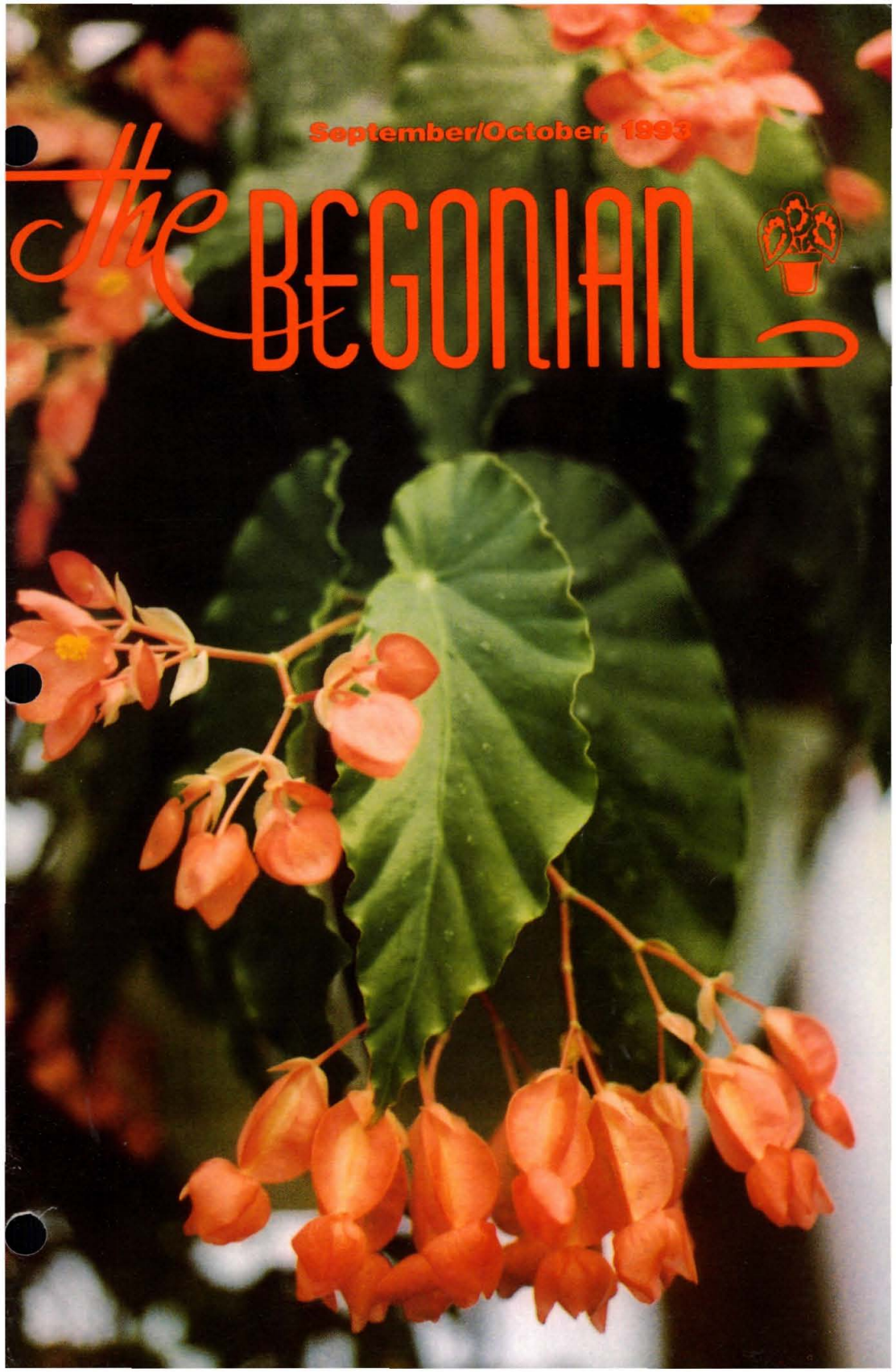


September/October, 1993

The BEGONIAN



The BEGONIAN

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Publication of the American Begonia Society

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. 'Di-Anna' was photographed at Golden Hills Nursery by Kit Jeans Mounger. See article, p.152.

Back - When your addiction is a positive one, flaunt it! Janet Welch has a license plate that reveals her love for begonias.



B. 'High Sierra'
B. echinosepala x *B. reniformis*
 cross by Cynthia Bishop
 drawing by Kit Jeans Mounger

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Convention 1993: "Begonias - The Greatest Show on Earth"

Post-Convention Tour:

Behind the Scenes at Disney World



One of the biggest thrills of the ABS Convention in Miami came after the Convention itself: Tours Chair Sylvia Ben took fifty lucky members north to tour NASA and the production greenhouses at Walt Disney World.

Disney World was particularly exciting. Horticulturists from the Disney World staff led participants through the greenhouses where all the lovely plantings the park is noted for are started. Best of all, they answered questions.

The enormous baskets of begonias seen above were judged not quite big enough for display!

Intriguing were the massive topiary creatures scattered around the park, which also begin their lives in the production greenhouses. In our next issue, Tom Keepin will share what he learned about creating topiary. Tom also plans to start some sample topiary to bring to the 1994 Convention in Oklahoma City.

Photos by Shirley Nemecek



In one of Disney World's topiary greenhouses, dancing with a hippo proved irresistible for our retiring President Carol Notaras.

1993 Convention Show Results:

Addenda

Charles Jaros, Convention Chair for 1993, has sent in the following information that was left out of the Show Results in the last issue:

Species Division: *B. hatacoa* "Silver"

Exhibitor: Elizabeth Mateus

Trophy Donor: Buxton Branch

Trophy donor for the New Introduction by Hobby Grower (won by Paul Lowe's B. 'Teal Wing' grown and exhibited by Charles Jaros) was Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau Branch, in memory of Fred Weinstein.

We apologize for the omissions.

Milton Piedra Knows His Ferns!

Seminar Review by Paul Tsamtsis

Milton Piedra knows his ferns! A resident of the Miami area, he presented the seminar on tropical ferns and his experiences collecting and growing them. He is a master of public speaking, and was a lot of fun to listen to. A big plus was that his talk covered a *lot* about tropical ferns. Our climate in northern California limits our fern experiences to mostly temperate varieties.

The slides used to augment his talk quickly made it apparent that he is one of those collectors who dedicates every inch of home property to his passion. His entire backyard is lathed, shelved, and has a drip watering system in support of his extensive collection.

His method of growing ferns is unique. Every plant is connected to a drip system, but the tubes are so thin that one would think they would plug up with the smallest particle that might be in the water. He said most plants got no more than two cups of water each day, with fertilizer pre-mixed in it. His collection grows lushly for it.

Most people at the seminar hadn't ever seen many of the ferns he pictured. He had numerous species of maidenhair types, some of them gorgeous. He also showed that there is more to the genus *Nephrolepis* than the Boston fern. One that really made an impression was *N. pendulata*, a Central American fern whose fronds can hang 30 feet. He told of an atrium in a bank lobby that had one of these that cascaded three stories to the lobby floor; it was watered by having someone lean over a balcony railing with a water container on a pole. *N. smithii*, the "Teddy Bear" fern, has frond leaves

so tiny and dense that the plant looks like a small, felted basketball.

In addition to his seminar, Mr. Piedra opened his garden for a tour. He lives on the south side of Miami, and was close to the path of Hurricane Andrew. As a result, his collection and lath area did suffer damage. There was also a fern show that weekend, and some of his plants were off on display. Nonetheless, the garden was full and it was well worth the visit to see such a wide variety of ferns and companion plants (including a few begonias).

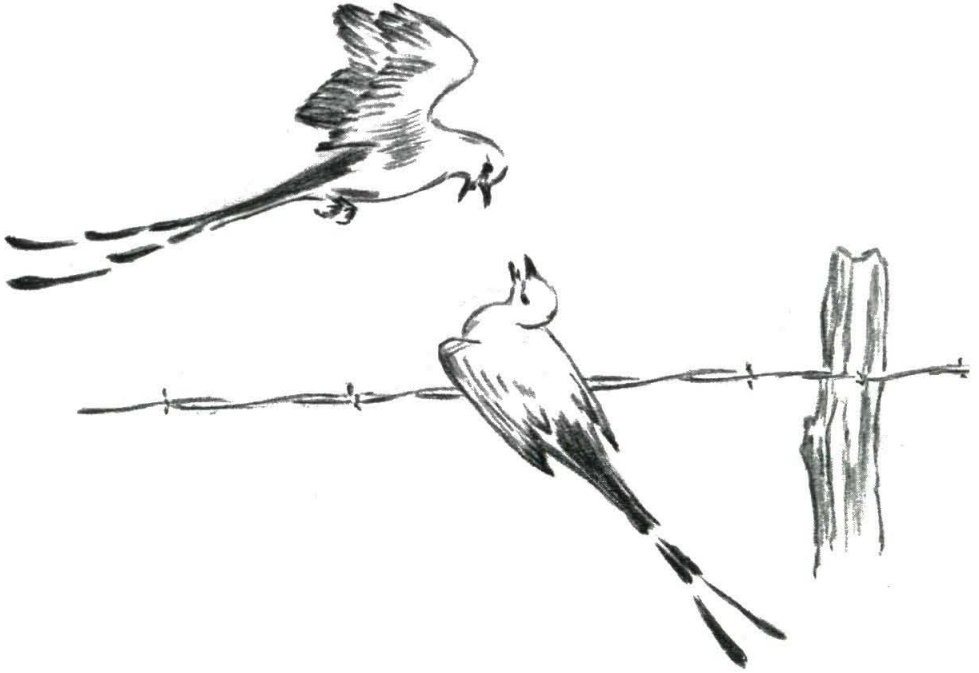
As Milton Piedra closed his seminar on ferns, he paraphrased one of the great writers and pointed out that humans need illusions to help keep perspective on what we think of as reality. Gardening is one of our attempts to create the illusion that we have control over nature. Our efforts determine our sense of order and beauty, help create a balance of nature, and even an appearance of tranquility.

Even though his collection was damaged by the hurricane, Milton Piedra is growing it back to its former splendor, exercising his ability to "control" nature. As the hurricane showed, and the current situation in the Midwest is showing, our illusion of peace with our environment is subject to change overnight.

His message was not one of negativity, though. He was not criticizing our need for and the benefits of illusion. He closed by saying that the last great illusion we can hold is that we don't need any.

Dedication

The 1994 American Begonia Society Convention will be dedicated in love to the memory of Oklahoma's distinguished native son, Dr. Fred A. Barkley. Botanist, researcher, professor, master teacher, explorer and plant collector, former ABS officer, Dr. Barkley was a founding member of the Oklahoma City branch that today bears his name. In his honor, we will be printing a booklet based on his writings for the **Begonian**.



Springtime in Oklahoma

By May Oklahoma's state birds, the Scissortails, will have returned to start their courtship and tell their fellows of adventures on the grasslands of South America. Bring your binoculars for an early morning birding trip during

Begonias: OK!

ABS National Convention
Oklahoma City, OK
May 19-22, 1994

"In Will Rogers Country, where you never met a begonia you didn't like!"

“There’s Gold in Them Thar Hills...”

Text and Photos by Kit Jeans Mounger



Begonia Gold, that is!

A customer showing up at the Golden Hills Nursery in Loomis, California for perennials, trees, succulents, vegetables, or even farm fresh eggs just might wander into Cynthia Bishop's greenhouse afterwards and come away with something he'd never grown before - begonias! Or old begoniacs like me just might get born again...

Of course, most customers don't travel as far as I did to get there. For me, it was a trip to the bottom of the world, the top...and all levels in between. At the bottom, along the American River in the Sierra foothills, we panned for gold. At the top, I marvelled at tenacious wildflowers clinging to the face of cliffs,

while Cynthia ticked off their names like a real tour guide. (And happily, everything you can imagine blooms in May in the Sierras.) In between, we got high on all the deliberate gardens, their intense color and their diversity. The rest of the time I was there, we spent happy hours in Cyn's greenhouse, potting up cuttings, transplanting seedlings, or packing up mail orders.

And thereby hangs the tale. Cynthia started her first nursery at 21, already a mother of two boys and needing to make a living. Along the way since, there have been diversions and tangents: she's also been a horse trainer, a realtor, and a surrogate mother to troubled teens. But she always went back to digging in the

Cynthia tends one of the large flowering baskets that thrive in her greenhouse



This miniature rex is Cynthia's hybrid B. 'Sierra Sunset'

good earth and growing things. Now, she and her husband, John, called simply "Bishop", work the 12-acre farm outside Loomis under the watchful eye of Cynthia's 90-year-old mother (it is she who turns out the chickens every morning so that their eggs really taste like eggs).

Cynthia's province is the greenhouse, while Bishop tends the vegetable gardens and tropicals and the herd of beef cattle. She grows a lot of perennial stock and tropicals for local garden centers. But her first love is begonias. Her list for her mail order business grows all the time. She loves

the rexes best, I think, and has more new hybrids of her own in that division than any other - although she sent me an *echinosepala* x *reniformis* cross last year to test, which I fell in love with. She wasn't that enthusiastic about it - after all, beside her rex seedlings it's pretty drab. But for me, it met all the criteria: the foliage is distinctive enough for it to stand out on a table full of plants, it doesn't mildew or drop leaves, and it seems to grow wherever I set it. I got to name it: B. 'High Sierra'. It has the growth habit of *echinosepala*, with long glossy forest-green leaves that crinkle prettily along their margins. It's not ready for distribution yet: it still has to pass the test of easy propagation.

Cynthia knows very well which side her hybrids are buttered on, if you'll pardon the pun. A hybridizer, not to mention all begonia growers, needs species. She grows as many as she can get from whatever source she can find. She also believes firmly in conservation. She has tested many seeds for the Seed Fund, and shakes her head in despair over the mislabeled packets she spends too much time on (the ABS does its best, with the help of experts like Cynthia, to see that you get what you order from the Seed Fund; and given the slowpokes most begonias are, this is a time-consuming business).

To start cuttings, and, indeed, some seeds, Cynthia uses something I'd never seen before (comes from being out of circulation so long, I reckon): horticultural rock wool. Yep. Same stuff houses are insulated with. It doesn't pack, which allows air as well as moisture to the rooting stem and leaf cuttings. For me, rhizomatous cuttings do better in it than canes - but my canes had to fly all the way across the country before they got put down. The beauty of this stuff is its ease of handling. Unlike vermiculite it doesn't become waterlogged, nor does it blow away if

you breathe on it as perlite does. It also takes a lot less water to do the job.

Cynthia's not married to it, however. She'll use anything that works. I envy her success with seeds. But then, there are heat cables and mats all over her greenhouse. It's nicely humid and not too bright, ideal conditions for begonia seedlings. Not to mention ferns, gesneriads, and hibiscus. She also mixes her own "dirt", starting with 1/3 part potting soil (she uses "49ers"), 1/3 part compost, and 1/3 part sand and perlite. To this she adds 1 cup hoof & horn meal and 1 cup bone meal. Since her water is alkaline, she uses no lime.

Cynthia and ABS go 'way back. She can't remember when she wasn't growing begonias and, like most of us, she started with B. 'Erythrophylla'. She is, at present, on the **Begonian** staff in charge of the Mini-Ads. She's an active member of the Sacramento Branch - but she's never attended a national convention. She's very busy with the Round Robins and distributes begonia seed generously.

What it all boils down to is that whatever Cynthia Bishop touches grows - and that includes people.

continued from next page

I hope to put together a compilation of all of her writings in the **Begonian** - some 30 years worth. It's a labor of love for a shorty who was larger than life.

Kit Jeans Mounger is no slouch herself as a many-faceted talent: she is a wildlife artist and writer, who has written about, sketched, painted, photographed, and hybridized begonias. Her distinctive B. 'Blue Jeans' is one of the few blue-leaved begonias. Kit's address is Rt. 1, Box 319, New Johnsonville, TN 37134.

A Fleeting Glimpse

by Kit Jeans Mounger

Elda Haring had the smile of a Shirley Temple doll - and she was about the same size. But wrapped up in the diminutive package was a lot of talent, a keen intellect, and a green thumb that Paul Bunyan would envy.

For at least 30 years, Elda was a reliable fixture on the **Begonian** staff, writing on every subject from watering to weather, fertilizing, and growing from seed. She answered queries in her column "The Question Box". She wrote portraits of various begonias that interested her in some particular way. There was simply no aspect of begonia culture she didn't cover unless it was "How to keep a non-plant loving husband happy."

This generosity of time and effort on Elda's part was no small thing. She was a well-known personality among the Garden Writers of America. Her work regularly appeared in the garden pages of the New York Times. She had written two books: Growing from Seed and Color for Your Garden. She was often busy with Parks Seed Company's now defunct Floral Magazine.

When her husband, Walt, retired, they left their home in Connecticut and moved to Flat Rock, North Carolina, right around the corner from Carl Sandburg's summer home. There Walt indulged his passion for outdoor gardening and Elda turned the basement into a laboratory mainly devoted to the culture of begonias. This was a well-lighted, spotless area - and "laboratory" is no exaggeration. Elda experimented on every facet of her hobby so she could write about it from experience.

But it wasn't all Ivory Tower stuff. Elda and Walt loved the camaraderie of ABS National Conventions; they were

busy with the (now defunct) Palmetto Branch just over the line in South Carolina; the two of them gave many programs at senior centers and retirement homes scattered about Flat Rock and nearby Hendersonville. They might have been Connecticut Yankees, but they put down roots in North Carolina. They loved visitors, and none came away empty-handed.

Elda's last book, Begonias for Beginners, I think, sapped her energies. There were technical difficulties and clashes with the publishers, who knew about as much about begonia culture as people who smoke funny cigarettes. And I have the feeling that Elda thought the book was not as well received among ABS members as it should have been. *This perception of a lack of success was a disappointment to her.* It was a good book, even if the publisher did cut corners on it. It was very helpful to many novice growers: their success anyway could be traced in large part to Elda's doggedness in putting her book together. But Elda was not real happy.

Then came the terrible headaches, for which no cause could be found. And no relief. Elda retreated into seclusion. The last ten years of her life were dark and painful. The faithful Walt dealt with the world at large, fielding questions and coping as best he could with all of Elda's friends and admirers. But there was just no substitute for Elda Haring. She died May 11. But in actuality, we lost her a long time ago. I wish it could have been otherwise.

Elda was a woman who contributed more to our knowledge of growing begonias than she was ever credited with.

Continued, previous page



B. 'Little Brother Montgomery'

Photo and Text by Mildred Swyka

B. 'Little Brother Montgomery' is a shrub-like cross by Martin Johnson. It is the most colorful I've ever grown. I was informed that this was a chance seedling, and would like to know more about the parentage of this beautiful begonia.

The flowers are pink, I've been informed. You can see the buds in the photo - however, I have much work to do to see if I can get them to stay on, as they dropped before opening.

My plant has grown to about 16" tall, and is constantly sending up new shoots. It is in a 6" plastic pot, and likes

to be kept quite moist or it will droop badly. Cuttings root quickly in water.

It has been grown all winter in a north window. Perhaps when I move it into the greenhouse for the summer it will be able to hold on to its blossoms - but maybe not: I did move it once, to make room for our Christmas tree, and it was then that every bud and blossom fell off - so that means it doesn't want to be moved around.

Mildred Swyka lives at 1147 Bethel Church Road, Middletown, DE 19709.

Palm Beaches Project

text & photos by Charles Jaros



Top photo: Paul Lowe with *B. pustulata*

Lower photo: Some of the Lowe creations with *B. pustulata* parentage. At center is B. 'Green Ice'. See article, next page.

Palm Beaches Project: Lowe Hybrids

At the June meeting of the Palm Beaches Branch a project was taken on: to acquire, propagate, and share Paul Lowe hybrids. The group does not want to see these hybrids disappear.

Paul Lowe, a long-time ABS member, ABS Senior Judge, and past ABS Vice-President, is considered "Mr. Begonia" in South Florida. He has been hybridizing since the late 1960's. He began at his nursery in Goulds, Florida, then moved to South Carolina, where he continued to hybridize, then returned to Florida and settled in West Palm Beach.

Alas, there was no begonia branch there! But Paul was about to fix that. With the help of Miami Branch members Frances Hunter and Helene and Charles Jaros, the Palm Beaches Branch was born. Paul has been honored with life memberships in both the Palm Beaches and Miami Branches.

Of course Paul started collecting and hybridizing begonias again. He has many exciting new hybrids, including B. 'Teal Wing', which won Begonia Hybrid of Distinction at the 1993 Convention. But many of his older hybrids had been lost. Hence the Palm Beaches project.

Please help in acquiring the lost hybrids listed in the next column. They can be sent to Paul at 5741 Dewberry Way, West Palm Beach, FL 33415; or to Elizabeth Mateus, 2353 Carambola Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406; or to Charles Jaros, 2621 N.W. 23 Ct., Miami, FL 33142.

Lost Lowes:

- B. 'Bess Cocroft'
- B. 'Blackbeard'
- B. 'Black Queen'
- B. 'Chumbow'
- B. 'Curly Silver Ribbons'
- B. 'Curly Stratosphere'
- B. 'Dado'
- B. 'Dr. Evers'
- B. 'Everglades Mist'
- B. 'Green Giant'
- B. 'John Sousa'
- B. 'Lacewing'
- B. 'Lowe's Favorite'
- B. 'Lowe's Ricinifolia'
- B. 'Mrs. Black'
- B. 'Petey'
- B. 'Ray Weakly'
- B. 'Sessoms'
- B. 'Silver Ribbons'
- B. 'Stratosphere'
- B. 'Vermash'
- B. 'Walter Haring'
- B. 'Anne Fergis'
- B. 'Chris Fergis'
- B. 'Elverna'
- B. 'Granddaddy Longlegs'
- B. 'Ice Mint'
- B. 'Jayne Daversa'
- B. 'Maley's Comet'
- B. 'Pat White'
- B. 'Potrack'
- B. 'Rick Lee'
- B. 'Rosemond'
- B. 'Ruth Thomas'
- B. 'Sister Jaros'
- B. 'Vivian Graham'

Thank you!

Trailing-Scandent Begonias

by Beryl Clark

This group of begonias is small, consisting of about 35 species and 35 cultivars to date. The name is taken from their growth habit, "trail" meaning to grow to some length over the ground, and scandent meaning climbing. They grow somewhat like vines.

One would think from the word meanings that this group are only trailers, but this is not so. They usually have many branches and send up basal shoots, thus lending themselves superbly to hanging baskets or to being trained up posts, a trellis, or totem poles. Stems can grow eight feet or more, while their thickness is quite varied and the internodes are quite long.

Leaf sizes and shapes can be quite varied also, while the texture/surface can be glabrous, hairy, puckered, or pustulate. Most are packed with small leaves and bloom in clusters, more or less profusely, the flowering season varying from plant to plant.

The first species in this group to be discovered, *B. glabra*, was found in the West Indies in 1775. Brazil is the country of origin of *Begonias fagifolia* (1836), *radicans* (1831) and the beautiful fragrant *solananthera* (1859). *B. mannii* was discovered in 1862 at an elevation of 1300 feet on the peak of Fernando Po, an island off the coast of West Africa.

These begonias are good subjects to grow hanging from tree limbs. Plenty of light is a must; they will even take some sunlight, but not midday sun. Good light will help produce a full plant with lots of bloom. If leaf stems elongate, and the space between the joints gets longer,

you know the plant wants more light. If the foliage pales, the plant is getting too much light.

Potting is more crucial than for some other begonias, because the long pendulous stems are fragile. If you use plastic pots be careful not to overwater. A shallow container is best, because these begonias are shallow rooted. Do not overpot. Only pot up one size larger than the present pot. Too much extra space can produce weak plants and retain too much water, the result being a "drowned" plant.

Soil pH should fall within the 5 to 6.5 range. Use a reasonably open mix, so as to get good drainage. A good rule is to water only when the potting mix feels dry to the touch; but if the weather is hot or the plant seems to dry out faster because it is in a hanging basket, water more often.

Staking is not necessary, but pruning and pinching can make the difference between a "so-so" plant and a great one. Prune out the old stems and long bare sections. Pinch stems often to encourage branching and to obtain stems of varying lengths, resulting in a full shapely plant. A good rule is to cut back the stems of those with long internodes after the 3rd node; those with shorter internodes after the 4th or 5th.

When flowering time is nearing, leave the tips to produce and develop the buds. A complete fertilizer used throughout the active growing season should be supplemented just before and during the flowering season with a high phosphorus food.



Trailing-Scandent B. 'Fragrant Beauty', grown and photographed by Mary McClelland

Trailing-scandent begonias can be propagated easily using stem cuttings, especially tip cuttings you create when you pinch and prune. Check the Seed Fund list and try growing some trailing-scandent begonias from seed. Remember that seed from species will produce plants true to the parent plant.

I have over twenty varieties of the trailing scandent begonias. Some I have growing are:

B. solananthera, noted for its powerful spicy fragrance, begins blooming in mid-winter with red-centered white flowers against heart-shaped apple-green foliage.

B. 'Marjorie Daw' was one of the earliest hybrids - 1898 - its parents being *B. coccinea* x *B. radicans*.

B. fagifolia is a species from Brazil with white flowers in spring. It has hairy leaves and a wonderful zig-zag stem - try training it on a totem pole.

B. 'Bob-O-Link', hybridized in 1949 (*B. radicans* x B. 'Richard the First'), has light rose-red flowers and is everblooming.

B. radicans, with profuse deep coral flowers in early spring, has graceful branching stems. Sometimes referred to as the "shrimp" begonia, it has also gone under the names *procumbens*, *glaucophylla*, *limminghei*, *limmingheana*, even *coccinea*.

B. 'Splotches', hybridized in 1978 (*B. solananthera* x *B. radicans*) has pink and cream splotches on an apple-green leaf. Flowers are pink, edged in white.

B. 'Two-Face', is a gentle, delicate plant with foliage of grey/green/pink.

B. loranthoides ssp. *rhopalocarpa*, discovered in 1895 in Cameroon, a country on the western coast of Central Africa.

B. 'Yorke's Nocturne', a Queensland hybrid and growing very profusely, has glossy pustulated leaves edged in the finest red/brown, cluster of white flowers.

B. 'Glenata', another Queensland hybrid by Bernard Yorke, is again a sprawling, profuse plant. Flowers are white.

B. 'Serinata', again a Bernard Yorke hybrid, beautifully shaped leaves. It should come along well on a totem or up a wall.

This article, which appeared in the March issue of the Queensland Begonia Society newsletter, was taken from a seminar given at the Society's November 1991 meeting.

Beryl Clark and her husband Frank have a nursery and specialize in begonias that will be a "must see" for ABS members attending the 1995 Association of Australian Begonia Societies Convention in Brisbane. The Clarks' address is Bay Nursery, 25 Keyes Road, Lota 4179, Queensland, Australia.

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A Nostalgic Search

by Wallace W. Wagner

When I first joined the ABS in the early 1960's, I visited all the begonia nurseries in Southern California, Mrs. Leatherman and her gorgeous hybrids, the fascinating species at the Ziesenhennes', the intriguing treasures at Leo Porter's, and the wonderful gardens of the Robinsons at Rosecroft Begonia Gardens on Point Loma.

I bought a collection of the early **Begonians** and devoured them one by one. I read of past begonia "heavens" such as the Woodriff's Fairyland Begonia Gardens in Harbor, Oregon; Wilson's Begonia Gardens in Downey, California; Montalvo Gardens in San Diego; Cardoza Gardens in Corona del Mar; and Fisher's luscious rex begonias in Anaheim. If only I had been born a few years earlier! I would have loved to visit these nurseries.

One day while reading through the old **Begonians** I came upon a ad for Fisher's Greenhouses and noticed that it was in the same city where I lived, Anaheim, California. I knew the Fishers would not still be alive, but I wondered if the greenhouses might still be in business. The ad had a map showing where the greenhouses were.

In recent years a freeway had split Anaheim, so I had trouble locating the nursery. Eventually I found the street on the south side of the freeway, and expectantly drove along the street to the address in the advertisement.

Was I ever surprised to look up and see the very building where I worked each day! I was so embarrassed.

There was a large tree outside my office window in that building. Each day I would see this precious little owl perched in this old tree right in the middle of the city. I often wondered if his grandfather sat in this same tree when the Fisher Nursery was on that spot of earth.

ABS Past President Wallace W. "Wally" Wagner created a passel of rhizomatous begonias, many with Western names ('Comanche', 'Apache', 'Branding Iron', 'Longhorn', 'Mountain Man', 'Mustang', 'Stampede'). His address is 4560 39th Ave. NE, Salem, OR 93705.

Quote:

"What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity."
Joseph Addison, quoted in the [Satellite Shuttle](#)

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BULLETIN BOARD

ABS News

Election Results

The Ballot Counting Committee has certified the following as elected officers for 1993-4:

Gene Salisbury, President
Mary Bucholtz, 1st Vice-President
Bruce C. Boardman, 2nd Vice-President
Millie Thompson, 3rd Vice-President
Arlene Ingles, Secretary
Carol Notaras, Treasurer

Thank you to all the dedicated members who accepted a nomination to hold office.

Officers will be installed at an evening banquet on Saturday, September 11 at the Clarion Hotel in Sacramento. All members are invited to attend. There will be a business meeting afterward.

If you would like to stay at the Clarion, the hotel will make a special price of \$59 a night for ABS members. Call 1-800-443-0880 or (916) 444-8000 for reservations.

The Sacramento Branch would like to invite you to their annual Show and Sale at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. in Sacramento, which will also be held on September 11.

Quick!

Check your mailing label.
If it says 9/93 or 10/93, your membership is about to expire.
Please renew!
We don't want to lose you!

Seeds Needed!

The Seed Fund is badly in need of fresh seed. Members are urged to set seeds on their begonias and send them, cleaned, to Marilyn Goldstein, 1001 Diplomat Parkway, Hollywood, FL 33091. Species seeds are especially needed.

For a "how-to" article on setting seeds, see the **Begonian**, March-April 1992, page 55 (available from the Back Issues Chair, if you are a new member). Place seeds in a tiny paper envelope (you can make your own by folding paper), write the name of the species seed (or the cross of hybrid seed, or "open pollinated" if you don't know both parents) on the envelope before putting seeds in - and tape the envelope shut to be sure no seeds fall out. Place the envelope in a hard container such as a film canister. Please mail first class, so that the seeds will not be in transit for more than a few days.

SUPER SPECIAL OFFER FROM BACK ISSUES CHAIR

For a limited time, back issues of the **Begonian** are available at a special price of 50 cents each. Now is the time to complete your set!

Branches needing issues for their library or to give away or sell at shows, garden club talks, etc., may order for the cost of postage and handling only.

Contact Claire Frontera, 3131 Patriot Lane, Sacramento CA 95827.

SHARE YOUR CUTTINGS

Trimming back your begonias to fit them into the house or greenhouse for winter?

Linda & Mike Clemons are in charge of the plant sale for the 1994 ABS Convention. They'd like to have cuttings from all over the country to grow for the sale. So don't throw away good cuttings! Send them to 3512 N. W. 65th Terrace, Oklahoma City, OK 73116.

"14 Reasons..." Available

A brochure entitled "14 Reasons to Join the American Begonia Society" has been reprinted by Ann Salisbury and is available to branches for distribution.

Order copies from Membership Chair John Ingles, Jr., 157 Monument, Rio Dell CA 95562-1617.

GOING UP - ?

Things that go up are supposed to come down. Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be true of expenses. You can't help but notice that prices have gone only up.

The ABS Board has noticed this, too: costs of running the organization, even with all the volunteer hours put in by members, continue to rise.

It has been ten years since our last dues increase. The Board voted quite reluctantly in Miami to poll the branches for response to a proposal of a dues raise of \$2 to \$17 per year.

Our Constitution allows an increase only with branch and membership approval. Please think it over.

Special Anniversaries

Name all the jobs in the American Begonia Society. Then do some research, and list all of the people who have held those jobs.

Of course, no one has the time to do that! But if we did, we'd find that certain names recur. Among the most often listed would be **Mabel and Ralph Corwin**, and **Margaret and Rudolf ("Rudi") Ziesenhenn**e. They're consistent show winners, outstanding hybridizers, and their begonia collections are awe-inspiring.

This year these two wonderful couples each celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, the Ziesenhenns on July 10th and the Corwins in September.

Congratulations!

With love from us all.
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SHOW NEWS

Around the Country...

At the *Pinellas County Branch Show and Sale* at the University of South Florida, 13 of the 66 entries won 95 points or better. Top growers were:

Bob Koehler, with Begonias 'Silver Mist' and 'Cowardly Lion' (95 points each), *foliosa* (96), *masoniana maculata* (96.5), *bogneri* (97), and 'Juanita Jewel' (98.5);

Greg Sytch, with Begonias 'Helen Teupel', *masoniana*, *echinosepala* (95 each), and 'Murline Lydon' x *masoniana* (95.5);

Wylie Summerlin, with *Begonias masoniana* (95) and *kellermannii* (97.5);

Dale Sena, *B. venosa* (98).

Bob Koehler's B. 'Juanita Jewel' won Best in Show, and Greg Sytch won Sweepstakes.

Their sale was a winner, too, taking in \$1,740 in about 4 hours.

and Around the World...

Grand Champion at the annual *Show of the South Australian Begonia Society* was B. 'Withlacochee', grown and exhibited by **Jake Hafer**.

The **City of Ballarat** had the winning display and took home the Carol Wilkins Memorial Trophy at the *Begonia Challenge*, an annual tuberous begonia display competition between municipalities and shires in southern Victoria state, Australia. Of special interest to ABS members will be the fact that one of the judges for the 1993 competition was none other than ABS' **Thelma O'Reilly**.

While in Australia, Thelma presented a full day seminar on "Baffling Begonias: The "U" Numbers."

COMING EVENTS

September 11-12: "Begonias - The Great Imposters!", **Sacramento Branch Show & Sale.**

September 25: **Buxton Branch Annual Show**, at Waltham Field Station.

October 1-3: **Potomac Branch Show** at the U.S. Botanical Gardens.

October 16: **ABS Judging School**, at the Conservatory, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Fort Worth, Texas, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Contact Glennis Crouch, 2012 Locksley Lane, Denton TX 76201 for an information packet.

October 29, 30, 31: **Fort Lauderdale Branch Show & Sale** at Secret Woods Nature Center, 2701 W. State Rd. 84, Fort Lauderdale.

1994

May 19-22: **American Begonia Society National Convention**,
"Begonias: OK!"

at the Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in "Will Rogers Country, where you never met a Begonia you didn't like!" Hosted by Southwest Region.

Deadline for next issue is September 15

In the News...

Use of tropicals in the landscape was the topic for an article entitled "The Tropical Punch" by Julie Ryan in the House & Garden section of the Dallas Morning News July 30. Interviewed were **Don Miller** and **Maurice Amey**, and just guess which plant family they mentioned as an exciting addition to the home garden?

Judges' Corner

Judging: A Matter of Perspective

Guest Column by Edythe Price Ropeik

Judges are confronted with a unique task - to evaluate a plant at a given time and place. The plant may represent many hours of the grower's time and devotion. It may take on a life of its own, becoming to the grower more than a plant. It may become an extension of the grower's ego, a positive way to gain recognition for his/her horticultural ability.

How do we judges cope with our task? Too often we focus on the negative. Too often we see the parts - the nitty-gritty - and fail to see the whole. Have you not heard the following scenarios?

"The pot is dirty. Look at the torn leaves." COMMENT: This kind of focusing can and does distract the judges from the main issue - the plant as a whole.

"The plant doesn't have a full, round growth." COMMENT: Many species never have round, full growths. Their hybrids may also not have this shape.

"The tree fern pot is a unique container." COMMENT: A tree fern pot is a normal container for an epiphyte to grow in, because it is most like to its natural habitat. Some plants grow best in rock; therefore, a rock is its natural habitat.

What is needed, I think, is a positive approach. First the judges could (should) look at the plant, the whole plant, and nothing but the plant. Next, it would be a good practice to point out the positive - well-flowered, a good representative of a species, potted in a suitable container. If the plant is a hybrid, it should be a notable

improvement over its parents. Keep in mind that bigger is not always better. Nor is roundness always more pleasing to the beholder; asymmetrical plants can be attractive in their way.

Last but not least, we need to know the area in which we are judging. The plant habitat determines difficulty in growing - unless it is one of those plants that "tests all gardeners' souls." It is one thing to grow tuberous plants in the Northwest, and another to grow them in tropical or arid environments.

The judges' schedule should allow points for growing under unusual conditions. This would allow for unnatural weather conditions or growing unusually difficult plants. It is a way for us to recognize growers who put forth extra effort.

Judging is a way of thinking. What I am proposing is positive. It will, I hope, make judges more empathetic toward growers who enter their plants in a show. It may be an award, a ribbon, and/or a comment on the show entry card. We are, in essence, saying "thank you for participating in this show."

Many of these things are being done, but it never hurts to review our standard and heighten our awareness of all who participate in a flower show.

It is not a plant alone we judge, but the year long efforts of some brave grower who submits it for our evaluation! Surely we must look beyond the clay pot which can never be completely cleaned!

Edythe Price Ropeik lives at 6110 SW 93rd Ave., Miami, FL 33173.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Species Listing Project

Your Conservation Department maintains a list of *Begonia* species being grown by our members. The list gives us information about which species are being grown fairly commonly, which are rare, which we cannot locate in cultivation.

Please help! Send a list of the species you are growing to Kingsley Langenberg, Bonnie Brook Lane, Waukegan IL. King correlates the list in November, so now is the very best time to send in your information. Thank you!

Why Not Try Species?

Part 2

There's a basic difference between species and hybrids. Hybrids are selected. In any group of hybrid seedlings, the weakest will not survive to be selected, the ugliest will not survive the cut. Those that are grown on and cultivated, perhaps eventually distributed and registered, have survived a rigorous weeding out process: for vigor, for beauty, for distinctiveness, for ease of cultivation *under our modern conditions*.

Begonia species, on the other hand, have survived by natural selection: not the prettiest, not the most unusual, not the one with pinkest flowers, but the plant that manages to live through, say, flooding, or at the other extreme, drought - or perhaps both in a short period of time. No hybridizer would subject his/her babies to such treatment!

There are two problems here for modern growers.

First, species have adjusted through the centuries by adapting to a specific habitat, one we cannot easily replicate (or may not even know about). Therefore, species have come to be thought of as difficult to grow (and some are, in our conditions). The trick is to discover their preferences.

Second, the survival genes passed on by any individual *begonia* species might not include the characteristics we think desirable: perhaps a *begonia* subjected to wind develops a weak stalk - so that it falls over, roots (or drops its seeds) and produces more plants that way - but we want a tall proud stem.

As one grower phrased it, "Species just aren't pretty". But beauty is in the eye of the beholder: there are those of us that actually like, for example, the upright rhizomatous *begonias* - those that don't make the desirable perfectly rounded mound that judges are fond of in the show room. Remember, diversity is one of the distinguishing factors in the *begonia* family - there's something for just about every taste. This is true of the species as well as the cultivars.

Furthermore, there must be lots of *begonia* species the speaker quoted above hasn't seen - species that meet every requirement for *begonia* beauty. I find some species absolutely irresistible.

In the small and dainty category Java has given us *B. coriaceae*, for example, with its myriad little pink flowers against peltate leaves. From Brazil comes *B. thelmae*, a delightful tiny creeper with periodic bursts of tiny white blooms held above its strikingly striped leaves, an absolutely exuberant grower. *B. U074*, with a satiny sheen to

dark green leaves splashed with silvery-grey - again, an easy grower - is from the Philippines. And who can resist *B. prismatocarpa*, or, for that matter, any of the yellow-flowering African miniatures?

The Africans, incidentally, require terrarium care, and U074 and *thelmae* may also, depending on your growing conditions. Millie Thompson suggests starting any new species in a terrarium, then testing it in less ideal conditions - an excellent idea.

At the larger end is striking Brazilian *B. valida*, 6 to 7 feet tall with huge dark leaves and sprays of white flowers held several feet above the leaves. Any of the thick-stemmed *B. reniformis* group (also from Brazil; you may find them under synonyms *B. vitifolia*, *longipes*, or *grandis*) will impress you with their luxurious growth. Rhizomatous *B. sericoneura*, native to Central America, is a vigorous grower with deep green veined leaves and tall stalks of pink flowers; you should be warned that it will take over its given spot!

Don't bother pinching and pruning these big plants. Cute as babies, they go through a very awkward "between-age" stage, and you'll have to resist cutting them back; just hide them behind other plants. They'll come out of it and grow up beautiful all on their own with no work on your part. What more could you ask? Just provide lots of filtered light, an occasional feeding, protection from extremes of temperature and from wind. You already provide that for your begonias.

What's your favorite begonia aspect? Colorful leaves? Try *rex*, *deliciosa*, *breviramosa* (well, okay, that last one's finicky). Velvety fuzzy leaves? Try *venosa*, *kellermanii*, *incana*. Deeply cut leaves? Try *thiemei*, *carolineifolia*, *luxurians*. Fragrance? Try *solananthera*, *masoniana*, *minor* (synonym: *nitida*

odorata). Strong growth with lots of flowers? Try any of the *semperflorens* species: *schmidtiana*, *cucullata*, *subvillosa*, and more. As long-time growers know, there's even a begonia that consistently returns after winter freezes: *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana*. Many of these listed here share several features: *venosa*, for example, is fuzzy-leaved and scented.

The list above is by no means exclusive. Surely other members have favorite species, too. How about sending in a snapshot or two of your personal favorite? And let's compare notes on growing methods.

-Tamsin Boardman

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Virginia Hamann, Round Robin Director

#43, Terrariums:

Spring is in the air, and members are putting fresh soil in their terrariums and potting up larger plants, replacing them with small plants.

Pests can be a problem. Eleanor Calkins (CA) cuts up flea collars and puts the pieces in her terrariums. Mae Blanton (TX) puts a spider in her containers to control mealy bugs.

Fruit ripening bowls to fish tanks, and most any glass items are considered terrariums by members.

Glennis Crouch (TX) uses about 1" of coarse perlite mixed with horticultural charcoal in the bottom of the bowl, covered with a growing medium of sphagnum moss with a small amount of medium-sized perlite. The amounts of soil and drainage material will have to be adjusted to the size of your terrarium.

#8, Tuberous:

Howard Siebold (WA) gives this advice to new members: just because he has been growing tuberous begonias since 1930 doesn't mean he can't learn something new every year - or almost every week. He recently learned not to take cuttings too soon; when they are too succulent they will have a higher rate of failure.

Howard also says the secret of large blooms and healthy plants is a large root system. This is obtained by planting in a large pot with good porous soil. When planting tubers, cover with 1/2" to 1" of soil or mix; this keeps water from rotting the tuber.

Julia Meister (NY) says "Begonias full speed ahead!" She starts seeds for her local Begonia Society - this year she

had 59 garden paks with 12 seedlings per pak. Members buy the seedlings for a nominal price. Julia also snaps off extra sprouts (making sure a bit of tuber is attached to the sprout), dips them in Rootone, places 3 or 4 in a pot of her soil mix, and covers the pot with a plastic bag until plants appear.

#12, Tropicals:

Now renamed "Begonias & Companion plants", this has turned in to a great Robin. As Chairman Alton Lee (FL) says, it has the right mix of people to make it an interesting Robin. Hoyas, orchids, ferns, aroids, and cactus are grown by members. Pictures sent in attest to that. Zach Culler (SC) grows daylilies to perfection.

#13, Canes:

John Keller (NJ) points out that canes requiring high light intensity cannot be grown satisfactorily in his area. He thinks begonias should be classified like orchids, by the amount of candle power they require to grow and bloom.

#9, Growing Under Lights:

Daniel Haseltine (IL) has been growing with two cool white tubes. In some fixtures he uses one cool white and one grow tube. He can't see any difference in the results. He finds that seedlings *might grow large tops with poor root systems* when the humidity is too high; the foliage grows fast, making less work for the roots. He suggests hardening plants off in an earlier stage of growth and transplanting in a coarser growing medium. Lights might also disrupt the growth cycle: plants in natural light will follow a growth cycle, bloom, and go dormant. Under lights they will not bloom, but grow continuously.

Mary Bucholtz (FL) uses shoplights. Her begonias bloomed very well, and

the leaf markings were darker. Mary also feeds and waters her plants early in the morning, as she feels new growth occurs during the new light of morning. Mae Blanton (TX) thinks plants grow larger leaves in lower light; more leaf surface will absorb more light and sustain the plant.

Madeline Thomas (CA) wonders if it is "begonia vertigo" that gives her the feeling that B. 'Sophie Cecile' intimidates her. "Sophie" has her own space surrounded by carnivorous plants to protect her from insects. Madeline plans to put a smaller plant of B. 'Sophie Cecile' in a pottery jar on their boat dock to see how it will grow.

#31, Southwest Growers:

Wintery weather and how begonias survived are main topics in all Robins. Begonia growers survived also, especially in the March blizzard of '93. Margaret Coats (TX) told of the good time she had at the Southwest Region Get-Together, which was hosted by the Mae Blanton Branch. Mae Blanton (TX) uses earthworm castings in her soil mix, as they contain micronutrients.

#33, Hybridizing:

Dorcas Resleff (WA) used pollen of B. 'Lenore Olivier' on B. 'Christmas Candy'. A seed pod is forming, so she will soon be sowing the seeds. Bill Voss (VA) received 3 pods of an unidentified begonia collected from an area being cleared. Bill believes rare begonias should be grown in botanical gardens, which can then send seed back to be grown in the lands of origin.

#30, Rex:

To help prevent insects and disease in seed flats, John Howell (TX) pours 180 degree water over his mix, then sprinkles a thin layer of sand or vermiculite. After it cools, he sprinkles the seed onto the sand or vermiculite. Cynthia Bishop (CA) uses rock wool for starting cuttings, with excellent results.

She has begun using it for starting seeds also.

Janet Hall (LA) leaves her Rex plants outdoors all winter, except when there are unexpected frosts. The rexes are growing larger; some in the ground are spreading like a ground cover.

#11, Canes:

Charles McGough (TX) is crossing B. *dregei* with B. 'Nokomis' to develop suitable plants for bonsai - in which he is very much interested. Brad Thompson (CA) prunes canes back hard to promote good basal growth. He has also been doing crosses of Superba canes with fragrant species and older varieties. He has gotten fragrant seedlings, but not Superba types.

Russ Hammer (TX) is interested in soil mixes and likes to experiment. With Superba canes he uses a heavier mix of 1 part loam top soil, 3 parts peat moss, and 1/2 part composted manure. Elvin McDonald's soilless mix started Russ getting enthused about growing plants.

Until next time - Keep 'em Flying!
Remember, new members are always welcome.

Write to Round Robin Director Virginia Hamann at Rt. 1, Box 10, Chester, IA 52134, and tell her of your special begonia interest. She'll connect you with friends across the country who share your interests.

IN MEMORY

It is with great sorrow that I write of the death of another member of our Branch. **Pierre Fletcher** slipped away from us early in June after undergoing heart surgery, then suffering a stroke during recovery. We all join in sending out deepest sympathies to his family. We will miss Pierre and his expertise in botany. He loved the cactus family and had a great interest in begonias and ferns, as well as many other plants. - Leslie Hatfield, in the Monterey Bay Area Branch newsletter.

On July 5 we lost a dear and valued member of Rubidoux Branch, **Jack Austin Wilder II**, known as "Sonny". A graduate of Rubidoux High School, Sonny held jobs that varied from dancer in the dance show "Soul Train" to banking to photography. With his father, he opened the Lazy J Jungle Nursery. His horticultural favorites besides begonias included cactus and geraniums, and the home he shared with his companion McKinley Jackson was featured as part of the Riverside Flower Show and Garden tour.

Sonny served on the Rubidoux Branch Board, with a term as President. He will be sorely missed.

-excerpted from the Rubidoux Begonia Gazette, ed. Terry Hicks

CORRECTION

and additional information

Jan Goodwin has written to say that she received credit erroneously for the photo and article on *B. rajah* on page 136 of the July-August issue. Apologies all around!

The photo was by Margaret Chandler of Western Australia, who also grew the plant pictured. The text was by Lyla Kilpatrick, President of the Begonia Society of Western Australia.

Margaret grew her plant from seed. The June 1993 issue of **Begonia Australis** had an interesting report in their Round Robin Notes on their Species Robin. Here is an excerpt on Margaret's success with *B. rajah*:

"Production of viable seed from *B. rajah* was a thrill for Margaret. Male flowers opened first. She stored them until the female flowers appeared. The ritual of pollination with the dried male flowers was repeated for three days, when the female flowers turned back on their stalks. Early August* sowing using bottom heat produced good germination in 23 days...Jan Goodwin remarks that her seed of *B. rajah* germinated in 21 days..."

* remember that seasons are reversed below the Equator - August is in winter, not summer.

Q: Is it true there's no free lunch?

A: That's what the experts say. There will, however, be free breakfasts at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Oklahoma City during the 1994 ABS National Convention "Begonias: OK!"

"odd things begonias do..."

B. 'Red Amigo' Sports a Variegated Coat



If you think the begonia pictured above is 'Charm', look again.

The variegated foliage appeared on a begonia known as 'Red Amigo' that resembles B. 'Christmas Candy' .

Jan Goodwin writes from Australia "There is also a B. 'Pink Amigo', with the same foliage as 'Christmas Candy' but with beautiful pink flowers. The two "Amigos" got into the nursery trade in New South Wales, but I don't know their origin...the flowers on Red Amigo are much brighter than Christmas Candy."

The variegated plant appeared spontaneously in the nursery of Ross Bolwell. Ross is a member of the

Australian Institute of Horticulture, holds an Honors Certificate in Horticulture, and is President of the Nursery Industry of New South Wales besides being one of the founders of the New South Wales Begonia Society.

Ross also hybridizes begonias, including B. 'Flamingo Queen', pictured in the **Begonian** in July-August, 1992, p. 142.

According to the updated Buxton Check List (revised edition), the shrub-like Amigo begonias were offered through Park Seed Co. and the Robert B. Hamm catalog.

more "odd things begonias do"



What's Going on in Ed's Green- house?

Text and Photos by
Mary Bucholtz

Those begonia gremlins have been having fun in the greenhouse of begonia grower and hybridizer Ed Harrell. Ed has been closely watching two peculiar growth areas on B. 'Freddie'.



continued next page

more "odd things begonias do..."

B. 'Robert Shatzer' Update

by Tamsin Boardman

In late winter a leaf petiole was partially broken, but not removed. At that break a new rhizome formed, and is continuing to grow.

Below on the same rhizome, to which the broken leaf petiole and new rhizome are attached, the rhizome continued to grow and produce new leaves. However, as you can see from the photograph, the rhizome has now stopped producing leaves. The last two leaves seem joined at the rhizome, devoid of a growth tip.

I have no scientific knowledge and therefore can give no reason for such an occurrence. However, I do think a begonia will do whatever is necessary for survival, and this includes "odd growth". It is we who consider this growth odd. The begonia may not.

ABS First Vice-President Mary Bucholtz lives at 2411 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207.

In the November-December, 1992 issue I reported on a hanging basket of B. 'Robert Shatzer' that went berserk last summer and developed *six* tiny plantlets at the ends of flower stalks. One fell off in my hand as I examined it, was potted up, and did fine.

Here's what happened to the other five: two started looking peaked with the coming of cooler weather at the start of fall. They were cut off and potted up, grew nicely, and went into the Mae Blanton Branch sale in November. One withered away. The fourth, still quite tiny and not showing any growth, clung on until about Christmas before I thought it looked tired and cut it off to begin a new life away from its flower stalk.

What is most interesting, I think, is that the last little plantlet actually produced a few more leaves - tiny ones, it is true, but leaves - while hanging precariously on its stalk. It remained on the flower stalk until the larger "mother" plant started blooming in early March. At that point the plantlet looked healthy, but the flower stalk from which it hung was drying up. I took it off and potted it up.

Sadly, the last survivor didn't like life in soil. It pined for a few weeks, then quietly withered away. Perhaps life on earth was a bore compared to floating on the breeze...

The basket of B. 'Robert Shatzer' that started all this bloomed quite prettily this year, but none of the bounty of flower stalks produced plantlets.

Q: Where have all the buffalo gone?

A: You can see buffalo herds at the Wichita Natrional Wildlife Refuge, 100 miles southwest of Oklahoma City. May is a grand time to visit. There are longhorns there, too!

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Marilyn Goldstein, Seed Fund Director

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

The Seed Fund would appreciate receiving donations of any fresh seed, as our supply is very limited at this time Thank you!

All packets of species seed are \$1 each, and all packets of hybrid seed are 50c each.

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

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in the ABS Bookstore: "Tips for Begonia Beginners"

written by Dorothy Patrick and illustrated by Kit Jeans Mounger has been reprinted and is once more available through the ABS Bookstore.

Softcover; \$3.50

To order make check, money order, or bank draft in US funds payable to ABS Bookstore. Price includes postage within US; foreign orders please add 20% postage.

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

BRANCHES

CALIFORNIA

Alfred D. Robinson

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of members
Crystal Zook, Pres.
526 San Elijo St.
San Diego, CA 92106

East Bay

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Northbrae Com. Church,
941 Alameda Berkeley
Rich Bishop, Pres.
1404 Cypress
Berkeley, CA 94703

Garden Grove

1st Wed., 7:30 p.m.
12860 Euclid St.
Garden Grove
Ed Vogel, Pres.
9811 Oma Place
Garden Grove, CA 92641

Long Beach Parent Chapter

3rd Friday, 12:30 p.m.
Apollo Neighborhood
Center, Apollo Park
12458 Rives Ave.
South Downey
Vivian Hill, Pres.
5133 Ashworth St.
Lakewood, CA 90712

Monterey Bay Area

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Monterey Senior Cntr,
Lighthouse & Dickman
Sts., Monterey
(no meeting June, Aug.)
William Schramm, Pres.
17 Calera Canyon
Salinas, CA 93908

Orange County

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Fullerton S & L
2310 E. Lincoln Ave.
Anaheim
Anne Jones, Pres.
11357 Darcy St.
Santa Fe Springs, CA
90670

Palomar

2nd Sunday, 2 p.m.
Quail Botanical Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Dr.
Encinitas
Mabel Corwin, Pres.
1119 Loma Vista Way
Vista, CA 92084

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.
Terry Hicks, Pres.
4243 Kathy Ave.
Riverside, CA 92509

Sacramento

3rd Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.
Garden Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento
Siegfried Hoffman, Pres.
10 Stampede Ct.
Sacramento, CA 95834

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
Beverly Hitz, Pres.
663 Anaby Ct.
Upland, CA 91786

San Miguel

4th Saturday
Members' Homes
Thelma O'Reilly, Pres.
10942 Sunray Place
La Mesa, CA 91941

Santa Barbara

4th Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
The Cottage
1130 N. Milpas St.
Santa Barbara
Rudolph Ziesenhenné,
Pres.
(address same as above)

Santa Clara Valley

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Rm 2, Kirk Com. Cntr.
1601 Foxworthy Ave.
San Jose
Jackie Davis, Pres.
170 Wingfoot Way
Aptos, CA 95003

South Bay

2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Dana School Cafetorium
135th & Aviation
Hawthorne
Evelyn Isaac, Pres.
2022 Bataan Rd.
Redondo Beach, CA
90278

Theodosia Burr Shepherd

1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.
American Commercial
Bank
6401 Telephone Rd.
Ventura
Pam Hantgin, Pres.
94 N. Santa Rosa St.
Ventura, CA 93001

Westchester

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Univ. Christian Church
5831 Centinella Ave.
Stephanie Snyder, Pres.
6035 South Croft Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90056

Whittier

1st Friday, 7 p.m.
Room 1, Civic Center
7630 Washington Ave.
Whittier
Beverly Hitz, Pres.
663 Anaby Ct.
Upland CA 91786

CONNECTICUT**Connecticut**

4th Monday
homes of members
Priscilla Beck, Dir.
312 Shewville Rd.
Ledyard, CT 06339

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AREA**Potomac**

4th Sunday, 2 p.m.
Green Spring Farm Park
4601 Green Spring Rd.
Alexandria, VA
Ruth Ihara, Pres.
Rt. 2, Box 182A
Leesburg, VA 22075

FLORIDA**Fort Lauderdale Area**

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
3245 College Ave.
Davie
Sylvia Ben, Pres.
2808 N. 46th Ave. #E551
Hollywood, FL 33021

Jacksonville

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
 Garden Club
 1005 Riverside Ave.
 Jacksonville
 Ruby Young, Pres.
 231 Tallulah Ave.
 Jacksonville, FL 32208

Miami

4th Tuesday, 8 p.m.
 Simpson Garden Center
 55 SW 17th Rd.
 Miami
 Alma Crawford, Pres.
 14250 Madison St.
 Miami, FL 33176

Palm Beaches

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

Pinellas County

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Fellowship Hall, Church of
 Christ
 6045 Park Blvd.
 Pinellas Park
 Bob Koehler, Pres.
 5300 48th Terrace N.
 St. Petersburg, FL 33709

Tampa Bay Area

3rd Wed., 7 p.m.
 Members Homes
 Dora Lee Dorsey, Pres.
 8110 N. Edison Ave.
 Tampa, FL 33604

GEORGIA**Greater Atlanta**

2nd Sunday, 3 p.m.
 odd-numbered months
 Atlanta Botanical 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**

Write for meeting info.
 Frank Green, Pres.
 102 Richardson Rd.
 Ashby, MA 01431

NEW JERSEY**Elsa Fort**

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

NEW YORK**Knickerbocker**

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
 (except July & Aug.)
 Hort. Society of NY
 128 W. 58th St.
 New York
 Vanessa Young, Pres.
 2975 Bainbridge Ave
 Bronx, NY 10458

Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau

3rd Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
 Planting Fields Arboretum,
 Oyster Bay NY
 Walter Dworkin, Pres.
 8 Rugby Rd.
 Westbury, NY 11590

OHIO**Greater Cincinnati**

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

OKLAHOMA**Fred A. Barkley**

3rd Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
 Will Rogers Garden Cntr.
 3400 NW 36th St.
 Oklahoma City
 Jim Jolly, Pres.
 300 N. Hickory Lane
 Moore, OK 73160

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

TEXAS**Alamo**

3rd Saturday
 Homes of members
 Barbara Stewart, Pres.
 30631 Blanco Rd.
 Bulverde, TX 78163

Astro

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

Dallas Area

3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
 Northaven Gardens
 7700 Northaven Rd.
 Dallas
 Don Miller, Pres.
 1010 Mt. Auburn
 Dallas, TX 75223

Houston Satellite

4th Tuesday
 League City Bank & Trust
 League City
 Helen Spiers, Pres.
 1423 Laskey
 Houston TX 77034

Mae Blanton

4th Wed., 10:30 a.m.
 2012 Locksley Lane
 Denton
 Kay Jennings, Pres.
 5701 Oakmont Lane
 Fort Worth, TX 76112

THANK YOU!

to all Branch Officers who
 sent updated information for
 this Directory.
 Please check your Branch
 listing and let us know of
 updates and corrections.

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:

Cynthia Bishop
4150 Auburn-Folsom Rd.
Loomis, CA 95650
(916) 652-7311

Deadline for next issue is September 15

BEGONIA CUTTINGS AND PLANTS.

Send \$2 for expanded 1993 list. Kay's Greenhouses, 207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221.

SOUTHWEST REGION, ABS: Annual Get-Together, show, sale; 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.

BEGONIAS, FERNS, SHADE PLANTS.

We are now open to provide you with quality plants...Come visit. Send \$2 for plant list. Golden Hills Nursery (Cynthia Bishop), 4150 Auburn-Folsom Rd., Loomis CA 95650; (916) 652-7311.

RARE DISTINCTIVE BEGONIAS. Sym. U012, *bogneri*, U089, ex-Kew, etc. Send SASE for list. USA only. BILL VOSS, 3805 Louise Ave., Chantilly, VA 22021.

BEGONIAS. Unrooted cuttings. New, exclusive Lowe hybrids. New hybrids & old favorites. Send \$1 for list. Greenhouse open for ABS members, by appt. only. Paul Lowe, 5741 Dewberry Way, West Palm Beach, FL 33415.

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.

Begonias, Episcias, and Hoyas. Cuttings only. Send \$1 for list to B & K Tropicals, 5300 48 Terrace N., St. Petersburg, FL 33709.

BEGONIAS, Texas' newest hybrids. 'Maurice Amey', 'Don Miller', 'Texas Orange', 'Fiesta Texas', and many more. Send \$2 for colorized list to Stew's Greenhouses, 30631 Blanco Rd., Bulverde, TX 78163. Ph. 1-210-980-9439.

BEGONIAS, GESNERIADS, RARE FLOWERING PLANTS. 1993 catalog \$2.00, free to A.B.S. members. KARTUZ GREENHOUSES, 1408 Sunset Drive, Dept. B., Vista, CA 92083-6531.

PLANT COLLECTIONS: 10 Begonias, Cactus, or Ivy only \$25.95 pp., 6 Bromeliads or unusual ferns \$25.95, 6 large Bromeliads (\$75 value) only \$35.95. ATKINSON'S GREENHOUSE, Rt. 2, Box 69, Morrilton AR 72110. No list now.

SEED WANTED of colourful flowering begonias, also scented ones of all types. Price airmail to New Zealand to Ian McNeua, 112 Glasgow St., Wanganii, New Zealand.

WANTED: Starting collection of Hiroshi Shigemi hybrids (have 'Pattern', 'Aya', 'Hikoboshi', 'Nao', 'Geometry'). Need 'Leopon', 'Hiro', 'Merry-Go-Round', 'Piccolo', and others. Can you help? Tom Zoellner, 18819 Dreamland, San Antonio TX 78230-4203.

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**GESNERIAD CORRESPONDENCE
CLUB**

RON & LOIS KRUGER, EDITORS
207 WYCOFF WAY WEST, EAST
BRUNSWICK NJ 08816 Membership \$5 US;
\$6.75 Canada; \$12 foreign; Braille \$5 (*all
payable US funds to Ron Kruger*) includes a bi-
monthly newsletter; seed & tuber funds, round
robins; listing of pen pals with various plant
interests.

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF PLANT
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Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

May 8, 1993

The Board of Directors meeting was held at Don Shula's Hotel in Miami, Florida on May 8, 1993. There were 27 members present.

President Notaras called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. Margaret Lee read the Aims and Purposes.

Secretary Foo read the Minutes of the January 30, 1993 meeting.

Treasurer Eleanor Calkins reported balances as of March 31, 1993 of \$6,206.06 in checking and \$42,778.14 in savings for a total of \$48,984.20.

Correspondence: President Notaras read a letter from Darrin W. Dulin, a diploma student at Kew Gardens asking for a donation for a plant expedition to Brazil in December 1993. President Notaras will write Kew for more information. It was voted to have the President appoint a committee to handle this matter, and that the donation not exceed \$1,000.

Committee Reports:

Begonian - Advertising Manager Ann Salisbury is trying to get more ads. Please contact her if you know of anyone who might like to advertise in the **Begonian**.

Bookstore - Anita Ruthenberg reported as of March 31 cash on hand of \$449.12. Five hundred ABS pins have been ordered and are available at \$6 each through the **Bookstore**.

Seed Fund - Marilyn Goldstein reported some of the seeds are very old. If seeds do not germinate they will be replaced.

Convention 1993 - Charles Jaros reported Friday plant sale proceeds of \$4,400.

Convention 1994 - Southwest Region Director Tom Keepin reported the Convention will be held in Oklahoma City at the Embassy Suites, close to the airport. Room prices are \$69, with breakfast included.

Members at Large: Forty-five letters went out in April, 1993.

Membership - John Ingles reported 77 Life Members; 138 Institutions; and 1,436 dues-paying members as of April 30, 1993.

Publicity - New copies of "Fourteen Reasons to Join the American Begonia Society" have

been printed. Antonelli's has been giving them out, which resulted in 53 new members. Michael Kartuz will include the "Fourteen Reasons" in his shipments. Wanda Macnair volunteered to take the "Fourteen Reasons" to Logee's.

Parliamentarian - Margaret Lee read the Standing Rules. Examples: No members of the Nominating Committee should be on the Ballot Counting Committee. Any expense of more than \$50.00 must be approved by the Board.

Research - The Research Library has not been sent to Stephen Coppins yet.

Round Robins - Virginia Hamann reports the Robins are flying. Sixteen Robins went out in January and February, including some to New Zealand and The Netherlands. In March and April fourteen letters, one new Robin, and one to New Zealand were sent. Ten letters were written, five to new members and five to inquire about lost Robins.

Slide Library - Charles Jaros stated that the 1993 Convention's Style Show was videotaped, and could be made into slides. It was announced that an ABS member can rent slides to show to other plant organizations.

New Business:

Dues Increase: - President Notaras pointed out that the last dues increase was several years ago. Our biggest expense is printing the **Begonian**. Margaret Lee read the By-Laws regarding dues. Different ways of raising money for the Society were suggested. Margaret Lee moved that dues be increased by \$2 per year per member. A letter will be sent to all Branch representatives with a ballot on the motion; ballots will be counted and members will be notified of the result.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingeborg Foo,

Secretary

Note: Minutes are condensed because of space limitations. Any member may order the complete Minutes from the Secretary. A stamped, self-addressed legal-size envelope would be appreciated.

Elected Officers

President.....Gene Salisbury
P.O. Box 504, Tonkawa OK 74653
Past President.....Carol Notaras
2567 Green St., San Francisco CA 94123
1st Vice-President.....Mary Bucholtz
2411 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville FL 33207
2nd Vice-President...Bruce C. Boardman
P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale TX 76433
3rd Vice-President.....Millie Thompson
P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968
Secretary.....Arlene Ingles
157 Monument, Rio Dell CA 95562-1617
Treasurer.....Carol Notaras
2567 Green St., San Francisco CA 94123

Appointed Chairmen & Directors

Audit Committee
Ed Bates
P.O. Box 230502, Encinitas CA 92023-0502
Ralph Corwin
1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista CA 92084
Awards.....Thelma O'Reilly
10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa CA 91941
Ballot Counting.....Ronnie Nevins
1913 Aspen Circle, Fullerton CA 92635
Begonian, Back Issues...Claire Frontera
3131 Patriot Lane, Sacramento CA 95827
BookStore.....Anita Ruthenberg
1016 Arlington, Fort Worth TX 76110
Branch Relations.....Douglas Hahn
7736 Stonehill Dr., Cincinnati OH 45230
Business Manager.....Dale Elmsblade
3418 McKibbin, St. John MO 63114-4324
Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund....Marilyn Goldstein
1001 Diplomat Parkway, Hollywood FL 33091

Conservation Committee
Director.....Scott Hoover
718 Henderson Rd., Williamstown MA 01267
Administrator.....Bruce C. Boardman
P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale TX 76433
Convention Advisor.....Charles Jaros
2621 NW 23rd Ct., Miami FL 33142
Convention Chairman...Martha Chestnut
3232 N.W. 47th, Oklahoma City OK 73120
Historian.....Norma Pfrunder
3484 Jefferson St., Riverside CA 92504
Judging.....Maxine Zinman
Rt. 1, Box 73, Boyce VA 22620
Long-Range Planning.....Kay Tucker
207 W. Southcross, San Antonio TX 78221
Members at Large.....Thelma McRae
5471 S. Libby Rd. #15, Paradise CA 95969
Nomenclature.....Carrie Karegeannes
3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale VA 22003
Parliamentarian.....Margaret Lee
1852 31st St., San Diego CA 92102
Public Relations.....Russ Richardson
1854 Chancery Lane, Chamblee GA 30341
Research.....Houston Knight
13455 Hadley St., Whittier CA 90601
Research Librarian.....Stephen Coppins
30 Mygatt St., Binghamton NY 13905
Round Robin.....Virginia Hamann
Rt. 1, Box 10, Chester IA 52134
Slide Library Co-Chairmen:
Daniel Haseltine
6950 W Nelson St., Chicago IL 60634
Charles Jaros
2621 NW 23rd Court, Miami FL 33142

OPENINGS: BEGONIAN EDITOR, HORTICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

BEGONIAN STAFF

Editor: Tamsin Boardman, P.O. Box 69, Bluff Dale TX 76433; (817) 728-3485
Nomenclature Editor: Jack Golding
Editorial Associates: Phyllis Bates, Bruce C. Boardman, Kit Mounger, Mary Weinberg
Advertising Staff:
Mini-Ads, Cynthia Bishop, 4150 Auburn-Folsom Rd., Loomis CA 95659
Display Ads, Ann Salisbury, P.O. Box 504, Tonkawa OK 74653
Plant society Ads, Wanda Macnair, 177 Hancock St., Cambridge MA 02139
For subscription, dues, circulation inquiries contact John Ingles, Jr., 157 Monument,
Rio Dell CA 95562-1617



Help Available from ABS

These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads, see preceding page. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you write.

At-Large Members

Members who do not belong to branches are represented at board meetings by the Members-at-large director. MAL committee works on projects by mail.

Bookstore

Books about Begonias and back issues of the **Begonian**.

Horticultural Correspondent

Prompt assistance with questions pertaining to growing begonias.

Judging Dept.

Certifies accredited judges through judging schools and correspondence course.

Nomenclature Dept.

Monitors newly published findings on *Begonia* names. Handles official international registrations of new *Begonia* cultivars and publishes these registrations. Gathers information about and assigns numbers to unidentified species.

Research Department

Works on problems relating to begonia culture.

Round Robins

Members exchange information about begonias and their culture through packets of letters which circulate among a small group of growers. There are dozens of these packets, called flights, on many specialized subjects.

Seed Fund

The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund offers seeds of begonia species and cultivars by mail. New acquisitions are discussed in the **Begonian**.

Slide Library

List of programs available from Slide Librarian.

Member Input Opportunities

Conservation Department

wants lists of species grown by members.

Nomenclature Department

wants photos and information on "U" numbers members are growing from seed.

Research Department

solicits suggestions on projects and participation in research.

Seed Fund

seeks donations of seed.

Slide Library

requests individual slides of begonias as well as complete slide programs.

See also "Openings", preceding page.

Participate. You can make a difference.



American Begonia Society
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Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617

Address correction requested

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