

Monthly Publication of the American Begonia Society



Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman January, 1932

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

FROM THE EDITORS

We'd like to share portions of a letter which we received recently. Hopefully, you and your branch will be supportive of the young members of the 'growing set'.

Professor J. Lee Taylor, Michigan State University, National Chairman of the National Junior Horticultural

Association, wrote:

"This is going to be a record breaking year as far as the number of gardens is concerned and we especially want young gardeners to have good experiences." He enclosed a brochure entitled "National Junior Horticultural Association at Glance" which describes the projects and activities of the association: gardening, environmental beautification, plant propagation and experimental horticulture. Young growers are separated into four age groups when competing in the contests which are sponsored by the organization.

Steve Schuchman, age 13, Arlington, Iowa, participated in the 1974 Young America Horticulture Contest. As part of his report, he wrote: "My project meant enjoyment for me mostly. I like to plant gardens and watch things grow . . . I enjoy giving vegetables away, especially pumpkins for jack o' lanterns at Halloween . . . I like to give flowers to church, but don't like to have my

name mentioned . . . My project has meant that my family has had lots of food to eat from it."

Membership in NJHA projects is free and open to all youth up to the age of 21. There is no minimum age, but all participants are expected to print or write their own reports. Brochures and enrollment forms can be obtained from NJHA National Headquarters, Mt. Vernon, Virginia 22121.

We hope you will pass along this information to interested young people. Many ABS branches have activities for young growers. If your branch does not, we suggest you consider it.

TO ABS MEMBERS

The Thompson Begonia Guide is now being distributed. This printing has been a non-profit project. I am grateful to the American Begonia Society for a loan of \$1000.00 which represented one-fourth of the costs of printing and printing preparation. Without this loan the work would have had to be stopped. The loan is now returned with our thanks.

(Signed) Mildred L. Thompson

COVER PICTURE

Begonia gracilipeteolata De Wildeman. Syn: B. Cameroon Species. Grown and photographed by Mike Kartuz. See the Thompsen Begonia Guide, page C-101.

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

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

This April sixth the summits and slopes of our Santa Ynez Mountains behind the foothills are blanketed with snow. It will last probably only a day, but it is a beautiful sight. Hail fell in Santa Barbara during the night and we could hear it hitting the broad leaves of the palms outside our window. The leaves of the Begonia and Frank Reinelt's handsome Echeveria in my roof garden may be pitted again by the stones as they were last year. Both the Echeveria and the Kalanchoe are in full bloom now, wearing their winter-dyed reds and pinks, and certain of the *Cacti* are bravely showing crowns of pink blossoms in the cold and wet. Nothing, except an occasional lack of water, affects the bright blossoms of the frilled and puppet Cyclamen outside our kitchen window.

Rudy met the 9:55 plane this morning to bring Dr. Marguerite DeCola of San Jose to choose plants for the Santa Clara Branch; she will return at 6:55 this evening and will again enjoy viewing the snow-covered peaks and valleys north of our Goleta Airport. Many will be coming from Santa Clara and other places to our 1975 American Begonia Society Convention and Show at Francisco Torres September through 7. With airlines reducing their fares, we are hoping many more members will take advantage of the convenient facilities just a mile from the airport.

The Convention and Show Committee met here yesterday and Santa Barbara Branch's young president,

Fred Burgess, has agreed to take the Show Chairman post and Diane, his wife, will use her artistic ability to design the show arrangement and plant placement with the guidance of former chairmen who have promised to help. Rudy and I rather favor the red-tablecloth look of the 1974 Eastern Convention at Hempstead, but this is up to the chairman. Jim Dodge, SB Branch past president, will arrange the garden tours with our Ernest Thomsen's assistance. Barbara Philip has already consented to our including her lovely garden on the tour; Barbara will also put in the branch's floor display.

The folks from Ventura, Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, will help as individuals. President and Mrs. Maurice Warwick promised to help Cliff Lindberg with plant acquisitions and plant sale set up, and Jim Trapp with his cashiering work, especially in scheduling volunteer workers to relieve the hardworking chairmen during the show. They would like members resident and non-resident to volunteer for two hour shifts at the Plant Sale so that the work of earning the ABS's spending money will be distributed — the \$4,000 plus earned last year is being put to good use in keeping ABS solvent right now.

Santa Barbara's Ethel Arnold and Bob McLaughlin will again take over the financial and reservation aspects of the convention as well as the show. Seminars will be Rudy's responsibility, so if you have any ideas or suggestions, contact him soon.

SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Buxton's exhibit, "The endless variety of begonias," received a first prize and the Gold Medal of the Massachusettes Horticultural Society. The aim of the exhibit was to show the types of begonias grown by the amateur in New England, as well defining the characteristics of each type with the signs designed and drawn by Tracy McLellan. Those who manned the exhibit felt the goal had been accomplished — that the public did indeed comprehend that there is more to begonias than the good old semp.

BEGONIA 'RICINIFOLIA'

From The Twiglet, November 1974 Hampton Branch

Begonia 'Ricinifolia' is probably the oldest known Begonia hybrid. It was developed in England about 1847. The hybridizer is unknown. The female parent was B. heracleifolia, a species found in Mexico. The male parent was B. peponifolia. B. 'Ricinfolia' is classified as rhizomatous, large leaved, cleft. The leaves are bronze-green and measure from 12" to 20" across. The hairy petioles are long and erect.

Tenth Eastern **Regional Begonia Convention** and Show

SEPTEMBER 25, 26 and 27 Horticultural Hall and Mid Town Motor Inn, Boston, Mass.

for information please write: Mrs. C. Norman Collard Registration Chairman Box 46 Wayland, Mass. 01778

ARE YOU A LONER?

By Charles Richardson V.P. and Chairman for members-at-large

Are you one of those people who grow begonias, but have no one with whom to share your enthusiasm? Do you have problems with some begonias . . . problems you'd like to discuss with someone? Have you many duplicates of plants that you would like to share with someone?

Did it ever occur to you that we could help you by giving you the names of other members in your area? Actually there are a great many areas where branches could be started, according to our latest membership list. If you are interested drop us a line.

No one is better qualified than you, a member-at-large, to tell us what to do to help you. It is difficult for us to place ourselves in your position. Several questionnaires have been prepared, but I am wondering if we are covering the problems that really confront you. Give us some suggestions . . . your own.



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SHOWING IS SHARING

By Mildred L. Thompson

This is the time that preparations are being made for flower shows and displays. Many of us are thinking about old and very good concepts as well as new and interesting ideas to experiment with.

Before the Ninth Eastern Regional Convention last year, a branch member phoned me asking questions about what types of *Begonia* and how many *Begonia* she should exhibit. I proceeded to answer her questions with a very lengthy discussion explaining my views on the whole concept of showing plants, specifically *Begonia*. She listened quietly without interrupting me and then very adequately summed up my thoughts by saying, "Then you mean, SHOWING IS SHARING!"

The usual subjects of talks and discussions this time of the year are: Preparing Begonia for show, Grooming Plants for Showing, Terrariums for Show, Artistic Arrangements for Show, etc. One might infer from these topics that the prime purpose of growing good specimen plants is for show rather than for the person's enjoyment of the plant itself.

A hobby usually is pursued primarily for self-enrichment whether the hobby is needlepoint or the study of the history and culture of a particular plant family. Growers who are truly interested in the study and culture of *Begonia* will grow *Begonia* to develop their horticultural talents to educate themselves, and to enjoy their collection thoroughly, finding pleasure in the beauty of

some *Begonia* and the interesting characteristics of others.

When a grower has as his primary concern, his own education and enjoyment, his *Begonia* will be grown to their maximum potential, within the growing area the hobbyist has available, whether large or small. He will give his plants regular care in a relaxed fashion so that he can enjoy his plants, his hobby, to the fullest extent.

Giving regular care means doing several things automatically (i.e. systemically and consistently without much effort). It means that all plants will be watered regularly according to the needs of the Begonia. Spraying will be done at regular intervals as a preventative measure before disease occurs and insects appear. Grooming will be done automatically and consistently, so that it never becomes a problem requiring a massive clean-up job. Necessary staking will be started when the plants are young and the stalks are easier to train. Each main stalk will be staked independently for the best effect. As the plant matures the foliage will hide the stakes and ties. Fertilizing will be done on a regular basis because a properly fed plant can only be a vigorous and healthy plant that will be not only more beautiful but more resistant to disease.

These are the necessary factors in creating good specimen plants for the enjoyment of the hobbyist and his friends, not only at show time but throughout the entire year. At show

time he then merely has to decide how many plants he can comfortably take. He must select not only plants that are beautiful but also those that are interesting and handsome.

The prime purpose of any show or display should be to share our plants and growing experiences with others. We should not be concerned that we will be bringing too many plants or whether the plants are good enough" or whether they will ribbons or trophies. hobbyist should be proud of his plants: whether he is just beginning or has been growing for many years; whether he grows under fluorescent lights or in a greenhouse; or whether he grows a few varieties of Begonia or hundreds of varieties.

A flower show or display is truly an experience of sharing with other growers. It is a sharing of our plants with others by displaying them together. The excitement of the exhibition lies in seeing numerous varieties of Begonia together and in realizing how many Begonia hobbyists grow. A show then becomes a wonderful educational experience for the exhibitors as well as the viewers. It is then a place where one has the opportunity to study and enjoy the vastness and diversity of the genus Begonia.

Competitiveness should be secondary in showing. However competition is fun and should be enjoyed. It

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is also a rewarding experience to the grower who has developed his personal talent for growing and receives some ribbons and/or trophies as recognition of his talents. This is important whether he is beginning or has been growing for a number of years.

It is important to group the exhibitors as well as the Begonia in a show. Knowing they will be grouped according to experience encourages growers to participate. Exhibitors are proud to display their plants with their peers. In this way viewers can fully appreciate the endeavors of all growers. Prior to the Ninth Eastern Regional Convention I suggested a grouping of exhibitors. The procedure was tried and it proved successful for all concerned. The growers were grouped as follows: amateurs, experienced amateurs, commercial and novice.

The main objective of any Begonia show or display should be the display of as many different species and hybrids as possible. It is totally impossible for any enthusiast to grow the vast number of varieties that there are in cultivation. When exhibitors are proud to bring all their wellgrown Begonia of all different types and sizes to share with fellow hobbyists, shows become an excellent opportunity to share the beauty and variety of the genus Begonia. SHOWING IS SHARING!

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

There's nothing to compare with the enjoyment of reading a bunch of letters from fellow robin members. There is always something new to try to help you solve your problems with your own plants.

Iris Cohen, N. Y., knows only one secret of successful growing, which she tells everybody: "Behind every green thumb is a large pile of dead bodies." Courage!!

Iris said, to increase humidity (under lights), one trick is to set up a tray of water underneath and put an aquarium heater or a one-cup coffee coil in the water. The added heat causes the water to evaporate faster.

Nancy Cummins, Kentucky, liked my idea of using plastic boxes for plants and asked that I share them with you. Clear plastic shoe or sweater boxes may be used DOUB-LED to provide more heighth needed for some plants, especialy those in pots. The bottom of one box is inverted over another of the same size. Hinges are made of masking or duct tape on one side. The other side may be fastened with similar strips, with a bit of the tape folded back under at one end, making a tab to facilitate peeling back to open the Propagating mix may be placed in the bottom of the box for leaves and cuttings or a layer of perlite, vermiculite, long sphagnum or any combination of these may be used on which to set small pots of seedlings, etc. Sides of boxes are not sealed completely so a bit of air enters, making holes in boxes unnecessary if one watches the drainage. Also available from many dealers of fish (aquarium stores, bait houses, etc.) for a very nominal fee (sometimes FREE), deep, square "fish boxes" of styrofoam make great boxes for propagation. With a layer of propagating mix, cuts may be inserted and box covered with a sheet of plastic (I use garment bags from cleaners). These are also great for added protection for small pots of plants, covered or uncovered. Office machines are delivered to the wholesalers packed in large styrofoam boxes that make wonderful flats for holding your plants, too. Search them out in the industrial parts of town.

Edwin Leach, Ohio, believes he has solved the problem of plants not blooming at the same time being used for hybridizing. He has stocked his own pollen bank by taking the male flowers from one species 24 hours after it opens. He places them in a baggie and puts it inside a 35 mm. film container, placing it in the freezer. When the other parent begins to bloom, he takes the male flower from the freezer and lets it stand out in the air for 24 hours, then places the pollen on the female flower. This procedure has worked on fibrous begonias for him but he hadn't tried it on the rhizomatous yet.

Walter Barnett, California suggests: when a plastic label is rubbed between the thumb and index finger and then held about 1/4"-1/2" over the seeds (when harvesting seed), the chaff will jump up and cling to

the label due to magnetism. Try it — and send the seeds to the SEED FUND!!

Orby Clemence of Michigan believes growing from seeds is not a big problem if you remember three things: 1. Use a good sterile mix. 2. Keep mix wet at all times and keep water from the bottom of the tray. 3. Try to keep them at even temperatures, not up one day and down the next.

Henry Meyers, California, suggests a test to make if you have had trouble with dampoff fungus, rhizoctoria. If it is doubtful that your mix is sterile, sow some fast growing flower or vegetable seeds in a sample. If they do not damp off, you can safely try your begonia seed in this medium.

Gordon Lepisto, Minnesota, has a habit of looking underneath the leaves of a rex plant, which tell a lot about its health. Little brown spots and a mottling effect under the leaves tell him of WET FEET. Also new tip growth will brown or healthy tip growth will just drop off. In his case, he has found it is just to wet at the roots. Never over fertilizing, he would rather UNDER fertilize than OVER fertilize, and he flushes water through the pot regularly to remove excess salts.

Letitia Isner, Ohio, had some little black gnats once in seed flats and sprinkled black pepper over the soil. It got rid of them and didn't hurt the seedlings.

Marciel Mitchell, Texas, uses herbs in her spray. She uses cayenne pepper, garlic, tanzy and marigolds, stuffed in a bottle of rubbing alcohol. When she needs spray, she just strains one teaspoonful into a cup of water and uses for a spray. It can be used full strength on a swab stick for many pests. She uses half cayenne pepper and half honey in a little jar lid where ants run (they carry many pests such as mealybugs and scale). Cayenne pepper is the same to insects as mustard gas is to people, she said. For a sick begonia, she plants a garlic clove or garlic chive seed in the pot as close to the begonia as she can, and has saved many that way.

Roman Wiza, Wisconsin, enclosed some beautiful pictures of his bed of tuberous begonias. In late fall, after tubers are dug, he spreads about 2" leaf compost over the bed. This compost consists only of leaves that he gathered from the previous year which are pretty well decayed by this time. Over this he spreads about five pounds of fertilizer, digging it in, leaving the top in a rough condition for the winter. In spring, about May, he works the bed again and finishes it off by raking the soil to a smooth and level finish. Tubers are started about a month earlier in a flat in coarse leaf compost, under 12 hours of light where temperature is kept around 60°. When about 3" high, plants are placed in peat pots, using same medium. When plants are about 8-10" tall, weather is mild enough for them to be planted in the bed. He tears away the top 2" of the pots before putting them into the bed, which is located on the north side of his garage. During the growing season, he gives them a

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BELVA KUSLER TO REVIVE HER HYBRIDIZING

By Chuck Anderson From The Begonia Leaf, Santa Clara Valley Branch Newsletter

Belva Nelson Kusler, seemingly amazed at the interest in her famous hybrids, plans to revive her begonia growing operation in the snow-swept wilds of northern Wisconsin.

A living legend among begonia fanciers, Ms. Kusler made her decision after enthusiastic encouragement from Santa Clara Valley branch members at their Jan. 23 meeting.

Belva had reduced her greenhouse and in-house growing to a holding operation when she fell ill several years ago.

She turned up at the meeting on short notice at the invitation of branch founder Peggy Lynn, who learned Belva was in the Bay Area to handle some family business.

Mrs. Kusler, creator of B. 'Esther Albertine', B. 'Murray Morrison', B. 'Laura Engelbert' and many others, said the remote location of her home near Siren, Wisc., prevents her from talking face-to-face about begonias very often with other enthusiasts.

After a long series of queries, the discussion turned to a yellow-flowering begonia Belva had developed but never distributed. Several members urged her to work toward registering it as yet another Kusler hybrid.

"Why hide your light under a bushel?" asked Chester Nave, himself a hybridizer of some repute.

"Well," responded Belva with a surprised, quizzical expression, "if you think so . . . I will send it around for people to try."

So the decision was made. The

plant in question is her cross of B. 'May Queen' and B. pearcei.

"I still like it very much, but had relegated it to a space under the bench in a holding action," Belva explained later. "As soon as I can, I'll cut off some terminal growth to propagate and otherwise rejuvenate the plants.

"Meeting with you folks is responsible for my resolve to send it out for testing (or distribution?), (especially) Chester's comment about saving some of the 'challenging' hybrids for those who have the growing skills."

Mrs. Kusler now has introduced 38 begonias. Of these, four recent ones are in the process of registration and three won't be registered because Belva feels "they are not up to Kusler hybrid standards." The three are B. 'Grace Lucas', 'Rosalie Wahl', and 'Freda Stevens'.

Belva said she became interested in plants because they were around when she was young.

"My mother raised begonias when I was a child," she recounted. That was about 60 years ago now.

"My mother raised superlative plants indoors and out," Belva relates, "and my father loved them so much that he seldom went on any sizeable trip in their early years but what he would come home carrying some new kind."

When Belva married, she lived in a Chicago apartment where only sansaverias would grow. "I couldn't raise anything," she said. World War II ironically brought a whole new life for Belva. She moved to Wisconsin, where she quickly found her thumb was as green as anybody's.

"I started growing semps and fuchsias," she said. "I was so excited about raising plants because my mother had them."

It was about then —in the 1940s — that Belva began collecting begonias. Little did she know her interest would bloom into a serious hobby destined to populate gardens and greenhouses from California to New York.

"My first cross came as a result of teaching the children about pollination," she explained.

The parents were B. dichroa and B. 'Salmon Rubra'. Belva kept and cultivated B. 'Anna Christine' — named for her mother — from the progeny that resulted from the planting of that first seed pod.

While Mrs. Kusler has known through the years her introductions were appreciated by serious growers, she apparently wasn't ready for the level of enthusiasm she found at the branch meeting.

"I was floored by the enthusiasm for Kusler hybrids and the appreciation of my work," she recalls. "The quality of the reception was what surprised me."

She said she "had come to believe that there were many growers who had never heard of a Kusler hybrid."

Kusler plants have been so popular in the East that she has been sought after as a speaker and there was an Eastern ABS convention devoted to her hybrids.

Japan's first begonia show, spon-

sored by the begonia society in Tokyo, featured a large Kusler exhibit. In addition, the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show once included a special Kusler hybrid section

Nevertheless, "my surprise at the enthusiasm of you folks is genuine," she said. "I had almost forgotten how it felt to be appreciated in person for whatever I have accomplished."

Some of this feeling no doubt is attributable to Mrs. Kusler's geographic remoteness from mainstream begonia collectors.

The 33-acre Kusler homestead is on Big Clam Lake, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Siren and about 100 miles north of St. Paul, Minn.

You don't find many serious begonia experts in these parts, primarily because of the shivery climate and also since the rural setting limits your neighbors to very few. However, "progress" is coming, even to rural Wisconsin. Mrs. Kusler reports her area is becoming more and more populated.

Belva belongs to no ABS branch, mainly because the nearest one would be in Kansas City, Mo., a bit far to drive for monthly meetings.

After her initial success with B. 'Anna Christine', Belva moved into hybridizing with considerable interest — and it has paid off, but in satisfaction, not money.

All but a few Kuslers are named for relatives and friends. The namesake of B. 'Jill Adair' is her daughter. Sisters Laura Engelbert and the late Lenore Olivier provided names for other crosses.

(Continued on Page 114)

Begonia 'Laura Engelbert'



Begonia 'Murray Morrison'



KUSLER

Begonia '.



Begonia 'Jac



Grown by Mabel Corwin

HYBRIDS

'Jill Adair'



ıck Golding'



Photographed by Ralph Corwin

Begonia 'Anna Christine'



Begonia 'Lenore Olivier'



BELVA KUSLER

(Continued from Page 111)

Her lakeside house couldn't have been better suited for begonia cuture unless it was a split-level greenhouse.

"Ours is a solar house with a south window-wall 32 feet long and eight feet high," she once wrote. "Plants are grown in pots set in long trays at the foot of these windows for approximately eight months of the year."

Belva's first hybridizing was done there and in other house windows.

In 1967 she installed a 14- by 20-foot greenhouse to accommodate more plants.

Because of high winds and temperatures that dip to 40 degrees below zero, the greenhouse is triple-insulated with glass, fiberglass, and mylar film.

But even with these precautions, the greenhouse temperature sometimes hits 40 degrees above zero—"much too low for propagation or germination," Mrs. Kusler noted.

"Before last year's energy crunch, I had one large room in the house filled with decked fluorescent lights," she said. More recently, the seedlings were grown in the living room sunlight, she said.

She said her total heating bill jumped from \$500 to \$1,000 annually just last year "so now I have many of the plants in the house."

"It's made the continuation of my hybridizing work a little difficult because I don't want to go ahead with a lot of new crosses and then find that I have nowhere to house them," she explained.

"Of course, I always have a few seedpans going, but house care of a large volume is much harder, especially with the plant lights turned off."

Another major problem Belva has encountered, although she lives in the "wilds," is herbicide damage caused by road maintenance workers who were unaware of the hazards presented by spraying in strong wind.

Fumes and droplets of weed killer one time were blown into the green-house unbeknownst to Belva. She said the resulting genetic damage could be seen through several generations of crosses.

The next time she heard the big agricultural spraying machine approaching, she said, she closed up the greenhouse and telephoned experts at the University of Minnesota for advice.

She was told to spray water with strong force on the roofs of plant structures, bench surfaces, walls, and all plants for hours. There appeared to be no damage.

The good fortune was passed on to us in the form of Belva's more recent hybrids.



CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

| For the beginners, pamphlets on Begonia basics: |
|---|
| 'Growing From Seeds' |
| 'Begonias in General' Basic description of classes, and culture .50 |
| My 1—B. boliviensis: S. America. 2 to 3 ft. high, with long pointed leaves sharply serrate, 3 to 5 inches long, flowers in drooping panicles, are scarlet or orange-red. This tuberous is widely used in hybridizing, and is a parent of the first hybrid tuberousper pkt. 1.00 |
| My 2—B. 'Cardoza Sloan': A large leafed rhizomatous plant, of the S-27 strain from Mexico. A lovely plantper pkt. 1.00 |
| My 3—B. dregei: Semi-tuberous. A beautiful, dainty plant, young leaves are spotted, but as it grows older spots disappear. Makes a nice basket, does not go entirely dormant. White flowers. Watch this for mildew, needs good circulation of air per pkt50 |
| My 4—B. metallica: an 1869 species from Mexico. Hardy growing, shrublike, tall and branching, with serrated leaves, bright green with a mettalic luster and noticeably hairy. Round clusters of small white flowers so thickly set with red hairs that they resemble balls of deep pink chenile |
| My 5—B. paleata: Rhizomatous, stems and petioles brown, leaves rough, kidney-shaped, flowers small, white. Resembles B. acida, which is larger and has green leaves per pkt. 1.00 |
| My 6—B. vellozoana: a.k.a. B. olsoniae. Brazil species. Herbaceous. Eight to 12 inches tall, stems short. Leaves oblique, broadly ovate, palmately 8-veined, 4 to 5 inches long, green above with a whitish zone on the veins, paler below and occasionally reddish. This is one of our most beautiful begonias per pkt. 1.00 |
| Close out on mixed tuberous, many colors. Free with an order, or per pkt. \$.25 |
| FERN SPORES: Per pkt. \$.50 or 3 for \$1.00 Platycerium grande |
| Platycerium bifurcatum cv 'Netherlands' Platycerium wilheminae-regina Phyllitis scolopendrium: This one is not too difficult to grow. Must have good light but no sun. Low growing. Use small pieces of cement or oyster shell when planting. |
| Make all checks payable to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund and mail to: Pearl E. Benell, 10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, Calif. 90604. |

REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

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

No. 440—Begonia [B. hydrocotylifolia X B. carrieae (C287)] 'Rip van Winkle'

Developed in 1973 by Rudolf C. Ziesenhenne, 1130 Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103, this rhizomatous plant has bronzy-green, dull, hairy, uneven-heartshaped leaves, 8 x 11"; margin is finely-toothed, hairy; texture is thick; 9-nerved, the leaves have long, hairy, green petioles and triangular, keeled stipules, hairy outside. Flowers are pale pink, $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ ", blooming late winter on 12" stems. Second place winner in ABS 1974 Best New Begonia Introduction by Commercial Nurseryman. Registered Mar. 7, 1975.

No. 441—Begonia (B. alice-clarkae X B. imperialis brunnea) 'Al Clark'

Winner of the William M. Bower Memorial Trophy for Best New Begonia Introduction by a Commercial Nurseryman, donated by Louise Bower of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch in 1974, at the 1974 ABS Convention and Show, this exotic-

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type rhizomatous begonia has upright stems to 12", with smargadingreen leaves with silver area along the veins, unequal heartshaped, 6 x 7"; margin is doubly finely-toothed, texture is thin, 8-veined; petioles are green, fine hairy; stipules are long, lanceolate. Flowers are white, round, on 4-inch stems in winter. Originated by Rudolf C. Ziesenhenne, address above, in 1973; first bloomed and distributed in 1974, the plant is a thin-stemmed, erect grower with B. imperialis-like leaves. Registered Mar. 7, 1975.

No. 442—Begonia (B. 'Frieda Grant' X unknown) 'Lory Hansen'

Shrub-like, bare-leaved, growing to three feet, developed in 1973 by Rudolf C. Zeisenhenne, above,, this plant differs from B. 'Frieda Grant' group by leaves having a green underside. The mediumgreen leaves are unequal heartshaped, long-pointed, $31/2 \times 71/2''$, with margin irregularly dentate, texture dull-medium, nerves palmatepinnate, and 2" petioles thinly hairy; stipules are persistent, long-acuminate, keeled. Flowers are white, redhairy outside, shape outer orbicular; inner inverted eggshaped; dimension 11/4 x 11/4". Petals male four, female five; arranged on evenly divided cyme, fall and winter, on erect seven inch cyme. Registered Mar. 7, 1975.

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No. 443 — Begonia (B. mazae X B. carrieae) 'Yanonali'

This woody, thick-stemmed begonia was developed by Rudolf Ziesenhenne, address above, in 1974, when it was first distributed; it first bloomed in 1975 with pale pink, back-spotted current red, orbicular blossoms 1 x 5/8", arranged in raceme on 12" stem, starting in February. Named for a Chumash Indian chief, the plant has bronzy-green, dull leaves, uneven heart-shaped 8 x 5", margin finely undulate, texture medium, 11-nerved, 5" petioles, with stipules triangular, keeled, 3/4 x 1" wide; upright growth with rhizomatous-like leaves, dark bronzy. Reg. Mar. 7, 1975.

No. 444 — Begonia (B. kellermanii X B. carrieae) 'Mish'

Developed in 1974 by Rudolf Ziesenhenne, address above, when it was first distributed, this thickstemmed, woody plant first bloomed in 1975 but the immature buds with back of petals rose have not yet opened; the Chumash Indian name means "to cry". The thick upright stem with thick leaf-surface pillowed by nerves being depressed distinguishes this from other Begonia. Leaves are medium green, dull-surfaced, bumpy, orbicular, peltate, 61/2 x 53/4", margin finely double dentate, texture thick, bowed up between veins, short hairs; nerves 9, de-

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(Est. 1892) 55 North Street, Danielson, Connecticut 06239 pressed; petioles 6" moderately covered with brownish hair; stipules broadly triangular, keeled, drying quickly, persistent, 3/4 x 3/4". Reg. Mar. 7, 1975.

No. 445 — Begonia (B. heracleifolia hirsute X B. rosibractea) 'Helen Grice'

This rhizomatous, stem erect, begonia was developed and distributed by Rudolf Ziesenhenne, above, in 1974, and first bloomed in January 1975 with pink, roundish, 1" x 3/4" flowers arranged on a 20" stem as a raceme. The star-shaped leaves with hairy covering and clusters of large pink flowers distinguishes this plant. Leaves are medium green, uneven heart-shaped, 7 lobed, 8 x 7"; margin is double-toothed, long hairy; texture medium, dull, hairy; 9-nerved; petioles 6" moderately covered with short hairs; stipules triangular, keeled, remaining dry. Reg. Mar. 7, 1975.

No. 446 — Begonia (B. incarnata X B. plebeja) 'Jay Ayersman'

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KARTUZ GREENHOUSES

Dept. B—92 Chestnut Street Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887 at this time this shrub-like, bare-leaved plant has no adventitious leaves. Leaves are medium green, uneven heart-shaped, large undulate, 6½ x 4"; margin double-toothed, ciliate; texture thin; nerves, 9 depressed; petioles 5"; stipules triangular, quickly drying and remaining. Flowers are deep pink, male 2-petaled, round, female 5-petaled, oblong; arranged on evenly-divided cyme on 4" stem. Developed, first bloomed, and distributed 1974 by Rudolf Ziesenhenne, address above. Reg. Mar. 7, 1975.

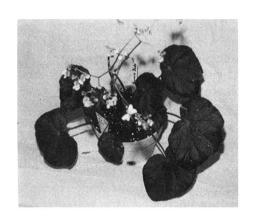
No. 447 — Begonia (B. bowerae nigramarga X B. rosibractea) 'Sulcu'

Rhizomatous, stem-erect. this bushy, upright bowerae nigramarga with pink flowers, roundish, 1/2 x 3/4", arranged in cyme on 5" redstreaked stem, first bloomed in February 1975; named for a north Santa Barbara County Chumash Indian tribe, the plant was first developed in 1973 and was first distributed by the originator, Rudolf Ziesenhenne, address above, in 1974. Leaves are deep green, black along edges and 9 nerved, unequal heart-shaped, angular, 5-lobed, 3 x 21/4"; margin double serrate, ciliate; texture medium, short-hairy; petioles 21/2", redstreaked, thinly hairy; stipules white, long triangular keeled. Mar. 7, 1975.

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Begonia 'Dado'

No. 448 — Begonia (B. dayi X B. 'Baby Down') 'Dado'

This rhizomatous begonia, rhizome jointed at soil, was originated by Paul P. Lowe, 23045 S. W. 123 Rd., Goulds, Fl., in 1972; first bloomed and distributed (at nursery only) by Mr. Lowe in 1974, the plant has emerald-green leaves with dark marking, oblique, 6 x 8", margin smooth; texture glossy; nerves 7; petioles green, brown scurfy; stipules light green. Flowers are different as males do not open; color pink, 1/8" petals, bunched at top of tall stem, 2', which is branched; late winter and early spring. Reg. Mar. 10, 1975.

No. 449 — Begonia (B. 'Chumash' X B. 'Bow Joe') 'Helene Jaros'

With rhizome jointed at soil, this rhizomatous plant was originated by Paul P. Lowe, address above, in 1972; it first bloomed and was first distributed at his nursery in 1974. Leaves are dark green with black veins, pedately-lobed with one lobe always much longer than the others;

5"; margin toothed, eyelashed; texture glossy; 5-nerved; petioles red, hirsute; stipules light-green. Flowers are pale pink, petals ½", bunched at top of 5" stem in late winter and spring. Reg. Mar. 10, 1975.

No. 450 — Begonia (B. 'Chumash' X B. 'Verde Grande') 'John Sousa'

This rhizomatous plant is similar to *B*. 'Verde Grande' but about half the size and was developed by Paul P. Lowe, address above, in 1972, first blooming and distributed in 1974. Leaves are bright green with black border, star shaped, 6"; margin is eyelashed with black stitching; texture is crisp, silky-surfaced; nerves 6; petioles green, lightly hairy; stipules light-green. Flowers are light pink, \(\frac{1}{4}\)'', bunched at top of 12" stem, late winter and spring. Registered Mar. 10, 1975.

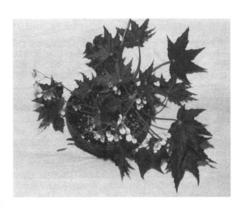
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All material for publication — articles, notices, photographs — should be sent to the Editor, preferably six weeks before date of publication. Deadline is the first of the month preceding month of publication.

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Begonia 'John Sousa'

CALENDAR

Monday, May 12, 1975 at 7:45 p.m. — Hampton Branch meeting to be held at Baywoods Garden Center, Water Mill, N.Y. Program: Rieger elatior *Begonia* by Jacqueline Striffler. *Begonia* of the Month. *B.* 'Schwabenland' by Teresa Babinski.

May 30 — Redondo Area Branch — 7:30 p.m. at Dana School, 135th Street and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif. Speaker: Jack Pounders of the Los Angeles International Fern Society. Visitors welcome. Door prizes. Refreshments. Plant table.

Friday, May 30, 2-5 p.m. and Saturday, May 31, 9-12 a.m. — The American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society 1975 Flower Show. Free. Doubletree Inn, 445 South Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona.



CONDENSED MINUTES ABS BOARD MEETING

March 25, 1975

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by the President, Margaret Ziesenhenne, at 7:30, 3/24/75, at South Gate Auditorium. 25 members answered roll call. There were several guests. Minutes of the meetings of January 27 and February 24 were read and approved.

Treasurer Walter Barnett reported receipts of \$1,222.95 from membership, a transfer of \$1,000 from the savings account and other miscellaneous income to bring the total to \$3,700.56 in the general fund; disbursements were \$1,879.63, including \$640 for the March The Begonian and \$440 for four color covers; balance on hand as of March 18 was \$1.829.93.

The treasurer was directed to pay without delay the rent on the storage space on Keystone St., Culver City, which is under contract. In answer to a question of the Circulation Manager, Edie Krupnick, at the last meeting, the treasurer reported that the correct name of the ABS is American Begonia Society without the "Inc.", even though the association is legally incorporated. This will be corrected wherever it appears.

Business Manager Gilbert Estrada reported his investigation of the mailing and membership costs between J & J Letter Service and Covina Letter Service.

First Vice President Charles Richardson told of his proposed article in The Begonian for the members-at-large.

Past President John Provine told of activities at the Los Angeles County and State Arboretum including news of shows and plant sales, and the revamping of the **Begonia** garden.

Second Vice President Walter Hansen expressed his regrets at being unable to be Show Chairman for the 1975 Convention and Show because of the scheduling problems of his job.

The president read the resignation of Mrs. Ireton as Secretary, effective June 1, 1975. An offer from Kern County which includes an important promotion is the cause. Her resignation was accepted with regret.

Notice was received from Jack Golding of the death of Marjorie Grasheim, treasurer of the Knickerbocker Branch of the ABS and wife of its president, Ed Grasheim. Condolences were sent by the president and the treasurer.

Monterey Bay Area Branch sent \$50 to support the research of **Begonia** and the catalogue research being done at the New York Botanical Garden. The Secretary was asked to acknowledge the gift.

A letter from Lois K. Donahue, Secretary of the Alfred D. Robinson Branch, offered to host with San Miguel Branch the 1976 Convention and Show. Motion by Rudolf Ziesenhenne was seconded and carried that the invitation of the two branches be accepted.

The Treasurer was asked about his possible receipt of notice from the California State Franchise Tax Board of noticitation that ABS Corporation No. 285733, which had been suspended several years ago, had been reinstated. He said that he had received the letter certifying reinstatement as of 10/30/75 and thought he had informed the board but there was no record of this. The president asked him to write a check to send to the California Secretary of State for a certified copy of the amended articles for the ABS, to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

The treasurer reported that he had filed tax returns for the year ending 8/31/74 with the Internal Revenue Service and the Franchise Tax Board. Treasurer Barnett recommended that the ABS fiscal year be changed from 8/31 to 7/31 through amendment to the Constitution at the next annual meeting; it is impossible to get financial returns completed and audited when the annual meeting is held in early September. The parliamentarian was asked to keep this in mind.

There was a report from the editors of **The Begonian** on the April and May issues. Mrs. Corwin, Advertising Manager, and Mrs. Bates have prepared a rate card to be mailed to advertisers; it will be printed without cost by the publisher of **The Begonian**. Mrs. Passet is making great progress in collecting accounts.

The possibility of printing Ph.D. dissertations on **Begonia** in **The Begonian** was discussed. P.R. Director Barkley will furnish the editor with an estimated number of pages, etc. and an estimate will be made of costs for the Board's consideration

Mrs. Corwin has written to the advertising manager of the Fern Society regarding our ad in the Fern Annual.

More than 4000 copies of The Begonian were mailed for March, according to Mrs. Krupnick, Circulation Manager.

The treasurer, on behalf of Alva Graham, asked for permission to use photographs of species used previously in **The Begonian**, in her translation of Chevalier's **Les Begonias**. Mrs. Lee moved that Alva Graham be given permission to use them provided she obtains permission from the owners of the photographs. Motion seconded and passed.

Rudolph Ziesenhenne reported that he has registered 450 cultivars so far and will stop at 500 as far as the book on cultivars is concerned; the research for catalogues of unregistered cultivars and species is now in the hands of the ABS Research Department.

Pearl Benell, Seed Fund Chairman, reported that she has about 100-order backlog on which she is working. She will turn the task of sending seed to new members to the Membership secretary so she can acknowledge the back orders and get current on the work. The ABS profit was \$133.75. Fred Burgess, Santa Barbara Branch President, discussed the branch plans for the ABS show and plant sales at the 1975 convention, Sept. 5-7 in Goleta.

Katherine Alberti, Slide Librarian, has arranged two new programs of 100 slides each. All programs are out at present. She needs slides of miniature begonias for a new program.

Lowest bids were accepted for printing membership forms and stationery. A more detailed report on the membership and circulation services was requested from the business manager for the next meeting.

Reports were made in person or by letter by Evelyn Cronin, Betty Tillotson, Margaret Lee, Lydia Austin, Peggy Mc Grath, Margaret Taylor, Dr. Ireton.

A motion was made and seconded that the president's bill of \$136.33 (for period 9/74-1/75) for phone calls, postage, and photocopying be paid.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45. Condensed by M. Ziesenhenne and P. Bates

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ROUND ROBIN

(Continued from Page 109)

foliar feeding of fish emulsion once a week (1/2) teaspoon to 1 gallon water, also containing a mite control). He stakes his plants with nylon hose dyed green and stakes same color. He soaks plants usually every other day.

Zelma Clark, N.Y., also uses old nylon stockings dyed green in washing machine. Make one cut lengthwise of the hose; then for strips for tying, cut crosswise anywhere from 1/2" to 11/4", depending on the denier of the thread. They make wonderful ties, dry quickly when wet, will not cut delicate stems, will not break, last for more than a season, and being green can scarcely be seen if one does a neat job of tying. For staking, she attaches orchid pot hangers to the pots. Pictures of Zelma's plants have appeared in various publication (they are beautiful!! — M.B.)

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CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Sunday of each month Mrs. Priscella Beck, Secy. R D No. 1, Box 121, Mystic, Conn. 06355

EAST BAY BRANCH

Zand Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School Telegraph at Stuart, Berkeley, Calif. Miss Carol E. Orpin, Secy. 428 Norvell Street El Cerrito, Calif. 94530

EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. 590 116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, Washington Diane McElroy 9010 209th Ave., N.E., Redmond, Wash, 98052

EDNA STEWART PITTSBURGH BRANCH 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Phipps Conservatory
Beverly Coyle, Corr. Secretary
144 McCurdy Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes Mrs. Gladys Máttuket, Secy. 1801 Azalea Drive, Alhambra, Calif. 91801

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

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

GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Sunnyside School 9972 Russell Ave. at Brookhurst, Garden Grove, Ca. Loretta Stocks, Sec'y. 2668 Redlands Drive, Costa Mesa, Ca. 92626

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HAMPTON BRANCH

2nd Monday, 7:45 p.m. Parrish Memorial Hall, Southhampton, N.Y. Mildred L. Thompson 310-A Hill Street, Southhampton, N.Y. 11968

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Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. B. A. Russell, Secy. 5926 Jackwood, Houston, Texas 77036

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2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
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Long Beach, California 90818
Miss P. E. Powell, Secy.
3031 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos, Ca. 90720

LONG ISLAND BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Planting Fields Arboretum
Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.
Mrs. Decise Barthold, Corr. Sec'y.
248 Manor Road, 'Douglaston, N.Y. 11363

MESOUITE BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Members homes Mrs. Mae Blanton, Secy. 118 Wildoak Drive, Lake Dallas, Texas 75065

MIAMI BRANCH

MI BRANCH 4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Simpson Memorial Garden Center 55 South West 17th Road, Miami, Florida Mrs. Alma Crawford, Secy. 14250 Madison St., Miami, Florida 33158

MISSOURI BRANCH

South Branch 3rd Friday, 11 a.m., Member's Homes Kansas City, Mo. Mrs. Glenn Lucas, Secy. Kansas City, Mo. 64109

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MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Lighthouse and Dickman Sts., New Monterey, Calif.
Mrs. Mary Peterson, Sec'y.
24522 Pescadero Rd., Carmel, CA. 93921

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH
2nd Friday, 7:30 P.M., 5535 Stearns, Long Beach,
Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Bldg.
Miss Carol Ruane, Secy.
2133 Pacific Ave.
Long Beach, Calif. 90806

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH
2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
First Christian Church,
1130 E. Walnut Street, Orange, California
Mrs. Norma Taylor, Secy.
2414 N. Bristol, Santa Ana, Ca. 92667

PORTLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Otelia Klobas, Secy. 35330 S.E. Dunn Rd., Boring, Ore. 97002

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m. R. H. Dana School Cafetorium 135th St. and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif. Mrs. Susian Shaner, Secy.
5026 W. 122nd Street, Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH 2nd Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. Homes of Members Juana Curtis, Secy. 4107 Taos Dr., San Diego, Ca. 92117

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4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., West Riverside Memorial Hall 4393 Riverside Drive, Rubidoux, Ca. Mrs. Cindy Gray, Secy. 22601 Whittier Street, Colton, CA 92324

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Mrs. Beverly Bartlett, Secy.
725 36th Street, Sacramento, Ca. 95816

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4th Monday, 1:30 p.m., Homes of Members Mrs. Jesse B. Harper, Secy. Route 3, Salina, Kansas 67401

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Ist Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way Mrs. H. C. Banks, Secy. 1279 35th Ave., San Francisco, Ca. 94122

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 P.M. Los Angeles State and County Arboretum 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif. Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart, Secy. 169 Mauna Loa Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. Casa del Prado (Rm. 104) Balboa Park, San Diego Mrs. Nova Gillis, Secy. 11885 Walnut Rd., Lakeside, Ca. 92040

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History 2559 Puesta Del Sol Mrs. Patricia Hill, Secy. 1339 Mission Ridge Road, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103

SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH 4th Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Covington School Covington Rd. near Foothill Expressway and El Monte Road in Los Altos Mrs. Elizabeth K. Sayers, Secy. 369 Ridge Vista Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95127

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.
Bethany Lutheran Church, 7400 Woodlawn Ave. N.E. Janeen Lynch, Secy. 8248 16th N.E., Seattle, Wash. 98115

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1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Senior Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa Clara St., Ventura, Ca. Mrs. Bernice Barker, Sec'y 3316 Porter Lane, Ventura, CA. 93003

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4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Wm. Moshier Field House 430 South 156th Burlen Mrs. Viva Musgrave, Secy. 11447 12th Ave., Seattle, Wash. 98146

TAMPA BAY AREA BRANCH

Mrs. Grace McDougall, Secy. Plum St., Inverness Highlands Inverness, Florida 32650

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH
2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m., Bank of Fort Worth
Mrs. Richard Ellis, Secy.
2117 Hillcrest, Ft. Worth, Texas 76107

TEXASTAR BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center 1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas Mrs. V. O. Harman, Secy. 306 Cody, Houston, Texas 77009

WESTCHESTER BRANCH
1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club
8020 Alverstone Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. Barbara Mack, Secy. 424 Oregon St., El Segundo, Ca. 90245

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday 11:00 a.m. every month Pittsburgh Garden Center, 1059 Shady Ave., Fittsburgh, Pa. Mrs. Alfred Slee, Secy. 211 Arlington Ave., Butler, Pa. 16001

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