaves.

*Division R* winner of ABS Best Educational Begonia Display Trophy is "You, Too, Can Become A Begonia Judge" entered by Ruth Pease. The display, pertaining to the genus *Begonia*, is carefully prepared and well executed, showing examples of all the materials involved in becoming a Begonia Judge. One plant each of *B.* 'Sophie Cecile', *B.* 'Waltana' and *B.* 'Bunchii' are used to illustrate judging techniques.

*Division S* winner of ABS Best Begonia Photograph Trophy is *B.* 'Miyo Berger', entered by Gordon Lepisto, St. Paul, Minnesota. A fine photograph of this beautiful, scarce, Belva Kusler hybrid.

*Division T* winner of ABS Best Planter Trophy is an artistic arrangement of other shade plants in a medium sized plastic bubble entered by Ernest & Metta Thomsen of Santa Barbara. A woodland scene is depicted in tones of green and brown using weathered wood, mosses, miniature ferns and a blooming miniature sinningia.

*Division V* winner of the Arthur Strandburg Perpetual Trophy for Best Fern is an unidentified *Aglaiomorpha* entered by Gene and Nettie Daniels. This handsome specimen is five feet wide.

*Division W* winner of ABS Best Shade Plant Trophy (other than *Begonia*) is *Amorphophallus (Hydrosme) rivieri* entered by Mr. & Mrs. John Ekstrand. This curious ornamental tree-like bulbous plant is about six feet tall. The nearly black two-inch thick stems, marbled with rose-beige, support twenty four inch palm-like branches bearing numerous elliptic segments. Another "eye-catcher."

*Division X* winner of ABS Arrangement or Corsage Trophy is an arrangement of begonias and other shade plant material entered by Dagmar Lindberg of Ventura. Here is a delightful arrangement in a reddish brown basket emphasized with *B.* 'Richmondensis' flowers and foliage and blooms of Reiger's *B.* 'Schwabenland Orange'.



# REMINISCENCES OF THE WEEKEND THAT WAS!

By a Knowledgeable Anonymous

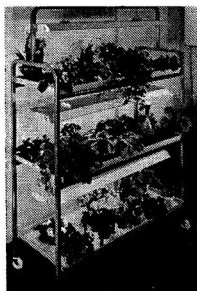
This is a record of memories. And those of you who missed BEGONIA WORLD 1974 in Santa Barbara, Calif. will find it a bit hard to believe. We promised a real convention and this time we had one, to say the least! Francisco Torres Convention Center was the place, Sept. 6-8 was the date, and ABS members from all over the world were the cast of characters along with about 5000 Southern California visitors to the Flower Show. But this is a story of memories so let's start with the memorable plant sale of Friday evening, set for members only with all plants reduced in price for that evening only. Who can forget the look on Show Chairman Gene Daniels' face when he realized that his outdoor plant sales area did not have adequate illumination for a night sale. Or even more, the one hour mob scene of members only, jammed into the tiny emergency plant sale area in the lobby and purchasing over \$900.00 worth of begonias.

Enough of the problems! The memory of the largest plant sale in the history of the ABS is the one

that Dick Stewart, the hard working plant sales chairman will cherish. With the help of Jim Trapp and Velma Montgomery on the cash registers, and Walt Hansen, Gerry Rike, and Maurice Warwick in the plant auction, and a myriad of other workers from ABS branches all over the United States and one branch in Japan, a total of better than \$7,500.00 gross sales was made in their begonia supermarket, more than doubling all previous gross receipts!

Total profits to the ABS will be made public knowledge at the October National Board meeting and a copy of the financial report will be mailed to anyone supplying a self addressed legal size envelope with 20¢ postage applied and enclosing 25¢ to cover the printing costs.

But back to memories. Will Edie and Arnie Krupnick remember the missing jewelry which later turned up in the back of a remote drawer of their room, or will it be the results of their "Opportunity tickets" mailed to every member of the society? For you who are curious, their 3000 plus



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BEGONIA WORLD 1974

envelopes mailed to each of you, returned better than \$1,500.00 in donations to the society. Of the 13 major prizes, six went out of the state to loyal ABS members. The happy winners of the cash awards, all the results of the Krupnicks mail order request, were: \$100, Mr. Frank Evans, Hatboro, Pa.; \$50, Mr. Seymour Becker, Brooklyn, N.Y.; \$25, Mrs. M. L. Fieldman, Chapel Hill North Carolina.

The Theodosia Burr Shepherd branch will long remember the great show itself hosted by their enthusiastic group. Especially fond memor-

ies will come in thinking of the great help given their own Nettie Daniels by Glendale members Katherine Alberti and Marguerite Horn. On with the warm remembrances; Conventioneers will never forget Walt & Lory Hansen at the Preview when they learned of their best-in-show award for *Begonia dregei*, grown as a hanging basket and drenched in blooms—perfection in every respect. You can see it on the cover of this issue of *The Begonian*. An article by these talented growers appears elsewhere in this magazine. Everyone will remember Louise Bower when she learned that the new A.B.S. trophy for the best new introduction by a commercial grower was won by her good friend Rudy Ziesenhenné for *B. 'Al Clark'*. Louise had donated this trophy in memory of her late husband, William M. Bower.

Out of towners and a few in-towners had a real treat with the round robin exhibit and coffee conducted by Debi Miller. There they finally got to meet some of their long time friends of the robin flights.

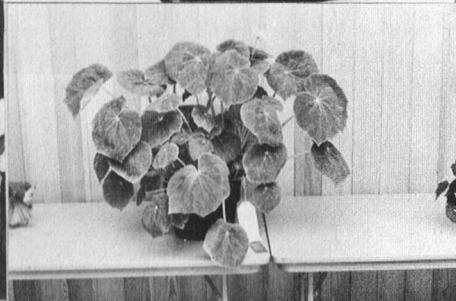
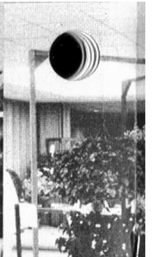
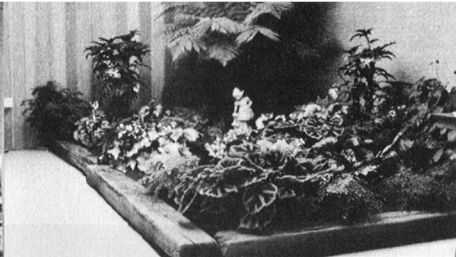
Readers of *The Begonian* were treated to a well known easterner, our famous author Elda Haring, who made a surprise appearance  
(Continued on Page 286)

## THE SPECIES OF THE BEGONIACEAE

Fred A. Barkley & Jack Golding

A compendium of the published names of the species, varieties, synonymy of the *Begoniaceae*, including place and date of publication, original habitat, and section of the genus.

Purchase from your American Begonia Society Branch for \$5.00, or send \$5.50 (postage prepaid) to Jack Golding, 47 Clinton Ave., Kearny, N.J. 07032.



Walt and Lori Hansen,  
Sweepstakes winners

Walter and Elda Haring,  
Muriel and Al Perz

Wally and Twyla Wagner

Burnell Yarrick giving  
seminar.

Waiting for  
dinner.

Best garden display,  
B. Phillip, Santa Barbara

B. 'Otto Alfred' grown by  
Walt Hansen

Fern display

Elda Haring, Thelma O'Reilly,  
Ruth Pease, Tim O'Reilly

Hanging F

B. macDoz  
by John

Hattie L  
Best bego  
novice - B.





Plant Display  
*ugalli*, grown  
 Ekstrand.

Table display of rhizomatous begonias.

Rudy Ziesenhenné chats with  
 Joy Logee Martin.

General view of flower show.

Mrs. Hérbert P. Dyckman presents  
 mementos to the Society.

Louise Bowers with Educational display.

Thelma O'Reilly giving seminar.

Dee Keller -  
 Begonia grown by  
 'Silver Jewel'

Debi Miller with  
 Round Robin Display

Hikoich Arakawa chats  
 with Margaret Lee.

Walter Pease,  
 Awards Chairman

## REMINISCENCES

(Continued from Page 283)

and swept the hearts of the National Convention. Another popular easterner was Mrs. Joy Logee Martin, a name we in the West had heard for years and were finally to get to meet.

Probably the most unusual sight at the affair was Ruth Pease, proud with her trophy for best educational booth which explained about the judging of begonias, hobbling about with what just had to be a broken leg, but turned out to be a very nasty ingrown toenail! This gal who for years has hustled about the begonia shows with a vigor that has to be seen was slowed down a bit on her legs but not in her heart!

Another great sight was East meets West, and we're not talking about California and New York this time. Members Hikoich Arakawa of Osaka, Japan, and Walter Pease of Westchester, United States, worked as a team to roll up the heavy cable that held up the huge shade cloth for the plant sales area. But the best part of Mr. Arakawa's visit came during his seminar to a standing room only audience on the subject of "Begonias in Japan." Our Show Chairman, Gene Daniels, had been getting a few laughs during this seminar as he had been assisting his good friend Hikoich Arakawa in the talk. When Mr. Arakawa was asked by one of the audience about a pic-

ture he had just projected showing a rather strange looking artificial creature in a garden, he answered rather casually: "It must be a Gene Daniels!" Gene figures he and Mr. Arakawa are now even!

Rudy Ziesenhenné organized the dozen seminars and introduced each one. For those of you who were unlucky enough not to be able to attend, tapes were made of all seminars and *The Begonian* hopes to have many of them in article form in the near future.

But let's return to memories. There was the great banquet which seemed to be mostly Walter Pease kissing award winners Hazel Snodgrass and Thelma O'Reilly. And without even



Hikoich Arakawa  
Japan Begonia Society

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considering the differences in their respective ages, I'm not sure which kiss was the most vigorous! It is really a shame that Carrie Karegeannes, winner of the top ABS award, the Eva Kenworthy Grey medal, was not present to sample Walter's charm! Also at the banquet we got a chance to learn about our own research program from director Carl L'Hommedieu.

Margaret Zieshenne, A.B.S. President, recovering from a bout with a hoarse throat still managed to charm the nearly 200 members at this event and the annual meeting which probably had the largest attendance of any annual meeting in our history.

The memories don't stop here. The Santa Barbara branch under the direction of President Jim Dodge hosted the convention. And the convention did not just mean a lot of seminars, and a banquet. It meant organizing the housing and Ethel Arnold and Bob McLaughlin put in full time on this difficult chore.

And speaking of housing, some rumors got started prior to the convention that we would be housed in an old army barracks with no locks

on the bedroom doors. The eight story modern apartment hotel of Francisco Torres sure didn't fit that description. There was one problem though, The Torres had been a dormitory for college students at one time, and there were no locks on the bathroom doors! One unnamed couple from Ventura turned out the lights in their room so they could then see if light was shining under the bathroom door. This was their way of telling if the bathroom was empty!

But enough of the humor and back to the memories, it took two buses and a few cars on two different days to show both the city and the gardens of Santa Barbara to our overflow crowd of ABS members. The tours were organized by the Santa Barbara Branch and they worked out beautifully.

There was the lovely garden display on the show floor, put in by Barbara Philip using plants entirely from her own garden.

The memories of the workers of the show are enhanced mostly by the cooperation shown by branches from Northern California, from the San Diego area, from Glendale and of course from Santa Barbara and Ventura in donating large amounts of plants for the plant sale, and in some cases even purchasing some of the left over plants for a branch plant sale.

There were also donations of plants and cash from isolated members and branches all over the United States. These are the warm memories of BEGONIA WORLD 1974, this was the "Weekend that Was!"

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## NINTH ANNUAL EASTERN BEGONIA CONVENTION AND SHOW

The 9th annual Eastern Begonia Convention was held on September 12-14, at the Holiday Inn, Hempstead, New York, with the Long Island Branch of the American Begonia Society as the host. There were members present from throughout the East; Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington D.C., and South Carolina, as well as some from as far as Germany and California.

The Convention Chairman, Millie Thompson, worked hard to organize the Convention and she was well rewarded with interesting talks and a smashing show.

The Friday morning lectures consisted of an emphasis on growing. There was a greenhouse workshop by a Lord & Burnham representative, followed by Jack Golding of Kearney, New Jersey, who gave a complete explanation and demonstration of what is involved in indoor light gardening. Growing Begonias from Seed followed with a slide program presented by Isabel Cutler of the Long Island Branch, who flew in from Germany for the Convention. She covered all the mechanics involved in the successful growing of begonia seed, including the early critical stages of transplanting. Zelma Clark of Armonk, New York, followed with a demonstration of techniques and tips for seeds for the advanced growers.

Walter Barnett, the ABS treasurer, spoke after luncheon on some of the new Begonia hybrids that have been

introduced by our active western hybridizers.

Friday afternoon's talks were devoted to terrariums and rare and unusual begonias. Wendy Stuart of the L. I. Branch, spoke on how to plant and arrange a terrarium using various different begonias to illustrate and demonstrate as she planted a large fish tank. Next was Corliss Engle, Buxton Branch, discussing what begonias to use in a terrarium. Begonias, with their infinite variety in leaf size, texture and color afford wonderful material to be incorporated into a terrarium. Orpha Fox and Mike Kartuz, both of the Buxton Branch, spoke next on rare and unusual begonias. Many of the odd and lovely begonias from Mike's commercial display were used to illustrate the talk.

At Friday evening's dinner we were privileged to hear Mr. Begonia himself, Rudy Ziesenhenné, who spoke on *Begonia* species and gave us a preview of some of the fascinating new begonias to expect in the future.

Saturday morning's talks were devoted less to growing and more to showing begonias. Evelyn Cronin, Buxton Branch, discussed indoor decoration with begonias, telling us how they can be used throughout one's home. Bob Horvath and Frank Kerin, both of the newest Branch, the Edna Stewart Branch in Pittsburgh, spoke next on the use of unique and unusual containers, pointing out that one man's junk can be another's treasure, especially for

begonias. Jim Wyrzten, Long Island Branch, followed with a discussion of outdoor landscaping with begonias. Jim was well versed in his subject for his home in Floral Park, N.Y., is a tropical paradise with many specimen begonias and gesneriads incorporated into the outdoor landscape in summer. Finally Ed Thompson, Long Island Branch, spoke on hanging containers. The Thompson's are especially fond of Begonias in Baskets and their Southampton grounds are impressive with many large begonias shown to their advantage in baskets.

After Carlton L'Hommedieu, Research Director of the ABS, spoke some encouraging words on the ABS research fund, it was off to the magnificent Old Westbury Gardens, former estate of the Phipps.

For those who didn't go to the Old Westbury Gardens it was a great opportunity to buy some plants from the multitude offered at the plant sales. Virtually any type of begonia was offered for sale, including Mike Kartuz' exciting new *B. 'Buttercup'* a cross between *B. prismatocarpa* and *B. ficicola*—terrarium plants and the popular new Reigers.

The Saturday evening banquet was highlighted by two things. Lis Schaefer held the drawing for the 96 plants donated for the plant raffles; many were large, beautiful specimens. After dinner Dr. William Donnelly showed "Nature in Motion" a time-lapse photography film of plants. Gesneriads were featured since they have more action than the begonias. It was a fascinating film to finish a wonderful convention.

Between the lectures and renewing friendships, everyone went to see the magnificent Begonia Show several times. Before the Convention the question was how to fill such an enormous room with begonias; by late Thursday night we were wondering where we could put them all.

The Long Island Branch tried an experiment in the Show Schedule in that there were different levels of competition. The greatest number of entries poured into the amateur grower class. The novice grower class was composed of amateurs who had never won a blue ribbon at a specialized begonia show. The experienced amateur grower consisted of those who had won over 35 blue

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ribbons or 2 sweepstakes trophies in specialized begonia shows. Finally there was the professional or commercial grower class.

There were 462 entries brought in to the Show by 60 growers with the rhizomatous division and the experienced amateur division the two most hotly contested with over 70 entries each. There were relatively few duplicates in entries so one can see there was an enormous array of begonias on display, from tiny *B. bowerae* to towering *B. 'Sophie Cecile'*. Jack Golding and Ed and Millie Thompson put on a display of many unusual begonias rarely seen in shows in the experienced amateur division and we are especially thankful to them for bringing so many different begonias.

The level of competition was quite high and it was a particularly diffi-

cult Show to judge with such a multitude of well-groomed plants.

In addition to the competitive show Mike Kartuz and Jim Wyrzten both had commercial displays of many lovely specimen plants. Also, the Long Island Branch had an educational exhibit showing which countries so many of the *Begonia* species come from.

Cleo Kohm of the Long Island Branch won Best-In-Show for a perfect *B. 'Silver Jewel'*. She received a perfect point score of 100 points for a flawless plant. Marie Donnelly won the Sweepstakes with 17 Blue ribbons.

A list of major trophy winners follows. The Show amply demonstrated the fact that Millie Thompson, Convention Chairman, as well as many others, believe Showing is sharing.

#### A.B.S. CULTURAL AWARDS

|                               |                            |            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Cane-like: Marie Donnelly     | <i>B. 'Anna Christine'</i> | 90 points  |
| Shrub-like: Marie Donnelly    | <i>B. 'Preussen'</i>       | 93 points  |
| Semperflorens: Marie Donnelly | <i>B. schmidtana</i>       | 98 points  |
| Rhizomatous: Cleo Kohm        | <i>B. 'Silver Jewel'</i>   | 100 points |
| Rex Cultorum: Cleo Kohm       | <i>B. 'Shorty'</i>         | 95 points  |
| Tuberous: Zelma Clark         | <i>B. 'Aphrodite Rose'</i> | 96 points  |

#### TROPHY DONATIONS FOR THE NINTH EASTERN BEGONIA CONVENTION

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| American Begonia Society                   | Mrs. Evelyn Cronin            |
| Buxton Branch                              | Dr. and Mrs. William Donnelly |
| Connecticut Branch                         | Mr. and Mrs. Jack Golding     |
| Edna Stewart Branch                        | Mr. and Mrs. Mark Golding     |
| Knickerbocker Branch                       | Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hoffman   |
| Long Island Branch                         | Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schaefer |
| William Penn Branch                        | Mrs. Edna Mae Stewart         |
| Murray Morrison Memorial                   | Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thompson  |
| trophy donated by the Knickerbocker Branch |                               |

TROPHY WINNERS: 9th Eastern Begonia Convention  
BEST OF DIVISION TROPHIES

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| A. Cane-like; Marie Donnelly;                              | B. 'Anna Christine'         |
| B. Shrub-like; Marie Donnelly;                             | B. 'Preussen'               |
| C. Thick-stemmed; none given                               |                             |
| D. Semperflorens; Marie Donnelly;                          | B. <i>schmidtiana</i>       |
| E. Rhizomatous; Cleo Kohm;                                 | B. 'Silver Jewel'           |
| F. Rex Cultorum; Cleo Kohm;                                | B. 'Shorty'                 |
| G. Tuberous; Zelma Clark;                                  | B. 'Aphrodite Rose'         |
| H. Hanging Containers; Alice Schwartz;                     | B. 'Orange Rubra'           |
| I. Contained Atmosphere;<br>(horticulturally); Iris Cohen; | B. <i>subnummularifolia</i> |
| J. Seedlings; Zelma Clark;                                 | tuberous seedling           |
| K. Contained Atmosphere<br>(artistically); Marie Donnelly; | mixed planting              |
| L. Novel Methods of Growth;<br>Ed & Millie Thompson;       | B. 'Preussen' (standard)    |
| M. Artistic Arrangements;<br>Christine Schaefer;           | B. 'Indian Summer'          |
| N. Arts & Crafts; Lis Schaefer;                            | needlepoint                 |
| O. Photography; Gordon Lepisto;                            | B. <i>quadrialata</i>       |
| P. Novice Growers; Gertrude Berglund                       | B. 'Fiesta'                 |
| Q. Experienced Amateur Growers;<br>The Thompsons;          | B. 'Weltonensis'            |
| R. Commercial/Professional;<br>Edna Mae Stewart;           | B. Rex Cultorum             |
| S. New Begonia Introductions;<br>The Thompsons;            | B. 'Fuzz Buzz'              |

Best of Commercial & Professional Growers: Edna Mae Stewart for *B. Rex Cultorum*

Best of Novice Growers

A.B.S. Perpetual trophy for Best of Novice Growers: Gertrude Berglund for *B. 'Fiesta'*

Best of Artistic: Marie Donnelly for a mixed planting in a terrarium

Sweepstakes:

A.B.S. Perpetual trophy for Sweepstakes: Marie Donnelly, 17 blue ribbons

Best in Show:

A.B.S. Perptual trophy for Best in Show: Cleo Kohm for *B. 'Silver Jewel'*

A.B.S. Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch Perpetual Award for Best Semperflorens: Jack Golding for *B. 'Charm'*

Murray Morrison Memorial Trophy for Best Kusler Hybrid: Marie Donnelly for *B. 'Anna Christine'*

# SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH SHOW

By Chuck Anderson

Hundreds of begonias attracted hundreds of visitors as the Santa Clara Valley Branch of the ABS conducted its third annual show and plant sale Sept. 14-15 at Mayfield Mall shopping center in Mountain View, Calif.

Vice President Peggy Lynn's *B. masoniana* won the Tom Oliver trophy for best of show in the amateur division while the Liana Hughes memorial trophy for best of show in the novice division went to Dr. Marguerite DeCola's *B. 'Esther Albertine.'*

Trophy winners included President Bee Keeseey, who won the Peggy Lynn trophy for best rhizomatous in the amateur division with her *B. 'Lovely Lady'*; Elisabeth Sayers, who won the Lillian and George Lee trophy for best semperflorens in the amateur division with her *B. 'Charm'*; and Joe McMahon, who won the Stephanie Louise Anderson trophy for best tuberhybrida in the novice division with his pink picotee upright.

Karen Bartholomew won the Alice and Isadore Gold trophy for best rex in the novice division with *B. 'Kitty.'* She also won the companion Mayfield Mall trophies for best tuberhybrida in the amateur and novice divisions for a white trailer and a white ruffled upright, respec-

Two trophies were awarded in novice tuberhybrida competition, so judges Carol and Red Spediacci and George McQueen picked two blue-ribbon plants.

Carol and Red are San Francisco Branch members, while George is a past Santa Clara Valley Branch member who moved away earlier this year, but returned to be a judge.

Show plants were lined up on long rows of tables and — as last year — many visitors were stunned by the variety and beauty of the genus *Begonia*. Many inquired about growing begonias at home. Some expressed interest in attending branch meetings and joining the society. All were referred to the sale table where member-salespersons were busy finding a small version of "that plant over there."

Plants on the sale table were bought up nearly by the armload.

---

So many interesting items and photographs were received for this issue that we were unable to fit it all in. Consequently, we shall include in the next issue additional articles on the shows.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Covey who frequently contributed articles to **The Begonian**.

The Editors

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Critter Center Pet Shop, Goleta.  
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## IN MEMORIAM

Tampa Bay Branch mourns the passing of Lois Lensky Covey on September 11th. A charter member of the Branch, Lois was an enthusiastic grower of begonias and intensely interested in the aims of ABS. Her enthusiastic and interesting letters to her many friends in the Round Robins will be greatly missed. Mrs. Covey was a well known writer and illustrator of children's books and was internationally known. Her passing is a great loss to the American Begonia Society.

## CALENDAR

Nov. 22 — Redondo Area Branch 7:30 P.M. at Dana School, 135th St. and Aviation Blvd. Harvest Table Auction with home made articles, baked goodies and plants. Everyone invited to come play "Whoopee"!

November 13 — 7:30 P.M., Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, New York. Plant, literature and supply sales precede the meeting which begins at 8:00. The Begonia of the Month will be B. "Leo C. Shippy" by Annette Boree. The main topic of discussion will be "Terrariums in Unique Containers" by Anita Baldwin. Refreshments & raffles follow the meeting.

December 11 — 7:30 P.M., Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, New York. Holiday Boutique Shop by Anita Baldwin. The Begonia of the Month will be B. "Happy New Year" by Ed Hoffman. The Miss (or Mister) Begonia of 1975 contest will be held to select the most popular begonia of the Long Island Branch. Refreshments and Social Hour follow.

## CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

These pamphlets are a great help to the Begonia Grower:

- 'Begonias from Seed —  
Sowing and Growing' \$ .25  
'Begonias in General —  
Basic Culture' .50

### Nv 1—*B. aridicaulis*

(Mexico) Name means 'dry-stemmed'. Terrarium gem. A delightful imp tries to grow up, but weak stems bend down, keeping total height under 6 inches. Little, light green, fingernail sized leaves flutter sharp points under unusual two-petaled white flowers like winter snow-drops per pkt. \$1.00

### Nv 2—*B. crestabruchi* (*B. manicata crispa* X *B. sunderbruchi*)

Rhizomatous glossy, yellow-green leaves heavily curled and twisted on edge; blotched with cream. Pink flowers. per pkt. \$1.00

### Nv 3—*B. echinosepala*

(Brazil.) Small, *B. metallica*-like begonia with very narrow, serrated leaves drooping from arched branches. Male flowers are white bearded. per pkt. \$ .50

### Nv 4—*B. 'Lana'*

Cane type, floriferous. Leaf has silver markings, which usually turns to purple overcast in the summer. per pkt. \$ .50

### Nv 5—*B. manicata*

(Mexico.) Rhizomatous, with upright, but sturdy rhizome; nearly round, glossy green leaves. Collar of stiff red bristles at top of stem under leaf. Plantlets pop up on rhizome near soil and can carefully be removed and planted.

per pkt. \$ .50

### Nv 6—*B. obscura*

I'm not too certain on this description. Not much information can be found. Shrub-like, small bare-leafed, similar to *B. echinosepala*. Ridged stems, oblong finely serrated leaves, abruptly acuminate. Small white flowers, brown, papery stipules.

per pkt. \$1.00

### Nv 7—*B. purpusii*

(Mexico.) Found growing on a wet rocky bank. Shrubby, unbranched climber; likes to attach to tree trunks, totem pole, etc.

per pkt. \$1.00

### Nv 8—*B. seychellensis*

Bushy, succulent plant, sometimes reaching a height of 3 to 4 ft. It is glabrous (smooth, not hairy) with thick, branching stems. Leaf is long petioled and is equally roundish-elliptic, finely toothed margins. It is green on both sides, and sometimes red underneath. Flowers are white. Native habitat is cool, moist mountains. per pkt. \$1.00

(Continued on Next Page)



Lydia Austin, Librarian  
Pearl Bennel, Seed Fund Chairman



## BEGONIA DREGEI

(Continued from Page 271)  
but it was drooping slightly. Naturally, the more it drooped, the more we were encouraged. Now we were positive we were right in our attempt to make a basket of *b. dregei*. It took us another year to get the plant we wanted, although even in early August of 1974 when it was covered with bloom and draped like a basket should, we never dreamed it might come out on top at the National Show.

## SEED FUND

(Continued from Page 294)

For the adventurous grower, the next two are a mixture of seeds, both of the growers are noted for their wide variety of interesting plants. You can be certain of getting varieties you have wanted in your collections as well as something new.

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**CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD MEETINGS OF THE  
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY  
September 6, 1974**

The Board of Directors of the ABS was called to order by President Margaret Ziesenhenné at 7:30 p.m. at Francisco Torres, Goleta. Aims and purposes were read by Joy Logee Martin of Danielson, Ct. There was a quorum of board members present, with 49 members of the ABS attending.

Proposed constitution and by-laws changes were presented by VP Charles Richardson and discussed. Full texts appear in the minutes of the Annual Meeting.

Minutes of the August 26 meeting were read and approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Margaret Ireton, Secretary

**CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
MEMBERS OF THE  
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**

The annual meeting of the members of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 1:00 p.m., September 7, 1974, in Torres Room of Francisco Torres, Goleta, following a luncheon. The quorum of 50 was met, with more than 90 members being in attendance. Vice President Walter Hansen led the pledge of allegiance to the flag; Dr. William Ireton read the Aims and Purposes of the Society.

Wallace Wagner, president of ABS for seven months in the 1973-74 term, presented reflections on his presidency, mentioning the many talents among ABS members while few were willing to use them on behalf of ABS. President Ziesenhenné presented the ABS gift to Mr. Wagner, thanking him for his services for many years on behalf of ABS.

President Ziesenhenné acknowledged the fine work of Jack Golding, first vice president, who could not be present, but who was retiring this term. She called attention to Article VII, Section 2, of the By-Laws which encourages nominations from other parts of the country for elected offices, remarking that Mr. Golding's contributions had given the Society a broader, vital point of view not gained when all officers are concentrated in the Southern California area.

Annual reports were given by the other vice presidents, Charles Richardson and Walter Hansen.

Treasurer Walter Barnett's report for the fiscal year indicated receipts in the

general fund of \$22,543.69 and disbursements of \$23,198.85, leaving a balance on August 18, 1974 of \$3,228.79; other fund balances are: Life Membership, \$3,995.79; Catalogue, \$2,637.56; Research, \$1,482.26, with miscellaneous small balances in the convention, interim, seed, and library funds. The secretary read the Audit Committee report indicating the books appear to be in good order. Esther Passet and Margaret Taylor, as audit committee, offered suggestions that would clarify the Treasurer's reports and standardize reports of income and disbursements from all committees. Information regarding branch reporting to Internal Revenue will be sent all branch representatives before the end of the year so that they may make proper reports.

Minutes of the September 6 Board meeting were read and approved.

Co-editors Edgar and Phyllis Bates were introduced. Mr. Bates encouraged contributions from all branches and announced Elda Haring had agreed to write for *The Begonian* again in the coming year; she was introduced.

Jerry Rike, Business and Advertising Manager, reported that advertising had increased 50% this last year. He reported he had accepted the position of business manager for the new year but could not do the Advertising work because of the press of his job and family responsibilities; he urged anyone having experience in this field to contact the president.

Past President Group Chairman Margaret Taylor reported she had contacted 22 past presidents and had received 12 replies to date and that the committee hopes to be active during the coming year.

Awards Committee Chairman Walter Pease said the decisions to be announced at the banquet had been difficult for the committee but he felt sure they would be approved by the membership.

Historian Alice Broadhag thanked members for cooperation but urged more branches send bulletins to the Historian so files would be complete.

Judges' Course Director Ruth Pease urged more members to participate in taking the ABS judging course.

Librarian Lydia Austin asked members for more books for the library; additional reproductions of the 1934-1938 issues of *The Begonian* are needed. Her sales totaled more than \$900 this last year. She has ABS pins, decals and plaques in addition to books and old *The Begonian* for sale or loan to members.

Membership Secretary Norma Rike reported an all-time high of 3606 as of the close of the fiscal year, an overall increase of 676 members.

Nomenclature Director Rudolf Ziesenhenné reported reaching the halfway point in compiling the catalogue of begonia cultivars registered by the ABS and explained the format proposed for the publication of the first book.

Carlton L'Hommedieu, Research Director, reported, briefly, research activities and urged members to examine the two books displayed at the show.

There are 73 flights in the ABS Round Robins according to Debbie Miller of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch who reported for Chairman Mae Blanton.

Seed Fund Chairman Pearl Benell reported \$2,525.30 profits from seed sales during the year.

Show Chairman Gene Daniels reported on the Annual Show in progress at the time of the meeting.

Public Relations Chairman Peggy McGrath reported two new branches were chartered during the year and a third was approved for charter.

Branch directors were acknowledged and the Secretary thanked all who had submitted reports.

Dr. William Ireton, chairman of the ballot committee, reported for his committee, also including Gary R. Olson and Sandra M. Olson, that the officers elected for the forthcoming two-year term are: Charles Richardson, First Vice President; Walter Hansen, Second Vice President; Peggy McGrath, Third Vice President; Margaret Ireton, Secretary; and Walter Barnett, Treasurer.

Vice President Richardson reported for the Legislative Committee and made the following motions which were seconded and carried unanimously:

"I move that Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution of the American Begonia Society be changed to read as follows: 'The following officers shall be elected biennially in August by Ballot: president, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Each member of the Society is entitled to one vote. All officers shall serve for two years and be installed at the appropriate Annual Meeting.'"

"I move that Section 4 of Article IV should read as follows: 'A Director shall be elected biennially by each Branch Society to assume office and be installed with the remaining National Officers referred to in Section 3 hereof, and shall serve two years.'"

"I move that Section 2 of Article I of the By Laws shall read as follows: 'The First Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the latter, or whenever the President

is unable to perform the duties of his office, and such other duties as are assigned to him by the President.'"

"I move that the last paragraph of Section 1 of Article II of the By Laws shall read as follows: 'The Editor shall be selected by an editorial board consisting of the President who shall act as chairman, the First Vice President, the Past President, and two others chosen by the President. The editor shall serve as a member of the Board.'"

Ballots for voting will be printed and appear in the October issue of The Begonian.

All business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.  
Margaret Ireton, Secretary

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| U. S. POSTAL SERVICE<br>STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION<br>(Act of August 12, 1970; Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code)   |   | SEE INSTRUCTIONS<br>ON PAGE 2 (REVERSE) |
|--|---|---|
| 1. TITLE OF PUBLICATION<br><b>THE BEGONIAN</b>   |   | 2. DATE OF FILING<br>Oct. 1, 1974       |
| 3. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE<br><b>Monthly</b>  |   |   |
| 4. LOCATION OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION (Street, city, county, state ZIP code) (Not printer)  | <b>11506 McDonald St., Culver City, Calif. 90230</b>  |   |
| 5. LOCATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OR GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICE OF THE PUBLISHER (Not printer)  | <b>11506 McDonald St., Culver City, Calif. 90230</b>  |   |
| 6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR  | <b>The American Begonia Society, Inc. 11506 McDonald St., Culver City, CA. 90230</b>                  |   |
| 7. OWNER (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given.) | <b>NAME ADDRESS<br/>The American Begonia Society, Inc. 11506 McDonald St., Culver City, CA. 90230</b> |   |
| 8. KNOWN BONDHOLDERS, MORTGAGEES, AND OTHER SECURITY HOLDERS OWNING OR HOLDING 1 PERCENT OR MORE OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF BONDS, MORTGAGES OR OTHER SECURITIES (If there are none, so state)   | <b>NAME ADDRESS</b>   |   |
| A. Non-Profit Organization - No Stockholders   |   |   |
| 9. FOR COMPLETION BY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (Section 130.121, Postal Service Manual) (Check one)<br>The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes: <input type="checkbox"/> Has not changed during preceding 12 months <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has changed during preceding 12 months                               |   |   |
| 10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION<br>A. TOTAL NO. COPIES PRINTED (Give Press Run)<br><b>3,450</b>   |   |   |
| B. PAID CIRCULATION<br>1. SALES THROUGH DEALERS AND CARRIERS, STREET VENDORS AND COUNTER SALES<br><b>None</b>  |   |   |
| 2. MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS<br><b>3,300</b>  |   |   |
| C. TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION<br><b>3,300</b>  |   |   |
| D. FREE DISTRIBUTION BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEANS<br>1. SAMPLES, COMPLIMENTARY, AND OTHER FREE COPIES<br><b>225</b>   |   |   |
| 2. COPIES DISTRIBUTED TO NEWS AGENTS, BUT NOT SOLD<br><b>None</b>  |   |   |
| E. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (Sum of C and D)<br><b>3,525</b>   |   |   |
| F. OFFICE USE, LEFT-OVER, UNACCOUNTED, SPOILED AFTER PRINTING<br><b>125</b>  |   |   |
| G. TOTAL (Sum of E, F - should equal net press run shown in A)<br><b>3,650</b>   |   |   |
| H. ACTUAL NUMBER OF COPIES OF THIS PUBLICATION WHICH WERE RECEIVED BY FILING DATE<br><b>3,900</b>  |   |   |
| I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. <i>Carl R. Hays</i>   |   |   |

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## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Mildred Swyka, Delaware, has been experimenting with *Aloe vera*, the burn plant. After reading the article in *The Begonian* about using the different plants such as honey-suckle, willow, etc., to induce rooting, she decided to try extracts of this plant for a similar experiment. She mashed a leaf of *Aloe vera* until she could squeeze the juice out of it, and added the liquid to a 6 oz. glass of water, into which she placed her begonia cuttings. In another glass with cuttings she used just plain water. The cuttings in the *Aloe vera* solution developed twice as many roots in the same period of time.

Mildred received an exchange box of cuttings packed in a wonderful fashion for our very fragile begonias. To pack in a similar way make several holes with can opener in the bottom of a 3 lb. coffee can or such, place damp paper napkin or towel in bottom, put in plants, cuts, etc., replace plastic lid, then package can in usual fashion. Plants, even small seedlings, never dry out or get crushed, she said.

Grace Schillinger of Illinois advised the use of water from any nearby fresh water stream on plants. She uses the water from nearby Rock River and believes it gives special things to her plants.

Hazel Shear, Texas, has the best luck rooting rex begonia leaves in a deep container or a tin can. She takes a can, punches 3-4 holes in bottom with ice pick, fills can with equal parts of vermiculite and perlite to within 1" of top. She puts

stem of leaf in this and doesn't let it dry out. It won't be long until a new plant will appear. She lets them grow a while and then puts plants in a pot.

Nancy Thompson, Oregon, has found that many begonia cuttings and leaf wedges will root and grow right in the same potting mix she uses for her plants. She was having difficulties getting vermiculite or perlite, so she just tried the regular potting mix and so long as she provided warm, moist conditions, most have started.

Evelyn Cronin of Massachusetts told of an experiment some of her light gardening group tried with propagation: placing cuttings in vermiculite and standing them in 1/2" of water. She found it worked to some extent for her but she lost about 50% of the cuttings of begonias using this method although it works well with other types of plant materials. Her daughter tried an other type of experiment: leaves were held in place with about 1" of gravel in skinny glasses filled with water. In a month's time they had rooted; at the end of two months small plantlets formed at the base of the leaves, with no losses reported at all.

Evelyn is growing all of her begonias under lights and finds it a very stimulating experience. They always had difficulty there in the East growing begonias for show purposes and she finds lights are the answer. She has had gorgeous canes in bloom, some all winter long. *B. 'Ionic'* and *B. 'Wayne Newton'* have

been steady bloomers. Canes are very successful under lights with 14-16 hours, she said. She had better than fair experience blooming the rhizomatous begonias by giving them 10 hours per day for a three week period to initiate buds after which they can be given the same amount of light as the other begonias.

Zelma Clark, New York, read in *The Begonian* re: micro tip cuttings and had great success with this method using Rieger begonias. She finds these plants do need a soil drench such as Banrot, Truban, or Dexon combined with Benlate — both at the prescribed dilution. Use the solution both as a drench and a spray twice, one week apart; this is an effective preventative for six weeks, then repeat. She finds the Rieger begonias seem to be susceptible to crown and stem disease.

Zelma uses a mug holder stand on which to train trailing plants such as hoyas. Plant should be off center in a 5-6" pot. Open the ends of the two cross pieces which form the stand, slip them over the top of the pot and then with pliers bend ends down over lip of pot. Train plant around the six cup-holder pieces in an attractive pattern. It makes a handsome specimen.

This year before planting her baskets, Vivian Stewart of Washington took gunny sacks, cut them in strips and wove them in and out of the wires before putting moss in the basket, then added the soil mixture and plants. She found they held the moisture much better and created a humidity where the moss alone dried out too fast.

Bill Parlin, New York, cleaned out his compost pile after two years and was virtually wallowing in the most beautiful fibrous leaf mold he ever saw, currently having three 30 gallon cans filled with screened and pasteurized leaf mold. Formaldehyde works quite well as a sterilizing agent. He uses 2 1/2 tablespoons of formaldehyde with 5 tablespoons of water, sprinkling it over a bushel of leaf mold. Cover for 24-48 hours, air thoroughly and let stand one week before use.

Betty Tillotson, California, finds that mealybugs will be on anything they can find to latch onto — they aren't fussy! Isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and a Q-tip is very effective if infestation isn't too bad. She has even poured the alcohol over the plant, even drenching the soil, and it doesn't seem to hurt anything but the mealybugs.

Louise Hollas, Texas, makes good potting soil by mixing store potting soil with a small sack of African Violet mix and her begonias like it. Some of the rexes like straight African Violet mix, she's found.

Marjorie Hoelzel, Delaware, has been using Vernia Routh's shipping method for rooting leaves lately — a piece of cotton or Kleenex around the stem base, moistened, and all enclosed in a small baggie in a light window without sun. She likes it better than rooting in water and it is more convenient for her than using perlite, etc.

Mrs. Mae Blanton  
Round Robin Director  
118 Wildoak Drive  
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