

THE BEGONIAN

March/April 2016





B. 'River Nile' blossoms
Photo by Jem Wiseman

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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Begonia 'Smarty Pants' pg. 50



Begonia 'Palomar Sunset' pg. 58

Cover photo: A close-up view into a tiny garden. This terrarium, created and exhibited by Jocelyn Sherman, won in the category of Contained Atmosphere, more than one variety Terrarium, Mixed Planting at the recent Begonia Revolution ABS convention. The plants include Lemon Button Fern, *Begonia* U074 (with flower), *Begonia* 'A Little Night Music' (red leaved in back), and *Hedera helix* 'Needlepoint' (ivy).
Photo by Craig Boyajian

Back cover: Doris Happel grows begonias beautifully among ferns, aloccasias, and many other tropical plants. Obviously the *Begonia maze* loves its setting. Photo by Freda Holley

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President's Message

As members of the American Begonia Society (ABS), our friends and colleagues volunteering to host our annual ABS Convention spend a significant amount of time and energy planning and conducting this stellar event. They usually start in the previous winter, considering the dates most convenient for their fellow out-of-town members. They consider the venue, number of tables, solicit donations, review the Show schedule, confirm the most reasonable prices, etc. Sale plants must be ordered and purchased, and arrangements made for hauling the same back and forth before and after the Show. Staffing must be arranged for the various sales and cashiers' tables, hospitality, and the performance of any number of other seemingly minor but crucial tasks. In short, they work themselves hard for a less-than-one-week celebration of begonias, never asking "Why are we doing this? What is the purpose of a convention?" After all, anyone can remain reasonably happy by simply growing their plants at home. So maybe it's time to consider the answers.

Conventions are positive experiences. They are able to get everyone pulling together for a common good, fostering a sense of cohesion and camaraderie among members of the Planning Committee, where virtually every member contributes or participates in one form or another. New members and participants are hopefully recruited and, through sales and participation, finances are boosted.

Furthermore, our National Convention is an effective means of educating people, both within and without the ABS, about bego-

nias. During the year we can write newsletters, share beautiful issues of *The Begonian*, and recommend books and speakers on the culture and varieties of begonias throughout the course of the year, but at some point we need to deal with actual begonias if we are going to be effective. Conventions are the best way to bring the most people and the most plants together in the same place, and the National Show, the Convention's high point, by its very nature as a judged, competitive show, has the added advantage in encouraging the growth of some of the finest specimens of this unusual and rare plant. This leads to questions of "How did they grow them," logically moving on to discussions on care and culture.

As your fellow members work together to produce "Begonia Magic," as the 2016 ABS Convention in Southern California (see more details on pages 46-47) has been named, please keep in mind that it's the best opportunity to illuminate not only the begonia, but ourselves as well. A classy, full-fledged event may not be the easiest thing to arrange, but it's the best avenue we have.

In Friendly Contact,
Martin E. Delgado, President, ABS



B. 'Maltese Cross'
Photographer unknown

SWR "Challenge" Fund Drive Update

By Doug Byrom

Because of your generous donations, as of 1/21/16, the fund drive is now up to \$6,623.00! Some are so generous that I had to add another level. All donations are appreciated so keep them coming. The Fund Drive will run until the Get Together in May.

The SWR will match donations up to \$10,000. Half will go to the ABS general fund and half to the Begonia Collection at Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. If you would like more details email me at douglasbyrom@gmail.com.

There's still time to donate. Send your check to Carol Notaras today. Remember, if we all give a little just think how much a 1,000 people could raise.

Nominations For SWR/ABS Awards

The Southwest Region/American Begonia Society needs deserving nominees for the following awards that will be awarded at the 2016 Get Together/Annual Meeting in the Richardson Holiday Inn, 1655 North Central Expressway, in Richardson, Texas on May 5-7. Please select someone from your branch that you think deserves one of these awards. Write a few paragraphs about the person and e-mail to Nelda Moore, neldamoore6947@att.net.

MAE BLANTON SERVICE AWARD is given by the Mae Blanton Branch to someone like the creator of SWR who was noted for her service, her begonia hybrid, and her contribution of original material that helped members know and grow begonias.

MARGUERITE VERNON AWARD is a memorial of a past president of the Mae Blanton Branch who was a charter member of SWR, drafted the Constitution and By-Laws, judged in all regional and branch shows, while shunning the spotlight.

BEGONIA AMBASSADOR AWARD given by the Astro Branch to an SWR member who has done an outstanding job of promoting begonias within and beyond the region.

SWR HYBRIDIZER OF THE YEAR make your choice for 2016.

Deadline for submissions is April 5, 2016.

Thanking you,
Nelda Moore, Doug Byrom, Joan Estes

Let us know what YOU want to see in
The Begonian.
begoniaskc@yahoo.com



Some of the tentative tour destinations for the Begonia Magic Convention. The Japanese Garden (top) at The Huntington Gardens was created in 1912 and features a pond spanned by a moon bridge, a traditional Japanese house and ceremonial teahouse, bonsai courts, a Zen garden, and trellises of wisteria that bloom in early spring. Courtesy The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens.

North-East corner of the Central Courtyard of the Mission San Juan Capistrano, California (bottom). Courtesy of wikipediacommons.com.

Roger's Gardens, Corona del Mar, CA (opposite page).

Begonia Magic 2016 Convention

The Branches of the Southern California Region are in the process of making your stay a memorable one for the convention. Tentative tours may include excursions to members' gardens, a day at the Huntington Library/Gardens, a visit to a popular California mission, exploring the Sherman Gardens, and a possible trip to some of our favorite nurseries. Don't hesitate to make plans now to visit the American Begonia Society Convention in beautiful, sunny, fun Los Angeles, California. This information will be firmed up with more details about speakers soon.

Dates: September 7th thru 11th 2016

**Location: Ayres Hotel, 14400 Hindry Ave., Hawthorne, California, 90250.
(310) 536-0400**

Use **ABS916** to make reservations. Cost is \$139 a night for single thru quad. Rates are good 3 days before and 3 days after. Parking is free for those staying overnight at the hotel. High speed internet is complimentary. Stay tuned for more details.

Begonia Magic 2016 Convention Tour Tentative Plans

Tuesday, September 6th: Pre-tour garden tours at Arlene and Jack Hoskin's in Yorba Linda and Sol and Al Schaffer's garden in Buena Park; Knott's Berry Farm's famous fried chicken lunch in Buena Park; Candy and Norm Nakani-shi's in Anaheim; with a final tour of Carol Knight's garden in San Pedro.

Wednesday, September 7th: This will be a full day at The Huntington Library and Garden with a special tour led by a Huntington docent. There will be plenty of time to enjoy all the famous works of art and specialty gardens. Lunch will be on your own at the various dining venues available at The Huntington.

Thursday, September 8th: A docent led tour of the Mission at San Juan Capistrano with time for browsing and shopping on Los Rios Street, including lunch at Cedar Creek Inn. Plant Depot Nursery will be the next stop and, time permitting, there may be a stop at the fabulous Roger's Gardens in Newport Beach on our journey back to the hotel.

Friday, September 9th: This is a free day to enjoy sights in sunny California. Plant sale Friday evening.

Saturday, September 10th: Speakers, Annual Meeting, and Banquet.

Sunday, September 11th: Post-tour to Kartuz Nursery in Vista to visit begonia hybridizer legends, Michael Kartuz and Brad Thompson. A visit to Dean Turney's garden in Encinitas for lunch and tour - and time permitting - Sherman Gardens in Corona Del Mar.



2016 Seed Fund Update

By Michael Ludwig, Seed Fund Chairman

The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund is in desperate need of donors and seed. We thank our dedicated donors that are keeping the fund supplied with the seed we are able to list. Bea Huckriede is a dear for her generous and multiple donations through the year each year. Other donors from the past year are D. Keith Darbey, Michael Kartuz, Randy Kerr, Robert Hamm, Carol Notaras, and Margaret Lee Branch members supplying seeds are Janet Brown, Michael Ludwig and Dean Turney. Their donation of a single seed pod to teaspoon of seed allows us to offer seed. Small amounts may not be listed but are used to fill requests that are received. Thank you. They supply seeds from their plants in their collections but more donors would allow for more seed and more varieties.

Please self-pollinate your species begonias, collect the seed, and send them to the seed fund. We depend on your contributions of seeds to make a wider variety of species available to the members. Hybrid seed is also welcomed. Consider making a donation to the seed fund a personal or Branch goal for 2016.

The seed fund is a service to members only. It is a privilege of your membership. The seed fund offers a PayPal option. This option is available through the ABS website. Go to the Seed Fund Page and select the link "Current seed Listing pay with PayPal". There is a small "PayPal" fee plus the "shipping and handling" fee to cover the cost of using PayPal. Choose the fee amount in the drop down menu at the bottom of the page as with the shipping and handling drop-down menus.

By policy, new seed fund additions and the PayPal option are made after they are first published in *The Begonian* and it is received by mail by coordinator. It is updated as supplies vary with filling orders. The Website is the best source for the current available seed list or request from coordinator.

Packets of seeds are \$2.00. Very rare, limited or newly collected seeds will be \$3.00 or more per packet when noted. California residents please add 8.75% sales tax. All mail orders received must be accompanied by check or money order, payable in US funds ONLY to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

The Board approved a change in the cost of sending orders at the convention in Boston this year. It more accurately reflect the cost of the envelope and cost of mailing orders. you will notice that it is also more streamlined.

NOTE CHANGE: Cost of Mailing: US only: \$5.00 International orders: \$9.00

NOTICE: Orders may take 4 weeks to process; we are volunteers - not Amazon.com - so thank you for your patience.

Mail orders to:
ABS Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund
Michael Ludwig
6040 Upland St
San Diego, CA 92114-1933

Seed Fund page on ABS website <http://www.begonias.org/seedfund/seedfund.htm>

Seed Fund e-mail address: claytonmkelly-seedfund@yahoo.com

DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. The species names (in italics) reported here are correct based on the latest information from *BEGONIACEAE*, Ed. 2; Golding, and Wasshausen. Hybrid names are made consistent with the "ABS Check List of Begonia Hybrids" edited by Howard Berg dated 9/13/2005.

Cleaning Begonia Seed

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

One of my favorite toys! This is my brass No. 45 U.S.A Standard Test Sieve (left).

I used the sieve, just yesterday, for cleaning begonia seed, which reliably pass through the tiny holes. The sieve is a huge time saver, with better results than I can achieve by hand. I learned what sieve number to use from academic papers I read.

After sieving, I look at the seed with my mini microscope (below). That device offers 20X to 60X magnification, and is available on EBAY and Amazon. I last paid \$3.99, with free shipping. Another great toy.

If I see more than a few non-viable seed, readily apparent with the mini microscope, I roll the seeds down a sheet of paper. As most of you know, good seeds roll best. I follow up, one last time, with the mini microscope, to see that I am collecting most of the good seed, but not the bad ones. It takes longer to describe than to do. Everyone hates getting a seed packet that contains mostly, or all, immature or otherwise bad seed. I try to keep that from happening.

*I purchased my sieve from The Gilson Company, globalgilson.com. They had the best product at the best price, and offer excellent customer service.



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New Cultivar: *Begonia* ‘Smarty Pants’

From Priscilla Purinton, Hybrid Registrar

Official International Registration 1016

Begonia ‘Smarty Pants’

Seed parent: *B.* ‘Lenore Olivier’

Pollen parent: *B. maculata*

Propagated more than 100 times. Originator is Walter Dworkin, 8 Rugby Rd., Westbury, NY.

Developed in 1991 and first distributed in 1992, it was mentioned in the Southwest Region Begonia Leaflet of Oct/Nov 2014.

Registration applied for October 22, 2015; approved January 10, 2016.

Begonia ‘Smarty Pants’ is a cane type hybrid with a mature height of about 21”.



Leaves: The medium green leaves with silver markings are ovate with a sharply acute apex. Leaf margin is entire and undulate. Leaf size is 4.5” by 12” with one main vein. Petioles are glabrous, green and 1.5”. Stipules are 1.75” x .5” and apple green.

Flowers: Pink with pink/white ovary. Tepals ovate. Diameter of flower- male 1.25”; female 1.25”. Number of petals- male 4; female 5. Size of flower cluster- male 14; female 16. Amount of clusters-many. Length of flower peduncle-4.5”. Season of bloom- spring/summer. Female flowers have 4 large tepals and one smaller tepal and are pink with a white center.

Description: *B.* ‘Smarty Pants’ has the wide, glossy leaves of *B.* ‘Lenore Olivier’ plus the huge silver circles and spots of *B. maculata*. Some of the silver markings can reach ½” in length. The undersides of the leaves are maroon. Flower clusters are full and hang well out from the foliage.

This variety has been tested and grown for many years by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, Coral Gables, FL. It has been featured in one gallon pots at their fundraising sales.

Correction to New Cultivar Registration for *B.* ‘Teen Angel’

We regret an error in the numbering of Walter Dworkin’s New Cultivar Registration that was named in *The Begonian*, March/April 2015. Please update your issue by changing the number for *B.* ‘Teen Angel’ to 1012. The complete listing for new cultivars registered since January 2015 is:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1010 <i>B.</i> ‘Satin Doll’ | January/February 2015 |
| 1011 <i>B.</i> ‘Matchmaker’ | January/February 2015 |
| 1012 <i>B.</i> ‘Teen Angel’ | March/April 2015, pg. 50 |
| 1013 <i>B.</i> ‘Bobbie Price’ | July/August 2015 |
| 1014 <i>B.</i> ‘Sweet Caroline’ | January/February 2016 |
| 1015 <i>B.</i> ‘April Love’ | January/February 2016 |



B. ‘Teen Angel’ updated to New Cultivar Official International Registration 1012.

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Exploring for Begonias in Florida

Part II

By Freda Holley, Choudrant, LA

On this second leg of our expedition, from I-75 we journeyed across the midsection of North Florida on State Hwy. 40, which turned out to be a good choice since it was both untraveled and went through Ocala National Forest. In no time we were on I-95 headed to Palm Beach, or rather the Palm Beaches since it is made up of a number of communities with the Palm Beach prefix. We arrived earlier than the 7:30 p.m. we were expected by Nancy Cohen in Palm Beach Gardens so we sought out a place for dinner. We landed at Nonna Marie's Restaurant, which advertised an "Italian menu with a French twist" and enjoyed a great French onion soup with fresh French bread.

We arrived at Nancy's a bit late and after the drive, we were ready to call it a night as we were scheduled to meet Virginia Jens for a drive to Miami early Monday morning. Nancy made us comfortable in her lovely guest room and we slipped out the next morning without waking her and her husband.

We met Virginia at Mounts Botanical Garden where the meeting would be that evening and left all the begonias I had brought for my talk. Heading to Miami, we first stopped by Doris Happel's home to see her spectacular yard. Here indeed was the tropical paradise of which I had dreamed. Begonias grew in large drifts everywhere along with alocasias, ferns, coconut palms, and countless others.

Seeing a large planting of a giant-leaved

begonia, RL said, "Your 'Holleymoon' would eat its heart out to see that!" I had been telling him that *B.* 'Holleymoon' was popular in Florida. Now, Virginia, Doris and I laughed at RL, saying, "That *is* 'Holleymoon'!" Still, it was so large and spreading here that there was little wonder he could not recognize it. Many other rhizomes grew large as well. Greg Sytch's 'Bashful Bandit' and Tim Anderson's 'Caribbean King' seem to be very popular rhizomatous in Florida and grew large in Doris' garden. I can attest to the overall hardiness and beauty of *B.* 'Caribbean King' which is one of the best rhizomes I grow in Louisiana.

Doris had a number of thick-stems, other favorites of mine. Here, some of them even grew like ground covers like the massive *B.* 'Boomer.' Amazingly, Doris had piles of begonia shoots she had pulled out to keep the plants in bounds. Everything grew in profusion in the richness of her soil; it was easy to see the loving work Doris had put into her garden. When Virginia told her, I like alocasias; Doris quickly pulled starts of many of these for me. Virginia really had to tear me away from this beautiful yard of my dreams so we could get on our way to Miami.

We took I-95 and soon encountered the first and only traffic jams we were to endure in Florida, but these were really bad. By the time we arrived in Miami near our destination, RL was ready for lunch. We visited a



One of several *B.* 'Holleymoon' (Fig 1) at Doris Happel's.

Begonia 'Boomer' (Fig 2) as a ground cover. Doris Happel with her *B.* 'Selph's Mahogany' (Fig 3) Doris' enormous *B. popenoei* (Fig 4) Time Anderson's hybrid, *B.* 'Caribbean King' (Fig 5)

chain with excellent food and Cuban staff; RL got to practice his Spanish.

Then, we headed to Palm Hammock Orchid Estates, a nursery we have all heard and read about for years. Tim Anderson, its owner, is legendary for his hybrids; unfortunately, he is now in assisted living. His wife Ann and her sister are running it,





Greg Sytch's hybrid, *B.* 'Bashful Bandit' (Fig 6) (Photo by Dorris Happel)

B. valida (Fig 7) growing tall for Doris

B. reniformis (Fig 8) is another tall grower.

B. U521 (Fig 9) is a compact, but healthy plant in Doris's garden.

A sea of begonias (Fig 10) blesses Doris's garden.

Fairy tale fountains line the entry to Palm Hammock Estates (Fig 11). Note how each has a small begonia.

Palm Hammock had both small and large begonia display areas. Here is a swath of large begonias (Fig 12).

A specimen *B. U484* (Fig 13) grows happily at Palm Hammock.

naming and propagating many of Tim's unnamed hybrids as well as maintaining his named hybrids.

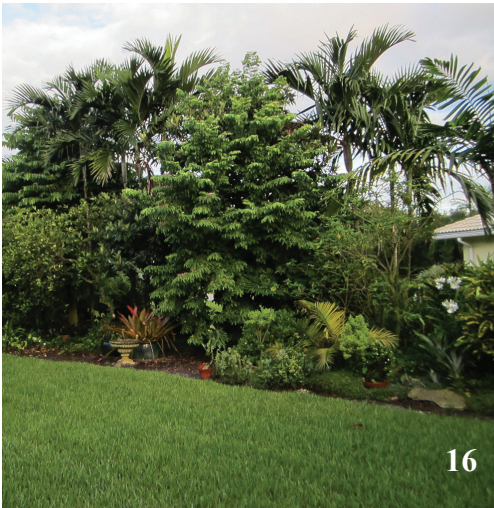
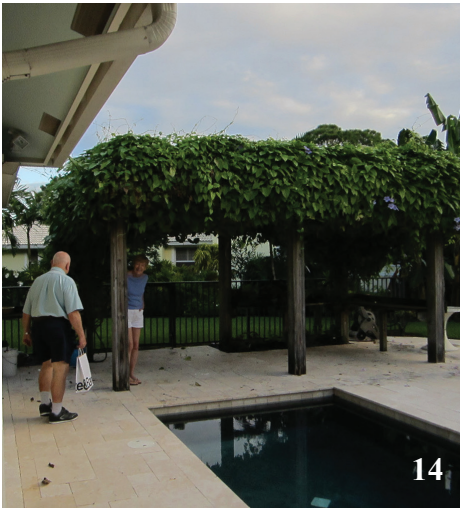
Despite having seen pictures for years, I was nonetheless amazed by the lushness and beauty of the property. From the parking lot to the long entry it is indeed an Estate as the photos illustrate. The use of statuary was interesting and pleasing. I bought some of Tim's hybrids;

I was particularly taken with a huge, rhizome with nearly black, soft leaves whose identity no one knew. I bought a very large plant, but unfortunately it spilled out of the pot on the way back, went downhill, and to my sorrow never recovered. Even my attempts at propagation of leaves and rhizomes failed.

With my photo taking and our browsing through all the plants, time ran out on us. Thankfully, traffic was not as bad on the way back to Palm Beach, but we arrived just in time to join other members for a dinner at a Thai restaurant, again excellent. Conversations and excellent food made the dinner go too fast before we had to leave for the meeting, arriving just in time. It was too late to tour Mounts Botanical Garden, but I could glimpse its paths and RL did walk a few of these before the meeting. He was impressed.

I enjoyed speaking to the largest branch meeting I have seen in some time although I was told that their membership too had declined from former highs. The members all seem very involved in the branch activities and were interested in the glimpse of some of my genetic details behind hybridizing begonias.

Back at Nancy and Peter Cohen's home, we had a pleasant hour talking about their recent trip to New York and their previous home and comparing memories of the 1950's New York City where I had lived briefly. So far, we had only seen Nancy's yard in the dark, and she convinced us to stay for coffee and a tour on Tuesday morning.



What a beautiful yard, indeed. To my delight Nancy was a fond collector of trees as well as begonias and I was pleased to meet some new ones for me, including the fern tree and the carambola or star fruit. There were many magnolias, citrus trees, palm trees, and any number of others. Palm Beach's namesake tree was on full display in the photo of the Cohn's front yard border. Beneath all the trees, begonias grew happily everywhere. RL was fascinated

with their very long, narrow lap pool partially shown in the photo of him and Nancy at the arbor sheltering her potting bench. Nancy, too, had several displays of *B. 'Hollymoon'*, *'Caribbean King'*, and numerous other rhizomatous including her namesake, *B. 'Nancy Cohen'*, a sport of *B. U484*. *B. odorata* was another large, lush grower in several beds.



After our tour, we took our leave from our outstanding hosts and Palm Beach with me well satisfied with memories and photos of begonias in the landscape, but sure that I had only glimpsed the garden delights of Palm Beach. I have to give a special thanks to Virginia Jens who arranged our invitation and visit, then shepherded us through our stay here. In honor of this visit and all the lovely people who welcomed us, I have named one of my new hybrids of *B. U484*, *B. 'Palm Beach Moon.'*



The Cohen's lap pool and the potting area under the arbor (Fig 14).

The potting area up close (Fig 15).

The palms in the Cohen's front border tell us we were in Palm Beach Gardens (Fig 16).

Begonia odorata (Fig 17) was one of Nancy's best growers.

Begonia 'Nancy Cohen' (Fig 18) is a sport of the hardy *B. U484*.

Nancy's carambola had a multitude of star fruit (Fig 19).

My new *B. 'Palm Beach Moon'* (Fig 20) is a new *B. U484* hybrid.



Hybridizing is Not a Competition

Article and photos by Brad Thompson, Vista, CA.

I could stop with the title since it is self explanatory in most respects. I will, however, add a few points. I'm sure some people feel that they are competing with their fellow hybridizers in one way or another. Whether it's to create the best hybrid, or the most hybrids, or win the most awards for their work, many feel they are striving against all the other hybridizers. Not to burst anyone's bubble, but there is no 'best' hybrid. You can't compare one with the next and who would be the decider? There is also no 'best' hybridizer, and Ross Bolwell would win that title anyway so US hybridizers can just settle for being the best that they can be. What would the best be

anyway? Would it be the most registered hybrids? The most named hybrids? Or would it be the most ADR awards? The most best new introductions? Many of those are never seen again. The list is long but there really is no best. There are, of course, many well-known and skilled hybridizers - living and dead - but none are, or were, the best.

Am I ever envious of other's hybrids? Of course I am, especially that darn Ross Bolwell and his hybrids. I wish I had done this or that hybrid but I really do appreciate other hybridizer's work and can't wait for their next wonderful creation. There is no room for arrogance or even thinking you're the greatest hy-

bridizer. No one exists in a vacuum and unless you limit your work to crossing only species with species or with your own hybrids, your work is built on the work of others. Even the species were collected by someone. So unless you're Don Miller or Scott Hoover, etc. and go out and find your own species in the wild to work with, even those hybrids have another person's hand in their creation.

Also, unless you only rely on your own research (not reading but learning on your own), you learned how to hybridize

from a knowledgeable friend or mentor, or from reading what other hybridizers have done. I read many books and had many mentors. I read Millie Thompson's book more times than I can say and also got valuable info on early hybridizing from Chevalier's book. I have gotten tips, encouragement, and ideas from mentors such as Irene Nuss, Eric Seel, Ruth Pease and many others. Even if it was just the encouragement of my fellow club members or someone well-known who's opinion carried great weight such

continued on next page



Begonia 'Diane Parr' (Fig 1), a newer Brad Thompson hybrid created by crossing a Leslie Woodriff hybrid *B.* 'Wild Pony', an old hybrid of uncertain identity but probably by Percy Merry in the 50's, and *B.* 'Deco Checks' a Tim Anderson hybrid. *Begonia* 'Brad Thompson' (yes I named one after myself) (Fig 2), a hybrid using Ross Bolwell's *B.* 'Angel Glow' and Michael Kartuz's *B.* 'Palomar Prince'



Begonia 'Carol Knight' (Fig 3) is a Brad Thompson hybrid using Ross Bolwell's *B.* 'Angel Glow' and Michael Kartuz's *B.* 'Palomar Prince'.

Begonia 'Angel Glow' (Fig 4), a great recent hybrid by Ross Bolwell. I have used it several times already in new crosses with great results.

Begonia 'Palomar Sunset' (Fig 5), a recently released hybrid by Michael Kartuz. Mini to small with that strong color that it got from being another example of a *Begonia* 'Angel Glow' hybrid.

Begonia 'Lavender Lovely' (Fig 6) is a new Thompson hybrid between a Tim Anderson hybrid and *Begonia* 'Angel Glow', a Ross Bolwell hybrid. Lovely small to medium lavender leaves with a prominent green eye and main veins. Hope to have it available for the Los Angeles Convention next year.

An older hybrid of Brad Thompson's *B.* 'Bolero' (Fig 7). It was created with the hybrids of Belva Kusler, Irene Nuss, Rudy Ziesenhenné, W. Grant, and some species. I was attempting to get a *B.* 'Sophie Cecile' that bloomed more easily and profusely. This one came close, though it lost the silver markings of 'Sophie', but does bloom its head off all year.

Begonia 'Black Gold' (Fig 8) has appeared in *The Begonian* before. It won the ADR medal. It was created using hybrids of Rudy Ziesenhenné, Irene Nuss, Belva Kusler, and others; plus Irene gave me pollen and cuttings of *B. dregei* 'Glasgow' to use in the cross. She always loved telling the story and was very generous with her knowledge and plant material. My idea in making the cross was to create a superba cane that was fuller growing and branched more easily, which this hybrid proved correct. I didn't come up with the

idea on my own, I got it from reading about previous *B. dregei* x canes in Millie Thompson's book and then experimenting. I discovered that if you use *B. dregei* as the mother with canes you get miniature or low growing canes. However, when you use it as the male parent with canes you get canes like *Begonia* 'Black Gold'. There is an even better photo by Julie Vanderwilt in the IDB. *Begonia* 'Vista Fabulous' (Fig 9) is a recently released Brad Thompson hybrid, using a John Clare (Australia) hybrid, *B.* 'Tangalooma' (I had previously assumed it was a Tim Anderson hybrid because Tangalooma is a place in Florida), and a species *B. carolineifolia*. I was hoping to get compound leaves with coloring, but I'm happy with what I did get.



as Thelma O'Reilly, Margaret Lee, Elda Regimbal, and too many more to list, they all mattered. They all played a part. So I didn't hybridize anything without the help of others so have nothing to be arrogant or high-minded about when it comes to hybridizing though I can have pride in the creations themselves. You can be proud of your accomplishments without thinking you're better than anyone else at hybridizing or 'the' expert. No one knows everything. I learn

Begonia 'Stephanie Rose' (Fig 10), a Brad Thompson hybrid and also a John Clare hybrid x *B. carolineifolia* cross.

Begonia 'Lady Katsu' (Fig 11), is a Brad Thompson hybrid that was derived using the hybrids of Don Asmussen, Peter/Marge Lee, Irene Nuss, Tom Mentelos, Rudy Ziesenhenné, Marie Turner, Belva Kusler, W. Grant, Wettstein, Leslie Woodruff, and A. D. Robinson, and two unknowns. A perfect example of how many other individuals were involved in the creation of this one hybrid. Thanks to the IDB I was able to actually follow the ancestry back easily for the first time and was surprised myself in how many people's hybrids were involved.

new things every day and have to relearn just about as many methods or tricks, if I don't practice them enough. I don't think of myself as an expert. I have some knowledge and the wisdom to know I don't know everything. I'm not afraid to admit if I am wrong.

I can enjoy a new Michael Kartuz hybrid as much as one of my own, even more so when it gives me ideas of things to try that I hadn't crossed with before, such as with that new Michael Kartuz hybrid. I'm still thinking of crosses to do with Michael's *B.* 'Palomar Sunset' with its vivid orange/red leaves. I was thrilled to have access to *B.* 'Angel Glow', a Ross B. hybrid, which was not only different, but so new to the US that not many had used it in their work. I already have dozens of plants using it in the parentage and they were crosses with a Tim Anderson hybrid and progeny of Tim's hybrids among others.

My first crosses, mostly canes, couldn't have even been done without the hybrids of Nuss, Kusler, Lee, Corwin, and even A. D. Robinson himself, if not directly, then second generation hybrids. I also can't leave out Rudy Ziesenhenné. I had thought that I didn't have any of his hybrids used in my crosses but in researching a begonia for this article I discovered that Irene Nuss used one of his hybrids to create several of her fabulous canes. Most notably of course is *B.* 'Jumbo Jet' which I used several times in crosses. I also know I wouldn't have had species to work with if not for his tireless work preserving and distributing them to club meetings. I have done a lot of name dropping but that is just to show how many individuals contributed to the

hybrids I have created.

These days I don't have access to or am able to grow hybrids done by fellow growers as much, but I can appreciate them all and wouldn't hesitate to grow nearly everyone's hybrids if I come across them. I'm just as excited as they are when someone comes up with a fabulous new hybrid. I really can't think of a begonia I don't like, no matter whose hybrid. In fact, the only hybrids I have consistently not grown are hybrids by anyone who was not also a member or supporter of ABS. No bearing on the merits of the plants or their creators, just one rule I have always gone by. If they later become supporters, then all is forgiven, of course, and I would happily grow their hybrids again, too.

I hope I have made the point about how and why hybridizers are not in competition. The last point I would like to make is since it isn't a competition, and there shouldn't be rivalry, you should be sharing what you know with other growers, since there were growers who shared what they knew with you. You learn as much in the sharing as you might impart in most cases. Sometimes a simple question from a 'novice' or experienced grower can lead you look for information you hadn't thought of before. You might have a sudden realization or idea you hadn't even considered before. Or, you might even have a grand revelation that leads you to become the greatest hybridizer of all - oh, wait, at that point you would be delusional.

Good growing, share what you know, be kind and patient and foster that good will that will not only benefit others but yourself as well.

Perianth or Peduncle?



Begonia 'Red Fred', a rhizomatous begonia, has very large, oval, dark maroon leaves. Grow 'Red Fred' in bright, filtered light giving it shade in summer. Plants grow best in a temperature range of 58–72°F. Rhizomes can easily succumb to rot, so these plants are often watered by submersing the pot rather than watering from the top. Mike Flaherty is the originator of this plant that was registered in 2005. Read more on 'Red Fred' in the 2014 March/ April *The Begonian*, p. 75.

This *B.* 'Red Fred' was exhibited by Priscilla Purinton at the recent Begonia Revolution convention in Boston. Photo by Craig Boyajian.

Does the arrow point to the perianth or the peduncle?

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

Last month's answer to Picture Quiz
January/February 2016 issue, page 31.

Glabrous v. Hirsute?

ANSWER: Answer – hirsute meaning short, stiff, rough hairs.
See Vol. 77, September/October 2010, p. 172.

Newer Lights Available for Indoor Gardeners

By Ward Upham, Extension Associate, Kansas State University

Many gardeners use fluorescent lights to start young vegetable and flower plants during the spring or to grow certain houseplants all year long. Traditionally, we have used fixtures with T-12 lamps suspended a few inches above the tops of the plants. However, T-12 lamps are fading away due to newer lamps that are a better choice for indoor gardens. These are known as T-8 and T-5 lamps. The number after the “T” refers to the diameter of the lamp in eighths of an inch. Therefore, a T-12 lamp is 12/8 or 1.5 inches in diameter and are what most people are familiar with. A T-8 is 8/8 or 1 inch in diameter, and a T-5 is 5/8 of an inch in diameter.

So, does a smaller diameter mean less light? Not at all. In fact, the T-5 can be the brightest of the three. Another advantage for these newer lamps is they use less electricity per lumen. The traditional 48-inch T-12 is rated at 40 watts. However, there are newer styles of T-12's that are 34 watts. The T-8 is rated at 32 watts and the T-5 at 28 watts.

This sounds too good to be true. Are there drawbacks? Maybe so or maybe not. First is cost if you have to replace T-12 fixtures to convert to a T-8 system. However, newer fixtures may be able to handle either T-12's or T-8's. Therefore, if you purchased fluorescent fixtures in the last few years, check to see if they are rated for T-8's before replacing them. Note that lamp costs are comparable between T-12's and T-8's. The T-5 lamps may be more expensive so check prices before converting.

The question becomes, is it worth it? If you have a T-12 fixture that is rated for T-12's only and are satisfied with your results, then maybe not. However, if you are investing in new fixtures or have fixtures that can use either T-12's or T-8's, then go with the T-8's. They will use less energy, last longer and provide more light. Prices for T-5's have been dropping so you may want to consider them as well.

The newest technology is LED lighting. LED's have several advantages over other types of lighting including durability, long life, a cool running temperature and more latitude in choosing specific wavelengths of light. Traditionally, they have been very expensive but costs are dropping rapidly. We are starting to use LED's as supplemental lighting in the University greenhouses but would suggest only using them on a trial basis at home until you see how they perform for you.



Fluorescent bulbs: T-12 (top), T-8 (center) and T-5 (bottom).



A Word with You: Tepals

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

Flower terminology still confounds me. So many types. So many parts. Such pretty parts. Last issue I dug into the *corolla*. But in reading two abstracts I found the term *tepals*, (they were discussing *B. coptidifolia*, *hemsleyana*, *pedatifida*, *moneta*, *peridoticola*) so off again to dig into my reference materials.

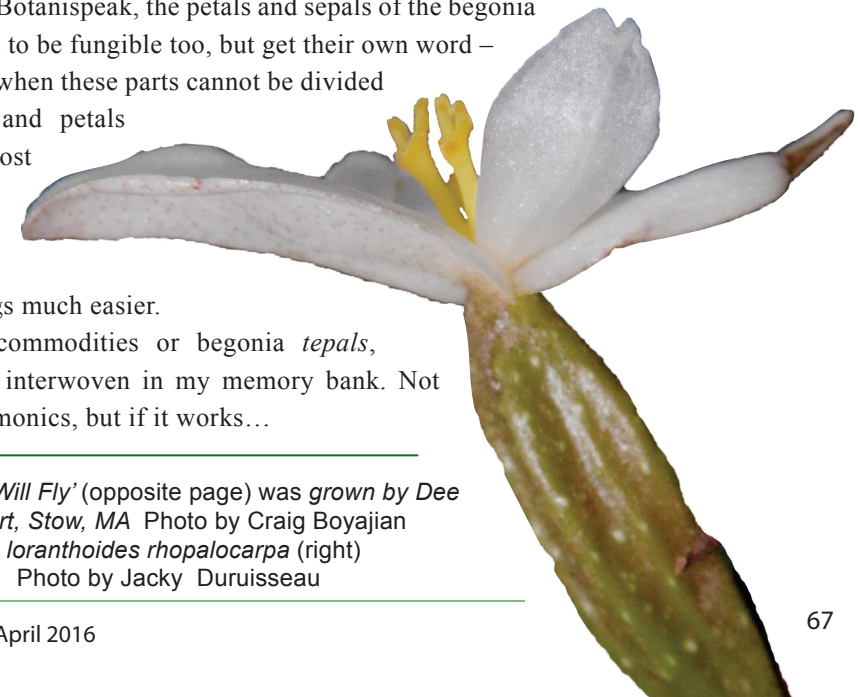
Jack Golding, always concise, says “In the flowers of other genera the perianth [floral envelope] has a very distinctly different calyx [the outer whorl of sepals] and the corolla [the inner envelope composed of petals]. This terminology was used in the old descriptions. Since the differences between the sepals and petals of *Begonia* are minimal, in most modern writings the term tepals are used for both, [modified where necessary by outer or inner]. Some prefer to call these perianth segments.” Tebbitt’s glossary says *tepal* is “A segment of a perianth; used when the calyx and corolla cannot be differentiated.” The Thompsons say “A segment of perianth not differentiated into sepal or petal.” Mr. Webster online says “sepals and petals indistinguishable.” The French came up with the term a couple hundred years ago. It’s a blend of *pétale* and *sépál*.

Simultaneously with those abstracts I was reading Michael Pollan’s *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, which is well worth your time. In it I came across “fungible” at least twice. I’d seen it before referencing money. Since I love vocabulary, I looked it up again. Fungible describes items that are mutually interchangeable; each unit is identical to every other unit. It’s usually used with commodities. So the gold or silver bars in your stash are fungible. And so too the kernels in that pile of #2 yellow corn. It doesn’t matter where the corn was grown or if it’s organic or GMO, it’s fungible. Coincidence? Serendipity? In Botanispeak, the petals and sepals of the begonia flowers seem to be fungible too, but get their own word – *tepals*, used when these parts cannot be divided into sepals and petals

which is most often the case with begonias, making things much easier.

Fungible commodities or begonia *tepals*, they’re now interwoven in my memory bank. Not exactly mnemonics, but if it works...

B. ‘Sparks Will Fly’ (opposite page) was grown by Dee Stewart, Stow, MA Photo by Craig Boyajian
B. loranthoides rhopalocarpa (right) Photo by Jacky Duruisseau





A Reader's Questions

by Greg Sytch, Horticultural Correspondent,
New Port Richey, FL

vived 35 degrees, but because they are not spread out they don't look great. I am taking better care of them than last year and am hoping that by spring some of them will be quite nice. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Thanks.

Deva from Texas

A: While we are warmer than you, we still get cold. Tonight has a freeze warning for the county to my north. I am expecting 38F, tomorrow 36F and the next 39F. I am not covering anything begoniawise. I do have a greenhouse, heated, for prop/cuttings etc.

Go light on the fertilizer until you see growth. For me, that is the last half of February. Sometime toward March 1st I do a good feed all around -pots, yard, palms, etc - and follow up at the month's end. Spray with fungicide at least once a month. Your cool temperatures may encourage mildew or disease. I spray more often than that, but I sell begonias (and orchids, gesneriads, tropicals, etc). A nice dose of 28-8-18 with micro helps! Put it in your sprayer with fungicide for double spraying. Any fungicide will do.

If you hack them, March is the best time. They respond quickly, and your temperatures go up. Just watch out for El Nino's rains. The same may apply to your terrariums, so be wary of their growth.

Any more questions? Just ask!

A grower in Central Texas sent me this note:

I wanted to let you know that my *B. U400* made the transition from terrarium to outside successfully, but because it was cramped and dim in the terrarium it is all crumpled up, so growing but not pretty. I am just now getting some cuttings, which I hope will grow into much nicer plants.

I retired last June and all the terrariums I had at my high school library had to come home with me to my much less spacious shelving. They aren't as happy, but most are still growing. I transplanted quite a few of them into aquariums, which I hope will be equally successful. At the moment I am looking at a 100 gal aquarium with *rajah*, *scapigera*, *versicolor*, *rex putz*, *chloroneura*, *polilloensis*, *iridescens*, *goegoensis* and *amphioxus*. The only big ones are the first four, the rest are much smaller.

My question is when do you start fertilizing and shaping up your begonias? Mine live on shelves outside. They get covered up with sheets when it gets really cold. Amazing how many begonias can live below 60 degrees! So far mine have sur-



Begonia kui

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

Begonia kui is a relatively new species, having been named, and that name published, only in 2007. See, *Begonia kui* (sect. *Coelocentrum*, *Begoniaceae*), a new species from Vietnam, **Botanical Studies** (2007) 48: 127. Available for download at <http://ejournal.sinica.edu.tw/bbas/content/2007/1/Bot481-13.pdf>

B. kui is native to that hotbed of speciation the limestone karsts region of northern Vietnam. At the time of the above article's publication, *B. kui*'s precise origin was unknown. It was 'discovered' in a flower shop.

The plant shown (above) is 14 inches wide, and newly moved to a larger terrarium. I received it from Darrin Norton, Mountain Orchids. *Kui* is a slow grower, and requires the higher humidity associated with terrariums or greenhouses. It also requires warmth. Under cooler winter conditions, it can survive dips into the mid 50's, but growth will cease. As to light levels, another grower reported that two fluorescent bulbs bleached the color from her plant. My plant thrived in a "clam shell" terrarium, made from two, two gallon, plastic salad bowls, beneath a 23 watt compact fluorescent bulb in a



Begonia kui flowers

shop light fixture.

Begonia kui, being adapted to limestone karsts, may not thrive in a low pH growing medium. Long fiber Sphagnum moss and composted peat based mediums tend to decrease in pH over time. Watering with a mix of one tablespoon of dissolved dolomite lime/gallon of water will raise

pH. However, with terrarium species, I advise small, incremental, changes and adjustments to the growing environment.

Darrin Norton advised foliar feeding every two weeks, which I found very helpful. Foliar feeding fertilization, lightly spraying the leaves with a urea-free fertilizer, ideally containing micro-

nutrients, is generally done at a lower fertilizer to water ratio. Labels often provide suggested ratios, but 1/8 to 1/10 the suggested usage is generally safe. Just allow some good airflow, thereafter, so that the leaves do not remain damp for more than two hours.

Begonia kui's bloom is triggered by the arrival of spring. My terrarium plants experience a winter ending in "nights" of 14 to 15 hours of complete darkness. Last year, two weeks after shifting from winter to spring, with equal dark and light periods (12/12), two of my *kui* began blooming. This accords with the article cited above which reports "Flowering May to December in cultivation; fruiting July to January."

The plant seen at left is growing potted in equal parts Pro-Mix, perlite and horticultural redwood bark, marketed for orchid seedlings, plus a bit of dolomite lime.

Kui propagates much like other rhizomatous members of Section *Coelocentrum*. *B. kui* is, however, slower to form new plants via leaf cuttings. But patience is usually rewarded. I have had good results

with leaves placed on top of the medium (Sphagnum moss plus perlite) in a terrarium. I had my best results from cuttings placed on *slightly* moistened Sunshine Mix #1, and tightly sealed inside a mini propagation space. There, new plants formed faster, only three months. I suspect that the pH of that mix was higher, and thus more to the liking of this limestone native species.

Begonia kui's chromosome count is $2n=30$, as expected for a member of section *Coelocentrum*. And, as with at least seven other members of that Section, two of the chromosomes are significantly longer than the rest (approximately $1.8-1.9 \mu\text{m}$ vs $0.7-1.4 \mu\text{m}$)*. This will likely pose a barrier to some crossings, even with other closely related species.

The beauty of this uncommon species makes it a worthy addition to any collection, well worth the small effort required.

*See *Novelties in Begonia sect. Coelocentrum: B. longgangensis and B. ferox from limestone areas in Guangxi, China* Peng et al. **Botanical Studies** 2013, 54:44 <http://www.as-botanicalstudies.com/content/54/1/44>

Remembering Tim O'Reilly

1926–2015

On October 15 the American Begonia Society lost a legend. He had lived a full and glorious life and his kindness and wit touched everyone he met. His obituary in the San Diego Union Tribune tells us that Tim was 89, served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Korea, retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, worked in the insurance industry for 32 years, and most importantly was a philanthropist who worked tirelessly for the YMCA, Kiwanis Club and Goodwill Industries. What they failed to mention was his work with the San Diego Botanic Gardens (Quail) where he was responsible for the new Children's Garden and in 2010 donated a beautiful bench & plaque for his beloved wife, Thelma, "The Begonia Queen". And also not mentioned, his long & fervent devotion to the American Begonia Society. In Oklahoma City, in 2003, I wrote the following about the banquet: "Delicious food, lovely table decorations and programs, absolutely superb Master of Ceremonies Tim O'Reilly. Our beloved Thelma O'Reilly was taken ill on Friday night and had to be hospitalized at 4:00 am. Despite her sudden illness, she insisted that Tim carry on and carry on he did." That night Awards Chairman Michael Ludwig presented Tim with the Special Presidential Award. Michael wrote: "(Tim) was recognized for his outstanding job as Master of Ceremonies numerous times and activities within and usually behind the scenes of the society. He can always be seen at conventions talking to other spouses and making all feel welcome whether they love begonias or not. He has given support to numerous programs within the ABS, most recently contributions to the reprint fund named for his lovely wife, Thelma. Thank you Tim and congratulations on this overdue recognition."

For the begonia world he was the banquet M.C. for over 30 years who made us laugh at ourselves and our silly begonias. At every convention an invitation to the O'Reilly lavish post-banquet party was the ultimate thrill. You were in! But even if you weren't invited to the party you felt a glow after meeting and being welcomed to the begonia world by Tim. He loved people and supposedly hated begonias. But he did have a begonia named for him. I believe it was a Goldie Frost hybrid in 1979. It was *B. 'Tim O'Reilly'* a cross of *B. olbia* & *malabarica*. (You can find a picture of this beautiful thick-stemmed begonia on page 34, *The Begonian*, Vol. 71, Jan/Feb, 2004 & a picture of Tim next to it.) Goodbye, dearest Tim, we will always love and remember you for the great and generous man you were. There will never be another like you.

by Janet Brown

Twelve years ago I was invited to a begonia party hosted by Tim and Thelma O'Reilly. I felt like I had been accepted into a special world of begonia growers.

Tim decided to step down in 2004 as MC of the ABS awards banquet and I was asked to be the new MC. Tim had such a commanding presence, was a pro, and had been the MC for the awards banquet for almost 30 years; so of course I said no. When Tim heard I did not want

to take over this job, he encouraged me. He generously sent me the information he had about being MC along with words of encouragement and a detailed schedule of what to do.

Needless to say I was very nervous at my first banquet. After the banquet Tim told me I did great. Well, I was no Tim O'Reilly, but with Tim's help and encouragement I was able to become the MC for the ABS.

I am grateful to Tim and Thelma for being so kind to me and making me feel welcome in the begonia world.

By Mike Flaherty

Tim O'Reilly was a great man and ambassador for any endeavor that he or Thelma were involved in. He was the "Master" whether at a banquet ceremony or in the hospitality room making begoniacs' significant others feel welcome in a foreign world. You were the most important person in the world when speaking with him. He cared and wanted to know about you and your life. It was a blessing to know and be part of his and his family's life. Family and friends were highly valued and never disappointed him.

Tim's pat answer when asked "How are you?" was always "Great" but I was privileged to be one of the few to actually get a bit more information and that's how you knew you had made the inner circle. All are blessed to have known or had him part of their lives. He is truly missed.

By Michael Ludwig

My father, Tim O'Reilly, was a generous and kind-hearted man who adored his wife, Thelma. He always supported my mother's love of plants. Back in the 1960s and 1970s before women were really "liberated" he encouraged (and financed) her travels with plant friends to far-flung places even though it left him to look out for the children. In my entire life I never heard him express a single word of resentment about all the time and money she spent on plants and various society events.

Pretty amazing when I think back on it. Further, he was extremely proud of her many accomplishments in the worlds of begonias



Tim O'Reilly
Photos courtesy of his daughter,
Janet Haworth

continued on next page

In Memoriam: Janice Griffith

By Janet Brown, Los Angeles, CA

Janice Griffith, a long-time member of the Palos Verdes Branch of the American Begonia Society, died in November last year. She was a beautiful lady, talented in many things and in particular begonias. With her husband, Virgil, she entered many ABS shows and national conventions. Janice & Virgil won Best In Show several times at Westchester and took home many Cultural Awards. Their names have been on the John Thieben Memorial Trophy several times.

Janice will be sorely missed by her begonia family. Her contributions to the Palos Verdes Branch will always be remembered as will her wonderful smile—it was always there and she was always in very “friendly contact”. Virgil will continue to grow gorgeous begonias but without his beautiful partner. Her spirit will always enrich our lives. Rest in peace, dear Janice.



Virgil Griffith, Janice Griffith, and their entry, *B. 'Red Fred'*, at a Palos Verdes Show
Photo by Mary Mauck

Remembering Tim O'Reilly

...continued from page 74



and bromeliads.

He treasured the articles she wrote for plant journals as well as the articles that were written about her. Of course he was thrilled to accompany her on lecture tours to Australia! He was very generous in his donations to the Marge Lee Branch of the ABS among others over the years. In his older years, his favorite thing to do every day was sit on the back patio and look out over the gorgeous tropical landscape she had created in their backyard. It was heaven to him. Miss you so much, Dad.

By *Maureen O'Reilly*

This year's ABS Convention, Begonia Magic, will be dedicated to Tim O'Reilly.

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ABS Bookstore

NEW: *Begonias Of The Month*

Written by ABS members. Compiled by Wendy Corby, 2015, 116 color pages sponsored by the Sacramento Branch and published through the ABS's Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund.

This booklet is a compilation of monthly write-ups by ABS members from 2000 through 2010. *Begonias Of The Month* includes a variety of begonias with information on the plant's origin and growing tips from that grower's experiences and locale.

Domestic: \$20.00 International: \$30.00

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

NEW: *Begonia Note Cards*

featuring Begonias of Borneo found in the new Ruth Kiew book. **\$15.00**

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 Ziesenhenne. 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

continued next page

The Begonian

May/June 2016

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ABS Bookstore continued

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

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.

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We meet so many nice and interested plant people at our MABS Show and Sale every year (top left). Brent Tucker, president of MABS, exhibited his *Begonia maculata v. wightii* (top right).

Photos and information from Brent Tucker, Raytown, MO.

Hello from Mid America Begonia Society

Last September, the Mid America Begonia Society (MABS) held their show and sale at the Loose Park Garden Center. Since our club is small, we team up with the Heart of America Gesneriad club and hold the events together to increase attendance. In 2016, we will focus on growing our membership at events like this and at other gardening events in the community. Of course, that means a lot of work for our small membership, but of course, begonias, and the friendships that grow around them, are worth it.

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B. 'River Nile' Photo by Jem Wiseman

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