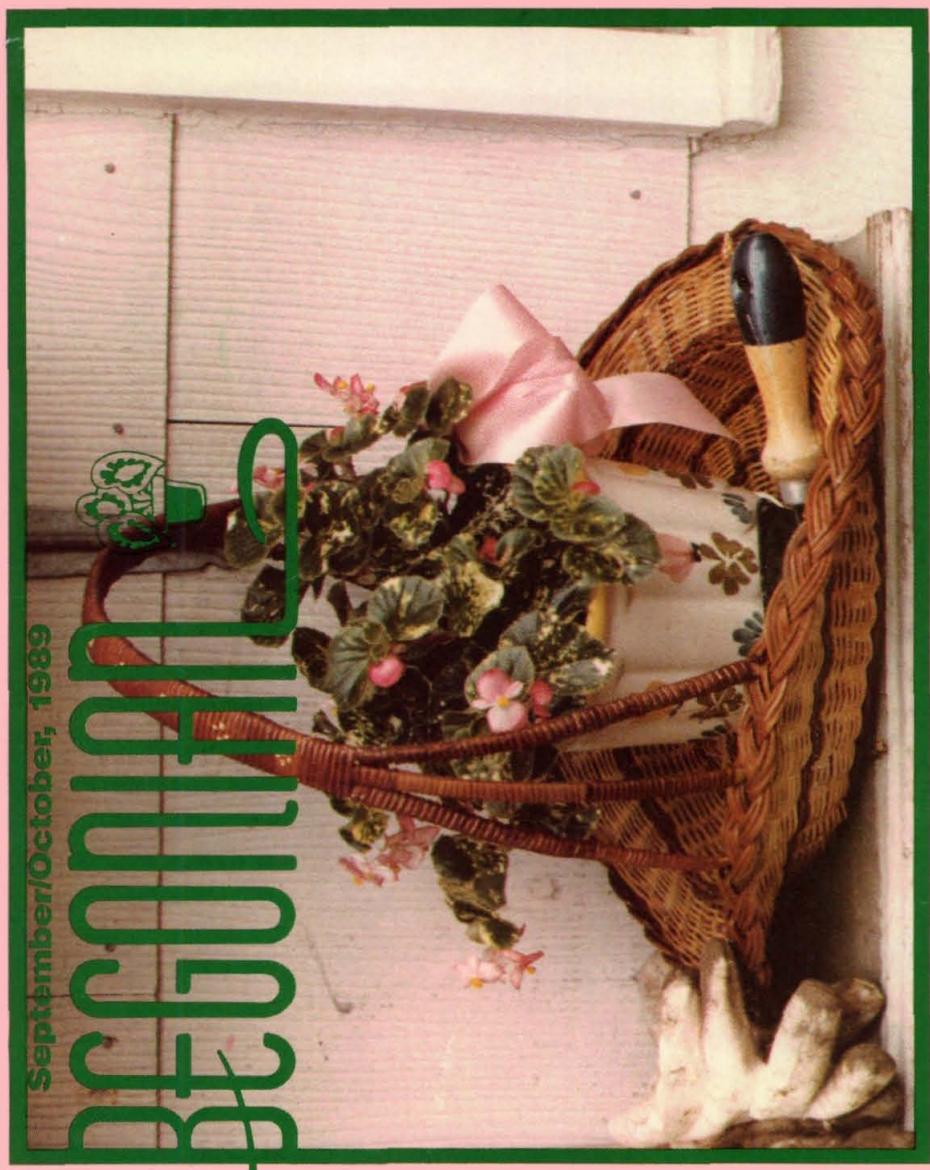


The

September/October, 1989

BEGONIAS



American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

To stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.

To encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

To gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation, and culture of begonias and companion plants.

To issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the society.

To bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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Cover Photos:

Front - Our front cover picture this issue is narrative photography: there's a story behind it, don't you think? Invent your own version for the charming photo taken by Shirley Armistead of New York.

Back - There's also a tale behind our back cover. Photographer Jacques Jangoux, known to us through his rain forest pictures, finds begonias in cultivation, too. Here he visits begonia growing fields in his native Belgium, where "begonia" means "tuberous." Begonias in other lands call to mind our international begonia conference, scheduled for New York in 1993.

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by Mary Weinberg

Quick!

Check the upper left-hand corner of your mailing label! If it reads 9/89 or 10/89, your membership is about to expire. Please renew - we'd hate to lose you!

Congratulations and Best Wishes in the coming year to our newly elected officers: Michael Ludwig, Jeannette Gilbertson, Joan Coulat, John Howell, Ingeborg Foo, Eleanor Calkins. Installation will take place at the National Convention in San Francisco. Note: the **Begonian** goes to the printer a few days before the convention begins; convention news will appear in the next issue .

From *The Bulletin of the Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden on Lawai, Kauai, Hawaii*, comes this article on an unusual member of our begonia family. Thanks to Diana Gould for spotting it and obtaining reprint permission.

THE HAWAIIAN BEGONIA

by David H. Lorence

The Begoniaceae or begonia family occurs primarily in moist, tropical, or subtropical regions throughout the world, although it is most richly represented in Tropical America. It is a family of herbs comprising five genera and some 920 species according to recent estimates. The vast majority of species belong to *Begonia*, a genus widely cultivated in horticultural circles. The other four genera are *Symbegonia*, with twelve species confined to New Guinea; *Begoniella*, with five species distributed in Colombia; *Sembegoniella*, with two or three species in Ecuador; and *Hillebrandia*, with a single species, *H. sandwicensis* Oliver, endemic to the Hawaiian Islands.

Hillebrandia grows on Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Oahu, where it was collected only twice and is apparently quite rare. It is called aka'aka'awa on Kauai and is known as pua-maka-nui on the other islands. This attractive plant generally grows at three thousand feet or more elevation but is found as low as eighteen hundred feet on Kauai. Confined to moist or wet (mixed

mesophytic) forest of 'ohi'a and koa, it generally forms colonies on mossy banks in shaded, wet ravines. On Kauai it is conspicuous when in flower from March to June, particularly in the Koke'e area where it sometimes grows on exposed road banks.

Hillebrandia sandwicensis is the only member of the begonia family native to the Hawaiian Islands, although three species of *Begonia* are naturalized: *B. foliosa* H.B.K. and *B. reniformis* Dryander on Hawaii, and *B. hirtella* Link on Hawaii, Maui, and Oahu. Many additional species are widely cultivated here as well. The two genera may be distinguished as follows. *Begonia* (Fig. 1) has flowers with less than ten (usually two to five, or rarely eight) perianth lobes (petals plus sepals), an inferior ovary (located below the rest of the flower), and capsules that split along the sides at maturity by means of slits. *Hillebrandia*, on the other hand, has ten (rarely eight in some flowers) perianth lobes, an ovary that is 3/4 inferior, and capsules that open at the apex by a five-lobed orifice (Fig. 2).

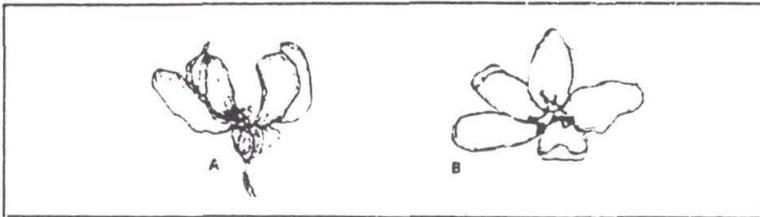


Figure 1. Female flowers of a *Begonia* species. A. capsule, side view showing four perianth lobes and slits on side of capsule through which seeds are released. B. top view of flower showing branched styles and five perianth lobes. (P. Cotton)

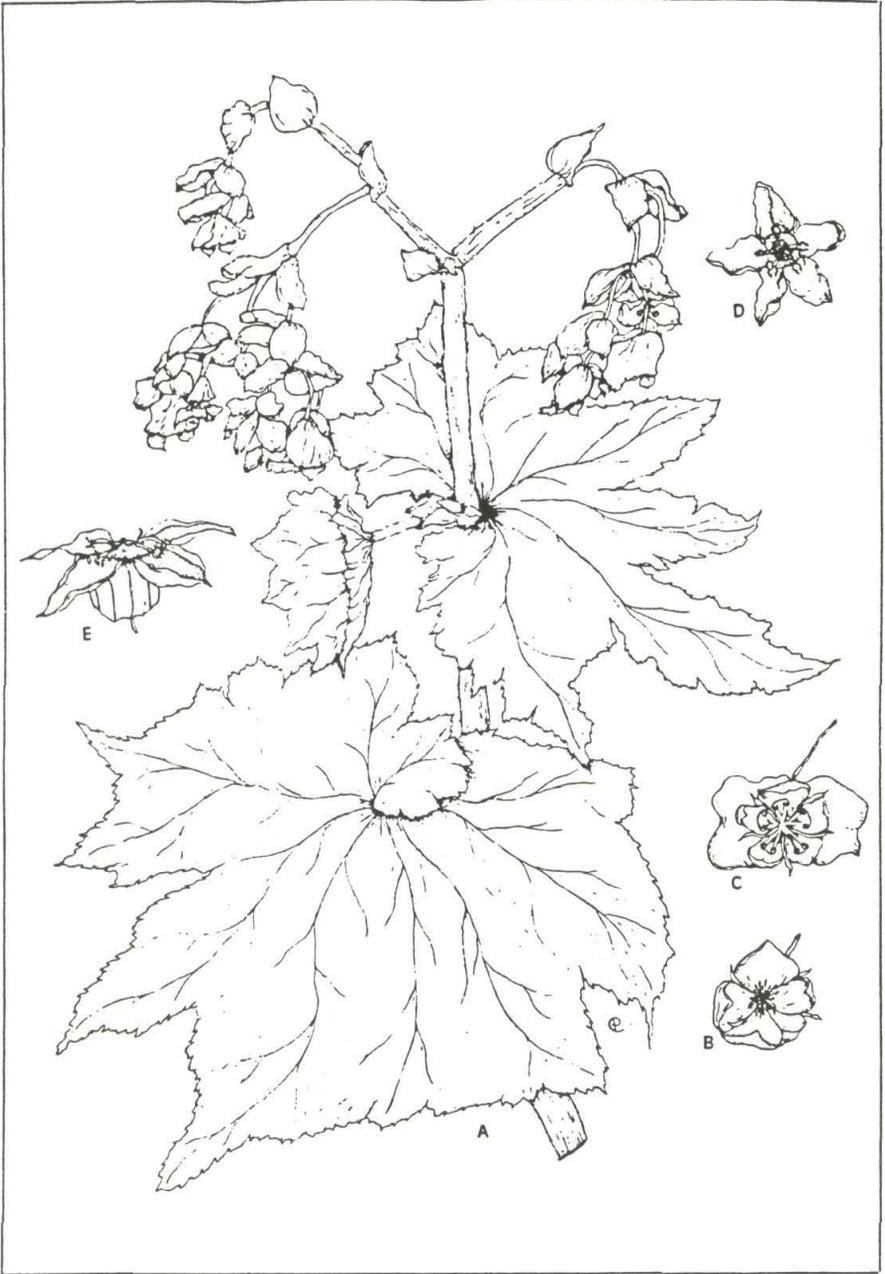


Figure 2. *Hillebrandia sandwicensis*. A. upper portion of stem with flowers arising from large, showy bracts. B. male flower, top view showing stamens and eight perianth lobes. C. female flower, top view showing branched styles and ten perianth lobes. D. ripe capsule, top view showing apical pore through which seeds are released. E. ripe capsule, side view showing 3/4 inferior ovary (P. Cotton)

The pua-maka-nui (Fig. 2) is a succulent, begonia-like perennial herb with a single stem 1.5 to 4.5 feet tall arising from a rounded underground tuber 1-2 inches in diameter. The new growth is produced in the early part of the year, and the stems die back after flowering and fruiting are completed in late summer. The leaves are produced along the stem in an alternate manner on petioles (stalks) 4-9 inches long, and the asymmetrical blades are more or less subcircular, irregularly lobed, and 4-10 inches in diameter. A pair of thin stipules 1/2-1 inch long is located at the base of each petiole. The plants vary from glabrous (smooth and hairless) to densely pubescent with reddish brown hairs. Flowers are produced on a repeatedly forking inflorescence. The male and female flowers are produced separately on the same plant (monoecious), a characteristic of the family.

The nodding flowers arise from large, showy pink or white bracts. Together they form an attractive display, and a group of *Hillebrandia* in full flower is an unforgettable sight. Flowers of both sexes are bright pink or white and have five large, petaloid sepals 1/4-3/8 inch long alternating with five tiny petals. The male flowers are characterized by their numerous, small, yellow stamens, whereas the female flowers have five forked, yellow styles whose function it is to trap pollen. The ovary of the female flowers is rounded, not winged as in many begonia species, and the sepals and petals are attached midway along the ovary, which is thus described as being semi-inferior. The ripe capsules are globose, and only about 1/2 inch in diameter. When dry they split open near the tip or apex to release the numerous, tiny seeds.

The pua-maka-nui was named in honor of Dr. Wilhelm Hillebrand (1821-1886), a German physician, accomplished botanist, and traveler. Hillebrand resided in Honolulu for twenty years, during which time he was one of the island's most renowned doctors. He served as physician to

the Queen's Hospital, was private physician to King Kamehameha V, and held various other distinguished posts as well. Hillebrand also devoted much time and effort to caring for the native Hawaiian people whom he loved so much. During his stay in Hawaii from 1851 to 1871, Dr. Hillebrand explored all the larger islands in pursuit of his botanical studies. He filled his yard with a large collection of living plants from Hawaii and other parts of the world, and this collection formed the nucleus of what is now the Foster Botanic Garden in Honolulu. In addition, he collected numerous dried herbarium specimens, sets of which have been deposited in the B. P. Bishop Museum, Berlin, and Zurich herbaria. Based on his extensive collections and field observations, he subsequently wrote his monumental work titled *Flora of the Hawaiian Islands*, which was published posthumously in 1888. Although now outdated, Hillebrand's flora is complete with keys and descriptions, many of which represent species he recognized as being new to science. It is notable in being the first comprehensive published account of the plants of the Hawaiian Islands, a distinction it still retains.

The genus *Hillebrandia* was described and figured by the British botanist Oliver and published in 1886 shortly before Hillebrand's death. Consequently he was able to include it in his *Flora*. That the lovely Hawaiian endemic pua-maka-nui now bears Hillebrand's name is an appropriate and enduring tribute to this great man, one which also honors his contributions to our knowledge of the Hawaiian flora.

Note from Diana Gould:

Hillebrandia sandwicensis requires terrarium care. The roots are tuberous, and the rhizome *must* be set on top of the soil. Grow it in shaded conditions with a few hours of indirect sun, in moist, well-drained soil.



Coping with Salty Water

by Kevin Handreck

Begonias come from a wide range of natural habitats. Climatic conditions can range from the steamy tropics of West Africa and the lowlands of Southeast Asia through tropical highlands with warm days and cool nights to the mountains of Bolivia. But one feature appears to be common to most of these habitats - fresh water of low salinity in abundance, whether from rain, mist from waterfalls, or soakage.

Most begonias did not have to cope with salty water. They did not have to develop ways of coping with salinity, yet some of us have no choice but to use rather salty water on them in our gardens and greenhouses. Salinity causes yellowing and death of the tips of leaves and in severe cases premature shedding of leaves. I find that *B. herbacea* and *B. philodendroides* are particularly sensitive to the salts in water I have to use in Adelaide, South Australia.

There are a number of ways of living with salty water.

You can of course decide to grow only cacti, date palms, ice plants, jojoba, bougainvillea and saltbrushes instead of begonias. But as that is unthinkable, read on.

*Keep to a minimum the amount of water that falls on the leaves. Salts in the water are absorbed through the leaves and they add to those that come up from the roots. It is almost impossible to avoid wetting the leaves of rhizomatous begonias, but every little bit helps.

*Be very sparing in your use of fertilizers. These are also salts and add to the total salinity of the potting medium.

*Liquid fertilizers should be used at low strength (the 50 ppm nitrogen in a solution of Dr. Schultz at recommended dilution is a safe concentration). It is best to feed a little and often rather than a lot infrequently.

*Use only low rates of application of controlled-release fertilizers and in summer prefer those with release terms of 8 months or so rather than around 3 months.

*Apply enough water at each watering to give a small amount of flow from the base of the container. This minimizes build-up of salts in the mix.

*Whenever possible, leach the containers with rain water.

*When very saline water must be used, do not let the mix dry right down between waterings. The water remaining in the dry mix will be very salty indeed and will be particularly damaging. You have to walk the tightrope between high salinity and the possibility of the wet mix encouraging root rotting.

*Some salty waters also contain fairly high concentrations of boron. If your water is like this, you can minimize the harmful effects of the boron by keeping mix pH above 6 (say about 6.5) rather than well below it.

Kevin Handreck lives at 2 Birdwood St., Netherby, South Australia, 5062, Australia. A researcher in plant nutrition, he is Secretary of the Australian Begonia Society and a featured speaker at the ABS Convention in San Francisco.



HYBRIDIZING FOR FRAGRANCE IN TUBEROUS BEGONIAS



by Howard Siebold

There have been occasional articles in the **Begonian** through the years that discussed fragrance in some of the species begonias. Some suggested that more work be done to develop more fragrant varieties, but not much was done except the work by Leslie Woodriff in the mid-forties that produced B. 'Orange Sweety' and its two sports, B. 'Salmon Sweety' and B. 'Yellow Sweety'. B. 'Yellow Sweety' has enjoyed a fair amount of popularity.

The article by James Sciotto reprinted in the July-August **Begonian** indicates that he has given a great deal of thought to the subject of fragrance in begonias. I agree with his feeling that all of them have fragrance. But in the tuberous begonia hybrids, fragrance has diminished to the point where few, if any, humans can detect it.

In 1981, I decided to try developing more fragrant tuberous varieties. As in any hybridizing effort, the successes are far fewer than the failures (I mean by that, failure to produce fragrance in the offspring; as compensation, though, many are exceptional varieties even without scent).

Hybridizing with species is a fairly simple task. If the cross is successful, a couple of dozen seedlings will tell you if you have obtained the result that you wanted. According to Mendel's Law, the possibility of getting what you want will depend on whether the desired characteristics are Dominant or Recessive. If what you want is a Recessive characteristic, you may have to grow a large number of plants to find what you seek. Also, you may find it in combination with other characteristics that you do not want.

Always remember that the greatest diversity of characteristics will occur in the second generation. If the desired offspring do not show in the first generation, make a few crosses of them with themselves or with each others. A hundred seedlings in the second year should indicate if you are on the right track or not.

Because the modern hybrid tuberous begonias have a very diverse ancestry, you must grow a very large number of plants to determine whether you have been successful. I am not sure whether fragrance is a Dominant or a Recessive characteristic; it appears in some first generation crosses but seems to appear more often in the second generation.

The wide variation in the ability of individuals to detect fragrance is striking. Most women are better at it than most men, but some women wear perfume so strong that it masks out the begonia scent. As Mr. Sciotto mentioned, the scents most often identified are Rose, Candy, Honey, Honey-suckle, and Spice - or a combination of them. A group of individuals all smelling the same begonia will not always agree on the description of the scent.

As with roses, the begonia fragrance varies between varieties. It can also vary within a variety as the cultural conditions change. Fragrance is most intense about mid-day on a warm sunny day. It seems that warmth (above 72°F) is the main ingredient, although light and humidity are also involved. During the early years of B. 'Yellow Sweety', many nurserymen in England tried growing it but could not detect any fragrance. This could have been due to the cool English climate or to some other factor such as the water.

There is a great deal that we do not know about fragrance in tuberous begonias. An example is the appearance of fragrance in a plant that has grown a year or two without showing any. This could happen because of a change in the above conditions, or the tuber may contribute in some way. We do know that fragrance is produced in the petals. Thus those varieties whose flowers have the most petals will usually show the strongest fragrance.

I have used *B. 'Yellow Sweety'* and several fragrant species in my crosses. The best species have been *Hawks & Hjertling #6577 (U 103)* and *B. gracilis var. martiana*. Since most of the scented ancestors have been pendulous, a large percentage of the offspring are hanging basket types. There will be some upright types with fragrance, but developing them will take longer.

The history of the modern hybrid tuberous begonia and my experience in this project leads me to an interesting theory: in the beginning, all begonias were fragrant and all displayed large double flowers. This would have been when all of the continents were part of the original land mass. As the various land sections moved away from each other, the begonias traveled with them. Eventually begonias ended up in quite different climates and some were elevated by the formation of mountains 10,000 feet or more in height. After millions of years, the begonias adapted, and have evolved into the species that we have today. During the past 100 years or so, hybridizers have given us the large double blossoms in a variety of forms. I feel that intensifying the fragrance is another step toward completing the picture. It is a most satisfying project.

Brown Bulb Ranch has been most helpful in test growing the new varieties and in growing seedlings of new crosses in numbers far greater than would be possible with my facilities.

Howard Siebold grows and hybridizes tuberous begonias at 32050 Westwood Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

JOY LOGEE MARTIN HONORED

The Herb Society has awarded its 1989 Nancy Putnam Howard Horticulture Award to Joy Logee Martin, citing her knowledge of horticulture; her work with scientists, medical researchers, perfumers, and fellow horticulturists around the world; and her efforts in beautifying her hometown of Danielson, Connecticut.

In the presentation, Awards Chairperson Jamie Hamilton Barrow wrote:

"She has shared her knowledge and love of plants with garden clubs, members of the New York, Brooklyn, and Tennessee Botanical Gardens, Calloway Gardens in Georgia, Kingwood Gardens in Ohio, and Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, and with Community College students in Connecticut, to name but a few. She has helped establish horticultural societies and has been on radio and television programs...she has written innumerable articles and was a consultant in the Time-Life gardening series. There isn't a waking hour when she is not immersed in plants."

This is not the first honor for Joy. In 1976 she and her brother received the Silver Medal of the Massachusetts Horticulture Society, and in 1988 the American Begonia Society honored her with a special award for 50 years of encouragement, loyalty, and devotion.

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In France, the begonia returns to the site of its 1690 landing...

THE GREAT EPIC OF THE BEGONIA

Two dates are dear to the heart of the Rochfortais:

1690, the arrival of the begonia on the return of the botanical expedition of the Intendent Begon.

1988, its return to the city of its origin.



On May 28 last, the good town of Rochfort plunged backward 300 years. The thousands of people gathered along the banks of the Charente thought they were hallucinating:

A magnificent three-master floats slowly down the river and touches into port. On board is Father Charles Plumier, returning from a long expedition to the Americas for the purpose of gathering exotic and medicinal plants. He greets the city's intendent, Michel Begon, a man of severe and imposing mien. As Intendent of the Antilles, where he was posted for ten years, Begon retains a nostalgia for the 18th century botany "disciplined to a point" and is the force behind the great expeditions launched across the sea to enrich the floral patrimony of France. Rochfort is one of the focal points of this ethno-botanical venture, since most of the great expeditions such as those of Bougainville, Le Perouse, Entrecosteaux, Nicolas Boudin, C. de Freycinet, L.I. Duperey and Dumont D'Urville were outfitted at Rochfort and benefitted by the presence of the surgeon-botanists of this military town.

It was thus that Begon ordered Plumier, a Franciscan with a passion for new plants, on this trip overseas. Thus it was that contained in willow baskets transported to the dock on this day of 1690 are the first tulip trees, magnolias, coffee plants, and a funny kind of plant with fat leaves and round flowers. Its name? *Totoncaxoxo coyollin*, or *atchua patli* - difficult names to pronounce and quickly changed at the suggestion of Plumier, who urged the baptism of his marvel *Begonia* in honor of his benefactor...



1988: The Rochfortais relive history. The begonia has come home after long years of wandering for the plant and long years of decline for the town. It has been a very long time since ropes and cordage have been spun in the magnificent Corderie Royale, seriously damaged in 1954. The arsenal is closed and the drydocks disappear in a tangle of weeds. But all these structures, all these buildings retain an untouched elegance and a perfect dignity.

The Mayor, M. Jean-Louis Frot, a lover of the city and desirous of reviving it economically, understood that the historical inheritance of Rochfort would be its saving grace. Backed by the Regional Authority (an inter-agency office for great architectural and urban projects), he launched into the restoration of the Corderie Royale and gave this masterpiece renewed life. The magnificently restored Naval Arsenal henceforth shelters the Inter-Ocean Center, the Municipal Library, and the offices of the Chamber of Commerce. It is here that the exposition "The Return of the Begonia" took place last June. For the begonia is beautiful and well restored to its town of origin. And this by a mischievous turn of fate...



In 1985 it was learned that one of the finest, most complete collections of begonias in France, that of horticulturist M. Vincent Millerioux, with about 200 species, was about to disappear. The catch was that the Mayor of Rochfort ransomed the collection, had greenhouses constructed to shelter it, engaged a specialist, Patrick Rose, and decided that henceforth the begonia will be Rochfort's! His aim: to launch new varieties and commercialize them; gather horticultural stock into ultra-modern greenhouses; rediscover the marvelous history of the begonia with its 1500 species, not counting hybrids.

One remains confounded by all the species and varieties of begonias, one of the greatest families in the vegetable kingdom, an extraordinary botanical treasure in which flowers and leaves rival each other in beauty. All sorts of camouflages and make-up are allowed: there are begonias with water-lily leaves, with castor leaves, with leaves marbled in rose-pink and brown, curled leaves...they are gray, toothedged, fuzzy, velvety, silky. As for flowers, you are certainly familiar with the large open ones, yellows, reds or rose of the traditional ones; discover now the frail clusters of B. 'Lotus Flower' and those of the elegant and distinguished B. 'Bettina de Rothschild' - very popular 50 years ago and unhappily fallen into oblivion.



The City of Rochfort, which prides itself on possessing some of the most beautiful specimens known in the world, is constantly enlarging its collection. Patrick Rose jealously guards over the collection and on his initiative scientific expeditions leave for the four corners of the world to search for new specimens.

It is necessary to obtain species that will please the public at large and yield fortune and glory...it is important that France regain its position of top rank in the horticultural world.

The city of Rochfort has raised this challenge. The means are set in motion for assuring the production, publicity, and marketing of a royal product, a flower - the begonia. The aim - sell the Rochfort begonia to the French, but also to all European lovers of plants. It is a formidable wager which will pay off in 1992. A flower, a symbol of a town re-born - isn't that a good idea?

reprinted (condensed) from **Jardins**
translated by Vincentine Sette



IN MEMORY

Helen Cain Stoneburner, a past member of the Mae Blanton Branch, died in June after a lengthy illness. Helen was a warm, friendly woman with a ready smile who served in several offices but is perhaps best remembered as the unofficial "dessert chairman."

Ruth Thomas passed away June 19. "...She was one of our good begonia growers and her expertise in growing plants and making flower arrangements will be missed. We will all miss Ruthie Thomas."

- **The Begonia Chatter**, Seattle Branch newsletter

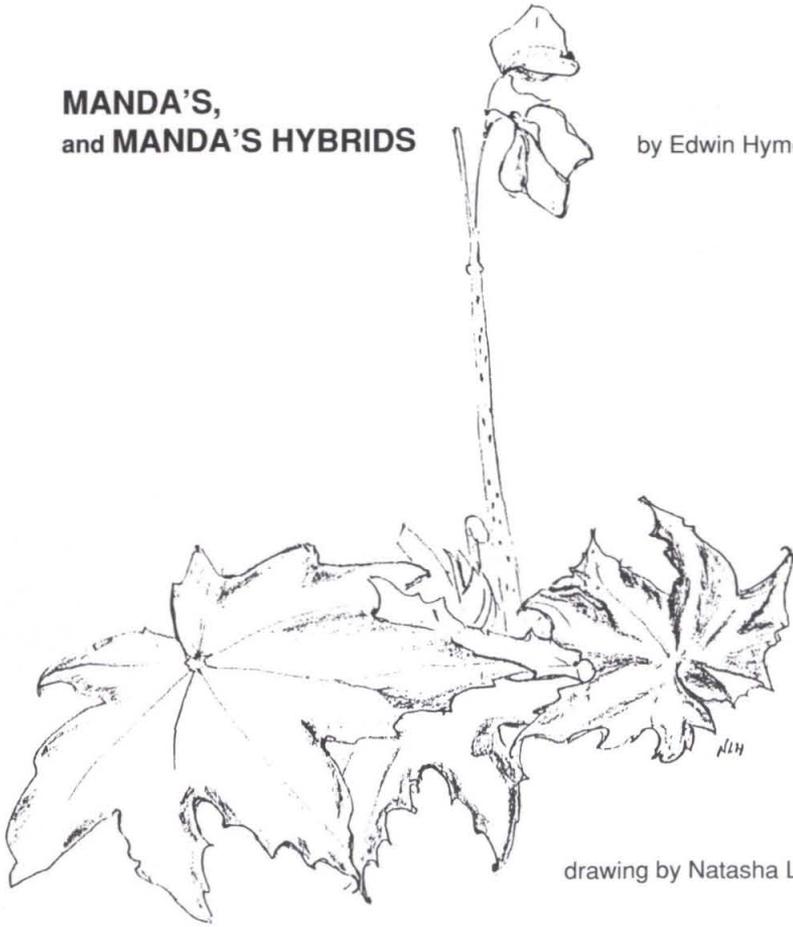
Margaret (Margie) Smith of Denton, Texas grew begonias of incredible beauty. Many of her plants were varieties no one else could grow. She was dedicated, knowledgeable, kind, and generous: visitors to her garden, greenhouse, and plant room never left empty handed. Her greatest joy was in propagating plants to give away. Margie died July 9th. Active in the Round Robins, Southwest Region, and the Members-at-Large Committee, she leaves behind many begonia friends. In the words of Margaret Coats, "We are devastated." Our deepest sympathy to Jim, her husband of 56 years, and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Margie's family has donated her begonias to the collection at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.



MANDA'S, and MANDA'S HYBRIDS

by Edwin Hymovitz



drawing by Natasha Lutov

Begonia lovers in the metropolitan New York area have long turned to W.A. Manda, Inc., 42 Short Hills Road, Livingston, NJ as their begonia source. Few realize that, like Logee's, the leading source in New England, Manda's is now approaching its centenary.

William Albert Manda (1862-1933), working on 3rd Street in South Orange, quickly established a reputation as "The Floral King." Born in Bohemia, he had worked in Vienna and Paris before coming to the United States as a young man. By age 21 he was sufficiently expert to be appointed Curator of the Harvard University Botanical Garden.

The firm originated as Pitcher & Manda, a Short Hills corporation, in 1885,

but James Pitcher was left behind upon reorganization in 1894 as W.A. Manda, Inc. Partners in the re-organized firm were William Albert's brothers, Albert J. Manda (1904-1979) and Robert Manda (c. 1898-1980).

At present, the business is conducted by Albert W. Manda (14 April, 1943 -), son of Albert J., assisted by Pasquale Ippolito, a.k.a. Patsy Paul (8 February, 1913 -) and Charles Hunt (8 August, 1921 -). Charlie has been with the firm about a decade, but Patsy has been working in the greenhouse for over sixty-two years, having survived every one of the founders - and he vows to outlive the present owner, too.

There are four greenhouses covering about 13,000 square feet. It costs about



Begonia 'Manda's Sunburst' above B. 'Nanice' and B. scharfii
 Knickerbocker Branch display at the New York Flower Show, 1989
 Photo by Paul Alan

\$1.60 per square foot to heat and maintain an area this size in our part of the world. Over the course of the year, stock would normally include a large selection of jasmines, succulents in dish gardens and individual pots, cliveas, phalaenopsis orchids, and of course begonias, particularly Manda's hybrids. Early this spring there was an array of large, perfectly grown gardenias, but we missed *Dracaena* 'Gertrude Manda,' one of W.A.'s famous early crosses.

On a recent visit, Charlie had set up an enormous layer cake of soil on one of the workbenches, about 4 x 6 x 2 feet, starting with a deep layer of peat moss, then perlite, vermiculite, other secret ingredients and blue frosting of plant food. This was then turned over and mixed, dampened down, and used to pot dozens and dozens of plants. Patsy remembers when they would prepare a "hot bed" out of doors in summer: several feet of vegetation hacked down in the field and covered with a layer of manure, into which plants were set directly.

Manda's hybrid begonias were mentioned in connection with the Knickerbocker Branch display at the New York Flower Show, March '88. The two then available were the unmistakable 'Manda's Sunburst' (not to be confused with B. 'Sunburst') and 'Manda's Hybrid #2' with its matte, deep purple leaf. The author has had a specimen of the latter purchased about ten years ago at Lexington Gardens in Massachusetts; after being potted up and down, and snipped for numerous cuttings, it has come to an honorable end. It resembles B. 'Joe Hayden' but the dark velvety leaf is more nearly rounded and unpointed. A large specimen of the same secured for the '89 show seemed to be unusually compact in an 8" pot.

One characteristic of Manda's hybrids would seem to be a certain legginess as the plant matures; leaf stems shoot out even under ideal greenhouse conditions. But they are notably unfussy and can be grown under a wide range of temperatures and

humidity conditions. Manda's have never sprayed for mildew; their plants have to be non-susceptible.

Another hybrid available again this year was *B. 'Nanice,'* which shares the family resemblance of a rather thick, medium-sized star-shaped leaf, but with a distinct silken sheen and a subtle reddish-brown border. Whether intentionally or serendipitously, something of true distinction was achieved here. We would not classify this plant in the "distinctive and/or unusual" category with *B. masoniana* or the *imperialis* hybrids, say; but once you have seen the lovely golden-green leaf with its remarkable border and sheen, you will not soon forget it.

Manda's hybrids were neither formally registered nor introduced through ABS - in those days there was no ABS. What is the source of their extraordinary colors and textures - the peculiar shade of 'Sunburst', perhaps unique in the begonia world, of an orange-rust maturing to golden green; or others with reddish-brown markings in a delicate flame-stitch pattern similar to *B. 'Cleopatra'*, or with the indented, dark matte border in a striking "eyelash" effect? Unfortunately, when the founders departed this world, their secrets left with them. Any records that might have existed were lost or destroyed in various fires and removals. Thus we are left with a good handful of robust growers, continuously propagated vegetatively and widely distributed commercially for decades, yet no one knows how they were achieved.

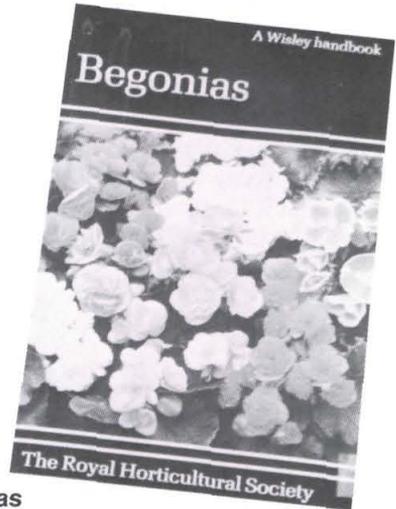
Albert W. plans to expand the begonia stock this year. The firm sells wholesale exclusively. There is no catalog. Begonians visiting the area should telephone (201)992-2707 and ask for directions.

Edwin Hymovitz is past President of Knickerbocker Branch. He lives at 144 East 74 Street, New York, NY 10021.



BOOK REVIEWS

Phyllis Bates reviews books from abroad



Begonias

by Bill Wall

A Wisley Handbook, R.H.S., 1988

Soft cover, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", 64 pages, 44 full color photographs
2.96 (Pounds Sterling)
The Royal Horticultural Society
80 Vincent Square
London SW1P 2PE, Great Britain

This is an exceedingly attractive guide to growing foliage begonias. Until recently tuberous begonias have eclipsed the foliage begonias in popularity in Britain, but there is much current interest in the species and cultivars which can be used as houseplants. Readers of the **Begonian** will remember that there has been support for the national begonia collection which includes adding to the conservatory, study, and exploration for new species. Surely this is part of the impetus for this well done handbook.

The book includes chapters on general information, history, general cultivation, propagation, pests, and diseases. A group of chapters is devoted to classes of begonias. The divisions are not exactly like

those used by the American Begonia Society, but this grouping is convenient and should not be confusing to most readers. At the end of each group there are suggestions of species and cultivars which are currently under cultivation (some not readily available in the U.S., however, which is appropriate).

Author Bill Wall is probably not known to most **Begonian** readers, so you will be interested to know that he has been a regular exhibitor of begonias at the Chelsea Flower Show for over 25 years. That means a lot of expert begonia growing. The photos are chiefly by Bill Wall and Michael Warren.

The convenient size, the beautiful color of the photographs, the organization of the text and the good typography make this a worthwhile purchase. I wrote for prices for overseas shipping, etc., but failed to receive a reply. Therefore I suggest that you either write ahead for information (I hope you are more fortunate in your efforts than I have been), try to use a MasterCard or Visa, or try sending \$10.00, which should be enough to cover handbook and miscellaneous charges.

Journal of the Australian Begonia Society

Australian Begonia Society, Inc.
28 pages, 6 1/2" x 8"
Dues \$Australian 8.50 per single member (overseas airmail not listed)
The Australian Begonia Society
P.O. Box 386
Woodville S.A. 5011
Australia

Friends from our sister society in Australia have sent a copy of the February 1989 Journal. This is the Volume 9, number 1, but the only one your reviewer has seen, so my comments are limited to what I have in hand.

The format is mimeographed, legal sized sheets folded into a heavier colored paper cover with a drawing of *Begonia pearcei* on the front. This issue contains a long article about begonia propagation by cuttings, an item about the new conservatory at Wombat Gardens, and numerous short pieces about various begonias including short descriptions, and various notes about cultivation results. There is an extensive seed list. Meetings of five affiliated groups and notices of various society businesses are included. It was fun to see the news, and I suggest some ABS members and branches might want to subscribe.

IN THE NEWS...

Begonias!

Page 56 of the July issue of *National Geographic* features a begonia planted in a gardener's shoe. "How endearingly French," said the authors.

The June issue of *Reader's Digest* has a picture of First Lady Barbara Bush at her Kennebunkport home - with begonias in the beds in the background, and a pot of canes on the porch. (The same photograph appeared in newspapers across the country during the presidential campaign.)

Wanda Macnair Receives Awards:

“THE SILENT WANDA”

by Frank Green

Wanda Macnair is known to most who have been “in begonias” for any length of time, as she has been active in the Buxton Branch, has attended most of the Regional and National conventions for many years (she was convention chairman for the convention in Boston last year), and has NEVER merited the descriptive title of this article. But our April 22nd Buxton meeting found her in exactly that condition.

Many of you are aware that a solicitation was under way last year for donations to a special Buxton trophy fund, with the intent of funding a divisional trophy to be offered at national conventions each year in honor of Wanda (this was to be a donation in addition to the support which Buxton Branch has historically given to the convention trophy effort). The announcement of this fund was made at the April 22 meeting. We had raised, at that date, approximately \$875.

Approximately two hundred people were aware of this effort, and yet it was kept secret from Wanda. How is hard to know, but she had not the slightest inkling that anything was going on. A great “thank you” to all of you for keeping it under wraps.

At our meeting, on the chance that Wanda had heard something to arouse suspicion, two other awards were given to her first: a Certificate of Commendation for all she has done for the Buxton



Frank Green surprises Wanda Macnair
photo by Frank Santoro

Branch over the years, and a commemorative plate from the Convention in Boston. When Wanda was called up to receive these awards (which were also a surprise) she was nearly in tears, and said: “For once in my life, I am at a loss for words.”

Her husband Richard commented that he had never observed this condition before during their many years of marriage. It prompted references to the Begonia ‘Wanda,’ several of which were available on our sales table, as “the silent Wanda.”

Again, many thanks to all of you who generously donated to this trophy fund. Any who had not heard of it but wish to make a contribution can send a check made out to Wanda Macnair Trophy Fund to Frank Green, Richardson Road, Fitchburg, MA 01420.



There are two new places to see beautifully grown begonias...

Y'all Come!

by Russ Richardson

The Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory at the Atlanta Botanical Garden opened in April and should be a "must see" for any plant/flower lover visiting our city.

Walking through and looking around, it doesn't seem possible that most of the planting has been completed in the past few months. I've been through some newly opened conservatories and they showed it. This display of tropical plants (begonias, orchids, ferns, palms, to name a few) will knock your socks off. We're very pleased that begonias have a prominent place on one of the curving paths; some canes, rhizomatous species, etc. are featured. I haven't had time to visit the desert and Mediterranean climate/plant display, but I'm sure it too is well done.

The growing greenhouse is "state of the art" with an unbelievable misting system. I can walk through without my glasses getting wet or fogging up. There is no lost space for aisles because all of the tables are on wheels and move easily to make walkways.

We - the Greater Atlanta Branch of ABS - have contributed to a growing collection of begonias, primarily species raised from the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

Ron Determan is the superintendent and he and his staff have been most cooperative. He has recently received a large order of plants from Logee's, so you know he's committed to begonias. Ann Crammond is the director of the Atlanta Botanical Garden and is doing a superb job. Ann grows begonias herself, and knows Millie Thompson. Our branch meets every other month at the Garden, and we have received great support from both Ann and Ron.

Reprinted from The Rambler, newsletter of the Eastern Region.

Russ Richardson of Greater Atlanta Branch lives at 1854 Chancery Lane, Chamblee, GA 30341.

Begonia Conservatory in Australia

Across the ocean, Wombat Botanical Gardens of Dalryesford, Australia opened a new conservatory for begonias in 1988.

Phillip Wright and his wife Margaret, members of the Victorian Begonia Society, attended the opening of the new Begonia House, the Alf Hedland Conservatory.

Writing in the Victorian Begonia Society newsletter of December 1988-January 1989, Mr. Wright described how the first begonia tubers were received at Wombat Gardens in 1938; begonias have been grown there ever since, primarily because of the efforts of Alf Hedland. Mr. Hedland began as a part-time worker in 1956. He retired in 1974, but continued to work at the Gardens as a volunteer. His 35 years of dedication were recognized at a ceremony in November, 1988 naming the conservatory after this dedicated begonia lover.



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WHERE HAVE ALL THE BEGONIAS GONE?

by Kit Jeans Mounger

When you think about the endangered species lists, chances are you would never associate them with begonias. Rare begonia species are hardly in a league with the California Condor or the Whooping Crane. Still, a lot of species of begonias which were documented by 16th, 17th, and 18th century botanists and naturalists no longer exist.

Or if they do, they are in such remote areas as to be lost to the rest of the world. That may well keep them safe. But will we ever know?

The point I'm trying to make is that nobody really knows what documented species are in cultivation in this country, and more important, how *many* there are of them.

Commercial greenhouses which stock begonias have a few. Botanical gardens and universities have some. ABS members probably have a greater variety of species than the institutions. And given the universal allure of rare plants, I'm sure the scarce ones are out there.

But where? And how would we know? There is no master list of species in this country. I do not mean to downgrade the work of Dr. Barkley, Jack Golding, Rudy Ziesenhenné, Herb Warrick, or any of the others who have expended a great deal of time and energy cataloging begonias species and cultivars. That's not what I'm talking about. We pretty well know what species there are. What we don't know is: do they still exist? Are they in cultivation in the U.S.? Are there any in danger of extinction? And just as important, *where are they?*

I would like to see this button-button-who's-got-the-button mystery resolved. I would like to see a master list of begonia

species compiled, put on a computer, and made available to anyone who would like to make use of it.

That such would be a monumental, time-consuming, and expensive task, I do not doubt. The hardy soul who took on such a task would have his/her work cut out for him/her/them...One would have to query growers (both commercial and amateur), universities, botanical gardens, other plant societies. And asking the questions would be the easy part. Getting answers would be like extracting toes from an ostrich. And once the committee had the information, it would be a job to collate it and make it into a usable computer program.

BUT, the benefits of such a program would be marvelous. At the touch of a keyboard, we would know that, say, there are only five plants of *B. caraguatatubensis* known in cultivation and we'd better get busy propagating and distributing it. As every begonia grower knows, the species or cultivar with the most plants in the most places has the greatest chance of survival. We need all the species of begonia for their own sake. There's enough careless extinction going on around this planet. The last group which needs to add to it is a plant society. THAT would be downright embarrassing.

There's another benefit of such a computerized list. I'm sure there are other hybridizers like me who have great difficulty sometimes locating a particular species for crossing purposes. We all have a pretty good grapevine concerning sources, but there are those of us who wouldn't have the foggiest notion who to contact at, perhaps, Shaw Gardens to find out if they had a particular species - and would they give us

the time of day if they did? A master list would tell those of us who queried the Committee - and I certainly wouldn't object to paying for the service - where we could find what we're looking for. And when we did contact a botanical garden for seed or cuttings (because we have legitimacy through ABS official channels) they would be more likely to cooperate with us.

The begonia growers who fancy species, for their rarity or their "purity," would be able to locate species to grow.

There are also a number of begonia growers who feel as strongly as I do about preserving as many species as possible, for their own sakes. Such a master list would not only enable these growers to get in touch with each other (something which now is limited mostly to growers who belong to Round Robins), it would help all of them to widen their collections and have species more widely distributed than they would be otherwise.

Branches would also benefit. Such a list could help them with any educational programs they wished to undertake. Growing species which the lists shows as endangered could become a worthwhile branch project. The possibilities are endless and ABS and the *Begoniaceae* can only prosper as a result.

And if we don't make an effort to learn how many species of begonia there are out there and what we can do to save what we have, we're going to wake up one morning and wonder: *just where have all the begonias gone?*

Kit Jeans Mounger is the "mother" of such lovely begonias as 'Dragon Flight', 'General Landon', and the Jeans series ('Blue Jeans', 'Jingling Jeans', 'Scruffy Jeans', and more). She and her begonias live at 7438 S. Leewynn Dr., Sarasota, FL 34240. Her article first appeared in the Southwest Region Begonia Leaflet of August, 1988.

A Gentle Hint

from a new member

I see you at the meeting
But you never say hello
You're busy all the time you're there
With those you already know.
I sit among the members
Yet I'm a lonely gal.
New fish feel as strange as I;
You members pass me by.
But darn it, you folks asked me in
And talked of fellowship.
You could just step across the way,
But you've never made the trip.
Why can't you nod and say hello
Or stop and shake my hand?
Then go and sit among your friends.
Now that I'd understand.
I'll be at your next meeting
With an hour or two to spend.
Do you think you could introduce
yourself?
I want to be your friend.

author unknown

from the Westchester Branch
newsletter, edited by Marion Lindgren.

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Getting Ready for Winter

A Compendium of Tips
culled from past issues

Your begonias look so lush after all that light and fresh air outside! Unfortunately, in most parts of our country summer doesn't last. It's not too early to plan ahead for your begonias' winter survival. The work can be done on those lovely fall days when it's delightful to be outside (which beats rushing out in the dark and throwing all the plants inside while the freeze blows in).

In the garden:

In warmer climates, *semperflorens* left in the ground will return in the spring. Here's how to help:

1. Mulch! Bank mulch around the bottom of the plant now, and add more mulch as the weather turns colder. With the first frost, cover the plant with 4" of mulch. Fancy store-bought mulch is great, but home-made mulches of grass clippings, straw, or shredded newspaper will work just fine. Pauline Chambers of Florida suggests survival rates will be better if you don't cut back the foliage drastically.

2. Remember to water. Tom Keepin of Texas suggests that remembering is easy if you plant something else - pansies, for example - between the begonias. Watering and feeding the pansies will help the begonias, too.

3. For taller plants, like canes, consider building a simple cold frame. Thermostats are available to lift the cover on warmer days. Lining the inside with aluminum foil will increase heat retention. Use a light bulb or heating cables for extra cold nights.

4. Are frosts only occasional in your area? Try this: when a freeze is coming, fill gallon milk jugs with hot water; put them by your tender plant, and cover plant and jug with a cardboard box. Refill the jug until the freeze is over.

In the house:

Start early.

1. Move plants into areas of the garden with deeper shade, to get them used to lower light conditions they'll encounter inside.

2. As the weather turns cooler, take time to inspect each plant. If you find signs of insects or disease, treat the plant *before* it goes inside. Now is a good time to repot, and to trim back foliage if the plant has gotten leggy (or simply too big for its indoor home).

3. If you plan to grow under lights, check the fixtures. Are cords in good shape? Do you need new bulbs? Will you need a timer?

In the greenhouse:

The saying "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" might have been written for the begonia greenhouse. Problems will be minimal if you plan ahead.

1. Check heaters, thermostats, fans several weeks before you need them to allow time for repairs. Do you have back-up sources for heat?

2. Unless you're in an area where winters feature hot days, remove shade cloth; winter sun is weaker.

3. Clean! With plants out, hose down the greenhouse, inside and out, with detergent. Include benches and floor. Leave the suds on for a few minutes before rinsing.

4. If mildew has been a problem, spray interior surfaces with Lysol and/or blow a small amount of sulphur into the air. Other helps with mildew: increase light, raise temperatures.

5. Before bringing plants in, mist them with soap and water (Safer's Insecticidal Soap, or a few drops of Ivory liquid to a quart of water). Wipe off pots.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Begonia bogneri



B. bogneri was discovered in January, 1969 in Africa's Malagasy Republic (now Madagascar) by Joseph Bogner of the Munich Botanical Garden. It was later named *B. bogneri* by Rudolf Ziesenhenné.

B. bogneri is semi-tuberous, with narrow, grass-like leaves 6" long and 1/8" wide. A single vein runs the length of each leaf. The leaves are medium green in color, with red stems. Flowers rising above the foliage are small and pink; in the Chicago area, they appear in fall and winter.

The ideal growing condition for *B. bogneri* is in an enclosed container. It requires a very humid atmosphere, but does not like for the growing medium to be kept too wet.

by Mary Weinberg

To obtain the ideal living environment, I use unmilled sphagnum moss. First soak it in very hot water, and then squeeze all water from the moss. Cut it into small pieces and mix with perlite (about 4 parts sphagnum to 1 part perlite).

To eliminate the possibility of rot from excessive moisture, leave the container top half open for one or two days, until the surface of the moss looks slightly dry in appearance; it should then be safe to close the cover completely. If too much condensation forms on the sides of the glass, open the top slightly until the condition improves.

CULTURE

Light: My light fixtures are about 14" above the table. In order to keep leaves of *B. bogneri* from bleaching, I keep the container at the end of the light tube, which drastically reduces light intensity and keeps the leaves nice and green.

Temperature: *B. bogneri* likes temperatures between 65 and 75 degrees F. My plants do not go dormant under lights at these temperatures.

Feeding: I do not fertilize plants that are grown in closed containers. There is a difference of opinion on this, but this is my method.

Propagation: Take a whole leaf and insert it into your favorite mix for rooting cuttings. I use the mix described above for propagation.

Reprinted with the author's permission from the [Chicago Begonian](#).

Artist/writer/begonia grower Mary Weinberg lives at 1527 W. Highland Ave, Chicago, IL 60660.



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COMING EVENTS

September 15-17: Potomac Branch Show at U.S. Botanic Gardens. Contact Chair Johanna Zinn, 4407 Jensen Place, Fairfax, VA 22032 for more information. In addition, under the auspices of Eastern Region and ABS, the Branch will be holding a Judging School. Contact the Show Chair, or Maxine Zinman, Rt. 1 Box 73, Boyce, VA 22620, or Barbara Nunes, 6025 Greeley Blvd, Springfield, VA 22152.

May 17 - 20, 1990: ABS National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Hosted by Southwest Region. Holiday Inn (by airport). Chair, Melba Schultz, 603 Chauncey, San Antonio, TX 78216.

Eastern Region Receives Unexpected Gift

Karin Hazam, owner of Mail Management Systems in Massachusetts, has a begonia "in a glass case" which was given to her by Tadd Drumm of the Buxton Branch. When asked by Frank Green what her charge would be to make labels for the Eastern Region newsletter, Karin assured him he would be satisfied with her price. When he picked up the mailing list and labels, sorted by zip codes, Karin said to consider her work a donation! She even included a photocopy of the list, so Frank can make additional labels.

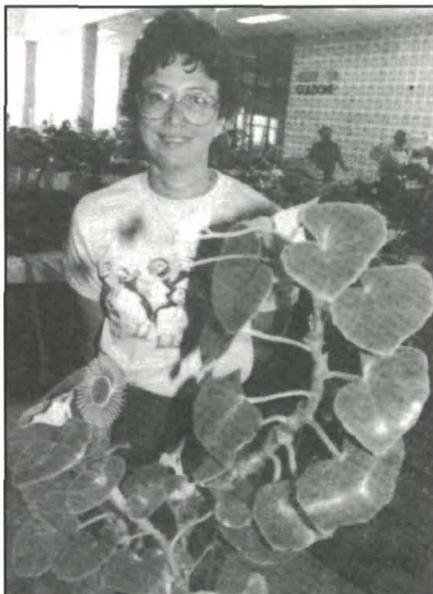
Frank would like for all of us to know of Karin's generosity. If you have mailings to get out and would like to deal with a good company which does outstanding work, Mail Management's address is 1 Oak Hill Road, Fitchburg, MA 01420. It won't be free - but their prices are always reasonable.

SHOW RESULTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

At the *Westchester Branch 8th annual Show* June 24th & 25th, **Jo Pangrazio** took Best in Show over 118 entries with her B. 'Ramirez', and trophy with B. 'Cherry Blossom'. Other trophy winners were **Irene Nuss** for *B. boliviensis*, **Arnie Krupnick** for B. 'Sun God', and **Marge Cugro** for her unknown cane. **Houston Knight** conducted an educational exhibit both days and had a very large turnout, which helped to make the show a spectacular success.
- Sherwood Hilliard

Charles Jaros took Sweepstakes with 18 blue ribbons, and **Katherine Bloeschak** won Best of Show with B. 'Osota' at the *Fairchild Tropical Gardens Show* held by Miami Branch. There were 158 entries in the show, and a display by Daisy Farm Nursery. Over 800 visitors admired the begonias, and the sale was a success, too.

Katherine Bloeschak's B. 'Osota' won Best of Show at the *Ft. Lauderdale Branch Show*, also, over a field of 138 entries. Sweepstakes winner was **Georgia Humphries**, with 9 blues.



Risa Young with *B. venosa*

Pinellas County and Tampa Bay Branches held their first judged begonia show on May 11, and dedicated it to **Bob Moore**, who had served as president and newsletter editor of both branches prior to his sudden death a few days before the show. The show was lovely and large, with 113 plants winning ribbons and trophies. Best in Show was **Risa Young's** *B. venosa*. **Bob Koehler** won Sweepstakes..

Orange County Branch requests Woodriff Hybrids

Bad weather and poor health have greatly diminished the stock at Woodriff's Begonia Fairyland. Winkie Woodriff is making an effort to keep the nursery going, and Orange County Branch is trying to get together starts of Leslie Woodriff hybrids to replenish the Woodriffs' stock. The Woodriffs have done so much through the years for ABS and for begonias. Now we can do something for them. Contact Houston Knight at 13455 Hadley St., Whittier, CA 90601 to find out how you can help.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Mini-ads are a service to our members. The charge is \$1 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$4. Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to ABS and mail to:

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BEGONIA CUTTINGS AND PLANTS

Send \$1 for expanded 1989 list. Kay's Greenhouses, 207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221.

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BEGONIAS: THE COMPLETE REFER-

ENCE GUIDE by Mildred L. and Edward J. Thompson. 884 pages, 850 illustrations (165 in color). Culture, classification, and history. \$20.00 to ABS members. To order autographed copies write: THE THOMPSONS, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968. **BEGONIAS: 1984 UPDATE** \$6.75. Prices include shipping. Foreign orders \$5 additional for shipping via Surface Mail.

SOUTHWEST REGION, ABS: Annual Get-Together, show, sale; monthly newsletter. Membership \$7, family \$10. Send to Marie Harrell, Rt. 3, Box 689, Elgin, TX 78621.



THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY

is the International Registration Authority for *Hedera*; provides sources for new & unusual ivies; publishes *Ivy Journal* three times a year with reports on research, hardiness testing, life-sized photos of ivies. Memberships: General \$15; Institutional \$25; Commercial \$50. Information: The American Ivy Society, P.O. Box 520, West Carrollton, OH 45449-0520.

"BEGONIAS GALORE" Cuttings and Plants. Please send \$1 for list. P.O. Box 5073, Gainesville, FL 32602.

BEGONIA COLLECTION. Rhizomatous leaf cuttings, including some Lowe hybrids; cane & shrub stem cuttings. 50 ASSORTED UNROOTED cuttings \$25, 100 \$40. Add \$3 E. of Miss., \$5 West. SASE for list. Paul Lowe, 5741 Dewberry Way, West Palm Beach, FL 33415.

Wanted: Begonias for Beginners, by Elda Haring. Do you have a copy to sell? Call Pam Lee collect (214) 391-9029.

Fragrant Tuberous Begonias: We're searching for B. 'Yellow Sweetie' and/or 'Orange Sweetie' cuttings or plants to buy. Does anyone know of any? Please give us a call at (800) 759-3717, ask for Jerry.



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NEW CULTIVARS

Official International Registration Numbers 933-934
Carrie Karegeannes, Nomenclature Director

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

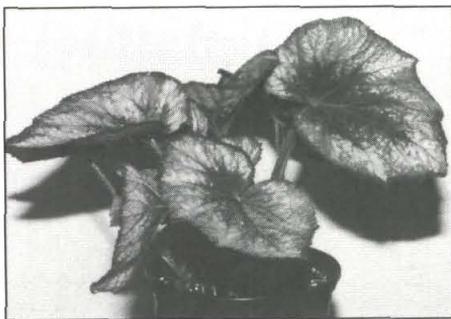


Begonia 'Philip Seiden'
No. 933—*Begonia* (unknown x unknown)
'Philip Seiden'

Rex Cultorum cultivar with creeping, partly underground rhizome and spiraled green, silver, and purple leaves. Plants reach 12" height and spread 24" wide. The 6" leaves are smooth, entire, of heavy substance, with complex, changeable spirals at the base of the blade and 6 main veins. Green centers are surrounded by silver overlaid with purple. Petioles are 8" long and pink to red with soft white hairs; stipules are 3/4" x 3/4", greenish red, quickly drying to brown. Flowers are pink, few, with 4 round tepals 1" across on males and 5 tepals 3/4" across on females, carried on 4" peduncles September into October. The chance seedling was developed in 1985 by Philip Seiden, 733 East 93 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236; first bloomed in 1988; first distributed in 1989; tested by Tim Last of Brooklyn. Exhibited as B. 91588 at the 1988 ABS National Show in Boston, the cultivar won first place for a new introduction by a hobby grower as well as the ABS Begonia Hybrid of Distinction award. Registered May 24, 1989.

Begonia 'Chipo Granite'
No. 934—*Begonia* (unknown X unknown)
'Chipo Granite'

Rex Cultorum cultivar with 2 1/2"-long upright rhizomes and red, green, and silver leaves on 12"-15" tall plant. Large, 9" long ovate leaves with cordate base and obtuse tip have a red center bordered by green mid-zone, silver outer zone, and red edge. The margin is toothed, and main veins number 6. The blade's rough surface texture gave rise to the new cultivar's name. Petioles are 10" long, red, with sparse white hairs; stipules are 3/4" long, 1/2" wide, pink, soon turning dry and brown. The flowers are red with 4 round 1 1/2" male tepals and 5 1" female tepals. Pink ovaries contrast with the red tepals to give a two-tone effect to the blossoms, held above the foliage on 12" peduncles July-October. The chance seedling was developed in 1985 by Philip Seiden (address above); first bloomed in 1988; first distributed in 1989; tested by Tim Last. Exhibited as an unnamed *B. rex* hybrid in the 1988 ABS National Show in Boston, it won the Rex Division. Registered May 24, 1989.



Applications to register *Begonia* cultivars may be obtained from Carrie Karegeannes, 3916 Lake Boulevard, Annandale, VA 22003. Each form must be typed or printed in ink and accompanied by a \$2 check or money order payable to the American Begonia Society. Photos, drawings, and dried specimens of new cultivars are requested. ABS is the International Registration Authority for *Begonia* names.

CONSERVATION NEWS

by Martin Johnson

There's Good News

Evelyn Morrie and the Santa Clara Valley Branch have concluded a series of fund raisers for the Conservation Fund. Along with a few individual donations the branch contributed just over \$300. It should be noted that Evelyn was responsible also for raising approximately \$250 by sending seedlings to the plant table at the 1988 Convention in Boston. The seeds were from Scott Hoover's Ecuador expedition. Thank you, Evelyn, for getting the Conservation Fund off to an excellent start. Let us hope more branches follow your example.

Our thanks go out to Jan Goodwin and the Australian Begonia Society for their generous contribution to the Conservation Fund. Jan reports their Society will be active in a continuing program on behalf of our conservation activities.

And There's Bad News

Reports from Malaysia indicate that 25 square miles of rainforest are cleared daily by loggers. The most accessible forests are cut first. Unfortunately, begonia habitats are usually found in these areas. Since many begonias have limited areas of distribution it is possible that a high proportion of species will be at risk should logging continue at its present pace. It is vital that ABS rescue as much germ plasm of these endangered species as possible. Significant scientific data will be another benefit of the planned Hoover expedition. Your financial support is urgently needed.



Martin Johnson is Co-Chair for Conservation. His address is 959 Glennan Dr., Redwood City, CA 94061.

Conservation Fund Honor Roll of Contributors

Norman Dufresne
Christine & John J. Giordano
Jan Goodwin
John Howell
Joseph Marquess III
Evelyn Morrie
Alice Ordway
Elizabeth & Charles Sayers
Diana Stander
Mary Ellen Taback
Rudolf Ziesenhenne
Australian Begonia Society
Jacksonville Branch
Monterey Branch
San Francisco Branch
Santa Clara Valley Branch

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

September-October, 1989
Diana H. Gould, Seed Fund Director

The Seed Fund is a service to ABS members only. It is a privilege of your membership.

Please note two changes with this listing: Seed Fund Director Diana H. Gould has a new address, and costs have gone up because of an increase in the price of seed envelopes.

All packets of species seed are \$1 each, and all packets of hybrid seed are 50c each, and a pamphlet on growing begonias from seed is 25c.

All orders must be accompanied by check of money order payable ONLY in U.S. funds, and made payable to the CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND.

Please note the increase in costs:

Mailing costs to U.S., Canada, or Mexico are: 1 to 12 packets of seeds, 55 c; 13 to 24 packets of seeds, 70 c; 25 to 36 packets of seeds, \$1.15.

Foreign mailing costs are: 1 to 12 packets of seeds, \$1.30; 13 to 24 packets of seeds, \$2.10; 24 to 36 packets of seeds, \$3.10.

Two sets of planter dishes with free instructions in one mailer costs 77 cents. The cost of mailing 2 sets of planter dishes and 1 to 12 packets of seeds in one mailer is 90 cents, whereas the cost of mailing 2 sets of planter dishes and 13 to 24 packets of seeds in one mailer is \$1.07, and the cost of mailing 2 sets of planter dishes and 25 to 36 packets of seeds in one mailer is \$1.42.

CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS PLEASE ADD 6 1/2% SALES TAX TO ALL ORDERS

Please send your check or money order to the **new address**:

Ms. Diana H. Gould
7700 Deanton Ct.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610
USA

The Seed Fund would like to thank Roberto Brin, Jackie Davis, Lynda Goldsmith, Jan Goodwin, Kevin Handreck, and Eiichii Kawamata for their most generous donations to this issue's selections. **THANK YOU!**

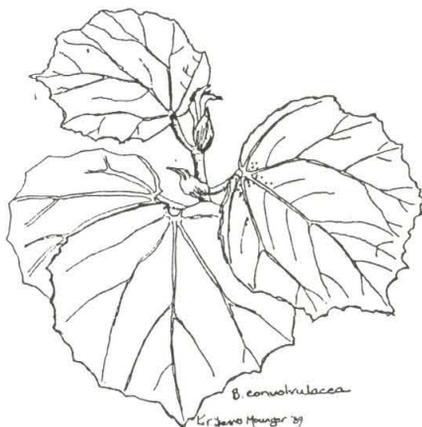
Notes on the Seeds Listed:

Germination times for this issue's selections have a variable of 4 to 31 days.

Unless otherwise noted, these selections have not been offered during the past three years.

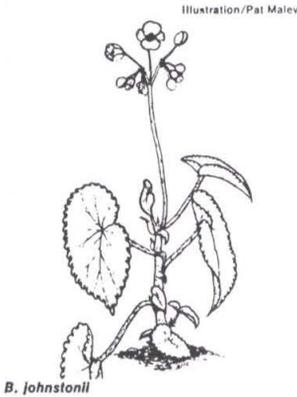
Our only cane selection is a Superba type, *B. plantanifolia*, from Brazil. It has white flowers and an interesting pattern of stem growth.

Also from Brazil is one of our Trailing-Scandent selections, the easy growing *B. convolvulacea*, with moderate greenish-white flowers that bloom in the spring. Our second trailing selection, *B. meyeri-johannis*, which has fragrant white flowers, comes from tropical West Africa.



B. convolvulacea

B. johnstonii



Thick-stemmed selections include:

B. dipetala, from Bombay, has medium sized hairy leaves with fragrant white flowers from February to September. *B. egregia* from Brazil (last offered MA 87) and *B. U188* ('Chavez 1701'; from Peru, and offered SO 88) both have large, hairy leaves with white flowers in winter. In contrast, *B. johnstonii* (Africa; MA 87) and *B. multinervia* (Costa Rica; ND 87) both have bare leaves; the former has medium leaves with pink flowers while the latter has large leaves with white flowers. *B. sericoneura* var. *pilifera* (Central America; MJ 86) is trunk-like, non-ramified, with fragrant white flowers in spring.

Our rhizomatous offerings include *B. carrieae* (Mexico; MA 87) and *B. urophylla* (Mexico) which have large (6-12") green, lobed leaves and white

flowers. *B. multangula* (Java) and *B. deliciosa* (Borneo; SO 88) have their rhizomes joined at/below the soil line; the former produces white flowers while the latter produces large, pink, fragrant flowers. The commonality between Mexican species *B. fusca* and *B. thiemei* (*macedougallii*) is the giant size of their leaves at maturity. *B. fusca* has lobed leaves with rose-pink flowers from spring through fall, while *B. thiemei* has compound leaves with greenish-white flowers from late winter to early spring. *B. crassicaulis* (Guatemala; MJ 88) has glossy, palmately lobed leaves with white blossoms, and *B. barkeri* (*megaphylla*; Mexico; SO 88) has dull, bronze leaves, grows upwards of 2 feet, and has small white flowers. *B. U100* has pale-green hairy leaves with pink and white flowers. *B. kenworthyae* - the "ivy leaf begonia" - is from Mexico, was last offered MA 87, grows erect, and has cleft leaves and large white flowers in winter.

Again, the choice is yours with this issue's Shrub selection:

Small leaved, green, bare-leaved, under 4" selections are *B. acutifolia* (*acuminata*; Jamaica; ND 88), with its small, pointed, toothed leaves and white blossoms; *B. echinosepala* (Brazil; MA 88), with its small, narrow, serrated, ribbon-like leaves and white flowers; *B. echinosepala*

var. *elongatifolia* (Brazil), with similar small leaves and profuse, fragrant white flowers; *B. obscura* (Brazil), which has white flowers with white hairs in winter; *B. fischeri* (Brazil; SO 88), with its bright pink flowers in spring; *B. fischeri* var. *palustris* (Brazil), which does resemble a semp with its white flowers tinged with rose; and *B. parviflora* (Brazil), with white flowers.

The remaining bare-leaved selections include two Brazilian species, *B. humilis* with medium-sized leaves and white flowers and *B. luxurians* (ND 88) with its large, palm-like compound leaves and fragrant yellow-white flowers.

The wide, hairy-leaved selections, with leaves over 3", include *B. annobonensis* (Cameroon; JF 86), with white blooms; *B. engleri* (Tropical Africa; JF 86), with rose-pink blooms on red peduncles; and *B. mollicaulis* (South America; MA 88), which is another easy grower with profuse, white, hairy blossoms.

B. peltata (*incana*; Mexico; MA 87), another easy grower, has white felted peltate leaves and white flowers.

The final shrub selection is the beautiful *B. alice-clarkiae*, another Mexican species, with its most distinctive foliage and white flowers.



Last, but by no means least on our species list, we offer the *B.* mixed species collection - which is comprised of all the spilled species seed from the mailing cans and file envelopes. One never knows what gems these plantings will grow!

Finally, we come to our only hybrid, a cross-pollination of *B. incarnata* x *B. incisa*.

ALL SEED IS IN VERY LIMITED SUPPLY.

Naming Begonia Cultivars

The ABS Board policy on naming cultivars when the seed is produced by one person, but transferred to another to grow is that *the seeds become the property of the person who germinates them and selects the offspring for showing and distribution.* Thus the cultivar is selected and named by the plant grower. In the event that two persons name cultivars from the same cross, the earliest name registered has preference. Consult the ABS Nomenclature Committee for assistance.

It is appropriate to keep the names of the parent plants, the source of the seed, and pertinent dates. For example, if a cultivar comes from seed purchased from the Seed Fund, the identification of the offering should be part of the grower's record.

-from the **Begonian**, Vol. 54, March-April 1987, p. 38.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

species seed
\$1 per packet

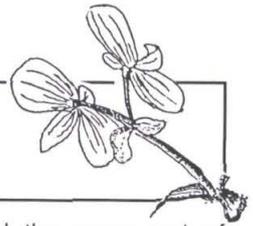
- B. acutifolia*
- B. alice-clarkiae*
- B. annobonensis*
- B. barkeri*
- B. carpinifolia*
- B. carrieae*
- B. convolvulacea*
- B. crassicaulis*
- B. deliciosa*
- B. dipetala*
- B. echinosepala*
- B. echinosepala* var. *elongatifolia*
- B. egregia*
- B. engleri*
- B. fischeri*
- B. fischeri* var. *palustris*
- B. fusca*
- B. humilis*
- B. johnstonii*
- B. kenworthyae*
- B. luxurians*
- B. meyeri-johannis*
- B. mollicaulis*
- B. multangula*
- B. multinervia*
- B. obscura*
- B. parvifolia*
- B. peltata*
- B. plantanifolia*
- B. sericoneura*
- B. thiemei*
- B. urophylla*
- B. U100*
- B. U188*
- B.* mixed species

hybrid seed
50c per packet

B. incarnata x *B. incisa*

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Margaret Coats, Round Robin Director



It is with much sadness that the Round Robins must bid farewell to two very special members - Bob Moore (FL) passed away in May, and Margie Smith (TX) passed away in early July. Both were very active, enthusiastic members, and those of you who were lucky enough to be in a Robin with either or both know how knowledgeable and helpful they were. We shall miss them very much.

Some sections of the country have had nice rains, relieving the drouth problem; some sections have had so much rain that a drouth would almost be welcome, while others are sizzling and still waiting their turn for a few good showers. As usual, the weather was a very important topic in all the Robins.

The Growing Under Lights Robin is always so interesting. One plant they have been discussing is *B. acaulis*. Mary Bucholtz (FL) has been trying to set seed on it, and Daniel Haseltine (IL) suggested that she might propagate by cutting. Mae Blanton (TX) found it formed a tiny tuber from a single leaf, then went on to make a plant.

Think you might find this remark from Barbara Nunes (VA) amusing. Sheila Matthews (IL) had sent a photo of B. U008, and Barbara said she showed her plant of B. U008 the picture so he could see what was expected of him!

Dan Haseltine (IL) said he has found leaf wedges will usually grow better in spring and summer than in winter. They will grow in the light garden, but their growth will be slower.

Erich Steiniger (OH) found the "Chameleon Begonia" article in the May-June '89 issue of the **Begonian** most interesting.

He has experienced the same sort of change with B. 'Esther Albertine', only in reverse. Originally his plant was pure green with raised red veins underneath and red petioles. Then an occasional shoot produced leaves which were darker and strewn with silver. The appearance now is quite different from that of his original plant. Daniel Haseltine (IL) said a similar incident occurred in a plant grown by one of his branch's members. Daniel feels some change has to take place in the plant cells to cause the change in appearance. He says the trick is to find out why and see if we can force a plant to change.

Ever want to try your hand at growing ferns from spores, but know nothing about it? Julia Broadhurst (Eng) explains how she does it. Julia says, "Growing ferns from spores works well if you grow them in a smallish clay pot covered with a piece of glass. They must always be kept damp. I grow mine in a growing room off the house, as I find outside in the cold greenhouse they get choked with mosses, etc. When it is time to transplant the little ferns, they are best transplanted in groups and separated a bit later when they have become a bit bigger."

Some of the members of a Terrarium Robin are having problems setting seed on their enclosed plants. Mae Blanton (TX) encourages all to try her method, in order to supply the Seed Fund as well as themselves. Mae says she has found plenty of air circulation is necessary to set seeds; even in the warm, steamy jungles, plants do have gentle breezes coming by now and then. She suggests the other members remove the terrarium covers for 30 minutes or so every day, and when the pollen flowers are ready to use, remove them and lay up to dry for a few hours. Air the plant well before applying the pollen to the stigma,

and repeat for two or three days in a row before leaving the pollinated flower alone (unless it shows definite signs of success, i.e., tucking the seedpod under, dropping petals, swelling, changing color). Glennis Crouch (TX) warns everyone in the Robin never, never to remove any growth from the middle of *B. prismatocarpa*. A friend of hers did, and the plant sulked a while and then finally died.

Members of the Species Robin were in agreement that there are some species they grow that never make a really good looking plant. Kit Mounger (FL) says one of these is *B. kenworthyae*; however, she does like it. Another one mentioned by Mabel Corwin (CA) is *B. crassicaulis*. She says it may be beautiful in a strange sort of way, but "interesting" is a better description.

Charlotte Kuhnle (OR) stated that she does not do well with species seed sown in winter, so she is trying the spring this time. She is convinced cuttings and seeds have inner time clocks that regulate their performance. One question Charlotte wanted answered was whether or not *B. aconitifolia* and *B. leathermaniae* could be made to fill out in some way. Mabel replied that it is not possible to make a full plant of *B. leathermaniae* by cutting back, and *B. lubbersii* is another that grows the same way. Placing about six cuttings in a six inch pot helps somewhat. Another species disappointment mentioned by Mabel is *B. macduffiana*. Since it has such large, beautifully intense orange flowers, she tried hybridizing with it; but the long, awkward growth was always predominant.

One subject discussed in the last round to the Semperflorens Robin was seed planting. Here is how John Howell (TX) explains his method: "I use the clear Solo plastic 9 oz. cocktail cup with holes in the bottom. I fill it half full with my home mix containing 50% Canadian peat and wet the mix, then sprinkle a small amount of quartz sand to hide the peat (the mix and sand are microwaved before using). I sprinkle on the

seeds and maybe a small amount of sand. I mist the surface and place the cup in a clear sweater box, which will hold 12 cups. The begonia seeds need bright light to germinate, and a temperature between 70 and 80 degrees."

Pauline Chambers (FL) explains her very unique way of planting seeds: use Jiffy Mix, with Delsey bathroom tissue or Fluffs tissues (separated) laid on pre-dampened mix. Then sow seeds on one layer of the tissue and cover seed with the other layer, mist well with a fine mist of tepid sterile water. This method prevents the tiny seedlings from slipping too deep into the mix. By the time the seedlings are ready to transplant, the tissue has disintegrated. She warns that the tissue **must** be kept finely misted and not allowed to dry out.

Pauline also gives the following information on how she winters her semps. She pinches and lightly prunes to avoid allowing them to get too leggy, and roots the tips. These tip cuttings must also be pinched as soon as they have roots, to promote branching. She has also discovered that pinching off older leaves, leaving as much of the leaf stem as possible, will encourage a new branch to form at the base, or where a leaf stem is still attached to the main stem.

If you need a "spot of attention" for your patio or favorite part of the garden, Beryl Orchard (NC) has an excellent idea for you. She purchased three rather large strawberry jars and planted small semps into the top of each hole. The semps have grown so much that now nothing of the jars remains visible.

Mary Bucholtz (FL) has found that the canes winter better for her in low light - much better than the rhizomatous. She finds that rhizomatous begonias grown in low light in the winter will rot. But she declares it's all a game of chance. In explaining her method of growing *B. 'Pinafore'* sport (which, incidentally, won her "Best of Show" at her local Branch show),

Mary says it receives a lot of sun up until 11:00 a.m., then light shade with filtered sun until about 2:00 p.m., then more sun. At times, Mary says, it is so full of blooms the foliage is hardly visible. She has one planted in the ground that does not receive as much sun, and it does not bloom as profusely.

Mary also has heard of a new way to tell the difference between *B. sceptrum* and *B. aconitifolia*: *B. sceptrum* has the deeper cut leaf and the larger basal growth at the soil. Of course, you have to have both side by side to see.

Eleanor Calkins (CA) experienced a bit of a problem with *B. echinosepala* var. *elongatifolia* after potting it up to a larger size pot. She finally set it in a plastic dishpan and let it soak up the water with fertilizer added, and it started to flourish. Her conclusion was that the root ball had dried out a one time and when it was hand watered the water went right through without saturating the root ball.

Be careful throwing out those pots of "dead" begonias. Virginia Hamann (IA) thought her canes had frozen in their pots in May, as they felt mushy. Now she has found new growth coming from the roots and making nice plants once again.

Risa Young (FL) has been experimenting with different types of pots. She is having great success with the wire baskets with coconut fibre inserts. She started out with four, and just added nine more. Packing peanuts are placed at the bottoms for drainage and to keep the weight down. Risa says she was amazed at the growth she got in just four weeks. In her experimentation she has also used azalea-type clay pots; she finds the rhizomatous definitely do better in shallow pots.

Q. How can you get in on the Round Robin fun?

A. Write to the Round Robin Director:

Margaret Coats
11203 Cedar Elm
San Antonio, TX 78230

and start learning and making friends all over the world!



CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS

In the May-June issue, the Minutes on page 118 listed **Joy Porter** (MA) as a member of the nominating committee. It was **Joy Blair** (CA) who was asked to serve on the nominating committee, not Joy Porter. The error was repeated in the July-August issue, page 124. Apologies to both Joys.

The Seed Fund list in July-August included *B. subacida*. The seed was sent in as *B. acida*, and is probably *B. acida* Vellozo (not *B. acida* Martius ex A. de Candolle in Martius which is synonymous with *B. subacida* Irmscher). Confused? So is your editor, who made the mistake.

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African Violets, Episcias & other gesneriads

Gesneriad Society International

Mail \$13.25 annual dues to:

GSI Membership Coordinator
2119 Pile
Clovis, NM 88101 U.S.A.
payable in U.S. funds



AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

Happy Birthday to Santa Barbara Branch, 49 years old in May!

Summer and picnics: hand in hand. So went the thinking in many branches, with Miami on the east coast featuring honey-baked ham (says the editor of the Miabegonia, "I've been told that the Miami Begonia Society has some of the best chefs around") and Santa Barbara Branch on the west coast making its annual pilgrimage to Barbara Philip's ranch.

Dallas Area Branch had an evening picnic- swimming party in the garden of a local grower; their youngest member, David Rosenbaum (age 2) took a plunge in the pool, unexpectedly, but was promptly pulled out, with, thankfully, no ill effects. In Oklahoma, Barkley Branch held a garden tour-barbecue at the home of super growers/super chefs Kathlynn & Merrill Calvert.

Other branches celebrated summer with garden tours. Rafaela Poedtker must like company! She entertained San Miguel Branch in May and Palomar Branch in June in her garden, which rated raves from her guests.

In the glorious California climate, Monterey Bay Area Branch got outside two months in a row: they met at Rob Reinkens' and Anne Patrick's Carriage House garden, and picnicked in the park the next month. Rubidoux Branch visited Sherman Gardens & Library, and Roger's Gardens. Whittier, Orange County, and San Gabriel organized a tri-chapter tour, calling at the homes of members of all three branches and finishing with dinner "among the canes" at Elda Regimbal's.

Knickerbocker Branch members may not have the California climate, but there are advantages to being in the northeast. One is proximity to Logee's Greenhouses (which they visited in April) and Longwood Gardens (another visit, with the Manhattan Orchid Society, this summer). Lucky folks!

Up Seattle way, the branch visited Lakewood Gardens in Tacoma July 20; three days later, they held their annual picnic ("Bring FOOD", said the newsletter).

Astro Branch of Houston, TX didn't go visiting: they were visited. Lyla Kilpatrick, president of the Western Australia Begonia Society, came to call, and presented their program in June. What excitement! But *what can they do for their next program?* Lyla will be a hard act to follow.

Members of Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch worked first: they planted the fifth annual Begonia Demonstration Garden at the Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center in May, then enjoyed the fruits of their labor with a picnic lunch-meeting there in July.

Also doing a demonstration was the Garden Grove Branch. Theirs was at the Lakewood Garden Show: "...we had plenty of plants with many left over. Our display was absolutely beautifully done with plants of all types... our Branch can be mighty proud of ourselves."

Monterey Branch is proud, too, of its exhibit at the first Central Coast Flower Show, put together by Don Englund, Rob Reinkens, and Bill Schramm, Mose Fadeem, and Ray Peterson. Besides begonias, the display featured paintings by Pat Maley (loaned by branch members lucky enough to own them).

Greater Atlanta Branch held its 3rd annual display-show and sale at the Atlanta Botanical Garden on April 1st (*no fooling!*). They had a busy afternoon, with hundreds of visitors, and made a fine profit.

In April, Santa Barbara Branch gave three book scholarships to Santa Barbara City College horticulture students Margaret Kelly, Doug Cleveland, and Javier Jimenez through their Erika Weber Memorial Scholarship Fund. This wonderful way to encourage young horticulturists is an idea other branches might want to copy.

The Potting Shed, newsletter of the Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch, features a regular column named "Puttering." Puttering gives seasonal advice on growing in the Pittsburgh area, and comments on growing in general. Here are a couple of tips from their February issue:

"Liquefied seaweed has received a number of accolades recently for its beneficial effects on plant, particularly seedling, development. Obviously it is an organic and also very mild. It also contains a large variety of trace elements essential to plant development. Try it on seedlings at 1/4 to 1/2 the recommended rate. The nice part of this product compared to some other organics, particularly fish emulsion, is that it does not have an noxious odor...now is a good time to clean and sterilize used pots. Soak clay pots overnight in a 10 to 1 chlorine bleach solution. Plastic pots only need a brief dunking since they are not porous."

Says Houston Knight, writing in the Whittier Branch newsletter in July:

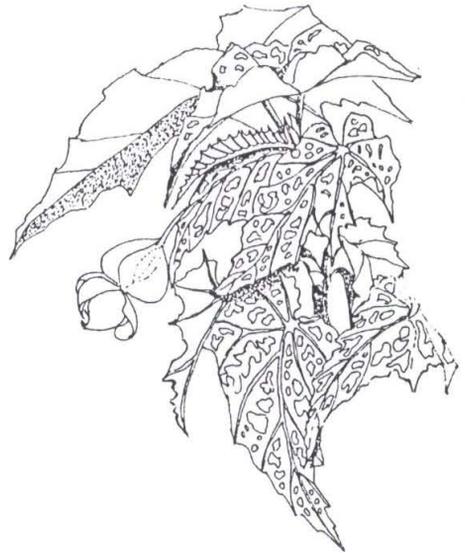
"A year or so ago, one of those blue bug lights was installed in my growing area - the one that electrocutes bugs on an electrically charged screen. All of a sudden, my pesticides began to work much better - in fact, I forgot to spray the chemicals for a whole year. A little quick thinking on my part (my brain is swift, like a snail) pointed out that maybe we don't need all those hazardous chemicals, if we can control moths, and the resulting caterpillars (worms) with a simple little blue light! Would you try it in your area, and let us know if your pesticides are still needed?"

Now, if I can jst get the ants to grow wings and fly into the blue light!"

Marion Lindgren, editor of the newsletter for Westchester Branch, often concludes with "words of wisdom." Here's her conclusion for June:

"There are people who make things happen, people who watch things happen, and people who don't know anything happened."

Palomar Branch members are definitely in the first category: they make things happen. Just wait until you see the lengthy Seed Fund listing for November-December! Many of the tuberous offerings came from Palomar. In addition to starting a project to supply seed to the Seed Fund, they are helping other branches do the same. Phyllis Bates does a program on the mechanics of collecting seed - she showed Whittier Branch members how in June.



P. 'LUBBERGEI'

weinberg

ABS BOOKSTORE

BOOK LIST:

The Begonia Book: Eva Kenworthy Gray, 1931.

Facsimile reprint, 1986. 50 pages, some pictures, \$4.

Begonias: Hikoichi Arakawa, 1980

A Japanese text with 431 color prints, identified in English. No translation of text. \$27.

Begonias in Color: Yugi Murotani

A Japanese text with 225 color photos identified in English. English translation by Hikoichi Arakawa included. \$20.

Growing Begonias: Eric Caterall, 1984

132 pages, 16 color plates, 14 b/w photos, 22 line drawings. \$20 hard cover.

Les Begonias: Charles Chevalier, 1938. Translated by Alva Graham, 1975. 165 pages; photos, some in color. \$5 soft cover.

Buxton Check List: Bessie Buxton, 1957.

A reprint of the original compilation of begonia names from the literature, botanical and horticultural, here and abroad. 1957 original, plus three supplements up through 1967. \$20 spiral-bound.

Guidelines for National Conventions and Annual Shows: Thelma O'Reilly, 1982.

Approved by the Board of Directors, 1982. A must for branches that put on their own shows, and for chairpersons of a national convention. \$2.50 (order of 5 or more, \$2 each).

Catalog of Registered Cultivars

Published by ABS. Lists the first 100 registered cultivars of the genus *Begonia* with each cultivar's background, its parents, originator, references in the **Begonian**, tested data, and complete description. 47 pages, with index. \$4.

Roses: Norman Taylor.

A complete guide to gardening with roses. 495 pages, fully illustrated, 461 color photos. \$14.95.

Your Indoor Garden: George Seddon.

More than 350 indoor plants, each with an identifying illustration, grouped according to light and minimum temperature requirements, a good "care guide." 200 pages, 80 color photos. \$12.95.

The New York Times Book of Houseplants:

Joan Lee Faust. The Garden Editor of the *New York Times* offers her excellent advice and suggestions for growing over 100 popular plants, each with a water color illustration. There is also a section on bottle gardens, terrariums, topiaries, forcing bulbs. 274 pages. \$10.95.

RELATED ITEMS:

Notebook Binders: hold up to 12 issues of the **Begonian**. Black only, excellent quality. \$5.25.

Pamphlets:

"*Begonias from Seed*:" 4 pages.

35 cents each, or 25 cents with book order (22 cents each postage), 50 or more 10 cents each.

"*Culture of Begonias*:" 12 pages.

75 cents each, with book order 50 cents each (56 cents postage), 20 or more 25 cents each

Curtis Botanical Magazine Reprints: 6" x 9" prints suitable for framing. Set of 6, \$5. Single prints, \$1 each.

ABS emblem pin: LIMITED AMOUNT. \$6.

Plastic sign: "Member American Begonia Society," 6" x 12" white with green letters. \$1.

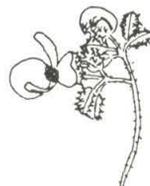
BACK ISSUES

Individual copies of the **Begonian** more than a year old are available for \$1. A full year is \$6 through 1981. 1982 and on are \$1.50 each or \$7 a year. Issues less than a year old are \$2 each.

TO ORDER:

Send check, money order, or bank draft payable to ABS Bookstore to Bob Bailey, ABS Bookstore, 5190 Mission Blvd., Sp. #90, Riverside, Ca, 92509. Add 75 cents per book for postage and handling (unless otherwise noted). California residents add 6 1/2% sales tax.

Foreign orders must be paid in US currency. Please add \$1 per book for additional postage for order outside the USA.



BRANCH DIRECTORY

REGIONAL GROUPS

Eastern Region

Maxine Zinman, Director
Rt. 1, Box 73
Boyce, VA 22620

Southwest Region

Don Miller, Director
1005 Mt. Auburn
Dallas, TX 75223

CALIFORNIA

Alfred D. Robinson

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of members
Mary Zemcik, Pres.
4157 Catalina Place
San Diego, CA 92107

East Bay

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrae Com. Church,
Berkeley
Katharine Olson, Pres.
1244 Mountain Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94611

Garden Grove

1st Wed., 7:30 p.m.
12860 Euclid St.
Garden Grove
Barbara Berton, Pres.
1130 S. Karen Lane
Santa Ana, CA 92704

Long Beach Parent Chapter

3rd Saturday, 1:30 p.m.
Mercury S & L
4140 Long Beach Blvd,
Long Beach
Gil Estrada Pres.
7914 Springer St.
Downey, CA 90242

Monterey Bay Area

4th Wednesday, 8 p.m.
New Monterey Neighbor-
hood Cntr,
Lighthouse & Dickman
New Monterey
(no meeting June, Aug.)
Raymond Peterson,
Pres.
192 Walker Valley Rd.
Castroville, CA 95012

Orange County

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Fullerton S & L
2310 E. Lincoln Ave.
Anaheim
Elda Regimbal, Pres.
3117 San Juan Dr.
Fullerton, CA 92635

Palomar

2nd Sunday, 2 p.m.
Quail Botanical Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Dr.
Encinitas
Ed Bates, Pres.
P.O. Box 502
Encinitas, CA 92024

Rubidoux

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
W. Riverside Mem.
Auditorium
4393 Riverview Dr.
Sonny Wilder, Pres.
P.O. Box 131
Temecula, CA 92390

Sacramento

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Garden Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento
Leora Fuentes, Pres.
2412 Masoni Way
Rancho Cordova, CA
95670

San Francisco

1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Garden Center
Golden Gate Park,
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
Carol Notaras, Pres.
2567 Green St.
San Francisco, CA 94123

San Gabriel Valley

2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Los Angeles State &
County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia
Kenneth Dahlquist, Pres.
696 E. McKinley Ave.
Pomona, CA 91767

San Miguel

1st Wed., 7:30 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Rm. 104
Balboa Park, San Diego
Toni Baker, Pres.
6475 50th St.
San Diego, CA 92120

Santa Barbara

4th Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
The Cottage
1130 N. Milpas St.
Santa Barbara
Rudolph Ziesenhenné,
Pres.

(address same as above)

Santa Clara Valley

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Rm 2, Kirk Com. Cntr.
1601 Foxworthy Ave.
San Jose
Mary Ann Leer, Pres.
1600 Nilda Ave.
Mountain View, CA 94040

Theodosia Burr Shepherd

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Senior Citizens Bldg.
420 Santa Clara St.
Ventura
Virginia Peterman, N. Dir.
405 Dahl Ave.
Pt. Hueneme, CA 93041

Westchester

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Univ. Christian Church
5831 Centinella Ave.
Irene Nuss, Pres.
8329 Regis Way
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Whittier

1st Friday, 7 p.m.
Room 1, Civic Center
7630 Washington Ave.
Whittier
Bill Scarborough, Pres.
4960 N. Bleeker St.
Baldwin Park, CA
91706

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut

4th Monday
homes of members
Arline Peck, Pres.
Eagle Peak Rd., R 1,
Box 478
Pascoag, RI 02859

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AREA

Potomac

4th Sunday, 2 p.m.
Sherwood Hall Library
1205 Sherwood Hall Ln.
Alexandria, VA
Barbara Nunes, Pres.
6025 Greeley Blvd.
Springfield, VA 22152

FLORIDA**Fort Lauderdale Area**

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Melrose Park Com. Cntr.
Plantation
Nan Scoble-Burbles,
Pres.
209 SE 21st St.
Fort Lauderdale, FL
33316

Jacksonville

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Club
1005 Riverside Ave.
Jacksonville
Mary Harrell, Pres.
1628 Broward Road
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Miami

4th Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Simpson Garden Center
55 SW 17th Rd.
Miami
Charles Jaros, Pres.
2621 NW 23rd Court
Miami, FL 33142

Palm Beaches

2nd Monday
Horticultural Center
531 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach
Charles Jaros, Pres.
2621 NW 23rd Ct.
Miami, FL 33142

Pinellas County

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Suncoast Bot. Gardens
10410 125th St.
Seminole
Risa Young, Pres.
7811 First Ave. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33707

Tampa Bay Area

3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.
North Tampa Com. Cntr.
N. 11th St. & E. Seward
Tampa

GEORGIA**Greater Atlanta**

Betty Lockett, Pres.
2064 South Akin Dr. NE
Atlanta, GA 30345

ILLINOIS**Greater Chicago**

4th Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
Oak Park Conservatory
Earth Shelter
621 Garfield St.
Chicago
Daniel Paulson, Pres.
6339 S. Kenneth Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629

MASSACHUSETTS**Bessie Buxton**

Call for meeting info.
Mary Bagdigian, Pres.
26 Andover Road
Billerica, MA 01821

MINNESOTA**Minnesota**

2nd Wed., 7:30 p.m.
Homes of members

NEW JERSEY**Elsa Fort**

Helen Green, Pres.
2100 Hunter St.
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

NEW YORK**Knickerbocker**

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Hort. Society of NY
128 W. 58th St.
New York
Natasha Lutov, Pres.
144 East 74 St.
New York, NY 10021

Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau

Homes of members
Tim Last, Pres.
437 Prospect Ave. # 15
Brooklyn, NY 11215

OHIO**Greater Cincinnati**

Douglas Hahn, Pres.
7736 Stonehill Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45230

OKLAHOMA**Fred A. Barkley**

3rd Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
Will Rogers Garden Cntr.
3400 NW 36th St.
Oklahoma City
Gene Salisbury, Pres.
Box 504
Tonkawa, OK 74653

PENNSYLVANIA**Edna Stewart Pittsburgh**

3rd Wednesday, 7:30
p.m.
Pittsburgh Garden Center
Melissa Jones, Pres.
5220 Beeler St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

William Penn

4th Tuesday, noon
Homes of members
Mrs. Jacques Le Roux,
Pres.
Dove Lake House
Gladwyne, PA 19035

RHODE ISLAND**Roger Williams**

3rd Monday night
Homes of members
Arline Peck, Pres.
Eagle Peak Rd., R 1,
Box 478
Pascoag, RI 02859

TEXAS**Alamo**

3rd Saturday
Homes of members
John Howell, Pres.
129 Trillium
San Antonio, TX 78213

Astro

Tom Keepin, Pres.
4513 Randwick Dr.
Houston, TX 77092

Dallas Area

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Northaven Gardens
7700 Northaven Rd.
Dallas
Merle Gotcher, Pres.
4553 Dee Lane
Fort Worth, TX 76117

Mae Blanton

4th Wed., 9:30 a.m.
Homes of members
Barbara Hamilton, Pres.
268 Shoreline Dr.
Azle, TX 76020

WASHINGTON**Seattle**

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Bethany Lutheran Church
7400 Woodlawn Ave. NE
Robert Major, Pres.
4825 Terrace Dr. N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

June 3, 1989

The Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society met on June 3, 1989 at the home of Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, California. There were 24 people present.

President Arlene Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Aims and Purposes were read by Michael Ludwig. The minutes of the March 5, 1989 meeting were read and corrected. Correction was: Joy Blair was appointed for the Nominating Committee. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report showed a balance as of March 31, 1989: Checking, \$12,627.03 and savings \$38, 181.69 for a total of \$50,808.72.

Membership - As of May 31, 1989: Life Members - 81, Institutions - 127, Dues Paying Members - 1,334.

Correspondence - *Martin Johnson received 200 Australian dollars from the Australian Begonia Society. We should acknowledge them for their contribution to the Seed Fund. A contribution of \$10.00 will be sent to Quail Gardens.*

ABS Directory - Russ Richardson from the Atlanta Branch made the recommendation that the directory be for members only. Cost will be \$7 including mailing. Motion carried.

Scott Hoover - Martin Johnson received a check made out to ABS for \$10,000 for the New England Conservatory. The check was given to treasurer. This matter was put on hold until further information can be obtained.

Judging - Michael Ludwig gave a brief outline; there will be a judging update at the convention Thursday from 9 a.m. until noon, and a judges' meeting at 3:30 p.m. Hopefully the booklet will be finished. Current judges need not take the new course, but will have to brush up on new procedures.

Elections - Ballots will go out on June 6, 1989.

Conservation - John Howell brought attention to the fourth revision of the Conservation Code and Conduct article 6b. The list of seeds should go to Thelma O'Reilly to be given 'U' numbers, then be sent to the Conservation Committee for distribution. Checks for Conservation go to Martin Johnson directly and advertising checks go to Eleanor Calkins.

Standing Committee Reports

Bookstore - Balance on hand: \$149.70

Business Manager - John Ingles has the new cultivar listing. Australia added 10 more pages. Seed Fund - Diana Gould is busy writing letters for seed exchange.

Nomenclature - Two new cultivar names were registered.

Members at Large - Thelma O'Reilly sent 8 welcome letters to new members.

Tracy McClelland spoke briefly about her planned trip to Africa, Tanzania and Malawi in the spring of 1990. Donations should be sent through Research Fund.

Convention Packages were sent out May 24, 1989.

Leslie Woodriff is doing well after his surgery. It would be nice to send cards.

The Santa Barbara Branch and the Ziesenhennés were thanked for their hospitality.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingeborg A. Foo

Secretary

ADDENDUM

On June 9 a letter was sent to members of the Executive Board, requesting they vote to approve/disapprove our support of Scott Hoover's proposed project of the New England Conservatory in the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art & Architecture.

After looking into the project more closely, the Executive Board voted by written ballot, 1 in favor, and 5 against supporting the Conservatory. As there was no tie, the President did not vote.

The Treasurer has returned the \$10,000 to Scott Hoover.

Moving?

Please remember to notify the Membership Chairman of your change of address. The Post Office does not forward bulk rate mail: ABS is billed for notification of the new address (if one is available), but the issue is destroyed. You miss your **Begonian**; ABS must pay for the issue, the postage, and the notification that you have moved; and no one is happy. If you forget to let the Membership Chair know you've moved, you'll have to purchase your missed magazines from the Bookstore.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Michael Ludwig
7007 Mt. Vernon Ave., Lemon Grove, CA 92045
(619) 461-6906

Past President Arlene Davis
157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617

First Vice-President Jeannette Gilbertson
410 JoAnn Circle, Vista, CA 92084

Second Vice-President Joan Coulat
4111 DePaul Court, Sacramento, CA 95821

Third Vice-President John Howell
129 Trillium, San Antonio, TX 78213

Secretary Ingeborg Foo
1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083

Treasurer Eleanor Calkins
910 Fern Street, Escondido, CA 92027

APPOINTED CHAIRMEN & DIRECTORS

Awards Committee Rudolf Ziesenhenne
1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Audit Committee Marion Paris
4793 Soria Drive, San Diego, CA 92115

Ballot Counting Ronnie Nevins
1913 Aspen Circle, Fullerton, CA 92635

Book Store Bob Bailey
5190 Mission Blvd., Sp. 90, Riverside, CA 92509

Branch Relations Director Douglas Hahn
7736 Stonehill Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45230

Business Manager John Ingles, Jr.
157 Monument, Rio Del, CA 95562-1617

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Diana Gould
7700 Deanton Ct., Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Conservation Committee

Co-chairman Scott Hoover
718 Henderson Rd., Williamstown, MA 01267

Co-chairman Martin Johnson
959 Glennan Dr., Redwood City, CA 94061

Historian Norma Pfrunder
3484 Jefferson St., Riverside, CA 92504

Long Range Planning Bob Hamm
10065 River Mist Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Members At Large Thelma O'Reilly
10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041

Nomenclature Carrie Karegeannes
3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22003

Parliamentarian Margaret Lee
1852 31st St., San Diego, CA 92102

Public Relations Lorra Almstedt
1965 Celeste Lane, Fullerton, CA 92633

Research Paul Tsamtsis
1630 F St., Sacramento, CA 95814

Research Librarian Lorra Almstedt
1965 Celeste Lane, Fullerton, CA 92633

Round Robin Margaret Coats
11203 Cedar Elm, San Antonio, TX 78230

Convention Advisors Carol & Peter Notaras
2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123

Convention Chairman Melba Schultz
603 Chauncey, San Antonio, TX 78216

Show Entries Tim Last
437 Prospect Ave., #15, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Slide Librarian Daniel Haseltine
6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago, IL 60634

Speakers Bureau Muriel Perz
2943 N. "H" St., San Bernardino, CA 92405

BEGONIAN STAFF

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Editorial Associates: Phyllis Bates, Bruce C. Boardman, Jack Golding, Mary Weinberg

Please send manuscripts to editor, with SASE if return requested.

For subscription, dues, circulation inquiries contact John Ingles, Jr., 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617



American Begonia Society
P.O. Box 56
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Address correction requested

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