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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 - B. U177, grown and photographed by Don Miller. See U# Listing, p. 55, for more on this and other U's.

Back - Rhizomatous begonias are in their glory now. This beauty is B. 'Emerald Lacewing', grown and photographed by Janet Welsh.

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Quick! Check your mailing label! If it reads 3/91 or 4/91 your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

Exploring the World of Begonias

by Barbara Nunes

"Exploring the world of Begonias" is the theme of the 1991 American Begonia Society Convention in Alexandria, Virginia, September 12-15. The unidentified begonias will be the focus. Potomac Branch, host for the convention, is busy preparing for a fantastic week.

One of the planned tours will be to the United States National Arboretum, one of the largest arboreta in the country, which is called the nation's official tree garden. It was established March 4, 1927 on 444 acres in northeast Washington, D.C., and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The Arboretum features fall-flowering Lycoris and Sternbergia and massed fruits of crabapples, firethorns, holly, and a host of berried shrubs. It includes the Gotelli Dwarf Conifer Collection. Watnong Collection, Fern Valley, Holly Walk, the National Herb Garden and the National Bonsai Collection. The Bonsai Collection, housed in a specially constructed pavilion, began as a bicentennial gift from Japan. Many of the plants were donated from the private sector, including some from the Japanese Royal Family. The rest were purchased by the Japan Foundation. Some date back more than 350 years. Added donations of 31 Chinese miniature treescapes in 1987 and of a group of American-grown trees in 1990 make this the most comprehensive assemblage in the Western Hemisphere.

The National Herb Garden occupies about an acre with walkways and terraces. It includes a formal "knot" garden, with plants arranged in intricate patterns to resemble various types of knots. The specialty herb garden has herbs used for medicinals, flavoring, essential oils, dyes, and teas, as well as herbs used by American Indians and early colonial settlers.

The second planned tour is to Dunbarton Oaks, tucked away on a quiet street in Georgetown. This was the site in 1944 of the first international conference which led to the formation of the United Nations. The house has a collection of Byzantine artworks and pre-Columbian art, along with rare books. The garden, designed by noted landscape architect Beatrix Farrand in the early 1920's, is an exquisite, delightful place of ten acres. Three principles governed the original plan - progressive informality in design, materials, and plantings as the gardens recede down the slopes: plants chosen for beauty and interest in winter as well as other seasons: and space providing for daily living. The garden is home to a black oak 18 feet in circumference, estimated to be about 300 years old. The Orangery has a fig (Ficus pumila) planted before the Civil War.

Our convention hotel, the Old Colony Inn, is easily accessible, with complimentary transportation from National Airport (just 10 minutes away). Recently renovated, the hotel offers informal dining, a swimming pool, whirlpool, exercise room, and free parking. A grocery store across the street and historic old town Alexandria 8 blocks away make shopping easy.

Weather in the national capital area in September is quite pleasant, with temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Come explore the world of begonias with us!



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Arranging Rhizomatous Begonias to Enjoy their Beauty

One of the pleasures of growing rhizomatous begonias is collecting many varieties. At the beginning, we start with varieties which we can get our hands on easily. Then we refine our tastes and collect specific begonias we like, selecting them from many varieties. One may collect only species, and another hybrids. It is recommended that a beginner collect those begonias that will adapt easily to his or her surroundings, and I have spoken on this theme.

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This time, I'd like to propose a method of assembling a begonia collection more for its overall beauty than for ease of growing, and to suggest that we think of the harmonious appearance of the whole collection.

Rhizomatous begonias show great diversity in leaf patterns, colors, design, and individuality. We don't find all of them beautiful; this is one point of difference between begonias and St. Paulia. But I'd like to suggest that we can emphasize the beauty of begonias as we select and arrange them better.

There are three possible methods of selection to follow in considering collecting and arranging begonias:

- 1. thinking of the color of the leaves
- 2. thinking of selecting varieties by form and shape
- 3. thinking of selecting by size

Selecting by leaf colors

In thinking of any pure color, we are sensitive to clarity, tone, and brightness. When we see the color of the leaves of a plant, we think of delicate psychological effects, such as the sense of touch and by Yasuhage Kamata Translated from Japanese by Akira Tanaka

sight on texture, quality, and pattern of leaves. I try to select begonias in groups according to the above mentioned three attributes of color.

Grouping according to a percentage of clarity

1) Begonias with comparatively clear leaves: 'Hiro', 'Pink Nacre', 'Silver Star', 'Sir Percy', 'Skeezar', 'Silver Slipper', 'Queen Olympus', *paleata*, 'Chichee', 'Marga'

2) Begonias with comparatively dark leaves: 'Raquel Wood', 'Guarant', 'Carousel', 'Sakai', 'Oceanside', 'Joe Hayden', 'Kurohitode', 'Siron', 'Black Knight', *metachroa*

Begonias 'Chichee' and 'Marga', attributed to group 1, are not varieties of strong identity. But they become enchanting in their colors when they are displayed among varieties having comparatively dark leaf color.

As Begonias 'Hiro' and 'Skeezar' are hybrids from a family of *B. liebmanii*, we can grow them with less light. So we put them under a shelf, where they receive less light, and there their leaf color is impressive. When we place them by the side of varieties with comparatively darker colors, their beauty is shown effectively. This is a way of appreciation using a contrasting harmony of color, a way of contributing to a whole harmony by contrasting different colors.

Grouping according to tone

1) Begonias with yellowish-green leaves: 'Replicant', 'Tiger Belle', Mexican species #1, 'Leopon', *masoniana*, 'Universe', 'Kogane', 'Ofukuro'

2) Begonias with reddish-green leaves: 'Akatombo', Malaysia species, 'Tatsutagawa', 'Pink Surprise', *decora*, 'Eagleshamm', *versicolor*.

3) Begonias with blueish-green leaves: conchifolia, 'Aladdin', 'Blue Chip', goegoensis, 'Missouri', 'Akane', imperialis var. brunnea

The main color of leaves is green, but they have shadings of yellow, red, and blue. This grouping is another one, differing from the former. For example, within a grouping with clear leaves, B. 'Black Night' is blueish black, 'Black Tea' is reddish black, and "Black Magic' is yellowish black. When we separate begonias by leaf color, there are, comparatively, many of blueish green. If we gather varieties with differing clarity of color and change the brightness, we produce a sense of clarity under the same harmony. Species of yellowish green, such as 'Tiger Belle' and 'Replicant', have a comparatively high level of clarity and brightness. When we mix them among our collection, we can get an interesting sense of harmony.

The reddish green varieties have much individuality. When we put varieties with reddish green leaves among varieties with bright green leaves, the contrast is emphasized and the plants are accented. On the other hand, we feel a lack of calm if two or three of them are put among many pots. When we put varieties with blackish leaves with one of reddish green leaves, the arrangement will be pleasing.

Grouping according to percentage of brightness

1) Begonias which are comparatively bright: 'Art', *rajah, manicata* var. *aureo maculata, masoniana*, 'Universe', 'Nagare', 'Tiger Belle', *gehrtii*

2) Begonias which are comparatively dark: 'Bess', 'Cocoa Star', 'Orihime', 'Rikyuu', 'Black Raspberry', 'Furano', 'Merry Merry', 'Ricky Minter', 'Ourey'

Varieties of less brightness create a grouping of quietness. In contrast, when you gather species of bright color only, the grouping is brilliant but there is a danger of becoming clamorous when the varieties are of various color tones. The lack of calm can be made harmonious if you add varieties with monotone leaves, such as 'Furano' and 'Merry Merry'. Should you feel the need to add more plants to your arrangement, it is better to add according to this criteria.

Selecting according to style and shape

I would like to digress and turn to style and shape next. This idea of collecting places emphasis on growth patterns. Of particular interest are varieties having short joints, shrublike growth, and short stalks. These have many leaves, and can be grown to luxurious and symmetrical specimens. In contrast, varieties with tall stalks and long joints are not as attractive even if they have many leaves; we feel their lack of symmetry. Another consideration is speed of growth; those varieties that grow slowly do not throw their style out of order. The next grouping considers orderly growth.

Begonias with orderly style: "Dainty Lady', aridicaulis, 'Sakai', conchifolia var. rubrimacula, 'Leopon', 'Bokit', 'Red Eye', 'Nao', 'Libby Lee', 'Fred Bedson', 'Carousel', 'Universe', 'Carlsbad', 'Ricky Minter', metachroa, 'Silver Jewel'.

Begonias with disorderly style:

'Sisquoc', *carrieae*, *hidalgensis*, 'Silver Star', 'Himiko', 'Yanonali', *mazae*, 'Lospe', *manicata* var, *aureo-maculata*, 'Nagare'

Begonias 'Dainty Lady' and 'Red Eye' grow luxuriously; it's their nature, even when they are not cared for. 'Sisquoc' and *mazae* have wild natures, and will be in disorder on one side of the pot. 'Silver Star' grows quickly, but its rhizome grows long on one side of the pot and then grows out of the pot. 'Yanonali' is my favorite, it is one of the most individualistic, I think; but its growth pattern is disorderly.

As I speak of ways to determine selection of varieties, I propose that one way is to select plants that grow in an orderly 1

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fashion. I would like to add that pinching and encouraging branching is important for displaying the beauty of the begonias, whether they grow naturally in orderly or disorderly fashion. If you grow new varieties from a cutting, the plant will grow in a more orderly way from a stem cutting than from a rhizome or a leaf.

Selecting by Size

The size of the variety is the last thing to consider. It is better to collect thinking of shape and arrangement of varieties. Begonias 'Red Eye' and 'Carousel' are varieties that arrange nicely, but their size is different. We cannot grow them in the same way.

A large variety kept too long in a small pot will stop growing and lose its strength, then drop its lower leaves. A small specimen in a large pot is imbalanced. Begonias 'Carlsbad' and 'Fred Bedson' grow slowly, and can be grown in small pots. It is pleasing to us to see small pots, of 7.5 cm diameter. The small pots have many advantages, as they can be set in limited space and plants can be grown systematically in the same pot size under light.

On the other hand, large pots are good, too. Adding large pots (18 cm. in diameter) to the smaller ones adds liveliness through contrast. Examples of large varieties are Begonias 'Batern', *carolineifolia*, and 'Camber', These varieties have large flowers ('Camber' has a flower of 30-40 cm.). These large flowers will change our image of the flowers of rhizomatous begonias. The size of varieties can be found on the list of Begonias edited by Japan Begonia Society and published by Seibundo Shinkousha.

This is the definite point of arranging your collection more artistically. I have written this theme according to my arbitrary and personal prejudices. But I will be pleased if this thesis will help you grow and collect begonias. Please let me know your opinions and suggestions on this theme. Thank you.

Permission to use this article was granted by Japan Begonia Society, which holds the copyright. The original appeared in "Begonia" in Japanese, which is published bimonthly by JBS, No. 123 July-August 1987 issue pp. 8-10.

Mr. Yasuhage Kamata is a Director of Japan Begonia Society. His address is 2256-17 Matsudo, Matsudo-shi Chiba-ken 271 Japan.

Note: <u>Begonias</u>: <u>The Complete Reference</u> <u>Guide</u>, by Mildred L. and Edward J. Thompson, gives an indication of the sizes of begonias in cultivation in this country.

B. decora Malaysia, 1892 One of the begonias with reddish-green leaves, it requires high humidity and must usually be grown in a terrarium.

drawing by Nannette Watkins



Going, Going, Gone...

Each year a number of begonias will be lost to us. Probably the vast majority will be cultivars. No problem, we have a number of folks going out in the wild and finding new ones. After all, status is in those "U" numbers over 200 or that new distinctive cultivar. In fact, the 1991 Convention is featuring the "U" numbers. So who needs the out-of-fashion oldies like Begonias 'Secondhand Jeans', 'Connee Boswell', 'Arthur Mallet', *lubbersii*, etc.?

The Aims & Purposes of the American Begonia Society mentions interest in begonias, friendly contact of begonia lovers and growers, issuing a bulletin, as well as introduction and development of new types of begonias, etc. Nowhere did I find anything about "preserving or saving from extinction that which we already have." Does this mean we're clear of any responsibility to pass these begonias on to following generations? Off the hook?

For the most part we don't even notice as the begonias slip away. Is the result of our passivity really different from the result of developers destroying species out in the wild? Why not save the species and those cultivars that folks like Bower, Gray, Lemoine, Cole developed for us to grow and appreciate?

We lost a valuable resource and opportunity to accomplish this with the closing of the Thompson Begonia Museum. We could have done more to support this repository of begonias and information.

Lionnet developed B. 'Arthur Mallet' and 'Tingley Mallet' back in 1884; the beautiful *B. rajah* was discovered in Malay in 1894. These old-time begonias have been passed down over many decades for us to appreciate. Tovah Martin's <u>Once Upon</u> <u>a Windowsill</u> (Timber Press, 1989) gives us an appreciation of the difficulties involved in keeping plants alive in years past. Now these treasured heirlooms are in our hands. We have technologies and communications possibilities beyond the dreams of the Victorians, techniques far more advanced than in the days when the Wardian Case was "state of the art" technology that enabled plants to travel great distances while minimizing losses. The question is whether we will utilize these new technologies to make sure future begonia growers have this heritage passed along to them.

The need exists. There have been requests in the **Begonian** and the regional bulletins to support a master catalog of begonias grown by our membership. In "wanted" columns of the regional newletters, in Round Robins, in conversations at shows and conventions, in seminars, we hear from members looking for begonias. The "Want List" in the Seed Fund newsletter is massive. There is concern that some begonias, such as *Begonias exotica, bogneri*, and the *Symbegonias* may be lost.

Saving and passing along our begonia heritage requires the sponsorship and direction of the ABS. We all need to participate in a group effort.

The structure is already in place. Branches can be funnelling inventories to their regional contact. In turn, a regional contact can update a national contact as well as coordinate with other regions on a periodic basis. This program can identify begonias that are scarce and aid in getting cuttings to members, growers, botanical gardens, and commercial growers. It can identify the location of begonias that members may be searching for.

The technology is available. Microcomputers with their large and sophisticated data bases make listing, updating, and calling up information quick and inexpensive.



B. 'Crestabruchii' was created by Lewis in 1938. Photo by Howard Berg

All we need is the cooperation of members. I think one of the reasons that the response to current cataloging efforts has been so slow is that we may hesitate to list our begonias feeling we may lose them down the line. A number of my begonia growing efforts have wound up in the mulch pile. In sending off my list for cataloging, I listed only the begonias I was raising without problems. As I do better with some of the others I can add them to the list or delete something I no longer have.

There may be other concerns, such as not wanting to ship material (you wouldn't have to). We also need to be informed about the progress of the program, benefits members may receive, how to use the system, etc.

Benefits to members would be far greater than any costs of the program. In a short time species and cultivars can be located and we can identify which begonias are becoming scarce and take action before they are gone. The first step - now! - is to list your begonias. Then help others in your branch in supporting this effort. Make it a branch activity. Give it a try. Don't let the efforts of those in the past become lost forever...

Bill Voss lives at 3805 Louise Ave., Chantilly, VA 22021. His large collection is a testimony to his efforts to keep as many older begonias in cultivation as possible.

Two ways you can help preserve begonias:

ABS Conservation Department is making a catalog of **species** in cultivation and soliciting members' species lists. Send your list to: Kit Jeans Mounger, Rt. 1, Box 319, New Johnsonville, TN 37134 or to Kingsley Langenberg, 2141 N. Bonnie Brook Lane, Waukegan, IL 60087.

Frank Green and Kingsley Langenberg are cooperating on listing both **species and cultivars**. Frank's address is 102 Richardson Rd., Ashby, MA 01431.

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50,000 Visitors

What if you had to plan for 50,000 visitors? Astro Branch had that many when they mounted a begonia display & sale at the Texas Lawn and Garden show in Houston February 23-25, 1990. They had such a good time they plan on repeating the job this year. Here, with pictures, are some of their suggestions for putting together a terrific show.



Plan a simple set-up

Astro members unrolled a piece of carpet, then used cement blocks and landscape timbers to define their sale-display area, support curtaining and signs, and frame shelving. Flats for small plants were set on two timbers; rods across the top served for hanging baskets. One side of the booth had a long table with risers for displaying really large plants. The materials needed fit easily into a van, and assembly took place in a matter of minutes (they practiced beforehand, on the president's driveway). A table with chairs completed the booth, allowing more display space for begonias and a place to put hand-outs as well as seating.



Charles Plumier went to the French Antilles in 1690 to collect rare plants. He was successful. So that six of his collected fit any known plant Ldiscov-

Monk's foray for rare plants nets unknown and they climb trees to reet of more tall. Some begonias are epiphytes like many orchids and broneliads. Some grow as shrubs. And many begonias grow in Houston. Across their global range, riouston. Across their global range, begonias grow in deserts, pine for-mountains, and cloud and rain wast majority, though, and cloud forests

The American Begonia s

Some are short, and some are tall. Some are huge, and some are small. Some are red, and some are pink. Some grow over kitchen sinks. Some have spots, and some have hair. Some have thick stems that are bare ...

Growing them is not a fuss. We'll teach you how, come grow with us!

This ad sponsored by the Astro Beg wick Dr., Houston 77092, 713-686-85 and others with me Stin-

have tiny flowers the size of a p head. Begonia leaves may be as small as an eighth inch in diameter or as head. big as six feet across. As their nicknames — cucumber begonia, lettuce leaf begonia, pond

lily begonia, elm leaf begonia suggests, they mimic the leaf They grow on canes 18-20 feet in the plant kingdom.

Plan ahead on publicity

ABS advanced \$120 to Astro Branch to pay half the cost of an ad in the special Lawn & Garden Show section of the Houston Post. The paper also ran a short article about begonias, and listed a phone number for contacting the Branch. These arrangements were made the preceding summer.

Handouts were part of the planning. Each We're a greatly purchaser was handed information about group of people gr ABS and Begonias Olé!, the ABS Convengreatly diverse plar We offer a bimor tion in San Antonio. Overprint copies of the magazine, round rot **Begonian** were given to potential wonderful begonias, great friends. begoniacs. great friends. Write for more info to

P.O. Box 56 10

Plan for volunteers

Branch members supported their entry. On a staggered schedule. everyone in the branch

showed up to man the booth and talk begonias to everyone who went by. Each volunteer wore a special apron with the branch logo. Several found they enjoyed it so much they stayed past their tour of duty!

Plan well in advance for sale plants

Branch members spent nearly a year in preparation, growing all the begonias they could squeeze in - and scrounging plants from other groups in Southwest Region. Having large examples of the same variety helped sell the smaller plants.

The floor space requested was planned around the number of plants members thought they could raise. Here's the only time their planning went awry: the booth wasn't quite large enough. In 1991 they plan on more space. They also plan to take more plants: by Sunday afternoon, not a single begonia remained.



Was it worth the work involved? Results for Astro Branch have been a big surge in membership, a very healthy treasury, and lots of publicity. Though exhausted, exhibitors even claimed to have had fun. Hard to measure, but definitely there, is the pleasure of working together.

The "Little Martian" has a Cousin in New York



by Merry Bruns

The November-December 1989 **Begonian** carried K. Mose Fadeem's article about the "Little Martian", a tiny plantlet that appeared on a bloom stalk of B. 'Red Planet'. Further "Little Martian" adventrues were chronicled in the November-December 1990 issue.

At the 1988 ABS convention in Boston I purchased a mismarked, maple-leafed begonia. It was clearly not 'Black Raspberry', as I own that one, but (going by a picture in the Thompsons' <u>Begonias...</u>) it is possibly B. 'Geometry'. I grew the plant in a sunny window, with lots of light.

Last year a <u>complete</u> tiny plantlet emerged midway down the stem of a leaf! After several months, the parent leaf dried off naturally, and, not knowing what to do, I cut off the baby plant, making a malletstyle cutting, and put it in perlite. It thrived.

The plant is now happy in its own pot, and I am confused - both by its manner of birth, and the fact that I still have no official name for it.

Merry Brun's address is 251 W. 91st St. #3D, New York, NY 10024. She wrote about her plantlet in summer of 1990.



LAURAY of SALISBURY

Begonias, Gesneriads, Orchids Cacti & Succulents 432 Undermountain Road, Rt. 41 Salisbury, CT 06068 203-435-2263 Usually open daily, 10 am - 5 pm 1990-91 Catalog \$2.00

Appreciating the Shrub-like Begonias



Of all the types of begonias, those known as shrub-like are probably the most varied and easiest to grow. They are grown chiefly for their interesting and beautiful foliage, with size, shape, colors, and leaf surfaces and textures in almost endless variety, although, as we shall see, the flowers have some interesting features, too.

Many shrubs originated in Brazil and other countries of northern South America, with others coming from Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico; but some are found in places like Africa, Sumatra, the Philippines, and New Guinea.

The predominant feature of the shrubs is that they are bushy or shrub-like, producing shoots from the base and branching freely to form full plants. The stems are flexuous and the internodes deviate in direction, giving a rather zig-zag effect. They may be erect or semi-erect, and many make nice basket plants. Leaf shapes may be pointed ovals such as *B. echinosepala*, or elliptical shapes, or peltate and nearly round, like *B. peltata.* Some have compound leaves, like *B. luxurians.* Sizes vary from tiny, like *B. foliosa,* to tall, like B. 'Lee's Luxurians'. Large-leafed shrubs generally have leaves over 6" long, and some go up to 18" under ideal conditions. Begonias 'Alva Graham', 'Braemer', 'Gene Daniels', 'Lee's Luxurians', and 'Paul-bee' are examples of those with large foliage.

Shrubs are also found with hairy leaves, and the hairy-leaved classes are divided by leaf width. The "over 3 inches" class includes such fascinating leaf forms as the species *B. fernando-costae*, and *B. hispida* var. *cucullifera*, the one with little taglike projections on the leaf surface. Among the cultivars we have the beautiful B. 'John Tapia', 'Emma Palmer', 'Lady Clare', 'Metosa', and 'Quinebaug'. Hairy leaved, narrow-leaved varieties include B. 'Withlacochee' and 'Ginny', which certainly illustrate the extreme variety in this group.

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Shrubs have not only hairy leafed types, but also felted-leaf examples: species *incana*, *peltata*, and *venosa* and hybrids 'Fleecealba' and 'San Miguel'.

Then there are those shrub-like ones with distinctive foliage, with unusual surface or coloring. B. listada and its hybrids 'Mabel Corwin', 'Magdalene Madsen', 'Murray Morrison' and 'Oh No' carry a chartreuse streak along the main vein. Other shrubs with distinctive foliage are Begonias chlorosticta, green with yellow-green spots and brown outlining, and exotica, with hot pink spots. Many are compact plants, such as Begonias 'Jill Adair', 'Steve Tapia', and 'Midnight Sun', which has fascinatingly varied leaves in several colors, and the species B. acida, with large, round, puckered leaves. Many of these distinctive foliage types require high humidity.

Shrub-like types show variety also in time of flowering. B. 'Medora', a smallleaved, bare-leaved hybrid has pink flowers summer-fall, B. 'Eunice Gray' will show its white flowers from February to December, *B. obscura* flowers in winter, B. *echinosepala* flowers winter and summer. Many of the small-leaved types are nearly continuous in their blooming, and have pink or red flowers; examples are Begonias 'Corbeille de Feu', 'Decker's Select', 'Preussen', and 'Richmondensis'.

Many of the "shrubbies" have interesting flowers with hairs: *B. obscura* has white flowers with white hairs, B.'Ginny' has pink flowers with red hairs, B. 'Metosa' has white flowers with red hairs.

After reading through the above paragraphs, do you find that you grow more shrub-like begonias than you thought you did?

Virginia S. Carlson edits <u>Begonias</u>, <u>Begorra!</u> the newsletter of the Orange County Branch, where this article first appeared. She lives and grows at 1137 N. Highland, Fullerton, CA 92635.

Two Extremes

by Bob Hamm

Begonias 'Christmas Candy' and 'Amigo' are both popular, long blooming hybrids, but both are really too big for the average light garden or windowsill. So when I saw what looked like a miniature version of these plants among a bunch of new varieties I was growing, it caught my eye.

B. 'Mark Thornton' has the same leaf shape as the larger two, but only a fraction of the size. The flower color is red and white, with the same constant bloom characteristics of 'Christmas Candy' and 'Amigo'. A cross of *B. schmidtiana* x U014 by Bob Cole (1983), B. 'Mark Thornton' is good in a 3 or 4 inch pot on a windowsill, or in the light garden.

A begonia at the other extreme is a species from Mexico (1859) which was originally received by the Sacramento Branch from Rudy Ziesenhenne. *B. megaphylla* did not look like much as a baby. Its rounded green leaves were not really distinctive. However, as it grew its leaves reached a foot across and developed chartreuse veins that contrast beautifully with the pea-green leaf surface. This plant is going to be one of the larger rhizomatous specimens for those with the room.

Excerpted from the newsletter of Unusual Plants, 10065 River Mist Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

> Nomenclature Note: *B. megaphylla* has been determined to be the same as *B. barkeri*, an earlier name (1840).

> > The Begonian

Unidentified Begonia Species List

Thelma O'Reilly, Project Director

The ABS Nomenclature Department maintains a list of unidentified species. These are assigned numbers preceded by "U" (for unidentified).

Your cooperation in supplying information, including observations, photographs, slides, or drawings for ths group is important. Any shared information will be appreciated. Please contact Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 91941 (please note new zip code).

The references in parenthesis are to the **Begonian**, year: page number for Seed Fund listing. For example, B. U160 was listed on pages 153-154 in 1989.

B. U160

Panama. Seed collected by Roberto Brin near Las Cascadas, 1985. (1989: 153-154.) Shrub-like. Leaf blades green, small and delicate. Tentatively identified as *B. filipes* by R. Brin.

B. U161

Panama. Seed collected by R. Brin near Madden Dam, 1985. (1986:18, 1989: 68-69.) Rhizomatous. Leaf blades green, thinly textured. A print from Jan Goodwin, Australia, shared by Joan Campbell, illustrates a strong similarity between B. U 155, U159, and U161.

B. U162

Merida, Venezuela. Seed collected by Lynda Goldsmith at Mitisus. (1985: 62, 1990: 30-32, 1990: 142.) Shrub-like. Stems green, branching, lenticellate, glabrous, 4-6 feet, turning woody with age. Leaf blades ovate, glabrous, dark green above, light green flushed red below, serrulate, crenulate, ciliolate, 9-11 nerved. Petioles tannish green, 1/2-3/4 inches, channeled, glabrous. Stipules persistent, acuminate. Flowers white flushed pink create a vivid contrast to dark pink ovaries; large, floriferous, hanging inflorescences. Tentatively identified as *B. meridensis* by L. Goldsmith.

B. U163

Merida, Venezuela. Seed collected by L. Goldsmith at Trujillo. (1985:62, 1989: 153-54, 1990: 142.) Thick-stem. Leaf blades medium green, 6 x 9 inches, ovate, sparsely setulose above, glabrous below, shallowly lobed, serrulate, ciliolate. Petioles green, glabrous, 4-5 inches, white, short trichomes form a sparse cuff at petiole summit. Stipules green, quickly drying, persistent, strongly keeled, 1 1/4 inches. Flowers white, small Tentatively identified as *B. dichotoma* by L. Goldsmith.

B. U164

Aguson, Philippines. Imported by Martin Johnson, 1984. Shrub-like. Leaf blades green, small, acuminate. Stems repent. Flowers pink. Johnson reports that winter protection is necessary.

B. U165

Queson, Philippines. Seed imported by M. Johnson, 1984. Rhizomatous. Leaf blades green. Mabel Corwin reported that some plants were glabrous, some were sparsely hairy, otherwise they were identical.

B. U166

Queson, Philippines. Seed imported by M. Johnson from Sablong, 1984. Labeled "Red Begonia" by collector. (1987:65, photo, 66; 1990: 142.) Rhizomatous. Leaf blades medium green, peltate, finely marginated red, serrulate, cupped, 2-5 x 2-3 1/2 inches, 7-9 nerved, glabrous above, below distinct red hairs up to 1/4 inch widely spaced along nerves. Stipules flesh colored, red nerved, setaceous apex. Petioles green, succulent, sparsely spaced red hairs on upper area; a sparsely red-haired cuff encircles petiole at summit. Staminate flowers pink, 4 tepaled, (two narrow), 1 inch wide, glabrous. Pistillate flowers pink, 4-5 tepals of unequal size, glabrous.

<u>Note</u>: M. Corwin and T. O'Reilly reported that seed plantings produced a few seedlings with leaf blades dark green, flushed red above and burgundy below.



B. U167, grown & photographed by Naomi Lynch

B. U167

La Mesa, Panama. Seed collected by R. Brin near the town of El Valle, 1985. Elevation 1050 m. (1985: 112, 1989: 68-89.) Trailing/Scandent. Stems green flushed red, succulent, glabrous, rooting at nodes. Leaf blades green, glabrous, ovate, 5 nerved, 2" x 3", marginally serrulate, sparsely ciliate. Petioles green flushed red, 1". Stipules green, quickly drying, persistent, glabrous, keeled, 1/2". Flowers pink, sometimes white flushed pink. Brin described plant in habitat as epiphytic with deep-red petioles, pink-red flowers and a wax-like appearance on leaves. Identified as a variety of *B. glabra* by T. O'Reilly.

B. U168

Polillo, Philippines. Imported by M. Johnson, 1985. Shrub-like. Stems slender, slightly swollen at nodes, green turning corky with age. Leaf blades olive green flushed bronze with silvery spattered areas and sparsely scattered hairs above, glabrous and red below, ovate, acute, obliquely cordate, palmately 5 nerved, 2 1/2"-3" x 1 3/4", marginally serrate, ciliate. Petioles pale red, glabrous, 3/4". Stipules green, setiferous, keeled, quickly drying, persis-

tent, 1/2"-3/4". No record of B. U168 flowering in cultivation. Widely distributed by cuttings. Needs protection from cold and overwatering during winter months when it usually goes semi-dormant.

B. U169

Mexico. Rhizomes collected in the State of Veracruz, 100 miles inland from ocean by Steve Correale, Miami, FL, 1985. Elevation 2500-3000 ft. Begonias were found mulched between large boulders in shady, damp area. Collected material was given to Charles Jaros. Rhizomatous. Rhizomes brown, 1 1/2"-2". Leaf blades green with bronze shading over upper surface mature into dark green with red under surface, nerves radiate from white spot where leaf and petiole join. Petioles green, setaceous, collar of sparse trichomes at summit. Stipules green with bristly hairs, persistent.

B. U170

Casabita, Dominican Republic. Seed collected by Dr. Juan Rivera. Elevation 1000 m. Seed imported by M. Johnson. Shrub-like. Stems brownish-green, brittle, woody, lenticellate, glabrous, slightly swollen at nodes, 2' -2 1/2'. Leaf blades deep green, glabrous, widely puckered, red depressed nerves above, red prominent nerves with tawny, fine hairs below, elongated ovate, obliguely cordate to deeply cordate, acuminate, crisp substance, 4"-5"x 2", marginally dentate, denticulate, undulate, Petioles reddish green with soft, wooly, tawny hairs, channeled, 1". Stipules green, keeled, persistent, 1/2". Inflorescences consist of many full clusters of tiny. beautiful flowers. Staminate flower buds rose-red opening into 4 white-flushed-pink tepals, two outer tepals nerved red vertically, 6-9 stamens are pale yellow, each edged in dark red, creating a star-like cluster. Pistillate flowers are 5-6 tepalled, white flushed red with 1 large rose-red wing, 2 smaller wings are white flushed rose-red. Peduncles wine red, 61/2-8". Pedicels rose-red, 1/2". An interesting characteristic is the blooming habit of this species. The peduncles emerge from the top of the stems, giving the plant a lovely, open, airy canopy. Another attractive feature is its potently sweet fragrance which is always evident. Tentatively identified as B. domingensis by T. O'Reilly, Verified by Dr. Lyman B. Smith. There are several forms of this species in the Smithsonian Herbarium.

B. U171

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Mexico. Seed collected by Frank Haussman, Homestead FL, about 25 miles from Fortín. Seed and seedlings distributed by M. Johnson. Identified as *B. manicata* by T. O'Reilly, 1985. B. U172

Trinidad. Seed collected by T. McLellan and J. Endler, 1985. (1985: 110 photo, 1985: 112, 1989: 68-69.) Rhizomatous. Rhizomes often procumbent when young but upright or semi-upright with age. Leaf blades lobed, ovate, cordate, bright green, glabrous above, green with sparse brown felting below, 4"-5", marginally variable. Flowers white, large, dichotomously branched. Peduncles tall, erect. White bracts cover developing inflorescences. McLellan remarks, "We call this begonia "Foundation" for its habit of growing on cement foundations and walls." Identified as *B. sericoneura* by T. McLellan.

B. U173

Costa Rica. Seed collected by T. McLellan and J. Endler, 1985. Rhizomatous. Collectors reported that this begonia appeared to be identical to B. U172 except for a red sinus on leaf blade. Identified as *B. sericoneura* by T. McLellan.

B. U174

Trinidad. Found in a potted orchid plant. Imported by T. McLellan and J. Endler, 1985. (1985: 112, 1989: 153-154.) Rhizomatous. Rhizome creeping, 1"-1 1/2" with adventitious growths. Leaf blades parted, glabrous, medium green with 1/2"-1" black margins. Flowers pink, numerous, small, dichotomously branched. Many growers have reported that this begonia is difficult to grow, tending to go dormant and not recover. Several have reported that B. U174 is different from *B. heracleifolia* as reported in the July-August **Begonian**. Further research is underway.



B. U163 Grown by Pat Sage Photographed by John Sage



B. U175: grown & photographed by Mike Kartuz



B. U175

B. U175:

close-up of flowers by Tracy McLellan

Trinidad. Collected in thin, green moss on wet rocks along the Marianne River by T. McLellan and J. Endler, 1985, (1988:30). Shrub-like. Stems green, short, closely noded, glabrous with occasional hairs. Leaf blades green, covered with short, red, semistiff hairs that are red as new leaves emerge from the stipules and gradually turn white above and white to pink below, ovate to lanceolate, acuminate, basally broadly to narrowly rounded, 2"-4" x 1 1/2"-1 3/4", marginally serrate, serrulate, white to red cilated. Petioles green with white to pink scattered semi-stiff hairs, 2"-5". Stipules green, glabrous, 1/4" x 1/8", keeled with semi-stiff hairs, acuminate, persistent. Peduncles green flushed red or pinkishred, white semi-bristly hairs, 6"-12", erect. Interestingly, peduncles usually have 1-2 nodes below flowers which sometimes bear small leaves typical of mature leaves. Bracts white with hairs. Bracteoles small but prominent, fugacious (short-lived). Staminate flowers white to greenish-white, 1/2" x 3/4", 4 tepals echinate (provided with prickly hairs) on outer sides of 2 largest tepals. Pistillate flowers white to greenish-white. 5 tepals with echinate hairs on outer sides, 1 large, 2 smaller wings, each echinate. McLellan has searched for this begonia in herbariums of institutions and botanical gardens, including Europe. She has found no specimen to match B. U175. It may be a new species.

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B. U176: photo taken at Selby Gardens by Kit Jeans Mounger

Corrections to Unidentified Begonia Species Update of July-August, 1990

B. U095 = B. roezlii Lynch B. U231 is not the same as B. U162. This species remains unidentified.

B. U176

Bolivia. Plant material collected and deposited with the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL. Cane-like. Stems are tall. Leaf blades dark green with silver splashes, large. This species appears to be related to *B. platanifolia*.

B. U177

Colombia, Collected 3 km, east of Bitaco, Dept. Valle, by Nat de Leon, Miami, FL, 1959. Cane-like. Stems green turning corky with age, glabrous, slender, lenticellate, 2'-4'. Leaf blades green with bronze highlights and satiny sheen, sparsely strigillose above, red, glabrous below, lobed, ovate, asymmetrical, deeply cordate, 6"-12" x 4"-6", marginally serrate, serrulate, shortly ciliate. Petioles green flushed red, glabrous, channeled, 2 1/2". Stipules green, glabrous, keeled, acuminate, 3/4" x 1/4". Peduncles green flushed red, glabrous, 1 1/2". Pedicels pale pink, 1/2"-3/4", glabrous. Bracts pink, deciduous, Bracteoles pink,

deciduous. Staminate flowers pink, sometimes white flushed pink, 2 tepals, orbicular, glabrous. Pistillate flowers pink, occasionally white flushed pink, glabrous, large, 3-5 tepals variable with largest 1" x 3/4", stigmas large, bicornute, wings pink with one smaller, glabrous, orbiculate. Efforts to self-pollinate this beautiful species have been unsuccessful to date. See cover for photo.



BULLETIN BOARD

Appointments:

(Nov. 1990 Board Meeting) **Round Robin Director: Pat Sage**, 1635 Lanoitan, National City, CA 91950 **Back Issues: Betty Tillotson**, 3912

Wildrose Way, Sacramento, CA 95826 (Jan. 1991 Board Meeting)

Awards Committee: Leslie Hatfield, 3025 Kennedy Ct., Marina, CA 93933; Alice Ordway, 3310 NW 80th St., Seattle, WA 98117.

Nominating Committee: John Howell, 129 Trillium, San Antonio, TX 78213; Charles Jaros, 2621 NW 23rd Ct., Miami, FL 33142; third member to be named.

The Board accepted with regret the resignation of **Martin Johnson** as Co-Chair of Conservation, and thanked him for his years of dedicated service.

Treasurer Eleanor Calkins reminds all officers who handle funds to keep and hand in records.

Next ABS Board Meeting: March 17

Attention, Photographers: Slides Wanted!

Slides of anything related to begonias (plants, arrangements, collecting trips, your growing area, special displays, shows, even slides of what not to do freeze damage, etc.) are needed for use in producing new slide programs. <u>Your</u> input can help create new slide programs to help show the beauty, diversity, and culture of begonias. Please send slide donations to Charles Jaros, 2621 NW 23rd Ct., Miami, FL 33142.

Members-at-Large: Newsletter #18 Ready

Any ABS member not belonging to a branch is eligible to join the Members at Large Committee and receive the MAL Newsletter: simply send a stamped, selfaddressed, legal-sized envelope to MAL Director Kit Jeans Mounger, Rt. 1, Box 319, New Johnsonville, TN 37134 and request the newsletter.

Research Advisory Board

The Research Department has formed a Research Advisory Board as a committee to be "the eyes, ears, and pencils" of ABS. Membership on the Advisory Board is open to all ABS members. Members are asked to help formulate questions for study, lend expertise in their area (which might mean, for example, their geographical location or a particular type of begonia) and to track data.

Here's how it will work: Advisory Board members are asked to keep a notepad in their work area for jotting down ideas, questions, answers, observations that come while working with begonias. These short notes would be sent to Research Chair Houston Knight - they don't have to be neatly typed, just mailed. Perhaps you have a question, and someone has already sent in the answer. Or several people send in the same question and no one has an answer, which would indicate a need for research in that area. The purpose is sharing of knowledge, and finding out where research is needed most.

Please respond - be our eyes and ears and pencils! Just send a card to Houston Knight, 113455 Hadley, Whittier, CA 90601. He'll send you details. Thanks!

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1991 American Begonia Society Awards



Each year members are invited to submit nominations for the American Begonia Society's top awards. Only members of the Society will be considered, and nominations must state the reasons why the person or plant is entitled to be honored. A member may receive a particular award only once.

1

Only through your nomination can a worthy candidate be considered. Please take a few minutes and help our most dedicated members get the recognition they deserve. Nominations may be sent to **Rudolf Ziesenhenne, Awards Chairman, 1130 Milpas St., Santa Barbara Ca 93103**, and must be received by **July 12**. Presentation will be at the National Convention in Alexandria, Virginia.

The **Eva Kenworthy Gray Award** is given for one of two reasons:

1. For contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among the members.

2. For contributing original material toward helping our rank and file members to further their study of begonias. Previous winners are:

are:	
Bessie Buxton	1955
Charlotte Hoak	1956
Constance Bower	1957
Alice Clark	1958
Rudolf Ziesenhenne	1959
Louise Schwerdtfeger	1960
Helen K. Krauss	1961
Bert Slatter	1962
Bernice Brilmayer	1962
Dr. Clyde Drummond	1963
Mary Gillingwators	1965
May Taft Drew	1966
Sylvia Leatherman	1967
Drs. Lyman B. Smith and	
Bernice G. Schubert	1968
Harry M. Butterfield	1969
Ruth Pease	1970
Elda Haring	1972
Dr. Fred Barkley	1973
Carrie Karegeannes	1974
Dr. J. Doorenbos	1975
Alva Graham	1976
Mildred L. & Edward J.	
Thompson	1977

1978
1980
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990

The Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service is presented to a member who has rendered long-term or very outstanding service above and beyond the normal duties of a member or officer of the American Begonia Society. Previous winners are:

begunia ouclety. Thevious	s willing
Florence Gee	1968
Herb Warrick	1968
Alva Graham	1969
Edna Korts	1969
Everett Wright	1972
Walter Barnett	1973
Hazel Snodgrass	1974
Mae Blanton	1975
Gordon Lepisto	1976
Gene Daniels	1977
Margaret & Paul Lee	1978
Margaret Taylor	1979
Rudolf Ziesenhenne	1980
Mabel Corwin	1981
Clarence Hall	1982
Goldie & Doug Frost	1983
Pearl Benell	1984
Joy Porter	1985
Martin Johnson	1986
Thelma O'Reilly	1987
Mildred L. & Edward J.	
Thompson	1988
John Ingles, Jr.	1989
Joy Logee Martin	1990

(please see next page for Alfred D. Robinson Medal guidelines and winners)

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The Alfred D. Bobinson Medal is awarded to an outstanding begonia hybrid. The following rules govern the award:

1. All begonia plant nominees must have been registered with the American Begonia Society Nomenclature Director prior to nomination

2. The originator of the Begonia nominee must be a member of the American Begonia Society.

3. The Begonia nominee must have been released to the public for at least five years but not more than fifteen years prior to its nomination. Previous winners are:

1945

1946

1949

1950

1950

1951

1954

1957

1961

1964

1966

1968

1973

1974

1977

1978

1980

1981

1984

1986

B. 'Silver Star' (Frey)

- B. 'Freddie' (Ziesenhenne)
- B. 'Golden West' (Reinelt)
- B. 'Ricky Minter' (Turner)
- B. 'Glendale' (Slocum)
- B. 'Virbob' (Walker)
- B. 'Orange Rubra' (Woodriff)
- B. 'Verde Grande' (Zug)
- B. 'Kumwha' (Horton)
- B. 'Madame Queen' (Bath)
- B. 'Sophie Cecile' (Kusler)
- B. 'Purple Petticoats' (P. Lee)
- B. 'Lady Frances Jean' (Leatherman) 1969 1970
- B. 'Eunice Gray' (Nuss)
- B. 'Paul Bee' (Bud)
- B. 'Universe' (O'Reilly)
- B. 'Wanda' (Porter) B. 'Bowtique' (Nave)
- B. 'Murray Morrison' (Kusler)
- B. 'Buttercup' (Kartuz)
- B. 'Nokomis' (M. Lee)
- B. 'Withlacoochee' (Michelson)
- B. 'Christmas Candy' (Corwin) 1987
- B. 'Connee Boswell' (M. Johnson) 1989 1990
- B. 'Glennis Crouch' (Blanton)

KIT MEANS MOU

B. CHRISTMAS CANDY



(\$14 Canada & Mexico,

\$16 elsewhere)

P.O. Box, 485, Berkeley, CA 94701



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March 6-10: Atlanta Flower Show. "Fantasia." Begonias may be entered in flowering or foliage divisions, by pot size. Order show book from Atlanta Botanical Garden, Box 77246, Atlanta, GA 30357,

March 7-10: Dallas Area Branch will have a display & sale booth at the Dallas Home & Garden Show, Market Center on Interstate 35E, Dallas, TX.

March 8-9: Alamo Branch Show & Sale. San Antonio Botanic Gardens.

March 8-17 Knickerbocker Branch participates in New York Flower Show, at Pier 92, 55th St. & the Hudson River. Weekdays 10 a.m.-8 p.m., weekends 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

March 29-April 1: 2nd Australian Begonia Society Convention, Freeway Hotel in Perth, Western Australia, Write Dr. John Mills, 20 Rivett Way, Brentwood WA 6153, Australia for information.

April 12-14: Dallas Area Branch display at North Dallas Garden Forum, Walnut Hill Rec. Center, Walnut Hill & Midway.

April 20-21: Rubidoux Branch participates in the Riverside Flower Show.

Show News Around the Country

A Victorian Garden display by Miami Branch scored 87 points in Miami's Tropica '90, winning a silver medal. The set-up crew of Rosemund Meriwether, Maybelle Green, Helen Carr, Virginia Matheson, Eddie Vernaleken, Katherine Bloschak, Edythe Ropeik, and Helene, Chuck, & Charles Jaros not only placed plants and props, but shoveled sand and laid brick! Edythe Ropeik won a bronze medal with

May 3-5: Southwest Region Get-Together, "Begonias, Oklahoma Style." Holiday Inn NW 39th, Oklahoma City. Chairs are Linda & Mike Clemons, 3512 N.W. 65th Terrace, Oklahoma City, OK 73116.

May 5-8: Symposium, "Biology and Conservaton of Epiphytes". Contact Elizabeth Strange, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 South Palm Ave., Sarasota FL 34236: or call (813) 366-5731.

July 27-28: San Francisco Branch Show & Sale at Tanforan Shopping Center, San Bruno, California.

August 23-25: San Francisco Branch participates in San Francisco County Fair.

September 12-15: American Begonia Society

National Convention, "Exploring the World of Begonias", Old Colony Inn, Alexandria, Virginia. Convention Chair is Barbara Nunes, 6025 Greeley Blvd., Springfield, VA 22152.

Deadline for next issue is February 15

B. polygonoides, scoring 95 points, and Best Begonia in Show was B. 'Mikado'. shown by Marilyn Goldstein of Ft. Lauderdale Branch, awarded 96 points. A special award was presented to Alma Crawford for years of horticultural work.

Do you have a question about growing begonias, indoors or out? Write ABS' horticultural expert Mae Blanton, 118 Wildoak, Lake Dallas, TX 75065 and let her solve your problem!

A Treatise on the Begonia Nut

In the casual observer, this particular topic may not arouse much interest. However, among those who are more than just casual observers of the esteemed Begonia, the topic will surely cause some raised eyebrows: these folks know unequivocally that there is no such thing as a begonia nut. I will admit that I am not a horticulturist by any stretch of the imagination (unless mowing the lawn qualifies me in this respect), but, dear friends, I will take issue with you on this matter.

I have personally observed, quite frequently over the years, that begonia nuts abound. They come in a large variety of shapes and sizes - some large, some small; some tall, some short; some narrow, some not so narrow. They can be found in many locales, in this country as well as others. They can be seen at times alone amongst a large number of plants, while at other times they are seen in small clusters or larger groups. Begonia nuts seem to thrive on a variety of nutrients, which they devour with much gusto; this is particularly true when they are found in group form.

by Sam Bucholtz

One of the most intriguing facets of this subject is the uncanny ability the begonia nut has in communicating with other begonia nuts, over a vast network of communicative devices, in a language only they can understand. It is of equal interest to note that the begonia nut can frequently be observed seemingly talking to begonia plants - a mind-boggling experience.

So there you have in a "nut-shell" my evidence as to the existence of the begonia nut. Now, you may ask, gentle readers, how is it that I have become such an expert on this subject? It is, very simply, because I married one.

Sam Bucholtz is better known as "Mary's husband." He dedicates this piece to all the other spouses, who also, from time to time, lose their identities (or their emotional stability) to these bizarre creatures. He and his favorite begonia nut live at 2411 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonvile, FL 32207 surrounded by - you guessed it - begonias.

In the News...

In December, 1990, La Prensa of Panama published a series of articles on tropical rain forests written by Roberto Brin. Roberto's strikingly beautiful photographs of rain forests in Panama accompanied the articles.

Dennis Dickinson of Lydney, Enaland: after a divorce, Mr. Dickinson bought a small begonia. Three years later it's 9 feet tall, and Mr, Dickinson says he'll punch a hole in his ceiling to accommodate further growth for the plant he terms his "best friend."



"There were tears when my wife left, but I got over that...But if anything happened to my begonia, I don't know what I'd do...She can grow as tall as she wants...I'm quite prepared to take the roof off if necessary."

Thanks to Sarah Johnson of Dallas. TX, who spotted the article "Love in Bloom" in the Weekly World News on Nov. 6, 1990 and sent it on to John Ingles.

The Begonian

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Margaret Coats, Round Robin Director

What's in a name? According to Judy Hansen (CA), apparently everything. She purchased a small plant labeled "Arlene" at an ABS sale. She had her ups and downs with the little plant, and it finally started fading away. One day Judy saw a picture of it, identified as B. 'Thurstonii'. She immediately put an identification label in the pot. Maybe you've already guessed the end of the story...yes, it is now a very bushy 10" plant with seven main stems. Judy declares she has three named canes and they do fine; three other begonias that are unnamed are puny.

Charlotte Kuhnle (OR) thinks she has found her mother's secret for success with house plants from years ago. She was fortunate in obtaining some manure for manure tea and could hardly believe the rapid results. All her plants perked up, foliage greened, and many of the canes began blooming almost immediately. (Ed. *note: Isn't it interesting how growing be*gonias changes your perspective? How many people would think it fortunate to find manure?)

Here's a new twist to killing mealy bugs and aphids..Art Sackenruther (CA) fills a spray bottle with rubbing alcohol and adds 1 teaspoon of malathion.

A neat alternative to using the yearly index of back issues of the **Begonian** comes from Bill Voss (VA). He keeps his issues in ring binders by years, with a blank, lined paper at the front of each binder. There he references things he has reviewed and may want to find again. Bill is one of the most caring and sharing people that I know. He has been sharing cuttings of his plants with Fort Worth Botanical Gardens and U.S. Botanical Gardens, plus exchanges cuttings between the two. Think this is known as "going that extra mile" in order to save begonias. A new member of ABS who is also new to one of the cane Robins is Walter Dworkin (NY). At the present time, he is growing well over 400 cane seedlings, and is very excited about their germination and growth. Walter says he is pushing them very hard with lots of fertilizer and foliar feedings. His recipe for the foliar feeding is: 1 Tablespoon Epsom salts, 1 Tablespoon Liquid Seaweed, 1 Tablespoon "Watch Us Grow" and 10 drops of Superthrive to 1 gallon of water. He says the seedlings love it, and to be sure to spray under the leaves as well as on top.

For those of you who are lovers of tropical plants, Frances Hoffman (NY) tells how she grows her large pot of multiple plants of clivia. It summers under cover of an outdoor porch, and in winter it sits on the floor of her greenhouse under low hanging baskets. It is kept on the dry side for about three months, given only a very light watering every few weeks. In late January, Frances starts fertilizing and watering regularly, and by late April there will be signs of buds down in the leaves. This will be the time to start giving it more sun.

Since B. 'Glennis Crouch' won the A.D. Robinson Medal in '90, I thought you would be interested in some information on the plant by the hybridizer of B. 'Essie Hunt', from which it originated. Mae Blanton (TX) says it is amazing that it took 15-20 years for B. 'Essie Hunt' to start variegating. However, she says the variegation and the crisp, curly leaves are very unstable from plant to plant. Mae guesses it may happen in propagation. Anyway, if your B. 'Essie Hunt' develops variegated leaves. presto! It's B. 'Glennis Crouch'. Mae says people have reported to her that they successfully propagated a leaf of B. 'Glennis Crouch' and gotten a variegated plant, despite articles stating that this won't happen.

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I now have the secret of growing terrarium plants successfully and will share it with you...Mae Blanton breathes in hers to give them a boost of carbon dioxide. Kim Roe (UT) says she read an article that said not only should we breathe into our terrariums, we should sing, chirp, and play them music, as it opens their stomata! (Mae Blanton is the author of the excellent booklet 'Terrariums for Begonias", which can be ordered from the ABS Bookstore, and I recommend it highly.)

Martha Curry (TX) grows *B. thelmae* in a brandy snifter, and it has very small leaves. She also grows the same plant as a ground cover under a greenhouse bench, and there the leaves are 3 to 4 times larger than those of the container grown plant. Mary Simon (OH) has experienced the same results with 3 different plants of *B. hernandioides*.

Some of the members of the species Robin tell about some of their favorites. Pat Sage (CA) is particularly fond of B. sericoneura, which is absolutely beautiful right now. Pat says the leaves are so hairy they feel like velvet, and the red veining is so attractive. She also mentions B. U174. After a period of dormancy the leaves are still small, but she now is seeing more mature leaves, which are more compound and very attractive. Her plant is greenhouse grown, but a friend grows it outside under lath all summer, and the plant is twice as big and very beautiful. As yet, neither has bloomed. Martha Curry (TX) lists B. U152, which has been identified as B. masoniana var. maculata as one of her favorites. This begonia looks very much like B. masoniana, but has a brown border. Martha entered this plant in the show at Begonias Olé!, the ABS Convention in San Antonio, and won a Cultural Award. Another favorite of Martha's is B. U217, which seems to be trailing/scandent.

Elaine Ayers (OH) explained to members of the Cold Climate Greenhouse Robin her method of collecting and storing seed. She places the whole pod in an open envelope in a warm, airy place for a week. If the pod has not split, she breaks it open and stores the labeled envelope in the vegetable bin of her refrigerator.

After assigning quite a few large plants and rhizomes to the compost heap, Frances Hoffman (NY) was alerted by her husband that there were some big-leaved plants growing up in the compost heap. Much to her surprise, there were *B. carrieae* and *B. gehrtii*forming nice plants with large leaves, without any attention. Frances also had to cut back *B. crassicaulis* as it grew to an enormous size. The rhizome was about 2 1/2 feet long; she reduced it to 5 inches. She says now it is sprouting with multiple new growths and she thinks it will be a more symmetrical plant.

Bits and Pieces

Charlotte Kuhnle (OR) reminds everyone to be extremely careful when using chemicals, as she is just recovering from a blood infection due to contact with an herbicide.

Frances Hoffman (NY) advises that B. 'Tom Ment' enjoys lots of light and sunshine, which it needs in order to bloom. She suspends hers under the roof near the glass when it is in the greenhouse.

Walter Dworkin (NY) gives his remedy for mildew: 2 teaspoons baking soda to a gallon of water with a few drops of liquid soap.

Brad Thompson (CA) says he is finally learning not to overwater his canes: it causes the lower leaves to fall. Brad also says he has found that if a plant won't grow it generally needs repotting - either up or down a size.

Eleanor Calkins (CA) always keeps a bottle of Funginex handy to spray B. 'Looking Glass' and any other begonia that is mildewprone. Seems to control the mildew problem for her.

Mary McClelland (NE) had some cedar left from lining a closet and placed it in her plant room in the basement. Result: no bugs all summer! Helen Clements (IN) uses panty hose in the bottom of pots to keep the soil from dribbling out. She ties the hose in a knot for larger pots. Helen feels this helps in keeping out worms and bugs, too.

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The water at Martha Curry's (TX) is so loaded with chemicals that she adds vinegar as well as fertilizer to the water to adjust the pH. She also has a filter on the cold water faucet in her greenhouse and says this has really helped.

Warning! Should you want to start another *B. prismatocarpa* 'Variegation', don't take a cutting from the center of your plant. Glennis Crouch (TX) has a friend who did just that, and lost both the mother plant and the cutting. Now they take cuttings only from the outside of the plant.

Alas, the time has come for me to say goodbye to all of the wonderful Robins. I feel I have a special bond with each of you, and I shall miss all your wonderful, newsy letters. Your cooperation has been overwhelming, and I thank you so much. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and I urge you to accept if you are ever asked to take this assignment. God bless each of you in a very special way.- Margaret

This will be Margaret Coat's last column as Round Robin Director. We shall all miss you, too, Margaret, and thank you for a job exceedingly well done!

Please welcome Pat Sage as new Round Robin Director. Pat's address is:

1635 Lanoitan Ave.

National City, CA 91950

*Please note that Pat's zip code above is different from that on the back cover. The Post Office has just changed zip codes in the area.



IN MEMORY

Margaret Blackwell, once a very active member of Rubidoux Branch, died October 2, 1990 in Riverside, California at age 88.

Monterey Branch members were saddened to learn of the death of former longtime member **Bill Trelease**. His warm smile and hearty laugh will not be forgotten.

Don Asmussen of Corpus Christi, TX died December 18, 1990. With his wife Billie, Don created some very exciting hybrids, including Begonias 'Dumbo', 'Ebony', 'La Paloma', 'Flutterby', and 'M. Coats', noted not only for their beautiful leaves and enormous flowers but for their resistance to temperature extremes.

Jeannette Anderson of Sacramento Branch passed away in January after a long illness. "Even when she was feeling her worst, she always received comfort from being able to tend a few of her favorite begonias. She was a kind, thoughtful woman whose presence will be missed." <u>Begonia Leaf</u>, Sacarmento Branch newlsetter

Robert Harvey Terrell, author of ABS' Aims & Purposes, died January 7 in Moreno Valley, California. Born April 16, 1890, he was a charter member of the Riverside Begonia Society (now Rubidoux Branch); the Branch helped celebrate his 100th birthday last April.

Throughout a long and varied career as a printer, photographer, teacher, medical missionary, and lab technician, Robert Terrell's love was always plants. He was five years old when he began his first garden, and he continued gardening, and writing gardening columns, through the 1980's.

Beginning in 1942, he served as the branch National Director and attended ABS Board meetings faithfully for decades.

Conservation News

New England Tropical Conservatory Proposed

by W. Scott Hoover

An ambitious project is planned to make use of an abandoned 13 acre, 26 building complex which once housed the Sprague Electric Co. in North Adams, Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) is a cultural undertaking of economic importance for Berkshire County and the state of Massachusetts.

Of particular interest is the New England Tropical Conservatory (NETC) proposed to be included under the umbrella of MASS MoCA. A multi-functional global biodiversity conservation project of unprecedented scope and vision, NETC includes the following:

1. a large, uniquely designed tropical conservatory in North Adams;

2. a higher plant research propagation facility in Florida, which will be the main germplasm repository for the world's tropical plant species and will include an ornithological facility housing a large collection of breeding pairs of tropical birds for development of a sperm bank;

3. an educational center in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, containing teaching greenhouses, labs, and classrooms for the dissemination of biodiversity and environmental information;

4. a globally directed organization preserving tropical forest habitats in Third World countries;

5. a media production operation promoting the development of NETC.

As of Nov. 15, 1990, NETC has 5 board members and is involved in a general development and endorsement campaign. One large financial commitment has been made, and others are on the horizon. Although NETC is not dependent on MASS MoCA, the two institutions are complementary, and approval of MASS MoCA will accelerate public promotion of the development of NETC.

The American Begonia Society stands to gain a great deal from the existence of NETC, since tropical plant research will involve the acquisition of *Begonia* germplasm. The formal, preliminary feasibility study was given to the ABS Board in mid 1989, for the purpose of acquainting them with the project.



Good News on the Brazilian Front

Vrtually all the cane-like begonias come from Brazil. Most have been found in the Serro do Mar described so well by Jacques Jangoux (**Begonian**, Jan-Feb 1989). This mountain forest, which supports up to 7% of the world's species, has been ranked among the world's three most diverse ecosystems. Only 5% of the original area remains.

Brazilians are aware of the forest's importance. SOS Mata Atlântica, a Brazilian conservation organization, is focusing on the Lagamar portion of the Atlantic forest, a comparatively less disturbed area of 8 million acres. Their program works to train and equip rangers for the portion of the land in national parks and reserves; to work out agreements with private owners to protect their holdings; to purchase endangered lands; to educate the public; and to devise and encourage sustainable economic activities in the forest. Protection of the area protects begonia habitat, and species inventories may turn up new begonias.

For more information on the Lagamar and SOS Mata Atlântica, see the March-April 1990 issue of <u>The Nature</u> <u>Conservancy Magazine</u>. - Tamsin Boardman

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND NOTES

Diana H. Gould, Seed Fund Director March-April, 1991

Germination times for this issue's selections range from 7 to 51 days, so please be patient.

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

The Seed Fund thanks Hikoichi Arakawa, Phyllis Bates, Roberto Brin, Maureen Crowell, Jackie Davis, Jeannette Gilbertson, Lynda Goldsmith, Jan Goodwin, Jake Hafer, Evey McDuff, Joy Porter, Pat Sage, our anonymous donors, and the international exchanges for

making this listing possible. The **1990 Convention Listing** will be sent FREE with all seed orders, or you may request it by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Seed Fund Director. About 85% of the begonia species on the Convention Listing are still available.

Notes on Seeds Listed

Tuberous/semi-tuberous

B. davisii (Peru) is lowgrowing, with red backs on green leaves and profuse scarlet/orange flowers in summer.

Television does it, so why can't your favorite Supermarket, the Seed Fund, do it! It's re-run time, and the tubers are coming...the following were all offered in Nov/Dec 1989:

B. boliviensis (Argentina/ Bolivia) is a tall-growing species which requires staking and has distinctive scarlet flowers. Β. cinnabarina (Bolivia) is a low-growing species with fragrant apricot flowers from summer to fall. B. dreaei (South Africa) has small angular leaves with white flowers and is very easy to grow. B. geranioides (S. Africa) has geranium-like leaves and small white flowers.

B. grandis ssp. evansiana (China) is guite hardy in climates where winters are not too severe, has vellowgreen leaves with red undersides and profuse pink flowers from summer to fall. B. homonyma (S. Africa) has moderate white flowers summer to fall. Β. micranthera var. foliosa (Argentina/Bolivia) is a tallgrowing species with 2" leaves and white flowers. B. natalensis (S. Africa) is similar to both B. suffuticosa and B. dregei in that it, too, has vellowish/white pinktinted flowers in winter. B. partita (S. Africa) has thinly lobed leaves with white flowers from spring to fall. B. pearcei (Bolivia) is lowgrowing and has very distinctive foliage and vellow flowers from summer to fall. B. picta (India) is also lowgrowing with fragrant palerose flowers. B. sonderana (S. Africa) has pink to white flowers with pink tinge. *B.* suffruticosa (S. Africa;) has white flowers and predominantly bare, angular leaves; please note that this is <u>not</u> the same variety offered in the ND 90 issue as the fine lacey type.

B. sutherlandii (S. Africa) makes a lovely basket because of its low growth habit and its profuse yellow-orange flowers from summer to fall. B. wollnyi (Bolivia) has elegant silver markings on its 4" leaves and greenish-white flowers in winter. B. U103 (Bolivia) is a tallgrowing species that requires staking, and has white flowers that are sometimes flushed with pink, B. U253 (Mexico) has small, round green leaves with white flowers. B. U256 (Mexico) has green leaves which take on a red tinge when exposed to sun and single stems with profuse white flowers.

Cane-like

Our only cane for this issue is *B. coccinea* (Brazil), which is classified as intermediate in height and has coral-red flowers in spring.

Thick-stemmed

Seed sent as *B. pilifera* (Colombia; SO 89) has fragrant white flowers in spring; botanists consider *pilifera* to be synonymous with *B. sericoneura*.

We offer seed sent under

1

its U number, 115; B. U115 has been identified as *B. multinervia.*, which has large bare leaves and white flowers. B. U186 (Venezuela; MA 89) is hairless with glossy-green ovate leaves with lighter green undersides, and has a distinctive reddish-purple spot at the petiole; its white flowers are profuse.

Trailing/scandent

B. ampla (tropical Africa) has white flowers with pale orange fruits in summer. B. glabra (Trinidad; MA 89) also grows throughout Central America, has profuse white flowers in spring and is easy to grow. B. multinervia. (Panama: MA 89) has red-backed leaves. red stems and petioles, and reddish pink flowers (seed was sent as B. U115). B. radicans (Brazil) has applegreen, elliptical leaves with blushed red undersides and spring flowers of salmonpink, coral-red to near orange color with white edges. B. U064 (Philippines: JA 89) has small leaves with pale pink flowers. B. U197 (Panama: MA 89) has green leaves, 5" x 2 1/2", and white flowers: it has tentatively been identified as B. seemanniana, B. U203 (Panama; MA 89) has green leaves, 11/2" x 3", and white flowers.

Shrub-like

B. odeteiantha (Brazil) has medium bare green leaves and moderate white flowers from fall through winter. B. U014 (Argentina to Paraguay; MA 89) has long, ovate, grass-green leaves, 4" x 5" and long ovate red flowers most of the years; it is very mildew resistant! B. U199 (Panama; MA 89) has medium-green slender leaves, 5" x 2 1/2", with white flowers.

B. annoboensis (tropical Africa; SO 89) has green, hairy wide leaves and white flowers.

Semperflorens

B. franconis (Mexico) is very similar in type to *B. schmidtiana*, with white or pink-tinted flowers.

Rhizomatous

B. bowerae var. *virbob* has no data. Please send photo and description of your mature plant to the Seed Fund for publication.

B. hatacoa 'Silver' (India; MJ 90) is being offered again; supply was extremely limited previously. This species is classified as upright, with medium-green, spear-shaped leaves with irregular silver splotches, and white flowers; it is very quietly elegant.

B. philodendroides (Mexico; JF 89) was given its name by Rudy Ziesenhenne because its leaves are similar to those of a philodendron. It has moderate white flowers in fall and dies down in winter.

B. U025 (Philippines; MJ 89) has 5" to 7" ovate green leaves and yellow flowers. B. U155/U157 (Panama; MA 89) are identical and have been tentatively identified as *B. plebeja* (see JF 91); they have mediumgreen leaves and white flowers. B. U156 (Panama; MA 89) has 7" x 4" green leaves and white flowers. Also available are Begonias U161 (Panama; see description, p. 55 - this may also be *B. plebeja*), U174 (Trinidad (described p. 57; this has been identified as a form of *B. heracleifolia*; JA 89), and U195, U196, U198, and U203 (all from Panama; no description; MA 89).

Classification Unknown

B. beddomei (India) is similar in appearance to *B. malabarica,* and is fully described in the JF '91 issue of the **Begonian**, p. 35.

Last year *B. fimbristipula* tested in early January did not germinate. Tested again in the middle of August, it germinated within 3 weeks. Not all tuberous/semi-tuberous species will germinate in the November-February time span.

Seed of nearly 300 species received just prior to New Year's, 1990 was tested during January, and none of it germinated. In early April I accidentally re-sent some of it out for testing, and all of it germinated within 3 weeks. Slowly, as I re-sent out the balance, it all germinated in 1990.

All SF seed is refrigerated upon arrival, and will last safely until you are ready to put it down. It is possible that refrigeration improves germination, but I do not have enough evidence to support that claim at this time.

Thank you all very much for your most generous support.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND LISTING

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

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

All orders must be acompanied by check or money order payable ONLY in US funds, and made payable to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

Costs of mailing in the US, Canada, & Mexico are: 1-12 packets of seeds, 67c; 13-24 packets, 82c; 25-36 packets, \$1.27; 37-48 packets, \$1.57.

Foreign mailing costs are:

1-12 packets, \$1.62; 13-24 packets, \$2.45; 24-36 packets, \$3.45; 37-48 packets, \$4.45.

Two sets of planter dishes with free instructions in one mailer cost 89c. If ordered with seed and sent in one mailer, the cost of 2 sets of planter dishes and 1-12 packets of seed is \$1.02; 2 sets & 13-24 packets, \$1.20; 2 sets & 25-36 packets \$1.55; 2 sets & 37-48 packets, \$1.89.

California Residents please add 6 1/2% sales tax to all orders.

Please send your order with payment to: Ms. Diana H. Gould 9940 Falcon Meadow Dr. Elk Grove, CA 95624 USA

species seed

\$1 packet

B. ampla

- B. annobonensis*
- B. beddomei
- B. boliviensis
- B. bowerae var. virbob
- B. cinnabarina
- B. coccinea
- B. davisii
- B. dregei
- B. franconis*
- B. geranioides

B. glabra

- B. grandis ssp. evansiana
- B. hatacoa 'Silver'
- B. homonyma
- B. micranthera var. foliosa
- B. multinervia
- B. natalensis
- B. odeteiantha
- B. partita
- B. pearcei
- B. philodendroides

B. picta

- B. pilifera (sericoneura)
- B. radicans
- B. sonderana
- B. suffruticosa
- B. sutherlandii
- B. wollnyi
- B. U014
- B. U025
- B. U064*
- B. U103
- B. U155/157 (tentatively, B. plebeja)
- B. U156
- B. U161
- B. U174* (form of *B. heracleifolia*)
- B. U186
- B. U195
- B. U196
- B. U197 (tentatively, B. seemanniana)
- B. U198
- B. U199
- B. U203
- B. U204
- B. U253
- B. U256
- mixed species
- mixed tuberous species

hybrid seed

50c packet mixed cane-like mixed "Frillies" mixed rex cultorum mixed rhizomatous* mixed semperflorens mixed shrub-like mixed tuberhybrida mixed Mickey Meyer selections

*limited supply

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Monues, Polyand, 48 & G () N 1 & 38 A 10 B C A 18 ; (Tab. 39)

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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:

> Martha Curry P.O. Box 1232 Weatherford, TX 76086

BEGONIA CUTTINGS AND PLANTS. Send \$1 for expanded 1991 list. Kay's Greenhouses, 207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221.

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 copies autographed 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.

"VICKI'S EXOTIC PLANTS" Beautiful Begonias, Episcias, and Hoyas. Large variety of each. Please send \$1 for list to 522 Vista Park Dr., Eagle Point, OR 97524.

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BEGONIAS (plants & cuttings), plus a wide range of succulents, peperomias, hardy perennial & more. 1991 list, including updates & newsletters, \$4. Wholesale collections for clubs, retailers available. UN-USUAL PLANTS, 10065 River Mist Way, Rancho Cordova CA 95670-3186.

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MEMBERSHIP \$15 per year includes bi-monthly FUCHSIA FAN The new A to Z on Fuchsias abridged version \$6.95 plus \$1 shipping (CA residents add 42c tax) Mail to: National Fuchsia Society, 11507 E. 187 St. Artesia CA 90701

The Indoor Gardening Society of America, Inc. Dept. B 944 S. Munroe Rd., Tallnadge, OH 44278 Dues \$15 a year *INDOOR GARDEN* issued 6 times yearly. Seed exchange, round robins, cultural guides, slide library. The perfect companion plants 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

DIRECTORY OF BEGONIA SOCIETIES

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES

Australia Australia Begonia Society Mrs. Pat Williams, Pres. 4 Florence St. Woodville 5011 Adelaide, South Australia **Begonia Society of New South Wales** 20 Blue Gum Crescent Blaxland 2772 New South Wales **Begonia Society of Western Australia** Mrs. E.M. Syvester, Pres. 34 Waterton Way Rockingham 6168 Western Australia **Gladstone Begonia Club** Mr. W. Scarborough 160 Oxley Ave. Gladstone 4680 Queensland **Queensland Begonia Society** Peter Henderson, Secretary 79 Chuter St. Staford North 4053

Brisbane, Queensland

Societe Belge du Begonia Piron Gilles, Pres. Chemin de Lancre, 4 B-4970 Coo, Belgium

England & Wales

The National Begonia Society Dr. Eric Caterall 3 Gladstone Rd., Dorridge Solihull, W. Midlands B93 8BX

France

Assoc. Francoise de Amateurs de Begonias Mme. Annie Danancher editor, le petit bégo-fil 11 Rue Myrha Paris 75018

Japan Japan Begonia Society Mr. Tatsuo Suzuki, Pres. 2-1-11 Yakumo 2-Chome Maguro-Ku Tokyo 152



AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

REGIONAL GROUPS

Eastern Region Maxine Zinman, Director Rt. 1. Box 73 Boyce, VA 22620 Southwest Region Gene Salisbury, Director Box 504 Tonkawa, OK 74653 Northwest Region Bob Hamm, Director 10065 River Mist Way Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 BRANCHES CALIFORNIA Alfred D. Robinson 2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. Homes of members Edalee Harwell, Pres. 2165 Leon Ave. San Diego, CA 92154 East Bay 3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m. Northbrae Com. Church. Berkeley Rich Bishop, Pres. 1404 Cypress Berkeley, CA 94703 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 Thursday, 1:00 p.m. Lakewood Garden Civic Ascn. 4217 Ashworth St. Lakewood Gil Estrada, Pres. 7914 Springer St. Downey, CA 90242

Monterey Bay Area 4th Wednesday, 8 p.m. New Monterev Neighborhood Cntr. Lighthouse & Dickman Sts., New Monterey (no meeting June, Aug.) Bill Schramm, Pres. 17 Calera Canyon Salinas, CA 93908 **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 Eleanor Calkins, Pres. 910 Fern St. Escondido, CA 92027 **Palos Verdes** 1st Mon., 7:30 p.m. S. Coast Botanic Garden Brad Thompson, Pres. 715 W. 220th #45 Torrance, CA 90502 Rubidoux 4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m. W. Riverside Mem.Auditorium 4393 Riverview Dr. Norma Pfrunder, Pres. 3484 Jefferson St. Riverside, CA 92504 Sacramento 3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m. Garden Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento Bob Hamm, Pres. 10065 River Mist Way Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 San Francisco 1st Wednesday, 8 p.m. Garden Center Golden Gate Park. 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way Susan Muller, Pres. 124 St. Charles Ave. San Francisco, CA 94132 San Gabriel Valley 2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m. Los Angeles State & County Arboretum 301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia Kenneth Dahlguist, Pres. 696 E. McKinley Ave. Pomona, CA 91767 San Miquel 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, CA 93103 Rudolph Ziesenhenne, Pres. (address same as above) Santa Clara Valley 3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m. Rm 2, Kirk Com. Cntr. 1601 Foxworthy Ave. San Jose Jackie Davis, Pres. 170 Wingfoot Way Aptos, CA 95003 South Bay Albert Palacio, Pres. Theodosia Burr Shepherd 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m. American Commercial Bank 6401 Telephone Rd. Ventura Pam Hantoin, Pres. 94 N. Santa Rosa St. Ventura, CA 93001 Westchester 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Univ. Christian Church 5831 Centinella Ave. Jo Pangrazio, Pres. 422 Sherman Canal Court Venice, CA 90291 Whittier 1st Friday, 7 p.m. Room 1, Civic Center 7630 Washington Ave. Whittier Bill Scarborough, Pres. 4960 N. Bleeker St. Baldwin Park, CA91706

CONNECTICUT Connecticut 4th Monday homes of members

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AREA

Potomac

4th Sunday, 2 p.m. Green Spring Farm Park 4601 Green Spring Rd. Alexandria, VA Barbara Nunes, Pres. 6025 Greeley Blvd. Springfield, VA 22152

FLORIDA

Fort Lauderdale Area 1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. 3245 College Ave. Davie, FL 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 Robert Brownlee, Pres. 7041 Ridge Trail Rd. Keystone Height, FL 32656 Miami 4th Tuesday, 8 p.m. Simpson Garden Center 55 SW 17th Rd. Miami Edythe Ropeik, Pres. 6110 SW 93rd Ave. Miami, FL 33173 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

The Begonia

Tampa Bay Area

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

GEORGIA Greater Atlanta

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dates vary; Sunday, 3 p.m. Atlanta Botanic Garden Russ Richardson, Pres. 1854 Chancery Lane Chamblee, GA 30341

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. Frank Green, Pres. 102 Richardson Rd. Ashby, MA 01431

MINNESOTA Minnesota

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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 3rd Sunday Clark Gardens Albertson, NY Phil Seiden, Pres. 733 East 93rd St. Brooklyn, NY 11236 Volume 58 March-April 1991

OHIO

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

OKLAHOMA

Fred A. Barkley 3rd Sunday, 2:30 p.m. Will Rogers Garden Cntr. 3400 NW 36th St. Oklahoma City Merril Calvert, Pres. 11201 Draper Choctaw, OK 73020

PENNSYLVANIA

Edna Stewart Pittsburgh 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Pittsburgh Garden Center Melissa Jones, Nat'l Dir. 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

TEXAS Alamo

3rd Saturday Homes of members Leora Fuentes, Pres. 13747 Wilderness Point San Antonio, TX 78230 Astro

1st Sunday, homes of members Tom Keepin, Pres. 4513 Randwick Dr. Houston, TX 77092

Dallas Area

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Northaven Gardens 7700 Northaven Rd. Dallas Maurice Amey, Pres. 1015 Mt. Auburn Dallas, TX 75223

Mae Blanton

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

THANK YOU!

to all Branch Officers who sent updated information for this Directory.

Deadline for next Directory is July 16, 1991.

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AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

Mother Nature shows a mean streak some winters, and it has been in evidence lately. Amid lamentations of losses to freezes, some branches offered advice to the frost-nipped. In the Monterey Bay Area newsletter, editor Leslie Hatfield cautioned patience:

"Refrain from cutting a frozen plant back until we are sure the cold weather is over, as the old foliage will help protect the plant from further damage and give it a better chance to come back... (Plants with) pots sunk in the ground fared better. Keep track of which begonias survived and which didn't, and let us know..."

In the Sacramento <u>Begonia Leaf</u> Bob Hamm advised:

"if outdoors, do not trim until after danger of further frost or freezing is past. If in greenhouses, closed-in patios, etc., trim back as soon as there are any signs of growth. If in a heated area, trim immediately. When trimming, cut back all frozen growth. Spraving with fungicide after cutting back can help prevent attack by disease. After trimming provide light amounts of fertilizer to encourage plant to break cold-induced dormancy. Resume normal feeding when growth starts. Keep lightly moist until growth starts, WAIT! AND WAIT SOME MORE...Those items frozen to the soil will often stay dormant well into the spring or summer...Do not abandon them too soon! This applies particularly to hard-to-replace items. No growth by late summer is a sign that you can finally give up."

Writing in the <u>Rubidoux Begonia Ga-</u> zette, editor Diane Scott had a further suggestion which can benefit members across the country:

"Even though about 95% of our plants became mush, we had a few survive. Why? ...bring the survivor plant and its story to our meeting. Then send your quick note to our ABS Research Advisory Board, care of Houston Knight, 13455 Hadley St., Whittier, CA 90601." Monterey Bay Area Branch visited the Scotland Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, and East Bay went to the 1990 Chelsea Flower Show in England. Just by slides, however. Ray Peterson did the Scotland slide trip, and Francis Davidson the Chelsea Flower Show.

Meanwhile back on the ranch - well, in Oklahoma City, which is in ranch country -Barkley Branch had a novel program, too. Here's the announcement from their newsletter <u>Barkleyana</u>:

"The meeting will be held by Mike and Linda Clemons and the program is "Stuff Envelopes". Bet you will never guess what this meeting will be about. If you are in doubt, please join us anyway as we will have a wonderful time teaching you all the tricks of the trade on how to stuff envelopes."

Yep, the branch is hosting the 1991 Southwest Region Get-Together in May. If, prior to the ABS Convention, Potomac Branch needs any advice on stuffing envelopes, Barkley members will be glad to share their know-how.

Michael Kartuz spoke to Orange County Branch on growing under fluorescent lights. Here, condensed, are some of his suggestions:

*4 ft. fixtures with 2 tubes (1 cool and 1 warm) and a reflector at the top are recommended; if space allows, 8 ft. fixtures are more efficient.

*Ventilation is recommended, to avoid heat build-up; if heat is a problem, the lights can be used at night instead of during the day. *Tops of seedlings should be 10-12" from the lamp, mature plants from 4" to 10", depending on individual requirements watch the plant: if internodes are unnaturally short, move the plant away from the light; if a plant stretches toward the light, bring it closer.

*Light is stronger at the middle of the fix-

ture, weaker at the ends. Plants with lower light requirements may be placed at the ends of the fixtures.

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*Ideal temperatures are 70-80 degrees F, with 60 as a minimum. Begonias like a half day of light, 12 or 13 hours is ideal.

*Enclosing the lighted area will increase humidity; so will setting the pots on trays with damp pebbles, or using capillary matting.

*Plants will grow vigorously, and must be fed regularly; 20-20-20 at 1/2 teaspoon per gallon is recommended for foliar feeding.

Brand-new Northwest Region reports 68 members, and their first newsletter will be out soon.

From Westchester Branch come two reports from other sources:

1. How will you be feeding your plants in the year 2000? An article by Randall Prune in the May-June issue of House Plant Forum stated that, to feed, you excite the stomata (the openings on the leaves which release oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide) by means of foliar feeding. Translation: "Feed my leaves." Do this in the morning around 10 a.m. or the afternoon, around 4 p.m., which is when the stomata on the leaves are aroused. Plants will get really excited by bird sounds, music, or even whistling. (Ed. note: if you've been in ABS for some years, you'll remember that begonia stomata are the special area of research interest for Scott Hoover.)

2. From Al Striepens, editor of the newsletter of the Grow and Study Gesneriad Club, comes a report that plants with a heavy infestation of mealy bugs were repotted in a mix containing diatomaceous earth. The mealy bugs were eliminated, with no damage to the plants.

Many branches feature a "Plant of the Month". Here's one by Connie Cole, from Garden Grove's May issue of The Shade House:



B. 'Thrush' is a hybrid of *B. dreaei* and a Rex cultivar. It is an upright stemmed, nonspiral Rex, a very old variety hybridized in 1948 by Elsie Frey. This begonia is a miniature, and can be grown in a terrarium where it will thrive on the increased humidity. It has profuse rose-pink flowers in late winter or spring. The Thompsons consider it a fairly easy plant and suitable for beginning growers.

Risa Young said it, and the Palomar Planter quoted her:

"One thing I like about Robins is that no mattter how much you think you know, there is always something new to learn or the reminder of something you used to know and forgot."



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

November 18, 1990

On November 18, 1990, the Board of Directors' Meeting was held at the home of Houston Knight, 13445 Hadley St., Whittier, California, with 15 members present. The meeting was called to order by President Jeannette Gilbertson at 11:15 a.m. Houston Knight led the Flag Salute and Margaret Lee read the Aims and Purposes.

<u>Minutes</u> of the Annual Business Meeting were read and accepted, with one change: Lorra Almstedt, no research, material for an article; and one addition: saving money in connection with ballots will be looked into.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u>: As of October 31, 1990: checking accounts, \$8,073.91; savings accounts, \$42,563.52; total, \$50,637.43.

<u>Correspondence</u>: Letters from Dr. Tracy McLellan acknowledged receipt of \$2,675.58 from ABS. Dr. McLellan will leave the 2nd week of January, 1991; she will distribute seeds and plants upon return in April.

Committee Reports

<u>Back Issues</u>: Betty Tillotson was appointed as Back Issues Chair. Prices of back issues may rise because of postage hikes.

Book Store: As of September, 1990: balance forward. \$794.70; sales \$737.41; expenses, \$1,188.24; on hand \$343.87.

Branch Relations: South Bay is welcomed as a new branch. Constitution & By-Laws of Northwest Region was accepted.

Seed Fund: Gross receipts, \$510.40; expenses: \$48.90 seed envelopes, \$161.42 postage, total \$210.32. A check for \$300 was sent.

<u>Conservation</u>: Kit Mounger reports good response to requests for lists of species in cultivation.

<u>Convention 1990</u>: Income, \$27,208.40; expenses \$18,255.00; start-up \$1500 returned to ABS; profit \$7,452.85.

Convention 1991: Host, Potomac Branch, with Barbara Nunes as Chair. Start-up funds will be needed soon.

<u>Convention 1992</u>: Host, Orange County Branch. Brad Thompson will replace Beverly Schmidt as Co-Chair.

Members at Large: Newsletter will go out November 20, 1990.

Nomenclature: New species named by Drs. Lyman B. Smith and Dieter Wasshausen, Nov/ Dec 1990 **Begonian**. Thelma O'Reilly described B. U152 through B. U167. Members of San Miguel Branch are growing seeds of unidentified species.

Public Relations/Advertising: Board voted to continue funding advertising for additional year. <u>Publications</u>: New Members Handbook is almost ready; sample copy of Species Catalog will be ready for next Board meeting.

<u>Research</u>: Members are invited to join Research Advisory Board. Two projects are ready to circulate.

Round Robin: Board approved the appointment of Pat Sage as Round Robin Director.

Membership: As of October 31, 1990: 84 Life Members; 133 Institutions; 1,480 dues-paying members.

New Business: Millie Thompson will send applications for ABS membership when sending books; she suggested a special award for contributions to begonia literature.

Attention: If you handle money in any capacity for ABS, budget reports are due in by January 15, 1991.

Attention: Finance Committee Meeting January 19, 1991 at 1 p.m. at the home of Ingeborg Foo, 1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA (619)724-4871.

Next Board Meeting: January 20, 1991, 11 a.m. at home of Ingeborg Foo. Lunch provided.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingeborg Foo,

Secretary

Note: Minutes are condensed because of space limitations; any member may order a copy of the complete Minutes from the Secretary.



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, PO. Box 520, West Carrollton, OH 45449-0520.

ELECTED OFFICERS

- PresidentJeannette Gilbertson 410 JoAnn Circle, Vista, CA 92084
- Past President Arlene Davis Ingles 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617
- First Vice-PresidentTracy McLellan 575 Pintura Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93111
- Second Vice-PresidentJohn Howell 129 Trillium, San Antonio, TX 78213
- Secretary Ingeborg Foo 1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083

APPOINTED CHAIRMEN & DIRECTORS

- Awards CommitteeRudolf Ziesenhenne 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103
- Audit Committee Marion Paris 4793 Soria Drive, San Diego, CA 92115
- Begonian, Back Issues Betty Tillotson 3912 Wildrose Way, Sacramento, CA 95826
- Book Store Anita Ruthenberg 1016 W. Arlington Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76110
- Branch Relations Douglas Hahn 7736 Stonehill Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45230
- Business ManagerJohn Ingles, Jr. 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617
- Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.....Diana Gould (see Seed Fund listing for address)

Conservation Committee Co-chairman Scott Hoover 718 Henderson Rd., Williamstown, MA 01267 Co-chairman Martin Johnson 959 Glennan Dr., Redwood City, CA 94061 Convention Advisor Melba Schultz 603 Chauncey, San Antonio, TX 78216 Convention Chairman Barbara Nunes 6025 Greeley Blvd., Springfield, VA 22152 HistorianNorma Pfrunder 3484 Jefferson St., Riverside, CA 92504 Horticultural Correspondent Mae Blanton 118 Wildoak, Lake Dallas, TX 75065 Judging Maxine Zinman Rt. 1, Box 73, Boyce, VA 22620 Long-Range PlanningKay Tucker 207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221 Members At Large Kit Mounger Rt. 1, Box 319, New Johnsonville, TN 37134 Nomenclature Carrie Karegeannes 3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22003 1852 31st St., San Diego, CA 92102 Public Relations/Special AdvertisingRuss Richardson 1854 Chancery Lane, Chamblee, GA 30341 13455 Hadley St., Whittier, CA 90601 Research Librarian Lorra Almstedt 1965 Celeste, Fullerton, CA 92633 Round Robin Pat Sage 1635 Lanoitan Ave., National City, CA 92050 437 Prospect Ave., #15, Brooklyn, NY 11215 Slide Librarian/Co-Chairman ... Daniel Haseltine 6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago, IL 60634 Slide Librarian/Co-Chairman Charles Jaros 2621 NW 23rd Court, Miami, FL 33142

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American Begonia Society P.O. Box 56 Rio Dell, CA 95562-0056

Address correction requested

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