



THE

BEGONIAN

July/August 2013

The Begonian

September/ October 2013

Deadline: July 28

Send your photos, growing tips, or
articles to:
begoniaskc@yahoo.com

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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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Bullate - *B. crispula* pg. 130
Photo by Laurie Bounsall



Buxton SOS plant, *B. amphioxus* pg. 141
Photo by Gloria Utzig



Best Species - *B. scutifolia*
Exhibitor, Leora Henthorne pg.149
Photo Ken Fuchs

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Front cover: *B. aridicaulis*, one of the Save Our Species plants from the Buxton Branch. See more beautiful selections starting on page 141.

Photo by Craig Boyajian

Back cover: *B. 'Benitochiba'*, a favorite plant. Page 138. Photo by Joe Romeo

President's Message

Well it's been two years and my time as your President is about to end. It has been my pleasure to be President of the American Begonia Society and to be your President. I want to thank my other officers, committee members and especially you the members for your support. You are the ones that made my job easier. I know you will support the new officers as you have done me. Of course I will still be at Conventions and Get-togethers - wouldn't miss them. I have been in the ABS since 1972; my first national experience was an Eastern Region Convention in 1975 and the first person I met was Wanda Macnair. As many of you know Wanda has a knack



Charles Jaros in 1977 with, of course, a begonia.
Courtesy of Ebay where this photo is for sale!

of bringing new people into the fold and making them feel welcome. Thank you Wanda, see what has happened. My first ABS National Convention was in 1978 and it was held in Sacramento, was my first trip to California as well. Of course there I met the famous people I had only read about in

the Begonian; Rudy Ziesenhenné, Thelma O'Reilly, Marge Lee, Mabel Corwin and others. Of course I was hooked and have only missed about 3 or 4 National Conventions since then. The friendships I have made from being a member of the American Begonia Society are many of my most cherished. The knowledge I have learned from attending these functions is invaluable and has allowed me to see the family of Begoniaceae in a whole different light. I encourage all members to experience a convention and get-together. Remember Tampa in 2014.

If you missed the Austin ABS Convention you missed a wonderful time and a fabulous plant show, sale and lectures. My kudos to the members of the Austin Branch and especially Doug Byrom, Nelda Moore and Jim & Joan Estes; it was my first visit to Austin and it's a wonderful city.

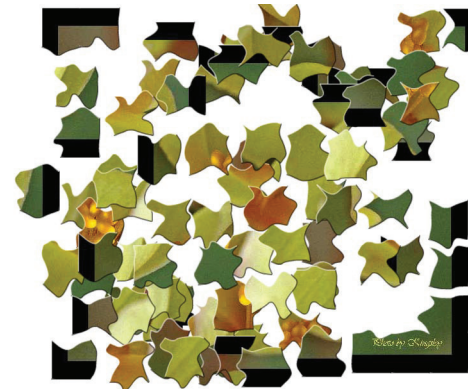
The Palos Verdes Branch has agreed to host the 2013 ABS Annual Meeting in conjunction with their show and sale at the Southcoast Botanical Garden. Dates are August 23-25; come a little early and stay a little late and see some of the great sites in the area. A luncheon will be provided at the meeting. For further information contact Carol Knight at cknightgardens@yahoo.com. Remember this is the Annual Meeting so committee chair and National Directors need to send their reports to the Secretary and President.

Again thank you for your past support.

Good Begonia Growing
Charles Jaros, President

Begonia Puzzles Online

By Kingsley Langenberg,
Nomenclature Editor



For those who haven't discovered them or been told of them, I'd like to let you know that each week I make one of my many photographs of begonias into a virtual jigsaw puzzle and post it on Saturday morning. I've been doing this for quite some time now, inspired by puzzles posted by Paul Tsamtsis, who started it. I have settled on a somewhat standard degree of difficulty that seems to please most of my puzzle workers. Many of the photos I use are close-ups of details that may be overlooked by many growers. I also use them to illustrate botanical terms such as "stipule" or "dichasium." I have also commemorated holidays and other special days. Besides my own photos, I've made puzzles from botanical prints as well. I do, however, specialize in growing species begonias from seed, so my subjects reflect that.

Anyway, if you like working puzzles, I invite you to join the fun at the following online address:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Begonias>

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

The Margaret Lee Branch
San Diego County, CA

Since we have not received new seeds to offer for the edition of *The Begonian*, I would like to take this space to thank all who have sent us seeds this past year (January 2012 to June 2013). These members along with those purchasing seeds make the Seed Fund vibrant and profitable for the ABS. A very special "Thank You" to:

Ed and Phyllis Bates
Janet Brown
Joan Campbell
Jacky Duruisseau
Rich Grazzini
Beatrice Huckriede
Kingsley Langenburg
Dot and Barry Mann
Kit Jean Monger:
Rekha Morris
Ching-I Peng
Donald and Daphne Prince
Thelma O'Reilly
Mark Tebbitt
Bobby West

Feel free to join this special group in 2013. Self your species, collect the seeds, and send to Dean Turney at 467 Fulvia Street, Encinitas, CA 92024.

The complete current list of seeds is always available at the ABS website on the Seed Fund page with paypal and the US mail as order/pay options.

Thanks again from the Margaret Lee Branch of the ABS and Dean Turney.

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Palos Verdes Begonia Society 23rd Annual Show and Sale and 2013 ABS Annual Meeting

Unusual Begonias on display by club members as well as sale plants from members' collections and specialty vendors

Saturday August 24, 2013, 9 AM to 4 PM

**South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 So. Crenshaw Blvd
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 - (310) 544-1948**

Free parking and admission to the show & sale after garden admission of adults \$8, seniors \$6 children 5-12 \$3, under 4 free.

For more information contact Carol Knight: cknightgardens@yahoo.com
(310) 833-3466

The **2013 ABS Annual Meeting** will be hosted by The Palos Verdes Branch in conjunction with their show and sale at the Southcoast Botanical Garden. Join us August 23-25. Lunch will be provided at the meeting. For further information contact Carol Knight at cknightgardens@yahoo.com. Committee chairs and National Directors need to send their reports to the Secretary and President. See you there!



B. luxurians grown by Carol Knight of the Palos Verde Begonia Society. Photo by Ted Johnson

Again the time has come to mention our Holiday Greetings plan, which is a way for individuals and branches to offer holiday greetings. These benefit ABS by

Holiday Greetings Request 2013

paying for at least one issue of *The*

Begonian. We can do this without using more than one page of our magazine by listing the categories of donations. The categories are **Bronze, \$1-\$50; Silver, \$51-\$100; Gold, \$101-\$150; Platinum,**

\$151, plus. In order to handle everything in a timely manner, we need to have a deadline of **September 15** so that no donation gets left out. The tax-deductible donations may be sent to **Wanda Macnair, 59 Walker St., Cambridge, MA 02138**, also listed on the back inside cover of *The Begonian*. Checks should be made out to *ABS Holiday Greetings*. Thank you so much for your cooperation and generosity. -Wanda Macnair



Proceedings of the Board Meeting

Austin, Texas - June 1, 2013

President Charles Jaros opened the meeting and asked Janet Brown to read the Aims and Purposes of the Society. There were 20 member votes present.

The proceedings of the annual meeting in San Diego were approved as published in the Begonian and were thus upgraded to minutes.

Treasurer Carol Notaras presented the financial statement for the period August 1, 2012, to April 30, 2013. The general fund initial balance was \$10,442.82 and the ending balance was \$16,150.54. Income was \$79,478.71 and disbursement was \$73,770.99. During this time an additional \$14,449.23 was received from Morris Mueller's estate. The seed fund account began with \$1580.79 and ended with \$881.47 based on income of \$1360.83 and disbursement of \$2059.35. Disbursement included transfer of \$2000 to the general fund. Savings accounts began with \$267,777.09 and ended with \$265,852.83. The drop was due to transferring \$2000 to the conservation and research fund and \$1000 the Millie Thompson publication fund. The combined totals were \$279,800.70 beginning and \$282,884.57 ending. The statement was accepted and filed for audit.

A report on the Begonia collection at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden was presented by ABS Representative Kenny Wilkerson and Curator Debbie Garrett. The Begonias are thriving. Many thanks are extended to the many volunteers who look after them. It appears likely that a new green-

house will be built to house them within about two years.

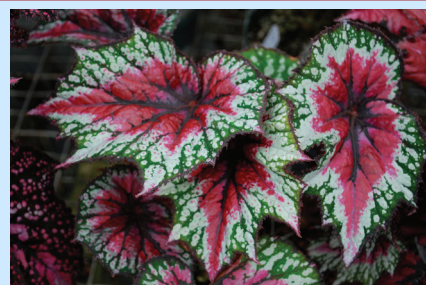
President Jaros reminded National Directors to send their branch newsletters to Branch Relations Director Tom Keepin and to Johanna Zinn who hosts the National Director discussion group on the Yahoo site. If your branch does not have a newsletter please tell them that. In addition, it should be recognized that both sending newsletters and joining the Yahoo National Directors' discussion group are important parts of the National Director's duties. It is also important for you to send a current list of branch officers to the Membership Secretary Paul Rothstein so ABS can contact them. If you cannot send the list please ask another branch officer to do so.

Holiday Greetings Chair Wanda Macnair reported that \$734 had been received as of meeting time. By the end of the convention that figure had increased to more than \$1100.

Grant Committee Chair Mike Flaherty and the ABS Executive Board recommended that ABS grant \$1500 for Rekha Morris's next trip in 2013-14. The board approved.

Bookstore Chair Janet Brown reported that 15 copies of Ruth Kew's book on Begonias have been received by President Jaros. Anyone wishing to buy one should contact Charles. These are the last copies available as there are no plans to reprint the book.

President Jaros informed the directors of



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an Executive Board recommendation to set aside \$15,000 of Morris Mueller's bequest to fund scholarships for the study of Begonias. The recommendation was approved. Criteria for the scholarships will be developed. Individuals and branches are invited to contribute to this scholarship fund.

President Jaros announced that registration packets for the 2014 convention in Tampa will be made available on the ABS website rather than in a bulk mailing. This will save in excess of \$800, which can be used elsewhere. Members will be able to download the packet and send the registration in by mail or pay for it on line through Pay Pal.

President Jaros also told the attendees that Explorer pages will be set up on the website describing activities of field collectors and allowing on line donations to be made for their collecting trips.

The annual meeting of the ABS will be hosted by the Palos Verdes Branch on August 24, 2013. Details will be provided soon.

President Jaros announced that Jack Golding's files have all been converted to digital format and ABS has two copies on flash drive. Procedure and fees for their use will be worked out.

A Nominating Committee has been appointed consisting of Cheryl Lenert, Maxine Zinman and Paul Tsamtsis. No report is available at this time.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Macnair, Secretary

A Word with You: Bullate

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

The Devil's in the details they say. And begonia leaves have more than their share of surface details. I need to take the detail definitions one at a time as the distinctions sometimes seem a bit blurry; more like a continuum than discreet items. Let's add one to the list.

We visited *even*, perfectly smooth, and *rugose*, wrinkled. Now

let's look at *bullate*, which comes from Latin *bulla*, a hollow swelling, a bladder, a bubble. Pretty clear. Mr. Webster defines it as "having elevations like blisters; inflated; puckered. In botany, a *bullate* leaf is one the membranous part of which rises between the veins in elevations like blisters." Internet definitions also speak of blisters or blistered appearance. Tebbitt says "blistered or puckered." Jack Golding says "surface irregularly puckered or blistered." It's the word "irregularly" that marks this definition. Other surface elevations or depressions are more uniform.

And that's where not-so-clear or continuum sets in. Begonia literature descriptions cite puckered, crinkled, crunched, protuberances, pustules (*pustulate* is another named leaf surface type and another column), but rarely *bullate*. Begonia literature glossaries define *bullate* as blistered or puckered, but the 'pucker' confuses me. I see "pucker up" or "puckered" fabric and those images don't mesh with a blister or a bubble, unless possibly



they're irregular bubbles. I asked friends and family, and "pucker up" was the first response; no one associated "pucker" with "blister." So I went back to Mr. Webster who says *pucker* is "to gather into wrinkles, folds." In begonias, wrinkles are *rugose*. Confusing you too? Thompson lists *bullate* in the glossary, but photo examples that I'd call *bullate* are de-

scribed as "distinctive foliage" or "unusual surface."

Take a look at *B. ghortii* (opposite page). In that photo *B. ghortii* stands out as *bullate* in my new understanding, and the verbal description of it says the blade is "puckered," which in the literature is synonymous with *bullate*. Kartuz describes *B. ghortii* as having "distinctive bubbly texture." Perhaps the literature doesn't use these Latinate, leaf surface terms too often because they'd have us running to the dictionary, or worse – clueless.

Jack Golding, in *Seeing Begonia*, lists *B. 'Crispie'*, *B. crispula*, *B. 'Metallica'*, and *B. 'Paul Bee'* as examples of *bullate* leaf surfaces. Tebbitt says *B. crispula* has "a wonderful crinkled appearance, reminiscent of a piece of wax paper that has been crunched up and then spread out." I like that visual. My collection has no examples of *bullate* begonias, but now I want one; I do have *rugose* and *even* surfaces. Which do you have?



B. ghortii, a wonderful example of the "distinctive bubbly texture" of a bullate leaf surface. Plant grown by Becky Coffey of the Palos Verde Begonia Society (see info about their upcoming show and sale pg. 127).

Photo by B. Coffey

Other *bullate* examples, *B. crispula* (below, photo by Charles Henthorne) and *B. 'Metallica'* (opposite page, photo by Julie Vanderwilt).





Back to Bolivia

Article and photos by Mark C. Tebbitt, California University of Pennsylvania, PA

I took the photograph (Fig. 1) of the Andean Mountains that accompanies this article towards the end of my January 2012 trip to Bolivia's Santa Cruz

Fig. 1 Looking across the Rio Grande into Chuquisaca Department.

Fig. 2 New orange-flowered variant of *B. krystoffii*.

Department. I remember feeling very emotional as I looked across the Rio Grande at all of those mountains disappearing into the distance in Chuquisaca Department. It was close to the end of what had been a successful expedition during which I had found new begonias on almost every mountain ridge I visited. But here I was



Fig. 3 New hybrid between *B. krystofii* and *B. micranthera*.

Fig. 4 A tiny bee visiting *B. micranthera*.

Fig. 5 Sandstone cliff habitat of new species.

Fig. 6 The new yellow-flowered species.

with no time left and new territory was stretched out in front of me as far as I could see. I dearly wanted to explore those mountains.

One year later, almost to the day, thanks to further funds from ABS, I was standing close to the summit of the tallest mountain that you can see in this photograph and looking back towards where I had stood in 2012. It was certainly worth the wait, not only were there begonias all around me but some were different from those that I had seen previously.

One of the first species that I observed while driving up this mountain was *B. krystofii*, a plant that I had seen the previous year. However, even this species looked different here. Instead of having yellow flowers (as has always previously been recorded in this species), in this region the species' flowers were a vivid orange (Fig. 2). In fact as I drove eastwards towards the summit of the mountain the species was abundant on the roadside cliffs and consistently had orange flowers. Then, as soon as I passed over the crest of the mountain and began heading down towards the Rio Grande the species' flower color changed abruptly to the familiar yellow that I had observed in eastern populations. The rocky mountain summit was perhaps acting as a barrier to the movement of both pollen-carrying insects and to wind blown seeds, isolating the populations on either side of it and allowing them to gradually become distinct from one another. With this difference in flower color I was perhaps witnessing the early stages of a process that might

eventually lead to the formation of two different begonia species.

In the midst of the orange-flowered *B. krystofii* I was curious to see two individuals with creamy-white flowers (Fig. 3). These plants were also slightly different vegetatively and were growing next to white-flowered *B. micranthera*. They were a new hybrid between these two tuberous species. Most probably a wasp or bee had transferred pollen from one species to the other. Such insects could now be seen visiting the flowers of *B. micranthera* (Fig. 4), and I had previously observed them visiting yellow-flowered *B. krystofii* flowers elsewhere.

On this particular day though I didn't stop to see if these insects were also visiting the orange-flowered *B. krystofii*; I had come here for a specific purpose, to find a begonia species that I had only just learned about. One week earlier a Bolivian botanist had emailed me photographs of the dried begonia specimens housed in a local herbarium. Amongst them was a plant with golden-yellow flowers that was new to science. I had come prepared with a description of where this specimen had been collected 17 years previously. Despite having this information it still took me much of the afternoon to locate this plant. I must have walked several miles back and forth through the forests and across the barren rocky summit of this mountain. Then, late in the day, as I headed back to my car, I saw a glimmer of gold on the cliffs above my head (Fig. 5), and there it was (Figs. 6 and 7). It was growing with its small tubers nestled in cushions of moss on a portion of steep sandstone



Fig. 7 Reddish purple leaf undersurfaces of new species.



Fig. 8 Mossy microhabitat of new species.

cliff where conditions were constantly moist and shaded (Fig. 8). Its ancestors had probably grown in this same patch of distinct habitat for millennia. And what a magical site this was; as I examined these wonderful plants a flock of Andean parakeets flew screeching around the surrounding cliffs, lush tropical forest carpeted the valleys below and the sun was shining. It was hard to believe that just three days earlier I had driven from my home to the Pittsburgh airport through freshly fallen snow!

Acknowledgements: These expeditions were made possible by the generous financial support of the ABS, as well as several ABS members and branches. I also wish to thank Mr. Luis Huaylla Limachi for his assistance in Bolivia.



B. 'Benitochiba'

*Article & photos by Joe Romeo,
Prospect, South Australia*

I put one of the leaves in a small bottle with its leaf stem immersed in distilled water. I then put it in my temperature controlled hot box with extra humidity [all this was done in our colder months - autumn\winter]. The other leaf I put in damp sphagnum moss in a small terrarium, also with bottom heat. In time both produced roots on the end of the leaf stem. At this stage I potted the water bound leaf in a one-inch tube using my usual potting mix. I watered it in with water containing 'Seasol', which is made from seaweed to stimulate root growth. The leaf in the sphagnum

moss I also transferred into a tube filled carefully with only moss I also gave the 'Seasol' treatment. Both tubes were then grown with bottom heat and humidity, and watered with a nutrient solution also containing the 'Seasol' additive

Both leaves grew well until summer when the temperatures were getting too high to warrant using bottom heat (above 20° C) the plants had several leaves by now. I now had both plants potted in my regular mix. I now had to decide how to harden the plants off to introduce them to the rest of the collection. One plant I placed in an aquarium the bottom-lined with damp live sphagnum moss. The other plant I put in my foam boxes with sloping glass lid, to prevent drips onto new leaves from water condensation off the glass. The plant in the aquarium grew well and eventually some leaves touched the glass lid and sustained

My greatest loves are B. Rex hybrids. When I first saw a picture of B. 'Benitochiba', I was hooked - I had to have one. The unusual segmented and strikingly patterned leaf and growth habit really impressed me. The first real life plant I saw was when the, then, President of our society, who's son was studying in the U.S.A., brought one in for show and tell (it was a present from her son).

Quite a lot later I saw B. 'Benitochiba' in a selection of plants, which he had imported, from our more tropical northern regions. I was shameless in begging for a leaf so, being the generous man that he was, he gave me two leaves. Generosity must be rewarded and was with a couple of B. rex hybrids I gave him, which he did not have. Happiness all around!

some damping off, a decision was made the whole leaf was cut off and stuck into the moss at the bottom. I must add that I had a max./min. thermometer in with the plants so I was aware when the temp was getting too high. The aquarium was under the eaves of my house where it got full morning sun filtered by 70% shade cloth, in the afternoon it was shaded by the house but still had good light. The plant in the foam box did very well, having less heat stress from the insulation. With regular fertilizer the plant grew non-stop through winter and spring, with crimson coming out on the winter leaves. Unfortunately some slugs got in before I realized it and leaves were munched, again I had propagating material, hey, presto more plants.

The plant in the box grew so well it strained against its glass lid time to relo-

cate. Temperatures were getting above 20° C so I transferred the plant to my Courtyard Plant room where the right amount of light is provided by a gabled roof consisting of a combination of translucent sheets and solid sheets. Overhead watering provides moisture in the pots and humidity all around. To imitate the tropic showers where begonias thrive I turn on the watering early to mid morning for only ten minutes. During the hotter part of our summer I have also incorporated a misting line for dropping the temperature for a time. Unfortunately one day the maximum temperature reached 45°C and my B. 'Benitochiba' got frazzled and lost all its leaves. Having taken out insurance in the form of other propagation's I have younger plants to continue with if my large plant does not respond to my T.L.C.

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The Conservation and Adopt-a-Species Program of Buxton Branch

By Sally Savelle and Gloria Utzig

In January, Buxton began an adopt-a-species program. Our program includes a focus on conservation of vulnerable species. Many begonia species are no longer found in their natural habitat due to deforestation. In our research, we learned that India has lost all but 20 percent of its forests. There are similar

A few of the SOS plants grown and photographed by Buxton Branch members.
B. quadrialata ssp. *nimbaensis* from Gloria Utzig (top, left);
B. sizemoreae (bottom, left) and *B. lynceorum* (right) both from Craig Boyajian.



B. U074 (above) from Sally Savelle. She says about her SOS plant, "here is one I got from Wanda. When I start my small plants, I put them in stemless wine glasses. My U074 has done very well and has a flower that wants to stick out over the rim of the glass."

B. scintillans (right) from Becky Edmondson



problems in Mexico and Malaysia.

In preparing our program, we were in touch with Rekha Morris and Johanna Zinn, both of whom were helpful in getting us started. Rekha suggested two species to focus on *B. lynceorum* from Veracruz, Mexico, as it has a very limited habitat that is now threatened and was not in cultivation until she introduced it, and *B. scintillans* from Arunachal in the Eastern Himalayas as its habitat is limited to a few small, isolated colonies in a single district of Arunachal. Johanna suggested that we look at the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species at www.iucnredlist.org.

Our search on the Red List led to a list of many threatened begonias.

As we kicked off our program, we distributed information to Buxtonians about the ABS Save-our-Species program. Wanda Macnair and Normand Dufresne provided the species for our conservation program. Normand held a raffle of species, providing *scintillans*, *diadema*,

From the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

www.iucnredlist.org

Near-Threatened

Species

acerifolia
consobrina
froebelii
sodiroi

Vulnerable Species

adpressa
aequatorialis
bonus-henricus
brandbygeana
cavaleriei
compacticaulis
dentatobracteata
dodsonii
duncan-thomasii
exalata
furfuracea
geminiflora

hemsleyana
holmnielseniana
lugonis
napoensis
neoharlingii
oellgaardii
oxyanthera
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preussii
pseudoviola
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salaziensis (Mauritius)

glandulosa, *lyman smithii*, *palmata* variegated, and *burkillii* var. *ferruginea*. *Begonias amphioxus*, *aridicaulis*, *chlorosticta*, *hernandioides*, and *subnummularifolia* were just a few of over 30 species Wanda contributed.

Bonnie Lambert and Sally Savelle put together two PowerPoint presentations for our program. The first focused on conservation of vulnerable species. The second focused on how species may get their names based on attribute, person, or place. For instance, *B. amphioxus* is named based on attribute; 'amphioxus' means sharp at both ends and the plant somewhat resembles a fish-like animal of the same name. *B. dietrichiana* is

named for a person, Albert Dietrich, Curator of the Berlin Botanical Gardens. And, *B. socotrana* gets its name based on location, Socotra, a Yemeni island off Somalia.

Buxton's species program is ongoing and we continue our efforts to expand Buxton members' collections so that we can propagate and share the most vulnerable species. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for species we might focus on in our conservation program. Email Sally.Savelle@gmail.com. We are happy to share our conservation and species PowerPoints with anyone who is interested.

A Buxton Member Shares Her Thoughts on the Conservation Program

by Gloria Utzig

Being a part of the conservation program is a great way to combine a passion for growing exotic plants and a heartfelt desire to preserve species that are in peril. One of my passions is for plants from South America, where I was born.

It is quite the quest that one embarks on as a hobby grower to take on the challenges of reproducing the perfect growing environment for plants whose very future on Earth may be in peril. Being able to share plant cuttings and bank seeds of these plants is the ultimate 'cultural certificate award' that a begonia lover could ever achieve.

Any help that we can provide now will have immeasurable rewards for future generations, as they will have the opportunity to enjoy a plant that could otherwise vanish. Perhaps down the road our progeny may be able to reintroduce these plants back into their native habitats.



Buxton SOS plants, *B. pollioensis* (right) and *B. cloroneura* (below) both from Gloria Utzig



Convention Notes

By Janet Brown, ABS Westchester Branch

Photos by Ken Fuchs

Convention Chairman, Doug Byrom and his Co-chair, Nelda Moore put on one of the best ABS conventions ever. Our warm greeting in the Hospitality Suite by Joan & Jim Estes set the tone for the entire convention. We were definitely welcome in Texas!

Day 1 began with a breakfast followed by an all-day tour of Austin on a very strange and wonderful "duck bus". We boarded by a step gangplank and found life preservers by each open-air seat. We whizzed to our first stop The Great Outdoors Nursery. Amazing plants and gift shop. Our Tour Guide and Countess was Rainee Freeman and we became good friends as she saw that no one was left behind.

Next we blew (the duck bus was open air) through a tour of the capitol, downtown Austin and Longhorn land and then out into the suburbs where the true meaning of our "duck bus" was revealed. We drove right into Lady Bird Lake and sailed around viewing beautiful celebrity homes for about an hour. We then drove out of the lake and ended our touring day



A "duck bus" Photo courtesy of Duck Tours Austin

at Bob Bullock Texas State Museum where we had lunch and a movie that included a simulated but very real rattlesnake bite.

Back to the hotel for dinner and a most entertaining, nostalgic and informative talk by Dan Heims of Terra Nova Nursery in Oregon.

Day 2 started with an early departure for the charming town of Fredericksburg. Antoon Hoefnagels joined us as he had just arrived from Holland. He told us all about the amazing begonias he is working on at his nursery in the northern part of the country. The road took us through the very beautiful Hill Country, past many wineries and vineyards (we never did taste any Texas wine) and we made a short detour at the LBJ Ranch just outside of Johnson City. We ate our way through Fredericksburg ending with some delicious strudel and a quick tour of a very impressive World War II Pacific Museum. Fredericksburg was settled by Germans in the 1800s. The lovely old town is a bit spoiled by the major highway that runs right through the center. We quickly learned that they don't stop for pedestrians in Texas, but all survived.

Then more shopping and buying at Wildseed Farms. Oh, how we wished we had this one at home. A truly amazing place with great plants and a tempting gift shop.

Wanda Macnair and Leora Henthorne gave the evenings' seminar on Terrarium Basics including some of Wanda and Leora's secrets. They are both experts.



Doug Byrom (left) receiving the Showing is Sharing Award for the most entries from Master of Ceremonies, Mike Flaherty (right). The trophy is the travelling cup given to us by the Scottish Begonia Society. Doug Byrom was Convention Chair and is the Treasurer of SWR and President of Austin Area BS Branch.

Leora's terrarium entry was Best In Show. Some very nice specimens were auctioned. I didn't get one.

Day 3 just before we departed a young man boarded the bus. He didn't have a badge but said he was Jim Lawson and had signed up for the tour too late to be on the list. Rainee let him but checked. The man headed for the back of the bus and found a seat next to (of all people) Mike Flaherty. They had a lively conversation, as you can imagine, and Mike told him all about begonias, the Gazebo, etc. He got off the bus, still with his new friend Mike, and wandered into the Natural Gardener Nursery. No one saw him again. Meanwhile the ever vigilant Rainee had called back to Doug at the hotel and found that Jim Lawson (husband of our Parliamentarian Linda Lawson) was there, not

on the tour and considerably older than Mike's friend who turned out to be a stowaway. We got all the details when we boarded again. But back to The Natural Gardener. It is a beautiful garden; amazing vegetables, cute goats, roosters and birds and a great gift shop. Then on, minus 'Mr. Lawson', to the incredible Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, lunch and another lovely gift shop.

Our last stop was a real stunner, the African Violet Show at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin.

Wow! Several of the ABS members went to and participated in both shows. Bob Clarke for one, Johnnie Shepherd and Charles Henthorne. Everybody at that show knew Mike Kartuz one of the founders of the Gesneriad Society. There were 1000 entries. Most amazing show and they even had some



Nelda Moore, at the banquet, displaying the book she won from the Silent Auction. That's husband Joe, peeking out behind her. Nelda is the Secretary for the SW Region and Austin Area BS Branch and she was Co-Convention Chair.

very nice begonias for sale.

Friday night at 7 pm the doors opened on the Plant Sale and the Show. An orderly peaceful crowd waited at the door of the Plant Sale (places in line were determined by luck of the draw). Within minutes plants were flying off the tables, filled boxes lifted into the air, everyone milling around, grabbing a treasure, looking for a favorite and shouting for joy when they found a long sought rare begonia. The terrarium plants were amazing. Wanda had brought 2 big suitcases filled with choice specimens so there were plenty to go around and satisfy the needy.

The Show was magnificent with many gorgeous begonias. Leora Henthorne took Best In Show with her flawless *B. 'Millie Thompson'*. The People's Choice Award went to Jane Anderson from Kingwood,

Texas for *B. 'Puffy Cloud'* and it also won Best Cane. Ken Fuchs was the official photographer and will be assembling the Convention DVDs that you may have purchased. They will also be available through the Book Store.

Saturday morning Dr. Freda Holley started the seminars off with a talk on thick-stemmed begonias, species and hybrids. And we got a peek at her newest that Margaret Fisher is testing *B. 'Wheee'*. Several lovely thick-stemmed were given to lucky winners including some of her hybrids. Freda won the ADR medal that night for *B. 'Holley's Beauty'*.

Dr. Rekha Morris was next and we arm-chaired to India safe from the perils of plant hunting in the wild. Rekha showed us strange creatures and beautiful begonias including the elusive *B. malabarica* that she

found on this trip in the Pallani Hills. This area is just south of what was a lush area that has been almost totally destroyed by excavation since her last trip there. Rekha has discovered that *B. malabarica* has a tuber or caudex that no one has mentioned since its discovery in the 1785.

Dr. Mark Tebbitt described his latest expedition to Bolivia where he found *B. cinnabarina* growing in the wild as well as *B. micranthera*. But the one that took our breath away was a beautiful new tuberous species with variegated leaves and a striking yellow flower. The sad thing is that it remains in Bolivia because of their laws regarding removal of new species from the country. So eat your hearts out, hybridizers! There must be a way. Dr. Tebbitt is definitely going back to Bolivia!

The ABS meeting on Saturday afternoon went very well without any bloodshed. Charles Jaros does a beautiful job of presiding and we were finished in one hour, a record. Johanna Zinn reported on her new Yahoo website group for National Directors and we all pledged to join it, send in our newsletters and take an active part in sharing our branch problems and activi-

ties. She would like everyone to send in the list of species they are growing.

The next convention will be in late March, 2014 in Tampa and planning is well along. They have the hotel and tours lined up and the speakers in process. Next meeting will be in Palos Verdes where the new slate of officers will be installed. The ballot will be in the next Begonian.

Mike Flaherty had another stellar performance as MC at the banquet and he presented the Awards with great charm. Ann Salisbury was unable to attend because of family illness. The food was good and everyone had a wonderful time. It was a very nice convention and one we will remember for a long time. Great tours, superb seminar speakers, and best of all meeting old friends and making new ones. I think that's really why we go to begonia conventions, don't you?

Congratulations to Doug Byrom, Chairman, Nelda Moore, Co-chairman, Jim & Joan Estes, Lynn Sissney and Rainee Freeman. The Committee did a marvelous job and everyone made us feel very welcome and in very friendly contact.

Thank y'all! JB



Charles Jaros, outgoing ABS President, at the Banquet that was held on Saturday evening.



ABS Convention Show Winners

AUSTIN, TEXAS MAY 29 – JUNE 2, 2013

117 Entries - 16 Exhibitors

Best in Show – *B. 'Millie Thompson'*
Exhibitor, Leora Henthorne

Sweepstakes
Leora Henthorne – 9 blue ribbons

Millie & Ed Thompson Showing is Sharing Award
Doug Byrom – 40 entries

People's Choice Award
B. 'Puffy Cloud'
Exhibitor, Jane Anderson

Hybrid of Distinction
B. 'Winter Twilight'
Exhibitor, Steve's Leaves

Best Species
B. scutofolia
Exhibitor, Leora Henthorne

Kay Tucker Award (Best Cane)
B. 'Puffy Cloud'
Exhibitor, Jane Anderson

Best Southwest Hybrid (SWR)
B. 'Pink Diamond'
Exhibitor, Sondra Justice

Alice Clark Award
Hand Quilted Quilt
Exhibitor, Leora Henthorne

Division Winners
Division AA - Cane-Like, All Others
B. 'Puffy Cloud'
Exhibitor, Jane Anderson

Division B – Shrub-Like
B. 'Beningo'
Exhibitor, Cindy Moran

Division E – Rhizomatous
B. 'Wild Pony'
Exhibitor, Lucille Dyess

Division EEE – Rhizomatous, Distinctive
Foliage Unusual Surface and/or Coloring
B. floccifera
Exhibitor, Tom Keepin

Best in Show – *B. 'Millie Thompson'*, Exhibitor, Leora Henthorne (above)

Division F – Rex Cultorum
B. 'Phil Corwin'
 Exhibitor, Jane Anderson

Division I – Contained Atmosphere
B. 'Millie Thompson'
 Exhibitor, Leora Henthorne

Division L – Hanging Containers
B. foliosa
 Exhibitor, Carol Orozco

Division O – Novel Grown
 Rock Planting with Semperflorens Cultivar
 Exhibitor, Leora Henthorne

Division Q – Traveling Begonias
B. scutofolia
 Exhibitor, Leora Henthorne

Division R – Heritage Begonias
B. 'Dancing Girl'
 Exhibitor, Tom Keepin

Division T – Commercial Growers
B. U489
 Exhibitor, Steve's Leaves

Division VV – New Introductions, Commercial Grower
B. 'Winter Twilight'
 Exhibitor, Steve's Leaves

Division W – Photographs
 Rex Cultorum
 Exhibitor, Johanna Zinn

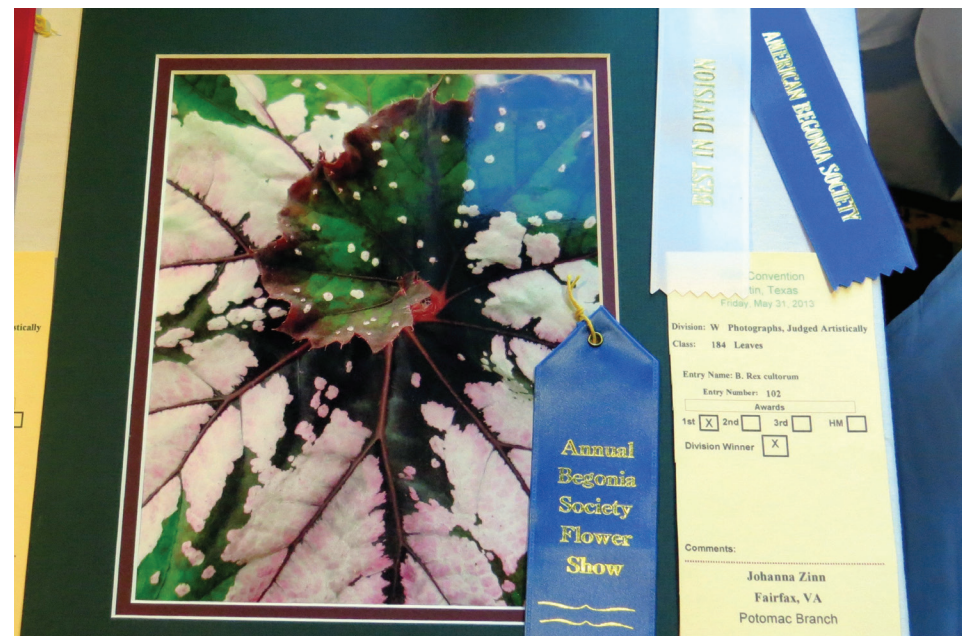
Division Z – Arts & Crafts
 Hand Quilted Quilt
 Exhibitor, Leora Henthorne

Division ZZ – Displays
 Begonia Display "New Cultivar"
 Exhibitor, Steve's Leaves

Cultural Certificates

Leora Henthorne
B. 'Millie Thompson' – 99.5 points
B. scutofolia – 99 points

Kay Tucker Award (Best Cane) and People's Choice winner *B. 'Puffy Cloud'*
 Exhibitor, Jane Anderson (below)
 Photograph - Rex Cultorum
 Exhibitor, Johanna Zinn (pg. 151)



B. 'Peridot' – 99 points
B. lyallii ssp *masoalensis* – 98.5 points
B. crispula – 98.5 points
B. U602 – 98 points
B. U496 – 98 points
B. scutofolia – 95 points
B. versicolor – 95 points
 Rock Planting with Semperflorens Cultivar – 95 points

Jane Anderson
B. 'Phil Corwin' – 98 points
B. 'Puffy Cloud' – 96 points
B. 'Ginny' – 95 points

Steve's Leaves
B. 'Winter Twilight' – 97 points
B. U489 – 96 points
B. 'Bobbie Price' – 95 points

Sondra Justice
B. 'Pink Diamond' – 97 points
B. 'Purple Snow' – 95 points
B. 'Fairylant' – 95 points

Tom Keepin
B. floccifera – 97 points
B. 'Dancing Girl' – 96 points

Lucille Dyess
B. 'Wild Pony' – 96 points
B. 'Oh No' – 95 points
B. masoniana – 95 points

Carol Orozco
B. foliosa – 96 points
B. 'Deja Thoris' – 95 points
 Rex Cultorum – 95 points

Doug Byrom
B. bipinnatifida – 96 points
B. imperialis (black leaf) – 95 points
B. polilloensis – 95 points
B. 'Holley's Moon' – 95 points
B. 'Little Night Music' – 95 points

Cindy Moran
B. 'Beningo' – 96 points

Kathy Barrows
B. 'de Elegans' – 95 points

Betty Ferguson
 Contained Atmosphere, Mixed Planting
 – 95 points

Dan Heims
B. 'Cool Breeze Pewter' – 95 points



B. 'Holley's Moon', Exhibitor,
Doug Byrom (this page, top)
B. 'Oh No', Exhibitor, Lucille
Dyess (center)
B. 'Winter Twilight', Exhibitor,
Steve's Leaves (bottom)



Best Southwest Hybrid (SWR),
B. 'Pink Diamond', Exhibitor,
Sondra Justice (top)

B. 'Wild Pony', Exhibitor, Lucille
Dyess (center)

Best Species, *B. scutifolia*,
Exhibitor, Leora Henthorne
(bottom)





Congratulations to the 2013 ABS Award Winners!

Winners of these prestigious awards (from left to right) are Freda Holley, winner of the Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor for her hybrid *B.* 'Holley's Beauty'; Margaret Fisher accepting for Arlene Hoskins winner of the Gene Salisbury Award given to a grower who exemplifies the very best in cultural practice and whose work brings us new species and hybrids; Carol Notaras accepting for Paul Tsamtsis winner of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for long-term and outstanding service; Martin Delgado winner of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award for contributing original material toward helping members in their study of begonias; Valerie Morris winner of the Marge Lee Award for promoting spiritual value, harmony and good will among members; and, Jane Anderson for a SWR Award. Jane also won the People's Choice Award with *B.* 'Puffy Cloud'.

Mark Tebbitt (picture at right) winner of the Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award for written contributions on begonias that are both excellent in design and content and that contribute to our knowledge and appreciation of begonias.



The Begonian

ABS Book Store

NOTE: Price changes on U Number books and Begonians on DVD.

NEW: Unidentified Species Listing, Update, August 2012

by Mary Bucholtz & Charles Jaros,
Co-Directors

Second Edition includes U Numbers 001 through 621. Looseleaf format for easy addition of new material. Notebook not included.

Domestic: \$33.00
International: \$42.00

NEW: B. U 604-621 to add to the August, 2010 Unidentified Species Listing

\$7.00

NEW: 2013 Calendar

by Dr. Rekha Morris (limited number)
\$25.00

Raising Cane: Experiences in Growing the Species Cane Begonias

by Freda M. Holley

A wonderful work on the cane species with color photographs.

\$15.00

Note Cards from the Jack Golding Collection

Eight cards with envelopes, each card a different begonia species. This collection of botanical illustrations is part of a series of renderings by Jack's daughter, Marilyn Golding White. The cards were used as Jack's Season's Greetings cards to his friends and associates.

\$15.00

Begoniaceae, Edition 2, Part I: Annotated Species List, Part II: Illustrated Key, Abridgement & Supplement

Jack Golding & Dieter C. Wasshausen, 2002,
Smithsonian Institution,

Volume 43: 1-289

\$55.00

Seeing Begonia

by Jack Golding

2003, Revised 2005. Jack Golding's last work.

"...dedicated to the many who look at their Begonia but do not see the details."

\$15.00

Begonia Hybridizing: A Primer

by Freda M. Holley, 2007

An invaluable source book for the beginning or advanced begonia hybridizer.

\$15.00

Begonia Notes

by Rudolf Ziesenhenné

Reissued by the Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund. Originally printed in the Santa Barbara Branch, La Begonia Barbareña.

\$15.00

Begonias – 1984 Update

by Mildred L. Thompson

Reissued 2009, "An addendum for particular portions of *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide* (Times Books, 1981). Includes species and hybrids and many pictures.

\$18.00

Begonias of Peninsular Malaysia

by Ruth Kiew

A magnificent work with glorious pictures.

\$55.00

Constitution of the ABS

Revised & Approved, 2008

\$2.00

The Begonian on DVD

#1 1934-1958

#2 1959-1979

#3 1980-2005

#4 2006-2011 (Jan/Feb. 2012 2011 Index)

Each DVD is \$25.00

Set of all 4 begonians on DVD

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To order: Prices include domestic shipping. Send check payable to the [American Begonia Society](#) and your order to **Carol Notaras, 2567 Green St., San Francisco 94123** or order online at [begonias.org](#) by PayPal. For questions and availability, email or call Book Store Chairman Janet Brown, begoniabrown@yahoo.com 310-670-4471.



From the Section Trachelocarpa

Female flowers of *B. depauperata* (top, photo by Jem Wiseman) and *B. herbacea* (left, photo by Kingsley Langenberg), from the section Trachelocarpa, have ovaries that appear at ground level. These plants prefer a very humid environment and appreciate being grown as epiphytes.



Annual Begonia and Gesneriad Show & Plant Sale of the Buxton Branch

of the American Begonia Society
&
the New England Chapter of The
Gesneriad Society

**Saturday & Sunday,
September 22-21, 2013
Tower Hill Botanic
Garden, Boylston, MA**

For more information contact
Phyllis Savage:
phyllis.savage@verizon.net

Westchester Begonia Show & Sale

The Westchester Branch of the American Begonia Society is proud to present its 54th Annual Begonia Show and Sale this coming summer on Saturday, July 20, 2013. The exciting Westchester event is the only judged begonia show in Southern California and will not only showcase begonias but ferns, orchids, bromeliads, aroids and other shade loving plants.

The Show Honoree for 2013 will be Senior Judge and former President of the American Begonia Society, Ms. Mary Sakamoto of Orange County – her many years of diverse and ongoing contributions to the ABS make this a well-deserved recognition for Ms. Sakamoto.

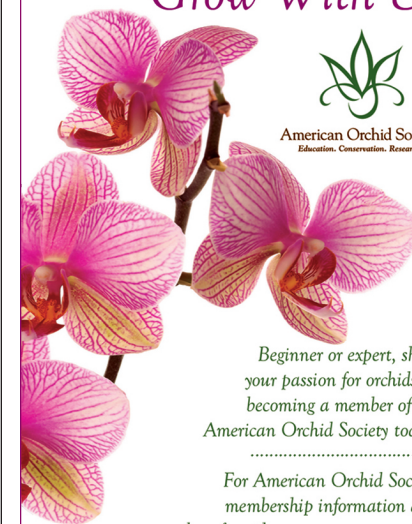
An excellent selection of rare and beautiful begonias - species & hybrids - and other plants and gifts will be available for purchase.

Admission is free. Dates Saturday, July 20, 2013 - Hours: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Place: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 6323 W. 80th Street (north-west corner of Sepulveda & 80th), Los Angeles, CA 90045
Contact: Martin E. Delgado, Show Chairman, (562) 310-8380, mdlibrarian@consultant.com

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Purchase our 56-page manual "How to Know and Grow Gesneriads" for US\$10 postpaid anywhere, or join The Gesneriad Society for one year for US\$25 in USA, US\$30 elsewhere. Go to www.gesneriadsociety.org or send check or credit card number with expiration date and CVV code to The Gesneriad Society, Dept AVM, PMB 637, 1122 E Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98122 USA. New members receive a copy of "How to Know and Grow Gesneriads," two back issues and the next four quarterly issues of our journal *Gesneriads*, a package of mixed gesneriad seed, access to the world's largest source of gesneriad seed, and many other benefits.

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membership@cssainc.org — CSSA, PO Box 1000, Claremont, CA 91711



B. nelumbifolia - The Waterlily Begonia

This plant (above) is 32 inches tall from top of the pot, largest leaf is 14 inches long by 11 inches wide. *B. nelumbifolia* (left) grown from seed at 1 year. Plants grown and photographed by Joe Romeo.

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Your privacy and the privacy of all ABS members or of those who contact us is of the highest priority. This privacy and terms of use statement explains what information we gather from you, how it may be used by us and how it is protected. If you have any questions, please contact us.

If you are an ABS member or request information from ABS, we use the information you submit to fulfill your requests (such as sending informational materials, fulfilling your order or responding to specific inquiries). We also may use information for purposes of the Society including providing names of ABS members to those wishing to start a branch in the ABS or in connection with internal communications (such as invitations to events). If you do not want your information shared, let our membership chairman know by email or phone. This information is used for Society-related contacts only. We will not knowingly collect or use personal identifying information from children younger than 18 without parental consent. If knowledge of any information from any child younger than 18 is collected, we will immediately delete such information.

If you are a member of ABS or submit material to the Begonian, your information may be published in the Begonian either in association with the published material or in reporting business of the society including the directory on the inside back cover. If you submit material in any form including letters, articles, and photographs, it is assumed that these are submitted for publication unless you specifically request that material not be published. Be aware that it is the policy of ABS not to copyright material in the Begonian or restrict its further use so long as credit is given as to source.

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We do not otherwise sell, rent, exchange or disclose our client lists or information about our web site users or our members, except to the limited extent necessary to protect the rights, property and safety of our Society, our members, or others or to comply with applicable law. In the event of dissolution of the Society, all member data will be destroyed.

ABS Elected Officers

President... Charles Jaros, 106 Pine Valley Ct., DeBary, FL 32713 Phone 407-687-5621; cjbegonia@yahoo.com

Past President... Cheryl Lenert, 21744 FM 2920, Hockley, TX 77447; Phone 281-255-9004; lenert@flash.net

1st Vice-President... Virginia Jens, 2483 Waterside Dr, Lake Worth, FL 33461; Phone 561-568-0124; vjens2483@gmail.com.

2nd Vice-President... Mike Flaherty, 1505 East Valley Rd, Santa Barbara, CA 93108; mikeflaherty@cox.net **Secretary...** Richard Macnair, 59 Walker St., Cambridge, MA 02138; Phone 617-876-1356;

RNmacnair@msn.com

Treasurer... Carol Notaras, 2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123; Phone 415-931-4912; cnotaras@sbcglobal.net

Appointed Chairmen & Directors

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Book Store... Jan Brown, begoniabrown@yahoo.com Phone 310-670-4471.

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thomas.keepin@gmail.com

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Convention Chair... Carol Notaras, 2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123; Phone 415-931-4912; cnotaras@sbcglobal.net

Entries/Classification... Vacant

Grants Committee... Mike Flaherty, 1505 East Valley Rd, Santa Barbara, CA 93108; mikeflaherty@cox.net **Internet Editor...** Dean Turney, 467 Fulvia Street, Encinitas, CA 92024; Phone: 760-942-1919; B.deanturney@gmail.com

Historian... Jeanne Jones, 1415 Via Margarita, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-2143; Phone 310-378-7527

Horticultural Correspondent... Gregory Sytch, 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653-4301; Phone 727-841-9618; gsytch@cs.com

Judging... Maxine Zinman, 2770 Kimble Rd., Berryville, VA 22611; Phone 540-955-4555; begonia@visuallink.com



Bonsai tree trained over a rock at the Montreal Botanical Garden. Photo by Linda Tambyln

Members-at-Large... Sandy Boyd, 5 Walnut Circle, Chico, CA 95973; Phone 530-891-5760

Membership... Paul Rothstein, 2 Flock Lane, Bella Vista, AR 72714; Phone 479-855-1665; paroan2001@yahoo.com

Nomenclature... Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653; Phone 580-628-5230; geneannsbcglobal.net

Parliamentarian... Linda Lawson, 525 Terrace Place, Norman, OK 73069-5034; Phone 405-364-2425

Public Relations... Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653; Phone 580-628-5230; geneann@sbcglobal.net

Research... vacant

Save Our Species Coordinator... Rekha Morris, 318 Woodland Cir., Pendleton, SC 29670; shivavana@gmail.com

Seed Fund... Dean Turney, 467 Fulvia Street, Encinitas, CA 92024; dean@deansmail.us

Slide Library... Charles Jaros, 106 Pine Valley Ct. DeBary, FL 32713; Phone 407-687-5621; cjbegonia@yahoo.com

Unidentified Species (U Numbers)... Co-Chairs: Charles Jaros, 106 Pine Valley Ct., DeBary, FL 32713 Phone 407-687-5621; cjbegonia@yahoo.com Mary Bucholtz, 1560 Lancaster Terr., #1008, Jacksonville, FL 32204; Phone 904-353-9111

