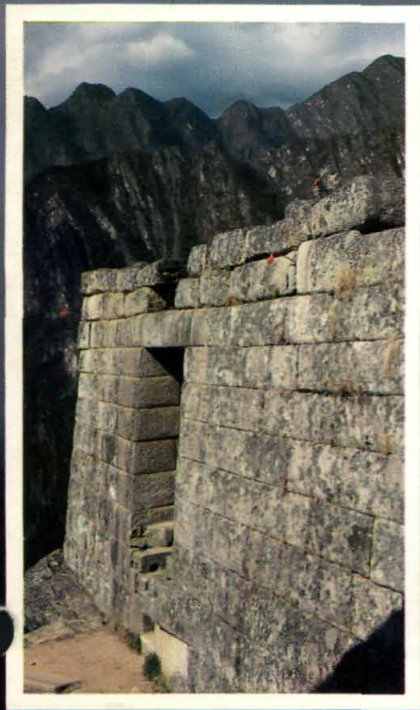
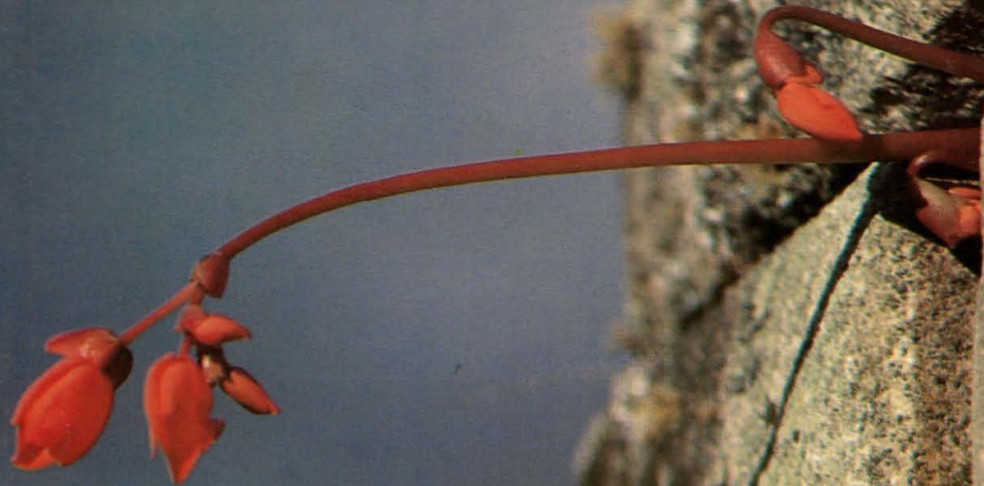


July-August 1983

The BEGONIAN



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Publication of the American Begonia Society

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COVER: Tuberos *B. veitchii* grows out from the granite blocks of Inca ruins at Machu Picchu, high in the Peruvian Andes. Barely visible along wall pictured in inset are three orange dots, each a flower cluster of *B. veitchii*. Large photo is the left-most plant shot from a different angle using a telephoto lens. The wall, a different view of which will be found on page 102, is part of the Semicircular Temple of the Sun, a site that was highly revered by Machu Picchu's Inca inhabitants. See story, page 100.

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NOTES/ From the editor

You will be pleased to know that this is the last issue of *The Begonian* I will edit that will be late—because this is my final issue as editor. After four challenging and somewhat tiring years, it's time for someone with new energy and ideas to take charge.

With Chuck Anderson's tenure as president coming to a close, he thought it appropriate for President-Elect Bob Ammerman to chair the Editorial Board in its search for my replacement.

Luckily for ABS, the Editorial Board has appointed an experienced and able candidate—former editor Phyllis Bates. Phyllis begins her term with the next issue. (Her address is 554 Arden Drive, Encinitas, Calif. 92024. Phone 619 436-1419.)

This, my swan-song issue, is late because I spent the month of July in Peru exploring the Amazon and searching for begonias among the Inca ruins at Machu Picchu. A brief account is in this issue. The added cost for the second color photograph on the cover is being contributed by Chuck and me.

While on the subject of color covers: we are indebted to James Nelson, whose spectacular photo of *B. mannii* graced the May-June cover, for what amounts to a \$120 donation to *The Begonian*. The firm that makes the color separations for *Begonian* covers was so taken by Jim's photo that officers asked permission to use

the separation to advertise their service. Jim agreed, on the condition they deduct \$120 from our bill.



Testimony to the value of using mail ballots for important ABS board actions: in a July mail canvass of board members, including national directors, the dues increase readily approved by directors at their March meeting was nullified. The increase from \$10 to \$15 was defeated by a vote of 16-11, according to Marv Vipond, ballot counting chairman.

No one attending the March board meeting was aware of—or spoke out about—a constitutional requirement that dues increase proposals be put to a mail vote of the board. The March action therefore was represented as final in *The Begonian*.

The oversight later was pointed out to President Chuck Anderson by Treasurer Bill Scarbrough. Ballots were mailed with agenda packets prior to the July board meeting and the vote tallied in early August.

Much opposition to the increase had been expressed in letters from members, several of whom also were highly critical of *The Begonian*.

When it became clear during spring that the dues increase might not be im-

Please turn to page 111

In Britain, the name's the thing if you are growing tuberous begonias

Dr. E. Catterall

Perhaps the major factor which separates Britain from the rest of Europe and the U.S. with respect to the culture of tuberous double begonias is the almost exclusive raising of named cultivars. I believe it to be almost without exception that any British grower interested in the culture and certainly the exhibition of these exotic plants will be growing a selection from perhaps 30 to 40 named varieties.

Until about five years ago, the breeding and raising of new introductions was in the hands of maybe two commercial growers and up to a half-dozen enthusiastic amateurs. Before a new cultivar could be launched commercially, a period of as

much as nine years was necessary to build up the required stock by vegetative propagation. There were two major consequences to this buildup period:

First, any inherent weakness in the variety such as color running in picotees, color breakdown in self-coloreds, susceptibility to mildew, tendency to multicentered blooms, or bloom deformity had a long time in which to appear. Any hybrid which displayed any of these features could be quietly discontinued. Secondly, there was an equally slow buildup in endemic bacteria in the stock so that by the time that the new variety was released most of the tubers were probably already considerably infected.

In the past five years or so, we have witnessed a marked change in Britain

Named tuberous hybrids are popular in Great Britain. This is 'Can Can'





Tissue culture laboratories are increasingly used to propagate new tuberous hybrids

brought about by the application of tissue culture methods to tuberous double begonia propagation. With this technique, it is now possible to produce a new hybrid in, say, 1983 and to distribute it on a commercial scale in 1985. This is, of course, now being practiced with many of the new cultivars being marketed and it is of interest to note one or two developments.

There is no doubt that for the first year or two the tubers produced by this tissue culture method are extremely vigorous, but a number of growers observe that this vigor appears to deteriorate. The tissue culture method requires extensive sterilization of the plant material before multiplication and this almost certainly reduces the endemic bacteria to very low levels. I believe that it is also possible to see a deterioration in bloom and plant quality—for the first time we can see the ultimate potential of a new cultivar in the first growing season and compare that with quality obtained in successive years.

Because of the short time period between hybridizing and release, some of the more unwelcome characteristics have

not had an opportunity to reveal themselves. Certainly one variety proved to be very susceptible to powdery mildew and under the old system probably would not have been released. Another had an alarming tendency to throw multicentered blooms.

At the present state of the art (rather than science) of begonia tissue culture, not all cultivars lend themselves to the same ease of propagation. Some propagate readily, others with considerable difficulty, and yet others not at all. This somewhat erratic behavior will undoubtedly be overcome by continuing research and development and at that time we may witness the annual release of a bewildering number of new named varieties. That situation would be deplorable and would no doubt make the task of show judging something of a fiasco.

Much more hopeful is the application of this new technique to the propagation of a select number of older varieties of which three are noteworthy.

'Red Admiral', in the opinion of many growers the best red tuberous double begonia, had deteriorated seriously in the past five years or so. The tissue culture version was a sight to behold with larger blooms, completely unmarked and with perfect petal formation—if it is not too ridiculous to say, better than the original.

'Wedding Day', a white ground picotee with a delicate pink edge, had in recent years developed a bad habit of producing

Please turn to page 107

Eric Catterall, secretary and editor of England's National Begonia Society for the past eight years, has a doctorate in chemistry and has lectured on the subject for about 20 years. He lives at 3 Gladstone Rd., Dorridge, Solihull, W. Midlands, England. He describes the large, double-flowered tuberous hybrids as "the great love of the British begonia growers."

Semperflorens Cultorum begonias: use them in beds, in pots, in hanging baskets

Beryl W. Orchard

B. semperflorens, the species that gave rise to "wax begonias," was introduced at the beginning of the last century. In 1821 it was accidentally introduced by Ferdinand Sello, a famous plant hunter of that time, into the Berlin Botanical Gardens where it was found growing in the soil of other plants. And about 1870 its merits as a summer adornment to gardens were recognized.

The name *Semperflorens Cultorum* was proposed for its cultivars by Helen Krauss in 1945 and published in the *Journal of New York Botanical Gardens*. Crossing *B. cucullata*, its current name, with *B. schmidtiana* produced many hybrids over the years, and today we have a prolific number to choose from. Most of the old types have disappeared from culture, but they served as the transition between old species and the improved varieties now distributed everywhere.

Many begonia lovers overlook *Semperflorens Cultorum* begonias as collector's plants, but in doing so they are missing a summer joy. Summer? In New England, "semps" are hard to winter over because of their culture.

A garden containing these begonias is a delight to behold. The gardener is rewarded with countless blooms all summer long, fresh looking and exquisite in detail. If you doubt this, may I suggest you purchase a sixpack of 'Organdy', transplant, and watch just how beautifully six plants will be transformed before your eyes, each different, and yet the same.

These are bushy plants with erect succulent stems and glossy, smooth foliage. Leaves are green, bronze-red, dark mahogany, and variegated. They are ever-blooming provided they have sufficient light and temperature; flowers are single,

semidouble, or double, ranging from white through pink to deep red, and some are bi-colored. Height ranges from 6 to 24 inches.

There is a great variety to choose from, and planning a flower bed can be fun, mixing the colors of leaves and flowers. Hybridizers are continually introducing new specimens every season, trying and succeeding in producing hardier plants, larger blooms, variations in color and height.

To name them all would take many pages. Some of the popular ones are always available: 'Cocktail', 'Jet', 'Derby', 'Coco', 'Glamour', 'Scarletta'. 'Viva' is a hardy plant with white flowers and green leaves. 'Charm' with variegated foliage and pink flowers is a sport and can be used successfully in a hanging basket. 'Pink Avalanche' is an excellent basket specimen. It, too, flowers profusely without an "out-of-bloom" period because it cannot produce seed.

Semperflorens Cultorum begonias are used extensively for bedding, edging, pots, planters, tubs, window boxes, porches—wherever you want color all summer long. With a little extra effort they make beautiful hanging basket specimens.

Sow seed December to February under glass in gentle heat, maintaining a constant temperature of 70 degrees F., using light fibrous mix of equal parts soil, sand, and peat moss; never allow the soil to dry out.

After germination, a minimum temperature of 60-65 degrees F. is needed 24 hours a day with half-strength feed as soon as they are big enough to handle. Transplant again when they start to crowd. Pinching is necessary to obtain bushy plants, and this should be started when small.

They will tolerate dry conditions when fully grown. They are light sensitive, so need full sun or semi-shade, but intense hot sun will scorch the leaves. Frost will kill, so lifting before the first frost is a

Beryl W. Orchard grows many semperflorens begonias in her garden at 3 Darby Lane, Mansfield, MA 02048. This article is adapted with permission from The Buxtonian, newsletter of the Buxton Branch.

must; or basal cuttings can be taken and rooted in water or soil.

Many greenhouses and flower stands sell packs of semps late April into May, usually six plants to a pack, and this is a good way to get started. The plants are well grown and can absorb the shock of transplanting easily. Within a few weeks, one can have large, bushy plants at a low cost. Because these plants are heavy bloomers, it is advisable to remove dead flowers and leaves and old seed pods.

Most "bedding" types can be made to cascade over sides of hanging baskets with pinching, pruning, and grooming—and are well worth the trouble. 'Pink Avalanche' and 'Pink Charm' are excellent for this purpose, 'Pink Avalanche' being especially bred for hanging and cascading.

Start pinching when the plants are in 2½- to 3-inch pots, but only the main top, and encourage the side branches to grow longer. Pot into 5-inch plastic squat pots until roots need more space, then pot into 8-inch plastic hanging baskets with drain holes. It is an advantage to have the type with removable saucers.

Allow side branches to grow more, and ever so gently force these over the sides of

the baskets, sometimes using a cloth string to gently pull branches downward. When they will stay down, remove string and begin pruning side branches close to pot to promote many new branches, and your baskets will soon be covered with foliage and blooms. This method will work for 'Glamour', 'Gladiator', 'Viva', and other tall-growing types.

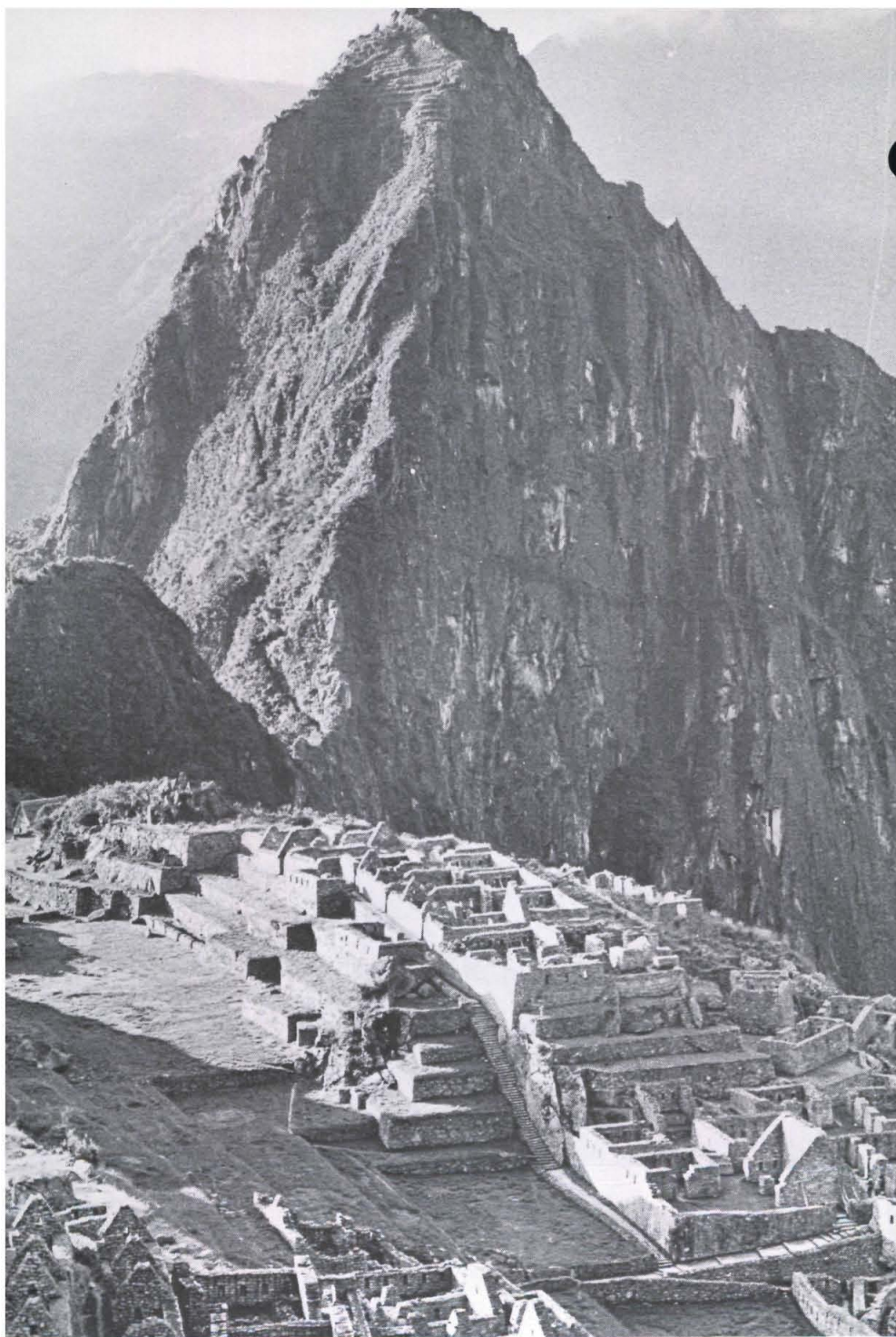
Repot later in the summer with fresh soil. A good mix is three parts Jiffy-Mix, one part perlite; add bonemeal and systemic insecticide granules. For fertilizer use 20-20-20 for young or green-leaved types and 15-30-20 for red-leaved types, according to directions. To promote blooming, use 15-30-20 food. If soil is dry, pre-dampen from top as plant food will burn the delicate root system. Drench once a month with fungicide to prevent mildew.

Other semps for baskets include 'Melody', 'Red Comet', 'Othello', 'Derby', 'Vodka', 'Louise', and Park's 'Bloomin Big'. Follow these instructions and you will have something breathtakingly beautiful.

So, give semps a try; they will grow on you.



B. 'Viva', a popular *Semperflorens Cultorum*



Begonias in the sacred city of the Incas:
an adventure at 8,000-foot Machu Picchu

Even during the dry season, the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu high in the Peruvian Andes sprout an array of begonias—some in awe-inspiring settings.

When I visited the centuries-old ruins in July, the beautiful orange-flowered tuberous *B. veitchii* sent its flowers out on eight-inch stems from cracks in walls carefully fitted together by Inca stonemasons at least 500 and possibly as much as 1,000 years ago (see cover). The location is one of the most important in the long-hidden holy city: three sets of orange flowers jut out high along the flat wall of the Semicircular Temple of the Sun, above the Royal Mausoleum.

Machu Picchu was a remote sacred city abandoned by the Incas several years after the Spanish conquest of Peru in the 16th century. Because the site was so revered, the Spanish never were told its location. It remained hidden from all but a small

number of local natives until discovered by Yale University Prof. Hiram Bingham in 1911.

In *Lost City of the Incas*, written in 1948, Bingham described his reaction on first seeing the Semicircular Temple:

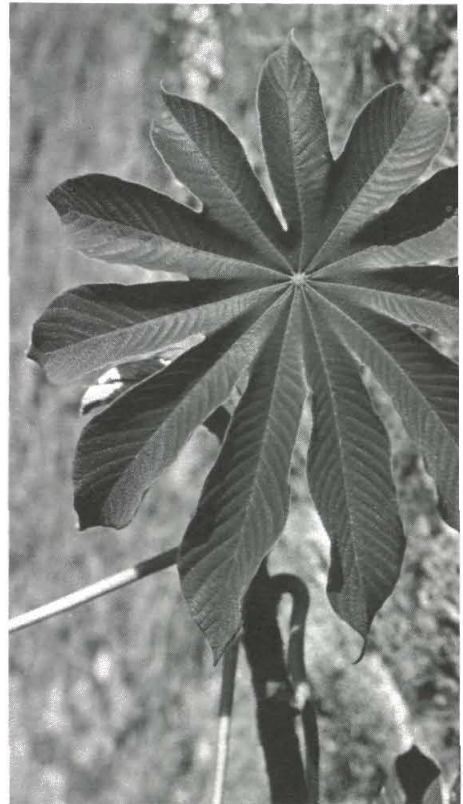
“On account of the beauty of the white granite this structure surpassed in attractiveness the best Inca walls in Cuzco which had caused visitors to marvel for four centuries. It seemed like an unbelievable dream. Dimly, I began to realize that this wall and its adjoining semicircular temple over the cave were as fine as the finest stonework in the world. It fairly took my breath away.”

According to Bingham, this temple was the most revered spot at Machu Picchu because of its location above the burial cave. The opening in the flat wall (inset on cover) is the Enigmatic Window, which probably held a gold disk representing the sun.

Along that wall *B. veitchii* now grows,

With Huayna Picchu looming in the background, the ruins of the lost city of the Incas, Machu Picchu, bask in late afternoon Peruvian sun. Begonias grow out from crevices in the centuries-old stone walls; on the mountainside, begonias and numerous other plants form a thicket through which the Incas cut a narrow, steep path to the top more than 500 years ago

Author saw only one specimen of this unidentified begonia, growing from a wall below the Temple of the Three Windows



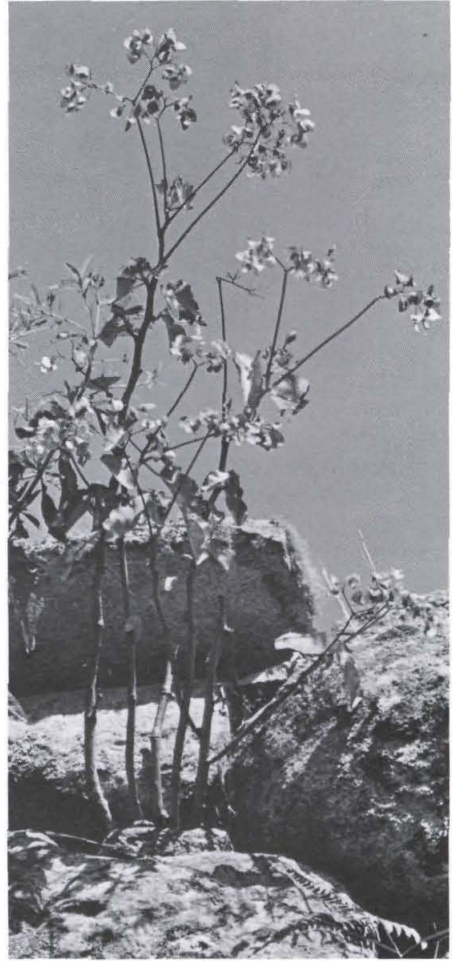
its tubers lodged in the crevices for innumerable years. In July, the visitor sees only flowers, no foliage.

Other begonias can be seen nearby. Wearing heavy jungle boots, I tramped through a snake-infested tangle of shrubbery in front of the ceremonial Temple of the Three Windows to photograph a pink-flowering "weed" which may be *B. bracteosa* and a large, elegant begonia with lobed leaves that was growing out of a wall. The identity of the latter begonia remains a mystery. A guard, suspicious of my interest in the plants and worried that "vipers" might attack, watched my every move.

In a 1969 book, *Machupijchu's Ornamental Plants*, botany Prof. Cesar Vargas of the National University of Cuzco lists seven begonias that grow natively at Machu Picchu: *B. veitchii*, *B. pennellii*, *B. peruviana*, *B. glabra*, *B. parviflora*, *B. bracteosa*, and *B. cyathophora*.

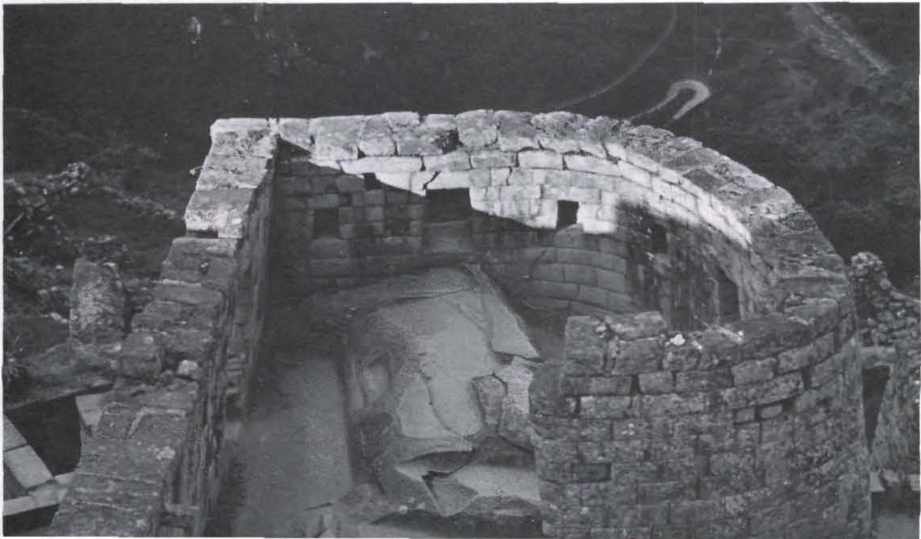
I'm sure I saw some of them as I climbed Huayna Picchu, the peak that towers 1,500 feet above Machu Picchu. The plants are so tangled with other foliage, and the path to the top is so narrow, that any effort to photograph them might put a begonia explorer's life in jeopardy.

The begonia display in dry July was entirely adequate. During the wet season it must be spectacular!



The most prevalent begonia observed, probably *B. bracteosa*

The Semicircular Temple of the Sun. Straight wall is the one shown on cover from different perspective



SEED FUND/ *Five nice species, a species mix, hybrid seed*

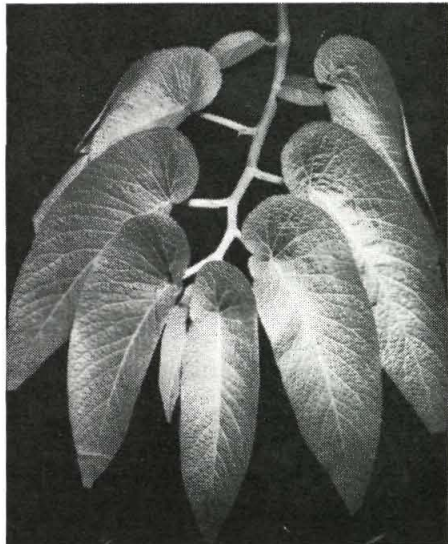
Joy Porter, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

- J-A 1 — *B. annobonensis* is a shrub-like species from Cameroon with wide-ovate leaves, and distinct because of its six-winged ovary. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 2 — *B. loranthoides* (syn. *maurieseii*) is the philodendron mimic from West Africa which is climbing or trailing in growth with large pink flowers with elongated wingless ovaries. Seeds are short-lived. These will be kept under refrigeration until shipped. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 3 — *B. egregia* (syn. *quadriocularis*) is an elegant thick-stemmed species from Brazil with long, hairy, bright green leaves and clusters of small white flowers in spring. Since pinching will not induce branching, I suggest putting 3 to 5 seedlings to a pot in order to have a specimen plant quickly. I can give a generous amount. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 4 — *B. solananthera* is a delightful trailing-scandent species with small, heart-shaped, pea-green leaves and fragrant white flowers with red blotch at center. This is another with short-lived seed. It is fresh and will be refrigerated until mailed. Generous amount. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 5 — *B. santa-martae* is listed as a synonym of *B. stigmosa* in Barkley and Golding's *The Species of the Begoniaceae* and may be similar to M-J 2 which was collected in El Valle, Panama. Grow and compare. Rhizomatous with large, lobed, and hairy leaf; white flowers. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 6 — A mixture of *Begonia* species (amounts too small to list separately) including the following: *imperialis*, *imperialis* var. *smaragdina*, *scharffiana*, *bradei*, *conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* Golding, *nigrovenia* (syn. *dayii*), and *luxurians*. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 7 — Rhizomatous hybrid seed. Grower's favorites have spiral leaves, so seed will include many of these. per pkt .50

PAMPHLETS

Begonias from Seed, Sowing and Growing ea. .25

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.



B. egregia

ROUND ROBINS/ *How to handle just-arrived cuttings*

Mary Harbaugh

Expecting some begonia cuttings in the mail? Our robins have special techniques for helping these cuttings adjust to their own growing conditions.

Dottie Lillestrand, Bloomington, Minn., cuts off the tips of her cuttings and sets them in water for a few hours or overnight and then plants them in her propagation box.

Lynda Goldsmith, Fairfax, Vt., commented that some growers make a fresh cut on the stems and then soak the *entire* cutting in water for a few hours. She believes this will work well as long as the leaves have not been damaged in any manner.

Potting mix makes difference

When Bob Ammerman, Vista, Calif., receives a rooted begonia from anyplace he usually changes it to his own potting mixture as soon as he can. "I seem to have better luck if I use my own mix rather than that of the other person." His mix is equal parts of peat moss, perlite, vermiculite, and redwood shavings, with some ground limestone added to neutralize the acidity in the redwood and peat.

Carl Walker of Lenoir, N.C., finds that a shriveled wedge cutting that has been in the prop box for a time can mean that a plant has formed. Sometimes the shriveled leaf is hiding the new plant; don't forget to take a peek underneath it now and then.

Bob Ammerman seems to have trouble growing rexes that he obtains from other locations so when he gets one he always propagates leaves or wedges. He says he has better luck with his own propagated plants.

When Bob propagates semps, he always gets down into the plant where the newer growth is so that a cutting with growth

Joan Campbell of Corvallis, Mont., takes over the round robin directorship effective Sept. 1 from Mary Harbaugh, who is returning to school.

buds at the stem is obtained. If a part of the plant is taken that has bloomed, those joints will never produce growth buds and will make a plant that just keeps growing one big stem. Make sure you see the new growth buds before you use it for a cutting.

Russ Hammer, San Antonio, Texas, has rooted a lot of mallet cuttings but he finds that it is better to take the leaf off, since it will usually drop off in a day or so anyway. He also stands it up straight with the node just at soil level. Mallet cuttings are usually a sure thing in the spring when everything roots easily, but later in the summer he switches to two- or three-node cuttings. "I find that if some bottom rot develops, I've got some margin for error and still can trim it off with one or two nodes left. If a one-node cutting rots it is gone."

Makeshift prop space

Russ was so swamped with begonias to propagate this year that all his bench space in the greenhouse was taken. "So I filled 10-inch baskets with perlite or perlite-vermiculite and put in my cuttings after dipping them in dusting sulfur. I then wrapped plastic wrap around the pot and taped to keep it tightly in place. The wire hanger keeps the plastic in a cone around the pot and keeps a hole open at the top for ventilation. If a freezer bag is used, it's a simple matter to cut up one side to the corner, then cut off the opposite corner. The cut corner drops down over the hanger and forms the ventilation hole. Trim the bottom to where it hangs a couple of inches past the top of the pot, and tape it to hold it in its teepee shape."

Mabel Corwin, Vista, Calif., made an interesting discovery with her plastic cutting boxes. She was away on a trip for 23 days and they were not opened the entire time she was gone. They were sop-

Information about joining a robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—is available from Joan Campbell, round robin director. Write to her at 814 NE Honey House Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828.

ping wet when she got back. No real damage was done except for a few rotted leaves. "I didn't realize I was doing them a favor when I open to check every day. They stay moist, but not too wet. I think they need that little bit of fresh air."

Give up? Never!

Some members warn: "Don't ever give up on a plant!" Mary Weinberg, Chicago, was about to dump a *B. setosa* in the garbage because she was having no success with it. Growth was spindly and it did not do well in or out of plastic bags. "Root hairs along the stem should have given me a clue as to the nature of the plant."

She finally gave it one last chance and put it into a large, flat, enclosed container on a bed of sphagnum moss and it proceeded to crawl all over the moss, rooting along the length of the stem and sending out many side shoots. The leaves have increased in size from ½ inch to 1¼ inches. There are loads of them and the petioles are very short. She has it at the end of the light tube on basement shelving. The color of the leaves is now a beautiful bright green. Mary thinks *B. setosa* has not truly been appreciated.

Douglas Hahn, Madisonville, Ky., found a couple of plants that were pretty far gone (*B. 'Emerald Lacewing'* and *B. decorata*). He was looking for a "quick fix" so he washed the soil from the roots, pruned the roots back and wrapped them with wet long-fibered sphagnum. He put

some perlite in a peanut butter jar, dropped the plants in, covered them with plastic wrap and set them under lights. Both proceeded to do beautifully.

Lorraine Simmons of Janesville, Wis., had a *B. pygmaea* that bloomed and then appeared to have died. At about the same time it dropped its seeds into the moss. She left it under the lights for a long time and now new plants are starting up.

Tamsin Boardman, Roanoke, Texas, says that Lorraine's story about her experience with *B. pygmaea* "should be a warning not to throw out a seemingly dead begonia too soon. Lately, one of our members had plantlets show up on the stems of a plant she just hadn't gotten around to chucking out. I've found little starts on the browned leaves of *B. 'Evergreen'* and *B. 'Suz-Suz'* just as I was about to tear them off. Last month my *B. weltoniensis* put out new leaves after apparently succumbing to mildew. I'm just glad I had been too busy to dump it."

Sixty round robins currently fly, covering 32 different topics. Additional flights will be started when 5 to 8 persons are interested. They are Computers and Begonias, Southwest Growers, Pacific Northwest Growers, Branch Administration, Begonia Judging, and Tropical Plants. If you are interested in these or any of the other flights, please contact the round robin director (include a self-addressed stamped long envelope).



Photo by R. Das

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Write Ed and Millie Thompson, P.O. Box PP, Southampton, N.Y. 11968 for a free brochure about the greenhouse hours and location.

QUESTION BOX/ *What if my begonia just doesn't bloom?*

Mabel Corwin

Question: Would you please advise me how to make my begonias bloom? They bloomed when I first got them and just after I repotted them, but now they have lush foliage but no bloom. I have tried many different plant foods, VF-11, Miracle Gro and Oxygen Plus.

Answer: Perhaps you are not giving your begonias enough light, since they were blooming when you brought them home. Too much nitrogen fertilizer will cause lush growth and no bloom. However, the fertilizers you are using should be all right. I would cut back on the feeding for a while and give them as much light as they will take without burning the foliage.

Different types of begonias bloom at different seasons. The rhizomatous bloom during the winter and early spring. They need the long nights to set buds. Sometimes when they are grown indoors they don't bloom if they are kept in rooms where the lights are on during the evenings. Canes bloom mostly during the summer and fall. They need good, strong light to bloom.

It's possible you have overpotted your begonias. Sometimes they bloom better if they are slightly root bound.

Question: I was given a small plant of a begonia species last year. It is labeled "Brazil species U003." It has not done well. The leaves crisped and fell off. They were replaced by much smaller all-green leaves without the red veins. Could this be due to humidity?

Also, a *B. 'Red Spider'* has the same problem. These plants are only inches away from some ferns and bromeliads, all of which are thriving. They are watered when they are starting to dry, which is a change I made from waiting until they were dry to water them. I hoped the

increase in frequency would do it, but I seem to be wrong.

Answer: *B. Brazil* species U003 must have low light and high humidity to bring out the beautiful colors of the leaves. I suspect you are giving it too much light. More humidity will prevent the crisping of the leaves.

I grow mine in the greenhouse under the bench, or on the bench along the north side where it is shaded by some larger plants. It does best when grown in a very shallow pot. Sometimes it is a real challenge to find exactly the right conditions for each plant.

I have a small plant of *B. 'Red Spider'* that has not done well. Recently I moved it to the north bench near U003 and it is already looking better, so it probably requires the same conditions.

Question: My *B. ficicola* has improved vastly since I reduced the light intensity and I feel that it is show quality now (in May). It is beginning to set buds and I would like to know how I can guarantee flowers for the August ABS convention. Should I pick these flowers off? Also, should I feed a weak solution of 0-10-10 fertilizer (say 25 percent strength) to promote blooms for August? If so, when?

Answer: Begonias are seasonal bloomers. Some bloom during the winter and spring months, and some bloom in the summer and fall. Some are listed as ever-blooming and some bloom intermittently through the year. I found one reference that listed *B. ficicola* as a spring bloomer and one that referred to it as a shy bloomer. I think both are correct. I have never had any bloom on mine.

I would continue with the care that you are giving it and hope that it continues to bloom, but I don't think there is any way that you can guarantee it will. Disbudding won't help and I doubt if 0-10-10 would help. *B. ficicola* is difficult to grow and if you have a nice plant, with or without blooms, do take it to the show so others can enjoy it.

Question: I recently found a plant that looks somewhat like a begonia. The plant

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.

was growing in moss on top of a rock. It is about 7 to 8 inches tall. The leaves on top are red veined with a lighter red center. The outer edge is green. The underside is light silver. The leaf is ruffled. The plant will soon be flowering.

Answer: The flowers may tell you whether the plant you found is indeed a begonia. Begonia flowers usually grow in branching clusters. Each flower is either male or female; a begonia bears male and female flowers on the same plant. Usually the male flowers have either two or four tepals (petals). The female flower has a three-winged, seed-bearing ovary under the tepals. Usually the female flowers have two to five tepals.

Begonia leaves are usually lopsided. The portion on one side of the main vein is larger than the other. They grow at alternate intervals out from the stem, not opposite each other. Most begonias have stipules. These are leaf-like sheaths from which the young leaves emerge. Often they are transparent and may turn dry and papery with age. Some drop off.

All begonias have some or all of these characteristics.

More tuberous

Continued from page 97

almost bicolor flowers with the pink pigment suffusing into the body of the petal. This color bleeding was also very common in a yellow ground picotee, 'Corona'. Both of these cultivars on being propagated by tissue culture produced very large flowers with no sign of color breakdown.

It is not difficult to see, however, that eventually the technique could be applied successfully by many careful amateurs; after all, the not very dissimilar methods of orchid propagation are successfully employed by some amateurs. These amateurs might not have the objective of producing large stocks of a named variety but rather the constant rejuvenation of the best of the present cultivars.

Already it is becoming difficult to see where the raising of new tuberous double begonias can go to in the next decade or two. Any wholesale flooding of the market with "new introductions" might persuade begonia growers in this part of the world to grow unnamed varieties.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

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

Violets - Begonias - Episcias

Cuttings only. Send 50¢ for list. Wilson's Greenhouse, Route 1 Box 165-4 Ozark, MO 65721

BEGONIAS: ferns, violets, cactus, & more. ATKINSON'S GH, Rt. 2, Box 28, Morrilton, AR 72110. List 45¢. Rooted cuttings, reasonable prices. SPECIAL: 15 begonias \$15.95 p.p.

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Mini-ads are \$1 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$4. A line is 38 characters including punctuation and spaces. Payment must accompany order. Send to Susan Muller, advertising manager, 124 St. Charles Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132.

view Begonias, (D-B), Box 428, Orange Lake, Florida 32681.

Plant books, bulletins, and catalogs—Collection dates 1930 to 70: mainly begonia, gesnerial, fern, under lights. Send 40¢ stamps for 16-page list to Sausaman, 2058 Lombard, Phila., PA 19146.

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

BEGONIAS: THE COMPLETE REFERENCE GUIDE, by Mildred L. and Edward J. Thompson, 384 pages, 850 illustrations (165 in color). Culture, classification, and history. \$25.00 (jacket price \$37.50) for a limited time only. (Shipping included in U.S. To order autographed copies write The Thompsons, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968. Enclose a check for \$25.00 or use your Master Charge or Visa Card.

THE BOARD / *ABS board of directors July 10, 1983*

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Anderson at 1:00 p.m. at the South Coast Botanic Gardens in Palos Verdes, Calif. President-Elect Bob Ammerman read the aims and purposes of the society.

Chuck acknowledged George Ghiotto and the new South Coast Branch of the ABS and thanked them for the luncheon served before the meeting.

Arlene Davis was named as Secretary. Protom to take notes for the meeting. Secretary Debi Best was unable to attend, but will transcribe the notes and mail the minutes out as normal procedure.

Correspondence

Chuck received an acknowledgement from Tom Elin for the flowers which were sent by the society for Wanda Elin's funeral.

A letter was received from Wallace Wagner expressing surprise and delight at being granted a life membership as a past president of the ABS. He had not previously been given a life membership because he had not served a whole term.

Letters from the Dallas Area Branch and the Rubidoux Branch were received along with checks to the Research Fund in memory of Frances Estrada.

Arlene Davis, Show and Convention Chairman, received a letter from Douglas Emanuel from Tarzana, offering a number of suggestions for publicity and sales at conventions.

Chuck received a letter from Maryann Clayton who was organizing the Lawnside Area Branch in New Jersey, reporting that the members have voted to disband because the ABS had not issued a charter to them. Gil Estrada had informed them that no action could be taken until this board meeting and he has their charter and bylaws. Bob Ammerman offered to contact them to try to reorganize the branch and Gil turned over the charter and bylaws to him.

A letter was received from Evelyn Anderson, secretary of the San Gabriel Branch, requesting that the officer ballot be included as an insert in the Begonian and stating that the branch is not in support of the dues increase. They would prefer that other ways be found to support the Begonian financially.

Florence Hess, National Director of the Parent Chapter, wrote protesting the dues increase and questioning the validity of certain amendments to the bylaws in recent years.

Bill Scarbrough, National Director of the Whittier Branch, wrote that the dues increase cannot go through until a mail ballot is held of all board members. Chuck said that he received several letters pointing out this information and a mail ballot is currently in progress.

Bill Scarbrough summarized a letter received from Pauline Chambers from Florida, complaining about the dues increase and the Begonian being late. She would like the aims and purposes moved back to the front of the Begonian and more articles on semperflorens begonias. Chuck said that these suggestions can be acted upon by the individual board members.

Reports of Officers

President Chuck Anderson gave reasons why he did not run for a second term. He feels that he has started a number of projects during the year and it is important to have a renewal of leadership. There is a place for both continuity and for new members to assume positions of leadership. Chuck feels that he can still be effective in the position of Past President and can contribute to the society. He said that any president is only as successful and effective as the board and society which supports him and he thanked everyone for their efforts.

Chuck also reported that he received a copy of the Japan Begonia Society's 20th anniversary magazine which has a copy of the letter which he sent to them.

On behalf of the Ballot Counting Committee, Chuck read the official report of the constitution and bylaws election results. Total ballots cast were 25. Article V, section 1, passed 21 to 1. The remaining constitution changes passed 25 to 0. The bylaws (articles 3, 4,

and 5) passed 23 to 2 and the remaining articles passed 25 to 0.

Chuck reported for the Nominating Committee which presented the following slate of officer nominees for 1983-84:

President.....	Bob Ammerman
First Vice President.....	Dan Haseltine
Second Vice President.....	Joy Porter
Third Vice President.....	Phyllis Wright
Secretary.....	George Ghiotto
Treasurer.....	Bill Scarbrough

The Nominating Committee report was signed by Chairman Carol Spediacci, and members Glenn Maynard and Phyllis Bates. Chuck said the current issue of the Begonian was printed with a ballot for this slate of candidates. The board voted to accept the Nominating Committee's report.

Chuck read a summary from Membership Secretary Elisabeth Sayers, showing 321 memberships processed and 1927 members in good standing as of May. The society has increased from 1856 members in January 1983. Applications for life membership were received from Elmer Lorenz, Ethel McCallen, Z. H. Balder, Barbara Rogers, Edward Bradford, Emma Haworth, and Eleanor Calkins. The board moved to grant these life memberships.

Thelma O'Reilly's report as Members-at-large Director was read describing her correspondence between March and July. In response to the letter from Pauline Chambers from Florida, she has contacted Tovah Martin from Logee's Greenhouses to write an article on semperflorens begonias for the Begonian. Another letter was received from Joan Campbell of Montana who wrote that she would like the Catalogue of Cultivars to be completed.

Past President Gil Estrada reported that everyone is invited to the past-president breakfast at the convention. As Business Manager, Gil reported that all material that had been in the ABS storage locker is now at the Bookstore.

President-Elect Bob Ammerman asked that the board minutes be mailed to the branches within one or two weeks.

Bill Scarbrough presented the Treasurer's Report in a new, easier-to-read format, showing the balance in the checking accounts as \$9,763.02 and in the savings accounts as \$20,074.22. Bill added that Membership Secretary Elisabeth Sayers has been sending him her reports promptly and has done an admirable job in keeping expenses down. She deserves a word of appreciation for all the work she had done, he said.

Margaret Lee asked if the ABS has a scholarship fund since she received a check from the Glendale Branch for scholarships. Chuck said that the society presently does not have one, but temporarily can place the money in the research fund earmarked for scholarships. He asked that the finance committee discuss this at their next meeting and possibly set up a fund as a budget item. It was noted that several branches have scholarship funds. The board voted to accept the treasurer's report for audit.

Awards Committee Chairman Mabel Corwin reported that the letters of nomination and a ballot have been sent to each committee member, but the results have not been counted. She was disappointed that very few letters of nomination were received: five for the Herbert P. Dyckman award, one for the Eva Kenworthy Gray award, and one for the Alfred D. Robinson medal. Several nominations were disqualified because they did not state the reasons that the person or plant deserved the award.

Bookstore manager Bobbie Lovera reported that sales have been excellent. For the period August 1982 through June 1983, the Bookstore had receipts of \$4,120.26 and disbursements of \$3,484.05, of which \$1,950 has gone to the general fund. She requested that the ABS rent a small locker for storing the back issues, reprints, records, and scrapbooks for approximately 10.50 per month. The board voted that she may rent a locker to be paid one-half by the bookstore, one-half by the general fund.

Copies of the Conservation Committee report were distributed to members who had not received them and the board voted to accept the report. Patrick Worley reported that he visited Costa Rica this spring

and was shocked that the land is being burned to clear the forest.

Judging Chairman Margaret Lee reported that 13 judging courses, 13 point-scoring booklets, and three classification guides were sent out during the period of March 1 through June 10. Two new judges were certified as sophomores, one new judge was certified as a junior judge, and one was advanced to senior.

Librarian George Ghiotto reported that the library has 164 books, of which only 13 are on begonias. The board moved to authorize George to appoint a committee to inventory the library. Books which are no longer pertinent to the ABS can be offered for sale at the convention with the proceeds to go to a library fund for the purchase of new holdings.

Convention Chairman Arlene Davis reported that the Holiday Inn in Riverside is booked for the convention and all contracts are signed. A lot of money has been received for the plant sale, but few plants have been donated. They are contacting growers to buy plants. An orange-packing house has offered a tour for Friday morning and they are trying to set up a tour of a member's garden for Sunday morning. Signup sheets for these tours will be at the registration desk.

John Ingles gave an itemized report on the convention finances. It was noted that the show room cost \$900 and, if the society obtains 400 meals, then the show rooms are free. Arlene said that members may bring guests to the meals without paying the registration fee (unless they attend the seminars or tours).

Bob Ammerman complained that there was no convention publicity in *The Begonian*. Chuck responded that the editor had asked for information but did not receive it. The convention mailing had gone out to all members by the time the *Begonian* went to press and so everyone had already received the information.

Speakers Bureau director Muriel Perz sent out 98 letters requesting people to be on the speakers list. Of six responses, only two people agreed to be listed as speakers. She sent letters to the branches asking for the names of anyone who has given a good program. She also requested the names and addresses of anyone overseas so she can contact them about speaking and Chuck said that he would send them to her. George Ghiotto suggested that it would be easier to contact the branches and the national officers if phone numbers were listed in the *Begonian*. He volunteered to write to everyone and compile a list with phone numbers.

Chuck gave the Editor's report for Karen Bartholomew saying that the *Begonian* is late again due primarily to problems with the printer being late.

Old Business

Chuck turned the meeting over to Patrick Worley to present the nine recommendations of the Conservation Committee. The board discussed and voted on each proposal as it was presented. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Sponsor collecting expeditions. The board voted that the ABS adopt as a matter of policy to sponsor and encourage begonia collecting expeditions.

2. Purchase land for parks in tropical countries. The board authorized the Conservation Committee to further investigate the possibility of donations for land purchase.

3. Increase the library literature. The library was authorized to increase its literature to include Xeroxed articles and some books pertaining to rainforest destruction and related environmental conservation measures. The Conservation Committee can make recommendations of specific books to the librarian.

4. Support any legislation concerning the protection of endangered species. The board authorized the Conservation Committee to either communicate a position on appropriate legislation to appropriate officials or, if there is time, to make recommendations to the board of directors of a position to take. The committee is to report to the board any such communication.

5. Convince dealers in rare plants that conservation practices are fundamental to the survival of certain plants.

6. Develop the slide library. The board adopted as policy to further develop the ABS slide library with commentary tapes to include wild begonia species, rainforest habitats, and their destruction, and cul-

tural variation within tropical countries.

7. Increase publicity of the problem to make the general public more aware of the consequences of rainforest destruction.

8. Coordinate programs with other plant societies.

9. Increase ABS membership.

Edgar Bates reported that he has the first 100 registered cultivars ready for the Cultivar Catalog and all he needs is the foreword from Carrie Karegeannes before publishing.

New Business

Chuck presented several letters of resignation. The board accepted with regret the resignation of Sue Muller, Advertising Manager. Sue was willing to handle the job through the September-October issue and Chuck will leave the appointing of a successor to Bob Ammerman.

The board voted to accept the resignation of Bob Hamm as chairman of the Task Force on Regions.

Mary Harbaugh wrote that she is resigning as Round Robin Director which she has held for four years. She suggested Joan Campbell, an at-large member from Corvallis, Montana, as her replacement. The board accepted Mary's resignation with regret and ratified the appointment of Joan Campbell as Round Robin Director, effective September 1, 1983.

Karen Bartholomew wrote that she is resigning the job of *Begonian* Editor and the board moved to accept the resignation. Chuck said that appointment of a new editor is handled by the Editorial Board, composed of the president, the past-president, the president-elect, and two members appointed by the president. He named Thelma O'Reilly and Margaret Lee to the board and they were accepted. Bob Ammerman said the Editorial Board has already met and has agreed to appoint Phyllis Bates as the new editor.

Patrick Worley asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Karen for all the work she has done over the last four years. Muriel Perz felt that each person who resigned should receive a letter acknowledging their work and Chuck said that he would write to each.

Chuck read a letter to the board from Ed and Millie Thompson concerning the Eva Kenworthy Gray award which by custom cannot be won twice by the same person. They propose to establish a new award which they would fund for people who have already won the award and who have continued to make enormous contributions to the literature. Chuck suggested that an alternate way to handle the issue is to allow a person to win the award more than once. After discussion the board voted to refer the issue to the Awards Committee for study and recommendation.

Chuck presented a proposal creating a category of corporate memberships for *Begonian* advertisers such that they receive space in the *Begonian* as a benefit of membership. The society benefits for tax purposes by viewing the advertising income as membership fees. The board voted to accept the proposal as presented on a trial basis for one year.

The 1984 Convention is being held in the spring and Chuck noted that the society must hold an annual meeting and installation of officers in the fall. He suggested a Western Regional meeting to be held in conjunction with the garden show at the L.A. Arboretum. After discussion the board ratified the appointment of Bob Ammerman to head a committee to study the matter.

Chuck received a letter from Tamsin Boardman, the new director of the Southwest Region. At their regional meeting in April, they nominated Dorothy Patrick of Dallas as chairman of the 1984 Convention. The board voted to ratify Dorothy as Convention Chairman and to provide the \$1000 show and convention advance.

The next board meeting will be held at the convention on Sunday, August 21, at noon.

Louise Best proposed that the society establish a Conservation Fund administered by the Conservation Committee to be funded on its own by donation. Several suggestions were presented on how to make money for the fund, including special species plant sales and memorial donations. The board voted to establish the Conservation Fund.

The board approved and accepted the charter and bylaws of the South Coast Branch and the charter was given to George Ghiotto.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Best, Secretary

ABS directors by mail ballot in July voted to retain the society's \$10 annual dues rate. Voting 11 to 16, the entire board including branch national directors reversed a decision to raise dues to \$15 at a board meeting in March.

Such a mail ballot is required to raise dues under the ABS bylaws. The dues were set at \$10 in 1979.

Major conservation program under way

A new program to collect begonias in tropical forests and help conserve endangered begonia habitats was established by ABS directors in July.

The conservation committee's proposal for a comprehensive conservation program received enthusiastic approval from the board, which also formed a conservation fund to be filled with proceeds from special events. The program includes:

1. Stepped-up sponsorship of collecting expeditions into areas where begonias are native.

2. Support of legislation to protect endangered plants.

3. Assistance to members who wish to contribute toward purchase of forest preserves in tropical countries.

4. Efforts to persuade rare plant dealers to use responsible practices.

5. Increases in ABS library and slide library materials on conservation.

6. Public education programs about conservation.

7. Cooperation with other organizations regarding conservation.

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ABS to try corporate memberships

A schedule of corporate memberships on five levels will be instituted for a year-long trial, ABS directors decided in July. Businesses who join ABS will receive several benefits, including space in *The Begonian* and access to the ABS mailing list for appropriate uses.

If the trial is successful, corporate memberships will replace the current system of selling display advertising in *The Begonian*. Mini-ads would remain in their current form. Information is available from the advertising manager.

New officers appointed

ABS has a new editor and round robin director, following action of the board of directors in July.

Phyllis Bates of Encinitas, Calif., former editor, was named by the ABS Editorial Board to succeed Karen Bartholomew, who resigned after four years in the job. The appointment was announced to directors at their July meeting.

Round robin director Mary Harbaugh resigned after three years' tenure, and was replaced by Joan Campbell of Corvallis, Mont.

The board also accepted resignations of advertising manager Susan Muller and Robert Hamm, chairman of a Task Force on Regions.

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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.

More editor's notes

Continued from page 95

plemented, Chuck decided to postpone reprinting *The Begonia Handbook*. The board in March authorized \$3,500 to reprint 5,000 copies of the cultural bulletin, which would be available for branches to sell at shows.

The project now will be scrapped, so as not to jeopardize the society's finances, according to Chuck.



Finally, I shall take a small space to

JUDGING DEPARTMENT—The judging department offers a course by mail with which you can learn to become an accredited begonia show judge (\$10). Also available are a booklet on point scoring (\$2), 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.

thank those of you who have contributed articles, columns, and photos to the magazine during the past four years. I haven't been a very frequent letter writer, so you may not fully appreciate how important your work was to me. The many positive comments we've received about the magazine indicate most members have appreciated our efforts. Thanks for your partnership, your support, and your friendship!

Best wishes and happy begonia growing.

—K.B.

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ULTRA PURE CONCENTRATED ALL PURPOSE

EASY DIRECTIONS

"Just put a little Schultz in the water, Everytime you water, Everything you grow."

Available at your store or send \$1.65 for 5 1/2 oz., \$2.90 for 12 oz., \$4.20 for 28 oz. (Includes Mailing.)



"Schultz-Instant" Fertilizer

ULTRA PURE CONCENTRATED ALL PURPOSE SOLUBLE

EASY DIRECTIONS

"Just put a little Schultz in the water, Everytime you water, Everything you grow."

Available at your store or send \$2.90 for 1 lb., \$10.50 for 5 lb., \$39.50 for 25 lb. (Includes Mailing.)

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