



THE

BEGONIAN

November/December 2015

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.



B. dregei (syn. *suffruticosa*)
Photo by Craig Boyajian

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Cover photo: *B. 'Cathedral'*, entered by Jocelyn Sherman, received a Cultural Certificate at the 2015 ABS National Convention. Photo by Craig Boyajian

Back cover: *Begonia* 'Sparks Will Fly' takes centerstage in one of the many stunning planters at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Read more on page 212.

President's Message

As the end of the year approaches and we enjoy the fall and winter seasons – a well-earned resting period for begonias and their growers - we have the opportunity to look back and reflect on our gardening experiences. We remember the good things that happened in our growing areas and learn from events that might not have turned out so well. We consider how we watered and fertilized, how we dealt with any diseases and pests we encountered, and what grew beautifully as a result. It's also a good time to think about the plants not doing so well in our gardens, thereby adapting our techniques or making room for other varieties.

On an organizational level we do the same thing: We consider the great things that transpired this year and learn from the things that did not turn out perfectly. As part of a wonderful organization of people – The American Begonia Society (ABS) – our members excel in sharing: Sharing their plants and cuttings with fellow members, contributing items for our plant tables, discussing their experiences, knowledge and expertise; and even bringing refreshments for our meetings. Our Board and Committees fulfill their duties month in and month out, ensuring that our organization runs smoothly. And on those occasions when things didn't go so smoothly, members ultimately pulled together, preparing the ground for the next time.

The successes enjoyed by our Society and its many branches are possible thanks to members willing to give their time, effort and hard work. If you helped make any of these events happen in any way, we, the Society, thank you. Your involvement is what keeps the ABS moving forward. Over the next few weeks, either at the national or local level, continue to “prepare the ground” for the coming year. As you do this, more people will appreciate the wonderful benefits that our organization has to offer. I hope you have enjoyed your begonias in this past year and been inspired by the programs and your fellow members of the ABS.

In friendly contact,
Martin E. Delgado, President
American Begonia Society



Led by Chair, Wanda Macnair, the Plant Sales Committee worked for two full days to organize begonias for sales at Begonia Revolution. Many beautiful and rare terrarium species were generously donated for sales by ABS members from across the U.S. In the foreground, from left to right, are Phyllis Savage, Sharon Hoffman, Deborah Kwasniewski, Wanda Macnair, and Johanna Kitson. Doug Pridgen is in the background.

The Begonian

Jan/Feb 2016

Submissions

Due

November 21

Send your photos, growing tips,
or articles to:

begoniaske@yahoo.com

“Begonia Magic” 2016 Convention

Plans are underway for the 2016 ABS Convention hosted by the branches of the Southern California Begonia Region.

Dates: September 7th thru 11th 2016

Location: Ayres Hotel, 14400 Hindry Ave., Hawthorne, California 90250.

(310) 536-0400

Use ABS916 to make reservations.

Cost: \$139 a night for single thru quad. Rates good 3 days before and 3 days after. Parking is free for those staying overnight at the hotel. High speed internet is complimentary.

Watch for more exciting details coming in future issues!



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Southwest Region “Challenge” Fund Drive Update

By Doug Byrom, Smithville, TX

So far we have received \$3,660 from individuals and branches. If you will recall, SWR will match what is donated up to \$10,000. SWR set the limit because we hoped to far exceed that amount. I'm sure the donations will continue to come and the total will rise.

The following is a list of donors and the level of their donation. If you donated and I failed to list your name just let me know. We want to recognize every one that contributes. We want your name on the list, so send your check to Carol Notaras, 2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123 - today! Remember; if we all give a little just think how much a 1,000 people could raise.

Bronze \$1 - \$150

Nelda Moore - Sandy Justice - Bobbie Price - Lynn Sissney - Martin Delgado - Johanna Zinn - Jim and Linda Lawson - Charles Jaros - Johnny and Donna Williams - Tom and Jane Anderson - Eric and Irma Challain - Fort Worth/Dallas Branch - Bill Rose Alamo Branch

Silver \$151 - \$300

RL and Freda Holley - Doug Byrom - Kenny and Dianna Wilkerson - Kay Jennings

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2015 Holiday Greetings



Best
Wishes
to All!

Thank You
from the
ABS
and The
Begonian!

Platinum

Astro Branch
Austin Area Begonia Society
Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches
Bob Brooks
Buxton Branch
Frances Drescher
Lula Leonard
Long Beach Parent Chapter
Mabel Corwin Branch
Richard & Wanda Macnair
Margaret Lee Branch
Malcolm Mc Corquodale III
Carol & Peter Notaras
Potomac Branch
Rudolf Ziesenhennig Branch
Southwest Region, ABS

Gold

Alamo Begonia Club Branch
Fred A Barkley Branch
Brad Neugebauer & Liliya Husaynova
Palos Verdes Begonia Society
San Jacinto Branch
South Bay Begonia Branch

Silver

Thomas Cootz & Stephanie Rose
Dallas Area Branch
Doug Frost Branch
Houston Satellite Branch
Joan Coulat - Sacramento Branch
San Francisco Branch
San Gabriel Branch
Santa Clara Valley Branch
Westchester Branch

Bronze

Delaware Valley Branch
Florida West Coast Begonia Society
Greater Atlanta Begonia Society
Louisiana E Branch
Orange County Branch



Some Colombian begonia species: *B. sp. Columbia* (top);
B. U304 (bottom); *B. urticae* (opposite page)

A Begonia Expedition to Colombia

Article & photos by Jacky Duruisseau, Bois France

After two trips to Ecuador, in 2012 and 2014, we are organizing one to Colombia for three weeks in 2016.

For three years now, this country seems quiet and we think we can explore it in complete safety. Xavier Amigo, responsible for the tour and who helped us in Ecuador, also thinks we won't have any problems.

In Colombia, we'll find similar biotopes to the ones of Ecuador, several mountain ranges with forests, rains from Pacific Ocean and from the Amazon. We'll walk at an altitude between 500 m and 3500 m [1650 - 11,500 ft]. We plan to travel in February, during the dry season, which, as you know, is the best time to harvest seeds.

This area has been poorly explored because of problems with FARC [a terrorist organization]. The most recent begonia collecting expeditions occurred in the 1950s and the 1980s. Few expeditions thereafter.

Mark Tebbitt sent me interesting information (including locations) about 8 species of the *Gobenia* section and a yellow-flowered one that grows in Colombia.



We plan to explore the following areas:

- Bogotá
- Cundinamarca
- Antioquia
- Manizales-Pereira (Risaralda)
- Meta and Tolima

The main goal is always to bring back seeds, photos and information about begonias. After each trip, as you know, I send seeds to all the people who helped me.

I would be very grateful if you could help me again. In return, seeds will be given to the donors and to the ABS Seed Fund. And you'll read the account of my journey in *The Begonian*.

Thank you for your help.

Please send your donation to : Jacky Duruisseau, 24 rue de La Romade 17240 BOIS France or mail your donation to ABS c/o Carol Notaras and designate for Jacky's expedition on the check.

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Correction

Dear Editor.

First I really enjoyed the article about the garden in Singapore.

Greg's article (*Three U Numbers That Beat the Heat!*, September/October *The Begonian*, p. 186), was really good but Dorothy Caviness did not hybridize *B.* 'Oketa'.

B. 'Oteka' was hybridized by Dianna Wilkerson of Choctaw, Oklahoma.

And I'm sure you know Fig 4 is *B.* U309.

I knew you would want this corrected.

Thanks.

Don Miller



B. U309 was incorrectly labeled on p. 188 of *The Begonian* September/October 2015.

From the Editor

Thanks to Don for bringing this mistake to our attention. We do strive to be accurate and appreciate our readers' input.

Don has agreed to give us more information on *B.* 'Oteka', along with some terrific photos, in the next issue of *The Begonian*. Watch for that to come.

We always appreciate your feedback. Contact me at Begoniaskc@yahoo.com



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Propagating *B. venosa*

Article and photo by Randy Montes Kerr, West Hollywood, CA

Because this plant taught me something about how this species propagates itself, I wanted to share what I learned. And those people growing in pots might be unlikely to make this observation.

Begonia venosa, a chaparral (dry landscape) Brazilian species, is widely grown. However, even though it is highly visible - thanks to its meter tall height in sunny, open,



New plants grow from two fallen stems on this *Begonia venosa*.

exposed areas, and its pelted, short silver hairs - this species has seldom been collected in the wild.

I grow this species in a section of the garden, that once housed succulents, in soil that has been amended with palm and cactus mix to increase drainage. This area receives good, morning sun. Neighboring plants include a Myrrh tree, *B. dregei* and thick-stemmed species, such *B. carolineifolia*, *B. crassicaulis*, and *B. wollnyi*. Thick-stemmed species generally want more sun than most begonias. They also prefer a drier winter, when dormancy is common.

Recently I shared a photo of my *B. venosa* with an online group when she looked great - flowering like no tomorrow, and growing SO well. Next day, she flopped. Two big stems simply lay down, like they had had it. Had I overwatered and done her in? Should I drive stakes into the soil and 'put her right'? Fortunately, based on observations I had made of another Brazilian species, *B. gardneri*, I decided to let nature take its course.

And voilà! At every node, a new, well-rooted stem has grown. For one of the two fallen stems, I moved a bit of soil around so that every node touched earth.

I appreciate Michael Kartuz for setting me up with this beauty.



Dazzling Begonias at the Chicago Botanic Garden

By Andrew Bunting, Assistant Director of the Garden and Director of Collections

Photos courtesy of the Chicago Botanic Garden



The Chicago Botanic Garden opened 43 years ago as a beautiful place to visit. It has matured into one of the world's great living museums and conservation science centers. In 2013 and again in 2014, more than one million people visited the Garden's 26 gardens and four natural areas. Uniquely situated on 385 acres on and around nine islands, with six miles of lake shoreline, The CBG includes a prominent Japanese garden and bonsai

*Begonias shine in the containers at the Chicago Botanic Garden. In the container pictured at the top the plants include: *Torenia* 'Catalina Midnight Blue', *Solenostemon* 'Royal Glissade', *Euphorbia hypericifolia* Diamond Frost, and *Begonia* 'Sparks Will Fly'*

*Hanging container pictured bottom, left: *Begonia* 'Illumination Golden Picotee', and *Adiantum raddianum**



collection, as well as world renowned visitor, education, and urban workforce-training programs, and plant conservation science leadership that extends to a joint graduate program with Northwestern University.

The Chicago Botanic Garden has 50,000 members — one of the largest memberships of any garden in the world. Year-round, people of all ages, backgrounds, interests, and abilities participate in programs, take classes geared for students from pre-K through Ph.D. and stroll the grounds. Within the nine laboratories of the Garden's Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Conservation Science Center, scientists and graduate students conduct a wide array of plant research.

Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022; Tel: 847-835-6823; www.chicagobotanic.org

Two views (above and right) of a corridor of artistically planted containers. Some of the plants are: *Begonia boliviensis* 'Mistral', *Cordyline fruticosa* 'Fleming Road', *Ipomoea batatas* 'Marguerite', *Acalypha wilkesiana* 'Tahiti', *Pachystachys lutea*





B. undulata's ripening seed pods showing the wings. Photo by Linda Tamblyn

A Word With You: Alae/Wings

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

In the last issue we looked at locules. Those begonia locules are loaded with seeds that need to move. Mother Nature often chooses winged flight for that purpose. Alae, wings... they always seem to be about movement, be they with sports teams, birds, insects, Girl Scout Brownies, rock bands, or video games. Our begonias have alae/wings too. Admittedly, these wings don't take the seed pods too far, but far enough to start a new plant at a distance from the parent.

Where are those alae/wings? On the ovary or fruit. If present, there can be from 3 to 7 per fruit. I'm sure there's a scientific explanation for multiple wings, irregularly shaped wings,

but the main purpose seems to be dispersal. Wind dispersal is a reasonably successful strategy for moving away from competition with mature adult plants, aka the parents.

Thompson defines ala as "Wing; also the lateral petals in a papilionaceous corolla" (another article!). Cassell's says alae is the plural of ala, (long first a, as in apex) "a wing;" also "of the oars of a ship." Golding says the "ovary matures to a fruit which is always a capsule. It is often triangular or sometimes round like a berry. They most frequently have 3 alae [wings] but may have more or as many as 7." I haven't seen a 7, have you?

continued on next page

American Begonia Society Awards 2015

By Cheryl Lenert, Awards Chairman

Herbert P. Dyckman Award – Tan Jiew Hoe, [John Tan], a lifetime member of ABS, has devoted much of his efforts and resources to supporting activities in the plant world, from sponsoring research to donating over 1300 species of plants to the Singapore Botanic Gardens since the 1980s. He is currently president of the Singapore Gardening society and a member of the Board of Directors of Garden by the Bay. One of his greatest loves is begonias. He has sponsored the publication of *Begonias of Peninsular Malaysia* and *Begonias of Borneo*. He has donated multiple copies of these books to the ABS, along with amazing items for convention boutiques and generous monetary contributions.

continued on page216



Tan Jiew Hoe, [John Tan] Herbert P. Dyckman Award recipient

A Word With You continued from page 214

My Webster has a long list of definitions for wing, 21 to be exact, among them “a wing-like extension on some stems, leaf stalks, and seeds.” He has a metaphorical one too, “anything represented as flying or soaring, or as carrying one to a soaring height; as, on wings of song.”

As I write outside, on a windy day, I’m watching milk weed seeds soar away from the mother seed pod. In the air too are a neighbor’s ailanthus ... neither as graceful, nor as welcome! Milkweed seeds sport fine hairs known as the coma that float those seeds to soaring heights far from the parent on days like this. Tons of seeds. Good for our monarch butterflies if they’re allowed to grow. Begonias sport less graceful alae, and I wish I could watch their movement on a windy day, but mine are still in glorious bloom, their fruit

far from dry.

Tebbitt’s glossary says alae are “a flat marginal protuberance on the ovary or fruit.” Thumbing thru his book for examples, which it turns out are unnecessary as the majority of begonias seem to have winged fruit, I found that most fruit are “almost equally three-winged,” “equally three-winged” or “unequally three-winged.” Some are wingless. Which are yours?

Almost equally three-winged: *B. chlorosticta*, *B. conchifolia*, *B. hydrocotylifolia*

Equally three-winged: *B. dichroa*, *B. dipetala*, *B. herbacea*

Unequally three-winged: *B. boliviensis*, *B. goegoensis*, *B. integerrima*, *B. listada*, *B. ma-soniana*

Wingless: *B. ampla*, *B. leprosa*, *B. manni*, *B. venosa*



This year's Marge Lee Award honored
Thelma O'Reilly

ABS Awards 2015 continued

Marge Lee Award – Thelma O'Reilly is an ABS Legend, not only because of her scientific achievements, but because she has the unique ability to inspire all those who come in contact with her love of begonias. At 97, Thelma is considered the "Guiding Light" of the Marge Lee Branch. Marge Lee was the person who introduced Thelma to begonias when she first arrived in California in the 1960's. Thelma is also an esteemed triple-crown winner.

We also want to wish Thelma a Happy Birthday on November 30 when she will turn 98. Congratulations on all your accomplishments, Thelma!

Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award – Gloria Utzig is a welcome contributor to the *Begonian* with her well-written observations of begonias. Gloria created and maintains the wonderful website for the Buxton Branch. A more recent example of



Gloria Utzig and her 2015
Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award

her talent and hard work is the spectacular Directory for ABS Convention 2015: *Begonia Revolution*.

Eva Kenworthy Gray Award – Claudia Goodridge, started with occasional articles and has become a welcome regular with her column,



Eva Kenworthy Gray Award
recipient Claudia Goodridge

A Word With You, for *The Begonian*, in which she provides an in-depth exploration of flower structures, leaf shapes, leaf surfaces and begonia vocabulary. Most importantly, these articles are written in such a way that all begonia growers can understand that terminology. She has recently included the Picture Quiz to help cement that knowledge. She is also a frequent lecturer.

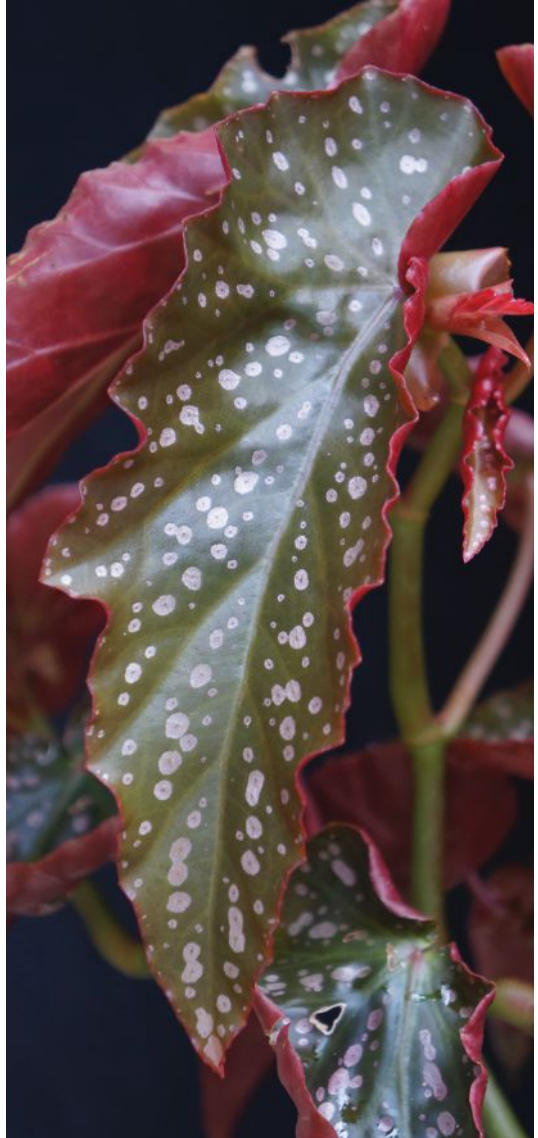


The Gene Salisbury Award was given to Don Miller

Gene Salisbury Award – Don Miller is well-known for his horticultural excellence. His show entries have consistently won many awards. His spectacular photographic examples of begonias have been in many publications over the years. He has contributed several new species from his explorations. Since his retirement, he has produced a number of award-winning hybrids. He is also an important addition to the volunteer staff at the Begonia Species Bank at Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens.



Alfred D. Robinson Award – *B.* ‘Cracklin Rosie’ by Walter Dworkin is a unique and wonderful cane begonia that has been grown and loved by many of us. Walter is a prolific hybridizer with countless very recognizable titles to his credit.



The 2015 Alfred D. Robinson Award recognized *B.* ‘Cracklin Rosie’ (above) hybridized by Walter Dworkin (left).



2015 ABS Convention Begonia Revolution

Natick, Massachusetts July 27 – August 2, 2015

174 Entries
22 Exhibitors

Best of Show

B. 'Marmaduke'

Exhibited by - Jocelyn Sherman

Sweepstakes

Priscilla Purinton, 8 blue ribbons

**Ed & Millie Thompson
Show is Sharing Award**

Gloria Utzig, 35 entries

Scottish Begonia Society

Quaich

Gloria Utzig

People's Choice Award

B. taliensis

Exhibited by – Darrin Norton/ Mountain
Orchids

Special Awards

**The Anne Kosinski Award for
Best Shrub-Like Begonia**

B. minutifolia

Exhibited by – Johanna Zinn

The John Harrington Memorial Award for Best Rhizomatous

B. 'Marmaduke'

Exhibited by - Jocelyn Sherman

The Ernest Kimball Logee Memorial Award for Best Rex Cultorum

B. 'Fedor's Sister'

Exhibited by – Sharon Rosenzweig

The Wanda and Richard Macnair Award for

Best Contained Atmosphere

B. blancii

Exhibited by – Johanna Zinn

The Normand Dufresne Award for

Best Species Begonia

B. taliensis

Exhibited by – Darrin Norton/
Mountain Orchids

The Alice Clark Award for Best Artistic Display

in Arts & Crafts

B. chlorosticta (dark form)

Exhibited by – Johanna Kitson

Best New England Hybrid

B. 'Marmaduke'

Exhibited by – Jocelyn Sherman

Division Awards

Division B: Shrub-like

B. echinosepala var.
elongatifolia

Exhibited by – Bob Stewart

Division C: Thick Stemmed

B. petasitifolia

Exhibited by – Bob Stewart

Division D: Semperflorens

B. 'Dragon Wings'

Exhibited by – Wanda Macnair

Division E: Rhizomatous

B. 'Phoe's Cleo'

Exhibited by – Stuart Hammer

Continued on p. 222



B. 'Marmaduke' (opposite page), exhibited by Jocelyn Sherman, won Best of Show, Best New England Hybrid, and The John Harrington Memorial Award for Best Rhizomatous.

B. taliensis (above), exhibited by Darrin Norton/Mountain Orchids, won The Normand Dufresne Award for Best Species Begonia and People's Choice Award.



Johanna Zinn (Fig 1) ready to make her plant purchases at Friday night sales. Twenty-two exhibitors with 174 entries: a stunning array of begonias (Fig 2). *B. echinosepala* var. *elongatifolia* (Fig 3), entered by Bob Stewart, received a Division award. *B. amphioxus* (Fig 4), entered by Gloria Utzig; Gloria also received the Ed & Millie Thompson Show and Sharing Award for the greatest number of entries. *B. 'Red Fred'* (Fig 5), entered by Priscilla Purinton; Priscilla also received the Sweepstakes Award for the greatest number of blue ribbons. *B. 'Fedor's Sister'* (Fig 6), entered by Sharon Rosenzweig, was awarded Best Rex, a Division award, and received a Cultural Certificate. *B. 'Angel Glow'* (Fig 7) sits on a plant sales table waiting for a new home. *B. blancii* (Fig 8), entered by Johanna Zinn, received the Wanda and Dick Macnair Award for Best Contained Atmosphere, a Division award, and received a Cultural Certificate. Joe Romeo (Fig 9), a convention attendee from Australia, enjoying his meal at the Seafood Bake. All photos by Craig Boyajian.





2



3



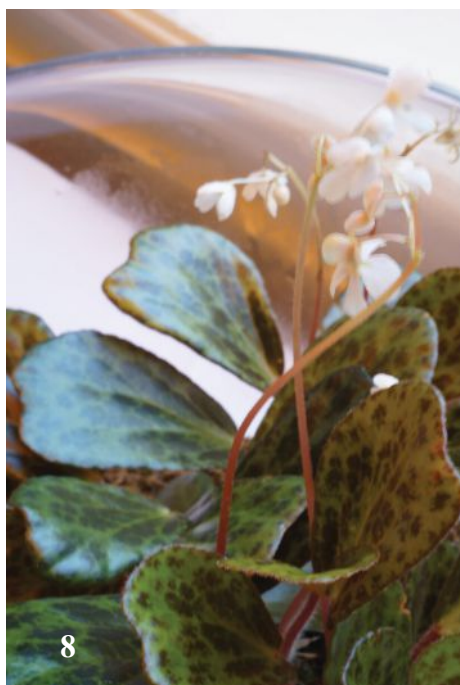
5



6



7



8



9



Division R: Wall Pockets, *B.* 'Hugh D. McLauchlan' (pictured, left), exhibited by Priscilla Purinton.
 Division T: Contained Atmosphere, more than one variety, Terrarium, Mixed Planting (pictured, right) exhibited by Jocelyn Sherman. Photos by Malcolm McCorquodale



Division EEE: Rhizomatous Distinctive Foliage

B. velloziana

Exhibited by – Andrew Norris

Division F: Rex Cultorum

B. 'Fedor's Sister'

Exhibited by – Sharon Rosenzweig

Division G: Tuberous

B. 'Sparks Will Fly'

Exhibited by – Dee Stewart

Division H: Trailing Scandent

B. loranthoides ssp. *rhopalocarpa*

Division I: Contained Atmosphere under 10"

B. bogneri

Exhibited by – Bob Stewart

Division II: Contained Atmosphere over 10"

B. blancii

Exhibited by – Johanna Zinn

Division K: Unidentified Species "U" Numbers

B. U561

Exhibited by – Stuart Hammer

Division O: Windowsill Grown

B. 'His Majesty'

Exhibited by – Gloria Utzig

Division P: Novel Grown

B. crassicaulis

Exhibited by – Bob Stewart

Division Q: New England Area Hybrids

B. 'Marmaduke'

Exhibited by Jocelyn Sherman

Division R: Wall Pockets

B. 'Hugh D. McLauchlan'

Exhibited by – Priscilla Purinton

Division S: Traveling Begonias

B. 'Kit Kat'

Exhibited by – Carol Orozco

Division T: Contained Atmosphere, more than one variety

Terrarium, Mixed Planting

Exhibited by – Jocelyn Sherman

Division U: Propagated by Exhibitor

B. dregei seedling

Exhibited by – Priscilla Purinton

Division X: Photographs, Judged Horticulturally

B. chlorosticta

Exhibited by – Johanna Zinn

Division Y: Photographs, Judged Artistically

Bloom of *B. ‘Splotches’*

Exhibited by – Johanna Zinn

Division ZZ: Arts & Crafts

B. chlorosticta (dark form)

Exhibited by – Johanna Kitson

Division ZZB: Commercial

B. taliensis

Exhibited by –

Darrin Norton/Mountain Orchids

Division ZZE: Educational

“Is this a Begonia”

Exhibited by – Johanna Zinn

Cultural Certificates

Andrew Norris

B. velloziana – 96 points

Stuart Hammer

B. ‘Phoe’s Cleo’ – 96 points

Sharon Rosenzweig

B. ‘Fedor’s Sister’ – 96 points

B. thelmae – 95 points

Sally Savelle

B. bipinnatifida – 95 points

B. U074 – 95 points

Mary Beth Hayes

B. ‘Eagleshamm’ – 95.3 points

B. ‘Tiger Kitten’ – 95 points

Bob Stewart

B. bogneri – 97 points

B. loranthoides ssp. *rhopalocarpa* – 95 points

Priscilla Purinton

B. dregei seedling – 97.3 points

B. ‘Little Darling’ – 96.7 points

B. ‘Hugh D. McLauchlan’ – 95 points

Wanda Macnair

B. polilloensis – 96 points

B. ‘Dragon Wings’ – 95 points

B. scutifolia – 95 points

Gloria Utzig

B. ‘His Majesty’ – 96 points

B. ‘Hugh D. McLauchlan’ – 95 points

B. velloziana – 95 points

Darrin Norton/Mountain Orchids

B. taliensis – 99 points

B. blancii (3 varieties, mixed planting) – 95.7 points

B. metachroa – 95 points

Jocelyn Sherman

B. ‘Marmaduke’ – 99 points

Contained Atmosphere, mixed planting – 97 points

B. ‘Cathedral’ – 95.7 points

Johanna Zinn

B. blancii – 98 points

B. koksunii – 97 points

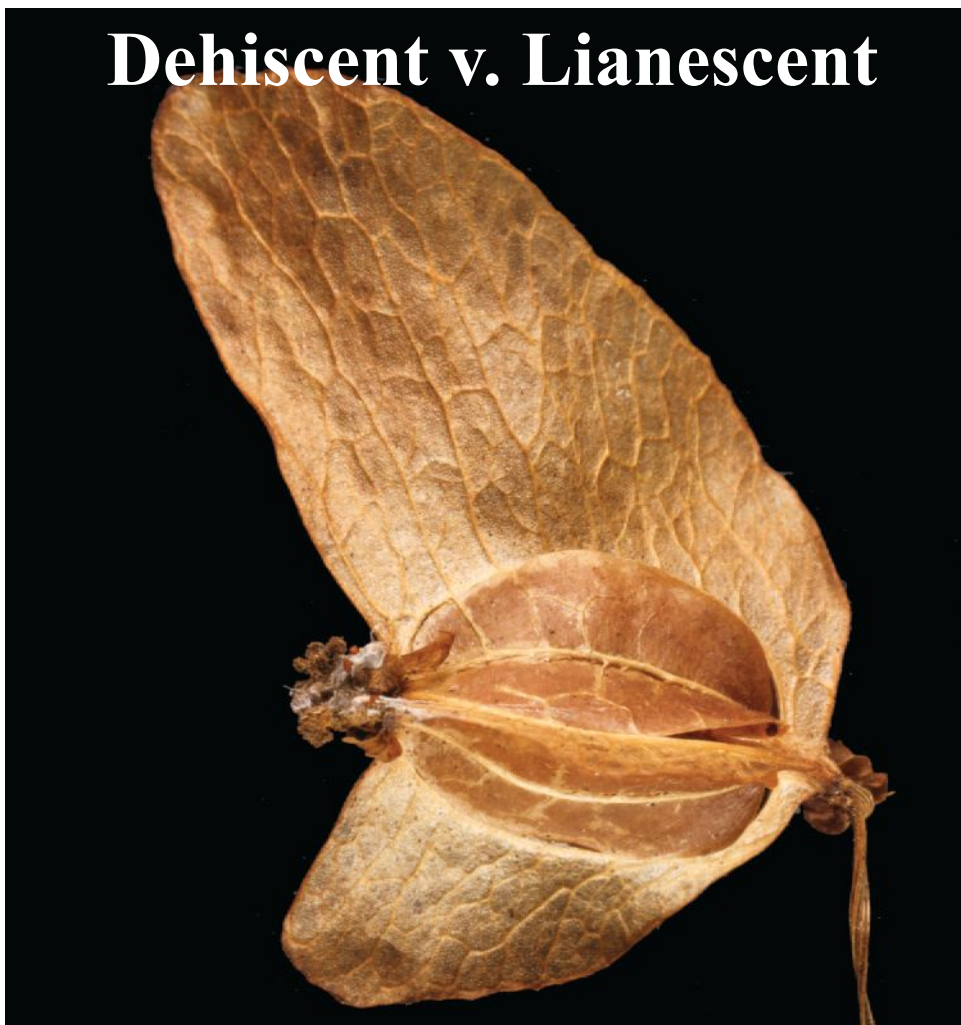
B. minutifolia – 96.1 points

B. versicolor – 95 points

B. picta – 95 points

B. U602 – 95 points

Dehiscent v. Lianescent



Does this picture represent dehiscent or lianescent?

Hint: This photo graced the cover of *The Begonian* July/August 2011, which carried the article *Begonia rubriflora* L.Kollmann, a new species and a new identity to *Begonia* U014. Both the photo and the article are by Ludovic Jean Charles Kollmann.

**Watch for the answer in your next *The Begonian*
brought to you by A Word With You!**

Last month's answer to Picture Quiz

July/August issue, page 105

Bullate v. Foveolate?

ANSWER: bullate or leaf/blade surface irregularly puckered or blistered. See Vol 80, July August 2013, p. 130. Foveolate or marked by minute depressions or pits. See Vol 80, September October 2013, p. 174.



From Ambilobe to Vohemar... (Fig 1)

Expedition to Madagascar 2015

March 22 / April 20 - Part 2

Article by Jacky Duruisseau, Bois France; Photos by C. Bridon, E. Bouquet, and J. Duruisseau

The track to Vohemar, the road of the impossible!

Ambilobe (on the Madagascar west coast) to Vohemar (on the east coast), 160 km, totally rutted. Incredible! A succession of muddy potholes! (Figs 1–2) The repair of this track was planned two times, but there was no labor available and the money disappeared! Of course, the companies who are responsible for transporting by sea between Tomasina (Tamatave) and Antsiranana (Diego-Suarez) for a long time,

would not like a good road running between these two main towns!

We'll take two days to reach Vohemar: the first day, 10 hours for 100 km between Ambilobe and Daraina. If I count correctly, we average 10 km an hour [6 mph]! The people of the villages, who are poor (some look for gold in rivers [Fig 3]) and cunning, take advantage of the situation: “come here, take this way, it is good!?”: then you must pay and they open the gate for driving on a good crossing!



2



3

The trail of the impossible! (Fig 2)
 A gold digger (Fig 3)
 Problem, a big problem! (Fig 4)
 The Marojejy massif (Fig 5)



4

Fortunately, no rain during these two days and only a truck stuck in the mud (Fig 4); it freed itself quickly; some vehicles remain and block the way for two or three days before starting again! Our driver, Joël, an experienced one, who drives a truck often on this track, avoids all the traps!

I have some GPS waypoints in the Daraina area, but unfortunately they are way too far from the track in the woody hills that we can see to the north. We would need more time to look for begonias here. A perpetual problem!

East area: the Marojejy massif

We reach Sambava, the vanilla capital, in the evening of the second day. All expeditions to the Marojejy volcanic range, start from this town, by the Indian Ocean (Fig 5). The Keraudren-Aymonin Flora on *Begonia* shows many begonias in this uneven area where forest is still preserved.

We go towards Andapa, buy some food and do the formalities for entering the Park: entrance and stay fee, appointment of a guide (Désiré) and porters. It is cloudless and hot and it is 11 a.m. when we start, in full heat... ! We walk 2 km before finding forest and shadow (Figs 6–7)! We still have to climb 6 km to reach the camp. A difficult day! But we find our first begonia in a stream: *Begonia nana* (nana means dwarf). Many of them grow here (Figs 8–10). Unfortunately, there are few flowers and no fruits on this tuberous begonia. The tuber hooks hard to rocks so the stream doesn't take it away in the rainy season.



We again find a nice boa sleeping on a tree fork. Don't worry, we're only passing...!

We arrive in the evening at Camp Mantella. A nice camp, but a compact one (Fig 11) ...we can recover, have a small bath and drink (only tea and water, no cool beer... and it will be the same for three days!). It's getting dark and we eat by candlelight. There is a rumble of thunder in the distance. A shower is welcome...and then, many frogs begin a concert (that will go on until daybreak). We end up seeing one, a minute one (2 cm) whom we find by the sound (Fig 12)! How can such a small animal "sing" so loudly?

We leave early in the morning towards camp n°2. No begonias near the path! The camp is occupied by Dutch tourists. We continue searching on the path that leads to camp n°3 and find *B. lyallii* var. *pubescens*,

(Fig 13) with a blade covered with sparsely straight and small hairs. Few flowers and some immature fruits, no doubt. As with all the *B. lyallii* var., this one is a creeping species (Fig 14). We sink more into the forest and, near a stream and waterfall, we find certainly the most beautiful begonia of Madagascar (Figs 15–16). Perhaps it is *Begonia betsimisaraka* (from Betsimisarake, the name of the main ethnic group of north-eastern Madagascar). A jewel! But no flowers, no fruit! What a pity! This tuberous species grows on rocks and sometimes as an epiphyte on trunks. The blade is especially nice and ornamental with red spots and margin.

The following day, we walk again the same path and we stop before reaching Camp n°3. Too far and hard to get to. No begonias in this section, but Désiré shows us a fossil tree that would be used by local drug-



It's a long way to Camp Mantella ... (Fig 6); And the sun is hot! (Fig 7); *Begonia nana* (Fig 8);
And *Begonia nana* on the rocks (Fig 9); Some *B. nana* flowers (Fig 10);
Phew! Finally, Camp Mantella! (Fig 11); I'm the best! (Fig 12);
On the path to camp we find *Begonia lyallii* var. *pubescens* (Fig 13)



gists for treating... 52 diseases!

Next time, I plan exploring Marojejy (Fig 17) by another way: the official park tour takes a path and usually we must not leave it, but the Keraudren treatise shows many begonias in this area and many interesting places, especially near the Lokoho river.

We return to Andapa where we must do exit formalities! Eugène, our Ankarana guide who was here with us, is ill and must leave us now to find a boat for our return to Antsirana.

We will not go to the Makira forest!

We come back to Sambava in the evening. And then the problems happen...

I sum up: Day 1: Sambava/Antsirana/Nosy Be/Antananarivo by plane. Day 2: Antananarivo/Antalaha, where we stop over; the plane goes on to Tamatave and we'll board it again when it returns to Antalaha. It comes back and we are amazed to see that our luggage has been taken off the plane because it is excess weight! Instead of taking passengers in transit, as we are, they take the ones departing from Antalaha with their luggage! Of course, we protest! Finally, after much talk, as it is late now, the plane takes off again towards Antananarivo without any passengers and we stay in Antalaha! Day 3: Antalaha to Sambava by bus and Sambava to Anta-



nanarivo by plane! Day 4: Antananarivo to Sainte Marie to Tamatave, where we have the same problem! But this time we sit down in protest at the foot of the steps! The pilot, who is exasperated, makes a decision: they put our luggage back on the plane, we get back aboard and at last, we take off towards



14



15



16

Begonia lyallii var. *pubescens* (Fig 14); Very nice *Begonia betsimisaraka* as an epiphyte on a tree (Fig 15–16); Marojejy peaks from Camp n°2 (Fig 17)

Maroantsetra where we land at about 3 p.m.!

Four extra days! And we have flown all over the north of Madagascar...

This waste of time forces us to cancel the expedition in the Makira forest where we had scheduled five days from Maroantsetra, with Clément and Robert, our usual guides. What a disappointment!

Makira is a very large mountainous plateau where the primary forest is still not totally explored. But deforestation is very serious here, especially near the Antongil Bay where there are many villages. We had begun the exploration of this area in 2009 and 2013 and we had found some very interesting and unknown begonias, a sign of nice discoveries to come.

This year, I had planned to reach the primary forest, which is now at 10 km from Vodiriana, the starting village (ten years ago, the forest was near this village!) and then establish a camp in the edge of the forest for exploring the area for several days. All was ready, guides and porters, but that was without planning the Air Madagascar troubles!

All right. Think positively! We are at last in Maroantsetra and we can add a day for the Masoala expedition...
To be continued...



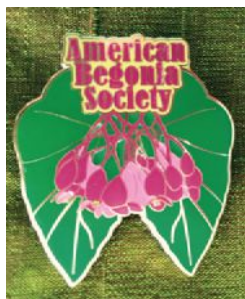
17

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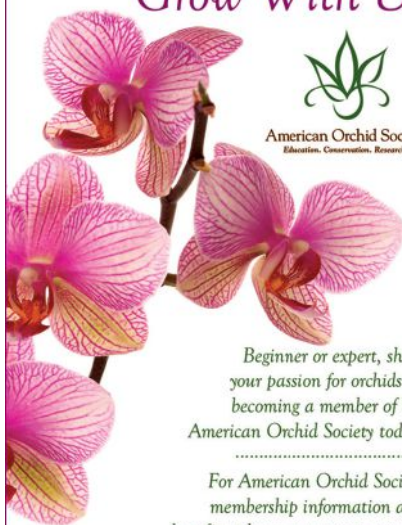
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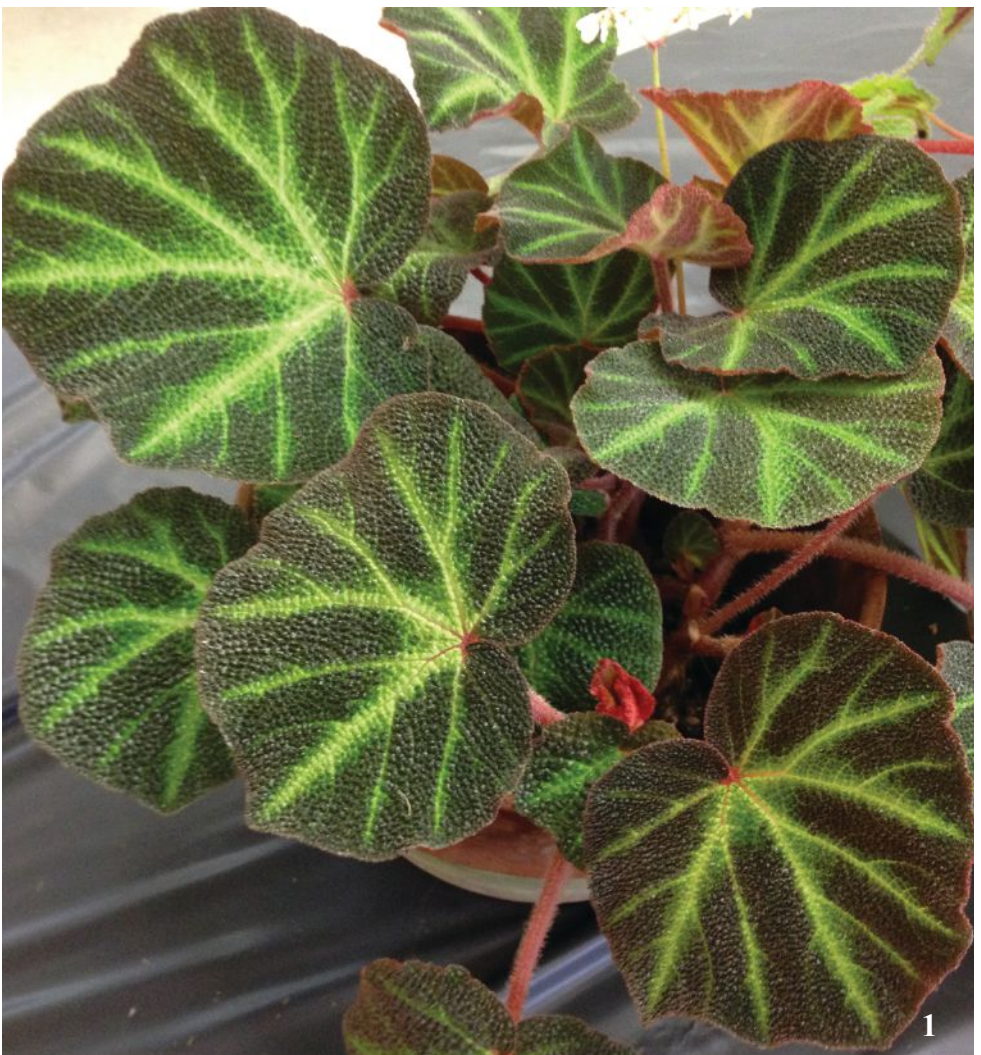
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The Joan Coulat – Sacramento Show and Sale

Article and photos by Wendy Corby, Sacramento, CA.

The Joan Coulat – Sacramento Branch held its 67th annual show and plant sale on August 29–30 at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center in McKinley Park, Sacramento, California. This exhibition show was very successful with 104 entered plants (begonias and ferns) by 13 members. With many volunteers working over the weekend, we sold all ~800 plants grown up for us by Cottage Gardens in St. Helena, held several educational seminars, and answered many questions on the care of begonias. Thank you everyone!

This year's theme was "A Symphony of Begonias" and our show was honored to have musicians from the Sacramento Philharmonic perform at the show on both Saturday and Sunday. This was a great way to support each other in our aim to promote interest in our respective arts in the community together. At the Sunday Tea, we served tea (of course!), punch, and cookies.



A few pictures from the show:
B. solimutata (Fig 1) exhibited
by Shelly Berlant; *B. 'King Tut'*
(Fig 2) exhibited by Dennis
Hollingsworth (Branch President);
B. 'Taconite' (Fig 3) exhibited by
Derick Pitman; Barbara Monroe
(Fig 4) serving Sunday Tea

The International Database of the Begoniaceae (IDB) – Update

By Ross Bolwell, Annagrove Australia

I am the developer and facilitator of the IDB (www.ibegonias.com) and I would like to bring you up to date with the program and give you some insight to the challenges of maintaining an online database. The IDB has had over 38,000 searches by online users so far which gives us some idea of its usefulness. Its purpose is to provide data and photos of all of the species and cultivars (hybrids) within all of the groups of begonias for research. This is a massive task that will always be unfinished as new species are being found in increasing numbers and cultivars are being bred in their thousands both commercially and by amateurs.

We can tick the box when it comes to listing all of the species as we're up to date with this. Species listings are checked against IPNI (the International Plant Names Index). The ABS registered cultivars are all included and up to date as are most of the "U" numbered plants. When it comes to all other cultivars the IDB is probably a bit short despite the fact it lists about 16,000 of these. My tasks are many and trying to source data of new cultivars is one of the most time consuming. I know new begonias are being bred all over the world particularly in Australia, the USA, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Japan, and these are not all!

I enter all data and add all photos of begonias that come to my notice freely. This amounts to thousands of hours each year.

All of this is made available online to anyone interested also freely. Costs are incurred to keep the software up to date, to fix software problems and to make program changes. To host the IDB on the online server costs \$97.90 per month and any software changes or fixes are billed at \$165.00 per hour. These are Aussie dollars which at the current time are around \$0.70 US. So you can see I have complete dependency on societies and individuals around the world donating funds to help keep the database online. I am so grateful because so far this has been achieved via generous support, and I am seeking that this support continue.

One of the ways that you can help keep the IDB up to date is by advising me of any new begonias you have that are not listed in the database. Breeders can help by submitting lists of their new treasures directly to me. I need name, breeder, country of origin, plant type, female parent, male parent, publication reference. Photos are particularly sought after. One easy way new begonias can be added or updated is via the WIKI tab of a found record (see graphic, opposite page). Just "find" any old begonia in the IDB, then click on the "WIKI" tab up the top and to the right. This will allow you to add a new begonia cultivar by filling in the boxes on that wiki page then submitting it. The data you submit gets verified before it is included in the IDB. Alternatively you can email me with the information or photo at shadeplants@bigpond.com and I will

The International Database of the **BEGONIACEAE**

Home Find Record List

B. 'Annan Angel'

◀ ▶ Cultivar Plant Leaf Flower **Photo** Progeny Culture Wiki

ID 16183

photo 1




Photo Credit: Ross Bolwell

Photo References

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| Home | Find | Record List |

FM Studio.

A sample screen from the IDB highlighting the information available to users.

add or update the plants manually.

Maintaining an online database is not glitch-free. New versions of the database software, the operating system or new server hardware can cause problems. Recently a lot of the photos were suddenly not visible online even though I could still view them in the database itself. It took a while to fix this and it was caused by a software update. There have been one or two other problems that have required a lot of my time to resolve. Online access to the database is 24/7 and its accessibility has been better than 99.9%. I do encourage you to use it as it contains a huge amount of information and over 5,000 photos. One of its most useful features is that it includes the offspring and parentage of the begonia you might be researching. Please contact me on the email address above if you have any questions about using or updating the IDB or donating funds to keep it online. I always acknowledge those who provide information or funds or photos and credit the photographer. Keep on searching!

ABS Bookstore

The first new ABS pin in many years is now available just in time for your holiday giving. It was designed and produced by Cheryl Lenert. Surprise and delight begonia lovers on your list with this beautiful pin (pictured on page 231).
\$10.00

NEW: Brad's Begonia World

by Brad Thompson. Edited & Compiled by Wendy Corby, 2015.

A compendium of Brad Thompson's web page with 189 color pages of photographs, published through the ABS's Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund. The first section is on the different types of begonias. The second section is on the growing and care of begonias. The book is a wonderful set of articles to provide begonia enthusiasts with information and delight them with incredible full color photographs of your favorite begonias.

Domestic: \$35; International: \$45

NEW: Understanding Begonia

by Samuel Kennedy, Photographs & Art Work by Elizabeth Kennedy

Published in the United Kingdom, 2015, ISBN #978-0-9932897, 95 pages, full color photographs. First half of the book covers begonia history, types, sections, growing, fertilizing. Second half is devoted to growing tuberous begonias. A glorious book containing valuable information from the Jack Golding archives.

Domestic: \$20.00; International: \$30.00

Begonia Hybridizing: By The Hybridizers

edited by Freda Holley
Published through the Millie Thompson Publication Fund, March 2013. This great new book by Freda Holley is filled with articles written by some of our most famous, prolific and successful hybridizers. It is a philosophy of hybridizing divided into three parts and includes articles by Ross Bolwell, Walter Dworkin, Freda Holley, Gregory Sytch, Chuck Ades, Brad Thompson, Patrick Worley and Rudolf Ziesenhenné. The pictures are many and stunning.

Domestic: \$21.00;

International \$26.00 (Includes postage)

Tuberous Begonias and How to Grow Them

by the late Howard Siebold, 1998, published with the support of the ABS Millie Thompson Publication Fund. Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 98-74824 ISBN: 0-9628251-2-3
\$15.00

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

B. U604–621 to add to the August, 2010 Unidentified Species Listing

\$7.00

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

\$15.00

continued next page →

In Memoriam: Bob Koehler

From Greg Sytch

It is with great sadness that I notify Begoniacs of the passing of Bob Koehler of St Petersburg, Florida. Bob was one of the members of the old Pinellas County Branch of ABS and a former plant store manager of the USF Botanical Gardens where he liberally included begonias among the plants both sold and planted in the gardens. Bob was also a great hybridizer known for such hybrids as *B.* 'Kit Jeans Mounger' and *B.* 'Fountain of Youth'. In recent years his bad health did not enable him to do much in the way of growing or hybridizing. Bob was integral in my education of learning about, and growing begonias, in Tampa Bay when I moved here in 1988. He will be missed.



B. 'Kit Jeans Mounger' - one of Bob Koehler's crosses.
Photo courtesy of Kartuz Greenhouses

ABS Bookstore continued

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 Ziesenhenne

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

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B. "Carol Knight" Photo by Craig Boyajian

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Convention Co-chairs... Linda Kammerer, Sharon Rosenzweig, and Stuart Hammer. For more information email BegoniaRevolution2015@gmail.com or call 401-484-8854
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