



The
Begonian

September/October 2002

The **Begonian**

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American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

To stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.

To encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

To gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation, and culture of begonias and companion plants.

To issue a bulletin 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: **Charlsie Hancock's** Pasadena garden on a Begonias International tour demonstrated how begonias abounded in the landscapes we saw. Here there are Semperflorens around the tree and in the hanging baskets is B. 'Torch' front and B. 'Concord' behind. Photo is by **Mary Bucholtz.**

Back: **Antoon Hoefnagel's** nursery grows these masses of begonias and at his seminar during Begonias International we saw an incredibly automated business via videotape.

Convention Issue 2002

Begonias International was a convention we will all long remember. Cheryl Lenert and all the folks of the Houston Branches really know how to make Begoniacs feel welcome. The joys of a perfect convention were realized: we saw new begonia species and new begonia hybrids; we met new begonia friends; and we went home with begonias we couldn't live without from a fabulous plant sale!!

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*It's
Oklahoma
in 2003!!*

Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads **200211** or **200212**, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

President's Message...

The 2002 Convention is now history. As anticipated, it was great. My personal thanks to all of the members who worked so very hard to achieve this success. The show plants were outstanding, the speakers were the very best. Accommodations were fine. The boutique had so many wonderful begonia items to choose from, it certainly diminished my checking account. The number and quantity of sale plants was the equal of any previous convention. And yes, my prediction came true. Much time was spent with friends from the past, and there are new names and faces to add to the "friends" list. I could write so much more, but never be able to express my enjoyment or gratitude sufficiently.

Having just received, and read, the latest issue of the **Begonian**, there is so much there that I could write several pages about in response. Yes, Becky Steve you are hooked, as am I, on seed growing! And only by seed setting and wild collecting will we all be able to further our knowledge of our special plant. Do hope all branches have such great shows as did the Miami and the Barkley branches. The article on websites almost makes technologically challenged me want to change my computer literacy status. If I could find space, a new terrarium system would be in the planning. And as always, the cultural information by Greg Sytch encourages me to try out new ideas.

Saved Johanna Kitson's article on membership for last. We all need to read it at least twice. In a roundabout way it relates to an article in the most recent African Violet Magazine regarding member burnout. Every branch, as well as the national organization, benefits from "new blood" actively participating. The solution suggested in this article was for all to participate. There is a need to train people,

a need to volunteer, and a need to delegate. On that final idea, there are several committees in ABS that could use some revitalization and new members. I will be contacting some of you to help out and hope you will say yes. Finally, but not of least importance, a big thank you to Virginia Jens for volunteering to chair the Public Relations Committee.

And a most personal note, many of you are aware of my "incident" at the convention. There has been no further episode and the doctors can find no cause. Their opinion is that all is well with me and that most likely I'll not experience this again. Thanks to all of you for your care and concern.

In friendship,
Morris Mueller

Letters to the Editor

B. 'Orococo'

Enclosed are pictures of my B. 'Orococo', a rhizomatous begonia which I bought at the Atlanta Show and Convention [1998]. It was in a tiny coffee cup -- oh, yes, they are survivors.

I am a Begonia Judge and Master Flower Show Judge, but most of all, I am a TRUE Begoniac.

I love the *Begonian* and the articles are most informative.

Go Begonias,
Shirley A. Thompson
206 Pelican Reef Dr.
St. Augustine, FL
32080-5332

A beautiful plant, Shirley; wish mine looked as lush and lovely as yours! See her plant in the photo on the opposite page.

And Not So Satisfied

I have got increasingly disappointed at the real 'Begonia' content of the *Begonian* over recent years compared to earlier content. It seems to have an excessive content of social and personality items which really mean very little to members other than yourselves.

Indeed we all have local newsletters to advise of goings on locally and believe the *Begonian* content should be more 'worldly' in its content where possible.

A useful subject would be identifying species begonias that prefer a more alkaline based soil (if any) to the normal slightly acidic we traditionally use.

We are having a reasonable growing season in spite of contrary and unusual weather patterns which has encouraged grubs, etc. and are

looking forward to our West Australian Conference in September.

E.A. (Ted) Williams
1 Shetland Ave.
Marion, S. Australia 5043



The editor would welcome more articles with a more technical bent, Ted. If you know of anyone who can write on the topics you suggest, do urge them to submit articles and the same request goes to other readers. Many of our readers, however, do not belong to a branch or get to attend our national meetings so there is also a need to cover activities such as are covered in this convention issue. It would also be of interest to hear what other readers think on this topic.

More on Begonia Flowers on Display

In the *Power of Plants* by Brendon Lahane (McGraw-Hill: New York, 1977) on page 250, the following quote is notable for us Begoniacs: "Nevertheless, in terms of size alone, the greatest displays the world has seen belong to Flanders, which like its neighbor Holland never stints the vaunting displays of its native produce. In 1973 the great square of Ghent was filled by a floral pattern consisting of 1,800,000 begonias covering over 6000 square meters - the world's largest man-made flower arrangement." Wow!

Scott Hoover
shoover@bon.net

Convention 2002
Begonias International
Houston, TX

The 2002 Convention gave early Wednesday arrivees a full day, 9 to 6, to discover the Texas history market with a visit to its antique malls. They got back just in time for a seminar to hear **Dave Goetz** give us the rundown on plant growing with artificial lights. A lot of us couldn't afford to laugh when he told us about the lady who had a strip extension cord plugged into a second strip plugged into a third with all outlets being used and not understanding why the breaker kept tripping! Dave also gave us some tips on how to change those pronged fluorescent bulbs without standing on our head as well as a run down on the new bulbs versus the old. His safety tips went home with us to help make our lighting efforts a bit easier and safer. **Gene** and **Ann Salisbury** kept the Hospitality Room open and the refreshments flowing that evening and during all the subsequent days.

Thursday's tours began with the **Bob** and **Lana Sims** Herb Nursery and Garden in Pasadena where a Victorian setting is sued to educate about herbs and herb usage. Still in Pasadena, members went on to see glorious begonias at **Charlsie Hancock's** home and the new home of **Helen Spiers**. Helen's old house was flooded out by tropical storm Allison, but she has turned her new home into the start of a begonia haven. Lunch was served at the home of **Ed** and **Sharon Schulte**. Not only is the couple a member of the Houston Satellites Branch, they are also rose growers. Hundred of begonias are situated in plantings with more than 300 hybrid tea roses, rose trees, and miniatures. Two of the formal gardens have been pat-

terned after the gardens in Versailles. The day ended with a visit to **Bruce** and **Beth Grunden** who mix their begonias with Koi.

After such a Herculean day, many members rushed back to get their plants registered for the show before attending Round Table Discussions. First came the U Numbers. **Thelma O'Reilly** who was to have led the discussion was unable to make the Convention because husband **Tim** suffered a back injury and was in therapy. **Freda Holley** filled in with an able assist from Nomenclature Cochairman **Michael Ludwig**. A very lively discussion of what the U numbers are and why we have them followed. Members expressed frustration because so few have been identified and all agreed we need a begonia botanist/nomenclature expert on call. Following this, **Bill Claybaugh** shared his vision of the ABS role in the conservation of species. **Rekha Morris** who has taken on the Save Our Species project and newsletter called for adopters of species. Bill is using the ABS Astro Website (see page 177) to exhibit photos and a listing of species. He will also be putting together a list of which species are currently in cultivation and by whom to facilitate conservation and sharing.

The ever faithful members of the Show Committee stayed up till 3:30 a.m. to get the show ready for judging on Friday. So even the judges made it for a visit to **Lulu Leonard's** for a magnificent Texas Barbecue. Lulu's yard, always special, had begonias everywhere - in the flower beds; in hanging baskets on her special carousels and in the trees, on her porch; and in pots everywhere. Begonias had even vol-



Above a gorgeous *B. 'Nokomis'* (*B. 'Lana* x unknown, M. Lee CA 1976) was glimpsed in Charlise Hancock's garden by **Mary Bucholtz**. And **Johanna Zinn's** eye was drawn to this unknown Malaysia species at the Another Place in Time Nursery where the rare and unusual abounded.



unteered all over in the path edges! Friday evening, people attend the presentation of England's **Bill Ash** with slides of new collections.

Then, the event that everyone had been waiting for - the PLANT SALE! And what a sale it was. A profusion of plants beyond belief awaited the crush. Plants flew to the rooms upstairs. Only then, did everyone turn their attention to the gorgeous show with 163 entries - new hybrids, old hybrids, and species old and new as well. Choosing the winners in such an array had been a real feat. And, **Charles McGough** with his usual elan had entered - of all things - a begonia mystery novel complete with his inimitable illustrations. The Boutique with a plenitude of things begonia for sale had quickly sold out of the ten copies of this jewel he had also made available to members.

Saturday morning's first seminar took us on a virtual visit to a rain forest preserve in Brazil with **Darren Duling** and his slides showing us both the richness of the area and how fragile and subject to destruction the rain forest is. The begonias in their natural habitat were especially beautiful and Darren a charming guide. Then we were off to the Netherlands with **Antoon Hoefnagels** to see begonias in mass being cultivated commercially. We also saw how Antoon's own begonia collection is exhibited for visitors. We learned as well interesting aspects of creating more compact plants that the trade wants through the manipulation of light and potting soil. For example, clay added to potting mixes leads to stronger stems. Finally, because we all chafe at the restrictions on importing/exporting begonias, **Nancy Becker** of the U.S. Department of Agriculture shared with us the dangers involved and the avenues for doing it correctly. We were impressed by her slides of the enormous task the inspectors face in trying to assure that dangerous pests do not enter

the U.S.

From noon to late afternoon we engaged in the business of ABS and the Southwest Region; there was a lot to consider - see the minutes on page 183. The Banquet that evening was made especially memorable first by an unscheduled and, thankfully, false fire alarm, and then by a memorable and emotion filled awards presentation. To round out the evening there was an auction of an amazing array of begonia items including the classic Thompsons' *Begonias* donated by **Howard Berg** and an original of **Charles McGough's** new mystery *The Box* along with its original illustrations. Both these and numerous other donations were snapped up by eager bidders.

But the begonia fun did not end on Saturday. On Sunday we got to visit the unique Another Place in Time Nursery and **Tom Keepin's** home garden. **Mike Lowery** had whetted our appetite by a charming begonia display at the entrance to our convention in the hotel and so we were far too hungry for the sights at his nursery to be satisfied with the few hours we had there. Every nook and cranny of his garden and nursery were filled with unusual plants we all had to have; we were still in line to buy when the bus called us. Tom Keepin's home just gets better with every visit. From his decorative frog display inside to the shaded, begonia filled "rooms" of the garden, this was a treat.

It was all so great that a few members like **Maxine Zinman**, **Johanna Zinn**, **Mary Bucholtz** couldn't bear to leave; they moved in with our enthusiastic, wonderful show chair, **Cheryl Lenert** so they could explore a few more plant places before they left!

From all of ABS, Cheryl and all the wonderful Houston Branch members who made 2002 so memorable, ABS and all who attended, **THANK YOU!!**

Begonias International

Begonia Winners by Leora Fuentes

Best in Show and Best Species: *B. bipinnatifida* grown by Leora Fuentes

Best Southwest Region Hybrid: *B. 'Rolling Green'* grown by Gene Salisbury

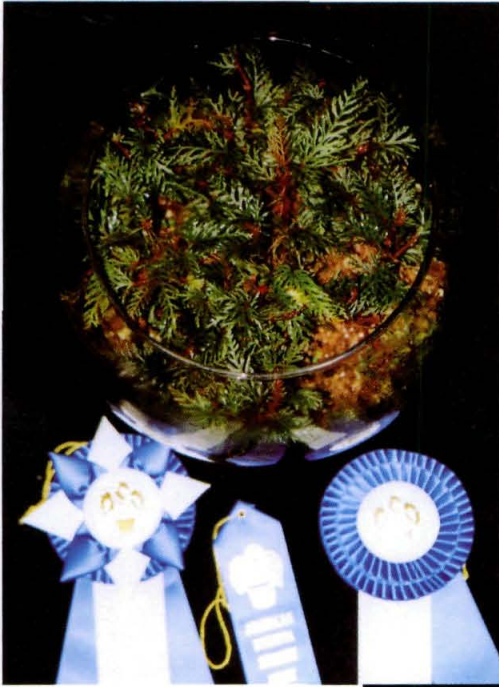
Sweepstakes: Charles Jaros with 9 Blue Ribbons

Showing is Sharing: Charles Jaros with 19 Entries

People's Choice: *B. 'Holley Moon'* grown by Dianna Wilkerson

Division Winners

	<u>Division</u>	<u>Begonia</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>
A	Cane-like	<i>B. 'Josephine'</i>	Nancy Walker
E	Rhizomatous	B. 'Rolling Green'	Gene Salisbury
EE	Rhizomatous (Unusual Growth)	<i>B. 'Charles Jaros'</i>	Charles Jaros
EEE	Rhizomatous (Distinctive)	<i>B. herbacea</i>	Charles Jaros
F	Rex Cultorum	<i>B. 'My Good Friend'</i>	Charles Jaros
I	Contained Atmosphere	<i>B. bipinnatifida</i>	Leora Fuentes
J	Species	<i>B. loranthoides</i>	Dianna Wilkerson
L	Hanging Container	<i>B. 'Caribbean Prince'</i>	Charles Jaros
N	Novice	<i>B. 'Flamingo Queen'</i>	Ignacia Owens
O	Novel Grown	<i>B. dregei</i>	Lisa Holmes
P	Wall Pocket Mounted	<i>B. 'Medora'</i>	Leigh Heard
W	Photographs - Judged Horticulturally	<i>B. 'Two Face'</i>	Mary Bucholtz
X	Photographs - Artistic	<i>B. acaulis</i>	Mary Bucholtz
Z	Arts	<i>B. serratifolia</i>	Johanna Kitson
ZZ	Crafts	Embroidered Table Cloth	Dianna Wilkerson
ZZB	Southwest Region Hybrids	<i>B. 'King Bird'</i>	Gene Salisbury
ZZE	Recycled Container	Recycled Container	Lulu Leonard
ZZF	Special Exhibits	The Box (book) and Illustrations	Chuck McGough
ZZG	Companion Plants	<i>B. Fuchsia Cascade 'Angel Earrings'</i>	Cindy Moran
ZZH	Contained Atmosphere	<i>Quereifelix Zeylanica</i> (Fern)	Leora Fuentes



Leora Fuentes grew the beautiful Best of Show winner *B. bipinitifida* shown at the left. . *B. loranthoides* with its unusual seed pod shown in *Mary Bucholtz*' photo, below left, won the Species Division award; it was grown by *Dianna Wilkerson*. *B. 'Josephine'* took Best Cane-like for *Nancy Walker*.



Culture Awards

<u>Begonia</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>
<i>B. dregei</i> (Syn. partita)	99	North Haven Gardens
<i>B.</i> 'Lalomie'	99	North Haven Gardens
<i>B. bipinnatifida</i>	98	Leora Fuentes
<i>B.</i> 'Mini Merry'	97.5	North Haven Gardens
<i>B.</i> 'Benitochiba'	97	North Haven Gardens
<i>B.</i> 'Sea Serpent'	96	North Haven Gardens
<i>B.</i> 'King Bird'	96	Gene Salisbury
<i>B.</i> 'Rolling Green'	95.7	Gene Salisbury
<i>B.</i> 'Caribbean Prince'	95.7	Charles Jaros
<i>B. loranthoides</i>	95.2	Dianna Wilkerson
<i>B. formosana</i>	95.1	Charles Jaros
<i>B.</i> 'Medora'	95	Leigh Herd
<i>B. amphioxus</i>	95	Tom Keepin
<i>B.</i> 'Swirly Q'	95	Tom Keepin
<i>B. dregei</i>	95	Lisa Holmes
<i>B.</i> 'Millie Thompson'	95	Leora Fuentes
<i>B.</i> 'Flamingo Queen'	95	Ignacia Owens
<i>B. herbacea</i>	95	Charle Jaros
<i>B.</i> 'Pachee'	95	North Haven Gardens

ABS Awards International Houston 2002

by Michael Ludwig, Awards Chairman

The "Prestigious Four" also had an international flavor this year. At the convention banquet I presented the American Begonia Society's awards to recognize the members that most represent the Aims and Purposes. I'd like to thank every one that sent in nominations for these awards and made it possible for them to be awarded.

The Alfred D. Robinson Medal goes to a registered begonia hybrid in circulation 5 years and not more than 15. It must be widely grown and the hybridizer must be an ABS member. *Begonia* 'Flamingo Queen' hybridized by **Ross Bolwell** is the winner this year. This beautiful cane-like begonia has spread rapidly through

the U.S. It is very popular in gardens and in shows alike. IT is often a top winner in shows. The peltate leaves have a beautiful white spotting, like its *B. maculata* parent as well as a white edging around the leaves. The plant with its pink flowers is a wonderful grower in all kinds of conditions. Thank you Ross Bolwell for this fine hybrid and this year's winner of the ADR Medal. **Don Miller**, who imported the plant and spread it around the U.S, is taking the medal to Ross.

The Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award is presented to an editor of the *Begonian*, current or retired, for the outstanding use of contributions of members and others in



Helene Jaros holds her Eva Kenworthy Gray Award, top left. Tamsin Boardman receives the Ziesenhenné Award from Michael Ludwig, right above. At right, Leora Fuentes accepts the Dyckman Award. B. 'Flamingo Queen, below, right, is not only the A.D. Robinson Medal winner, it also took a blue ribbon for Cindy Moran in the show.



the *Begonian* to execute the Aims and Purposes of the American Begonia Society and for leading and strengthening the membership in their study of Begonias through the excellence of editorship. **Tamsin Boardman** certainly filled those criteria and won this award. Tamsin was editor for nine years and edited over 2000 pages. These pages were filled with great articles written by new and experienced authors in and out of the ABS. They educated us about begonias, new and old, and took us to places most of us will never get to visit. Thank you Tamsin for fully utilizing the *Begonian* to spread the word of begonias.

The Eva Kenworthy Gray Award is given to an individual for contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among members; and/or contributing original material toward helping the rank and file members further their study of begonias. The winner of this year's award certainly cemented goodwill from the first time I met her at the 1980 convention in Long Beach, CA. She asked me to sign her convention program, I was an unknown and she made me feel welcome. I'll always treasure the time we've spent at conventions as that is the only times I've been able to see her. She always has a smile on her face, a kind word to share and I hope to have her energy when I get older. She travels through the begonia world sharing herself with all. **Helene Jaros** is a generous and giving person and certainly deserving of this award.

The Herbert P. Dyckman Award is presented to a member who has rendered long-term or very outstanding service for ABS above and beyond the normal duties of a member or officer. The recipients have given both long time service and service above and beyond normal. As Entries and Classification Chair long hours into the night are spent getting a convention's show ready for the judges, that after a long

day accepting entries. While his wife was seeing to the plants, "Mr. Hospitality spent long days and late night hosting the conventioners in the Hospitality Room. Seeing to it that everyone felt welcomed and had a drink, snack or often times whole meals while talking begonias, plants or visiting with others that were passing time while their mates were off doing the 'Begonia Thing'. **Leora** and **Ray Fuentes** are noble winners of this prestigious award. This award was especially difficult to present as Leora and the ABS were still mourning the passing of Ray just weeks before the convention.

Congratulations to all the winners. They are all truly worthy and deserving exemplifying the meaning and goals set forth by the founders and namesakes of the awards.

Clean Your Pots The Easy Way

Wait for the day after garbage pickup and load your then empty garbage can with pots that need to be cleaned. Fill with lysol or your favorite cleaner and water. Then wait until you are ready to deal with the mess, dump the water, hose down the pots, and you will have a clean garbage can as well.

Vinegar works if you only have a couple of pots.

Virginia Jens provided this item which she says should be attributed to Ann Kilmer, a local garden writer there in Florida. And, yes, she says she is related to Joyce Kilmer of "I think that I shall never see"...fame. And all of us need a easy method available to clean those pots.

**Pronunciation of Begoniaceae
Names for the Begonian 69:
September-October, 2002
by Jack Golding**

acaulis	uh-KAW-lis
acetosa	ay-se-TOH-suh
angulata	ang-yew-LAY-tuh
bipinnatifida	beye-pin-nay-ti-FID-uh
cooperi	KOOP-er-eye
crassicaulis	kras-si-KAW-lis
dipetala	deye-PET-a-luh
dregei	DREG-e-eye
syn. partita	par-TEE-tuh
formosana	for-mos-AY-nuh
herbacea	her-BAY-se-uh
heracleifolia	her-ak-le-eye-FOH-li-uh
'Pyramadilio'	pi-ra-mad-i-LEYE-oh
hispidia	HISS-pi-duh
var cucullifera	kyew-kul-LIF-er-uh
hydrocotylifolia	heye-dro-koh-til-i-FOH- li-uh
itaguassuensis	ita-gyew-as-syew-EN-sis
leathermaniae	leth-er-MAN-i-ee
listada	lis-TAH-duh
loranthoides	lor-anth-o-EYE-deez,
ludwigii	LEWD-vig-i-eye
maculata	mak-yew-LAY-tuh
malabarica	mal-i-BAR-i-kuh
mollicaulis	mol-li-KAW-lis
nelumbiifolia	nel-um-bi-eye-FOH-li-uh
odorata	o-dor-AY-tuh
'Alba'	AL-buh
paleata	pa-le-AY-tuh
peltata	pel-TAY-tuh
sericoneura	ser-i-kon-OO-ruh
serratipetala	ser-ra-ti-PET-a-luh
solananthera	soh-lan-ANTH-er-uh
ulmifolia	ulm-i-FOH-li-uh
wollnyi	WOHLL-ni-eye

Nomenclature Notes by Jack Golding

[These refer to Seed Fund Listing on pages 192-3.]

Begonia heracleifolia Schlechtendal & Chamisso, 'Pyramadilio'.

The first reference to this plant is in the *Begonian*, 13:241, 1946 by **Helen K. Krauss** in an article about the garden of **Florence Carrell**,

Seed Fund Administrator. It refers to *B. heracleifolia* var *Pyramadilio* and it is also listed on page 252 in the Seed Fund Listing. But there is no description hence it is a *nomen nudum*.

Begonian 23, 156, 1956. In the registration of *Begonia* 'Cool Water' *B. heracleifolia pyramidalis* is listed as the male parent. From its description "The green petioles have the ridges of *B. heracleifolia pyramidalis*. Their red markings make the petioles look red until one makes a close examination. The rhizome is also green with the same close red markings."

The *Buxton Check List of Begonias*, 90, 1947 lists *B. heracleifolia* var *Pyramadilio*. Brilmayer, *All About Begonias*: 127, 1960, for *B. heracleifolia* one of the varieties listed is "*pyramidalis*, medium green".

Begonian 56:113, 1989, in the Seed Fund Listing "*B. heracleifolia* var *pyramidello* is quite velvety on the surface and has grey/green markings which commence at the petiole point and are only as wide as the veins until they reach the top of each parting, then the gray/green becomes wider. The underside of the leaf is maroon with light-green veins. A small hairy collar surrounds the maroon petioles at the leaf point, and the plants produces medium-pink profuse flowers."

The description for the above Seed Fund listing SO02-04 is basically the same..

Since there has not been a valid description as a botanical variety for this plant. It should be listed as a cultivar *B. heracleifolia* 'Pyramadilio'. The other spellings "Pyramidalis" and "pyramidello" should be considered typographical errors.

Begonia malabarica

Jan Doorenbos, *Begonian* 67:170, explained the history of the confusion between **Begonia malabarica** Lamarck, 1785 and *Begonia malabarica* A. de Candolle, 1864, non Dryander 1785, which is a synonym of **Begonia dipetala** Graham 1828.

It is easy to distinguish each of these species by their flowers. **Begonia malabarica** has male flowers with four tepals and the female flowers with three tepals. **Begonia dipetala** has only two tepals for both the male and female flowers.

Exciting News!
Begoniaceae, Second Edition
It's coming!

In August, the second edition of the classic Smithsonian publication on begonias will be issued. This is one every serious student of begonias wants to have in his or her library and now you may have a chance to do so. By special arrangement of support of the ABS' Millie Thompson Publication Fund, we were able to secure a larger printing and thus have available a limited supply for our members and branches. Branches will each receive a reference copy for their member's use. Then, **those who make a contribution of \$50.00 or more, plus \$5. shipping and handling, to the Millie Thompson Publication Fund will receive a copy mailed to them.** To reserve your copy now send your contribution check made out to the **American Begonia Society** (with the notation in the lower left, For: Millie Thompson Publication Fund Donation) to:

Ann Salisbury
P.O. Box 452
Tonkawa, OK
PH: 580-628-5230
Email: geneann@kskc.net

The book will then be shipped as soon as available from the printer. Send your contribution now; you don't want to miss a copy of this definitive book on begonia species!

Abstract

Golding, Jack and Dieter C. Wasshausen. *Begoniaceae*, Edition 2. Part I: Annotated Species List. Part II: Illustrated Key. Abridgement and Supplement. Smithsonian Contributions from the United States National Herbarium, volume 43: 289 pages (including 57 plates). Part I, lists in alphabetical order, all verified species and infraspecific taxa, including complete synonymy, literature citation, assignment to the sections, and geographical distributions. All recognized species are cross referenced to the subkeys in Part II by the Illustration numbers. In Part II, all the known taxa of Begoniaceae (exclusive of hybrids and cultivars) are initially keyed into 34 subkeys. They are abridged and subsequently the new taxa are keyed to recognized species. The new species are illustrated from a photo of the available holotype or type specimen. Key Words: Begoniaceae, Nomenclature, Species List, Illustrated Key, Taxonomy.

Documenting The Begonias of Veracruz State, Mexico

by Rekha Morris

It is a source of great encouragement that at the Houston Convention, the Grants Committee of the ABS announced its support of my proposal to collect seeds, roots and rhizomes while also documenting the species begonias of Veracruz and adjacent Oaxaca states, Mexico. My two previous trips to this region were largely exploratory in nature and personally funded, and it was during the course of the second trip [October 2001] that I realized the enormous potential for field research on Begonia species of this state. Although the dozen or so species I photographed at various locations during this trip are all known from reports of previous collectors of the past two centuries, it is nevertheless well worth retracing their footsteps to ascertain whether the begonia communities mentioned by them still exist. My efforts to locate a community of *B. nelumbifolia* mentioned by earlier explorers along a route between Jalapa and Veracruz proved to be futile as the area is now heavily developed and stands of sugar canes, castor beans, and papayas have displaced *B. nelumbifolia*.

Quite apart from this form of verification, my goals are fourfold: [1] to bring back fresh seeds, roots and rhizomes to replenish and renew our genetic pool; [2] to document as fully as possible the existing locations of species begonias; [3] to create an archival resource center for begonias of this region by creating a photo archive and herbarium specimens, and eventually [4] to publish a monograph on begonias of Veracruz and adjacent Oaxaca states.

I have already documented begonia sites in various locations in and around Orizaba and Cordoba, and along routes connecting these with Jalapa, Veracruz and Oaxaca city. My collection of slides now numbers in the hundreds and the Curator of the Herbarium at Clemson University, **Patrick McMillan**, has generously offered not only to house the herbarium specimens but also to loan me the use of a press and all necessary paper for preserving stems, foliage, and male and female flowers, during my field work in Mexico. Each herbarium specimen will be illustrated by one or two color photos taken in situ showing not only details of mature specimens, but also of their habitat. By the end of the third trip which I am planning to take this December, I will be in a better position to judge when I can complete a monographic study for ABS.

My research has been greatly facilitated by the expertise and generosity of **Jack Golding** and **Prof. Burt-Utley**, and my attempts to present material of interest to the readers of the *Begonian* by the encouragement of **Freda Holley**. The ABS's financial support of \$1000. is greatly appreciated, however, it falls short of the requested \$4000., an amount based on the expenditure during each of my two previous trips. I will greatly appreciate any further financial support from Branch and/or individual donors, all of whom will be acknowledged with gratitude both in the archival records and in any publications resulting from the research as outlined above.

As reported elsewhere in the ABS minutes, Rekha received this grant at the Houston meeting and is following the Board's suggestion in her request for additional support above. This is the first grant given under the recommendations of the new Grant Committee, now chaired by Janet Brown. It appears to be working well and perhaps to even be encouraging research.

Exploring Begonia Websites

by Sandy Boyd

This is a website you do not want to miss. Be sure to bookmark this site as soon as you finish reading this issue: <http://absastro.tripod.com/index.htm>. The site is so varied with everything from fabulous photos to a most complete data base of species and cultivars that you will want to return to it again and again. This web site wins Best of Show for begonia web sites!

As soon as you click on the homepage you will know it is something special. Lively music softly plays and the page layout is so inviting. Across the top are various subjects including the Branches of Houston and links to ABS. Scrolling down the home page you will see various pages under the title **Headlines**. As an example of the subjects click on the Barkley Branch Show in April 2002 and you will see what I mean. **Gene Salisbury's** and **Freda Holley's** begonias are also featured.

Of the links to pages at the top of your screen, the Exploration page was one of the most interesting to me. It covers **Scott Hoover's** trips to Indonesia and South East Asia. The many photographs of the species he collected were fascinating. Each photograph of plants or their blossoms can be easily enlarged with a click of your mouse. Information such as the name, height, date of collection, longitude, latitude, and more are included. To aid in the abbreviations used in the plant information there is a reference page which explains all the abbreviations used in the entire web site.

The next topic you will want to review is the data base page. There is de-

tailed information on 3450 plus cultivars and 1450 plus species, plus references to the *Begonian*, the *Begonia Leaflet* (SWR), and several web sites. All the species data has been checked against a draft copy of the upcoming Smithsonian *Begoniaceae*, Second Edition by **Jack Golding** and **Dieter Wasshausen** so names, dates, authors, etc. are as correct and up to date as possible. Cultivar information has been cross checked with the *Buxton Checklist* in its many forms so it is also up to date and as correct as it can be. This page has taken hundreds and hundreds of hours to complete and it shows.

The "piece de resistance" is the photo pages. There are hundreds of photos of species and cultivars for you to enjoy. Along the left side of the screen is the index. Let's say you like canes. Click away and an alphabetical index of canes will appear. Click on a name and presto a great photo appears. Click on the back button to return to the index. What a way to while away an afternoon. This page also is very time consuming to produce. To process 100 pictures for inclusion on the web page may take ten plus hours.

This site sounds like a whole company is set up just to operate it. However, it is one man's devotion to begonias that has made it all possible. He is **Bill Claybaugh**. He attends all three Houston Branch meetings most months and takes pictures of people and plants for the site wherever he goes. He also attends the National, Southwest Region, and ABS Board meetings to get pictures and information. He additionally pays all the fees necessary to maintain this fabulous web site. This is truly a labor of love.

As you leave the web site there is a place to send Bill an Email. Please tell him how you felt about the site and the incredible amount of information in it. I know he will appreciate it.

Finally, if you would like to participate in a begonia discussion group on line, please go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com>. When you see the banner "Join a Group" type in "begonias" and click. You will then join 128 begoniacs and you will learn so much about growing begonias you'll be amazed.

A few begonia group members have emailed me to unsubscribe from the group

because of the number of messages they receive. If you feel you can't deal with the volume of messages go back to the begonia groups site and click on "edit my membership." You can elect to receive no emails and simply review messages when you have time, or you can receive emails in a bundle every day or two. If you have any questions or problems please email me at samb4mail@aol.com.

How I Handled the *Heat* of the Summer of 2001

by Dale Sena

Located in the middle of the state on the west gulf coast, we experience extreme growing conditions here in Tampa, Florida. Compared to Miami, 400 miles to our south, we are colder in the winter, and hotter in the summer. And lately, boy-oh-boy, are we hot in the summer! Summer is supposed to be our rainy season. In the "old" days, it would start to cloud up by 2pm, and be raining by 4pm. You could set your clock by it. The effect of that weather pattern was to keep the afternoon temperatures under 85°, and bring our nighttime temperatures into the 70's. But at the current time, we are in the grips of what is arguably the worst 5 year drought in the last hundred years. For the past 5 years, from May through August, we have had daytime temperatures at or near 90°F, coupled with nighttime temperatures that are above 80°F along with humidity between 75% and 90%. No clouding over near mid-day, no cooling afternoon rains. In the last 5 years, I've lost a lot of begonias during this time. Those hot, over 80°F nights are begonia killers for sure! But last year, I built a new shadehouse, and spent the better part of early summer (see Con-

vention, Denver) collecting new begonias to fill it with, and I was determined not to lose them, as I have in summers past.

Everything I know, everything I've read, and all the tips I've gotten on the subject of heat and begonias say that it is the **nighttime** temperatures that are the most crucial. So my goal was to try to lower those over 80°F nighttime temperatures in my growing areas.

My begonias grow in three distinctively different growing areas, and I did something different in each area. I will describe them each individually. In every case, a very light, porous potting mix is a **must**, or the plants smother and choke.

First, the outside shadehouse: Starting in May, I turned a fan on in there, and kept it running 24/7. Then, while at the garden center store one day, I noticed what they called a 'Personal Cooling System.' The same diameter as your standard garden hose, it's a hard, free-standing form that looks just like a Cobra snake being charmed out of the basket. It stands about 2 feet high, and at the top are 2 fine mister heads. It was selling for \$6. Attached to the garden hose, its intended use is to cool

off a small area around a poolside, for example.

But I had other ideas.

After attaching it to my hose, I then raised it up 3 feet (I put it up on a table), so that the mister heads were now about 5 feet from the floor. Then I strategically placed the fan behind it so that the mist was being blown through the shadehouse. At first, it took a little trial and error with the fan, but once I had the right distance and angle and speed, the results were even better than I expected. The mist covered an area about 6 feet wide, 12-15 feet long and 8 feet high – approximately 80% of my shadehouse. Even the hanging plants were misted.

The fan encourages evaporation, and as the water evaporates, it has a cooling effect on all surfaces – the floor, the walls, the benches, the pots, the leaves and the air. So even when rain doesn't cool us down in the afternoon, my outside growing area is definitely cooler at night. The thermometer in there usually registers at least 5 degrees cooler than the outside air, which is often enough to bring the temperature in that area below 80°F. Hooray! And I think the plants like the mist, too, as it more resembles many natural begonia habitats.

As I already had the hose and fan, my entire investment in this system was the \$6 I spent on that personal cooler / mister hose attachment. And since I did not come out in the mornings to find melted and mushy begonias, I feel like I got a very good return on that investment!

Next, I needed to do something in the room where I keep the terrariums. Each of 3 shelves has 1 or 2 four foot double fluorescent fixtures. The lights were on timers set for about 14 hours a day – from 8am to 10pm. My house does have central air conditioning, but even with the ceiling

fan running constantly, I was having trouble keeping the temperature in the terrarium room below 80°. And if the temperature in the room is 80°, inside the terrariums it had to be warmer.

So I decided to reverse the light timer. By that I mean that instead of having the lights on during the day, when the whole house is warmer anyway, I had them come on at night, when everything is cooler. And since it's also summer, when the days are long naturally, I set the lights accordingly – on at 8pm, off at 10am. The terrarium room now stays below 80° at all times.

There is one downside to this plan, however, at least for me. Now that the lights are off during the day, I don't see as much as I used to, and the dusting of the containers and lights and grooming and watering etc. doesn't get done like it used to!

This method cost nothing to set up. It's hard to really compare electricity bills from last year, but the entire house is cooler, and it doesn't seem to me that the air conditioner has to work as hard. And I am much happier with the room staying below 80°.

The next growing area I needed to work on was the small greenhouse at the University of South Florida Botanical Garden that we refer to as the "Cool House." The glasshouse that houses most of the begonia species collection stays naturally cool due to oak tree shading and ventilation, but there are still some species that absolutely require (overall) cooler growing conditions, such as tuberous (which, by the way, will not grow in Florida at all), some of the thick stemmed species like *B. wollnyi*, those 'picky' trailing scandents like *B. solanthera*, and some begonias that have been collected in the wild from cooler climates in Mexico, Peru and Ecuador.

Situated out in the full Florida blazing sun, this 10' X 10' fiberglass green-

house can really cook! To keep the daytime temperatures as low as possible we use what (I recently learned) is commonly called a 'swamp cooler.' Fans at one end of the greenhouse exhaust air that is drawn through a drip pad at the opposite end. Daytime temperatures stay below 90°, without it they'd be over 120° in there. But again, my objective was to lower those **nighttime** temperatures.

We decided to install a portable room-sized air conditioner to run at night. Given the limitations of the aluminum beams, we bought the largest (used) A/C we could find that would fit in the structure. I set the timer for the unit to turn on about 4pm and run all night long until about 8am. The drip pad continues to run, providing constant humidity, but the external exhaust fans are shut off so as not to draw the air conditioned air out of the greenhouse. They are set to come back on in the morning when the A/C cycles off. (An internal fan runs continuously.) I am extremely pleased with the results – daytime temperatures are no higher than 90°, and nighttime temperatures are about 62°. This is very close to the natural habitats of many

of our begonia species. I am even able to grow tuberous begonias such as *B.evansiana* in there, among others.

Obviously, this was the most expensive solution of the three I just described. The used air conditioner cost \$175, and of course, the electricity it needs to run is not free. But the begonias are happy, I'm happy, and the small increase in the electricity bill is only temporary. When the weather breaks, usually in September or October, the air conditioner won't be needed again until next April or May.

Good ideas for the rest of this summer and to help us prepare for next summer! Thankfully, Dale says it looks like Florida's drought is broken at last. If you are heat challenged like a lot of us, you will also want to read the article by our new member from Israel on page 187. Dale is the curator of begonias for the University of South Florida and helps to preserve species through propagation and seed setting and saving. You may contact Dale at 816 W. Braddock St., Tampa, FL 33603-5410 or begoniababe@cs.com



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Membership Advisory Vote on Dues Increase

At the Board Meeting in Houston an increase in dues was discussed. According to ABS By-laws dues increases must be voted on by the Board of Directors. However, member input is also important. So each of you are being asked to give an advisory vote. The Board will take this vote into consideration when they decide the amount of the increase.

The proposed annual dues would be \$25 for members in the North American continent and \$45 for overseas members. There are several reasons why dues must be increased:

- . During the past eight years there has been no dues increase.
- . Over this time there have been at least four postal increases.
- . The cost of paper and printing has increased.
- . All members would receive the *Begonian* by first-class mail, eliminating the delayed delivery which has been as much as seven weeks on third-class mail.
- . Members with a change of address would have the *Begonian* delivered to them, rather than have it returned to A.B.S.
- . First-class mail is less often mangled than is third-class.
- . Ballots and membership renewal reminders would be sent in the envelope with the *Begonian*.
- . There would no longer be an additional charge for a second member at the same address.

There are alternatives to not increase the dues which may be one or a combination of the following:

- . Reduce the number of issues of the *Begonian* to four a year.
- . Return to black and white photos and eliminate color.
- . Reduce the number of pages per issue.

The increase proposed represents \$1 per year for the eight plus years dues remained at the current level. Everything else has gone up including the price of lettuce and gas. The quality of the *Begonian* (amount of color) has also gone up, dues have not. The proposed dues would be comparable to most other plant society dues, many of which do not provide a journal of the quality of the *Begonian*.

Please support this dues increase. It will insure the continued quality we have all come to enjoy in the *Begonian*.

**Morris Mueller,
President**

Membership Advisory Ballot

**Do you support the proposed
increase in annual dues for
A.B.S.?**

Yes NO

**Clip and Return the original ballot (no
copies) by October 15, 2002 to:**

**Ingeborg Foo
Ballot Counting Chair, A.B.S.
1050 Melrose Way
Vista, CA 92083**

The final decision by the Board regarding the increase will be published in the January/February issue of the *Begonian*.

ABS National Board Meeting
Saturday, September 7, 2002
Orange County, CA

Again this year the Annual ABS Meeting will be held in Orange County, CA in conjunction with the Orange County Branch annual Fiesta to be held at 6847 E. Sycamore Glen Drive, Orange, California.

Hotel: Rooms will be available at the County Suites by Ayres, just over the hill from Mary Sakamoto's house, at 22677 Oakcrest Circle, Yorba Linda, CA. For reservations call 800-336-0632 or 714-921-8688 with special rates of Single/Double Occupancy at \$85. per night or Triple/Quad Occupancy at \$95. per night. (if reservations are made by August 25th).

The Board meeting is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. (subject to change) on Saturday morning.

The Plant Sale and Boutique will open at 2:00 p.m. A Mexican style dinner will be served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. There is a \$10. donation required for the dinner; make check payable to Orange County ABS. After dinner there will be an Auction of plants and plant related items. There is no charge for attendance at the Plant Sale, Boutique and Auction.

If you plan to attend, either call Mary at 714-633-6997 or email her at m.sakamoto@worldnet.att.net.

Clip and Mail to:

Ingeborg Foo
Ballot Counting Chair,
A.B.S.
1050 Melrose Way
Vista, CA 92083

***B. convolvulaceae* Look-Alike**
by Peter Sharp

We have growing in the open garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens here in Sydney, Australia a climbing/scandent begonia alike in all respects to *B. convolvulaceae* except that its leaves are glabrous and not hairy as is the foliage of *B. convolvulaceae*. It was collected in the wild by **Professor Carrick Chambers** (then Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney) near Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992 creeping over the floor of the rainforest in disturbed brown earth on granite.

In cultivation, it is proving to be a rampant grower, more vigorous than its look-alike, putting on new growth throughout the year and requiring constant pruning to keep it in bounds!

Do we have something new, perhaps *B. convolvulacea* var *chambersii*? What say the experts of ABS?

American Begonia Society Board Meeting Minutes June 1, 2002, Houston, Texas

President Mueller opened the meeting and asked **Jeanne Jones** to read the Aims and Purposes of the Society. There were 43 board member votes present. **1.** The Secretary's report of the last meeting was accepted as sent to board members. **2.** Treasurer **Carol Notaras** presented the financial statement for February 1 to May 31, 2002. The general fund beginning balance was \$7102.32 and the ending balance was \$6539.22. This was the result of \$19,159.45 income and \$19,722.55 expenses. The combined checking accounts for the general fund, *Begonian* mailing and seed fund had a beginning balance of \$9011.83 and a final balance of \$6927.14. Savings account totals were \$64,236.28 beginning and \$59,611.62 ending. This drop was due to withdrawals from the conservation and money market funds to pay obligations. The combined checking and savings account totals were \$73,248.11 beginning and \$66,538.76 ending. Carol also presented a sample form for convention chairs and others to use for reporting income and expenses to make accounting easier and more consistent for the record. All board members who are accountable for funds should contact Carol for details of the simple procedure. **3.** Membership Secretary **Arlene Ingles** presented statistics on membership for February 2 to May 31, 2002. Total members for this period were 1364 on February 1 and 1346 on May 31. The latter number included 88 institutional, 59 lifetime, 1031 domestic, 55 second family, and 113 foreign members. New member sources for this period were branches 45, unknown 15, gifts 1, former rejoined 33, internet 26, 7 reasons 2, *Begonian* 1, *Hobby Greenhouse* 1, Cloudy Valley Nurs-

ery 1, and second family 3 for a total of 128. Branches credited with new members were Astro 6, Palm Beaches 9, Barkley 9, Westchester 1, Delaware Valley 6, Houston Satellites 1, Whittier 1, San Francisco 1, San Gabriel 3, Sacramento 1, Alamo 1, Dallas 1, and Buxton 5. The above statistics supercede those provided at the meeting. Arlene asked all board members to remind their branches that a second family membership costs only \$2. Thus, the total membership fee for two people at the same address using 3rd class mail is \$19. Using 1st class mail it is \$25. Arlene requested permission to use first class postage for mailing *Begonians* to all lifetime members. Third class postage now used is not satisfactory and more costly for tracking deceased members and those who move because the magazine is not returned or forwarded. A motion to use first class postage for mailing *Begonians* to lifetime members and to base the lifetime membership fee on first class postage rates was approved. The lifetime membership fee is 20 times the annual fee. The annual membership fee using first class mailing is now \$23. Thus, the new lifetime rate is \$460. **4.** Awards Committee Chair **Michael Ludwig** presented a draft certificate for the new Showing is Sharing Award and asked for comments. He also requested permission to order a quantity of gold seals to place on the certificates because the price drops with quantity. Comments on both were favorable. President Mueller suggested he order 1000 seals so that branches could order them at nominal cost for use on local awards. **5.** Branch Relations Director **Mary Bucholtz** reported sending a charter to the new Delaware Valley Branch. **Joan Kessinger**, President of the Mae Blanton Branch, submitted revisions of their constitution for approval. Mary reported that the changes appear to be in compliance with the ABS constitution and requested

that the board grant the changes and record the acceptance in the minutes. A motion to accept the changes carried. Mary requested that all branches inform her when new National Directors are elected and give her the name and address of the new Director so she can make contact. Mary indicated that she is going to need ABS seals to place on new branch charters in the near future. The ABS has a hand held embossing press for applying ABS seals to documents. The Secretary agreed to turn over the press to the Branch Relations Director for use on branch charters. **5.** Business Manager **Gene Salisbury** proposed that all **Begonians** be mailed first class for positive reasons too numerous to list here. Since most of the magazines are mailed 3rd class this proposal would increase mailing costs significantly. After a length discussion of ways to compensate for the additional postage, a motion to increase dues to \$20 was made, but then discarded and replaced with a motion to increase dues to \$25 and use first class mail for all **Begonians**. This motion carried. Another motion to eliminate the \$2 fee for a second family member and allow 2 voting members for \$25 also carried. Still another motion to increase the foreign membership fee to \$45 was also approved. In addition, a mailing fee of \$45 will be charged institutional members. Since there is no charge levied now a letter will be sent to all institutional members informing them of the impending change. The above membership fee changes are board recommendations that must be voted upon by a ballot of the entire ABS Board. A discussion of the recommended changes along with a ballot will be issued to the membership in the near future. **6.** *Begonian* Editor **Freda Holley** reported that the cost of printing color photographs in the *Begonian* is going up for each pair of pages above 4 pair. No decision was made at this time on how

to accommodate the increase. However, no more color advertising will be accepted. **7.** Convention Advisory Committee Chair **Mary Sakamoto** announced that Convention 2003 is going to be held in Oklahoma City, April 22-27. A search is on for a Southern California branch to host a convention in 2004. **8.** Second Vice President **Janet Brown** speaking for the Grant Review Committee, reported that **Rekha Morris** has submitted a very thorough proposal for collecting begonias in Mexico in December of 2002. The proposal included a request for \$4000. Details of the proposal can be obtained from Janet. The Committee recommended that ABS grant \$1000 for this effort and that copies of the proposal be sent to branches to encourage branch and private donations. A motion to accept the committee recommendation and thus grant \$1000 to Dr. Morris carried. Copies of the proposal should be sent to National Directors including the MAL Director with a request to contact the membership for additional donations. **9.** Internet Editor **Kathy Goetz** urged everyone to submit local events to the ABS website and not be discouraged by lack of feedback at the site. **10.** Seed Fund Administrator **Michael Ludwig** reported on Seed Fund activities, urged members to donate seeds and had seeds available to buy throughout the convention. **11.** **Wanda Macnair**, Holiday Greetings Chair, announced that the donation categories will be the same as last year and urged board members to contact the membership to encourage both branch and private donations. A letter on this subject was included with the minutes. **12.** Nomenclature Director **Gene Salisbury** reported that the Smithsonian revision of *Begoniaceae*, Second Edition by **Jack Golding** and **Dieter C. Wasshausen** is completed and will soon be printed. ABS has been offered the opportunity to buy an overprinting

quantity of 100 or more. These would be distributed to ABS members in return for a donation. The books cannot be sold for profit. The money for the purchase would come from the Millie Thompson Publication Fund and be returned to that as donations are received. The Board accepted the offer and left the details up to the Nomenclature Committee. **13.** The plan to remit subscriptions for the Member At Large Newsletter to the treasurer is not working. Please send them to the Membership Secretary. **14. Rekha Morris** has published an issue of the renewed *Save Our Species Newsletter*. We were all urged to take a personal copy and one for our branch. There will be two free issues this

year. Next year there will be three issues and two ways to receive them. One way is to adopt or readopt a species and the other is to pay \$5 for the year. **11.** The Public Relations Chair position is still open and needed. Volunteers are requested to apply to President Mueller and all board members are urged to identify potential candidates. [Ed. note: As reported in the President's Message, **Virginia Jens** subsequently volunteered for this position and her name will be submitted for Board approval at the September meeting]. **14.** The next board meeting will be on September 7, 2002 in Orange County, CA, and will coincide once again with the Orange County Branch Fiesta at **Mary Sakamoto's** home.

In the Mailbox

by Greg Sytch, Horticultural Correspondent

Using Organics as Fertilizer

Wherever I am asked questions about growing begonias, soil, or light, there is always a question about feeding. Where there is no standard fertilizer, most growers use either time-release (such as an Osmocote-type) or water soluble such as Miracle-Gro). Both are effective, and the water soluble can be used as a foliar feed, too.

However, I also supplement my be-

gonias when I report them with two types of organic fertilizer. The first is Bone Meal. This is generally in a 6-12-0 label, and is invaluable for blooming. Being organic, Bone Meal is slowly released over time, much slower than the time-release fertilizers. I add a generous handful when I report larger canes, smaller for rhizomatous. I mix it in before I finish filling in the pot so it carefully gets to all areas of the root. Then I fertilize with time-release using a 19-6-12. Now in my Florida heat, time release breaks down quickly making Bone Meal all the more important.

My second organic fertilizer is Blood Meal. This usually comes in a 12-0-0 or 12-6-6 formula. The heavy nitrogen keeps the



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leaves lushly colored, and again, this organic breaks down slowly for continued feeding. I also apply, as with the Bone Meal, just before covering the roots up for good. However, depending on the needs of the plant, such as canes requiring more nitrogen for their leaves, I alter how much I use. As a caveat, I have also used both as a top dressing when I am pressed for time on all potted begonias, and I have noticed that if deeply watered initially, the fertilizer releases into the soil well.

Both organics are fairly inexpensive to use since you do not use much, and I

have found them in clearance sections in late spring reducing the cost. I have not found one manufacturer better than another, but formulas do differ there. Just think - do I want more blooms? Then use Bone Meal. Do I want better foliage? Then use Blood Meal.

If you have any additional questions, need advice, or are looking for any resources for begonias, feel free to email me at gsytych@cs.com, or send by regular mail to Greg Sytych, 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Rich, FL 34653-4301.

Good growing!

In Memory Virginia Brinkley

On June 13, 2002 the A.B.S., the Southwest Region, and the Sacramento Branch lost a devoted, dedicated member, **Virginia Brinkley**. Virginia joined in 1979. She was at the recent convention in Houston, and only five days prior to her death joined local members at a pot-luck. Her company was enjoyed by all who knew this quiet, gentle lady. She enjoyed traveling, the many conventions she attended, and the friends who came to know her at the conventions. The support she always provided by way of donations and active participation at the plant sale is known to many.

Virginia was always very supportive. She was for many years the branch secretary and librarian. She served as trustee for the Southwest Region. The many hours volunteered at local sales and shows will be remembered. Virginia drove an hour each way to participate in branch activities. Not only was she generous with her time, but also with things. At one time she gave me at least 50 clay pots.

There are other things to know about Virginia. Not only was she active in A.B.S., but other civic and professional

organizaitons. She was born in St. Louis, grew up in Kansas, and graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in pre-med in a day when women were rare in science. Her professional life was spent as a medical technologist working in hospitals around California. Virginia also had devoted dog companions that were a delight to those of us who had the chance to meet them.

All who had the opportunity to know her will have fond memories and miss her friendship and company.

Morris Mueller,
Sacramento Branch

Begonia Brief

B. bipinnatifida, the 2002 Convention Best of Show winner, was described by J.J. Smith in 1906. It is from New Guinea and has been assigned to the Section *Petermannia*. Other familiar begonias in this Section include *B. brevirimosa* and *B. serratipetala* which have been grown outside a terrarium and even in the garden, but the editor has never seen *B. bipinnatifida* grown anywhere but in a terrarium. No articles about this begonia were found in the *Begonian* indexes.

Coping with the Heat in Israel

by Ronnie Benshafrut

I am from Israel and we have had some very hot and humid days in past summers and even in the past several weeks of June with temperatures going as high as 44°C (111°F) and 85 per cent humidity or no humidity at all. I found out that of all my garden plants, under these conditions, begonias were the first to suffer.

I had one *B. 'Weltonensis'* which completely "melted" under the heat and a couple of cane-like begonias whose leaves were burnt even though they were completely in the shade.

What works best for me is planting all the begonias in moisture retaining clay pots. These pots keep the rooting system cool and protected. Clay pots have a secondary, but none the less important advantage, in my opinion, they look better.

I water my plants 3 times a week each time for 8 minutes using a 3 liter per hour automatic dropper which is placed a couple of centimeters from the perimeter of the plant. In large clay pots I have two or even 3 such droppers. What happens is that the plants get watered with about 400 milliliters of water (for one dropper), administered drop wise, without flooding. In order to avoid flooding or bad drainage, especially if the pots are placed on the ground

under a tree (as is the case with my collection) all my clay pots are placed on wooden or stone bases so that drainage is maintained and no adventitious roots are able to penetrate and clog the hole at the bottom of the pot. One last point, I never use special compost mixtures for my begonias. The mixtures I use are all purpose composts containing undetermined amounts of perlite which is a white substance which makes the mixture better hold air and water.

With respect to begonias kept in my small greenhouse, these are watered once a week as the temperatures in the greenhouse are more or less controlled.

Welcome Ronnie not only as a new contributor to the Begonian, but also as a new member to ABS. Actually, his conditions sound rather like the ones we have here in Oklahoma! You may contact him at ronniebs@zahav.net.il

Corrections

In the July/August 2002 *Begonian*, on page 150, the Barkley Show was of course, in 2002.

Dale Sena wants to alert everyone who may have bought one in Houston that the hairy rhizomatous plant sold as *B. 'Selby's Trash'* is really *B. 'Sarasoto Trash'*. Change your labels!

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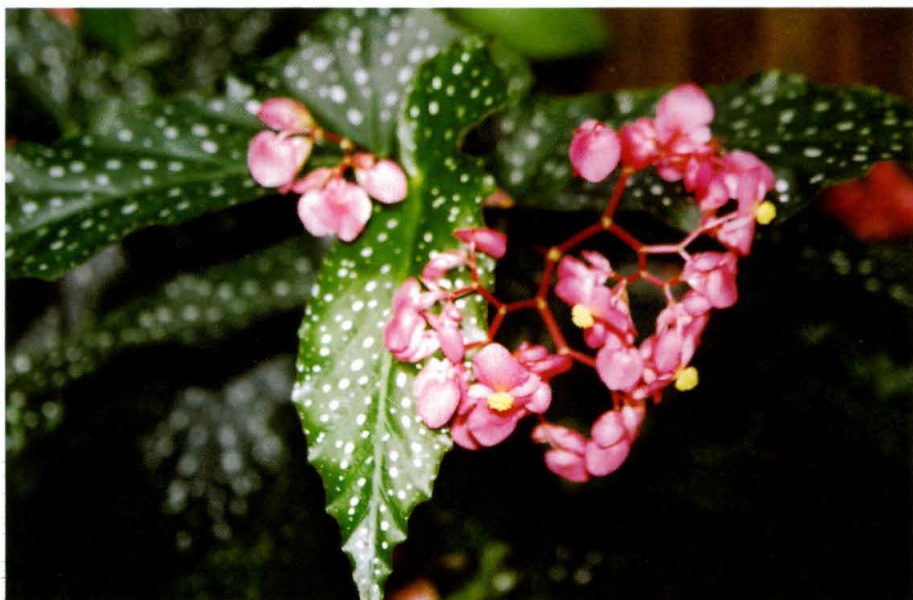
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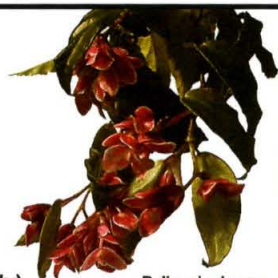
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B. formosana var. *formosana*

by Charles Jaros

While attending the 2001 ABS Annual Meeting in Orange County, California a side trip was arranged by Jeanne Jones for those attending the meeting to Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. Early Sunday morning we boarded a bus for a trip to Huntington Botanical Gardens and were met by two docents of the gardens that are also members of the Palos Verdes Branch. What a treat it was to have two knowledgeable guides lead us through this 150-acre paradise. But an even more delicious morsel was in store: a tour of the working greenhouses. To make this great day even better we were told by our docents that our group was able to purchase plants from the greenhouse. Does a Begoniac need other prodding? I think not! As our small group descended upon the Begonia section, species were snapped up like candy. Even though the garden's begonia collection was small, there were some very impressive varieties. We all came away very satisfied.

Among the species that I purchased was this delicate rhizomatous named *B. formosana*. Obviously with this name, I determined it was discovered in Formosa now known as Taiwan. *Begonias 1984 Update* by Mildred Thompson classify this gem as rhizomatous, distinctive foliage with unusual surface and/or unusual coloring, medium leaved. Flowers are pale pink with the blooming season being from May to October.

According to the draft copy of *Begoniaceae* Edition 2 by Jack Golding and Dieter C. Wasshausen the name was published in 1961 and is in the section *Platycentrum* and should be correctly named *B. formosana* var. *formosana*.

B. formosana var. *formosana* arrived to its new home in Sanford safely, even though it had an extended stay at the home

of Tim & Thelma O'Reilly due to the terrible incidents of September 11th. Within a week it was planted into a 6" plastic squatty bulb pot using my soilless mix Fafard 2S; Nutricote 13-13-13 timed release fertilizer was also added to the soil during repotting. *B. formosana* var. *formosana* was a well established plant and promptly took off in its new container. It grows in my shadehouse which is 20' x 30' and has a solid clear fiberglass roof with 70% shade cloth on the sides and under the fiberglass. The shadehouse is in full sun most of the day. *B. formosana* var. *formosana* sits on the ground of the shadehouse away from the brightest area. My shadehouse is not heated in the winter and even with the shadehouse being wrapped in plastic and heat lamps on, the temperature this winter dropped to 29 degrees inside. *B. formosana* var. *formosana* suffered no ill effects and as spring approached started to reward me with fabulous new growth.

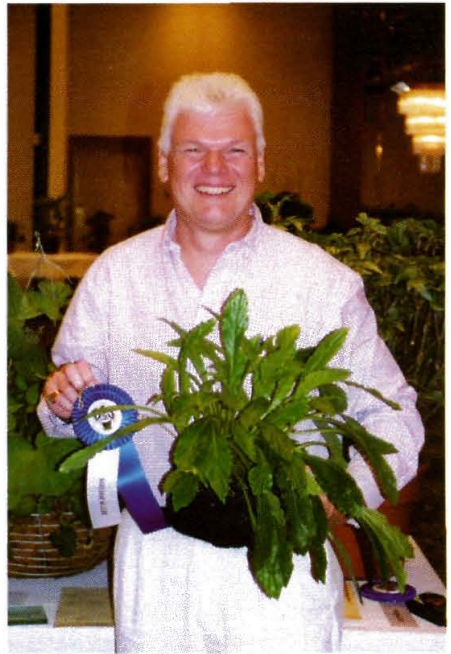
B. formosana var. *formosana* has obliquely lacinate leaves to 30 cm. long, 13 cm. wide of a rich medium green. It has bloomed for me during the May-October time frame, as it was blooming when purchased in September and has started blooming again at the beginning of June.

While deciding which plants I was going to transport to the 2002 ABS Convention in Houston, I noticed how well *B. formosana* var. *formosana* was growing. I decided it would be chosen for the trip, mostly because it was unusual and a species. I felt other ABS members would enjoy seeing it. It was then groomed for show. *B. formosana* var. *formosana* rewarded me with a blue ribbon and a cultural certificate.

I wholeheartedly recommend this rhizomatous species to all growers as it is not demanding.



There was a good showing of *Begonia* species in Houston including some that were new or unusual. One such as *B. formosana* exhibited by **Charles Jaros** who writes about it on the opposite page; others may be featured in future issues. Other species exhibited by Charles and photographed by **Johanna Zinn** included *B. platanifolia* below left and Division Wineer *B. herbacea* with Charles himself.



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When you find that seeds received from the seed fund do not develop into the plant described 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 listed seeds. Seeds may be ordered from the master list by name. If you have a special need ask the Seed Fund Administrator.

The Seed Fund would like to augment the present list with new species. There is also a need to refresh the current store with fresh seeds from new sources. The Seed Fund always needs more seeds. Check the list of requested begonia seeds in the July/Aug. issue.

Most packets of species seeds are \$1.50, all packets of hybrids (including

open pollinated) seeds are \$0.50 per packet. Very rare seeds and newly collected seeds will be \$2.00 or more 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**.

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Thank you to the following donors: **Peggy Fratus, Beatrice Huckriede, Michael Ludwig, Morris Mueller, Thelma O'Reilly, Gene & Ann Salisbury, Bernadette Senechal**

These featured seeds are newly received and should be added to the Master Seed Fund List published previously:

SO02-01: *B. acetosa*
SO02-02: *B. angulata*
SO02-03: *B. cooperi*
SO02-04: *B. heracleifolia*
'Pyramadilio'

SO02-05: *B. itaguassuensis*

SO02-06: *B. malabarica*

SO02-07: *B. nelumbiifolia*

SO02-08: *B. solanathera*

SO02-09: *B. wollnyi* (This is a superior form of this species.)

Any seeds from the master list can be ordered. Fresh seeds have been received of the following species: *B. crassicaulis*, *B. dipetala*, *B. heracleifolia*, *B. hydrocotylifolia*, *B. leathermanii*, *B. ludwigii*, *B. mollicaulis*, *B. odorata alba*, *B. paleata*, *B. peltata*, *B. sericoneura*, *B. ulmifolia*. And also seeds of hybrids: *B. 'Orange Rubra'* and mixed Seed collected in FL by Morris Mueller, includes cane, shrub, rhizomatous.

DESCRIPTIONS

SO02-01: *B. acetosa* Vellozo (sect. *Pritzelia*) [Brazil]. A compact plant with numerous branching, horizontal, thick rhizomes. Leaf blades thick, fleshy, ovate, not peltate, palmately veined and covered with fine white hairs, underside dark red; green petioles to a foot with fine, shaggy red hairs; flowers white, well above the leaves. Plant grows best in warm, humid atmosphere in medium light. Leaves are deep coppery olive green above and deep wine-red underneath. White flowers on long peduncles.

SO02-02: *B. angulata* Vell. (Sect. *Pritzelia*) [Brazil] Stems erect; leaves medium at least twice as long as wide, midnerve continuing at an angle to the petiole, shallowly lobed to entire; margins duplicate-dentate or sublobate; stipules large, conspicuous, persistent; Inflorescence basally dichotomous at branch tips, male flowers with 4 tepals. Prefers high humidity and high temperature.

SO02-03: *B. cooperi* C. DC (Sect. *Ruizopavonia*) [Costa Rica] Stems erect;

leaves medium, bare green, sunken veins giving a quilted appearance; flowers white. Needs extra humidity.

SO02-04: *B. heracleifolia* Cham. & Schlecht 'Pyramidilio' [See J.. Golding's nomenclature notes on page 174.]

Stem rhizomatous; leaves large, green, velvety with grey-green markings, maroon undersides with light green veins; petioles maroon with small hairy collar; flowers in spring, pink.

SO02-05: *B. itaguassuensis* Brade (Sect. *Pritzelia*) [Brazil] Stem rhizomatous; leaves large velvety, round, dark green above, paler green below, pink sheen; flowers white to pinkish white well above the leaves. Plant somewhat resembles *B. acetosa*.

SO02-06: *B. malabarica* Lamarck (Sect. ??) [India] A thick stemmed begonia from west India grows to 2-3 feet; hairy leaves; large pinkish white pendant flowers. [These seeds may be of *B. dipetala* Graham; see J. Golding's nomenclature notes on page 174].

SO02-07: *B. nelumbiifolia* Schlechtendal & Chamisso (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Cent. America]. Short, thick, ascending rhizome; peltate green leaves to 18 in. long, round-ovate to nearly orbicular, serrulate, ciliate; white to pink tinged flowers in tall, erect, forking cymes; winter to spring.

SO02-08: *B. solanathera* A. de Candolle (Sect. *Solanathera*) [Brazil] trailing scandent; green leaves; fragrant white flowers with red centers.

SO02-09: *B. wollnyi* Herzog (Sect. *Knesebeckia*) [Bolivia] erect stem with swollen caudex at base; palmately lobed, peltate (?) leaves elegantly spotted with white; greenish white flowers with pink petals; blooms in winter. Thelma O'Reilly contributed these seeds. She says it is a superior specimen better than any she has seen recently.



Above we see one sample of several shared on how begonias are packed. Aren't the *B. listada* gorgeous!! Below are two illustrations of begonias on exhibit at the Floriade. Note the huge *B. hispida* var. *cuculifera* on the higher pedestal.



The Netherlands Come to Begonias International

In a Convention made memorable by the seminars that Cheryl Lenert arranged to reflect its theme, the Saturday seminar on Begonia Growing in Europe proved to be a favorite because it was given by Antoon Hoefnagels. He was a visitor who immediately became a friend to all of us and here we have his reaction to us! He promises to return in 2004 and we all look forward to that!

What an experience! The convention in Houston has made a deep impression on me, dear Begonia friends. Before I left the Netherlands, I didn't know what to expect precisely, but what I have experienced was fantastic.

They are as one big family who beside their love for Begonias, have care and love for each other. If you were present at the Award presentation by Michael Ludwig on Saturday evening, it showed you what I mean. The presentation of the Ambassadors Award for Brad Thompson, the Dykeman Award for Miss Helene Jaros, and the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award for Miss Leora Fuentes, proves that this is more than just a group of Begonia lovers.

No, really I cannot understand how people in Europe can say that Americans are cool and superficial; I have experienced just the opposite because you all integrated me into your midst with a feeling of friendship. I already look forward to the next convention. Next year I cannot be there because the date is so close to Mother's Day, therefore my responsibility is with my nursery. But I hope to cross the Atlantic to visit the convention again the year after that.

I put together this lecture with pleasure. I tried to put something in it for everyone, and I hope that we all have learned something. I have tried to tell you all how and why I grow Begonias in the Netherlands, how we keep them compact with potting compost and temperature differences. I described our way of controlling pests and diseases with a biological system. On the way, we try to bring the beauty of Begonias to the attention of the public and an explanation of our Aalsmeer auction [where flowers and plants are sold in huge lots at auction].

Learning from each other's experiences is one of the most valuable things. I shall myself here in the Netherlands in any case fight for and support the beauty of the begonia. Among other things it will be through showing begonias at the Floriade until October 20 and next year again at the Keukenhof.

Maybe we will even be able to speak about the Branch region of the Netherlands in the future!

I already look forward to my next convention and in the meantime if I can assist any one of you please let me know.

Friendly greetings,

Antoon Hoefnagels

Vossensestraat

6663 KH Lent, Netherlands

Ph: 011-31-243234977; E-mail: Hoefn@cs.com

NEWS: ABS, Branch, International

Joyce Pridgen takes her knowledge and experience in growing begonias with her when she volunteers at the Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami. Since Hurricane Andrew brought her to the Garden's aid, she has volunteered more than 800 hours. She takes cuttings from her 200 or more begonia varieties and brings them there to grow for the Garden's plant sales. For all this and more, Joyce was spotlighted in the Spring 2002 issue of their newsletter Garden Views. No wonder the Miami Begonia society is one of ABS' strongest branches!

In the May/June issue, **Virginia Jens** told us about **Ruth Kiew's** David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration. **Johanna Kitson** and **Don Miller** brought to our attention an extensive feature article on this award and Dr. Kiew herself in the *New York Times Science Section* on Tuesday, June 4, 2002. Here she discusses her interest in begonias and other herbaceous plants. Here she says, "You know, concern about biodiversity has a high media profile, but what you mostly hear about are animals being lost. Plants seem to have less charisma than tigers and elephants. I am hoping that with this Fairchild Prize I can draw some more attention toward the plight of the tropical forests."

And the Sunday June 9, 2002 Palm Beach Post has a new garden feature called: "Not just a hobby...an OBSESSION!" and there among the first gardener's featured was **Johanna Kitson** and naturally it highlighted the fact that she grows 60 begonia species and 100 hybrids, and focused on one of her favorites, *Begonia odorata alba*. Her volunteer work for the Society of the Four Arts was also described. So, where's there

another strong ABS Branch? Palm Beach of course!

Several members brought to my attention the June issue of *Traditional Home Magazine* which featured a beautiful article by our own **Elvin McDonald** on the Cane-like begonias. The photos were stunning and the detail sure to lure readers to try these begonias. And, yes, their sources page gave ABS membership information! Thank you, Elvin.

Paula Szilard brought to my attention an article in the June 2002 German magazine *Mein Schoner Garden*. Entitled "Begonien - Abwechslung garantiert" (Begonias - Change Guaranteed), it featured the Begonia 'Dragon Wing' type as easy care, tuberous begonias for their lovely flowers, and touched on Elatior and those popular for their leaves such as the spiral rexes and tiger patterned rhizomatous.

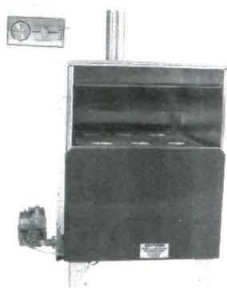
And **Tricia Marriott**, the new editor of *Begonia Australis*, is creating a stunning publication everyone would want if they saw it. Remember, you can get subscription information at gapps@dcsl.net.au and the AABS web site is at www.vicnet.net.au/~aabs

So begonias are in the news! If you spot an item such as those above, won't you share it with our readers. We all like to know that begonias are being written about all over the U.S. and the world as well. It is particularly great to hear about items in international circulation.

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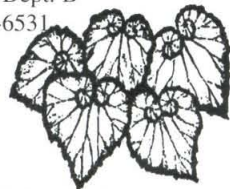
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COMING EVENTS

September 7, 2002: ABS Board Meeting and Orange County CA Branch Fiesta. See page 182 for details. For information call **Mary Sakamoto** at 714-633-6997 or email at m.sakamoto@worldnet.att.net.

September 21, 2002, Saturday, 12 noon - 3:30 p.m.: Annual Combined Plant Societies Show and Sale, ABS Buxton Branch participating. At University of Massachusetts, Eastern Extension Center, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA. For information call **Wanda Macnair** at 617-876-1356 or email wmacnair@msn.com

September 27-29, 2002: Seventh AABS Convention, Perth, Australia. Western Australia is famous for its unique wildflowers and it will be spring there giving visitors the opportunity to see the fantastic array. The venue is the Metro Inn Apartments, Nile Street, East Perth, Australia. For details contact the Western Australia Begonia Society, P.O. Box 427, Cloverdale, W. Australia 6985. Telephone (08) 9361 4564 or E-mail lancas@iinet.net.au. You're invited!

April 22-26, 2003: ABS Convention 2003: Our Begonia Heritage, Oklahoma City, OK. Hotel will be the Embassy Suites. Come the previous day to take the preconvention tour on the 22nd to **Ann & Gene Salisbury's** greenhouse in Tonkawa. More information to come.

The Begonian

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