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The BEGONIAN

The BEGONIAN

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and purposes

- 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.
- TO** bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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THE COVER: Thelma O'Reilly photographed *B.* 'Woodriff's Tricolor' in her garden. Her Christmas selection is profiled on page 296.

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NOTES/From the editors

The on-again-off-again directory of ABS branches and regional organizations appears this month on page 306. But your branch's listing probably is wrong.

We were underwhelmed by the response to our request for updated information on branch meetings and officers. Only a few groups sent us the data, so the directory consists mostly of old information, much of it undoubtedly not correct.

If your branch is misrepresented, please send the proper information immediately to the secretary (her address is on the opposite page) with a copy to the editors.



In this issue, we have begun condensing minutes of ABS board meetings to make room for other editorial matter and to eliminate the unnecessary reporting of routine board activities.

The Begonian will continue to report important board actions, but we thought it was inefficient use of

space to tell you that last month's minutes were approved and who led the pledge of allegiance.

Membership surveys have shown that fewer people read the minutes than nearly anything else in the journal. But if this change bothers you, please let us know.

We will print the minutes again if it turns out a large portion of the membership now wants it. Meanwhile, the minutes are sent to each branch monthly.



Kit Jeans, who writes funny articles for *The Begonian* and produces magnificent begonia calendars to benefit ABS, wants us to let you know her new ABS calendar for 1980 is available at a discount to branches who buy in bulk for resale to members and the public.

The cost drops from \$3.95 to \$3.75 each when six or more are purchased. Shipping costs will depend on quantity ordered. Write Kit for details.

—C.A. & K.B.

Merry Christmas, Happy Channukah, and all good wishes for the New Year from the Westchester Branch

The Garden Grove Branch wishes all of you peace and happiness for the coming year

Benign neglect: how to grow toughies

Kit Jeans

When it comes to growing begonias, let me give you Jeans' Law of Relativity. To wit: the success with which you grow it is in inverse proportion to that particular plant's cost, reputation, and rareness.

In other words: if it's hard to find, expensive, and everybody tells you that you can't grow it, sure as God made little green mites, you won't. And it has been my experience that the reason for this frustrating state of affairs has very little to do with the physical care you lavish on the plant. Would you believe—it's all in your head?

I can't give you any Freudian logic or psychology on the thing and the more practical begonia growers will say *that* idea is all in *my* head. But it's so, just the same.

I can't say how many years, dollars,

Kit Jeans, whose enthusiasm for begonias is exceeded only by her keen wit, grows her toughest challenges on Rt. 1, New Johnsonville, TN 37134. She is the creator of the new ABS begonia calendar.

and trips to the dentist to unclinch my teeth it took before I grew *Begonia morelii* or *B. exotica* or *B. 'Arabelle'* successfully. Or this trio of toughies: *B. paulensis*, *B. kenworthyae*, and *B. xanthina*. But I found if, faced with a limp rhizome and rotting leaves, I said, "Oh, to hell with it," and stuck it on the sink-or-swim bench, it wasn't long before I was covered with eager prima donnas.

The name of the game is "Benign Neglect." First of all, play bumble bee. He doesn't know that, aerodynamically speaking, he can't fly, so he goes on and does it anyway. Forget the begonia's fearsome reputation. Put out of mind its cost. Tell yourself there's always more where it came from and treat it according to its known requirements—without getting carried away.

B. paulensis is a case in point. This plant grows for me the way *B. 'Woolly Bear'* grows for other people. (But I remind myself, lest my hat get too small for my head, my *B. 'Lucerna'* is as bare as a baby's behind while every farm wife in the country has one four feet tall.)

Photo/Pam Braun



B. paulensis



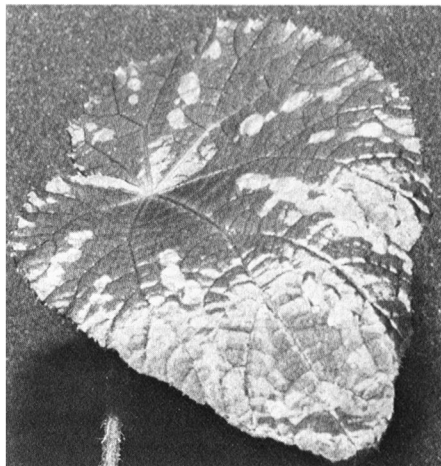
Dappled leaves of *B. xanthina* are represented in pen-and-ink sketch (left) and in close-up photo of one leaf (below).

Photo/Thelma O'Reilly

I have a specimen of *B. paulensis* in a hanging basket right inside the greenhouse door—a *big* basket. The leaves on that plant are, at maturity, 18 to 20 inches in length and 12 to 15 inches wide. Their color is not as deep as I'd like. But I'll be darned if I'll hang such a breathtaking basket *under* the benches. It gets no special care. I don't let it dry out completely and, of course, the humidity level in the greenhouse runs 40 to 60%.

B. paulensis must have humidity and good air circulation. Other than that, it's just another begonia. One sat in my kitchen window over the sink all winter. It didn't reach any great size, but it was healthy. Benign neglect.

This is the reason, I'm sure, I've succeeded with *B. xanthina*. For the longest time, I didn't know what I



had. I've grown it both from seed and cuttings. Both are as easy as breathing. But one word of caution. When you cut a leaf from the plant, be sure to drip hot candle wax on the cut stem. Otherwise, the parent plant is likely to go into shock and die on you. I've



B. kenworthyae

never lost a mother plant I've cauterized in this way.

B. xanthina does not like to be moved about. It's been known to sulk if you just pick it up and admire it. The hotter it is, the happier. And while it's another humidity lover, I do not keep it in a terrarium. Like *B. paulensis*, it must have good air circulation. It sits in the greenhouse on a restaurant tray covered with a layer of damp vermiculite. It also does very well under lights—but look out! Once it's happy, it grows very large.

It can also be very unhappy and when it is, it'll go dormant. So don't pitch out what look like empty pots. Stash them where it's warm, moist, and light, and when things are more to their liking, they'll pop up again. This rex-like begonia with its luscious lemon-yellow blooms is worth hanging onto.

A lot of people don't have any problems with *B. kenworthyae*. I ain't one of 'em. I can keep it and start it from cuttings. But most of the time, it looks like something a little boy shot at. One

had started well and appeared happy on one of the light shelves in a plastic pot. I came home from a trip, alas, and found it hanging over the rim like green spaghetti. I couldn't even save the rhizome.

Tovah Martin of Logee's straightened me out on *B. kenworthyae*: keep it dry, dry, dry—and in a clay pot. It likes an airy mix, to boot. (I think this is what makes it so tough to start from cuttings: the succulent leaf prefers dry conditions but it must have moisture to root. Getting just the right combination can be tricky.) I finally moved the plants—now in clay—to the floor of the greenhouse. There, they never get watered. They get dripped on.

As I said, don't shy away from the toughies. Nine times out of ten, their bad reputation is undeserved. If you have to psych yourself, do so. Put a label in the pot and call it *B. schmidtiana* or *B. 'Emmaline Smutz'*.

I wonder. Do you suppose if I put a label in Lucerna's pot and called her *paulensis*. . . .

Easy to grow: *B.* 'Hazel Snodgrass'

Elda Haring

Big, bold and beautiful—that's *B.* 'Hazel Snodgrass'. Classified as shrub-like, distinctive foliage, unusual surface or coloring, this is the result of a cross made by Gene Daniels. The parent plants were *B. paulensis* and *B. Brazil* species #4.

Unlike its parent, *B. paulensis*, *B.* 'Hazel Snodgrass' is very easy to grow. It was named for a devoted member of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd branch, an ardent worker for ABS.

Stems of this tall, upright grower are red with white hairs. The underside of the leaf is rosy red, the top having red veins and a red dot where the leaf meets the stem. The lightly pebbled surface has tiny white hairs and the edges of the leaves are often rose-red.

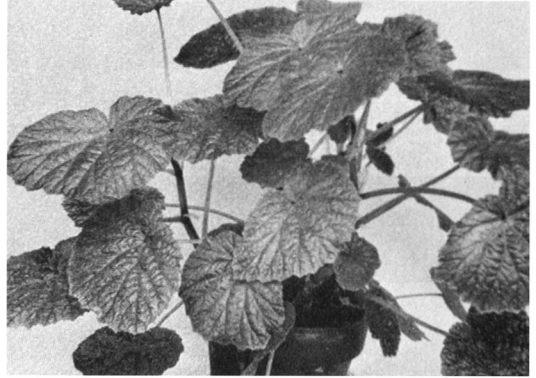
Flowers are white and held on long stalks. The male flowers have tiny red hairs on the back of the petals.

My plant originally came from a single leaf acquired in California five years ago. As the leaf was quite large, I trimmed it to dollar size and placed it in propagation mix. It grew rapidly under fluorescent lights.

When the plant grew to 5 inches in height, I cut off the top inch of the stem, forcing several stems to grow at soil level. This produced a rather compact plant with short internodes and it bloomed in summer.

When the stems grew too close to the lights to suit me, I cut them off about 5 inches above the pot level. Each stem had a diameter of three-

Photo/Walter Haring



B. 'Hazel Snodgrass'

fourths inch. New stems soon appeared with smaller leaves. This procedure resulted in a rather spreading plant.

Now growing in a five-inch pot, it continues to be a gorgeous plant under lights. It has seven stems and is spreading outward and downward instead of upright.

One, growing in the greenhouse in a 6-inch pot, I cut back to within 3 inches of the pot level last fall. Now it spreads to 12 inches across and is only 8 inches high. None of the leaves measures more than 4 inches in length. Although I do not have the space for tall-growing plants, I did permit one to grow at will. It is now 20 inches tall with 6 upright stems. The leaves are quite large, 11 inches by 6 inches, and at this writing is in bloom.

If the weather is very hot during the summer months, *B.* 'Hazel Snodgrass' has a tendency to wilt in my greenhouse if not kept well watered. As my fluorescent light plant room never gets hotter than 75 degrees, there is no problem with watering there.

However, the one in the greenhouse has been overwatered, underwatered

Please turn to page 297

The Begonian's *Question Box* columnist, Elda Haring always enjoys writing about begonias that beginning and intermediate collectors can grow. She is also author of *Begonias for Beginners*.

Marin County's hot-water spa for begonias

Chuck Anderson

A hot water spa that humidifies begonias as well as soothing the owners' weary muscles is the central point in Dr. Ernest M. Weitz and Carol Clement's newly remodeled garden in Kentfield, Calif.

They built the spa into a new indoor-outdoor plant room as part of the rescue of the one-acre Marin County garden from what Dr. Weitz calls "10 years of neglect."

He and Carol—each a past president of the San Francisco Branch—moved in in December 1977. Along with the furniture came a sizeable collection of potted begonias, mostly tuberous and rex types. They went into protected places under cover while the couple undertook to whip the 30-year-old garden into shape.

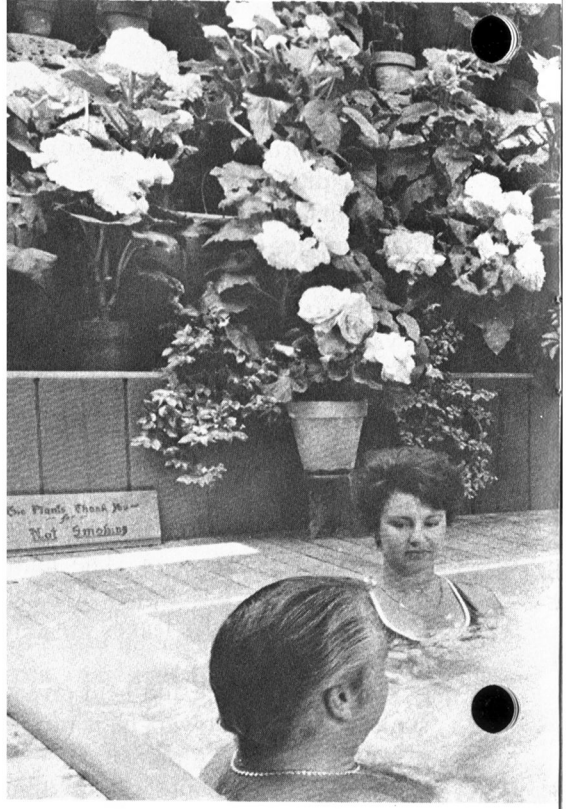
Large portions were simply restored, the trees pruned and other existing plants doctored back to health. Some changes were made.

A pavilion near the swimming pool was converted to a bathhouse with changing rooms. A vegetable garden was planted. Flower beds were replanted. Some trees had to be removed.

Then came the two major projects—the spa room and an extensive drip irrigation system (see Dr. Weitz's account at right).

The garden room is 18 by 35 feet and contains hundreds of begonias. Large expanses of windows let in light on two sides. A pyramidal skylight 12 feet across admits additional light.

Here and there in one portion are plants—mostly begonias—on individual stands or in large containers.



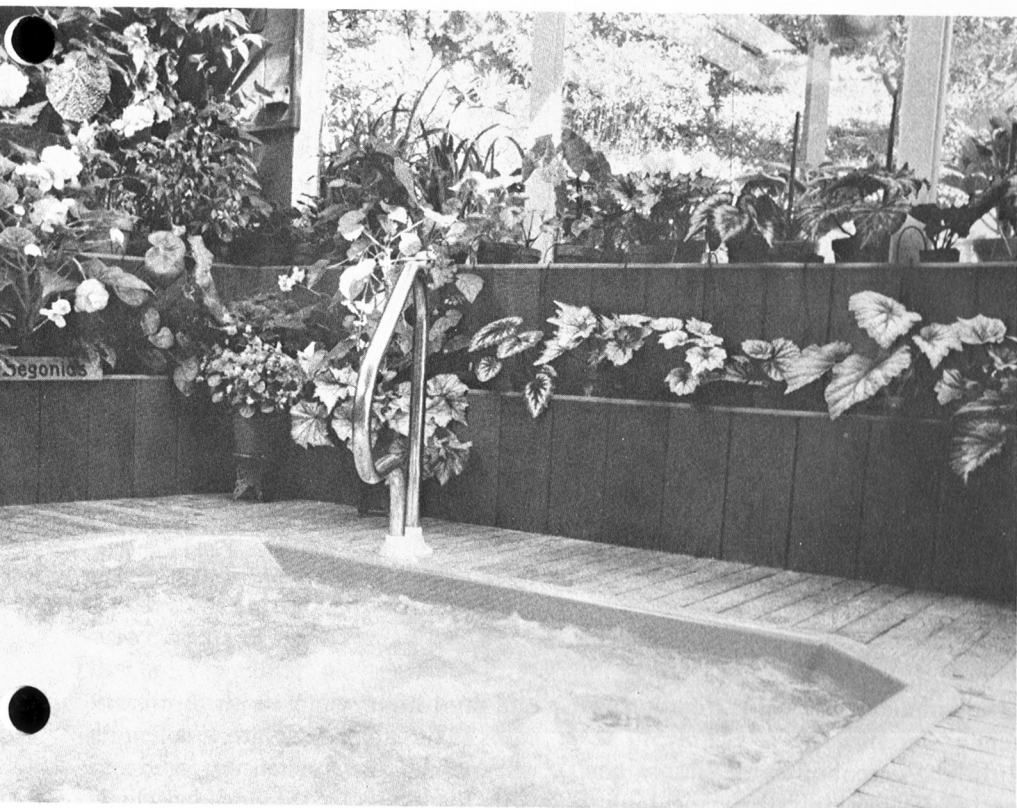
But what attracts everybody's attention is the other part of the room. Slightly raised above the level of the floor is a wooden deck with a light blue fiberglass spa in the middle of it.

Bordering it are two walls of tiered shelves filled with begonias—rexes and rhizomatous types year-round plus tuberous ones in summer.

The spa's jacuzzi action, which churns the water and gives off warmth and humidity, is activated automatically three hours daily, whether anyone is in the spa or not.

A space heater keeps the room at 50 degrees or higher in winter and a thermostatically activated ventilation fan cools it in summer.

Hot-water spa soothes owners while it creates humidity for tuberous, rex, and rhizomatous begonias on tiers.



How begonias benefit from drip irrigation

Ernest M. Weitz

We were on the tailend of probably the most severe drought ever experienced in Marin County, Calif., when we were drawing up our greenhouse construction plans. This gave us the impetus to design into the construction a method to collect and re-use the water used during the routine care and feeding of our begonias, and to devise a method to conserve as much

Ernest M. Weitz, M.D., is past president of the ABS San Francisco Branch and a prominent orthopedic surgeon in San Francisco. He designed and installed his own drip system for begonias in his home at 212 Goodhill Rd., Kentfield, CA 94904.

water as possible.

We designed benches 12 inches wide, consisting of two 2 x 4's separated by a 4-inch channel of sheet metal to collect the water, and all covered with steel mesh. The water drained in one direction, and one could simply collect the water in a large bucket and either pump it back through the system or use it for watering elsewhere.

It was our plan at the time to collect the water in multiple buckets. Since we were taking about an hour to water all of our 250 pots, we found that we used far more water than we could ever collect. That prompted the instal-



An individual tube is plugged into water supply and emitter on other end is inserted into potting mix.

lation of a drip and mist irrigation system.

In the greenhouse we simply connected $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch polyethylene tubing to a hose filter assembly. We ran the tubing throughout the greenhouse and inserted along its length eighth-inch tubing with emitters to vary the flow between one-half and 4 gallons per hour, as determined by the pot and plant size.

Each pot was provided with a single tube with the amount of flow being controlled by the type of emitter employed. Mist sprayers were inserted in other areas which spray 3 gallons per hour.

We then decided to automate the system so we could go on vacation and have the plants watered at whatever time interval and frequency we chose. It was very simple to use two clocks, one a 24-hour clock, the sec-

ond a 4-hour clock with 2-minute stops. The clocks activate a solenoid valve which opens when triggered.

If, for example, the 24-hour clock was allowed to run in the "on" position for four hours, you would have one complete cycle of the 4-hour clock and have as many 2-minute stops as desired. If the 24-hour clock ran in the "on" position for 24 hours, you would have six 2-minute watering intervals if you set the clock to turn on the water for two minutes every four hours.

Conversely, if you set the 24-hour clock for one hour, you would water for 2 minutes every four days. If you set the 24-hour clock for two hours you would water for 2 minutes every other day.

Between the solenoid valve and hose filter assembly, we inserted a Proen cartridge fertilizer applicator so the

plants could be fertilized as we were watering. The cartridge fertilizer is not totally soluble, and it tended to plug the 80-mesh stainless steel screen filter. Therefore, we substituted Rod McLellan Wonderlizer (25-9-9), which is totally soluble and works very well. We also use a totally soluble 16-30-16 plant food in the feeder when we wish to encourage flowering.

The installation of this system is really quite simple, and it takes less than 15 minutes to wire the clocks to the solenoid and attach the necessary filter and feeder. It took considerably more time to insert the individual emitters, since we had 250 pots, and each pot got its own emitter.

It took about two to three weeks to determine how many 2-minute intervals were required daily to satisfy the water needs of our begonias. Initially in cooler weather we tried three 2-minute intervals daily and found the plants were thoroughly soaked and most of the water went down the drain. In the midst of a summer warm spell, we found that on the hottest

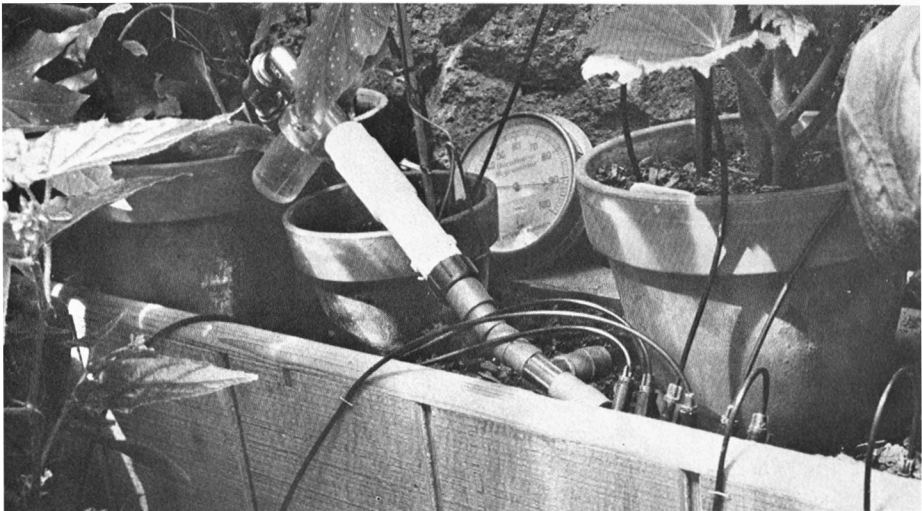
days, when the greenhouse is between 85 and 90 degrees, two 2-minute intervals in 24 hours are adequate. On average days, when the temperature in the greenhouse is between 75 and 85 degrees, the entire watering is done in one single 2-minute interval every 24 hours.

Most of the time, we fertilize once a week, and our begonias have never looked better.

The surface soil does not appear moist, but if you check right under the surface it is very slightly moist. By midwinter, we probably will water for one 2-minute interval every other day, or every third day, depending upon the needs of the plants. There is still no substitute for observation, and since the weather variable is ever present, the watering needs will, of course, vary.

The most important aspects of this entire setup are: First, the time which was previously spent watering all of the plants we now use to groom them. Secondly, whereas the water bill last

Please turn to page 305



Individual tubes extend to plants below. Slanted fitting in upper left provides automatic fertilization.

Begonia profile: B. 'Woodriff's Tricolor'

Thelma O'Reilly

Christmas is the time to share special joys with friends. I have chosen *Begonia* 'Woodriff's Tricolor' for December because its brilliant beauty adds so much joy to my collection.

I acquired this distinctive begonia more than two years ago. At that time it was 4 inches high, growing in a 2-inch plastic pot. It thrived and was transplanted into a shallow redwood container before it was one year old.

B. 'Woodriff's Tricolor' is a joy to behold, taking top billing among *B. rex* cultivars which are famous for their beautiful foliage.

Its satiny, firm-textured leaves have a narrow center zone of black which is bordered by a vivid red zone, the red zone merging into a bright green zone which is overlaid with scattered silver spots sometimes flushed pink, and a narrow black band borders the entire leaf.

Thelma O'Reilly is an inveterate traveler and begonia collector who also is ABS nomenclature co-director. She lives at 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.

All of the color zones merge outward and downward toward the narrowly pointed leaf apex. The large leaves, which measure 9 inches by 12 inches, ripple deeply and the margins are tightly fluted.

It never ceases to amaze me that so little is discussed or written about the outstanding beauty of the flowers on *B. rex* cultivars. Color and form of their floral loveliness surpasses nearly all other begonias except the tuber-hybrida group.

The flowers of *B. 'Woodriff's Tricolor'* are an added joy, not only because of their beauty but because of their everblooming habit.

The 2½-inch pistillate flower has five large tepals which are brilliant rose pink; peduncle, pedicel, ovary and wings are the same color. Two wings are small and one of them always divides into a second portion of wing; the third wing is large and ribbed. Style and stigma are fused, extending over one-half inch from the tepals and giving the appearance of a miniature butterfly in flight—a butter-

Photo/Thelma O'Reilly



Brilliant rose pink flower of *B. 'Woodriff's Tricolor'* is 2½ inches across.

fly whose wings are painted brilliant pink with orange highlights and are edged with yellow velvet ruffles.

Because of this unique stigmatic form, I have had no success using this begonia as a female parent. About 75 percent of the pistillate blooms have an "added accessory" that captures the heart. It is a delicate jewel, composed of a wee bit of all parts of the flower, and it dangles teasingly. The 2-inch staminate flower has four tepals, two outer ones deep rose, two inner ones light pink. The prominent stamens are yellow-orange.

B. 'Woodriff's Tricolor' is so easy to grow that it encouraged me to increase my collection of *B. rex* cultivars. It develops luxuriant growth year round. In mid-October, as most begonias are preparing for a season of

rest, this begonia is flaunting many plush, red growing tips.

It prefers a loose potting mix consisting of equal parts of leaf mold (or a rich commercial planting mix), fine orchid bark, medium orchid bark and No. 3 perlite. I add Osmocote (12-12-12) to the top of the mix every three months.

It has proved pest free in the glasshouse and under protected outdoor growing conditions. It is mildew resistant and propagates quickly from leaf cuttings and leaf wedges.

Leslie Woodriff hybridized *B.* 'Woodriff's Tricolor' in 1976. It bears Registration No. 697. The registration form lists parentage as "unknown." I feel *B.* 'Merry Christmas' must be part of its heritage because there is a colorful resemblance.

More *B.* 'Hazel Snodgrass'

Continued from page 291

and otherwise often neglected but it stays in good condition winter and summer.

B. 'Hazel Snodgrass' roots readily from leaves, but stem cuttings root more quickly and produce new plants in a short time. It grows beautifully in my own potting mix but I have seen it growing to perfection in packaged potting mixes recommended for African violets. I assume, therefore, that our members, wherever they live and whatever potting mix they use, will find it a most satisfactory addition to their collections.

*Best wishes for the holidays
and happiness throughout
the New Year*

from the Sacramento Branch

Seasons
greetings
from the
Buxton Branch

Mabel Corwin

Many members are experimenting with wicking and capillary matting for their plants.

Betty Davenport, Washington, lives in an area where humidity is a problem. She has all her plants except succulents on capillary matting. It has raised the humidity and she only has to water her plants once a week.

She checks daily to be sure the mats are wet. She prefers plastic pots with no crocking, a soilless mix and constant feeding. She bought disposable aluminum cookie sheets, cut mats to fit and uses old nylon stockings for wicking. Her begonias love the wicking, but some tuberous gesneriads and oxalis do not like it.

Batting or matting?

Mary Simon, Ohio, reported: I bought a roll of quilt batting and used it as capillary matting. I'm very pleased with the results. I had just received an order of mini African violets and decided to start with them as there were about 12 tiny pots. The quilt batting costs much less than matting, so can be changed as often as necessary.

Rug yarn and egg crate

Mary Harbaugh, Wisconsin, uses rug yarn for wicking her pots. It comes as three strands twisted together. She separates them and uses a single strand for the smaller pots. She puts the pots on "egg crate." This is a plastic material used for diffusing commercial fluorescent lights.

Mabel Corwin, round robin director, will send a newly revised flight list and other information about joining a round robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—if you write to her at 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083.

The egg crate is cut larger than her green plastic trays. The wick hangs down into the tray which is kept filled with water. She uses diluted fish emulsion or seaweed in the trays for constant feeding. She makes sure the wick is wet before using it and waters from the top the first time to activate it.

Drink up for pots

Mary Ellen Taback, Virginia, has discovered that the bottoms on two-liter plastic soft drink bottles make great pots for shallow-rooted plants. They are glued to the bottle, but pop right off if you pry a little. They are perfect for miniature begonias.

Elaine Ross, Louisiana, added that she makes terrariums from these by cleaning off labels and cutting the bottle in half. Use the part of the bottle you prefer and place it over the plastic bottom. This works fine for seeds, cuttings, and small plants.

Good luck with seeds

Vivian Stewart, Washington, reported:

I have had quite good success with seeds this spring. I planted them in peat pots and placed them in 16-by-24-inch plastic pans before planting. I mixed benomyl with water and poured it into the plastic pans.

I placed the pots in the solution and left them there until the tops were damp, then planted the seeds. From then on I continued to water with the benomyl solution and there was no sign of damping off or mildew.

New use for root hormone

Betty Hendrickson, Missouri, reported on her cuttings:

After the cuttings were rooted I

planted them in a soilless mixture of 2 parts milled sphagnum, 1 part perlite, and 1 part vermiculite. Then I watered with a solution (mixed according to directions) of Transplantone, a root-inducing hormone. I was really amazed at the results. The plants needed the next size pot in about two weeks.

Packed cuttings

Dorcas Resleff, Washington, wrote:

I received a box of cuttings yesterday that were packed in a different way than any I have ever received. The sender wrapped the cut ends in moss with the label attached and placed them in a styrofoam box which had four round compartments.

Each compartment was about the size of a quart jar. All cuttings traveled well and were fresh looking, except *B. foliosa*, which is just too fragile to take such movement. Some had already started rooting in the moss.

Collapse of *B. 'Buttercup'*

Diann Goetten, Minnesota, reported:

I had a beautiful *B. 'Buttercup'* growing in a 12-inch dome container. Suddenly, it collapsed for no apparent reason. I was told that this was not unusual.

I took it out of the container, cleaned off the roots, and repotted it in Black Magic terrarium soil in a 9-inch container. It grew so fast I was amazed.

Indoor plant room

Risa Young, Ohio, grows begonias in a 10- by 10-foot plant room with six 8-foot two-tube fixtures mounted in the ceiling. They have one plank shelving against the wall, two shelves per wall, with 4-foot two-tube fixtures under the top shelf.

The room has a perfect closet. It is a walk-in with a table for potting.

Risa reported:

I do most of my propagating in clear plastic boxes. The smallest ones are used for seeds, the intermediate size for Jiffy 7's which I use for leaf propagation. I transfer them to the largest size as they grow.

I also use plastic baggies to house larger starts such as rhizomes and larger shrub types. I either put them into Jiffy 7's or 3-inch pots with a mixture of perlite and vermiculite. I fold the bag over and staple it closed after giving it a spray of distilled water to add a bit of humidity.

I used to have trouble with mold or fungus when starting seeds, but now I use captan and benomyl in the water that I use to soak the Jiffy 7's as well as other propagating media. I also use it in the water that I spray into the baggies.

Using chicken grit

Linda Kirik, Canada, increases the humidity by placing a layer of chicken grit one-half to one inch thick in the bottom of the trays. She adds water, and the plants sit on top of this.

If the humidity goes below 40% she fills the trays to the top of the grit with warm water and gets a good increase in humidity right away from the rising vapor. It is maintained for several days as the water evaporates.

If humidity is a real problem this can be repeated as the water level in the trays goes down. Good air circulation is essential to prevent mildew.

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year to all
Santa Barbara Branch
(meets fourth Saturday each month)*

QUESTION BOX / *Crystals appear on B. herbacea*

Elda Haring

Question: My *B. herbacea* suddenly broke out in salt or sugar or something that makes crystals. After bringing the plant in from outside and putting it in a terrarium, I find crystals like grains or salt appear on leaves and stems. It does not seem to harm the plant.

I have had this appear on *B. diademata*, also. Horticulture experts where I live are unfamiliar with this condition, although one expert thinks the crystals are xylem fluid crystals. Have you ever seen or heard of this problem?

Answer: Yes, *B. herbacea*, *B. attenuata* and *B. mauricei* in my collection produce these salt-like crystals but they are strangely enough more likely to appear on the plants under fluorescent lights and rarely on the same species in the greenhouse.

Some begonia experts call these “gladular secretions” or “exudations.” The crystals may be washed off but will appear again in time, although they do not harm the plants.

Question: How do you know the difference between male and female flowers on *B. parva* and how do you go about collecting seed?

Answer: Male flowers on *B. parva* are small with four petals held close to the stem. The female flowers have a small tube-like appendage behind the petals that looks very much like a tiny banana.

After “selfing,” if the tube (ovary) remains and matures until it is tan and

papery, remove carefully and let it dry for a few days on a piece of white paper in a dry place, then break the tube to let the very fine seed spill out.

Question: I have a plant of “*B. Sunderbruchii*” that flowered and produced seed which were planted in Pro-Mix. The plants are very small but leaves are unlike the parent plant. Will the leaves change as the plants age or is there something about self-pollinating this plant that I should know?

Answer: The proper name for this begonia is *B. heracleifolia* var. *sunderbruchii*. It is not unusual for small seedlings to appear different at first. As they grow, they take on the typical characteristics of the parent plant—assuming that pollen from other begonias blooming at the same time was not deposited on the female flowers by insects or bees.

Question: How do you grow Rieger begonias? When flowering stops should I cut them back? I have them in an east window.

Answer: Rieger begonias should grow well in an east window in Pennsylvania where you live provided the light is not obstructed by a nearby building or evergreen trees. During the winter months when sunlight is dim a south window may be preferable.

Give them good potting mix and feed once a month with one of the water-soluble fertilizers. Let the soil dry out between waterings for they will rot if kept too wet.

When flowering stops, prune back to within 4 to 6 inches of the pot level. Be patient—it will likely take a number of months before flowering begins anew.

Question: I have trouble growing

Send questions about begonia growing to Elda Haring, P.O. Box 236, Flat Rock, NC 28731. She'll mail you her reply promptly.

the calla lily begonia. Does it need pinching? If so, where as flowers seem to bloom at the top?

Answer: The calla begonia is a variegated *semperflorens* type. It must be kept on the dry side throughout the year.

In autumn, cut off the top half. The plant should rest during the winter, showing no new leaves or stems. You might try rooting the tops in a propagation mix. Water very sparingly in winter and do not repot or fertilize until new growth begins in spring.

Question: One of my begonias, whose name I do not know, was beautiful and then suddenly defoliated, leaving a few leaves here and there on the stems. There are no insects on it. Could this have been due to splashing cold water on the leaves? Will new leaves grow again before spring?

Answer: Sudden defoliation could be due to the rootball becoming too dry. From your description it would appear that this plant is in the shrub-like classification.

I suggest you make sure the plant is thoroughly watered, then cut the branches back halfway. It should leaf out again soon if temperatures in your plant room are 65 degrees or above.

Question: I have had a pretty cane begonia for about two years. It was in bloom when I got it but it has not flowered since. I keep it in a north window in the winter and on the porch in summer where it gets a little sun.

Answer: The canes need all possible sun in winter in the northeast and can take at least six hours of sun in summer. Keep barely moist in winter.

Feed and water through the spring and summer, give it plenty of light, and it should reward you with blooms in late summer and fall.

Question: Would you please explain the meaning of *symbegonia*. How does it relate to the begonia?

Answer: The family *Begoniaceae* is made up of three genera, *Hillebrandia*, *Symbegonia* and *Begonia*. Most of those under cultivation are in the *Begonia* genus although several begonia specialists offer one or two species of *Symbegonia* in their catalogs.

Question: How much of a change in daylight do rhizomatous plants need to initiate bloom?

Answer: Some rhizomatous begonias bloom off and on all year under lights kept burning 14 to 15 hours a day. Some are summer-blooming only.

For those that bloom only in short days of winter, Jack Golding, noted authority on growing begonias under lights, suggests setting the timer for 15 hours of *darkness*.

After two weeks, change to 14 hours of darkness and after two more weeks reduce the dark period to 13 hours. By this time many rhizomatous winter bloomers will have bulbs or flowers.

In my own experimenting with winter bloomers, I have found that many will bloom under two Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum tubes kept burning for 12 hours a day beginning in November. Timers are set to 15 hours after blooming begins.

Question: What is the correct procedure for cutting back an angelwing begonia? Will this give a shorter, more bushy plant?

Answer: Many growers prefer to cut their canes in late winter. This will cause new shoots to grow at soil level in spring, giving you many cane-like stalks.

Properly cared for, each cane will bear clusters of flowers.

Without a lot of hoopla, the ABS research department has been operating an ambitious project that involves dozens of members growing and studying species in widely varying conditions.

The "grow and study" project was started by Research Director Mildred Thompson shortly after she was named to her post in late 1978.

(Millie and Corliss Engle recently were named co-directors and will share administration of departmental activities. The department also receives assistance from two consultants, Dr. Fred Barkley and Dr. Bernice Schubert.)

In the project, a group of members in different climates grows a species. (For instance, a group of 9 is working on growing *B. picta*.) Each propagates the plant and tries it in a variety of potting mixes and under varied other conditions.

The members also research the species' history, its discoverer, other literature on it—historical and contemporary—and related topics. Findings are shared with other members of the group.

Eventually, the results of the growing experiments will be published.

The research department's projects are being carried out with the financial help of several recent donations—\$55 from the Sacramento branch, \$25 from the Garden Grove branch, and \$10 from Phyllis and Keith Mautino in memory of Myrtis

Your chance to pick Rex Begonia All-Stars

If you grow rex cultivars, please help us determine which are the most popular. Pick out your five favorites—it will be hard, we know—rating your very favorite as number 1, then work down to number 5 in order of preference. Send your list by Jan. 15 to Rex Begonia All-Stars, c/o Begonian Editors, 826 Santa Rita Ave., Los Altos, CA 94022.

Only named varieties qualify for our popularity contest. Include your name and address so we can analyze regional differences. Results will be published in an upcoming issue devoted to the regal rexes.

Remember, you must limit yourself to five.

Ronto. The Sacramento branch also donated \$15 in memory of Dr. Earl Doersch.

\$36,000 annual ABS budget

ABS directors have adopted a fiscal 1979-80 annual budget calling for \$36,433 in expenditures, a slight drop from the \$37,100 spent in fiscal 1978-79.

Most of the savings comes from a reduction in planned contributions from the operating fund to the ABS catalog fund from last year's \$1,709 to a planned \$440.

The new budget allocates \$25,500 for direct costs of publishing *The Begonian*, compared with \$17,636 last year. The increase will accommodate increased printing and typesetting costs and is expected to allow more pages per year.

The *Begonian* figure for 1979-80 includes costs of mailing. That expense was in a different account in the previous year's budget.

Other major changes are an increase to \$1,000 from \$300 for membership solicitation and increases in nomenclature and research funds.

The budget assumes an increase in dues revenue from \$16,589 to a planned \$22,100. This comes from the recent dues increase and anticipates a small drop in the number of members in reaction to the increase.

Directors adopted the budget Oct. 15 on a unanimous voice vote after defeating by a 7-8 vote a motion to postpone adoption so additional copies could be provided.

Big Apple yields record revenue

ABS will receive a record \$6,204.45 in proceeds from the September national convention in New York, the first-ever ABS convention held outside California.

Word comes from convention co-chairman Jack Golding, who said he believes the previous record was \$5,075, earned at the plant sale at the 1976 convention.

The unexpected size of the revenue to ABS will boost the society's recently sagging financial reserves. Directors recently adopted a 1979-80 fiscal year budget based on an estimated total of \$5,000 income from the convention and regional shows combined (see story above).

SEED FUND/ *The Burle Marx begonia, Brazil species No. 3 mk*

Linda Miller, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

SPECIES

DC 1 — Brazil species: Beautiful rhizomatous plant, rough textured leaves, light green in the center and along the nerves, deeper olive to dark brown in other areas. The underside and leaf stems are deep red. Flowers white. (See June 1978 *Begonian*, page 144.) This is the "Burle Marx" begonia, also known as Brazil species No. 3 mk.

Germination time: 15 days. per pkt 1.00

DC 2 — *B. epipsila*: Brazil. Low-growing, shrub-like, with roundish fleshy leaves, green above and red reverse. Flowers white.

Germination time: 8-10 days. per pkt 1.00

DC 3 — *B. hydrocotylifolia*: Mexico. One of the small-leaved rhizomatous begonias. Great for small places or the light garden. Does well in a terrarium, also. Has round, waxy green leaves. Small pink flowers.

Germination time: 6-13 days. per pkt 1.00

DC 4 — *B. incarnata*: Mexico. Frilly, fluffy-looking plant with light green leaves charmingly fluted and scalloped on the edge. Flesh pink flowers in winter.

Germination time: 10 days. per pkt 1.00

DC 5 — *B. schmidtiana*: Brazil. Semperflorens species that grows to 12 inches with a bushy habit. Handsome olive green foliage. Prolific bloomer with "apple-blossom" pink flowers. Makes a graceful basket plant. One of the "easy" growers.

Germination time: 10 days. per pkt .50

Send orders to Linda Miller, 4613 Cochran St., Simi Valley, CA 93063.
Include self-addressed, stamped envelope. California residents add 6% sales tax.
Checks and money orders should be made payable to: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.
Foreign orders: U.S. funds only.



Burle Marx begonia: leaves have rough texture and flowers are small but interesting.



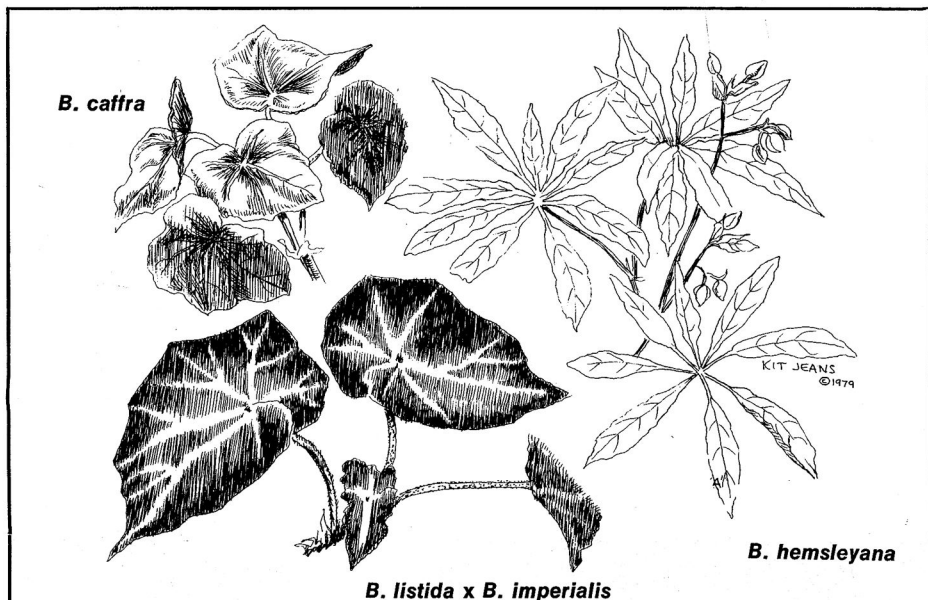
Change that label!

The rex begonia you may have labeled "H. via P.L." finally has a real name. It's *B. 'Eddie's Favorite'*.

When grower Bob Cole bought the Leatherman collection, this rex was included. The labeling was assumed to mean the plant came from "H" who gave it to "P.L." and then to Sylvia Leatherman—and that it was otherwise unnamed.

Last spring, Bob received some rexes from Marge and Paul Lee and among them was the same rex bearing the label *B. 'Eddie's Favorite'*. This Bob knew to be a hybrid from Ed Howard, a former Los Angeles area grower.

The leaf is rippled, the lobes overlap and spiral, the margins are dark green as are the main veins and the central zone, and the wide mid-zone is pale green.



NEW—THE ONE-AND-ONLY ABS BEGONIA CALENDAR!

It's a 1980 calendar featuring pen-and-ink drawings of begonias by ABS member-grower and artist Kit Jeans. Three sketches from the calendar are reproduced above. There are 12 pages of drawings, each 8 by 10 inches.

ONLY \$4.95 POSTPAID

(\$3.95 Plus \$1 Mailing)

Proceeds will be donated by Kit to the ABS treasury. Order now to be sure of getting one—or buy several and use them as gifts. Supply will be limited.

Send your check to Kit Jeans Begonia Calendar
Rt. 1, Box 319
New Johnsonville, TN 37134

More drip watering

Continued from page 295

year at this time was \$165 every two months, it is now \$37.50. Last, the plants are not overwatered or underfed.

We were so pleased with the operation of this drip irrigation and mist irrigation system in the greenhouse that we've converted many of the outside sprinkler heads to drip. By this method, when the sprinkler heads go on, instead of watering between the shrubs, we have tubing going directly to each shrub and virtually have eliminated the weeds which always cropped up in profusion. We also converted one sprinkler head to water upright tuberous begonias in pots and various hanging baskets on the patio outside the spa room. There is no limit to the amount of time and water saved by this method and, by delivering the water directly to each pot for a specified period of time, you prevent the obvious over-/underwatering or underfeeding which can occur by hand methods.

There are numerous types of drip

irrigation systems. We used Care-Free Irrigation Supplies, Inc., P.O. Box 151, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. The applicator, Model 954 (\$3.98), is available from Proen Products Co., 9th and Grayson Streets, Berkeley, CA 94710.

By using less water with optimal efficiency we will be ready for the next drought. In the meantime we enjoy more leisure time and extra money to enlarge our begonia collection.

"Schultz-Instant"
CONCENTRATED SOLUBLE
Fertilizer

20-30-20
with Model 5 "MIXERATOR YARD GUN"



¼ teaspoon per gallon water grows vegetables, flowers, roses, trees, shrubs, lawns, everything for yard & garden.

The patented non-clogging "Mixerator" Yard Gun makes application easy on large areas.

Available at your store or send \$7.95 with this ad for 5 lbs Schultz Fertilizer plus a \$2.95 "Mixerator" Free. (Estate Size 25 lbs with 2 "Mixerators" \$30.00). Free delivery. Offer expires December 31, 1979. Immediate shipment.

Schultz Company
Dept. ABS 11730 Northline, St. Louis, MO 63043

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Begonias. Blue Ribbon Winners. Odd. Rare. Unusual. Price list 50¢ or stamps. Begonia Paradise Gardens, 9471 Dana Rd., Cutler Ridge, FL 33157. (305) 251-5836.

Violets - Begonias - Episcias
Cuttings only. Send 35¢ for list.
Wilson's Greenhouse, Route 1
Box 165-4 Ozark, MO 65721

Exhibition Manual. Optional supplement of The Thompson Begonia Guide for subscribers and non-subscribers, 100 pages. Price \$4.95, optional binder \$3.50, including packaging and shipping. N.Y. residents add state tax. Thompson, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968.

Something for everyone—begonias, cactus, succulents, tropicals. Wholesale and Retail. No list—No mail order. Harvey's, 611 So. 8th St. Adel, Iowa 50003.

Begonias. Featuring Wally Wagner hybrids,

Mini-ads are \$1 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$4. A line is about 36 characters. Payment must accompany order. Send to Pam Mundell, advertising manager, 2324 Connie Dr., Sacramento, CA 95815.

gesneriads, miniatures for light gardens. List 50¢. Pat Morrison/Jim Heffner, 5305 S.W. Hamilton St., Portland, OR 97221.

The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens, 18007 Topham, Reseda, CA 91335, (213) 881-4831—Welcome Wed thru Sun, 10 am-6 pm. Progressive catalog, \$2.00, refunded with first order. Poster of 18 species staghorns, \$4.00.

Woodriff's Fairyland Begonia Hybrids. List 25¢. Visitors welcome. Leslie & Winkey Woodriff, Fairyland Begonia & Lily Garden, 1100 Griffith Rd., McKinleyville, CA 95521. (707) 839-3034.

ASSOCIATED GROUPS/ *Visitors always welcome*

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of members
Mrs. Peter P. Lee, Pres.
1852 31st St., San Diego, CA
92102

Margaret Lee, Natl. Dir.

BUXTON BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Waltham Field
Sta.
241 Beaver St., Waltham, Mass.
Anthony P. Croce, Pres.
24 Saxon Terrace, Newton, MA
02161

May Buck, Natl. Dir.

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN BRANCH

Dr. William Ireton, Pres.
1702 Camino Primavera,
Bakersfield, CA 93306
William Ireton, Natl. Dir.

CHEEKWOOD BRANCH

Homes of members
Pam Braun, Pres.
Rt. 6, Pinewood Rd.,
Franklin, TN 37064

CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Monday, Homes of members
Arline Peck, Pres.
Eagle Peak Rd., Pascoag, RI
02859

Priscilla Beck, Natl. Dir.

DENTON BRANCH

Sharon Nied, Pres.
1418 Dogwood Trail, Lewisville,
TX 75067

Mae Blanton, Natl. Dir.

DESERT BEGONIA BRANCH

Barbara Rogers, Pres.
8508 Shasta Dr., Tucson, AZ
85730

Barbara Rogers, Natl. Dir.

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrea Community Church,
Berkeley, Calif.
Susan Patrick, Pres.
27406 Grand View Ave.,
Hayward, CA 94542

Glen Maynard, Natl. Dir.

EASTERN NEW YORK BRANCH

Betty Pullar, Pres.
411 New Karner Rd., Albany, NY
12205

Betty Pullar, Natl. Dir.

EASTSIDE BEGONIA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
590 116th Avenue N.E.,
Bellevue, Wash.
Dale Greer, Pres.
1704 212th Ave. S.E., Issaquah,
WA 98027

Shelton Fisher, Natl. Dir.

EDNA STEWART PITTSBURGH BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Phipps Conservatory
Suzanne Colaizzi, Pres.
5329 Stanton Ave., Pittsburgh,
PA 15206

Frank Kerin, Natl. Dir.

ELSA FORT BRANCH

Helen Green, Pres.
2100 Hunter St., Cinnaminson,
NJ 08077

Gladys Cooper, Natl. Dir.

FRED A. BARKLEY BRANCH

1st Sunday, Homes of members
Dr. Fred A. Barkley, Pres.
104 E. Highland,
Tecumseh, OK 73475

Dr. Jeffrey Black, Natl. Dir.

GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., New
Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford, Garden Grove,
CA 92643

This directory appears quarterly. If your branch listing is incomplete or inaccurate, please notify the secretary immediately and send a copy of your letter to the editors.

Gil Estrada, Pres.
7914 Springer, Downey, CA
90242

George Allison, Natl. Dir.

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Glendale Federal S & L,
401 N. Brand, Glendale, Calif.
Darlene Fuentes, Pres.
2313 Hollister Ter., Glendale,
CA 91206

Gladys Hattberg, Natl. Dir.

GREATER CHICAGO AREA BRANCH

3rd Sunday except in July, Aug.,
Dec., 2 p.m.

Oak Park Conservatory
561 Garfield, Oak Park, Ill.
Dan Paulson, Pres.
6339 E. Kenneth Ave., Chicago,
IL 60629

Esther Detlefsen, Natl. Dir.

GREATER CINCINNATI BRANCH

Verda Stull, Pres.
5 Burnham St., Cincinnati, OH
45218

Erich Steinger, Natl. Dir.

GREATER ROCHESTER BRANCH

3rd Sunday, Homes of members
Betty Fennell, Pres.
1054 Shoemaker Rd., Webster,
NY 14580

Eileen Franklin, Natl. Dir.

HAMPTON BRANCH

2nd Monday, 7:45 p.m., Parrish
Memorial Hall, Southampton,
NY

Lou Padavan, Pres.

Box 127, Remsenberg, NY
11960

Mary Burnaford, Natl. Dir.

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

4th Monday, 1:00 p.m., Garden
Center, 1500 Herman Dr.,
Houston, Tex.

Mrs. B. A. Russell, Pres.
5926 Jackwood St., Houston
TX 77074

Gwen Brunka, Natl. Dir.

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH

2nd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.

Homes of members
James D. Koon, Pres.
5443 Allamanda Dr.,
Jacksonville, FL 32210
Christine Hall, Natl. Dir.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Horticultural Society of New
York

128 West 58th St., New York,
N.Y.

Marjorie L. Mack, Pres.
75 Henry St., Brooklyn, NY
11201

Ed Grasheim, Natl. Dir.

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Great
Western S & L
6330 E. Spring St., Long Beach
Mrs. C. R. Davis, Pres.
5826 Barbanel St., Long Beach,
CA 90815

Muriel Perz, Natl. Dir.

LONG ISLAND BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Planting Fields Arboretum

Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.
Lois Schneyer, Pres.

111 Webster Ave., Malverne,
NY 11565

Marie Donnelly, Natl. Dir.

MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden
Center

55 South West 17th Road,
Miami, Florida

Charles J. Jaros, Pres.

2621 N.W. 23rd Court, Miami,
FL 33142

Charles J. Jaros, Natl. Dir.

MINNESOTA BRANCH

Dorothea Lillestrand, Pres.
210 W. 108th, Bloomington,
MN 55431

Pat Burdick, Natl. Dir.

MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
New Monterey Neighborhood
Center

Lighthouse and Dickman Sts.,
New Monterey, Calif.

Bill Trelease, Pres.
9500 Center St., #32, Carmel,
CA 93921

Leslie Hatfield, Natl. Dir.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Mercury S&L
4140 Long Beach Blvd., Long
Beach

Edith Van Landingham, Pres.
6925 Lime Ave., Long Beach,
CA 90807

D. G. Sullinger, Natl. Dir.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Fullerton S & L, 2310 E. Lincoln
Ave., Anaheim

Cruz Sandoval, Pres.

2221 Evelyn Dr., Anaheim, CA
92805

Margaret Taylor, Natl. Dir.

PALM BEACHES BRANCH

2nd Monday, Home S & L
Opp. Palm Coast Plaza, W. Palm
Beach, Fla.

Mrs. Frances Hunter, Pres.
201 Potter Rd., W. Palm Beach,
FL 33405

Paul Lowe, Natl. Dir.

PALMETTO BRANCH

Lucille Peden, Pres.
4 Wildwood Dr., Greenville,
SC 29607

John McWhorter, Natl. Dir.

PALOMAR BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Vista Recreation Center
Phyllis Bates, Pres.
554 Arden Drive, Encinitas, CA
92024

Raloh Corwin, Natl. Dir.

POTOMAC BRANCH

4th Sunday, 2:00 p.m.,
National Arboretum
Blandensburg & R. Sts., N.E.,
Washington, D.C.
Maxine Zinman, Pres.
Rte 1, Box 73, Boyce, VA 22620
Carrie Kareoannes, Natl. Dir.

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m., R. H.
Dana School Cafeterium
135th St. and Aviation Blvd.
Hawthorne, Calif.

Evelyn Isaac, Pres.

2022 Bataan Rd., Redondo
Beach, CA 90278

Diane Fries, Natl. Dir.

RUBIDOUX BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Glendale S & L, Riverside, Calif.
 Claire Husted, Pres.
 13597 Indiana, Corona, CA 91720
 Dorothy Ansevies, Natl. Dir.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH
 3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., Garden Center
 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
 Shirley Wilson, Pres.
 2160 Stacia Way, Sacramento, CA 95822
 Joan Coulat, Natl. Dir.

SALINE COUNTY BRANCH OF KANSAS
 4th Monday, 1:30 p.m., Homes of members
 Mrs. Sam Gilmore, Pres.
 536 Crestwood Rd., Salina, KS 67401

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
 1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
 Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way
 Sue Muller, Pres.
 124 St. Charles Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132
 Carol Clement, Natl. Dir.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH
 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
 Walter Barnett, Pres.
 1213 S. Mullender Ave., West Covina, CA 91790
 Walter Barnett, Natl. Dir.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH
 1st Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado, Rm. 104, Balboa Park, San Diego
 Pat Maley, Pres.
 1471 E. Madison, El Cajon, CA 92021
 Paul Lee, Natl. Dir.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

4th Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
 Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center
 1232 De la Vina St.
 Phyllis Mautino, Pres.
 420 Calle Palo Colorado, Santa Barbara, CA 93105
 Barbara Philip, Natl. Dir.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH
 3rd Thursdays, 8:00 p.m.
 Allstate S & L
 Mary & Fremont, Sunnyvale, Calif.
 Mary Margaret Rafferty, Pres.
 18531 Ravenwood Dr., Saratoga, CA 95070
 Joseph McMahon, Natl. Dir.

SEATTLE BRANCH
 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Bethany Lutheran Church, 7400 Woodlawn Ave., N.E.
 Alice Orday, Pres.
 3310 N.W. 80th St., Seattle, WA 98117
 Anton Soder, Natl. Dir.

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH
 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Wm. Moshier Field House
 430 South 156th, Burien, Wash.
 Clarence Eastwood, Pres.
 P.O. Box 486, Auburn, WA 98002
 Herbert Briggs, Natl. Dir.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL ASSOCIATION
 Robert Hamm, Dir.
 2951 Elliott, Wichita Falls, TX 76308

TACONIC BRANCH
 Mrs. John V. Steiner, Pres.
 Bullet Hole Road, Mahopee, NY 10541
 Mrs. John V. Steiner, Natl. Dir.

TAMPA BAY AREA BRANCH
 3rd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
 University of So. Florida, Student Chapel Bldg.
 Stefan K. Brown, Pres.
 4011 N. Howard, Apt. 101, Tampa, FL 33623
 Dora Lee Dorsey, Natl. Dir.

TEXHOMA BRANCH
 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., No. Texas S & L, Midwestern Pky., Wichita Falls, Tex.
 Robert B. Hamm, Pres.
 2951 Elliott, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
 Robert B. Hamm, Natl. Dir.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH
 1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Senior Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa Clara St., Ventura, Calif.
 Velma Montgomery, Pres.
 433 Arnett Ave., Ventura, CA 93003
 Lory Hansen, Natl. Dir.

WESTCHESTER BRANCH
 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
 Westchester Women's Club
 8020 Alverstone St., Los Angeles
 Arnold Krupnick, Pres.
 11506 McDonald, Culver City, CA 90230
 Clair Christensen, Natl. Dir.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH
 2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.
 Northway Mall Community Room
 North Hills, Pittsburgh, Penn.
 Genevieve Allison, Pres.
 221 Schaffoner Rd., Butler, PA 16001
 Agnes Hodgson, Natl. Dir.

WHITTIER BRANCH
 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Palm Park Community Center
 5703 South Palm Avenue, Whittier
 Gertrude Blackstock, Pres.
 15311 Elmbrook Drive, La Mirada, CA 90628
 Dorothy Kosovsky, Natl. Dir.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH
 4th Tuesday, noon, Homes of members
 Mrs. Herbert S. Webster, Pres.
 "Millbridge" 13 Summit Dr., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
 Mrs. Lancelot Sims, Natl. Dir.

ANNUAL MEETING / September 15, 1979

The ABS annual meeting took place in New York, N.Y., on Sept. 15, 1979. Members present took these actions:

- Requested the board of directors to change the 1980 convention date so it does not conflict with Jewish holy days. The motion said members of all faiths feel it an "affront" to have the convention on a holy day. (The board later complied.)

- Approved changes in the constitution and bylaws proposed by the board's constitution revision committee plus amendments made at the meeting. (Members were to vote using a ballot published in *The Begonian* in November.)

- Received annual reports from officers, committee chairmen, and department heads.

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