



"Ask not for whom the bell tolls..."
IT TOLLS FOR ALL OF US

The American Begonia Society Save Our Species Newsletter

Number 11, 2008
Editor: Rekha Morris

Save Our Species Program

This issue is dedicated to those who have adopted a species or several species in support of the **Save Our Species** program of the ABS.

Despite this interest and support, it is obvious that we need more of our members to join in saving species begonias fast disappearing in the wild. Forests are disappearing at an alarming rate worldwide. Despite the greater awareness of what this means to the health of the world in this country, the USA has the 7th largest rate of deforestation. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization's [FAO] Global Forest Resources Assessment for 2005, 13 million hectares of forests [including 6 million hectares of primary forests] are being destroyed worldwide annually.

Tropical and sub-tropical rainforests where begonias thrive occur in countries where ecological concerns are of little concern when the majority of their people live close to starvation levels. Add to this the greed of lumber companies more than willing to exploit local conditions to their advantage, and it is hardly surprising that Brazil and Africa lead the world in deforestation. According to the FAO Brazil lost 4.3 million hectares and Africa 4 million hectares [equivalent to the size of Switzerland] between 2000-2005.

Annual loss of forests for Central America is 285,000 hectares, & Indonesia 1,500 000 hectares. Mexico lost 7.8 million hectares between 1993 & 2000, and Costa Rica, having lost all but 30 % of its rainforests continues to lose 500 sq. km yearly. India has lost all but 20% of its forests which are now largely found in only two re-

gions, the Western Ghats and northeastern India, where most of the begonias we know of were documented in the 19th century.

Last December when I revisited the cliffs where I had documented innumerable little colonies of *B. xanthina* in bloom in Oct. 2006, I was shocked and saddened to see large sections of these cliffs being destroyed to widen and modernize the road leading to the western frontier of Arunachal Pradesh. The Chinese have begun making incursions into Indian territory here, which they claim as theirs as they did with Tibet. In Mexico most of the forests of Chiapas where Breedlove documented begonias are now ranches or degraded land where little but grass grows.

I cannot emphasize enough the need for more ABS members to adopt species especially the dozens of rare ones not yet on the adopted list which follows.

To join the [Save Our Species](#) program, select a species or several species and let me know. All you need to do is what most of us in the ABS do routinely, grow these species, propagate them by cuttings, root divisions or seeds, and share them with others so that they are kept alive in cultivation.

This is an SOS appeal for more members to join the SOS program. Please contact me at shivavana@juno.com

RM

ABS Members Participating in the Save Our Species Program

Lena Addai,	Mansfield, Ohio	B. ghertii B. mollicaulis
Edgar Bates,	Encinitas, Ca.	B. Malabasrica
Carman Bahr,	Oklahoma City:	B. manicata
Iris Bird,	Walnut, CA:	B. crassicaulis B. carolineifolia B. Dipetala
Carmel Brown,	Belli Park, Qld. Australia:	B. rajah B. cathayana
Jason Brunell		B. prismatocarpa variegated Brazilian sp. unidentified
Mary Bucholtz	Jacksonville, FL	B. prismatocarpa B. violifolia
Elaine Burden,	La Mesa, CA	B. aconitifolia
Eleanor Calkins		B. morelei
Elizabeth Cassimatis	Garland, TX	B. carolineifolia B. reniformis
Bill Claybaugh,	Crosby, TX	B. limprichtii B. rajah B. rex
Effie Clemens,	Norman, OK	B. albo picta B. undulate
Eugenia Cooke	Framingham, MA	B. bufoderma
Isobel Crossley	QLD, Australia	B. brkeri
Jackie Davis	Aplos, CA	B. teuscheri
Normand Dufresne	Cumberland, RI	B. chitoensis
Chance Dunlap,	Sherman, Texas	B. strigilosa B. sericoneura var. Dr. Birdsey
Helen Ekstreom	Billerica, MA	B. carolineifolia

Jim Estes,	Norman: OK	B. echinosepala B. thiemei
Ingeborg Foo,	Vista, CA	B. polygonoides B. U #304
Leora Fuentes		B.versicolor
Glenda Green	QLD, Australia	B. dregei var. macbethii
Diane Horne,	Midwest City:	B. sericoneura
David Haury,	Nicoma Park	B. polygonoides
Charles Henthorne,	Oklahoma City, OK	B. xanthina B. lynceorum
Freda Holley,	Stillwater, OK	B. roxburghii, B. U357
Jeanne Jones	Palos Verdes Es. CA	B. albopicta B. megaphylla B. thiemei
Bob Koehler,	St. Petersburg, FL	B. maculata B. salicifolia.
Cheryl Lenert	Cypress, TX	B. bogneri
Diana Lawrey	Melbourne, Australia	B. gehrtii
Mike Ludwig,	San Diego, FL	B. ludwigii
Pauline Ma,	Palm Beach Gardens, FL:	B. kaustky B. kautskyana B. toledoana B. calcarea Malaysian sp.
George Macias,	Houston, TX	B. ulmifolia
Dot & Barry Mann		B. herbacea B. priismatocarpa
June McBryde	QLD, Australia	B. venosa
Elizabeth Mateus,	West Palm Beach, FL.	B. U#192 B. crassicaulis
Ray Mathews	QLD, Australia	B. hernandoides
Dawn Mlodoch		B. vitifolia
Morris Mueller	Sacramento, CA	B. dipetala B. radatisii
Thelma O'Reilly,	La Mesa, CA	B. teuseri

Doug Pridgen	Miami, FL	B. coriaceae B. tayabensisi [bronze] B.U334 B.U360
Dorcas Resleff		B. kenworthyi
Gene Salisbury	Tonkawa:, OK	B. U304 & B. ludwigii
Nancy Slagle	Oklahoma City, OK	B. maculata
Dean Turney	Encinitas, CA	B. brevirimosa
Julie Vanderwilt	Santa Barbara, CA	B. peltata B. subvilosa
Wally Wagner	Salem, Or	B. ghertii B. U404 B. lepros B. santos-limae B. versicolor
Janet Welsh	Huntingdon, PA	B. microsperma
Marilyn Watson	Melbourne, Australia	B. malabarica [red veined form]
Bernie Wiener	Havertown, PA	B. listada B. scharffi
Denise Williams		B. echinoseppala
Diane Wilkerson	Choctaw, OK	B. loranthoides, B. dregei, B. oxyanthera B. polygonoides
Johanna Zinn	Fairfax, VA	B. crispula B. grandis ssp. evansiana B. guttata B. malachosticta B.U303

Not yet an ABS Member

Reiner Mister	Rheinbreitbach Germany	B. bogneri B. hoehneana B. ionophylla B. kautskyana B. salaziensis B. trullifolia
---------------	---------------------------	--

My apologies for any errors and omissions. The omissions are due to computer problems some months ago which led to the loss of a number of my files including the entire correspondence file.

Please let me know if I have made any errors or have inadvertently omitted anyone from this list: shivavana@juno.com RM