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The BEGONIAN

The BEGONIAN

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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THE COVER: *B.* 'Pandora', a recent introduction from Logee's Greenhouses, brightens our winter cover. A sport of *B.* 'Ember', it was named 'Pandora' by Tovah Martin because it is "so full of surprises." This is one of many lovely plants introduced through years by Logee's, which currently is celebrating a milestone anniversary—90 years selling plants and flowers. See Thelma O'Reilly's history of the family and nursery, beginning on page 136. Photo by Tovah Martin.

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NOTES/ *From the president*

Editor Karen, busy with the other pages in this issue and numerous additional tasks, asked me to prepare a message of presidential stature. It's this:

You own the American Begonia Society and we members of the board of directors are your servants. So as we revitalize current services and create new ones, I invite you to make them *your* services.

If you check ABS News and The Board in this issue, you'll see some of what we're up to for fiscal 1982-83. Couldn't you benefit from participating in them? Or in the services listed on the inside back cover?

On the facing page, we list all ABS department directors and committee

chairs. Their names and addresses are published so you can communicate with them. Not somebody else—you!

I ask that you choose three (or more) ABS activities that sound interesting and write to the person in charge of each, asking to take part or to contribute your own expertise and ideas. And I ask that you do this before the week is up.

Once you do, I guarantee that you'll find your ABS membership at least three times as satisfying as it is now. If it truly isn't, I'll refund your dues out of my own pocket.

Here's to the society's most effective New Year ever!

—Chuck Anderson

FORUM/ *Opportunities for at-large members*

Thelma O'Reilly

Here I am, your newly appointed members-at-large director.

My first and most important question is, "How can we effectively communicate with each other?"

A substantial number of ABS members are not affiliated with a branch or active region, resulting in no direct line of communication with the board of directors or branch members. It is my aim to become the liaison between you and these members.

To fulfill this goal, I shall need a lot of input from you. What do you think of an ABS members-at-large "newsletter" to be published at intervals in the *Begonian*? To accomplish this I would have to hear from many of you—questions, information, and new ideas about begonias and their companion plants.

Write and tell me what you think of this suggestion and send me a list of yours.

Thelma O'Reilly, long active in ABS, was appointed members-at-large director in September. Write to her at 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.

Family tradition continues: Logee's celebrating 90th year selling plants

Thelma O'Reilly

Spring's outburst of new life, summer's showers and flowers, autumn's glowing red and yellow foliage, and winter's "White Fairyland"—these flavors of nature provide the setting, in a quiet New England town, for one of the oldest family-operated mail-order nurseries and possibly the oldest begonia nursery in the United States. It came into existence as a florist shop; today it is an international source for rare and exotic plants, including begonias, geraniums and herbs.

Ninety years ago William D. Logee, born in Providence R.I., and reared in Danielson, Conn., founded the family operation known today as Logee's Greenhouses. As a youth William Logee continually sought any information available about horticulture to satisfy his deep interest in plants, flowers, and trees, especially those with a fragrance. He was fortunate to have available his step-grandfather's small greenhouse.

At age 18 William Logee decided to become a florist. Like California begonia pioneer Alfred D. Robinson, his favorite flowers were roses. His first job was at the J.J. Montgomery Rose Conservatory

The Begonian pays tribute to one of the begonia world's most important families with this history of Logee's Greenhouses by Thelma O'Reilly. Research began more than two years ago when Thelma interviewed Joy Logee Martin during the ABS convention in Long Beach, continuing in Danielson, Conn., in July 1982. Thelma photographed family members during an earlier visit in 1979. Logee's is located at 55 North St., Danielson, CT 06239.



Photos/Thelma O'Reilly

Joy Logee Martin, whose father founded Logee's Greenhouses 90 years ago, stands next to original family home, where she still lives with family members

in Boston, Mass. Following his apprenticeship, he returned to Connecticut and opened a florist business in the family greenhouse where he had spent so much time in his youth. The stock consisted mainly of florist roses and Parma violets.

At age 24 William Logee married Ida James, the daughter of a nearby farmer. The following year the Logee homestead was erected on 7½ acres. William and Ida had 15 children; 11 are still living. Joy Logee Martin, Richard Logee, and their families still operate Logee's Greenhouses.

Times were hard during the early years and some of the children were put to work selling potted plants, old-fashioned flowers, and vegetables. Joy Logee Martin, a well-known, respected name throughout the plant world, recalls, "As a child I went out on Saturday mornings, even in winter weather, with a small white box holding six little bunches of Parma violets. I would ring the bell and flip open the box to show my flowers which cost 25¢ a bunch."

The business atmosphere changed when Ernest, the third son, approached 21. He asked his father's permission to rebuild the small greenhouse which was in need of repairs. In 1920, with the help of



Joy Logee Martin and her brother Richard Logee operate the nursery with help from Joy's son Byron

brothers and sisters, an additional 100-by 20-foot glass and pipe frame structure was completed, followed immediately by the construction of the present shed-type office building. Several other structures were added in succeeding years.

The admiration and respect Joy felt for Ernest is evident when she discusses his role in the Logee family history. "A second father to the younger children, he was outgoing, humorous, and devoted to his work, and he had the ability to make all of us pitch in and get the job done. He set his working standards high while being understanding of coworkers' problems.

"Ernest was the moving spirit in building the begonia business. He was a naturalist at heart. By trial and error he worked and experimented until he perfected his growing skills."

The business was the sole support for this large family and did not produce enough revenue during the Depression years. One son, Archie, was elected to become a traveling florist salesman. In a newly purchased Model T Ford, going door-to-door, he sold bouquets of fresh-cut flowers in nearby cities. These bouquets were made up of violets, verbenas, roses, forget-me-nots, snapdragons, carnations, primroses, and double red English nasturtiums that are still listed in Logee's catalog.

During all these years Logee's was collecting begonias and rare plants. William enjoyed *B. rex* hybrids. Beautiful, huge, potted specimens could be found in the living room windows of the family home. A prized treasure given to him was a painting of *B. 'Adrien Schmidt'* which still hangs on the living room wall.

At 21 Joy became an important member of the firm. She joined the "Begonia Circle," a round robin under the chairmanship of Bessie Buxton of Massachusetts before the American Begonia Society was organized. Joy and Ernest joined the ABS in 1936 and their begonia collection started to increase rapidly.

Ernest's interest in begonias deepened in 1933 when Bessie Buxton came to see Logee's sizeable collection. Through the interest and efforts of Ernest Logee and Bessie Buxton, the Eastern Branch of the ABS was founded in 1938. T.H. Everett of the New York Botanical Garden was the first president and Joy was vice president. In August 1940, the name was changed to the New England Branch. In 1958, honoring Bessie Buxton, it became the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch.

After the Eastern Branch was founded, Ernest and Joy joined the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and became regular contributors to its activities and publications. In the late 1930s they received many awards for begonia exhibits in the

society's spring and autumn flower shows. The Logees were especially honored when a gold medal was awarded for their garden display of unusual plants which included a collection of named *B. rex* cultivars.

The two attended county fairs throughout New England. Sales booths and exhibits of cut flowers and begonias in the competitive section were hard work but rewarding. Many growers and collectors who knew Ernest would bring new begonias and rare plants, adding to Logee's increasing plant collection.

During the late 1930s, a sister, Mary Ellen Logee, toured begonia gardens in Southern California while visiting one of her older sisters. Mary Ellen was a guest of Elsie Fewkes of Montalvo Gardens, San Diego, and while there, also visited A.D. Robinson, who told her, "Go out into the lathhouse and collect anything you like." She sent boxes and boxes of named begonia cuttings back, adding many new varieties to the Logee collection.

At the 1938 New England Spring Flower Show, Joy, who had an extensive collection of scented geraniums, exhibited 35 named varieties. They created so much interest that she offered a list of 85 named varieties of geraniums for sale in classified ads in popular garden publications. This was the beginning of Logee's mail-order business.

The second listing carried begonia seed prepared and packeted by Ernest. This

modest beginning developed into one of the best plant catalogs, illustrated in color, available today.

Changes occurred in the family operation during World War II. Four brothers joined the service. The main thrust of their business was cut flowers which they grew and sold to florists in Boston, Mass., Providence, R.I., and Hartford, Conn.

Ernest became interested in semper-florens begonias. He ordered plants of a Swedish import, *B. 'Westport Beauty'*, known now as *B. 'Gustav Lange'*, and hybridized this green-leaved, pink rosebud type with dark-leaved, pink single-flowered *B. 'Carmen'*. These efforts resulted in dark-foliaged, double blooms in different shades.

This interest led him to visit Professor W. D. Holley at the University of New Hampshire who was working on double semperflorens begonias. Professor Holley felt there was little future in these plants and gave Ernest bushel baskets of his stock. Eighteen varieties were developed from these rejected plants and are known today as Ernest Kimball Logee's original "Mother Goose" series. They include *B. 'Bo Peep'*, *B. 'Lucy Locket'*, *B. 'Cinderella'* and *B. 'Goldilocks'*.

After the war years the family came together and the business name was changed from William D. Logee, North Street Greenhouses, to Logee's Greenhouses. Their first catalog was published in 1948 with a listing of indoor plants, the majority begonias.

**Byron Martin
admires species
begonia in the
greenhouse**





Tovah Martin, an accomplished plantswoman and photographer, is surrounded by ferns and begonias

The year 1950 had a strong impact on the Logee family. Ernest invited a friend, Ernest Martin, an expert photographer and gardener, for a visit to photograph plants and show pictures of his gladiolus collection. Joy Logee and Ernest Martin fell deeply in love and were married a few months later.

Joy and Ernest Martin's wedding trip to the Northwest lasted seven weeks. Joy fondly recalls, "We visited Leslie Woodriff in Crescent City, Calif. Ernest and I were amazed when we saw an old gentleman under a bench, on his knees, with a bottle and brush. It was Leslie's father and he was pollinating *B. rex* hybrids. I'll never forget the sight of one greenhouse filled with plants of *B. versicolor*, simply gorgeous! We shipped plants of *B. versicolor* and the "Sweetie" tuberous-rooted begonias back home." More than 20 years later, Logee's shared *B. 'Yellow Sweetie'* with Leslie when he returned to growing begonias for the commercial market.

The sudden, tragic death of Ernest Logee at 54 in 1950 was a shock to this closely-knit family.

Ernest Martin joined the firm, becoming another invaluable member with a keen interest in begonias. Joy proudly says, "Due to his expertise in photography and horticulture, Logee's catalog

became the finest publication of its kind. He was a perfectionist with an instinctive intuition about the culture of plants. He perfected Logee's special packing procedures which are still in use today."

In 1952 William Logee passed away at 82. Joy, Ernest, Richard, and Faith, his wife, carried on the national mail-order business devoted to indoor plants.

One of the first outstanding begonias developed by Ernest Martin was *B. 'Pinafore'* in 1951. Until his death in 1970, he continued to bring credit to Logee's with his popular begonia hybrids, award-winning plants and displays, and informative articles in horticultural publications.

The Martins raised two sons, Byron and Geoffrey. About eight years ago, Byron left college to take his place in the family operation. He manages the growing department, hybridizes, and plans for future operational changes necessary because of energy conservation. Geoffrey is a graduate student at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His vacations are spent in Danielson, assisting the family.

Richard Logee, Joy's brother, remains her active partner, working full-time in all capacities.

An important member of Logee's staff is young, petite, soft-spoken Tovah Mar-



A watercolor of *B. 'Adrien Schmidt'*, a gift to William Logee from a friend many years ago, still hangs in the living room

tin. She is the firm's photographer. Her color plates in Logee's catalogs are superb. She handles the shipping department, oversees the propagation of begonias and writes excellent articles for publication. "A real gem," according to Joy, "and smart as a whip."

Mary Ellen Logee married Ervin Ross of Camden, Maine, and founded another mail-order business of indoor plants, Merry Gardens, which is still in operation. Archie Logee operates a retail flower shop in North Scituate, R.I. Roger and his family founded and operate a retail business, Country Greenhouses, in Danielson, Conn.

During my first visit to Logee's in fall of 1979, Byron and Richard were in the process of converting their heating source from oil to coal. As I toured the grounds, I felt they had an impossible task. During my visit in summer of 1982 I was told the change to coal was a complete success.

During my travels I have visited more nurseries than I can recall, but never one like Logee's. It is a rare and special experience that all plant lovers, especially "begoniacs," should indulge in at least once (but allow plenty of time—at least two full days).

Their *B. rex* hybrid collection, which contains many scarce, early hybrids, is

the largest in the country. *B. 'Pandora'* (see the cover) is a recent introduction. Tovah writes, "There is an interesting story attached to this little hybrid. About six years ago we sold a small plantlet of what we thought was *B. 'Ember'* to a customer who happened to be a personal friend of mine. I visited her greenhouse about a year later and saw this beautiful *B. rex* hybrid. You can imagine my surprise when I learned it was a *B. 'Ember'* sport purchased from us. She propagated some plantlets and so it returned to our greenhouse. I named it *B. 'Pandora'* because it was so full of surprises."

At the 1979 ABS National Convention and Show in New York Byron Martin's *B. 'Calico Kew'* was named as best new introduction and received a Begonia Hybrid of Distinction Award.

In 1980 Logee's introduced beautiful, variegated *B. 'Midnight Sun'* at the ABS Long Beach show. It received the trophy for best new introduction by a commercial exhibitor and scored 98 points as the Begonia Hybrid of Distinction.

Logee's list of hybridizing accomplishments is long. Besides the names mentioned previously, it includes *B. 'Honeysuckle'*, *B. 'Ernest Martin'*, *B. 'Quinebaug'*, *B. 'Jabberwocky'*, *B. 'Misty Meadows'*, *B. 'Muddy Waters'*, *B. 'Moonstone'*, *B. 'Munchkin'*, *B. 'Oliver Twist'*, *B. 'Sir John Falstaff'*, and *B. 'Small Majority'*.

In 1977 Logee's Greenhouses was awarded the prestigious Silver Medal of Massachusetts Horticultural Society for its contribution to horticulture. The citation reads, "For one of the finest indoor plant collections in North America." This collection includes more than 1,800 varieties of indoor plants.

The family history would not be complete without a tribute to Joy Logee Martin, who has continued to support and strengthen the high, ethical, personal, and moral business standards of this group of special people.

These same standards, along with her warm, efficient personality, and sincere, continuing support for the American Begonia Society, have brought Joy unlimited respect and affection.

Happy 90th anniversary!

B. 'Lois Burks'—a new low-growing cane

Mildred L. Thompson

Since *Begonia* enthusiasts all over the country, especially those with limited growing areas, have been demanding small, attractive, easy-to-grow begonias, hybridizers have been working to develop them. Several have been recently introduced; one of the most outstanding ones, in my opinion, is *Begonia* 'Lois Burks'.

It was introduced last spring by Kartuz Greenhouses; it was developed by Patrick Worley in 1980. *B.* 'Mandarin' (female parent), a low-growing cane-like hybrid cultivar, was crossed with *B. partita* (male parent), a South African semi-tuberous species. From the resulting seedlings, Patrick chose the most beautiful one and named it 'Lois Burks' to honor a friend and fellow plant enthusiast who lives in Vista, California. The characteristics of both parents are evident in this hybrid cultivar.

B. 'Lois Burks' is a low-growing cane-like begonia that reaches about 18 inches in height at maturity. The glabrous, red-tinted green cane-like stems are slender and well branched; a compact and naturally symmetrical plant can be grown in a comparatively short period of time.

The measurement of the average leaf is 5½ inches in length and 1½ inches wide. The leaves are narrowly ovate, gradually tapering to a long pointed apex; the base is obtuse and oblique. The rich medium-green leaves are attractively covered with small silver dots; the coloring is highlighted with an evident red spot over the place of petiole attachment and a very fine red border along the margin of the leaf. The petioles are red-tinted light green.

Soft coral-orange flowers appear on long-lasting inflorescences with coral-red peduncles rising a short distance beyond the leaves. Most of the female flowers have five slightly pointed tepals while others have an additional much smaller



B. 'Lois Burks'

Photo/Ed Millie Thompson
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tepals; the soft coral-orange ovaries have three large wings. The male flowers have four tepals. In bright light, the flowers have a lustrous sheen. For most of the year, blooming is profuse.

I have grown this plant for only a few months, but in that time I have learned that it is fairly easy to grow, and it responds favorably to the same cultural procedures and conditions as most of the low-growing cane-like begonias. It prefers sunlight for at least six hours a day (filtering of sunlight may be necessary in geographical locations where the sun's rays are intense).

Careful watering, correct potting accommodations, and regular fertilizing are prime requirements. Staking is never necessary. To induce even more branching, pinching of the growing tips is advisable.

Since the male parent is *B. partita*, a species that will lose leaves and go dormant or semi-dormant in cooler temperatures, I suspect that one should be very observant during the winter months and watch for signs of semi-dormancy or dormancy if temperatures in the growing area go below 55 degrees. I suggest the plant be grown where the temperature is 60 degrees or more.

I have not noticed any susceptibility to powdery mildew, which is often fairly

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Mildred Thompson of P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968, is author with her husband, Ed, of *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide*.

Companion plants: An introduction to ferns you can add to your begonia collection

Phyllis P. Bates

Ferns and begonias are often raised as companion plants. The begonia grower tends to add a few ferns as “background material” to make a pleasing setting for a begonia collection. The fern enthusiast turns this about and adds a few begonias to bring color accent to his green world.

This relationship follows nature. ABS member and plant explorer Scott Hoover has observed that he has always found ferns in begonia habitats.

The fern grower’s world is somewhat larger than that of the begonia grower. Ferns occur in many areas where begonias could not survive. There are ferns that live in water, and along lowland bog areas, in protected desert locations, on mountain tops, and in hardwood forests reaching well to the north and south of the begonia habitats.

Yet the largest numbers of ferns are to be found in the semi-tropical to tropical regions, the same general regions where begonias occur. This gives both groups of specialists much common ground. Some explanations of the differences makes it easier for the begonia grower to add ferns as companion plants.

Begonias have leaves of various shapes, asymmetric in outline. Fern leaves are called “fronds” and tend to be quite symmetrical. The leaves of begonias may be lobed, ruffled, and perhaps compound in structure. Fern fronds are also likely to be lobed, ruffled, and compound—some-

times all at once. There are simple entire fronds, but many fronds are composed of leaflets called pinnae, and the pinnae are composed of little leaves (pinnules) that may in turn be composed of leaflets! This complex form is the attraction of ferns.

Begonias show a range of color. There is nothing in the fern group to compare with the bands of color of the *B. rex* cultivars. Most ferns must do with only green dress. A few examples are variegated: *Pteris ensiformis* ‘Victoriae’, *Pteris argyraea*, and *Adiantum raddianum variegatum*.

Recently ABS member Martin Johnson brought spores of *Tectaria hilocarpa* from the Philippines. Its fronds are dark green with an irregular surface that is marked with yellow. There are a number of ferns that show color in newly developing fronds. Both the *Blechnum* and *Adiantum* genera are colorful for short periods.

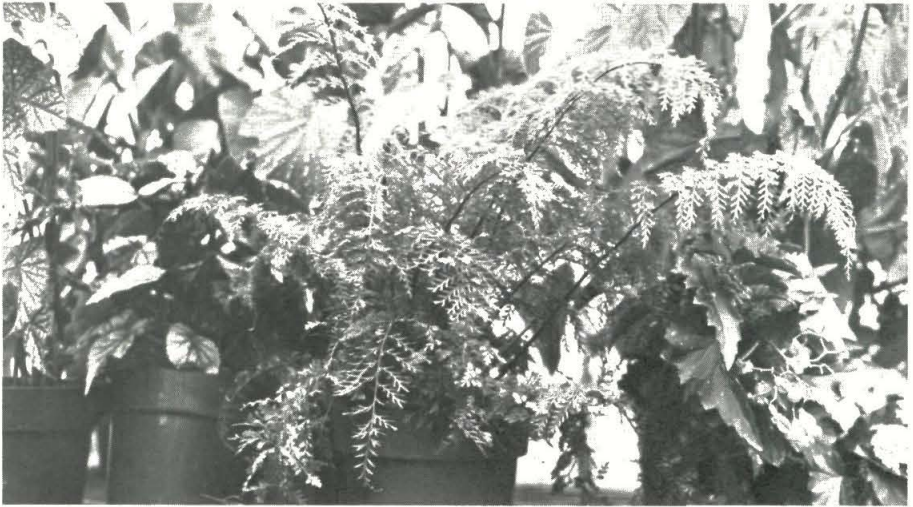
Begonia hobbyists have a relatively simple time with plant names. Just as begonias are named according to the botanical and cultivated codes, ferns are named using a Latinized binomial. The Begoniaceae includes only three genera: *Bego-*



Photos/Phyllis Bates

***Pyrrosia lingua*, Japanese felt fern, grows well with rhizomatous begonias**

Phyllis Bates, former co-editor of The Begonian, until recently served as editor of the journal of the Los Angeles International Fern Society. A begonia named for her is published as a new cultivar on page 159 of this issue. Phyllis resides at 554 Arden Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024.



***Asplenium bulbiferum* is easy to grow. It is often called mother fern because of the little plantlets growing on its pinnae**

nia, *Symbegonia*, and *Hillebrandia*.

The estimated 10,000 fern species are grouped into numerous genera with many species showing valid botanical forms. There are often difficulties in placing the ferns into well-defined groups. As a result, the names are changed in an effort to define their characteristics more precisely.

The begonia grower will occasionally recognize some epithets common to both ferns and begonias; for instance, *Begonia tenuifolia* and *Hypolepis tenuifolia* both have "thin leaves." Although the names may present some difficulties, this is usually temporary.

Because begonias hybridize easily, one of the activities that is fun is cross-pollinating to see what results. Hybridizing ferns is tremendously more difficult; recognizing the hybrid requires laboratory techniques. Fern hybrids generally are announced in botanical journals and seldom do we find that fern hybrids have fancy names.

Fern species vary naturally. Changes in size or cresting at the frond tips occurs frequently. When the new physical form is stable, the fern grower may give it a cultivar or fancy name. A very popular fern is an example, *Adiantum raddianum* 'Pacific Maid'. This is one of the "maid-enhair ferns," which introduces another type of name, the common name.

Some of the best-known ferns have names that have been associated with a species through long usage. There are no rules for giving plants common names. The names are easy, often duplicated, and sometimes confusing: one man's rabbit's foot fern may be another's squirrel's foot.

Begonias have flowers and ferns do not. If a plant produces flowers—no matter how insignificant the flowers, no matter how "ferny" the leaves—it is not a fern.

From begonia flowers seeds are produced; but with no fern flowers, there are no seeds. Instead there are fruiting bodies called spores. They appear in little clusters called "sori" on the underside of fronds, often at the tip of veins. A large group of ferns develop sori on specialized fertile fronds. This fern spore arrangement is distinctive. One botanist jokingly said that the only reason for spores was to help botanists identify the various species. This is true to the extent that ferns are capable of proliferation by vegetative means and frequently do so.

Begonia growers are accustomed to the tiny seeds they must deal with. The dust-like spores can be just as easy to sow and raise as some begonias or just as difficult and tricky as other begonias.

In most cases, it is possible to use the same sort of growing medium for starting spores that you would for begonia seeds. The two-generation stages in the early

life of a fern plant is not something that the begonia grower is familiar with. First a mossy mat appears and it gives rise to the second or sporeling stage. Ferns take much longer to attain maturity, and they tend to be longer-lived plants than begonias.

Assuming that a group of ferns and begonias have been selected that need similar growing conditions, there are a few points that might be helpful to consider about fern horticulture. Ferns may grow under lower light (deeper shade) and survive, though they are less likely to develop spores in lower light.

The fern plants will grow in light as bright as most begonias need. In the brighter light conditions the ferns will need watering more frequently than begonias because their leaves are less succulent. The grower has to develop a "feel" for placement of the plants and watering or withholding water.

The thinness of the blades of the fern leaflets accounts for the difference in feeding ferns. Begonias are "food hogs" compared to ferns. The general rule is to use plant foods at one-fourth to one-half the recommended strength to prevent the leaflets from accumulating salts and browning. Fern fertilizers tend to be balanced,

that is, to show a formula with all three values the same (10-10-10).

Similarly, when using sprays for insects, the fine leaves of ferns are very sensitive to damage, and the ferns can be defoliated or even killed by sprays that begonias can tolerate. If possible, don't spray the ferns when you spray begonias. If you must spray ferns with insecticides, use dilute mixes on them. A little upbeat note here may be encouraging—ferns do not attract many insect pests, and if you control the pests on begonias, you may not even have to consider spraying the ferns.

When choosing ferns to grow with begonias, it is fairly safe to try any fern that is offered in the same nursery section as house plants. Some ferns in this grouping may be more at home among orchids or aroids, but this is a good starting point for selecting.

A few ferns that I have successfully grown among the begonias may not be easy to locate, but finding them can be a lot of fun.

Asplenium bulbiferum has been rather easy to obtain. It is lacy looking and not at all difficult for a begonia grower. There is a smaller closely related species that might be preferred by those whose space is limited, *Asplenium daucifolium* (*vivi-*



***Cyrtomium falcatum*, the holly fern, is from Japan**



When young, fronds of *Pityrogramma hybrida* are covered with a golden waxy substance that contrasts with dark brown to black stems. As the fronds grow, they arch over the pot

parum). Both species have little plantlets forming on the pinnae. Because of this, they are referred to as "mother ferns." The plantlets can be removed and planted as a means of propagation.

An easy fern to grow alongside rhizomatous begonias is the Japanese felt fern, *Pyrrosia lingua*. It can be used as a ground cover in suitable climates, and it grows well in a basket or low pot. This fern is not lacy since it has a rather tough entire frond. It can be a compact, pleasing plant to grow. There are numerous variants of the basic species that show cresting and marginal changes. These are more challenging and interesting.

Another fern that comes from Japan is the holly fern, *Cyrtomium falcatum*. The leaflets are rhomboid in shape and glistening green. The margins may have varying degrees of serration and include a fringed cultivar known as *C. 'Rochfordianum'*. It may be very difficult to locate a plant, and you may have to settle

for the species. However, it is a very pleasing fern.

Scyphularia pentaphylla is a great choice to plant in a basket and hang alongside the basket begonias. It is a rhizomatous epiphyte, and has a frond with long lance-shaped pinnules. The spores develop along the edge to form a decorative border.

A most beautiful and decorative fern in its own right is *Pityrogramma hybrida*. It forms clusters of fronds that arch like a fountain over the pot. The fronds can be about 1½ feet tall. The stems are dark brown or black. Both the underside of the fronds and the newly emerging fronds are covered with a golden waxy substance that is a bright contrast. This fern grows well in the garden, too.

As with begonias, you may find yourself captivated by ferns and willing to adjust to their peculiar and particular needs as you find other fascinating, difficult and more unusual species.

A holiday treat of *B.* 'Christmas Candy'

Thelma O'Reilly

Bright, cheerful *Begonia* 'Christmas Candy' is a special holiday treat that will appeal to all who enjoy growing colorful, everblooming plants. It is another exciting cultivar to add to Mabel Corwin's growing list of new begonia introductions.

Mabel says, "When I could not get *B.* U014 to cross with other kinds of begonias, I tried it on my favorite semperflorens in the Glamour series, *B.* 'Glamour Rose Picotee', because of the similarities in bloom habit and growth pattern."

B. U014 is the ABS identification number for the brilliant, deep orange-red, nearly everblooming species imported from Argentina several years ago by Tom Mentelos and Fred Fuchs.*

Mabel's successful cross was made in 1980. Seed was planted the following winter; germination was excellent. Strong, sturdy seedlings grew rapidly, starting to bloom when quite young. Mabel recalls, "When I saw bright, red-orange buds I really began to take notice."

B. 'Christmas Candy' inherits its leaf shape, bloom color and clustering habit from *B.* U014. Its strength, sturdiness, and leaf size are credited to *B.* 'Glamour Rose Picotee'.

Prolific writer Thelma O'Reilly is always full of cheer.

Every hybridizer dreams of creating a plant that has a distinct inflorescence and Mabel accomplished this with *B.* 'Christmas Candy'. Combining the brilliant orange-red of *B.* U014 and pink of *B.* 'Glamour Rose Picotee' resulted in a clear, vivid red. To retain this color the plant must be grown under maximum light conditions. The color is less intense under shaded conditions.

The entire inflorescence is Christmas red with the exception of the snow white ovaries inherited from *B.* U014. Measuring two inches across, the female flowers with five tepals and male flowers with two tepals have three-inch peduncles and one-inch pedicels. Like *B.* U014, the female flowers are adorned with three red bracteoles that nearly cover the white ovary.

Glabrous, succulent, deep green leaves measuring four to five inches by two-and-a-half to three inches, are finely red-edged with a small red dot at the leaf-stem connection. Brownish-green, channeled, one- to two-inch petioles are flushed red. Green bracts quickly dry and are persistent.

B. 'Christmas Candy' is a spreading plant with 12- to 14-inch, sturdy, semi-erect stems that become brownish with a woody texture like *B.* U014. It derives its sturdiness, hardiness, and ease

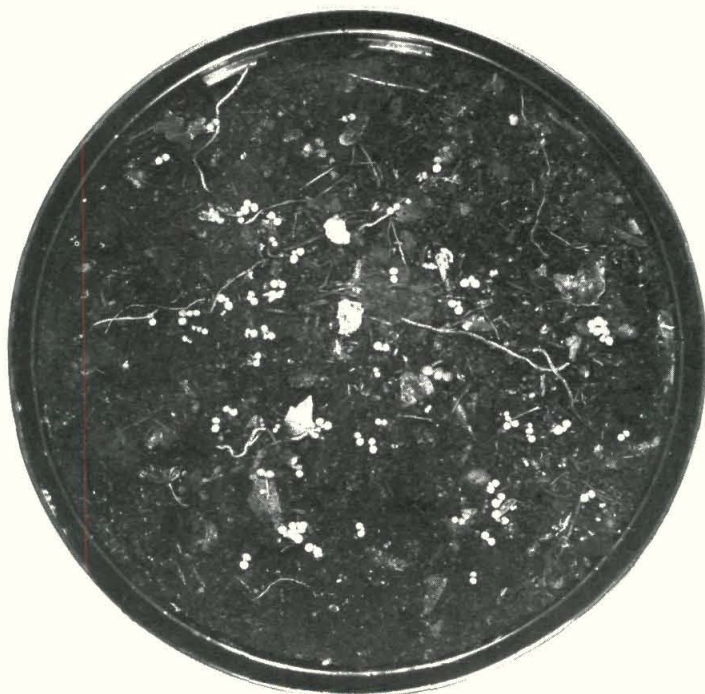
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B. 'Christmas Candy', hybridized by Mabel Corwin

Photo/Ralph Corwin

African soil yields surprise —Is it *B. scapigera*?



Begonia seedlings emerging from African soil

J. Doorenbos

Begonia seed requires light to germinate; it will not germinate in darkness even when other conditions (moisture, temperature, oxygen, etc.) are favorable. In this way, nature protects the seeds from the danger of germinating when covered by a layer of soil or litter too thick for the tiny seedlings to penetrate.

In the soil the seeds appear to remain viable for a long period. In the natural habitat, the topsoil under begonia plants is often very rich in seed which has fallen down and become covered, but which will germinate when the soil is spread out very thinly so that light can reach the seed.

When we receive plants collected in the

Dr. Jan Doorenbos directs the extensive Begonia collection at Agricultural University, P.O. Box 30, 6700 AA, Wageningen, The Netherlands, where he is professor of horticulture.

wild to which soil is still adhering, we always 'sow' this soil, and whenever we know someone is going to collect begonias, we ask him to bring some soil, especially in cases where there are no fruits on the plant. In most cases, such soil gives us some seedlings.

In 1980, H. J. Beentje, M.Sc., went to West Africa to collect plant material for his doctor's thesis. We asked him to look out for begonias, to collect seed and if this should not be available to scoop up some litter from under the plants and bring this back to Holland.

Mr. Beentje's travels brought him to Mount Nlonako in West Cameroun. There at a height of 1000-1300 m (3200-4200 feet) on rocks in the shade of trees he saw a plant without flowers or fruits which he took to be a begonia, and although he is not a begonia specialist, he was not mistaken. He prepared a herbar-



***Begonia* cf. *scapigera* Hook.f. finally begins flowering. The plant is one-and-a-half-years old**

ium specimen (Beentje 1146) and duly collected some soil.

In December 1980 this little bag of soil was turned over to us. It was a heavy clay soil (not the type of soil we would ever use for begonias in cultivation!), not quite dry, and crumbly. We prepared a seed bed of a mixture of peat and sand, and sowed out the African clay as if it were seed.

Very soon minute young seedlings appeared which after having kept us in suspense for about a week turned out to be begonias. We were glad to see there were many of them, and amazed that they were not mixed with seedlings of other species (sometimes one gets a miniature botanic garden from such soil samples).

They grew rapidly, as begonia seedlings do, and it soon became evident that they had peltate leaves. This pointed to *Begonia quadrialata*, which appears to be rather common in West African forests and of which we already have several imports.

Gradually it became evident, however, that it was a different species, although

the rhizomatous habit and the peltate leaves firmly place it in the same section as *B. quadrialata*. Where it differed from this and all other species of this group is that it proved to be much hardier: it grew rapidly, and did not need terrarium care as so many related species do.

Flowering took very long, however. The first flower opened exactly one-and-a-half years after germination. The plants were then already 30-45 cm (1-1½ feet) across; a big ball of broad leaves up to 6 inches long on 10-inch-long petioles. As we expected, the flowers are bright yellow. They are very large (up to 5 cm—2 inches—across) and would be very showy if they were not borne on short stems and thus obscured by the leaves.

Here follows a more detailed description: plant with a short creeping rhizome, otherwise stemless. Petioles very long (up to 25 cm), rather fleshy, the lower half reddish and pilose, especially when young, the upper half green and glabrous. Leaves thick, glabrous and shiny, oval, acute, peltate, up to 15 cm long and 10 cm broad, with entire margins which bear

only a few minute hairs. The inflorescence has a rather thick peduncle, 3 to 7 cm long, and consists of 1 female flower (occasionally 2 or 3) and 1-4 male flowers on 3- to 5-cm-long pedicels, standing very close together in the axils of 4- to 5-mm-long bracts. The flowers have two yellow petals, the female flowers have 4 styles. The ovary is 3-4 mm broad and 2-2.5 cm long and bears over its whole length 4 very narrow wings which broaden out at the top to the triangular tip.

Having established these facts, we have of course tried to identify this species. Dr. J. J. F. E. de Wilde and I have made independent efforts and we have both come to the conclusion that this species resembles *Begonia scapigera* more than any other West African species so far described.

Begonia scapigera, described by J. D. Hooker in D. Oliver's *Flora of Tropical Africa* (1871), vol. 2, page 572, differs in the following respects, however. Its leaves are 'caudate-acuminate' (our plant has leaves with a short acute tip), the petioles are stout, 'rarely with a few long hairs' ('rarely' is not appropriate for our plant), the flowers are borne on a solitary erect scape 10-14 inches long, usually forked (in our plants the peduncles are much shorter and never branched). According to Hooker there are three stigmas in the female flower, but Wilczek (the only other author who made his own description of the species) counted four. The specimen used by Hooker had been collected by Gustav Mann in the Cameroons mountains at an altitude of 4000 feet, which is also the habitat of our plant.

Considering the many similarities and the relatively minor discrepancies, and particularly the fact that no other West African species comes nearly as close to our plant as *Begonia scapigera*, I shall call it by this name until further evidence comes to light to show that it is a separate species.

While these data were being collected, Beentje's specimen 2146 was being processed for the Wageningen Herbarium.

It has now become available for study and Dr. De Wilde assures me it is not *B. scapigera* at all: there can be no doubt



Photos/Reyer Jansen

A close-up of the flowers of *B. cf. scapigera* Hook.f.

that it is *Begonia ampla* Hook.f.!

This raises a number of questions. Mr. Beentje may have overlooked *B. scapigera*, but this seems unlikely. The seed may have been washed in from elsewhere. Or perhaps—a more fanciful hypothesis—there used to be plants of *B. scapigera* at this locality, which died but left their seed in the soil. However, this may be, raising from soil a different begonia than the one growing on it was a new experience for us.

The import of this species could be a major event for Begonia growers. Among the yellow flowering West Africa species now being cultivated there are several outstanding plants of great beauty, but very particular in their requirements. Very few people can grow them and they will never have any commercial importance. The present plant, however, seems easy to grow and much more resistant to adverse conditions. Its drawbacks are that it takes a long time to flower and that the flowers, although large, beautifully shaped, and of a striking color, are covered by the leaves. If this could be improved by hybridization with species like *B. staudtii* or *B. ficicola*, a whole new group of begonias might be developed.

B. 'Fuscomaculata' okay as short name for old favorite

Carrie Karegeannes

For years ABS members have grown *Begonia* 'Fuscomaculata', the handsome star-leaved rhizomatous plant growing well even in dry living rooms of the eastern United States in winter, although appreciating the humid air of a sheltered spot outdoors in the summer.

The name—referring to the dusky, brown-spotted leaves—has had its challenges and history, but I believe our familiar name can be retained.

To go back to the beginning, William Bull in London in 1883 listed a *Begonia rubella* in his catalog. The brown-spotted begonia became popular with growers, but unfortunately a species from Nepal had already been named *B. rubella* by Francis Buchanan-Hamilton and published by David Don in 1825 (not to mention still another species from India dubbed *B. rubella* by Friedrich Miguel).

To sort our plant out from this confusion (and as called for by international rules), Liberty Hyde Bailey in the United States renamed it *B. rubellina* in 1923. He said it probably was of garden origin. Early ABS growers began to change the name on their plants when they learned of the change, although the *Begonian* reflects both names in use for some years, in varying styles of capitalization, italics, etc.

Meanwhile, Director Axel Lange of the Copenhagen Botanical Gardens also noticed the duplication of names, evidently without knowing of Bailey's action to correct it. Lange proposed a new name for Bull's *B. rubella*, publishing *B. fuscomacu-*

The author, Carrie Karegeannes, wishes to express her gratitude to Dr. Robert W. Read, curator, Department of Botany, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, for his comments on the manuscript and to Dr. John Ingram of the Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, for a copy of the Begonia pages from Bull's 1883 catalog. Carrie is ABS nomenclature director.



lata with a detailed description in Karl Fotsch's *Die Begonien* in 1933. He also believed the plant to be of hybrid origin and assumed *B. heracleifolia* and *B. strigillosa* (syn. *daedalea*) were the parents, and this assumption has been widely accepted. ABS growers again began changing the name on their plants after an article by Helen Krauss in a June 1944 *Begonian*, although the old names persisted for a while. A photo as *B. 'Fuscomaculata'* appeared on the February 1951 *Begonian* cover.

Lange did not say whether he considered either his name or the earlier names to be hybrid names, covering all the offspring of that cross (and all future offspring of those two parents, as well), or whether he was naming a selected plant from the cross—that is, a cultivar. It was still two years before a Latin description would be required to make a Latin hybrid name valid, and longer still before our formal rules for naming cultivars (cultivated varieties). Bailey had not specified, either. Neither author used "hybr." as part of the name, as was done in Fotsch's

a grex name, with each cultivar given its distinctive “fancy name” in addition. More often, the hybrid is designated by a formula listing the parents, without need for a hybrid name. New cultivar names cannot be in Latin spelling, but old names given before the rules applied may be lifted from italics to single quotation marks and initial capitals.)

In everyday use, *B. x rubellina* ‘Fuscomaculata’ may be shortened popularly to *B.* ‘Fuscomaculata’—as ABS members in fact have been calling it for some 30 years.

Robust, ornamental *B.* ‘Fuscomaculata’ has a creeping rhizome, shaggy with dried stipules, and petioles that soon droop, making it a low plant (unless staked erect). Influenced in shape by *B. heracleifolia*, the 6- to 10-inch leaves are shiny and glabrous above, with five to six triangular lobes, wider and shallower than the lobes of *B. heracleifolia*, and a cordate (heart-shaped) base. The dark-brown to reddish-brown spotting on wide green areas radiating over the main veins, against olive-green to purple-brown background, reflect its inheritance from *B. strigillosa*, the other parent. Margins are toothed and ciliate. Underneath, red areas echo the dark areas above, with short hairs on the veins.

Although the thickly hairy petioles, slightly grooved, are rather long (to 12 inches), leaves cover the plant so thickly it remains full, though usually prostrate. The hairs are red with white tips and include a cuff of hairs at the top of the petiole.

Blooming in the spring (May for me in Virginia) and also in summer for some growers, greenish-white to pale-pink flowers with red specks are two-tepaed (two-petaled). The light-green ovaries are sometimes red-speckled, with one pale-green or pale-pink wing larger than the other two. Round bracts, almost white and veined with red, unfold at each fork of the inflorescence. The tall peduncle (flower stalk) is erect, pale green, red-dotted, with long white hairs.

B. ‘Fuscomaculata’ prefers to grow rather dry and it has grown well in southwest exposure as well as in north windows. Stronger sunlight will widen the



Photo/Carrie Karegeannes

It's *B. x rubellina* 'Fuscomaculata' but you can call it *B.* 'Fuscomaculata' for short

preceding entry for *B. hybr. ricinifolia* (which would be written today as *B. x ricinifolia*, for a botanical hybrid name).

Whatever Lange's intent, a number of botanists have taken the names to be names for hybrids. Weber and Dress in 1968 and E. Irscher in 1960, for example, wrote about *B. x fuscomaculata*. As a botanical hybrid name, however, *B. x fuscomaculata* has to yield priority to *B. x rubellina*, given 10 years earlier. Irscher recognized that Bailey's name was the earlier, although he liked Lange's more descriptive name. (The Bailey Hortorium holds a type specimen for Bailey's *B. x rubellina*.)

Under the Cultivar Code rules, we still need a cultivar name for the plant introduced into cultivation from that hybrid group. I propose that the solution is simple and eminently suitable: *Begonia x rubellina* Bailey (the correct hybrid name) with Lange's 'Fuscomaculata' for the cultivar.

For growers more familiar with modern-language grex names, the botanical hybrid name is the Latin equivalent of

green areas, lightening the coloring, while somewhat shady situations will deepen the coloring. It has been reported able to withstand rather cold temperatures. Its habit makes it useful for hanging baskets or wall pockets, or a wide shallow planter (perhaps a large clay pot saucer) placed on a stand.

Several offspring of *B.* 'Fuscomaculata' have been described, including *B.* 'Rosanna' by Margaret Campbell, which took second place in the ABS new cultivar competition in 1958. *B.* 'Michael Barnes', introduced in 1952, appeared to be one, although Bess Shippy was not sure of the parents. Louise Schwerdtfeger produced *B.* 'Patty Bar' by pollinating *B.* 'Fuscomaculata' with *B.* *barkeri* in 1953, and Marie Minter registered *B.* 'Star Crest' in 1954 (ABS No. 62). *B.* 'Clancy' was registered as a sport of *B.* 'Fuscomaculata' by Doug Frost in 1976 (ABS No. 570). *B.* 'Karinga', from our plant crossed with an unknown, was registered by Mickey Meyer of Australia in 1977 (ABS No. 580).

Repeatedly through the years, the Seed Fund has offered seed of selfed *B.* 'Fuscomaculata', but I have not seen a report of the remaining seedlings. I hope none of

them is masquerading under the name of the parent.

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More *B.* 'Christmas Candy'

Continued from page 146

of culture from *B.* 'Glamour Rose Picotee'. Mabel says, "It is like an improved *B.* U014."

Mabel did not plan to release *B.* 'Christmas Candy'—just grow it and enjoy it. But visitors arriving after the 1981 convention were so anxious to have it that she happily shared some plants.

When Kit Jeans spied this colorful begonia she walked over to it, studied it for a moment, turned to Mabel and said, "Christmas Candy"—a perfect name in Mabel's opinion.

It is a sterile plant. Wanting to be sure the same cross would give the same results again, Mabel remade it in late 1981. She raised many more seedlings which developed into the same plant.

Mabel comments, "*B.* 'Christmas Candy' blooms out along the stems and breaks at the base with new side shoots that

start blooming when young, making a full blooming plant without pinching. I think this is its best feature."

"It is so easy to grow, a wonderful begonia for beginners. It doesn't need to be babied or fussed over, doesn't need a greenhouse—just good strong light to bring out bright color of flowers. It enjoys a good potting mix and regular fertilizing. It drinks a lot of water but tolerates dryness better than most begonias. Just give it the same culture as semperflorens begonias. It is the most 'carefree' begonia in my collection."

With all of these qualifications, this author predicts that *B.* 'Glamour Christmas Candy' will become one of the most widely grown and enjoyed begonia introductions in recent years.

*The author prepared and donated complete herbarium specimen material of *B.* U014 to Dr. Lyman B. Smith, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Dr. Smith is studying the material for identification.

QUESTION BOX / *Why do plants drop leaves?*

Mabel Corwin

Question: I am having a problem with a very young plant of *B. solananthera*; it is dropping some of its new leaves. I have had this problem in the past with *B. 'Salmon Coquette'*, although it doesn't seem to be happening now that the plant is older. I noticed recently that *B. 'Orpha C. Fox'* is dropping new leaves from a newly developed stem.

Can you tell me what causes this problem and how to correct it? All of these plants are being grown under lights (two 40-watt Sylvania Gro-Lux) and are fed at each watering with Peters 15-30-15 fertilizer.

Answer: I wonder if you are overwatering and possibly overfertilizing the young plants before they have had a chance to develop a strong root system. Begonias need to dry out slightly between waterings. I suggest you water less frequently and discontinue the fertilizer temporarily. When the plant is growing well, then you can start using a weak fertilizer solution.

A sudden change in temperature or environment could also cause leaf drop. Also, a strong draft could cause problems. (However, good air circulation is important to prevent mildew.)

In my greenhouse, I sometimes lose small, newly potted plants because they stay too wet, so I feel this is most likely your problem.

Question: I have had *B. odorata alba* for five years. It has grown beautiful, thick foliage and multiplied from cuttings, so that I now have several large, healthy plants. However, it has never bloomed, though I have grown it under many different conditions: in the garden in sun and shade, in pots in the sun and shade, in pots under lights in summer and winter, and in a cool, well-lighted attic in

winter where hiemalis begonias bloom. I use commercial fertilizer according to directions.

Do you have any thoughts as to why I am not getting blooms, or what else I might try to get bloom?

Answer: *B. odorata alba* should bloom profusely during the winter and spring months. I don't know why your plants haven't bloomed, since you have grown them under many different conditions. Perhaps your plant was deficient somehow and the plants grown from the cuttings have the same genetic deficiency. I have a young plant in a 4-inch pot that is in full bloom, although an older plant in a 6-inch pot that had been cut back is not blooming yet. Mine grow in the shade-house where the winter temperatures go down to 40 degrees. It seems to be a very hardy begonia.

Is it possible that you have overfertilized your plants, or perhaps pinched them back too much? Most begonias need to be pinched to make them bushy, but if we pinch too often we remove the growth that should bloom. Try fertilizing with a fertilizer formulated for bloom, such as 0-10-10 or 15-30-15. Sometimes we smother our plants with too much kindness, but you have grown yours in a variety of different conditions so you should have had bloom.

I suggest you try to get a plant from a different source and see what happens. Sometimes a plant is just stubborn. Remember that the blooming season is winter-spring.

Question: The very first begonia I ever bought is a cane begonia. It has no name. The man in the greenhouse just called it an "angel wing." The first year it set flowers, but has never bloomed since. It is quite large now, four feet tall and quite bushy as I pinch it back. It is still in the east window where it was the first year.

I transplant it yearly in a mix of half dirt, one-quarter peat moss and one-quarter perlite. It has huge dark green leaves with silver tinged spots and red

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Send questions about begonia growing to Mabel Corwin, 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope; you'll get a prompt reply.

ROUND ROBINS/ *Coping with cold weather*

Mary Harbaugh

Many of our midwestern growers with greenhouses were partially or totally wiped out during the frigid, windy January of 1982. Elaine Ayers of East Cleveland, Ohio, was one of those affected when a prolonged power failure hit. She plans to be prepared this year, and has started by lining her greenhouse with 6-mil plastic for better insulation and purchasing a kerosene heater as a stand-by heat source.

One year, Frances Hoffman of Northport, N.Y., tried installing some bubble insulation in sheets which stick to the inside of the glass but ran into some problems. Instead of the ice building up on the inside of the greenhouse it built up on the outside and weighed down the top and sloping sides. The warmth could not penetrate the insulation to melt the snow and ice on the outside.

Chris Giordano of Hauppauge, N.Y., supplements her heating system with gallon jugs of water painted black to capture the sun's heat which will be released into the greenhouse during the night.

Capillary watering popular

Many of us find our collections growing to the point that we barely have enough time to water. Capillary matting and wicking can be useful and four robins relate their techniques and experiences for us.

Charlotte Kuhnle, Hood River, Ore., used capillary mats for her begonias under lights. Old acrylic blankets or any other type of material that will absorb water can be utilized for the matting. To fertilize, use a very dilute solution (one-eighth to one-quarter strength) in the reservoirs and flush the pots with clear

water about every six weeks to avoid fertilizer build-up.

Charlotte had been wicking her pots to a reservoir but this kept them too moist so she spread her matting on a tray, covered the matting with a water-fertilizer solution, and set the pots down on that. Then every three to four days, when the matting was slightly damp or nearly dry, she added more water.

When first setting the pots on the matting, be sure to water from the top to initiate the capillary action. If the soil in the pot dries out, it interrupts the capillary action so you need to rewater from the top again. "I was amazed at how quickly some of the trays dried out but it did not seem to affect the plants adversely when the mats got dry. On the other hand, keeping them too wet over a long period did induce plant wilt."

Betty Davenport, Pasco, Wash., has found that the biggest drawback to matting or wicking is that the plants grow so quickly. She does seem to be able to keep them in smaller pots much longer, though. She uses plastic pots but no crocking as this would interfere with the capillary action. A very light or soilless mix is preferred. Two problems to watch for are salt build-up and stem rot.

For wicking, Dottie Lillestrand of Bloomington, Minn., has used nylon pantyhose. If it is very sheer, you may have to double the width. She also uses strips of discarded cotton undershirts. When any plant goes dormant, she takes it off the matting or wicking so it will not get too much moisture and waters it just a little from the top.

Ben Yarbrough of Mableton, Ga., finds newspaper to be an inexpensive source of wicking material. He rolls up three to four sheets of newspaper in the short direction and places a container of water near the plants. One end of rolled newspaper goes into the water and the other goes into the pot with the plant.

Prune regularly

Pruning and pinching should be a regu-

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. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

lar part of our plant care routine. Bob Ammerman, Vista, Calif., relates that when pinching back his rhizomatous and rex begonias, he usually lets the rhizome get near the edge of the pot, then removes the rest of the rhizome. Removing this end promotes lots of side growth which gives a compact, rounded, full plant instead of one going where it will.

Canes can be tipped, maybe even halfway. If your cane doesn't seem to be putting out any base growth, it will help to repot it deeper, covering several nodes which will then put out that extra growth for a full plant.

Shrub-like begonias can be clipped back below where they bloomed to induce side growth.

Pauline Chambers of Orange Lake, Fla., has a method to make bedding types of *semperflorens* cascade over the side of hanging baskets. She starts pinching only the main stem when they are in 2½- to 3-inch pots and encourages the side branches to grow longer.

Repotting is into 5-inch plastic squat pots and then into 8-inch hexagon-shaped plastic hanging baskets. The side branches are allowed to grow more. She forces these very gently over the sides of the baskets, sometimes using a cloth string to gently pull the branches downward. When they stay down on their own, she gently removes the string and begins pruning the side branches to promote many new branches. The basket soon will be covered with foliage and blooms.

How to propagate

Some growers propagate their cuttings in water. Rhodora Buss of Le Mars, Iowa, relates that after rooting in water, she always uses some of the starter water as she pots up. "Don't throw away the rest of the water in the glass. Just pop in a cutting of something that's been difficult to start to take advantage of rooting hormones that might be present in the water."

Mary Jo Brashear of Sumner, Wash., says she is a real advocate of sand as a rooting and growing medium. She finds that it anchors cuttings well, helps roots develop nicely, and does a good job of holding small seedlings in place. Its main

drawback is its weight—it would probably be too heavy for hanging pots.

Betty and Norman Tillotson, Sacramento, Calif., find that hairy and felted leaves start much more easily if the hairs or felt are rubbed off.

Propagate specific plants

Thelma Adair, Long Lake, Minn., accidentally broke off a leaf of *B. 'Rajkumari'* so she hurriedly cut along the veins in several places and laid the entire large leaf on wet, long-grain sphagnum and put it in a baggie. When she next remembered to check it, several little plantlets had formed.

Robins always enjoy sharing their experiences in growing named varieties of begonias. Chris Giordano propagated *B. 'Chantilly Lace'* by cutting off parts of the rhizome. Several of the resulting plants are lovely—very nicely shaped and in bloom. Two others are extremely ugly. The petioles are very short and the leaves are not beautifully marked like the others.

Mary Jo Brashear finds *B. pseudo-lubbersii* to be of easy culture but whenever she takes a cutting, the plant or stem from which the cutting has been taken dies. This has happened three times.

Bob Hamm, Wichita Falls, Tex., says that while seed-grown plants of *B. partita* develop the swollen base the first season, stem cuttings may take two or three seasons before they develop the enlarged base. He finds it to be a plant that blooms easily and roots well.

Mabel Corwin of Vista, Calif., finds *B. exotica* hort. to be a real challenge. If you do get a good plant, it shoots up to be so tall you can't keep it in a terrarium. It does grow easily from a leaf, so she thinks it is best to just start new plants and keep pinching away.

Rereading *The Begonian*

Once is not enough! Dottie Lillestrand of Bloomington, Minn., says she has been rereading past issues of *The Begonian* and "it is amazing how much I learn the second and third time I read them. Sometimes I am trying to grow a plant that is written up and it is much more meaningful to me."

SEED FUND/ *The dramatic B. carrieae*

Joy Porter, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

- N-D 1 — *B. carrieae*: Beautiful rhizomatous species with large, lobed, light-green leaves with a rough surface and densely white-hairy. Large white flowers. Generous amount. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 2 — *B. plebeja*: Species with erect rhizome-like stem up to one foot in height with dull green, ovate leaves with a pronounced drip-point. This is not same plant as the one being grown under the same name, with reddish-brown blotches between the veins. That has been determined to be *B. tenuipila* var. *kennedii* by Mr. Ziesenhenné; *Begonian* Vol. 44, April 1977. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 3 — *B. deliciosa*: Borneo species with rhizome jointed at or below the soil surface and erect red-brown stems. Satiny, dark green, lobed leaves have raised veins and raised silver dots. Fragrant, large pink flowers. Sometimes confused with *B. diadema*, however the leaves on the latter are more deeply cut. Rewarding, but will get large. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 4 — *B. alnifolia*: Considered by some botanists to be synonymous with *B. convallariodora*. Shrub-like, 2-3 feet high, bronze-green penninerved leaves with large bunches of pinkish-white two-petalled flowers in early spring. Fragrant. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 5 — *B. boliviensis*: Summer-flowering tuberous species with long, narrow leaves. Flowers are unusual, having long, pointed red sepals. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 6 — *B. cinnabarina*: Summer-flowering tuberous species which is low-growing with 3-inch single cinnabar-red flowers. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 7 — *B. micranthera* var. *venturii*: Tall-growing tuberous species blooming in summer with large, brilliant orange-red single flowers. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 8 — *B. sutherlandii*: Summer-flowering tuberous species from Africa with small green leaves, drooping, red stems and small orange flowers. A 3-foot specimen was 'Best in Show' at the Buxton Branch 1982 Annual Show. This begonia produces small bulbils in the leaf axils. Amount will be small—two per customer. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 9 — Tuberhybrida, mixed colors, singles predominating. per pkt .50
- N-D 10 — *B. fischeri* var. *parvifolia*: Shrub-like, small-leaved species growing to 2 feet with deep-pink small flowers, spring through fall. This has been confused with *B. cucullata*, and was offered as *B. patula* in March, 1978 Seed Fund. See *Begonian*, December 1977 and January 1981. per pkt .50
- N-D 11 — *B. cucullata*: Semperflorens type, 1-2 feet tall with everblooming white flowers. Offered as *B. patula* (an error) in Seed Fund of April 1980, and Unknown, Ot 11, in October 1980. per pkt .50
- N-D 12 — *B. 'Viva'*: A semperflorens type; white flowers, green leaves. per pkt .50
- N-D 13 — Larger type semperflorens with 2-inch red flowers, green leaves. per pkt .50
- N-D 14 — Seed from a white double-flowered semperflorens. Results will not all be double. One pkt per customer. per pkt .50
- N-D 15 — Semperflorens with pink picotee flower, bronze leaf. One pkt per customer. per pkt .50

- N-D 16 — *Semperflorens cultorum*: Mixed colors, some with bronze leaf. per pkt .50
- N-D 17 — *B. schmidtiana* x *B. 'Orange Rubra'* X *B. 'Orange Rubra'*. First crossing produced 35 *schmidtiana*-type plants and one with larger, bronze leaves and 2¼-inch pink flowers. This seed is the result of crossing this plant with *B. 'Orange Rubra'*. One pkt per customer. per pkt .50

PAMPHLETS

- Begonias from Seed, Sowing and Growing* ea. .25

***B. carrieae*, named in honor of ABS nomenclature director Carrie Karegeannes, tops the list of seed for sale**



Send orders to Joy Porter, 9 Bayberry Lane, Framingham, MA 01701. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope or add 40 cents for padded, hand-cancelled package. Massachusetts residents add 5% sales tax. Checks and money orders should be made payable to: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Foreign orders: U.S. funds only and add \$1.20 for postage.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Announcing the New EXOTICA 4, Pictorial Cyclopeda of Exotic Plants, by Dr. A. B. Graf; enlarged to 16,300 photos, 405 in color, incl. 813 Begonias; 2,590 pages in 2 volumes. \$175. All-color TROPICA 2, 7,000 photos, incl. 215 Begonias; 1,138 pages. \$115. Booklists gladly sent ROEHRS, Box 125, E. Rutherford, NJ 07073.

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

BEGONIAS—all types. Illustrated, descriptive catalog featuring over 700 varieties, many rare and unusual. \$1.50. THE THOMPSONS, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, N.Y. 11968. 516-283-3237.

THE THOMPSON GREENHOUSE "A Living Museum of Begonias" owned and operated by Millie and Ed Thompson. Over 1400 different species and cultivars of begonias are displayed. While in New York plan to visit. HOURS: 9-12 noon Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat.; 2-5 p.m. Fri. Other times by appointment. Call The Thompsons at 516-283-3237. LOCATION: Southampton College Campus, South-

ampton, N.Y. Open all year. No admssion fee. A number of small plants are available for sale.

Begonias—violets—episcias. Cuttings only. List 50¢. Springtime Gardens, 2212 Hickory, Sulphur, LA 70663.

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

African violets, begonias, gesneriads, terrarium and dish garden minis, cuttings only. Windowsill Gardens, Box 943, Center Moriches, NY 11934. List 35¢.

EXHIBIT MANUAL. Supplement 1 of THE THOMPSON BEGONIA GUIDE. 2 sets of revision and additional sheets (issued July 1980 and the latest sheets issued August 1982). \$2.50 includes shipping. The Thompsons, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968

Carrie Karegeannes, nomenclature director

In the citations of cultivar parents, the female (seed) parent is listed first.

Begonia 'Speckled Roundabout'

No. 847—*Begonia* 'Bokit' x *wollnyi* hybrid 'Speckled Roundabout'

Five-inch stem with slight swelling at the base bears double-spiraled, long-tapered, 4" x 3" green leaves splotched with silver. The leaves are lobed and slightly serrate, with smooth surface and 8 main veins. Petioles and stipules are light green. Light-pink and white, 1" x 1", 2-tepaled male and 5-tepaled female flowers are carried in clusters on 7" peduncles in winter. Originated in 1979 by Leslie Woodriff, 1100 Griffith Rd., McKinleyville, CA 95521; first bloomed in 1980; first distributed in 1980. Published in Thompson and Thompson, *Begonias*, 1981, pp. 202, 326. Registered June 29, 1982.

Begonia 'Mary Deane'

No. 848—*Begonia ficicola* x *crispula* 'Mary Deane'

Rhizomatous with distinctive foliage. Chartreuse, 6½" x 4½", peltate, ovate leaves are crisp with bullate, setose (bristled) surface; ciliate, slightly rippled margin; and 10 main veins. Petioles are pale green with scattered, tiny red dots, each dot bearing a white hair; stipules are yellow-green. Orange, 1¼"-diameter, 2-tepaled male and female flowers in few-flowered cymes top 5" x 7" peduncles in fall and winter. The broadly ovate tepals are deeper orange on the backs. Female flowers have fimbriate tepals, large bract-

coles, and 3-4 ovary wings. Leaves of *B.* 'Mary Deane' are hairier, more puckered, broader, and closer to velvety in appearance than those of the seed parent, *B. ficicola*. It won a blue ribbon in its class at the 1980 National Convention and Show of ABS. Originated in 1977 by Violet Tate, 6446 Trelawny Avenue, Temple City, CA 91780; first bloomed in 1980; first distributed in 1980. Tested by Cecilia Grivich, 2818 S. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91006. Registered June 30, 1982.

Begonia 'Cleo Brown'

No. 849—*Begonia* 'Sisquoc' X *B.* 'Cleopatra' x *bowerae* var. *nigramarga* 'Cleo Brown'

Rhizomatous, semi-erect. Emerald-green, 6" x 4" leaf blades are splashed with reddish brown, and the 7 veins also are outlined in reddish brown. Ovate with acuminate tips and cordate, overlapping basal lobes, the blades have serrate-ciliate margins, thin texture, dull satin upper surfaces, and sparse, short, white hairs above and below. The 8" petioles are pale green with red dashes and scattered scales that run out into curly hairs. Flowers—¾", pale to medium pink with 2 tepals on both male and female—are borne in cymes on 16" peduncles from late winter through early spring. Red-dotted green ovaries have 1 large and 2 smaller wings. The bold, colorful leaf markings distinguish this cultivar from other *begonias* of its class. Originated in 1978 by Martin Johnson, 959 Glennan Drive, Redwood City, CA 94061; first bloomed in 1979; first distributed in 1981. Tested by Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, Calif. Registered Oct. 28, 1982.

Begonia 'Turk Murphy'

No. 850—*Begonia hispidadilloso* forma *nigramarga* x *heracleifolia* var. *nigricans* seedling 'Turk Murphy'

Rhizomatous. White-hairy, apple-green, 6" x 5" leaf blades with 8 black-edged, light-green veins are ovate, shallowly lobed, serrate, and ciliate. Petioles are

Applications to register Begonia cultivars may be obtained from Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041. Each must be typed or printed in ink. A \$2 check or money order payable to the American Begonia Society must accompany each completed application. Photos, drawings, and/or dried specimens to accompany applications are encouraged. ABS is the International Registration Authority for Begonia cultivar names.

10-14" long and hairy; stipules are $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, keeled, and hairy. Flowers, $\frac{3}{4}$ " across, are medium pink with greenish-white ovaries on the 2-tepaled females; male flowers drop unopened. The cymes are borne on 18-20" peduncles February through July. The pattern of black markings on apple-green leaves covered with $\frac{1}{4}$ " white hairs, as well as the long blooming period, distinguish *B. 'Turk Murphy'* from other rhizomatous cultivars. Its leaf lobing differs from the rounded-ovate, unlobed leaves of its seed parent. Originated in 1977 by Martin Johnson (address above); first bloomed in 1978; first distributed in 1981. Described briefly without name in *Begonian* 49: 63, May-June 1982. Tested by Pat Maley, El Cajon, Calif. Registered Oct. 29, 1982.

Begonia 'Peggy Lynn'

No. 851—*Begonia 'Orange Rubra'* x '*Lucerna*' '*Peggy Lynn*'

Cane-like, trailing, short-noded stems carry dark-green, 7" x 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " ovate leaves dotted with small silver rings above and colored blood-red underneath. The margin is entire and slightly wavy, the texture medium, and the smooth, waxy surface is crossed by 10 main veins. Petioles are $1\frac{1}{4}$ " long; stipules are $\frac{5}{8}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ ", smooth, light green, and persistent. Coral-pink, $\frac{1}{2}$ "-diameter flowers include 2-tepaled males and 5-tepaled females with 3 pink-blushed white ovary wings. They are borne in forked clusters from June until frost. A compact, self-branching, natural trailer and profuse bloomer. Originated in 1969 by Antonelli Bros., 2545 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; first bloomed in 1969; not distributed. Tested by Charles Sayers, San Jose, Calif. Registered Nov. 8, 1982.

Begonia 'Dromedary'

No. 852—*Begonia kellermanii* x *kenworthyae* '*Dromedary*'

Thick-stemmed, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall, with bright-green, peltate, scalloped, 6" x 3" leaf blades that have 9 light-green veins. Petioles are 8" long; stipules, $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Thick and succulent, the leaves tend to turn bronze and reddish. Pink flower buds open white with green ovaries. Tepals are ovate, 4 on the male flowers and 3

on the female (1 very narrow). Originated in 1979 by Bob Cole, 18007 Topham Stret, Reseda, CA 91335; first bloomed and distributed in 1981. Registered Nov. 9, 1982.

Begonia 'People'

No. 853—*Begonia 'Dark Forest'* x '*Lime Freeze*' '*People*'

Rhizomatous cultivar with blue-green, star-shaped, 7" x 5" leaf blades etched in charcoal, ciliate margins, smooth surface, and 7 main veins. Petioles are 10" long, red-spotted, and white-hairy; stipules are 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ " x 1". In the spring, white, 2-tepaled flowers in loose panicles are carried on upright, 10-16" white-flecked, bristly peduncles. The cultivar may be recognized by its blue-green foliage. Originated in 1979 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed and distributed in 1981. Registered Nov. 10, 1982.

Begonia 'Phyllis Bates'

No. 854—*Begonia 'Cam Sue'* x unnamed *Begonia 'Phyllis Bates'*

Rhizomatous *B. rex* cultivar with erect rhizome. Unlobed, lightly crenate, 10" x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " leaf blades have silver-flecked margin and center area with silver band, a puckered surface, and 7 main veins. Petioles are 10" long; stipules, $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Pink flowers, 1" to 2" across with 4 to 6 male and female tepals, are carried in 3-flowered clusters on 12" semipendant peduncles September through January or longer. Originated by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed and distributed in 1980. Registered Nov. 10, 1982.

Begonia 'Tarzana'

No. 855—*Begonia peltata* x '*Lospe*' '*Tarzana*'

Rhizomatous, with thick rhizome. Unlobed, serrate, 6" x 5", bright-green leaf blades are covered with buff tomentum on the quilted upper surface and with brownish hairs underneath. Thick and brittle, the leaves have 9 main veins. Petioles are 6-10" long and scurfy; stipules are $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " and hairy, quickly turning brown and dry. White, 2-tepaled flowers are borne on 8" peduncles in the spring. The felted, quilted leaves are distinctive. Originated in 1977 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1981; first dis-

tributed in 1980. Registered Nov. 14, 1982.

***Begonia* 'Yankee Doodle'**

No. 856—*Begonia* Costa Rican species no. 3843 x *carrieeae* 'Yankee Doodle'

Rhizomatous cultivar. Unlobed, 10" x 9" leaf blades are soft, velvety green-hairy on upper surfaces and velvety brownish-hairy underneath, with ciliate margin and 9 main veins. Petioles, 10-12" long, are covered with brown hairs; stipules are $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ ", hairy, and persistent. Young leaves are almost chocolate colored, turning lime green as they mature. White flowers in spring are carried on strong 14" peduncles covered with white furry hairs; large, light-green bracts are also covered with white furry hairs. Male flowers have 2 tepals; females not yet seen. Originated in 1976 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1981; first distributed in 1980. Described in the Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens 1980 catalog as *B.* (Yankee grex) 'Doodle', but the originator decided not to give a grex name. Tested by the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, Calif. Registered Nov. 14, 1982.

***Begonia* 'Cuyamaca'**

No. 857—*Begonia* 'Chumash' x *carrieeae* 'Cuyamaca'

Rhizomatous cultivar. Broad, 8" x 6", star-shaped, cleft leaf blades are dark green with a black network along the 7 main veins, which are red and protruding on the under surface. The blades are firm-textured, hairy on both surfaces, with dentate, ciliate margin. Petioles are 6" long, green with red spots, and hairy; stipules are broad, $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, light green, reflexed, keeled, and hairy. Flowers—pink with apple-green ovaries on 1" x $1\frac{1}{4}$ " females, both males and females 2-tepaled—are borne in the spring in loose clusters on 14", red-spotted and white-hairy, green peduncles. The densely hairy, cleft, dark leaves stand out among other rhizomatous cultivars. Originated in 1978 by Pat Maley, 1471 E. Madison, El Cajon, CA 92021; first bloomed and distributed in 1980. Tested by Doug Frost, Garden Grove, Calif. Registered Nov. 16, 1982.

***Begonia* 'El Capitan'**

No. 858—*Begonia* 'Bokit' x *nelumbiifolia* 'El Capitan'

Rhizomatous cultivar with 9" x 7", slightly lobed, fluted, spiraled, smooth, and leathery leaf blades of medium green with bronze overtones and dark-red markings along the margin and the 10 to 12 light-green main veins. Red margins are dentate and slightly ciliate. Petioles are 8-12" long, thick, succulent, and reddish with light-green flecks and fine hairs; stipules are $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ ", keeled, pale green with red veins, and hairy. Flowers—1" x 1" with broadly-oval tepals—are light pink with red spots. The 2-tepaled females have pale-green ovaries with light-red spots and pink-tinged wings; the males drop unopened. Loose clusters are borne on 12-18", light-green, red-flecked, fine-hairy peduncles in the spring. The unusual coloring and markings on a large, spiraled, wavy leaf distinguishes 'El Capitan' from other cultivars. Originated in 1978 by Pat Maley (address above); first bloomed and distributed in 1980. Tested by Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, Calif. Drawing by Pat Maley in *Begonian* [48]: 195, September 1981. Registered Nov. 17, 1982.

***Begonia* 'Harbison Canyon'**

No. 859—*Begonia* 'Apache' x 'Yanonali' 'Harbison Canyon'

Rhizomatous cultivar with $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", very slightly lobed, spiraled, crenulate, wavy, and bullate leaf blades of chatoyant bronze-green with light streaks along the 9 to 11 pale-tan, dark-red-spotted main veins. Veins on the pink to red undersides are hairy. Petioles are 3" long, light greenish-tan with dark red marks and white hairs; stipules are $\frac{1}{2}$ ", keeled, light green, white-hairy. Pink flowers with dark-red spots and with red-spotted, apple-green ovaries on the 2-tepaled females are arranged in loose clusters on 8", red-streaked, light-green, hairy peduncles in the spring. Male flower buds drop unopened. The unusual coloring on "rumpled silk" surface of a spiraled, wavy leaf distinguish this cultivar. Originated in 1978 by Pat Maley (address above); first bloomed in 1980; first distributed in 1982. Tested by Doug and Goldie Frost, Garden Grove, Calif. Described in *Begonian* [48]: 214, October 1981 ABS National Show. Registered Nov. 17, 1982.

The board of directors Nov. 13 approved Bellevue, Wash., as the site of the 1986 ABS convention and show. Board members reacted enthusiastically to the invitation of the three Seattle area branches, extended in a letter from Barbara Crick. Seattle area organizers hope to include an overnight tour to British Columbia as part of the convention package.

Barbara, who attended the recent Santa Cruz convention, was appointed chairman.

In another convention-related matter, 1983 convention chairman Arlene Davis asked the board to approve Aug. 18-21 as dates for the Riverside, Calif., gathering. The convention originally was to be held one week later, but that conflicted with another large event to be staged in Riverside. The board agreed to the change.

Dates for other future national conventions are: April 12-15, 1984, in Dallas-Ft. Worth, and April 25-28, 1985, in Miami.

An International Begonia Congress?

Board members enthusiastically endorsed a proposal Nov. 13 by President Chuck Anderson to study the feasibility of staging an International Begonia Congress for representatives of all begonia societies in the world. In the course of a lively discussion, Darlene Fuentes volunteered to head up the study. Her appointment was ratified. Dolores Fernandez volunteered to assist.

It was noted that in 1986 the International Horticultural Congress would be held in Davis, Calif., and that renowned begonia expert Dr. Jan Doorenbos of the Netherlands might attend. One possibility would be to hold the Begonia Congress in conjunction with the Seattle convention prior to or following the Aug. 10-20 Congress in Davis.

Begonia experts to consult

President Chuck Anderson's proposal for a Department of Consulting Begonians, modeled after the American Rose Society's Consulting Rosarian program, was approved by the board Nov. 13.

Charles Jaros, Miami, was named chairman. Chuck told the board such a program could help at-large members and possibly help advertise begonias to the public. Further information will be available in *The Begonian* as the program is implemented.

Begonia lore slide show

Rudy Ziesenhenné has donated to the society a slide show complete with written commentary about begonia lore—objects, such as paintings, with a begonia theme. The new program, which includes 72 slides, is adapted from Rudy's lore seminar at the Santa Cruz convention in September.

Begoniafest chairman Mary Margaret Rafferty had suggested to Rudy shortly after the convention that his popular seminar be adapted for the ABS slide library. He spent about three weeks having slides duplicated and typing a script, which takes about one hour to read aloud.

The program is available for rent from Slide Librarian Dan Haseltine (address on inside front cover).

Want that old trophy?

Business Manager Gil Estrada Nov. 13 told the board that ABS perpetual trophies retired in 1978 when the society switched to annual trophies are taking excessive space in storage and are in poor condition, needing polish and refinishing.

Gil suggested that the trophy collection be donated to the Long Beach Boys Club, a nonprofit group that would repair and reuse the trophies.

The board agreed, with the stipulation that past sponsors or recipients first be allowed to reclaim their trophies and branches permitted to take them, then the remainder be donated to the Boys Club.

Accordingly, past sponsors and winners have until Feb. 1, 1983, to collect old trophies. To cover the cost of postage, packing, and mailing, Gil is asking that \$3 accompany each request for small- or medium-sized trophies and \$5 for the large ones. Write to Gil at 7914 Springer St., Downey, CA 90242, to make arrangements.

ABS constitution and bylaws changes

The following are revisions to the ABS constitution and bylaws proposed by the Alfred D. Robinson and San Miguel branches and approved by the board of directors and by the ABS annual meeting in September. They are hereby submitted to the membership for final ratification.

In this text, words in italic type are proposed to be deleted, words in boldface type are proposed to be added, and all other words would be unchanged. (This is not the entire constitution and bylaws.)

Please read the proposed revisions, then vote using the ballot on the next page. Mail your completed ballot to Ballot Counting Committee, American Begonia Society, P.O. Box 162662, Sacramento, CA 95816. To be counted, ballots must be received by Feb. 20, 1983.

ABS CONSTITUTION

Article IV—Officers

Section 1. The officers of the society shall be Immediate Past President, President, [*President-Elect*], **First Vice President** and two **other** Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and one Director from each Branch Society and Regional Organization.

[*Section 2. The President Emeritus shall be Herbert P. Dyckman, Founder and First President of this Society (deceased).*]

[*Section 3.*] **Section 2.** The following officers shall be elected annually in August by ballot: President, [*President-Elect*], First Vice President, Second Vice President, **Third Vice President**, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each member of the society is entitled to one vote. All officers shall serve for one year and be installed at the annual meeting. No elected officer named in this section, **except the secretary and treasurer**, may [*succeed himself*] **serve** in the same position more than two consecutive terms.

[*Section 4.*] **Section 3.** A Director shall be elected by each Branch Society to assume office and be installed with the remaining national officers.

[*Section 5.*] **Section 4.** Any appointed or elected officer may be relieved of his office for just cause, as described in Robert's Rules of Order, page 555, 1970 revision, by a majority vote of the Executive Board, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the elected board present at a regular meeting.

Article V—Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the [*President Emeritus*,] six officers elected by the entire membership of the society, the Immediate Past President, Branch Directors, and the department heads and committee [*chairpersons*] **chairmen** appointed by the president.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, [*President-Elect*, two] **First, Second, and Third** Vice Presidents,

Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.

ABS BYLAWS

Article I—Duties of Elected Officers

Section 2. The [*President-Elect*] **First Vice President** shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence, or whenever the President is unable to perform the duties of the office. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the [*President-Elect*] **First Vice President**. The [*President-Elect*] **First Vice President** shall be included in planning and policy making during his/her years of service as a method of training.

Section 3. The [*First and Second Vice Presidents*] **Second and Third Vice Presidents** shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the President and shall in sequence fill the office of President and/or [*President-Elect*] **First Vice President** as required.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall meet at least four times a year and/or monthly on call of the President, or in his/her absence by the [*President-Elect*] **First Vice President**, the time and place to be published in the official publication.

Article III—Appointed Officers and Their Duties

Section 1. a. The officers to be appointed by the President as Committee Chairmen and to serve as Directors on the Board for the duration of his/her term, or until replaced, shall be as follows: the Business Manager, the Membership Secretary, the Research Director, the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director, the Nomenclature Director, the Branch Relations Director, the Public Relations Director, the Chairman of the Speakers Bureau, the Slide Librarian, the Historian, the [*Chairman of the School for Judges*] **Director of the Judging Department**, the Parliamentarian, the Circulation Manager, the Advertising Manager, the Lending Librarian, the Book Sales Librarian, the Begonian Librarian, the Corresponding Secretary, the Round Robin Director, the Chairman of the Awards Committee, the Flower Show and Convention Advisory Chairman, the Chairman of the Ballot Counting Committee, and the Show Classification and Entry Chairman.

b. The Editor shall be selected by an editorial board consisting of the President who shall act as chairman, the [*President Elect*,] **First Vice President**, the Past President, and two others chosen by the President. The Editor shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The duties of the appointed officers shall be as follows:

a. The Business Manager shall act as business agent for the Board of Directors and for the Publications Department, and shall perform other duties as the Board of Directors may require.

b. The Membership Secretary shall receive

all dues which shall be deposited immediately with the Treasurer; keep an accurate roster of the membership of the Society; and have charge of the mailing and selling of back numbers of the Begonian less than one year old.

c. The Research Director shall have charge of the Research Department; of arranging for the testing of begonias in test gardens in different locations throughout the country; and of collecting information relative to the culture, propagation and housing of begonias and companion plants. A financial report shall be made monthly to the Treasurer.

d. The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director shall have charge of the importation of seeds of begonias and companion plants and the distribution of these to the membership. A financial report shall be made monthly to the Treasurer.

e. The Nomenclature Director shall have charge of determining and establishing correct names of species and established varieties of begonias, of approving and registering all newly developed horticultural varieties of begonias, and shall work with the Editor in the publication of the results of his work.

f. The Branch Relations Director shall have charge of interbranch relations. He/she shall promote and assist in the formation of new branch societies and review branch constitutions, bylaws and their revisions.

g. The Public Relations Director shall promote the Society with the general public. He/she shall appoint assistant directors as needed, to be approved by the Board. He/she shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding advertising of the ABS in other publications.

h. The Chairman of the Speakers Bureau shall provide lists of speakers and program suggestions.

i. The Slide Librarian shall maintain a slide library for the use of branches and members.

j. The Historian shall maintain a complete history of the Society.

k. The [Chairman of the School for Judges] Director of the Judging Department shall have charge of the instruction and examination of potential begonia judges, and shall accredit those qualifying. He/she shall file a

regular monthly report to the Board of Directors which shall include the names of the newly qualifying judges and a financial statement.

l. The Parliamentarian shall see that all proceedings of the meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors are conducted according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society. Where the Constitution and Bylaws do not specifically cover a situation, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern.

m. The Circulation Manager shall supervise preparation of, and/or prepare, the Begonian for mailing and delivery to the Post Office.

n. The Advertising Manager shall solicit and handle advertising to be published in the Begonian, including billing and collecting, and shall make a monthly financial report.

o. The Lending Librarian shall establish and maintain a circulation library for the use of the officers and members of the Society. He/she shall have three copies of each new Begonian preserved and bound into volumes annually.

p. The Book Sales Librarian shall handle the sale of new books, pamphlets, and reprinted material.

q. The Begonian Librarian shall have charge of sales of all available issues of the official publication, the Begonian, over one year old.

r. The Corresponding Secretary shall assist the President with typing, mailing, and related secretarial duties.

s. The Round Robin Director shall coordinate all Round Robin activities and prepare a monthly article for publication in the Begonian.

t. The Chairman of the Awards Committee shall coordinate awards activities for the Annual Convention and Show.

u. The Flower Show and Convention Advisory Chairman shall furnish available information and suggestions to any Branch or regional unit planning to host a local flower show, a regional flower show, or the Annual National Convention and Flower Show.

v. The Chairman of the Ballot Counting Committee shall conduct the counting of bal-

BALLOT—ABS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS REVISIONS

Please mark the box beside each section for which you vote for enactment.
To reject a section, leave the box blank.

Constitution

- Article IV: Section 1
- Section 2
- Section 3
- Section 4
- Section 5
- Article V: Section 1
- Section 2

Bylaws

- Article I: Section 2
- Section 3
- Article II: Section 2
- Article III: Section 1
- Section 2
- Article IV: Section 5
- Section 6
- Article V: Section 1
- Article VIII: Section 1

Send to Ballot Counting Committee, American Begonia Society, P.O. Box 162662, Sacramento, CA 95816, by Feb. 20, 1983.

lots in accord with Article VII, Section 3. Article IV—Operating Committees

Section 5. *The operating committees shall be the following: The Finance Committee, the Audit Committee, the Hosting Annual Convention and Flower Show Committee, the Committee of Awards, the Publications Committee, the Judging Department, the Show Classification and Entries Committee, and the Horticultural Classification Committee.*

Section 6. *The organization and responsibilities of the Operating Committees shall be as follows:*

a. *Members of the Finance Committee shall be the Immediate Past President as chairman, Treasurer, Business Manager, President-Elect, and one additional member familiar with current accounting practices and reports to governmental agencies dealing with ABS nonprofit status.*

b. *The Audit Committee shall be two members appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors to audit the financial records of the Society for the previous year.*

c. *The hosting Annual Convention and Flower Show Branch or Group shall appoint its own Chairman for approval by the Board of Directors. The Chairman shall form his/her own on-site organization and appoint assistant chairmen in charge of hotel accommodations, banquet and food arrangements, plant sales, publicity, programs, seminars, etc. Advice will be available from the Flower Show and Convention Advisory Chairman.*

Names of accredited ABS judges eligible to serve at the Annual National Flower Show are on file with the Chairman of the School for Judges.

d. *The Committee of Awards shall include six members and the Nomenclature Director, two members to be appointed yearly for a three-year term by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. In the event of a vacancy, it shall be filled by appointment by the President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors for the balance of the unexpired term.*

The Committee of Awards shall periodically review the system of awards and make its recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Committee of Awards shall grant the awards of the American Begonia Society, including the Alfred D. Robinson Medal, the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award, the Herbert P. Dyckman Award, and such other special awards as may be established and approved by the Board of Directors, and subject to such regulations as the Board of Directors may adopt.

e. *The Publications Committee shall consist of the Editor as Chairman, the Business Manager, the Nomenclature Director, Advertising Manager, President-Elect and two others chosen by the President. It shall meet to consider matters relating to the publications of the Society.*

The Editor shall, under the direction of the Board of Directors, prepare and issue such publications as the Board of Directors shall

NEW BOOKS!

African Violets and Related Plants. 117 color photos plus 21 photos of gesneriads. \$4.50.

Begonia Portraits. Collector's item by the late Alice Clark. Only a few copies. \$11 hard cover.

Ferns. How to identify and grow 84 common ferns. Color photos. \$4.50.

Mother Nature's Secrets for Thriving Indoor Plants. Fundamentals of indoor gardening. Color photos and information on 341 house plants. \$5.

Still available:

Begonia. Misono, 1974. Japanese text with 302 good color photos identified in English. \$30 hard cover. (English translation with no photos. \$5.50 paperback. Order both for \$34.)

Begonias. Japanese text with 431 excellent color photos from 1980. \$23 paperback.

Begonias for Beginners. Elda Haring's popular primer published in 1976. Very useful. Now sold only by the ABS Bookstore. \$6 hard cover.

Les Begonia. Charles Chevalier's classic 1938 study of the begonia family translated by Alva Graham from the French in 1975. Illustrated. \$5 paperback.

Begonian binders. Hold one year's worth. No repunching. Specify blue or black. \$5.25 each.

All prices include shipping. California residents add 6% sales tax. Send check or money order in U.S. currency payable to American Begonia Society.

ABS Bookstore

Bobbie Lovera, Manager
6073 De La Vista
Rubidoux, CA 92509

authorize, and shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors shall require of him/her.

If the development of a special publication shall require it, the Editor may, with the approval of the Publications Committee, appoint an ad hoc assistant. This appointee shall serve on the Publication Committee during the period the publication is in progress.

f. The Show Classification and Entry Committee, **with the approval of the Chairman of the Judging Department**, shall establish rules for the classification and entry of plants at the National Annual Show.

Article V—Operating Instructions Manuals

Section 1. A written statement or outline of basic duties in looseleaf form shall be available for the following:

- a. Finance Committee
- b. Audit Committee
- c. Flower Show and Convention Advisor
- d. Publications Committee
- e. Corresponding Secretary
- f. Business Manager
- g. Membership Secretary
- h. Research Director
- i. Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director
- j. Nomenclature Director
- k. Chairman of Speakers Bureau
- l. Branch Relations Director
- m. Slide Librarian
- n. Round Robin Director

- o. Chairman of the Ballot Counting Committee
- p. Historian
- q. Chairman for the Committee of Awards
- r. *Chairman for the School of Judges*
Director of the Judging Department
- s. Parliamentarian
- t. Circulation Manager
- u. Advertising Manager
- v. Lending Librarian
- w. Book Sales Librarian
- x. Back Issues Begonia Sales
- y. Editor
- z. Editorial Board
- aa. Nominating Committee
- bb. Branch Directors
- cc. Members at large Director
- dd. Public Relations Director
- ee. Show Classification and Entry Chairman
- ff. Past President
- gg. All officers elected to the Board of Directors

Article VIII—Quorum

Section 1. Fifty members including the President or [*President-Elect*] **First Vice President**, Secretary and Treasurer shall constitute a quorum for the Annual Meeting. Substitutes approved in advance by the Board of Directors may serve in the absence of the Secretary and Treasurer.

More Question box

Continued from page 153

undersides. Room temperature in winter is 60° at night and 70° during the day. In summer I open the windows. Am I keeping it too cold? Everything seems fine, but it doesn't bloom.

Answer: I think your angel wing begonia is probably 'Sophie Cecile'. It makes a beautiful plant, but is a shy bloomer. Your culture is fine. Several growers have reported that theirs bloomed when they moved it outside. If you can grow it outside during the summer months, I think that might do the trick.

It needs lots of light to bloom, but not direct sunlight. Feeding during the summer with a low-nitrogen fertilizer might be helpful. Use a formula such as 2-10-10 or 0-10-10 or 15-30-15. The phosphorus (middle number) encourages bloom.

I have three plants of 'Sophie Cecile' in the ground and all bloom profusely. Temperatures go down to 40° during the winter. They lose leaves, but the plant is not damaged. I'm sure your temperatures are not too cold.

It is good to pinch your plant to make it bushy, but if you pinch too long you could be pinching off the growth that should flower.

Question: In my last batch of peat moss I picked up a tiny white insect that lives in the mix. I've used every insecticide I can find to rid myself of them, but no luck. The plants don't seem to be harmed by them, but it may be too soon to tell. I cannot find this insect described in any book. Can you help me?

Answer: The only reference to tiny white insects that I can find is in Helen Van Pelt Wilson's *African Violet Book*. It says tiny white insects dart around in saucers under plants, sometimes on top of the soil. They probably are springtails. Apparently they are not harmful as they seem to live on decaying matter in the soil. She recommends a lindane soil drench. Use one-quarter teaspoon to one gallon of water. Drench soil twice at 7- to 10-day intervals.

I think systemic granules might work. You scratch these into the soil surface and water. Several companies sell these.

THE BOARD/ *ABS board of directors*

November 13, 1982

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Anderson at 8:15 p.m., on the Queen Mary, Long Beach, Calif.

The board ratified the appointment of the following *committee chairmen proposed by Chuck*:

Show Classification and Entries.....	Martin Johnson
Audit.....	Eleanor Calkins
Nominating.....	Carol Spediacci
Library.....	George Ghiotto

The correspondence received by the secretary included the list of new officers for the Sacramento Branch and the Book Store reports from Bobbie Lovera.

Reports of Officers

Chuck Anderson said that his job as President is to create an environment for others to do a good job. It is possible for any individual to make a difference in the society and for the society to make a difference in the world. He asked the board members to take the initiative; find areas where something needs to be done and do it.

Treasurer Bill Scarbrough distributed the Treasurer Reports for September and October, 1982. He reported an October 31 balance of \$4,730.47 in the checking account and \$19,496.73 in the savings accounts. The report was filed for audit.

The minutes of the Board meeting of September 12, 1982, and of the Annual meeting of September 11, 1982, were approved. Approval of the minutes of the Board meeting of July 19, 1982 was delayed until they are printed in the Begonian.

Reports of Appointed Officers

Bookstore Manager Bobbie Lovera reported that approximately \$1200 of books were sold at the ABS Convention in September. She has a new book list available. Thelma O'Reilly commented that books on companion shade plants could be added to the book store.

Begonian Editor Karen Bartholomew said that the September/October issue is late, but is 40 pages long. She displayed the spectacular cover photograph of acres of blooming tuberous begonias taken by Tim O'Reilly at the Brown Bulb Ranch during the convention. Lynda Goldsmith has taken on the job of Features Editor because of her contacts with at-large members and in the East.

Ed Bates has nearly completed computerizing the Catalog of Registered Cultivars. The first 100 entries have been reviewed by Carrie Karegeannes and Thelma O'Reilly. He said that it is expensive to publish photographs of the cultivars and that some are not possible to obtain.

Thelma O'Reilly read the September-October report from the Nomenclature Department submitted by Carrie Karegeannes.

Arlene Davis, 1983 Convention Chairman, requested that the dates of the Riverside convention be changed to August 18-21, 1983, due to a conflict with the races. The board approved the date change and agreed to pay the balance of the convention advance, \$925.

Margaret Lee gave the report of the Judging Department. She presented Begonia Hybrid of Distinction Certificates to Patrick Worley and to Martin Johnson for their plants at the convention.

Muriel Perz reported that the Parent Chapter sent \$35 for trophies and \$25 for the plant table for the 1982 Convention. These donations were sent in May and were not recognized. Joan Coulat said that she received and acknowledged the plant table donation in September, but that it was too late to be printed in the convention program. The trophy donation never was received.

Patrick Worley, Conservation Committee co-chairman, reported that the U.S. Department of Interior issues a publication which would be useful for his committee's study. The board approved a subscription for approximately \$14 per year.

Business Manager Gil Estrada said that he has not received a complete report from the Membership Secretary for over a year. The board voted to request that the Membership Secretary use a form which Gil presented.

Gil introduced a discussion on trophies which have been retired and are occupying storage space. He suggested that they be given to the Long Beach Boys Club. Karen Bartholomew thought that he last recipient of the trophy might like to have it. Darlene Fuentes said that her branch has monthly "mini-shows" and that the branches could use the trophies. The board decided that a notice should be placed in the Begonian offering the retired trophies to branches and past recipients. They must contact Gil Estrada by February 1, 1983, and they must pay the postage. Remaining trophies will be given to the Long Beach Boys Club.

New Business

Chuck read a letter from the three Seattle area branches, inviting ABS to have the 1986 convention and show in Bellevue, Wash., with a possible overnight tour to British Columbia. The board accepted the invitation and approved the appointment of Barbara Crick as chairman.

The board approved creation of a "Department of Consulting Begonians" with Charles Jaros as its first chairman. It will be similar to the American Rose Society's Rosarians, providing begonia experts as consultants. This department could be useful to help at-large members or to advertise begonias to the public.

Chuck asked for board approval to name a temporary task force to investigate the feasibility of staging an International Begonia Congress to be attended by members of all begonia societies in the world. The board authorized Chuck to name a task force. Darlene Fuentes volunteered to be chairman, he appointment was proposed by Chuck, and the board concurred. Thelma O'Reilly noted that the bromeliad society has an international meeting regularly. It was noted that 1986 might be an appropriate year for a begonia congress in conjunction with the International Horticultural Congress which will be held in Davis, Calif.

The next board meeting will be held at Sunset Magazine in Menlo Park, Calif., with March 5, March 12, or March 19 as possible dates. Tentative plans for the June/July board meeting will be made for either the South Coast Botanical Garden in Palos Verdes or the L.A. Arboretum in Arcadia.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Best
Secretary

BOARD TO MEET MARCH 5

ABS directors, including branch national directors, will meet on Saturday, March 5, at the headquarters of *Sunset* magazine, Willow and Middlefield Rds., Menlo Park, Calif.

The meeting will begin at 1 p.m., break at 2:30 for a tour of the *Sunset* gardens, then resume until completion. As always, the meeting is open to all ABS members.

President Chuck Anderson requested that all directors and other members planning to attend notify him by Wednesday, March 2, so enough chairs will be available.

An optional informal buffet dinner party will follow at Chuck and Karen Bartholomew's house. Partygoers may contribute \$5 each toward the cost of food by sending a check when they RSVP for the meeting or by bringing the contribution to the meeting.

ABS 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.

ABS SERVICES

These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads and other officers, see inside front cover. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you write.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS—Services for members who don't belong to branches are handled by the members-at-large director. Contact her 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 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 editor.

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 1980. Back issues less than a year old are ordered from the membership secretary for \$2 each.

BOOKSTORE—Books on begonias and related subjects can be purchased mail-order from the bookstore manager. Contact her for a list of books available. The bookstore also sells reproductions of antique begonia prints and other items.

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. Contact the librarian for a list of books and the procedure.

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 Mabel Corwin, 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083. You'll get a prompt answer and Mabel will use questions of general interest in her Begonian column.

RESEARCH—The research department conducts projects periodically. 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.

More B. 'Lois Burks' Continued from page 141

prevalent with begonias that have semi-tuberous species in their background. If powdery mildew does appear, simply correct the situation by treating it with Benlate, benomyl, or karathane. As with most low-growing cane-like begonias, B. 'Lois Burks' would grow effectively and attractively in a hanging container. I strongly urge you to grow this delightful new hybrid cultivar particularly if you have a limited growing area.

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