

THE

Camellia Review

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Ballet Dancer'

Courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries

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ONE Dollar

Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

An organization devoted to the advancement of the Camellia for the benefit of mankind—physically, mentally, and inspirationally.

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. japonica 'Ballet Dancer'

This month's cover flower is 'Ballet Dancer', one of Harvey Short's 1960 introductions. It is being propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries. It is a medium full peony form of Debutante styling but not so many petals. The base of the flower is creamy white, with coral pink marginations. The deep shadings at the edge of the petals lend real distinction in unusual beauty. Foliage is a handsome green, prominently veined. It blooms from January through March. Growth habit is upright, fairly compact. To quote from Mr. Short, "the combined qualities of this flower make it about all one can ask for in a fine camellia."

Color Cut Courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries



THOUGHTS

from the editor

January is grafting time. It always brings back to me thoughts of a good friend of mine who really got me interested in the camellia growing hobby. I had been growing them before, but my "collection" increased only as fast as I could get the dollars together to buy more plants. He literally took me by the hand to his back yard, where I made my first graft under his watchful eye. And I learned that the greatest joy to him who has good camellia varieties is the privilege of giving scions from these varieties to others. I know of no person among my camellia friends who does not feel this way. So I say to you who do not graft, get at it. Don't stop buying, because you won't want to wait until your grafts grow to have some varieties. But the pleasure of watching your collection grow through the efforts of your own hands, beyond the size that most people can afford to pay for, is one of the real joys that is open to the camellia hobbyist.

Which leads to examples of how individual this camellia growing hobby is. There is no set pattern that must be followed. John Robinson's going to miniatures is an example. In grafting, most people make ordinary cleft grafts. But read in the following pages how some people are getting their pleasure in departing from this trend and are doing air layering, top grafting, bark grafting and whatever suits their individual fancies. There's more to this camellia hobby than just growing blooms for winning blue ribbons.

I take this means of thanking my friends who have told me they have liked the two issues of CAMELLIA REVIEW that I have edited. As I have stated before, I solicit suggestions and criticism, preferably of the constructive variety but acceptable regardless of variety. One point, though, I must make clear. While an editor will always contribute to either good or bad issues, the success of a magazine of such limited scope as CAMELLIA REVIEW depends largely on the willingness of people who have something to tell to write about it. There is a limit to the number of subjects that an editor can dream up. Even given the subjects, there is a limit to what an editor can write under those subjects. So, looking to the future, the quality and character of CAMELLIA REVIEW will depend at least as much on the willingness of people to suggest and to write as it will on my ability as an editor. If we can get all these things, we'll all be pleased with the results.

Harold E. Oyler

CAMELLIAS

TEN OUTSTANDING VARIETIES IN THE LAST TEN YEARS

1961 Supplement

E. C. Tourje

San Gabriel, California

In the year 1952 I accepted an invitation to write on the subject of Ten Outstanding Varieties In The Last Ten Years. It was a tough assignment and much time and effort was devoted to the preparation of the article. It received some degree of consideration and appeared in a number of publications at that time. The subject is controversial and, as can be imagined, the comments were generously sprinkled with criticism. One must expect that, especially when personal tastes and prejudices are involved.

Nearly ten years have elapsed since the original article was published. I am now asked to again cover the same subject and to review the original article. The invitation presents an interesting challenge.

May I first point out that a number of excellent camellias had been introduced prior to the preparation of the first article but were not considered therein because they were then of too recent origin to have had wide distribution and appraisal. They therefore will be considered here.

Interest in camellias has steadily mounted during the past ten years and that interest has resulted inevitably in the introduction of an astonishing number of new japonicas, most of which have been seedlings. The reader is invited to compare the 1960 edition of the nomenclature book with those of 1949 and 1951. It will be found that during the interim period approximately fifteen hundred new varietal names, not including synonyms, have made their appearance. This fact does not serve to make the preparation of this article easier.

Much of the increase in varietal numbers between the years 1950 and 1960 is represented by trash which has been foisted on the camellia public for commercial gain, or originated by eager individuals who profess to see something of novel value in their introductions. We can dismiss this type of camellia without discussion, but along with the welter of rubbish introduced since the original article have come many new introductions of sterling value. Some of these will undoubtedly rate high with those which I then said and still think are some of the great camellias of all time.

Along with the increase in numbers, although bearing little if any relation to it, has come a steadily surging interest in the new camellia species which were brought into the western world from China immediately prior to the start of the communist regime as well as those introduced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and others. This interest has been accompanied by an awakening appreciation of the value of the hybrids resulting from the crossing of those species with one another, and into the always popular and dependable japonica species.

It is my prediction that the next ten years will produce an entirely new interest in camellias which will come about through the creation of new hybrids bearing new and unusual colors and forms as well as fragrance, and that some of these new hybrids will possess amazing resistance to low temperatures. There are now unmistakable evidences of these new creations. Within the next ten years these new creations will have progressed to

(Continued on next page)

the point where they will have begun to have influenced our thinking toward camellias and give us an entirely new concept of the camellia of the future.

For the present, however, the average collector, as well as the householder, will continue to direct his attention to the better japonicas and depend upon them for the fulfillment of his interest in camellias despite the increasing popularity of the sasanquas, the reticulatas, and the hybrids. For this reason, I shall limit this discussion, as it was limited in the previous article, to consideration of the better japonicas.

Before proceeding with the discussion, let us pause to consider one thing which the average collector ignores in selecting his favorites. There are several large and important groups of persons whose points of view concerning camellias are entirely different from those of most of the persons who will read this paper. For instance, there is the florist who asks for the formal type ('Alba Plena' and 'Pink Perfection'), and the 'Debutante' and 'Daikagura'. He is not interested in the form of the plants on which they grow. Then there is the nurseryman. He asks for the varieties readily propagated, the fast growing and early budding. If it is a good looking plant bearing outstanding blooms, so much the better.

The landscape gardener desires the camellia for his own particular purposes. He is interested in color, of course, but most important is the plant which bears it.

Not without going to unwarranted lengths can we take into account all the features deemed desirable by these special groups. We must therefore confine our discussion to the needs and desires of the average "small time" collector and householder who wants and should have the finest all-round camellias he can get. That means varieties which combine the

best growth-habit plants, flower forms and flower colors.

It is my opinion that before the subject is again reviewed, it will be necessary to include an additional factor in considering the "Ten Outstanding Varieties" and to apply the climatic yardstick to the appraisal of their value. Camellia frontiers are being continually extended and it is only a question of time before cold-hardiness must be considered. For the present it is being omitted.

In the original article I did not include in my list any of the winners of the Hertrich Awards, nor the Illges Award. A number of reasons were given including the reason that they had not then been sufficiently distributed and tested to be included in the "Ten Outstanding". Let us analyze the wisdom of omitting these award winners in light of our experience with them since that time.

The William Hertrich Award winners to date are: 'Lady K.', 'Jack McCaskill', 'Sultana'. The Margarete Hertrich Award winners to date are: 'Melody Lane', 'Brides Bouquet', 'Pink Clouds', 'Reg Ragland', 'Guest of Honor', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Billie McCaskill', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Lady in Red'. The Illges Award winners to date are: 'Beau Harp', 'Joseph Pfingstl', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'Reg Ragland', 'Tomorrow' and 'Guilio Nuccio'.

It seems self-evident that not all these award winners, especially some of the earlier ones, are worthy of consideration for place among the great camellias of all times. For this reason, I propose that we not consider the more recent award winners among our "Ten Outstanding" simply because they were award winners. I think you will agree that, in retrospect, not all the award winners have proved to be of outstanding value, important as they may have seemed at the moment.

Moreover, I have withheld from

consideration the more recent Margarete Hertrich Award winners, excellent as they now appear to be, due to the lack of sufficient time since introduction to adequately evaluate their true worth. On the other hand, the last two Ilges Award winners have been in general distribution for several years and therefore will be given consideration with all other candidates.

The peril of becoming overly enthusiastic about new and untried camellias was brought to my mind most forcefully when I went back to review my previous article. It was said there:

"The urge is almost irresistible to name some or all of such noteworthy varieties as 'Emmett Pfingstl', 'Jessie Katz', 'Masquerade', 'Dr. John D. Bell', 'Masterpiece', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Melody Lane', 'Pearl Maxwell', 'Morning Glow', 'Spring Sonnet', 'Frank Gibson' and a dozen others which we can assay only in the light of the test of time and experience."

I shall never forget this quote when the urge to become exuberant over a new camellia seems to possess me. Thank Heaven, I was sufficiently circumspect to omit these from consideration. Will anyone argue that there are more than two-three at the outside — of the eleven named which are worthy of consideration as truly outstanding camellias? The others have, indeed, been assayed in the light of

time and experience — and found wanting. And so it will be with most of the new ones before which we now kneel in adoration.

The list in the earlier article from which I invited my readers to select their "Ten Best" included: 'C. M. Wilson', 'Edwin H. Folk', 'Eleanor Hagood', 'Frizzle White', 'Governor Earl Warren', 'Hana Fuki' ('Mrs. Howard Asper'), 'High Hat', 'Letitia Schrader', 'Magnolia Queen', 'Mme. Hahn', 'Mrs. Baldwin Wood' or one of her progeny — 'Thelma Dale' or 'Charlotte Bradford', 'Mrs. Freeman Weiss', and 'White Empress'. I believe most of us will agree that they are good camellias, and if we will think back it will appear that most of them then seemed to be outstanding camellias. The test is, however, do we still think of them as being great camellias? The answer probably is yes as to some and no as to others, and even as to these the answers are prompted in large measure by personal taste. The term "personal taste" is used in a very general sense. It may mean individual inclination, mass taste trend, or both.

The plain fact is that our concepts of greatness in camellias change from period to period and that it is not possible to name today a group of camellias which tomorrow will be accepted as great, at least as to the entire list. Fashions change and our tastes

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CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW PROGRAM FOR 1961 OFFERS ATTRACTIVE OUTLOOK

By Al and Rose-Marie Dekker

Who's excited!? Everybody's excited and waiting for the 1961 camellia show season with enthusiasm. This is the time of year when the pulse of camellia enthusiasts begins to beat a bit faster, and as the dates of the various shows approach, the pulse rate quickens. Is this a disease or an affliction? No! It is rather an outlet for our pent up energy. It is a chance to exhibit and to view some beautiful flowers, and, most of all, one of the most satisfactory means of bringing ourselves into pleasing contact with our fellows of like interests.

This year Pomona will hold the first show. For years this show has been in a local bank building where the facilities are excellent. While this is not one of the largest shows in the area, it has been one of the outstanding ones, due to the fine quality of the blooms and to the display of camellia

flower arrangements. You will see outstanding flowers from widespread exhibitors. That marvelous flower 'Kramer's Supreme' was shown here when it was just a numbered seedling.

The San Diego show uses the best of the facilities in one of the "World's Fair" buildings. This society originated the innovation of the Super Sweepstakes. In this class the past sweepstakes winners (not just of San Diego shows but of all shows) compete with one another. This, of course, equalizes competition for those whose collections are not large enough to

put them into normal sweepstake contention. The San Diego show decorations show the artistic touch of Alice Miller and Henrietta Bradford as well as of some of the men, and are usually very attractive. Flower arrangements make up a large part of this show and keen interest is always shown.

The show at Temple City has always been of great interest to the entire area as it is usually held the same day as the children's Camellia Float Parade. Many local blooms, both early and late, are exhibited and there is much enthusiastic competition.

This year the Los Angeles Camellia Council is putting on two shows. The first will be at Disneyland Hotel in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society. This will be an extravaganza exhibition. The room in which the show will be held is spacious and will be beautifully decorated.

1961 SHOW SCHEDULE

Feb.	4-5	Pomona
"	11-12	San Diego
"	18-19	Temple City
"	25-26	Disneyland
"	26	San Jose
Mar.	4-5	Bakersfield
"	4-5	Sacramento
"	5	Fresno
"	11-12	Descanso Gardens
"	11-12	Walnut Creek

Display arrangements are being carefully worked out to show the blooms to their best advantage. And there will be flower arrangements entered by the outstanding floral societies and clubs of the area.

The Los Angeles Camellia Council is putting on another show at Descanso Gardens the second weekend in March. The people of the area feel that an annual camellia show at Descanso Gardens is a tradition. It is the most beautiful setting for a display of camellia blossoms anywhere in the

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CUTTING, STORING AND TRANSPORTING CAMELLIA BLOOMS

By R. Flinn Dickson, Sr.

Are you getting the maximum pleasure out of those blooms that represent the result of your year's care and attention? Perhaps what is offered here will be of service to those "old timers" who may have become too casual about their handling of blooms; and to those of our newer enthusiasts who are learning by experience.

Here, to my way of thinking, are the basic principals to be kept in mind. *Freshness* — Cut as early in the morning as possible and, if weather is warm, always cut before 8 A.M. *Peak Color* — Here is another strong reason for early morning cutting. Many flowers will lose color value as light becomes more intense.

Flower form — Camellias remain as cut. If it is not a fully opened flower when cut it never will be. I cut a bloom of 'Joshua E. Youtz' partly open and with a bud center, placed it in shallow water. We had it on our breakfast table for eight days. It was still a bud center when discarded.

Temperature for storing — This has been checked with many persons who store blooms for future display — home decorating, shows and commercial uses. There was some small difference of opinion but the range of 39° to 42° F is indicated with 40° or

41° F being the most favored.

Transporting — Here we have three important factors — protection from bruises, drying out and over heating. My own method is this: My blooms after being moistened are placed in boxes that are foil lined. On this foil is placed a piece of heavy towel, dampened, then a layer of shredded cellophane. Covers that fit fairly tight are then put on the boxes, which are snugly packed into the car trunk around a large plastic container of ice. The whole is then covered with a blanket to hold in the cold. I have had good luck with flowers that have been in my car up to 36 hours.

Now, to take a check on the actual practices of a commercial grower and two amateur growers, here are quotations from the three. The commercial grower's suggestions follow and are from A. M. Hartman, San Fernando, Calif., who in addition to growing japonicas for the cut flower trade also has a large collection of miniatures and quite a good many hybrids. He writes, "In order to preserve camellia blooms for shows or the commercial market, and to keep them in the best condition for anywhere from two to four days, first requires that they be picked very shortly after daylight,

(Continued on next page)

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while still crisp. The flowers are then placed in covered waxed boxes (but not sealed) and stored in a refrigerator at a temperature of 38° to 42° F. Two layers of split cotton should cover the bottom of the box. The cotton is then sprayed with the maximum amount of water it will absorb.

"The flowers rest directly on the cotton as they must absorb water if they are to retain their original crispness. If blooms are to be stored for longer than two days they are at the end of 48 hours transferred to other boxes having freshly dampened cotton. It also helps to fog or mist the inside of the box cover, being careful not to get it wet enough to allow drops to fall on the flowers."

The following expresses the thoughts of an amateur who has trophies awarded in shows from 100 to 200 miles away from his garden. We refer to Dr. Leland E. Chow of Bakersfield, Calif. and give you excerpts from his recent letter on the subject. "Nothing is more frustrating than to have a camellia bloom in prime condition on Tuesday when a big show is coming up on Saturday! How does a camellia lover, camellia exhibitor and camellia "scientist" "pickle" such a perfect flower?

"1. If possible, pick all blooms in the early morning or late evening, the coolest parts of the day. This lessens the degree of petal wilt. Avoid picking blooms in midday when the weather is warm for there isn't enough crispness in the petals.

"2. Then, immediately gently place the flower in a box or container lined with moistened shredded paper.

"3. Now spray a fine mist on the blooms to keep their freshness.

"4. Seal the container with Saran wrap, place the lid on and use freezer tape around sides to seal the lid.

"5. Leave these tightly sealed containers in a refrigerator until show time. Of course, the problem comes about, should our family refrigerator

store food or camellias? To solve this problem a used refrigerator can be purchased quite inexpensively.

"We who live in Bakersfield are from 2½ to 4½ hours, by auto, from the Southern California camellia shows and warm days often coincide with show dates. The situation is met by using canned ice placed in the bottom of our large cardboard boxes or carrying cases. To protect blooms from road shock the container bottom is lined with sphagnum moss or waxed paper in an excelsior type form.

"Some of our members have constructed wooden carrying cases. These are tiered trays and must be deep enough for your largest bloom plus space for the cushioning material. An extra top tray to contain ice in watertight units (cold air settles) can be very helpful. My favorite container is my 50 lb. fishing ice box. It can be converted to contain 3 layers of boxes. A few ice cubes strategically placed maintain coolness because the box is well insulated."

Reg Ragland of Orange, Calif. is another amateur who wins his share of blue ribbons. He says, "The fresher the bloom, the better chance it has for a blue ribbon, of course, so my goal is to pick the day before the show. This is usually on a Friday. However, I start as early as Tuesday checking our lath house for "prospects". If I see a bloom that has reached its peak and might deteriorate if left on the plant I pick it. I do this again on Wednesday and on Thursday so that by Thursday night I usually have five or six boxes (50 or 60 blooms). We place aluminum foil on the bottom of each box containing flowers and cover the foil with damp sphagnum moss. Over the sphagnum we put paper towels on which we place the flowers. We then mist the flowers and put the cover on the box. We have an old refrigerator in the garage which, doing its best, maintains a rather con-

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FLOWER COMPETITION AT SCCS MEETINGS GETS OFF TO GOOD START

Flower competition at Southern California Camellia Society meetings got off to a good start at the November and December meetings. This year there are six categories of competition: japonicas over 4 inches, japonicas under 4 inches, sasanquas, miniatures, hybrids and reticulatas. There will be five places awarded in the two japonicas and the reticulatas groups, with five points for first place, four points for second, three points for third, two points for fourth and one point for fifth. There will be three places awarded in the other three groups, with three points for first place, two points for second and one point for third. Three place winners will be determined at the end of the

season on the basis of total points.

There was an unusually large number of beautiful flowers on display at the November 8th meeting, considering that blooming season in most of the area was just getting under way. Winning blooms in the over 4 inches japonicas group were, in order: 'Emmett Barnes', 'Indian Summer', 'Carolyn Tuttle' and 'Daikagura' (no fifth). Under 4 inches japonicas winners were, in order: 'Debutante', 'My Fair Lady', 'Alba Plena', 'Conrad Hilton', 'Alba Plena'. Sasanquas winners were 'Dazzler', 'Navajo', 'Showa-no-sakae'. Only two awards were made in the miniatures group, with first place to 'Kihu Toji' and second to 'Sugar Babe'. *(Continued on Page 22)*



Winners of flower competition at Southern California Camellia Society meetings in 1959-1960 season: From left to right, Col. Frank Reed, second; Reg Ragland, first; W. F. (Bill) Goertz, third.

RECENT SOUTHERN INTRODUCTIONS

W. F. Wilson, Jr.*

Hammond, Louisiana

Each year finds a large number of introductions as new varieties are placed on the market. Any attempt to discuss these new varieties, after seeing them, for the benefit of camellia fanciers in general or to offer information from a given area regarding the new ones for the growers in other areas, very quickly creates the situation that you are repeating what has already been said, as you generally know so much about a new variety before you ever see it that except for actually looking at the flower nothing new is gained.

Although there are a number of excellent seedlings in the South and Southeast, there is no doubt that the two well known and much talked about sports of two of our better varieties, namely 'Betty Sheffield' and 'Tomorrow', offer very beautiful forms of these proven varieties and open the way for other color variations of these varieties; in fact, there are already several other color variants of the 'Betty Sheffield' family known to be around.

'Betty Sheffield Supreme' has been widely publicized and the photographs used of this flower picture it as an outstanding beauty. Along with many others, I have been fortunate enough to see several of these exquisite flowers and for those of you that have seen only the photograph, I think I can say that the bloom is even prettier than the photograph.

'Betty Sheffield Silver' — Although this form has been around for some time, it has not appeared very widely as yet in shows and was only recently registered. This is a very beautiful flower and could be one of the more highly valued varieties derived from 'Betty Sheffield'. It is a lovely light pink blush with a very distinct white

border. It is free of the red streaks in the usual darker 'Blush Betty Sheffield'.

'Tomorrow's Dawn' — Although not yet released, this sport is well known, having been widely publicized. I have been fortunate enough to see this flower in shows and to view slides of other blossoms. It is a very pretty flower and promises to be another good one. It has exhibited some color variation which I would suspect offers promise of other color breaks from this variety which would give us additional good color combinations of this excellent variety.

'Pink Explorer' — This is one of the two new varieties that has the very valuable characteristic of early blooming. The flower itself is a very attractive shade of pink — probably between the color of 'C. M. Wilson' and 'Barbara Woodroof'. These two varieties were used for comparison as in other respects, particularly formation and size, 'Pink Explorer' is very similar to the well known 'Elegans', which is the open pollinated parent of this seedling.

'Eleanor Grant' — Although not yet on the market, it has been my good fortune to see flowers of this variety. This one should certainly be a valuable addition to our small group of early varieties as it begins to bloom in October. The plant is a strong attractive specimen and the blooms of very large size, 5"-6", have a very attract-

*Mr. Wilson is connected with Louisiana State University at Hammond, La. Among his activities is attending camellia shows in the South and he writes of Southern introductions, therefore, on the basis of personal observations. While his comments may be repetitious as he says to those who have followed his path, they are not so to the many people, particularly in California and other areas outside the South, who have not had this experience. —Ed.

ive pink color and are of high quality. Slight variations in the formation arising from the differences in number and arrangement of petaloids and stamens add interest and attractiveness to this very beautiful flower.

'Purple Swirl' — This is a very unique and distinctive seedling of the very small, or miniature class, which has become very popular. The plant is very hardy with flowers of a dusky dark red with a purplish tinge which vary in formation and color with the season and weather. The blooms are formal with varying degrees of tiering. Low temperature increases the purple coloration to a very great degree and there are many specimens of blooms that are completely tiered with a very unique and distinctive clockwise spiral arrangement of the five tiers.

'Marguerite Cannon' — A very unusual shade of clear pink flower, averaging 5" in diameter and 2" deep. Has large petals with a ruffled appearance, blooming mid-season and promises to be a very good one.

'Juanita Smith' — A very hardy flower of this type. The flowers are 4"-5" in diameter and 2" deep. They are white shading to a blush rose with a very narrow edging of color. The flower has 20-25 notched petals, white stamens and blooms for a long period — November to March.

'Red Elephant' — A very promising flower of very large size. It is dark red and peony to irregular semi-

double in form with yellow stamens intermixed with the petaloids. Good specimens of this flower should be show winners.

'Judge Marvin Mann' — This is one of the better new ones and merits widespread trials. It has 15 petals which are twisted in center, rose colored and is large, being 5" or more in diameter and 3" in depth.

'Katherine Maryott' — A large rose form double. This large rose like flower with a beautiful clear pink color, has 35 round petals and occasionally shows stamens. It is 4" in diameter and 2 1/4" in depth and blooms mid-season to late.

Men's Camellia Club of Shreveport, Louisiana Honors Bill Woodroof

The Men's Camellia Club of Shreveport, Louisiana, at its October 1960 directors' meeting, started a "Hall of Fame" for those men and women who have contributed to the hobby of camellias, to honor them in this way for their outstanding contributions. Maximum nominations in any year will be two.

William E. Woodroof of Sherman Oaks, California, and David C. Strother of Ft. Valley, Georgia, were elected for the initial awards because of their work over the years on camellia nomenclature. Appropriate certificates were given them to express this appreciation for their work.

California Redwood Plant Tubs

There is more fun in gardening — better results, too, when you can control the soil, shade and water conditions. Doubling in duty and decoration.

Octagonal tubs from 12 to 24 inches — Square tubs from 8 to 16 inches. Designed and made especially for camellias and azaleas.

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When? Why? How?

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Choosing New Varieties?

Now is the time to begin visiting the nurseries for a look at their blooming (no pun) camellias. I am a strong advocate of NOT making a choice from a display of cut flowers. Why? Because just by looking at a bloom you will not have any idea as to what the plant looks like. Some of our own plants that we selected from seeing flowers only, were later cut down for grafting stock because we were not happy with the shrub. Off and on you will need to disregard plant growth habits to get some particular variety; but, all in all, you will be less liable to disappointments if you see the plant blooming before it is purchased.

Rain Damaged Blooms?

We will soon be in the midst of our blooming season and perhaps some heavy rains. For those who are not growing plants in a greenhouse there always comes a day when some fine flowers are ruined in the hard rains. Now that very thin strong clear plastic can be had, one may protect a choice bloom simply by using some of this material held in place with a light weight spring clothes pin. I have tried this and found it wise to remove the plastic as soon as possible. If left on, the sun heats the air that is trapped under the plastic and any overheating degrades the flower. Now a word of caution. If you plan to enter the flowers in a camellia show do not use this protective covering on these if it would violate a show rule pertaining to flowers grown outside of a greenhouse.

A Long-Blooming Collection.

This is addressed to all who are beginning or enlarging their camellia collection of camellias. Please do not limit your selections to the flowers you will see at the camellia shows. The shows are held at the time when the greatest number of varieties are blooming. But — there are many very desirable varieties that bloom before and after show time. To get the greatest amount of pleasure out of your camellias you should have some of the early and late blooming plants as well as your basic or show time lot. Take note of blooms that are exhibited at the early and late meetings of your society. Also visit the nurseries, parks and public gardens throughout the whole camellia season and you will then become acquainted with the flowers not entered in the shows.

CAMELLIAS IN NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

By Mrs. Alice C. Tinkham

It has been said that you can't take it with you, but if "it" refers to a collection of camellias in tubs, you can and I did. On the last day of April, 1957, covered with delicate new growth, they were loaded onto a truck for their journey from the Brentwood section of Los Angeles to their temporary home in Santa Ana, where they were to spend several months until their new home was completed.

There they remained for six months at the home of my daughter, where they had to become accustomed to a different environment, hotter and drier climate, and much neglect. Nevertheless, they survived and in October they were again moved, this time to their new home in Newport Beach. Some showed considerable

damage to foliage, several had lost identification tags, but on the whole, they presented a fair start to a new collection.

The front of the house has a north-west exposure and we used 'Hana Fuki', 'Lady Lucille', 'Daitairin', 'Lady Clare', 'Finlandia', 'Mrs. Tingley', 'Spring Sonnet', and 'Simeon' in the landscaping, thereby achieving months of bloom. The north side of the house was dubbed Sickbay and Penitentiary Row, as all of the camellias planted there were on trial for their lives for one reason or another. Though several were pretty mangy looking, all but one recovered. The rest of the plants were housed under lath, a very fancy affair that the land-

(Continued on next page)



Flinn Dickson (left), chairman of Hertrich Awards Committee, presents award to Billie and Vern McCaskill for winning Margarete Hertrich Award with *C. japonica* 'Lady in Red' for 1959-1960.

scape architect dreamed up to be interesting from the living room windows, a sort of pergola with projections sheltering the cement terrace and ideal for the plants that prefer more sun.

And how have these travellers fared in Newport Beach? Their three seasons here have subjected them to the heavy rainfall of 1957-1958, an unusually warm and dry year of 1958-59, and last fall and winter with colder nights, much night moisture, and plenty of strong winds which they do not appreciate. On September first, 1959, a bud of 'Masterpiece', huge in size, gave great promise. On the fifth 'French Emperor' blossomed out with a five inch bloom, followed on the eighth with another. 'Alba Plena's' first offering appeared on the 15th with the initial 'Daitairin' and a fine deep red 'Audusson' with some variegation. Two four and a half inch 'Gibsons' and a suggestion of an 'Edwin H. Folk' had appeared by the 20th. The 'Imperator' looked like a Christmas tree, and by the 30th there were several 'Gibsons', an 'Alba Plena', more 'Daitairins', 'Audussons', but 'Folk' had given up the ghost.

October was a banner month with cool nights and 70 degree days which brought forth a profusion of 'Daitairins', a 6-inch 'Sunset Glory', 'Apple Blossom', 'Showa-no-Sakae', several almost white 'Audussons', the first 'Daikagura', a good 'Lady Clare', some 'High Hats', and at the October meeting of the Orange County Camellia Society, 'Alba Plena', 'Imperator', and 'Audusson' all walked away with honors. These illustrious neighbors were too discouraging to 'Frank Gibson'. It began bull-nosing, copying no doubt, its pal, 'Masterpiece'.

November's first two weeks rewarded me with 'Nina Avery', 'Ville de Nantes', 'Frizzle White', 'Bride's Bouquet', handsome 'Sunset Glory' blooms, 5-inch 'Guilio Nuccios', as well as rather small 'Hana Fuki',

'Gaiety', and 'High Hat'. A 'Pink Cloud' gave promise, but didn't keep it. Some heavy fog during the nights caused many blossoms to fall.

Hot, dry winds ushered in December. The first 'Margaret Jack' appeared but soon collapsed. By the middle of the month I had the first formal 'Glen 40's' the bush had ever produced. And what tenacity, as they were still holding on January 20th. 'Spring Sonnet' was in full bloom by the 19th, with the faithful 'Audussons', 'Alba Plena', and 'Sunset Glory' winning more awards. Putting in their first appearance were 'Jessie Katz', a deep-colored 'Simeon', 'Gaiety', 'E. H. Folk', 'Blush Finlandias', 'Tingleys', 'Lady Sadie', and a fine crop of bull-nosing 'Shiro Chans'. But the warm, dry weather was taking its toll. Blossoms were smaller as a rule, wilted soon, and the ground was littered with fallen flowers each morning.

About the middle of January a cold wind and rain with a trace of hail discouraged 'Flamingos', which were puny and frail, but brought a deep, rich color to the 'Guilio Nuccios', though they were undersized. There were good English 'Donckelariis', the best 'Jessie Katz' to date, the first 'Herme'. Some of the new ones in my collection began to reward me. Among these were large 'Tomorrows', a 6-inch 'Coral Pink Lotus'. The last of the month brought forth a fine 'Crimson Robe', the day after the meeting, of course, but the subsequent blooms on the reticulatas were disappointing little critters, more resembling an ailing petunia. Only 'Captain Rawes' approached its old standard of Brentwood performance.

The last of the month I pulled the retics and 'Pink Clouds', another offender, out from under the lath into considerable light and sunshine. By March 'Crimson Robe' rewarded me with a blue ribbon. During the rest of the month the bush was a gorgeous

(Continued on Page 30)

CAMELLIA SOCIETIES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

By C. W. Lattin
Oakland, California

People interested in camellias, their cultivation and propagation are fortunate in having three very active camellia societies in Northern California. These societies are Northern California Camellia Society Inc., Camellia Society of Sacramento and the Camellia Society of Santa Clara County.

The Northern California Society meets the first Monday of each month from November through May in the Claremont High School Auditorium in Oakland. They hold their annual camellia show each year at Walnut Creek. This year the show will be held March 18 and 19.

There are several outstanding camellia personalities in this society. David L. Feathers, the Editor of The Camellia Bulletin which deals strictly with camellia culture in its many ramifications. It is published in November, February, May and August. Harold L. Paige, noted for his fine collection of camellias and also the many articles he has written on camellia culture. Dr. Fred Heitman, noted for his large collection of camellias and also his many sweepstake wins. A. M. Patterson is this year's president and he lives at 4007 Lillian Dr., Concord.

Under the enthusiastic leadership

of president Lawrence Bouque and his officers, the Camellia Society of Sacramento is going forward in several directions. Monthly meetings have been lively and well attended, and plans are underway for the 37th Annual Camellia Show of Sacramento on March 4-5, 1961 in the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. The theme will be "International Friendship" with Erving K. Sibole as Show Chairman.

In addition to meetings and sponsorship of the annual Camellia Show, the Sacramento Camellia Society has another objective, of "fostering and promoting a generous public spirit of camellia planting throughout this area."

In keeping with this aim, the Society offered to provide the camellias to landscape a recently built school to be called, "The Camellia School." The offer was happily and promptly accepted by the school board.

Again the Sacramento Camellia Society cooperated with the Sacramento Camellia Festival Association in distributing camellia seeds to school children and to corrective institutions. Reports indicate the project to be most worth while.

(Continued on Page 31)

MARSHALL'S CAMELLIA NURSERY

(At the sign of the Camellia)

SPECIALIZING IN CAMELLIAS AND AZALEAS

AARON'S RUBY

ANGEL

BONNIE MARIE

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MARGARET SHORT

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TOMORROW

Reticulatas — Sasanquas

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ATlantic 6-0452

USE OF POLYETHELENE BAG IN GRAFTING

By Caryll W. Pitkin

GRAFTING — with greater certainty of success.

GRAFTING — with less risk of fungus.

GRAFTING — without bothering with jars.

These desirable goals are all wrapped up in a neat little polyethylene bag.

It was my pleasant task to talk with Harvey Short, hybridist at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, and originator of the famous "Camellias of Tomorrow." The method which he has been using with phenomenal success seems to be a long step forward in this interesting business of grafting.

Harvey starts with the usual cleft graft. But then he fastens a small stick about eight inches long and extending three inches above the scion on each side of the understock. Then over the scion and these supporting sticks he places a 6" by 12" polyethylene bag which is tightly tied around the understock. He advises string rather than rubber bands which may rot both for tying on the sticks and fastening the bag. This creates a miniature greenhouse around the scion.

That is the method — what advantage, if any, does it have over the customary "cover with a glass jar" system?

To date he has had not one single case of fungus. This, he believes is because there is no contact with the soil. The moisture that accumulates on the sides of the bag comes only from the cut; it can't come from the soil around the plant.

It makes possible grafting of old and large plants eighteen inches or so above the ground where the bark and tissue is livelier.

It also makes possible multiple grafts on several different branches where that seems desirable.

"How do you harden off the scion when it has healed and started to grow?" I asked.

"That's the best of all," he replied. "When that time comes just tear a small hole in the top of the bag. It can be enlarged until the scion is completely on its own." Anything simpler than that?

This would appear to be the ideal method for either busy or lazy gardeners. If it turns warm and dry and the scion begins to wilt, just close up the bag with a paper clip. No more bulky jars to wash, sterilize and store. This is for me.

I saw about 50 grafts which he had made last spring on 15 and 20 year old understock. On all but two there was beautiful bushy growth averaging



two feet long. The other two had started well but had been knocked off by a garden hose. Harvey advises tip pruning of new growth to induce branching.

In the greenhouse at the Huntington Gardens I saw about 25 grafts that were made just this last September and October. Seven had been completely uncovered and all the others were callousing and looked as though they were about ready. This was on December 1st.

He was twice cautious with these. The grafts had been made on plants with stems about the size of a pencil and were planted in gallon cans. After fastening on the bag in the usual way he placed a jar over the whole thing. "Double incubation" he explained. Whatever the reason it was very apparent that it worked for there they were, December 1st, six weeks from the start and growing nicely.

This type of bag is available from wholesale paper companies, freezer locker plants and sometimes even the supermarket. They cost only about a penny each.

The advantages of this system of grafting are obvious and if there are any disadvantages they aren't apparent to Harvey Short or to this reporter.

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW PROGRAM *(Continued)*

country, with its towering old oaks above and the colorful camellia and azalea bushes in the background. This year the reticulatas will be at their best, as well as the late japonicas.

Bakersfield features a two-day show the first weekend in March. This is also the time of the Sacramento and Fresno shows, except that the Fresno show is held on Sunday only. Bakersfield has issued a special invitation this year to Southern California Camellia Society and American Camellia Society members who attend their show, to be their guests at a noon

luncheon at the Bakersfield Inn in a good old camellia get together. One's enthusiasm should not lag, as these three shows in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys are truly fine exhibitions. Due to the cold nights, many believe, these flowers are without exception the most outstanding blooms developed in California. This statement is confirmed by the many blue ribbons won by Valley exhibitors in Southern California shows.

The California camellia show season ends with the annual show of the Northern California Camellia Society at Walnut Creek.

So, fellow enthusiasts, let us enjoy the 1961 camellia show season to the utmost!

WHO WANTS A PLANT OF BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME?

Would you like to have a 2-year grafted plant of 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' — worth \$100.00?

This will be the reward to the person who sells the largest number of tickets to the Disneyland Camellia Show between now and February 25, 1961.

If you have not yet heard the details, it will pay you to contact Bill Goertz, chairman of the ticket sales committee, at 1835 Carlisle Dr., San Marino, Calif. His telephone number is ATLantic 2-5665.

Tickets come in books of 11 and may be obtained on consignment. They sell for \$1.00 each. The seller turns in \$10.00 and keeps \$1.00 for himself (or herself). Or he uses the eleventh ticket to get himself (or herself) into the "Camellia Wonderland" show. And in addition to seeing the finest camellia show ever, the possessor of every ticket participates in a drawing for a fully-equipped 1961 Plymouth station wagon.

Better call or write Bill Goertz!

TOP GRAFTING

By C. S. van Benschoten

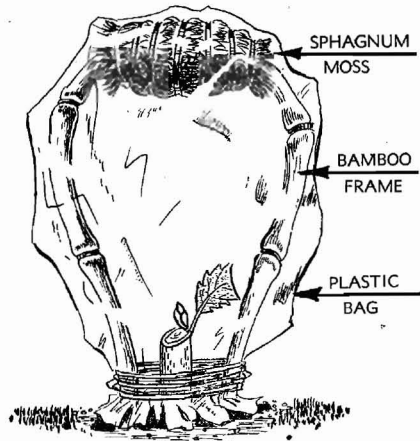
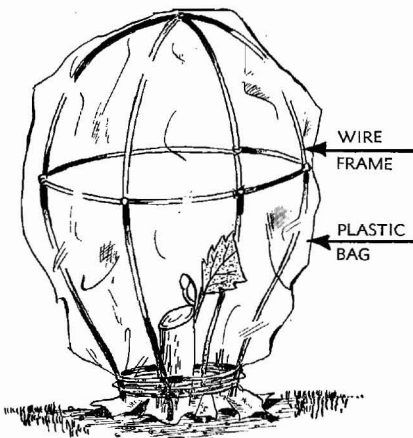
The value of top grafting lies in the use of established plants to add new varieties of camellias to your garden. This method is especially useful where one is limited in the use of space. Many older plants become leggy through lack of pruning and yet offer a number of branches a few feet off the ground that may be used for top grafting. There is also another advantage as it affords the opportunity to have several varieties and colors that bloom after some time on the same bush. Another advantage is to put all of the varieties of a given family on one bush, i.e., the Reticulatas, the Chanderli, and the Hermes to mention a few.

In preparing the bush, the branches selected should be cut back part way to reduce shock. This should be done from three to four months before the grafting takes place. Tree seal could be used as a precaution to reduce the possibility of disease entering the branch.

At the time of grafting, prepare the branch and scion in the usual manner, except that special care should be taken on older wood to use a sharp knife to avoid bruising the cambium

layer. After the scion or scions have been properly placed, care must be taken in placing a frame over the branch. Several methods have been used successfully; one with a wire cage covered with a two quart plastic bag that has been immersed in water to provide ample moisture so that adequate humidity will be present to overcome the buildup of heat during warm days. A second method is the use of split bamboo cage. This can be made by cutting strips of bamboo, which are easily shaped by heating at the point where bends are desired. Bamboo curtains provide an excellent source of supply and two foot widths can be obtained for a very reasonable amount. Where bamboo is used, it may also be spliced at the apex to accommodate a larger plastic bag. Many people tie a handful of sphagnum moss, well saturated, at the splice to provide adequate moisture inside the plastic cover; a third way to provide moisture is to tie the moss around the newly inserted scion.

During the period of waiting for the graft to *callous*, if the plastic bag loses the moisture beads or the
(Continued on Page 22)



SCIONS
OF THE



TIMES

MERLE
GISH

'China Doll'

A porcelain white camellia with petals edged in coral has been released by Mr. Hugh Shackelford of Albany, Georgia. With this coloring and marking it has the appearance of porcelain china so was named 'China Doll'. Last February my wife Rose and I had the opportunity to see a few of Mr. Shackelford's seedlings that had survived a rather rough or severe season. Of this group we felt 'China Doll' had much eye appeal, even sufficient interest to try in our garden of camellias.

Nomenclature describes this flower as a large, high centered peony with loose fluted petals. Blush white edged in coral. Mr. Shackelford commented that the flowers we were viewing were not good specimens or examples of this new variety. The flowers measured between 4 and 4½ inches in diameter, semi-double in form with rather wavy petals indicating that they could be fluted. With form and size being so variable I feel we are missing the more important characteristic of this seedling for the name seems most appropriate in describing the flower.

The coloring adds richness to your flower collection and garden with its blooming season from early to mid-season.

'Raggedy Ann'

'Raggedy Ann', a seedling discovered in the private garden of Mrs. Diamond of Savannah, Georgia, is showing every promise of being an

excellent camellia. The Diamond garden is strictly a private garden but the Braewood Gardens, operated by two partners Mr. Forbes and Mr. Millikan, are growing and propagating many of the seedlings originating in the Diamond garden.

'Raggedy Ann' is a very dark red with a form that varies from loose peony to a very full peony, and reportedly very large in size with indications of six inches or more in diameter. Flower buds have a tendency to show color for a long period of time before opening and although considered a midseason bloomer it sometimes blooms early for midseason flowers.

There is much discussion about the need of improved foliage and growth habit with so many of our new seedlings and introductions. The foliage of 'Raggedy Ann' is one of the best with heavy strong leaves which are very serrated to where they seem to be notched and these are supported by very strong upright growth. We understand Mrs. Diamond has not been very well and this column along with her many, many friends wishes her speedy recovery with best wishes and that she will find and share the many joys her seedlings have added to our camellia family.

'Faith'

This is a flower I have intended to comment on for some time and though not one of the latest or newest

(Continued on next page)

introductions we feel it has something of fine value to offer to the commercial trade and our camellia family.

Many thought the first bloom they saw was very similar to the flower produced by the 'Elegans' family on the West Coast. Since camellias are so variable and unpredictable this could be true, but for us the color of 'Faith' is far richer and superior to 'Elegans'; also the growth habit is very upright and vigorous and, more important to those of us who live in areas that bound the desert where very low humidity is a problem, this flower has held up withstanding these sudden and most disastrous weather changes. For example, one day last season the humidity dropped to a low of 11%, in fact so low that in a collection of between seven and eight hundred different camellia varieties with several hundred flowers in full bloom nearly all collapsed or became very limp with one exception and this was on the plant of 'Faith', still very perky and erect.

'Faith' is a seedling resulting from three seed picked by Mrs. Robert

Brodie of Biloxi, Mississippi in her husband's garden. As these seedlings sprouted and with great anticipation, care and interest she named these three seedlings, 'Faith', 'Hope', and 'Charity'. The third year the seedling 'Faith' budded and when fully opened it was truly worth waiting for. All that Mrs. Brodie had hoped for was in this flower she had named 'Faith'; for as she stated, "The name 'faith' seems to mean a lot to a person."

The form of this flower is semi-double and may vary with a cluster of petaloids in the center mixed among the stamens. The flowers are large and can be five inches or better. Coloring is a rich and very clean clear deep pink. We know that this flower does variegate for those that like or prefer variegated bloom. The plant is a very fine upright grower with dark, glossy green, serrated leaves. Flowering period is midseason.

From this abbreviated experience it may indicate that the camellia 'Faith' is one of the finest camellias for substance and texture, as these

(Continued on Page 30)

KRAMER'S SUPREME

(Plant Patent 1583)

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**Margarete Hertrich Award
1957-1958**

**Frank Williams Award
1956**

NOW is the time to place your order with your nurseryman for this new award winning japonica seedling. 'Kramer's Supreme' is a large, scarlet red, double peony form of lasting quality. The vigorous, upright growing habit of the plant with its decorative glossy green foliage makes a beautiful ornamental shrub throughout the year. No camellia garden is complete without at least one 'Kramer's Supreme.'

Plants now available in gallon — 2-gallon — 3-gallon containers.
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Originated by August Kramer. Propagated exclusively

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UPLAND, CALIFORNIA



NEWS OF SOCIETIES

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SOCIETY

SCCS at its meeting on December 13th heard John Robinson talk on miniatures. As Robinson explained it, he became interested in miniatures because the camellias he was growing for size did not size up. So if he was going to grow small blooms, he wanted them to be small in a way that would bring him Brownie points. Regardless of the reason, he set out to acquire a collection of miniatures before others got started and he now is looked to as the dean of the miniature collectors in Southern California. He reviewed the history of miniatures, told who in Southern California are active in their introduction, discussed many varieties and ended his talk by reviewing a list of miniatures he would consider if he were now starting a collection. His talk will be reported in detail in the February issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW.

January's meeting, on the 10th, will feature audience participation in the selection of the best camellias exhibited that evening. Last year's program of this kind was so successful that it will be repeated. Judges will select their nominations under the different categories. The audience will look the selections over during intermission and will vote their choices.

POMONA SOCIETY

Pomona society members braved 60 mile an hour winds, sand, tumble weeds and low temperatures (for California) to attend their December 8th meeting. Because of the weather there were not many blooms on display. Some of them, however, were outstanding, including 'Joshua E. Youtz', 'Red Daikagura', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Mme. Jannoch' and 'Debutante' in the japonicas class. Mrs. Lucille Hoffman and Mrs. Margaret Harmsen put on an instructive and entertaining exhibition in the art of making Christmas arrangements for the home with the use of camellias and inexpensive accessories which may be obtained at variety stores and hobby shops. Mrs. Hoffman also gave a demonstration in making beeswax candles.

Speaker at the January meeting will be A. H. Dekker, president of the Southern California Society.

SAN DIEGO SOCIETY

November 13th was San Diego night at the Southern California Camellia Society meeting and eleven members of the San Diego society made the 250 mile round trip for the occasion. They were President and Mrs. Pillsbury, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford, Mr. and Mrs. Greeno, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Platt, and Mrs. Evelyn Henry.

Flower Competition (Continued)

The December 13th meeting was equally competitive, with winners as follows: Over 4 inches japonicas, in order: 'Mathotiana Supreme', 'White Empress', 'Joshua Youtz', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Elegans Var.' Under 4 inches japonicas: 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Debutante', 'Marchioness of Exeter', 'Dr. W. H. McIntosh', 'Katherine Nuccio'. Sasanquas group: 'Interlude', 'Little Gem', 'Ocean Springs', Miniatures group: 'Tinker Bell', 'Sugar Babe', 'Tinsey'. Hybrids group: 'Citation', 'Donation-Var.', 'Dawn'.

TOP GRAFTING (Continued)

weather becomes excessively warm, additional moisture may be injected by use of a small syringe and the opening can be sealed with scotch tape or a fold can be made in the bag and secured with a paper clip.

Care should be taken to prevent

exposure of the bag to the direct rays of the sun. This may be done by covering the plastic bags with vented paper bags, or by building frames of cloth or burlap on the south side of the plant.

As soon as the scion starts growing, a small hole should be torn in the bag to start the hardening off process.

Experience indicates that top grafting should be done in the latter part of December or early in January to give the scion a chance to callous before the advent of warm spring weather. It will be interesting to note that the writer has had about the same success with this method as with the traditional method. One advantage of this type of grafting is that in case of failure you can cut the branch back the next year a bit further and try again.

Give it a try on some of the older and larger bushes and a whole new experience in new varieties and colors will be yours.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN

AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The American Camellia Society is a worldwide scientific, horticultural and hobby organization of more than 7000 members in 42 states and 15 foreign countries. The Society was founded as a non-profit organization in October 1945.

Among other benefits, membership entitles you to four issues of CAMELIAS, the Journal of the American Camellia Society issued in January, March, September and November. Each issue of 36 to 40 pages of interesting articles, news and photographs, has a four-color reproduction of a new variety on the cover.

Each December members receive a handsome cloth bound Yearbook of some 300 pages, containing the latest information in culture, pest control, history, descriptions and new varieties. There are several full color plates of new varieties in addition to numerous photographs illustrating the articles. A roster of members is published in each Yearbook.

The American Camellia Society will welcome you to its program of mutual pleasure and interest.

Annual Members.....\$6.00

Sustaining Members.....\$12.00

AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 465

TIFTON, GEORGIA

AN ADVENTURE IN AIR LAYERING

Edward O. Morgan

Air layering is one of the oldest methods known to man for the propagation of plants, yet one has cause to wonder just what brought it to man's attention. Was it the apparent lack of viable seed, or an accidental covering of a branch which then took root at the covered point? I developed interest in air layering some years ago after becoming sufficiently interested in camellias to recognize a few varieties and realized that some of them have more desirable characteristics than others. Since air layering introduces no new characteristics into the plant, it is a particularly valuable process for the propagation and preservation of any special varieties.

In the rear yard stood five beautiful large camellia bushes about twenty

years old, all of the most nondescript nomenclature and parentage. One was identified as 'Seiboldi' — guess how I knew?

Being of Scotch instinct, if not ancestry, the thought of cutting down such beautiful plants was indeed depressing. Added to this was the thought that a new graft might not take and the entire plant would be lost.

About this time, an article on air layering appeared in a technical publication, and a solution came to mind. Work the plants over gradually, avoid possible loss of the plant, and, at the same time, provide a valuable supply of useful understock for future grafting. Did you ever notice how often

(Continued on next page)



Edwards H. Metcalf presents the Edwards H. Metcalf Camellia Hybrid Award trophy to president A. H. Dekker at November S. C. C. S. meeting.

you wish to graft, or just experiment, and you have no understock available? So the process began.

Grafts of desired varieties were placed on two of the lower branches in positions which appeared to give promise of a well shaped bush as they would develop. Then to the air layering. The rooting medium was made by mixing 60% peat moss with 40% sphagnum moss by volume. Many prefer pure peat, sphagnum moss, or ordinary potting soil. The fact is, that most any light, moisture retaining material in which plants will root appears to work quite satisfactorily. The mix given is used because the stringy fiber helps hold it together and makes it easier to handle. This feature attains considerable importance when one is working on a large plant in the ground where it is necessary to be somewhat of a contortionist to reach the objective point on the plant, plus the added limitations of only two hands, water running down to the elbows, and water dripping into the face.

The rooting medium should be thoroughly wetted in water to which has been added one-half teaspoon of Hyponex per gallon of water. Hyponex is a concentrated fertilizer which has one peculiar characteristic — its extreme and ready availability to plant life. The air layers made with rooting medium wetted in solution containing a little Hyponex produce a heavier root system and grow better after they are detached from the parent plant, than those performed without the Hyponex.

Using a medium weight of clear or translucent plastic, cut rectangles about ten inches by twelve inches to wrap around the rooting medium. Be sure there is a good lap to retain moisture. Provide cord to tie the plastic at each end of the ball of rooting medium. When the rooting medium and wrapping materials are prepared, it is then time to prepare the

branch. It may vary in size from one-fourth inch to one and one-half inches in diameter. By using larger branches, it is possible to attain, in a relatively short period of time, much greater plant size than is possible by any other method. Smaller branches may be used, but they require support as the ball of rooting medium cannot be supported by the branch alone.

At a point on the branch, at least three to four inches below the first limb, make two cuts around the branch through the bark about one inch apart to break the contact with the body of the plant. Remove the band of bark about one inch wide completely around the limb. The cambium layer which is thus exposed should be scuffed to retard the flow of the usual amount of sap before the new roots are formed. If the sap flow is not retarded, the wound has a greater tendency to heal by callousing and this retards, or prevents, the formation of roots. The space of not less than three or four inches below the first branch for the cut is recommended because the roots form on the edge of the bark cut farthest from the main body of the plant and, therefore, the end of the root ball farthest from the plant will be the top of the soil line when the air layer is detached and planted. If the new plant is to be used for understock, room to do grafting work is needed. We have all struggled with grafts when the shape of the understock base has forced cutting the understock too close to the soil surface. On the other hand, this clearance between the root ball and first branches will, in a procedure for preservation of the variety, produce a more shapely plant and avoid the need to remove low branches later.

Dust the entire wounded surface with Hormodin No. 3 to encourage rooting, then place a square of the plastic in one hand and pick up a mass of root medium which will create a ball about three inches in diameter.

This amount may be varied for very small or large branches, but it is much better to make the ball oversize than undersize. Squeeze the material lightly, just enough to stop the drip of water when no pressure is applied — no more, because it must stay wet for a long time. Place the material on the plastic. Place the root medium completely around the wound, draw the plastic around to hold the medium firmly in place at all points against the wound, then tie the plastic cover at each end. This is where that third and fourth hands mentioned earlier would come in handy. After a period ranging from six weeks to six months a heavy growth of new roots will have penetrated the ball and show through the plastic. Ordinarily, the water supply in the ball will suffice for the entire process, but occasionally a ball may, for reasons unknown, lose its moisture and become dry and hard before roots form. Clearly, this will inhibit root formation as the process requires some moisture. One end of the plastic may be opened and water added in such cases, but the ball must not be kept too wet as the roots may rot just as they do in an overwatered container.

When a good mass of roots has formed, sever the branch just below the new root ball. Prepare a container of water to which Hyponex, at the rate of one-half teaspoon per gallon, has been added. Remove at least one-half to two-thirds of the top branches

of the detached branch, depending on the heaviness of the root system and the size of the top. Treat any large wounds with grafting wax or other sealer, particularly those low on the new plant. Remove any buds, as they draw vitality which is needed for establishment of the new plant. For understock the shape of the upper part of the plant makes little difference, but where the objective is propagation and preservation of a variety, prune and treat as carefully as you would a rooted cutting or a desirable seedling. Open the lower end of plastic, cut branch stub flush with root ball and soak ball in the container of Hyponex water until thoroughly wet, being careful at all times to avoid breaking or disturbing the ball. The rooting medium may be slow to absorb water, but do not become discouraged. Give it time — this is the key to a vigorous start. Plant in regular camellia mix as you would when transplanting or repotting.

Since the writer operates under the handicap common to city lot growers of camellias, limited space, air layering has been used almost exclusively for production of understock. Nevertheless, the arrival of a desirable seedling or sport might change the objective. Obviously, air layering will not appeal to nursery men or a seed growing addict, but it is a lot of fun for the ordinary camellia fan. Six years of experimenting has resulted in

(Continued on next page)

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MARION, S. C.

the conclusion that properly aged, air layered understock compares favorably with any other type of understock. Grafts placed on such understock attain the same level of success and vigor of growth as those placed on other types of understock. It would appear quite obvious that air layering would not make a good understock plant out of a slow growing, poor understock variety, but few propagators expect the best results from a weak or slow growing variety, even though its origin may be a seed or rooted cutting.

Some observations —

Although it is possible to air layer at any time of year, the spring, just after the growth has fully started, brings the best results.

When selecting branches for understock, apply the same tests you use in selecting understock from seed or cuttings — the new vigorous growth provides the best rooting tendency and the best understock for grafting.

At least two full growing seasons should pass before attempting to use the specimen for understock — more for older, heavier branches, as the root system may not be strong enough to carry through the ordeal and produce a strong graft. Some plants may be used after one season of growth, but the proportion of unsatisfactory results is noticeably higher.

If air layer is high on the plant, or in a fairly light area, cover the ball

with black cloth. Black plastic may be used to hold the rooting medium in place, but it is more difficult to watch root development, as the ball must be opened for inspection and chance of disturbance is greater. Remember, roots grow underground in the dark, not in the sun or bright light.

Should the wound callous, instead of growing roots, remove the ball, cut away the callous and reprocess. Generally it works.

Since the rooting medium used in the ball is generally devoid of nutrients, the Hyponex is a welcome addition, but don't put in too much. It is a fertilizer.

Newly severed air layers should be kept well shaded until they put out sustaining roots. The best evidence of this is the appearance of new growth. From this time on, treat it as you do your other camellias.

William Hertrich Honored

William Hertrich, curator emeritus of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, was one of six nationally known horticulturists who were honored in November at the 15th annual American Horticultural Congress held in Pasadena. He and Dr. Philip A. Munz, director emeritus of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens at Claremont, California, received special citations for their work in horticulture.

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CAMELLIAS— 10 OUTSTANDING (Continued)

sometimes change with them so that what seems most desirable today may be less so tomorrow.

I do firmly believe, however, that in any carefully selected list will be found a percentage of varieties which ten years hence will not only have held their own but will have enhanced in our esteem as has been the case over the past ten years with 'C. M. Wilson', 'Hana Fuki', 'High Hat', 'Letitia Schrader', 'Mme. Hahn' and 'Mrs. Freeman Weiss'. It is with this as my goal that I submit for your consideration the following list that you may select, as your tastes dictate, what you consider to be the "Ten Outstanding Camellia Varieties in the Last Ten Years":

(Recent introductions are omitted for reasons previously stated. Some flexibility in the meaning of "Ten Years" is indulged in. No reference has been made to variegation because most, if not all, of the self-colored varieties mentioned lend themselves to variegation through the root stocks on which they are grafted.)

CLARISE CARLTON, GENERAL
LeCLERC, or MERCURY
CORONATION, FROSTY MORN
or ONETIA HOLLAND
DR. TINSLEY
DRAMA GIRL
ELIZABETH LEBEY
GUEST of HONOR
GUILIO NUCCIO
MATHOTIANA SUPREME or
SULTANA
MRS. D. W. DAVIS
R. L. WHEELER
REG RAGLAND
SPRING SONNET
TOMORROW
WILDWOOD

Some of the varieties named, notably 'Drama Girl' and 'Elizabeth Lebey' are offered with some misgivings because of their unfortunate

growth habits. The solid worth of these splendid camellias has become so firmly established over the years, however, that they must be included despite growth habits which, at least to a degree, can be corrected by careful pruning and staking. Much the same reasoning applies to 'Coronation'. 'Mercury' is included despite the fact that it has been an established English variety for many years. Its distribution in America has, however, occurred during the past ten years.

To continue with a discussion of each individual variety is, of course, not permissible on account of space. It is therefore suggested that if the reader is in doubt as to size, form or color of bloom, or the growth habits of the plants, or their period of bloom, or other blooming characteristics, that the nomenclature book be consulted or the advice of a local camellia nurseryman be sought. He will be glad to advise.

The list will, of course, be criticized. Among the critics will be those who will find it difficult to understand why the list does not include such general favorites as 'Angel', 'Billie McCaskill', 'Colonial Dame', 'Coral Pink Lotus', 'Southern Charm', 'Tick Tock' and several others which enjoy very high rating. I will confess to have given a number of these most careful consideration for inclusion in the principal list. Their omission is due to a number of factors including the lack of unanimity among the well qualified persons with whom I discussed the subject.

The list is presented with full confidence that from its numbers any householder can select ten varieties in which his pride of possession will never lessen. He can choose and acquire these with complete certainty that as the years unfold their beauty many, if not all of them, will take their rightful places beside the ever popular and all-time great camellias.

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BARK GRAFTING

By Alvin L. Gunn

Bark grafting is generally done from March through September. The bark is loose on understock which has started to grow, and the graft will generally heal in four to eight weeks. I haven't any records as to which method of grafting has the highest percent of success. I do have about a hundred plants which have been bark grafted, one of which has fifteen varieties on it.

In comparing bark grafting to other types of grafting, the amateur can find many advantages in favor of the bark graft. There is no need for the exacting attention given to the matching of the cambium layers, as on other types of grafting. When using large understock the scions won't be crushed or have to be placed on an angle with only one side matching. When grafting more than one scion, there is less of a problem having the scions slip out of place. It takes less time and care to prepare the scion for the bark graft. The scion is stronger because of only cutting one side. If the scion is very short it is easier to handle.

A satisfactory method of bark grafting follows:

After the bush has been cut off, generally three to eight inches from the ground, prune off any bruised parts with a sharp knife or razor as any part of the understock which has been bruised will not callous until much later. Press a knife vertically about one inch down on the understock hard enough to cut through the bark. Holding the point of the knife in the same position, tilt the top of the knife pushing the bark back on each side at the top of the vertical cut, starting $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" from the end. Cut the scion on an angle into a wedge shape. Care must be taken not to touch the cut portion with your fingers. The wedge of the scion is then

inserted between the bark and the cambium layer gently forcing the scion in until about $\frac{1}{8}$ " of the cut is showing above the understock. If the bark is tight, try loosening it first by forcing a scion cut from a large plant. If the bark won't loosen, it can be cleft grafted.

The tying and the care of the bark graft is the same as any other graft. Mine are aired one hour per week, when it is cool. They are watered only if they look dry.

BOOKS FOR SALE

The secretary of Southern California Camellia Society has for sale several books that are worth owning by people who are interested in camellias. These books may be obtained by calling or writing the secretary or, better still, at Society meetings. The books are:

Camellia Nomenclature — 1960 edition, \$1.75 postpaid; in lots of 12 or more, \$1.20.

Camellia Culture — A complete publication on camellia culture. \$11.50.

Camellia Bulletin — Special edition on Rare Species and Hybrids, \$1.00.

Nomenclature of Sasanqua of Japan and Camellia Varieties in Japan — both printed in Japan, 50¢ each.

Camellias Illustrated — Morrie Sharp, \$5.00.

"Camellia Culture" covers conditions in every camellia growing area of the world, with special attention paid to the various problems that different areas present.

CUTTING, STORING (Continued)

stant temperature of 42° to 45° — which is the ideal temperature for the purpose. When you are using a refrigerator that is apt to get colder than 40° several newspapers should be placed over the top box. On Friday afternoon we check all flowers that we have in the refrigerator. Some we are able to replace with a fresher bloom of the same variety and of show quality; some we have to discard; but most of them are still of good quality and can go to the show."

There you have the suggestions from several angles. All do not do it exactly the same but all follow the same basic principles. Now last and most important: Cut with and handle with care. A bruised flower is a "gone" flower. If I drop one when cutting or handling, that ends it. I throw it out.

SCIONS (Continued)

two qualifications go hand in hand to make a more lasting flower.

'High Wide 'N Handsome'

The McCaskill Gardens are releasing for the first time this season a very large pink semi-double and those who have seen this flower rave over its unusual, clean coloring of pink.

Unfortunately, I have not seen this flower but from the word of those who were more fortunate to view 'High Wide 'N Handsome' feel the coloring and perkyness seem to be one of its outstanding characteristics. (The color plate on the McCaskill brochure is said to be very poor and not the true color of the flower.) The size of 'High Wide 'N Handsome' can be 5½" to 6" or maybe better under some conditions. Petals stand very erect, and separate in forming a very lovely semi-double flower. These perky and erect petals give the bloom a great feeling of depth.

With another semi-double flower of

clear, rich pink the McCaskill Gardens have a sister flower to share honors with their 'Lady in Red'.

CAMELLIAS IN NEWPORT BEACH (Continued)

sight full of huge blooms. 'Pink Clouds' was at least recognizable but not noteworthy. By this time the rest of the family had followed suit in blooming. 'Nina Avery', 'Simeon', 'Audusson', 'Tingley', 'Folk', 'Lady Sadie', 'Lady Lucille', 'Spring Sonnet', etc. were ablaze.

To sum up the performance of my plants in Newport Beach in their third season, I would have to report that a good many do not do as well here in the Beach area as in the western section of Los Angeles, which is about 4 miles from the ocean and cooler than in Los Angeles down-town area. Among these are 'Pink Clouds', 'Jessie Katz', 'Shiro Chan', 'Flamingo', 'Finlandia Blush' and variegated, 'Masterpiece', 'Gov. Warren', 'Frizzle White', 'Hana Fuki', and the reticulatas. These need some experimentation as to location, and perhaps some of the individual shrubs are growing old and just don't have their youthful enthusiasm. On the other hand 'Nina Avery', 'Lady Clare', 'Simeon', 'Lady Lucille', and 'High Hat' the first year were highly pleased with the move. The faithful 'Audusson', 'Bride's Bouquet', 'Herme', 'Pope Pius', 'Alba Plena', 'Glen 40', and the plants acquired since moving here couldn't care less where they get their room and board. They are going to be beautiful come what may. Among the camellias in the latter category are: 'Coral Pink Lotus', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'Fircone', 'Tinsey', 'Sunset Glory', 'Tomorrow', 'Reg Ragland', 'Coronation', and 'Florence Daniel', though the latter falls on its face the day after coming into full bloom.

**CAMELLIA SOCIETIES OF
NO. CALIFORNIA** *(Continued)*

The Camellia Society of Santa Clara is a very live wire organization with Col. Fred W. Beuchner as President. Many members of this society have collections of 200 or more camellias and they have a one day yearly camellia show in the Auditorium in San Jose. Noted personalities of this group consist not only of the President and Secretary John Medose but also such notables as Caesar Breschini who has introduced 'Alpine Glow', 'Maryland', 'Edelweiss' and a new one called 'Iglou'.

Each of these three societies would welcome visitors from Southern California and particularly competition in their annual shows.

Another reason for using camellias for landscaping: Your Editor's secretary lives at the foot of the Sierra Madre mountains in Altadena, her back yard backing up to the open hills. The other evening deer visited in search of food. They ate the succulents and the leaves off the rose bushes. The camellias were not touched. A tip to all who have deer for neighbors.

Since sasanquas are in bloom at this time, why not visit your nursery and bring home those that appeal to you for your location? Do not set them in the ground right now. Plant the can, so to speak. Let them finish their blooming, then set them out per your nurseryman's suggestion.

"Camellia Culture," edited by Carl Tourje and published by the Southern California Camellia Society, is a must for every person who wants to learn about camellias and how to grow them.

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- Camellia Society of Kern County.....Bakersfield
 President: Tom Stull; Secretary: Mrs. Frank B. Anderson, P.O. Box 183, Bakersfield.
 Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of the month, October through April, at Cunningham Memorial Art Gallery, 1930 R St., Bakersfield.
- Camellia Society of Orange County.....Santa Ana
 President: Ken Newerf; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1121 Orange, Santa Ana.
 Meetings held second Thursday of the month, October through April, in Spurgeon Memorial Room of New Santa Ana Public Library.
- Central California Camellia Society.....Fresno
 President: Rey Merino; Secretary: Mrs. Karen Lee Aherns, 1144-E Saginaw Way, Fresno.
 Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of each month, November through March, except March meeting which is held on 4th Wednesday, at Heaton School, Del Mar Ave., Fresno.
- Huntington Camellia Garden.....San Marino
 Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Road, San Marino.
- Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....Pomona
 President: Walter H. Harmsen; Secretary: Mrs. Kyle H. Bottom, 5913 Riverside Drive, Chino.
 Meetings held 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April, at Claremont Women's Club, 345 W. 12th, Claremont.
- San Diego Camellia Society.....San Diego
 President: Clive Pillsbury; Secretary: Mrs. Ferris H. Jones, 4545 Dana Drive, La Mesa.
 Meetings held 2nd Friday of the month, November through May, in Floral Association Building, Balboa Park, San Diego.
- Temple City Camellia Society.....Temple City
 President: Peter P. Folino; Secretary: Mrs. Peter Folino, 708 W. Pepper Glen Dr., Arcadia.
 Meetings held 4th Monday of the month, October through April, at Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kaufman, Temple City.

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