

July 1981

The BEGONIAN

The BEGONIAN

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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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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See inside back cover

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THE COVER: Widely grown *Begonia listada*, which until publication of this issue usually was referred to as *B. listida*, was photographed by Thelma O'Reilly of La Mesa, Calif. See articles on pages 155, 157, and 158.

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NOTES/ From the editors

If you've not been to an ABS convention, here's why you ought to come to Ventura, Calif., on Aug. 14-16:

You haven't seen this many *perfect* begonias until you've seen the blue ribbon winners in an ABS national show (although the shows at regional meetings and branch shows often are nothing to sneeze at).

Hearing expert growers tell seminars how they do it—and being able to ask questions—can do wonders for your own collection.

The fellowship and fun you'll find at a convention is unmatched anywhere. (Watching a round robin member meet a 10-year penpal for the first time is very moving.)

Besides all this, Ventura is a great stepping-off point for a vacation to Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo-San Simeon, and northward to Big Sur or—if you're from somewhere other than the Los Angeles area—Los Angeles!

This year's fete promises to be one of the best ever—and banquet speaker will be Rudy Ziesenhenne, an ABS member since 1935 and an authority on Mexican species.

Watch for the convention letter in the mail. If it already arrived, return your registration confirmation today. If it isn't here yet, register the day it comes.

Also in the convention mailing will be your annual ABS election ballot. It is important to cast your vote and mail it to ABS in timely fashion.

As in any other election, you must exercise your franchise—or forever hold your tongue on the subject of your officers' performance.

This month's cover story on the widely grown species *B. listada* (*B. listida hort.*) means at least one thing to everybody who grows the plant:

March right out this minute and change the *i* on every label to an *a*.

Readers who are wondering what-ever happened to the index to the 1980 *Begonians* can relax. You'll find it bound in your copy before fall is over. (Compilation is under way this very minute.)

—C.A. & K.B.

Get better begonias with less watering

Ilo and Glenn Maynard

Although ours is a small greenhouse (9 by 15 feet), we find it easy to crowd in several hundred potted plants, mostly begonias. When one enjoys propagating plants, the collection increases quite easily. But by the same token the daily task of watering grows and becomes increasingly time consuming, tiring, and can approach boredom.

We obtained a 2-foot water wand on an 8-foot plastic tube attached to a plastic gallon container which is suspended from the roof. This permitted retiring the heavy watering can, but no time was saved. We experimented briefly with capillary mats, but were not satisfied with the results. The "Texas pot" method was also tried with good results, but pot preparation, potting, and general care did not promise to save much time.

Then we read an article by Dr. P. A. Schippers on NFT (Nutrient Flow Technique) and his improvement over the Texas Pot. This gave us the idea that hydroponics might be adapted to our desire to find a method to eliminate or greatly reduce the watering chore. A letter was dispatched to Dr. Schippers posing our problem and asking if he felt his NFT system might be a solution for us.

His response was in the affirmative. After studying a pamphlet he had prepared on the system with instructions on its installation, we asked some additional questions of Dr. Schippers. These he kindly answered and even supplied us with a layout for our

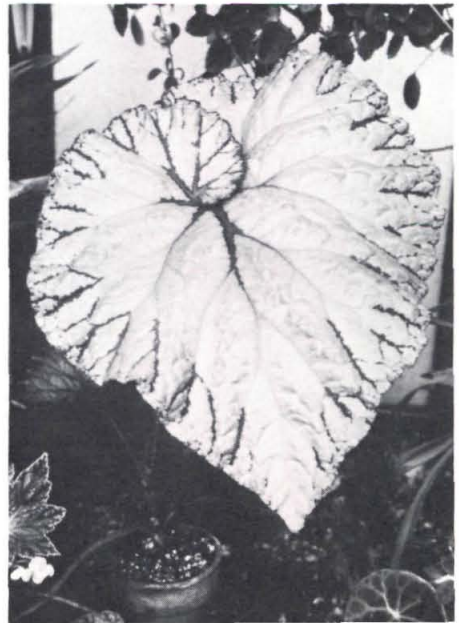
Ilo and Glenn Maynard, P.O. Box 695, Danville, CA 94526 are famed in their East Bay Branch for growing an extensive collection of superb begonias.

greenhouse. With his assurances and our desire we decided to go all out for hydroponics.

Doing all of the construction work ourselves, we found that we were faced with more physical work than we had anticipated—procuring plywood for the troughs, digging a hole under one end of a bench for the nutrient holding tank, constructing the tank, making the troughs with necessary support to insure a slope of one to two inches for each eight feet of trough length. We made the mistake of purchasing a sub-standard grade of plywood which warped in two directions. Since 8 sheets of 4' x 8' x 1/2" plywood were needed, economy was our thought, but a poor one.

Despite this and a few other installation problems, which were finally solved, the system began to take shape. Thanks to Hydroponic Growing Systems¹ we were able to procure the nec-
1. Hydroponic Growing Systems, 32 Richardson Road, Ashby, MA 01431.

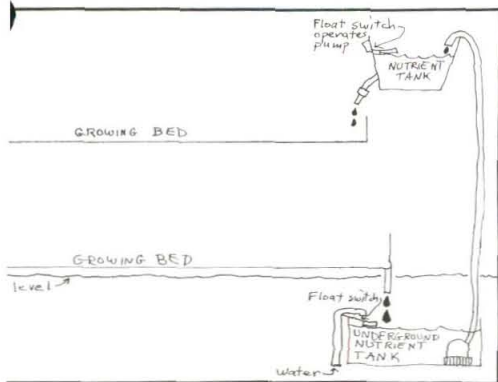
This *B. rex* cultivar developed 10-inch leaves when grown by nutrient flow techniques





Photos/Glenn Maynard

Authors' greenhouse contains growing beds at two levels. Nutrient tanks are at far end.



It's an everlasting flow: Nutrients start in top tank, trickle through beds, collect below, start over

essary supplies and equipment quickly and easily without a lot of shopping around. Rubber stoppers, prebored with tubing inserted, screw clips for flow control, float switch complete with rod and float, float valve, pump, fertilizer, a pH and fertilizer test kit

were all purchased from this source.

Finally the day arrived when the growing bed troughs were installed on top of the greenhouse benches, lined with 6 mil black plastic sheeting, and filled to a depth of 2 inches with large size perlite. At this point we began adding water to the lower tank, keeping a record of the number of gallons added.

The pump in the lower holding tank fills the upper tank through a piece of half-inch garden hose as often as the level of water falls in the upper tank and activates the float switch. Water is carried from this upper container, an 8-gallon plastic pan supported on a shelf above the troughs, via tubing to a manifold at the upper end of the top bench. This manifold consists of a 1-inch PVC pipe, 8½ feet in length, with rubber stoppers containing 6" long tubing inserted at 1 foot intervals

along its length.

Each tube has a screw clip to control the flow to a fast drip. The water drains from the upper bench to the lower one and returns to the holding tank. Our pots of plants are now set on top of the damp perlite. Both plastic and clay are in use. Any broken pottery placed over drainage holes was removed and replaced by a piece of plastic screening to insure better contact between pot and perlite. If necessary, the pot is set down into the perlite to obtain better contact. Also, wicks are sometimes inserted when needed.

At this point we were able to add another time-saving feature—continuous feeding with a weak nutrient added to the water. Once the volume became constant, which takes some time because the water is being soaked up by the perlite, we could determine the amount of nutrients needed since this is based on the total volume of water in the system.

We decided to use hydroponic fertilizer at quarter-strength. Common fertilizers are not used as they often have a part of the nitrogen in ammonium form; hydroponically grown plants prefer the nitrate form. Also, trace elements are assured. We use Peters Hydrosol (5-11-26) plus one-half the amount of calcium nitrate (15-0-0). At first we used equal parts of each fertilizer until we found leaves were growing to huge sizes; the nitrate is probably okay for cabbages, but not begonias.

We are told that it is sufficient for hobby growers to make two regular tests of the nutrient solution. One is a pH test to determine the degree of alkalinity, adding 2 drops of vinegar per gallon of solution if it becomes too

alkaline. The second is a simple phosphorus test to determine the need for additional fertilizer.

There is no need to drain and discard the nutrient solution on a regular basis. Our system has been in operation for longer than one year and we have not yet found it necessary to discard the old solution. Due to evaporation and plant absorption it is necessary to add fresh water to maintain the solution level in the tank. We do this through the float valve attached to a water pipe.

As you have already deduced, the operation of the system is extremely simple. A trickle of solution is constantly fed to the troughs, keeping the perlite always damp. There is no concern about whether plants are getting enough moisture, avoiding the stress put on plants by soaking them one day and then allowing them to dry out before watering again. It should be mentioned that metal is eliminated from the system; only plastic or rubber materials are used. Metal in contact with the nutrient solution is fairly corrosive, and several materials could be toxic to plants.

We have altered our basic potting mix of equal parts of peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite, which seemed to absorb and retain too much moisture for most begonias. We have reduced the peat moss to one-fourth that used in the basic mix, combining this altered mix with an equal amount of small size fir bark used for orchids.

In addition to watering and feeding our plants, other advantages of the hydroponic system include a higher humidity in the greenhouse, often reaching 80% or more at night. Also, cuttings are rooted easily in pots of perlite and vermiculite, or placed di-

Please turn to page 170

The begonia on the cover: *B. listada*

Lyman B. Smith
and Dieter C. Wasshausen

Again Thelma O'Reilly has enabled us to solve a long-standing begonia problem. This time it is a species of uncertain origin and parentage that has been noted as "listida" and "listada." Thelma's note with the specimen is the following:

"Plant imported from Argentina—off highway that runs along Paraguay and Argentina by Tom Mentelos and Fred Fuchs. F. Fuchs went to pick up orchids from man who collects for him and Tom Mentelos, whose first love was begonias, saw *B. listada* and an orange flowered shrub-like begonia. He obtained both plants and brought them to me at the World Bromeliad Conference in New Orleans, La. 1977. Both plants are proven species—coming true from seed."

With the assurance that this is a natural species we can now give it a Latin description that makes it legitimate scientifically. "Listada" is given in our Spanish dictionary as "striped," a very appropriate name in view of the prominent white stripe along the leaf blades' main axes. The fact that the name is not Latin is no deterrent as any pronounceable combination of letters is allowable.

Description

Plant herbaceous, perennial, caulescent, erect; *stem* erect or suberect, 4 mm thick (dry), densely pubescent with stiff, white hairs, the upper internodes ca. 3 cm long; *leaves* rather evenly distributed along the stem;

Dr. Lyman B. Smith is botanist emeritus and Dr. Dieter C. Wasshausen chairman of botany at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560. Dr. Smith is compiling a worldwide key to the genus Begonia.

stipules persistent, 2 cm long, broadly elliptic, thin, net-veined, pale green, pubescent; *petioles* spreading, ca. 10 cm long, pubescent; *blades* subentire, sparsely pubescent throughout, dark green above with a prominent white stripe along the main axes, beneath red, of two types on the same plant, one transverse to the petiole, to 16 cm long, acuminate at apex, acute at opposite end; laterally cordate with overlapping lobes; the other hastate, ca. 6 cm long, the three lobes subequal; *peduncles* axillary, much exceeding the leaves, pubescent; *inflorescences* bisexual, once-forked with 2-3 flowers at the end of each branch; *bracts* quickly deciduous, ca. 7 mm long, elliptic; *staminate pedicels* ca. 25 mm long, pubescent; *tepals* 4, white, entire, the outer suborbicular, 15 mm long, pubescent, the inner narrowly spatulate, nearly as long, glabrous; *stamens* ca. 35, free; *filaments* ca. 1 mm long; *anthers* narrowly oblong, ca. 2 mm long, the connective slightly produced; *pistillate pedicels* (immature) ca. 10 mm long; *bracteoles* minute; *tepals* 5, subequal, ca. 15 mm long, elliptic, obtuse, white tinged red, the 3 outer broader, with red pubescence; *styles* short-bifid, the stigmatic tissue linear, spiral, continuous; *ovary* 3-celled, ellipsoid, pubescent; *placentas* simple; the wings slightly unequal; *capsule* unknown.

BEGONIA (section PRITZELIA) LISTADA
L. B. Smith & D. C. Wasshausen, spec. nov.
Herbacea perennis, caulescens, erecta; caulis erectiusculus, pubescens; stipulis persistentibus late ellipticis, petiolis patentibus; lamina subintegra, pubescens, atro-viridis et supra lineis albis ornata, biformis in eadem planta, una transversalis at petiolos, lobis ad basim acutis, diverse hastatis, lobis subaequalibus; peduculis axillaribus; inflorescentia bisexualis, semel furcata cum 2-3 floribus at ramorum



The Begonian

B. listada: where the misspelling came from

Carrie Karegeannes

After 20 years among us, one of our most intriguing begonia species is officially receiving a name in this issue.

In August 1961, the ABS Seed Fund (*Begonian* 28: 162, August 1961) introduced a beautiful new species from Brazil: "No. 2—*B. listada*—New species from Brazil. The name given here is that of the collector and is not to be construed as the authentic name of the plant. A leaf of this begonia came with the seed and it is undescribably lovely. It is practically unknown even in its native Brazil, where there were only three plants in cultivation. This begonia is small, only about one foot high. Leaf is smallish, dark green above with an emerald green band surrounding the midrib, hairy and red beneath. Flowers two-toned from the leaf axils."

The next year, the Seed Fund (*Begonian* 29: 226, December 1962) reported that the species had been "identified" as *B. listida*, spelling it with an *i* in the second syllable. Through the years it has been grown mostly under that name, *B. listida* hort., spreading

Carrie Karegeannes, ABS nomenclature co-director and an editor for the *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*, lives at 3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22003.

extremitatas; bracteis deciduis, ellipticis; tepalis masculinis 4, exterioribus suborbicularibus, interioribus spatulatis; bracteolis minimis; tepalis femineis 5, subaequalibus, ex rubellis albis; stylis brevibus bifidis; ovario 3-loculato, ellipsoideo; alis leviter inaequalibus; placentis simplicibus.

A *B. bradei* Irmscher., cui versimiliter affinis, stipulis persistentibus, laminae lobis ad basim acutis et singulariter albo-fasciatis differt.

Type: Paraguay: Cultivated, 1980-81, *Thelma O'Reilly* s.n. (U.S.).

Begonia listada appears to be most

among ABS growers and to nurseries from that original seed.

Dr. Oswaldo Handro of the Instituto de Botânica in São Paulo, Brazil, wrote Sylvia Leatherman, ABS research director in 1955-60, that no official description of it had been published. In 1967, a letter from Brazil to then-Research Director Robert Shatzer said the plant was a rare species growing in Rio Grande do Sul.

Years later, in 1977, Tom Mentelos brought it to Thelma O'Reilly, not from Brazil, but this time from Argentina, where it had been found inland from the highway separating Argentina and Paraguay. Still we had no botanical publication until now, when Dr. Lyman B. Smith and Dr. Dieter C. Wasshausen legitimize the 1961 name *listada*, Spanish for "striped."

Growers during these years enjoyed *B. listada*'s unusual, almost boat-shaped, dark-green leaves brilliantly marked by a stripe of light green to white along the main vein, running from basal point to pointed tip. It was beautifully photographed, with white flowers, by Michael Kartuz for the *Begonian* of April 1967 (vol. 34, p. 69), repeated in January 1968 (vol. 35, p. 10). Mildred Thompson's photo in the pictorial section of the *Thomp-*

Please turn to page 159

nearly related to *B. bradei* Irmscher, from which it differs in its persistent stipules, acute basal blade-lobe and unique white stripes. Earlier illustrations include:

Isamu Misono, *Begonia* 77, species 116 (fig.), 78. 1974.

The *Thompson Begonia Guide* ed. 2, vol. 3: CB88, fig. 20. 177.

Thelma O'Reilly, *The Begonian* [45]: 233 (fig.). 1978.

B. listada: a universal favorite

Thelma O'Reilly

The year was 1962. The occasion was a flower show in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

Always on the lookout for unusual foliage to use in flower arrangements, I was intrigued by a stunning, small plant displayed in a sales booth. The saleslady proudly informed me the plant was a new species called *Begonia listida* that she had grown from seed and it was *not* for sale. A few years later I suspected that this friendly lady was Virginia Withee, known throughout the New England area for growing beautiful *B. rex* cultivars.

We moved to California the following year and I was delighted to find this exotic begonia at Sylvia Leatherman's nursery. When Sylvia was ABS research director, she visited Brazil. There she met Dr. Moreira de Souza of the Brazilian Agriculture Department. Later, he sent her three plants of *B. listada*.

It was an exciting occasion when my friend, Tom Mentelos of Florida, surprised me at the 1977 World Bromeliad Conference in New Orleans by presenting me with two packages wrapped in newspaper. He said they were two stunning begonias that he had brought back from a plant-collecting trip to South America. Both were new to him.

I was amazed to find that one package contained *B. listada*—with leaves larger than any I had ever seen. The other begonia was the brilliant orange-flowered species that is listed as U014

in the ABS unidentified species numbering system.

I thought of Sylvia when I examined the plant of *B. listada*. She always contended that years of propagating and selling plants from the original stock resulted in weakened plant material, "new blood" being necessary for continuous vim and vigor.

Her theory is carried out in Tom's *Begonia listada*. It is a vigorous grower with leaves reaching 7 inches or more under optimum conditions. In the greenhouse white flowers show a touch of pink with pink hairs on tepal backs. Outdoors the blooms are heavily tinged with red and tepal hairs are red. It flourishes in a hanging, shallow, wooden container and enjoys a haircut after blooming, rewarding you with numerous, strong shoots from the base.

Last year Francis Michelson of Florida sent me two of his recently introduced *B. listada* cultivars that have started to show sporting and fasciation.

B. 'Helen Michelson', Reg. No. 762, grew normally for several months. I propagated a tip cutting and immediately new, fasciated growth appeared. Now all new leaves on the cutting are sporting into many different shapes, including lanceolate. Checking the original plant, I found a fasciated new shoot in the upper part and new leaves are showing different shapes from any I have seen previously on *B. listada* cultivars.

Begonia 'Osceola', Reg. No. 764, is distinct because its leaves show variegation of green and dusty rose. This spring new growth started to develop in a strange, distorted manner. It is not only appearing from the plant base

Thelma O'Reilly, ABS nomenclature co-director and a begonia explorer when she travels, lives at 10942 Sunray Pl., La Mesa, CA 92041.

but on the side shoots of the original stem. Some leaves are completely dusty rose, while others range from partially green and rose to all green, some with a narrow light green stripe. Shapes run the gamut, some only a half-inch wide with one edge of pale green striping, some with ragged mar-

gins, and some with two separate leaves of different shapes from the top of the same petiole.

Begonia listada is a beautiful species that has given us a wide assortment of lovely, interesting cultivars. There is no doubt it will continue to create new surprises for our collections.

More *B. listada*

From page 157

son *Begonia Guide* (vol. 3, p. R-21, 1977) also shows the typical boat-shaped leaves.

But surprises came. Growers soon noted sudden appearances of triangular to arrowhead-shaped or double leaves and fasciated stems. Usually plants reverted to normal growth, but a plant at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in 1973 carried nearly all triangular leaves, the contrasting stripe forming an inverted Y from two acute basal lobes instead of from the usual single. The more recent import from Argentina also displayed this tendency, and Dr. Handro had noted it in Brazil.

The trait of sporting to double

leaves and fasciated stem was passed on to at least one hybrid. *Begonia* 'Oh No', offspring of *B. olsoniae* x *B. listada*, almost continuously mixed "butterfly" leaves—two leaves joined at the petiole junction—among its normal leaves, whether grown indoors or out.

Other cultivars from crosses using *B. listada* L. B. Smith & D. C. Wasshausen as a parent—*B.* 'Murray Morrison' (1980 Robinson Medal winner, see November *Begonian*), *B.* 'Magdalene Madsen', *B.* 'Mabel Corwin', *B.* 'Raymond George Nelson', all by Belva Kusler, and *B.* 'Caravan' (syn. 'Serlis', see January *Begonian*) by Michael Kartuz—reflect the strong influence of this species in leaf shape and vein coloring, but appear more stable.

Board to meet July 20

ABS directors will meet on Monday, July 20, at 7:30 p.m. in a session open to all members at Fullerton Savings &

Loan Assn., 2310 E. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, Calif.

A 5:30 p.m. meeting of the 1981 convention and show committee will precede the board meeting.

Take

A BEGONIA HOLIDAY

The ABS convention will be Aug. 14-16, 1981, in Ventura, Calif. Register by using the forms that came (or are coming) in the mail.

Hosted by Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch

This is not a day for funeral sadness,
But a time for ebullient gladness,
For I am free.
The wonders of nature that you can see
Will be multiplied in a new world of beauty for me,
For I am free.

—A message to her friends written by Alice Clark
to be read at her funeral, which it was

Alice Clark, beloved artist and author, dies

Alice M. Clark, whose sensitive begonia paintings, softly humorous writings, and warm optimism won the affection of horticulturists throughout Southern California—and beyond—died May 30, two months short of her 90th birthday.

One of the few remaining links with early-century gardening and long-gone begonia nurseries, Alice had told friends and her family that she felt the end was near. She had put her affairs in order and, unknown to anyone else, penned the short poem reproduced above.

She had been in failing health for several weeks. She suffered a stroke on May 28, and two days later died in her sleep at a hospital near her home in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

Born in 1891, Alice contracted a fever at age 3, which left her partially deaf. She lost her husband and both daughters in the 1940s and '50s. In



Photo/Chuck Anderson

Alice M. Clark 1891-1981

recent years she moved only with the help of a walker or wheelchair.

Yet she constantly bubbled with enthusiasm, cheer, and ideas.

In her 1977 book, *Begonia Portraits*, a collection of her begonia watercolors and pen-and-ink sketches, her explanation of why she published the book was revealing:

“... in a short survey of the eighty-five years of my life and the family behind me, I would like to sum things up.

It might encourage others to know that handicaps are often advantages. People open doors. The world is good. I have found that the song of life is not a lullaby but a continuous symphony.”

As a girl, Alice lived in Seattle and, later, Oakland, Calif., where she studied art at Mills College. After she settled in San Diego and married John G. Clark, she gardened, joined the San Diego Floral Association, and got to know Alfred D. Robinson, founder of nearby Rosecroft Begonia Gardens, who became a mentor.

In 1943, Alice helped organize the A. D. Robinson Branch of ABS. She also began painting and writing about begonias for *The Begonian*. These

This report was written by Begonian co-editor Chuck Anderson with information provided by Pat Maley, Thelma O'Reilly, and Alice's companion Kathy Capobianco. Chuck, Pat, and Thelma each had the good fortune to visit Alice less than 12 days before her death.



***Begonia* 'Crestabruchi'**



Begonia involucrata

works are the ones reproduced in *Begonia Portraits*. A few accompany this account, reproduced from the original printer's engravings used when they first appeared in *The Begonian*.

She continued gardening, painting, and writing until her husband died in 1949. She stopped painting, but became more involved with the floral association, a confederation of gardening societies. She was editor of the association's *California Garden* magazine from 1955 to '59. She was later named editor emeritus.

In December 1975, her painting of *B. procumbens* from 1947—known then as *B. limminghei*—was reproduced in full color in *The Begonian*. Its appearance prompted Alice to begin work on *Begonia Portraits*.

A few months later, in March 1976, Alice was honored with the naming of a begonia species after her—*Begonia alice-clarkae*.

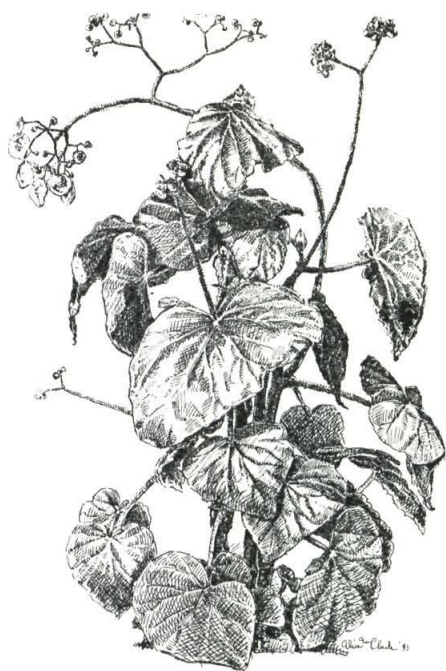
Rudolf Ziesenhenné, then nomenclature director of ABS, selected and published the name for a plant collected by plant explorer Thomas MacDougall in Mexico in 1971.

For her writing and artistry, Alice won ABS' Eva Kenworthy Gray award for literary merit in 1958.

Last year, the La Jolla Garden Club, of which Alice was a long-time member, staged a luncheon in her honor in La Jolla, a San Diego suburb. Many friends, including ABS members, delivered testimonials.

More recently, Alice had found it difficult to leave home; friends visited frequently. Less than a week before she was stricken, Alice was admiring her garden pelargoniums with two visitors and tried to persuade them to cut some blooms to take with them.

Pelargoniums—Alice's favorite garden flowers—appeared in profusion



RUFIDA

About these illustrations

The three illustrations on these pages demonstrate Alice Clark's ability to capture her subject in detail.

The pen-and-ink sketch above of *B. 'Rufida'* was prepared for *Begonian* publication in December 1943.

The watercolor of *B. involuocrata* reproduced on the facing page first appeared in *The Begonian* in July 1947. It was followed in June 1948 by the watercolor of *B. 'Crestabruchi'* pictured on page 161.

Both watercolors—particularly the full-color originals—are so amazingly detailed they make the viewer want to reach out and touch the textured leaves. It's a sensation seldom experienced, even when looking at begonia photographs.

These three also appeared in Alice's *Begonia Portraits*. Copyright © 1977 by Alice M. Clark.

—C.A.

at her funeral June 2, along with tropical trees, ferns, coleus, annual flowers, and birds singing in a cage.

Alice leaves her grandchildren—Melissa Anne Lowell, Nora Divine Martin, and Jeff Clark Divine, all of San Diego.

Sempergrandifloras: more, bigger flowers

David Atkinson

A whole new generation of semperflorens begonias is available today. They are called "sempergrandiflora" begonias by some seed companies to separate them from the old generation. The name "sempergrandiflora" could be translated *grand everblooming*.

These new begonias combine the large flowers and vigor of the intermediate-size begonias with the compact size and early, free-flowering habit of dwarf Semperflorens Cultorum begonias. These new vigorous begonias will need a little more growing space. It will take fewer plants per flower bed and a larger pot may be needed.

□ 'Mars' is an improved 'Scarletta' type with vigorous growing habit, bright green leaves, and scarlet blooms. 'Venus' is the rose-flowering companion to 'Mars'. Both have 2-inch blooms.

□ Another series is called 'Coco'. 'Coco' hybrids have chocolate brown foliage and are early blooming. The 'Coco' series is more heat- and sun-resistant, a good characteristic for begonias to be grown in partial sun, than the Cocktail series. 'Coco' plants grow 7 or 8 inches in height, and are available in bright scarlet, salmon pink, pink, picotee (white with red edge), and white.

□ One new type that is sure to be a hit is 'Basel', a green-leaved, bright scarlet-red-flowering plant. Flowers are non-fading and the plant thrives in the heat of the summer.

□ A favorite red-flowering begonia, 'Scarletta', has a rival—"Scarlanda". It is described by growers as

David Atkinson operates Atkinson's Greenhouse at Rt. 2, Morrilton, AR 72110.

"outstanding for its non-fading deep scarlet color and superior to 'Scarletta'."

□ Another new begonia is 'Pink Avalanche'. This one is covered by a mass of one-inch soft pink blooms and is self-cleaning (no more picking off old blooms). 'Pink Avalanche' was produced by a cross of species. It can't produce seed, but keeps trying by flowering continuously.

With its trailing habit, 'Pink Avalanche' makes a good hanging basket or window box plant for shade or partial sun. See the November *Begonian*, page 299, for more on Semperflorens Cultorum begonias and a photo of 'Pink Avalanche'.

For best germination of these begonias, sow seed on moist soilless mix. Grow-lights and 70-degree temperature will speed germination and growth. Seed tray should be kept moist by misting with warm water and covering with plastic.

Protect seedlings from bright, burning sun. Start feeding with a week fertilizer solution when seeds have germinated. Transplant when small to avoid crowding.

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Elisabeth Sayers, membership secretary
369 Ridge Vista Ave.
San Jose, CA 95127

ROUND ROBINS/*Begonia care while you're on vacation*

Mary Harbaugh

Now that we are midway through summer, I am sure many of us think back to last summer's severe and extended heat wave and hope that we do not encounter a similar experience this year.

Mae Blanton, who lives in Texas, and others affected by the heat have noticed that some of their begonias managed to weather the heat spell but collapsed slowly after it was over. Mae still has plants that will fold for no apparent reason except the stress they suffered earlier. She also noticed that the heat killed off mealybugs and soft brown scale—the only good result that she could find.

Plant care during vacation

This is vacation time and all of us have had the difficulty of trying to provide care for our plant collections in our absence. While many of us have friends and relatives who are willing to help, it is difficult for someone who is not familiar with our plants to be able to care for them properly. Others find it difficult to ask someone to care for several hundred plants.

Iris Shepherd, Texas, has found one method that works for her. She has ½ to ¾-inch of medium to coarse sand on her greenhouse benches. When she is gone for three to seven days at a time, she waters the plants well and wets the sand down. She also has many butter dishes full of water sitting among the pots for extra humidity when the sand dries.

In winter the sand is kept dry and it acts as a wick when she waters. The pot drains well into the dry sand and tends not to stay too wet.

To care for her plants during a 10-day absence last summer, Mary Harbaugh of Wisconsin put the small pots into large plastic shoe boxes with lids. The larger clay pots had foil wrapped around them

to slow evaporation of water from the soil.

Those under lights were put on a reduced schedule to prevent the buildup of heat which tends to dry the plants out more quickly. Once during this period, a friend came to water those plants not in closed containers. At the end of the 10-day period the plants looked better than ever.

The importance of labels

Kingsley Langenberg of Illinois relates that "a lesson I learned the hard way is to make sure you label a cutting immediately. I even write out a new plastic label *before* I take the cutting now.

"If I wait even just a few minutes after I take the cutting, I'm likely to spot some other problem in the greenhouse and then just forget about labeling the cutting altogether. Then a week later I find a glass full of several different cuttings from different plants and the parent plant may be one of those I cut back to a stub without any leaves."

Doing things with cuttings

Betty Davenport of Washington has been using her extra begonia cuttings in flower arrangements. "They last a long time in water and work very well."

When June Ponis of Washington took a cutting of her bronze-leaved, red-flowered *semperflorens* that she has had and propagated for 20 years, the flower on this particular cutting was almost pure white. Several years ago she took a cutting of *B. listada* and its leaves came to be almost square and not at all like the mother plant.

On *B. listada*, Mabel Corwin of California comments that it sports a lot. She has one plant that has mostly square-shaped leaves, but the stem is fasciated. She describes it as "thick, misshapen, and ugly."

Experimental conditions

Many of our successes have come from experimenting with different methods and environments until we find the one that seems to suit a particular variety. For in-

Information about joining a robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—is available from Mary Harbaugh, round robin director. Write to her at W2899 Homewood Ave., Shawano, WI 54166.

stance, Mae Blanton of Texas has planted her *B. herbacea* into a cavity hollowed out of a fern fiber ball. She put a small amount of potting mix into the hole and tucked in the rootball, which was growing in long sphagnum.

In summer she sets the ball on a ceramic column on the vermiculite-perlite mix in her greenhouse bench but in winter she keeps it in a glass tank under lights. With this care it has grown very lush and seems to like the dry roots and high humidity.

Moving Buttercup

Dorothy Coleman moved her *B.* 'Buttercup' from the northeast kitchen window to a southern window last Christmas. It promptly stopped blooming, but now that it is back in the kitchen it is blooming again. She broke off a leaf and stuck it in the soil beside the mother plant and it has made a lovely new little plant.

She grows her *B.* 'Buttercup' in an 18-inch plastic bowl with a large hole in the top. Some leaves developed brown spots so she cut plastic to cover the hole and now the leaves look much better.

Convulvulacea needs cold?

Joy Porter, Massachusetts, grows her

B. convulvulacea on a small porch facing south and east. It was on a top shelf, not getting too much water because she couldn't reach that high, and located close to the glass.

There were three weeks of below-zero nights after Christmas. She saw an inflorescence coming, so she moved it to a lower bench and away from the glass so she could make seed for the Seed Fund. Within a week, the bloom stalk became limp and slowly disintegrated and there were no more blooms. She concluded that it must need cold and a lot of light to bloom.

ABS 'well organized'

We end with a note of appreciation from Mary Jo Brashear of Washington. "I think the ABS is perhaps the most well-organized, most smoothly run, and accessible plant society that I have belonged to. I realize that this has not come about without a great deal of work on the part of all its officers and members . . . who take on the responsibilities of making it function in such a manner as to be of service to every member who wishes to take advantage of all the services offered. So, thank you."

QUESTION BOX/ *How to prune semps for bushiness*

Elda Haring

Question: After hybrid semps grow too tall and need pruning, what do I do to get them to grow bushy?

Answer: After blooming for some months, semps need rejuvenating by being cut back at least halfway or to the crown.

Check root systems to be sure they are not in need of repotting to a larger size pot. After being cut back, assuming growing conditions are good, the

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

plants will reward you with bushy growth and profuse flowers.

Question: I took a beautiful 3-foot-wide plant of *B.* 'Bessie Buxton' in bloom in a 10-inch pot and cut it to about 8 inches as a demonstration. The plant died a month later. This has happened before. Any suggestions?

Answer: I have often cut a plant back, leaving only a few bare rhizomes at soil level. I fill in around these with fresh potting mix. When the usual growing season begins, the rhizomes start to produce new leaves and the result is a very compact attractive plant.

SEED FUND/ *The Seed Fund is on a month's vacation*

The ABS Show in Ventura, Calif., Aug. 14-16 will feature interesting new divisions to attract exhibitors and viewers.

Many members have become interested in growing begonias from seed. To encourage and reward this, there will be a division for Species Seedlings and Plants from ABS Seed. This will be divided into three classes, by the age of the plant: under 6 months, 6 to 12 months, 12 to 18 months.

Entries must have been grown from Seed Fund seed by the exhibitor. Exhibitors who send seed to the ABS Seed Fund, then keep some to grow themselves, may enter seedlings grown from such seed. Awarded in this division will be the Joy Porter Trophy for Best Species Seedling.

Every branch has one or more members who do some sort of begonia art or craft. This year they will have an opportunity to show how they have incorporated begonias into their favorite art projects. The ABS is full of talented people and we hope they will share their talents with us in this division, Begonia Art and Craftwork.

The division will contain 6 classes: black-and-white rendering, color rendering wet medium, color rendering dry medium, ceramics, needlework, and any other craft. Entries must feature begonias and be original work of exhibitor. Art work must be matted, framed, or presented in a suitable display form. Maximum size is 20 by 24 inches. Work will be judged artistically and by overall quality of work.

To insure adequate space for your entry, notify Show Classification Chairman Pat Maley, 1471 E. Madison Ave., El Cajon, CA 92021, by Aug. 1.

In honor of the 90th birthday of ABS's grand artist, the Alfred D. Robinson Branch is sponsoring the Alice M. Clark Trophy for Begonia Art. If you're traveling a long way to attend the Convention, and cannot bring a plant to enter, artwork is much easier to transport.

In addition to the two new divisions, important changes have been made in other divisions and in show rules.

In Divisions N and O, New Introduc-

tions by Hobby Growers and New Introductions by Commercial Nursery, there is no longer an age requirement on the entries. Entries must be mature plants and may not have been released other than for testing.

A major change in judging procedures should be noted by all exhibitors and judges. The ABS Point Scoring System has been revised to eliminate the 5 points given for correct and suitable labeling. These 5 points have been absorbed into the cultural perfection section. In addition, all labels must be either removed or pushed down into the soil so they are unseen.

(Under old rules, if an exhibitor brought in a mislabeled plant, the show classification committee could not give the exhibitor the correct name, for that was part of what the exhibitor was scored on. The exhibitor learned of his mistake through the embarrassment of having it written on his entry card during judging.)

Under the new rule, show classification personnel can do their job properly and aid exhibitors in gaining knowledge about their plants in a positive manner.

In addition, we will have a better looking show without an odd assortment of labels sticking out in show plants. Entry tags, neatly printed, will identify plants for judges and show viewers.

ABS Cultural Award certificates, limited to 10 for a branch or regional show, will be awarded at the national show to any blue ribbon winner scoring 90 or more points. There will be no maximum number of certificates.

Show schedules and rules will be available at branch meetings, or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Margaret Lee, Co-Chairman, ABS Judging Department, 1852 31st St., San Diego, CA 92102.

—Pat Maley

Two seek vice presidency

Howard Berg, second-term president of ABS' Knickerbocker Branch and a commodities official for a national brokerage firm, and Robert Hamm, director of ABS'

Please turn to page 170

ASSOCIATED GROUPS/Visitors always welcome

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of members
June Rakestraw, Pres.
5458 Avenida Fiesta, La Jolla
CA 92037
Margaret Lee, Natl. Dir.

ASTRO BRANCH

Gloria Quinn, Pres.
234 Tallant Dr., Houston
TX 77076

BUXTON BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Mass. Bay
Community College,
50 Oakland St., Wellesley, Mass.
Percy Ehrlich, Pres.
66 Fessenden St., Newtonville,
MA 02160
Anthony P. Croce, Natl. Dir.

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN BRANCH

Mary L. Lane, Pres.
19239 Road 232, Strathmore,
CA 93267
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.

DESERT BEGONIA BRANCH

Mary Church, Pres.
1090 E. Grant Rd.,
Tucson, AZ 85719
Barbara Rogers, Natl. Dir.

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrae Community Church,
Berkeley, Calif.
Susan Patrick, Pres.
27406 Grand View Ave.,
Hayward, CA 94542
Glenn 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.
Pittsburgh Civic
Garden Center
Suzanne Colaizzi, Pres.
115 Lillian Rd., Pittsburgh,
PA 15237
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
Merrill Calvert, Pres.
11201 Draper, Choctaw,
OK 73020
Ruth Wills, Natl. Dir.

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.

GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

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

Doug Frost, Pres.
10622 Teal, Garden
Grove, CA 92643
George Allison, Natl. Dir.

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Glendale Federal S & L,
401 N. Brand, Glendale, Calif.
Edward Yeckley, Pres.
634 Fischer St., Glendale,
CA 91205
Katharine Alberti, Natl. Dir.

GREATER CHICAGO AREA BRANCH

4th Sunday, except Dec., 2 p.m.
Oak Park Conservatory
561 Garfield, Oak Park, Ill.
Dan Haseltine, Pres.
6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago,
IL 60634
Virginia Beatty, Natl. Dir.

GREATER CINCINNATI BRANCH

Verda Stull, Pres.
5 Burnham St., Cincinnati, OH
45218
Erich Steiniger, Natl. Dir.

HAMPTON BRANCH

2nd Monday, 7:45 p.m., Parrish
Memorial Hall, Southampton,
NY
Ed Thompson, Pres.
310-A Hill St., Southampton,
N.Y. 11968
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

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Agricultural Ctr.,
1010 North McDuff Ave.
Ann M. Helton, Pres.
334 Brunswick Rd.,
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Mary Harrell, Natl. Dir.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Horticultural Society of New
York
128 West 58th St., New York,
N.Y.
Howard Berg, Pres.
16 Highview Terr.,
New Canaan, CT 06840
Marjorie Mack, Natl. Dir.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Great
Western S & L
6330 E. Spring St., Long Beach
George Ghiotta, Pres.
702 Sunrise Blvd., Long
Beach, CA 90806
Muriel Perz, Natl. Dir.

LONG ISLAND BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Planting Fields Arboretum
Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.
Mrs. Martha Graham, Pres.
55 Duryea Rd., Melville,
NY 11746
Marie Donnelly, Natl. Dir.

MAE BLANTON BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Homes of members
Mae Blanton, Pres.
118 Wildoak Dr., Lake
Dallas, TX 75065
Glennis Crouch, Natl. Dir.

MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden
Center
55 South West 17th Road,
Miami, Florida
Dr. James A. McArthur, Pres.
22175 Miami Ave., Goulds,
FL 33170
Charles J. Jaros, Natl. Dir.

MINNESOTA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Homes of members
Gladys Olmsted, Pres.
1840 Eighth St., Elk River,
MN 55330
Thelma Adair, Natl. Dir.

MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
New Monterey Neighborhood
Center
Lighthouse and Dickman Sts.,
New Monterey, Calif.
Jackie Davis, Pres.
170 Wingfoot Way, Aptos, CA
95003
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
Norma Taylor, Pres.
1500 Glenn Circle, Placentia,
CA 92670
Cruz Sandoval, Natl. Dir.

PALM BEACHES BRANCH

2nd Monday, Home S & L
Opp. Palm Coast Plaza, W. Palm
Beach, Fla.
April Foster, Pres.
564 Arlington Dr., W. Palm
Beach, FL 33406
Elverna Maley, Natl. Dir.

PALOMAR BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Vista Recreation Center
Charles Richardson, Pres.
696 Barsby St., Vista,
CA 92083
Patrick Worley, 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 Karegeannes, Natl. Dir.

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

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

Diane Fries, Pres.
3531 Creekwood, St.,
Torrance, CA 90505
Diane Fries, Natl. Dir.
ROGER WILLIAMS BRANCH
3rd Monday night. Homes
of members.
Arline Peck, Pres. & Natl. Dir.
Eagle Peak Rd., RFD #1,
Box 478, Pascoag, RI 02859

RUBIDOUX BRANCH
4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
West Riverside Memorial
Auditorium
4393 Riverview Dr., Rubidoux
Claire Husted, Pres.
13580 Indiana, Corona, CA
91720
R. H. Terrell, Natl. Dir.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.,
Garden Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.,
Sacramento, Calif.
Patricia Jochim, Pres.
7664 Madeline Way,
Citrus Heights, CA 95610
Linda Luckett, Natl. Dir.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.,
Garden Center
Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue
and Lincoln Way
Ormund Stromswold, Pres.
71 Ashton Ave., San Francisco,
CA 94112
Dolores Dupre, Natl. Dir.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH
2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., Los
Angeles State and County
Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia,
Calif.
Eugene T. Schrider, Pres.
136 N. Sunset Pl., Monrovia,
CA 91016
Ken Dahlquist, 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.
Kathy Morehouse, Pres.
5410 Paseo Orlando,
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
Kay Willis, Natl. Dir.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH
3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Allstate Savings, Payne
& Saratoga Aves., San Jose
Jackie Davis, Pres.
170 Wingfoot Way, Aptos,
CA 95003
Mary Margaret Rafferty,
Natl. Dir.

SEATTLE BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Bethany
Lutheran Church, 7400
Woodlawn Ave., N.E.
Dorothy Williams, Pres.
21519 92nd Ave. W., Edmonds,
WA 98020
Anton Soder, Natl. Dir.

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH
4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.,
Wm. Moshier Field House
430 S. 156th St., Seattle
Joanne Slosser, Co-Pres.
16419 3rd Ave., S.W., Seattle,
WA 98166
Bud Lueth, Co-Pres.
1302 Sixth Pl., N.E., Auburn,
WA 98002
Shel Fisher, Natl. Dir.

SOUTHWEST REGION
Robert Hamm, Dir.
2951 Elliott, Wichita,
Falls, TX 76306

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

TAMPA BAY AREA BRANCH
4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Seminole Garden Center,
5800 Central Ave., Tampa
Dora Lee Dorsey, Pres.
8110 N. Edison Ave., Tampa,
FL 33604
Martin Grady, Natl. Dir.

**THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD
BRANCH**
1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Senior
Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa
Clara St., Ventura, Calif.
Mary Stine, Pres.
5548 Rainier St., Ventura, CA
93003
Hattie Lee Keller, Natl. Dir.

WESTCHESTER BRANCH
1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Westchester Women's Club
8020 Alverstone St., Los Angeles
Clair Christensen, Pres.
11276 Washington Blvd.,
Culver City, CA 90230
Millie Simms, Natl. Dir.

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
BRANCH**
2nd Wednesday, 11 a.m.
Holiday Inn, Warrendale
Antonette Ponteri, Pres.
407 Canterbury Trail, Mars, PA
16046
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 Kosowsky, 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.

THE BOARD / *ABS directors' meeting May 18, 1981*

Treasurer John Ingles reported an April 1 balance of \$3,874.95, income of \$1,846.74, disbursements of \$3,466.44, leaving a balance April 30 of \$2,255.25.

President Gil Estrada reported hearing from Branch Relations Director Lynda Goldsmith that the Palmetto Branch had disbanded. He asked the editors to remove Palmetto from the branch directory.

Co-editor Chuck Anderson reported that printing costs for **The Begonian** were increased 4.8% to 36%, depending on number of pages. He said future issues will be smaller and, in answer to a question, said the board may have to consider a dues increase later this year.

Judging Co-Chairman Pat Maley proposed the following changes in judging rules, which were approved unanimously:

1. The limit of 10 Cultural Award certificates permitted per show is lifted for national shows. There is no change for branch and regional shows.

2. The rule that plants entered in national shows as new introductions by hobbyists must be three years old is eliminated. Any plant entered in any new introductions classification now must be merely a mature plant.

3. Point scoring rules for tuberous begonias are revised as suggested by San Francisco Branch exhibitors and judges. The changes are to reward quality and size of blooms instead of quantity.

4. In the point scoring system, the 5 points for correct labeling is absorbed into the section on cultural perfection. This permits show entry officials to point out mislabeled plants early and makes possible removal of labels from show plants for a better appearance.

Pat also reported new show classifications for Seed Fund seedlings and art and craftwork.

As chairman of the membership drive, Chuck Anderson reported plans for a contest to encourage members to recruit new members. Prizes will include \$50 gift certificates at mail-order begonia nurseries and Curtis begonia plants.

Nomenclature Co-Director Thelma O'Reilly reported registration of 12 new cultivars, bringing the total to 827. She also said Dr. Lyman Smith of the Smithsonian Institution is within 60 species of completing the first draft of his worldwide key to the genus **Begonia**.

The board authorized transfer of \$1,000 from the Show Fund for advance expenses in Ventura, Calif.

Gil reminded board members that he has surplus back issues of **The Begonian** which he will provide free for branches to give away at shows and meetings.

Claire Husted, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the following slate of officers for 1981-82:

President—Gil Estrada.
President-Elect—Chuck Anderson.
First Vice President—Michael Kartuz.
Second Vice President—Howard Berg, Robert Hamm, Thelma O'Reilly,
Secretary—Arlene Davis.
Treasurer—John Ingles, Jr.

Thelma O'Reilly declined nomination since there already were two other nominees for the office. Her withdrawal was accepted.

Ballots will be mailed with the convention mailing and must be returned by Aug. 8 to be counted.

—Arlene Davis, secretary

More nutrient flow technique

From page 154

rectly in the troughs. So that contact between pot and perlite is insured, a wick cut from panty hose is inserted in the bottom of the pot.

Lest you decide this is a perfect system, let us hasten to say there probably is no such thing. We find that we must be a bit more constant in our housekeeping to remove all spent blossoms and leaves from the perlite before they become mush. Algae will grow on the perlite, but it is not harmful. In time, roots grow out of the

bottoms of the pots into the perlite and need pruning; especially is this true of plants in plastic pots. An occasional leak in the system may develop and require attention. Stoppers and tubing will need replacing in time.

We will surely say that our plants have grown larger than when they were watered and fed from the top. Flowering has been more prolific and the blossoming tends to continue over a much longer time.

And most important of all for us, we have been spared that daily chore of watering, watering, watering!

More ABS news

From page 167

Southwest Region and a begonia dealer, are candidates for election to ABS' second vice presidency for 1981-82.

Theirs is the only contested office in a slate of candidates nominated by a nominating committee May 18 for the election

to take place by mail before the August convention.

Incumbents nominated for re-election without opposition are President Gil Estrada, President-Elect Chuck Anderson, First Vice President Michael Kartuz, Secretary Arlene Davis, and Treasurer John Ingles, Jr.

ABS BOOKSTORE OFFERS 5 GOOD BEGONIA BOOKS

Begonias The 1938 classic, *Les Begonias*, by Charles Chevalier translated from the French by Alva Graham. \$5.

Begonias for Beginners Elda Haring's primer crammed with useful information. \$5.75 hardcover. \$3.75 paperback.

Begonia Isamu Misono's Japanese text with 302 color plates of begonias identified in English. \$30.

Begonias English translation of

the Misono text (above) by Marguerite De Cola and Hikoichi Arakawa. Includes no photos. \$5.50 (text plus translation \$34).

Begonias The new Japanese-published book with 431 superb color photos; captions and index in English. \$18.

Curtis Botanical Magazine reprints

Set of 8 antique color plates of begonias reproduced from the journal. \$6.

California residents add 6% sales tax. Foreign orders must be payable in U.S. currency. Make draft, check or money order payable to American Begonia Society. Send to ABS Bookstore, c/o Gil Estrada, 7914 Springer St., Downey, CA 90242.

ABS SERVICES

These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads and other officers, see inside front cover.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS—Services for members who don't belong to branches are handled by the members-at-large director. Contact him for details. If you are interested in finding a branch or starting one in your area, contact the branch relations director for help.

THE BEGONIAN—*The monthly journal of the society publishes how-to articles, scientific information, and ABS news. Articles on a member's personal experiences with begonias are welcomed, as are black-and-white photos of begonias and color slides suitable for use on the cover. Contact the editors.*

BEGONIAN BACK ISSUES—Individual copies of *The Begonian* more than a year old are available from the back issue sales chairman (75 cents). A full year is \$6.50 for any year in the 1940s, \$5 for any year from 1950 through 1979. Back issues less than a year old are ordered from the membership secretary for \$1 each.

BOOKSTORE—Books on begonias and related subjects can be purchased mail-order from the bookstore manager. Contact him for a list of books available. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The bookstore also sells reproductions of antique begonia prints.

JUDGING DEPARTMENT—The judging department offers a course by mail with which you can learn to become an accredited begonia show judge (\$8). Also available are a booklet on point scoring (\$1.25), information on fuchsia and fern judging, and other requirements to become a judge. Add \$1 postage and handling to all orders and 6% tax for California residents.

LIBRARY—Books about begonias and gardening may be borrowed by mail from the lending library. Con-

tact the librarian for a list of books and the procedure. Include a stamped self-addressed No. 10 envelope.

NOMENCLATURE—The nomenclature department monitors newly published findings on begonia names as well as handling official international registration of new begonia cultivars. Registrations are published in *The Begonian*.

QUESTION BOX—Send begonia-growing questions to veteran collector Elda Haring, P.O. Box 236, Flat Rock, NC 28731. You'll get a prompt answer and Elda will use questions of general interest in her *Begonian* column.

RESEARCH—The research department conducts a *Grow and Study project in which members experiment with various begonias and compile their findings.* The department also has other activities, including the review of requests for ABS backing of outside projects. For details, contact the director.

ROUND ROBINS—Members exchange information about begonias and their culture through a packet of letters which circulates among a small group of growers. There are dozens of these packets—called flights—on many specialized subjects. To join one or more, contact the round robin director.

SEED FUND—The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund offers seeds of begonia species and cultivars by mail. New offerings are listed in *The Begonian*. Donations of seed are encouraged. Please contact the Seed Fund Director.

SLIDE LIBRARY—A series of slide shows on begonias and begonia growing can be borrowed by mail for showing at meetings and seminars. New shows are under preparation. Contact the slide librarian for fee information.

SPEAKERS BUREAU—The speakers bureau maintains a directory of speakers on begonias and related subjects. Contact the director.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Begonias, Episcias, African violets. Cuttings only. Catalog \$1. Kit Jeans, the Gift Horse Greenhouse, Rt. 1, New Johnsonville, TN 37134.

Hundreds of begonias. Send for descriptive catalog. \$1. Millie Thompson, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968.

Begonia and lily catalog—35¢. Leslie & Winkey Woodriff, Fairyland Begonia and Lily Garden, 1100-B Griffith Rd., McKinleyville, CA 95521. Visitors welcome.

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