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Bill Bayer

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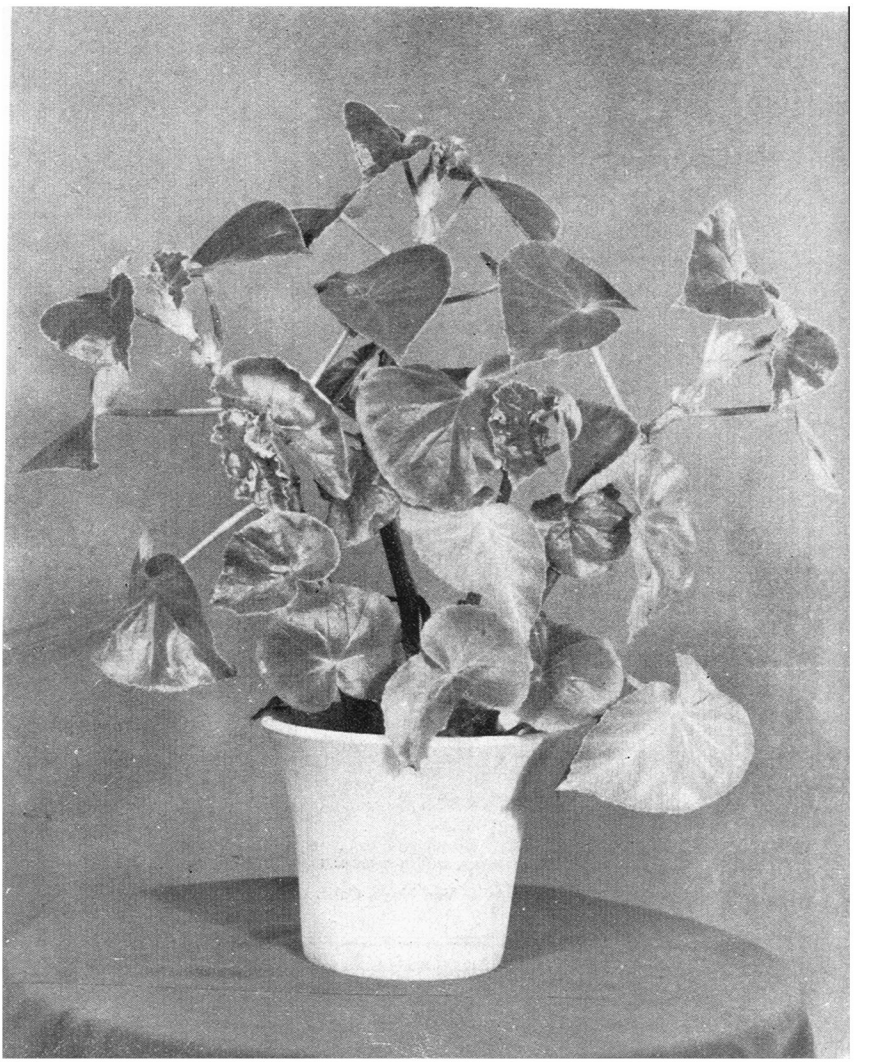
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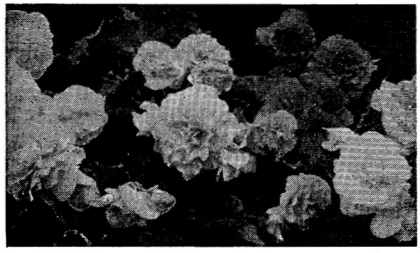
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The BEGONIAN

Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman January, 1932

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★ Annual Subscription — One Dollar Fifty Cents.
★ Entered as second-class matter, September 21st, 1946, at the Post Office of El Monte, California, under the act of March 3rd, 1879.

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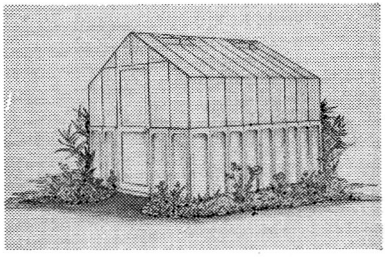
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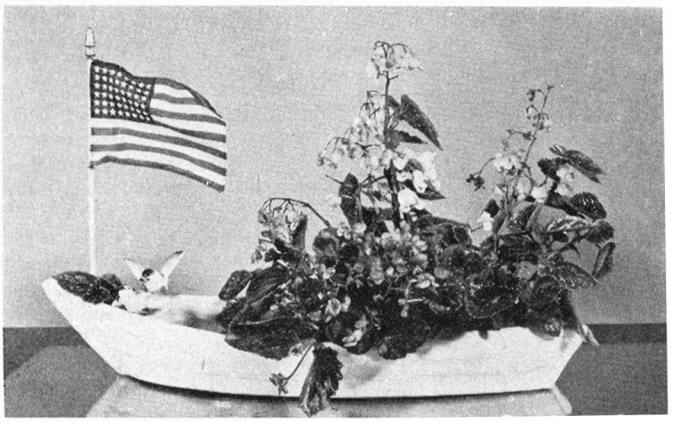


Photo by Bill Bayer

A Boatload of Begonias for the 4th

by Mrs. David Winans, Glendale, Calif.

In stressing the use of begonias of all types as cut flowers, I found this arrangement very easy to assemble. I chose the *B. Margaritae* for the tall foliage and added *B. Fischer's ricinifolia* and *B. incana* flowers.

The red flowered semperflorens were bunched in at the base, giving the boat an appearance of abundance. The flag symbolizes our own 4th of July for this particular occasion, with the birds alighting amidst peace, quiet and abundance. A mirror under the arrangement reflects the image, as would water.

Another suggestion, the use of rex begonia leaves combined with canna leaves, choosing harmonizing colors, for instance the bronze leaved rex with the red veined canna leaf or the silver or chartreuse high-lighted leaf with the yellow tinged canna leaf. The varigated or plain Aspidistra and the varigated or plain Sansevieria (san-se-vi-eé-ri-ah) has also proved to be splendid material to add to a 'leaf begonia' arrangement. Pieces of wood appearing aged and odd shaped are excellent additions, reminding one of the shaded dell.

Using a violet or pansy vase with five or six short stalks of semperflorens is also very effective.

This only begins to suggest the ease in which one may use and arrange the many types of begonias as cut flowers, always remembering to plant slips and leaf sections after the arrangement has faded or served its purpose.

BEGONIAS ARE TOLERANT

by Helen Patten, Manhattan, Kansas

Expressions of opinions often come my way, because I am a Director of several Round Robins.

It is surprising how many people say, "If I did things *that way* I could never get things to grow". Perhaps things would go wrong if they did things *that way,* no two people do anything exactly alike.

It is kind and generous of people to share their experiences with all of us, and although we do *things* in a little different way, we must remember that certain conditions are laid down as ideal conditions for begonia culture under a general heading. From these ideal conditions, there is a wide latitude for variation and as most begonias are tolerant and adjust themselves to conditions somewhat similar to ideal, we must give them a little added attention.

Some begonias are very demanding and unless we have the time, patience and place for such begonias, it would be wise to give that effort to a less demanding variety.

There are many plants we could place in the above category, but I am more interested in begonias, so I would rather discuss their well being.

Sometime ago I wrote of my experience with rooting plantlets from *B. templinii* and have hoped others would write of their experiences. My plants are over a year old now, and they bloomed this spring, having true *B. templinii* flowers. The leaves are still green, not showing any of the beautiful yellow coloring so desirable. I suppose I should have used the plantlets from the leaf-blade showing this color, I would have had better success in getting the blotched plants. The lack of chlorophyl in these leaves make them unlikely propagation material. Could anyone tell me of their luck with propagating this variety?

Editor's note; It has been reported that the *B. templinii* must have sufficient sunlight, to remain a 'blotched' begonia.

BEGONIA TOMENTOSA

Cover picture

Marie Minter, Encinitas, California

This particular begonia has been grown under the name of 'Bermuda seedling' and also sold under the name of 'Pink Involucrata', but now that the true name is given to it, I hope that we will all call it by its correct name. It is one of my favorite hairy fibrous begonias.

The leaves are light green on both sides with a fine red line on the outer edge. On larger plants the leaves often measure four by six inches and while the new leaves are decidedly cupped, they gradually flatten out. The leaf itself is quite thick, but not as thick as *B. Scharffiana.*

The petioles are reddish and the new stems are very reddish, gradually become woody and brown. There are white flecks between each node.

The whole plant is hairy. There is a suggestion of brown fuzz on the new stems which gradually disappears as the stems become woody. The stipules, petioles and leaves are covered with short white hairs. The new stipules are light green with an edge of red but soon become dry and stay on the stems for a long time.

When in bloom, this plant is very striking. The blossoms are large, bright pink and profusely born. It sets seed readily but as far as I know, it has not been used by hybridizers.

By California standards the plant is a medium sized, upright grower, but makes a good pot plant at any time. My plant has not branched but has numerous canes from the base throughout the year.

Speaking of the hairy fibrous as a group, I wonder if some of the hybrids listed in Mrs. Krauss' book are still being grown in California or elsewhere.

While I have most of the hairy fibrous mentioned, I have not been able to locate the following begonias and I would appreciate hearing from any one who has them correctly named. *B. Alphonse, Clementa, Croftoni, Dalli, Papa Chevalier, Rody, Rialto, Musetta* and *Marietta*

A committee of San Diego growers are trying to straighten out the hairy fibrous nomenclature tangle but with only meager descriptions to go on, we have to rely on the kindness of private collectors for help. Please contact me at Route 1, Box 180, Encinitas, California, if you have any of these hybrids.

The contributors of articles to the *BEGONIAN* are happy to hear from our readers. Address them in care of the Editor and she will be happy to forward the communications.

ADVENTURES IN HYBRIDIZING

by Mary B. Choate, Hybridizing Chairman

Nature has declared "Open Season" for the hybridizer, with Summer here and most of our beautiful Begonias in full bloom. Each day offers a golden opportunity to the person willing to devote a little of their time to this interesting project. Perfection is rare even in plants, but it is the goal of everyone interested in this fascinating hobby to improve the individual plant as much as possible, and this can be achieved only by striving to bring out the better characteristics and to eliminate the undesirable traits.

In our previous article we stated that the selection of purpose is of the utmost importance and it should be the first step toward hybridizing. Much precious time can be wasted by crossing plants without a definite objective. Study your plants carefully and you will soon see many that can be improved and by comparison picture them just as you would like them to be. Try selecting two plants and imagining the result if it were possible to take just the desirable traits of each and combine them. This can be done, perhaps not in the first cross or even the second, but by careful selection of the most promising seedling and by re-crossing them, or crossing back on the parent plants.

When choosing plants for the purpose of breeding, always select the healthiest and strongest specimens available of the species or variety. In this way you have a better chance of producing healthy offspring or seedlings. Use the same caution in selecting your seedlings to retain. However, we should not be too hasty in this, as it takes time to prove the worth of a hybrid. A seedling may change considerably in the first or second year and allowance should be made for the natural variation in Begonias. Many of the seedlings will follow very closely the pattern of one or the other of the parent stock. These will be the result of the dominant growth factors of that particular plant. Some will show a combination of the qualities of the two plants, which will be the result of the pairing of the growth factors. A few may be throwbacks which appear to be different, but would resemble some ancestor. Mutants also occur but very rarely. These differ from the parent plant and usually breed true to seed. *B. templini* and *B. calla lily* are excellent examples of mutants. It is always the dream of every hybridizer to introduce a new and outstanding plant. The cross you make now may bring the fulfillment of your dream.

The Hybridizing Department offers an award for the best seedling recorded this year. For full particulars write to this department, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

IMPROVING ADOBE AND GUMBO SOILS

by Dr. W. C. Drummond, Los Angeles, Calif.

Adobe and gumbo soils are sometimes called colloidal clay soils. They are classed as heavy clay soils usually lacking sufficient organic matter. They are extremely hard when dry and very sticky when wet. There is a very short period when they can be worked with reasonable success. Agriculturally they are both considered to be 'rich' soils. Black gumbo contains large amounts of long decayed organic matter and usually is short on calcium and magnesium and may be more or less acid. They both hold moisure well, but when dry large cracks form in them. They are extremely hard to work when dry. The ideal soil would be a silty loam, it does not cake and naturally permits a better root development. Adobe is usually quite rich in mineral salts and is often on the alkaline side. Whether adobe of the west or gumbo of the east both can be made into very fine garden soils, rich soil, whereas 'coarse sandy' or 'decomposed granite' soils are hard to improve permanently. The following treatment of adobe or gumbo, heavy clay soils has been used with much success.

The *BEGONIAN* passes it on to you as a means of improving your soil. When finished begonias and most shade plants as well as garden vegetables should do well when grown in it.

First test your soil for nematodes. If these worms are present in the soil, nodules will appear on the roots of tomatoes, begonias and many crops. If present then use a soil fumigant as Dowfume. EDB. DD. chloropicrin or carbon disulphide. These agents all have their limitations and must be handled accordingly, consult your County Farm Advisor and follow directions. This is done while the soil is devoid of plantings. Next scatter over each 100 square feet of adobe 10 pounds of gypsum (calcium sulphate) obtainable at nurseries or for gumbo use the same amount of agricultural lime (calcium hydrate). Much will depend on the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. It is best if the soil is slightly moist and partly broken up. Next apply 2 or 3 inches of cow manure or a combination of cow and peat moss or cow and leaf mold. Apply this in the fall or early winter, expecting the winter rain to carry it into the soil or after a good rain, (or over head irrigation) dig or plow into the top 4 inches of the soil. Let it stand for a month to 6 weeks and apply a general fertilizer as a 4-10-4 or a 5-10-6. Now again irrigate and plant when dry enough, say in a few days time.

OFFICIAL ABS PIN*

Introducing the new pin adopted for all our members, Branch or members-at-large. These pins will be easily recognized when you wear them and other A. B. S. members will be able to know you as a member of the Royal Hobby. This is the actual size of the pin and they may be purchased by sending three dollars and thirty two cents to Mrs. Edna Korts, 3628 Revere Avenue, Los Angeles 26, Calif. These attractive pins are gold plated, with a red pot and green foliage.

* *Cut courtesy of John Nolan*

FLOWER SHOW DATES . . .

JULY 23rd AND 24th will be the dates to see the East Side Begonia Club's second annual Show, held in the Overlake Elementary School Auditorium at Bellevue, Washington. Dr. Othur Hillery is General Chairman of the Show and Mr. S. A. McClanahan is Chairman of the Educational Exhibit. This Show will feature Begonia Tuberhybrida and other Begonias with other shade loving plants.

AUGUST 4th THROUGH 7th are the dates for the third annual Long Beach Flower Show. R. G. Hudson (of tuberous begonia fame) urges all flower growers to enter their best flowers and plants. Many cash prizes and trophies are to be awarded.

JULY 8th, 9th AND 10th are the dates to see the Shade Plant Show at Padua Hills, near Claremont in California. The Show is sponsored by the Pomona Branch of the National Fuchsia Society and will feature Begonias, Fuchsias and Shade Plants. No admission charge.

JULY 20th to 23rd inclusive, are the dates for the Begonia and Shade Plant Show at the Hayward High School in Hayward, California.

JULY 30th AND 31st are the dates for the Annual Begonia Show at the Cleveland Garden Center in Wade Park, Cleveland, Ohio. This is sponsored by the Western Reserve Branch of the American Begonia Society.

Changes to be noted in the list of Branch Officers;

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH; Mrs. Mary Congdon, Treasurer, 1506 East 4th Street, Long Beach, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH; Mrs. Walter Van Dusen, National Representative, 5552 Windermere Road, Seattle 5, Washingon.



Photo courtesy of Grace Bayer

BEGONIAS IN SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

The above photo is of my glass house, formerly a lath house.

I started to grow begonias as a hobby in the early part of 1930. Of necessity, they had to be the more hardy type, for the reason that there was little shade in our yard at that time.

Some time later we built a large lath house and as my collection grew to such proportions to include some of the rarer species and hybrid types, the lath house became rather crowded—so we expanded. We built a cloth house. The collection outgrew this soon and as a result, the lath house was converted into a greenhouse.

My collection kept growing and finally we turned an old chicken house and a fence into another lath house and enlarged the greenhouse. It was quite a task and out of it grew my present lath house, which is 15 x 16 and 12' high. The lath on top runs north and south, vertical on the sides. There is a shelf on the inside, the entire length of the wall space, and is about four and one half feet from the ground. I keep my epiphyllums on this and my Rex and fibrous begonias grow in the ground and in hanging baskets.

I have had as many as 2500 begonias, of which 800 were rexes, the rest of the number being divided among fibrous and rhizomatus types, a few tuberous (they do not do well in the San Fernando Valley) and many of the odd or rare types.

My rex collection is a very interesting one as I have only a few of the named varieties. The balance of them are seedlings. About the first unnamed seedling I owned was presented to me by Mrs. Henry G. Flaitz of Ojai. It was a lovely plant, and I was so thrilled I decided to try my luck at hybridizing, so I took pollen from one of the seedlings and crossed it with a named variety. The results were very gratifying. The next year I propagated a few hundred more, until now I have four generations and am starting on the fifth. I have many varieties that are unnamed. I now have about 1800 begonias of all types, as last winter was so cold, I lost all of those that I had in the lath house.

All the houses have been replanted and everything is doing fine. Oh—it has been quite a lot of work, but it is a very intriguing hobby in which I find a great deal of pleasure.

Yours for Better Begonias,
Grace Bayer

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO AMATEUR

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POTTING SEEDLING BEGONIAS GROWN IN GLASS JARS

by Mrs. Orval Hall, Stuart, Iowa

The lid is taken from the jar when the seedlings have their third leaves or over half of them have their second leaves well developed. They are kept a little less damp than when the jar was covered but are watched closely to avoid drying out too much. It is surprising how quickly they grow sturdy and usually a little water every other day is all they require to keep them quite happy and coax strong root growth. When well accustomed to this change, (about three weeks in Iowa) we pot the seedlings, three to a 2½ inch pot, well prepared with good soil and drainage. These are well settled with a fine spray and the pots are set in crushed pineapple, tuna, or lb. shortening cans, deep enough to keep off drafts, there being just enough soil, water and plant food to avoid overfeeding the tiny plants. A little water is added to the cans at first and as the tiny plants grow and gain in vigor, more moisture is needed in the bottom of the can. They soon grow above the rim of the can and, as the change to the outside atmosphere is gradual, the loss is small. When we repot these seedlings to individual pots, they are usually broken apart with chunks of soil so the root system is not distrubed too much.

There is little time left for outside activities of any kind with a family of five healthy youngsters, so growing rare plants from all parts of the world has not only been an interesting hobby to me but very educational as well. It is amazing how much one learns and what great personal satisfaction is gained from growing rare and unusual plants from seed. There are many we do not care for, to be sure, but when we do get a prize we feel more than repaid for our efforts, not to mention the pleasure derived.

Our son in Korea, writes that in the garden of the White Buddha, are begonias and many other hardy rare plants growing on mountain sides by streams. The climate is cold so we know that they can stand frost to a certain degree. What are they and how may we obtain seed? There is a Japanese gardener in Yokohama, Japan, who writes he has many hardy begonias in his private garden but he gives no specific data of any kind and we have been unable to obtain information regarding them.

From whom in Germany may we obtain seeds of their latest hybridizer's efforts? I saw one plant grown from German seed, in a friend's home in this country, that far surpassed any other begonia I have ever seen, although I am sorry to say it was a 'temperamental beauty'. The leaves were a satiny green with red stems and petioles. It would start to bloom as soon as rooted and the lovely red blooms, of the *B. lucerne* type, would droop and grow with the plant even after the petals opened. The leaves resembled *B. weltoniensis* but were far lovelier with larger blooms. It never grew very tall, being too busy blooming. I never learned the name but my friends told me it was grown in Germany. Does any one have a plant like this luscious beauty? The beautiful *multifloras* are grown in Southern France. Could this begonia have multiflora blood? I have noticed on my multifloras, that the blooms seem to grow sometimes after they open.

I have derived so much pleasure from the many, many seeds from the A. B. S. If we do not care for a particular shade in a begonia, we can save seed and by selecting carefully, we can choose a plant of the same type but better color. As not all seedling, (even of species begonias) have the same shade of flowers, there is always the element of chance that we may get a beautiful plant never seen before. Surely it is worth the effort and perhaps we may get many more lovely beauties that are hardy in most homes.

PRIVILEGES OF THE ABS MEMBERS

When you become a member of the American Begonia Society you may enjoy the following privileges, whether you belong to a branch or are a member-at-large (subscriber);

Affiliate with a branch, enjoying the company of other shade plant gardeners.

You may borrow books from the lending Library* by merely paying the postage.

You are entitled to seed offers handled by the Seed Fund Director*. These are often imported seeds, from lands across the sea.

You may join any or all Round Robins* without any additional charge. This is of particular interest to members not able to affiliate with a branch.

You may buy and display a small attractive sign in your garden, denoting membership in the A. B. S. These sell for twenty five cents, write to your Editor*.

Most important, a member receives information on growing all types of begonias and other shade plants. This information is brought to you through the pages of the *BEGONIAN,* the official monthly publication.

*—Names and addresses may be found on page 143.

Chart of Hairy Fibrous Begonias

by Alice M. Clark, San Diego, California

In April of 1944, after doing a series of pen and ink sketches of Hairy Fibrous Begonias for the Begonian, I made a diagram of those types to show their relationship to each other and to give a more graphic realization of the lapse of time between the introduction of the parent species and their resultant hybrids. Your editor has asked me to present a revised chart for those who did not see the earlier one. I use a chronological system because if, for instance, you follow the line from *B. sanguinea* to B. Druryi, a space of 100 years, you are more conscious of how long it was than as if I had merely indicated the relationship of the two. Mrs. Krauss has used the latter method in her book, consequently it is less crowded, clearer and quicker to see. Because this part of California has produced the preponderance of new hybrids for the last 25 years, and I am closer to the source, some of my information may differ from that of others, in minor details, and some may be incorrect.

The dates at the left of the margin are spaced at 10 year intervals. The name of a begonia is placed in line with its time of introduction. Where this is not known, it is fixed approximately by noting its first appearance in a catalog. Amateur hybrids take longer than commercial to appear on the market so this only gives the general period. Mrs. Gray's comprehensive booklet on Begonias, which appeared in 1931, listing 210 plants, has been very valuable in establishing what was or was not known before that time. It is hard to tell whether some dates indicate introductions or the time the cross was made. You may wonder why all this is important, but it is one method of tracing a begonia that may be known across the country by different names, and so help to find the first and correct one.

On my graph, one straight line indicates a single known parent, two are used when both are given. Dotted lines represent my personal opinion as to parentage and are in no way scientific. The name, *B. Haageana* was in use when most of the hybrids on this chart were made. Its correction to *B. Scharffi,* which looks and sounds so much like B. *Scharffiana,* has led to some confusion. At risk of seeming rather like an Egyptian, I shall use my own abbreviations of B.*S'i and* B. *S'a* to save time in this long article. This chart contains only those hirsute begonias generally known in trade thru 1940. Since then the names of some old unidentified species have been discovered and new ones and their hybrids have been coming up at every turn, particularly with importations of the Seed Fund and Mr. Ziesenhenne. A new diagram will cover these later.

Source materials on begonias are so contradictory that it is going to take the cooperation of every member of the A. B. S. to correct them. It is my fervent wish that every one who reads this article will note corrections and additions and send them to me with the reasons for each. If you know personally of some hirsute begonias of 1940, still existent, that I have omitted, please tell me the name, where it is, when and from whom it was obtained, the known parentage and a minute description, with outline tracing and/or a photograph if possible. I shall be happy to clarify these and present the results in these pages so that everyone may benefit.

You will note that, of all the begonia species sketched, B. *Gigantea,* in the upper left-hand corner, is the only one that did not come from Brazil. It was introduced from the Himalayas to Europe in 1820, but has only been in this country since the N. Y. B. G. raised it from seed in 1936. Photographs show it as a leggy type with a short-stemmed inflorescence that seems to sit on top of the leaves.

B. *sanguinea* is so sparse-hairy that it hardly belongs on this page. It is an interesting fact that this species, with its glazed, pottery-like leaves, is still going strong after 125 years. The same is true of B. *angularis,* the forbear of the unusual striped-leaf type, which masqueraded for many years under the name of Zebrina. The curious, palmate-leaved B. *luxurians* is discussed at length in the Begonian for June, 1946, and the plushy B.*S'a* in that of August, 1945. At the time of my first chart B. *urophylla* was thought to be synonomous with B. Houghtoni, so I sketched the latter for the former. This time that picture is omitted. The species, B. *Hugeli,* introduced about the same period, fills that space. This hairy beauty is now attracting the attention of hybridizers.

I have never seen B. *echinosepala,* but I understand that it is simular to B. *metallica,* with smaller leaves and less height. This would explain the foliage of B. Margaritae, one of several successful hybrids by the French grower, Paul Bruant. Some day I may have enough courage to attempt to draw that burnished beauty, B. *metallica.* She deserves her eighty years of popularity and the beautiful children and grand-children that take after her. B. *S'i* may be seen drooping her heavy flower heads nearby, tho she too has progeny to be proud of.

B. *compta* is the more feminine one of the

zebra-striped species, being smaller in leaf and height and lighter in color. One has the feeling that B. *acutangularis* must have made an appearance long ago, instead of being, as Mr. Everett says, a variety of B. *angularis* that originated in California in 1935. It is one of the begonia aristocrats that I enjoyed painting and writing about in February 1945. B. greyfeather is the frilly beauty of this group, which was portrayed in December 1945. It is not as hardy as the others and I hope it was survived the freeze. Since the Rosecroft catalog of 1933 described B. Vedderi as a seedling of B. *compta,* I have placed it there in the diagram, but the begonia I described in the March 1943 *Begonian,* as Mr. Robinson's hybrid has fairly hairy, short-stemmed, three-cornered leaves quite different from the average ones of the original begonia grown by and named for Mr. Vedder himself, about 1922. Neither of them look at all like the *angularis* family and I am sure each father wore a fur coat, instead of a striped one.

Swinging back to B. *metallica,* there are many hybrids to consider. Of the earlier ones, I have mentioned the French B. Margaritae. In New Jersey in 1887, Thurston made the B. *metallica* x B. *sanguinea* hybrid that bears his name. Its smooth dark leaf with the red back helps to indicate the parentage of similar types. Haage & Schmidt of Germany stepped in in 1890 with B. Credneri, stemming from B. *S'a* x B. *metallica.* It is sometimes known as Hairy Thurstoni, which shows that the same dark color may appear without benefit of the B. *sanguinea* parent. Bruant made the same cross a year later, naming it B. pictaviensis, of which I have no description.

B. cyprea came along as a B. *metallica* seedling and is mentioned in the Rosecroft catalog of 1928, as generally being called B. cuprea. This is my excuse for placing it in the 1890 line, where Mrs. Krauss thought B. cuprea may have come in. The latter is the name Mrs. Gray used in her book. In 1905, through B. *metallica* x B. *gigantea,* Allery Aubert brought forth B. Alleryi. It has the lovely leaves of its charming mother. More recently, using the same seed parent with B. *S'a,* Mrs. Frey has given us B. Naomi, which resembles B.*S'i* except that, according to Mrs. Buxton, the flowers are upright. Also stemming from B. *metallica* are the three seedings, B. Mussetta, B. Charlotta, and B. Rody, produced in 1936 by the Rodenburgs. They are said to be like the parent, with minor differences.

Our handsome favorite, B. Druryi, (*Begonian* Oct. '43) had B. *sanguinea* as seedbearer, with the blood of B. *metallica,* thru B. cyprea. In this plant, Miss Bower produced the darkest leaf of that silky group which includes B. chiala, B. Mrs. W. A. Wallow, B. undemille and B. Frieda Grant. Mrs. Fewkes says she raised a begonia from either a B. *metallica* or B. *S'i* seed and got the plant we call B. chiala, rosea. Though taller than Mr. Grant's B. chiala, (*Begonian* Mar. 1944) they both have similar but smaller, dark leaves like B. Druryi, which we know is related to B. *metallica.* Therefore, I choose to deduce that Mrs. Fewkes' begonia came from B. *metallica* seed and that the lustrous leaves of the other B. chiala, B. Frieda Grant and B. Mrs. W. A. Wallow, trace from B. Thurstoni, which has the rich coloring of both B. *metallica* and B. *sanguinea* in it. This statement is certainly open to argument, but it satisfies me.

B. Conbow, by Connie Bower, and B. Dorothy Grant, both B. Thurstoni seedlings, are begonias to be proud of. They are tall and vigorous, with cupped leaves. B. Conbow is the blond, while Grant's hybrid shows more of B. *sanguinea* in its almost-smooth dark green surface and very red back.

Now let us consider the family lines of B. *S'a.* One of the most distinctive of this group is B. Mrs. Fred Scripps. Because B. *S'a* and B. *luxurians* were both in the garden at the time, they are believed to have been the probable parents. In February, of 1943, I started my series of drawings with her portrait. I am not sure whether to be glad or sorry that I ever met her!

Mr. Robinson told us positively that B. undemille (Beg. Sept. 1946) was a seedling of B. *S'a,* else we would have definitely lined her up with B. Mrs. W. A. Wallow and her ilk. Four of Mrs. Fewkes' seedlings from this fine old species, produced about 1935, differ greatly. There is the large B. loma alta, (Beg. Nov. 1943) the petite and colorful B. Valeta, (Beg. Dec. 1946) the intermediate B. Gertrude, with unusual leaves that are the same color on both sides, and the sturdy B. frondosa, so named by Connie Bower because it meant "strong-growing." B. Morgana (Beg. May, 1943), and B. Braemar, (Beg. Oct. 1946) are both attributed to B. *S'a.* B. Braemar has much of the appearance and loppy habit of the parent, but thinner, smoother leaves.

In 1892 Bruant cross-pollinated b. *echinosepala* with B. *S'a* and obtained our B. Duchartrei, known and beloved all these years. B. Grant's Duchartrei was the result of B. Duchartrei seed planted in 1928. It is very tall and vigorous, with smaller leaves and upright clusters of white flowers with red hairs. In 1938, Mr. Robinson crossed B. Duchartrei with B. *S'a* and named the splendid seedling B. Duscharf. (Beg. Dec. 1944) .

In 1897 Bruant scored again with pollen of

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HAIRY FIBROUS BEGONIAS

SPECIES AND HYBRIDS

1820

1830

1840

1850

1860

1870

gigantea, Wallich
1820 - Himalayas



sanguinea, Raddi
1823
Brazil



Angularis, Raddi
1822, Brazil



luxurians, Schiedw.
1848 – Brazil



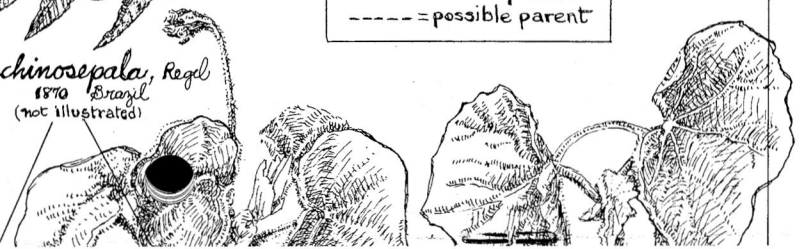


Hugeli, A.D.C.
1855 - Brazil



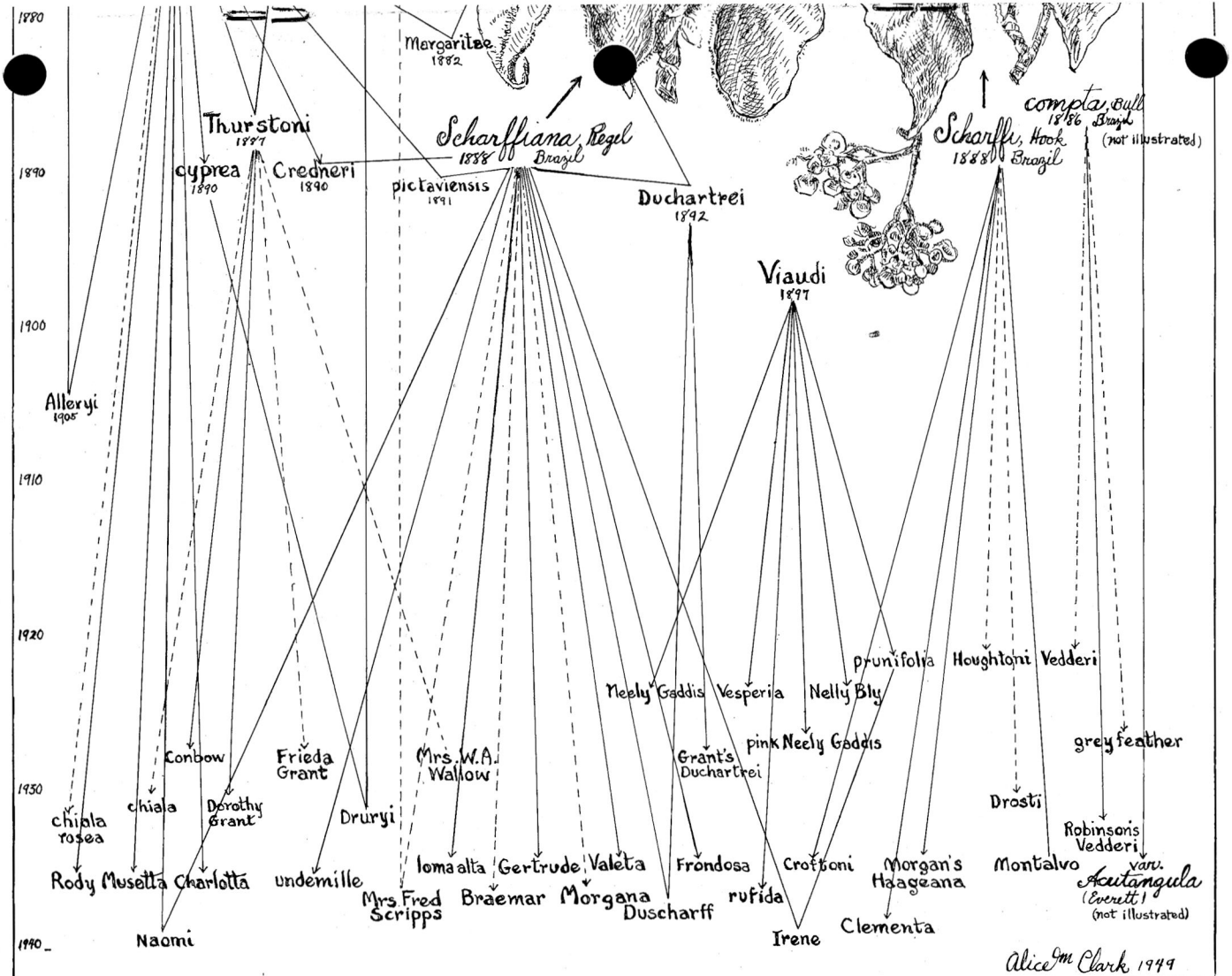
metallica, Smith
1869 - Brazil

echinosepala, Regel
1870 Brazil
(not illustrated)



KEY

Italics = species
Print = hybrids
——— = known parent
- - - - - = possible parent


1880
1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
Margaritae 1882
Thurstoni 1887
cyprea 1890
Credneri 1890
Scharffiana Regel 1888 Brazil
pictaviensis 1891
Duchartrei 1892
compta, Bull 1886 Brazil (not illustrated)
Scharffi, Hook 1888 Brazil
Viaudi 1897
Alleryi 1905
prunifolia
Houghtoni
Vedderi
Neely Gaddis
Vesperia
Nelly Bly
pink Neely Gaddis
grey feather
Conbow
Frieda Grant
Mrs. W.A. Wallow
Grant's Duchartrei
Drosti
chiola rosea
chiala
Dorothy Grant
Druryi
Robinson's Vedderi
Rody
Musetta
Charlotta
undemille
Ioma alta
Gertrude
Valeta
Frondosa
Croftoni
Morgan's Haageana
Montalvo
var. Acutangula (Everett) (not illustrated)
Mrs Fred Scripps
Braemar
Morgana
Duscharff
rufida
Clementa
Naomi
Irene
Alice Dm Clark 1949

B. pictaviensis on B. Duchartrei, producing B. Viaudi. Like the state of Virginia, it has been the mother of the best of its time. Mr. Robinson started off, in 1922, with the first seedling from B. Viaudi, a beautiful, purple-backed begonia called B. prunifolia. Mrs. Gray has told us in her booklet that B. Nelly Bly (Beg. Jan. 1944) and B. Neely Gaddis (Beg. Sept. 1943) came from the same pod of B. Viaudi seed, about 1924. Both are triumphs. About the same time there was a begonia called Improved Marguerite. It was listed in a 1935 Rosecroft guide as such. Later it was found to be Mrs. Gray's B. Vesperia, which her book says is another B. Viaudi seedling.

Miss Bower raised B. pink Neely Gaddis, (Beg. Apr. 1943) in 1927 from B. Viaudi seed. It is similar to B. prunifolia, but has the supplementary leaf on the flower stalk to distinguish it. Both are very worthwhile. Ten years later, combining B. Viaudi with B. prunifolia, Connie produced B. rufida, (Beg. Dec. 1943) which is truly entitled to the name of gorgeous. In 1938, our indefatigable Eva Gray came up with another B. Viaudi hybrid, B. Viauscharff, which, as its name would indicate, was pollinated by B. *S'a.* Its plum beauty has been much admired in a hanging basket. In 1940 Mrs. Gray rang the bell again with B. Irene, from B. prunifolia x B. *S'a.* So we have the story of B. *Scharffiana.*

Coming back to B. *Scharffi,* who must be pouting by now, we have two begonias bearing the name of Dr. Houghton, who was quite an authority on begonias in the earlier days. Some still think that B. Houghtoni was really the same as the species, B. urophylla. Both B. dwarf Houghtoni and the larger form are bushy, with variable leaves. B. Drosti is another seedling with an obscure past that is attributed to B. *S'i.* It is listed by E. K. G. but the description does not coincide with that lavendar-tinted specimen we have today. B. *S'i* is also credited with B. Croftoni, which was never offered in the Rosecroft list. Mrs. Krauss says it is simular to Robinson's B. Alphonse, which he only carried in one catalog and is, as far as I can find, not known in this section.

B. Morgan's Haageana and B. Montalvo, both B. *S'i* seedlings, are fine begonias. The former is noted for its very long pointed leaf. Midge Fewkes contributed the latter about 1935 and named it for her Nursery. Its bushy habit and rosy flushed leaves, with the drooping flowers of its mother, make it very ornamental, (Beg. Sept. 1947). A later hybrid of B. *S'i* is B. Clementa, which Mrs. Krauss lists from California, tho I have not seen it.

This winds up a good part of the aunts, uncles and cousins in the Hairy Fibrous Family. I hope to be bombarded with corrections of this begonia tree.

LIBRARY NOTES

I am happy to report to the membership that your Library has received a gift from Miss Hedwig Michel of Estero, Florida. Miss Hedwig presented her own copies of *My Garden in Florida* by Henry Nehrling, Volumes 1 and 2 which Mr. Overton reviewed in the April *Begonian.* These books are of special interest to any lover of plants, either sun or shade, and will be greatly enjoyed by all who care to borrow them. Since there are two volumes I would suggest that you borrow one at a time in order that we may keep both in circulation and the reader may properly digest their contents.

Miss Michel is now a member of the A.B.S. and would like to experiment with Tuberous Begonias in Florida but has been greatly discouraged by any one she has contacted there. I am sure she would welcome any suggestions from interested members.

I would also like to call to the attention of the members of A. B. S., information on patented plants. You may obtain a fine color plate and complete information on any plant on which a patent has been issued by writing to the Department of Commerce, U. S. Patent Office, Washington 25, D. C., stating the patent number and enclosing twenty-five cents for each copy desired. The number of the patent *must* be sent with your request. Two patented Begonias on which information and color plates are known to be available are Patent No. 265—Zeparo *Begonia Salmon Beauty*—and Patent No. 406—*Begonia Lucille.* Both of these begonias were developed by growers on the East Coast. If you know of any others on which patents have been issued please notify your Librarian of the patent numbers in order that we may obtain copies for the library.

Mr. Solly's pamphlet on How to Grow Tuberous Begonias (Reviewed in the June *Begonian*) is available thru your librarian at thirty cents per copy and is well worth this small sum for the illustrations alone. Order your copy now.

Gladys C. Nolan, *Librarian*

The A. B. S. extends best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. George Otten of Seaside, Oregon, recuperating from a broken hip, to Mrs. Flossie Kelly of Long Beach, to Mrs. Eva Kenworthy Gray for her recent attack of pneumonia and to Mr. Lewis Reese of Bellflower for an emergency operation.

VISITING POLLY'S FAIRYLAND

by Leona Calmese, Kansas City, Mo.

I had not been to see Polly for three months and I thought I knew what to expect, but I was not prepared for the sight that met my eyes as I stepped through the door, in February. Polly is naturally artistic so her living room is a perfect setting for her beautiful plants. This room faces west and has four windows, the two facing west are close together and there is one on the north and one having a southern exposure. Her porch is uncovered and she is able to get the benefit of all the afternoon sun.

B. phyllomaniaca (syn. *Jessie*) occupies a spot in the window with a western exposure and was in bloom. The eight sprays of blossoms were pendulous like a *B. lucerna,* but the blooms are tiny and are much more numerous. They look like a huge, double frill of delicate, pink lace. She shares her window with other plants, an ice plant (mesembryanthemum) in bloom, an Echeveria, one of Polly's 2 F crosses of *B. Manda's wooly bear* and a red semperflorens. It has light green leaves edged and underfaced with down, which appears pink in the sun. On a small stand is *B. heracleicotyle* (syn. *Mrs. Townsend*) coming into bloom, a Billbergia and on the floor where it gets plenty of sunshine, is a large rhizomatous begonia with leaves as large as a plate.

B. templini has the northwest window and was not in bloom, but that is not necessary as her beautiful yellow splotched leaves are beauty enough. There was a plantlet two inches high on one leaf and many other leaves are full of tiny plantlets. It is also starting to branch out. *B. templini* is the taller of the two 'sister plants'. It comes to my shoulder and I am five feet five inches. These two plants are in six inch pots and are in jardineres on the floor. *B. templini* shares her window with a large *B. Mrs. Fred Scripps,* a *B. nitida,* a *B. floribunda* and a *B. snowblush.* All but the latter in bloom. Behind this group is a low table filled with African Violets. Included are two huge plants of the improved Blue Boy and a White Beauty which are really magnificent. In front of the north window is a low table filled with African Violets and against the east wall is another table of the same. I suppose they get the late afternoon sun here, otherwise I do not see how they bloom the way they do. The most outstanding specimen of course, is Polly's own, a pale lavender. Polly said there are fifty nine Saintpaulias in that room.

The south window has three plants. *B. picturatus,* a 'child' of *B. Hildegard Schneider (B. aconitifolia)* is as tall as I am and every leaf is perfect. This bloomed last fall, white flowers edged with lavender, very fragrant and hung in large clusters. There is a beautiful *B. medora* on a table that Polly is trying to coax into bloom. *B. speculata* was coming into bloom and has leaves as large as my hand. The other plants are *B. pseudophyllomanica, B. Gretchen,* (both blooming) and a *B. rubra dielytra.*

From the living room, we went into Polly's 'regular plant room' which measures about 12x12, and the only heat is what seeps in from the rest of the house. It has an east and south exposure, glass down to twenty four inches from the floor. Each window has two or three narrow shelves. On a rather high shelf in the corner is a *B. dichroa,* which gives it ample room to grow downward. The leaves are a good size and it has new shoots starting from the base. This begonia is considered 'difficult'. Polly grew it from a cutting I gave her. It bloomed last year and she crossed it with *B. lucerne* and has five little plants in tiny pots, housed in a jar, as a small glasshouse. *B. Mme. Fanny Giron* shares this shelf and is also a hanging basket plant. Those who saw it at the Show last June would not know it, having grown so much and is still blooming! *B. Marjorie Daw* and a *B. dichroa* x *glaucophylla scandens* occupy a lower shelf. On the same shelf are two outstanding begonias of unusual markings, *B. strigillosa* and *B. Liebmanni.*

Many of Polly's plants stand in a large sandbox. She has four hundred and twenty five plants in this room, in all stages of growth, from tiny seedlings to stately *B. Annie Laurie, B. superba* and *B. angularis.* Her *B. guinea's wing* really 'hits the ceiling' and not from temper, so it had to be moved to the kitchen where it sits on the floor. Polly lets them grow tall because she says she has more room *up* and if full grown, they may bloom. One of the outstanding plants in this room is *B. Arthur Mallet* with it's beautiful red leaves. It has seven clusters of flowers in bloom. They are very large and grow under the leaves. We measured one female blossom and it was two and a half inches across. Then there is *B. chiala alba, B. Mrs. W. A. Wallow,* a rubra (with orange-red blooms), a beautiful *B. silver star, B. Paul Bruant, B. Skeezar,* and a *B. lepidota* in full bloom. The plants are so close together you hardly know where one commences and one ends. Over on a shelf on the northwest corner is *B. Credneri* where it does not get any light, and really likes it there. Polly has small plants of many hard to grow types as, *B. Kellermani* coming into bloom, *B. foliosa, B. Richard Robinson, B. acida, B. ivy*

Turn to next page

ever and *B. luxurians.* All these were started from cuttings last fall. She has three plants I had not seen before, *B. lobulata, B. Lawrence K. Fewkes* and *B. Limminghei.* She has a little Mexican *B. heracleifolia* in bloom that was given to her by Mrs. Wood, who planted the seed Feb. 22, 1948.

The shelves in the east window are mostly filled with African Violets in all stages of growth. I must not forget the other plants of the F 2 cross, each one different. Polly asked my advice as to which to drown. Of course I would not drown any. An especially pretty one has the red running down the stem at each joint in five streaks. Polly's kitchen is really her work room. The north wall is all windows with a wide shelf at the bottom and two narrow shelves higher up. These shelves are filled with pots, jars, etc., full of seedlings, leaves and plants. We had quite a discussion on insects but as this is a visit to Fairyland, I will skip that. One thing of great value I learned was why I lost my cuttings after I had rooted them in water. Polly advises planting them as soon as they start two or three tiny fat roots, one or two inches long. If you wait until they have many fine roots they will not take to the soil as well.

There are many plants in an unheated, upstairs room with a south window and you would be surprised at how good they looked. The basement held many more, waiting for spring.

She has many other kinds of plants but being the 'begonia nut' that I am, I hardly gave them a glance. When Polly gets a *B. Mrs. Fred Scripps* and *B. luxurians* to bloom, I will put her in the class with Julia Nesbit, in my opinion, is the best begonia grower I have ever met other than commercial growers.

At the last count Polly had one hundred and sixty five named begonias. You may well know there are many I have not mentioned due to lack of space, and perhaps you are curious as to Polly's identity? May I introduce Polly Cooper, of Excelsior Springs, Missouri and Vice President of the Missouri Branch of the A. B. S.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Mrs. Frances Downing, Round Robin's Chairman, for this very interesting article BY and ABOUT your very active Robinites.

Anyone not receiving their *BEGONIAN* regularly, or anyone knowing of any member not receiving their magazine regularly is urged to write to the Membership Secretary and give their full, correct address. Many new addresses have been enforced and Roy Dere has not been notified, therefore the magazines are returned to him. We want all our members to receive their magazine each month.

SHELTERED GARDEN BOOK REVIEWS . . . .

ORCHIDS ARE EASY TO GROW, by Harry B. Logan and Lloyd C. Cosper, Published by the Ziff-Davis Publ. Co. 1949. $6.00

This book will encourage more people to grow orchids with success.

In understandable language, it handles each phase of orchid culture very thoroughly, no matter where you are tempted or compelled to grow them. A full chapter is devoted to greenhouses, for the rank amateur as well as for the advanced grower, from one of limited means to one of affluence. Another full chapter is devoted to lathhouses of all sizes. This is very helpful.

The sketches by Lynette Arouni very aptly show the reader each minute detail of the subjects involved and there will be no doubt in the reader's mind, what the authors are explaining.

All types of orchids are discussed in this beautiful volumne which includes 21 full color plates. Culture for the so called hardy (outdoor) orchids, cymbidiums, bletias, Calanthe, Cattleya and most of the genera the amateur is likely to grow, are handled well. The more rare orchids are given equal emphasis.

The Cultural and Descriptive Table is invaluable as a ready reference.

This is a MUST for your library as the information contained therein will save you time, effort and money.—*Frank H. Overton.*

THE ABS ON KFI-TV

Begonia Day on television in Southern California, was May 25th. Gordon Baker Lloyd extended the courtesy to our Society, giving us the entire time of his *Mid-Week Gardener* program. Begonia questions had been solicited from his TV audience previous to the occasion and there were many more questions submitted than time was allowed for answering. Calvin Trowbridge, Edna Korts and Dorothy Behrends served on the 'board of experts' with Gordon Baker Lloyd and 'the girl next door', Dolores Johnson. The interest shown in Begonias was surprising and encouraging.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH: Will enjoy Mrs. H. H. Buxton on July 16th at the home of Mrs. George W. Greenlaw, Lexington Road in Concord, Mass. The topic will be New Species and Varieties of Begonias. Registration is at 11 a.m. Bring your own picnic lunch and plants or cuttings for the plant sale. The business meeting and speaker will begin at 2 p.m.

Mrs. H. H. Buxton, *Secretary.*



Armchair Explorers

July News Letter

How does your garden grow these days? Mine is looking some better now, for many are showing strong growth from the base of frozen plants. I see the *B. Martianas* coming up thickly again, young ferns growing fast, as are the seedling begonias now in flats. I hope you are starting to pick out your choicest plants to groom for the Convention next month. We will have a table for begonias grown from our imported seed and there will be prizes for the best ones.

You will be interested to know that Ghose & Co. wrote that they plan to look for more Indian Begonias in the Khasia Hills and will also try to secure seed of *B. Griffithii* and *B. xanthina* also other Rex types for us. Seeds will be listed in your *Begonian* as they become available. We have a letter from our collector in South Africa saying he has mailed us seed of Strelitzias also pink and yellow Arums and *Serrurio florida.* (25c per packet)

From a collector in Guatemala we find that we can get seed of *Philodendron selloum* 50c pkt. and we have a list of bulbs which can be had from there, anyone interested may send a stamped envelope for the information. From Honolulu we have seeds of wood roses, 3 for 25c. These are from our good friend and member Virginia Gillespie whom many of you know already. She sends out the most beautiful plants of Anthuriums, Alocasias, ferns etc. from Honolulu not to mention orchid corsages, write for her address if interested. My beautiful *Adiantum Pruvianum* came from her gardens, also the beautiful *Anthurium Scherzerianums.* When I saw those long sprays of wood roses at the Inglewood Flower Show I knew I must try to grow some in my greenhouse and I wrote to Mrs. Gillespie and asked her to find some for me. We are also expecting to show some of her plants at the Convention.

I have just received fresh seed of *Begonia acida, scabrida, Kellermanii,* rex hybrids—at 25c per packet.

Cheerio, your Skipper,
Florence Carrell

Send twenty-five cents to the Editor for a Membership placard, to display in your garden.

ROUND ROBIN NEWS FOR JULY

Several gardeners of North Central Texas have felt the bite of the "Begonia Bug". They have joined the A. B. S. and become members of the Round Robins. Many have reported that they are enjoying the "Begonian" immensely. We hope their enthusiasm is contagious and that a Branch Society will be organized in Texas by these interested begonia growers.

The new Rex Robin was so popular that it became necessary to divide the group. Both of the Rex Robins will now be open for new members.

Many of the Robins have completed their quota of membership and new Clubs will be open in both the elementary and advanced groups of the following new Robins.

Begonias in General, Fibrous Begonias, Rhizomatous Begonias, Hybridizing of Begonias, Impatiens, Amaryllis, Fuchsia, Orchid, Garden Photography, Garden Gossip, and the Herb Robin.

Directors are needed for these new Robins, so I would appreciate having volunteers contact me.

The Semperflorens Robin for the North East is in need of more members before it starts flying.

The following Robins have a few vacancies:

Research, Apartment Dwellers, Lily, Gesneriaceae, House Plants for North-East and Mid-west members, Choice Ferns, Epiphyllum, Soils, Cyclamen, Seed-Sowing, Caladium, The African Violet and the Gloxinia Robins.

The Director of the Begonia Directors Robin writes that "All Begonia Directors are sending in wonderful reports of the progress their Robins are making" and "their reports contain a wealth of information." We hope to compile infromation regarding begonias as gleaned from Robin members everywhere for the Begonian, believing that it would be of interest to all A. B. S. members.

ALL DIRECTORS please note, it is time for revised lists, complete with names and addresses of members of each Robin Club you direct. Those not having sent in lists recently, please comply. Thanks. We must keep up to date and we do appreciate all the wonderful work you are doing.

So long — until August — my Begonias' favorite month.

Frances Downing.

Every member should feel friendly and grateful to our loyal advertisers. By making purchases from these merchants, it enables the *BEGONIAN* to maintain a high standard magazine.

CONVENTION BULLETIN

The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch extends a Welcome to all the members of the American Begonia Society and their friends, to attend the Annual Convention and Begonia Show on August 27, 1949.

The success of the Begonia and Shade Plant Show will be dependent on the number of plants entered by the members. The January freeze hit Ventura as well as elsewhere. This part of the Flower Show will be competitive, with prizes and awards to be won.

A non-competitive Annual Flower Show held in an adjoining building, will be of three days duration, August 26, 27, and 28. You are also invited to attend this Show (non-competitive) and there is to be no admission charge.

Members and Branches at too great a distance to transport plants, are urged to send pictures of their gardens and plants. Write your name and address on a small piece of paper and paste it on the back of each picture, so they may be returned. A $5.00 prize is offered for the best Potted Begonia picture from *out of state* and a $5.00 prize for the best lathhouse picture from *out of state.* You need not *have* to belong to a Branch to enter plants or pictures in this Show.

There will be a banquet in the evening and later the installation of officers.

The Ventura Branch wishes to thank the Glendale Branch for the fifty dollar bill presented to them, towards the Convention. This is very much appreciated and will help towards making the affair a gala occasion.

Overnight accommodations may be made by writing directly to any of the following;

Topper Motel, 1694 Thompson Blvd.
Rex Motel, 2406 Thompson Blvd.
City Center Lodge, 837 East Meta Street
Bisonte Motel, 3245 Ventura Blvd.
Mission Bell Motel, 3437 Ventura Blvd., all on 101 Hi-way in Ventura.

This is YOUR Convention. Ventura Branch members are merely the hosts and hostesses.

Let us show that good old cooperative spirit and all make this Convention one of the finest.

Mrs. Dora Hodgins, *National Representative*

MIAMI BRANCH: Held their regular meeting in May with Vice President R. G. Wilson presiding. Small cane type begonias were discussed and identified, as well as the trailing begonias. Jack Reark continued his talks on terminology of plants.

Mrs. A. E. Sackett, *Nat'l Director.*

EFFIE CHAPMAN CHALLENGE CUP

Mrs. Helen Frey has donated the Effie Chapman Challenge Cup, to be awarded for the best fibrous begonia grown by an amateur and must be won three consecutive times by the same person, before it becomes the permanent property of the winner. These awards will be made at the Annual Show each year.

There are three cups now, for the best begonias grown in three classes. The Gonda Hartwell Cup for the best rex begonia, the Mary Hazel Drummond Cup for the best tuberous and now the Effie Chapman Cup for the best fibrous. Mrs. Lewis Reese of the Bellflower Branch won the Gonda Hartwell Cup last year and Mrs. Louise Jenkins of Huntington Beach won the Mary Hazel Drummond Cup for the past two years. These are beautiful cups and the competition is keen in all classes.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH: Will hold their picnic on August 10th at the Hi-Way Nurseries in Westlake, Ohio. The Awards won at the Show (July 30th and 31st) will be presented at this affair. All members and friends are urged to attend and by all means, attend the Show and bring your friends!

Mrs. Ed. Lobser, *Corres. Secretary*

GLENDALE BRANCH: Has changed their meeting date for their July meeting. Please make note. It will be on July 28th at the same meeting place. We are pleased to announce that Mr. Alfred W. Roberts will be our speaker. As ferns are natural companions for begonias, we are happy to invite everyone to hear this outstanding authority on ferns. Our plant sale will consist exclusively of ferns. Mrs. Carlisle Slattery will have charge of the refreshments.

Mrs. F. M. Brown, *Corres. Secretary*

PETALUMA BRANCH: Enjoyed the splendid talk and demonstration of What To Do With Begonia Seedlings by Mrs. Lillian Bradberry. She had about fifty seedlings of which she talked and later put these on the plant sale table. Raising one's own seedlings is the best way to acquire an interesting and large collection of begonias, but the transfer of the tiny seedling plants is rather tricky, so her demonstration was very helpful. Mrs. Beth Sackman and Mrs. Walter Ashe of San Francisco visited with us and the members from Sebastopol were the hosts and hostesses at the refreshment table.

Elizabeth Schlener, *Secretary*

SOUTH ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH: The regular meeting on May 19th was well attended. The plans for the fourth annual Begonia & Shade Plant show at the Botany Isle of the Hayward High School were discussed. Earl Williams, show chairman, asked each member to pot up 3 or more good saleable plants for the plant table at the show to be held July 20th to 23rd inclusive.

A plan to assist the Sunrise School for handicapped children was formulated, the members furnishing potted plants and cut flowers for indoor beauty. Mrs. D. Bayliss, Mrs. H. Manning and Mrs. R. Beardsley volunteered to assist at the school with gardening project.

Our vice president Leland De Quadros, was the speaker of the evening on the Culture of Gloxinias.

The Gloxinia was grown as a Brazilian herb in 1785, later it was introduced into cultivation in England and has been propagated and developed into the plant we know today. It has oblongish leaves with the modern gloxinias showing great variation in flower coloration, in size and markings of the petals. By hybridization, the flowers are from 3 to 5 inches long and as much across, they are tubular or bell shaped with the petals flaring somewhat. The colors range from white, crimson, blue, scarlet and they may be spotted on a lighter back ground. The first Gloxinias were all purple.

The culture is not too difficult, starting the tubers when they show signs of activity, usually in Jan., Feb. and through April. Mr. De Quadros starts his in leaf mold and peatmoss in shallow boxes, keeps them moist but not wet, good light at a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees. When the shoots appear, the plants are dug without disturbing the roots and potted into their flowering pots, which should be 5 or 6 inch pots. Using ½ leaf mold, ¼ cow manure, ¼ loam and a little sand, (if the loam is clay or heavy) he places fish meal in the lower part of the pot. The Gloxinias are fairly tolerant as to soil, but it must be porous for good drainage to reduce the danger of waterlogging.

In starting Gloxinias from seed in January, he uses a 6 inch pot, places coarse gravel in the bottom about 2" deep, then sand, then 1½ inches of leafmold on top, soaks it good and drains it thoroughly before planting, he does not cover the seed with soil. Covers the pot with wax paper and whenever moisture accumulates, wipes it off or replaces with a new wax paper. In about 10 days germination takes place, usually it is not necessary to water, but if it becomes necessary to water, water from the bottom.

When large enough to handle, pot up into 2½ inch pots, using the above mixture. While Gloxinias need plenty of light, they should not be exposed to direct sunshine. Do not water too freely in the early stages of growth, but try to keep the soil just moist. When growth is well along they can be watered freely, as long as the pot has good drainage. After they start to bloom, he fertilizes with Atlas Fertilizer Emulson every 3 to 4 weeks, following directions on the bottle carefully.

Gloxinias can be propagated with ease by means of leaf cuttings, made as soon as the flowering period is past. Their stems can be put in water and the leaf potted in soil when the roots are one or two inches long, or inserted directly in a pot of sandy soil. Plants started from leaves may keep on growing until they bloom, (in 5 to 12 months) or they may form tubers and become dormant for a while before they bloom.

After flowering ceases, the watering should be withheld gradually, dry them out slowly after the leaves wither, store the tubers in the pot and check often to see they are not too dry, just a little on the moist side. Keep out of extreme cold.

Mr. De Quadros brought several plants to demonstrate the different stages of development, and generously placed them on the plant table.

A surprise was in store for us as three beautifully rendered piano selections by Herbert Andrade of Hayward, completed the program.

Susan Ramsey, *Publicity Chairman*

BELLFLOWER BRANCH: Had a larger than usual attendance at their June meeting and had a 'banner Begonia night'. Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman spoke to the group about Rex Begonias. Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman of El Monte, explained the many uses of Fibrous Begonias for Beautification. Mr. H. Parkin of Long Beach talked about Tuberous Begonias and his humor and personality highlighted the evening. Kodachrome slides of Begonias of all types were shown, followed by a lively plant sale and refreshments.

Mrs. M. Hanson, *Press Chairman*

PASADENA BRANCH: Held their June meeting in James Giridlian's Oakhurst Gardens with a pot luck dinner followed by a tour through the Los Angeles County Arboretum. A cordial invitation is extended to our next two meetings. The July 9th meeting will be held at the home of Col. and Mrs. Gale, our National President. The speaker will be Joe Littlefield with Summer Gardening the subject. A White Elephant Sale of Garden Gadgets will highlight the day. The meeting begins at 3:00 p.m. Second Annual Branch Begonia Show will be Sunday, August 7th in the garden of Charles Gibbs Adams at 440 Arroyo Drive, South Pasadena. Pot luck dinner will be held at 1 o'clock.

Mabel Distel, *Secretary*

ACTIVITIES OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

"The Cacti Donnellys," Jim and Rita, of the Emporium Roof Garden were the speakers at the May meeting. Epiphyllums are becoming more and more popular in this area, so the Donnellys were invited to enlighten our members on their culture.

"One must be very patient when rasing Epiphyllums," said Jim, "as it takes about five years for a plant to attain it's full maturity." "They do not require too much care," added Rita, "and are very easily propagated." Then she undertook to demonstrate how cuttings are taken and planted. "Take cuttings from a leaf which bloomed the previous year, leaving about an inch on the Mother plant. Each cutting should be at least six inches long. Cut the bottom in a V-shape, dip in Rootone and let dry for about three weeks or until there is no juice. Place in a small pot filled with sandy soil, wiring it securely to a stake. Do not water for four or five days, then water lightly. In three to four weeks roots will develop. Plant in a larger pot containing a mixture of equal parts good oak leaf mold, cow manure and sharp river sand, with a small quantity of ground charcoal added. It is important that the mixture is porous. Do not water for at least five days allowing roots to adjust themselves. Then start watering once a week preferrably in the morning. During the blooming period water every day not permitting the soil to dry out. During hot weather watering twice daily is advisable; on cloudy days do not water overhead. Fertilize with a top dressing made of equal parts oak leaf mold, cow manure and good garden loam, adding a half teaspoon bonemeal for each pot.

Epiphyllums should be repotted in larger pots every three years starting with a four inch size. When repotting roots should not be disturbed and the old soil shaken off carefully. After repotting, again refrain from watering for at least five days as cacti must have a few days to readjust themselves. Occasionally Epiphyllum may be attacked by mealy bugs or aphis. Spray with diluted Black Leaf 40 or still better brush gently around the affected area with denatured alcohol.

The native habitat of Epiphyllums is in the jungles of the Amazon River. Being tropical plants they must be protected from the frost. They were introduced into Europe in the last century where many new hybrids were developed. The flowers are bi-sexual and are pollinated by bees. Very beautiful plants can be developed by grafting.

The Donnellys created a new interest among our members to experiment with these unusual plants. Their large beautiful flowers bloom from the latter part of April till June just before the Tuberhybrida take over, thus giving additional color to the gardens.

To demonstrate the beauty of Epiphyllums, they brought along an assortment of unusual specimens, such as a grafted German Empress, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Vive Rouge, Padre, Conway's Giant and Pride of Ventura. Both Rita and Jim impressed the audience with their informal and friendly manner and their genuine love for the plants often called 'orchid cactus'.

At the April meeting we had the privilege of hearing Worth Brown, the author of the new book, "Tuberous Begonias". Mr. Brown grows Tuberhybrida commercially on a very large scale, his output being several million tubers per year. He described in detail how he grows his plants from seeds to maturity. Naturally his methods differ to some extent from those employed by the amateurs. He considers cow manure as the best fertilizer and has it cultivated into the beds to a depth of six inches, applying it again several times as top dressing. He prefers frequent overhead watering. Bone, fish, linseed and blood meals are food fertilizers, but he finds their use economically impractical. "Cow manure and water," said he, "are what Tuberous Begonias require."

Mr. Brown made several trips abroad to learn first hand of the culture of Tuberhybrida in England and Continental Europe. The first hybrids were developed in England at the turn of the century. The doubles did not appear in this country until 1914. In Ghent, Belgium, there are about three hundred commercial growers who supply Europe with tubers, beside exporting large quantities to the U.S.A. He found some of these imported tubers to be of inferior quality which caused many disappointments to American amateurs.

We invited the members of all the Branches in the Bay area to hear Mr. Brown. Many availed themselves of this opportunity and the hall was filled to capacity.

Lillian Ashe, *Publicity Chairman*

Editor's Note: By dipping the cuttings in Rootone and inserting immediately in a pocket of dry sand, in a pot containing a regular potting mixture, the Epiphyllum roots grow through the sand which eliminates extra repotting and maintains rapid growth.

RUSSWARD
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Jonesboro, Arkansas

SACRAMENTO BRANCH: Mr. Warner Marsh spoke on 'Plantings for the Shady Gardens' at their May meeting. He also showed beautiful slides of shade gardens around Los Angeles and Sacramento's Capitol Park. Refreshments were served by Mrs. John Williams and Mrs. W. B. Hurst. A Garden Tour was held on Sunday, May 15th with many beautiful gardens being visited, climaxed by a Tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Ryan. Mrs. J. C. Young and Mrs. John Williams poured.

Mrs. Arthur Root, *Publicity Chairman*

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH: Had an exceptionally interesting program in June with Mr. L. T. Graner talking on Rex Begonias and Ferns. Vice President G. B. Lloyd presided at the meeting and introduced something new, the *Shade-O-Gram.* It is a separate branch publication of four mimeographed sheets, giving helpful hints to the beginner and advanced grower of begonias and shade plants. (Branches requiring more information on this, write to L. A. Garden Center, 245 S. Kingsley Dr., Los Angeles 4, Calif. enclosing a self addressed, stamped envelope.) The regular meeting on July 14th will be an unusual and interesting meeting. It is to be a Television Round-Table of Experts and the idea is to 'stump the experts'. Bring your questions and your friends. The Inglewood Branch has been invited en masse, sort of a combined-branch meeting. A Garden Tour has been arranged for July 17th, touring the Bay district gardens. Meet at 12:30 at Wilshire and Hudson, tour leaving at 1:00 p.m. sharp. A Pot luck supper with a campfire will climax the day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. Gross. Eat in the daylight and have fun around the fire! Fee will be fifty cents and everyone is invited, bring your food, your service and your friends.

Gordon Baker Lloyd, *Vice President*

Los Angeles, Calif., May 23rd, 1949

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board, American Begonia Society, held in Room 150 City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif.

Meeting called to order at 8 p.m. with President Gale presiding.

Board Members present—Messrs. Gale, Bozon, Moore, Dere, Hixon, Bailey, Mesdames Behrends, Drummond, Schwerdtfeger, Hartwell; Representatives from Santa Barbara, San Gabriel, El Monte, Whittier, Riverside, A. D. Robinson, San Diego, Glendale, Inglewood, Pasadena, North Long Beach, Parent Branch, Sacramento, Southgate, Bellflower, Santa Monica; Past Presidents, Dyckman, Lawrence, Mrs. Drummond, Williams.

Mrs. Drummond led in Salute to the Flag and stated aims and purposes of Society.

Reports of Treasurer, Business Manager, Membership Secretary, and Editor read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Mrs. Schwerdtfeger for Public Relations "We have some very promising prospects for new branches, out of state; Round Robin membership still increasing; many compliments on the Begonian.

President announced appointment of Nominating Committee to select officers for the ensuing year starting 1st of Sept.—Mr. Dyckman (Chairman), Mr. Miller, and Mr. Scherer; committee to select two names for each office.

Mr. Dyckman asked for suggestion of names for the ticket as the Committee did not have too much time to give.

George Lawrence, Sr. Past President and Chairman of Committee, appointed by President Gale to study the various proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the A. B. S. read the complete by-laws with the various changes included. On motion by Mrs. Schwerdtfeger, seconded by Treas. Bozon "The By-Laws as read, and the amendments as a whole be approved for presentation at special member's meeting—to follow immediately, with the approval of the Board. CARRIED.

The By-Laws as approved at the special member's meeting are fully covered in the News Letter and will later be printed in the Begonian.

At the Special Members' meeting held May 23rd, two amendments to the Constitution, relating to the place of office for the Society and to the time of the Annual Meeting, were adopted. The proposed amendment for raising the dues failed to receive the two-thirds majority. The proposed amendment for adding Committee Chairmen to the Board was rejected because it appeared not to carry out the purpose for which it was intended. It will probably be submitted in a form carrying out the intent at the Annual Meeting in Ventura.

The proposed amendments to the By-Laws were adopted as approved by the Board. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present at any regular meeting of the Board, or by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting or any special meeting called for that purpose.

Resolution was passed that the Board be directed to have prepared for submission by ballot to the entire membership, an amendment to the Constitution providing for an increase in dues. Treasurer stated the receipts for the past ten months were considerably less than the expenditures and that unless the dues were increased or other methods of revenue were found, desirable activities of the Society would have to be curtailed.

A letter read from Mrs. Helen Frey of Arcadia, a member of the San Gabriel Valley Branch, offering to donate a Challenge Cup in honor of her mother, the late Mrs. Effie Chapman.

Mrs. E. L. Korts, Chairman of the Pin Committee, had on hand a supply of the new Society Lapel Pins. These may be purchased by applying to her at 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 26, price $3.32 including all tax. See your Begonian for more information.

Membership Secretary announced many Begonians were being returned by the Post Office on account of incorrect address. If you do not receive your magazine regularly, write him being sure to give your correct street and city address.

Announcement was made that all would be welcome at the 3:20 weekly Wednesday Television broadcast by Gordon Baker Lloyd in his Mid-Week Garden Program over KFI-TV. This program often has members of the ABS on it. Studio is on Vermont, near First, Los Angeles.

Watch your Begonian for Annual Meeting news, Branch activities, Constitution and By-Laws, and Flower Show announcements; many flower shows throughout the summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

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Branch Meeting Dates and Places

BARTON, DOROTHY PIERSON BRANCH
Regular meetings, Quarterly, 1st Fridays
Flint, Michigan, Aug. 5
Mrs. S. V. Clark, Sec.,
1919 Zimmerman St., Flint 3, Mich.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH
1st Monday, July 4, 7:30 p.m.
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.
P. Knapp, Secretary
6144 Blackthorne Ave., Bellflower, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH
3rd Thursday, July 21, 7:30 p.m.
Willard School, Ward Street
Mrs. H. E. Thorpe, Sec.
1692 San Lorenzo Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH
3rd Thursday, July 21, 8:00 p.m.
Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 160
Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec.
701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH
1st Friday, July 1, 6 p.m.
Picnic, San Dimas Park, Azusa
Mrs. Phyllis Heth, Secretary
228 Bonita Ave., Azusa, Calif.

GLENDALE BRANCH
4th Thursday, July 28, 8:00 p.m.
206 West Cypress
Mrs. F. M. Brown, Sec.
3633 Revere, Los Angeles 26, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH
3rd Monday, July 18
Community House, LaJolla
Tillie Genter, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH
4th Thursday, July 28, 8:00 p.m.
Member's Residence
Mrs. Frank H. Mather, Corr. Sec.
515 Windover Rd., Hatboro, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH
2nd Thursday, July 14, 8 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Miss Marjory Robinson, Sec.
1137 No. Orange Dr., L. A. 46.

HUB CITY BRANCH
3rd Monday, July 18
Roosevelt High School Cafe
1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.
Mrs. Eloise Scheller, Sec.-Treas.
3556 Imperial, Lynwood, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH
2nd Monday, July 11, 8 p.m.
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church
Miss Margaret Smith,
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH
2nd Thursday, July 14, 8 p.m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Leo McBride, Secretary
3665 Mountain View Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH
2nd Monday, July 11, 8 p.m.
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.
Mrs. Edna F. Barker
89 Central, Lemon Grove, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER
3rd Tuesday, July 19, 7:30 p.m.
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Roy Ohlson, Sec'y.
1925 Marine Avenue, Long Beach 6, Calif.

MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH
4th Tuesday, July 26, 8 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH
4th Tuesday, July 26, 2 p.m.
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH
Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Sec.
114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson
P. O. Box 818, Denville, N. J.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH
2nd Monday, July 11, 7:30 p.m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach
Mrs. Merle Penrose, Sec.
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH
1st Thursday, July 7, 7:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.
Sec.-Treas., Ann Peterson, 414 E. Palmyra,
Orange, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH
2nd Saturday, July 9, 3:00 p.m.
40 No. San Rafael Ave.,
Mrs. Fred E. Distel
1320 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH
3rd Friday, July 15, 7:30 p.m.
Danish Hall, 19 Main St.
Mrs. Elizabeth Schlener, Sec.
18 10th Street, Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH
Mrs. Lillian Watts, Sec., 405 Cotswald Lane
Wynnwood, Pa.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, July 13, 8 p.m.
Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Sec.
7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH
4th Tuesday, July 26, 8 p.m.
3030 Homer Street, San Diego 6, Calif.
Mrs. R. K. Whitney, Secretary
4661 Brighton Avenue, San Diego 7, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, July 19, 8 p.m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Miss Mona Carnahan, Sec.
4416 East E St., Sacramento, Calif.

SALEM, OREGON BRANCH
1st Thursday, July 7
Salem Y.M.C.A.
Miss Ellen Quail, Sec.
202 Rural Ave., Salem, Oregon

SAN DIEGO BRANCH
4th Monday, July 25
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.
Mrs. D. M. McDaniel, Sec.
1225 Madison Ave., San Diego, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH
2nd Monday, July 11, 7:30 p.m.
Pierce Jr. College, 6201 Winnetka Ave.
Canoga Park. Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary.
20047 Arminta, Canoga Park, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
1st Wednesday, July 6, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.
Sec.: Mrs. Walter L. Morrison
2075 Tenth Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH
4th Wednesday, July 27, 8 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Mrs. Calvin T. Adams, Sec.
911 No. 2nd Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH
2nd Thursday, July 14, 7:30 p.m.
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, California
Roy G. Pierce, Secy.
914 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau
Nipomo, Calif.

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, July 13, 7:30 p.m.
University High School, Room 232
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles
Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary.
933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH
4th Thursday, July 28, 6:30 p.m.
Steckel Park
Mrs. Shirley Friedrich, P. O. Box 888
Santa Paula, California

SEATTLE BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, July 19
Member's Homes
Mrs. W. A. Walker, Secy.
4727-34 N. E., Seattle, Washington

See Next Page

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH
1st Tuesday, July 5, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main. Ventura. Calif.
Mrs. Clyde Snodgrass
Rt. 2, Box 54, Ventura, Calif.

SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH
3rd Thursday, July 21, 8 p.m.
Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. R. Clark, Cor. Secy.
1687 Grand Ave., Piedmont, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH
4th Tuesday, July 26, 8 p.m.
Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park,
Miss Ellen P. Dionne, Secy-Treas.
3139¼ Illinois Ave., Southgate, Calif.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.
4th Tuesday, July 26, 8 p.m.
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St., Cleveland, O.
Mrs. Fred McCune, Secy., 1470 Waterbury Rd.
Lakewood, Ohio

WHITTIER BRANCH
4th Tuesday, June 28, 8 p.m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. Haidee Hackler, Secy.
219 S. McNess St., Whittier, Calif.

YOUR EDITOR RECEIVED

A letter . . . "In the May issue of the *BEGONIAN* Peggy Sullivan leaves the impression that aluminum changes the color of Hydrangea flowers. Several years ago gardeners in the Seattle area tried to convince me that magnesium was the metal necessary. That is, A1SO4 or MgSO4 were used to lower the pH of the soil. It is the SO4 radical and not the metal which changes the pH. Aluminum sulphate is not recommended now by authorities because aluminum is toxic to plant life and when once introduced into soil is difficult to eliminate. Many camellias have been killed by its effects, especially large, beautiful specimens established many years. Magnesium sulphate, which is Epsom salts, is better since magnesium is a trace element necessary for most plants. In fact, some crop failures in recent years have been traced to magnesium deficiency of the soil in question.

I personally use agricultural sulphur as recommended by the California State Dept. of Agriculture. It is a little slower in its action but just as effective as sulphate salts. It is very cheap and a little is needed (one or two tablespoons per bush of medium size) and it can be counteracted if too much is applied by using a little lime or hydrated lime. Acidate, manufactured by the California Liquid Fertilizer Co., is iron sulphate and magnesium sulphate primarily for its results, both iron and magnesium being required by plants. Again, SO4 does the trick. In the case of sulphur, nature converts it into the proper acid entirely without our aid and without charge.

I know one nurseryman who has been using phosphoric acid (P2O5) for his camellias, but the results have not been good.

In relation to organic fertilizers, horse and cow manure are alkaline while chicken manure is acid. Cottonseed meal, an organic fertilizer, is decidedly acid and can be recommended to the organic gardening converts who use only organic fertilizers.

In regard to when color of Hydrangea flowers change, apparently the color is fixed in that crop of flowers but the next blooms will assume the color as determined by soil acidity. The pH 6.5 seems to be the point where blue turns pink. By testing the soil and keeping the soil at about 6.5 one year, I produced white flowers, but they were not pure white. We change the color of our Hydrangeas at will. Too much acidity will make the flowers almost purple which we do not like and add sufficient lime water which immediately makes the following blooms a lighter blue.

(signed) *Ervin W. Graf, Hawthorne, Calif.*

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