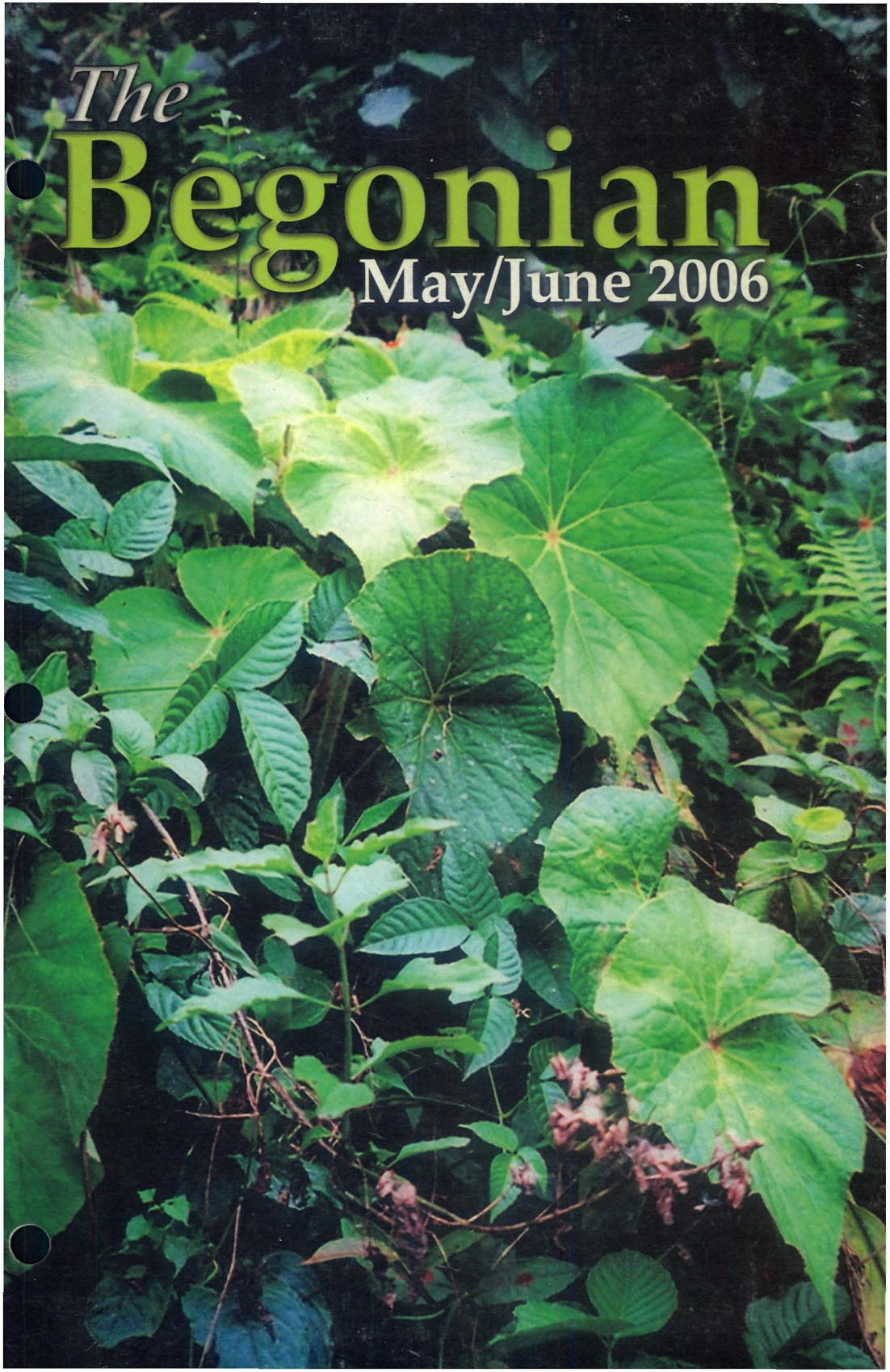

The Begonian

May/June 2006

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: Rekha Morris documents a few of her begonia finds in India in this issue. On the cover *B. arborensis* grows its large leaves in situ.
Back: Rekha shares a bronze leaved form of *B. malabarica* in this photo.

In This Issue

We have an early taste of the ABS Convention which will be the subject of the July/August issue with Rekha Morris' article on some begonias she found on her trip to India. She gave a seminar at the Florida convention on this trip. And we learn of another great loss to our begonia family this issue. **Joy Porter** was a long-time friend to many of us. **Gene Salisbury** sends us the latest begonia registrations, 994 and 995, and calls for all hybridizers to rush their entries to become ABS registration number 1000! **Janet Brown** continues her reflections on begonia stipules and encourages all of us to begin to observe how unusual these can be in our begonias.

Articles

Regular Features

Quick
Check your mailing label. If it reads **200607 or 200608**, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

President's Message

Thanks to **Tim** and **Ann Anderson** and their committees for their very hard work on the American Begonia Society Convention 2006. The hurricane damage from Katrina and Wilma was apparent everywhere and it is nothing short of miraculous that the convention took place at all. We are all very glad that they were able to get the job done and in fine style. There will be a full report with photos in the next *Begonian* but I would like to say we had a wonderful time in Miami. The tours were great, the show beyond belief, and the seminars without equal.

The news of **Hugh McLauchlan's** death came to me just after I had finished the last president's message **Charles Jaros** wrote a beautiful and moving tribute to Hugh in the March/April *Begonian.* I had been planning to visit Scotland and Hugh this summer for the Ayr Flower Show in August. There will be a tribute to Hugh at that show. It won't be the same without him but I hope to be there to honor the memory of this great and wonderful man.

When **Samuel Kennedy**, President of the Scottish Begonia Society, called to tell me of Hugh's passing he told me of Hugh's wish to someday hold the American Begonia Society convention in Scotland. The ABS and the SBS are working out the possibility of this taking place the week of the Ayr Flower Show, 2007. The dates are August 3, 4, & 5. Although it is not practical to hold a full convention the SBS will make hotel arrangements, organize tours, including the newly redone Kibble Palace at Glasgow Botanic Gardens, the amazing begonia houses there, and the Ayr show. At this writing nothing is definite but we will keep you posted as plans progress. The ABS convention 2007 Part II would take place somewhere in the U.S.A. probably in the fall.

An update on ABS web site begonias.org. PayPal is up and running. Almost immediately several new members signed up including two from Europe. To quote from Internet Editor **Sandy Boyd's** report to the board. "When adding new features to the site a great deal of time is spent writing codes to make each new feature, such as PayPal, workable. Security must be of the highest priority...." Regarding our Webmaster **Mary Margaret Rafferty**, Sandy writes... "She is an ABS member and donates her time and expertise to setting up and maintaining our web site." Sandy also requests that "members can also help keep the site up to date by changing the names of officers or contact people for their branch and putting show dates on the calendar as soon as they are known. I will be happy to do it for it for them if they would e-mail me at samb4mail@aol.com." Our thanks to Sandy and Mary Margaret for their great work on our ABS web site. Please check it out.

In the past you have been very generous in your contributions to the various begonia hunting expeditions of **Rekha Morris**, **Scott Hoover** and **Mary Fuqua**. Rekha has just returned from India where she found several most interesting and possibly new species. She did this at her own expense and broke her shoulder in the process. Scott Hoover is at this time in Indonesia hard at work for us. Please consider giving your support to these brave people who face all kinds of hardships and perils to bring us new species. Send your contributions to Treasurer **Carol Notaras**. Our begonia hunters will be very grateful as we are grateful for their efforts.

In closing I would like to again thank the wonderful begonia members of Florida for a great convention. Special mention should be given to those terrific ladies of the Tampa Bay Branch who sponsored the best ever hospitality room. We had some wonderful times!

Good growing to all, in friendly contact,

Janet Brown

Letters to the Editor

Searching for TuberousBegonias

Dear ABS friends,

Re: Request by the University of California Botanical Garden for tuberous Andean *Begonia* species

As it happens, I too am trying to put together a collection of tuberous Andean *Begonia* species (and their closest relatives) for an illustrated monograph/book that I am writing on this group. I would greatly appreciate the help of ABS members in locating some of the species. I am particularly interested in the following plants:

Begonia monodelpha (Ruiz ex Klotzsch) Klotzsch
Begonia aequatorialis L. B. Smith & Schubert
Begonia baumannii Lemoine
Begonia cinnabarina W.J. Hook.
Begonia clarkei Hook. f.
Begonia davisii J.D. Hooker
Begonia geraniifolia W.J. Hooker
Begonia herrerae L. B. Smith & Schubert
Begonia macra A. DC.
Begonia monophylla Pavon ex A. de Candolle
Begonia octopetala LÕHeritier
Begonia polypetala A. DC.
Begonia rosacea Putzeys
Begonia rubricaulis W.J. Hooker
Begonia sleumeri L. B. Smith & Schubert
Begonia tafiensis Lillo
Begonia veitchii J.D. Hooker
Begonia weberbaueri Irmscher
Begonia bifuracata L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert
Begonia crinita Oliver ex J.D. Hooker
Begonia erythrocarpa A. de Candolle
Begonia parcifolia C. de Candolle
Begonia parodiana L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert
Begonia pastoensis A. de Candolle
Begonia piurensis L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert
Begonia serotina A. de Candolle

In addition material of tuberous Mexican *Begonia* species would also be greatly appreciated.

Not all of these species are in cultivation but I include the full list as I have often been surprised to learn of unexpected species in cultivation. Thanks to anyone who is able to help. Please feel free to distribute this list to anyone else you think may be able to donate material of these tuberous begonias.

By the way, I will be attending the Miami Convention this March if anyone is able to donate material then.

Best wishes,

Mark

Mark Tebbitt, PhD
Horticultural Taxonomist
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
1000 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225
USA

Continued on page 103.

B. staudtii. *Photos by* ***Charles Henthorne.***

Begonia staudtii:
Hidden Treasure of Africa

by Charles Henthorne

When Africa is talked about, people usually think of the multitude of wild animals, wonderful gems, and the diversity of its people. Less well known but equally impressive is the diversity of its flora. Included in this group is the wonderful world of Begonias. Leora and I have long loved and cherished the yellow blooming varieties that are found only in Africa. When we look at the variety of the leaves, we are constantly amazed at the difference in the leaf shapes, sizes, and surfaces that are found. Even though we have found that they only grow well in terrariums where the humidity and environment is constant, that has not posed a problem for us.

The biggest surprise was the huge size of the blooms compared to the other yellow bloomers. That, with the large size of the leaves, gives us a plant which truly makes a statement in our collection.

Among all the African varieties that we grow we have found that *B. staudii* is indeed a hidden treasure. It was a total surprise when it recently started blooming. The blooms were typical of all the yellow blooming species of African Begonias. The biggest surprise was the huge size of the blooms compared to the other yellow bloomers. That, with the large size of the leaves, gives us a plant which truly makes a statement in our collection. Along with this is the fact that the male and female blooms are fully open together, and that also adds an element which makes a wonderful visual treat for the viewer. The bloom cycle is usually spring through fall, however ours has been blooming since early winter and is still blooming in April. The blooms are moderate in number, but as I stated earlier have made quite a showing with their brilliant yellow-orange large blooms.

We have found that *B. staudtii*, which is a rhizomatous begonia with quite large leaves, needs slightly reduced light conditions further from the fluorescent lights than usual for most begonias or in a location without any direct sunlight and in a moderate amount of light. *B. staudtii* should be kept indoors throughout the year. It seems to do better with a temperature in the lower seventies, and needs to be grown in contained atmospheres, which would be in larger terrariums to show its full beauty and bloom potential. Again we use long-fiber moss and perlite, which is our potting mixture of choice for all our terrariums, in a half to half ratio which we find best for plants grown in an enclosed environment. This medium provides no nutrition for our plants, so we fertilize regularly with a constant feed fertilizer when the plant needs to be watered. It is important not to over-water any terrarium and we are careful not to get water on the leaves. Leaves have a tendency to rot and

spot much more quickly in a terrarium than in any other environment.

In our long-fiber moss/perlite mixture, after a period of time the Ph will become lower which adversely affects our plants growth. Ph should remain above 6.5 and if it drops lower we find it wise to revitalize by replacing all the mixture and repotting the plant. This usually occurs between 3-5 months after initial plantings. We never place our terrariums outside.

So, for adventure and fun, try growing this hidden treasure of Africa. We encourage any grower who is interested to try this or one of the other jewels of Africa that have brought us so much pleasure. I guarantee that you will find it rewarding and the end results will give you pleasure beyond your wildest dreams.

List of Species Documented in Arunachal Pradesh, April and December 2005*

Securely identified

B. aborensis
B. burkillii
B. griffithiana
B. hatacoa
B. laminariae
B. nepalensis.
B. phrixophylla
B. rex
B. rubropunctata
B. sikkimensis
B. sillitensis subsp. *sillitensis*
B. xanthina

Tentatively Identified

B. handelii
B. pedatifida
B. picta
B. scintillans
B. wattii

Unidentified Species

Cane-like species
Species with red roots
Species with 5 red splotches
Species with purple reverse foliage

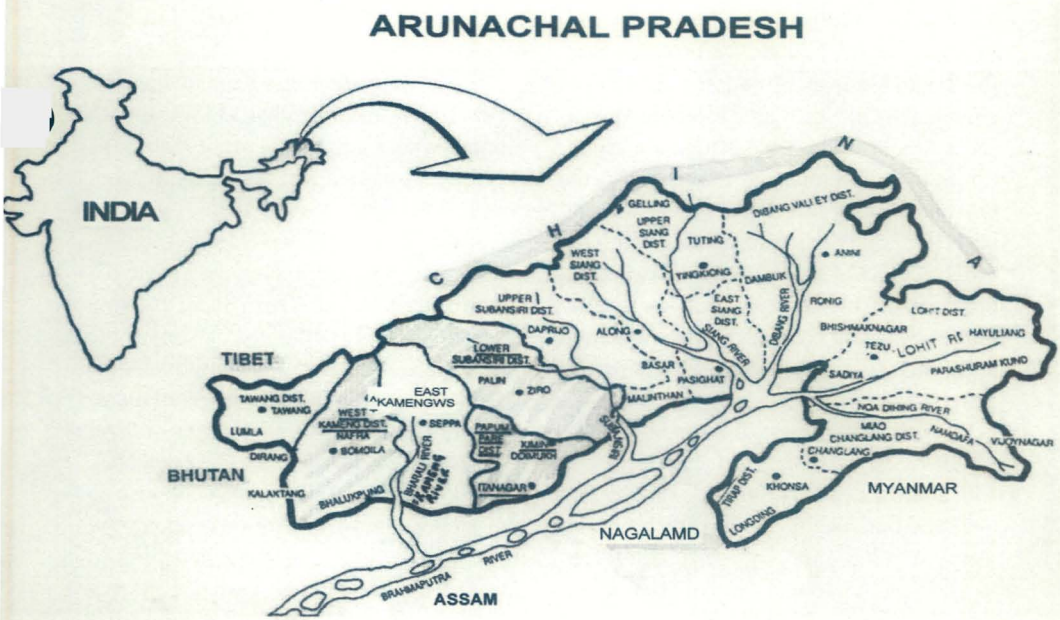
*This Listing provides a setting for Rekha Morris' search described in the following article.

Some Begonias from India

by Rekha Morris

Although I had long wanted to visit the Himalayan region of Arunachal Pradesh, a state in northeastern India bordered by Bhutan on the west, Tibet/ China on the north and east, and Myanmar [formerly Burma] on the southeast, I had been unable to do so as travel in this state is highly restricted for Indians and more so for foreigners. In 2005, two entirely unrelated events made what had appeared to be an unattainable goal an actuality. I was invited to give talks at the 8th Australian Annual Begonia Convention in Ballarat, Victoria, in March, and decided to visit India on my way back. At about the same time, an uncle was given a political appointment in Arunachal Pradesh which enabled me to visit this mountainous state at the edge of this subcontinent.

In a country as heavily populated as India, Arunachal Pradesh is an amazing exception as its population density is 13 per square mile, and nearly 82 % of the state remains forested. The floral diversity is such that on an average there are 400 species of plants per 100 square yards, and 5500 recorded flowering species in



an area just about 1000 km from east to west and considerably narrower north to south. With a relative humidity of 88%, and rain fall averaging 2500-3000 mm from February to November, there had to be begonias in the hills which lie below the freeze line. Despite the remarkable and extensive work of the Botanical Survey of India, no one in the Arunachal branch has worked or is working on the begonias of this state.

Although many of the great plant explorers of the 19th century had explored most of the northeastern Himalayan regions of India, they had not been able to explore Arunachal except for limited areas in its eastern districts. This was an unknown and hostile region with an anomalous political status. It remained a non-regulated tribal area between 1824-61, and was treated as part of Bengal until 1874 when it came under the jurisdiction of Assam as the North East Frontier Tract [NEFT]. However, although its name was changed to the North East Frontier Agency [NEFA] after India's independence, it continued to be administered nominally by the Governor of Assam until 1965. It was not until 1972 that the region, then comprising 5 districts, became known as Arunachal, now comprising 16 districts. This frontier region was and continues to be inhabited by numerous tribal groups, 25 major and some 50 minor tribes.

The eastern part of Arunachal, referred to as *Mishmi* by J. D. Hooker in **Flora Indica** [1855], was to some extent explored botanically by Griffith, however, the western mountainous section referred to as *Abor* by Hooker remained inaccessible. In **Flora Indica** Hooker writes that **"These mountains are inhabited by wild and suspicious tribes, who have hitherto refused all access to the interior of their country."** [p. 175]. The begonias of the eastern Himalayas of India described by C. B. Clarke in **The Flora of British India** [1879] are those recorded in areas currently known as Sikkim, Bengal, Assam, Nagaland, and Tripura, which were explored by Wallich, Griffith, Hooker and Thomson. The outermost eastern edge of the Abor hills were explored by Burkill in 1911-12, who traveled up the Siang river from Pasighat.

In 2005 I made two trips, in April and December, to three western districts of Arunachal: Papumpare, where the capital of Arunachal, Itanagar, is located, Lower Subansiri and West Kameng. Of the 21 begonia species I have recorded in these areas, I have been able to identify 12 securely, 5 tentatively, and 4 remain unidentified. In December of 2005 I was also able to make a short trip to Kodagu in Karnataka, south India, and recorded a few species which have been documented for the western Ghats, Kerala, and Karnataka.

It is only appropriate that the first begonia I saw in Arunachal as I was driven along the southern flanks of the Abor hills is a species named for these hills, *B. aborensis*. This large leaved species grew in drifts along the cliffs overlooking the Dikrang river, which ultimately flows into the Brahmaputra. Later I was to find it growing lower down in Assam within 15 km of the border of W. Kameng. Although in April *B. aborensis* was in various stages of maturity, I did not find any with flowers or fruit. However, the few rhizomes I brought back flowered profusely in the greenhouse in November. Being a dioecious species the male flowers appeared first, and then to our amazement we discovered a perfect flower [with both male and female parts on one bloom] among the female flowers which formed non-viable red, berry-like seeds. In December I encountered several colonies of *B. aborensis* in Papunpare and Lower Subansiri districts with seeds

At left, B. silletensis *subsp.* silletensis. *Below shows* B. rex *on a hillside.*

All photos by ***Rekha Morris.***

in various stages of maturity. Although the greenhouse plant had familiarized me with the unusual seeds of this species, those I encountered in the wild continued to surprise and delight me by the brilliance of their pinkish red color and their four ridged spherical form.

Although *B. aborensis* is fairly widely distributed in these three districts of Arunachal, it is *B. hatacoa* which appears to have the most widespread range. I first encountered this species growing in large drifts on steep cliffs in western Papunpare where the maroon undersides of its leaves shimmered in the early afternoon light. Since these drifts were high on the cliffs I did not recognize them as begonias until I had rounded the hillside, and looking back saw the sunlight glimmering on the richly colored undersides of the leaves. Startled into awareness I began searching the lower slopes, and found isolated groups of two forms of *B. hatacoa,* some in flower. In one form the lanceolate foliage is dark green on the upper surface and a lighter green on the underside. In the second form the upper surface is the same deep green while the underside is a glossy maroon. Further into these hills of Papumpare, and later in the hills of Lower Subansiri and W. Kameng where *B. hatacoa* flourished from about 400' to a little above 5600' these two forms grew intermingled with a third form with silver variegated foliage.

Of the three districts I have explored it is W. Kameng where I have documented the largest number of begonia species, 12 out of the 21 so far documented for Arunachal. The mountains of W. Kameng are higher than those of Papumpare and Lower Subansiri , and begonias flourish up to 5600'. Above this the habitat changes dramatically to one where temperate zone plants flourish. Instead of the dense tropical vegetation encountered up to about 6000' the higher elevations with pines, magnolias, rhododendrons and other temperate zone genera appear sparsely clad by contrast. Perhaps the most remarkable difference is in the fewer numbers and types of ferns I encountered above 6000', whereas lower down it is the luxuriant growth of dozens of species of ferns which continuously distracted my attention from begonias.

Between 800 -1000' in the hills of W. Kameng I began to notice two large leaved species, one of which I recognized as *B. aborensis*. The other species without the pubescence of *B. aborensis* was larger, both singly and in clusters, than *B. aborensis*. This species I later discovered was none other than *B. silletensis* subsp. *silletensis* . Not only does it differ from *B. aborensis* in its lack of pubescence but its flowers are larger and more fragrant, and its maroon seeds are either cylindrical or spherical without the low ridging on the seeds of *B. aborensis*.

On a wet and misty day in early April as I approached this huge clump of *B. silletensis* about 8' above my head, I caught a glimpse of white in the tangle of ferns and vines at the base of these begonias. On climbing up the slope and clearing some of the tangled vegetation aside I uncovered some dozen large white blooms on 6-8" stalks, and as I moved closer to photograph these I got my first tantalizing scent of these flowers, a fragrance which was a blend of rose, honeysuckle, and an indefinable fruitiness. To add to my astonished exhiliration there were several large maroon seeds in their initial stages of growth.

Several months later back in the USA, *B. silletensis* was to astound me once again. A large leaf which I had cut into three sections to dry for the herbarium around April 12th, and which had traveled with me until my return in May, had in early June while in the drying cabinet in the herbarium of Clemson University sprouted tiny roots along the veins of

all three sections of the leaf. These were removed from the heating cabinet and placed in trays with growing media in the controlled misting section of the university greenhouses. I potted up nearly 100 seedlings many of which have since been distributed to members of the ABS.

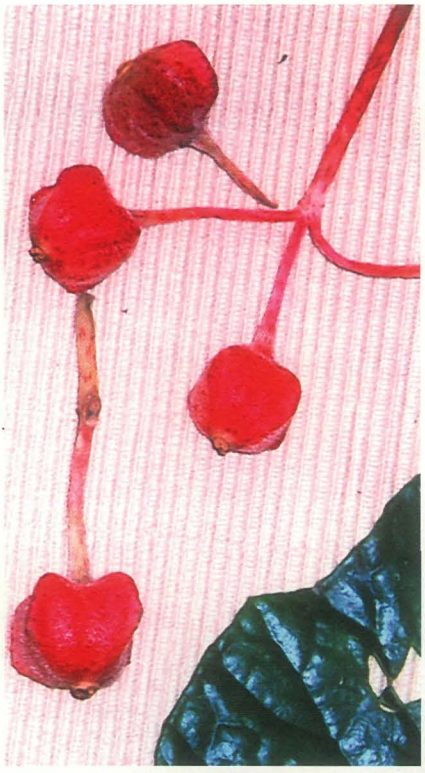
The same day and further into these mountains of W. Kameng, which seemed perpetually shrouded in mist, I saw large colonies of white flowers on 6" stems. The thick vegetation and the heavy mist around obscured the foliage of this species especially since I stood some 4'-8' below. Finding a foothold in the underbrush I reached up to move aside the wet tangle of foliage to find what I instantly decided was *B. rex*. However, the flowers I had seen from below belonged not only to the silver banded foliage of *B. rex* but to two other forms of begonias, one with celery green foliage with red veins, and the other with dull purple-maroon leaves which were a vivid red-maroon on the undersides. These forms grew intermingled in large colonies up to about 5600', and for the time being and until we know better I am regarding these as variant forms of *B. rex*.

Within a few hours of exploring in these mountains of W. Kameng I had documented *B. aborensis, B. hatacoa, B. silletensis* and what may well be *B. rex* with two variant forms. Slightly chilled and wet from the light drizzle which had considerably hindered photographing these species, I nevertheless felt enraptured by this sumptuously green terrain punctuated by waterfalls and streams glimpsed fragmentarily through the enveloping mist. I would have been happy had I not found another begonia that day. But as I tried in vain to get a clear view of one of the many waterfalls I was trying to photograph, I moved up the slope and found myself at almost eye level with a single large, silvery green leaf emerging from amongst the moss covered rocks. Although I did not identify this species until much later, what I had found by this waterfall was *B. xanthina.*

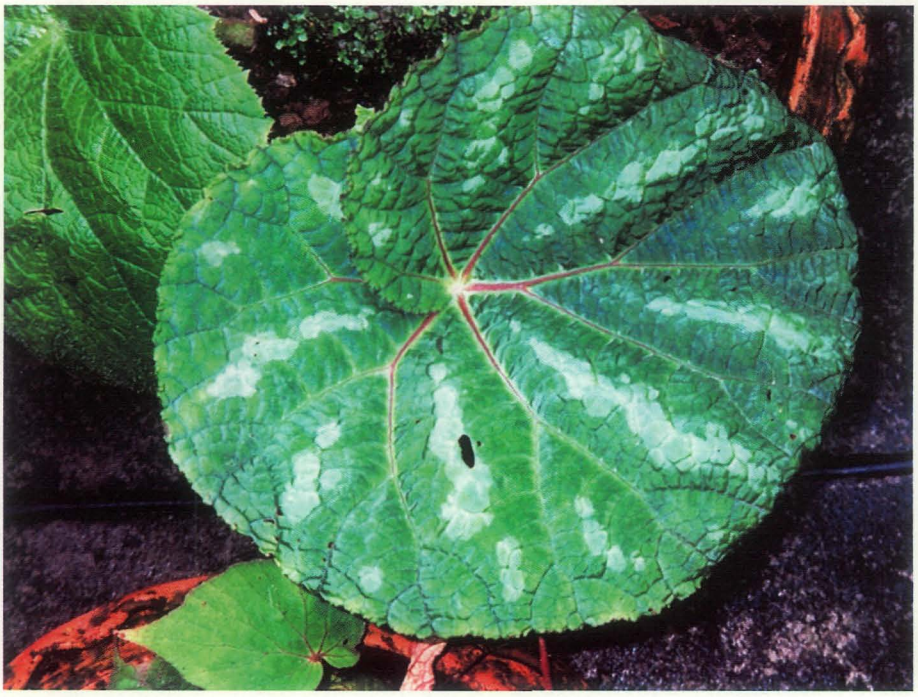
I dug up this single leaf with its rhizome, and potted it up for the duration of my stay in India that April. By the end of the month the leaf had matured into a large orbicular form with silver maculation. It was not until its yellow flowers appeared in the greenhouse in the USA later that year that I was certain I had found *B. xanthina*. Returning to explore these mountains more carefully in December of 2005, I located several small colonies of *B. xanthina*. Not only did I find many more of the same form of this species, but interspersed with these I also found a form with prominent red veins. In the drier month of December the foliage had begun to turn yellow and brown with tattered edges, but this time I not only brought back several rhizomes but also seeds.

In December, although I had planned to return to south India after my initial foray there had to be abruptly curtailed in order to get to Arunachal, I was unable to do so as I fractured and inflamed my right shoulder in W. Kameng. Despite the abbreviated trip to Kodagu [formerly Coorg] in Karnataka, I recorded several species among the gentler slopes of these hills stretching eastwards from the western Ghats, the home of *B. malabarica*.

Although there are at least four forms of *B. malabarica* in south India, several of which I have encountered in cultivation, one with golden-bronze flushed foliage on the reverse is a form I had not seen until this trip. *B. dipetala*, which has also been in cultivation for a while, is a cane-like species which was described by R. Wight in the 19th century in **Icones Plantarum Indiae Orientalis**. In discussing the leaves in Dr. Graham's figure in the ***Botanical Magazine***, Wight writes that "the leaves in the wild are rarely spotted as represented."



Above, B. dipetala *forms. Right. succulent red fruits of* B. arborensis. *Below, single large leaf of* B. xanthina.



In the two large colonies separated from one another by at least 50 km which I documented in December 2005, I found both forms of this species growing in close proximity. One with unspotted, mint green leaves flushed red on the reverse, and the other with small white dots on the upper surface of the foliage. Both these forms have sent up leaves in the greenhouse, but it remains to be seen whether the white maculation will disappear with maturity as it is believed to by some experienced growers of this species.

These two species along with five others from south India make a total of 28 species which I have so far photographed and documented in the two areas of India I was able to explore in 2005. Since the total number of Indian species is somewhat uncertain, and may vary between 45 and a bit more, documenting what appears to be just over half the number of species in these two exploratory trips is encouraging. However, what may well be beginner's luck creates an irrepressible urge to drop all else in life and take off for the remaining wild and wondrous hills of India in search of the 20 or so begonias which remain to be seen in their habitat.

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Acknowledgement

It would have been impossible for me to explore for begonias in Arunachal Pradesh without the help and support of **His Excellency Sri S.K. Singh**, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and his wife, **Her Excellency Srimati Manju Singh**. To them and to their staff at the Raj Bhavan in Itanagar, especially **Sri Michu Paco**, ADC to the Governor, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Despite their understandable mix of surprise and bewilderment at my current obsession, they nevertheless made every effort to facilitate the several trips I took to document begonias in Papmpare, Lower Subansiri and W. Kameng districts of Arunachal both in April and December of 2005.

My gratitude also to **Sri** and **Srimati U. S. Thimmaiah** in Kodagu, Karnataka. Not only did their warmth and hospitality make my brief stay at their coffee estate comfortable, but in Vijoo [Mrs. Thimmaiah], a keen gardener and an accomplished anthurium grower, I was to find an incomparably sensitive plant collector and companion who made my excursions into the hills of Kodagu in search of begonias memorable. Although not as immersed in plants as his wife, Mr. Thimmaiah nevertheless accompanied me on an over 6 km hike in my search for *B. dipetala*, both forms of which I eventually found in the hills surrounding their coffee estate.

I would also like to acknowledge the help I received from **Dr. A.K. Bashya**, Director of the Botanical Survey of India in Itanagar, who made the begonia specimens at the herbarium available to me for study, and also suggested likely begonia habitats for me to explore. It was through Dr. Bashya that I was introduced to his students, **S. Shadang** doing doctoral research on some of the 550 orchids of Arunachal, and **Debabrata Saha** of the Institute of State Forest Research. Both proved to be observant and interesting companions on my first trip through the hills of Lower Subansiri beyond Kimin.

It is through their help and support that we of the ABS may now help conserve some of these rare begonias from this region of the eastern Himalayas by keeping them alive in cultivation despite the loss of their wild habitats in other parts of the eastern Himalayas, which no doubt will one day also affect the near pristine wilderness of Arunachal Pradesh.

Pondering Stipules Part II

by Janet Brown

As soon as the first stipules article was finished last year I discovered a treasure trove of information on the subject. It had been sitting right under my nose and **Ruth Pease** pointed it out to me. **Rudy Ziesenhenne's** *Begonia Notes*! So far I have not found a better or more complete treatise on the subject. Rudy's meticulous scholarship has been left to us in the these *Notes* and they are to be published very soon by the Margaret Lee Branch with **Thelma O'Reilly** as Editor. He wrote them for the Santa Barbara Begonia Society newsletter called *La Begonia Barbareña* in the 1980's. Before Rudy passed away last year he gave me permission to use his notes on stipules.

Here follows a capsule review of Rudy's work on stipules. His *Notes* are quite extensive and extremely precise with drawings of the different shapes and sizes of stipules and takes up many pages. The following is just a teaser but I hope will raise your interest in those "little brown things".

BEGONIA LEAF

A Begonia leaf consists of the leaf-blade (lamina), the leaf stem (petiole), and a pair of stipules. Stipules appear in other flower families but not all. If a plant does not have stipules, one may be sure it is not a Begonia.

Each begonia leaf has two stipules.

STIPULE

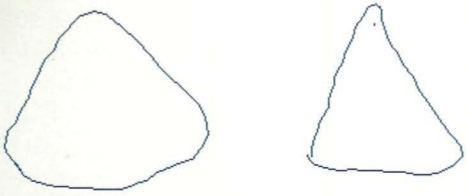
Begonia stipules consist of two little stemless leaflets attached by their bases to the plant stem, usually above and on opposite sides of the base of the petiole but not attached to it. They may protect the leaf above when it is first emerging from the bud."..... Most stipules are seen at the tip of a Begonia stem as a green inverted cone being pushed aside and may fall off as the leaf emerges. Some stipules bend the tip downward while others may curl the edges downward along their entire length. *Begonia odetei-antha* stipules dry and remain on the stem partly covering it. *Begonia venosa* has stipules that dry quickly and remain upright on the stem covering it with a sheath until the stem itself is not visible.

(It is interesting to read Rudy's accounts of how he made the measurements and drawings of the various fifty-nine begonia species in his study.)

STIPULES - OUTLINE.

"To determine the outline of the living stipules, I have drawn them as they were held flat by a glass weight. This presented a problem with the stipules which were held tightly together as they would not open. Cupped stipules always split so the outline shows this."

Each begonia leaf has two stipules. Viewed from the front of the plant, a leaf on the right hand side of the stem will



B. fernando-costae
outside — depressed, egg shaped
inside — triangular

have a stipule on the right hand side of the petiole (outside stipule) and one on the left hand side of the petiole (inside stipule).

The drawing below of the stipules of *B. fernando-costae* is an example of Rudy's work. This is a copy.

Rudy measured the inside and outside stipules of 59 species in *Begonia Notes No. 15* Dated 2/26/90. Some of those measured are B. *paulensis, pinetorum, venosa, ulmifolia, angularis, bakeri.*

He notes that *Begonia johnstonii* had the shortest stipule both inside and outside, and *B.* faureana metallica *[syn . for B. aconitifolia]* the longest. - 0.6 cm & 4.4 cm. The narrowest stipule was *B. laciniata* and the widest was *B. carrieae* - 0.35 cm & 3.3 cm.

Many features of stipules were described with several pages of careful drawings of the hairs alone. It appears from the many, many different stipule shapes and sizes, the different types of hairs and their location that stipules should be useful for identifying begonias. J. Doorenbos in *The Sections of Begonia* page 13: *7. Stipules: persistence. The leaves of* Begoniaceae *are always stipulate. When the stipules are still present at the base of mature leaves they are indicated as persistent. The character generally appeared to be not useful for sectional discrimination.* But if not useful in determining the sections of *Begonia* what about species discrimination?

Many questions arise when pondering stipules. Did Rudy study just one plant for his observations or did he note several plants to see if there was any variation in the characteristics? In a hybrid of two species which parent do the stipules look like? Are they completely different? What about a cross of two hybrids? What happens to the stipules then?

Many questions arise when pondering stipules...In a hybrid of two species which parent do the stipules look like? Arey they completely different? What about a cross of two hybrids? What happens to the stipules then?

Take a good look at your begonias. As **Jack Golding** says in the introduction of his treatise *Seeing Begonia*, "This (book) is dedicated to the many who look at their Begonia but do not see the details." Look at the stipules on your plants, examine them when new and green and when you pick them off before a show, dried and with veins showing. Look at both the inside and outside stipules and note the differences and relative sizes. I am certainly going to do that. Rudolf Ziesenhenne was a dedicated begonia scholar and his work inspires us to look more closely and learn more about our wonderful *Begoniaceae*. We look forward to the publication of his Notes. I hope to hear from you about your observations of Stipules. Perhaps they will be PONDERING STIPULES, PART III. *JB*

Conservation Comments

by Bill Claybaugh
Conservation Chairman, ABS

Asian Species Growing Conditions

Over the past few years, I have found several species begonias that are just plain hard to grow. My usual approach to growing is to put any new acquisition into my shade house and see what happens. If the plant can thrive under the daily overhead shower and ambient temperatures, I am truly grateful. The good growers get moved to the yard in full shade, and then gradually moved to more and more light until some optimum level is reached. For the slow or poor growers, those that are sensitive to temperature, humidity, or overhead watering, my approach is to change one condition at a time, observe the results, and continue the optimization as necessary. I test for sensitivity to overhead watering by moving to a second shade house where I water only by hand. If this doesn't correct the problems, I move into a terrarium environment such as a 12-inch glass bubble or a 16 x 24 x 12 inch plastic translucent container. This step eliminates the overhead watering, insures moderate humidity, but subjects the plant to ambient temperatures that vary throughout the day and year. If the plant still struggles, I begin optimizing temperatures by moving the glass terrarium into the house where temperatures are much more constant, 55 to 80 degrees. In the house, I use natural light, favoring east or north window exposure. Almost any begonia will thrive under these conditions.

There are a few plants however that just never adapt to even these good conditions. For these really difficult varieties, I have one more set-up, a 35-gallon fish tank with a 40-watt florescent light located in a northeast window in the kitchen. Here, the temperature is maintained between 70 and 80 degrees year round and the humidity remains high. I initially used a timer on the light, 12 hours on, 12 hours off, to give some semblance of natural light patterns. This worked fair, but I found the tank got too cool at night, dropping below 60 degrees. To keep the temperature more constant, I just turned the light on for 24 hours a day, and decided I really didn't care about getting the plants to bloom; just to live. My results were a pleasant surprise.

The first plant I introduced to the new setup was a near-dead scrap of a former *B. brevirimosa*. This beautiful species from Papua New Guinea in Section Petermannia was named by Irmscher in 1913. It is characterized by vivid red streaks on the dark green leaves and the cane-like growth habit. To my pleasure after about two months I had a small green shoot coming up from the dead-appearing base. Over the next year, this plant developed into a vigorous specimen requiring frequent trimming. I initially hesitated to trim the plant because there are literature references, which say that a trimmed *B. brevirimosa* will quickly die, leaving only the cutting to survive. I can now emphatically state this is just not true. My parent plant has been the source of numerous cuttings, and it just gets bigger and more full each time it is trimmed.

The next plant introduced into the terrarium was *B. amphioxis*. This is one of the more interesting species we grow because of its small, vividly spotted peltate leaves, which are trullate in shape (pointed at both ends). The plant comes from Borneo, is also in Section Petermannia and was named and described by Sands in the Kew

Magazine in 1990. To my pleasure, the small sickly plant that I carefully placed in this "hospital" environment quickly began to flourish. My next surprise was when I realized that a stem had become long enough to touch the terrarium bottom and had rooted. The terrarium bottom is covered with one-half inch of wet perlite to help maintain the desired humidity. After that, I began to take stem cuttings to shape the plant, and each stem cutting quickly rooted in a perlite/peatmoss mixture or cut sphagnum moss. I now have a half dozen *B. amphioxis* plants and each one wants more and more room. One more observation on this interesting plant. Despite growing under constant light, it has bloomed. In March of this year, 2006, I observed several male inflorescence, each with the characteristic three blooms. I also observed one female bloom on its separate inflorescence. This flower had a seedpod with only two wings and two locules not three as we are accustom to seeing. At my request, **Jack Golding** supplied me with the original citations on *B. amphioxus* by Sands and a subsequent article by Ruth Kiew. The plant was well described by both author and my observations on the plant and the flowers were confirmed.

Moving on, and flush with success, I relocated another impossible plant, *B. goegoensis*, into this lighted terrarium. It should be no surprise that this plant is also from the south Asian area, the island of Sumatra. It was named by N. E. Brown in 1882 and is in Section Reichenheimia I. This species has a rather dramatic coloration on the peltate leaves, somewhat resembling *B. rajah*. Until it was placed in this highly refined growing condition, its life expectancy at my home had been about six months. Now in this florescent light terrarium I have had vigorous growth with no sighs of deterioration for almost a year.

I also grow numerous Asian species in various other conditions. To complete the discussion, I will list those and their environment.

Shade-house, overhead water spray:

B: deliciosa, hatacoa, hatacoa meisneri, hatacoa 'Silver', handelii, hernandioides, multangula, muricata, rex, robusta, roxburgii, tayabensis, tenuifolia and over 20 U number species.

Shade-house, hand watered:

B. dipetala, masoniana,

Shade-house, plastic terrariums:

B. chitoensis, coriacea, sizemoreae, and pavonina

Home, glass terrariums, natural light:

B. kingiana, leprosa, rajah, and limprichtii.

Home, terrarium, florescent lights:

B. brevirimosa, amphioxis, goegoensis, and bipinnatifida.

One final observation. I now believe a constant growing temperature is much more important than I originally

suspected. Over and over again, the empirical evidence indicates the best plants are grown in near constant temperatures, probably in the high 60's to mid 70's. For me, adequate humidity and light are fairly easy to provide, but a relatively constant temperature is much more difficult.

Membership Notes

by Donna Marsheck, Membership Chair

We have been blessed with 53 new members from January 1 to February 27.

Members joining from our Internet website and "7-Reasons" are: AL-1, CA-5, CT-1, FL-3, GA-1, HI-1, IL-3, NJ-2, PA-2, SC-1, TX-2, VA-1, WA-2, WI-2, Denmark-1, and **Dr. Ivo Wiesner** from the Czech Republic who is seeking advice and specific information on the species. If any of you would like to converse with Ivo, let me know and I will share his email address with you.

Mary Margaret Rafferty installed PayPal on our website and we gained 8 new members in less than a week: AL-1, CA-1, FL-1, NJ-2, NY-2, and Portugal-1. PayPal will be a wonder help to our members outside the USA. Visit www.begonias.org and check it out! You may find the service helpful also.

Branches have added new members: Buxton-1, Mabel Corwin-1, Palm Beaches-2, San Francisco-1, Palo Verdes-1, Delaware Valley-3, Tampa Bay-2, and Long Beach Parent Chapter-6. Branches have been sending in membership dues to get members paid up to December 31, 2006 as are individual dues coming in. Treasurer **Carol Notaras** and I are joined at the "internet hip" busily updating our ABS Roster. It is a good thing!

Until next time, ***DM***

Photos Online

Bill Claybaugh provides this announcement:

Photos from the Miami 06 convention are now on the Southwest Region website. Just go to http://swregion.tripod.com to see over 60 photos of Fairchild Gardens (with the Chihuly art glass exibits), Palm Hammock Orchid Estates, the ABS show plants and sale, and other activities.

An Invite to Dallas

The Dallas area branch of the American Begonia Society is proud to announce that we are sponsoring a two part lecture by Dr. **Rehka Morris** on the third weekend Sunday in May. Rehka will be speaking at Northhaven Gardens on that day concerning both her trips in 2005. One of the trips involves some exciting adventures in India, and the other will be on her adventures in Mexico.

Rehka says she will be talking about some things that she has not talked about previously and we are all excited about her upcoming visit. We would like to invite any and everyone to come to Dallas and listen to a great speaker about some incomparable adventures. For more information please call Charles or Leora Henthorne at 1-972-964-6417. Hope to see many of you who were not able to go to Miami, and for those who did go and are able to come, look for some new information from Rehka.

Charles Henthorne
E-mail:
charleshenthorne@comcast.net

Observations on New Leaf Shapes

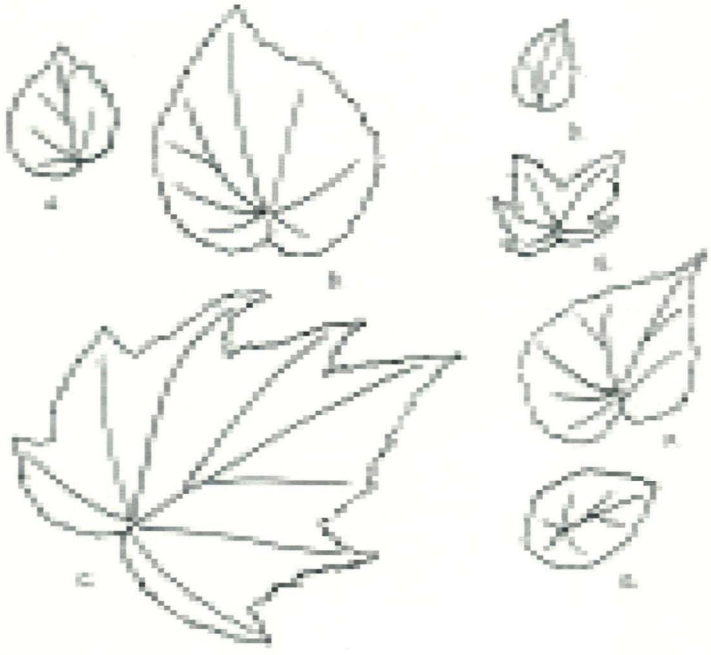
by Bill Claybaugh

I continue to be fascinated with the diversity of begonia leaves, and in particular with the changes that occur with time within a single plant. In a previous begonia article, July/August 04, I described the changes that I had observed in leaf shape as a plant matured for the very interesting African species, *B. dregei*. This species is simi-tuberous, and the general habit is somewhat shrub-like. As I learned later, this evolution in leaf shape in *B. dregei* had been well documented by **Dr Tracy McLellan** in 1993, American Journal of Botany. This time, I have been observing several different species that have rhizomatous habit and find similar interesting variations.

In the summer of 2005, I planted seeds of one of my favorite yard plants, *B. thiemei*. This is a species from Mexico in Section Gireoudia and is noted for its very large palmately compound leaves. I hand pollinated several flowers on one of my better plants, then collected the dried seed pods in early July. I planted the seeds on July 28th in a clear plastic container using perlite as the planting medium. Within a month or so, I have numerous small plants covering almost all of the surface of the perlite. Over the next few months, I removed small bunches of seedlings and transplanted them into 2 1/2 inch plastic containers. These were then placed in a large, clear, plastic container at about 60 degrees F with florescence lights on 24 hours a day. As anticipated, I developed numerous strong, vigorous plants but with some surprises.

When the leaves first formed, I suddenly was unsure of my labeling because there were other plants present, as described below, and the leaves were certainly not the palmately compound leaves I had anticipated. Instead, the leaves were simple (not compound), ovate in shape, with a cordate base and an acuminate apex; a very typical leaf shape for rhizomatous begonias. Drawing A in the attachement shows the initial leaves, those at 2 to 3 months. Drawing B shows those that developed after about 4 to 5 months, similar in shape but distinctly larger in size. When the plant was about six months old, a third distinct shape developed, drawing C. This leaf was larger (about 4 to 5 inches in length) than the earlier leaves, was strongly lobed with 5 to 7 main veins, but still retained the cordate base. Then just as I was getting accustomed to this peculiar leaf, a true compound leaf formed. An adult plant has compound leaves consisting of eight or nine leaflets, but this first new leaf had only four or five leaflets. As they developed, they each seemed to have the same physical shape of any adult leaflet, only smaller. This is as far as the plants have grown at this writing, March 2006, so I have not yet seen a completely adult leaf. I am satisfied however that the future leaves will increase in size and number of leaflets as the plant develops.

I also planted seeds of another yard begonia, *B. nelumbiifolia.* This beautiful plant is again native to Mexico, Section Gireoudia, and is noted for its very large (16 + inch length), pale green leaves. These leaves are also peltate i.e. the umbo (stem attachment) is near the center of the blade, are circular in shape, and have an entire margin. The blades are also completely glabrous, i.e., devoid of all indumenta (hair). The initial very small leaves of *B. nelumbiifolia* had the petiole attached at the blade margin, i.e. were basifixed, and



had a definite cordate base. Further the margin had small hairs on it (ciliate) as well as white hairs all over the surface of the leaf. See drawing F in the attachment. It is hard to imagine an immature leaf more different that that of the parent. So far the seedlings are only eight months old, and the adult leaves have not formed. It will be interesting to see when the final shape occurs and if there will be a transitional shape as we had in *B. thiemei*.

In addition to seedlings, I propagate many plants vegetatively. One interesting plant that fits in this class of surprises was *B. carolineifolia*. Again this plant is native to Mexico, in Section *Gireoudia*, and is also noted for its large palmately compound leaves. When I propagated this plant from leaflets, the immature leaves were basifixed, circular in shape, cordate base, and had small indentions in the lower half of the leaf margin, see drawing D. The second distinct shape that developed showed some lobing and would be classified as lobed or cleft by our show definitions, see drawing E. These leaves will undoubtedly transition into the normal palmately compound shape.

Another plant that continues to surprise me even though I have vegatatively propagated it many times is the small rhizomatous species *B. leprosa*. This plant is a native of China, in Section Diploclinium I, and is ideally suited to terrarium culture. It has plain green basifixed leaves that are ovate-elliptical in shape, cordate base with an entire, ciliate margin. Without trying, I seem to always have several of these plants scattered around the house in sundry terrariums because they are so easy to grow. Back to our subject; the young plant doesn't look anything like the parent for almost a year. The leaf shape is the same as the parent, ovate-elliptical but the apex is mostly obtuse, not broadly acuminate. The

cordate bases are the same, but the leaves are deep red, almost purple, in color on the underside, not light green. The upper surface is a rich dark brownish green with light green splashes of color. This plant would be a sensation if we could only get it to forget to reach maturity and merely retain its youthful appearance.

Finally, I will close with an observation on a young *B. tayabensis* plant developed by propagation from a leaf. The new plant has leaves exactly like the parent in color, shape, etc with the noted exception of being basifixed and not peltate. With time, the new leaves do come with a peltate attachment to the petiole, see drawing G, but initially they are attached at the blade margin.

Bill Claybaugh gardens just north of Houston, Tx and you will find his address on page 119.

Continued from Page 85.

Searching for Clips

On page 46 of **Mike Stevens'** book on *Begonias* he shows a wire clip holding the stake to the pot. Do you know of any source for these clips or must one make them individually? I have searched GOOGLE to no avail.

New Begonia Society Member,

Bob Rice
rvrbarre@aol.com

Another Search

To: ABS Members:

The newly renamed Leslie Hatfield Monterey Bay Branch of the American Begonia Society is helping to support the fledgling collection of begonias at the Arboretum of the University of California in Santa Cruz, California. For this reason, we are

soliciting donations from ABS members of plants, cuttings and seeds.
Species are, of course, of prime importance; and proper identification is essential, along with any other information you may have, ie: origin, date of discovery or collection, collector, culture, etc.
Since the Arboretum has a lovely gift shop in which plants are sold, hybrids can also be used to good advantage - especially those suitable for beginners.
Books on begonia identification and culture are also welcome. Please contact me regarding them at the above e-mail address. (willou@cruzio.com)
The U.C. Arboretum was formed some 40 years ago, and is world-renowned for the most extensive collections of South African and Australian plants outside of those countries. It also includes New Zealand and erica sections and more recent additions of native plants and succulents. Our Mediterranean climate on the central coast of California makes it an ideal location for begonias, as well. In fact, we are home to some of the world's primary commercial sources of tuberous begonias due to the climate.
Our own Branch founder, **Leslie Hatfield**, is still furnishing each newcomer to our group with plants and hard-earned cultural information after 36 years, keeping us all in line, and creating still more begoniacs. We are proud to add her name to our title, and to share in the preservation of yet another rapidly dwindling species.

Please send plants (priority mail) and seeds to:
U.C. Arboretum
University of California
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, Calif. 95064

Attn: Begonia Collection

Thanks so much.

Bettie Crandall, Member
Leslie Hatfield Monterey Bay Branch
American Begonia Society

Bettie Crandall
450 Cox Road
Aptos, Ca. 95003
(831)688-3643
willou@cruzio.com

News from Australia

Begonia Australis, journal of the Association of Australian Begonia Societies Inc. has a new editor: Mary Sinnott. She is preparing the current issue. We welcome her and wish her a long and wonderful term.

New Cultivars Official International Registrations 992 and 993 Gene Salisbury, Nomenclature Director

Applications to Register *Begonia* cultivars may be obtained from Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 52, 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 the cultivar parents below, the female (seed) parent is given first.

Begonia 'Haruna'

No. 994 *Begonia* (*B.* 'Barbara Hamilton' x *B.* 'Hanagasumi') 'Haruna'

This cane-like cultivar has a stem with a mature height of 1.5 m. Its leaves have small silver dots on olive green with a red reverse. Leaf margin is undulate. Leaves have 9 to 10 main veins with a petiole of 2 to 3 cm that is reddish yellow green. Stipules are 2.5 c.m long. Flowers are bicolor of white and pink in a compound cyme. Male flowers have 4 tepals of 0.8 cm; females have 6 of 2 to 3 cm. The flower stem is 2 to 4 cm. This cultivar is everblooming.

This plant resembles B. 'Hanagasumi', but this one has white dots on the surface of its leaves. It is compact, easy to grow and profuse in bloom.

This cultivar has been inspected and recommended for restistration by Naruhito Hoshino, 480-1 Nehara, Fujinomiyashi, Shizuokaken 418-0101 Japan. It was developed and descibed by Keiko Sano, 480-1 Nehara Fujinomiyashi, Shizuokaken 418-0101 Japan. It is available from Fuji Kokusai Kaen at 480-1 Nehara, Fujinomiyashi, Shizuokaken 418-0101 Japan.

It was registered on January 10, 2006.

Begonia B. 'Ame-no-Shizuku'

No. 995 *Begonia* (*B.* 'Barbara Hamilton x *B.* 'Q-pit') 'Ame-no-Shizuku'

This cane-like cultivar has a mature stem height of 1. 5 m. Its leaves have small silver dots and yellow stain on pale green. Leaf margin is undulate and are 15 to 16 cm. x 6 to 7.5 cm. Leaves have 10 to 11 main veins with a yellow green petiole of 1 to 1.5 cm. long. Stipules are 4 cm long. Flowers are pink in a compound cyme. Male flowers are 1.5 cm, female 2.5 cm. Male flowers have 4 tepals, females 5. Fower stem is 4 to 5 cm. and the cultivar is everblooming.

This cultivar resembles *B.* "hanagasumi', but has white dots on surface of leaves which are larger.

This plant has been tested and recommended for registration by Naruhito Hoshino, 480-1 Nehara, Fujinomiyashi, Shizuokaken 418-0101 Japan. It was developed and descibed by Keiko Sano, 480-1 Nehara Fujinomiyashi, Shizuokaken 418-0101 Japan. It is available from Fuji Kokusai Kaen at 480-1 Nehara, Fujinomiyashi, Shizuokaken 418-0101 Japan.

Above, B. *'Haruna' and below is* B. *'Ame-no-Shizuku'*

It was registered on January 10, 2006.

In Memory: Joy Porter

On January 14th , 2006 Joy Porter, a long and valued member of the American Begonia Society succumbed to cancer.

Joy was an avid seed grower who for five years served as seed fund director. She diligently worked at improving the seed fund, doing her best to locate species sources in her travels to botanical gardens here and abroad. She met and befriended begonia scholars, noted growers and collectors. Some of them became her suppliers. She did everything possible to insure the safe arrival of seed packets to her customers.

I was one of many novice seed growers she helped with her articles and many times personal advice. In 1985 she was honored for service with a much deserved Herbert Dyckman Award.

During her later years her begonia watercolors were reproduced on the pages of the *Begonian* for all to enjoy.

When she had her first bout with cancer, Joy - a true begonia enthusiast - began distributing the many books and *Begonian*s she had accumulated over many years.

She will be missed, but her begonia legacy will not soon be forgotten.

My deepest sympathies go out to husband Johan and to her five children and their familes.

Normand Dufresne

Joy was such a special person to me that I must add a few notes to the words of Normand.

Although I came to know her when she was no longer seed fund chairman, it was Joy who helped me explore the longevity of seed by sharing with me seed that she had saved, permitting me to test seed from 5 to 14 years of age and discover that most were still viable. I know that Joy saved seed carefully, giving them the refrigeration and packaging that preserved them. She retained her interest in seed and always helped anyone who had that interest.

I have two special plant memories of Joy. First, of her urging me to try a scrawny *B. chitoensis* at a SWR plant sale. This plant turned into one of the most cherished, interesting and beautiful that I ever grew. Second, she gave me a leaf cutting of *B.* 'Normand', named as you may guess for Normand Dufresne. I cared for this one for years, passed it around SWR, and passed on a similarly small cutting to **Chuck Ades** who made it popular in California. It is a beautiful trailing scandent begonia. She later provided a lovely watercolor that appeared in the *Begonian*. Right up to her last years, she shared her watercolors for the *Begonian*. She also made her Christmas cards from her drawings and it was always a thrill to receive one because they were so beautifully done. I have all mine framed as I know others have as well.

I would be remiss not to also mention *Begonia* 'Joy Porter', hybridized by **John Howell** and named for her. It is a beautiful basket size, cane-like begonia that is very hardy.

Joy was a special friend to SWR, making almost all the Get Togethers before she became ill. It was always a delight to see and talk with her, and oh, how I do and will miss her.

Freda Holley

Begonia incarnata

by Freda Holley

One of the first begonias I grew from seed in Arkansas was *B. incarnata*. It grew about 3 foot tall and was a lovely plant. The Ozarks provided the cooler summers it prefers. It became one of my adoptees in the SOS project and I distributed a lot of plants and seed from it. However, I noticed I almost never saw it subsequently in shows or plant sales. When I moved to warmer, drying climes I understood this as this plant prefers cooler temperatures and high humidity. I lost my original plant and did not replace it.

When **Rekha Morris** mentioned to me, however, that she had brought back from Mexico several selections, one a variant red stemmed variety, I did not hesitate to beg for one. She brought me two plants, I think to San Diego. It came through our last winter in Oklahoma, but I rather thought I would lose it here in Louisiana as our last summer's heat and drought was so severe. Indeed, it did look stressed by the fall, but once winter came it perked up and sailed though the cold that all my plants suffered in a shed with sides wrapped in plastic before RL finished the greenhouse in January. *B. incarnata* is a winter bloomer and it already had a few blooms even in the dark shed, but once in the greenhouse it burst into fulsome bloom. I am ready to test the seed now in March and if they are viable will pass some on to the seed fund.

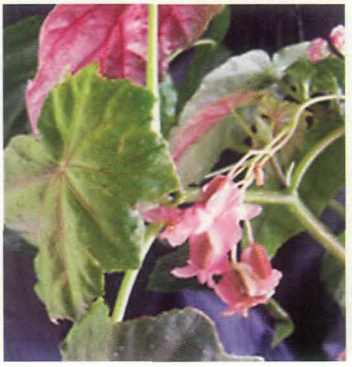
Rekha gave me two cultivars. So far both stems look very much alike, but the leaves on one are larger, about 9 to 10 inches, and have red veins with red radiating out from the veins as well. The other has solid green leaves. I have included a leaf scan to show this difference.

The photo by Rekha shows a plant in Mexico with red blooms, but Rekha says that it also blooms pink in S. Carolina as do both mine. These flowers are the flesh color from which the plants gets its name. The flowers are smallish, about an inch across and the female about an inch in length. They are easy to fertilize and set seed easily. Rekha says, "In the wild I have only found one place where the seed capsules, petioles and the undersides of the leaves are as brilliantly colored. This is just north of Altotonga in Veracruz. Everywhere else that I have found *incarnata* there are variations in the range from pink to reddish pink." Temperatures, soil makeup, and humidity all doubtless lead to differences.

In Ozone my plant grew very full with strong stems, but here it is weak stemmed and only about a ft. and a half tall. It is not a beautiful plant overall, but I think the individual leaves and flower clusters are beautiful indeed. Some plants just seem not to be photogenic and I've found *B. incarnata* to be one of those as it has never looked as pretty in my photos as I see the plant to be. But perhaps that is because I am always looking at the individual leaves or flowers. In the depth of winter, the pink flowers are lovely.

B. incarnata has the genetic makeup that allows it to cross easily with many rhizomatous plants sometimes yielding such strange hybrids as *B.* 'Phyllomaniaca'. I crossed it with a number of rhizomes with spiraled leaves because I believe it might be possible to get cane or shrub-like plants with spiraled leaves. Unfortunately with all my moves, I have yet to grow these seed out to maturity to check my theory.

Contrast Rekha's plant as she found it growing in Veracruz with my leaves and the flower growing here in Louisiana. Note the difference in coloring in the two leaves from the different plants.



Hopefully in the coming year, I may have time to do this.

B. incarnata var *incarnata* is, of course, from Mexico and was described first in 1829 by Link & Otto. There is another variety *papillosa*, described by A. de Candolle in 1864, but I don't think I have ever seen this variety anywhere.

Note:

Rekha Morris is planning another trip to India this year to continue her documentation of begonias in south India and to explore the Khasia Hills of northeastern India where so many of the great 19th century plant collectors documented the begonias of India. These hills are south of the ranges in Arunachal where she documented 21 species in April and December of 2005.

Since her application for funding from the ABS was late due to her trips in October [Mexico] and India shortly after that, she has not received any funds from the ABS for this trip to India. The two trips in 2005 were at her own expense. Rekha would appreciate any contributions from chapters of the ABS to help her fund this 2006 trip. As always any such contributions are to be sent to **Carol Notaras,** Treasurer of the ABS (address on p. 119).

Rekha has done much for us in terms of her collections, articles, seminars, and seed collections. I know that many of you will be pleased to have the opportunity to assist, particularly with the work in India which is truly unique.

Editor's Notes

I would like to thank sincerely all the contributors to this issue. When I was scheduled to begin, I had only the item on new introductions and each writer responded to my urgent request for articles and photographs. All of them are busy people who have taken time to make this issue one you will want to read. If you see any of them or correspond with them, please express your thanks to go with mine.

I would like to call on everyone to write something for the next and future issues. The next issue will feature the convention and if you have any photos or special memories of the convention won't you put that into a note and send to me at the address shown on page 118.

Again, your particular experience with a particular begonia is one thing that everyone likes to read about. Or if there is a type of begonia that you especially like and grow several different plants of, this is also of interest to many readers. If you are traveling anywhere and see begonias in residence, tell us about them!

A Walk Through My Garden....

by June McBryde, Editor
The Queensland Begonia Society Inc. Journal
Queensland, Australia

In this article taken from the Spring 2005 issue of the Journal, *June says that whenever she is short of material, she will take her readers on a walk through her garden to tell about some of the begonias growing in it. We thank her for allowing us to follow her on her walk here.*

Not much is mentioned or published these days about *B.* 'Juanita Jewel', a beautiful cane-like begonia which I think has been around for many years. The *Begonian* of January/February 1994 lists it as a cultivar by **Dorothy Caviness** (USA), but its parents were not named, I also remember reading something about it in another *Begonian* (unfortunately I didn't note which one) some time ago and it was referred to in that publication as B. 'Juanita's Jewel', so I do not know which version of its name is correct.

Continued on page 116.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND LISTING

The Margaret Lee Branch, San Diego County, CA

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

The seed fund is a project of the Margaret Lee Branch.

At our monthly meetings members help to clean and package seeds for the seed bank. All seeds are tested for germination by various members before they are added to the list and made available in the Begonian.

Each year, in the Jan/Feb issue, a complete inventory of available seeds is prepared and printed in the Begonian. In each issue new additions to the inventory are listed along with deletions of "sold out" items. Seeds can be ordered by name from the inventory list at any time in the year.

There is insufficient room for descriptions of the entire list each issue. All new additions to the seed fund and selections from the inventory list are described in each issue of the magazine.

Send orders, comments, suggestions, or complaints to:

Edgar A. Bates
13232 Ocean Vista Road
San Diego, CA 92130
e-address: hortbeg@san.rr.com

NOTE THE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS!

Most packets of species seed are $1.50. All packets of cultivars (including open pollinated) seeds are 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.**

Costs of mailing:

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DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. The seed fund cannot guarantee that the identification is correct. The species names (in italics) reported here are correct based on the latest information from **BEGONIACEAE,** Ed. 2; Golding, and Wasshausen. Hybrid names are made

consistent with the "ABS Check List of Begonia Hybrids" edited by **Howard Berg** dated 9/13/2005.

Thanks to **Thelma O'Reilly** for this addition to the seed fund inventory this month.

B. tomentosa Schott [Brazil] (Sect. *Pritzelia*); Stems unbranched, woody; leaves 4-6 in ovate, acuminate, base cordate, entire or toothed, green with a fine red line along margin; many 1 in flowers, white or pink, bearded on exterior.

Please delete from the master inventory list *B. grandis* var. alba(?).

Descriptions

B. albo-picta W. Bull (sect. *Gaerdtia*) Brazil. Shrubby, branched stems. Two inch elliptic-lanceolate leaves glossy green with silvery white spots, short petioled. Small greenish-white flowers in summer.

B. carolineifolia Regel (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Mexico, Guatamala] Large erect rhizome; large palmately parted leaves on long petioles; flowers large, pink, with dark pink spots; late winter to early spring.

B. dregei Otto & Dietrich [South Africa] (Sect. *Augustia*) Stem with enlarged caudex, sometimes referred to as semi-tuberous, 1-2 feet; small maple-leaf-like leaves; blooms early spring to late fall; very subject to mildew.

B. echinosepala Regel [Brazil] (Sect. *Pritzelia*) Two foot tall shrub with small, elongated, narrow, serrated ribbon like leaves, gracefully arching stems; fragrant white flowers with white hairs on tepal reverse. The name means prickly sepaled, sometimes called "peach tree begonia"

B. fischeri Schrank (Syn. U129) (Sect. *Begonia*) [C. & S. America] A highly variable shrub with many varieties. Var. *fischeri* has erect red stems to 2'; medium, puberulent green leaves, red flushed on back; palmately veined; pink blossoms and winged carpels throughout the year. Very prolific.

B. glabra Aublet var. *cordifolia* (C. de Candolle) Irmscher, (Sect. *Wageneria)* [C. & S. America]. scandent species forming roots at nodes; stems trailing, branched; leaves medium, ovate-lanceolate, short acuminate, cordate at base, crenate, bright glossy green, depressed veins; small greenish-white flowers in summer.

B. gracilis var. *martiana* A. de Candolle (sect. *Quadriperigonia*) [Mexico], Also known as "the hollyhock begonia" the upright, unbranched glabrous stem to 2 feet arises from a tuber; orbicular to lanceolate, crenately toothed fleshy pale green leaves; blooms with very short peduncles grow up the stem among the leaves like hollyhocks; at the axils of older leaves bulbils form which fall off and start new plants. The plants go dormant in cool weather and the tubers will not survive cold weather. The plant tolerates bright light and demands high humidity. It comes from high altitude.

B. johnstonii Oliver ex J. D. Hooker [East Africa,] (Sect. *Rostrobegonia*) Thick-stemmed, stems branched, trailing, succulent, pale green streaked with red; leaves glossy, pale green, 2 1/2 by 4 inch, crenately lobed, basal lobes overlapping, with red scalloped margins, paler underneath with soft hairs along veins; large pink flowers in few flowered clusters on arching peduncles; in spring and summer.

B. kellermanii C. de Candolle, [Guatemala] (Sect. *Gireoudia*) Shrub like, stems 1-3 feet, succulent, hairy; leaves peltate, ovate, acuminate, green with white felting above; flowers white on erect peduncles in winter.

B. leathermaniae O'Reilly and Karegeannes [Bolivia] (Sect. *Knesebeckia*)A superba type discovered in Bolivia; has a swollen base, a shaggy collar where the petiole joins

B. tomentosa. *Photo by Ross Bolwell of Australia.*

the leaf base and crystal like glands that appear on the leaf underside; tall, up to 10 feet planted in the ground; leaves medium green to bronzy green with fine short hairs that give it a satiny sheen; lower leaves drop off; flowers large white tinged with pink from November to April.

B. lindleyana Walpers, (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Guatemala] Rhizomatous, usually erect to 12 inches, covered with red felt when young; leaves 3-8 inches long, obliquely broad ovate, cordate base, toothed; flowers white in broad cymes on hairy peduncles above foliage in spring to summer.

B. ludwigii Irmscher [Ecuador] (Sect. *Knesebeckia*) Trunk like, non-ramified with creamy white flowers in spring and summer, striking deeply lobed leaves tipped with white.

B luxurians Scheidweiler [Brazil] (Sect. *Scheidweileria*) Stems tall, unbranched; leaves palmately compound, 7-17 leaflets 3-6" long, lanceolate, serrate, hairy, reddish above, green underneath; small cream colored flowers in cymes on long peduncles; summer.

B. malabarica Lamarck [India] (Sect. ??) A thick stemmed begonia from west India grows to 2-3 feet; hairy leaves; large pinkish white pendant flowers. This name sometimes applied in error to *B. dipetala.*

B. nelumbiifolia Schlechtendal & Chamisso [Cent. America] (Sect. *Gireoudia*). Short, 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.

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It is not listed in *Begonias: A Complete Reference Guide* by Thompson & Thompson. I drew a blank in the *Catalog of Registered Cultivars* by Ivy McFarlane, *The Begonian Index 1941-2998* by Pat Williams, and *Know Your Begonias* by Jack Krempin. However, what I do know about it is that it is a most rewarding begonia to grow in the open garden. The garden bed in which mine grows faces east and receives morning sun to about 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., depending on the season, and then complete shade for the rest of the day.

B. 'Juanita Jewel' responds well to fertilising and grows to about 120 cm (4 ft.), producing many pendulous clusters of pink, almost red, flowers in spring and over many months. The leaves are 15 to 20 cm (6-8 in.) in length and are fresh green and silver spotted. Even the stipules* are beautiful, being green, flesh and pink tinged. It does not seem to be prone to mildew.

*stipule - small leaf-like appendage on stem.

[***Dorothy Caviness*** *was a hybridizer in Oklahoma and member of the Barkley Branch there. The Dorothy Caviness Branch in Bartlesville, OK is named for her. According to* ***Gene and Ann Salisbury****, Dorothy loved to grow begonias and to grow from seed. She hybridized prolifically, but did not bother with records and certainly not with registering her hybrids. She often did not know the parents of her hybrids either. She is perhaps best known for the hybrid,* B. *'Kathleen Calvert', which is the unusual, deeply spiraled cane-like - whose parents we also do not know. She has many rhizomatous hybrids as well. Since she grew her plants in Oklahoma, they seem particularly adapted to hot, dry conditions. Her plants are popular in the Southwest Region branches. The Salisbury's have maintained and distributed many of her hybrids. FH]*

COMING EVENTS

July 22, 2006 Westchester Branch Show & Sale, 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m., Covenant Presbyterian Church, 6323 W. 80th St., North west corner, Sepulveda & 80th., Los Angeles, CA 90045 Ample, easy and free parking. Admission free. For information contact: Janet Brown, Show Chairman, 310-670-4471 & FAX, email: JBBROWN3@aol.com THIS YEAR HONORING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVMENT OF JEANNE JONES.

September 14, 15, 16 2006, Southwest Region Get-Together and Annual ABS Board Meeting, St. Louis,MO. Seminars and tours are planned—More details to follow

2007 American Begonia Society Convention. Info to come.

March 22-26, 2008, Association of Australian Begonia Societies Convention in Brisbane, Australia. Begin you plans! More information to come.

Due date for the July/August 2006 Issue is May 1, 2006.

The Begonian

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