

November/December, 1991

# The BEGONIAN



# The BEGONIAN

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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: Begonia Climate Extremes

photographed by Don Miller

at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Australia.

The Gardens celebrated their 150th anniversary this year.

Front - *Begonias ulmifolia* and *serratipetala* live by a stream under constant mist.

Back - *Begonia venosa* is one of the begonias found in the desert area.

See article, p. 211.



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#### *Exploring the World of Begonias*

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B. 'Madame Butterfly'

drawing by Mary Weinberg

### **Quick!**

**Check your mailing label.  
If it says 11/91 or 12/91,  
your membership is about  
to expire.  
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want to lose you!**

## OFFICERS INSTALLED AT BANQUET



(from left to right) Carol Notaras, 1st vice-president; Millie Thompson, 2nd vice-president; Mary Bucholtz, 3rd vice-president; Ingeborg Foo, Secretary; Eleanor Calkins, Treasurer

1991-92 ABS officers Jeannette Gilbertson, president (in absentia); Carol Notaras, 1st vice-president; Millie Thompson, 2nd vice-president; Mary Bucholtz, 3rd vice-president; Ingeborg Foo, Secretary; and Eleanor Calkins, Treasurer, were installed by Charles Jaros at the Banquet September 14.

Dr. Tracy McLellan gave the banquet address, presenting slides from her trip to the wild eastern coast of South Africa and describing the land, the people, and her search for begonias. (Her program is available through the Slide Library, and we hope for an article for the **Begonian** soon.)

In other Banquet highlights, James Nunes served as Master of Ceremonies and introduced special guests, Maxine Zinman gave the Invocation and presented Cultural Awards, and Rudolf Ziesenhenné announced the winner of the Dyckman Award (see next page). The banquet concluded with an auction.



## DYCKMAN AWARD GOES TO GOLDING



Jack Golding (left) receives award from Rudolf Ziesenhenné

The **Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service**, named in honor of the founder of ABS, is presented to a member who has rendered long-term or very outstanding service above and beyond normal duties.

This year Awards Chair Rudolf Ziesenhenné presented the Dyckman Award to a member whose service has been both outstanding and long-term.

Jack Golding wrote his first article for the **Begonian** in the 1960's, and today serves as Nomenclature Editor. In the years between he has authored articles on begonias which have appeared in the **Begonian**, **Phytologia**, and other publications. He has co-authored The Species of the Begoniaceae (with Dr. Fred Barkley) and Begoniaceae: Illustrated Key and Annotated Species List (with Dr. Lyman Smith, Dr. Dieter Wasshausen, and Carrie Karegeannes). Jack has also served ABS as a judge and as vice president, and as a long-time member of the Nomenclature Committee.

The Eva Kenworthy Gray Award and the Alfred D. Robinson Medal were not given this year.

Members of the Awards Committee are Nomenclature Director Carrie Karegeannes, Leslie Hatfield, Tom Keepin, Alice Ordway, Thelma O'Reilly, and Althea Thomas.

## 1991 Convention Show Results



B. 'Snow Cap'  
photo by Dan Gross

### BEST OF SHOW

B. 'Snow Cap'  
Exhibited by Philip Seiden  
Trophy donated by Hikoichi Arakawa

Rhizomatous, medium leaved:  
B. 'Passing Storm'  
Exhibitor: Philip Seiden  
Trophy Donor: Knickerbocker Branch

### SWEEPSTAKES

Johanna Zinn  
Trophy donated by Orange County  
Branch in honor of Margaret Taylor

Rhizomatous, giant leaved:  
B. "Zelda's Problem"  
Exhibitor: Philip Seiden  
Trophy Donor: Robert Moore

### "SHOWING IS SHARING"

Joyce Caveny  
Trophy donated by Potomac Branch, in  
honor of Millie & Ed Thompson

Rhizome Erect:  
B. 'Little Brother Montgomery'  
Exhibitor: Joyce Caveny  
Trophy Donor: Edna Stewart Pittsburgh  
Branch

### DIVISION WINNERS

*To win a Division, a plant must score at  
least 93 of a possible 100 points*

Cane-like: B. 'Snow Cap'  
Exhibitor: Philip Seiden  
Trophy Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Curtis

Rex: B. "Arc cultorum"  
Exhibitor: John Howell  
Trophy Donor: Mike Golub

Tuberous: *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana*  
Exhibitor: Johanna Zinn  
Trophy Donor: San Francisco Branch

Semperflorens: B. 'Pink Avalanche'  
Exhibitor: Johanna Zinn  
Trophy Donor: Fort Lauderdale Branch

Contained Atmosphere, single variety:  
B. U074  
Exhibitor: Johanna Zinn  
Trophy Donor: Bessie Buxton Branch, in  
honor of Wanda Macnair

Rhizomatous, small-leaved: B. 'Winkum'  
Exhibitor: Shirley Armstead  
Trophy Donor: Miami Branch

Species: *B. hydrocotylifolia*  
Exhibitor: Normand L. Dufresne  
Trophy Donor: Martin Johnson

Hanging Containers & Wall Pockets:  
*B. fuchsioides*  
Exhibitor: Johanna Zinn  
Trophy Donor: Greater Chicago Branch

Classic Begonias: B. 'Red Bluff'  
Exhibitor: Philip Seiden  
Trophy Donor: San Miguel Branch

Novice: B. 'Pink Shasta'  
Exhibitor: Cynthia Phillips  
Trophy Donor: A. D. Robinson Branch

New Hybrid, hobby grower: B. A-5  
Exhibitor: Joyce Caveny  
Trophy Donor: Palomar Branch

Begonia Photo, artistic:  
yellow tuberhybrida  
Exhibitor: Sue Hessel  
Trophy Donor: Santa Clara Valley

Begonia Crafts: needlepoint, *B. manni*  
Exhibitor: Mary Bucholotz  
Trophy Donor: Kay & Lorne Bradley

The Show Committee wishes to thank additional division trophy donors Martin Johnson, James Newbold in memory of Ruth Seiton, Joy & John Porter, Ann & Gene Salisbury, Johanna Zinn, Maxine Zinman, and the following branches: Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau in memory of Jim Wrytzen, Buxton, East Bay, Jacksonville, Palomar, Rubidoux, San Gabriel, Westchester.

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**CULTURAL AWARDS**

To be win a cultural award, a plant must score 95 or more out of a possible 100 points

98 points:  
Philip Seiden, B. 'Passing Storm'  
Joyce Caveny, B. 'Little Brother Montgomery'  
97 points:  
Hugh Howell, unidentified rhizomatous  
John Howell, B. "ARC cultorum"  
Johanna Zinn, *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana*  
96.6 points:  
Philip Seiden, B. 'Snow Cap'  
96 points:  
Bob Moore, unidentified rhizomatous  
Normand Dufresne, *B. hydrocotylifolia*  
95.6 points:  
Philip Seiden, B. 'Persian Tiger'  
95 points:  
Johanna Zinn, B. U074

**HYBRID OF  
DISTINCTION**

by Hobby Grower  
To qualify for Hybrid of Distinction, a plant must score at least 85 points

Joyce Caveny, B. A-5

**Special thanks to the U.S. Botanic Garden for the lovely displays in the hotel lobby and in the show room**

**Show Committee:**

D. J. Aikin, Chair  
Maxine Zinman, Judging  
Tim Last, Entries & Classification  
Tom Keepin, Placement

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*Exploring the World of Begonias*

**For their generous donations  
the Convention Committee thanks the  
following individuals:**

Katherine Alberti  
Hikoichi Arakawa  
Ann & Gene Salisbury  
Syble Boozer  
Mary Bucholtz  
Joyce Caveny  
Juana & Robert Curtis  
Normand Dufresne  
Doris Gardner  
Dorothy & Jack Golding  
Mike Golub  
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Karen Lawrence  
Sue & Bill Hanlein  
Joyce Hesse  
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Wanda & Dick Macnair  
Georgia & Dale Meyer  
Carol & Peter Notaras  
Thelma & Tim O'Reilly  
Eunice Rankin  
Lawrence Rex  
John Sousa  
Kay Tucker  
Marie Van Etten  
Jeanne Verteseuille  
Janet Welsh  
Margaret & Rudolf Ziesenhenn  
Johanna Zinn

**branches:**

Bessie Buxton  
Begonia Society of Palm Beaches  
Fort Lauderdale  
Greater Chicago  
Jacksonville  
Miami  
Palomar  
Potomac  
Santa Clara

**and institutions:**

Fort Worth Botanic Garden  
Great Falls Greenhouse  
Logee's Greenhouses  
U.S. Botanic Gardens



Thelma O'Reilly

## **“Time, Toil, Triumph — U-Numbers!”**

Seminar review by Diane Horne

In the first seminar of the Convention, speaker Thelma O'Reilly described the research of the Unidentified Begonia Species Project of the Nomenclature Department of the American Begonia Society as involving three “T’s” - Time, Toil, and Triumph. The first two “T’s” require a vast amount of work, but result in giving satisfaction and exhilaration of the third “t”, Triumph.

During the seminar we were led through the identification process, which starts with the discovery of an unidentified begonia and goes through collecting the plant and the seed, growing new plants, researching and certifying all materials by bits and pieces, and having an unidentified number assigned. The seminar was accompanied by lovely slides of the U-numbers. I really enjoyed the seminar, and learned several things about these “peculiar” begonias.

---

*Diane Horne is vice-president of the Fred A. Barkley Branch. She lives at 3601 Oakhurst, Midwest City, OK 73110.*



## Experiences with Imported Begonias

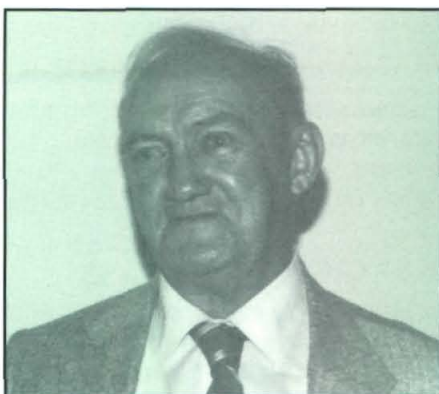
Seminar Review by Mary Bucholtz

I know you have heard Rudolf Ziesenhenne referred to, lovingly, as "Mr. Begonia"; indeed he is. He modestly says begonias are his hobby. His memory is unflinching; his experiences endless; and his advice abundant. In his seminar on September 13, he was quick to let us know that it is not just Rudy, but Rudy and Margaret, his wife of many years, for they are a team. He provides the technical research and Margaret is responsible for writing it in a way we can all understand. To this "team" we all say thank you.

Today, Rudy told us, we are fortunate to have access to so many species, whether new or rediscovered. In the days before World War II, Rudy was only able to receive seeds from other countries. Germany was the most important of his sources. Today many of those species he received are still in cultivation - *Begonias roxburghii*, *rubrovenia* (now known as *hatacoa*), *griffithii* (now known as *annulata*) and *butanensis* are a few of them.

Alfred D. Robinson invited Rudy to view his collection. While there, Rudy was shown Robinson's collection of Curtis's Botanical Magazines. Robinson had an artist copy the begonias from the magazines so that he could look at them readily. Rudy astounded Robinson by offering to send him plants of those drawings of species shown him. Then as now we are not satisfied with the picture, we want to grow the plant.

In 1938 T. H. Everett, horticulturist at the New York Botanical Garden, wanted to put on a large begonia show and requested



Rudolf Ziesenhenne

one of each of Rudy's begonias. The request was granted, and in return Mr. Everett shipped Rudy one of each plant he had.

Over the years the New York Botanical Garden published articles showing begonias. The famous "B. page 13" appeared, with no name, on page 13. Rudy has selfed it, and it is a species, probably from Mexico, and probably from the collection of Thomas McDougall, who collected in Mexico from 1947 until his death there in 1975.

After reading of McDougall, Rudy wrote to find out who he was. The two men made contact. MacDougall was upset because he would bring in a collected plant and New York Botanical Gardens would make an herbarium specimen and file it away; it would never be identified. MacDougall and Rudy made a contract: Rudy would grow the collected plants and not release any until he had identified and named them. Rudy admitted there are some still remaining to be published, and said they are good ones.

Through the years trial and error with imported begonias has led to methods of propagating which have helped in maintaining plant materials collected by Dr. Tracy McLellan and Scott Hoover. Rooting in sand was a failure: when Rudy would pick up a rooted plant, the roots would break off because of the weight of the sand. Using peat moss and sand was not satisfactory



either. Even a mixture of peat moss and perlite wasn't successful.

Discussions with Dr. Tracy McLellan established that the plant material was found growing on trees and receiving rain-water. Dry perlite was tried for potting and bottled drinking water applied - success! It was determined that a rich soil sucked the water out and the plants died.

After cuttings are rooted in perlite, Rudy finds that plants potted on in a peat and perlite mix and given a weak solution of fertilizer will continue to grow.

Rudy also finds he must take special care of plants he receives from the east coast (we in the east find the same is true with plants from the west coast). A plant will develop leaves according to its root system. When we move plants from place to place we must be careful, as moving changes the atmosphere and plants shed their leaves. When Rudy receives new plants they are placed in a terrarium. Humidity is a balance between the roots and the leaf area.

When swapping cuttings, Rudy advises watering the plant the day before taking cuttings so that it will be turgid. Make your cutting and seal it in a plastic bag. Do not add any water, or the cutting will rot. Begonias are succulents. To emphasize

his point, Rudy told us of a box of cuttings he sent to Edinburgh, Scotland. He used a layer of crushed paper, a layer of waxed paper, the cuttings, a layer of waxed paper, and a layer of crushed paper. Not one cutting was lost.

Some oddities occur among begonias. Rudy gave this explanation for one curiosity: that of a rhizome forming on a peduncle. This would occur naturally in a plant growing in the wild as an effort for reproduction. If the rhizome forms high above the plant, its weight would cause it to fall down well clear of the parent plant and it would continue to grow, not taking the nutrients from the parent (many begonias are found growing in poor soils).

Begonia nomenclature can be confusing as well as interesting, and conflicting views exist among those who identify begonias. We, the benefactors of the research into identification, can all appreciate the endeavors of these men and women who dedicate years to the study of begonias.

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*ABS 3rd vice-president Mary Bucholtz lives surrounded by begonias at 4211 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207.*



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MORE SEMINAR REPORTS TO COME IN NEXT ISSUE

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## ON TOUR

### Dumbarton Oaks



The creeping fig that covers the Orangerie grows from one stem planted before the Civil War



Left:  
Looking down on the mosaic pool

### The United States National Arboretum

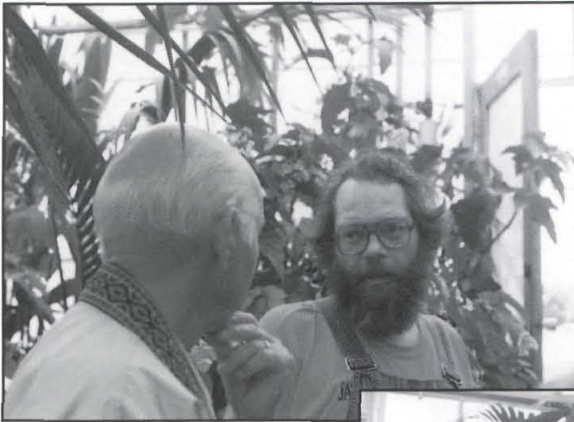


The columns that originally graced the Capitol now stand by a reflecting pool at the Arboretum



In the  
National Bonsai Collection

## The United States Botanic Garden greenhouses



left:  
Begonia curator  
Dave Anderson (on right)  
talks with Jack Hoskins

right:  
Mr. & Mrs. William Ash  
of England were  
among our foreign  
visitors (see next page  
for more!)



below: large colorful rexes  
thrive despite the heat

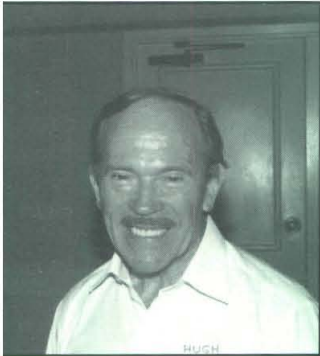


## WASHINGTON, D.C.

View from the  
Lincoln Memorial



## FROM OTHER COUNTRIES



Hugh McLauchlan  
of Scotland was both  
visitor and speaker



Other visitors from afar:  
Joyce & Ted Williams from  
South Australia (above)  
Hikoichi Arakawa and  
Hiroshi Ohno from Japan,  
Jennifer & Richard Churn  
from England,  
Betty McLauchlan from  
Scotland, Miree Lex from  
Canada.

We're glad you came!

## ANNUAL MEETING

Retiring 1st Vice-president  
Dr. Tracy McLellan (left) conducted the  
business meeting







The elegant Kibble Palace and collection of tree ferns at Glasgow Botanic. While the impression is one of continuity, the plants are subtly divided by native continent. The photo fails to relate the extraordinary quality of light and effusive atmosphere.

# Glasgow Botanic Gardens

Text and Photographs by Mose Fadeem

The National Begonia Collection, of course, drew me to Glasgow Botanic, but upon arrival I was overwhelmingly delighted with the entire Gardens and especially the Kibble Palace, which houses the finest collection of tree ferns I've ever seen. F. O. Bower, Professor of Botany at Glasgow University around the turn of the century, specialized in ferns and apparently has had a lasting influence. The extraordinary 19th century glass and cast iron Kibble Palace wears quite a history of its own - you really have to experience this elegant structure. It's one of the largest glasshouses in Britain, covering 23,000 square feet, but it's the quality of light and atmosphere that is so impressive, and as for scale, it feels more intimate and full of warmth than the numbers indicate. One can feel as much at home as the ferns and Victorian camellias that grace the perimeter, and many Glaswegians come to warm themselves here in the cold Scottish winters. In more pleasant weather they picnic on the lawns or lounge on the benches outside, enjoying the seasonal bloom - tulips, when I was there. Glasgow Botanic feels made for people as well as plants. The overall atmosphere is inviting.

The smaller glasshouses, about a dozen in all, display a variety of predominantly tropical plants. I would love to have returned often to the Palm House to study the specimens, and it's there I came across a very healthy looking begonia from Papua, New Guinea. It was related that one of the expeditionary team to Papua was stripped bare of equipment and clothes by some less than cuddly natives...I suppose tropical rainforests have always tended to leave the modern industrial psyche feeling naked.

The old Stove House holds the collection of Begonia, the majority in containers upon benches where they are easy to examine. The collection of hybrids by Scots hybridizer M. L. MacIntyre have an area to themselves. I understand that some further endowment money for the Begonia Collection is in the courts at present, but don't know what future plans are riding on it and imagine decisions will be made when the funds are in hand. The collection, however, does not end in the Stove House. Behind the structures for display sit rows of coldframes and glasshouses for growing and propagating with much of the space devoted to Begonia. Some of the buildings are quite old, sunk like half-cellar below soil level where the somewhat sour aroma of damp vintage is intoxicating.



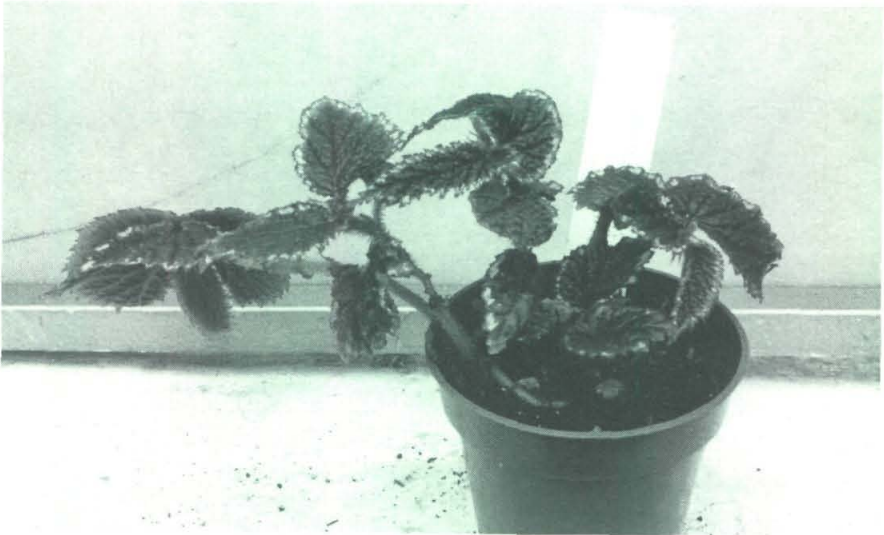


Part of *Begonia* display in Stove House





Hugh McLauchlan looking over Begonia Collection with propagator John Stevenson. Notice old stone bench with heating wells



Small begonia (not yet identified) from Papua, New Guinea Expedition of 1987.

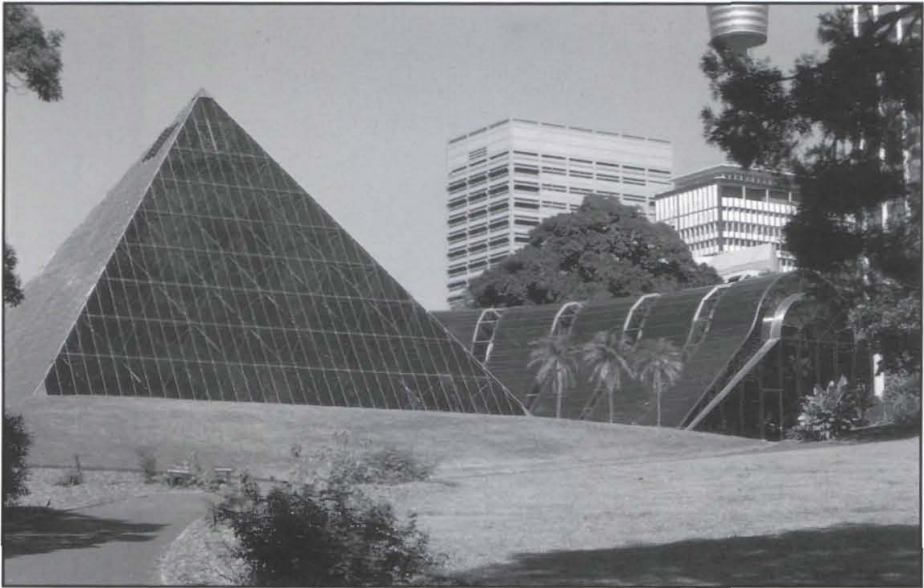
There's not space here, and I'm not the one to offer a detailed account of Glasgow Botanic or the collection, but I brought back photos, hoping they will convey some feel for it. I had a chance to meet with curator Eric Curtis, a most congenial man, and also chat with propagator John Stevenson and horticulturist Gordon Webb of the staff, and I thank them all for an informative and very pleasant visit.

---

*Mose Fadeem's address is 319 1/2 English Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.*

# Begonias at the Sydney Tropical Centre

Text and Photographs by Don Miller



In New South Wales, Australia we find the new Tropical Centre, located in Sydney's Royal Botanical Gardens.



The Royal Botanical Gardens are situated on a peninsula in beautiful Sydney Harbor. From the gardens you can see the famous Sydney Harbor Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. Sydney has a mild subtropical climate where many tropical plants grow outside.



*Begonia conchifolia* in Arc greenhouse

The Tropical Centre is composed of a pyramid-shaped glasshouse, an arc-shaped glasshouse, and an exhibition area. The purpose of the complex is to grow different plants in different climatic zones within the tropical rainforests, and to show how man is dependent on these ecological systems for sources of food, shelter, and life-saving drugs.

The foyer exhibition has displays that demonstrate the complexity and vulnerability of tropical ecosystems, which contain over half of the world's plant and animal species yet cover only 6% of the total land surface. This biodiversity is what makes the loss of these unique areas so tragic. Biologists estimate that 10,000 species vanish each year. We will never know if any of these species contained compounds that could have been useful to medical science. The tropical rainforests also stabilize and influence our global climate, affecting global warming, disruption of convection patterns, wind currents, and rainfall.

The Arc glasshouse is divided into distinct climatic zones. The first zone represents the warm lowland rainforests, where plants have developed under year-round conditions of high humidity, high temperatures, and high amounts of regular rainfall. Here the temperature range is maintained at 60<sup>o</sup>-86<sup>o</sup> F. and humidity is 60%. This is ideal begonia habitat, and we find *Begonias maculata*, *conchifolia*, *angulata*, *roxburghii*, and *mazae* growing among the palms and ferns. The banks of small streams offer micro-climates for other species of begonias. Here the temperature is slightly lower and the humidity is higher. *Begonias solimutata*, *stipulacea*, *listada*, and *parillisthrive* in these conditions. Frequently begonias will grow as epiphytes on tree trunks or rocks. Here they get the spray of water but have excellent drainage.





Above: *Begonias stipulacea* and *listada* growing along stream in Arc greenhouse

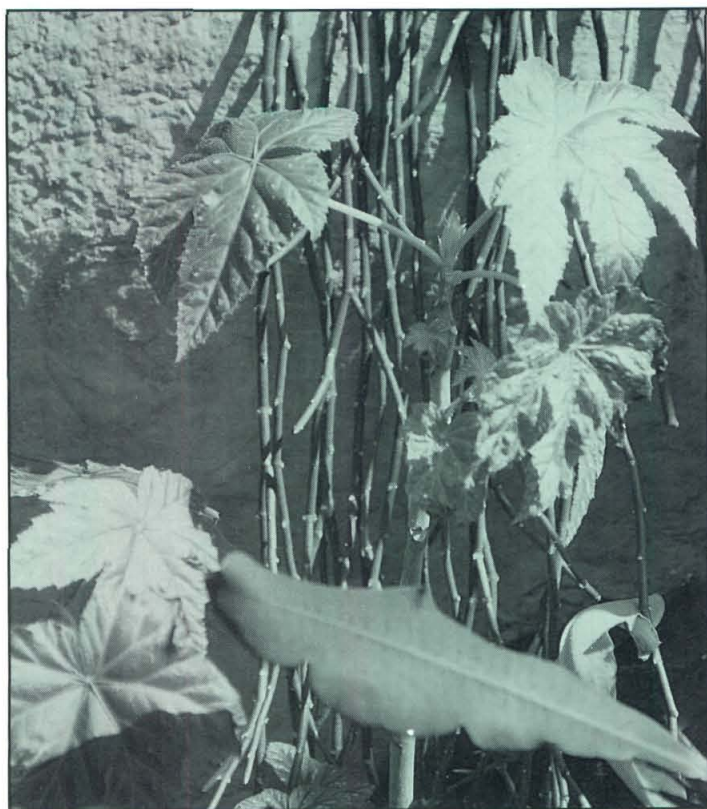
On the opposite end of the Arc we find a dry area. This represents climates where periods of drought alternate with periods of rain. Alongside cactus and succulents are the drought-tolerant begonias: *venosa*, *wollnyi*, *aconitifolia*, and *dregei* grow here. These begonias have adapted to periods of drought by storing water in thick stems or swollen bases and reducing their leaf area by dropping leaves during the dry season.

right:  
unidentified begonia  
in the dry section, Arc  
greenhouse





above: *B. aconitifolia* blooming in dry section, Arc greenhouse



left: *B. wollnyi* in the dry section, Arc greenhouse



*B. serratifetala* grows in the tropical montane section of the Arc glasshouse

Another climate zone in the Arc glasshouse represents the tropical montane forest. With increased altitude temperatures drop and humidity increases. Here the temperature range is kept at 53° -77° F. and humidity is maintained above 75% by use of a fogging system. Found among the mist and the ferns are *Begonias ulmifolia* and *serratifetala*.

The Pyramid glasshouse is home to Australian tropical plants from two regions, the monsoonal forest and woodland and the Queensland coast rainforests.

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As of now no begonias have been discovered growing wild in Australia, but Australia does have climates which are suitable for begonia habitat. The York Peninsula, in the far northeast corner, is very close to begonia-rich New Guinea. The Australian Begonia Society is organizing an exploration trip to this remote area, and maybe some day begonias will be growing in the Pyramid glasshouse as native species.

*Don Miller spends his vacations tracking down begonias world-wide. When he's stuck at home, his address is 1010 Mt. Auburn, Dallas, TX 75223.*





# One Less Frustration!

by Bill Voss

Frustration is nothing new to growers of begonias. There is always some hazard lying in wait - freezes, diseases, accidents, overly high or low temperatures, animals, insects; the list goes on - and another begonia disappointment strikes.

There is one frustration that, hopefully, we can eliminate: *the Disappearing Begonia*. It's sitting there doing beautifully, and one day we turn around, never to see it again. No one stole it, the pot doesn't have wheels. It just goes.

This phenomena occurs too frequently. The begonia we lose is usually one that we have no problem growing (although in some cases we may have gone through several tries before mastering growing that particular begonia). The loss is painful and very frustrating, especially if we can't find a replacement.

I keep all my old plant tags in a spare pot, and once in a while I go through them. There have been several begonias that I have been trying to find for a number of years, such as the Mallet types, i.e., 'Miyo Berger' and 'Grace Lucas'. I had forgotten that I had 'Miyo Berger' many years ago and lost it - but the tag was there, with the rest, as a reminder - a major frustration!

I keep some 115 to 135 varieties of begonias and close to 450-500 plants in pots, sweater boxes, bubble bowls, aquariums, etc. It's easy to let one get away. All of the solutions to this problem involve some sort of physical inventory and perhaps even a micro-computer to keep track. It makes the hobby too labor intensive, which in turn takes the fun out of it.

Then I remembered how a local greenhouse nursery kept colored tags on their stock plants to keep them from being sold accidentally. Herein, I believe, lies a solution.

Take some blank plant tags (I primarily use small white plastic name tags with my begonias) and, to make them easy to distinguish, mark them with a felt tip marker by painting a highly visible color on some portion of the tag. Perhaps red is a good color (except for Mallets). Keep these blank tags in a spare pot or other receptacle. I use an old styrofoam drink cup (small recycling plug here).

Keep a second cup (saves two from the landfill). When you bring home a new begonia, pull some tags from the first cup. Decide how many cuttings you want to keep as backup insurance. The number could differ for different begonias. Let's take a number for illustration purposes - say three cuttings. Write the name of the begonia on each of three tags, and put the marked tags in the second cup. These tags are to help you remember the good practice of taking cuttings of your begonias as a backup for any loss of the original plant.

If you can take your backup cuttings immediately, all the better. If not, the second cup is the reminder that backup cuttings need to be taken, and tells you also how many you need of that particular begonia. If a cutting fails to take, move the tag back to the second cup until you make another backup.

Once you finally pot up the tagged and newly rooted cuttings, pull the marked tags and put them back into the second cup to start the backup cycle again.



the author's simple solution in action

The second cup is the prime focus to relieve the frustrations of inadvertent losses. We may move our stock plants around, take them to shows, sell or give them away, but the second cup shows any deficiency in our number of backups regardless of how we play musical chairs with the stock plants themselves.

There can be a failure in this system if we lose the stock plants before we take the first of the three cuttings or give away or sell out stock plants. In the latter case, check the second cup before you let a plant go. If a plant looks like it has a problem, check your second cup for tags with that plant name; if you find tags, take cuttings.

I believe this may be a simple and effective way to avoid the frustration of losing a begonia that can't be replaced. Now, about putting wheels on our pots...

*Bill Voss lives at 3805 Louise Ave., Chantilly, VA 22021. He is especially attracted by the Mallet begonias, and by the challenge of growing begonias requiring high humidity.*

#### **April 3-Oct. 12: Ameri-Flora '92**

International Floral & Garden Exposition, Franklin Park, Columbus, Ohio. United States' first international floral event, commemorating the Christopher Columbus Quincentennial, with gardening exhibits by 30 nations.

## COMING EVENTS

**November 9-10:** Fort Lauderdale Branch Fall Show & Sale at Secret Woods, a Broward County Nature Park, 2701 W. State Rd. 34, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

**November 11-13:** National Arbor Day Conference to Promote Trees for Energy, Lincoln, Nebraska. Call (402) 474-5655 for more information.

**November 23:** Mae Blanton Branch sale at the Christmas Gala, Community Center, Denton, Texas.

**November 26:** "Growing and Grooming Begonias" at Atlanta Botanic Gardens, 6:30-9, taught by Russ Richardson.

### 1992

**February 21-23:** Astro Branch display and sale in the Texas Lawn & Garden Show at the George Brown Center, Houston, Texas.

**March 4-8:** Atlanta Branch participates in the Atlanta Flower Show at the Atlanta Apparel Mart/Inforum.

**March 7-8:** The Victorian Begonia Society will be hosting a convention in Ballarat, Australia to coincide with the Ballarat Botanic Gardens' 40th Begonia Festival.

**May 15-17:** Southwest Region Get-Together, "Begonias Astronomical", Concord Hotel, Houston TX. Astro Branch will host.

**August 19-23:** American Begonia Society Convention 1992 will be held at the Inn of the Park, Anaheim, California, with the Orange County Branch as hosts.

*Deadline for next issue is November 15*

SPOTLIGHT ON:

## *Begonia subscutata*



by Mary Weinberg

*B. subscutata* is placed in section *Tetraphila*. It was discovered by De Wildman in the Congo of tropical Africa in 1908. It has also been collected in primary and secondary forests in Gabon.

*B. subscutata* does not seem to have been grown in the United States until 1983, when Dr. Jan Doorenbos of the Netherlands sent seed to Mildred Thompson. She subsequently shared plants with members of ABS.

*B. subscutata* is a trailing-scandent species. Leaves at maturity measure 1 1/2 - 2" long and 3/4 - 7/8" wide; leaf shape is obtuse, acute, obovate, with slightly undulate margins that tend to curl under; the fleshy leaves have a dark green smooth shiny upper surface, with light green pinnate veins. The undersides of the leaves are light green, adult leaves having short sparse brown felted wool-like hairs. Stems are long and branching. Mature stems are woody, while newer stems have short brown



felt-like hair. Stem nodes often produce roots. Both male and female flowers have 4 tepals each. The ovary of the female flowers is spindle-shaped, 4 celled, and wingless. Stipules are small, brown, lanceolate. Female flowers do not open at all times. My experience has been that they only open when there are male flowers on the plants. Flowers are a creamy-white color with reddish pink margins on the tepals. *B. subscutata* is almost ever-blooming.

#### Physical Geography of the Congo

The climate of the Congo is tropical, with heavy rainfall and high temperatures and humidity. Temperatures vary little between seasons and between day and night. The annual average temperature is between 68 and 81 degrees F., although in the south currents may produce temperatures as low as 54 degrees F. The average daily humidity is 80%. Precipitation averages more than 48 inches annually, and often is over 80".

Most of the Congo is covered with tropical rain forest, with much of the soil being coarse-grained, containing sand and gravel; because of the hot, humid climate organic matter is destroyed before it can decompose into humus, and top soil is washed away by the heavy rains.

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## CULTURE

**Humidity:** *B. subscutata* requires high humidity but can be grown outside a terrarium. The humidity in my light garden averages 50% in winter and about 60% in summer. When making cuttings or growing young just-rooted plants, it is best to keep them in a terrarium for the additional humidity.

**Light:** I do not place *B. subscutata* directly under the light but off at the edge where light is less intense.

**Water:** Keep moist.

**Temperature:** *B. subscutata* grows well in warm temperatures.

My winter temperature in the house is in the mid-to-upper sixties. I think that is why my plant goes into semi-dormancy.

**Growing medium:** I use a porous mix, one that retains moisture as well. I include a pinch of bone meal and limestone in the mix.

For cuttings and young plants in terrariums use 2 parts long-grain sphagnum moss (soak, squeeze out the excess moisture, and cut into small pieces) and 1 part perlite.

*B. subscutata* tends to go semi-dormant for me during the winter months, losing a good number of its leaves. Stems will be quite bare except for a few stubborn leaves; an occasional bloom will appear.

When I repot *B. subscutata* I wind a stem or two around in the pot and pin them down to the soil, where they sometimes root from the nodes and send out new growth.

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



# BULLETIN BOARD

ABS News

## Highlights

### of the Annual Business Meeting

#### Branch Relations:

Doug Hahn reported inquiries about starting new branches have come from Arizona, Ohio, Oregon, and California. Astro Branch has formed a "little sister" branch in Houston, Texas.

#### Slide Library:

The Library has four new programs available: Dr. Tracy McLellan on her African research, the humorous "How Not to Grow a Begonia", 1990 Convention, and a tour of Glasgow Botanic Gardens and Kew Gardens.

#### Contribution:

Palomar Branch proposed that ABS double its contribution of \$1,000 to Scott Hoover's proposed expedition. The proposal passed, with Frank Green requesting that a listing be made (1) of begonias collected by Scott and (2) of which ones are still in cultivation.

#### Resignations:

Entries and Classifications Chair Tim Last  
Editor Tamsin Boardman

#### 1992 Convention:

Orange County will host the 1992 Convention at Inn of the Park, Anaheim, California, August 19-23.

*Note: Minutes were not available at press time and will appear in the next issue.*

**Moving?** Don't forget to let the Membership Chair know so you won't miss an issue!

## *In the News...*

The Washington Post selected the Show at the 1991 Convention as the "Best Bet" among interesting happenings in Washington D.C. for the weekend of September 14 & 15.

Begonia Curator Kelton Parker and the begonia collection at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens were featured in the Fort Worth Star Telegram on August 23 in an article by Nancy Brownlee. The diversity of the begonia family and conservation purposes of the species bank were especially noted.

## IN MEMORY

Nita McClain (1933-1991) died in New Orleans from complications after back surgery. She had for several years been living near Alexandria, Louisiana.

During her years in Fort Worth, Texas in the 1970's she pioneered the practice of begonia lovers working directly with the begonia collection in the "working greenhouses" at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

After she attended Mae Blanton's organizational meeting for Southwest Region in 1973, she worked tirelessly to promote begonia growing in the Fort Worth-Dallas area. She created a slide program and presented it to garden clubs at every opportunity.

Mae Blanton named a hybrid B. 'Nita McClain' in her honor. She will be missed. - Cynthia Ritchie



# Show News Around the Country

The *Palomar Branch Show* had 125 entries and 11 exhibitors. **Ed Bates** won Best of Show with a tuberous begonia, and **Carolyn Collman** took Sweepstakes - this was the first time Carolyn, who has been growing begonias for about a year, entered a show.



Ed Bates' Best of Show Photo by Eleanor Calkins

At the *San Francisco Branch Show* in August **Bob Laipple** won Novice Sweepstakes, **Audella and Herbert Bloom** won Intermediate Sweepstakes, and **Alice and Isadore Gold** won Advanced Sweepstakes. Trophies were won by the Golds (with a tuberous begonia scoring 98 points), **Deborah Best** (2 awards), **Carol & Peter Notaras** (6 awards), and **Susan & Hans Muller**.



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# CONSERVATION NEWS

## Collecting Species

By the time you read this, Scott Hoover will have left for Indonesia for three months of field collecting of begonias. He expects some exciting finds.

It is not too late to send a donation to support his expedition (see "Conservation Fund", below, to find out how).

## Conservation Fund

Conservation Department activities are supported by the Conservation Fund, which receives income through a percentage of Seed Fund sales and through donations.

Donations should be sent to ABS Treasurer, made out to "American Begonia Society, Conservation Department." *Donations sent specifically to support Scott Hoover's expeditions should be earmarked "for Hoover expedition."*

## Rare Books

Looking for a really unique gift for a begonia friend or for honoring a retiring branch officer? Here's an idea: Doug Hahn has donated a few copies of out-of-print begonia books by Bernice Brilmayer and Bessie Buxton to be auctioned off for the Conservation Fund. Of course, you might just want one for yourself.

To purchase, send a sealed bid to Doug at 7736 Stonehill Dr., Cincinnati OH 45230. Highest offer gets the book - this round of the silent auction ends December 1st, so get your bid in now.

## Maintaining Species

### Species Bank

The Species Bank at Fort Worth Botanic Garden has approximately 400 begonia species. If you'd like a list, write to Kelton Parker, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth TX 76107.

One of the goals of the Species Bank is to distribute the species as widely as possible. Weather permitting, Kelton will ship cuttings of requested species.

### Species Listing Project

As begonia species are threatened in the wild, we try to keep them alive in cultivation. The Conservation Department keeps a list of species grown by our members and by cooperating institutions. The list gives us an idea of which species are most in danger of being lost to cultivation, so that we can focus on propagating and disseminating the most endangered.

You can help by sending a list of the species you grow to Kingsley Langenberg, 2141 N. Bonnie Brook Lane, Waukegan IL 60087 or to Kit Jeans Mounger, Rt. 1, Box 319, New Johnsonville TN 37134. They ask that you list species you have grown successfully and can count on having, and that you update your listing every six months.

### The Time Trap

Are you just too busy to list your species? One member - who prefers to remain anonymous - was. A friend in his branch offered to help, and found that the job took exactly 6 minutes.

Just as an experiment, try timing yourself; add the time it takes you to address and stamp an envelope. Write down how long it took you (be honest), and we'll send a "hero" reward to the anyone who took more than 30 minutes.



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## CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND NOTES

November-December 1991  
Diana H. Gould, Seed Fund Director

Germination times for this issue's selections range from 8 to 91 days, so please be patient.

**Thank you!** to **Hikoichi Arakawa, Ed Bates, Roberto Brin, Jackie Davis, Alain Delavie, Lynda Goldsmith, Jan Goodwin, Jake Hafer, Doug Hahn, Scott Hoover, Naomi Lynch, Tracy McLellan, Joy Porter, Russ Richardson, Lillian Stone, Lloyd Van Epps, Elmer Wagner, Steve Wells, Johanna Zinn**, our anonymous donors and the international exchanges for making this offering possible.

The 1991 Convention Listing is now available and will be mailed free of charge with all seed orders, or it can be requested by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope.

### Notes on Seeds Listed:

#### Tuberous/Semi-tuberous

*B. beddomei* (India; MA 91) has leaf blades that are obliquately broad-ovate, medium-green with an olive cast and white/silver spots with a light-red underside, glabrous. Leaf margins are slightly scalloped, basal lobes vary slightly, red veins at leaf base. It seems to have a thick, reddish main stem and reddish petioles. *B. boliviensis* (Argentina/

Bolivia; MA 91) is a tall-growing species which does require staking; it has spectacularly distinctive scarlet flowers.

*B. cinnabarina* (Bolivia; MA 91) is low-growing with fragrant, apricot flowers and it blooms from summer to fall. *B. davisii* (Peru; MA 91) is also low-growing, with green leaves and red undersides; it has profuse scarlet/orange flowers in summer.

We offer a large number of varieties from the South African *B. dregei* group. *B. dregei* (MA 91) has small, green angular leaves and white flowers, and is very easy to grow. The first three varieties were offered JF 91. *B. dregei* var. #1 has dark-green leaves with wine-colored veins above and below, with the color gradually fading towards the margins. Coloring is very distinctive at the petiole point and barely visible around the serrated margins. Petioles are greenish brown. *B. dregei* var. #2 also has dark green leaves, but its serrated edges are finely bordered in red, and some leaves at the base of the plant are heavily spotted with silver. The leaves of *B. dregei* var. #3 are a paler green with wine nerves above and below, serrated margins that are wine-colored at the basal lobe, and

wine colored petioles.

*B. dregei* ex Glasgow (JA 90) has small, lobed leaves and does not lose its juvenile spots. Flowers are white.

Two more varieties came in without descriptions: *B. dregei* var. *macbethii* (JF 91) and an unknown variety (JA 90).

Also considered synonymous with *B. dregei* are *B. natalensis*, with yellowish-white pink-tinted flowers in winter; *B. suffruticosa* (ND 89) with predominantly bare angular medium-green leaves and white flowers; and *B. suffruticosa* f. *bolusii* (ND 89), a fine, lacey type that is quite stunning in a quiet, elegant manner. *B. partita* (South Africa; MA 91) has thinly-lobed leaves with white flowers from spring to fall, and it, too, has been linked with the *dregei* group. *B. fimbristipula* (China; JF 91) is an **endangered species** in its native land. It is low-growing, with olive-green, white, hairy, heart-shaped leaves 5" x 6 1/4", and it is massively veined with red undersides. It has fragrant light-pink flowers. This species is very slow-growing and hard to grow, but vital to our international species preservation. In China its leaves are used to make tea that is regarded as a very rare and prestigious delicacy.



*B. geranioides* (South Africa; MA 91) has green geranium-like leaves and small white flowers.

*B. gracilis* is tall-growing with pink flowers. *B. gracilis* var. *martiana* is tall-growing with shimmering green leaves and white, hairy petioles and fragrant rose-pink flowers. Both are from Mexico.

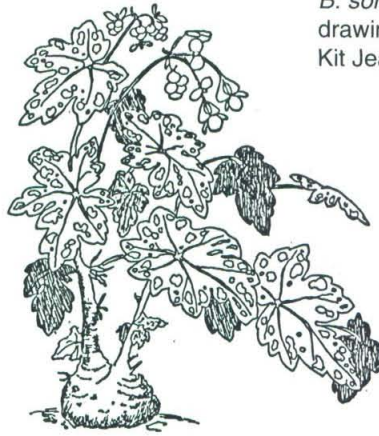
China is home to several varieties of *B. grandis*. One labeled *B. grandis* came with no description. *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana* (MA 91) is winter hardy in climates which are not too severe; it has a yellow-green leaf with red undersides; profuse pink flowers bloom summer to fall. Seed sent as *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana* "alba" (SO 90) came with no description; it is probably white-flowering. *B. grandis* ssp. *sinensis* (JA 90) came with no description.

*B. homonyma* (South Africa; MA 91) has medium-green leaves and produces white flowers in moderation from summer to fall.

*B. micranthera* var. *foliosa* (Argentina-Bolivia; MA 91) is tall-growing with 2" green leaves and white flowers. *B. micranthera* var. *venturii* (Argentina-Bolivia; MA 90) is also tall-growing, with apricot flowers and medium-green leaves.

*B. pearcei* (Bolivia; MA 91) is a low-growing species that has very distinctive foliage, and it also has yellow flowers summer to fall.

*B. picta* (India; MA 91) is difficult to grow, slow-growing, and a BEAUTY! It has low growth habit, gor-



*B. sonderana*  
drawing by  
Kit Jeans Mounger

geous chocolate-brown leaves (under the right light) and pale-rose flowers. Truly stunning!

*B. socotrana* (Socotra; JA 90) has a profusion of large rose-pink flowers that nestle on their roundish green leaves in the winter.

*B. sonderana* (South Africa; MA 91) also has medium-green leaves, and pink to white flowers with a pink tinge.

*B. sutherlandii* (South Africa) is seed received from the McLellan trip to South Africa, and this seed produces a species that I am told is quite unlike the *B. sutherlandii* already in the Seed Fund in abundance. I have been told that this is a very flashy, eye-catching plant. We do have both kinds, so please specify which one you want when you order.

*B. wollnyi* (Bolivia; MA 91) has elegant silver markings on its 4" medium-green leaves that act as a bed for its greenish-white winter flowers.

#### Rhizomatous

Our seeds of *B. hemsleyana* (China) come from plants produced from seed sent to me that was freshly collected in China during the early spring of 1990. This species is slow to germinate and to grow, and it is very particular about the attention that it receives. Its rhizome is joined at or below the soil. Leaves are peltate, pale green; flowers are sparse, fragrant, light pink, bloom in winter.

#### Unidentified Species

B. U103 (Bolivia; MA 91) is a tall-growing tuberous species that requires staking. It has white flowers that are sometimes flushed with pink. This species has succulent green stems, and its medium-green leaf blades measure 3-5" x 1-2/3".

B. U106 (Panama) is rhizomatous, with medium-green shallowly lobed cordate leaf blades; margins have red hairs, petioles are pale green. This species



requires terrarium care.

B. U107 (Panama) is also rhizomatous with shallowly lobed leaf blades and pale green petioles; terrarium care required.

B. U117 (Panama) is a rhizomatous species with green leaves that measure 8" x 5", are quite hairy; it has tentatively been identified as *B. urophylla*.

B. U118, very similar to B. U117, also has been tentatively identified as *B. urophylla*, although growers report subtle differences.

B. U119 differs from U117 and U118 in that the leaf blades are smaller. See also B. U194, below. The Seed Fund has no descriptions of these species. **Will those of you who have grown these species from Seed Fund seed please send in descriptions and photos? This is most critical to ensure validity of our seed.**

B. U133 and B. U134 (Columbia) are shrubs that have been identified tentatively as *B. holtonis*.

B. U150 (Panama) is a rhizomatous species believed to be a variety of *B. heracleifolia*. Cleft leaves are green and brown.

B. U151 (Peru) is a shrub and completely covered with white hairs. It is a small and compact species believed to be a form of *subvillosa*.

B. U154 (Peru) is rhizomatous, with no description.

B. U158 (Panama) is rhizomatous with shallowly lobed medium-green leaves 5" x 3". B. U159 (Panama) is very similar.

B. U160 (Panama) is a shrub with small, delicate medium-green leaves. It may be *B. filipes*.

B. U162 (Venezuela) is also a shrub with medium green branching stems, growing to 4' - 6' and then turning woody with age. This species has dark-green leaves; undersides are with light green flushed with red. Petioles are tannish-green. Flowers are white flushed with pink, creating a vivid contrast to the dark-pink ovaries. This species may be *B. meridensis*.

B. U163 (Venezuela) is thick-stemmed with medium-green ovate leaf blades 6" x 9", green petioles, and small white flowers. It may be *B. dichotoma*.

B. U172 (Trinidad) has been identified as *B. sericoneura*. However, this seed produced not *sericoneura* but a rhizomatous plant with bright-green, lobed, ovate leaves with sparse brown felting on the underside. Flowers are large, white, and branching.

B. U193 (Panama; JA 90) has green leaves 7" x 7", many drip points, and large white flowers.

B. U194 (Panama; MA 89) has been identified as *B. urophylla*. First offered in 1986.

B. U201 (Central America; JA 90) is classified as trailing; B. U205 is totally unknown. B. U236 and B. U237 are tuberous, have green leaves, and came with no further description.

B. U246 came with no information.

B. U249 (Panama) has pale green hairy leaves, and white flowers. It has been identified as *B. filipes*.

I have no information on B. U252.

B. U257 (Panama) is classified as a semperflorens and has rounded green leaves and rose-colored flowers.

B. U258 (Mexico) is rhizomatous, has large medium-green leaves that measure 7", long internodes, and grows to a height of 1 meter.

B. U262 (Peru) is known only to be a shrub.; no information is available on B. U263 (Mexico) and B. U268 (Thailand).

B. U286 (Panama) is rhizomatous with pale-green leaves and white flowers in winter; B. U287 (Panama) has the same description, but is thought to be a different species.

We also offer mixed species, comprised of all the spills in the Seed Fund and in transit, as is, and mixed tuberous species.

Hybrid selections include mixed canes, "Frillies", rexes, rhizomatous, semps, shrubs (almost gone, donations needed), tuberhybrids, and Mickey Meyer selections.

Please note my new address. I moved during the month of August, and I sincerely apologize for any and all inconvenience that I caused you with your orders and in replying to your correspondence. Thank you very much for your patience.

## CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND LISTING

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

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

All orders must be accompanied by check or money order payable ONLY in US funds to The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

Costs of Mailing:

U.S. only: 1-12 packets, 99c; 13-24, \$1.35; 25-36, \$1.71; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.30; 49-60, \$2.66.

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Mexico only: 1-12 packets, \$1.15; 13-24, \$1.51; 25-36, \$1.87; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.50; 49-60, \$2.81.

All other international mail: 1-12 packets, \$1.85; 13-24, \$2.68; 25-36, \$3.68; 37-48, \$4.68; 49-60, \$5.68.

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### Species Seed

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<i>B. boliviensis</i>	B. U159
<i>B. cinnabarina</i>	B. U160
<i>B. davisii</i>	B. U162/ <i>meridensis?</i>
<i>B. dregei</i>	B. U163/ <i>dichotoma?</i>
<i>B. dregei</i> #1	B. U172
<i>B. dregei</i> #2	B. U193
<i>B. dregei</i> #3	B. U194/ <i>urophylla</i>
<i>B. dregei</i> forma	B. U201
<i>B. dregei</i> ex Glasgow	B. U205
<i>B. dregei</i> var. <i>macbethii</i>	B. U236
<i>B. dregei</i> (syn. <i>natalensis</i> )	B. U246
<i>B. dregei</i> (syn. <i>suffruticosa</i> )	B. U249/ <i>filipes?</i>
<i>B. dregei</i> (syn. <i>suffruticosa</i> f. <i>bolusii</i> )	B. U252
<i>B. fimbristipula</i>	B. U257
<i>B. geranioides</i>	B. U258
<i>B. gracilis</i>	B. U262
<i>B. gracilis</i> var. <i>martiana</i>	B. U263
<i>B. grandis</i>	B. U268
<i>B. grandis</i> ssp. <i>evansiana</i>	B. U286
<i>B. grandis</i> ssp. <i>evansiana</i> (bulbils)	B. U287
<i>B. grandis</i> ssp. <i>sinensis</i>	mixed species
<i>B. hemsleyana</i>	mixed tuberhybrida species
<i>B. homonyma</i>	
<i>B. micranthera</i> var. <i>foliosa</i>	<b>Hybrid Seed</b>
<i>B. micranthera</i> var. <i>venturii</i>	50c per packet
<i>B. partita</i>	mixed canes
<i>B. pearcei</i>	mixed "Frillies"
<i>B. picta</i>	mixed rexes
<i>B. socotrana</i>	mixed rhizomatous
<i>B. sonderana</i>	mixed semps
<i>B. sutherlandii</i>	mixed shrubs
<i>B. wollnyi</i>	mixed tuberhybrida
B. U103	mixed Mickey Meyer
B. U106	selections
B. U107	
B. U117/ <i>urophylla</i>	
B. U118/ <i>urophylla</i>	
B. U119	
B. U133/ <i>holtonis</i>	
B. U134/ <i>holtonis</i>	
B. U150/ <i>heracleifolia</i> f.	
B. U151/ <i>subvillosa</i>	
B. U154	



## Question Box

Mae Blanton, Horticultural Correspondent

**Question:** How do you get the male blossoms of *B. lubbersii* to open? I have only been able to keep three female blossoms to stay on the plant long enough to pollinate, too. A cross of *B. dichroa* x *B. lubbersii* gave so many variables - could *B. lubbersii* be a hybrid? A friend's cross of *B. lubbersii* x *B. 'Lenore Olivier'* also gave unusually wide variation among progeny. Could you help explain?

CALIFORNIA

**Answer:** *B. lubbersii*, as well as many other species, will not hold its blossoms long enough to set seeds if its environment is not to its liking. A begonia kept a bit drier than normal and a bit hungry will often set seed, while it won't when it is getting everything it needs.

However, I would question whether your *B. dichroa* is the true species. Some of its hybrids are a lot like the species, with minor differences a grower isn't aware of. Check it out thoroughly to be sure.

*B. 'Lenore Olivier'* is a hybrid with several species in its background. Crossing it with a species will, of course, produce wide variation among its progeny.

**Question:** Where can I obtain seeds, tubers, and plants of tuberous begonias? Also, can you suggest publications other than the **Begonian** from which I can learn about them? I've read of Antonelli's but can find no listing for this source.

MISSOURI

**Answer:** I am sending you my copy of Antonelli's current catalog. You can also get seeds from the Seed Fund in the **Begonian** at certain times of year, so watch for them. In the back of your **Begonian** you will find an address for the ABS Bookstore. Check with them for a listing of books on tuberous begonias that they have for sale. In the mini-ads you will find advertised the book Begonias: The Complete Reference

Guide by the Thompsons. It is a bargain and will help you very much. Also, back issues of the **Begonian**, available from the Back Issues Chair, can help you.

**Question:** I am a new member of ABS. If I purchase seed and can't plant them right away, how long will they keep in the refrigerator? I have in the basement a mini-greenhouse unit with a built-in heating element set at 75° F. with a plastic dome about 18 inches high and two 48 inch fluorescent tubes over it. Because of the dome I can't lower the tubes without removing the dome, at which time the temperature drops to 70°. The light is on a timer. Do seed have to have light to germinate?

OREGON

**Answer:** If you put your seed packets in a glass or plastic container, tightly closed, they will keep for several years, *usually*. There are a few exceptions with some rare seeds. I like to put a small packet of dessicant (from the pharmacy) or a small packet of powdered milk in the container to absorb excess moisture.

Seeds do not need light to germinate but they do need it to grow once they are up. The Seed Fund has an excellent pamphlet on "Growing from Seed" for 25 cents you can order with your seeds.

I would leave the dome on the mini-greenhouse and put something under the seed flats to raise them closer to the lights, as the temperature inside your domed container will be warm enough to germinate the seeds.

*Questions about your begonias and their needs? Write Mae Blanton, 118 Wildoak, Lake Dallas, TX 75065 for answers. Stamped, self-addressed envelope appreciated!*



# NEW CULTIVARS

Official Registrations 940-941  
Carrie Karegeannes, Nomenclature Director

Applications to register *Begonia* cultivars may be obtained from Carrie Karegeannes, 3916 Lake Boulevard, Annandale, VA 22003. Each form must be accompanied by a \$2 check or money order payable to the American *Begonia* Society. Photos, drawings, and dried specimens

of new cultivars are requested. ABS is the official International Registration Authority for *Begonia* names.

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



## *Begonia* 'Jim Wyrzten'

No. 940 - *Begonia* ("Esther Albertine" chance seedling) 'Jim Wyrzten'

Canelike chance seedling with large, wavy-edged, silver-dotted and splashed forest-green leaves and bright coral-pink flowers from June to October. Leaf blades 4 1/2" wide by 10 1/2" long are narrow-ovate with obliquely cordate base and acute tip. Undersides are lighter green. Petioles are 1 1/4" long, reddish green, and bare.

Fragrant coral-pink flowers are carried in many-flowered clusters on 3" - 3 1/2" peduncles (flower stalks). Male flowers are 4-tepaled. White ovaries with 3 deep-pink

wings adorn the females. The originator describes this cultivar as very compact, bright, and boldly colored. Its leaves are more like regular "angelwings" than like those of the Superba-class parent. She named it for James Wyrzten, late nurseryman and active member of the Long Island Branch.

Developed in 1986 by Annette Boree (8 Brown Road, Great Neck, NY 11042); first bloomed in 1987; first distributed in 1988. Tested by Walter Dworkin of Westbury, N.Y., and Logee's Greenhouses of Danielson, Conn. Registered July 27, 1991.



*Begonia* 'Jekyll & Hyde'

No. 941 - *Begonia* ('Texas Star' x 'Texas Star') 'Jekyll & Hyde'

Rhizomatous cultivar with creeping rhizome, brown-stitched apple-green leaves, and pink flowers. Leaf blades to 7 1/2" long, cordate, broad, and angled to shallowly lobed with margins finely dentate and ciliate, are leathery with sparse, short white hairs on the upper surface and 7 white main veins radiating from the central white spot. The green underside has red edges following in at the veins and tiny red-flecked hairs, longer on the veins. Petioles reach 12" long and are green with red flecks and many white hairs. Stipules are green, 1/3" long, and fairly persistent.

Pink flowers are borne in loose, few-flowered clusters on 12" - 18" red-flecked stalks from late winter through spring. Male flowers are 1 1/2" across with 2 to 4 tepals and females 1 1/2" x 1" with 2 tepals. Bracts are green with red tint and ovaries green (red-spotted when young) with 3, occasionally 4, triangular red-flecked pink wings.

*B.* 'Jekyll & Hyde' bears some resemblance to *B.* 'Persian Brocade' but has larger leaves with brownish-red markings

more lightly stitched around the edges. It is not as deeply lobed or as acutely lobed as *B.* 'Leopon' or *B.* 'Verde Grande', but more lobed than *B.* 'Delia Marleau' and *B. mazaroe* f. *viridis* (syn. 'Stitched Leaf'). It is named for its vigorous growth ('Jekyll') in warm conditions and tendency to decline ('Hyde') in cold.

Developed by June Davis (3421 North Beach, Fort Worth, TX 76111); first bloomed in 1985; first distributed in 1988. Tested by Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Registered July 17, 1991.

## INTERNATIONAL CODE AVAILABLE

ABS growers and hybridizers might like to know that rules for naming new cultivars (cultivated varieties - whether hybrids, sports, or selected developments) are available in the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants, 1980, from Crop Science of America, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53711. Price to U.S. residents is \$5, including postage; it is \$6 outside the United States.



## 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 REFERENCE GUIDE

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

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

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**Rare, Distinctive Begonias.** *Sym.* U012, *bogneri*, U089, x *Kew*, etc. Send SASE for list, USA only. **Bill Voss**, 3805 Louise Ave., Chantilly, VA 22021.

**WANTED:** *crassirostris*, *gigantea*, *isoptera*, *multangula*, *robusta*, *tenuifolia*. Contact Mose Fadeem, 319 1/2 English, Monterey CA 93940; (408)373-5331.

**Begonias**, episcias, & hoyas, cuttings only. Send \$1 for list to B & K Tropicals, P.O. Box 28182, Kenneth City FL 33709.

**NEED:** *B. veitchii* (= *B. rosiflora*) plants (preferable), cuttings, or seeds for hybridization program. S. Coppins, 30 Mygatt St., Binghamton NY 13905 USA.

**Collection of *Begonia*** for sale in 8" pots and baskets. Highest bidder takes all. Illness reason for selling. Francis Michelson, 1291 9th St., Orange City FL 32763.

**Unusual Plants** of Sacramento, California, long an advertiser in our Mini-Ads, is no longer selling plants by retail mail-order. Branches may still purchase by special order at wholesale prices, allowing 12 weeks for delivery.

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Eva Kenworthy Gray. Softback. \$4.50

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Bill Wall. 44 color photos. Softback. \$7.50

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Lists first 100 registered cultivars of the genus begonia. Softback. \$4.50

### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY \$1.00

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Mae Blanton. \$1.50

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Thelma O'Reilly. List, 11 pages. \$1.50

1991 ROSTER: ABS membership list, \$7.50

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To order, make check, money order, or bank draft in US funds payable to ABS BOOKSTORE. Texas residents add 7 1/2% sales tax. Prices include shipping within USA. Foreign orders add 20% postage.

ANITA RUTHENBERG  
1016 W. ARLINGTON AVE.  
FORT WORTH, TX 76110

## Help Available from ABS

**Begonias won't behave?** Horticultural Correspondent Mae Blanton (118 Wildoak, Lake Dallas TX 75065) will answer questions on growing begonias.

**Want to form an ABS Branch?** Douglas Hahn, 7736 Stonehill Dr., Cincinnati OH 45230 will send you a list of members in your area, and help you get organized.

**Want to make begonia friends all over the world?** Join a Round Robin. Contact Pat Sage, 1635 Lanoitan Ave., National City CA 91950.

**Giving a program? Writing a paper?** Research Librarian Lorra Almstedt may be able to locate the facts you need. Her address is 1965 Celeste Lane, Fullerton CA 92633.

**Can't find books on begonias?** ABS Bookstore has them! See listing to left.

**Need programs for your branch?** Slide Librarian Dan Haseltine, 6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago IL 60634 can recommend a program or two (small rental fee and postage). Speakers Bureau Chair Muriel Perz, 2843 N. "H" St., San Bernadino CA 92405 can help you locate a speaker.

**Branch libraries** are entitled to a complimentary copy of each **Begonian**: write John Ingles, Jr., 157 Monument, Rio Dell CA 95562-1617 to be added to the mailing list. Requirement: Branch Librarian must by an ABS member.

Overprints of the **Begonian** to be given away at shows are available to branches for cost of postage. Contact Tamsin Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262.

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Editor: Tamsin Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262 (817) 481-4305, 481-2169  
Editorial Associates: Phyllis Bates, Bruce C. Boardman, Kit Mounger, Mary Weinberg  
Nomenclature Editor: Jack Golding  
Technical Editor: K. Mose Fadeem  
Advertising Manager: Martha Curry, P.O. Box 1232, Weatherford, TX 76086  
For subscription, dues, circulation inquiries contact John Ingles, Jr. 157 Monument, Rio  
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