



The

Begonian

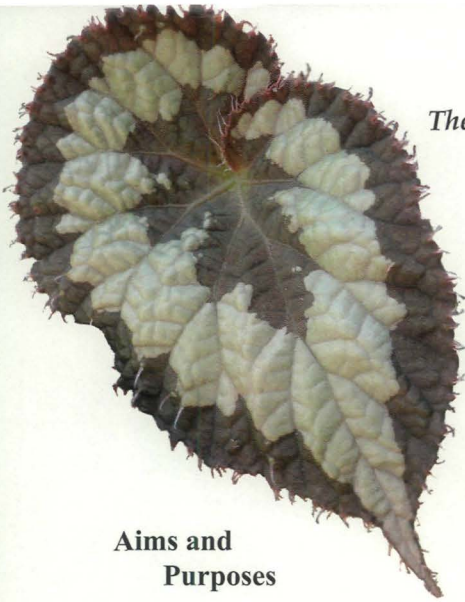
September/October 2009

The Begonian

Publication of the
American Begonia Society

American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman



Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

To issue a bulletin that will be mailed to all members of the society.

To bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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*B. rex (the original species from India)
photo by Johanna Zinn*

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Front Cover: *B. 'Silver Splendor'* a beautiful new cultivar, that's showing good cold hardiness, from Terra Nova Nurseries. Photo by Dan Heim

Back cover: Gorgeous picotee tuberous begonia grown by Paul Carlisle in Los Osos, California. Photo by Julie Vanderwilt

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a wonderful time to be involved in the American Begonia Society! So many new things are happening.

One of the most exciting events for me is the addition of our three new Branches: Mid-America Begonia Society in Kansas City, MO; the Rhode Island Branch in Providence, RI; and, the Austin Area Begonia Society in Austin, TX. Supporting these groups and strengthening them should be a priority for us all.

Austin has already shown what kind of a great group they are by hosting the Southwest Get-together and Board Meeting. (Details of this event will be reported in a later issue.)

We have put together some plans for providing programs and guidance for not only the new Branches but also some of the existing ones that might need a little extra boost. The ABS is a marvelous organization filled with energy, knowledge and talent. We need to take all of these fantastic human resources and plant the seeds of growth.

I'm sure you've noticed that another new thing is the Begonian. Freda fought long and hard to bring us a quality publication with as much color as she

could squeeze out under the constraints of the previous printing facility. What a wonderful job she has done for us for more than a decade. Thank you, Freda.

Linda Tamblyn, our talented new Editor, is enjoying the new printing company and the benefits of the digital age: fewer limitations in all areas and color everywhere. The Begonian is the responsibility of all of us. We can all share our experiments and experiences and keep this a publication worthy of the ABS.

The number of new species and U numbers have been increasing at a rapid rate. Every new discovery is like a new birth. We have the opportunity to learn how to nurture, propagate and tend to each new addition. Hybridizers have that many more specimens at their disposal.

Those of us who have been around this organization for awhile remember the feeling in the beginning that we could "never learn all that". But somehow it did happen and we did learn and we became excited because others shared their knowledge and enthusiasm.

I would like for all members to give some consideration to what each of us can share on a local, national or worldwide capacity. There are lots of begonia-lovers who need us.

Get involved,
Cheryl Lenert

Begonia limprichtii, a new leaf photo by Jem Wiseman

NOT ONE, BUT THREE – THREE NEW BRANCHES FOR THE ABS

by Mary Bucholz, Director Branch Relations

Unanimously voted by the ABS Board, at the May 2, 2009 Board Meeting in West Palm Beach, FL were three new branches, Mid American Begonia Society, Amy Shonka, President, Kansas City Area – fifteen members; Rhode Island Branch, Priscilla Purington, President, West Kingston, RI – thirteen members; Austin Area Begonia Society, Joan and Jim Estes, Co-Presidents, Lockhart, TX – thirteen members. Congratulations and Welcome!



Left to right: Wanda McNair accepting for the Rhode Island Branch; Gene Salisbury accepting for the Austin Area Begonia Society; Jem Wiseman accepting for the Mid American Begonia Society

It was such a pleasure to work with the members of each new branch and share in the excitement and enthusiasm of their groups. It is my wish that these branches will grow in their membership not only in numbers, but in their love and knowledge of this plant family.

Remember it only takes seven interested members to form a branch in your area. Please contact me for information necessary for branch formation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you so much for the lovely tribute to my father, Jack Golding. I deeply appreciated the inclusion of my thoughts in your memorial and the space you dedicated to him. My Mom was truly touched by the article and Dad would have been so pleased to have received that recognition and acknowledgment of his efforts on behalf of the begonia society he loved so much. I can only hope that his life's work on nomenclature and research library will be preserved intact and available for future generations of begoniacs.

Most sincerely, Marilyn Golding White

AWARD WINNERS - CONVENTION 2009



A few of the many award winners last May in West Palm Beach Florida. **Tom Keepin** (top left; photo by Johanna Zinn) received the Dyckman Award for long term, outstanding service to the ABS. The McLaughlin Award, presented by Betty and Sam Kennedy of Scotland, was one of the many honors earned by **Doug Pridgen**, shown here with Mike Flaherty (top right; photo by Johanna Zinn); **Mary Sakamoto** took home the Marge Lee Award for her tireless efforts to create goodwill and harmony within the ABS. **Lou Welch** (not pictured) was given the Tim O'Reilly Award for an ABS spouse who does not grow begonias but gives generously of their time and talents. **Julie Vanderwilt** (pictured in the May/June Begonian) was the recipient of the Rudy Ziesenhenné Award for her outstanding efforts on ABS publications. The A. D. Robinson Medal of Honor went to **Begonia 'Shaun Henthorne'** (Kartuz).



October 3 and 4, 2009

San Diego County Branch Show and Sale

The San Diego County branches of The American Begonia Society will hold a Plant Show and Sale on Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show will be in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Spectacular foliage and blossoms of begonias will be on display. There will be many beautiful begonia plants for sale. Begonia experts will be available to answer questions. For more information call Marla Keith 760-753-3977.

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.

Contributions of seed from the membership make the Seed Fund more diverse. Please self pollinate your species begonias, collect the seeds and send them to the seed fund.

The Seed Fund would like to thank:
Beatrice Huckriede, Ronit Band, Charles Myers, Marci Oehler and Thelma O'Reilly for their seed contributions.

Seed featured this issue from Ronit Band: (limited amount \$3.00)

- B. egregia
- B. sizemorea
- B. umbraculifera

Seed featured this issue from Marci Oehler:

- B. conchifolia
- B. heracleifolia
- B. hydrocotylifolia
- B. U082

Seed featured this issue from Thelma O'Reilly:

- B. vaginans = tomentosa
- B. vitifolia var. Bahiensis
= reniformis

Seed featured this issue from Beatrice Huckriede:

- B. dipetala
- B. incarnata
- B. kenworthyae
- B. paranaensis
- B. reniformis
- B. sericoneura

Seed featured this issue from Charles Myers:

- B. U498

Packets of seeds of species and U numbers 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.

Please send your order with payment to:

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND
Dean Turney
467 Fulvia Street,
Encinitas, CA 92024

e-address: dean@deansmail.us

Costs of mailing:

US only: 1-12 packets \$1; 13-24, \$1.35; 25-36, \$1.71; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.30; 49-60, \$2.66.

Canada only: 1-12 packets, \$1.10; 13-24, \$1.46; 25-36, \$1.82; 37-48 (2 cans) \$2.35; 49-60, \$2.71.

Mexico only: 1-12 packets, \$1.15; 13-24, \$1.51; 25-36, \$1.87; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.50; 49-60, \$2.81.

All other international mail: 1-12 packets, \$1.85; 13-24, \$2.68; 25-36, \$3.68; 37-48, \$4.68; 49-60, \$5.68.

DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. 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.



PLATE 2251 *Begonia homonyma*

Begonia homonyma Steudl.

Tracy McLellan, South Africa

Illustration by Gillian Condy

The subject of the painting, *Begonia homonyma* Steudl., can grow to be a large plant over three feet tall with a huge caudex and bright green, succulent leaves. I have not seen the wild form in cultivation, although there are plants with strange flowers (stigmatic surface is found on the tepals) that are similar, but smaller. It is not common in nature, being restricted to a few forests on the eastern coast of South Africa. In some of those places we have found as few as four plants. It is used medicinally by the Zulu people, and as a consequence of both its rarity and exploitation, it is considered an endangered species. In some places, the leaves have red edges, and in one forest, there is a red dot on the upper leaf surface where the petiole (leaf stem) joins it. The paper I wrote on this plant came about when my friend, Neil Crouch, sent me photographs of plants he had found far from where the other *B. homonyma* we knew about were located. But there is no question of what it is, so we wrote the description and Gill Condy kindly did the painting.

Gillian Condy, the illustrator of the *B. homonyma*, was born in Kenya and trained in the UK, obtaining a Masters from the Royal College of Art. She worked in Botswana before taking up the position of Resident Botanical Artist at the South African National Botanical Institute (SANBI) in Pretoria more

than 25 years ago. She has illustrated over 200 plates for 'Flowering Plant of Africa', contributed to various other publications and done eight plates for *Curtis' Botanical Magazine*. She has also illustrated two books and designed many sets of postage stamps.

Her artwork is found in collections around the world. She has participated in over 100 group exhibitions worldwide, including those of Royal Horticultural Society in London and at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in Pittsburgh. She runs regular art courses at various places around South Africa. I got to know her at a course held at a resort in a beautiful setting in the Drakensberg Mountains. The first time we met, a few years earlier, and I told her I worked in *Begonia*, she told me there were none in South Africa. There are not many species—five the last time we counted -- and she knows better now.

McLellan, T., N. R. Crouch and G. Condy. 2009. *Begonia homonyma*. Flowering Plants of Africa 61: 76–82, Pl 2251.



A Walk in the Past

Article & photos by Jessica Chevalier, Crown Point, NY

There are certain Begonias that evoke memories of an age gone-by. Their presence connects us with another time when tropical plants were a novelty. The Victorian era was filled with a sort of plant madness. Nurserymen sent scouts around the world to gather exotics. The newfound plants were quickly introduced to the marketplace where they fulfilled the public's insatiable hunger for tropicals. Hundreds of specialty nurseries popped up all over the U.S. selling the latest and greatest in houseplants. What a time it must have been when you think of how few of those original nurseries are left. Begonias were among the most popular plants and among the most hybridized.



B. 'Thurstonii' with its waxy "elephant ear" leaves.

Victorian homes typically did not have much light and were on the cool side. Only the wealthy could afford a greenhouse. When the Wardian case was invented people could have a mini-greenhouse in their home. Many a Begonia found its way into these fancy terrariums. Those that did not get encased in glass spent their time on windowsills and in gardens.

Cane-like Begonias had a proud stature in the Victorian parlor and garden. They were prized for their cascading often spotted "angel wing" foliage and large umbels of flowers. One of the first and still one of the best was *B. maculata* discovered in the early 1800's. Other popular cane-like Begonias included *B. 'Lucerna'* (1894), *B. coccinea* (1843), and *B. corallina*.

Shrub-like Begonias were used in bedding as well as in the parlor with the first species of this group being found in 1688! I found much mention of the shrub-like group in my small collection of antique books on plants. *B. 'Thurstonii'* (1887) with its "elephant ear" leaves and pretty pink flowers was admired greatly. *B. echinosepala* (1871) was loved for its heavenly scented white flowers and elongated leaves. *B. scharffiana* (1888), *B. fuchsoides* (1847), *B. nitida* (1789), and *B. 'Kewensis'* (1894) were also among many grown in this group.

Rhizomatous were dependable and were loved for their exotic foliage and sprays of pink and white flowers. *B. 'Erythrophylla'* ("beefsteak" or

“pond lily” *Begonia*) was introduced in 1845. It always gets the comment: “My Grandmother used to grow that plant” when I sell it at the farmer’s market. Other favorites of the time were *B. ‘Ricinifolia’* (1847), *B. hydrocotylifolia* (1842), and *B. heracleifolia* (1830).

B. rex was discovered in 1856 and became widely available in 1858. Endless amounts of hybrids ensued. They were loved, much like today, for their seemingly limitless color combinations. *B. ‘Comtesse Louise Erdody’* (1883), *B. ‘Fireflush’*, and *B. ‘Silver Queen’* (1875) are just a fraction of all the different varieties grown at the time.

B. semperflorens (1821) and its many hybrids were delighted in for their floriferousness. *Begonias* in the Semp group were used as summer bedding plants and in the winter kept the windowsill bright.

Tuberous and semi-tuberous *Begonias* were grown in summer and then stored away with the *Gladiolus* and *Dahlias*. I found mention of *B. dregei* (1836) in two old books from my collection. It was apparently admired for its abundance of white flowers. Also mentioned were *B. ‘Weltonensis’* (1864), *B. froebelii* (1874), and *B. boliviensis* (1859). The early 1900’s saw a surge in many cultivars of the tuberhybrida class, which were adored for their large



A *B. ‘Corallina de Lucerna’* that I found growing in an old store front. The owner said it had been around forever and gladly gave me a cutting!

colorful flowers.

In a book, dated 1900, called **Plant Culture** by George W. Oliver, I found an excerpt that suggests Victorians would force cane and shrub-like *Begonias* into dormancy after time as a bedding plant. He describes: “Old plants will hibernate in boxes under the bench of a moderately warm house.” Interesting piece of advice. I myself have had success with plants in my basement. In the same book he describes *B. ‘Gloire de Sceaux’* as “a trifle miffy” and sings the praises of *B. ‘Gloire de Lorraine’*. What I also found interesting was the mention and high recommendation of *B. grandis*, then also called *B. evansiana*. It is described as being great for borders and applauded for being cold hardy.

The general hardiness and boundless beauty of these plants sparked the fancy of our predecessors. Now, generations later *Begonias* are still a shining beacon in our homes, gardens, and greenhouses.

Addendum To Previous Article

B. burkillii

By Charles Henthorne, Plano, TX

In my previous article on the newly rediscovered species, *B. burkillii*, I stated that this was a rare species.



B. burkillii, grown in cultivation
Photo by Charles Henthorne

This is a clarification of that statement. As Dr. Rekha Morris states in her article, she has found many, many specimens of this in the area in India, in which she is, and has, done much exploration. I meant to state that this was rare in cultivation at the present time. It remains so, however, we are attempting to propagate and distribute it as quickly as possible. It is a beautiful species, both in foliage, and in bloom, and deserves to be in as many collections as possible.

**November / December closing
date for the Begonian:**

September 28, 2009

Please send your articles, photos and events!

Thanks so much to all who have contributed photos, articles and advice. I want to encourage ALL our members to consider sharing your talents with The Begonian. Growing tips, interesting facts, plant profiles and, especially, high resolution, attractive photos, are always needed. Feel free to email me with your ideas, articles, photos or questions. Should you have questions about submitting photos please contact me via email at begoniaskc@yahoo.com or 913/ 231-1020. Thanks! Linda Tamblyn, Editor



Several variant forms of *B. burkillii* on a vertical rock surface

B. burkillii Dunn

Article & photos by Rekha Morris, Pendleton, SC

The stunning begonia described by Charles Henthorne in the March/April 2009 issue of **The Begonian** was first documented in what is now East Siang in Arunachal Pradesh, India by I.H. Burkill in 1911-1912. Burkill was the botanist who accompanied a punitive British expedition in 1911-1912 against some members of the Abor tribe, now known as the Adi tribe, who had killed a couple of British officials. As the official botanist accompanying this expedition, Burkill has left extensive records of the flora of the region in "Botany of the Abor Expedition" **Records of the Botanical Survey of India** [vol. X – no. 1, 1924, p.288]. This is what Burkill has to say about this species:

"A Begonia with blue-green leaves that are sometimes not or sometimes considerably variegated growing in deep shade and seems to require more moisture than other Begonias of the same hill sides. It is endemic."

I first documented *B. burkillii* Dunn [*Sphenanthera*] in April 2005 in the eastern district of Papumpare in Arunachal Pradesh, and introduced it into cultivation by rooting leaves from the single rhizome I found growing by a stream. Since I again documented this species in Papumpare district in Jan. 2009, it is clearly not endemic to East Siang although it is in this latter district that *B. burkillii* flourishes in the thousands. In an article published in 2003, Dr. Mark Tebbitt introduces *B. burkillii* as new for Myanmar on the basis of his examination of specimens collected in the Kachin Hills in 1910, and suggests that the species has a wider range than hitherto assumed ["Notes on South Asian Begonia" **Edinburgh Journal of Botany** 60(1): 8, 2003]. Until this article, *B. burkillii* was known from the single collection made by Burkill in 1911-1912.

Burkill further records that the species, which now commemorates his work, began to bloom in January, that

the first flowers on this species were male, and it was 3 weeks before the first female flowers appeared. I reached Pasighat in East Siang on January 17th, 2009, and that same afternoon found *B. burkillii* blooming in the hills above Pasighat at an elevation of 250 m. Both male and female flowers were present, although the male blooms were present in far greater numbers than the female. Fortunately, I was also able to find a number of *burkillii*'s rhomboid fruit albeit not quite mature. For the next three days as I explored these hills from about 500 m to 1000 m, I found

thousands of *B. burkillii*. They grew in large, spreading colonies with their greatest concentration occurring around small streams, water run off channels, and rock seepages.

One day I walked approximately 5km skirting the base of several hillsides, and until I finally had to stop at dusk I continued to encounter *B. burkillii* as the most prolific and widespread species. Moss covered rocky banks along streams and tiny rivulets, hollows, depressions, narrow ledges, the roof and near vertical sides of shallow caves were all but smothered

in *B. burkillii*. In the ever deepening twilight, the large, pale pink flushed, white flowers acquired an ethereal luminescence so mesmerizing that it was difficult to turn away from them and head out of the hills.

For the most part, the blue-green foliage has irregular chocolate-maroon splashes on the leaf surface and along the leaf margins. These markings are reflected on the reverse side of these leaves in shades of carmine and red. In some plants the deep, aqua colored foliage was replaced by leaves



All maroon variant form of *B. burkillii*.

in a delicate shade of pale citrine with scarlet highlights in the variegation. Interspersed with these were plants without the distinctive dark splash on their leaves, which varied in color from deep nutmeg, cinnamon and chestnut to pale translucent sienna. In many of these, the veins were prominently defined in aqua. One moist and moss covered rocky overhang above a shallow



Two variant forms of *B. burkillii*, one with all green foliage.

pool created by water trickling down from a small waterfall further up the hill was sprinkled with *B. burkillii* whose foliage was in shades of green ranging from a pale shade of celadon to bright celery. This unusual uniform coloration was as striking as the paucity of blooms in this isolated colony of *B. burkillii*.

I recorded over a dozen begonia species in these hills of East Siang, among them *B. aborensis* with large leaves, tall, branching *B. longifolia*, and variegated forms of *B. palmata*, which cascaded down large expanses of the cliffs. However, none grew or bloomed with the profusion and unrestrained abandon of *B. burkillii*.

* Although the southern edges of what is now known as Arunachal Pradesh were loosely referred to as Assam in 19th and early 20th century documents, this narrow strip bordering Assam was only nominally under the control of the British. British outposts and military camps were within what was then and continues to be the current northern border of Assam. Most of the region which now comprises Arunachal Pradesh was an unchartered wilderness referred to as the North East Frontier, which was occupied and continues to be occupied by over twenty five major and over fifty minor tribes. In 1855 in *Flora Indica*, J. D. Hooker wrote that "These mountains are inhabited by wild and suspicious tribes, who have hitherto refused all access to the interior of their country" (p.175). To this day travel into the interior of these mountains of Arunachal Pradesh is highly restricted for foreigners and Indians alike.

March 27th 2009

Winter Haven

Article & photos by Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

October used to be a heart breaker – frost, that harbinger of our long winter days, would snuff out the life of my glorious tropicals that were too large or demanding to move inside. Space inside is always at a premium, as is adequate humidity. But no more. I found rental space in a community greenhouse.

Formerly part of a large estate that was given to the City of New Haven in 1965, the six greenhouses were renovated and now house Greenbrier, a horticulture program run by Easter Seals Goodwill Industries, a tropical and an arid house maintained (by volunteers) for the general public and school groups, as well as two large rental greenhouses. The public tropical house has some ancient plants growing *in the ground*, a delightful fishpond, supervised by some caged birds, and many interesting plants including begonias. All these greenhouses used to provide food and flowers for the estate. Outside the greenhouses is a thriving community garden that had been the kitchen garden for the estate. It's fun to wander through the spaces and imagine what



Inside one of the greenhouses – a magical place especially in the dead of winter

it was like when these were providing for one family! The public spaces are well staffed and inviting. The rental spaces are not open to the public, but are accessible to renters through coded locks.

Rental spaces are not huge, but with six of them, some planning, and a touch of self-discipline, I can winter over my loves. Layering works too – some

plants can be elevated above those on the bench, and the space under the bench can be used too for some shade – my begonias seem particularly at home here – making one space seem like three. All normal plant maintenance is up to the renter, but the directors maintain the physical establishment with a very reasonable rental fee; soil is provided, there are large potting benches, hoses, utility sinks with hot and cold water, and classical music is piped in – nurturing both plants and renters.

So, starting in early October, my trusty station wagon moves my cleaned and pruned beauties about five miles to their winter home; they return in May for hardening off. Those eight indoor months are a blessing not only to my plants but also to me. I get to breathe humid air, feel the sun when it's freezing outside, see flowers in the dead of winter, even harvest Meyer lemons and calamondons while listening to classical music.

Fellow greenhousers are tremendous resources, sharing advice, cuttings, and watering needs for those on vacation or just ill. One bench neighbor had been a daylily hybridizer. He started his seeds there and was most generous with overproduction. Part of my perennial border is a living memorial to him and his generosity. Small group trips to well known greenhouses, such as Logees, are common. We are all plant nuts, each one with his or her own special interest. Even nursery owners house plants here. Begoniacs abound and their specimens thrive. Orchidists dominate one greenhouse, and their bloomers are frequently displayed for the school groups. New Haven is a

cosmopolitan city and the renters reflect that diversity – some wintering over (and sharing) their favorite herbs, but that's a different article. Enormous or baby begonias, ancient agaves, monkey puzzlers, citrus, hibiscus, orchids, coleus, coffee and cocoa trees, tomato and pepper seedlings, you name it, someone grows it.

Dumpster diving is a rewarding sport here too. Who knows why some things wind up in the trash, but they do. Cuttings can be revived and rooted; discards nurtured back to health. Do we always know what we found? No, but that adds to the challenge.

Not doing well with something? Some toss it out, some leave it with someone whose collection shows they



All dumpster diving rewards; they were nourished and pampered to get to the size they are in the photo, but they were dumpster finds.



Donated to the city by a large estate the greenhouses are beautiful structures in a lovely setting. Wisely renovated they now house a horticultural program funded by Goodwill Industries, a public area and rental space for all manner of plant fanatics.

have the right touch, or leave it on the potting bench with a “free” sign. Two sale areas in the public portions of the complex frequently offer unusual or hard-to-find plants, some donated by renters.

But, if you’re still with me, you’re probably wondering what does all this have to do with *The Begonian*? Two things mostly: the fact that almost every renter (there are approximately 75 of us) has at least one begonia is testimony to their popularity; and the quite decent collection in the public greenhouse helps expand awareness of begonias and feed that by offering small plants for sale. But it’s also the concept of rental space in an environment that’s ideal for begonias. If you’re like me, you struggle mightily with supplying adequate humidity and light. With greenhouse space I can display one or two specimens at home

for a while, then move them back to more ideal conditions.

There are a few issues we deal with – air rights being one. Some plants benefit too much, and then shade out their neighbors. There is a maximum pot size, meaning that some truly huge plants must winter elsewhere. White fly and mealy bugs can be pesky, but licensed spraying does occur periodically. Wild birds come in through open windows in the spring and have their way with unprotected seedlings. But all in all, it’s a “win win” activity.

I’ve been doing this for about eight years. So many benefits and so few negatives have made it a peak life experience - one I suspect could be developed elsewhere or even become a new business. Are there empty greenhouses somewhere near you?

My New Terrariums and Yellow Flowered Begonias

Article & photos by Jacky Duruisseau, la Romade, France



Hi friends! Five years and lots of work: stonework, stone cutting, plasterboard, framing, etc., and just retired! We moved on January 27, 2008 - just before building 35 terrariums and cutting 320 pieces of glass. Then, the plants were ready to move from the old plastic greenhouse to the new one.

Here, my begonias grow under the most favorable conditions. The begonias we brought back from Gabon have survived since December 2003! Now, they grow very well. I got the first flowers a year ago.

Most of these begonias were identified by Dr. Marc Sosef from the Wageningen University in The Netherlands. Marc Sosef has studied Begonias (particularly Sections

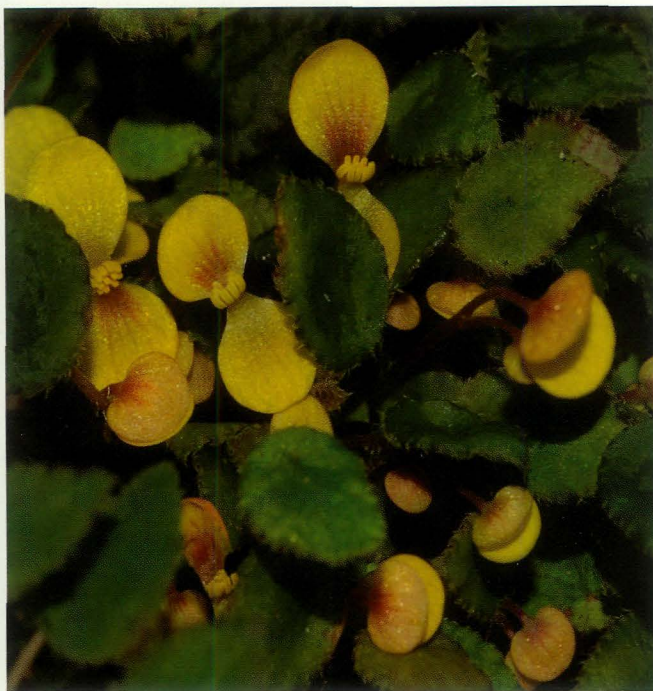
Loasibegonia and **Scutibegonia**) in Gabon for the last 15 years.

In order of blossom in my greenhouse since moving:

B. scutifolia Hooker [**Loasibegonia**]: a little one who is practically always in blossom; in the forest, this species is sometimes epiphytic on mossy trunks.

B. susaniae Sosef [**Scutobegonia**]: a very nice species who has blooms two times a year. It was the only species we have seen in blossom in the rain forest in December 2003. (Susana is the given name of the Marc Sosef 's wife.)

B. vittariifolia Hallé [**Loasibegonia**]: a rare and very curious begonia. We were very lucky, because we found it on the last day of our trip to Gabon. It grows on mossy rocks near a stream



B. scutifolia

and when we saw it, it was in the sun (which is not easy in the forest!)

B. lacunosa Warburg

[**Scutobegonia**]: a similar species to *B. susaniae*. These two are often confused. Flowers took place early, in March, the same as *B. vittariifolia*.

B. hirsutula Hooker [**Scutobegonia**]: it bloomed for the first time a month ago. Flowers are hidden under the leaves. In the wild, this species is never epiphytic.

B. letouzeyi Sosef

[**Scutobegonia**]: which has the larger flowers (also under leaves). They bloomed around May. We found it with *B. vittariifolia* on the same rocks.

B. auriculata Hooker



B. auriculata

[**Filicibegonia**]: is not a yellow flowered begonia but a very interesting one. Its name comes from stipules that are like ears as you can see in the picture.

B. mildbraedii Gilg

[**Scutobegonia**]: leaves are like velvet! It blossomed continually from February 2008 to September 2008 and again in March 2009. I have seen it very often in Gabon.

Two other Gabon species have not still blossomed at home: *B. potamophila* Gilg [**Loasibegonia**] and *B. clypeifolia* Hooker

[**Scutobegonia**].

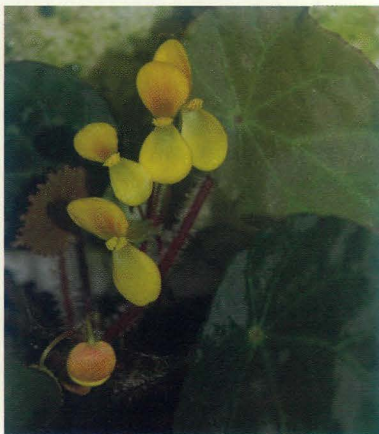
I found all these species in two main areas: in south of Gabon to Igotchi near the Nyanga river and in Crystal Mountains towards Tchimbélé in the north of Gabon. Often, they grow on rocks near streams and usually, on the streams banks in mossy places. Sometimes, they are epiphytic on



B. vittariifolia

trunks. In the rain forest we have about from 22°C (72°F) in dry season to 28°C (82°F) in the rainy season and 95% humidity.

These plants are not easy to grow. They need terrariums - large ones. I use a watering can (with rain water) in some terrariums (the lower ones in the picture) and water can run out. In the other ones, I spray the plants each day (with rain water) and, after, I open the terrarium for about an hour. During the winter, I warm the greenhouse and use artificial light for



B. mildbraedii

about 14 hours of light. (I also grow some other species from Equatorial Africa: *B. scapigera*, *B. prismatocarpa*, *B. quadrialata* subsp. *quadrialata*, and *B. quadrialata* subsp. *nimbaensis*.)

Unfortunately, all these species are not self-fertile and it is impossible to get seeds if we do not have two different strains. I plan on going again to Gabon in the dry season, after plants have bloomed, in May 2010 to bring back seeds.

Please contact me at jacky.duruisseau@akeonet.com if you are interested in my expedition for wonderful begonia species!

Propagating Begonias Without Using Soil Mixture

Article & photo by Bernie Wiener, Havertown, PA

There have been a number of different types of soil mixtures used in propagating begonia cuttings. I have been using Oasis Growing Media for years with great success.

Oasis Growing Media are rigid, open-celled, water-absorbing foams specifically designed for optimal callus and root formation. The performance of these media is due to the unique cell structure which closely resembles the cellular structure of the plant itself. These media offer the propagator the following advantages: optimal balance of air and water; stabilized pH; elimination of soil/media mixing; improved uniformity of root formation due to media consistency; rapid transplant and no shock to the cutting.

Oasis Rootcubes medium comes in standard 10 inch x 20 inch sheets with individual "cubes" in 1 inch, 1 1/4 inch, 1 1/2 inch, and separate "strip" configuration. The rootcubes are punched with tapered holes so you guide the cutting insertion without a problem.

Propagation of Cuttings

(1) Thoroughly wet the medium before sticking cuttings. Randomly cut into several cubes to check for dry spots inside the medium. If any are found, re-wet the medium.



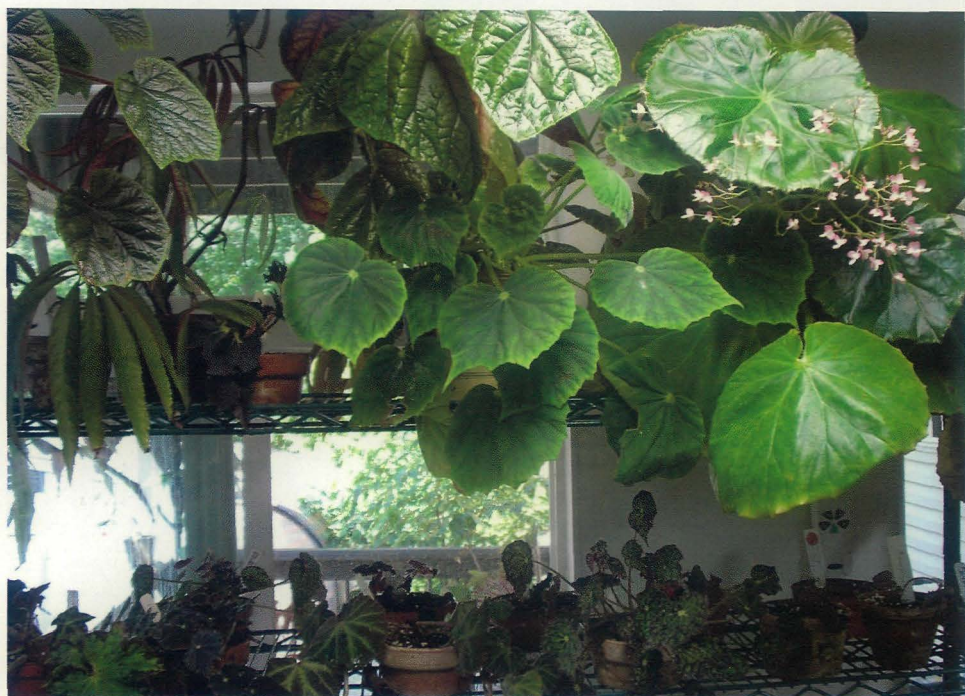
B. scharffii growing in a root cube

(2) Placing the cutting in the tapered holes, see that the cutting is stuck at least 1/3 of the cube depth and no more than 3/4. After the cutting has been inserted, do not lift or pull up the cutting as this will break the contact between the cutting base and the Rootcubes Growing Media.

(3) DO NOT allow the Rootcubes Growing Media to dry out. The propagation time required will vary from 18 to 28 days depending on the cultivar and propagation environment. To aid root development use bottom heat of 70 to 80°F.

(4) Transplanting procedure after placing the rooted cube into pot with soil. Irrigate the pots twice -- the first irrigation with water, the second with fertilizer concentration of 20-20-20 or 20-19-18. The double irrigation

continued on pg 197



Many of my plants hold special memories as they remind me of the good friends who shared them with me.

Begonia People & Travels

Article & photos by Paul Rothstein, Bella Vista, AR

I do not remember how I got started with Begonias but I was living in Phoenix, AZ and joined the ABS in 1992. I have received so much pleasure from growing Begonias over the years but even more so, have enjoyed all the wonderful people I have met along the way.

When my wife and I lived in Phoenix we went to San Diego every year for vacation. I heard about Kartuz nursery and starting going there in 1993. Every year we would visit Michael's greenhouse and I always hated leaving. Michael would just let us roam around, never rushed us and never seemed to mind our son running around showing us all the different plants. I will always be

grateful to Michael for letting me name one of his hybrids after my mother.

After 23 years the company I worked for was sold and I had to take a new job, moving to Boise, Idaho. That is when we really started meeting other Begoniacs.

My wife was not interested in Begonias but she encouraged me to attend my first convention in Denver and even went with me. There we met Virginia Jens and she took us under her wing and helped us to have a wonderful time. She even had me get down early for the plant sale, which I have done ever since (yes, I am one of those nuts who goes two hours early).

In Boise I had a small greenhouse

where I kept all my Begonias. I won't go into all the details but my greenhouse was trashed and I lost almost all my plants. I had just started reading all the posts on the Yahoo Begonia chat site and posted something about losing my Begonias. Even though we did not know each other, Mike Flaherty sent me a bunch of beautiful Begonia plants to help replace what I lost. We have been great friends ever since.

My wife and I visited Mike a couple of times in Santa Barbara and when my son was over there he even sent him back with Begonias for me. Through Mike we met Julie Vanderwilt and always had a good time with the two of them at each convention.

They always made my wife feel welcome even though she didn't know a Begonia from a weed. My wife passed away in 2007 and I did not know how I would manage at the 2008 convention on my own. Mike and Julie let me hang around with them the whole time and I never felt alone.

While we were living in Boise I had to travel around the country for my job. Everywhere I went I was able to meet another Begonia lover and make a new friend. In San Francisco Carol Notaras invited me her home. She took me up on the roof to see her greenhouse and the spectacular view of the Golden Gate Bridge. She let a complete stranger

into her home and treated me as if we had known each other for years. In Sacramento, Joan Coulat took me to the back of the nursery where she worked and gave me a ton of cuttings. I visited southern California and went to the Green Scene Begonia sale where I met Margaret Fisher. Margaret let me have first choice of the Begonias her branch was selling. We have been friends ever since and always catch up at the conventions.

Seven years ago we moved to northwest Arkansas for my job. Once again we lived in a location where there was not a branch to join. Even though it was a 1-½ hour drive I went to Oklahoma for some branch meetings and met Gene and Ann Salisbury. Gene took me through their huge greenhouse and even gave me one of the largest Begonias I had ever seen. They have

always been very kind to me and now that I am the Membership Chairman they have been a great help. It wasn't for a few years after I met Ann that I realized a Begonia I had was named after her. I still have Anna Lee Salisbury and have probably had it for over a dozen years.

Just a short time ago I attended the convention in Palm Beach. Besides getting to see most of the people I have mentioned, I got to make a lot of new friends; Charles Henthorne who is so generous with his terrarium plants, Jan



My terrariums enjoy the filtered light and cool temperatures on the floor by these large windows

continued on pg 197



BEGONIA BLOG

By Julie Vanderwilt
Santa Barbara, California

The 2009 ABS Convention in West Palm Beach was a huge success. One of my favorite gardens was Casa Phippsberger, Robert Eigelberger's 6-acre garden and estate in the heart of Palm Beach. Bob is a historic preservationist. His wife, sculptor Susan Phipps Cochran, does huge metal

called me over and showed me a beautiful hibiscus flower. It was 12" across. And I thought I lived in plant paradise!

In the useful information department, the Begonians are an unusual size, and here is the binder to buy to keep them clean and organized.

It's a Wilson-Jones, white, 3-ring binder, part number 362-12W. You can find them online at many office supply stores for less than \$5.00 each. With six issues per year, one year fits perfectly in each binder. And you can probably have your favorite local office store order them for you.

And finally I would like to say



Mike Flaherty and ant at the Casa Phippsberger garden

pieces on display all over the gardens. Mike Flaherty was kind enough to pose on an ant to give us a perspective on the sculpture's size.

And the plants! A tropical plant paradise! Bromeliads growing everywhere in full sun. And the most incredible *Adenium obesum* (Desert Rose) I have ever seen. They were actual trees. I am lucky to get one through the winter without killing it.

Then ABS President, Mary Sakamoto,



Hibiscus



Jack Golding and family on Jack's 90th birthday

a few words about Jack Golding. We never met, but we “spoke” via email often. He was such a gentlemen. He was also extremely knowledgeable about begonias. Jack was responsible for all the citations that accompany the Curtis prints on the ABS website. He was very

precise about the way each citation should be written with proper italics and bolding. And he was a stickler that proper form be used in writing begonia names and that botanical words be used accurately.

Last fall Jack's son Mark wrote me saying that they were having a 90th birthday party for Jack. He said they were trying to locate the begonia named after his dad, *B. 'Jack Golding'*, and did I know where to find one. Fortunately I had it, and sent one off right away. Jack sent me a lovely thank you note with this photo of his whole family. Jack Golding was a true mensch.



Adenium obesum -Desert Rose

I look forward to seeing many of you at the SWR Get-Together at the end of August. Be sure to attend if you can. You won't want to miss seeing the largest Mexican Bat colony fly out at dusk on Town Lake (Lady Bird Lake). Check out the agenda on the ABS website, www.begonias.org.

See you next time!

My Battle with Mildew

Article and photos by Mike Underwood, St. John, MI

When I fell in love with begonias, I started to grow more and more types as they took an increasing amount of the space available in my greenhouse. Life was good. Begonias were good. But then like many begonia growers, sooner or later, (and usually sooner), I had to face the problem of powdery mildew on my begonias. Suddenly life was not so good. Not good at all when your plants are dropping leaves like trees in the fall. In my home state of Michigan, the cool night time temperature and

products in my greenhouse, on begonias, and infected with powdery mildew, but I had very limited success. Many of the products would tout "works well because it contains sulfur compounds" so I thought, "Heck I will just try that."

I read that "dusting sulfur", "wetttable sulfur" or "elemental sulfur" in powdered form, has a good efficacy against a wide range of powdery mildew diseases as well as black spot. Sulfur is one of the oldest pesticides used in agriculture. In organic production sulfur



Even with a severe infestation on a very susceptible species like masoniana, the damage can be stopped and the leaf saved, although damaged.

high humidity favored by mildew could occur for at least half of the year so controlling mildew was essential if I wished to continue to grow susceptible begonias, like the mallets. I tried many of the over the counter commercial

is the most important fungicide used. Sulfur also has some insecticide effect against mites. Sounded good. And with all the concern about toxic chemicals this appeared less harmful. (Still, avoid breathing in the dust before mixing with



You can see the damage to one leaf on B. 'Looking Glass' from mildew in the middle of the photo that has completely dried up with treatment. The surrounding leaves remain uninfected.

water.) So I purchased a 5 lb bag for about \$5 plus shipping. By putting two or three tablespoons in a one-gallon sprayer, I had a decade long supply.

So, next step a test subject or two. I chose my worst offender, and also one of the most beautiful, B. 'Looking Glass' and while I was at it, B. 'Don Miller' and B. 'Frosty' and a few of those small-spotted-red-leaved-mallet-things too! I had almost forgotten what the leaves looked like since I only had bare stems for much of the year. After spraying both the top and underside of any remaining leaves and making sure that I got the stems where the new buds would emerge in the leafless ones, I waited. But not for long. Within an hour, I could tell that the mildew was drying up. All new leaves were blemish free and remained that way. I had won the battle and the war.

Now, several years later, I am no longer concerned about mildew. I keep a one-gallon sprayer around with two or three tablespoons of sulfur

mixed in. I give the sprayer a good shake to make sure that the sulfur has not settled and give all my plants a once over light coating after I water during the season that mildew is a problem (spring and fall). The spray dries on the leaves and remains effective until it is washed off with a strong stream of water, hence the spraying after watering. I group my especially susceptible varieties together for added monitoring just in case.

Last year, I had a 12 inch hanging basket of B. 'Looking Glass' in a part of the greenhouse where I kept no other begonias, so it did not get any spraying. At first, I did not recognize the mildew when I saw a severe infection since it



Some varieties like B. 'Mr. O' Flaherty' even though they naturally grow compact and dense, have a natural ability to resist infection better than other types.

had been so long since I had seen it. Out came the sprayer even though I figured that it would lose all its leaves as most were over 50% covered with the white stuff. To my surprise, the infected parts of the leaves dried up and the remaining parts continued to remain healthy and the leaves did not even drop off the plant. It may not have been attractive, but it did illustrate how well the sulfur worked.

Begonia lovers have been struggling with mildew for decades, so maybe my successful experience might not be expected under all conditions. But if you have not had satisfactory control with other treatments, it is worth giving



Small starter plants in propagation flats need to be watched especially close for mildew infection.

it a try. After all, it has relatively low toxicity, is organically acceptable, is cheap, is easy to apply, and has worked much better than anything I have tried before.

From Begonias of Peninsular Malaysia by Dr. Ruth Kiew

- Between 30,000 and 70,000 begonia seeds are needed to weigh 1 gram!

- It has been suggested that the silvery-white spots on begonia leaves mimic insect eggs, and butterflies will avoid laying their eggs on a leaf that already has eggs that would hatch before theirs.

- The rare and endangered *B. jayaensis* is known as the cave begonia, as its habitat is restricted to limestone, growing on guano in caves, on the dry base of cliff faces and on stalactites above the cave mouth in light shade.

- In Malaysia, begonia leaves are used in cooking. They are used to wrap fish before baking or roasting, and are chopped finely and mixed with prawn paste and chilis to make a sambal for cooking prawns or fish.

(Snippets collected from Dr. Kiew's book by June McBryde, Queensland Begonia Journal)

B. rajah - possibly the most famous Malaysian begonia in cultivation. Photo by Linda Tamblin



B. 'Kiowa Skies'

Article & photos by Charles Henthorne, Plano, TX

Leora and I enjoy growing begonias in terrarium environments so much. We are constantly looking for new ones to add to our already extensive collection. We look for size of leaves, rarity, color, and growth habits



B. 'Kiowa Skies'

when we try to make a decision to add something new to the collection. We have not gotten into hybridizing, or seed propagation to the extent that others in the ABS have, however there are a few instances that we have come across, where we have been able to indulge ourselves in that endeavor. *B.* 'Kiowa Skies' is the result of one of those times.

About 7 years ago, I obtained seed from two unnamed rex cultivars, and decided to try my hand at seed growing. As I had never attempted to hybridize, or go through the process of gathering seed, or growing seed, I wanted a new challenge in my life. I had grown terrarium begonias for over 25 years, and needed to expand my horizons. I never realized what fun and how fulfilling trying something new could be. Out of my initial trial and error, I

obtained 3 seedlings, which I decided to keep and grow over the following years, to see what would develop. The size of the leaves, the coloration, and the growth patterns were quite different than all other rexes that I had grown or seen, so I decided to spread them around to different growers with the idea of seeing how they would grow under different weather conditions, different growing conditions, and different areas of the country.

The results were *B.* 'Shaun's Fantasy', *B.* 'Shaun's Dream', both of which were ABS registered in the last few years, and are now available throughout the country and in different parts of the world. The third one I have named *B.* 'Kiowa Skies', and had not, up to this time, made any attempts to register it. I have distributed it widely. Several plants were donated to the plant sale in

West Palm Beach Florida this year. I have also sent starts to Japan, England, and Shanghai, as well as to France, and also have given it to several growers here in the United States. All reports I have gotten back is that it is a very strong grower, with prolific blooms and very large leaves. All growers have had high praise for it.

I have grown it extensively, both in a terrarium, and outside of a terrarium in a kitchen window in our house. Both areas seem to be beneficial to the growth of this begonia.

It has diadema type large leaves, non-spiraled and upright stemmed. Leaf coloration is varied with some leaves showing green background with large white spots distributed throughout the body of the leaf. There are some leaves that show the interior part of the leaf with a large area of burgundy color going almost out to the edge of the leaf in a starburst pattern. These leaves tend to have the white spots blend together into larger clumps with the white color remaining. There is a border from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch around each leaf that is a burgundy color, along with 5 main burgundy veins. Dimension of the leaves vary from 7 to 10 inches. Surface is rugose and the petioles are approximately 6-8 inches, red and downy hair distributed all along the lengths. The hairs are chatoyant downy in nature. The stipules are red, and 1 inch long and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. Color of the tepals are pink with red ovaries. Roundly obtuse with the male flowers $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch and the females slightly smaller at $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch. There are few clusters

of blooms at a time, and the length of the flower peduncle is 6 to 9 inches. It has bloomed from the spring into the late fall.

The blooms are notable as they are extremely large and the tepals vary from very light pink to dark pink with different light situations affecting the color.

It is a very strong grower with multiple leaf stems. It is very easy to propagate from both leaf stem or leaf wedges.

Like most rexes it thrives on high humidity and seems to like potting medium to be on the dry side before watering. I have had this variety for over 7 years now, as I brought it to Texas with me when I married Leora. Of the three seedlings that I have kept, from the original attempt at growing seeds, this is the largest and most striking for its coloration and growth habit. It requires a large space, but the rewards of growing it can be many. I hope that more people will discover it, and more importantly, give it a try in their collections. For those who love rexes, it is a jewel, and for those who love color, it is a treat. Look for it at upcoming shows and sales.



B. 'Kiowa Skies' blooms

Crystal Bridge Conservatory OKC

By Linda Tamblin, Merriam, KS Photos by Jem Wiseman, Haysville, KS

Begonia 'Lynda Dawn' clamors along the edge of the waterfall (pictured opposite page top right) at the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory in the Myriad Botanical Garden in Oklahoma City. This unique garden, in the middle of a bustling city, was part of famed architect I. M. Pei's 1964 downtown revitalization plan.

One of the city's most recognizable landmarks, the Crystal Bridge is part geodesic dome and part suspended bridge. More than 2,500 exotic plants fill this conservatory.

Created in three sections, the far end holds the Desert/Savanna area. There's a terrific collection of pachypodiums and other dry tropical plants, like the huge cone bearing cycad (pictured opposite page middle left). *Begonia egregia* grows happily there, as well, in those more arid conditions.

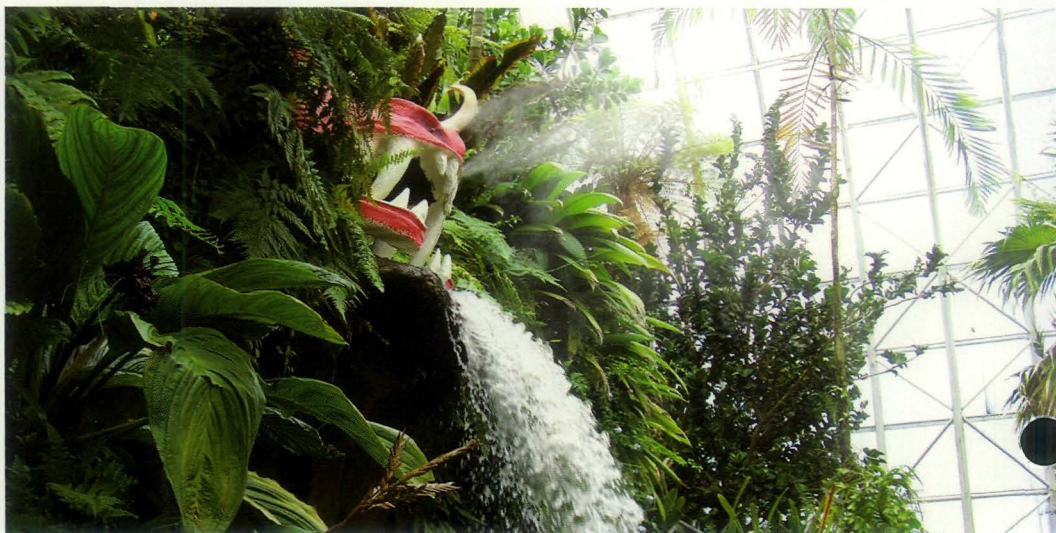
Located in the center of the conservatory, the Island Tropical area is verdant with bananas and palms,

like a giant Traveler's Palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*) growing nearly to the glass ceiling. Edging the path a *Begonia* 'Joe Hayden' (pictured opposite page middle right) spills out to greet visitors.

Crowding around the 35 foot waterfall (pictured below and decorated currently with a dragon's head) colorful bromeliads, aroids, outrageous gingeres and, of course, begonias grace the rainforest. A *Begonia* 'Buttercup' (pictured opposite page bottom) makes its home in the rocks near the splash zone. Colorful butterflies flutter everywhere pollinating flowers wherever they are needed. A no-pesticide policy ensures their health.

Next year plans are underway for a huge renovation and repair of the Crystal Bridge, which will hopefully only close the conservatory for the summer of 2010.

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gesneriad seed, access to our Seed Fund (the world's largest source
of gesneriad seed), and many other benefits.

Perlite – Handle with Care

Dr. George Tsambourakis, Queensland, Australia - from Orchids Australia

Perlite is a generic name for naturally occurring siliceous rock. To be more precise, perlite is an amorphous volcanic glass with relatively high water content, formed by the hydration of obsidian. It occurs naturally and has the unusual property of greatly expanding when heated sufficiently.

When quickly heated at temperatures of 860-890°C (1580°F - 1634°F), perlite softens being glass. Water trapped in the structure vaporizes and escapes, and this causes the expansion of the material to approximately 15 times its original volume. Because of its many properties perlite has many commercial applications, including its use in horticulture.

In horticulture perlite is used as a component of growing mixes that are open to air (provides aeration) and have good moisture retention properties for better plant growth. Its usefulness is also due to the fact that perlite, being a form of natural glass, is chemically inert and has a pH of about 7. Perlite is also sterile and weed-free. Unfortunately the advantages of perlite in horticulture

also make it “hazardous.”

Perlite is very light, very porous, has a very large surface area, crumbles and pulverizes easily. Perlite dust can be extremely fine and, being light, remains airborne for much longer periods of time than normal dust. Therefore because it can be easily inhaled it is very dangerous.

Inhaling perlite dust is no different than
continued on page 197

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Begonia People & Travels

continued from pg 184

Brown, Maxine Zinman, Johanna Zinn, Cheryl Lenert, Tom Keepin, Mary Sakamoto, Linda Tamblyn our new Begonian editor, Charles Jaros, and many others.

As much as I enjoy my Begonias and love spending that quiet time just tending to them, the real pleasure comes from meeting and knowing so many wonderful people. I consider myself a very lucky guy.

Propagating Begonias

continued from pg 182

ensures that the medium is thoroughly wet and there is good contact between the cubes and the potting medium. On the second and third day after potting if the moisture stress is high, irrigate the plants directing the moisture to the base of the cutting.

NOTE: Propagating rhizomatous leaves can occur by rolling up the leaf and inserting it into the tapered hole or placing the leaf into the grooves of the strips of the cubes.

Any questions regarding the above information please contact Bernie Wiener wiener1@verizon.net

For more information on rootcubes contact: Smithers-Oasis Grower Products, P.O. Box 118, Kent Ohio 44240, phone 800-321-8286 (In Ohio or outside U.S., 216-673-5831).

Perlite – Handle with Care

continued from pg 194

inhaling smoke, cement dust, bull dust (the fine red dust found on deserts in Australia) or asbestos fiber dust. It goes straight into your lungs and coughing is the first reaction. The eyes are also vulnerable. Although it has not been proven that it is carcinogenic, it can cause problems, and a breathing mask should always be used when handling dry, dusty materials, for example, emptying a plastic bag into a container. To be safe, always keep perlite moist to reduce risk. Protect the eyes. If dust affects your eyes, wash them with plenty of water, and if pain persists, visit your doctor to remove any larger grains present. Do not take risks.

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Information: *American Ivy Association, P.O. Box 2123, Naples, FL 34106-2123*

IN THE MAILBOX

by Greg Sytch, Horticultural Correspondent

Fall forward into trying out new things! In the past year, I have discovered some new ideas that have helped me to grow better. First, the use of small charcoal pieces in my mix have increased the drainage of the pots, and the begonias have responded! I also use charcoal in medium pieces for larger plants. Charcoal helps to prevent sour soil, so larger plants that tend to stay in the same pots for years will benefit greatly.

My new propagation mix is actually my old mix, but I just went back to it. When the hurricanes first knocked everything down in '04, it left my yard incredibly exposed. I needed to add a little more peat to my propagation mix to keep the cuttings moist. Now that I do have trees that have grown and provide some shade, I have returned to the following formula: 2/3 perlite, 1/6 vermiculite, 1/6 fine-chopped spongy peat moss (I LOVE Majestic Earth). It requires constant watering, but the cuttings do do well, even in our summer heat.

Bugs tend to not bother begonias, but occasionally one will invade. Whenever you see insects, it is very important to be vigilant in your spraying. Whatever

you use, please follow-up in 7-10 days to ensure you are also getting the bugs you missed the first time. Using some kind of soap as a "sticker" helps the spray adhere better.

FALL HINTS: Leave begonias outdoors until the chill sets in. Bringing them in too early could mean introducing critters to your indoor growing area. The chill tends to discourage insects as they seek warmer areas. Spray down with a good spray of water to knock off pests prior to bringing them in, and always check the top of the soil for buried buggies! The chill also helps send the begonias a little dormant so the shock of bringing them in is less. I live in Tampa Bay, and we hit freezing a few times now and again. You would be amazed how much cold begonias can take - so do not be afraid. If you ever have any begonia related questions, always feel free to email me at gsytch@cs.com, or call 727-841-9618. My address is listed in the Begonian.

Have a happy fall! Greg

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Above: B. scapigera photo by Jem Wiseman

