

The Begonian

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The Begonian

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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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Cover

Front: Does this appear to be a village in the rainforrest of Mexico? Not at all. This blue ribbon winner at the Convention in Atlanta in June is **Mary Bucholtz's** photograph taken in Oklahoma City. The begonia is a B. *bowerae* hybrid growing beautifully in the Myriad Botanical Gardens.

Back: B. 'Tequesta' grown to perfection by **Charles Jaros** took the honors in the Hanging Container Division at the 1998 Convention. It is a trailing/scandent hybrid of B. *acida* x an unknown (Michelson, Florida 1970). Photo by **Janet Brown**.

Mr. Begonia: Rudolf Ziesenhenne

This issue is dedicated to Rudolf Ziesenhenne who will be honored at a lunch held in conjunction with the ABS Annual Business Meeting in Santa Barbara, CA on September 26, 1998. It is appropriate that the cover carries a hybrid of B. *bowerae*, a species with which he has worked so extensively. Read about this man, who is a beloved symbol for begonias to so many of us, in the article by Janet Brown beginning on page 176.

Begonias...Southern Style

Thanks to the wonderful work of the Greater Atlanta Branch, particularly Mary Elizabeth Moultrie and Branch President Russ Richardson, and so many ABS members, the 1998 Convention is now a set of wonderful memories. In this issue these are captured for us in words by Janet Brown on page 165 and in photographs throughout this issue provided by members who attended.

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Quick

Check your mailing label. If it reads **11/98 or 12/98**, your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you.

President's Notes...

Everyone that knew him called him Bill; even the many newcomers who were the surprised recipients of his "gladioluses" only knew from the note that he left that he would "...come get the bucket later - Bill ." And they were magnificent spikes of blooms, some with delicate shadings of pink or orange; some with bold, strong "in your face" colors - although that expression would never have crossed his lips.

My dad had a green thumb for vegetables and gladioli. He fathered six children and fed us mostly through his vegetable garden. But he fed his spirit with the gladioli. And he was aware that others' spirits sometimes flagged with the vagaries of life, so a milk bucket full of blooms was left outside a garage door as he drove to work, along with the attendant note. I never knew how he knew that someone needed a "pick-me-up," but I saw and heard many "thank-you-so-very-much"-es in the summers of my childhood.

I know begonias are spirit food. One of our members gave up a hobby of restoring old cars to concentrate on growing begonias. He now spends more money on his greenhouses than he did on the cars - but, apparently, the results give greater satisfaction and better "battery recharging" each evening after- and morning before- his work day.

I had to give a talk on a historical Texan once, and I was trying to explain that each trip to an archive or library or genealogical center opened more areas in his life that I needed to pursue. I used the analogy of the nesting dolls: the first large one contained one smaller, but as intricately designed as the first; and then there was another, and another; and.....

Begonias are like that. You've figured how to grow a favored begonia to your satisfaction and you find at a show an entry with 6 times more blossoms and 4 times handsomer than your best effort. So you dig in again, and - look for another 'doll.'

After the Atlanta convention, **Tamsin** and I visited with **Kit and Ed Mounger** in Tennessee. The guest bedroom is downstairs in a split level house. I awakened one morning to footfalls above; curious start-and-stop movements rather like the "Learn to Dance!" ads in the pulp magazines - I tried to envision the reason. Those of you, gone from home for a week, know what was happening; the watering can was in use with the inside-the-house plants.

I joined Kit outside as she watered the begonias accumulated on the wooden deck. "I keep telling myself that I don't need any more plants - my basket is too full of projects as it is - but I'll see one that needs a home at my place and it and several other adoptees manage to find a ride home."

And her ultimate statement, as she splashed two corgis, a Great Dane, 3 or 4 cats, her husband and a houseguest: "But, I *just like 'em.*"

Oh, how often we've heard that said in so many ways. And your new officers will be trying to capture new begonia lovers using our old tricks of "spirit food," "endless learning," and "welcome to my house," - and we'll try some new ones using the new communications methods now at our disposal.

But, I must say that my dad never found the ultimate gladiolus. May you happily keep looking for *B. ultima* - and sharing with us all!

~Bruce C. Boardman

Quick Tips

Have you ever let seedlings get overgrown, their roots terribly meshed together making transplanting almost hopeless? Take the root ball out of the pot as a whole and place in a shallow container, e.g. a pie pan or bowl. Add water and allow the babies to swim apart. Gently pull the leaves of the babies to separate them. (Note you pull the leaf instead of stem because leaves are replaceable, but a stem that is broken too low could mean the loss of the plant.) Plant the newly separated babies in their new homes. A little extra humidity for a couple of days is always nice, even if they were hardened off before transplanting. They may have lost some roots and the extra humidity sets them back on their feet. Works for cuttings that are started together, too.

~Michael Ludwig

Begonias.....*Southern Style*

by Janet Brown

The 1998 ABS National Convention in Decatur, Georgia was a great success. The very small **Greater Atlanta Branch** of the American Begonia Society put on a very big show for us and made us feel right at home. Show Chairman **Mary Elizabeth Moultrie** and Branch President **Russ Richardson** were unflappable and handled their very demanding job with aplomb and charm.

Tour Director **Carolyn Hawkins** showed us all around Callaway Gardens on our first full day and on the way we were able to see the Georgia countryside, lush and green, with little towns along the road; and each house seemed to have a big front porch with lots of rocking chairs and swings. Callaway was beautiful and so large that we seemed to drive for miles after entering the gates. Our first stop was the Sibley Center with a topiary garden and a great gift shop. Then we stopped at the Butterfly House, a lovely steamy place with incredible butterflies everywhere around us and some gorgeous begonias as well. It was a real treat for Victory Garden fans to visit the Victory Garden South and it was there we had a delicious lunch under the trees. Next stop was a surprise extra: Warm Springs and the Little White House where FDR lived and died and a very nice museum with many mementos of his life.

The next day we had one of those required Convention thunder and lightening storms with just a threat of a tornado (they plan it to scare the Californians--and it works). That helped to break the heat, but gave us a rainy afternoon at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Somehow it made the gardens even more beautiful. In the Conservatory we had a dazzling montage of begonias to welcome us in the entry hall and then were taken to the greenhouses where we saw an amazing variety of plants. Most astonishing was their massive collection of nepenthes from tiny little things to cups over a foot and a half long. And they even had some begonias to show us.

On the last day **Carolyn Hawkins** showed us Atlanta including Peachtree Street, the Olympic sites and the Olympic Village, of course where the bomb went off, and where Ted and Jane hang out (in a very large building). We also saw the Ebeneezer Baptist Church and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthplace, the house where Margaret Mitchell wrote *Gone with the Wind,* and Turner Stadium where the Braves play ball under a very large Coke bottle. And then on to the remarkable, eclectic, one-of-a-kind garden and home of world famous landscape designer Ryan Gainey. Meeting Mr. Gainey and seeing his garden was a once in a lifetime experience and words and even pictures can't begin to describe it. And we had another of those lovely Georgia box lunches under the white oak trees before heading back to the Atlanta Airport and reality.

Three incredible lectures were arranged by Seminar chairman **Mary Bucholtz**. **Tamsin Boardman** began with an excellent treatise on conservation and saving our species and the worldwide efforts in effect. **Wanda Macnair** was next with her incredible array of terrariums each containing a divine species in perfection (see page 170). Wanda's enthusiasm matches her vast knowledge of begonias and especially terrarium growing. And, finally, ABS' own Indiana Jones, **Scott Hoover**, took us on another glorious adventure in species hunting in the jungles of Sumatra and Suluwesi. At least it was glorious for his listeners seated in air-conditioned comfort. The real thing was much less comfortable, dripping humidity, seeds that refused to dry and then were stolen, and of course, those fresh tiger tracks. All great fun, but what would begonias be without the brave plant hunters like Scott. We are eternally grateful for his dedicated work.

The Show was dominated by **Charles Jaros**. He brought a truckload of over 40 plants to the Show and returned with a truckload of trophies including Best in Show with an awesome B. 'Morocco'. Many others contributed entries and it was a beautiful and varied show. The Greater Atlanta Branch should be very proud of themselves.

1998 ABS Special Awards

by Michael Ludwig

Congratulations to the winners of the Herbert P. Dyckman and Eva Kenworthy Gray Awards.



Mary Sakamoto**, behind **Eleanor Calkins** above, presented the awards for **Michael Ludwig** who could not be present. **Gene** and **Ann Salisbury** proudly display their award below. Photo above by **Janet Brown**, below by **Carol Notaras.

Eleanor Calkins has been a valuable member of ABS for over 30 Years. She has been an officer in the branch or nationally or both for most of them. She is seen at most conventions and many Southwest Region Get-togethers. Eleanor was ABS Treasurer for 11 years. She is active in the Palomar and San Miguel Branches. She has been Chairperson of the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund since August of 1997 when the San Miguel Branch took it on as a branch project. She certainly has contributed "above and beyond" for many years and the American Begonia Society is lucky to have her as an active member and winner of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award.

Gene and **Ann Salisbury** are both Past Presidents of ABS. They have bound their lives and ABS with harmony and goodwill making them the perfect recipients for the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award. During their terms as President they have cemented six new branches into ABS. They have stepped into numerous jobs that were vacated and left unfinished, finished them, and brought the members of the American Begonia Society closer together. Active in the Barkley Branch and Southwest Region for over 10 years, they have guided and entered shows and conventions in those areas while members. We are honored to have the Salisbury's as members and as this year's winners of the the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award.

The Alfred D. Robinson Medal was not awarded this year.



Begonias...*Southern Style: *Show Winners**

by Leora Fuentes

Best in Show: ***B.* 'Morocco'** grown by **Charles Jaros**
Best Species in Show: ***B. microsperma* (formerly known as *B. ficicola*)**, grown by **Don Miller**
Sweepstakes (most blue ribbons)**: Charles Jaros**
Showing is Sharing (most entries in show)**: Charles Jaros**
Hybrid of Distinction: ***B.* 'White Ice'**, grown by **Charles McGough**
Division Winners:

Division	Entry Name	Grown By
Cane-Like	*B.* 'Superba-Kenzii'	Charles Jaros
Rhizomatous	*B.* 'Haley's Comet'	Charles Jaros
Rhizomatous-Large Leaved	*B.* 'Palmgarten'	Charles Jaros
Rhizomatous--Crested/Spiral	*B.* 'Palomar Prince'	Dale Sena
Trailing/Scandent	*B.* 'Morocco'	Charles Jaros
Contained Atmosphere	*B. prismatocarpa* 'Variegated'	Mary Bucholtz
Hanging Container	*B.* 'Tequesta'	Charles Jaros
Species	*B. aconitifolia*	Charles Jaros
New Introductions	*B.* 'White Ice'	Charles McGough
Novice	*B.* 'Kit Jeans Mounger'	Helen Batts
Commercial	*B.* 'Bishops `J 94/13' (B. 'Sierra Mist')	Doug Jensen (Rainbows)
S.W. Region Hybrid	*B.* 'Fiesta Texas'	Charles Jaros
Traveling	*B. venosa*	Wanda Macnair
Crafts	Stained Glass Birdhouse	Kit Jeans Mounger
Companion Plants	nautilocalyx pemphidius	Elaine Gordon

Cultural Awards

Mary Bucholtz	B. *versicolor*	95
	B. *prismatocarpa* 'Variegated'	96
Elaine Gordon	B. 'Buttercup'	95.8
Harmony Foliage	Rex Cultorum	96.5
Charles Jaros	B. *aconitifolia*	96
	B. *deliciosa*	96.5
	B. 'Delta'	95
	B. 'Fiesta Texas'	96
	B. 'Haley's Comet'	97.33
	B. 'Morning Sun'	95
	B. 'Morocco'	95
	B. 'Palmgarten'	97
	B. 'Superba-Kenzii'	95
Doug Jensen	B. 'Bishop's J94/13'	96.6
	B. *mannii*	96.3
	B. 'Satin Ribbons'	95
	B. 'Selph's Mahogany'	95.6
Wanda Macnair	B. *versicolor*	96
Don Miller	B. *microsperma*	97
North Haven Gardens	B. *foliosa*	95
	B. 'Looking Glass'	96
Dale Sena	B. 'Palomar Prince'	96

1998 Champion Grower: Charles Jaros

No one who saw his begonias, most decked with blue ribbons and trophies, in the 1998 ABS Convention in Atlanta could dispute this title for Charles Jaros. Here,in an interview with the editor, he shares some of his growing practices.

Q: Charles, you do grow them big! Is this just Florida or are you partial to the big plants?

A: I like them all sizes, but they do seem to grow bigger since I moved here to Sanford than they did when I lived in Miami. The temperature here drops about 20 degreens down to the 70's at night. The begonias seem to prefer that to Miami's more even temperatures. It also gets colder here, even down to freezing. Actually, both the B. 'Superba-Kenzii' and B. 'Palmgarten' froze back to the pot in 1995 and came back even stronger.

Q: How do you fertilize these big ones?

A: I use Nutricote 13-13-13 which is a 180 day time-release fertilizer, but water triggers the release so that with each watering they get fed. I buy it in the 50 lb. bag and just put it into the mix I use which is Fafard 2S. That's a great mix and I just use it straight from the bag without adding anything except the fertilizer. I rarely supplement feed, but do occastionally use "Watch Us Grow" which is all natural. Using it, I think the canes flower more and leaves have more substance.

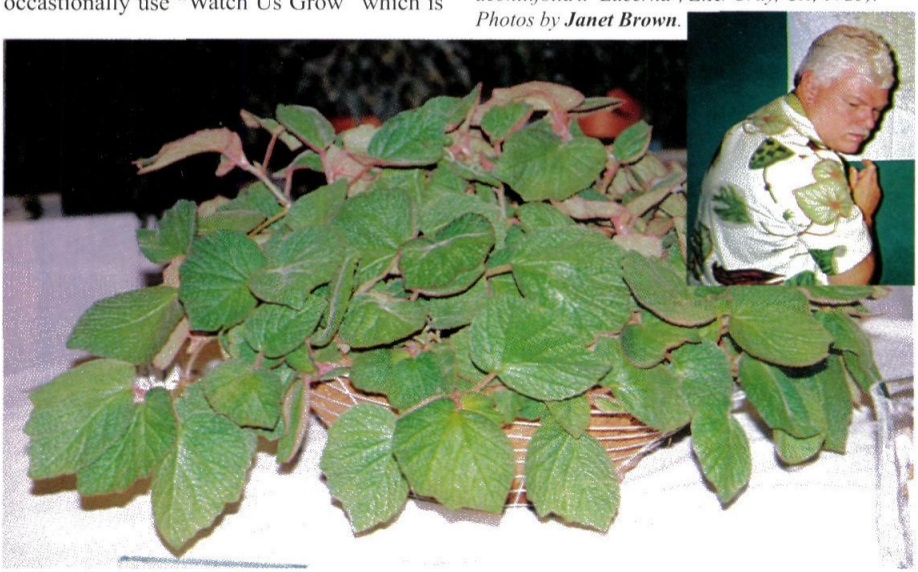
Q: What about watering?

A: I use well water when needed which is about every other day if it doesn't rain. The plants seem to like this water which has no chlorine.

Q: You have just about every type of plant, but many canes and rhizomatous. Which do you find easier to grow?

A: I think rhizomatous are easier here. They had some problems in Miami, but the canes grew better there with the extra humidity in Miami. I've had some problems with mildew in the winter on the canes here, but I use a liquid copper spray weekly and an occasional spray with Lysol in just the regular spray can

Below, Best of Show winner B. 'Morocco' (B. solimutata x ulmifolia). Photo by ***Midori Nobusawa****. Above, next page, Best Rhizomatous, Large Leaved, B. 'Palmgarten' (B. carolineifolia x 'Leslie Lynn', Kartuz 1977). Compare it to the same plant in February, in bloom (May/June Begonian, p. 113).In the inset, note that Charles even grows begonias on his shirt! Finally, bottom right, Best Cane, B. 'Superba-Kenzii' (B. aconitifolia x 'Lucerna', E.K. Gray, CA, 1925). Photos by* ***Janet Brown****.*





from the store. I also go against the rules and overpot because plants grow so fast here. I like the coconut fiber baskets too; they are easier than moss and are even reusable.

Q: I understand B. 'Morocco' is a new hybrid from Michael Kartuz. Would you classify it as easy or difficult to grow?

A: I would say easy. It is a trailing/scandent. The show plant is from cuttings and is about a year old. It is a winter bloomer and does get a little mildew so you have to be ready with the spray. B. 'Palmgarten' is also a Kartuz hybrid, but an older one.

Q: *B. U309* was another striking entry of yours. Can you tell us about it?

A: This one was from Don Miller's trip to Malaysia where he found it growing in a botanical garden. It also grows in Singapore's botanic garden. No one is sure it is a species, but it does have the look of one. It is very easy to propagate from leaf wedges. Mike Kartuz wants to try hybridizing with it.

Q: Charles, any final tips for us on winning ribbons?

A: Many years ago, Paul Lowe taught me to go over my plants about six weeks before a show and pick out the ones to consider, then remove any bad or damaged leaves right then. By show time, new growth will replace them and the plant will look better. For example, B. 'Haley's Comet' was severely trimmed back and it recovered nicely.



Terrarium Begonias, or Bringing the Rainforest Indoors

by Wanda Macnair

Wanda provides us here with an enhanced text of her seminar presented in Atlanta in June.

Tamsin Boardman presented an excellent seminar at the Atlanta Convention on begonia species and why we must work to preserve them, especially in light of what is happening in their native habitat, with the rainforests being destroyed for commercial reasons.

Some of these species require so much humidity that they must be grown in a contained atmosphere, or sometimes a heated greenhouse. Other species and the cultivars derived from them also thrive in a humid atmosphere although they can exist outside of a container. Luckily, this suits some of us growers very well since plants grown in such conditions require less light. In the rainforest they are used to a thick canopy of overhead growth, preventing any direct sunlight from reaching these plants.

Because I have killed more plants from underwatering than overwatering, this is perfect for me. In the summer, we spend a great deal of time in Maine, coming home to Cambridge to water plants, pick up the mail, etc. When all of our plants need watering, it takes about four hours because they are tucked in areas all over the house.

One of the big problems with container-grown plants is locating proper containers which are large enough. We have resorted to growing multiple plants in ten and twenty gallon aquaria, and our branch members have resorted to making their own glass containers. Plastic or glass containers of any size or shape are suitable, as long as they allow enough light to the plants. For growing plants to share, I use small rose-bowls, and other containers which can often be found at flea markets.

If larger containers cannot be located, you will have a good excuse to remove larger leaves or far-reaching stems for propagation. If leaves are allowed to be cramped up against the side of the container, they might be affected by condensation and begin to rot. In any case, they will become misshapen if left too crowded.

Actually, these humidity-loving plants do not require much moisture at their roots. They are mostly epiphytic plants, which thrive in decaying, well-drained humus in the rainforest, so that we need to take care that they are not overwatered. The ideal situation is when only a small amount of condensation forms when they experience a temperature drop or an increase in temperature. Most of the time, the containers should not be cloudy with moisture.

We grow terrarium plants under fluorescent light and also with natural light. They are placed anywhere from three feet away from curtained windows to the top of bookcases across a room away from the light exposure. Light is such a precious commodity that we have some containers stacked around the source of artificial light, and on the floor under light carts. As with any other type of plant, you observe them carefully to determine their needs. In other words, don't talk to your plants, let them talk to you.

Terrarium begonias may be fed lightly, but why encourage them to grow out of their homes? Don't overdo the feeding or watering. If you have been too generous with the water, use a paper towel pressed into the growing medium as a blotter. You'll be amazed at how much water you can soak up that way. So how do you water? Very carefully! I recommend a turkey baster or mister, keeping in mind that you only wish to maintain a humid atmosphere. Growers who live with air conditioning are lucky, because these plants also are usually happier with cooler temperatures. Outside of *B. incisa,* the key to keeping these plants in good shape is not allowing them to become too hot. When this happens, their growth will become very rangy. If it does, you can cut back and propagate some more.

B. incisa, mentioned above, is more touchy in the winter, and wants to be kept on the warm side. Our temperatures in the winter go down to about 60^0 F. at night, with some unheated rooms going lower. Our main problem is the heat of summer. Sometimes we simply move some of the containers to the

basement whether they have light or not during very hot spells.

While some growers use a soilless mix for growing their plants, we prefer the long-fibered sphagnum moss and perlite mentioned in the excellent chapter on terrarium growing in *Begonias, The Complete Reference Guide* by **Mildred and Ed Thompson**. After pouring boiling water over the moss, to eliminate any "livestock", and to moisten it thoroughly, it is cut up in very short pieces when cool. After squeezing out any excess water, it is mixed with perlite at the rate of 4:1. Before planting, I like to use the smallest size gardener's charcoal in the bottom of the container. One-fourth to one-half inch of charcoal is sufficient.

For show purposes, you can have glass tops made for spherical containers, as judges are not too happy with Saran wrap. For home growing, however, some round plastic tops which have been used with food containers may pass muster. When using Saran, moistening the plastic helps to keep it in place for traveling.

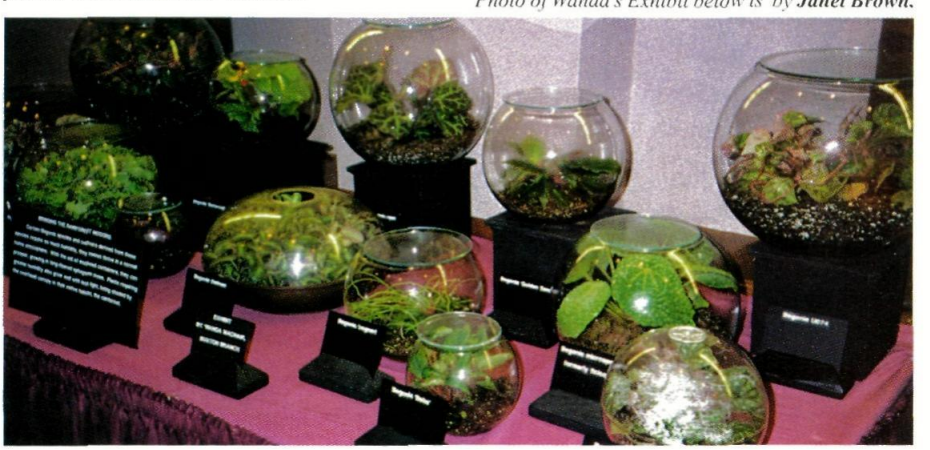
One of the dreaded problems we have with many begonias can be nonexistent with terrarium plants. Since the plants are in a container, they are protected from the spores of powdery mildew, unless they had some spores around before being placed in their new home. Fungus gnats can be a problem, but they can be trapped with small pieces of sticky white fly traps, held up with the plastic florists' card holders. Or, you can make your own traps with yellow cardboard and vaseline.

Most rexes and a number of other rhizomatous plants will thrive in terrarium care. Some of the species which could not live outside a container in the normal home atmosphere are: *B. prismatocarpa*, *B. bogneri*, *B. versicolor*, *B. rajah*, *B. microsperma* (syn. *B. ficicola*), *B. velloziana*, *B. subnummularifolia*, and B. *ciliobracteata* (syn. *raynaliorum*). Two trailing scandent species, *U074* and *thelmae*, grow rampant on the floor of a hobby orchid grower's greenhouse in Newton, MA, but they need terrarium care at our house.

Terrarium begonias are very easy to propagate, so please do so and share them with other growers and commercial growers as well if they are willing to carry them. Terrarium plants are the first to be sold out at conventions and get-togethers. I like to buy these plants, too. I have tried growing them in sphagnum and small pots in a prop box, but they simply do not grow as well as those which may spread their roots farther.

There are two ABS round robins dealing with terrarium growing, and the subject is also discussed on the Internet.

Wanda Macnair *has won awards for her terrarium plants at the New England Spring Flower Show and has spoken to numerous groups on all aspects of growing begonias. She writes a weekly column entitled "A Passion for Plants" in the Lincoln County News in Maine. Interested members and branches may order a new video, "Bringing the Rainforest Indoors" from the Slide Library, taped at the 1997 Tropical Flower Show in Bennington, VT, sponsored by the New England Tropical Conservatory. You may write her at 177 Hancock St., Cambridge, MA 02139. Photo of Wanda's Exhibit below is by* ***Janet Brown.***



Minutes of the American Begonia Society Board Meeting

June 20, 1998 in Atlanta, GA

1. President Bruce Boardman conducted the meeting. **2.** The Aims and Purposes of the ABS were read by **Richard Macnair. 3.** A motion was made and seconded to dispense with reading the minutes of April 25, 1998 meeting to save time. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. The motion carried and the minutes were accepted. **4.** President Boardman reminded National Directors that one of their duties was to share their copies of the minutes with their Branches.

Reports: 5. The Treasurer's report was given by **Carol Notaras**. There was a $13.59 correction to the prior report. For the current period April 1 to June 15, 998, the general fund had a beginning balance of $27,168.216 and ending balance of $22,354.90; down $4,813.36. Income for the period was $5,8132.51, mainly from memberships and the return of the $1500 convention advance. Two-thirds of the $10,636.25 expenses were for printing the Begonian. The combined book store, seed fund and general checking accounts began at $28,160.19, and ended at $32,654.51, down $4,505.68. Savings account balances increased from $28,594.59 to $28,816.25 or $231.66. This is lower than expected because the bank changed from monthly to quarterly posting of interest. The combined ending balance was $52,480.76; down $4,274.02 from the beginning. The report was accepted. **6.** Branch Relations Chair **Mary Bucholtz** requested that the Board approve some cosmetic changes to the Satellite Branch Constitution and by-Laws for the record. The board voted approval. In her written report, Mary indicated that there is still a possibility of establishing a new branch in Baton Rouge, LA, and another branch in Houston, TX. **7.** Internet Editor **Kathy Goetz** reported that the proposed ABS web page was set up, but not yet filled. She plans to include a list of contacts for all the branches including addresses and telephone numbers. Any contact person feeling uneasy about having his telephone number on the website should make that known to Kathy. The web page will have three sections. The first will have information about ABS including branches and membership. The second will be a virtual greenhouse and the third a virtual library. Pictures of individual begonias are needed for the virtual greenhouse. More article are needed for the virtual library. To facilitate getting memberships from the web page, Kathy recommends that the ABS start taking credit cards for dues. This would be especially convenient for international members and could result in obtaining more members. It is now common practice to purchase items on the web with a credit card and it is claimed to be more secure than the telephone. The website has a temporary e-mail address which you may obtain by e-mail from Kathy Goetz: goetzk@dnc.net. **8. Virginia Hamman** sent in a report indicating no robins were received in May. However, there were 4 in January, 3 in February, 6 in March, and 10 in April. **9.** Judging chair **Maxine Zinman** reported two judging schools held this year, three new judges and five judges advanced. **10.** Membership Secretary **John Ingles** sent a written report: On May 31, there were 1130 dues paying members, 85 institution members and 51 life members. Fifteen new members joined in May. **11**. The Audit Committee, reported that the financial records were in order, but that the projected dues are not likely to pay for magazine production. **12**. Efforts to publicize the Atlanta Convention to bring in the public were unsuccessful. Newspapers did not print notices, but it was announced on the radio and a few people showed up. **13.** Seed Fund administrator **Eleanor Calkins** reported that total fund income this past year was about $2,861. Expenses were about $360. Fifteen hundred dollars has already been transferred to the ABS general Fund. She presented another check for $500 to the treasurer, making a total transfer of $2,000 this year. There is presently $491.55 remaining in the seed fund account. **14.** There was no report from the historian, but President Boardman reminded everyone that the historian should be receiving all branch newsletters or other publications and also requested a copy for the president.

Continued on page 174.

1998 Show Winners: New Introductions



Charles McGough's B. 'White Ice' immediately caught the eye of everyone who passed. It was judged Best in Division and won the Hybrid of Distinction title as well. Charles could not be present so the plant traveled to the Convention in **Don Miller's** van from Dallas. Charles is well-known for hybridizing with the Semperflorens "Cocktail" series. This one is a hybrid of B. 'Flamingo Queen' and either 'Wiskey' or 'Gin', Charles is not sure which. He describes it as having very short nodes, readily branching and with lots of basal shoots. Photo by **Mary Bucholtz.**



B. 'Pink Thunder' came from Tennessee with its hybridizer and grower **Kit Jeans Mounger** to take a blue ribbon. It is a sturdy hybrid whose pink flowers in season really stand out against the thundercloud leaves. A slow grower, it remains compact. She remembers it as being from a packet of B. *manicata* seed shared with her by Joan Campbell. Photo by **Midori Nobusawa**.

Continued from page 172.

15. The Slide Library report from **Charles Jaros** indicated that some of the older cardboard slide frames are deteriorating. Options to preserve them include remounting in plastic mounts, transferring them to video tape, or using a slide scanner to convert them to a photograph which can then be put on CD-ROM. More discussion is required. Volunteer effort on some of the options may be possible.

Old Business: 16. Treasurer **Carol Notaras** informed everyone of a recent demand from the IRS for the tax number used by each branch of ABS. The number required is called the Exempt Identification Number (EIN), a nine-digit number. If your branch has applied for and received its own EIN, please report it to the treasurer immediately. If you do not have a branch EIN and do not use one or use the EIN of the ABS, please inform the treasurer of this also. **17.** Selected plants in the Atlanta showroom were placed on silent auction. The proceeds from the plants brought by Charles Jaros are to go to the Slide Library and those from plants brought by **John Howell** will go to the Conservation Fund. **18.** A motion to start a new fund with the provision of a $1500 donation was submitted in writing to President Boardman to be entitled the Millie Thompson Publication Fund which will be used for the sole purpose of the publication of new material on begonias. The motion as written was seconded, briefly discussed and passed. **19.** Regarding the writing of articles for national publications which was discussed at the April meeting, there has not been much response. **New Business**: **20.** The annual Business Meeting and Installation of Officers will be held in Santa Barbara, CA, on 9/26/98. Annual reports should be sent to the Secretary, **Richard Macnair**, by September 20, 1998. **21. John Langevin,** the new curator of the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, was introduced. **22.** Judging Chair **Maxine Zinman** proposed a national show schedule to standardize ABS shows. It is a list of proposed show divisions to be used by those organizing shows and can be amplified to suit local conditions. Copies of the proposed schedule were passed out and feedback requested. **23.** A fund-raising proposal was discussed consisting of forming a Circle of Friends of the ABS and providing each donor with a recognition pin. Presumably the "Friends would not have to be members of ABS. No action was taken, but it is an idea to explore. **24.** A motion was made and seconded to name Carrie Karegeannes as a permanent member of the Awards Committee. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

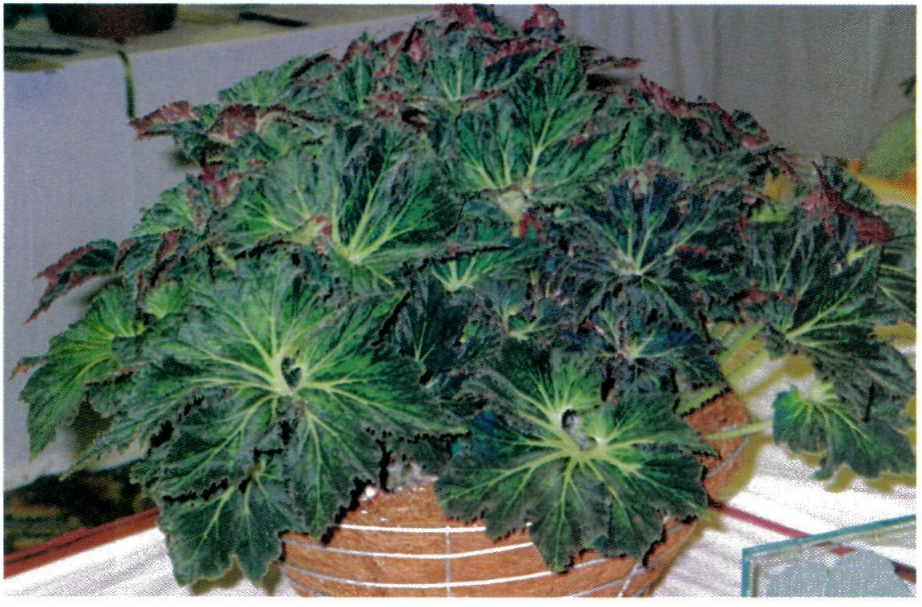
Richard Mcnair

Minutes of Board Meeting, Oklahoma, April 25, 1998, Oklahoma City, OK.

The treasurer could not attend, but sent a written report covering January through March, 1998. The general fund showed a beginning balance of $27,352.30 and an ending balance of $27,165.26, down $184.04. Combined saving accounts had an ending balance of $28,581.00, up about $412. The total of checking and savings was $56,741.19 which is a net increase of about $140 for the quarter.

Discussion items included among others the MAL newsletter, paid advertising, making new members more welcome, and ways of getting information on begonias to the public. The Rocky Mountain Branch may be able to host a convention in 2001, but a firm commitment has not been made yet. Maxine Zinman reported 12 attendees at Judging School there on the first day and 9 on the second day. Present at this board meeting were 19 National Directors, 8 Committee Chairs, and 6 Officers. Branch Relations Chair Mary Bucholtz reported that information was sent to people in Ohio and Louisiana to encourage branches there.

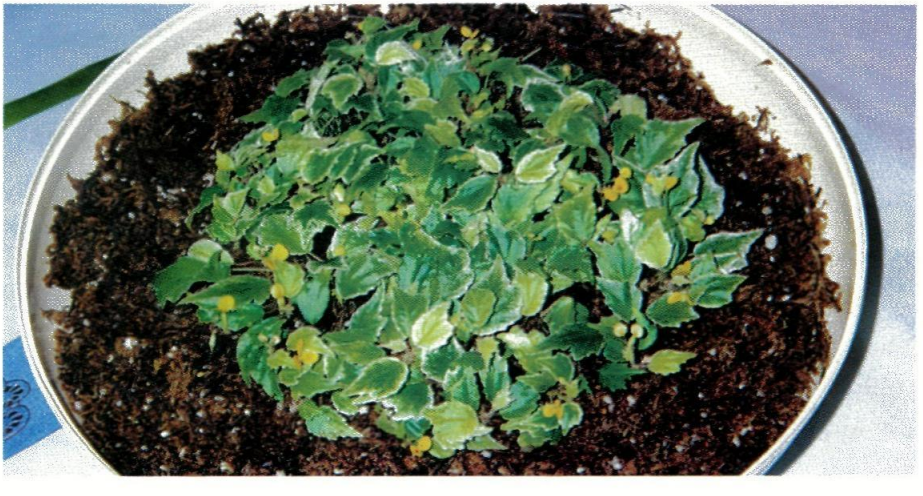
These June minutes have been slightly abbreviated and the April minutes extensively for reasons of space. You may receive copies of the complete minutes of these meetings as well as those of the January meeting held in Fort Worth which has not been reported here, again for reasons of space, by writing a request to ***Richard Macnair*** *at 177 Hancock Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.*



More 1998 Show Winners



B. 'Palomar Prince', above, grown by **Dale Sena**, another new Michael Kartuz hybrid (B. 'Valmont' x unk.) won Division for Best Rhizomatous, Crested or Spiraled Leaf. Photo by **Carol Notaras**. Best Crafts Division winner, right, was **Kit Jeans Mounger's** stained glass birdhouse. On the back of her photo, she writes, "Harry Wren has a hobby...!" Below, **Mary Bucholtz's B.** ***prismatocarpa*** **'Variegated'** won the Contained Atmosphere Divsion. Photo by **Janet Brown**.



Honoring Mr. Begonia: Rudolf Ziesenhenne

by Janet Brown

The heart and soul of the American Begonia society resides in Santa Barbara, CA just off busy Milpas Street, nestled on the rise to the Santa Ynez Mountains. There is a lath house, two greenhouses, a little cottage and a house up the steep hill. Within these structures are the past, present, and future of the over 1400 species that make up *Begoniaceae*. Since the 1930's Rudolf Ziesenhenne has been deeply involved in the scientific work of discovering, cataloging, naming, and nurturing begonia seeds and plants sent to him from all over the world. Directors of botanical gardens, professors of botany and horticulture, plant explorers defer to this man on Milpas Street whose lifelong occupation has been begonias. Begonia lovers everywhere revere him for his work to preserve the species and his tireless efforts for the American Begonia Society.

The Beginning

Rudy was born in Chicago and came to California in 1923 when he was eleven years old. He settled in Santa Barbara and in 1933 married Margaret Selover. The Great Depresssion was in full swing and jobs were scarce. His father-in-law offered him the land at the bottom of the hill for a nursery. Rudy had always loved plants and he and his mother-in-law and Margaret especially liked begonias. The greenhouse and lath house, which were built just to the left of the cottage where the Ziesenhenne family lived, opened its doors in 1934. From the very beginning it was a begonia nursery. The same buildings are there today just as they were then with the exception of a second greenhouse added several years later. Rudy had never heard of the Begonia Society.

Rudy remembers, "My sister took Herbert P. Dyckman's horticulture class in Long Beach. During the Depression he was teaching people how to garden and raise their own food. She told him I had a begonia nursery and he invited us to come to the meeting of the California Begonia Society (founded in 1932 by Dyckman). I went to three meetings, but wasn't allowed to join. It was very exclusive. I attended the meeting in San Diego when Alfred D. Robinson suggested going nationwide. They voted to become the American Begonia Society in 1935. I joined them and was member #127."

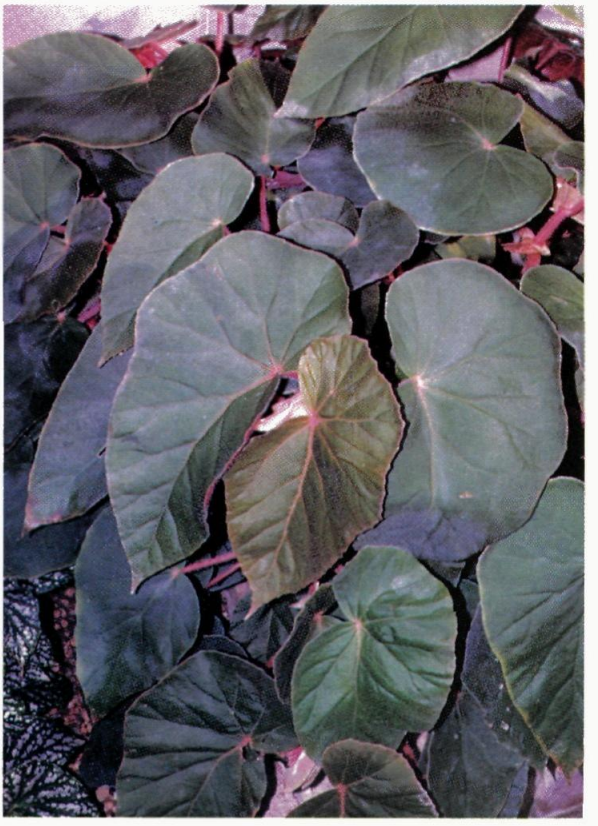
The meetings of the new ABS were held in Long Beach, California, at members' homes, and it was at Herbert Dyckman's house that Rudy first met Bessie Buxton and other legends of the early days. It was a long trip down to Long Beach from Santa Barbara. There were no freeways and an evening meeting in Long Beach meant a slow drive back to Santa Barbara through small towns at 25 miles per hour, with stop signs and signals, arriving home in the wee hours. The members' enthusiasm for begonias made it seem worthwhile despite the difficulty of getting up for work the next morning. They shortened the drive about 50 miles by starting the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch in Ventura and when that grew to over 100 members the Santa Barbara group, still driving too far, decided to form their own branch (the eighth) in 1940.

Beginning the Scientific Work

Rudolf Ziesenhenne has written 2432 column inches for the Begonian over the years. His first article was published in the May, 1935 issue just one month after he became an ABS member. It was a translation from the German of part of *Die Begonien* by Karl Albert Fotsch. He was by nature a researcher, and a scholar and approached begonias by describing them accurately, drawing them correctly without embellishment. As Rudy tells it, "I'm not really an artist just more of a draftsman. I

drew the plants to scale--no free-hand drawing--but exactly the way the leaf and flower looks. I don't want to get the artist into it. Some people overpower botanical drawing with art and they change the shape. All my drawings are exactly the way the living plant was when I drew it."

Through the New York botanical Garden Journal, he became acquainted with the work of Thomas MacDougall, the great collector of begonias. They began corresponding with each other and thus began a remarkable collaboration. Rudy tells about it. "MacDougall was a landscape architect in New York and from October to April he had little to do. He liked to go down to Mexico, mainly Oaxaca and Chiapas, to collect begonias and his plants, echevarias. If you wanted rodents or snakes, he could get you those too. When he returned to New York, they would put his plants in a press and tie them away in the herbarium. He didn't like that because he wanted to know what he was collecting. He asked me to identify and name his specimens, propagate them and collect seed. That's how I stumbled



Rudy's B. 'Gene Daniels' (B. 'Frieda Grant x unknown, 1973). Photo by ***Mary Bucholtz.*** *Below,* ***Rudy Ziesenhenne*** *and* ***Irene Nuss*** *in May of 1998. Photo by* ***Janet Brown.***



into taxonomy. MacDougall brought back 326 collections in all. Some were lost right away, some were duplicates; and I still have a drawer full that I haven't finished yet. I would grow his plants and, as the different parts developed, I'd take them in at night and draw them. When the plant got full grown I'd photograph it. So I was involved with photography, drawing, studying, research--the detective work."

In those days the plant descriptions had to be written in Latin or they were not accepted by scientists. Although Rudy had studied biology and some botany, he was essentially untrained when he began his work. And as his reputation spread, more people began sending him begonias for identification. Some with advanced degrees tried to trick him by sending a "new begonia species from Australia" that turned out to be a hybrid or a peperomia from Africa listed as a begonia. But they couldn't fool Mr. Begonia. Rudy overcame hostility and jealousy in the botanical world because he was so very precise and scholarly in his classifications and, always, a perfect gentleman. He was self-taught and as he went along, learned all the required languages, crafts and skills. He became expert in Latin descriptions through the help of Dr. Edgar Irmscher of Stanford University. Rudy recalls, I was writing one of my first begonia descriptions, going through everything trying to find the right phrase, and I made a mistake and didn't get it into correct Latin. Dr. Irmscher wrote to me and said, 'Are you trying to be a clown?' However, he said he'd help me. He wanted to translate my articles into Latin, but felt I wouldn't learn that way. So, I would write them and he would correct them We did that for many years and, even after he died, the botanical department at Stanford checked my work. I had it all worked out--they didn't catch anything!"

...One day, some time later, they appeared at my door in Santa Barbara and said, 'Mr. Ziesenhenne we brought you the Begonia rex Putzeys.'...

In fact, Rudolf Ziesenhenne became the reference source for begonia scholars all over the world. One of these, the eminent Herr Professor Doctor Eckart, Director of the Berlin Botanical Garden, found him at a begonia show in Arcadia. Eckart had been speaking at an important meeting in Pasadena and wanted to see the begonia show. Rudy took him in and the first thing he said was, "These are professionals?" And Rudy said, "No, housewives." He couldn't believe the size of the plants on exhibit.

Rudolf Ziesenhenne's work traveled all over the world through his many articles and plant descriptions in the *Begonian*. Each species he described consisted of his drawings, a description in English and the required Latin. He made the *Begonian* a respected scientific journal on begonias. His correspondence with Thomas MacDougall is preserved in the New York Natural History Museum and other collections are in the Berlin Botanical Library and the biological laboratory at Versailles. Everyone knew his work, including the Emperor of Japan. B. *rex* Putzeys (the parent of all Rex hybrids) was brought to England accidentally in the sheath of an orchid from Assam, India in 1856. It could not be found again in the wild. Rudy tells, "I had told two visiting Japanese gentlemen at one point about the *rex* and that expeditions had gone out to try and find it again without success. No one knew if it was a hybrid or a species. Well, these two men persuaded Emperor Hirohito (a scientist of some note himself) to finance an expedition to Assam. One day, some time later, they appeared at my door in Santa Barbara and said, 'Mr. Ziesenhenne, we brought you the *Begonia rex* Putzeys.' They had collected it in India and the Emperor flew them to California to give it to me. I asked them what they were going to do now and they said, 'Oh, we're going flying right back to Japan.'"

Hybridizing--B. 'Freddie'

When Rudy is asked what part of his work is his favorite he replies, "Working with the plants, just generally working with them. Never get tired of it. It might be said that I'm a begonia *grower,* but it is much more than

that." Along with and part of the scientific work was the hybridizing. Rudolf Ziesenhenne has given the begonia world some of its greatest plants. Certainly, none is more loved than B. 'Freddie' named for the Ziesenhenne's oldest son. It was a planned cross for very practical reasons: the front porches of Montecito, a very well-to-do community just south of Santa Barbara. The houses were almost all painted white and Rudy wanted a dramatic plant that would show off well against the white background, a begonia with tall dark pink flowers. He crossed B. *manicata* var. *aureomaculata* with B. *barkeri*. He kept 150 seedlings out of the cross and sold them, asking those who bought the plants to report back on the results. Two and a half years later a woman brought back her magnificent plant that had been blooming steadily with beautiful dark pink flower spikes. Rudy bought the plant back and used it to propagate all the other 'Freddies'. It was the recipient of the second Alfred D. Robinson Medal. Its vigor and beauty of bloom and incredible size (the leaves can reach 5 feet across) make it one of the greatest begonias of all time.

Leafing through the pages of Thompson's *Begonias The Complete Reference Guide*, the name Ziesenhenne appears again and again as a hybridizer of such favorites as, to name just a few: B. 'Diclata', B. 'Gene Daniels', B. 'Lory Hansen', B. 'Rudy's Luxurians', B. 'Joe Hayden' B. 'Cachuma', B. 'Selover', B. 'Ramirez', B. 'Lospe' and 'Lospe-tu', B. 'Skeezar', B. 'Brown Lake', B. 'Sulcu', B. 'James', B. 'Delores' and B. 'Rudy'. The last one is a cross for thick-stemmed lovers of B. *ludwigii* and B. *popoenoei*. There are many, many more with rhizomatous hybrids being Rudy's special favorites.

The American Begonia Society Work

Begonia show judging was chaos in the early days. Rudy began to judge flower shows in 1940 and immediately saw the need for a better system. In 1952 he asked ABS President Edna Korts to begin an effort to train begonia judges from within the ABS and eventually this was accomplished. The Show Classification that branches and the national convention use to register and categorize plants is very much taken for granted now. It was not always that way. "The show chairman usually worked out a schedule by the seat of his pants and exhibitors never knew where their plants would be competing." In 1968 Rudy urged ABS president Charles Tagg to appoint a classification committee. The first meeting was held December 23, 1968 and the committee was reappointed by the next ABS president, Walter Pease. Rudolf Ziesenhenne was a member and suggested to the committee, chaired by Ruth Pease, that the plants should be grouped according to their stem growth habit. The actual work took eighteen months to complete with meetings held every month usually at the Pease home because it was central and committee members came from all over Southern and Central California. The result was the handbook *A Suggested guide to Classification of Begonias for Show Purposes*. It was printed July 27, 1969. Other members of the Committee were Sylvia Leatherman, Margaret Lee, Carleton L'Hommedieu, Walter Pease, Thelma O'Reilly, James Somes, Mae Tagg, Charles Tagg, Paul Lee and Margaret Ziesenhenne. The booklet was meant as a guide to be used with the smallest or largest show.

Rudy devised a point scoring system which is used by almost everyone now. The Royal Horticultural Society used a system of three points in judging tuberous begonia flowers. Rudy recalls, "I figured that we were amateurs, not that good, so we would use 100 points and would cover all types of begonias. There was jut one problem. Judging as much as I did I'd see that one guy had given a plant 125 points. They were just too generous. So then I preached: Every plant you look at has 100 points, now deduct the faults. And it worked. People are more conservative deducting than adding. Adding is just not practical. You take off for what's wrong with the plant. I've been a pioneer and tried to get honesty into it, giving everyone a chance." He wrote a booklet on the subject that anyone who has taken a judging course is familiar with, "The Point Scoring System for Judging Begonias".

Rudolf ziesenhenne has held many positions in the American Begonia Society. Among them are Member of the Board of Di-

rectors at the signing of the incorporation papers for ABS (he is the only member left of that Charter Committee); Nomenclature Director, 1940-42 and 1953-1978; Research Director, 1942; first banquet speaker at the annual meeting in 1938 and seven times thereafter; he wears the begonia triple crown having received all three major awards--Alfred D. Robinson, Eva Kenworthy Gray, and Herbert P. Dyckman.

As Research Director Rudy wrote two major papers that were published in the *Begonian*. One was on "Water" and the other on "Soil". The "Water" article has recently been reprinted in the *Begonian*. They were pioneering insights then and remain so today.

Rudolf Ziesenhenne has always had a very special relationship with the Westchester Branch. He was 'godfather' at its founding in 1959, a very good friend of founder 'Johnnie' Thieben and the "first and only birthday meeting speaker for 36 years" even after his very serious illness. He has always had time to help others, giving unselfishly of his time and knowledge. He has given 210 begonia talks to various groups and branches over the years. If there is a question of identification, culture, growth patterns, or hybridizing Rudy is there to answer it. His begonia research work has placed him with the great ones of botany and horticulture and his name will always be synonymous with begonias. What greater praise and honor can be given this man, **Rudolf Ziesenhenne**, than the title bestowed on him by those who love him--**Mr. Begonia**.

*Thanks to the following people who helped prepare this article: Rudolf and Margaret Ziesenhenne, Ruth and Walter Pease, Irene Nuss and Ramona Parker. Sources: Rudolf Ziesenhenne, booklets and publications, personal communications, **Begonias The Complete Reference Guide** by Mildred L. and Edward J. Thompson; and **Begonias and How to Grow Them** by Bessie Buxton. Janet Brown.*

Janet Brown is a Consulting Editor for the Begonian and a frequent contributor of articles. She is a member of Westchester Branch and when they host it next year, she will be Chairman for the 1999 ABS Convention. You may write her at 7825 Kentwood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045-1150.

Did Your Know...?

You may join the Southwest Region/ABS and receive the ***Begonia Leaflet*** in alternate months with the ***Begonian***. Branches, even those not located in the area, may also belong. You are not required to live in the area, but you must be a member of ABS. Dues are $10 for an individual or branch. Each issue carries a color begonia photograph. Send dues to **Marie Harrell**,317 North 12th St., Donna, TX 78537.

You may order books and other materials about begonias from the **ABS Bookstore**. For a complete listing write or call: **Betty Benningfield,** ABS Bookstore, P.O. Box 969, Anahuac, TX 77514; Ph: 409-267-4246.

You will not receive the fall and future issues of the MAL Newsletter unless you have remembered to send your $5. for printing and mailing to **John Ingles.**



Round Robin Notes

by Virginia Hamann, Round Robin Director

#6 Odd, Rare, Unusual

Written in March, **Marilyn Dube** (OR) has small specks of green emerging from 19 pots of seed from the ABS Seed Fund. "Heaven help me when they all get to potting size," said Marilyn. Marilyn also divides tubers of begonias every 3 to 4 years as the tubers grow so large. She cuts the tubers into pieces, each piece with an eye or growth bud.

#53 Rhizomatous Begonias

In March, **Janie Keck** (WI) and family visited B & K Tropicals in Florida Janice was delighted with her new plants and cuttings she received. **Barbara Mooney** (VT) put B. 'Sungod' outdoors early in April; it went through some cold weather, but survived. Barbara is going to put more begonias outdoors in sunny areas to see if they will do better in more light. Members are finding that damaged fish aquariums can be purchased at pet shops for less than undamaged ones; they still make good terrariums for starting plants. **Cynthia Bishop** (CA) is hoping for warmer, drier weather so she can get her new greenhouse finished. It has been too wet to paint it. She sent seeds of her cross of B. 'Anne Marie' x 'Shamus', the seedlings should have curled leaves with ruffling.

#2 Tuberous Begonias

Howard Siebold's (WA) cross did not show much if any fragrance until 1998. The plant has produced large, strongly scented blossoms of a glowing peach color with 6 large blossoms on the plant. Howard has named it B. 'Ambrosia'. The development of the tuber might have been the reason for the scent to suddenly develop. **Campbell Watts** (IA) asks when can he put his plants in 6" pots. He has them growing in flats to start them. His tuberous begonias have to be transported from Iowa to his cabin in Wisconsin. Somehow Campbell has to save room for his wife in the trek to the cabin! **Stacey Bishop** (ID) suggests leaving them in the flats and transplanting them at the cabin. Stacey asks how to combat grasshoppers.

You are invited to join the Round Robins. They are an interesting way to meet growers and share growing experiences both good and bad. Round Robins are another part of your ABS membership. You may belong to only one or as many as you like. You don't have to be an experienced grower or have a large collection of plants to belong. Your enthusiasm and love of growing are your credentials: Drop me a note telling of your main interests. Do you like canes, rhizomes, thick stemmed, or tuberous? Or maybe it is species or photography? I will put you into a robin that I think will be to your liking. If the active Robins are full, I will make up another flight as soon as I get four names for one topic.

HGA

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Hobby Greenhouse Association (non-profit)
8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

from FLORA DE MADAGASCAR ET DOS COMORES

Translated from French by Edgar A. Bates

22. **Begonia *françoisii*** Guillaumin

Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. (Park) 31 477 (1925); FRANÇOIS, Rev. Hort. ns. 19 597 1925).
var. *françoisii*

Herb stemless or with a very thick short stem; a large tubercule up to as large as a hand, or more or less elongated among the rocks.

Leaves 2 to 4, a petiole of 10-20 (-30) cm, bristled with long reddish hairs, dense when young; blade membranous, fragile, easily torn, orbiculate to sub-reniform, asymmetric, 10-40 (-80) x 15-40 (-60) cm, easily changing color from green to red according to the density of the hairs (hairs very dense when young, collectors notes), more or lesss long tapering to the apex, deeply cordate at the base, the two lobes overlapping, upper surface of the blade dotted with stiff reddish hairs, the lower surface pubescent only on the veins, margin undulating and toothed, teeth terminated by a terminal spine; 7 main veins slightly protruding and pubescent on the lower surface; hairs most dense and longest towards the petiole; 2-3 pairs of secondary veins strong ascendant, visible only underneath.

Stiplules triangular, 8-0 x 5-7 mm.

Inflorescences 1-2, in dichotomous cymes, flowers white, pink or pale pink, glabrous, somewhat loose, axis reaching 20-100 cm, somewhat robust, smooth, primary branches 5-8 cm long, secondary branches 3-4 cm; bracts deciduous; pedicel smooth, 10-15 mm long, terminal.

Flowers (male) 2 oval tepals, truncated at the base or obovate and attenuated towards the base, 12-15 x 15-17 mm. Stamens 30 to 40, fasciculated; anthers linear, 5 mm long, filaments free, 1-2 mm long.

Flowers (female) 4 oval tepals, the outer 12-15 x 10 mm, the inner a little narrower.

Ovary oblong, 9-10 mm, having 3 wings; 3 bipartite placentas, the largest wing 10 mm; styles 3, 2-lobed in their upper part, stigma papillae, strongly spiraled lamella.

Capsule oval, 10-12 mm long, having 3 wings, the two smallest 3 mm wide, the largest 12 mm; reticule prominent, transverse.

Seeds obovate, 0.4 mm long; tegument reticulate.--Pl. 15, p. 51

TYPE: *François 176 (Perrier de la Bathie 16472)* (holo-, P)

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION endémique,'
SAMBIRANO: Manongarivo range, *Perrier de la Bathie 6670, 6671, 6672*; env. de Maromandie, presqu'île Radama, *Decary 1584*; Ambanja, *Duran, Jard. Bot. Tan. 89.*
CENTER Marivorahona range, au sud-ouest de Manambato (*haute* Mahavavy) north of the district of Ambilobe, *Humbert & Capuron 25614, 25784*: Tsaratanana range, *Perrier de la*

Bathie 16472, 16473; *Sajy, Jard. Bot. Tan. 32*; mountains north of Mangindrano, sources of the Bemafo (running from Androranga), *Humbert & Capuron 24938*; Androranga, *Humbert & Capuron, Jard. Bot. Tan. 17* (=*Humbert 24124*); Akaizina, *Decary 1787, 1917, 2030*; Bealana, Anjolanja, canton Mangindrano, *Tsilizy* RN 7138; Ankaratra, *Bosser, Jard Bot. Tan. 82.*

UNCERTAIN LOCATION: (La Mandraka?), *Rakoro Jean de Dieu, Jard. Bot. Tan. 14.*

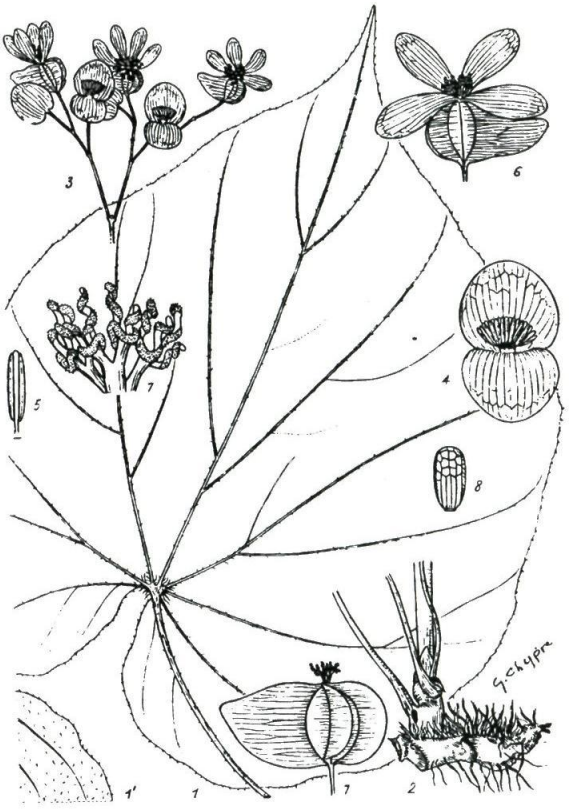
ECOLOGY; dry rocky (gneiss) forest, wet rocks at the edge of streams, alt. 50-2200 m.

OBS. --From the notes of *Perrier de la Bathie*, the specimens he collected in the Manongarivo range (6670, 6671, 6681, 6684) resemble the near neighboring species, in growth habit, not distinguishable one from another by the blade vestiture and the petioles and he conludes "but they are extremely variable species!". The specimens *6670 et 6671* appear to be the variety *françoisii*. The specimens *6681 et 6684* must be closer to the variety *glabra*.

The citation **(NETH.**, J. Agr. Sc. 21, 1973) d'un *Begonia* (malgache?) undetermined, Chomosome number 2n = 38 reported as different from a cultivated specimen at Munich, coming from Bekolusa (= Bekolosy, Manongarivo range) could correspond to this species collected by J. Bagnes.

Var. *glabra* Keraudren, var. *nova*

Differing greatly from the preceding variety by its leaves smooth on both sides, petioles smooth.



PL. 15. Begonia *françoisii* Guillaumin var. *françoisii*: **1**—leaf x 2/3; **1'**—detail upper surface of the leaf x 2; **2**—base of the plant and part of the underground stem x 2/3; **3**—extremity of an inflorescence x 2/3; 4—flower (male) x 1.5; **5**—anther x 4; **6**—flower (female) x 1.5; **7** upper—styles and stigmas x 5; **7** lower—fruit x 1.5; **8**—seed x 30 (**1, 1', 8, 9**, *Perrier de la Bathie* 16472; **2.** *Humbert & Capuron* 24938; **3, 4, 5, 6, 7**, *coll. Jard. Bot. Tan.* 14).

New and Interesting...

B. 'Aripeka'

by Greg Sytch

One of the new hybrids catching everyone's eye at the show in Atlanta was B. 'Kissammee'. It bears a resemblance to its sister hybrid described here.

Nestled among seedlings of a batch from a 1995 cross of B. 'Cowardly Lion' x B. *manicata* was a plant with unusual color. This seedling, unlike its siblings, did not have the curls and divided segments, but did possess leaves of a beautiful chartreuse, almost yellow haze that made it stand out. This hybrid, later named B. 'Aripeka' for a small fishing village located ten miles up the coast from me, was selected. Little did I realize how popular it would become.

B. 'Aripeka' is not for the faint of heart as its size puts it into the category of Rhizomatous, large-leaved as each mature leaf can easily reach 10' in width. But despite its size, 'Aripeka' remains compact in growth, keeping the leaves close to the rhizome. At maturity, the divided leaves want to part, almost but not quite. The effect is quite striking, and the beautiful chartreuse color stands out clearly among other hybrids nearby.

Then the flowers begin their late winter ascent, rising tall and stately, well above the foliage. One by one, each floret opens to a pristine white every so slightly flushed with pink and its fragrance of citrus appeals to the senses. This dramatic show culminates in spring atop spikes nearly three feet tall.

Definitely easy to grow, 'Aripeka' enjoys general rhizomatous care of dry soil between the thorough waterings, and leaves propagate readily. Quick to mature, expect a nice specimen in about a year (here in Florida) as it fills a 10" pot. Its landscape potential is still being tested, but it looks promising. My original tester for this plant, Virginia Kettler, won blue with an entry in Houston during the 1997 Convention. To think, if the yellow color of the leaves had not caught my eye while selecting, 'Aripeka' could have become just another seedling thrown away to make room for the next batch.

Greg Sytch *grows and hybridizes at 6329 Alaska Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653 and you may call him at 813-841-9618.*



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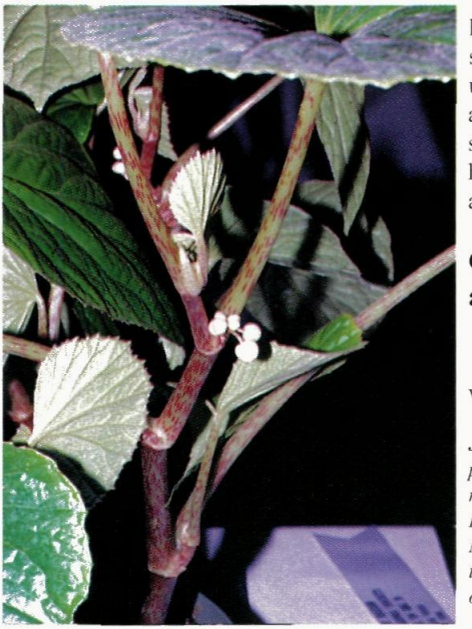
Conservation News

by Tamsin Boardman, Conservation Chair

Species in June in Atlanta

The "Best Species in Show" trophy went to **Don Miller**, whose B. *microsperma* had travelled from Dallas, Texas. Species are tough critters! Incidentally, most of us first met B. *microsperma* as B. *ficicola* (See back cover, *Begonian* , March/April 1998); it's had a name change.

What a delight to see so many species on the sale table at the ABS Convention in Atlanta! Thanks to all who donated species, and especially to: 1. super-grower **Doug Jensen** of Cedartown, Georgia. Doug's been a Seed Fund supporter for years, both as buyer and as donor; and 2. **Wanda Macnair** who brought 150 terrarium plants, mostly species, all the way from Massachusetts; her species B. *venosa* won Best Traveling Begonia.



It was also a delight to see how fast the species were snapped up. Happy growing, all you growers new to species. Let us know how your new babies are doing.

Good Luck, and an Odd Begonia

A preoccupation with Feng Shui (the

***Janet Brown** took the photograph below of B. roxburghii in the Atlanta Botanical Gardens and **Mary Bucholtz** captured the very different blooms on this male, left.*



Chinese art of decorating and landscaping in balance with natural forces in order to improve your life and fortune) has swept the land. So you will all be glad to learn that begonias are mentioned by at least one Feng Shui expert as among the best plants for good Feng Shui. The reason given is that begonias have both male and female flowers on the same plant, thus combining the forces of Yin and Yang.

It is said there is an exception to every rule, and there are begonias that do not bloom (B. 'Peridot' and its sports, Begonias 'Silver Peridot' and 'Exotic Peridot') and others that have not bloomed in cultivation. Then there is B. U168, a silver-spotted shrub-like begonia from the Philippines, which does not bloom, - but every once in a while throws off a branch with entirely different leaves and white flowers (so far this bit of luck has happened only a few times, and only in hot climates: Texas, Florida, Queensland).

Also an exception is B. *roxburghii*. Classified by the Thompsons as rhizomatous, rhizome jointed at or below soil level with erect stems, *roxburghii* was discovered by Augustine de Candolle in 1864. It is native to Burma and the Himalayas of India. What is unusual is that B. *roxburghii* is a sexually differentiated begonia: flowers are either all male or all female. Its growers speak of having "a male *roxburghii*" or a "female *roxburghii*."

Right now in the collection at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden there are four male *roxburghii* in bud. The lone female shows no signs yet of flowering. Stay tuned for developments, and perhaps, with luck, seeds. With all those begonias around providing Feng Shui, luck should be plentiful.

Growing Species?

Please send your list to **John Howell**, 129 Trillium, San Antonio, TX 78213-2514 so your plants can be included in the ABS Species Listing Project. There's no obligation on your part, no salesman will call, but we'd like to know how many begonia species are being grown in our country, which ones are plentiful, which ones rare. Thank you!

Quick Tips

If your tap water is high in alkaline, and your rain water is high in acid, use 3 parts tap water mixed with 1 part rain water for your plants. Test for a reading of 6.8 with an aquarium ph kit. This avoids the further use of chemicals.

Louise B. Muzyk
Bothell, WA

Remember: Send your quick tips to **Maria Holmes** at 760 W. Lomita Blvd., Harbor City, CA 90710-2517; Email: mariaholmes@worldnet.att.net.



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The Seed Fund would appreciate receiving donations of any fresh seed. Our supply is very limited at this time. Thank you! Please be careful to identify open pollinated seeds and keep them separated from known self-pollinated seed. Thank you!

Packets of species seeds are $1.50 each and all packets of hybrid seeds are 50 cents each. California residents please add 7.75% sales tax. All orders must be accompanied by check or money order, **payable in US funds ONLY, to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.**



B. crassicaulis sprawled, bare of leaves,but ablaze with bloom at the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens in January of 1998. And B. sericoneura was there at the same time, beautiful in both leaves and flowers.



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The CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND is a project of the San Miguel Branch of the ABS in San Diego County, California. Donors of

seeds in this issue are **Beatrice E. M. Huckriede-Vander Laan** and **Thelma O'Reilly.**

Species Seeds

SO98-1: *B. crassicaulis*
SO98-2: *B. dipetala*
SO98-3: *B. epipsila*
SO98-4: *B. gehrtii*
SO98-5: *B. glandulosa*
SO98-6: *B. mollicaulis*
SO98-7: *B. paleata*
SO98-8: *B. picta*
SO98-9: *B. plebja*
SO98-10: *B. sericoneura*
SO98-11. *B. 172*

The name B. *glandulosa* used above is not accepted by the nomenclature committee. The description given is of a plant that has been variously known as "Dayi" Hort., *nigra-venia* Regal, and *hidalgensis* Smith and Schubert. This name has also been used for plants now identified as B. *multinevera* and B. *pinetorum*.

DESCRIPTIONS

SO98-1: B. *crassicaulis* Lindley (Guatemala) Glossy, dark green, palmately lobed leaves are handsome. When they drop at end of growing season, lots of white blossoms develop along peduncles that emerge from the leafless, erect thick rhizome.

SO98-2: *B. dipetala* Graham (India) Thick-stemmed species as tall as 18 inches with sparsely hairy ovate green leaves spotted when young; large two-petaled pink flowers in late winter.

SO98-3: *B. epipsila* Brade (Brazil) Shrub-like species with succulent, waxy green leaves, 2 x 3 1/2 inches; red below with brown scurf. Profuse white flowers in spring.

SO98-4: *B. gehrtii* Irmscher (Brazil) Rhizomatous with large, rugose, shiny green leaves and white flowers in fall and winter. Grows best in cool, shady conditions.

SO98-5: *B. glandulosa* A.DC. Ex Hook (Mexico) (syn. B. Dayi Hort.) Rhizomatous; lvs. obliquely orbicular-cordate, acuminate, wavy-margined, toothed, glossy, yellow-green with deep chocolate-brown veins above, dark red underneath; fls. small, greenish-white, fragrant, male fls. with 2 tepals, female with 5, ovary unequally 3-winged. Blooms in late winter and spring. Descriptions from *Hortus Third.*

SO98-6: *B. mollicaulis* Irmscher (South America) Medium height to a foot or more; soft hairy. Stems light green, paler beneath, irregularly toothed. Inflorescences few-flowred and somewhat pendulous. Flowers are large, white.

SO98-7: *B. paleata* Schott ex A.DC. (Brazil) Shrub like with distinctive foliage. The rough textured leaves, much like B. acida, are a darker green and petioles are red with white hairs. White flowers in late spring carried just above the foliage. Compact.

SO98-8: *B. picta* J.E. Smith (India) Tuberous species with small green leaves speckled with silver and veins outlined with maroon. Large pale rose flowers about six months following sowing. Goes dormant below 70° F.

SO98-9: *B. plebja* Liebmann (Mexico) Up to 1 foot tall; thick stems ascending, leaves up to 5 in., broadly ovate with long drawn-out tip, dull green above; bownish, tomentose underneath. Flowers are pink.

SO98-10: *B. sericoneura* Liebmann (Central America) Classified as trunk-like non-ramified, it is a vigorous plant that sends up many shoots, some of which grow at strange angles. Flowers are white in late winter to spring.

SO98-11: *B. U172* Collected in Trinidad by Tracy McLellan in 1985. Rhizomes often procumbent when young but upright or semi-upright with age. Leaf blades lobed, ovate, cordate, bright green, glabrous above, green with sparse brown felting below, 4"-5", variable margins. Flowers white, large on tall, erect peduncles. Identified as B. *sericoneura* by T. McLellan.

Member Favorites...

B. 'Quinebaug'

by Annette Boree

Begonia 'Quinebaug' is surprising me by turning into one of my favorite and most successful begonias. It has been around for a long time, hybridized by Logee's greenhouses and first appearing in their catalog in 1976. Somehow, I never noticed it in my frequent trips to Danielson, Connecticut's major attraction. I was dazzled by the glamorous cane begonias and ensnared by the endless variety of the rhizomatous types. I was never attracted to the large hirsute begonias because to me they all seemed to look alike, just variations on the B. *scharffii* theme. Besides, to me they seemed to have such a strange, gallumphing stance and an awkward manner of flowering on those long drooping petioles. B. 'Quinebaug' is a seedling of a B. *scharffiana* crossed with B. *hispida var. cucullifera*, and looks exactly like a cross of the two; no surprises. Anyway, I decided to try 'Quinebaug' and brought it home in the fall of 1996. It was so huge in its little 2 inch pot that I skipped an intermediary size pot and planted it into a 7 inch clay pot.

Coincidentally, I had read about someone who had terrific luck using equal parts sterilized garden soil, dried cow manure and compost, as a potting mix. I looked over my collection and chose B. 'Quinebaug' and 'Jumbo Jet' as guinea pigs because they are sturdy enough to withstand any amount of experimentation. B. 'Quinebaug' loved that mix! It began to grow and grow. When I put it outside for the summer it really took off and reached about 4 feet high and about 4 feet wide. Each leaf is easily 14 inches long and 10 inches wide, and they overlapped each other and covered the stem densely and then cascaded down over the pot to the ground. Beautiful? Not exactly. It looked more like a bear than a begonia. However, everyone noticed it and had a comment. When it began to bloom in the fall of 1997, everyone began to admire.

It is still blooming now, in March 1998, and still growing. It stands now about 5 feet tall, and unlike my cane begonias, it retains all of its bottom leaves all winter long.

Unfortunately for 'Quinebaug' itself, it never complained of my neglect, it just kept pumping out those huge leaves, and I walked past it week after week, month after month oblivious to its distress. It wasn't until I picked up one of its bottom leaves to measure its width for this article that I realized that the poor plant is still in that same 7" pot! I am absolutely frightened to think how big it would have grown if I had remembered to repot it into a larger container.

Annette Boree grows this giant at 8 Brown Road, Great neck, NY 11024.

And the editor thought her midget B. 'Quinebog', below, was big until reading this about Annette's plant.. *See page 195 for a special offer.*



Pronunciation of Begonia Epithets for the *Begonian*, 65: September/October, 1998 by Jack Golding

aconitifolia	uh-kon-i-ti-FOH-li-uh
barkeri	BARK-er-eye
bogneri	bog-NEER-eye
bowerae	BOW-er-ee
ciliobracteata, syn. *raynaliorum*	sil-i-oh-brak-te-AYE-tuh, ray-nal-i-OH-rum
crassicaulis	kras-si-KAW-liz
deliciosa	de-lis-i-OH-suh
dipetela	deye-PET-a-luh
episila	e-pip-SIL-uh
foliosa	foh-li-OH-suh
gehrtii	GEHRT-i-eye
glandulosa	gland-yew-LOH-suh
incisa	in-SEYE-suh
ludwigii	LEWD-vig-i-eye
manicata var. aurio-maculata	man-i-KAY-tuh, AW-re-oh, mak-yew-LAY-tuh
microsperma, syn. *ficicola*	meye-KROH-sper-muh, fi-si-KOH-luh
mollicaulis	mol-li-KAW-lis
paleata	pa-le-AY-tuh
picta	PIK-tuh
plebeja	ple-BEE-juh
popoenoei	poh-poh-en-OH-eye
prismatocarpa	pris-ma-TOH-car-puh
rajah	RAH-juh
roxburghii	rox-BURGH-i-eye
scharfii	SCHARFF-i-eye
sericoneura	ser-i-kon-OO-ruh
subnummularifolia	sub-num-mul-ar-i-FOH-li-uh
velloziana	vel-loh-zi-AY-nuh
venosa	ven-OH-suh
versicolor	ver-si-KOH-lor

Pronunciations for acida, carolineifolia, hispida var. cucullifera, manii, rex, scharffiana, solimutata, thelmae, and ulmifolia will be carried in the November/December issue.

Send your $5 today to receive the next four issues of the Members-at-Large Newsletter. Mail to John Ingles, 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617.

Sources

Sources could be located for the following begonias that were featured or pictured in this issue. Numbers following each begonia refers to the source list below. Information is latest available to editor.

B. 'Aripeka' 6
B. *hispida* var. *cucullifera* 5
B. *carolineifolia* 2, 3
B. 'Gene Daniels' 3, 4
B. 'Kismet' 5
B. 'Lois Burks' (cover, last issue) 4
B. *mannii* 3, 4
B. 'Morocco' 1, 3, 4, 6
B. 'Palmgarten' 3
B. 'Palomar Prince' 1, 4 (later this year)
B. *prismatocarpa* 'Variegated' 2, 4
B. *roxburghii* 1
B. 'Sierra Mist' 2, 3
B. 'Tequesta' 1

1. B & K Tropicals, 5300 48th Terrace North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709, PH: 813-522-8691

2. Cloudy Valley Nursery, 935 W. Isabella, Lebanon, OR 97355, PH: 541-258-7517

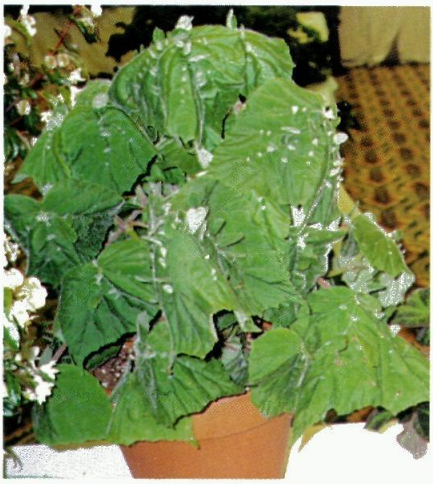
3. Golden Hills Nursery, P.O. Box 247, Macdoes, CA 96058, PH: 530-398-4203.

4. Kartuz Greenhouses, 1408 Sunset Dr., P.O. Box 790, Vista, CA 92085-0790, PH: 760-941-3613.

5. Logee's Greenhouses, Dept. B., 141 North Street, Danielson, CT 06239, PH: 860-774-8038

6. Sunshine State Tropicals, 6329 Alaska Ave., New Port Richey, FL, 34653, PH: 813-841-9618.

Remember, suppliers, to be listed as a source, make sure the editor can reach you by E-mail or has your latest listing of begonia offerings.





Species At the 1998 Show

Clockwise, from upper left:: 1. ***B. hispida var. cucullifera****. Photo by* ***Carol Notaras****. 2.* ***U309,*** *from* ***Don Miller****'s Malaysia imports. Photo by* ***Midori Nobusawa****. 3.* ***B. carolineifolia****. Photo by* ***Janet Brown****. (Inset, bottom, on its photo shows its unique upright stem.) 4. B. manii's unusual blooms. Photo by* ***Mary Bucholtz****. Plants 2 & 3 grown by* ***Charles Jaros,*** *4 by* ***Doug Jensen,*** *and 1 by* ***North Haven Gardens.***









Brilliant Colors in Atlanta

Clockwise: l. ***Rex Cultivar*** *by* ***Harmony Foliage*** *won Best Rex.. Photo by* ***Mary Bucholtz.*** *2 Right,* ***B. 'Kismet'*** *grown by* ***Elaine Gordon.*** *Photo by* ***Kit Jeans Mounger****. 3.* ***B. 'Bishops `J94/13'*** *(now named* ***'Sierra Mist'****, a* ***Cynthia Bishop*** *hybrid) grown by* ***Doug Jensen*** *won Commericial Divsion honors. Photo by* ***Mary Bucholtz****.*



Begonia Bytes

by Kathy Goetz, Internet Editor

The new ABS web page is still 'under construction' but it is coming along nicely and should be done soon. The main purposes of the page are to reach potential ABS members and to provide information about growing begonias. The web page has three main sections, one filled with membership information for those who want to join the ABS or find a branch meeting to attend, a virtual greenhouse filled with pictures of different begonias, and a virtual library with articles about begonias. The library will have both original articles written specifically for the web page and old articles from the *Begonian*. In order to help people find branch meetings, I need to post a list of contact people in each of the branches. I am planning to use the list of national directors published in the last *Begonian*. If you are a national director on the list and do not want to be included in the on-line list of contact people, please let me know. I would really appreciate it if you would provide an alternate contact name from your branch so that potential members will have someone to call for branch meeting information. You can e-mail me at goetzk@dnc.net, call me at 541-258-7517, or send me a note at 935 W. Isabella Sreet, Lebanon, OR 97355.

If you would like to check out the progress on the new page, the temporary address is http://www.proaxis.com/~goetzk/abs_main.html. The address must be typed into the computer exactly as written. There are no spaces in the address and the tilde (~) must be included before goetzk. The tilde key is found on the upper left hand side of the keyboard right next to the number one. You must also type the underline (_) between abs and main.html. If you have difficulty finding the page, let me know and I will try to help. Please remember, this is a work in progress so it still has working notes and links that do not link to a file. When it is complete, all this will change but in the meantime many members are enjoying watching the construction process.

Our on-line begonia group has been very active lately. The discussion topics have ranged from hybridizing to preserving genetic diversity in begonias. We also have discussed the need for preserving many of the old hybrids that seem to be disappearing and how to grow many different types of begonias. If you would like to join this group, send an e-mail to majordomo@scraps.dnc.net with the words **subscribe begonias** as the body of the message. The address for posting messages, once you have subscribed, is begonias@dnc.net. Again, if you have a problem subscribing let me know and I will try to help. See you on-line.

In Memory

I suffered from grief to learn of the sudden death of Mr. Hikoichi Arakawa who was a director of the Japan Begonia Society (JBS) and a member of the American Begonia Society (ABS).

Hiko was an active member of both JBS and ABS. He attended the ABS convention every year and deepened the friendship between JBS and ABS. At the 1985 ABS Convention, he was awarded the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award for contributions to the goodwill and harmony between members of JBS and ABS. He had also contributed to our knowledge and enjoyment of begonias through his translation of Japenese begonia books.

Every time he attended the convention of ABS, he imported many plants which he bought at the convention and some nurseries to Japan. He distributed those plants to members of JBS. Many plants which members of JBS grow now are plants which Hiko imported from the USA. Hiko will be greatly missed by members of JBS nd ABS.

Akira Tanaka,
Director of JBS.

Bruce Boardman, President of ABS gave a very moving tribute to Hikoichi Arakawa in June at the ABS Convention in Atlanta and the current SWR ***Begonia Leaflet*** *carries another tribute from Midori Nobusawa. He will be missed by ABS members all across the US as well as in Japan. Ed.*

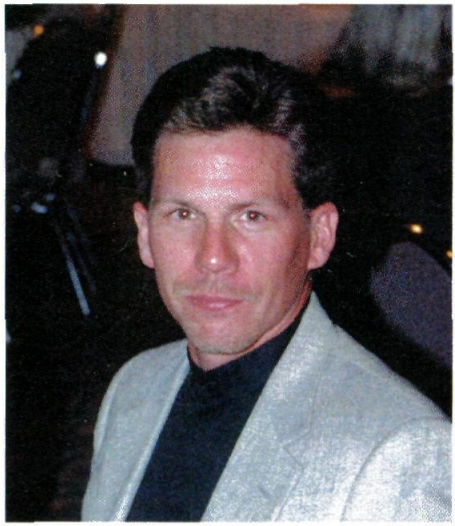


Photo by ***George Boree.***

Introducing... John Langevin

Many people have been concerned about the fate of the Begonia Species Collection at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens with the retirement of Kelton Parker. Not to worry! John Langevin has been appointed the new curator and many people got to meet him in Atlanta.

John is a Fort Worth native with a degree in horticulture from Tarrant County Junior College, Northwest Campus. He has worked at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden since October of 1994. Before that he was with North Haven Gardens. John has a wife, Dawn, and a four year old daughter, Kelby, and likes hiking, backpacking, and caving.

Learning all about the begonia collection has been a big priority so far. John says he is beginning to work through some of the back orders for cuttings and hopes to catch up with that soon. Another thing he is working on is getting the donation of another greenhouse so that the begonia collection can grow; he has his sights on one, but it will requiring moving it to the Gardens and for that he needs more donations. John is enthusiastic about begonias and has already joined ABS and SWR.

Kelton Parker now returns to the Garden on Wednesdays to work on researh with his helper **Eve Fox.**

Editor's Notes

This issue is done in a one point size smaller print in order to pack in as many photos and as much content as possible. If it is just too small, please let me know and I will return to the larger print.

I would like to thank all those who sent me photos for this issue. You have made it possible to fulfill reader requests for more begonia pictures! And, they all came to me before July 20! You are great!

I was unable to find a source for B. 'Quinebog' featured in this issue's article by **Annette Boree**, but I will send a small starter plant of this rather difficult-to-propagate hybrid to the very first person who sends me a new article for the "Member's Favorite" column.

Helen Spiers has informed me that the begonia growing in **Nancy Smith's** garden on the cover of last issue is B. 'Lois Burks'.

And to keep you posted on my computer adventures, did you know that there are secret computer codes? Scrounging through a bookstore, I found a page in a book that listed some of these and then in a magazine from the library, I found another list. Just by holding down the alternate key and punching 0231 on the number pad, I could add the French ç to Ed Bates' article without using a special font. No manuals told me this! Now don't you think that's sneaky? What other secrets are they keeping from me?

Corrections

Please correct the Directory Listing for the Japan Begonia Society in the last issue to:

> **Japan Begonia Society**
> Mr. Naoyuki Uemura, 27-10 Higashi-Ohizumi 5-chome, Nerimaku, Tokyo 178-0063 Japan

Thank you to **Akira Tanaka** for supplying the correct listing.

And may the third time be the charm! On pages 116 and 151 the correct date of introduction for B. 'Dearest Mae' is 1898.

News: ABS, Branch, and International

URGENT! The bank serving ABS no longer accepts third-party signatures on a check. Therefore, please make out all checks sent to **Carol Notaras** to **ABS** or the **American Begonia Society** not to a specified fund, the treasurer, or any other name. If you want to designate for specific purposes, note this in the lower left corner of the check.

The Orange County Branch (CA) has changed the location of its meeting. The meetings will remain on the second Thursday of each month; however, their new meeting location is 1805 S. Orangethorpe, Fullerton, CA.

Elda Regimbal spoke on "Growing and Propagating Begonias" to a joint meeting of the Orange County, Long Beach Parent Chapter and Doug Frost Branches on July 18 at the Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona Del MAR, CA.

Howard Clemens from Oklahoma City spoke to the Dallas Area Branch in July on how to beat the heat and also grow beautiful begonias. From the latest news on the heat in Texas, this presentation came just in time!

Joan Taylor of the Queensland (Australia) Begonia Society has been appointed the new Seed Fund Manager for the Association of Australian Begonia Societies at their Annual General Meeting in April. She is requesting donations of seed which should be marked with the date of harvest, grower, and whether it is open or controlled pollination. Her address is 37 Stanley River Road, MALENY 452, Queensland, Australia.

Recently, as **Wanda Macnair** was speaking on "Begonia Basics" to the Wiscasset, ME, Garden Club, she had the able assistance of **Karen Bartholemew**, a former Begonian editor. Karen spends six months of the year in Boothbay, ME., and six months in California. Her ME license plate reads BEGONIA. Karen and Wanda work together on the publicity committee for the Coastal Main Botanical Gardens. They are hoping when the conservatory is built that there will be room for a small collection of begonias.

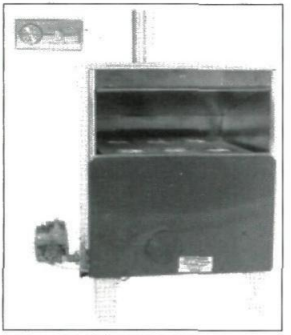
The Houston Satellite Branch had a contest for plantings using recycled containers with prizes. **Lulu Leonard** won $15 with an antique sieve, **George Macias**' second ($10) sounds very interesting: He "artistically attached one workman's hard hat to another after drilling holes in the top one in which he planted a lovely rhizomatous begonia." **Lucille Anderson** captured third ($5) for her begonia arrangement in a hospital bed pan. And they all had fun!

In Atlanta, the ABS Board accepted a $1500 donation to start **"The Millie Thompson Publication Fund"** whose purpose is to encourage and support the publication of *new* material on begonias. The fund is named in honor of **Mildred L. Thompson** whose publications are so important and cherished by the begonia world. Donations to this fund may be sent to **Carol Notaras** (checks marked as noted first paragraph on the left). Anyone who has a paper, pamphlet, or other material to be published may submit their request to the ABS Publication Committee through the *Begonian* editor. The Publication Committee will be responsible for all decisions about the allocation of the fund. Although the fund is not yet adequate to support the publication of a new book on begonias at this time, it is to be hoped that that will be in its future.

ABS Election Results are in and **Ingeborg Foo** reports that all current officers have been re-elected. They are **Bruce Boardman**, President; **Gene Salisbury**, 1st Vice President; **Don Miller**, 2nd Vice President; **Mary Bucholtz**, 3rd Vice President; **Richard Macnair**, Secretary; and **Carol Notaras**, Treasurer.

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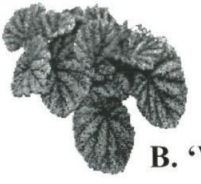
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Coming Events

September 12, 1998: Orange County Branch's Fiesta at **Mary Sakamoto**'s home in Orange, CA. There will be a plant sale, boutique, Mexican dinner, and auction and door prizes. For information on tickets ($8), call Mary Sakamoto at 714-633-6997.

September 13, 1998: Palomar Branch Begonia Show and Plant Sale, 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M., Ecke Building, Quail Gardens, Encinitas, CA. Call 760-746-4743 for information.

September 18-20, 1998: Fall Perennial and Rare Plant Sale benefiting the Sacramento Aids Foundation, corner18th and W Streets in Midtown - Sacramento, CA. For information, call **Bob Hamm** at 916-446-5384.

September 26, 1998: ABS Annual Business Meeting with installation of officers in Santa Barbara, CA at the Santa Barbara Faculty Club of the University of California. The ABS Board will meet at 9, the luncheon will be at 11:30, and the annual meeting will follow the luncheon. The annual business meeting (which must be held within 60 days of the end of our fiscal year) is the one meeting at which every members' vote counts. At the luncheon, ABS will honor "Mr. Begonia" **Rudy Ziesenhenne**.

September 27, 1998: Annual San Francisco Branch Picnic. Call **Carol Notaras** at 415-931-4912 for more information.

May 6-9, 1999: Southwest Region/ABS Get-Together at Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. More information to come.

The Begonian

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