



The
Begonian

January/February 2001

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: **Rekha Morris** found this begonia she believes could be *B. heydei* in the rain forests of Costa Rica.

Back: **Charles McGough** showed SWR/ABS Get-Together attendees how to create their very own rainforest complete with a waterfall on a table top as he has here. Note that his cane seedlings in the front foreground were planted and grown in situ. Photo by **Midori Nobusawa**.

In This Issue

Costa Rica! Several ABS members have traveled in recent months or will be soon to Costa Rica. See what attracts them when **Rekha Morris** takes us along on her visit beginning on page 9.

New Cultivars. **Brad Thompson's** plants have been favorites in shows and plant sales for some time. In this issue, another group gains registration.

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Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads

200103 or 200104, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

President's Message...

Winter is in its icy grip. I hope all ABS members and their begonias are warm and toasty. Winter arrived early in many parts of the country this year. Here in Florida it arrived on October 8 with a temperature of 40 degrees on my thermometer. This was certainly an awakening that I had to get moving and get my plants ready for winter. All was ready in time and I am now enjoying my rhizomatous preparing to bloom.

This January/February issue has a very important ballot that I hope all ABS members will return. The ballot is to vote for changes in our Constitution and By-Laws. At the Annual Meeting held at San Antonio, Texas in September ABS members in attendance voted on proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. The changes include the abolishment of the office of Third Vice-President and the term for which ABS Officers are elected. In accordance with the ABS Constitution and By-Laws the changes have now come before the entire ABS membership for ratification. Remember this is your Society and your vote counts. So, please vote. If there are any questions concerning the changes, feel free to contact any of the officers.

Scott Hoover will again be traveling to Indonesia on a research and collecting expedition. The ABS has sponsored Scott's trip with a \$3,000 grant. These research and collecting trips are important to our favorite plant family, Begonias, and to the ABS. If you or your branch would like to donate to this expedition you may do so through the ABS. Send your check to ABS Treasurer **Carol Notaras**, payable to the American Begonia Society; be sure to denote Scott Hoover Expedition on the check. Seeds will be available to donors and the ABS mem-

bership from this expedition.

I hope everyone enjoyed the November/December issue. Editor **Freda Holley** did an outstanding job of interspersing the Holiday Ads and articles. This is often a logistical nightmare and results are not always certain. Branches should be hearing from their National Directors explaining about a Holiday Contributors Page in the *Begonian*. The Holiday Contributors page would be in lieu of the ads. This would allow more space for articles, pictures and would allow more individuals to participate through the Holiday Contributors Page. These donations help defray costs of the *Begonian*.

I hope you can attend the ABS Winter Board Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia February 23-25, 2001. The Greater Atlanta Branch is hosting the Board Meeting and some great activities are planned. All ABS members are invited to attend.

Good Begonia growing.

Charles Jaros,
President

Letters to the Editor

Let Us Help the Seed Fund

The September/October issue of the *Begonian* of the year 2000 lists 5 species of seed. That is it and this is a branch project. How can we save the species of begonias at this rate? Let someone else do it. I can't take the time. Who else?

Have you ever looked in the back of the *Begonian*? See the list of officers on these last 2 pages? We could have a great list of seed if each officer sent in one type of species seed. Or more. I would say that each one is growing species begonias. What an example that would be to the run of the mill membership...Help save the species is a project of ABS...

ABS minutes state 1343 members and increasing membership. What do you think would happen if each member sent in a few capsules of species seed to the seed fund? They will even trade begonia seed with you in exchange for your seed.

Seed of other shade loving plants used to be listed in the Begonian seed fund. What happened to them? Did they all die?

I will donate FIFTY DOLLARS to the branch that sends in the most species seed by the May/June issue of the *Begonian*, year 2001! It would be great to have a large amount of species seed for the Convention in DENVER.

Let us not forget the individual member that does not have a branch association. Those that contribute species seed should also receive recognition by a Certificate of Appreciation from ABS. Also, the foreign members who contribute species seed should receive a similar certificate.

Come let us grow the species begonias together to really save the species begonias!

Daniel Haseltine
6950 W. Nelson St.
Chicago, IL 60634-4613

Daniel, you are putting your money behind your challenge! And the certificates sound like a great idea; will you also provide those?

And from India...

My name is **Harish Sharma**. I am a keen grower of Begonias. I am growing Tuberous, Cane Stem, Semperflorens and Rex Begonia. I live in Mussoorie a hill town in the north of India. This hill town is situated at a height of about 6500 feet above the sea level. We have summer months from April to the end of June. The monsoons set in by the end of June and continues till about the beginning of October. The brief autumn is followed by

severe winters beginning the middle of November and carries on till about the end of March. The climate during winter months stays between sub-zero to about 10 degrees Celsius. The summers are warm between 16 degrees Celsius to 32 degrees Celsius. The temperature during the rainy season, more commonly known as monsoons, stays between 15 degrees Celsius and 25 Celsius. The best season to see begonias in bloom in Mussoorie is between June last to the end of November.

In the case of Rex begonias, I have about 25 different varieties which are doing very well in the Mussoorie climate... I may further like to add here that the size of the leaves of "Elephant Ears", the common name for the silver leaved hybrid rex begonia in the enclosed photograph are bigger than the one published on page 26 of *Begonia* by Bill Wall.

In the case of tuberous begonias, I have 54 varieties at the present moment. Since two years past, I am in the process of propagating tuberous begonias with the help of seeds from my own plants. So far I have been able to produce three bicolors other than the Marmorata in the photograph...

I grow all my begonias in clay pots with 11 inches in diameter. I feel this is the best size for the hybrid varieties in our conditions. I shall write to you about the soil, manuring, after plant care, the preventive insecticides and also pesticides which I use. Should you desire me to write about the whole process, I shall indeed send you the detailed article.

Harish Sharma
AAbshaar, Pushp Vatika Estate
Camel's Back Road, Mussoorie
248179
Uttar Pradesh India
E-mail: kritinf@nde.vsnl.net.in

I believe our readers would love to hear more about begonias in India! Many of us grow



*Above, in his photo Joe Giangrasso's plant that lives on since 1964 through cuttings. Left, from India comes evidence that tuberous begonias can be hybridized there in this lovely example and above it the room in which they grow. Then below, a hybrid commonly called "Elephant Ears" looks very much like the species *B. rex*. Both were grown and photographed by Harish Sharma.*



some begonias that are native to India (see below) and if you are aware of others we'd love to hear about them too!

A Begonia Collected in India

Jan Doorenbos' discussion on *B. malabarica* leaves a common begonia grower a little bewildered trying to wade through all that taxonomic history.

Enclosed are photos (*see one on p. 8*) of what we in South Florida call *B. malabarica*. The photos are from plants grown at Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami. The plants were grown from seeds collected by **Dr. Jack Fisher**, Senior Research Scientist at the garden, on his expedition to Kerala State in India in April 1996. In discussion, Dr. Fisher said the plants from which the seeds were collected were growing among the rocks on a slope above a stream bed in full sun. At the time (dry season) the plants were almost leafless and in full bloom. At the garden these plants are cataloged as *B. cf. malabarica*, Accession #96-838.

I note that the flowers on the begonias growing in Miami have two petals.

Joyce Pridgen,
Miami Branch
7331 SW 165th St.
Miami, FL 33157-3800

Joyce, as I understand it the "cf." means there was some question about the identification and it looks to me like this would be one Dr. Doorenbos would identify as a form of B. dipetala, since he says the true B. malabarica male has 4 tepals and the female 3. Whatever the identification, it's a beauty!

And More on Becky Steve's Begonia

Here is another picture of the "What's my name begonia", September-October issue, page 172. This picture (page 6) was taken about 1964 and I still have the slide of this photo. We have maintained this plant

until the present with leaf cuttings, but I have never been able to duplicate the vigor and robust shining leaves that you see in this photo. I think it was planted in compost that my father gave me from his compost pile. If memory serves me right, the plant was just over two years old and bloomed in the spring.

Joe Giangrasso
11221 Elvessa St.
Oakland, CA 94605

*That's a long time to keep a rhizomatous plant going, Joe! And compost has its own magic! The leaf looks a bit dark to be **Becky Steve's** begonia, but maybe that's just the light.*

And, for lack of space elsewhere, an editor's note to readers expecting a shrub issue. Not only was space just not available, but I've received too few articles and photos on shrubs (but a big thanks to those who obliged); those received are being saved in the hopes they will gradually, someday, accrete to an issue!

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Above is the begonia described in Joyce Pridgen's letter with the two tepals showing on its flowers. Below is B. 'Cajon Valley', a Winner at the SWR/ABS Get-together in San Antonio grown by Don Miller. It is a cross of B. 'Tiger Kitten' x 'Rip Van Winkle', by Maley (CA) in 1980.



Some Begonias from Costa Rica

by Rekha Morris

I had long wanted to visit the rain forests of Costa Rica so when an opportunity arose in November 1999 to do just this, I did not allow warnings regarding their rainy season still in progress to deter my resolve to visit or dampen my enthusiasm. Since our time was limited I planned trips to a rain forest, Manuel Antonio National Park along the Pacific, a trip to the cloud forests of Monteverde, and two botanical gardens, the Lankester Botanical Garden near San Jose and the Arenal Botanical Garden on the northern shore of Lake Arenal west of Monteverde and within the recently created Arenal National Park.

Our first trip was to Lankester Botanical Garden both because of its nearness to San Jose and also to familiarize myself with some of the flora of the region and to find appropriate guidebooks to the areas I had targeted. To my great regret and surprise there was a paucity of information on the flora of Costa Rica although there was much on the birds and butterflies for which this country is justly famous. Lankester Gardens was established in 1917 by Charles Lankester Wells and after this death taken over by the North American Orchid Society and the Stanley Smith Foundation (England) until 1973 when it was donated to the University of Costa Rica. It is most famous for its collection of some 700 native and non-native orchids most of which were dormant when we visited. Nevertheless, the garden's extensive collection of bromeliads, heliconias, palms and the generally rich and lush collections of tropical genera were fascinating. It was therefore startling for me to discover a set of educational displays along a path in the small rain forest preserved within the gar-

dens showing that the once widespread rain forests of Costa Rica have been destroyed by agricultural and urban development leaving discontinuous vestiges which are currently also under threat (photos at top, page 10).

Although the drive to Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific coast took us through dozens of small towns. I failed to grasp the severity of destruction as the countryside was full of flowering shrubs and vines. Large lilac flowers of *Bignonia grandiflora* festooned trees and fences, heliconias and coastas grew in the ditches. Brunfelsias with their three shades of violet, purple and pale lilac blooms as well as brilliant red megaskopasma or Brazilian Red Cloak created colorful hedges, and ferns clamored up palm trees totally encircling their trunks with fresh green fronds, all reveling in the bounty of the rainy season. Quite unexpectedly we drove past a rain forest preserve that was not on our itinerary, Carara Biological Preserve, 20 km. south of Orotina. It lies in a transitional climatic zone between the dry pacific northern coast and the extremely humid southern coast. We stopped to take a quick walk through this preserve, once part of the biggest hacienda in Coast Rica belonging to the Cervantes family. This decision proved momentous as it introduced me to my first exciting encounter with begonias in their natural habitat.

Approaching the entrance to the forest I noticed several large boulders covered with what I thought were ferns from a distance. Instead these were small begonias growing on the dark moist surface of the rocks intermingled with ferns. Being an avid rock gardener, I was instantly enthralled and set about taking



Above, the tropical rainforest areas of Costa Rica in 1940, and right in 1987, illustrating the loss.

Below, an unidentified rhizomatous species in Carara Biological Preserve. Photos by Rekha Morris.



slides so that I might try and duplicate something similar in my woodland garden in South Carolina. The further we walked the larger the begonias became and they were growing not in little colonies, but flourished in profusion among the paving stones of the path and all along its gently undulating banks. There were small, pale pink flushed white blooms on some of the larger specimens and these were no taller than some 6 or 8" high although individual leaves with serrated edges might be as long as 3 1/2".

As we moved deeper in the forest where the dense leaf canopy prevented much of the sunlight from penetrating down to the forest floor, there were fewer and fewer clusters of these begonias and finally none. As we reached a section close to the river which had been flooded earlier in the rainy season, dozens of trees which had died as a result lay scattered on the still mushy soil. In this clearing where there was more sunlight a large leafed begonia grew on a fallen tree trunk. Closer inspection revealed that it was a rhizomatous species growing on the moss covered trunk (photo left, bottom). The large palmate leaves had serrated edges varying in depth and prominently defined dark green veins. There were no flowers or seed pods and this was the only one of its kind we saw along the two trails open to the public. However, not too far from this rhizomatous begonia we came across another isolated species which seemed to be growing out of the muddy soil. In fact, it was another epiphytic species growing on the trunk of a tree almost totally submerged in the mushy soil. By some miracle the tree had fallen at such an angle as to hold the begonia rhizome a few inches above the muddy morass all around where no other plant survived (photo page 12, top). The large palmate foliage with an undulating margin was velvety in texture despite the tiny hairs and several shades

darker than the previous one. Since there were no guidebooks to the flora of this biological preserve, known best for providing some of the best opportunities for watching Costa Rican birds, I am unable to identify any of these three species we encountered there.

In Manuel Antonio National Park we came across only one species. The entrance to the park is across a section of the Rio Camaronera which after the rains was not as shallow as the guidebooks describe it to be, and all visitors that day were rowed across in small wooden boats. Although much larger than the Carara Biological Preserve, we were able to walk along only one path as many of the paths were flooded from recent rains and impassable. The single begonia species we encountered here was the same elliptical leaved form we encountered in Carara (Photo page 12, bottom). As in Carara these also grew on moist moss and fern covered rocks as well as along the slopes of the path where sufficient sunlight reached the ground. Some of these were also in bloom, but none had seed pods.

Our next stop was Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Preserve, a 1400 meter high plateau in the Cordillera de Tilaran accessible via a rock and boulder strewn dirt road which the recent rains had made even more treacherous as landslides had gouged out large sections along the steep cliff banks. During our drive to Manuel Antonio National Park our four wheel drive Toyota had been damaged by the numerous potholes on the road obliging us to exchange it for another four wheeler before setting out on this segment of our trip. Nevertheless I wondered whether this one would survive the rough, vertiginous 35 km. tract winding steeply uphill and so difficult to negotiate that it took us 4 hours to reach our destination.

Those who survive this notoriously rugged, obstacle ridden course are destined as we were to enjoy spectacular scenes of tropi-



Above, another unidentified rhizomatous begonia species in Carara Biological Preserve. Below, still another unidentified species in the Manuel Antonio National Park. Photos by Rehka Morris.



cal verdure. Mammoth tree ferns some 30 feet or more towered above the undergrowth, vines, ferns, orchids, bromeliads and other epiphytes clamored up tree trunks as far up as we could see, and our common house plants such as peperomias, anthuriums, philodendrons, and monsteras were so colossal as to be almost unrecognizable. In this landscape of primeval luxuriance with many shades and layers of greenness, it was difficult to identify begonias mentioned in a pamphlet listing the canopy plants of the cloud forest of Monteverde which I had picked up at the entrance to the preserve. Two begonias, *B. estrellensis* and *B. heydei*, were both listed under vascular epiphytes with no descriptions or line drawings. Another pamphlet on the common flowering plants of this cloud forest listed *B. estrellensis* as the most common of several epiphytic begonias and also mentioned *B. involucrata* [spelled as 'involucrata'] with an "angel wing" leaf and *B. cooperi* whose leaf is described as being like that of an alder or elm. The accompanying line drawing is generic in nature representing a slightly wavy edged, elliptical leaf. A small booklet *Epiphytes of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve* by **S.W. Ingram, K. Ferrell-Ingram** and **Nalini Nadkarni** lists four begonias. *B. estrellensis* and *B. glabra* are listed as climbing herbs and considered to be abundant and common respectively while *B. heydei* and *B. strigillosa*, both listed as erect herbs, are considered common and uncommon respectively. A line drawing of *B. heydei* is included amongst the illustrations. Being a novice Begonian, I photographed only two species which I was able to recognize as

begonias and both grew along the sunnier sections of the trail. One of these was a begonia which was shrub-like in growth with large prominently segmented leaves with darker veins. This being the closest to what I understand as an angel wing type I have tentatively identified as *B. involucrata* on the basis of an illustration of this species from Costa Rica in *Tropica* although it is not mentioned in this booklet. The second species, with elliptical foliage, serrated edges and sharply articulated veins is so similar to the line drawing of *B. heydei* (see cover photo) that this is what I have assumed I saw at several sunny locations along the trail in Monteverde. This might also be *B. cooperi* illustrated in A. B. Graf, *Tropica*: 160, 1978, which has a somewhat similar leaf form.

Despite the complexities of nomenclature, the paucity of information on the begonias of these areas we visited and my own ignorance of this large and varied genus, my first encounter with five species in their natural habitat transformed me into a zealous neophyte. I promptly joined the Atlanta Branch of the ABS on our return from what remains in my memory as a tropical garden rather than a country whose natural environment is fast diminishing with some of its rich flora and fauna under threat of extinction.

We know the Atlanta Branch welcomes this enthusiast! You may contact Dr. Rehka Morris at 318 Woodland Dr., Pendleton, SC 19670 or E-mail: shivavana@juno.com.

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Above, Best of Show and Best Species at the SWR/ABS Get Together in San Antonio in September was B. leprosa, a species originating in China and grown to perfection by Leora Fuentes.

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Denver!**

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO THE
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**

During the 2000 Annual Meeting of the American Begonia Society held in San Antonio, Texas on September 23, 2000, ABS members present voted to present the following amendments to the ABS Constitution and Bylaws for full membership ballot.

Proposed Amendments will be underlined and highlighted

The office of Third Vice President shall be eliminated and said office be deleted from the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Begonia Society. This will require a wording change to Article IV, Section 1; Article IV, Section 2 and Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution and Article 2, section 3 of the

Constitution

Article IV, Section 1 - the officers of this Society shall be: Past President, President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer from each Branch Society, Regional Organization and Representative of Members at Large.

Article IV, Section 2 - The following officers shall be elected annually in July by ballot: President, First Vice President and Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each Member of the Society is entitled to one vote. Officers shall serve one year and be installed at the annual meeting. No elected officer named in this section, except Secretary and Treasurer may serve in the same position for more than two consecutive terms.

Article V, Section 1 - The Executive Board shall consist of the President, First, Second and Third Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President.

Bylaws

Article 1, Section 3 - The Second and Third Vice Presidents shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the President.

Please Go to Page 16.

Following proposed amendment refers to the election of officers in the constitution.

IV, Section 2 - The following officers shall be elected annually in July by Ballot: President, First Vice President, Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each member of the Society is entitled to one vote. Officers shall serve one year and be installed at the annual meeting. No elected officer named in this section, except Secretary and Treasurer may serve in the same position for more than two consecutive terms.

Amendment

V, Section 2 - The following officers shall be elected annually in July by ballot: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each member of the Society is entitled to one vote. All officers shall serve one year and be installed at the annual meeting. No elected officer named in this section, except Secretary and Treasurer may serve two consecutive terms. {Note: Should the first change fail, this amendment will also include the office of the President.}

are to be returned to the Ballot Counting Chair, c/o Bob Foo, 1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083 by July 15, 2001.

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March/April: **Hybridizing Begonias is an Art Form and Begonia Detectives**

September/October: **Begonias by the Beach**

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Corrections: Please note that in all its appearances in last issue's listing, the correct spelling is *B. dregei*.

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Minutes of Board Meeting
September 23, 2000, San Antonio, TX

3. Treasurer **Carol Notaras** presented the financial report for the period 4/22 to 7/31/2000. Combined general account balances were \$9763.43 initial and \$7100.86 final. Savings accounts initial balance was \$68,113.26 and ending balance was \$70,866.56 while combined checking and savings account balances were \$77,876.69 initial and \$77,967.44 final. 4. Membership totals in August were 1364 members, 90 institutions, 56 life members, 52 second family members, 102 foreign members, 15 new members, 2 late rejoiners and 37 nonrenewals. Sources of members for the three-month period were 27 from branches, 10 former members, 3 from friends, 23 from the internet, 5 from 7 *Reasons*, 2 from magazines, 1 from the *Begonian* and 1 from *Hobby Greenhouse*. 5. A proposal to convert the *Begonian* holiday greetings to a single page listing donors was proposed; this will be voted on by branches. 6. **Michael Ludwig** was reappointed Awards Chair. 10. Applications for insurance for branch activities by a company willing to provide liability insurance are available from Business Manager **Gene Salisbury**. 11. A study is to be made on how to revise the MAL newsletter to make it more cost effective and self-supporting. 19. **Janet Brown** and **Tamsin Boardman** were appointed to the Publications Committee. 20. Slide Librarian **Charles Jaros** reported that slides from the Los Angeles Convention are available. **Motions were made to change the terms of office of all ABS officers from one to two years and to eliminate the office of 3rd Vice President.** 26. A motion made to provide **Jack Golding** with an honorary life membership was seconded and approved

by the board. 28. **Carolyn Hawkins** invited everyone to attend the winter board meeting in Atlanta, GA. **President Jaros** announced the appointment of a Nominating Committee for 2001 elections: **Ann Salisbury**, Chair, **Joan Coulat**, and **Johanna Zinn**.

Minutes of Annual Business Meeting
September 23, 2000, San Antonio, TX

2. Treasurer **Carol Notaras** report the general fund total income was \$72,236.97 while disbursement was \$91,664.43, but the latter included more than \$25,000 in transfers to savings. Combined savings accounts initial balance was \$38,375.68 while the ending balance was \$71,010.05. Combined checking and savings totals were \$65,297.91 initial and \$78,110.91. The large increase in funds was due largely to reporting on two conventions in one year, one of which, the LA convention brought in \$21,000. 3 & 4. The recommendation to eliminate the position of Third Vice President and a proposal to change the terms of office of all officers were approved and will appear for a vote by the entire ABS membership. 6. **Scott Hoover** spoke of his next proposed collecting trip to Indonesia in 2001 and a motion to donate \$3000 was approved. 9. A motion to appoint a committee to be chaired by a Vice President to study research proposals that come before ABS with the current research director to be a member of the committee was made and approved.

Richard N. Macnair,
Secretary

These minutes have been severely edited and condensed for reasons of space. Many other important matters, appointments, and reports were made. Complete minutes are available from Richard Macnair at 177 Hancock Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelop when requesting these.



Another winner at the SWR/ABS show in September was the very lovely begonia above with a familiar name, B. 'Lonesome Dove'. North Haven Gardens exhibited this Naron Stewart (Tx) cross of B. 'Silvermist' x 'Pinafore Sport'. Two views below of the addition to the "Rhizomatous at or below, with upright stems" is U358 brought back from Malaysia by Don Miller and grown for this show by John Howell.. The inset photo captures its leaves' rich red underside.



In the Mailbox

by Greg Sytch

Topics come and topics go. Lately, there is no pattern to the questions that have come my way.

Q: I recently purchased a new angelwing from the nursery, and when I brought it home, in two weeks it dropped some bottom leaves. I hope the plant is okay. Any suggestions? Minnesota

A: New plants purchased have often been greenhouse grown. Since you brought the plant into your home, it is simply adjusting as any new plant would do. Angelwings, or canelikes, enjoy bright light, dry soil between watering, and fertilizer once per month. If the leaves continue to drop, chances are the soil is too wet. Allow the soil to dry out well. Come late spring, you can summer your plant outdoors, and bring it in come fall. Good luck!

I often receive questions on tuberous begonia care, and living in Florida, it is difficult for me to help because we do not have success here. Florida is much too hot for tuberous, so my experience growing them is quite limited. However, **Mike Stevens** of New Zealand has graciously offered to help me with this area. You can contact me by email, phone, or letter and I will forward the question on to him. He will either answer you directly, or send the advice to me to pass on. Mike's e-mail address is m.i.stevens@xtra.co.nz.

As always feel free to contact me at (727) 841-9618, e-mail at gsytch@cs.com or write to 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653. Now, it is time to get ready for the upcoming spring season, so watch your begonias explode in growth!

Good growing!

Greg

Startin' Out

by Jim Hannah

Somewhere along the line you'll want to make a new plant from one you already have.

Perhaps the old plant has grown too large and leggy or maybe you want to share a plant you particularly like with a friend. Happily, many types of begonias are easy to propagate by vegetative methods. This is quite different from growing new plants from seed. I'll cover two types, cane-like and Rex begonia, below. But first a little bit of background is worth adding.

Begonias, like most plants, can be grouped in many ways. One is to divide them into species and hybrids. A species begonia is identical to begonias growing in the wild. Plant seeds from species begonias pollinated by the same species and you'll get a carbon copy of the original almost every time. There may be some slight variation from plant to plant -- a very small shift in flower tint, for example -- but it will be minor. Hybrids, on the other hand are plants with more than one species, sometimes many, in their parentage. Plant seeds from hybrids and the resulting plants will not all be the same. In some instances they will be quite different from their parents and each other.

So...how do you make a carbon copy of a hybrid? You use a piece of the plant itself and coax it into growing roots and forming a new plant. You can use the same methods on species begonias too, of course. Let's start with a method for making new cane-like begonias from existing plants.

The begonias called 'cane-like' are among the very easiest to propagate. All you need is a glass or cup of water, a razor blade, or very sharp knife, and a well-lit spot out of direct sunlight. For lighting, we use a simple fluorescent 'shop light' with 40 watt tubes set a few inches above the cuttings. A bright window works just as well. Just avoid direct sunlight.

Select a growing cane tip which includes 4 or 5 leaf nodes. Cut it off on an angle about a half inch below the 4th or 5th node. Then remove all but the two top leaves. Place the cutting in a glass or cup of water so that the lower leaf-free nodes are under water. If you wish, you can cut another section from the same cane. Again, cut off the lower leaves. The cutting will develop a new growing tip at the point where the top leaf joins the stem.

Can't find a good section with 4 leaf



Space in this issue is too limited to describe the lovely show and great sale experienced by those attending the SWR/ABS Get-Together in San Antonio (Read all about it in the SWR's **Begonia Leaflet**), but here are two more plants from the show. Above, *B. 'Passing Storm'*, a Logee's hybrid, reaping a cultural award for grower **Lucille Dyess** while *B. 'Audrey Brenda'* brought her a Division award. This cane is a cross of *B. 'Margaritacea'* x '*Lily of the valley*' by Orihata of Japan in 1972. Photo is by **Midori Nobusawa**.



nodes? Don't despair. You can get away with 3 or even 1 node section cuttings. Just be sure that there's a leaf on the top node and that the lower nodes are under water.

The cuttings should be given at least 12 hours of light a day. Check the cuttings every few days. Add water as needed to keep the lower nodes submerged. The first sign of something happening will be the appearance of little white dots on the underwater portion of the stem. These will become the roots of the new plant.

Pot up the cutting when the roots have grown to about a half inch long. The roots are tender. Be very gentle as you fill the container with soil. Any good potting soil will do. Pot the cutting as deep in the soil as it was in the water. Watering with dilute fertilizer will help offset the shock of transplanting. Finally, treat the new plant just as you did the parent. That's all there is to it.

Rexes are next. These are peculiar rascals with unbelievably mixed-up parentage. We love them. If you like surprises, just grow Rexes from seed. To make a Rex copy all you need is a leaf, a razor blade or very sharp knife, a cheap plastic sprayer for misting and a clear-top container at least 4 inches deep containing an inch of damp horticultural vermiculite.

A Rex leaf has several main veins. Starting from the point where the stem joins the leaf, cut the leaf into wedge-shaped sections so that each section contains a main vein running up the center and the smaller veins which lead to it. You'll get three or four cuttings from a good healthy leaf.

Make a slot in the vermiculite for each wedge with a knife blade or spoon handle. Place the wedge in the slot with the point which joined the original stem at the bottom. We position them so that the wedge slants back at a 45 degree angle, but this isn't critical. Gently firm the vermiculite around the wedge to hold it in place. Mist the wedges and put the cover on the container. Provide light as noted above for the cane-like cuttings. We mist the wedges every few days, but I don't know if it's really necessary.

Be patient. Cane cuttings will start to show the characteristic rootlet dots in a week or so. Rex leaf wedges, on the other hand,

may take months before they start producing the first few new leaves which signal the development of a new plant. The wedges normally start growing roots in a few weeks, but the leaves can take a long time. When the wedges have grown leaves of at least the size of a dime, they are ready for transplanting.

The plantlets are fragile. Be careful not to break off the roots or leaves. Carefully lift them from the container, remove as much of the vermiculite as possible, and pot up using any good potting soil. Remember that these new plants have been growing in 100% humidity. You'll want to put the pots into clear plastic bags at first and then gradually open and lower the plastic over a couple of weeks. This will allow the plants to adapt to your normal growing conditions.

Incidentally, some hybrids are patented. The originator who develops a hybrid can protect his hard work by patenting the plant. If you are thinking of selling the plants you propagate, be sure they aren't patented. You can get into legal trouble selling vegetatively propagated patented plants.

We'll continue with new plants from old next time.

Jim & Joan Hannah, growing and enjoying begonias at 158 Fisher Avenue, Staten Island, N.Y., NY and E-mail at jrh158@aol.com.

Web Sites

As most of you know, ABS has its own Web Site www.begonias.org and Branches can now upload their own information about meetings and so forth. In addition, however, some Branches are now developing their own Web Sites. Among those is Houston's Astro Branch which you can visit at <http://absastro.tripod.com>. This site recently added a collection of photos taken at the September SWR show in San Antonio by Bill Claybaugh who is developing this sight and has done a really great job. Visit!

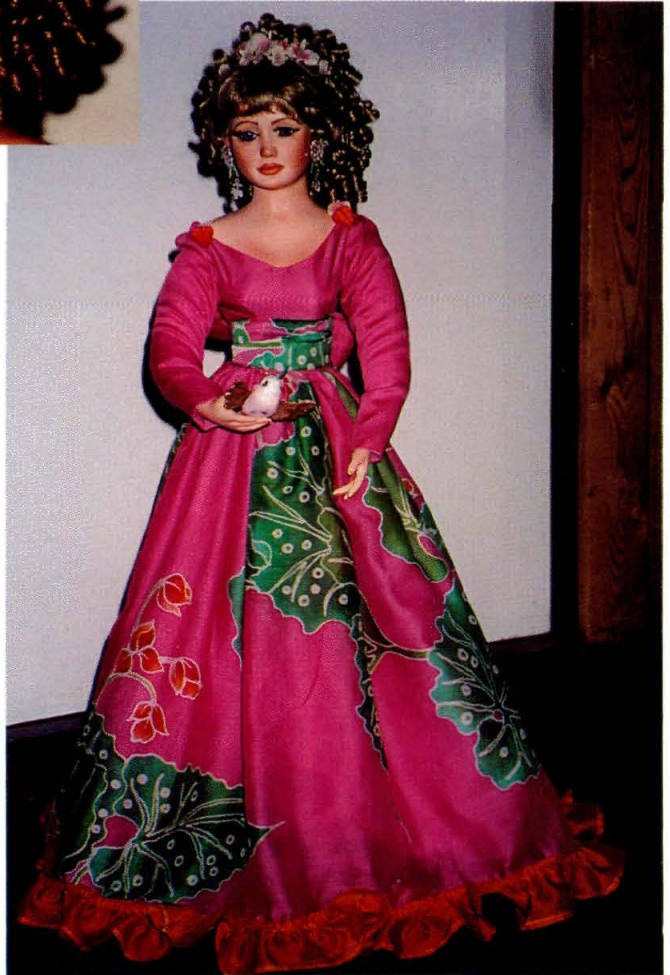
There are many other sites out there of interest to begonia growers. **Greg Sytch**, our Horticultural Correspondent can point you to many of them.

Denver in 2001!

Of course, you'll want to come to Denver on July 4-8, 2001. And don't forget to be there the day before for the pre-convention tour and plan to stay an extra day for the post-convention tour. Remember to plan for taking an extra box home - the Denver folks are gathering sale plants from far and wide. But, you may also be the lucky ABS member who takes home the ABS Doll 'Suzanne' created just for us by Helene Jaros! See and read about this beauty below.



The meeting will be at the Embassy Suites and room rates will be \$120 per night; but remember we get breakfast and an evening food and beverage reception included in that cost. You will recall that these have been great hotels for interaction and discussions of our favorite plants! Don't miss it; be there.



*Doll maker and ABS Member **Helen Jaros** has made a 24" porcelain doll, "Suzanne", for the ABS Convention to be held in Denver. Suzanne's dress is designed by renowned dress designer **Marva Newberry** and is made from the beautiful silk parrios brought by ABS Member **Tan Jiew Hoe** from Singapore to the West Palm Beach Convention. The fabric designed with begonias was created especially for ABS. Suzanne is also wearing begonia earrings! Helene Jaros has been creating dolls at Jackie Russell's doll studio in Sanford, Florida since 1985. Be sure to be there for the possibility of taking home this beauty!.*

New Cultivars

Official International Registrations 978-982

Gene Salisbury, Nomenclature Director

Applications to register *Begonia* cultivars may be obtained from Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653. Forms must be typed or printed in ink and accompanied by a \$2 check payable to the American Begonia Society. Clear photos for publication in the *Begonian*, drawings and dried specimens are requested. ABS is the International Registration Authority for Begonia cultivar names. In the listing of cultivar parents below, the female (seed) parent is given first.

Begonia 'Euphrates'

No. 978 *Begonia* ('Cleopatra' x ['Bowkit' x *carrierae*]) 'Euphrates'

This Rhizomatous hybrid has a creeping rhizome. Leaves are bright green with brown markings and a double spiral. They are obtuse, 5" wide x 5" long. Margin is lobed, scalloped, undulate, sparsely hairy. Surface is bare. There are 22 main veins; petioles are 3", green with red specks and sparse hairs. Stipules are 1/2" x 1/2", green. Flowers are pink with red specks; ovaries are green and pink. Tepals are rounded with red specks. Male and female flowers are 1" with two tepals. Flower peduncle is 5". There are many bloom clusters in spring.

This plant is very compact and full growing, resembles neither parent, but blends best aspects of both. Double spiral is very consistent as are the brown leaf edge markings. It is easy to grow and always grows into a shapely plant.

Developed in 1991 by Brad Thompson, 2436 W. Lomita Blvd. #1, Lomita, CA 90717. It first bloomed in 1993 and was first distributed that same year. It has been tested by Iris Bird, 20739-2 Lycoming St., Walnut, CA 91789 and Mary Sakamoto, 6847 E. Sycamore Glen, Orange, CA 92869. It is available from Cloudy Valley Nursery, 935 W. Isabella St., Lebanon, OR 97355. Registered October 23, 2000. Photo, p. 33.

Begonia 'Little Miss Mummey'

No. 979 *Begonia* (*B.* 'Jumbo Jet' x *B.* 'Amelia') 'Little Miss Mummey'

This is a Superba Cane-like hybrid with dark bronze leaves having evenly distributed raised silver spots. Leaves are crenulate, 4" wide x 7" long, lobed, undulated, lightly toothed. Surface is smooth; 8 main veins. Petioles are 1 1/2" long and green. Stipules are 3/4" x 1/2" and green.

Male and female flowers are 2" with males having 5 tepals and females 4. Tepals and ovaries are white to light pink. Flower clusters are few with 11 male and 20 female flowers. Flowers are on 8" peduncles in summer.

This plant can be distinguished by its unique raised silver dots on nearly black leaves. Plant is compact and freely branching. It can be hard to bloom, but flowers are a rare color of ivory white with a pink blush.

Brad Thompson, address above, developed this plant in 1992. It first bloomed in 1994 and was first distributed in 1993. Elda Regimbal, 3117 San Juan Dr., Fullerton, CA 92635; Mary Sakamoto, address above; and Don Miller, 1010 Mt. Auburn, Dallas, TX 75223 have tested this plant which is available from Kartuz Greenhouses, 1408. Sunset Dr., Vista, CA 92083. Registered October 23, 2000. Photo, p. 33.



Above left, Registration No. 978, B. 'Euphrates' and right, Registration No. 979, B. 'Little Miss Mummey' whose photo by Don Miller originally appeared in the SWR Begonia Leaflet. Below, Registration No. 980, B. 'River Nile' was a blue ribbon-winning plant exhibited at the SWR/ABS Get-Together in September by North Haven Gardens (photo by Janet Welsh).



***Begonia* 'River Nile'**

No. 980 *Begonia* ('Cleopatra' x ['Bokit' x *carrietae*]) 'River Nile'

This Rhizomatous begonia has a creeping rhizome. Its leaves are bright, light green with reddish brown edge or stitching. They are double spiral with obtuse tip, 5" wide x 5" long, lobed, undulate, with sparse hairs on the margin, bare surface, with 23 main veins. Petioles are 3", green with red specks, and white hairs; green stipules are 1/2" in length and width.

Male and female flowers have 2 tepals that are white, round, 3/4" in diameter. There are many flower clusters with 14 male and 19 female flowers on 12" peduncles in spring. There are many persistent green stipules on peduncles.

Plant can have brown streaked markings, but leaves are generally bright green double spirals with a reddish brown edge. Leaves are roughly heart shaped. Plant is very full and compact growing, is very striking and makes a wonderfully shaped plant.

This begonia was developed by Brad Thompson, address above, in 1991 and first bloomed and was distributed in 1993. It has been tested by Iris Bird, address above, and Mary Sakamoto, address above. It is available from Kartuz Greenhouses, address above. Registered October 23, 2000. Photo, p. 33.

***Begonia* 'Hyroglyphics'**

No. 981 *Begonia* ('Cleopatra' x ['Bokit' x *carrietae*]).

This Rhizomatous begonia has a creeping rhizome. Its leaves are bright green with dark brown to black leaf edges, star shaped, semi-spiraled, 5" wide x 6" long with serrate, undulate margin, and a smooth surface and 13 main veins. Petioles are 6", green with red specks, sparse hairs. Stipules are green, 1/2" x 1/2".

Male and Female flowers are 1" with 2 round tepals which are pink with red specks; ovaries are green with pink wings, red specked. The many flower clusters have 45 male, 60 female flowers on 8 to 12" penduncles in the spring.

Leaves are a dark green with dark brown or black leaf edges; veins are light green and prominent. Leaf is a rounded star shape with deep lobes. Leaf edges are serrated, wavy and sparsely hairy. It is full and compact growing, very tough and sturdy, and easy to propagate.

Plant was developed in 1991 by Brad Thompson, address above, and first bloomed and was distributed in 1993. Iris Bird, address above, and Mary Sakamoto, address above, tested this plant which is available from Kartuz Greenhouses, address above. Registered October 23, 2000. Photo, opposite.

***Begonia* 'Curly Stormy Night'**

No. 982 *Begonia* ('Peggy Frost' x ['Bokit' x *carrietae*]) 'Curly Stormy Night'

This Rhizomatous begonia has a creeping rhizome. Its leaves are 7" x 7", black, star shaped, with a double spiral, lobed, toothed, sparsely hairy margin, with 12 to 16 main veins. Petioles are 6", green with red specks, sparse white hairs. Stipules are 1/2" x 1/2" and green. Male and female flowers are 1 1/4" in diameter, have 2 round tepals. Many flower clusters in spring have 33 male and 38 female flowers on lightly hairy peduncles that are 12 to 15 inches.

Leaves are large with very good, double spiral leaves that are black with green veins. Flowers are an uncommon color of rose red and plant is very full and compact growing.

This begonia was developed in 1993 by Brad Thompson, address above, and first bloomed and was distributed in 1994. It was tested by Iris Bird, address above, and Mary Sakamoto, address above, and is available from Cloudy Valley Nursery, address above. Registered October 23, 2000. Photo, opposite.

Needed!

This is a spot that could have held a quick tip! We need a new Quick Tips collector and editor! To volunteer send your name today to the Editor at the address on page 38.



Above, Registration No.981, B. 'Hyrogyphics'. Below, Registration No. 982, B. 'Curly Stormy Night.'



In Memory

Dr. Bernice G. Schubert

The American Begonia society has again lost a distinguished and valued friend of many years in the death on August 14, 2000, of **Dr. Bernice Giduz Schubert** of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Dr. Schubert worked at Harvard nearly 40 years and spent 9 years as a plant taxonomist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

A memorial service celebrating her life was held at Mount Auburn Cemetery and Harvard University Herbaria in Cambridge on October 6, 2000.

A ready adviser and resource, Dr. Schubert answered questions and identified species for ABS members and contributed *Begonian* articles from the 1950's into the 1980's. *Begonian* writers cited information from her studies repeatedly even into 1999. She shared photos she took in important herbaria to help in ABS research.

In 1968 Dr. Schubert and colleague Dr. Lyman B. Smith of the Smithsonian jointly won the ABS Eva Kenworthy Gray Award for their extensive work and numerous publications on the *Begoniaceae*. She coauthored at least 27 publications on the family with Dr. Smith from the 1930's on, in addition to other papers alone, in both botanical and horticultural journals and in encyclopedias. Jointly they named at least 122 species of *Begonia*--from Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Ecuador, and Brazil.

In 1986 the Massachusetts Horticultural Society awarded Dr. Schubert its Silver Medal for "noteworthy service to horticulture."

Always sharing her expertise, she attended the defense of dissertations on research in *Begonia* by students under Dr. Fred Barkley at Northeastern University in Boston. When the University of California expedition to Peru in 1936-37 brought collections of *Begonia* back, Bernice Schubert and Lyman Smith helped with identification of species, which in turn were shared with ABS growers. Almost 40 years later, Bernice Schubert was still a resource, assisting Scott Hoover with identification of plants he found in Latin America. She is missed.

Carrie Karegeannes and
Scott Hoover

Pronunciation of Begoniaceae Names for the *Begonian*, 68, January-February, 2001

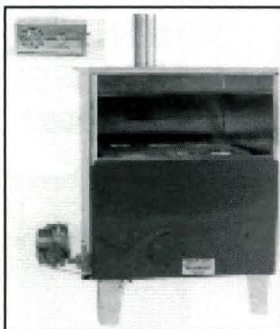
by Jack Golding

carriacae	kar-REE-ee
cinnabarina	sin-na-bar-EYE-nuh
coccinea	kok-SIN-e-uh
cooperi	KOOP-er-eye
estrellensis	es-trell-EN-sis
heydei	HAY-de-eye
fissistyla	fis-si-STEYE-luh
glabra	GLAYB-ruh
involuta	in-vol-yew-KRAY-tuh
kenworthyae	ken-WORTH-i-ee
leprosa	lep-ROH-suh
mollicaulis	mol-li-KAW-lis
nelumbiifolia	nel-um-bi-eye-FOH-li-uh
plebeja	ple-BEE-juh
ravenii	RAY-ven-i-eye
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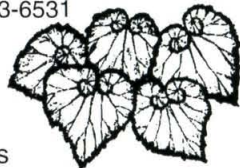
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COMING EVENTS

February 17-18, 2001: 'Begonia Be Mine', the Miami Begonia Society Show, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Fairchild's Tropical Gardens in Miami, Florida. More info is available from **Karen Lawrence** at 305-666-6374.

February 23-25, 2001: Winter ABS Board Meeting in Atlanta. Ramada Plaza Hotel, 404-768-7800; cut-off day for registration is February 1, 2001. For registration blank, see page 238 of the November/December 2000 Begonian or call Carolyn Hawkins for information at 772-471-2841.

July 4-8, 2001: ABS Convention 2001 in Denver, CO. There will be a pre-convention tour on the day before the convention starts and a post-convention tour following the last day of the convention. For more information call Andy Conely at 303-916-5676. (Note that Andy has moved and this is a new number!! See new address, p. 39.)

2001: Southwest Region/ABS Get-Together in Dallas, TX, April 25-29 at the Holiday Inn in Plano (972-881-1881). There will be a one day pre-convention tour on Tuesday.

September 2001: ABS Board Meeting in Orange County, CA. More information to come.

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

Closing Date for Next Issue is January 15.

The Begonian

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