

THE *Camellia*  
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 Hall of Environmental Education, Arboretum, Arcadia. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## September-October 1983

Vol. 45

No. 1

Autumn at Longwood, <i>Milton Brown</i> .....	17
California Camellia-Rama, <i>Mary Ann Ray</i> .....	22
California Camellia Show Schedule .....	25
Gelatin: Nitrogen For Plants, <i>Audrey Carey</i> .....	27
Harvey Short Remembered, <i>E. C. Snooks</i> .....	20
Les Baskerville On Culture .....	26
Membership List — Southern California Camellia Society .....	3
Pacific Camellia Society Awards Dinner, <i>Alice Neeley</i> .....	18
Pacific Camellia Society Picnic, <i>Chuck Gerlach</i> .....	18
Show Results .....	24
The 1983 Awards Of The Southern California Camellia Society .....	19

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## THE COVER FLOWER

The cover flower is named 'Harvey Short's Finale.' It is a chance C. japonica seedling originated by the late Harvey Short, who lived in La Mesa, California. The cultivar has been propagated and will be released on October 15, 1983 by the San Diego Camellia Society. The bloom is a very large, pure white, semi-double with deep yellow anthers and filaments. The plant has a vigorous, upright growth and it blooms mid-season to late. Please refer to the article in this issue on page 20 — "Harvey Short Remembered" — for further details.

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# THOUGHTS

*from the editor*

I was crammed into an airplane seat (there are few worse present-day discomforts) trying to pass the time toward my destination (Pierre, South Dakota, of all places) when I chanced upon an article in TIME magazine about "Proverbs and Aphorisms." The agony of air travel was temporarily relieved by the joy I found in reading this article. Everyone knows what a proverb is but how many of you know what an aphorism is? I surely did not and when I got home I looked the word up in my dictionary. An aphorism is a short, pointed sentence expressing the truth or a precept. A sort of an epigram. Such as: "Punctuality is the thief of time"; "Luck is the result of good planning"; "Silence is the unbearable reparation"; "We all have the strength enough to endure the misfortunates of others"; "Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead." Actually, I can't tell much difference between a proverb and an aphorism, can you? Well, on my endless trip back from dear old Pierre, South Dakota, I decided to conjure up a few aphorisms or proverbs, if you will, dealing with the camellia hobby. Here they are: "Disbud in September, I'll tell you no lie, gives blooms which will gladden the judge's eye" (That one sounds more like a jingle than an aphorism!); "He who gibs a miniature would gild a lily"; "A Blue Ribbon turneth away wrath but the Head Table fills the heart with joy"; "The scourge of petal blight is like a plague of locusts but it falls on both the rich and the poor"; "What profit it a man if he picks a box of outstanding show blooms and then drops them getting them out of the car trunk?"; "A yellow ribbon for your prize bloom is like kissing your sister"; "The best blooms open the week before/after the show date"; "Prune in June and you are a goon"; "The quickest way to make an enemy is to heap scorn on his seedling." Well, dear reader, if you have something better to contribute — please send them in and they will be printed. Goodness knows that none of the ones I have listed would ever be published in the READER'S DIGEST!

*Bill Johnson*

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## **AUTUMN AT LONGWOOD**

by **Milton H. Brown**

The period of October 27-30, 1983 will see the American Camellia Society holding its fall convention at Longwood Gardens and Winterthur.

This will be a truly exciting new adventure for ACS members to attend a convention in such a superb location. The meeting will coincide more or less with the Annual Chrysanthemum Festival at Longwood Gardens. There we will see thousands upon thousands of chrysanthemums in all shapes and sizes and arrangements.

Longwood also has over 175 varieties of camellias, most all of them in the large conservatories. The Director, Everitt Miller, assures us that they will

give some of these camellias in the hopes of having some of them in bloom during the convention. The banquet will be held in the lovely ballroom at Longwood Gardens and there will be an organ concert on the huge organ boasting more than 10,000 pipes. The educational meetings will be held in the auditorium at Longwood and speakers who have already assured us they will be there are Dr. Gordon Jones, the Director of Planting Fields Arboretum, which was the locale of the first *Camellia reticulata* imported into the United States many years ago (these were plants of the *C. reticulata* 'Captain Rawes'); and Dr. Kenneth Torres, a

Professor of Horticulture at Louisiana State University who specializes in tissue culture. This will be an exciting talk since many of us have known Ken from a little boy onward when he had a keen interest in camellias and went to many camellia shows each year with his father and mother, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Torres of Moss Point, Mississippi.

There will be a tour in the afternoon in the gardens under the aegis of Everitt Miller and others of his staff. We will lunch at Longwood Gardens that Friday. On Saturday, we will lunch at the Winterthur Museum after we have seen the fabulous home of the DuPonts with all of the very rare American antiques of all sorts. We will also visit the Hagley Museum on Saturday.

The meeting kicks off with a delicious wine and cheese reception on Thursday evening, October 27th.

You will certainly want to tour a bit before or after the convention in this beautiful Pennsylvania Dutch area. Along the Brandywine Valley you will find some of the most interesting antique shops anywhere in the country. There is also an excellent winery that you could visit known as the Mt. Hope Mansion and Winery — yes, we Pennsylvanians do make excellent wine! You will also be near to historic Philadelphia and Franklin Center, Pennsylvania where the Franklin Mint has its fabulous museum. Throughout the entire area you should see the beautiful fall colors of the hardwood trees that grow abundantly here.

## **PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY AWARDS DINNER**

by Alice Neeley

Brookside Golf Club was the setting for the Pacific Camellia Society's Annual Awards Dinner which was held on the night of April 1, 1983. Fresh cut camellia blooms dominated the centerpiece at each table. Throughout the

dinner, harpist Barbara Crooks entertained with songs from the 1960's.

The Awards for the greatest number of points earned for the cut bloom display at each of the monthly meetings of the Society were given to: Wayne Alltizer; Dean Alltizer; John Hammer; and Chuck Gerlach. The Novice winner for the year went to Jeane DeWitt.

The 1983-84 slate of officers for the Society was announced as follows:

President — Al Gamper

Vice President — Butch Verity

Secretary — Marcie Alltizer

Treasurer — Rosamond Gerlach

The following Board of Directors was elected for the coming year: Judy Simmons; Bob Neeley; Wilkins Garner; Neville Denman; and Wayne Alltizer.

The Award of Excellence, given to the exhibitor winning the most points for all of the eight Southern California Camellia Shows (San Diego to Fresno) went to Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci. This year the Pacific Camellia Society has established a perpetual trophy. The large silver bowl will be engraved with the winner's name each year and an added special gift will be given to the winners. The Braccis were given a half-dozen Waterford tumblers as the 1983 prize.

The Pacific Camellia Society has also announced that it will sponsor its First Annual Camellia Show to be held at the City of Hope Hospital in Duarte on January 21 & 22, 1984.

## **PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY PICNIC**

by Chuck Gerlach

After nearly a week of intense heat, mother nature cooperated and gave us a wonderful 80 degree day to have our annual July get-together under the oaks at Descanso Gardens. Some 55 very nice camellia people and guests gathered for an afternoon of fun and socializing.

Judy Simmons, assisted by Dean Alltizer, barbecued delicious hamburgers while "Chef" Boris Koneff

served the group his now famous "out of this world" baked beans. Other goodies included an excellent fruit salad, wine and assorted soft drinks.

Bob Neely, picnic chairman, as usual had everything well organized. A few guessing games by Alice Neely added to the fun.

Ab Summerson conducted the raffle of a large array of camellias and other plants. Although it appeared at times that Butch Verity and Wayne Altizer were taking home most of the plants, a few others did manage to win a container or two of their choosing.

A good time was had by all.



President Al Gamper presenting the Award of Excellence to Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci.

## THE 1983 AWARDS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Southern California Camellia Society held its Annual Awards Picnic on Saturday night June 4th at the Hospitality House in Descanso Gardens. On that occasion the Awards for 1983 were presented. For the William E. Woodroof Camellia Hall of Fame Awards there were two cultivars chosen as follows:

'WILDFIRE' This is a *C. japonica*, orange red, medium, semi-double. The plant has a vigorous, upright growth. The cultivar was developed by Nuccio's Nurseries and was introduced in 1963.

'DR. CLIFFORD PARKS' This is a *C. reticulata* hybrid cross of 'Crim-

son Robe' and 'Kramer's Supreme.' The bloom is a very large red with orange cast and it is a semi-double to loose peony, to peony form. The plant has a vigorous growth and it blooms in mid-season. This cultivar was developed by the Los Angeles State and County Aboretum and was released in 1971.

For the Margarete Hertrich Award for the best new Japonica seedling the cultivar 'KATIE' was chosen. This is a salmon rose pink very large semi-double with a vigorous upright growth. The plant blooms early to mid-season and it was developed and introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1979.

For the William E. Wylam miniature award the japonica seedling 'KITTY' was chosen. This cultivar blooms white with a pink border and is a small formal double. The plant has a bushy growth and it blooms late in the season. The cultivar was developed and introduced by Azaela Glen Nursery, Loxley, Alabama and was released in 1955.

For the Frank L. Storment Award for the best retic hybrid, the cultivar 'ARCADIA' was chosen. 'ARCADIA' is a cross of 'Mouchang' × 'Bonanza' and was developed by Meyer Piet and released by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1979. The bloom is a very large

salmon pink semi-double to loose peony form.

For the Dr. John Taylor non-retic hybrid award 'SPRING FESTIVAL' was chosen. This cultivar is a cuspidata seedling developed by Tochi Daomoto and released in 1975. The bloom is a medium pink fading to light pink in the center. It is a miniature, rose form double which blooms mid-season to late.

The award for the most points earned throughout the year at the cut bloom display went to Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci. They also won the Frank Reed Award for the most points earned for gibbed blooms.

## HARVEY SHORT . . . REMEMBERED

by E. C. (Gene) Snooks

Recently American theatre audiences have been awed by the movie *Gandhi*. Truly, he was one of the giants of modern times. Yet when we examine the record we might wonder how or why . . . for he never held public office, spent several years of his life in jail, treated his wife badly and in general was totally unorthodox in much of what he did. Though he often exemplified the true Christian life better than most followers of that faith, here again he was an enigma for he was a strict Hindu. By almost any common means of measure he might be considered a failure for here was a man with a good English education in law and even in an undeveloped nation, like India, he ended up in poverty.

The true measure of his greatness was to be found in his character and his love and concern for his fellow man . . . his dedication to what he believed in . . . his soft manner of speaking . . . in summary, his humility and and humanity.

We, too, have had such a man in our midst. Fortunate, indeed, are those of us who could call him "friend." Harvey Short was truly a giant within the camellia world. He, too, was a quiet man, dedicated to his family, his friends and to his beloved camellias.

Like Gandhi, he never held office of high rank; yet he exerted great influence within the camellia community. He, too, was unorthodox in his approach to hybridization and other aspects of camellia culture, but . . . he was right! Throughout his long career and association with camellias he never claimed to be an expert or even knowledgeable but surely he had the right to claim both. No person loved to share his knowledge more than Harvey and no question was ever considered too elementary. He was a frequent contributor to the camellia literature of his day with practical information drawn from experience and observation.

Harvey's greatest contributions to the camellia world lie in the fruits of hsi hybridization work. His efforts are notable in that he worked primarily with two cultivars, 'Lotus' and 'Elegans' (Chandler). No hybridizer, before or since, had worked so extensively with a single cultivar (and so successfully) as did Harvey, for at least half of the cultivars he registered, which number over 100, claimed one of these two cultivars as a parent. His efforts were not to go unnoticed, for the honors bestowed on Harvey were many. Within a span of four years he was presented the coveted Margarete Hertrich award

by the Southern California Camellia Society for the most outstanding C. japonica seedling: 1952 — 'Bride's Bouquet,' 1953 — 'Pink Clouds,' 1955 — 'Guest of Honor.' Many of his "Camellias of Tomorrow" have proven to be just that and still enjoy popularity with camellia fanciers. In Southern California, though many of his introductions still enjoy popularity, the two most often seen on the show tables are 'Ballet Dancer' and 'Premiere.'

Harvey was a charter member of both the Southern California Camellia Society and the San Diego Camellia Society and at the time of his death in 1978 he held honorary membership in both. To honor his efforts in hybridization the San Diego Camellia Society, in 1978, established the Harvey Short Perpetual Seedling Award.

Besides the legacy of great camellias left by Harvey, his efforts in establishing camellia plantings at the Huntington Gardens will remain for us and future generations to enjoy.

At the time of his retirement to quarters with limited space, he still had several seedlings which were under test. One of these he presented to his longtime close friend, Jess George, who gave it tender, loving care, resulting in quality blooms, one of which won the Harvey Short Seedling Award in 1980. At that time, Jess registered the seedling and offered the propagation rights to the San Diego society, "because Harvey would have wanted it that way."

Humility prevented Harvey from ever naming a seedling for himself . . . this has been left to others. I feel honored to have named his last creation and yet it is with a certain fear of inadequacy that we name it 'Harvey Short's Finale.'

Yes, Harvey was a giant who walked among us. We, his friends, miss him as does the camellia world at large. May this bloom, a masterpiece of his own creation, become a fitting memorial.

### **First Release**

## **'HARVEY SHORT'S FINALE'**

Tax-deductible contributions to the San Diego Camellia Society will be acknowledged with plants or scions according to the following schedule.

\$10 — 12-18", \$15 — 18-24", \$20 — 24-30", \$25 — 30-36"

**Scions — \$5.00 — Post Paid**

Sorry — we cannot ship plants. Delivery will be made to Camellia-Rama and S. California shows.

**Release Date — October 15**

**SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

c/o E. C. Snooks  
6114 La Jolla Blvd.  
La Jolla, CA 92037

# CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA-RAMA IX — 1983

## “A CAMELLIA MASQUERADE”

‘REMEMBER’ November 5, 1983

“Camellia Fun and Culture”

Host: Central California Camellia Society

‘RENDEZVOUS’ for the ‘OVERTURE’ of ‘HAPPY DAYS’ at Smuggler’s Farm (3737 N. Blackstone, Fresno, a ‘MAGIC CITY’) on Friday, November 4th. Elaine Abramson, Evelyn Johnston, “Fritz” and Esther Schumacher and CCCS members will meet you and treat you with ‘JOY’ and ‘FRIENDSHIP.’ There’ll be an ‘ABUNDANCE’ of ‘FAVORITE’ CCCS ‘CREATIONS’ with cocktails-to-please.

‘REVELATION’ — Saturday, November 5th      ‘TOP SERGEANT’ — Art Gonos

- 8:00 - 9:30 AM      Show Chairmen Robert Grim and Bob Kellas will be accepting your ‘MAGNIFICENT’ bloom entries. (No limit.) Seven trophies provided by Smuggler’s Inn and CCCS members.
- 8:30 - 9:30      ‘GOOD MORNING’ registration with ‘CUTIE’ Chris Gonos and ‘PIXIE’ Linda Grim.
- 9:30 - 12:00      Symposium — Various features of Camellia information and Culture — ‘HIGHLIGHT’ing the Yellow Update and ‘NEW HORIZONS.’
- 12:30 - 2:00 PM      Lunch and ‘SHOW TIME.’
- 2:00 - 4:30      Symposium — Program will include Milton Brown, Fort Valley, GA; Ken Hallstone, Lafayette; Walter Harmsen, Claremont; George Lewis, Descanso Gardens; Jack Mandarich, Menlo Park; Bob and Ruth Marcy, San Jose; Julius Nuccio + + , Altadena; Al Parker, Newburg, Oregon; Meyer Piet, Arcadia and Wilbur Ray, Fresno.
- 4:30 - 5:00      Announcements
- 5:00 - 6:30      ‘INNOVATION’ — Into Masks (and costumes) — even a paper bag! Let ‘81 Nomenclature be your guide. How long can you keep your identity a secret during the next ‘HEAVENLY’ hour???
- 6:30 - 7:30      CCCS hosts traditional Champagne Hour (Hospitality Room). ‘OBLIGING’ those ‘SPECTACULAR’ masks will be straws for your ‘HAPPINESS’ and your “sippiness.”
- 7:30 - 8:45      Traditional Prime Rib Dinner (Banquet Room).
- 9:00 - ??:??      ‘CELEBRATION’ — Super Raffle, Super Fun, Something for everyone. Special Raffle — “need-not-be-present-to-win” including a “D & MA” sparkling lighted “Friendship Tree.” Mask and ‘DRESS PARADE’ with “appropriate” awards — even one for the Best Paper Bag Mask.



# CAMELLIA-RAMA IX

PLEASE DETACH AT DOTTED LINE AND SEND ENTIRE FORMS I AND II  
TO: CHRIS GONOS, 5643 N. College, Fresno, CA 93704  
(Phone (209) 439-2228)

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## FORM I CAMELLIA-RAMA REGISTRATION FORM

WE (I) would like the following reservations:

(A) Registration, lunch & dinner

No. ( ) at \$22.00 @ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

OR \_\_\_\_\_

(B) Registration No. ( ) at 2.50 @ = \_\_\_\_\_ .

Lunch No. ( ) at 6.00 @ = \_\_\_\_\_ .

Dinner No. ( ) at 13.50 @ = \_\_\_\_\_ .

CHECK enclosed for Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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## FORM II ROOM RESERVATIONS — SMUGGLER'S INN

Please reserve the following accommodations:

No. of Rooms ..... ( ) Bed: Single ..... ( )

No. of Persons ..... ( ) Double ..... ( )

Arrival Date ..... ( ) Twin ..... ( )

Departure Date ..... ( ) Other ..... ( )

Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

---

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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(Cost: Single OR Double — \$45.00 per night  
Additional persons — \$3.00 each)

PLEASE PAY MOTEL CHARGES DIRECTLY TO SMUGGLER'S INN.  
They may be paid in advance or at check-out time. Your reservations will  
be held without deposit.

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Please make checks payable to "CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA-RAMA" for  
registration, lunch and dinner reservations only. (Early reservations  
greatly facilitate lunch and dinner arrangements. THANK YOU.)

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**  
**1983 SHOW AWARDS**  
**WILLOWS, CONCORD, CALIFORNIA**  
**MARCH 12 and 13**

Sweepstakes		Robert Ehrhart
Runner-up Sweepstakes		Mr. & Mrs. Don Bergamini
Novice Sweepstakes		Dee Bussee
Award of Excellence		Robert Ehrhart
Challenge Award		Mr. & Mrs. Don Bergamini
	<i>TIE</i>	Jack Osequeda
Best Large Japonica	<i>'Easter Morn'</i>	Mrs. William Breuner
Runner-up	<i>'Betty Sheffield Supreme'</i>	Mrs. William Breuner
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Blushing Beauty'</i>	Dee Bussee
Runner-up	<i>'Purity'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. D. Leismeister
Best 3 Large Japonicas	<i>'Silver Cloud'</i>	Mrs. William Breuner
Best 3 Medium Japonicas	<i>'In The Red'</i>	Harlan Smith Family
Best 5 Japonicas	<i>'Elegans Champagne'</i>	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Boutonniere Miniature	<i>'Tom Thumb'</i>	Steve Campbell
Best Boutonniere Small	<i>'Snowie'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Albert Biggs
Best 3 Boutonniere	<i>'Pink Dahlia'</i>	Dr. Fred Heitman
Best 5 Boutonniere	<i>'Pink Perfection'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. George Zurilgen
Best Reticulata Hybrid	<i>'Curtain Call'</i>	R. Hertel
Runner-up	<i>'Valentine Day'</i>	T. Polus
Best 3 Retic Hybrid	<i>'Mandalay Queen'</i>	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up	<i>'Howard Asper'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. James Scott
Best 5 Retic Hybrids	<i>'Lila Naff'</i>	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Hybrid	<i>'Mona Jury'</i>	Nona Passinetti
Best 3 Hybrid	<i>'E. G. Waterhouse'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Don Bergamini
Best 5 Hybrid	<i>'E. G. Waterhouse'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Don Bergamini
Best Fragrant Seedling		Mr. & Mrs. Ken Hallstone
Best Large Seedling		David Feathers
Best Medium Seedling		David Feathers
Best Boutonniere Seedling		David Feathers
Best 12 Different		Mrs. William Breuner
Youth Class Japonica	<i>'Raspberry Ice'</i>	Jason Yonon
Youth Class Other than Japonica	<i>'Clifford Parks'</i>	Jason Yonon
Best White	<i>'Snowman'</i>	Mrs. William Breuner
Collection of 9 Boutonniere		Dr. Fred Heitman

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**  
**March 12/13, 1983**

Award of Excellence		Mr. & Mrs. Jim Randall
Best Large/Very Large Japonica	<i>'Elegans Champagne'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Reg Ragland Var.'</i>	Mrs. Sheldon Lewis
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Margaret Davis'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Betty Sheffield Supreme'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Best Small Japonica	<i>'Baby Pearl'</i>	Wilbur & Mary Anne Ray
Runner-up	<i>'Maroon &amp; Gold'</i>	Al & Lois Taylor
Best Miniature Japonica	<i>'Man Size'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	<i>'Bon Bon'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Best Retic	<i>'Valley Knudsen'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Harold Paige'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Randall
Best Hybrid	<i>'Anticipation'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Angel Wings Var.'</i>	Bill Harris Family
Best 3 Large/Very Large	<i>'Fashionata'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Elegans Splendor'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Randall

Best 3 Medium	'Nuccio's Gem'	Bill Harris Family
Runner-up	'Spring Sonnet'	Jack & Anne Woo
Best 3 Smalls	'Kitty'	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Mobley
Runner-up	'Maroon & Gold'	Art Gonos Family
Best 3 Miniatures	'Tammia'	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	'Little Slam Var.'	Bill Harris Family
Best 3 Retics	'Francie L'	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	'Dr. Louis Polizzi'	Jack & Anne Woo
Best 3 Hybrids	'Pink Dahlia'	Jack & Anne Woo
Runner-up	'Waltz Time Var.'	Art Gonos Family
Best 9 Different	'Clark Hubbs', 'Grand Prix', Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'Nuccio's Ruby', 'Howard Asper', 'Snowman', 'Elegans Supreme', 'Tomorrow Dawn's' & 'Tomorrow's Tropic Dawn'	Art Gonos Family
Best Seedling		Kramer Brothers
Best 5 Japonicas (any size)	'Grand Slam'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Runner-up	'Tomorrow Park Hill'	Bill Harris Family
Best 3 Different	'Grand Prix', 'Margaret Davis', 'Man Size'	Art Gonos Family
Best White Camellia	'Elegans Champagne'	Jack & Anne Woo
Best Non-Member		Suki Leshar
McKellar Memorial Award (C.C.C.S. members only)		Mr. & Mrs. Hub Forkel
<i>Junior Division</i>		
Best Japonica	'Tiffany'	Julie Knight
Best Camellia (non-Japonica)	'Francie L'	Demitri Gonos
Best Boutonniere	'Tammia'	Demitri Gonos

## 1983 — 1984

### CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Nov. 4, 5 & 6, 1983	<i>California Camellia-Rama</i>	Smuggler's Inn, Fresno
Dec. 3 & 4, 1983	<i>So. Cal. Camellia Council "Gib" Show</i>	Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Jan. 7 & 8, 1984	<i>So. Cal. Camellia Society Huntington Show</i>	Huntington Gardens San Marino
Jan. 21 & 22, 1984	<i>Pacific Camellia Society Show</i>	City of Hope, Duarte
Jan. 28 & 29, 1984	<i>South Coast Camellia Society Show</i>	South Coast Botanical Gardens, Palos Verdes
Jan 28 & 29, 1984	<i>No. Cal. Camellia Council Kick-Off Show</i>	Vintage Fair Mall, Modesto
Feb. 4 & 5, 1984	<i>Peninsula Camellia Society Show</i>	Vet. Mem. Bldg., Redwood City
Feb. 4 & 5, 1984	<i>San Diego Camellia Society Show</i>	Balboa Park, San Diego
Feb. 11 & 12, 1984	<i>Temple City Camellia Society Show</i>	Arboretum, Arcadia
Feb. 18 & 19, 1984	<i>Pomona Valley Camellia Society Show</i>	Pomona First Fed. S&L, Claremont
Feb. 18 & 19, 1984	<i>Santa Clara Camellia Society Show</i>	Community Center, Santa Clara
Feb. 25 & 26, 1984	<i>So. Cal. Camellia Council Spring Show</i>	Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Feb. 25 & 26, 1984	<i>Delta Camellia Society Show</i>	Campolindo High School, Moraga
March 3 & 4, 1984	<i>Sacramento Camellia Society Show</i>	Convention Center, Sacramento
March 3 & 4, 1984	<i>Camellia Society of Kern County Show</i>	Aram Adams Gardens, Bakersfield
March 10 & 11, 1984	<i>Central California Camellia Soc. Show</i>	Fashion Fair Mall, Fresno
March 10 & 11, 1984	<i>Northern California Camellia Society Show</i>	Willows Shopping Mall, Concord
March 17 & 18, 1984	<i>Modesto Camellia Society Show</i>	Gallo Admin. Bldg., Modesto
March 24 & 25, 1984	<i>Sonoma County Camellia Society Show</i>	Santa Rosa Jr. Coll., Santa Rosa

## LES BASKERVILLE ON CULTURE

*Ed. Note: Taken from the San Diego Camellia Society May 1983 Bulletin.*

At our April meeting Les Baskerville gave the best talk we have had on care of camellias. For those who did not make notes and those who were not fortunate enough to attend, we will attempt to recap his talk.

1. Have no more camellias than you can adequately care for. Some of us have made a hobby of acquiring camellias. Only so many plants can be adequately tended. When we go beyond this point the law of diminishing returns raises its ugly head. A word to the wise?

2. Put a layer of compost, bark chips, pine needles, etc., over the top of the soil whether in pots or in the ground. This will assist in keeping the roots cool. Camellias LIKE THEIR ROOTS TO BE COOL and THEY LIKE TO BE MOIST.

3. When you water your plants do it the right way. It is assumed your potted plants will have at least an inch, preferably more, between the soil level and the top of the pot. Fill the pot with water and let it run through — then fill the pot again with water. Water will penetrate parts of the soil mix more readily than other parts. Consequently, unless you follow the twice fill method some parts of the root system will be left with an inadequate water supply.

4. If your plants are in the ground build a berm around the drip line to catch and hold moisture. No matter what your method of watering, hose or sprinkler system, the foliage will knock water off and deprive the plants of the benefits.

5. Most plastic containers come with some sort of impediment in their drain holes. Sometimes a drain hole is completely blocked by a thin film of plastic. With a sharp knife trim out all impediments so water will freely flow through. Always remember you can kill any plant by drowning just as you can kill it by drought.

6. Some of us feel the recent rains have taken good care of our watering for the time. However, the leaves of potted plants act as an umbrella and shed water off to the side. Don't depend on Mother Nature to do your chores, lend her a helping hand.

7. Plastic pots sitting in the sun are a reservoir of heat. Camellia roots like to be cool, as well as moist. You can protect your pots in several ways from this heat. A gallon size pot may be placed in a two gallon can; a four inch pot in a gallon can; you may wrap pots with aluminum foil to reflect the heat; you may wrap your pots with several layers of newspapers; or, you may use other similar methods.

8. Camellias like and need iron to perform their best. They should be fed iron in April (it's not yet too late) and again in the fall. Most of the big camellia growers swear by Nuccio's iron. Try it. In any event, give your plants the iron they need.

9. Feed your plants. If you follow the above advice about watering, feed your plants at half strength every 6-8 weeks. Fertilizers are rapidly leached out of potted plants when they are watered on a regular basis. Consequently they need more frequent feeding.

10. If you ever let a camellia dry out you will either have no bloom the following year or the blooms will be of most inferior quality. When water rapidly runs through a potted plant you may fairly well be assured the plant has dried out and the soil has pulled away from the sides of the pot. The water then runs right down the inside of the pot and out the drain holes. The plant still remains dry. To correct this, use a thin stick — something like a paint stirrer — and push soil down around the sides. The best and foremost cure for this is don't let your plants dry out!

**PAY YOUR 1984 DUES  
SO THAT WE CAN  
MAIL YOUR 1984  
NOMENCLATURE**

# Gelatin: Nitrogen for Plants

by Audrey Carey

*Ed. Note: Reprinted from Garden, May-June 1981, the publication of The Garden Society, a division of the New York Botanical Garden*

## **The same kitchen staple that is the basic ingredient of lemon whip can do good things for house plants**

You're looking for a houseplant fertilizer high in nitrogen. You stop at the garden products aisle of the supermarket and look over the chemical formulas. Look no further — you're in the wrong aisle. Perambulate over to the puddings aisle, where you will find what you're looking for. The puddings aisle is where the boxes of gelatin are, and gelatin turns out to be an excellent slow-release source of nitrogen.

Unflavored gelatin, a foodstuff obtained from the hoofs, bones, tendons and cartilage of animals, is almost pure protein, and like other proteins contains about 20 percent nitrogen.

Most inorganic fertilizers also contain a high percentage of nitrogen, but that alone does not make them good nitrogen sources. As we now know, using inorganic nitrogen has two great disadvantages. First, if the application is not carefully controlled, nitrogen may burn the plant's roots; and second, nitrogen in its inorganic and highly soluble form leaches out easily and is soon lost. House plants are especially vulnerable to applications of chemical nitrogen, bound as they are in a limited space with only a small amount of soil to buffer the effects.

Recently a variety of controlled-release fertilizers have been marketed, some especially designed for indoor use. In one widely used formulation, the tiny amounts of fertilizer are encapsulated in pellets. Different pellets are made of different thicknesses of coatings. Since the fertilizer diffuses out of thin-coated pellets fast and out of thick-coated ones slowly, the fertilizer is released over a long period.

The timed-release fertilizer has been a boon to dracaena but costs more than

some dracaena owners would like to pay, and it finds its widest use in commercial nurseries. In addition, the release of nutrients is not as gradual or consistent as theory predicts, and not all nurserymen like it.

Gelatin, an expensive product found on grocery shelves, is nature's controlled-release nitrogen fertilizer. Like other natural products, gelatin is broken down by soil microorganisms and its breakdown releases significant amounts of nitrogen into the soil. The decomposition is gradual — so no root-burn is expected.

In these respects, gelatin is like homemade compost, but unlike compost made in the kitchen from carrot tops, coffee grounds and leftover scrambled eggs, packaged gelatin is colorless, tasteless and odorless.

The idea of using gelatin for nitrogen makes sense, and a large gelatin manufacturer, Knox, decided to test the effectiveness of gelatin as fertilizer in a systematic way. Sixteen species of common houseplants kept in commercially available potting soil were fed varying concentrations of dissolved gelatin ranging from specimens given none, to specimens fed high quantities. These plants were repotted when necessary and studied over a two-year period.

The gelatin-fed plants did significantly better, Knox found, than those given no nitrogen source. The very highest levels of gelatin did not hurt the plants but were not necessary for optimum growth.

Gelatin is not a complete fertilizer because it contains no phosphorus, potassium or the trace elements plants require. These are usually found in sufficient quantity in standard potting mixtures so that plants can go a long time before they need other nutritional supplements.

Gelatin is a satisfyingly homespun product, used in aspics, confectionery and ice cream. Mixed with artificial flavors and colors and packaged in pocket-sized boxes, it has become an American favorite second only, probably, to apple pie. Gelatin also has many non-food uses: in photography, in biological culture media, in pill coatings and in glue.

With all this to recommend it, it is worth a try on your begonias. Dissolve one envelope (one-quarter ounce) of gelatin in one cup of hot tap water, then add three cups of cold water to make a quart of liquid. Water with this mixture once a month, preparing a fresh batch each time.

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND

Tax deductible contributions to the Camellia Nomenclature Endowment Fund for the period March 1 to August 1, 1983 are listed as follows:

R. E. A. Henderson	<i>Cash Contribution</i>
Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Ray	<i>Contribution in memory of Dr. Lynn Fawns</i>
Central California Camellia Society	<i>Contribution in memory of Morrie Abramson</i>
Oil Painting Raffle Money (Raffle won by John Movich)	
Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Pieri	<i>Contributions in memory of Sam Ward; James Eskridge; and Morrie Abramson</i>
Pomona Valley Camellia Society	<i>Cash Contribution</i>
John L. Sullivan	<i>Contribution in memory of Mary Sullivan</i>
Judge Sherrill Halbert	<i>Cash Contribution</i>
Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Ray	<i>Contribution in memory of Ken Thompson</i>
Los Angeles Camellia Society	<i>Contribution in memory of Dorothy Conant</i>
The Total in the Endowment Fund as of August 1, 1983 is	\$17,501.26

### PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR **1983 CROP CAMELLIA SEEDS**

(Harvested at Huntington Gardens)

Japonica Seeds — \$6.00 per 100 (minimum order)

Sasanqua Seeds — \$4.00 per 100 (minimum order)

Reticulata Seeds — 25¢ each

3000 Retic Seeds from New Zealand — 25¢ each

**ALL SEEDS ARE SENT POST PAID**

**Southern California Camellia Society**

**P.O. Box 50525**

**Pasadena, CA 91105**

## *Directory of Other California Camellia Societies*

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY—President, Leland Chow; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr., 733 Delmar Drive, Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: To be announced.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY—President, Walter Harmsen; 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, Peter van Hoecke; Secretary, Evalena Smith, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, 95816. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mary Ann Ray; Secretary, Ruth Ann Lewis, 6440 Sequoia Dr., Fresno 93711. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through February in Smuggler's Inn Motel.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Don Bergamini; Secretary, Jack Lewis, 3824 Beechwood Dr., Concord 94520. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through March, Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Rd., Concord

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Dorothy Pieri; Secretary, Warren Dickson, 2310 Duane St., Los Angeles 90039. Meetings: 1st Tuesday, December through April, Western Fed. S&L, 1700 No. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles.

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Tony Pinheiro; Secretary, June Tenny, 24 Schooner Lane, Modesto 95356. Meetings: second Tuesday, October through May, 800 E. Morris Ave., Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, James Tolland; 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, Al Gamper; Secretary, Marcie Altizer, 1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale, 91202. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Glendale Federal S&L, 401 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ali Henley; Secretary, Diane Hicks, 1253 Sharon Rd., Menlo Park 94025. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, AMPEX Cafeteria, 401 Broadway, Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ann Gerken; 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, John Nichols; Secretary, Janet Hatch, 427 Orange Ave., Apt. F, Coronado 92118. 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, Steve Campbell; Secretary, Jack Dodson, 656 Austin, Sonoma 95476. Meetings: 3rd Friday, November through May, Santa Rosa Jr. College, AG Bldg., Santa Rosa.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Warren Dickson; Secretary, Mrs. Pauline Johnson, 1251 10th St., San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through May, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes.

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Grady Perigan; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel, Ca 91776. Meetings: Friday, Nov. 18; Fri. Dec. 16, Thurs., Jan. 26; Thur., Feb. 23; Wed., Mar. 22; Thur., April 26. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.

SOUTHERN  
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