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REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



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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

'Mrs. George Bell' is a *C japonica* seedling of 'Tiffany.' The seed pod was a chance cross but is thought to, possibly, have been a cross with 'Ballet Dancer.' The seed was germinated in 1976 and the plant first bloomed in 1978. The cultivar has been propagated by Mr. Clark Thomas of San Dimas, California. The bloom is a medium, open peony form with the sweet-pea pink petals shading to white in the center. The plant has a vigorous, bushy growth with very dark green foliage. The cultivar was named for Mrs. George Bell, a long-time camellia hobbyist of the Pomona Valley. These color separations were courtesy of Clark Thomas,



THOUGHTS

from the editor

When Bonnie and Julius Nuccio were in Japan they were shown a picture of the *C. japonica* camellia cultivar "Tama-No-Ura." It looked like just the remarkable new picotte camellia we are all looking for. The bloom (See cover of Volume 41, No. 1, September-October, 1979 of *CAMELLIA REVIEW*) is a single, red with a white border petal. There are from six to seven petals and a perfectly formed, thick column of stamens. Julius purchased scions at \$25 each and sent them back to the U.S.A. airmail. Subsequently other scions were purchased and all were grafted that spring. In the winter of 1978-79 more wood was obtained and grafted and there was enough stock to introduce the plant in the Fall of 1979.

I was looking for something unusual for the cover of our September-October 1979 issue of *CAMELLIA REVIEW* and thought that 'Tama-No-Ura' would be just the ideal cover flower, but, alas, we had no photo of the plant in bloom! Then, we chanced to see a color picture of 'Tama-No-Ura' in a Japanese nursery catalogue. I had a color slide made of the picture and then had color separations made of the slide and the covers were printed in June 1979.

Well, August rolled around but there were no buds on the one-gallon plants which Nuccio's were offering for sale. We debated whether to run the cover in the September issue

without ever having seen the cultivar in bloom but I went ahead anyway. Our September-October issue had 'Tama-No-Ura' on the cover. When October came along and still no buds on the Nuccio plants, both Julius and I began to receive the "Old HEE HAW" from various camellia hobbyists. At the Camellia-Ramma in Fresno I was presented, in turn, an African Daisy; an Aster; and an Azalea bloom. In each case the presenter assured me, with tongue in cheek, that it was the bloom from the 'Tama-No-Ura' which he had purchased at Nuccio's Nursery.

December 1st came, and with it, 5 or 6 buds on the Nuccio camellia left in stock - but still no blooms. Would the blooms be just another faded red single with a faint, innocuous white streak? Would it be "just another Dog?" On January 10th the blooms began to open. Let me tell you with as much stoic, tranquil, composure as I can muster that 'Tama-No-Ura' is no myth! On the contrary, this cultivar is going to "knock 'em dead." At the risk of being classed as an overzealous fanatic let me predict that this bloom will sweep the medium to small japonica trophy tables during the next few years. Furthermore, as hybrid material, to introduce more picotte genes into the japonica blood lines, it will be in great demand. So, the next time someone asks you whether you think that 'Tama-No-Ura' is a myth, just tell him "It's marvelous!"

Bill Dawson

KRAMER BROTHERS: A CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION

by Jim McClung

Kramer Brothers' Nursery began many years ago in the East and found its way west.

The Brothers Kramer, Otto (age 20), and August (age 15) began a nursery on their native Long Island, catering to the tourist trade. For twenty years they grew pot plants and cut flowers. Then August decided to follow the Western Trail, soon to be followed by Otto. Their first California nursery and growing grounds were at the southwest corner of Ontario. They grew fruit and walnut trees to supply the burgeoning industry of Southern California. Many of the trees still found in the Beaumont/Hemet area were grown by the Kramers. They also produced asparagus fern, heather, and California pepper sprays for the Eastern cut flower market.

In 1921 a second nursery and growing grounds were opened at Oceanside. At this location freesias, anemones and ranunculus were grown for the bulb trade. Stock was a main cut flower item. The Oceanside Nursery was sold just prior to World War II.

In 1929 the Kramers bought Red Hill (rising above their present nursery) and concentrated on growing heather and mums for the cut flower trade, cocos plumosos, geraniums for cuttings, bouvardia 'Albatross', Deodar cedars, and other general nursery stock. The present nursery was added to the property in 1930.

Otto Kramer died in 1941 and August continued the business until his death in 1973.

Ben Mackall entered the picture when he took August's daughter Marie Louise, to wife in 1937. He joined the nursery firm in 1940 on the insistence of the ailing Otto.

Young Mackall began his apprenticeship in a typical fashion — pull-

ing weeds from fields and containers. Three mornings each week he found his way through the darkness to the Los Angeles Flower Mart. Here he would spend the early morning hours selling the cut flowers grown on Red Hill.

On the death of August Kramer Ben and Marie assumed management of the nursery and soon began to specialize in camellias and azaleas. The nursery now carries in excess of 200 varieties of camellias as well as a vast selection of azaleas. Such a specialty wholesale nursery must carry the 'tried and true' varieties but the Mackalls periodically introduce new cultivars that they feel will have a lasting importance.

Before his death August Kramer introduced 'Kramer's Supreme,' the nursery's greatest seller, and 'Miss Universe.' Ben and Marie have introduced 15 new camellias, some of them favorite show flowers. The Mackalls spend an inordinately long time in testing a new camellia. If, after several years, the flower and plant do not meet their strict standards the whole lot is "sold south."

Kramer's list of introductions include some of the finest camellias in the West. Besides 'Kramer's Supreme,' and 'Miss Universe' Kramer has introduced such beauties as 'Angel Wings,' 'Chameleon,' 'Coral Delight,' 'Ed Combatalade,' 'In the Pink,' 'In the Red,' 'Julie,' 'Julie Blush,' 'Miss Tinytot Princess,' 'Splash of Pink,' 'Sunset Oaks,' 'Tricia,' 'Tulip Time,' 'Utsukushi Asaye,' and 'Wo-He-Lo. Ben was reluctant to choose a favorite but, when pinned down, chose 'Coral Delight.' This writer has two favorites: 'Utsukushi Asaye' (sister seeding of Coral Delight), and 'Splash of Pink' (a beautiful offspring of the 'Elegans' tribe).

All hobbyists are welcome to shop

at Kramer Brothers Nursery. Ben asks only that they call ahead so that he can arrange to be there. Since he spends about 60% of his time traveling the western camellia belt a phone call might save the buyer a useless trip and wasted gasoline.

HOW I BECAME A CAMELLIA HOBBYIST

By Lynn W. Fawns

How to become a member of the Southern California Camellia Society? At least this is how it happened to me.

In the late forties and early fifties my wife pressured me to go to a Camellia show at the Fresno Fair Grounds. The cafeteria was filled with tables laden with beautiful blooms. I had never paid any attention to these flowers before although I had read the book by Alexander Dumas, "La Dame Aux Camelias," while I was living in France.

I was so overjoyed at the sight of those beautiful blooms that I went to my friend, Maynard Munger, and asked, "What does one have to do to become a member of the Camellia Society?" He inquired "Do you have five dollars?" I told him yes and handed him a five. "You are now a full-fledged member," he said, as he handed me a receipt. "But wait a minute Maynard, I don't even have a plant and I don't know the first thing about the care of flowers." Hesitating he said, "You'll get some in the near future."

The next day while I was treating a patient I told her how foolish I had been to join a club when I didn't have a plant. She agreed with me, but about two hours later a nursery truck pulled up in front of my office and I had my first plant, a Daikagura which the nursery man said was one of the best new varieties. Soon I had visited and purchased plants from all of the nurseries in and near Fresno.

I then received my first Camellia Review and learned that the South-

ern California Camellia Society met on a certain Tuesday night in San Marino. It just so happened that once a month I had to attend a professional meeting on the following Wednesday so I could go down a day early and visit the nurseries in and around Pasadena.

Harvey Short was especially kind to me. We would check almost every camellia at the Coolidge Nursery, have lunch together and then he would introduce me to all the hospitable people at the meeting that night.

After several months of this Harvey and Edward Metcalf came to me with a form to fill out and said they were going to sponsor me to become an accredited judge of the American Camellia Society. I next started going to shows, meeting more interesting people and doing judging, which I found to be most beneficial.

Then came learning to graft camellias and planting seeds, one of which grew me a plant called "Taffeta TuTu" which when presented received a highly commended award.

Well to say the least that was the best five dollars I ever spent and I still thrill from the effects of it all.

CAMELLIA FLOWER BLIGHT

By Audrey Brooks,
RHS Plant Pathologist
Wisley Gardens, England

ED. NOTE: Reprinted from the May, 1979 issue of THE GARDEN JOURNAL of the Royal Horticultural Society, London.

In recent years, flower blight of camellias has become a subject of concern to those who have seen, in the U.S.A., the extensive damage it can cause to camellia blooms on shrubs grown both under glass and outside and also on cut blooms at shows. It is now considered to be one of the most serious diseases of camellias in certain American States, but fortunately it has not yet appeared in Britain.

The disease was first recorded in Japan in 1919 and it appears to have been introduced into the United States from there, as the disease was first found in America in 1938 on a Californian nursery which imported plants from Japan. It was not until 1948 that further outbreaks of the disease were noted, again in California but also in Georgia. Since then the disease has spread to at least six other states. Although various measures have been tried to control flower blight, none has proved really effective and that is why it is considered to be a serious disease and it is apparently still spreading in the U.S.A.

Flower blight is caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia camelliae* and as the name suggests it affects only the flower petals thus spoiling the spring display of blooms. The first symptom to appear is often a darkening of the veins on the petals, but brown specks or blotches soon appear on the expanding petals and spread until the whole flower turns brown and drops. Affected petals have a distinctive moist feeling which helps to differentiate the disease from frost injury.

The affected tissues do not disintegrate very rapidly and infected flowers retain their shape and firm-

ness for many days after they have turned brown and fallen to the ground. If the flowers lie in moist earth, shiny dark masses of spore-like structures, called spermatia, are produced on them. These spermatia are not able to infect new petals so do not disseminate the disease to other flowers. They appear to be necessary, however, to effect the sexual reproduction of the fungus which occurs by means of special structures described later.

As the disease progresses the fungus produces a hard black resting body (sclerotium) either at the base of each petal or as a compound structure in the base of the entire flower. The sclerotia are variable in shape and size and may extend beyond the limits of the petals. When the petals do disintegrate eventually, the sclerotia remain lying beneath the shrubs either upon the soil surface or covered with leaves and other debris. During summer and early winter they remain in a dormant condition.

From January to April as spring approaches and the temperature rises the sclerotia become active. After wet periods they produce from one to several minute stalked structures bearing brown saucer-shaped discs $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across (6 to 18 mm). These are the fruiting-bodies

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which are responsible for the sexual reproduction of the fungus. They produce many millions of microscopic spores which start the infection for that season. The spores are discharged forcibly and are air-borne so can be disseminated by wind currents up to one mile from the source of infection. They affect only the floral parts but infection can take place any time after the tips of the petals are visible in opening buds. A single sclerotium may remain active for several weeks during which time many flowers may be affected. Infection occurs just as readily on the flowers at the top of a shrub 15 feet high (4.5 m) as on those produced near the ground. However, once the fruiting-bodies have shed all their spores, no new spores are produced that season so that there is no spread of the disease from flower to flower.

The environmental factors favouring spore formation, release and survival, are cool, cloudy and damp weather. As the fungus grows best at a temperature of between 10 and 18 C (50 and 65 F) camellia flower blight could become troublesome in this country in a warm spring. Infection of the flowers can take place at a low temperature but no symptoms may then develop. However, if infected flowers are brought inside or the outside temperature rises, the diseased blooms will show symptoms rapidly and the fungus will resume active growth. It is obvious, therefore, that the fungus can be introduced into new areas or even countries on cut blooms which may not show any symptoms. Once the fungus resumes growth on cut flowers it will continue its life cycle by producing sclerotia. Fortunately, the fungus only produces fruiting-bodies and hence, spores during the spring so that any flowers produced in the autumn either naturally or by stimulation from an application of gibberellic acid, would escape infection.

Sclerotia can remain viable for up

to three years in the soil and they produce a fresh crop of fruiting-bodies each spring. Eventually, however, each sclerotium exhausts its food reserves and loses its capacity to produce fruiting bodies. It is obvious that during those seasons when the sclerotia are dormant but still capable of producing fruiting-bodies, the fungus can be disseminated at any time of the year when plants with infected soil are moved: any balled or potted plants taken from a nursery or garden infested with *Sclerotinia camelliae* could harbour sclerotia in the soil.

Provision that would prohibit the import from certain countries, including North America and Japan, of plants with soil attached to their roots are being considered for inclusion in the new plant import legislation but at the moment a root system with no soil attached is not a statutory requirement. Current regulations stipulate that all plants should be accompanied by a health certificate stating that they were healthy at the time of official inspections carried out during the growing season and immediately before export. However, such inspections do not usually take place at flowering time so that the disease could escape detection. There is therefore a chance that flower blight could be introduced into Britain on infected soil.

As there is such a risk of introducing the disease into this country on cut flowers and in infected soil, the RHS Council decided to introduce new rules regarding the exhibition of camellias at its Shows, and these are as follows:

(1) No cut flowers or shoots with coloured buds may be imported for exhibition from the U.S.A. or any other country where the disease is known, e.g. Japan.

(2) No cut flowers or shoots with coloured buds may be exhibited from plants which have been imported within the last 18 months from the U.S.A., or any other country where

the disease is known.

(3) No plants may be exhibited which have been imported within the last 18 months from the U.S.A., or any other country where the disease is known.

It is also hoped that nurserymen will take the initiative on their own behalf, to prevent the disease from being imported, by buying in only bare-rooted plants from those countries where the disease already occurs. The Society also urges anyone who is going to purchase camellias to get an assurance that the nursery or garden centre has not imported, knowingly, camellia stock with earth from the U.S.A. or Japan. Bare-rooted camellia cuttings and scions that are free of flowers or coloured buds can, of course, be moved with safety from area to area.

It is hoped that readers of this article will appreciate the potential seriousness of camellia flower blight should it be introduced inadvertently

into this country and will support the Society in the measures it is taking in an effort to prevent this happening, which as indicated above could so easily occur.

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INVITATION TO CAMELLIA FANCIERS TO VISIT CULTIVATED CAMELLIAS IN ITALY

By Antonio Sevesi

In Italy in these last 10 years, very remarkable efforts have been done to stir up interest into camellias.

The "Societ  Italiana della Camellia" has given and continually gives its aids in order to organize shows that are visited by thousands of visitors. The association publishes each three months a "Nomiziario" which contains the description of old varieties of camellias taken from old catalogues.

It has been possible therefore to obtain a recover of the varieties of which the names had been lost.

Generally speaking the number of camellia hobbyist has much increased in these last years, as well as the love for the camellias which are continually increasing in number into the gardens. Besides the old camellias plants forgotten in the secluded points of the gardens, all

covered with climbers, are now put in prominence and after the proper cares have come back to their beauty.

Obviously the camellia fanciers would like to show their camellias. Even recognizing in the California friends their wonderful unreachable masters, they would be glad to welcome them in Italy. They could discover that all over Italy, the camellias have very suitable ambience. One can find camellias in Northern Italy on the Prealps up to Sicily. As the camellias have been cultivated in the first half of last century there are specimen of very remarkable dimension. There are splendid specimen on the islands of Lake Maggiore, in some old gardens of Tuscan villas, on the slopes of Vesuvius. We must remember that in the outskirts of Naples, at Caserta, in the garden of the Royal Palace, there still exist the ca-

mellia mentioned by Berlese, whose seeds have given life to many varieties of last century.

The California friends will have the possibility to admire, besides these camellias more than one hundred years old, also some new varieties that in these last years we have imported and propagated, have been diffused very rapidly.

Our cultivations are generally in full ground except in some zones where the ground is completely basic.

The maximum of the blooming season is: in Southern Italy from the 1st March to 20th March, in Central Italy from 10th March to 30th March, in Northern Italy from the 1st April to 20th April.

Gesneriads, A Royal Family Of Plants For The American Home

by Charles A. Huckins

Ed Note: Reprinted from vol. LXVII No. 2 Feb. 1979 Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin

Surely the queen of flowering plant families in American homes today is the gesneriad family. To this family belong the ever-popular African violets (*Saintpaulia*), the showy florist gloxinias and their exquisite next of kin, the slipper gloxinias (all members of the genus *Sinningia*), the remarkable Cape primroses (*Streptocarpus*), and the gracefully trailing goldfish plants (*Columnea*). Perhaps less well-known, but becoming increasingly popular, are the genera *Aeschynanthus*, *Achimenes*, *Episcia*, and *Nematanthus*.

Gesneriads are dazzingly varied in size, form and color. They range in size from the diminutive and everblooming *Sinningia pusilla* from Brazil, scarcely two inches tall, to the giant cyrtandras of the Pacific Islands, small trees in their own right. They may be terrestrial (grow on the ground) or epiphytic (grow on other plants); evergreen or deciduous; annuals or perennials; stoloniferous, fibrous-, rhizomatous-, or tuberous-

Here we are: we suggest to our Californian friends a visit of one month in Italy from the beginning of March till the beginning of April. Besides the camellias they could admire the artistic beauties. From the part of "Società Italiana della Camelia" all the possible will be done in order to address the camellia hobbyist towards parks and gardens where they can admire besides the camellias also other plants of remarkable botanical interest.

We do wish our invitation will be welcome and that from these personal relationship can derive a more profitable exchange of information. We shall thus obtain a continuous progress in the cultivation of our preferred flower.

rooted; herbaceous or woody; vines, shrubs or trees! The colors of their flowers range the rainbow. Some gesneriads flower almost continuously: many of the African violets, some episcias and kohlerias, and, in particular, two small plants with big futures in the home — *Streptocarpus saxorum* (recently touted in the trade as the dauphin violet), and *Sinningia pusilla* (unusual in this respect because of its tuberous-root system which ordinarily implies a dormancy requirement). With careful selection, a year-round display of gesneriads in flower is an attainable goal.

As with so many other cultivated groups of plants, a knowledge of the natural setting of gesneriads is the key to understanding their cultural requirements and growing them successfully in the home. Most gesneriads are from the tropics and generally grow as epiphytes or in rocky, mountainous regions. Consequently, moderate temperatures (60°-80°F), good light (12 hours or more a day

under fluorescent lights), ample water, and a well-drained soil (one-third to one-half of which consists of good drainage material like sand, osunda, perlite, or vermiculite) are all important prerequisites to successful culture. A more precise knowledge of a particular plant's background will improve chances of success, especially with the more challenging species.

The tremendous success of gesneriads in recent years has been practically predetermined by a fortuitous combination of characteristics: a frequently everblooming nature, an extraordinary adaptability to home climates, and an engaging ability to be readily propagated. Because of the myriad species, cultivars, and unnamed variants of gesneriads which are readily available from friends, relatives, local commercial growers, and nationally famous firms, it is almost impossible for a discriminating beginner to begin always at the beginning: with a careful selection of attractive, interesting, and reliable sorts. The following suggestions are presented therefore as a help toward cutting through the confusion of innumerable choices and providing some diversity to a collection of this beautiful and fascinating family of flowering plants.

African violets (*Saintpaulia*) come in three basic types: miniatures, rosettes, and trailers, with some barely perceptible gradations between them. Rosettes continue to be the most widely grown although miniatures are becoming more popular each year. One can hardly go wrong by choosing among the Ballet or Rhapsodie hybrids which have been bred for durability, greater tolerance of neglect, floriferousness, and long-lasting flowers. Many of these and other good hybrids are listed on the Honor Roll of African Violets, published regularly in the *African Violet Magazine*. To be included on this prestigious list, a cultivar has to have been a favorite in African violet cir-

cles for at least five years, so one can depend on it to be great! Another group of hybrids which appears promising for home culture is the Optimara series, each member of which will be named after one of the United States. Thus far, Missouri and Illinois have not been so honored. Most hybrids today are the result of crossing two, three, or four of some two dozen natural species which grow wild in the mountainous regions of eastern Africa. The more dedicated devotees of this genus will delight in growing some of the true species. Among those with considerable natural charm and relatively easy growing requirements are *Saintpaulia intermedia*, a blue-flowered, prostrate grower, *S. ionantha*, one of the principal sires of many African violet hybrids, *S. magungensis*, a purple-flowered trailer, and *S. orbicularis*, a lilac-flowered, multi-crowned plant.

Second only to African violets in popularity among the gesneriads are the sinningias. Interestingly, it is not the large and showy members of this group (the florist gloxinias, the slipper gloxinias, and their variants), known for more than a century, but some of the miniature species and their hybrids, developed within the last two decades, which are catching on as successful house plants.

Most of the success of the miniature sinningias centers around the everblooming quality and ease of culture of *Sinningia pusilla*, a little native of a big country — Brazil. Crosses involving this little lilac-flowered species and three other Brazilian sinningias have produced a number of miniature, everblooming, and self-sowing plants ideally suited for the terrarium. Among the best are the species, *Sinningia pusilla*, and the following hybrids: 'Bright Eyes,' 'Cindy-ella,' 'Dollbaby,' 'Hircon,' 'White Sprite,' and 'Wood Nymph.' A number of these and other miniature gesneriads may be regularly seen on display in the small terrar-

ium near the eastern entrance of the aquatunnel on the Climatron's lower level.

The Cape primrose (*Streptocarpus*), a more robust relative of the African violet, is botanically divided into two groups, one of which is composed primarily of unusual, one-leaved plants, many of which, like century plants, die after flowering and fruiting once. From this group, the large and colorful Wiesmoor hybrids have been developed. The other major group of Cape primroses consists of plants with more normal growth habits, including one of the most versatile of all gesneriads, *Streptocarpus saxorum*. With a fine growth habit, pleasing velvety texture, delicately formed flowers, and a tolerant nature, this plant should be in any beginner's collection of gesneriads. Because of its increasing popularity, this plant has picked up the fanciful, if unfortunate, common name of dauphin violet (African violets, Cape primroses, and all of their gesneriad relatives are not at all related to the violet or primrose families, their nearest relatives being the figwort family, including such favorites as the beard-tongues, foxgloves, and snapdragons). As ways are found to breed more heat tolerance into the Cape primroses, we will surely be hearing more about more of them in the future. The newer 'Nymph' and 'Cape Primrose' hybrid series are a big step in this direction.

After African violets, perhaps the most rewarding gesneriads for beginners to grow without the benefit of fluorescent light are those epiphytic sorts which make spectacular pot or hanging basket plants — the columneas (*Columnea*). Many of the newer hybrids are everblooming, and among the best for indoor culture are: 'Bonfire,' a vigorous, semi-trailing plant with yellow and crimson flowers; 'Chanticleer,' a compact, shrubby sort with light orange flowers and a lot of tolerance as a house plant; 'Early Bird,' another

compact grower with small leaves and large, upright, orange flowers; 'Gold Finch,' a trailer with small leaves and large yellow flowers; and 'Mary Ann,' a compact trailer with deep pink flowers. For the more adventurous, two Cornell hybrids which make fine hanging basket plants are *Columnea* 'Cayugan,' with large red flowers, and *C.* 'Ithacan,' with orange-red flowers. Other epiphytic gesneriads which hold great promise for the future as house plants belong to the genera *Aeschynanthus* and *Nematanthus*.

Many of these gesneriad gems should be available in local garden centers or can be ordered through specialty firms advertising in plant magazines, particularly the *African Violet Magazine* or *The Gloxnian*. A comprehensive list of commercial firms interested in gesneriads may be found in the November, 1977 issue of *African Violet Magazine*.

For those interested in learning more about this fascinating family of plants, there are a number of good references readily available in most book stores. Among the best are: Virginie and George Elbert's *The Miracle Houseplants — the Gesneriad Family*, published by Crown in 1976 and Helen Van Pelt Wilson's *African-Violet Book*, published by Hawthorn in 1970. Excellent booklets on the subject are also published by the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society (*How to Know and Grow Gesneriads*) and the Brooklyn Botanical Garden (*African Violets and Their Relatives*).

The most pleasurable way to become acquainted with gesneriads is to visit a flower show featuring them. Such an opportunity will be at hand later this month when the Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Society stages its Silver Jubilee Show in the Garden's John S. Lehmann Building on February 24 and 25. Come and get hooked on gesneriads!

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EXHIBITORS PLEASE NOTE

Display cards will be available at the registration desk. Blooms may be placed on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. There will be Divisions for both treated and non-treated blooms. There will be a Novice Division with ample assistance in placement. Over \$400 in awards to be made.

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December 8, & 9, 1979

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Runner up	'Miss Charleston Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Abramson
Best Treated Medium Japonica	'Nuccio's Pearl'	Mr. & Mrs. Carey Bliss
Runner-up	'Alta Gavin'	Jerry Biewand
Best Treated Small Japonica	'Alison Leigh Woodroof'	Rudy Moore
Runner-up	'Erica McMinn'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Treated Miniature Japonica	'Hopkin's Pink'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Runner-up	'Little Slam'	A. L. Summerson
Best Non-treated Large Japonica	'Kramer's Supreme'	Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Harmson
Runner-up	'D. W. Davis Descanso'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Non-treated Medium Japonica	'Eleanor Martin Supr.'	Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz
Runner-up	'China Doll'	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Treichel
Best Non-treated Small Japonica	'Ava Maria'	Grady Perigan
Runner-up	'Eighteen Scholars'	Mr. & Mrs. Judy Simmons
Best Miniature Japonica	'Pink Smoke'	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Runner-up	'Little Slam'	Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Harmson
Best Reticulate Hybrid	'Valentine Day'	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Runner-up	'Harold Paige'	Rudy Moore
Best Non-reticulate Hybrid	'Elsie Jury'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Runner-up	'Charleen'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Best Sasanqua, Vernalis, etc.	'Koto Hajime'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	'Yuletide'	Bill Donnan
Best Treated Seedling	Retic Seedling	Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz
Best Non-treated Seedling	Hybrid Seedling	Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz
Best Collector's Tray of 6 Blooms		Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaack
Runner-up		Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz
Best Tray of 3 Treated Lg. Jap.	'Pink Frost'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	'Adolphe Audusson Spec.'	Mr. & Mrs. Phil Sims
Best of 3 Non-treated Lg. Jap.	'Alba Plena'	Jerry Biewand
Runner-up	'Ecclefield'	Harry Putnam
Best Tray of 3 Boutonnieres	'Pink Smoke'	A. L. Summerson
Runner-up	'Ava Maria'	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta
Best Tray of 3 Retic Hybrids	'Dr. Cliff Parks'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	'Valentine's Day'	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks

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'Dayade'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Betty Sheffield Dream'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
'Commandor Mulroy'	Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Sullivan
'Betty Sheffield Blush'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
'Nuccio's Jewel'	Grady Perigan
'Pink Pagoda'	Mr. & Mrs. Milt Schmidt
'Pink Frost'	Wilkins Garner

INTRODUCING NEW FLOWER 'Notre Dame'

By Yoshiaki Andoh

ED NOTE: The following descriptive narrative was published in a Japanese flower journal in Osaka, Japan. We are indebted to Wally and Emiko Jones for this translation. I would have to exclaim "HA SO! HONORABLE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM NOT THE FIRST 'NOTRE DAME' TO COME TO TOKYO!"

From Woodside, California Mrs. Marjorie O'Malley, a camellia hobbyist, has introduced her 8-year-old 'Notre Dame.' It first bloomed in 1973. It was registered in 1977 as #1473. Nuccio's Nurseries have been propagating it and will release it for sale this Fall, 1979.

It is a silvery pink in color and is quite large. Overall it measures 16 cm. in diameter and 11 cm. high. It has irregular rabbit ears with yellow stamens. The petals are tightly woven and are heavily textured. The bloom season is late and lasts for some time with lots of continuous blooms. The leaves are dark green and measure 15 cm. long and 6 cm. wide.

Mrs. O'Malley is an ardent camel-

lia hobbyist. At camellia shows each year her flowers win prizes. At the Peninsula Camellia Show in Redwood City, in February 1979, she won Best Member's Hybrid with 'K. O. Hester' and Best Member's Japonica with 'Owen Henry.' Her Grandson Patrick Walsh also won the Best of Show with 'Mandulay Queen.' At the Sacramento Show in March 1979, she won Best of Show with 'Mandalay Queen' and Runner-up with 'Nuccio's Ruby.' Mrs. O'Malley is also a supporter of Notre Dame University and because of this she chose the name of her outstanding seedling after the University. This year, on November 24, 1979 Notre Dame University will play a football game against Miami in Tokyo.

MR. WILLIAM WOODROOF - HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

By Dave Henderson

The rules empower the New Zealand Camellia Society to award an Honorary Life Membership for service to the Genus *Camellia* as well as for service to the Society. It was essentially for the first purpose, although our members have benefited very much from his work also, that the Council last November decided to give the award to Mr. William E. Woodroof of California.

The award was made, not for his direct contribution to the New Zealand Camellia Society, but as an expression of appreciation to him, and indeed to the Southern California Camellia Society, for the immense amount of work done in bringing out "Camellia Nomenclature," and for all the help received from it.

"Camellia Nomenclature" was first published in 1945, and has been continually revised, mostly at two yearly intervals, since then, so that the 1978 issue, at present in use, is the 16th Edition. Each edition, produced after exhaustive study, represents the most complete and up to date published record of camellia cultivars known to the Western world. This publication has been, and continues to be, of profound help to all working with camellias, whether scientists, nurserymen or enthusiastic amateurs. This benefit applies in New Zealand as much as in America and elsewhere.

While "Camellia Nomenclature" is published by the Southern California Camellia Society, Mr. Woodroof has been Editor and Chairman of the Nomenclature Research Committee over the long period of years it has been published, and it is not an exaggeration to say that without his dedication and enthusiasm the work would never have been produced, or not in its present form.

Mr. Woodroof's service to camellias has been long. He was made a Fellow of the American Camellia Society as early as 1951, and served as a Director of that Society for many years. Needless to say, he is an Honorary Life Member of the Southern California Camellia Society. Thus we take real pleasure in saluting him as an HONORARY LIFE MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND CAMELLIA SOCIETY.

PLANTS WITH ANIMAL NAMES

Common Name	Botanical Name
Baboon Flower	<i>Babiana</i>
Bear's Breech	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>
Bear's Foot Fern	<i>Humata tyermannii</i>
Bird of Paradise	<i>Strelitzia</i>
Bird Of Paradise Bush	<i>Poinciana gilliesii</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia</i>
Canary Bird Bush	<i>Crutalaria agatiflora</i>
Canary Bird Flower	<i>Fropaeolum peregrinum</i>
Cat's Claw Vine	<i>Doxantha unguis-cati</i>
Cat's Ears	<i>Calochortus coerules</i>
Deer Brush	<i>Ceanothus integerrimus</i>
Deer Fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
Donkey Tail	
or Burro Tail	<i>Sedum murganianum</i>
Dwarf Coyote Brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>
Elephants Ear	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>
Goldfish Plant	<i>Hypocyrtia hummularia</i>
Gopher Plant	
or Mole Plant	<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>
Hen And Chicks	<i>Echeveria elegans</i>
Hen And Chickens	<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>
Horsetail	<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>
Hummingbird Flower	<i>Zauschneria</i>
Hummingbird Bush	<i>Grevillea thelemanniana</i>
Kangaroo Paw	<i>Anigozanthus</i>
Kangaroo Treebine	<i>Cissus antarctica</i>
Lamb's Ears	<i>Stachys olympica</i>
Lion's Tail	<i>Leonotis leonurus</i>
Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus</i>
Monkey Puzzle Tree	<i>Araucaria araucana</i>
Peacock Iris	<i>Moraea glaucopis</i>
Piggy Back Plant	<i>Tolmiea menziesii</i>
Rabbit Tracks	<i>Maranta leuconeura</i>
Rattlesnack Grass	<i>Briza maxima</i>
Snail Vine	<i>Phaseolus caracalla</i>
Snake Plant	<i>Sansevieria</i>
Spider Plant	<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>
Squirrel's Foot Fern	<i>Davallia trichomanoides</i>
Tiger Aloe	<i>Aloe variegata</i>
Tiger Flower	<i>Tigridia pavonia</i>
Pony Tail Palm	<i>Beaucarnea recurvata</i>

CAMELLIA LUCK

Richard Clere

New Zealand

ED NOTE: This is a reprint from the July 1979 issue of the New Zealand Camellia Bulletin. The article describes how the 1979 William Hertrich Award Winner 'Jean Clere' was discovered.

A visit to the doctor is not always remembered with pleasure, but for the Cleres in one instance, it proved to be a memorable day.

It was in September, 1966. The doctor's surgery was in his father's old home in a residential area of Hawera, the largest town in South Taranaki. Both father and son were keen horticulturalists and the garden around this 60-year-old home was well planted and maintained. Along the street frontages were many old camellias and they had grown, with the years, far above the corrugated iron fence and had become a formidable wind break some 15 feet high. As would be expected the planting was of the old varieties and consisted of great specimens of 'Emperor of Russia,' 'The Czar,' 'Lady Loch' and 'Aspasia Macarthur.'

As we were early for the appointment I parked the car and took a stroll along the street frontage admiring the wealth and size of the blooms these old camellia trees could produce. 'Aspasia Macarthur' was, as usual, throwing her many shaded and variable flowers. One branch had completely changed to 'Lady Loch' while another had sported to 'Otahuhu Beauty.' High up in this tree a scruffy red flower, very blackened and almost dead took my eye for the color that I could pick out was much darker than that of the 'Otahuhu' sports. I scrambled up on to the top of the fence and was able to pick the flower. To my amazement I found on the few remaining good petals a margin of white.

Discussing the flower with my wife, Jean, we wondered if it had

been subject to drift from a hormone spray, the weed killer that the Council used for keeping the verges clean, or if it was the result of damage from the salt-laden winds that occasionally sweep that part of the country. We could not tell, but knowing the sporty nature of the tree, thought it could be worthwhile trying to propagate a piece of the twig that the flower was growing from.

The appointment over, I asked permission from the doctor to take a piece and this being freely given we set off home with a suitable piece of grafting material. A tour around our garden decided us to behead a large Wabasuki that we were not particularly fond of and this was cut down to give three branches about ¾-inch diameter. The grafts were done in the usual manner, the whole stump arched over with wire hoops, and then covered with a sheet of plastic. We watched and waited. Two of the scions dropped their leaves but the third callused nicely and was soon away. By next spring it was a quite respectable small bush but to our disappointment had no flower buds. The following season, however, saw buds develop and to our great delight a red flower developed and each petal was blessed with a white border. We had a camellia that had never before been recorded.

Colonel Durrant showed great enthusiasm on seeing the flowers. They were photographed and in due course registered with the New Zealand Camellia Society. With the doctor's permission, it was christened 'Jean Clere.'

A few months later Harold Dryden who was then the editor of the Camellia Review, the publication of the Southern California Camellia Society, stayed with us. I enquired from him the possibility of selling propagating rights to an overseas nursery. His advice, that to try and make money out of one's hobby immediately changed the hobby into a business, was, as far as camellias went,

some of the best I have been given, and instead 'Jean Clere' scions were freely available to all who wished to propagate her. Many were sent overseas and the William Hertrich Award has been the happy outcome from an appointment at the doctor's.

THE WASHINGTON D.C. CHERRY TREES

By Bill Donnan

Those of you who have had the pleasure of visiting Washington D.C. in April, no doubt have seen the cherry trees in bloom around the Tidal Basin and Potomac Park. Their origin and history are the subject of a very interesting publication entitled "The Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees Of Washington D.C." by Roland M. Jefferson and Alan E. Fusonie, National Arboretum Contribution No. 4, U.S. Department Of Agriculture. This brief article contains excerpts from the above cited publication.

A hundred years ago the area bordering the Potomac River, where beautiful Japanese flowering cherry trees now stand, encompassed one of the least desirable locations in Washington D.C. This area was a dreary swamp not far from the White House where weeds flourished and mosquitoes bred, causing many health problems. Today, after major reclamation and horticultural development projects, this area, now named Potomac Park, is known throughout the world for its great beauty. Although the reclamation of the Potomac Park area is, in itself, an outstanding engineering accomplishment, the park is internationally famous for its beautiful Japanese flowering cherry trees. These were a gift of friendship from the people of Japan.

In the early 19th century America the Japanese flowering cherry tree was known only by a few people in this country. Early nursery catalogues do list some double flowering

cherry trees but the general public had little opportunity to be aware of the beauty of these cultivars. In 1897 James Wilson became Secretary Of Agriculture and his interest in promoting foreign plant introductions lead to many new importations. He established the office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction with David Fairchild as Plant Explorer. Fairchild, on a trip to Japan, was so impressed with the picturesque beauty of the cherry trees lining the street and waterways in Japan that he was determined to have these trees on his own property. Fairchild ordered 100 flowering cherry trees from Japan and they were planted on the Fairchild estate in Washington D.C. in the spring of 1906. In 1907 Fairchild convinced the Chevy Chase Land Company which was sub-dividing a suburban development, to order 300 cherry trees for curb-side plantings. Again, in 1908, Fairchild had 150 more cherry trees imported for use in the observance of Arbor Day in the Washington D.C. public schools.

The publicity given to this planting was witnessed by Mrs. William Howard Taft, the wife of the President of the United States. She had been working on a plan to beautify Potomac Park. Convinced that the planting of cherry trees would greatly enhance the landscaping, she urged those in authority to make a trial planting of 90 double flowering Japanese cherry trees in the Park. By June of 1909 the Washington D.C. newspapers were carrying stories of Mrs. Taft's interest in the trees. Several stories spoke of the possible donation of cherry trees to Mrs. Taft from the Mayor of Tokyo. These plans to beautify Potomac Park now generated a sincere interest in diplomatic levels of Government both in Japan and in the United States.

In August, 1909 the Japanese Embassy in Washington D.C. informed the U.S. State Department that the City of Tokyo intended to donate 2000 cherry trees to the United Sta-

tes. The Department of State viewed this as a warm gesture of continuing friendship between Japan and the United States. On December 10, 1909, the 2000 trees arrived by ship and were off-loaded at Seattle. They were then sent by train to Washington D.C. and arrived there on January 6, 1910. However, subsequent inspection of the shipment by U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists revealed a severe infestation of insect pests, nematode, scale, and wood boring larvae. The recommendation was that the entire shipment, including the crates etc. be destroyed by burning. This was done.

The State Department was then called upon to exercise utmost delicacy and diplomatic sensitivity in informing the Japanese Embassy of this unfortunate circumstance. It is gratifying to relate that this turn of events did not, in any way, disrupt the warm relationship between the two Governments. The City of Tokyo began immediately to set forth plans to develop more trees for shipment to Washington D.C. This time, scions of healthy trees were fumigated and grafted onto carefully controlled root stock. By January 1912, 6000 young Japanese cherry trees were ready for shipment to the United States. Half of them were designated for Washington D.C. and the other half for New York City, as a gift from the people of Tokyo and the Japanese Cherry Tree Society.

The 3000 trees earmarked for Washington D.C. arrived in March 1912 and they were found to be singularly free from any form of pests or plant diseases. They were planted in Potomac Park and around the Tidal Basin where they flourished. Cutting from these trees have since been planted all over Washington D.C. and throughout the United States.

The spectacular beauty of the spring flowering of what has become thousands and thousands of cherry trees in the Nation's Capitol has

prompted the establishment of a 3 day Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. Inaugurated in 1935, this event now attracts several hundred thousand visitors including hundreds of bus loads of highschool students, a selection of princesses from each of the 50 States, and the choice of a Festival Queen. In 1952 two ancient stone lanterns were donated by Japan to be placed in Potomac Park as a gesture of friendship during the Annual Festival. In 1957 a Mikimoto Pearl crown was donated by the Government of Japan to the Cherry Blossom Festival Association to use in crowning the Festival Queen. In 1965, the Japanese Government donated another 3800 American grown cherry trees to replace some of the original plantings. Suffice to say that the Japanese flowering cherry trees has become a symbol of good will between the Government of Japan and the United States. If you should visit Washington D.C. in April, be sure to take time to visit Potomac Park and see the beauty of these flowering trees.

NUCCIO'S CAMELLIA CULTURE

By Julius Nuccio

ED NOTE: Reprinted from the January-February 1979 issue of Golden Gardens

Whenever we talk about culture we inevitably end up talking about soil mix. People come to our nursery and the first thing they will ask is "What kind of soil mix do you use?" Even though we know that soil mix is one of the most important parts of camellia culture, we sometimes forget that the mix is only as good as you treat it after you put it in the can with the plant. Mix should be designed to fit your management. Do you want to water once a week or three times a week? How do you want to fertilize the plants? You can grow a camellia in pure peat moss and sand if you are willing to fertilize every time you wa-

ter. It is *how* you treat your mixture that is important.

Some of the biggest nurseries plant in pure peat moss and they have a reason for that. They truck thousands of gallon cans and it is more economical for them to stay away from soil mixes that will weigh as much as three pounds a can more than the pure peat weighs.

We don't truck big volumes of plants and 70% of our plants are purchased by people with gardens. So we use a mix that is more compatible with the garden. Our mix is 50% silt, 25% fir bark or pine shavings and 25% peat moss. This is just about the same mix that we have used since 1945 except that we have split the peat moss in half and added the bark. We use coarse Canadian peat moss as German peat moss is too expensive and we find the Canadian peat moss satisfactory. We use silt from behind Devil's Gate Dam in Altadena. The man who hauls for us mixes 10% sand with the silt.

We stick to 50% soil because most of the people who buy plants from us plant into the garden. If we had a real light total mixture, we feel there would be too much risk in planting from the container into the garden. In addition to this, we ship a lot of plants bare root, and we have found that a pure peat moss or fir bark mixture falls apart very easily and the stem of the plant will just flop around and there won't be any firm areas around the roots. The whole root system and base of the plant are much firmer in our mixture. Camellias like to be aerated and peat moss didn't give us quite that. They like an acid condition and excellent drainage. The bark keeps them a little looser than peat moss. This fits our program.

We use the same mix for *reticulatas* that we do for *japonicas* and *sasanquas*.

Generally we hand water. We undertake to water only when the plants need it. Because our soil mix is

uniform and most of our plants are young and therefore have not accumulated full roots, we do not have a problem of some of our plants drying out before others. This is not always the case in a private garden where you know your plants and are able to give more individual attention to watering the plants that need it more frequently than others. We watch the *reticulatas* carefully to avoid overwatering them.

We have had people take plants from our nursery and successfully plant them into an entirely different mixture from ours with a different watering program. No matter where you obtain a new plant, you should replant it into your own soil mix.

Your soil mix is also related to your fertilizing program. Some mixtures will leach out much more rapidly than others. With our soil mix, we use cottonseed meal plus 10% iron, applied together (mixing the iron with the cottonseed meal). We use the iron that comes under the brand name "Nuccio's Iron." We try to feed in April, July and mid-October, finishing in November if necessary. We used to feed in September, and we managed to burn just about every September when we have that "go back to school" heat. Last year we had the heat wave in July just after we had fertilized and those two weeks of 100 degree weather fried the *camellias*.

Fertilizer goes into the soil mix and you can burn any time of the year, so you will have to know your own plants and your own location and soil. We start to feed in April not necessarily because we think this is the best time but rather because we are busy until then with azaleas and can't get to the *camellia* fertilizing.

We use a level teaspoon of the fertilizer on the gallon plants, and a heavy teaspoon on two gallon plants, a light tablespoon on new egg-can size and a heavy tablespoon on older egg-can size. We never use more than a heaping handful of fertilizer no

matter how large the plant.

The soil we use contains trace elements which are not present in a soil-less mix.

The fall feeding doesn't hurt the blooms as it is cooler then and the fertilizer doesn't go into the mix so quickly.

We discontinued using blood meal because it is too expensive. We believe it needs good water and warm weather. If you use it, don't do so late in the year.

Many of our customers ask about pest control. Camellias are about the easiest plants in the world to take care of in that regard. We have a 2-spray program: in the spring after the new growth starts and in the fall before the blooms open. We use the same material in both sprays. We believe both Malathion and Spectracide are good. The chewers are the big thing and you with gardens probably have more of a problem than we do in the nursery because you have so many other kinds of plants, trees and other plant materials.

You might like to know about our commercial propagation. Where possible we grow the plants on their own roots. We root in the summer — mid-June or the first part of July. We grow them in 2¼" pots for one year in the rooting mix, then repot them in gallons in our regular mix where they grow for two more years. They are then ready for the market. We top the one-year plants in gallons at the end of March so that they will be ready to take off when the new growth starts. We have not found that topping plants of the 'Elegans' family interferes with their proper growth, even though we have been told that it might cause too much spreading of the plant. Don't be afraid to cut your camellias. You will have better plants when you do.

A seedling plant is usually about five years old before it produces a flower from which we can judge whether or not it should have further consideration. When we think it has

possibilities, we take as many grafts as possible, usually up to 12. We use understock at least ¾ inches in diameter so that we shall have plenty of wood for the next year. We make more grafts the second year and will have 100 or so plants with flowers that will tell us whether to go on or stop. We have had cases where we made a third set of grafts, then changed our minds after we saw the large block of plants in bloom.

Sasanqua stock works best for grafting. We have used it heavily for about twelve years. The roots hold up better and it does not bleed so much. We have more root failures with japonica stock. We have not used reticulata stock much. We shall try some understock of Asper's "Girls" this year to see if this hybrid stock is good. Sasanqua stock suckers heavily and you have to watch out that the suckers don't take control of the plant.

Remember! Any soil mix or fertilizing plan is only as good as the treatment your plant receives. Sometimes people think that they can grow camellias successfully if they have an approved soil mix or if they use a certain fertilizing plan. This isn't so. We used to have a nurseryman in our area, named Horace Campbell, who grew some of the best camellia plants around here. He used no peat moss or fir bark in his soil mix, just light soil. He fertilized with blood meal. He never over or under watered. He lived with and understood his camellias. That's how to grow camellias.

INTER-SOCIETY NEWS

At the Pacific Camellia Society Meetings the display blooms are given to the bank after the meeting is over. The bank distributes the blooms to their employees where they are displayed on the various desks and counters. In this way we share the beauty of our camellias. So please bring many blooms; whether

you WIN or not there will always be a PLACE for them to SHOW. Remember, we still have a NOVICE table. Chuck Gerlach, flower placement chairman, will put your flowers in the proper place.



A full city block is being landscaped into a camellia garden by the Atwater Garden Club and Camellia Society. Named "Heritage Square" the camellias are being donated for memorials by citizens of the area.

The block already had a number of mature trees that provided an ideal environment for camellias in the sandy well-drained Atwater soil. The landscape plans provide for a gazebo and some artistic walkways to provide good viewing of all the camellias. A large southern 1914 mansion overlooks the garden from across the street.

Mrs. Victor Doggett, the club president and Lyman Duncan, Chamber of Commerce manager, got the project approved by the city council, and with assistance from the city parks department for trimming the large trees, got the project underway in November. Mr. Duncan was the founder of the Citrus Fair Camellia Show in Cloverdale, California, and for a number of years was the only ACS member in Iowa, prior to returning to California.



The Camellia Magazine CAROLINA CAMELLIAS has a new Editor. He is James H. McCoy of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Some of you may remember some of the articles Jimmy has contributed to CAMELLIA REVIEW over the years. CAROLINA CAMELLIAS is published by the South Carolina Camellia Society, Inc. three times a year — Winter, Spring and Fall — for the members of the South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia Camellia Societies.



Here is a tip for other camellia society show chairmen. The Modesto Camellia Society Show Chairman appoints John Ruffino to auction off camellia plants during Show week. Then, some camellia hobbyist buys the plant and donates it to one of the local convalescent homes. They also distribute extra camellia blooms to these convalescent homes and the hospital during camellia show week.

REPORT FROM THE NORTHWEST

By Margaret Macdonald

Camellias are hardy, resilient plants. The following amazing account of their ability to withstand floodwaters should be a comfort to any camellia grower unfortunate enough to have a similar experience.

This is a reprint from a booklet "Camellias As a Hobby" printed by the Oregon Camellia Society in 1949. Since it was a composite effort of all the membership, no credits were given. The article was entitled "Camellias Withstand Flood." Here it is: "Camellias proved themselves to be the toughest and most enduring of shrubs when the flood water in the Columbia River submerged miles and miles of its lowlands and thousands of acres of land during the spring of 1948.

Two types of flood water, both destructive of immense amounts of shrub material, developed. One was the sluggishly-moving currents of the direct overflow from the Columbia itself. The other was the almost completely stagnant back water covered nurseries or home planting for from three to seven weeks. Similar flood conditions developed on the Willamette River, which pours into the Columbia just below Portland and Vancouver.

Mr. Max Horand, of the Parkrose Landscape Nursery, gave up as lost many of his plantings on estates along the Columbia near the Yacht Club. Many of the plantings were

wholly submerged, others partially.

When the water subsided, the camellias were found to be heavily coated with sand and sediment on their foliage. When they were washed off with a hose, there appeared to be no serious injury, and by autumn they were apparently none the worse. The flood hit them in the last week in May.

In this case there was a slow movement of water since the submerged areas were on the river side and not back of the dikes, where the back waters broke in and flowed back from further downstream.

Almost every other sort of shrubbery, particularly deciduous bloom trees and shrubs, was destroyed.

Across the Columbia on the north bank, and several miles below Vancouver, the overflow completely submerged a planting of several hundred camellias on the nursery of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Spurgeon. It was possible to go over the whole area in a rowboat and see camellia tops several feet below the surface of the water.

The Spurgeons gave the whole planting up. Instead they lost many other types of ornamental shrubs, and the camellias, almost without exception, came through excellently.

In this case it was not back water, but overflow. However, it was so sluggish that it amounted almost to a backwater without current.

Where there is movement in the water, sufficient to aerate the water to a certain extent, so that plant life that is submerged is not entirely excluded from replenishment of oxygen, shrubs survive better than in wholly stagnant water. In the latter case, the oxygen was soon exhausted from the first water that submerged them, and some "drowned" for lack of oxygen replenishment.

Since the flood, the office of the State Department of Agriculture has been investigating the feasibility of installing electrically operated agitators near submerged trees to keep the water aerated — much as the aera-

ters in goldfish bowls are operated. This is being considered mainly in connection with orchards, which suffered very heavily. Camellias seemed not to require it.

Another outstanding demonstration of the sturdiness of the camellias was at the home of Dr. R. S. Fixott, at Milwaukie, Oregon, where the backwater from the Willamette river and Johnson creek submerged his landscape planting. One fifty-year-old camellia was practically submerged for weeks and suffered no damage whatsoever.

Others of various sizes and ages in the same landscape planting came through entirely successfully.

Across the river from Milwaukie, in the landscape plantings of Mr. Philip S. Jackson, publisher of the Oregon Journal, and Mr. Jack Smith, camellias were submerged for several weeks and suffered no damage, while other shrubs in the same area were severely damaged or destroyed. In this case the condition was similar to that described by Mr. Max Horand — a slowly moving current which supplied a certain amount of aeration."

RECOVERING LOSSES FROM LANDSCAPE DAMAGE

The Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers has an active "Rapid Response" program to inform the public how to recoup financial losses from damage to landscapes caused by natural disasters. If a storm strikes an area and damages trees and landscapes, on receiving a telephone call from someone in that area, "Rapid Response" immediately prepares and distributes a press release to the news media in the affected area: the story tells the public how to arrange to get an appraisal from a landscape professional, how to deal with homeowner's insurance, and how to approach the tax loss situation. The "Rapid Response" telephone number is (202) 347-8219.

1980 HUNTINGTON CAMELLIA SHOW

By
Bill Donnan

One of the finest, if not the finest Camellia Show, ever staged by the Southern California Camellia Society in recent years was the one held Saturday and Sunday, January 12 & 13, 1980. In spite of the inclement weather, the show, set up in the loggia of the Huntington Gardens Art Gallery was graced by over 580 outstanding blooms and attracted over 3,500 visitors. Attendance on Sunday was considerably boosted over former Sunday (ticket only) attendance due to a Harpsicord Concert being held in the Seminar Hall of the Huntington Gardens. Many music lovers took in the Camellia Show as a delightful extra and it seems apparent that there may have been a few converts to the hobby as a result. When one combines world famous art, music and outstanding camellia blooms, the combination is hard to resist.

Sergio Bracci, as Show Chairman, had a willing crew of helpers to stage and judge the show, man the cultural displays and act as hosts during the public viewing of the blooms. A flower arrangement contest was a new feature of this years' show and the arrangements added beauty to the show setting. As so many of the camellia hobbyists exclaimed, "Almost every bloom in this show is a trophy winner!" But here are the results of the judging:

BEST LARGE

JAPONICA

'Tomorrow's Tropic Dawn'

Mr. & Mrs.
M.W. Abramson

Runner-up

'Tomorrow's Dawn'

Harold Dryden

BEST MEDIUM

JAPONICA

'Margaret Davis

Grady Perigan

Runner-up

'Betty Sheffield Dream'

Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor

BEST BOUTONIERIE

JAPONICA

'Ave Maria'

Rudy Moore

Runner-up

'Splash of White'

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks

BEST RETIC HYBRID

'Valentine Day'

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks

Runner-up

'Dr. Clifford Parks'

Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci

BEST NON-RETIC HYBRID

Runner-up

'Waltz Time'

Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci

BEST SPECIES

'Dawn'

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe

COURT OF HONOR

'Reg Ragland Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
'Miss Charleston Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. Morrie Abramson
'Gullio Nuccio Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
'Clark Hubbs'	Mr. & Mrs. Carry Bliss
'Tomorrow Park Hill'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Wildfire'	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta
'Pink Frost'	Rudy Moore
'Little Slam'	Leone Summerson
'Fircone Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
'Twilight'	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
'Francie L.'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Elegans Splendor'	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
'Silvia May Wells'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
'Vulcan'	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor

'Elegans Supreme'	Grady Perigan
'Show Time'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Emmett Pffingstl'	Rudy Moore
'Elsie Jury'	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
'Miss Tulare'	Mr. & Mrs. Morris Abramson
'Carter's Sunburst Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. Morrie Abramson

The winner of the Flower Arrangement Contest was Mrs. Helen Foss

One of the features of the Huntington Show is the vote by the public as to their choice for the most outstanding bloom of the show. All of the Trophy Winners and Court Of Honor blooms are arranged in the center of the show area with numbers affixed to each bloom. The public is given ballots on which to write the number of their choice for the most outstanding bloom. As is often the case, this year's Public Choice was a Court Of Honor bloom rather than a Trophy Winner. The overwhelming choice of the public was 'Miss Charleston Var.' entered by Mr. & Mrs. Morrie Abramson of Tulare. The runner-up was 'Valentine Day' entered by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks of San Gabriel. There were 1,089 votes cast by the public and herewith are the results of the first ten top vote getters as viewed by the public. (Since everyone knows that I am a dedicated "Formal Double Freak" isn't it nice that the top four vote getters are semi-double or formal double blooms! The "truth" will out!)

PUBLIC CHOICE VOTES

Flower	Votes
'Miss Charleston Var.'	180
'Valentine Day'	103
'Vulcan'	95
'Twilight'	91
'Angel Wings'	87
'Pink Frost'	78
'Elsie Jury'	54
'Ave Maria'	44
'Carter's Sunburst'	41
'Splash Of White'	33

THAT GRAND OLD DOWAGER, 'LADY CLARE'

James H. McCoy, Fayetteville, N.C.

I was pleased to note that the variety 'Lady Clare' was included in the initial list of the ACS National Hall of Fame camellias. That must mean that she is appreciated somewhere and by someone. I have always appreciated her, and never fail to recommend her to anyone who asks about good dependable camellias for outside. I always look around at my fellow camellia enthusiasts expecting to see some of them wince. Can't remember that I ever have.

'Lady Clare' is an old favorite though, having arrived in this country from Japan via England around

the turn of the century. It was known by many as 'Empress,' and to many, it still is. It is a large to very large, dark pink, semi-double with about a dozen petals and a tube of golden stamens. Sometimes, tiring of her sedateness, she will throw up a petaloid or two among or beside her stamens.

She will start blooming around the first of December in North Carolina, and will continue off and on (between cold snaps) until March. Prolific is the word to describe her bud set. She may be in full bloom and a hard freeze will hit and all her blooms will be spoiled. But a week or

ten days after the passing of the freeze, she will deck herself again from tip to toe in blossoms. I will never forget arriving home on the 7th of January, 1975, after spending the last week of December and the first week of January in the Caribbean. We had left a lush green island with flowers everywhere: amapola del camino, canario, trinitaria and many others, to come back to a bleak, brown, lifeless appearing landscape. When we rounded the curve, and my house came into view, there was old 'Lady Clare' beside the house, welcoming us with a superb display of blooms that made us glad to be home.

'Lady Clare' is not without her faults, but how many lovely ladies are! She is almost completely seed sterile, being a triploid, but is the pollen parent of several cultivars. I say "almost completely," because I am afraid to be more definite. 'Lady Clare' might prove me a liar. The reason I say this is because I am at present nursing one of her seeds, but without much hope of it ever de-

veloping either a radicle or a plumule. The seed has expanded though, cracked and seems to want to do something. This seed pod was discovered last summer while making some air layers. I nearly fell off the ladder, I was so surprised! I photographed it on the plant, with the house in the background, and called my camellia partner, Clyde Dorrity, to verify it. When I picked the pod in August, I found that the pod had four compartments. Three of them were completely empty, but the fourth had a small seed, a little bigger than a BB shot. It has been in the sprouting medium ever since.

Her blooms do not hold up well as cut flowers, either. They must be wired or you will find them on the floor the day after bringing them into the house. I don't mind though and am getting adept at it.

So thanks to those who made the initial selections for the ACS National Hall of Fame. Thanks for including that grand old dowager, 'Lady Clare.'

NEW SECRETARY TREASURER APPOINTED

The Southern California Camellia Society has a new Secretary - Treasurer. She is Mrs. Don (Mazie Jeanne) George. Mazie Jeanne was one of the organizers and the first President of the South Coast Camellia Society. She has had a long-time interest in gardening and has been active in the California Garden

Clubs, Inc. and in the National Council of Garden Clubs of the United States. She brings her enthusiastic interest in flowers to this new facet of the hobby and we welcome her as the Secretary - Treasurer of our Society. The new address of the Society will be 1076 Via La Paz, San Pedro, California 90732

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SOCIETY MEETINGS

TUE. MARCH 11 - MEYER PIET-"CREATING THE BIONIC CAMELLIA."

TUE. APRIL 8 - GRADY PERIGAN-"THE 1979-80 CAMELLIA TRAIL"

SAT. JUNE 14 - AWARDS PICNIC AT THE DESCANSO GARDENS.

Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

Societies with asterisk () are Affiliates of Southern California Camellia Society*

- ***CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY**—President, Marvin Belcher; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr., 733 Delmar Drive, Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: 2nd Monday, October through April, at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield.
- ***CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY**—President, Fritz Kahen; Secretary, Mrs. Frances L. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, Santa Ana Fed. S & L Bldg., 1802 N. Main, Santa Ana.
- CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO**—President, L. J. Verville; Secretary, Mrs. Robert C. Adrian, 7555 Baldwin Dam Rd., Folsom, 95630. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.
- ***CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Bob Kellas; Secretary, Mary Ann Ray 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February in Smuggler's Inn Motel.
- DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, Jack Lewis, 3824 Beechwood Dr., Concord, Ca 94520. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, November through March, Lafayette Fed. Savings & Loan, 1406 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek.
- LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Robert Jackson; Secretary, Mrs. Happy Stillman, 8159 Hollywood Blvd. 90069. Meetings: 1st Tuesday, December through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood.
- MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Fred Rankin; Secretary, Mrs. Walter Ragland, 709 Leytonstone Dr., Modesto, Ca 95355. Meetings: second Tuesday, October through May, Downey High School, Coffee Road, Modesto.
- NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, David Hagmann; Secretary, Judith Toomajian, 18 Diablo Circle, Lafayette Ca. 94549. Meetings: first Monday, November through May. Chabot School 6686, Chabot Rd., Oakland.
- PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Bob Neely; Secretary, Alice Neely, 4637 Collis Ave., Los Angeles 90032. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Central Bank of Glendale, 411 N. Central Ave., Glendale.
- PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Joseph J. Hill; Secretary, Robert Marcy, 1898 Kirkmont Dr., San Jose 95124. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, AMPEX Cafeteria, 401 Broadway Redwood City.
- ***POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Julius Christinson; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 92504. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, Pomona First Fed. S & L Bldg., 399 N. Gary, Pomona.
- ***SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Eugene Snooks; Secretary, Palmer Groenewald, 1139 Madison Ave., San Diego 92116. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego.
- SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Robt. Marcy; Secretary, Donna Hardy, 349 Condon Ct., Santa Clara 95050. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, September through April, Allstate Savings 1304 Saratoga Ave., San Jose.
- SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Douglas Batt; Secretary, Mrs. Nona Passinetti, 296 Bloomfield Rd., Sebastopol 95472. Meetings: 4th Thursday, October through May, Piner Grade School, Santa Rosa.
- ***SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Wallace Jones; Secretary, Mrs. Martha Ann Walter, 671 Calle Miramar, Redondo Beach 90277. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through May, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes.
- ***TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Mrs. Elsie Bracci; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel, Ca 91776. Meetings: Friday, Nov. 16; Fri. Dec. 14, Thurs., Jan. 24; Thur., Feb. 28; Wed., Mar. 26; Thur., April 24. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.

SOUTHERN
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