

July - August 1984

# The BEGONIAN



# The BEGONIAN

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

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(continued on back cover)

*The Cover:* *Begonia* 'Orococo' was winner of the Best in Show Trophy at the Dallas Convention for Merrill and Kathlyn Calvert of Choctaw, OK.

This cultivar previously won the Best New Introduction by a Commercial Nurseryman in 1982 at San Jose for Hybridizer Patrick Worley. The parent plants are *Begonia glabra* and U003.

Gene Daniels of Roanoke, TX took the photo. He has had numerous photos, articles, and cover photos in the *Begonian*.

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ABS NEWS/ 'Tis the season for begonia shows

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**Shows Scheduled**

Greater Chicago Branch  
August 31 thru September 3  
Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL  
Mary Weinberg, (312)R01-7218  
Judged Show, sale of plants

Garden Grove Branch  
August 25 and 26  
10 am to 6 pm Sat., 10-5 Sun.  
Huntington Center, Beach Blvd. at  
Edinger, Huntington Beach, CA  
Loretta Salzer, Chm  
Non-judged show, sale of plants

San Francisco Flower Show  
August 24-thru 26, 10 am to 6 pm  
Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco. Admission fee.

**Branch Officers**

The ABS Constitution and Bylaws provide that all officers of branches be members in good standing of the American Begonia Society. In fact, it requires that all members of branches be members of the parent society.

**Annual Reports**

Reports from all branch national directors and board members were due on August 8th. If you failed to heed the notice, please send a report belatedly to ABS President Bob Ammerman.

**Begonia Pink**

At least one clothing manufacturer was advertising "Begonia Pink" as a color choice for his garments. While we're always happy for any positive recognition for begonias, we can't help but wonder which pink begonia he meant!

**Photo Credits**

Lawrence Goldsmith, pages 47-49  
Howard Siebold, pages 51,71  
Howard Berg, all show photos in this issue

Photographs to be submitted for the *Begonian* may be either colored or black and white prints. Wherever possible, glossy surface should be specified. Colored Polaroid photographs will NOT be considered for publication. 35-mm slides are all right for inside pages. For covers, only 35-mm slides in the vertical orientation will be considered.

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS: Summer Care *(Continued)*

*Howard Siebold*

There aren't too many problems that affect these plants. We have mentioned wind and animals. Powdery mildew is one that may appear, especially if you have roses, lilacs or zinnias nearby. They seem to act as hosts for this. It appears on leaf surfaces as whitish gray spots that look like cigarette ash. If it appears, spray with Benomyl (Benlate) which is also a good preventative. Start spraying when the flowers begin to open. Dusting sulfur is a good preventative until the flowers do open. In hot weather, it can bleach the color in the blossoms.

Aphids may appear but they are easily washed off with a jet of water.

Slugs and snails are fond of begonias. If you see their damage or their trails, use your favorite counteraction. They are mostly active at night and where they are particularly bad, you might wish to try treating a complete bed. Mix one part of household ammonia with four parts of water in your sprinkling can and sprinkle late at night when they are out and active. This is also good when you turn over a board and discover dozens of them underneath.

Any damaged spot or bruise on a stem or branch can allow the start of stem rot. It can also be caused by flower petals or leaves falling and lodging against a branch or stem. If they rot, rotting may start at the point of contact. Damage by slugs or snails can also be a starting point. It is aided and abetted by poor air circulation. This shows as a soft brown or black spot much like the rot on the skin of a peach. If noticed soon enough, it can be wiped off, cut out or washed out with a water jet. When clean tissue is exposed, wipe dry and dust with one of the rose dusts containing sulfur.

Howard Siebold has helped his tuberous begonias through more than 50 summers. Take advantage of his experience. He lives at 32050 Westwood Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

If the rot has progressed too far, the stem will break off. In that case, or if more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the stem diameter is lost, cut the stem off far enough below the rot to expose all clear tissue. This may even mean cutting it off at the tuber. If the rot should reach the tuber, it would be difficult to save it. Dust the cut surface and the tuber will very likely show new growth in a few weeks. If other stems remain, the loss will be no problem. If it was the only stem, then the effort should be to save the tuber for next year. Remove any flower buds that might appear.

In some areas, the Brachyrhinus Root Weevils can damage valuable tubers. They are known by a variety of names—Black Root Weevil, Vine Weevil, Strawberry Root Weevil, etc. They are satiny black beetles about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long of medium width. They feed at night and spend the day underground where they lay their eggs. They are seldom visible. The eggs hatch into white grubs that can riddle tubers. Usually, the first indication of their presence is the damage to the leaves of other nearby plants such as rhododendron, lilies, salal, etc. The damage is the characteristic square or rectangular notches eaten from the leaf edges.

Control of these pests has been most difficult. The routine recommendations have been to spray nearby foliage or drench the soil with Orthene, Isotox, Diazinon, or Sevin. The Sunset Garden Book adds "—but the treatment may not be effective." It usually is not. It may reduce the adult population, but there is always a batch of grubs hatching underground. There is a recently introduced control for the grubs. It is a strain of beneficial nematodes that destroy the grubs of this weevil and many other undesirable pests. The manufacturer claims that earthworms and other desirable worms are not harmed. Some local nurseries and garden shops carry the nematodes. If yours does not, the supplier is: P.N.F. Inc., 3335 Birch Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Telephone number is (415) 494-8630 or 8645.

If your flower buds drop off before they have opened, it means that the growing conditions are not to their liking. Look for: overwatering, soil too dry, roots too hot, not enough light, humidity is too low, over-feeding. More than one of those could apply at the same time.

You will surely have some plants that you value highly. It is wise to duplicate them by rooting cuttings. For just a few cuttings, use a propagating case or invert tumblers or jars over the individual cuttings. For any number of cuttings, a mist system will give more rooted cuttings with fewer losses. Where nights are cool, bottom heat (70°-75°) may help.

The first two or three branches that appear on a stem can be taken for cuttings when they are about 5 inches long. Any extra stems can be removed from the tuber, when they are about 4 inches long, for rooting. Carefully cut the extra stem from the tuber with a sharp sterile knife taking just the thinnest slice of the tuber to insure that the "eye" is also taken. Dust the cut tuber surface with a rose dust.

The branches can be removed from the stem in the same manner, but that leaves a cut surface on the stem that can cause problems. It is better to cut the branch just below the first node which should show a branch bud. That node will also have a sizeable leaf attached. It can stay or it can be removed. I find it best to remove that leaf two weeks before taking the cutting—leaving a short stub. When the stub falls off, the healed surface remains and the branch can be cut just below the node. The bud at that node is essential for a tuber that will sprout next year so be very careful to avoid damaging it. Carefully remove any bracts or loose materials that might rot if buried in the rooting mix. Rooting hormones are not necessary.

The rooting mix is similar to the potting mix but with about half as much fertilizer. Insert the cutting about an inch deep in the mix using 3 inch pots—or the mix can be in a greenhouse bench. If you have no mist system, reduce the area of any large leaves by about 50% and manually mist the cuttings five or six times per day.



B. 'Shower of Roses'—a Howard Siebold cultivar of the pendula type, first grown in 1978.

The cuttings will show roots in four to six weeks and can then be repotted using regular potting mix. Thereafter, treat them the same as your other begonias except that all flower buds should be removed to build up the tuber size.

When repotting the rooted cuttings, check for two sets of roots. If the cutting was deep enough in the mix to cover the second leaf node, there may be roots at both nodes. Rub off the roots at the second node and repot with that node out of the potting mix. Otherwise, two tubers will form that are connected by stem tissue which tends to rot easily.

Keep the rooted cuttings growing as long as possible into the winter—also to build up tuber size. When the stems finally separate from the tubers, the tubers may be quite small. Leave the cutting tubers in the small pots for storing. They are less likely to lose moisture that way.

These cutting tubers must be grown normally for a second season to obtain a regular size tuber. Tubers produced from cuttings are often irregular in shape compared to those grown from seedling plants.

NOTE: Two excellent articles, one on diseases by R.D. Raabe and one on pests by C.S. Koehler, appeared in the Sept.-Oct., 1982 issue of the *Begonian*. You should review them.

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## BEGONIA ROUNDUP/*Four fun-packed days*

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*Tamsin Boardman*

For years, ABS members throughout the Southwest had dreamed of hosting a national convention and meeting all of the people we had only read about. For four short days in April, our work came to fruition and our dreams came true: the gods descended from Olympus, and walked among us: ABS officers past and present, Hikoichi Arakawa, Mabel Corwin, Kit Jeans, Joy Logee Martin, Joy Porter, Millie and Ed Thompson, Maxine Wilson, Winkie Woodruff, and on, and on. And lo and behold, they were warm, friendly human beings!

And what workers! Joy Martin hardly left the plant sale room where she lent her vast expertise in pricing. President Bob Ammerman seemed to remember every name and had really picked up on the Region's "Howdy." Past President Gil Estrada was everywhere at once, greeting people and helping unobtrusively with every facet of the show; the O'Reillys' friendly smiles and quick quips enlivened the proceedings—and Thelma found time, somehow, to meet with at-large members. Past President Charles Richardson also juggled time schedules to meet with branch representatives, assuring them of national's interest and support. Vice President Daniel Haseltine quietly helped out in dozens of ways—and how nice it was to meet his charming wife, Olive; she was put to work, too.

Art Sackenruther toted, priced, charmed. Margaret Lee and Pat Maley lived in the show area, not emerging until Friday evening. And Millie and Ed? Well, all they did was present two seminars and help with a third; bring plants to give away to everyone attending; present a slide tour of the Begonia Museum; give away hundreds of copies of three research papers; and bring the just-off-the-press *Addendum to Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide*;

*Tamsin Boardman, the very enthusiastic public relations chair for Begonia Round-up, can be reached at Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262.*

and, oh, yes, in between they visited entertained, answered questions, issued invitations to visit Southampton and come to lunch.

Begonia Roundup opened officially at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 12, with a series of mini-tours of an azalea trail and members homes, gardens, and greenhouses. The tours continued through Friday morning, each one ending at the home of Dallas Area members Frances and George Fix, who have the largest local collection of begonias.

Thursday evening there was a barbecue dinner and square dance (those of you who know Bobbie West only as the very efficient manager of the ABS Bookstore may be surprised to learn she is quite a "kicker").

Friday morning, while the show was being judged, Dr. Robert Sheldrake, Professor Emeritus of Cornell University and on the research board of the Grace Corp., gave us the "dirt" on soiless mixes, and how and why they originated. Jane Gloyd of Richland College spoke on preventing problems in the greenhouse, and Barney Lipscomb of Southern Methodist University's Herbarium demonstrated pressing begonias.

Hundreds of donated items were given away at each seminar, and at odd moments throughout the convention. Give-aways were held for workers in the show and sale, too.

Millie and Ed Thompson presented their program on African species Friday afternoon. Several slides drew oohs and aahs, and a new species received from Dr. Doorenbos, *B. lacunosa*, elicited gasps of admiration. After an ice cream break, the Thompsons continued with demonstrations of planting on driftwood and construction of a wire hanging basket, and then a seminar on growing in bubbles.

For many members, the high point came Friday evening, when the show and sale were open for preview. The show was beautiful! There were 423 entries from 25 states, Japan, New Zealand, and Panama,

## SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT POTTING SOIL

George J. Fix, Jr.

From talking to as many knowledgeable begonia people as I meet, and from all I can read, two facts seem clear in evaluating potting soils for begonias — one, there are as many different formulas with slight variations as there are experts, and two, they all contain in generous portions a large amount of TLC (tender, loving care).

I was advised by our resident expert, Joe Patrick of the Dallas Area Branch, that he and many professional growers used MetroMix 300 right out of the sack. He said that it was light enough with plenty of fiber, took care of the problems of being sterile, and was very easy and fast to use. So I tried it.

The next day I looked at the pots, and it appeared that I had planted some nice begonias in dried Mississippi mud. And when I looked in the sack, there were blotches of yellow mold all over the top.

Back to Joe — "Joe, you don't know what you are talking about." He was firm, "Stay with it, and watch it carefully."

I then tried a comparison planting of five small begonia plants in my home made mix and five in the MetroMix 300. I came to the conclusion that MetroMix 300 was about as good as anything I had cobbled up.

I also tried Jungle Growth, which advertises that it can be used in containers without a drain hole. You had better not try that unless you are growing something



*George Fix served as master of ceremonies at the Dallas Convention and is very active in the Southwest Region.*

that flourishes in a swamp. However, I have found that it is great for stimulating root growth, and for both starting seeds and rooting cuttings I use first a layer of about one-half inch of perlite, then one-half inch of Jungle Growth, then my rooting mixture (MetroMix 300 plus some vermiculite). When the roots reach the layer of Jungle Growth, they seem really happy.

To wind this up, I'll quote two great artists. Our resident artist, Dael Jones stated very clearly, "If you have something good going for you, stay with it." And second, that well recognized poet of early England, who was heard to remark to the London Begonia Society, somewhere about 1710, "Be not the first by whom the new is tried. Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

### Begonia Containers

At the Begonia Roundup considerable interest was shown in the plastic pots and bowls that were used. Sweepstakes Winner Kathlyn Calvert said she would furnish the information for purchasing:

The bowls and pans come in various sizes from:

A. L. Randall Company  
P. O. Box 82  
Prairie View, IL 60069  
(312) 634-4300

The large pots and saucers are available at:

Duraco Products, Inc.  
1109 E. Lake Street  
Streamwood, IL 60103  
(312) 837-6615

These companies are both wholesalers so it may be necessary to have your Local florist or nurseryman get the catalogs and place the orders for you.

as well as 17 educational exhibits. The sale room, too, looked lovely at 7 p.m. By 7:01, however, it was utter pandemonium, with squeals of delight punctuated by groans. "Why didn't I see that? Where did you find that one?" Evidently many people did find desirables: by Sunday afternoon there were no plants left. At nine, an auction of terrariums, rare begonias, and donated items benefited the conservation committee, and then Thelma O'Reilly entertained (a large crew showed up, not all of them "at-large").

Saturday morning an elite group of determined souls turned up in the hospitality room for coffee before the 7 a.m. birdwalk. Some nice birds were sighted at Keller Springs Park, and we were all impressed with Joy Martin's ability to recognize bird calls and wild plants.

Back at the hotel, Scott Hoover wowed us with slides of species from his Ecuador trip. He also distributed seed to branches. Phil Huey, in charge of beautification for the Dallas Parks Dept., gave tips on growing begonias and shade plants in the Southwest. Daniel Haseltine followed, with his lovely slides of Begonias from *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* and erudite research into early reports of begonias.

The Show Awards Luncheon was held at noon Saturday. A record 59 horticultural awards were given. Kathlyn and Merrill Calvert of Barkley Branch, Oklahoma City, swept the honors with Best of Show, Sweepstakes, and Showing and Sharing, a trophy donated by the Thompsons for the exhibitor who brought the largest number of show plants. After the Big Apple Convention in 1979, someone suggested that on the East coast, Mabel Corwin's name is Corliss Engle; in the Southwest it must be Kathlyn Calvert.

The Eva Kenworthy Gray Award was presented to Scott Hoover for his work in discovering new species, collecting seed, and for scholarly papers. To end the luncheon, a slides and music show, "Art in Nature," was given by Norman Freeman, a Fellow of the American Photographic Society and artistic division winner.

After lunch Joe Patrick, pesticide technologist and husband of Dorothy, our convention chair, gave an informative program on disease and pest control.

Mae Blanton chaired the panel discussion on hybridizing. Participating were Joy Logee Martin and Winkie Woodriff, whose families' love of begonias spans generations, and Kit Jeans, who gave a delightful and humorous "how to" session. Mae shared tips and anecdotes from Mickey Meyer and Bernard Yorke of Australia, and read a letter from Belva Kusler.

Table decorations for Saturday night's banquet were based on the Southwest Region logo designed by Kit Jeans: a lariat encircled boots and cowboy hat containing *semperflorens* begonias. Master of Ceremonies George Fix introduced officers, and asked members who had a begonia variety named after them to stand: dozens did, and told what type of begonia bore their name, and who had developed or discovered it.

A special commendation was announced for Elda Haring, with thanks for her many contributions to ABS. Mabel Corwin, Awards Chair, presented the Herbert P. Dyckman Award to Pearl Bennell, past president and current membership secretary, and the Robinson Medal to Margaret Lee (Was Marge surprised! Mabel did an end run around her to get it printed).

Beautiful slides of the Thompsons' Begonia Museum closed the banquet program, and visiting and more giveaways went on through the night.

Highlights Sunday were the tour to Ft. Worth's Water Gardens and Botanic Garden, and the drawings for gift certificates and the "snitcheree." Winner Joyce Martin of Illinois got to go through the show and take two cutting off each plant she wanted.

Our dream lasted four terrific, fun-and-work packed days. And then the great silver birds ascended into the skies—and the Thompsons' station wagon hit the road—taking with them our friends, the luminaries of ABS. We thank each and every one of you for coming, for sharing and participating. Y'all come back, hear!



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## BEGONIA ROUNDUP/All three top awards presented at Dallas.

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Mabel Corwin, awards chairman



*Pearl Benell and Margaret Lee receive honors from Mabel Corwin*

The Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service was presented to Pearl Benell. She has been a member of the American Begonia Society for about 30 years. For most of those years she has been a very hard working member of the society.

She served as membership secretary from 1967 to 1971. At that time the position involved not only keeping the records of the membership, but preparing and mailing the *Begonian* each month.

She served a term of president-elect, president (1970-1971) and past president. From 1974 to 1977 she served as director of the Seed Fund.

She has been chairman of the nominating committee several times and has also served as chairman of the ballot counting committee. During all of these years she has seldom missed a board meeting.

She is an accredited senior judge of the American Begonia Society and has served in that capacity whenever called upon to do so.

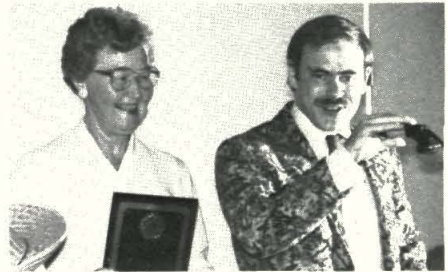
This is an impressive record of long time, faithful service to the American Begonia Society.

The Alfred D. Robinson Medal was awarded this year for *B. 'Nokomis'*. It is a cane begonia, superba type. The Registra-

tion number is 568. It was published in the *Begonian* August 1977.

This hybrid is easy to propagate, easy to grow in many different conditions, and blooms freely even in adverse conditions.

The Medal was presented to the hybridizer, Margaret Lee.



*Scott Hoover, Gray Award Winner*

Scott Hoover was the recipient of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award. His articles in the *Begonian* about his expeditions to begonia habitats and his exposition of the threat to tropical rain forests have done great service to the cause of begonia lovers. Less known are the scientific papers he has written and submitted to botanical societies about the genus *Begonia*.

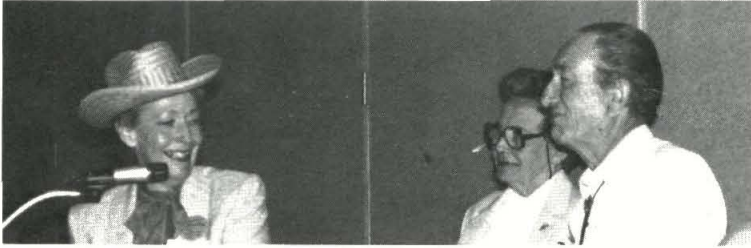
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## BEGONIA ROUNDUP/Winners of 1984 Roundup Show.

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Margaret Lee, codirector of judging department



Jean Barron at the podium with Kathlyn and Merrill Calvert who won the Sweepstakes trophy (donated by C. Hall) and the Showing is Sharing trophy (donated by the Thompsons). Calverts also received the Best in Show trophy, named this year in honor of Dr. Fred Barkley, for *B. 'Orococo'* (see cover photo).

### Division Winners

#### A - Cane-like

Curtis Trophy  
Merril and Kathlyn Calvert  
B. 'Looking Glass'

#### B - Shrub-like

Rubidoux Branch Trophy  
Ruth Wills  
B. 'Withlacoochee'

#### BB - Shrub/Distinctive Foliage

Alfred D. Robinson Branch Trophy  
Merril and Kathlyn Calvert  
B. 'Quito'

#### C - Thick-stemmed

Potomac Branch Trophy  
Ruth Wills  
B. 'Hazel Harmon'

#### E - Rhizomatous

Miami Branch Trophy  
Syd Kirksey  
B. 'Earl-ee-bee'

#### EE - Crested or spiral Rhizomatous

O'Reilly Trophy  
Merril and Kathlyn Calvert  
B. 'Ricky Minter'

#### EEE - Distinctive foliage Rhizomatous

Mae Blanton Branch Trophy  
Merril and Kathlyn Calvert  
B. *imperialis* cross

#### F - Rex

Paul Lee Memorial Trophy  
North Haven Gardens  
Woodriff Cultivar

#### G - Tuberous

Garden Grove Branch Trophy  
Merril and Kathlyn Calvert  
B. 'Dorothea'

#### I - Contained Atmosphere with single variety

Wanda Elin Memorial Trophy  
Syble Robertson  
B. *versicolor*

#### J - Species

Orpha Fox Trophy  
North Haven Gardens  
B. *lubbersii*

#### K - Hanging Containers/Wall Pockets

Westchester Branch Trophy  
Katherine Sharp  
B. 'White Christmas'

#### M - Novel Grown

Gil Estrada Trophy  
Merril and Kathlyn Calvert  
B. 'Orococo'

#### O - New Introduction by Commercial

No Award

#### P - Seedlings

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Trophy  
Phil Mudgett  
Rhizomatous #2

## Q - Novice

- Adele Zemansky Trophy  
Barbara Hamilton  
*B.* 'Pinafore' sport

## R - Contained Atmosphere with more than one Begonia

- Knickerbocker Branch Trophy  
Ruth McCormick

## S - Photo of Begonias

- Barkley Branch Trophy  
Masao Uono  
*B.* 'Pseudophylomaniaca'

## T - Artistic Begonia Photos

- Santa Clara Valley Branch Trophy  
Norman Freeman  
"Begonias in Hiding"

## U - Southwest Regional Hybrids

- Southwest Region Trophy  
Merril and Kathlyn Calvert  
*B.* 'Tippy'

## W - Begonia Arts and Crafts

- Barbara Berg Trophy  
Pat Maley  
Acrylic painting of *B.* 'Curly California'

## Show Awards

Culture certificates were presented to the following exhibitors (the qualifying point score follows the exhibit name):

### Merril and Kathlyn Calvert

- B.* 'Ricky Minter' 97  
*B.* 'Fischer's Ricinifolia' 96.3  
*B.* 'Mrs. Townsend' 96  
*B.* *imperialis* cross 96  
*B.* 'Freddie' 95.7  
*B.* 'Looking Glass' 95  
*B.* 'Mekessa' 94.3  
Mexican #275 94.3  
*B.* 'Orococo' 94  
*B.* 'Oklahoma Twister' 93  
*B.* 'Pink Lemonade' 93  
*B.* 'Lubbergei' 93  
*B.* *venosa* 93  
*B.* 'Crestabruchi' 93  
*B.* 'Pink Nacre' 92.7  
*B.* 'Red Reuben' 92  
*B.* 'San Miguel' 92

- B.* *manicata* 'Aureo-maculata' 91.3  
*B.* 'Quito' 90.66  
*B.* 'Lois Burks' 90

### North Haven Gardens

- Woodriff cultivar 95  
*B.* 'Vesuvius' 94  
*B.* *lubbersii* 94  
*B.* 'Lavender Lace' 91  
Woodriff cultivar 90

### Jean Barron

- B.* 'Ricinifolia' 94  
*B.* 'Erythrophylla' 92.3  
*B.* *macdougallii* 91  
*B.* 'Ricinifolia' seedling 91

### Glennis Crouch

- B.* 'Dragon Flight' 94.7  
*B.* 'Skeezar' 93.7  
*B.* 'Tiger Kitten' 92.6

### Bob Dodd

- B.* 'Norah Bedson' 95  
*B.* 'Sir Percy' 93  
unidentified rex 93

### George Fix

- B.* 'Gidget' X 'Locheil' seedling 92.3  
*B.* *echinosepala* 91  
*B.* 'Sarabande' 90

### Marie Harrell

- B.* 'Bokit' hybrid 94  
*B.* 'Alice-Mac' 93.3

### Mildred Hooten

- B.* *velloziana* 93  
*B.* 'Marguerite DeCola' 90

### Syble Robertson

- B.* *versicolor* 94  
*B.* 'Butterscotch' 92

### Katherine Sharp

- B.* 'White Christmas' 94  
*B.* 'Pinafore' 93.6

### Ruth Wills

- B.* 'Withlacoochee' 95  
*B.* 'Hazel Harmon' 91.3

### Mae Blanton

- B.* *decora* 93

### Dorothy Caviness

- B.* 'Verschafeltii' 95

### Jeff Kirsch

- unidentified rhizomatous 90

### Syd Kirksey

- B.* 'Earl-ee-bee' 96.7

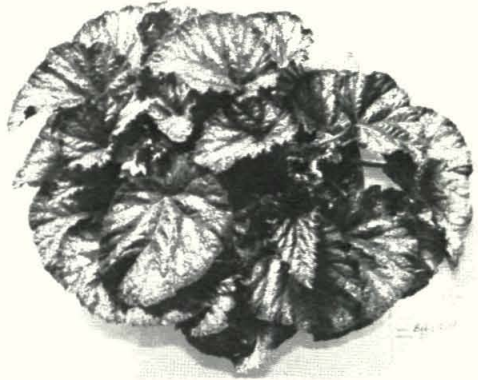
## BEGONIA ROUND



*Begonia* 'Withlacoochee'  
Unidentified rex cultivar  
*Begonia* 'Pinafore' sport

*Begonia diadema*  
*Begonia venosa*

N STOPPERS



*Begonia hemsleyana* x *rex* cultivar  
*Begonia* 'Hazel Harmon'

Unidentified *rex* cultivar (Dodd)  
*Begonia partita*  
*Begonia velloziana*

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## BEGONIA ROUNDUP/*A robin's eye view of the Convention.*

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Susan Johnston

Begonia Round-Up was fantasmagorical!! No other word could describe it in its entirety. Those Texas people live up to their by-line "things are done BIG in Texas!!" Last word was we produced over 450 plants for show. I know that folks were worried in Oklahoma, because they were depending upon us to bring the bulk of the plants! Well, that meant Kathlyn Calvert was bringing the majority. Unfortunately, with the dramatic winter we have had, she lost a number of plants intended for show to mildew and other disasters. Although she did bring about 60 plants, she did not have as many as she originally planned. I think we (the Barkley Branch) finally tallied at about 175 plants. We rented a truck, about 10' x 22', and Merrill Calvert and Jerry Caviness built shelving for it, and the members carefully packed their plants in boxes, etc., for transport. The rental of the truck completely depleted our treasury.

Commencing at about 6:00 a.m. in the morning, and making the rounds of every member to bring plants in the OKC area, and Shawnee, Oklahoma, as well, brought us to the convention at about 11:30 p.m. that night. The plants travelled surprisingly well, with only a few broken leaves and branches (which were quickly deported to the plant sale room for sale as cuttings!! — some of them being highly attractive, such as 'Looking Glass,' 'Orococo,' etc.) A dedicated begonia conventioneer will convert or recycle anything!

The next morning at about 8:00 we arrived at the registration area where Joan Coulat and Pat Maley commenced registration of begonias. Sounds simple, huh! Not so, *amigo*. Decisions, decisions, on what is

*Susan Johnston, of 832 S. Lahoma, Norman, OK 73069, described a slightly different side of the Roundup to Round Robin Director Joan Campbell.*

that plant, I know I can identify it if you just give me a moment's thought! Wait a minute, wait a minute, technically this plant should go into the large-leaved, crested class under rhizomatous, but the majority of leaves are smaller than 6", so let's put it in the medium-leaved (okay by me!, but I didn't know that was permitted!) Hold it, bring me that plant back. I know it's classified as semi-tuberous, but its habit of growth suggests rhizomatous, so it should be changed accordingly!

Whew, what else can they possibly come up with! Grooming! If I take this leaf off will it destroy the symmetry of the plant, or will the damaged leaf affect its chances less? Trimming, you think? What about this flower pedicel? Oh, God — where did the pruning shears go, and the brushes? I'm sitting here in a pile of begonia mulch! I haven't had lunch yet, is it time for dinner? For gosh sakes, you mean these seedlings cannot be entered because they didn't come from ABS seed? Create a new class? Whatever you say, but wait a minute, they have to be numbered consecutively? I can't even count to 10 at this point! What's my registrant number anyway?

Well, we finally got them all ready, on the show tables, and literally heaved a sigh of relief at 8:00 p.m. (12 hours to register, you say?) Then, it was off to the plant sales area to see how Bob Dodd was handling his arrivals, etc. Things were about to shut down for the evening, so we retired, tired, to our rooms. Somewhere in there I think I remember eating, but having checked my clothes when I got home, I must have done all right because I didn't find any indications of having fallen in my plate.

Since I clerked the show (under Bob Ammerman, Katherine Alberti, and Dora Hale) I was up for the breakfast at 6:00 a.m. (down in the restaurant at 7:00 a.m.). Judging started at 8:00 a.m. and I was the lifter, turner, holder, etc., marking the registration slips and writing helpful hints

on the ballots when asked. We were with the judges on "tuberous/semi-tuberous," "terrariums," "novel-grown," and "photographic" (judging the plants, not the photos). We completed our rounds by about 11:30 a.m. The luncheon at noon was lovely, and the judges went back to complete judging for best in show, and cultural awards.

The afternoon was spent helping Bob Dodd in plant sales, where there were thousands of plants to price, with none other than Joy Logee Martin assisting the operation. We worked here for awhile and adjourned to the Thompsons' seminar on African species. You would have loved this, I am sure! Please don't curse me, but by this time I was so sleepy, that when the lights went out for the seminar, I nearly drifted off to sleep. At that point, I knew if I didn't sleep for awhile, I would be worthless the rest of the day. So I sacrificed the seminar for some sleep. Shame on me, I missed an important event. Ed and Millie handed out a terrarium plant to every participant. I got B. U089, and gave it to Dorothy, knowing to even look at the poor little thing for very long would be detrimental to its future survival. I did see some of the slides before retiring, and they were beautiful.

After waking, it was back to the plant sales to attempt to instruct myself in the operation of the cash registers (heck, I've never touched one before!). Bob, Sue Blair, and I finally figured out how to run the darn thing. But during the mad rush for plants, I did manage to chalk up a \$75.00 price tag on a \$7.50 plant. Oh well, back to the drawing board. I had heard rumors and read synopses and knew there were many adjectives to describe an ABS convention plant sale, but never in my life. . . I feared bodily harm for awhile, and no amount of money could have enticed me to stand in front of a sale table. I couldn't believe what people were paying for plants, and how they were going to get them back to wherever. Arline Peck bought a bunch, and how she was going to get them all home, I don't know. The Californians, of course, were not buying, knowing the

legalities of trying to get them into California. I do know we sold \$4,000 in 2 hours that night.

I skipped dinner that night, opting for a lot of visiting with people, and some seed buying from Joy Porter. I just love her! She is very helpful and really knows her stuff. I brought home 23 packets of seeds, 10 of which I managed to put down Sunday afternoon. Saturday morning, I went to the round robin breakfast, hosted by Mae Blanton and Ruth Wills (of course!). We were all sorry you couldn't be there. Mae passed out information sheets on the robins, and most people were astounded that Ruth and I and many others were in more than 2 or 3 robins. I keep telling them it's like drugs, I guess, and I am an addict.

Unfortunately, I had to leave before the luncheon and banquet. My son Tony was participating in the State soccer tournament in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and requested attendance specifically. So I flew from Dallas to Tulsa to meet the family and go to the game.

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## BEGONIA ROUNDUP/*In Appreciation*

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Dorothy Patrick



The end of the ABS 52nd Annual Convention and Show is a bitter-sweet time for me, the chairman. A year of commitment in my life has come to an end. It has been an enriching experience—beyond my wildest dreams. I have had the opportunity to communicate with members all over the world, leaving me very aware of the cohesiveness of this "extended family": a diverse group, united by a plant. The members of the Southwest Region made it happen, and we all owe them a big cheer for the extraordinary efforts they put forth to produce the spectacular Show that they did.

These comments, however, are addressed to members outside of the Region, who made *Begonia Roundup* truly "National."

We thank the 30 Branches and individuals whose donations paid for the trophies and ribbons; the dozen donors to the plant sale (with special attention called to the Buxton Branch who shipped boxes full of cuttings to us months ago to be rooted and grown on; to Maxine Wilson who donated 200 plants; to Judy Hansen, Apple Valley, CA, and Mary Ann Clayton, Lawnside, NJ, who shipped us rooted cuttings); to Logee's and Wilson's Greenhouses, and to Woodriff's Fairyland, who sold us top quality

*Show Chairman, Dorothy Patrick, cannot rest on her well-deserved laurels. She now advances to the role of Show and Convention Advisor. She lives at 1023 Elmdale, Dallas, TX 75224*

plants for a pittance; and to Antonelli Brothers, Fairyland, Glasshouse Works, Lakeview Begonias, The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens, and Atkinson's, Kartuz, Logee's, and Wilson's Greenhouses for the donation of Gift Certificates for the major awards.

Thanks, also, to the members in Japan, Panama, and New Zealand for photographic and arts and crafts entries. And to the 165 members from 25 states and Japan who attended. And to the very many who sent their donation for the major awards.

Bobbie West, CA, arrived on Monday, and donated her services to me until time to activate the Book Store; and all early arrivals Wednesday pitched in at the hotel and bailed me out by taking care of the last minute labor needed. Among these (probably not inclusive—my memory is blurred) were the Haseltines and Mary Weinberg, IL, and Joy Logee Martin, CT. Art Sackenruther, CA, as well as other members outside the Region, worked in plant sales and other areas as needed. Joy and John Porter, MA, hand-carried the big, heavy boxes containing the breath-takingly beautiful hand made terrariums donated by the Buxton Branch and the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund as trophies.

And to the seminar speakers from out of the Dallas Area, who added to our store of knowledge, we will be forever grateful: Dr. Robert Sheldrake, The Grace Company; Millie and Ed Thompson, authors of *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide*, and the new *Update*; Scott Hoover, MA, recently returned from Ecuador; Daniel Haseltine, first vice president, IL; and out-of-Region hybridizers Kit Jeans, TN, Joy Logee Martin, CT, Winkie Woodriff, CA.

As faces I can now connect to names float before my eyes, and as my mind replays the tapes of conversations I had with so many of you, I realize I must correct my opening statement that this is the end of a year. Rather, it is the beginning of a new era for me.



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## ROUND ROBINS/*New robins seeking members.*

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Joan Campbell, director

**New flights** have been proposed on "Trailing Scandant Begonias" and on "Thick-Stemmed Begonias and their Hybridizing." "Pollinating the Species" and a second "Semperflorens" flight are more than half full and will be ready to go soon. Sign on if you are interested.

There are two flights now for Midwestern Growers and one soon will be launched for Southwestern Growers.

Currently flight topics cover General Culture, Windowsill Growing, Begonias as Houseplants, Rhizomatous Begonias, Cane Begonias, Miniature Begonias, Begonias in Terrariums, Propagation of Begonias, Research, Organic Begonia Growing, Begonias in Arid Climates, Gesneriads, Small Commercial Growers, Computers and Begonias, Semperflorens, Cacti and Succulents, Begonia Judging, Greenhouse, Growing Under Lights, Greenhouse Growing in Cold Climates, Rex Begonias, Odd/Rare/Unusual Begonias, Species Begonias, Growing from Seed, Hybridizing, Learning, Photography, Ferns, Orchids, Tuberos Begonias, Shrublike Begonias, Begonia Identification, Midwest Growers, Eastern Growers, and Southwest Growers. These regional flights discuss growing conditions in their respective areas.

The **Computers** flight has been started, and the members are discussing the possible application of their computers to begonias. Mary Margaret Rafferty, California, thinks begonia data base applications are one of the first things to come to mind when making the begonia-computer connection and it would certainly assist the hybridizers. Since all the members have different systems they will have to agree on a common subset of BASIC where

*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.*

possible and translations where required, and then get them into each other's computers. Since the begonia data bases may be many times more effort to develop than programs to use them, it would really pay to find an easy way to get that data on to another system. King Langenberg, Illinois, can see that exchanging programs may be impractical. He is now thinking of a way to write some bitmap handling programs for storing a maximum amount of begonia information in the memory available. Beryl Orchard, Massachusetts, is glad the members have agreed to use BASIC, as one is supposed to have little squiggles and other things coming from the top of your head to be able to use FORTH! Beryl favors her Quickfile program and she wants to update the history of each of her plants.

Discussing **blooming and setting seed**, Jackie Davis, California, tried growing *B. hypolipara* in her greenhouse, then in her seed room, next in a heated growing room, and lastly in the living room near a south window where it finally bloomed. Jackie waited four years for one of the New Guinea species to bloom and says it can take lots of trying to get the species to bloom.

After bloom when seed has set many members use the quick and easy harvest method of Mae Blanton, Texas: place the seed pods in an envelope, tape the corners shut if they are not sealed tightly, pin the envelope to a curtain in a sunny window. After a few weeks carefully cut open the envelope and remove the seed pods. Pour off the clean, chaff-free seed which has fallen to the bottom of the envelope and send it to the Seed Fund if you like. There will be more seed in the dried pods and these can be broken open over bond paper and winnowed in the usual method.

Dan Haseltine, Illinois, comments that even the commercial seed supplied by catalog outlets can arrive crushed when only a sealed foil envelope is used for protection. Inspected through a magnifying glass, the seed which is good looks plump

and the broken seed appears crushed. Dan comments that often a plant gets stubborn and will not do well regardless of how one tries, and feels that perhaps the plant was too far gone by the time a problem was noticed.

Carl Walker, Jr., North Carolina, found *B. 'Tiny Gem'* surprising, as a small cutting only six inches long under lights had bloom clusters at every leaf axil. *B. 'Guinevere'* was also a surprise as the petals have such a suffusion of rose color he wonders whether this is a rex or rhizomatous begonia. It bloomed heavily for a month. Dora Hale, California, also likes miniature begonias. Some which do well for her are *B. aridicaulis*, *B. 'Baby Fingers'*, and *B. 'Pat Ogden'*. She regrets *B. 'Red Doll'* didn't make it through last summer's heat. *B. 'Wanda'*, although not classified as a mini, makes a pretty terrarium plant and *B. 'Sir Percy'* and *B. 'Pink Nacre'* are pretty, but do not stay as pretty when they get some growth on them. Mary Ellen Taback, Virginia, thinks *B. 'It'* is not very sturdy, she and others have problems keeping it going.

Charlotte Kuhnle, Hood River, Oregon, reported a plant fiasco. "My son wanted to do his bit to make the interior of the greenhouse look more presentable, so he stained the walls and shelves and benches to match the color of the interior house wall. I should have known better . . . the fumes from the

stain caused a massive leaf drop on most plants, and I spent weeks cleaning up fallen leaves from the floor and mourning my pretty plants in baskets that now all had bare stems. It was truly a disaster and poor David felt just dreadful about it. So I just cut back the stems and picked off dead foliage and in a few weeks some new growth appeared again. The ferns weren't bothered at all, nor were the orchids, yet I thought they would be the most severely affected."

In a similar vein, Joyce Smith, McClellanville, South Carolina, fixed up an old crudely-made greenhouse with a gas heater. She had a couple of trays of leaves and cuttings placed on a shelf behind the heater covered with loose plastic covers which did fine, but she had some problems with gas fumes which wiped out some episcias and orchid blooms and also caused some begonias to drop all their leaves.

Joyce lived for 15 years in Indonesia, Thailand and India and she says that in the tropics a few hundred feet of altitude make a great difference in the temperature, a fact that is often ignored by plant advisors. At 1500 feet above sea level, right at the equator, a tropical plant will rarely see a 70° temperature and will always be damp. Even tall trees there get very little sun because of the clouds, rain and mist. She feels that information on the altitude where tropical plants grow is one of the most important things to consider.



Photo by R. Das

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## UNIDENTIFIED *BEGONIA* SPECIES LIST

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*Phyllis Bates*

The ABS Nomenclature Committee maintains a list of unidentified species that are being distributed and/or used in hybridizing programs. These are assigned numbers preceded by "U" (for "unidentified"). The purpose of the number is to prevent confusion that arises from referring to "South American species" when there are several currently being circulated.

The list of unidentified begonias now includes well over 125 items. Available information about numbers 1 through 32 appeared in the February 1981 issue and numbers 80 through 87 in the July 1982 issue.

Any information that is in the file has been supplied by collectors or growers to the committee, and the accuracy and completeness of the information depends upon the persons who communicate with the Nomenclature Committee.

If you have any information or observations about any of the unidentified species, you are encouraged to supply descriptive or horticultural data. Photographs or drawings are most welcome.

This responsibility will now be shouldered by Thelma O'Reilly and any communications should be addressed to her at:

10942 Sunray Place  
La Mesa, CA 92041.

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### U050

Colombia. Collected by Helen Bailey on a trip. She supplied plant material to Dorothy Behrends, and hence to Pat Maley. Others also may still be growing this plant. Leaves are very large, 14 in. across.

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### U051

Brazil. Imported by Wally Wagner. Shrublike, compact, branching. Leaves lance shaped and hairy. Flowers white with red ovaries. Listed in Pat Morrison's catalog received in 1980 as Brazilian species No. 2.

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### U052

Brazil. Imported by Wally Wagner. Listed in Pat Morrison's catalog received in 1980 as Brazilian species No. 3 and described as similar to *Begonia* 'Selover' but with larger leaves. Recommended for basket culture.

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### U053

La Margarita, Vera Cruz, Mexico. Collected by Loren Whitlock who sent a cutting to Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, December 1976, with number 76P2077. Plant has creeping rhizome and large leaves.

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### U054

Mexico. Collected by Loren Whitlock who sent plant to Los Angeles State and County Arboretum with his collection number 76P378. Smaller than U053, but could be same species.

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### U055

Costa Rica. Collected by Martin Johnson in 1977 as seeds. Found in shallow ravine. Sent seeds to the Seed Fund. Entire plant is covered with fine short white hairs. Shrub-like, grows several feet tall. Propagates from a leaf. Distinct leaf bracts (stipules) completely surround petiole, stay green and persist. Leaves similar to *B. egregia*. Flowers are white, females have five tepals, blooms atop tall peduncle well over foliage.

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### U056

South America. Seeds supplied by Selby Botanical Garden in February 1981. Leaves peltate, small, long pointed, margin lobed, veins palmate, blade plain green, flushed with red when young. Stems rosy, upward climbing. Unsupported stems die off.

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### U057

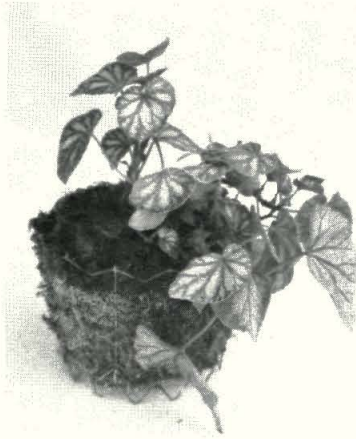
Papua, New Guinea, near the Wowai River. Offered in the Seed Fund in June 1981 as JN-3. See U040.

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**U058**

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Mt. Makiling, the Philippines. Imported by Martin Johnson. Shrublike, to 1m tall. Leaves have prominent red veins on reverse. Flowers pink.



*Begonia* U059

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**U059**

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Sabah, Malaysia. Collected by Bob Cole in fall of 1980. Shrub, 1½ to 2 ft. tall. Stems green then turning woody. Leaves 6 by 2½ in., cordate with acute point, silver with green along veins, hairs scattered on leaf surface.

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**U060**

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Costa Rica/Peru. Offered in the Seed Fund, June 1981 as JN-1. Seeds supplied by Bob Wilson of Los Cruces Tropical Botanical Garden to Thelma O'Reilly. Seedlings damp off readily.

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**U061**

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Sabah, Malaysia. Collected as seeds by Bob Cole, late 1980, near the city of Ranou. Canelike to 4 ft. tall, leaves small, narrowly ovate.

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**U062**

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Calcutta, India. Obtained in 1980 by Bob Cole from a friend in Thailand who got it in Calcutta. Shrublike to 3 ft. tall. Leaves cordate, dark green with silver spots.

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---

Joy Porter, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director

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- Ju-Ag 2 — *B. ferruginea*: collected by Scott Hoover at 8700' altitude in Cundinamarca, Columbia. Large shrub with scarlet flowers needing night temperatures below 55°F. Photograph *Begonian March*, 1978. Supply limited, 8-10 seeds. . . . . per pkt. 2.00
- Ju-Ag 3 — *B. U138*: From section *Casparya*. Collected by Scott Hoover at 6,800' in Pichincha, Ecuador. This is another of the horned fruit species which will not survive in warm conditions. At this altitude, night temperatures drop to low 40's F. Supply limited. . . . . per pkt. 2.00
- Ju-Ag 4 — *B. U139*: Section *Ruizopavonia*. Collected by Scott Hoover at 4,100' in Napo, Ecuador. . . . . per pkt. 1.50
- Ju-Ag 5 — *B. U141*: Collected by Scott Hoover at 2,800' in Napo, Ecuador. . . . . per pkt. 1.50
- Ju-Ag 6 — *B. U147*: Section *Ruizopavonia*. Collected by Scott Hoover at 7700' in Napo, Ecuador. Same species as U139, but different location. . . . . per pkt. 1.50
- Ju-Ag 7 — *B. pilifera*: Collected by Scott Hoover at 5500' in Caldas, Columbia. . . . . per pkt. 1.00
- Ju-Ag 8 — *B. U151*: Small unidentified shrub-like species from Peru; white hairs on stems and leaves. . . . . per pkt. 1.00
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Mail to: National Fuchsia Society, Dept. B  
11019 Benfield Ave., Downey, CA 90241

The May meeting of the board of directors was held at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. There were 66 members attending the luncheon and meeting. The *Aims and Purposes* were read by Norma Pfrunder, the historian.

President Bob Ammerman appointed Arlene Davis to complete the term of secretary and Eleanor Calkins to fill the post of treasurer. Both appointments were ratified by the board. All the treasurer's books and equipment were picked up from Bill Scarbrough by Business Manager John Ingles, Jr. on April first. The books were audited and all income tax papers were filed by John before delivery to Eleanor Calkins.

There was a letter from Scott Hoover saying that he had brought seed back from his expedition and had distributed it to those who were supposed to receive it. He also asked that the board approve the replacement of Patrick Worley as cochairman of the ABS conservation committee. The board approved Dael Jones of Dallas as the new cochairman.

It was noted that Dorothy Patrick assumes the post of Show and Convention Advisor upon completion of the duties as Show Chairman.

There was a letter from Walt and Elda Haring expressing appreciation for the citation presented to them at the Dallas Convention.

Themla O'Reilly announced that she completed and printed the *Guidelines on Conventions and Shows*. She and Tim donated the cost of printing to the ABS. The booklet can be bought through the Book Store for \$2.75. The board approved the booklet as the official guideline.

The Santa Clara Branch has written a letter with regard to officers in some branches who are not members in good standing with the ABS. A notice about this will be placed in the *Begonian*. The ABS Constitution covers this issue.

### Top Awards

(from page 75)

No one in ABS could write with such authority on these topics. He has done, and is doing it with great enthusiasm and commitment. Much of his expeditionary work is done at personal financial sacrifice; he does it willingly because of his love of begonias and the tropics.

The Awards Committee selected its choices for the top ABS Awards this year from a long list of nominees. More letters were received this year than ever before. It is gratifying to know that there are so many persons working very diligently in our organization.

President Ammerman appointed John Ingles, Jr., Arlene Davis, and Norma Pfrunder as the audit committee. The board approved these appointments.

Committee reports were given by Pearl Benell for membership and the nominating committee, Margaret Lee for the judging department, and Thelma O'Reilly for members-at-large. No others were received.

Eleanor Calkins stated that the balance in the combined checking and savings accounts is \$34,900.07. She submitted a detailed report in writing. It was filed for audit.

Public Relation Director, Gil Estrada reported that there would be an exchange ad with the *Indoor Light Garden* magazine and that the ad for ABS should appear in the next issue of *Flower and Garden*.

*Begonian* Editor Phyllis Bates stated that the March/April issue will be out this week. The May/June issue goes to be printed very soon. The deadline for the July/August issue will be May 26th and the September/October issue will be July 21.

The board approved payment for a card insert for the election ballot to be inserted in the *Begonian*.

Boston was approved as the site of the 1988 Show and Convention.

A communication from Millie Thompson announced the publication of the updated *Exhibition Manual* in September.

The annual meeting was set for August 18 at the Holiday Inn in Laguna Hills. More information would be announced as arrangements were completed.

Bob Ammerman was approved as convention chairman for the 1986 convention and show in San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm, and everyone then toured the park.

The next board meeting will be held at the Fullerton Savings and Loan in Anaheim on July 16th at 7:30 pm.

Arlene Davis, Secretary

In addition to these awards, President Bob Ammerman issued a special presidential citation to Elda and Walt Haring of Flat Rock, North Carolina:

April 14, 1984

This citation is presented to  
Walt and Elda Haring  
in deep appreciation for your  
many years of service,  
with love

from all the members of the  
American Begonia Society  
R.J. Ammerman, President

Patricia Maley painted *B. procumbens* along the top and left side of the plaque and did the calligraphy.

## 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.)

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

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

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

*Pamphlets*. *Begonias from Seed*, 35 cents each, with book order 25 cents. *Culture of Begonias*, 75 cents each, with book order 50 cents.

*Begonian binders*. Hold one year's worth. No repunching. Black. \$5.25 each.

## ABS Bookstore

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

*Begonia Portraits*. Collector's item by the late Alice Clark. Only a few copies. \$11  
*Ferns*. How to identify and grow 84 common ferns. Color photos. \$4.50.

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

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

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