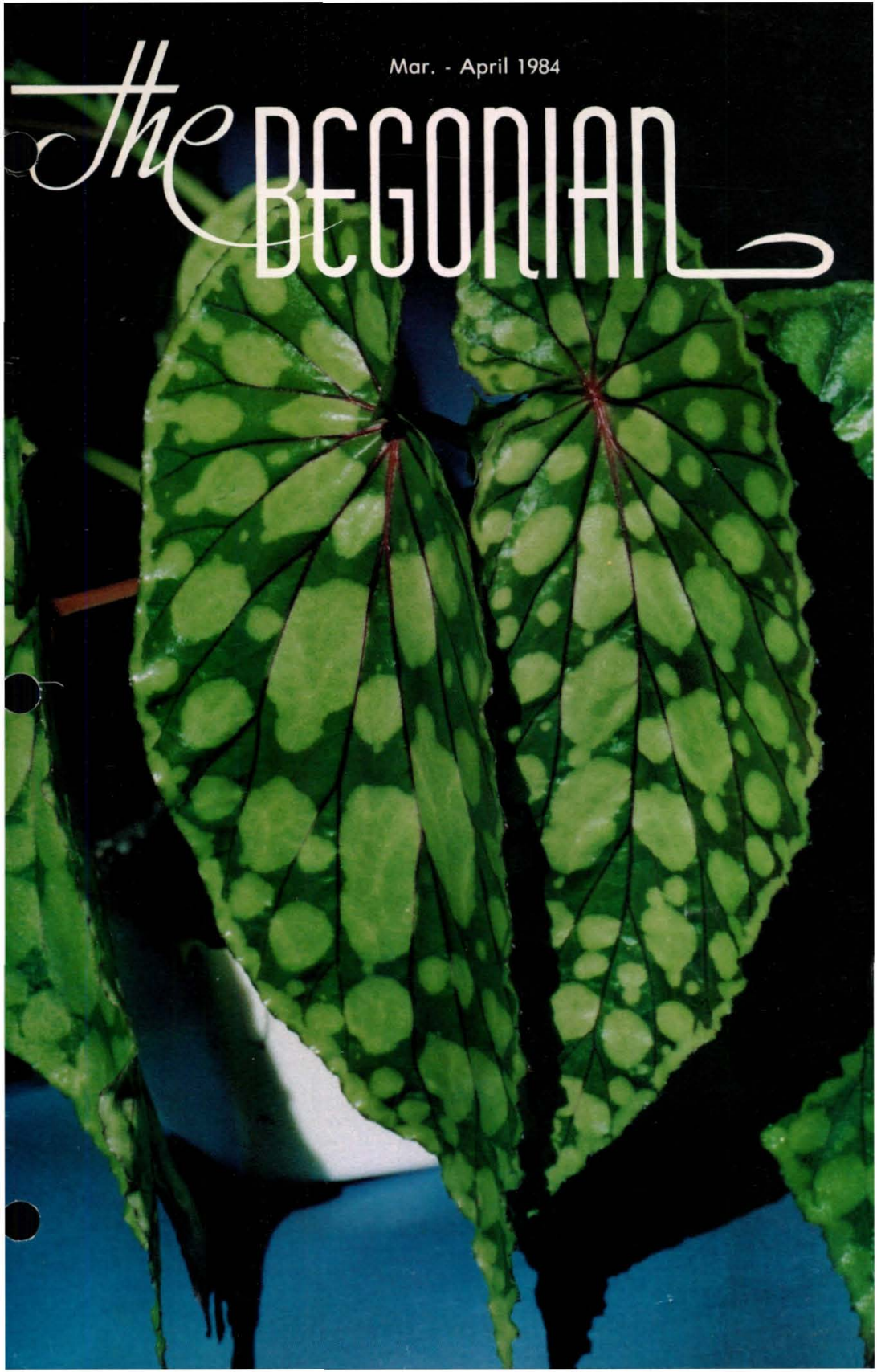


Mar. - April 1984

The BEGONIAN



The BEGONIAN

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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(continued on back cover)

The Cover: *Begonia chlorosticta*, once rather commonly referred to as "Species ex Kew", until Maurice Mason came to our rescue and told us that Martin Sands had determined it to be a valid new species. It had a brief stay on the list of unidentified begonias as U038. (See July-Aug., page 83)

Photographer Dael Jones, of Dallas, grows his plant in a two-foot tall terrarium in a north window with an additional 14" Gro-lux light as a supplement 14 hours a day. It is planted in garden soil, peat, and coarse builders sand mixture. When photographed, the plant was two years old.

Dael Jones wrote, "The only interesting thing I could add from my observation is that *B. chlorosticta*'s spots are not random as I had supposed, but are arranged in a spiral springing from the sinus of each leaf. This is a pattern which runs through much of nature and is truly astonishing in the places it occurs. Some are: the spiral nebulae, tropical storms seen via satellite, the arrangements of certain seeds such as sunflowers, the structure of shells when sliced through so that their chambers can be observed. So far as I know, this is the only *Begonia* to follow this pattern, although there are many with spots as you know." Now take a closer look at his handiwork on our cover!

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ABS NEWS

Family Membership

The ABS dues schedule provides for a \$2 spouse membership. It is listed on the inside front cover. The spouse membership makes an additional person at the same address as a fully paid member a member in good standing. Only *one* copy of the *Begonian* is sent, but otherwise the members enjoy the same privileges, such as attending conventions, voting, holding office in a branch or in the parent organization.

The spouse membership was established many years ago to cover the situation where husband and wife were both active and/or branch members, but wanted and needed only one copy of the *Begonian*.

The additional person need not actually be a spouse, but must be at the same address. The term "spouse membership" is not accurate, but neither is "family

membership" since the membership does not extend to the entire family without additional payment. We could use a better term . . . any suggestions?

Pearl Benell
Membership Secretary

Officers to be Replaced

Two members of the ABS Executive Board vacated their offices recently. George Ghiotto found himself involved in a conflict of interests and activities when he was elected President of the National Fuchsia Society. His position as secretary will be filled by Arlene Davis. Treasurer William Scarbrough was unable to fulfill his duties for personal reasons. A new treasurer has not been appointed, but Business Manager John Ingles Jr. is acting temporarily. Action will be taken at the next board of directors' meeting.

Begonia tea in Gwangding Province.

Beryl M. Walden

Climbing any mountain needs good weather, and spring in South China is not the best possible time to choose. We had had a series of rainy days accompanied by continuous thunder storms, so when I woke early one morning and was able to see a few stars still visible in a cloudless dawn sky, I knew the day ahead could be really fine. Mr. Ding Kwung Oi, resident botanist at the Ding Hu Shan Arboretum knew how keen I was to climb Ding Hu Mountain as soon as the weather improved; and sure enough just when we were finishing our early breakfast he appeared in the dining room. Mrs. Chun, who we called "Daai Si Foo", widow of the late Professor Chun had travelled with me from Canton to prepare my meals and become a close friend. She had already prepared a sandwich each for us to take on our walk; these were packed along with the precious mandarin oranges we had brought a few days earlier in Zhaoqing market, and a flask of boiled water. Also in my rucksack were several plastic bags for carrying the specimens I intended to bring back to paint.

We set off up the road just before 7 o'clock. The road was deserted; local hawkers, who daily sold walking sticks crudely carved in the nearby villages, had not yet taken up their pitches. The overseas Chinese and very few Western tourists had not yet arrived in their coaches to visit the temples, so the restaurant below the temple was still shut. A few workers at the Monastery hotel were squatting down brushing their teeth or chatting as we passed. We left the motor

Beryl Walden, a Londoner botanical artist, goes each year to China to paint. This delightful account was sent to us by her daughter Vanessa, who with her husband Toni Hibbert, delighted 1983 Convention-goers by their presence.

road and the old stone path now twisted and turned as we made our way up through the forest. We passed the stele set up in memory of the famous Japanese buddhist priest Yoei and passed under a decorative stone arch before entering a small courtyard on the outer fringes of the monastery. We took a short cut up through the old kitchens which escaped desecration by Red Guards in the 1967 Cultural Revolution and passed the tower housing the monastery's huge bronze bell. Finally we emerged in a high paved garden with a wonderful view of the wooded valley below. This garden was a favorite with visitors who were drawn by the ancient camellia tree planted to one side and said to be two or three hundred years old. The Quing Yun Temple was built in 1633, it is now larger and more impressive than its sister temple, the White Cloud temple which is much older and smaller. White Cloud dates back to 783 AD and to my mind its simplicity gives it the greater beauty.

We now took a path not open to the general public which leads higher up through the woods. The morning air was delightful freshened by the keen scent of pines. After about twenty minutes we crossed a small stream and immediately began to climb steeply. I remembered from a previous year a simple Chinese grave set near the path a short way up. It seemed to have perfect fung-shui (good fortune position) overlooking a broad valley with the immense West river meandering like a broad silver ribbon far below. I had thought then how neglected the grave was and I was surprised as we got near to find three buddhist priests unpacking their religious garments and small food offerings in preparation for some ceremony. But I then realized it was the Spring festival of Ching Ming. We chatted for a few minutes and then left, with two oranges which they insisted we might need later on if our water ran short. We carried on up the grassy glen which formed a fire break for

the forest on either side. We had reached a height of about 500m and had arrived on the ridge. We now had our first unrestricted views of the surrounding countryside. Visibility was perfect, to the left was Stone Mountain, then wooded hills and valleys stretching away west to Seven Star Crags near Zhaquing and Wuzhuo beyond. To our right were more wooded valleys, Tripod Lake and hundreds of hills and mountains stretching into the far distant reaches of N E Kwangdeng Province. Ahead lay Ting Hu Shan with the far top peak of Gai Lung Shan (Chicken-coop Mountain). All the hills nearby, and those in the middle distance were spotted pink with hundreds of rhododendron trees in flower; it was a breath-taking sight. We collected specimens on the path side of *R. mariae*, *R. henryi* as well as *Melastoma normale* and *Enkianthus quinqueflorus* var. *serrulatus*. When we reached about 700m, we left the main fire break and climbed slowly along a tiny path that wound its way round the many limestone boulders on the exposed hillface. *Wikstroemia monnula* was in full bloom as well as *Schima crenata*. The silence was broken from time to time by a plaintive call which re-echoed round the mountain gullies. Now, with a clear view in every direction we occasionally caught sight of a single tiny figure, then two or three, moving in the undergrowth of the wooded central area of the mountain slope. They must have been almost a mile away as the crow flies. We never got near to them and they were still working when we returned to the valley later in the day, but Mr. Ding immediately recognized them as young girls from nearby villages who were picking wild *Begonia* leaves. *Begonia* tea is one of the industries of this district and regular visits are made on fine days to pick the leaves which are then taken back to be dried in the sun on the flat cemented areas which are a regular feature of every village. When dried they are collected and packaged in nearby Zhaoqing. The calls we had heard are made to keep the girls from straying too far from one another. The leaf-pickers also spotted us as we

climbed higher and we called back in reply.

At about 850m we found the beautiful *Rhododendron levinei*, which has a large bell-shaped corolla and beautiful fragrance, growing in a sheltered rocky outcrop. We stopped to examine closely the flowers in this area and eat our lunch. On the limestone rocks and boulders nearby, in every hole, however small, we found tiny begonias growing in small pockets of damp loam. There seemed to be four distinct varieties but Mr. Ding was only able to identify two. *B. cyclophylla* and *B. fimbriatipula*. Both of these species had similar pink flowers. *B. fimbriatipula* had 1-3 terminals to a slender scape, male and female ones on the same plant. *B. cyclophylla* had up to 10 terminals to a slender scape, again male and female ones on the same plant. The leaves of both species were about the same size between 2 and 6cm wide and 2.5 and 7cm long. *B. fimbriatipula* leaves were ovate-cordate, unevenly dentate and hairy on both surfaces, purple-red beneath, while *B. cyclophylla*'s were ovate-cordate regularly dentate with the underside apple-green. Both species die down completely at the end of summer to reappear the following season. Of course the specimens in this high area were mostly much smaller in size than those described above. The large lush plants being picked by the girls were in a less exposed wooded area, but the setting of the plants we saw cosseted in cracks and crevices in the limestone rocks on the exposed hillside was particularly attractive. We carried on up over the rocks and round boulders until we had crossed the mountain top; two or three other peaks lay ahead before the final summit of the Chicken Coop. I had now enough specimens and was intent on getting them back to base as quickly as possible and we cut off on a path leading us down a nearby spur.

Our descent was extremely fast by comparison with the long track up and we arrived on the road below near to the Heavenly Lake. A short cut through the

Continued on page 31

Do Many Species of *Begonia* Remain to be Discovered?

W. Scott Hoover

The genus *Begonia* is extremely large, estimated at roughly 1200 species, according to Barkley and Golding (1972). It rates as one of the larger genera of the flowering plants in number of species together with, or exceeded by *Piper*, *Senecio*, and *Rosa*, to name several other very large genera. Estimating whether many species remain to be discovered within any genus is of course highly speculative, but, nonetheless, interesting. In this article I would like to comment on what the possibilities are for finding new species of *Begonia*. These speculations are based primarily on my observations of *Begonia* at the Frieda River area in Northwestern Papua New Guinea; this is because my systematic collection was conducted only over a small area.

I briefly described the work with the Carpentaria Exploration Company in an earlier article (Hoover 1980), indicating that 23 different species were collected within a 15 square mile area near the Frieda River in the West Sepik District. Undoubtly, several more species could be found with more extensive coverage of the regional area. (Whether all these species are new and how many are considered different species will be left up to a taxonomist though immediate observations suggested that each species characteristics were quite distinct.) The whole area surrounding the Frieda area was unexplored terrain. The first contacts with the native people of this area were made in 1968 when geologists first began looking for mineral deposits.

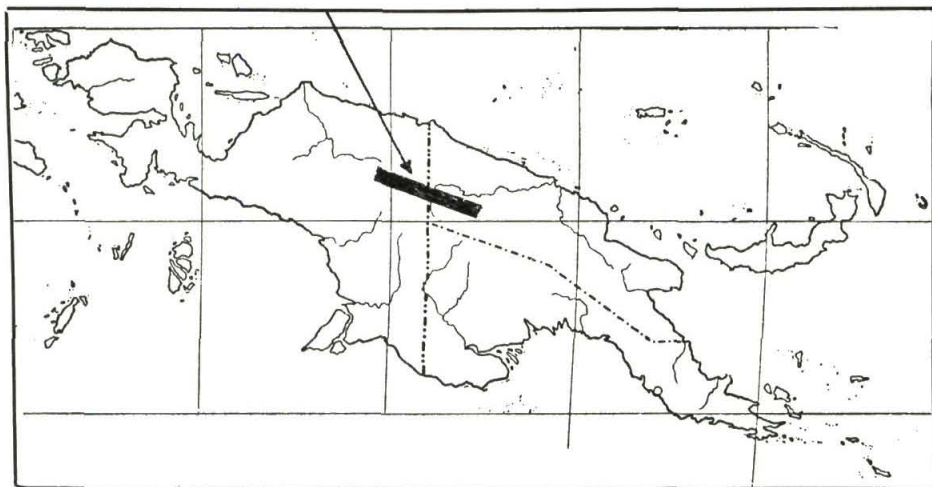
A glance at the 1974 World Aeronautical Map of New Guinea suggests that a rectangular strip 192 miles long by 32 miles wide, representing 6, 144 sq mi, including the Central, Thurbwald, West and Double

Mountain ranges of Northwest Papua New Guinea, likely is unexplored rainforest, amid some other vegetation types especially at the higher elevations. (According to the National Academy of Sciences in 1980, 86% of Papua New Guinea is still covered with forest of which the evergreen rainforests are widespread both in the lowlands and up to 2400 ft.) Another 6,144 sq mi rectangular strip of unexplored rainforest extends into Indonesian New Guinea, or Irian Java, including several mountain ranges as well as considerable areas where the relief data is incomplete, according to the map. Fig. 1 represents the areas considered unexplored. There are other areas in New Guinea that remain in a similar condition also.

The habitat at the Frieda area was unique in certain ways because the soil was mineralized. The 15 sq mi area I surveyed for plants consisted of 6 major soil types according to the geologists at the exploration camp. The elevation ranged from 1500 to 3600 ft., thus the temperature was very warm. The rainfall records for 11 years indicated an average of 500 inches/year, with a maximum in several years of 550 inches, according to the geologists. (To give an idea of even higher rainfall in these remote areas of New Guinea—I was informed that the Oktedi Exploration Camp, about 60 miles south of Freida and over the central mountain spine of the island, had rainfall records that exceed 700 inches in one year.) The topography at the Frieda area was mountainous and generally very steep with numerous small streams flowing through gorges, often with several waterfalls along a single course. Ridges were often knife-like, though some areas had rounded hills, depending upon the rock type.

If the area of unexplored rainforest described above within the rectangular strip is as rich in begonias as the 15 sq mi at the Frieda area, there would be 9,830 new species to be discovered; based on 12

Scott Hoover recently returned from a collecting trip to Ecuador. He lives at 718 Henderson Road, Williamstown, MA 01267.



localized endemic species out of the 23 that were only observed once in the 15 sq mi area. This number is preposterous of course, since the entire genus presently contains only about an eighth that many. I will go so far as to speculate that within the 12,288 sq mi rectangular mountainous area, there are likely a considerable number of species that have never been collected and described. Furthermore, there are many other regions of the world where *Begonia* grows and have never been deeply penetrated. I am confident in saying that many species within the genus remain to be discovered, that is, if we can collect them before their habitats are destroyed.

Though many areas of rainforest are threatened throughout the tropics and demand more immediate attention, a full scale expedition into this area of New Guinea would be very valuable both scientifically and horticulturally. The expense would be great, for in order to penetrate deeply into the interior, as I did before, it would require the use of a helicopter. By my estimation, a five month expedition into this region of New Guinea could result in possibly collecting up to 75 new species of *Begonia*, based on the local endemism that frequently is observed within the genus. Thus, as members of the ABS, you need not be concerned about exhausting the genetic potential for hybridizing, for there are many more new species to be collected and introduced.

Fig. 1 — 12,288 sq mi of unexplored mountainous rainforest on New Guinea.

Scale: 1 inch=360 miles

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Begonia Tea

Continued from page 29

Feishui Waterfall Valley soon brought us back to the Botanical Institute where we were revived by glasses of hot red *Begonia* tea.

Note. *Begonia laciniata* is one of 250 wild flowers described and illustrated in *Wild Flowers of South China and Hongkong*. Part 1. By B.M. Walden and S.Y. Hu. Published by the Sino-American Publishing Company, 12-14 Hart Avenue, 14th Floor, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong. *Begonia fimbristipula* and *B. cyclophylla* are two of 300 wild flowers described and illustrated in *Wild Flowers of South China and Hongkong*. Part 2. which is due to be published in 1984.

ROUND ROBIN/ Flights discuss companion plants, too.

Joan Campbell, director

Some flight members grow **other plants** as well as begonias. Don and Chris Lill, Australia, find that misting young ferns with a weak solution of fertilizer or bottom watering them in trays seems to bring them along more quickly. *Platyserium superbum* spores came up this way in less than eight weeks. They comment that *Davallia pyxidata* is common in their part of Australia.

Thelma Adair, Minnesota, feels one must be patient with the Japanese Painted Fern (*Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum'). She usually does not transplant very early. They do not get their pretty gray color until they are older.

May Kendall, California, is experimenting with native fiber from wild yucca bulbs (plowed up by a construction crew) in her orchid mix. She is also going to add decomposed granite found locally. Doreen Vander Tuin, California, hardly fertilizes orchid seedlings at all as a commercial grower warned her that orchid seedlings burn easily from fertilizer. She foliar feeds about once a month with Rapid-Gro in solution.

Discussing gesneriads, Elaine Ayers, Ohio, feels the miniature streptocarpus are definitely hard to grow. She says her smithianthas bloom December through March and if she lets them go dormant they take forever to come back. Cuttings which are difficult for Elaine are *Gesneria cuneifolia* and *Diastema vexans*. Doreen Vander Tuin, California, feels that cymbidium orchids are really very hardy and as long as the roots aren't disturbed to much when repotted, they will bloom again next year. Francis Hoffman, New York, says that although the intense summer heat had nearly killed several of her phalaenopsis, the cattleya hybrids

thrived and formed bud sheaths. Priscilla Beck, Connecticut, remarks that hardy maidenhair ferns are abundant in the woods near her home. They are found in gravelly, sandy soil with abundant water around them. They seem to be where water flows over the top of the ground in spring. When she was in England she noticed many types of ferns growing on walls here and there. Wall rue, *Asplenium ruta*, seemed to grow on almost nothing.

On the **propagation flight**, Risa Young, Ohio, finds that cuttings root well in tinted bottles. She was able to root a cutting of *B. 'Midnight Sun'* in a green bottle.

Dan Haseltine, Illinois, roots rhizomes without leaves using a 50-50 mix of perlite and vermiculite, slightly moistened. He covers the rhizome with a rooting hormone powder and then embeds it two-thirds of the way into the mix. It will root more slowly than a rhizome with leaves.

Elaine Ayers, Ohio, roots canes in half the time *under* the greenhouse bench, rather than under lights. She keeps them very moist for about five days, then a bit on the dry side with daily misting of water with a pinch of Rapid-Gro added. The humidity under the benches is quite high. When new growth shows, she uses one-quarter teaspoon of fish emulsion to one gallon of water once every two weeks. About once every two months she uses one-quarter teaspoon lime to a gallon of water. This routine has given her blooming plants from unrooted cuttings in about two months at the most. She keeps them moist for about one week, then rather on the dry side, and finds that most of the red-leaved canes take longer to root and need more moisture with high humidity and no direct sun. For her "problem children" who don't want to grow after being rooted, she used Precise fertilizer beads formulated for African Violets which always seems to bring them along.

Charline Franklin, Texas, has been doing some **research on Vitamin B-1** (thiamin).

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.



Some of her findings indicate that although a green plant is self sufficient with respect to vitamins, each organ is not, especially roots which depend upon shoots for Vitamin B-1 and possibly for other vitamins. Vitamin B-1 is produced by young leaves and translocated through living cells to the roots, so thiamin is classified as a root growth hormone. Vitamin B-1 must be added to the cultures of isolated root tips, but adding it to soil has no effect upon plant growth.

Experiments seem to indicate that most plants growing with their roots in soil containing the required mineral nutrients, including the micronutrients, and with their leaves in light, synthesize sufficient quantities of thiamin in their leaves to meet their requirements. Seeds are usually rich in thiamin, thus a seedling probably has an adequate supply to support normal growth 'til newly formed leaves can synthesize the vitamin.

Cuttings, however, may be deficient in thiamin. Therefore, a few leaves on stem cuttings promote root growth, not only because they contribute carbohydrates to the roots, but also because they contribute hormones, too. Charline concludes that with soilless mixes it helps to spray the

Begonia 'Yanonali' photo was included in robin by Betty Davenport of Pasco, WA. It grows under wide-spectrum Gro-lux lights and with a water reservoir.

leaves with B-1 solution and she uses it in water for fast root growth.

The general culture flights often discuss **fertilizers and potting mix recipes.** Rhodora Buss, Iowa, wonders why more begonia growers don't use the Bounty-Sturdy combination. Occasionally Sturdy (0-15-14) is mentioned, but not the organic Bounty (6-2-2). She recommends experimenting with two parts of Bounty to one part Sturdy. Rhodora waters both plant and its pot occasionally by using a larger saucer and putting some water in it as well as the pot. This is good with clay pots as it re-wets the pots and provides additional evaporation, but she is careful not to let the pot stand in water. Another watering trick is to set a potted plant on an inverted saucer inside a larger container such as a cache pot. You can water the plant heavily and the extra water will run through and be retained in the larger container, but the plant itself will drain well and not be standing in soggy soil.

Lena Bussard, Kansas, passes along a formula to force bloom: 1 T. baking powder, 1 T. epsom salts, 1 T. saltpetre and one-half T. clear ammonia to one gallon of water. To revive wilted cuttings she suggests 1 aspirin to one quart of warm water or a few drops of ammonia in warm water. Muriel Ball, Australia, uses orchid mix in her potting soil to lighten the mix — this was a hint she picked up at the begonia show in Adelaide, to try two of potting mix to one of orchid mix. Joyce Smith, South Carolina, incorporates her husband's used orchid potting material into her begonia mixes and prefers it especially for her rexes. She sterilizes it first, though. She notes that fern bark never seems to break down, while fir bark is often too mushy to re-use. Frances Hoffman, New York, reports a simple way to pasteurize potting soil. Put soil into a small black plastic nursery can moistened to capacity and then place it into a clear plastic bag. The bags are tied shut and sit in the sun for about two weeks.

Sue Haffner, California, thinks bone meal can be over used when incorporated into potting soil and it may form a hard, impervious crust when sprinkled on the surface of the soil. She says cacti sometimes seem to have been planted in cement when one tries to unpot them and she thinks too much bone meal is the cause.

Pauline Chambers, Florida, likes different types of Peters plant food for different types and stages of plant growth. She use 20-20-20 only for seedlings; 15-30-15 for colorful leaved plants; 10-30-20 to boost blooms; and 5-50-17 for variegated and light, silver-colored leaves. She says Mag-Amp 7-40-6 gives more color to dark-leaved canes. She uses only one-quarter teaspoon of any of the Peters food to one gallon of water and feeds about every two weeks.

Bob Dodd, Oklahoma, is familiar with the objections to the use of manure in potting soil, yet he has seen plants grown in a mix with manure compared with plants grown in a soilless mix and felt that those in the manure mix were bigger and

better plants. Bob thinks we can use more nitrogen in our potting mixes, provided that the mix drains well. He has noticed in reading horticultural matter lately there seems to be a trend to use more nitrogen and less phosphorus and potassium in fertilizer. Eric Smith, Oregon, suspects that the so-called water meters do not really measure how much water your plant has in its pot, but rather they react to or are affected by how compact the soil is and how much fertilizer it contains and temperature is probably a factor, too.

Commenting on **pests and disease**, Dorcas Resleff, Washington, is experimenting with a systemic called Chacon which has fungicide in it. She says that Cygone 2E burns and causes swelling and rash on the skin, so Dorcas stays out of her greenhouse after using it until the odor subsides. Bob Hamm, Texas, agrees that one must be careful with Cygon as it is highly toxic. When sprayed in hot weather it is best to spray at night so the plants will dry before morning, as severe damage can occur to begonias. Risa Young, Ohio, has read that salt buildup can induce fungus which attacks stems and rhizomes of begonias. It breaks through the plants' protective outer layer and opens them to the disease. Bob Dodd, Oklahoma, agrees and says if one is feeding continuously pots should be leached with two or three continuous applications of clear water on a regular basis.

Some additional requests for flights on Bromeliads, Species Tuberous, Trailing-Scandant Begonias, and Pollinating Species Begonia have been received. If interested, write and get on the waiting list now. Also, aggressive flight chairmen are always in short supply, if you have some ideas of your own, and would like to give it a try, let me know. But remember, the robin flights are a privilege of your membership and your dues must be paid to participate in them.

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Despite the dreary weather in December, Begonia 'Peggy Lynn' was blooming happily in the lathhouse of Charles and Elisabeth Sayers in San Jose, CA.

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 List 35 cents.

FAIRYLAND BEGONIAS: Tiny Gem miniature
 everbloomer. Bokit hybrid, spiral
 green star, black or brown markings;
 China Curl, versicolor x cathayana x
 rex, spiral purple, black, silver
 zone. Gift plant. 4 plants \$12.
 prepaid. New descriptive begonia and
 lily catalog 50 cents. Leslie
 Woodriff, Fairyland Begonia and Lily
 Garden, 1100-B Griffith Rd.,
 McKinleyville, CA 95521.

BEGONIAS, CACTI, ACHIMENES, VIOLETS.
 List 45 cents. Special 12 Begonias
 \$15.95p.p. Atkinson's GH, Rt2 Box 28,
 Morrilton, AR 72110. Give us a try.

BEGONIA - BROMELIADS - VIOLETS
 List 50 cents. Open by appointment.
 LEAVES OF GREEN NURSERY 3306 Marzelle
 Houston, TX 77093 - Phone 694-2250

QUESTION BOX/

Mabel Corwin

Question: I have a begonia hybrid, 'Irene Nuss'. I cannot seem to grow or propagate a plant that does not eventually end up with one long lanky pole, to which is attached at the top three or four leaves. I cannot seem to promote any basal growth on this cane, and it is such a beautiful plant.

Answer: I think you are probably using the wrong wood for your cuttings. *B.* 'Irene Nuss' is a heavy bloomer. Do not use a stem that has bloomed for your cuttings. You need to use new growth that has not bloomed. There should be growth buds at each leaf node. If it has bloomed, there will be a scar at the leaf node (where the leaf joins the stem) and it will never branch.

When grown in a pot, I find that 'Irene Nuss' doesn't put up growth from the soil as much as some other varieties. Try to find some cuttings with growth buds along the stem. When they are rooted and starting to grow, pinch out the tip. This will force it to branch. The best way to get a nice full plant is to put three or more rooted cuttings together in one pot.

When moving cane begonias up from

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.

one size pot to the next, it is a good idea to lower the plant in the pot. If you can bury one or more nodes it will sometimes cause new growth from the base.

Question: Enclosed are two rex begonia leaves. Can you tell me what is wrong? These are not mature leaves, and often baby leaves die prematurely. I took your earlier suggestion and put the rex begonias in a closed terrarium, but they rotted out on the edges of the leaves due to an overabundance of moisture. My guess is that the condition is related to humidity.

I am running two humidifiers 24 hours a day and set the pots on heating cables. I get less dieback, but the "illness" is still present. The humidity level is at least 60 percent. I recently bought a young new rex begonia plant from a large local nursery. After a few days one young leaf had to be removed, the same crippled edges. I use 15-30-15 fertilizer, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. to a gallon of water for constant feed.

Answer: I think your problem may be too much of something. Possibly too much water or fertilizer. You have plenty of humidity. With 60 percent humidity you would not need to keep your terrariums completely closed.

I think you may be keeping the roots too wet. They should never be allowed to dry out completely, but with that much

Continued on page 38



Photo by R. Das

THE THOMPSON GREENHOUSE

Southampton College Campus, Southampton, N.Y.

We cordially invite all American Begonia Society members to visit our museum of begonias when they are in the vicinity of New York.

Over 1400 species and cultivars are displayed—one of the largest collections of begonias.

Call 516-283-1633 if you are traveling any distance. Write Ed and Millie Thompson, P.O. Box PP, Southampton, N.Y. 11968 for a free brochure about the greenhouse hours and location.

Joyce Caveny

A membership booklet with a list of members and most of the begonias grown by them is almost complete. The updated list of members is all that is needed, waiting for dues to come in. . . . As for the begonia list. . . it's been updated continuously but can never really be up to date since it changes daily. An annual updating is about all we can hope for.

Begonia-of-the-Month was *B. 'Speculata'* presented by Maxine Zinman. It was a gorgeous specimen then but is in sad shape now. On the way home (from the meeting), Maxine stopped by to visit with Carrie Aregeannes and left the begonia in the car during that terribly hot weather we'd been having. It lost most of its leaves and we will miss seeing it at the show. (From the August issue of the branch newsletter, the *Begoniac*) Remember Maxine's *B. 'Speculata'* that lost most of its leaves. . . ? Well, it regained new lovely leaves just in time to get a Best-in-Division ribbon at the show. (From the October issue of the *Begoniac*)

(Before) As our tradition dictates, Maxine Zinman invites us all to picnic at her fascinating house in the country. The trip is a delight because the scenery is gorgeous. . . . (After) We all went home with armloads of concord grapes and begonia cuttings. . . . The highlight was meeting a new member who rented a car and hunted her way down, meeting us all for the first time. Not only was Roberta Haque brave enough to do that but also she volunteered for duty at the show as a judge's clerk.

The Fourth Annual Begonia Show of the Potomac Branch was presented 24-25 September 1983 at the National Arboretum

Joyce Caveny sent a very complete report of the activities of the Potomac Branch to Lynda Goldsmith, then Branch Relations Director, and to the Begonian. There were many interesting items, a sampling of which appear here. Perhaps some of the activities of this enthusiastic group will be seeds for ideas for other branches.

in Washington, DC. Fourteen exhibitors with 197 entries provided a display of 294 begonias. Added to this was a colossal exhibit of magnificent begonias loaned by the US Botanic Garden.

From a news release in the *Sun* by Amalie Adler Ascher: James W. (Bill) Cox, the only member from Baltimore, will be well represented. He's entering two truckloads of about 100 plants from his sizeable collection in the competition. . . . Begonias did not enter his life until 15 or 20 years ago when he happened to read about them. Possessed of an exceptionally green thumb. . . he wondered if taking on these plants, deservedly called prima donnas, he would finally meet his match. . . . Citing 'Thor' as an example of the less demanding (rex) type, Mr. Cox says a plant of this variety was among the first he bought when he began collecting begonias, and it is still going strong despite its bout with freezing temperatures that killed other plants in his greenhouse.

Rex begonias require a coarse coil with a pH of 7. If it is dry to 3/4 of an inch when tested, water is needed. Learning to read a plant's sign language. Mr. Cox says, trains you to administer to its wants. If it grows lopsided, turn it more frequently; if it droops, water it; if it lacks vigor, fertilize, it, but not too much lest it become leggy and suffer burn. If growth is scraggly, increase light; if the leaf edges dry out, raise humidity; and if the soil is prone to dry out, check to see if roots are bound, and if so, repot in a container one size larger.

Mr. Cox would like to form a branch of the begonia society in Baltimore.

At the AHS open house at River Farm in October we had a wonderful selection of begonias, perennials, wildflowers, and house plants for sale. . . . (Rose Davis) rooted numerous cuttings. . . . She also designed and printed Special Order Forms for show visitors to use to order their favorites. We are now propagating 31

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The meeting came to order at 7:45 pm with the pledge to the flag. The aims and purposes were read by Sandy Sandoval. As Secretary George Ghiotto was absent, the president appointed Arlene Davis acting secretary and she read the minutes. They were approved as corrected.

Bill Scarbrough gave the treasurer's report: \$9,935.90 in the combined checking accounts and \$32,361.35 in the savings accounts. Bill would like to close the books for 1983 and asked all chairpersons to submit their reports and monies.

Bob Ammerman appointed Gil Estrada as public relations chairman, and the board approved.

A discussion of ABS constitution and bylaws was tabled. The Palomar Branch constitution and bylaws as amended had been approved at the previous board meeting and the matter entered into the minutes.

Scott Hoover agreed to all stipulations and \$750.00 was sent to him for his research expedition.

Mildred and Edward Thompson sent two slide programs to Dan Haselline for the slide library. Dan requests additional programs as the demand is great.

Mary Margaret Rafferty sent a letter on the subject of members who are not in good standing in the society belonging to branches and/or participating in the national society. Branch Relations Director Chuck Richardson was asked to contact all branches about this problem.

Life memberships were approved by the board for Ernest and Metta Thomsen of Santa Barbara.

Mabel Corwin reminded all of the deadlines for awards nominations.

Bobbie West took in \$148.25 for the Bookstore, with expenses of \$8.37. She turned over to the general fund \$500.00.

A motion was made to drop the task force on the international begonia congress. It was approved.

Margaret Lee pointed out that there is no guideline for awarding ribbons to plants and suggested the following: 95 points for cultural awards, 90 for trophies, 85 for first place ribbons, 80 for second place ribbons, and 75 for third place ribbons. Approved.

Norma Pfrunder received snapshots of the 1983 convention and show taken by Chuck Anderson and Karen Bartholomew and Ed Bates. She would like more material for the history book.

Thelma O'Reilly reported that she had sent cards and letters to 26 members-at-large, and had five responses to the newsletter in the Begonian.

The final check for \$5,871.04 was turned over to the treasury by John Ingles for the Riverside Convention Committee. Thelma O'Reilly asked that it be put on record that the board is grateful to the Rubidoux Branch for administering a great convention and show.

Two corporate memberships were added: Schultz Company and Plantsmith-Spoonit.

Joy Porter asked for advice about handling the seed fund account which is not subject to a bank service charge. She was advised to continue in the current manner since the account is small and the arrangement convenient for her.

Kandid Litho contacted ABS about removing copies of Les Begonias that they had been storing. Bobbie West was instructed to pick up the copies for the bookstore.

D. G. Sullinger's life membership was transferred to his wife, Loretta.

ABS will change mailing services from South San Francisco to the San Diego area. It will be more convenient and less costly. The editors made two trips to South San Francisco for mailing purposes, and the board approved \$171.50 for expenses. Discussion on old copper plates used for printing and old Begonias was tabled until the next meeting.

Thelma O'Reilly requested that some of the board meetings be held in the Vista area since there are a lot of active members from the area who have a very long drive to meetings. Accordingly, a motion was made that plans for a board meeting on May 19 in the area, with final arrangements to be announced at the March 19 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20.

Arlene Davis, Acting Secretary

The meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on May 19 at the San Diego Wild Animal Park at 11 am, in the New Epiphyllum House. Members of branches and guests are welcome. Reservations required as a catered luncheon is included along with admission fee to the park. Send checks for \$5.25 each to President Bob Ammerman by April 28.

Join the NATIONAL FUCHSIA SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP \$9.00 per year
includes monthly FUCHSIA FAN
"The New A to Z on Fuchsias," a softcover book,
\$9.95 plus \$1.00 shipping (residents add 60¢ tax)

Mail to: National Fuchsia Society, Dept. B
11019 Benfield Ave., Downey, CA 90241

Question Box

humidity the roots should be only slightly moist. You may need to use a looser mix, especially in the bowls. Your fertilizing program should be all right, but perhaps constant feeding is too much. I would cut back on watering and discontinue fertilizing for a while and see if it helps.

You did not say what temperature you maintain in your apartment. Unless it is quite cold I don't think you would need the heating cables. The bottom heat and the closed container can cause excessive sweating. This may be the reason your young leaves turn to mush.

Be sure to use a soilless mix that drains well. It is possible there is something in your mix that is burning the tender roots.

ASSOCIATED GROUPS/ *Visitors always welcome*

Arizona

DESERT BEGONIA BRANCH

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

California

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of members
Betty Bauhan, Pres.
5630 Bellevue Ave.,
La Jolla, CA 92037
Margaret Lee, Natl. Dir.

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN BRANCH

Irene Cabibi, Pres.
685 W. Morton
Porterville, CA 93257
Esther Passet, Natl. Dir.

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrae Community Church,
Berkeley, Calif.
Milton Watt, Pres.
119 Kenyon Ave.,
Kensington, CA 94708
Helen Myers, Nat'l Dir.

GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Woman's Civic Club,
9501 Chapman Ave.,
Garden Grove, Calif.
Arthur Monday, Pres.
12881 Sylvan, Garden
Grove, CA 92645
George Allison, Natl. Dir.

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Glendale Federal S & L,
401 N. Brand, Glendale, Calif.
Helen Baker, Pres.
1832 N. Ontario St.,
Burbank, CA 91505
Darlene Fuentes, Natl. Dir.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Great
Western S & L
6330 E. Spring St., Long Beach
Ruth M. Hurd, Pres.
2942 Sawyer St., Long
Beach, CA 92805
Gil Estrada, Natl. Dir.

MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
New Monterey Neighborhood
Center
Lighthouse and Dickman Sts.,
New Monterey, Calif.
Raymond Peterson, Pres.
192 Walker Valley Rd.,
Castroville, CA 95012
Leslie Hatfield, Natl. Dir.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Mercury S&L
4140 Long Beach Blvd., Long
Beach
Edith Van Landingham, Pres.
6925 Lime Ave., Long Beach,
CA 90807
George Ghiotto, Natl. Dir.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Fullerton S & L, 2310 E. Lincoln
Ave., Anaheim
Lorra Almstedt, Pres.
1965 Celeste Lane,
Fullerton, CA 92633
Cruz Sandoval, Natl. Dir.

PALOMAR BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Glendale Fed'rat Savings & Loan
Jeannette Gilbertson, Pres.
410 Joann Circle

*This directory appears every
other issue. If your listing
is incomplete or inaccurate,
please notify the secretary
immediately and send a copy
of your letter to the editor.*

Vista, CA 92083
Eleanor Calkins, Natl. Dir.

RUBIDOUX BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
West Riverside Memorial
Auditorium
4393 Riverview Dr., Rubidoux
Bobbie West, Pres.
6073 De La Vista,
Rubidoux, CA 92509

R. H. Terrell, Natl. Dir.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.,
Garden Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.,
Sacramento, Calif.
Connie Metro, Pres.
6209 Glenhurst Way
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Marvin Vipond, Natl. Dir.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.,
Garden Center
Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue
and Lincoln Way
Russell Hutchison, Pres.
577 Briarwood Court,
Livermore, CA 94550
Carol Spediacci, Natl. Dir.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., Los
Angeles State and County
Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia,
Calif.

Linda Proctor, Pres.
201 N. Sunset Pl.
Monrovia, CA 91016
Louise Best, Natl. Dir.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Casa
del Prado, Rm. 104, Balboa
Michael Ludwig, Pres.
644 Torrance, St.
San Diego, CA 92103
Jess Martinez, Natl. Dir.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

4th Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
The Cottage, 1130 N. Milpas St.
Dara Emery, Pres.
517 W. Juniper St., No. 2
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Kay Willis, Natl. Dir.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Saratoga Community Library
13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga
Elisabeth Sayers, Pres.
369 Ridge Vista Ave.,
San Jose, CA 95127
Mary Margaret Rafferty,
Natl. Dir.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Senior
Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa
Clara St., Ventura, Calif
Jinny Peterman
131 E. Fiesta Green
Port Hueneme, CA 93041
Mary Stine, Natl. Dir.

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Allstate Savings,
8800 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles
George Kalmanson
220 23rd St.

Santa Monica, CA 90402
Clair M. Christensen, Natl. Dir.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Palm
Park Community Center
5703 South Palm Avenue,
Whittier
Bill Scarbrough, Pres.
12042 E. Lambert Ave.
El Monte, CA 91732
Nellie Weaver, Natl. Dir.

Connecticut

CONNECTICUT BRANCH

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

District of Columbia Area

POTOMAC BRANCH

4th Sunday, 2:00 p.m.,
Sherwood Hall Library,
1205 Sherwood Hall Lane,
Alexandria, VA
Maxine Zinman, Pres.
Rte 1, Box 73, Boyce, VA 22620
Linda Record, Natl. Dir.

Florida

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Agricultural Ctr.,
1010 North McDuff Ave.
Johnnie Ramsey, Pres.
1241 Grove Park Blvd.,
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Mary Bucholtz, Natl. Dir.

MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden
Center
55 South West 17th Road,
Miami, Florida
Maybelle Green, Pres.
13940 Harrison St.,
Miami, FL 33176
Charles J. Jaros, Natl. Dir.

PALM BEACHES BRANCH

2nd Monday, Mounts
Horticultural Learning Center,
531 N. Military Trail,
West Palm Beach
Edwin F. Maley, Pres.
1365 Redpine Trail, West
Palm Beach, FL 33411
Helene Jaros, Natl. Dir.

TAMPA BAY AREA BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
North Tampa Comm. Center
N. 11th St. & E. Seward,
Tampa
Mary Breit, Pres.
2713 N. B St., Tampa, FL 33609
Marie Van Etten, Natl. Dir.

Illinois

GREATER CHICAGO AREA BRANCH

4th Sunday, except Dec., 2 p.m.
Oak Park Conservatory
561 Garfield, Oak Park, Ill.
Mary Weinberg, Pres.
1527 W. Highland Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60660
Kingsley Langenberg, Natl. Dir.

Massachusetts

BUXTON BRANCH

Call for meeting info.

Richard Spencer, Pres.

323 Cambridge St.,
Burlington, MA 01803
Rosemary Norton, Natl. Dir.

Minnesota

MINNESOTA BRANCH

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

New Jersey

ELSA FORT BRANCH

Helen Green, Pres.
2100 Hunter St., Cinnaminson,
NJ 08077
Gladys Cooper, Natl. Dir.

New York

EASTERN NEW YORK BRANCH

Herbert E. Speanburg, Pres.
75 Swagertown Rd., Scotia,
NY 12302

HAMPTON BRANCH

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

Mary Burnaford, Natl. Dir.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Horticultural Society of New
York
128 West 58th St., New York,
N.Y.

Barbara Berg, Pres.

16 Highview Ter.,
New Canaan, CT 06840
Howard Berg, Natl. Dir.

LONG ISLAND BRANCH

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

Marie Donnelly, Natl. Dir.

Ohio

GREATER CINCINNATI BRANCH

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

Oklahoma

FRED A. BARKLEY BRANCH

1st Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
Huey Long Community Center,
Del City, Okla.
Mrs. Louie Sullivan, Pres.
118 E. Myrtle Dr.,
Midwest City, OK 73110
Ruth Wills, Natl. Dir.

Pennsylvania

EDNA STEWART PITTSBURGH BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh Civic
Garden Center
Suzanne Colaizzi, Pres.
115 Lillian Rd., Pittsburgh,
PA 15237
Frank Kerin, Natl. Dir.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11 a.m.
Ricardo's Restaurant,
Butler, Penn.
Antonette Ponteri, Pres.
407 Canterbury Trail, Mars, PA
16046

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

4th Tuesday, noon, Homes of
members
Mrs. Jacques Leroux, Pres.
Dove Lake House, Gladwyne,
PA 19035
Mrs. Lancelot Sims, Natl. Dir.

Rhode Island

ROGER WILLIAMS BRANCH

3rd Monday night, Homes
of members.
Arline Peck, Pres. & Natl. Dir.
Eagle Peak Rd., RFD #1,
Box 478, Pascoag, RI 02859

Southwest

SOUTHWEST REGION

Tamsin Boardman, Dir.
Box 249, Roanoke,
TX 76262

Texas

ASTRO BRANCH

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

COASTAL BEND BEGONIA SOCIETY

Helen Gonzales, Pres.
Rt. 1, Box 103, Taft, TX 78390

DALLAS AREA BRANCH

Dorothy Patrick, Pres.
and Natl. Dir.
1023 Elmdale, Dallas, TX 75224

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

4th Monday, 10:30 a.m., Garden
Center, 1500 Herman Dr.,
Houston, Tex.
Nancy Blakeman, Pres.
11838 Bayhurst, Houston, TX
77024
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Natl. Dir.

MAE BLANTON BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
Homes of members
May McKnight, Pres.
908 Live Oak,
Denton, TX 76201
Glennis Crouch, Natl. Dir.

Washington

EASTSIDE BEGONIA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
590 116th Avenue N.E.,
Bellevue, Wash.
Lewis VanderCook, Pres.
12671 SE 161st St.,
Renton, WA 98055

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Bethany
Lutheran Church, 7400
Woodlawn Ave., N.E.
Anton Soder, Larry Fuller,
Robert McCarter, Co-Presidents
Phyllis Wright, Natl. Dir.

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.,
Wm. Moshier Field House
430 S. 156th St., Seattle
Joanne Slosser, Pres.
16419 3rd Ave., S.W., Seattle,
WA 98166
Shel Fisher, Natl. Dir.

Potomac Branch

begonias to fill those orders. . . Bill Cox donated a lovely big *B. 'Erythrophylla'* and Marian Fox donated a nice *B. 'Paul Bee'*. . . we were able to provide copies of the new propagation chart at the sale, too. AHS had door prize drawings. . . and the first to go was our large specimen of *B. 'Concord'* to a very happy winner.

Coming soon: Reports from the Begonia Round-up, a biography of Alfred D. Robinson, spring through summer care for tuberous begonias, a visit to the Thompson's begonia museum, lots of information about registered begonias and unidentified species, plus our regular features.

Light Gardening

Sharon Zentz of Tallmadge Ohio has taken over as the editor of the Indoor Light Gardening Society of America, Inc. *The Begonian* had exchanged ads and copies with ILGSA, but the exchange had stopped. Now we are resuming the relationship. Copies of the publication will be placed in the ABS Library.

Source for Begonia U014

Mr. K. Sahin of Holland requests a source of *Begonia* U014. He suggests that anyone able to supply a plant communicate directly with him: K. Sahin, Zaden/Gerard Doustraat 3/ 2406 Alphen ann den Rijn/Holland.

Anthony Croce
Research Director

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 address 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 Bookstore for \$1, \$6/full year. 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 (\$10.) Also available are a booklet on point scoring (\$2.), the old (unofficial) classification booklet (\$2), information on fuchsia and fern judging, and other requirements to become a judge. Add \$1 for 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.

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.)

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