

The background of the cover is a close-up photograph of begonia leaves. The leaves are large, heart-shaped, and have a prominent, intricate vein pattern. They exhibit a range of colors from deep red to light green. A small, pinkish flower bud is visible near the top center of the page.

The
● **Begonian**

September/October 2000

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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 that 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

Front: **Mary Bucholtz** captured this incredibly beautiful *B. paleata* on tour during the Begonias by the Beach Convention.

Back: **Jeanne Jones** arrived first at Palm Hammock Orchid Estate and was greeted by *B. nelumbifolia* in full, blooming glory. She wasted no time in photographing this one.

Begonias by the Beach

ABS Convention 2000, chaired by **Virginia Jens**, was Florida all the way. Members got to picnic on the beach and view such begonias as most had rarely seen. In this issue read all about the tours, the show, the sales, the seminars as only **Janet Brown** can write about them. Sample the photos of begonias here (but look for others in the coming issues). Meet the winners - the begonias, people, and for the first time every - the poetry! To all the wonderful people of the Florida Branches who made such a beautiful Convention for all, a big ABS THANKS.

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Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads
200011 or 200012, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

Arlene Ingles reminds you that if you move and do not notify her, you will have to replace your issue by order from the Back Issues Chair because the Post Office does not return your copy to her, just a notice!

At last! A permanent address for the editor: See page 202.

President's Message...

Labor Day marks the end of summer with fall fast approaching. Many of you will begin the process of preparing your plants for winter. In my area of Central Florida I have the luxury of delaying this process and can wait as late as Thanksgiving. You may think Central Florida is a tropical paradise 365 days a year, but that is certainly not the case. This past winter the temperature reached a balmy 14 degrees in my yard and I was scraping ice off my windshield. So preparing my plants for winter is a must also.

I usually begin with my Aroid collection as they are the most cold sensitive plants that I have. They winter in my enclosed windowed porch area. The begonias, ferns and other plants are then crowded into a 20' x 30' fiberglass roofed shadehouse. Larger plants are pruned back and all plants are checked for any pests that may also want to winter in the shadehouse. Plastic is placed on the sides of the shadehouse and dropped down when temperatures are expected to go below freezing. Even with the 14 degree outside temperature the inside shadehouse temperature is just above freezing. This seems to work for me. The begonias do not vigorously grow and some go dormant, but I have a glorious show of flowers from my rhizomatous begonias beginning in late January and always have entries for the Florida State Fair which is in February. Luckily this 14 degree temperature is not constant and may be for only one night and will then warm up to the 50's or 60's during the day. So I guess you can still consider Central Florida balmy and I can go with the precautions that I take.

Drop our editor an article on how you prepare your begonias for winter. We can all learn from each other and I know

there are tips out there that others and I can use.

The September/October *Begonian* is the Convention issue and those of us who attended the 2000 ABS Convention in Palm Beach Shores get to relive the fun we had at the convention: the tours, plant sale, seminars and show were great. Those who were unable to attend can get enthused about the 2001 ABS Convention to be held in Denver in July.

On a more important note! A reminder that the ABS Annual Meeting will be held at the Southwest Region/ABS Get-Together in San Antonio, Texas, September 20-24, 2000. At the Annual Meeting all ABS members are able to vote on items brought before the meeting. So your vote makes a difference. Constitution/By-Law changes can only be made at an Annual Meeting and Committee/Branch Annual reports are submitted. Installation of the 2001 ABS Officers will also be a highlight of the Get-Together. What's more you can enjoy a beautiful show, fabulous plant sale, interesting seminars and great tours. So be there or be square!

Good Begonia Growing,
Charles Jaros, President

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations to Virginia Jens

Congratulations to **Virginia Jens** and her Convention Committee on a superb Begonias By The Beach week in Palm Beach Shores, Florida. Thanks, Virginia from every ABS member fortunate enough to take the tours, revel in the glorious show and buy the plants at the wonderful sale. We all know, perhaps some more than others, how much hard, unrelenting, creative work it takes to put on a convention like this. Many people

give many hours of their lives and all for no pay, but the joy it brings to begonia lovers. We are grateful for all that hard work and appreciate what you did for us.

So rest up for a while, Virginia, but please do it again soon. I'll be there.

Janet Brown,
Westchester Branch
7825 Kentwood
Los Angeles, CA
90045

And for sure the editor won't miss it! And from all of ABS, we echo Janet's thanks.

These Mysteries are Serials!

In response to your "Mystery Begonia" in the May/June and July/August *Begonian*.

...I do hope you have **Alice Clark's** lovely book. I've always thought she had the right one. I've grown one like hers, years ago now, and the leaves, especially the far left one in her painting, seem a good match for the one (!) leaf **Dryander** provided. (No flowers.) The July-August photo has two partial leaves that are certainly reminiscent of Dryander's drawing, too.

The third leaf, behind the two front ones in the July/August photo I think cannot be *B. tenuifolia*. Surely it must be from another plant, don't you think? Yet the petiole looks the same? Odd.

The May/June photo looks different to me. All the leaves are much broader and rounder than those I had, and I see none like Dryander's drawing, though there's still somehow a flavor of *B. tenuifolia* there. Leaves are darker, too -- though that could be from conditions of light or other things.

I see that one of Alice Clark's leaves are quite broad, too, varying from the others. ...Have you ever tried setting seed on it and seeing what seedlings you get?

"Rhizome jointed at or below the soil with erect stems" fits *B. tenuifolia*, of course. And that seems to be a specialized group, not too large.

Carrie Karegeannes
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Carrie, all the leaves on page 148 are on the same plant. But read on as to whether it is B. tenuifolia. I suspect that Joyce Pridgen's plant on page 107 is like mine (remember they both came from leaves we acquired in Tampa in 1999) in being very variable. I remain unconvinced that it is B. 'Suncana' whose parents I show as B. 'Sunderbruchii' and B. peltata (incana), neither of which can be seen in this plant. As I mentioned I have many plants from the same leaf and the plants are so individual in their appearance that many would not identify them as the same plant. The leaves vary in size, shape, degree of the lobes, and most of all color. Unfortunately mine has not bloomed although Joyce's did; I wait anxiously for the opportunity to set seed. I do have Alice Clark's book and some of the plants do look much like the one she pictures.

It is always a pleasure to receive the *Begonian*. Among several interesting items in the July/August number there are two on which I would like to comment.

First, **Scott Hoover's** *Begonia tenuifolia*. I have no reason to suspect that the plant on page 107 of the May/June issue has not been correctly identified, but the plants pictured on page 145, which in my opinion, both represent the same species, cannot possibly be *B. tenuifolia*. We have here a representative of the Asian Section *Sphenanthera* of which 26 species are known occurring over a large area. If I knew where this plant was collected (Scott Hoover has

traveled so widely that it is hard to make a guess). I could perhaps make a suggestion as to which species it might be.

My second remark concerns the case of *Begonia malabarica*. I wonder if what you write on page 154 will give the readers a clear idea of what is really the matter here. It is one of those unfortunate cases where a well known and widely grown species is known by a name that rightly belongs to another, poorly known and rare in cultivation. The facts are as follows.

As long ago as 1689 Rheede in Vol. IX of his *Hortus Malabaricus* gave a clear description and a picture of a plant known locally as Tsjeria-nariampuli. A century later (1783) Lamarck fitted this into the Linnean system as *Begonia malabarica*. He had not seen the plant but cites Rheede's description, translated into the French.

In 1864 Alphonse de Candolle (A.DC) included *B. malabarica* in his *Prodomus*, but based his description not on Rheede but apparently on his own study of three specimens in Berlin, originally from the Hooker herbarium. He writes that both male and female flowers have two petals whereas Rheede's plant (i.e. Lamarck's *Begonia malabarica*) had four in the male and three in the female flowers.

In 1852 Robert White had described and pictured a plant that was very close to that of Rheede. Had White followed his initial idea of calling it *Diploclinium malabaricum*, he would have saved us a lot of trouble. However, on account of a difference in the number of flowers in the inflorescence (nowadays considered insignificant) he thought it was a new species which he called *Diploclinium lindleyanum*. A.DC., who did not recognize the genus *Diploclinium*, maintained the new species. As there was already a

Begonia lindleyanum, he had to find another epithet and White's plant became *Begonia fallax*. If one holds (as I do) that this is Rheede's species, the legitimate name for both plants is *Begonia malabarica* Lam.

Meanwhile we have to find a name for *malabarica* of A.DC. It seems to me that the right name for this plant is *Begonia dipetala*, given to a closely related plant by Graham in 1838. Thwaites had already noted in 1859 the similarity of the two plants and regarded *B. dipetala* as a variety of A.DC.'s *B. malabarica*. In his classical study of the *Begonia* of India (1879) Clarke was of the same opinion.

Both *B. malabarica* A.DC. (not Lam.) and *B. dipetala* are very variable and merge into each other. Only a thorough investigation of wild material, preferably made in India, can tell us if, and if so, how *B. dipetala* has to be subdivided into subspecies, varieties or whatever. The most ornamental forms can be given cultivar names of course.

To sum up: the plant on page 154 of the July/August *Begonian* is *Begonia dipetala*. The true *Begonia malabarica* Lam. is present at Glasgow and possibly elsewhere under the name *Begonia fallax*, but I did not see it in flower and I cannot say if it would be a welcome addition to our cultivated assortment.

I hope I have been clear and that these remarks will be of some use.

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My notes on the Scott Hoover photo indicates it was taken on his trip to Indonesia in 1995. Perhaps Scott has more info for us. And could it be that B. U062 is yet another form of B. dipetala?

And on *B. chlorosticta* hybrids.

Wasn't that a great article by Charles McGough on hybridizing as an art form? At the end of the article an editor's note was made about *B. chlorosticta* and if any hybrids were created with it. I received a call one day from a dear friend, Joy Logee Martin. Joy wanted to remind me that yes a hybrid had been created from *B. chlorosticta*. It was developed by Joy's son Byron Martin of Logee's Greenhouses and was named *B. 'Calico Kew'*. *Begonia 'Calico Kew'* is a hybrid of *B. goegoensis* x *B. chlorosticta* and won the Best new Introduction/Hybrid of distinction Award for a commercial grower at the 1979 ABS Convention held in New York City.

At the time of hybridization *B. chlorosticta* was known as *B. ex Kew* Species. *Begonia 'Calico Kew'* is considered a Shrub-like Begonia with vivid pink flowers. The foliage is green, bronze and pink. The parents have certainly come through in this hybrid.

Thank you Joy for reminding us of this important hybrid. *Begonia 'Calico Kew'* is still available through Logee's Greenhouse. Are there other hybrids of *B. chlorosticta* out there? Let us know.

Charles Jaros

Check out the November 1979 Begonian for an article by Thelma O'Reilly and a lovely photo, unfortunately in black and white, of B. 'Calico Kew.' Joy, if there is a color photo available at Logee's we'd love to run it for our readers.

And Yet Another Mystery!

...I have a few questions, but none as important as asking you if you know what kind of begonia is in this picture of mine? My husband and I were traveling in Michigan and stopped in a very tiny

restaurant to eat lunch and there was this begonia with such huge leaves...and I have always loved plants, but oh, my...a plant with huge leaves just takes my breath away. (This was in 1997).

I asked the owner of the restaurant if I could buy a leaf from him and he laughed at me and said for me to just cut one off! So I did...and I brought it home and put it in a glass of water and within a week it had lots of little roots coming out of it. But this guy didn't even know this was a begonia..so he, of course, did not know what kind it was.

The owner had his begonia in a very large (with high sides) pot...and I never thought about this when planting mine and so I was very amazed to see it was a "vining" (because I do not even know what this part of the begonia is called!) plant! It bloomed the first year and this photo that I am sending is from this year.

Now...I have found a place on one of the leaf stems where a new plant is starting to grow!! Why?? The area where it is growing from looks to have been rubbed...maybe against another leaf stem while I moved it from one spot to another. This has really amazed me. I am also sending you a photo of this, and I hope that you can see it well enough to give me some answers. If you do not know what my begonia is, can you ask others?

Please can you help me? I love the new little feature "Identify this species".

I would love to participate in the seed fund...but I do not know how to go about pollinating and saving the seeds. Is there a pamphlet or a book you could recommend to me so that I can start doing this? Also...how do I know when the pollination has been effective and if the seeds are good? ...I have always wanted to do this, and do not know where to turn for the information.

I have always loved plants, because of my Dad...and have always had a way with getting a leaf to start growing...but I



Photo left: Do you know the name of this Begonia? This is a 2 year old plant?

Photo right below: This is the same plant, also two years old. I just took it (photo) while lying on the floor underneath it!

Photo left below: This is a photo of a new plant starting out of the leaf stem! how do I save it? By cutting off leaf beside it and planting it in soil? I will not do anything to it until I hear from you.

Photos and captions by Becky Steve.



want to learn much more and maybe someday have a greenhouse.

Oh...I have a friend who has a small floral shop and was so excited when she saw my begonia so I gave her two leaves and she now has several plants from them...and someday would like to sell them in her shop, but wants to know what to call them.

When I met her she had a very large burgundy leafed begonia, and I begged her to sell me a leaf for \$50! For two years, whenever I would go to her shop I would ask again. She always said no...and last year her greenhouse got a mold and she lost that particular begonia...and she never knew the name of it!! So I am also searching for this begonia, too...but I never took a picture of it so she and I even differ on what we think it looked like!

I will be gone from May 1st to the middle of June...as we are going to Alaska for our first trip up there...and especially to see our first GREAT Grandchild to be born....

I love being a *Begonian* lover...and a friend to plants.

Becky Steve
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Can you help Becky identify her plant? Would you hazard a guess on the burgundy plant? And Becky, your friend has learned the first rule of growing begonias: Share, share, share so when you lose one there are many sources of recovery!

And More on the Fun of Hybridizing.

I was so pleased to find my article and pictures in the *Begonian*. I hope more people hybridize for fun. I do a lot of hybridizing for my own amusement and the weirdest one I did was *B. dregei* x *B. edmundoi*.

B. edmundoi is the least likely looking begonia I have. It's about 4 feet high and looks like a regular bush. It didn't bloom for me for a while and when it did I didn't have many others in bloom. I turned around and there was good old *B. dregei*. I have crossed *B. dregei* with Rexes, *B. 'Orange Rubra'*, and many others except a Semp (maybe that will be next). So I got a nice healthy male off *B. edmundoi* and WOW, it took.

Up came more plants that looked like *B. dregei* and some that looked like *B. edmondoi*. I wasn't surprised as I had that happen before, but the *B. dregei* look alikes got huge and tall as they grew. I only saved a couple as they were so big I had to prune the branches.

The *B. edmondoi* look alikes never got over 2 feet. They didn't take on the tuberous aspect, but just looked like tiny *B. edmondoi*. But they were nice and I liked them and kept what came up. I still have some and they have lived outside all winter for me.

To me that's the fun of hybridizing, not naming them and trying to distribute them. Just enjoy your effort.

Jackie Davis
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And, WOW, can you all imagine how the editor's cup runneth over when she opens letters of feedback like all those above? Letters to the Editor have always been my favorite section of garden magazines. If writing an article seems to much for you, how about sharing you thoughts and questions in a letter to the editor? You could help make this section our readers' favorite too.

The Ballot Counting Committee (Ingeborg Foo, Pearl Swatzek, Michael Kartuz) reports Election 2000 results on Page 109.

Begonias by the Beach *In a Clamshell*

by Janet Brown

Convention Chairperson Virginia Jens and her committee put on a wonderful show for us. The hotel was lovely and most of the very large suites had ocean views and balconies to store our many purchases. Florida has a style all its own. The vegetation is lush, the weather balmy and delightful (at least in May), the begonias gorgeous.

The Tours

A few hardy souls led by **Gene Joyner** started things off with an early morning flight to Freeport on Grand Bahama Island. We were met by our charming and delightful tour leader from the Freeport Garden Club. The island is threaded with blue/green canals that open to the ocean. Most of the houses are on these canals with docks and boats and wonderful gardens. We saw some of these places and were amazed at their beauty considering that the island has no soil at all. The ground is made up of coral and shells and everything has to be amended to get anything to grow. We finished our day with a High Tea at our tour leader's incredibly beautiful home and garden. The ladies of the Garden Club treated us like royalty with delicious tidbits served on English china. We flew back in the late afternoon with wonderful memories.

The other tours were excellent with **Tim Anderson's** Palm Hammock being a high point for begonia lovers and buyers. When we 'debussed' who should be there to greet us at the entrance but **Jeanne** and **Wally Jones** surrounded by suitcases and,

of course, tons of plants. Jeanne had about cleaned the place out while waiting for the bus to arrive. Actually there was plenty left for the rest of us. We had lunch at beautiful Flamingo Gardens. On Saturday we visited a garden in Palm Beach Shores very close to the hotel. Our hostess was **Eleanor Heslin** who has only been gardening at this house since February. It was a riot of tropical color blending and complementing perfectly -- so many different alocasias, diffenbachias, caladiums, crotons in purples, pinks, yellows. Then we went on to the world famous tropical rain forest designed by **Gene Joyner**. Gene is an expert horticulturist and designer well known in Florida for his radio and TV broadcasts. He has designed a jungle garden like no other filled with butterflies and birds, tropical fruit trees, a sausage tree and of course many begonias.

The Show

There were so many beautiful plants it is hard to describe. Some of the most outstanding ones, at least to California eyes, were 3 huge *B. egregia* and a *B. 'Lana'* in a big pot packed with blooming canes and 5 feet high. And these did not win trophies. **Joyce Pridgen** took many trophies as well as Best in Show. **Greg Sytch**, **Charles Jaros**, **Virginia Jens** and **Tim anderson** followed along with many winners. The New Introduction Trophy was given to **Greg Sytch** for his *B. 'Careless Whisper'*---gorgeous---and he later auctioned it at the banquet for \$\$\$.



Tamsin Boardman caught (left to right) Mary Fuqua, Scott Hoover, Normand Dufresne, and Wanda and Richard Macnair enjoying Palm Hammock. Mary and Scott were Convention seminar speakers. And Janet Brown caught Mary Sakamoto and Margaret Fischer on their way to the Grand Bahamas while Mary was yet to learn she would win the Herbert P. Dyckman Award (see page 179).



The Sale: Plants & boutique

The plant sale was the usual madhouse and the plants terrific. I missed the beginning because I took the opportunity to get photos of the trophy winners while the crowds were at the sale. But there were many delightful plants and we all came away happy. The Boutique was glorious. Our old Friend **John Tan** from Singapore donated the most beautiful begonia fabric items--napkins in cotton, scarves in silk, pillow covers--they were so beautiful they took your breath away. I succumbed! **Joan Patterson** the artist who designed the leaded glass trophies for the show also had a booth with many lovely things, jewelry and leaded glass. I did not escape there either. And some of our old friends from September 99 were seen again: T shirts, cards, tote bags.

The Seminars

Exceptional! We started with the charming and unstoppable **Hugh McLauchlan** who wowed us with "No Business like Show Business". Hugh was elegant in a celadon jacket and green plaid tie as he showed us his slides of the Scottish Begonia Society's shows. They took home an astounding three gold medals in one season at the Royal Horticultural, Royal Highlander, and Strathclyde shows. We saw a slide of a beautiful new introduction of Hugh's a delicate pink tuberous with a slight picotee named *B.* "Mrs. Elizabeth McLauchlan". We remember her well.

Next, **Carrie Karegeannes** spoke on working with herbariums and the importance of type specimen plants for future reference. She said that there has been no complete collection of begonia species since Alphonse de Candolle's work in the 1800's. Carrie showed sev-

eral of her collection, masterfully done. A most interesting and fascinating talk by this charming lady. She also won the Poetry contest First Prize for a lovely poem on *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana*.

It was wonderful to finally meet **Ewen Donaldson**, the General Manager of Glasgow Botanic Gardens and the man who sent us the beautiful begonia banners for our LA convention. They were in Florida and it was great to see them again. Ewen's talk was most interesting and deserves more space. He told about collecting specimens in New Guinea and about the great work on begonias done at Glasgow Botanic for many centuries.

Scott Hoover's boss, **Dr. Mary Fuqua**, told about the New England Tropical Conservatory of which she is President. They are responsible for Scott's findings in Indonesia, growing the seed, writing about the findings and passing on the species. They are working on plans for a very large greenhouse for exhibitions and education and hope someday to have a rain forest with a catwalk for viewing. Mary is a very charming lady who knows a lot about begonias and the collections are in very good hands.

Almost forgot **Scott Hoover**. He had one of his special late night shows that started at about 10:45 p.m. after the banquet and the finish of the board meeting. The slide projector went berserk and flew through the whole show in about a minute. His report of the Indonesian trip was most interesting. He collected about 140 plants and seed through all kinds of weather problems. At one point they had to break camp after four nights of heavy rains. The trip was very successful. My last note on this seminar was "too tired to write more". Sorry, Scott.

Seminar Chairman **Charles Jaros** is to be congratulated on great speakers.

Begonias by the Beach

The Begonia Winners

Best in Show: *B.* 'Boomer' grown by Joyce Pridgen

Sweepstakes: Joyce Pridgen with 14 Blue Ribbons

Showing is Sharing: Tim Anderson with 91 Entries

Best Traveling: *B. dregei* grown by Don Miller

Best New Introduction: *B.* 'Careless Whisper' by Greg Sytch

Best New Introduction, Commercial: *B.* 'Cynthia Bishop' by
Tim Anderson

Division Winners

<u>Division</u>	<u>Begonia</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>
A. Cane-like, Species	<i>B. aconitifolia</i> (Syn. <i>B. sceptrum</i>)	Charles Jaros
AA. Cane-like	<i>B. albo picta</i>	Virginia Jens
C. Thick-stemmed	<i>B.</i> 'Boomer'	Joyce Pridgen
D. Semperflorens	<i>B.</i> 'Dragon Wings'	Gregory Sytch
E. Rhizomatous	<i>B.</i> 'Suncana'	Joyce Pridgen
EEE. Rhizomatous	<i>B.</i> 'Connie Boswell'	Charles Jaros
F. Rex	<i>B.</i> 'Lalomie'	Virginia Jens
G. Tuberous	<i>B. dregei</i> (syn. <i>B. partita</i>)	Joyce Pridgen
H. Trailing/Scandent	<i>B.</i> 'Morocco'	Joyce Pridgen
I. Species	<i>B. deliciosa</i>	Charles Jaros
K. Florida Hybrids, Cane-like	<i>B.</i> 'Avalanche'	Joyce Pridgen
L. Heritage, shrub-like	<i>B.</i> 'Medora'	Joyce Pridgen
M. U Numbered Begonias, Shrub-like	<i>B. U 010</i>	Charles Jaros
N. Contained Atmosphere	<i>B. rajah</i>	Joyce Pridgen
P. Mixed Begonia Planting	Mixed Terrarium	Bill Schneider
Q. Commerical - Rex	<i>B.</i> 'Benitochiba'	Tim Anderson
R. Novice	Unnamed Rex	Pauline Ma
V. Novel Grown	<i>B. aconitifolia</i> (Syn. <i>B. sceptrum</i>)	Nan Scoble
Y. Artistic Photo	Crispa tuberous	Mary Bucholtz
Z. Arts and Crafts	China painting, basket	Nan Scoble



Above, Best of Show Winner B. 'Boomer' grown by Joyce Pridgen and photographed by Ann Salisbury. Below, Greg Sytch's B. 'Careless Whisper' won the award for Best New Introduction. Photo by Janet Brown.



Culture Awards

<u>Begonia</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>
<i>B. aconitifolia</i> (Syn. <i>B. sceptrum</i>)	97	Charles Jaros
<i>B.</i> 'Victoria Woods'	96	Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> 'Boomer'	96	Joyce Pridgen
<i>B. egregia</i>	97	Charles Jaros
<i>B.</i> 'Virginia Jens'	95	Virginia Jens
<i>B.</i> 'Suncana'	97.5	Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> 'Wild Pony'	95	Gregory Sytch
<i>B.</i> 'Connie Boswell	97.1	Charles Jaros
<i>B. lanceolata</i> (Syn. <i>B. attenuata</i>)	96	Joyce Pridgen
<i>B. masoniana</i>	97	Charles Jaros
<i>B.</i> 'Purple Curl'	96	Gregory Sytch
<i>B.</i> 'Helen Teupel'	95.3	Donna Bailey
<i>B.</i> 'Lalomie'	98	Virginia Jens
<i>B.</i> 'Lalomie'	96	Gregory Sytch
<i>B. dregei</i> (Syn. <i>B. partita</i>)	97	Joyce Pridgen
<i>B. dregei</i> 'Glasgow'	96.5	Joyce Pridgen
<i>B. deliciosa</i>	97	Charles Jaros
<i>B.</i> 'Avalanche'	97	Joyce Pridgen
<i>B.</i> 'Medora'	95	Joyce Pridgen
<i>B. U 010</i>	95	Charles Jaros
<i>B. foliosa</i>	96	Tim Anderson
<i>B.</i> 'Paul Hernandez'	96	Tim Anderson
<i>B.</i> 'Olympic Queen'	96	Tim Anderson
<i>B.</i> 'Gilligan's Island'	95	Tim Anderson
<i>B. soli-mutata</i>	96	Tim Anderson
<i>B. U 388</i>	95	Tim Anderson
<i>B.</i> 'Benitochiba'	97.66	Tim Anderson
<i>B.</i> 'Connie Boswell'	97.33	Tim Anderson
<i>B.</i> 'Silver Dollar'	95.66	Tim Anderson
<i>B.</i> Unnamed Rex Cultorum	97.6	Maurine Lunsford

2000 ABS Awards Committee Report

by Michael Ludwig

We were gathered under palm trees and beside the swimming pool. Tropical breezes completed the picture as all three of the American Begonia Society's top awards were presented in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Y2K recipients are a distinguished group of members that have contributed much to the ABS.

The Herbert P. Dyckman award for Service was presented to **Mary Sakamoto**. Mary has run the plant sales for conventions in the Los Angeles Area. She has obtained, propagated, cared for and sold over 10,000 plants for several conventions. Between conventions she would sell plants at any event to promote

the area branches. Even before this she was opening her garden to numerous convention tours and promoting the ABS throughout the Southern California area. Mary also speaks at area branches promoting begonias. Serving as Convention Cochair in 1990 and serving as Awards Chair round out her service to ABS. Her husband Ed also serves killer barbecue fish to their visiting ABS guests. Thank you Mary for all your hard work.

The Eva Kenworthy Gray award was presented to our Editor, **Freda Holley**. Freda, who was unable to be at the convention this year was called and told of her award prior to the banquet. She edits the *Begonian* and has brought down costs, increased color and included many interesting and varied articles. Her work, *Raising Cane*, put valuable and useful information in the hands of many of the

ABS's membership. She has shared her time, talents and plants while encouraging many of the rank and file members of the ABS. She has done all this while moving about the Southwest, which is why she was unable to attend: Moving Day again. Thank you, Freda

The Alfred D. Robinson Medal was presented to *B. 'Mary Sakamoto'*. This 1990 hybrid of **Brad Thompson's** is a beautiful cane type begonia. It has beautiful bronze/green leaves with silver spots and a light red back. This plant produces a very distinctive large cluster of dark orange flowers. Because of its size, it's not easily confused with other orange flowered plants. The medal was presented to its namesake in the absence of the hybridizer. Congratulations, Brad. (See photo on page 190 of the 1999 *Begonian*, Ed.)

ABS Poetry Contest 2000 Winners

Third Place Winner

GRANDIS

Late spring I watch for tiny eruptions in
the soil.
Small crinkled green leaves with red
veins.
Begin to reach up. Dark green leaves
appear.
I wait and watch my evansiana
Grow tall against the backyard fence.

In August pink blossoms, heavy,
pendulous,
sway gently in the breeze,
This species of begonia,
Brought from China years ago.
Lives in my garden bringing me joy.

Barbara Nuñez
6025 Greeley Blvd.
Springfield, VA 22152

Second Place Winner

MY PROUD BEGONIA

Its proud, patterned leaves attract my
eye
To a cool spot in the shade
This graceful plant I always love to see.

In late Summer haze and heat
Butterflies disappear. Zinnias and
impatiens wilt
But these patterned leaves attract my
eye.

As summer ends, pink blossoms soft as
wings
Cascade among those patterned leaves.
This graceful plant I always love to see.

Dagmar Lending
2133 Kings Garden
Way
Fairfax, VA 22043

What Dreams?

Tiny furled leaflets poke through May-warmed
earth each spring,
to rise, stretching stems, spreading leaves
till August spills shows of pink
that will not leave till frost.
Evansiana, subspecies of Begonia grandis
with ancient Chinese heritage far older
than botanists' Latin,
do you dream of emperors and thrones?

I found you in jade and rose quartz
in the forbidden Palace
and green and growing in the Confucian family
courtyard.

A 16th century porcelain plate
and a ruby-backed translucent bowl
in the British Museum,
a cloisonné plate in my living room.
and painted scrolls ancient and new
celebrate your delicate flowers,
“autumn plum blossom,”
as poets before the 14th century praised you,
symbol of virtue and beauty.

Graceful lady, alone of all begonias
to sleep through winter's snow
and return fresh delight, faithful each year--
what days, songs, sagas of centuries past
do you dream at my Virginia door?

Carrie Jackson Karegeannes
3916 Lake Boulevard
Annandale, VA 22003-2319

And a tribute to the ABS Poetry Contest 2000

In Praise of Poetry
by
W. Scott Hoover

Such a title for so brief a commentary gives little justice to a discipline so beautiful and historically developed, but nonetheless is here presented because of us ABS members who were witnesses to the Poetry Contest awards presented in Palm Beach Shores,

the first ever to be awarded at a convention. As fate periodically delivers synchronistic events, so it was with the Poetry Awards given on May 6, 2000 to Carrie Karegeannes, Dagmar Lending, and Barbara Nuñez for they all wrote poems about *Begonia grandis* var. *evansiana* from China. This is one of the few begonias to winter over in northern climates, such as Virginia, where all three winners come from. John Palozzi, Vice President of the Florida State Poets Society and President of the Poets of the Palm Beaches, judged the poems much as our esteemed ABS judges use critical eyes to evaluate and rank exquisite show begonias. Published in this issue of the *Begonian* are the poems and to such end I hope may encourage more writing and publishing of poetry on begonias. After all, the beauty of the words describing begonias is another way by which we can appreciate our plants.

Minutes of Board Meeting, American Begonia Society, Palm Beach Shores, FL, May 6, 2000

1. **President Jaros** opened the meeting and asked **Thelma O'Reilly** to read the Aims and Purposes of the Society. There were 38 voting members present. 2. Minutes of the 2/5/00 meeting in Baton Rouge, LA were approved as mailed without reading. 3. Treasurer **Carol Notaras** presented the financial data for the period 1/1/2000 to 4/22/2000. The general fund initial balance was \$13,959.05 while the ending balance was \$9,427.68. Income was \$38,458.74 and disbursement was \$42,990.11 which included the extra large income of \$21,000 from Convention 1999 and transfer of \$20,000 to the money market fund. Combined checking accounts balance (Seed Fund and General Fund) was \$14,294.80 beginning and \$9,763.43 ending. The savings accounts initial balance was \$43,968.07 and ending balance was \$68,113.26. Combined totals were \$58,262.87 initial and \$77,876.69 final. Thanks and applause went to Convention 1999 for the increase. The report was accepted. 4. Membership Director **Arlene Ingles** provided a written report indicating membership is up to 1343 from 1295 in March. There seems to be a steady increase. The 1343 members consist of 86 institutions, 56 lifetime, 52 second family, 1047 domestic and 102 foreign members. Arlene added that we need to work on keeping members because a significant number do not renew. She also confirmed that second family members will be receiving the usual separate ballot for the coming elections.

A list of new members for the period July 1999 to May 2000 shows 34 joined from the internet, several from Seven Reasons and 73 from Branch activities, so we seem to be getting the word out and should keep up the good work. Also, please let Arlene know of deceased members to avoid the postal service returning unaccepted mail. All branches should send a list of officers including national directors to membership chair, *Begonian* editor, and to the national secretary. 5. *Begonian* editor **Freda Holley** sent word that the deadline for copy is being changed from the 20th to the 15th of the due month for all issues. Freda's new address is 2015 Elvin Dr., Stillwater, OK 74074. Her telephone number is 405-385-0484. 6. Advertising Chair **Ann Salisbury** reported one new ad for the *Begonian* from **Greg Sytch** in Florida. 7. Awards Chair **Mike Ludwig** requested that we change **Carrie Karegeannes'** honorary committee member status with voting privilege to honorary member without voting privilege now that **Gene Salisbury** is Nomenclature Director and has become a voting member of the Awards Committee. This will avoid a constitution and bylaw change for awards committee make up and is agreeable to Carrie. The Board approved. Criteria for the Ziesenhenné Award was presented and approved by the board. The award will be presented at Convention 2001 in Denver. **President Jaros** announced executive board approval of **Karen Lawrence** and **Arlene Hoskins** to serve on the Awards Committee and requested full board approval which was granted. 8. Bookstore Chair **Cheryl Lenert** reported that she still needs more items to sell. There was a

lengthy discussion. Cost of reproducing color pictures will be reported at the next meeting. ...Boutique items left over from conventions will be carried by the bookstore as an experiment. Items will be listed in the *Begonian* and on the website. **9.** Branch Relations Director **Mary Bucholtz** reported that a newsletter was mailed in March 2000. Letters confirming name changes were sent to the Mable Corwin and Margaret Lee Branches and an article about the changes was prepared for the *Begonian*. **10.** Business Manager **Gene Salisbury** reported that processing of advertising on credit cards via the internet is being investigated and will be reported probably at the next meeting. Also, the investigation of exhibitor insurance to cover branch shows is incomplete. So far, the cost of insurance premiums look prohibitive, but there is a less expensive source to pursue. **11.** Convention Advisor **Janet Brown** reported that another \$600 is expected to be sent to the treasurer from Convention 1999. **12.** The Audit Committee (**Paul Tsamtsis**, chair; **Morris Mueller**; **Sandy Bondi**) filed an interim report and plans a full report in time for the annual meeting in San Antonio. **13.** Convention Chair **Virginia Jens** was given a round of applause for her efforts at this Convention. **14.** Entries and Classification Chair **Leora Fuentes** reported 267 entries from 25 exhibitors for the current show. Now that we have had some experience with a computer for entries and classification the proposal to purchase one was resurrected. A motion was made and seconded that we approve up to \$2000 for purchase of a computer and compatible printer to reside with the Entries and Classification Chair. Since our entries program will not change much in the future the computer should satisfy our needs for many years. It would be made available for any ABS or Branch function attended by the entries and Classification Chair. The Board approved. **Andrew Conely** will assist Leora Fuentes in the purchase of these items. **15.** Internet Editor **Kathy Goetz** reported that additions to the web page are being made when they become available. Don't forget the address is www.begonias.org. Branches should send names and addresses of national directors to Kathy. **16.** Member-at-Large Director

Alton Lee reported that the total cost of the MAL Newsletter is greater than receipts. Therefore, an increase in the subscription rate was discussed. The board decided not to increase the rate at this time and to find ways to cut costs before doing so. **17.** Nomenclature director **Gene Salisbury** reported three new plant registrations by **Brad Thompson** and one more in progress. **18.** Seed Fund Director **Eleanor Calkins** reported a beginning balance on January 30, 2000 of \$840.41, income of \$543.67, expenses of \$101.93, transfer of \$1,000 to ABS general fund, and a final balance of \$282.15 on April 19, 2000. She also reported that seed labeled *B. decora* which she received and planted has turned out to be mislabeled and the resulting plants have not yet been identified. Therefore, she believes taking pictures of plants grown from seed and showing them is a good way to confirm their identity. **19.** The Nomination Committee consisting of **Nancy Mirgon**, **Don Miller**, and **Dale Sena**, Chair, reported a slate of candidates (as listed in the May/June *Begonian*, Ed.) The committee recommended that a discussion of two-year terms for officers be reintroduced since many members seem in favor of it. The measure was defeated by a slim margin years ago. **President Jaros** tabled the matter until the Annual Meeting. ... **21.** Parliamentarian **Margaret Lee** made a motion that the percentage of convention proceeds to be retained by the host branch or organization be increased from 10% to 15% beginning with Convention 2000 in Palm Beach Shores. The motion was seconded and approved. **22.** A motion to name the updated *Buxton Checklist* as the *John Ingles Memorial Checklist Supplement* was seconded and approved by the Board. **23.** **Joan Coulat** is organizing the holiday greetings for the November/December *Begonian* and will be sending out a letter soon. Color will be available for the greetings this year. Please respond to Joan's letter as soon as you receive it. **24.** A discussion of the lack of feedback on begonia propagation from seed from **Scott Hoover's** trips resulted in agreement that follow-up is needed. Details of how to do this and what information to ask for will be worked out by those who distribute seed, by the Conservation Committee and other in-

terested parties. Specific requests for information will likely be made before or with seed delivery. Initial follow-up might take place during the first six months. Later follow-up would be taken over by the Conservation Committee. **25.** The Annual Meeting will be held at the Southwest Region Get-Together, September 20-24, 2000, in San Antonio, Texas. **President Jaros** hopes to see everybody there.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Macnair, Secretary

These minutes have been slightly edited and condensed by the editor for reasons of space. The complete minutes are available from Richard Macnair at 177 Hancock Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, Ph: 617876-1356



Tim Anderson's B. 'Olympic Queen' was the Commercial Grower Division winner. Photo by Janet Brown. And Virginia Jen's B. 'Lalomie' was the Rex Division winner. Photo by Mary Bucholtz.





Charles Jaros' B. 'Connie Boswell' won Division EEE (Rhizome, Unusual Growth), Janet Brown took her photograph. And Janet Brown photographed the Florida Hybrids Division Winner, B. 'Avalanche' grown by Joyce Pridgen.



In the Mailbox

by Greg Sytch,
Horticultural
Correspondent

As Horticultural correspondent, I receive letters, E-mails and phone calls from all kinds of begonias. However, it is the visitors to my greenhouses that have the most questions because they see the plants in person and become amazed at the diversity, size and beauty of the begonia family.

I grow begonias in my large back yard in Tampa Bay, Florida which is zone 9b although most winters, zone 10a would be more appropriate. This means about a half dozen chilly winter nights in the lower to middle 30s (1-3C) and occasionally a light freeze every few years. The begonias are also exposed to our long, hot and humid summers, many of which have scant rainfall followed by days of drenching tropical downpours. The high canopy of my yard protects the plants from burning sun, yet areas of the yard do receive some sun during the day. The greenhouses become shadehouses for the long summer, with plastic coming off in March and returning as November cover. Whatever does not fit inside, winters outside exposed to gusty squalls and chilly rains. Most of them thrive, with minimal care only to look ravishing come spring and summer.

The question most often asked is, "How do you take care of all these plants?" With about 500 varieties, many of which are large specimens, and thousands of smaller plants for the mail order, it is not all that difficult except during our desert-like spring. Begonias are generally succulent in nature, and therefore store water. They require less watering, and my time-release fertilizer takes care of the

nutrition. I use 18-6-12 to promote lush foliage, and by summer blossoms are everywhere annoyingly dropping spent flowers all over. One of my greatest chores is the removal of spent blossoms from damaging the leaves. Seed pods drip pendulously from branches, zapping energy if not removed quickly. Specimens that top six to eight feet must be carefully watched as they tip easily in our brutal storms, so repotting with a slightly heavier mix helps with this problem. Canes and shrubs that reach these mammoth proportions require less care and are less finicky about soil as their vigorous roots hungrily feed. All these simple steps keep the begonias happy and healthy.

Finally, the heavy rains and hot nights of summer can cause bacteria and viruses to run rampant. Phyton 27, a systemic antibacterial and antifungal spray, takes care of the spots and dots that previously occurred. Lush leaves is the result.

Hopefully you have learned from this brief synopsis of my techniques, and utilize some of them to grow outstanding begonias. Yes, my climate makes growing a pleasure, but it is not all paradise. Floridians have their begonia demons to deal with, but trial and error (a lot of error I might add) has made my front and back yard a paradise to visit.

Note: the usual...if you ever have a question, problem, or success you want to share, feel free to E-mail me at gsytch@cs.com or write me at 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653, or call at 727-841-9618.

Round Robin Notes

by Virginia Hamann,
Round Robin Director

#32 Kusler and other Canes. Windstorms in Washington damaged **Dorcas Resleff's** (WA) greenhouse. The ventilator was torn off; this not being noticed for a few days, some water had come in. A four foot wide plastic strip is stretched the length of the greenhouse to hold in heat as protection for her plants. A door was also blown off, but luckily there is a plastic inner door for protection. B. 'Lenore Oliver' and 'Jumbo Jet' are in bloom for Dorcas. **Elaine Ayers** (OH) likes to root the superba canes in either distilled water or rain water. **Judy Hanson** (CA) has in bloom, B. 'Mrs. Hashimoto', 'DeAnn', 'Alto Scharff', 'Pink Rubra', 'Christmas Candy' and 'Pinafore'.

#14 Semperflorens and Companion Plants. This flight most members mentioned growing Geraniums, especially the scented ones. **Marvin Kahr** (IA) grows them outdoors in the summer, having no trouble wintering them over in his basement. Members were remembering back to when a double rose Semperflorens was grown in the 1940's through 1970's. Wishing they could be found today.

#25 Midwest Growers II. Sent out in January, back in March. Begonias are in their winter slow down. New Zealand long fiber moss is used by many members. They soak it in hot water to kill any pests or molds. This treatment also makes it hold water better. It is used for propagating cuttings. **Lois Schneyer** (MI) places the moss in plastic containers with drain holes in bottom; the cuttings are placed on the moss and put under lights.

#57 Begonias...From Giants to Minis. Members are planning to get cuttings started early in the season. Seeds were

started in January so plants can be transplanted in May. **Peggy Payne** (MO) restarted B. 'Dancing Girl' from cuttings using plastic dry cleaning bags to cover prop boxes. **Clara Tuoto** (CA) likes the thin bags you find in the vegetable department at grocery stores to cover prop boxes. **Anne Sophie Asplind** (Sweden) is starting a Begonia Branch and so far there are 23 members (*Now 35 we hear; congratulations, Sophie. Ed.*).

#1 General Culture. A mild winter has been kind to growers of begonias. **Marilyn Dube** (OR) received cuttings of B. *heracleifolia* that have grown into large plants in just two years. Members of several Robins are also using E-mail to find out more about begonias. E-mail is faster, but some members like the letters of Robins as they are more personal, and detailed.

#16 Eastern General. **Mildred Swyka** (DE) is trying to root rhizomatous begonia leaf wedges in water. So far she is successful. This works best with the hairy stemmed begonias. **Matt Barlow** (now living in Texas broke leaves of B. *U192* off accidentally, put them in distilled water; they rooted quickly. B 'Torch' is also rooting in water with new growth at each leaf axil.

#6 Odd, Rare, Unusual. **Marilyn Dube** (OR) sent photos of her lovely plants B. 'Wild Pony', *dipetala*, 'Erythrophylla', 'Boomer', 'Marmaduke', *solimutata*.

#28 Tuberos Begonias. **Campbell Watts** (IA) started 60 tubers in March under lights in his basement. In April he began moving the larger plants into pots and to an unheated garage. Plants in the garage did as well as those indoors under lights. The garage grown plants were placed outdoors in the sun, weather permitting.

#20 Photography. This flight started in January and returned in April. Pictures

taken at the Convention were included and admired. **Daniel Haseltine** (IL) made artistic photos of orange cactus dahlias against a green striped background; very dramatic. Members discussed the pictures and suggested different methods of taking them. Changing the close-up lens and shutter speed can get a better depth of field.

#10 Begonias, Growing All Kinds. **Cynthia Bishop** (CA) wrote in April that she had seed pods setting on most of her rhizomatous begonias.

#4 Terrarium Growing. **Eleanor Calkins** (CA) has found that *B. morelii* germinates if the seed has been allowed to ripen for a few months before planting; her seed had set for 6 months. **Mae Blanton** (TX) planted seeds that had been stored in her refrigerator for many years and most of them germinated. She has been welcomed back to the Robins after taking time out.

Want to know more about begonias? Want to make new friends all over the country? Want to lose 20 pounds? Well, there is no guarantee on the last one, but there is on the first two if you join a Round Robin. Write your interests to Virginia Hamann at 1169 Lincoln Avenue, Chester, Iowa 52134-8508

Notes from a New Begonia Enthusiast

Startin' Out by Jim Hannah

Last time we got together, I stressed the need to have a seed-starting mix which would not wind up growing a fine crop of moss or fungus instead of begonias. It basically came down to being careful with sterilization and making sure that you didn't recontaminate the mix with 'dirty' water or containers. The proof of the pudding was to put a new mix through an actual trial run before using it for seeds. A bit on the fussy side, but those wee, tiny little guys need and deserve all the breaks they can get. After all, they're going to grow up to be some of the world's most attractive and interesting plants.

Once you're sure of your seed starting mix and can supply a temperature of about 70 to 75 degrees F (21 to 24 degrees C), you're ready to get under way. The containers you use for germinating seeds can be almost anything handy. We use the containers from soft margarine and cottage cheese. The covers are nothing more than plastic food wrap held in place with rubber bands.

Check your mix for large twigs or other material which might interfere with later transplanting of the seedlings. If there's stuff in it which looks like a po-



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tential problem, sieve it out. An ordinary kitchen sieve will work fine. Moisten the mix with clean water and fill the containers to a depth of about an inch. Level the mix surface - the back of a spoon works well. Be gentle. Don't pack the mix down hard.

The next step is getting the seeds from the envelope onto the surface of the mix. A 3x5 index card is the 'tool' we use for handling all fine seeds. Just make a short fold about an inch long at right angles to, and in the center of, a 3 inch edge. That fold is the trough you'll use to guide the seeds onto the mix.

The actual seeding should be done in a place with still air. The slightest breeze can blow the seeds away. A poorly aimed sneeze is the equivalent of a hurricane in the seed's world. We work with small seeds only when we're not in a hurry and there's nothing much else going on around us.

Begonia seeds are often packaged in small glassine envelopes. Chances are that even if the package is the type you find in garden center seed racks, it will contain a small envelope inside. The small envelope is best opened by cutting across it with scissors. Then carefully spread the package sides and tap the seeds out onto the creased 3x5 card. The pure white background of the card will make the seeds much easier to see.

Once the seeds are on the card, hold the card over the container of starter mix. Try to spread the seeds evenly - it will make it easier to transplant them later if they aren't all bunched together. Cover the container with food wrap and secure the wrap with a rubber band around the rim of the container. That's all there is to it. Just supply the right temperature range and some light (We use fluorescent 'shop lights' on a 14 hour cycle.) and the seeds will do the rest.

The first sign of something happening is the appearance of a pair of minute green leaves on the mix. This can happen in four days or several weeks depending on the type of begonia, the freshness of the seed and a whole host of other factors. Be patient and check every couple of days. As soon as the plants have a second set of leaves, you can begin the process of transplanting. A trip to the supermarket, the home furnishings section of a discount store, a stationary store, and a stamp dealer can be useful here.

Huh? Why home furnishings and a stamp dealer? Tell you next time!

Till then, see ya around. By the time you read this, we should be in the midst of a 12 x 16 foot greenhouse to provide more space for begonias. If you're interested in the project, drop us a line and we'll try to answer any question you might have.

Jim and Joan Hannah, hanging out at 158 Fisher Avenue, Staten Island, N.Y., NY 10307 or E-mail at jrh158@aol.com.

Last Minute Flash...

John Howell notifies us that after the SWR/ABS visit on September 24th, he will be moving to a new house. Those coming for the tour and traveling by plane might want to pack a suitcase inside a suitcase and bring a package of Ziplocks. His front gardens should have a lot of free cuttings if SA doesn't turn off the water. The garden and greenhouse will be on tour on September 24 and most of his show plants will be on silent auction until 3 P.M. that day. You mustn't miss that!

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One of the more unusual and beautiful entries at this year's Show was Bill Schneider's huge terrarium brought all the way from Denver by Andy Conely for entry. Inside was actually a small waterfall and many gorgeous plants including B. 'Pollux' shown at the right. Of course, it won a Division Award! Photo above by Doug Pridgen and photo right by Mary Bucholtz.



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Eleanor L. Calkins, Seed Fund Administrator

The seed fund is a service to members only. It is a privilege of your membership.

DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the Seed Fund are identified as received from the donors. The Seed Fund cannot guarantee that the identification is correct. When you find that seeds received from the Seed Fund do not develop into the plant expected, please notify the Seed Fund so that a warning can be published for others who may have received seeds from the same batch. Each offering is identified by a code to be used whenever writing to the Seed Fund about the seeds. The descriptions published are from the literature and apply to the name used for the offerings.

The Seed Fund needs donations of seeds. Seeds may be traded for seeds offered in the Seed Fund Listings. Unlisted seeds from earlier offerings may be available in small quantities. If you have a special need ask the Seed Fund Administrator. Please pollinate your species begonias with pollen from other plants of the same species and contribute (or exchange) to the seed fund. The Seed Fund needs enough seeds for 25 packets.

Most packets of species seeds are \$1.50 each and all packets of hybrid seeds are 50 cents per packet. Very rare seeds and newly collected seeds will be \$2.00 per packet. California residents please add 7.75% sales tax.

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

Costs of mailing:

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The CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND is a project of the San Miguel Branch of the ABS in San Diego County, California.

Seed List September/October 2000

- SO00-01: *B. deliciosa*
- SO00-02: *B. solananthera*
- SO00-03: *B. U331*
- SO00-04: *B. venosa*
- SO00-05: *B. wollnyi*

DESCRIPTIONS

NOTE: There was an error in the

printed description of JA00-02. The Correct description is:

JA00-02: *B. foliosa* HB&K [Columbia] (Sect. *Lepsia*) Stems to 3 ft., slender, branched, arching; lvs. 1/2 to 1 1/2 in. long, many, densely 2-ranked on short, shaggy branchlets, ovate-oblong, slightly toothed, dark green to bronzy green; flrs. white to 1/2 in. (Editor's apologies.)

SO00-01: *B. deliciosa* Linden [Borneo] (Sect. *Platycentrum*) medium growth, bushy; deeply lobed, olive-green grey spotted, red reverse leaves; large soft pink flowers.

SO00-02: *B. solananthera* A. de Candolle [Brazil] (Sect. *Solananthera*) trailing scandent; green leaves; fragrant

white flowers with red centers.

SO00-03: *B. U331* [Ecuador] tentatively identified as *B. sericoneura*; large green leaves; white or pink flowers.

SO00-04: *B. venosa* Skan [Brazil] (Sect. *Begonia*) white, scurfy erect stems; large, thick, papery stipules; reniform, fleshy leaves appearing frosted; white fragrant flowers on long peduncles covered with soft white hairs; blooms late summer to spring.

SO00-05: *B. wollnyi* Herzog [Bolivia] (Sect. *knesebeckia*) erect stem with swollen caudex at base; palmately lobed, peltate (?) leaves elegantly spotted with white; greenish white flowers with pink petals; blooms in winter.

Identify this Species...

Last issue's mystery species was *B. egregia* N.E. Brown from Brazil in 1887. Brade named the same species *B. quarilocularis* in 1945 because of its 4 celled ovary, but of course the earlier name prevails. An outstanding article and photo on this plant by Kit Jeans Mounger appears in the January/February 1999 *Begonian*, page 3. It is a favorite of mine because it is a tough, BIG plant that no one outside our circle would ever recognize as a begonia! I love its textured, peltate leaves. Peltate leaves, that is those with the petiole attached at the center of the leaf, are rare and even more unusual in a large plant like this. Also, *B. egregia* has the honor of being the only *Begonia* in Brade's section **Tetrachia**.

Mona Harvey won the drawing for this plant and Daniel Haseltine won the drawing for the May/June species which we now know from Doorenbos will be a form of *B. dipetala* and not *B. malabarica*; sorry Daniel. The plants will be on their way to you as soon as our heat moderates.

September/October Mystery Species

This Cane-like begonia once had the tongue twister name of *B. platanifolia* var. *accuminatisma*. Then two of our best mystery solvers discovered its hairy collar at the base of the leaf blade where it joins the petiole and gave it a new name. It is now named after one of ABS' great growers. Send your identification to the editor to win a small plant from seed (It is so beautiful a baby that all who see want!)

Corrections for the Directory of Begonia Societies...

1. The phone number of **Daniel Haseltine**, National Director of the Greater Chicago Branch is incorrect. Please correct to: 773-637-5328.

2. The Melbourne Study Group of the Victorian Begonia Society formed a new group in December 1999 and became the Melbourne Begonia Society. The President is **Brook Turner** and you may reach the Secretary **Diana Lawrey** at 03 9898 8863, 8 Simmons Street, Box Hill North, Vic 3129, Australia.



And just to show that there were so many lovely entries in the Show, not all could win division awards, we see B. 'Harbor Lights' above and B. U388 grown by Tim Anderson. below right. If you were the grower of the lovely B. 'Harbor Lights' let us know. Both were photographed by Mary Bucholtz.



In Memory

With the passing of **Beverly (Bev) Clementson**, the Sacramento Branch lost a 27 year active member. She was currently Branch Secretary, a past President (1997), and had served as Show chair. Bev's love of nature extended to breeding dogs and breeding and showing Morgan horses.

She grew her many begonias and other shade plants well, and was particularly interested in growing in terrariums. Her special plants were *B. herbacea*, *B. microsperma*, and B. 'Tiny Gem' which grew repeatedly into a show stopper. She participated in Branch shows every year and won many divisions for her efforts.

Bev's on-going, active support of our branch will be greatly missed. She had already volunteered to once again do show registration for this year's show. We will miss her generosity with plants for our sales. And we will miss her experience and knowledge she so readily shared.

Morris Mueller,
Sacramento Branch

The San Francisco Branch mourns the loss of one of our long time members. **Mr. Hal Muller** passed away April 28. Hal was the last of our "Big" growers of Tuberous Begonias.

He and his wife **Sue** have been members of the ABS and San Francisco Branch since 1976. Hal was our official "warm greeter" whether it was at a meeting or plant show and sale; he was always there to make a newcomer feel at home and very comfortable answering every and all questions.

Those who came to our National Convention in 1989 might remember their beautiful garden. It was the one that had a greenhouse filled with Hal's tuberous

plants in the front and Sue's Rexs along the side. He will be missed very much.

Carol Notaras,
San Francisco Branch

On June 21, 2000 our dear friend and begoniac **Virginia Kettler** lost her battle with cancer.

In lieu of the usual floral remembrances, it was asked that donations be made in Virginia's name to the Good Samaritan Bethesda Lutheran Home, P.O. Box 729, Cypress, Texas 77410-0729.

Although it was Virginia's wish for no flowers to be bought, the Astro Branch and other Begonia Society members attending brought their favorite potted begonia or begonias to decorate the church and cut stems with flowers to lay at the coffin in tribute to our dear friend.

Though we are very sad that our friend is gone we need only to walk out *into the garden and see many of her lovely hybrids growing and blooming there.* Upon seeing this we smile and remember our wonderful friend and how she loved these plants and feel secure in the knowledge that she will live on forever through these lovely plants she created.

We wish all members to know that Virginia's collection is safe. At Virginia's request members **Gail MacGregor, Tom Keepin, Cheryl Lenert, and Lulu Leonard** are in possession of her plants. Cuttings will be made and plants distributed to members to insure the continuation of the collection.

All of us are very happy we had the pleasure of knowing Virginia and having her as a fellow begoniac.

Tom Keepin,
Astro Branch

Understanding Begonia Nomenclature Hybrids and Cultivars by Jack Golding

The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) or Botanical Code governs the botanical names in Latin form for both wild and cultivated plants. The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants--1995 (ICNCP) or Cultivated Plant Code is to promote uniformity, accuracy, and stability in the naming of agricultural, forestry and horticultural plants. Some of the requirements of the previous 1980 of the Code, have been eliminated and other made simpler.

Some definitions from the Codes:

Taxon (plural taxa)

The abbreviation for Taxonomic group--the group into which a number of similar individuals may be classified.

Cultivated plant

One whose origin or selection is primarily due to the intentional activities of mankind. Such a plant may arrive either by deliberate or, in cultivation, accidental hybridization, or by selection from existing cultivated stock, or may be a selection from minor variants within a wild population and maintained as a recognizable entity solely by deliberate and continuous propagation.

Cultivar

A taxon of cultivated plants that has been selected for a particular attribute or combination of attributes, and that is clearly distinct, uniform, and stable in its characteristics and that, when propagated by appropriate means, retains those characteristics.

The name of a cultivar is comprised

of the genus name in Latin and the cultivar epithet in English, enclosed in single quotes, e.g. *Begonia* 'Sophie Cecile'.

Double quotation marks ("...") and the abbreviations "cv" and "var" are not to be used within a name to distinguish a cultivar epithet.

The botanical categories *varietas* (variety) and *forma* (form) are not the equivalent of a cultivar.

Hybrid

The result of a cross between differing plants.

Hybrid Formula

The names of the parent taxa linked with a multiplication sign (e.g. *Begonia hydrocotylifolia* x *manicata*) are a hybrid formula. In accordance with the ICBN-1994, this formula can also be given a name, e.g. *Begonia* x *erythrophylla*. The ICNCP-1995 eliminated the use of the multiplication sign for a cultivar of hybrid origin; the above name should be written *Begonia* 'Erythrophylla'

I find the use of one epithet for the results of a cross between different plants confusing because the progeny of a cross is often very variable.

Cultivar-group

Assemblages of two or more similar named cultivars within a *Begonia* species or *Begonia* hybrid may be designated as a cultivar group, e.g. *Begonia* (Aphrodite Group) 'Joy' or *Begonia* (Semperflorens Group) 'Vodka'.

Prior to the introduction of cultivar-groups, other designations such as "convar", "sort", "type", "hybrids", used as terminology equivalent to cultivar-groups, should be replaced by "cultivar-group".

The cross of the *Begonia* 'Scottish Star' x *Begonia conchifolia* var.

rubrimacula resulted in varied, but similar seedlings; they are a cultivar-group. Several plants of this group being very distinctive cultivars were named: *B.* 'Red Planet', *B.* 'Red Spider' and *B.* 'Red Spot'.

Sometimes a hybrid like *B. dichroa* x *B.* 'Salmon Rubra' will have only one distinctive cultivar that warrants a name, *B.* 'Anna Christine'.

A cultivated plant of unknown parentage can be given a cultivar name, e.g. *Begonia* 'Merinda'.

After January 1, 1996 the following words may not be used in new cultivar epithets: cross, hybrid, grex, group, maintenance, mutant, seedling, selection, sport, strain, improved and transformed. Also words exaggerating the merits of a cultivar, or which may become inaccurate through the introduction of new cultivars or other circumstances may not be used.

A cultivar epithet is not to be reused. But while reviewing several Check Lists of *Begonia*, I noted many epithets are duplicate and they cause confusion. Also many of the *Begonia* in these Lists do not have all the requirements needed to be called a cultivar.

In the limited space here, I have been able to discuss only some of the most important rules of the Cultivated Plant Code.

The American Begonia Society is the International Registration Authority for *Begonia*. The Nomenclature Director of the ABS has the complete Code and can answer your questions concerning cultivars.

I urge all hybridizers of *Begonia* to submit their information about proposed cultivar or cultivar group names to the Nomenclature Director of the A.B.S. for registration. The Director will put the data through the Nomenclature Filter (Appendix VII of the Code) to determine if the

proposed epithet is in conformance with all the requirements of the Cultivated Plant Code.

Virginia Kettler Hybrids

The Astro Branch is trying to put together a list and a collection of the hybrids of **Virginia Kettler**. Currently they have the following names: *B.* 'Aaron Kettler', 'Sassy', 'Sassy's Mate', 'Steve Hurd', 'Squaw Talk', 'Mary Keepin', 'Astro's Pride', 'Whisper', 'Carmen O', 'Fancy Face', 'Joyce Lietko', 'Dan Lietko', 'Lulu Leonard', 'Miss Janet', 'Sweet Caroline', 'Darlene Morris', 'Miss Heather', 'Begonia Nut', 'Ravishing', and 'Opal Hawkins' (the only rhizome on the list). If you know of others, please contact **Cheryl Lenert**, 13014 Chavile, Cypress, TX 77429, Ph: 281-897-0155, or Email lenert@flash.net.

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News: ABS, Branch, International

The Southwest Region Get-Together in conjunction with the ABS Annual Meeting will be in San Antonio on September 21-24, 2000. There will be tours of the great San Antonio Botanical Gardens (rivalled only by John Howell's fabulous growing area on the same tour); of the downtown and 'Market' areas (full of South American and Mexican imports) and the Texas Hill Country. The Seven Oak Inn resort has a 9 hole executive golf course, a full size olympic pool and sun deck plus a heated courtyard pool, and a lighted tennis facility. Don't miss it!. Call **Elizabeth Muth** at 210-494-3313 for a registration packet or more information.

From Australia: **Barry Shepherd** is the new editor of *Begonia Australis*, the quarterly publication of the Association of Australian Begonia Societies. If you are growing some of the Australian hybrids or species of any kind, drop Barry a line about your experiences. Like all editors, he is looking for material. You may write him at P.O. Box 7022, Upper Ferntree Gully, Victoria 3156, Australia. Bill Nicholson of Mandagery reports his growing shed is constructed of 3000 beer bottles with 12 windows and a fiberglass and shade cloth roof. (Do we have any U.S. structure to rival this?). And sadly, it was announced that the Association's Seed Fund has been suspended for two years. Finally, the Committee of the AABS invites everyone to gather in Perth in September of 2002 for their next Convention! Make your plans now.

Nancy Mirgon will be moving from California and the Doug Frost Branch where she is President and Newsletter Editor to Florida next year. What lucky branch

there will get this talented lady?

The Houston Satellite Branch hosted a "**Leora Fuentes Day**" celebration on July 27 to honor ABS' Entries and Classification Chair when she visited.

California members who missed the 1999 tours because they were working the Convention, got to visit the garden of **Bob Golden** and **Iris Bird** at Bob Golden's home in Torrance, CA on July 8. Word is that the garden was no less magnificent in 2000 with plants unbelievably beautiful.

Holiday greetings: Don't forget Branch and Individual Holiday Greetings for the November/December issue of the *Begonian* are due to **Joan Coulat**, 4111 De Paul Court, Sacramento, CA. Ph: 916-488-6567.

Arlene Ingles reminds you that if you move and do not notify her, you will not receive your *Begonian*, and will have to purchase a replacement issue from the Back Issues Chair (Ann Salisbury) since the post office does not return copies, but just sends her a notice. These notices also cost ABS a fee and they add up. Please remember to notify Arlene if you move. She would also appreciate you're letting her know if you learn of a member's death since copies to them are often refused.

Election 2000 results are: President: **Charles Jaros**; 1st Vice President: **Morris Mueller**; 2nd Vice President: **Howard Berg**; 3rd Vice President: **Helen Spiers**, Secretary: **Richard Macnair**; Treasurer: **Carol Notaras**. Thank you Ballot Counting and Nominating Committees!

ABS 2001 Convention Denver, Colorado

Among the many exciting events ABS members will experience in 2001, the Denver Botanic Gardens will host an afternoon and evening event during our convention (dinner included). There are twenty-three acres of Rocky Mountain splendor awaiting your arrival. The red carpet will be rolled out, we'll have dinner between tours of the greenhouses not seen by the usual tourist. During the 1997 Gesneriad Growers National Convention I had the pleasure of giving a private tour to a few friends and Michael Kartuz still tells me what a great time was had by all at the gardens. Since 1997 the main Conservatory and several working greenhouses have been completely revamped in preparation for the 2001 Association of Botanic Gardens Convention also being held in Denver.

We like species here in Denver. *B. polygonoides* (Tropical Africa 1871, Joseph Hooker) is in a hanging basket 12 feet above the Conservatory floor. Two more feet and it will be on the floor. I tried to count the number of trailing arms and calculate the total length; I stopped at over 700 feet. A splendid example of begonia growing.

The species orchid and bromeliad collections will delight and amaze you. Both collections are counted among the top 10 of their kind in the world. We'll have guided tours as well as time to leisurely stroll both grounds and greenhouses. The State of Colorado and City of Denver is host to the real millennium celebration. Please plan your summer and join us in the heart of America.

Rocky Mountain
Branch, ABS
Andrew Conely



Pronunciation of Begoniaceae Names for the Begonian, 67, September/October, 2000

aconitifolia	u-kon-i-ti-FOH-li-uh
syn. <i>sceptrum</i>	SKEP-trum
albo-picta	AL-bo-PIK-tuh
chlorosticta	klo-ro-STIK-tuh
conchifolia	kon-chi-FOH-li-uh
var. rubrimacula	rew-bri-mak-YEW-luh
deliciosa	de-lis-i-OH-suh
dichroa	DEYE-kroh-uh
dipetala	deye-PET-a-luh
dregei	DREG-e-eye
syn. <i>partita</i>	par-tee-tuh
'Glasgow'	GLAS-gow
egregia	e-GREE-ji-uh
foliosa	foh-li-OH-suh
goegoensis	goh-goh-EN-sis
grandis	GRAND-is
subsp. evansiana	e-van-si-AY-nuh
heracleifolia	here-ak-le-eye-FOH-li-uh
hydrocotylifolia	heye-dro-koh-til-i-FOH-li-uh
lanceolata	lan-see-oh-LAY-tuh
syn. <i>attenuata</i>	at-ten-yew-AY-tuh
lindleyana	lind-ley-AY-nuh
malabarica	mal-i-BAR-i-kuh
syn. <i>fallax</i>	FAL-lax
manicata	man-i-KAY-tuh
masoniana	MAY-son-i-ay-nuh
morelii	mo-REL-i-eye
nelumbifolia	nel-um-bi-eye-FOH-li-uh
paleata	pal-le-AY-tuh
peltata	pel-TAY-tuh
syn. <i>incana</i>	in-KAY-nuh
polygonoides	pol-i-gon-o-EYE-deez
rajah	RAH-juh
sericoneura	ser-i-kon-OO-ruh
solananthera	soh-lan-ANTH-er-uh
solimutata	sol-i-myew-TAY-tuh
tenuifolia	ten-yew-i-FOH-li-uh
venosa	ven-OH-suh
wollnyi	WOHLL-ni-eye

Editor's Notes...

Note the new, and hopefully long lasting, address on page 202! We are in the house, but boxes will be with us for-

ever I think!

May I thank everyone who so generously provided photos and material to make this Convention issue possible. I did not have room to note with the article that Janet Brown's report on the Convention first appeared in the Westchester Branch's newsletter and a special thanks to them for letting me borrow it. The photos were fabulous and I only regret I could not use every one, but you will be seeing others in the issues to come. And, yes, Virginia, I have learned my lesson - don't miss a convention you and your Florida helpers put on, no matter what.

Would you believe that this issue begins my fourth year as editor? The best part of it has been getting to know so many of you. Of course, the contribution of photos and articles has made my job easy and no one has ever declined help when I asked for it. Thank you to all! Now, I would like to ask for a little help from you readers. **Could you drop me a line and answer the following questions to give me guidance in preparing future issues:**

In the issues from September 1997 to now:

1. What is your favorite cover photo?
2. What is your favorite article?
3. What is your favorite issue?
4. Do you like the 'theme' issues? If yes, which has been your favorite? Can you suggest a theme you would like to see?
5. Some regular columns have disappeared. Are there some you would like to see back?
6. Some new columns have appeared? Which are your favorites?
7. Have you any other suggestions for a better *Begonian*?

And if you are a new member:

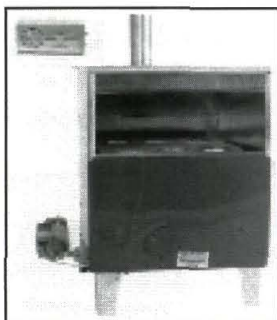
8. What could we add to make the magazine better reading for you?

~ Freda Holley

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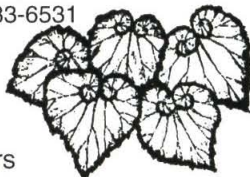
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COMING EVENTS

September 9, 2000: Orange County Begonia Society (CA) Fiesta at Mary Sakamoto's house in Orange. Call Mary at 714-633-6997 for information.

September 21-24, 2000 (first Tour at 9 a.m. September 21): Southwest Region Get-Together/ABS Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, Seven Oaks Resort (1-800-346-5866), San Antonio, Texas. Call Elizabeth Muth at 210-494-3313 for information.

October 7-8, 2000: The Mable Corwin Branch (CA) will have a show of begonias at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Call Eleanor Calkins at 760-746-4743 for more information.

JULY 2001: ABS Convention 2001 in Denver, CO. Note date change - it will be over the July 4th holiday; exact dates to come. Packets are scheduled to go out in January. For more information, call Andy Conely at 303-455-7845.

September 2002: AABS Convention, Perth, Australia. You're invited!

**Closing Date for Next Issue is September 15!
Note Editor's New Address Below!**

The Begonian

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