

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



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Two dollars

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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COVER PHOTO

'Dawn's Early Light' . . . C. Japonica chance seedling. First bloomed in late December 1979. Medium to large peony form with occasional rose form double. Light to deep orchid pink intermixed. Vigorous, compact, upright growth. Blooms early to mid season. Propagated and released by Nuccio's Nurseries — Fall 1985. Photo by Donnan. Color separation courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries.

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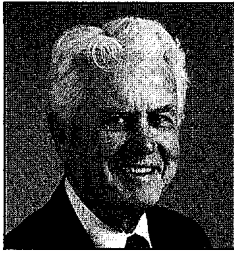
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THOUGHTS

from the editor

The 1985-86 Camellia Season is beginning, the buds are fattening and we have an enthusiastic, energetic and knowledgeable new president for the Southern California Camellia Society, Sergio Bracci. With your help he will make the membership grow as well as the treasury. Look forward to stimulating meetings.

There have been a number of articles received for the new issues for which I thank the authors. Please continue with submissions whether short or long, handwritten or typed. Articles on cultural practices are particularly welcome. What works for you may be just what another hobbyist is looking for.

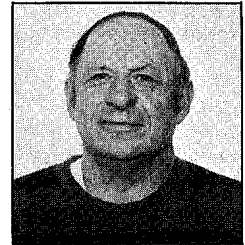
Anyone with ideas on ways to increase the membership please call or correspond with me or with Sergio. If each member could bring at least one guest this season it would be a good start.

from the president

As the new president of the Southern California Camellia Society, I would appreciate it if you would all join me in making this society grow and prosper.

We are all proud of the two outstanding publications, the Camellia Review and the Camellia Nomenclature book, and I would like to see them continue in their present format.

Therefore, your continued support for these tools of our hobby will be gratefully appreciated. I am looking forward to the coming camellia season and hope all of you will assist me in making it an outstanding one of the Southern California Camellia Society.



Thank you,
Sergio Bracci

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND

Ernie Pieri in memory of Tekla Lytle and Alfred Krueger.
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Putnam in memory of Delphine and Alfred Krueger.

The NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND needs your continued support. Sales of the book and an allocation of the membership dues will continue to be added to the Fund on a quarterly basis. However, we still need the support of all interested hobbyists.

A TRIP TO PARADISE

by Sergio Bracci

Early in 1984 Elsie and I received a call from Julius Nuccio extending an invitation from Satoshi Kimura to accompany Julius and Bonnie Nuccio to a camellia show honoring the 25th anniversary of the Ata Gawa Tropical Gardens and Alligator Farms. Also invited were Mrs. Xia Lifang, wife of Professor Auloo, Director of the Kunming Botanical Gardens, and Mrs. Shu, Vice Director of the Kunming Botanical Gardens, both of The People's Republic of China. Naturally, we were both delighted to go and to meet and see camellia people from other parts of the world. A few years back, I, along with other hobbyists at the Nuccio Nursery, had sent buds to Mr. Kimura for one of his shows and I was intrigued to see the photos of the blooms that had opened using a special technique and was most anxious to see the process first hand.

At the Huntington Gardens Camellia show prior to our departure, Bonnie introduced us to Mr. Hideo Shimizu, a member of Mr. Kimura's staff, who was to meet us at Narita Airport. Julius and Bonnie were leaving a week earlier to visit Kunming along with Mr. Kimura and Hiroshi Tarada, a friend of Mr. Kimura, and we were to meet in Tokyo a week later. We were to take along with us 2-3,000 buds from Nuccio's Nursery for the show but, unfortunately, before our departure, 60-80 mph winds devastated the nursery causing extensive damage and we were only able to salvage about 600 buds. Those, along with 50 of my own buds, were carefully packed by Joe Nuccio in orchid tubes each containing a small amount of water with a rubber cap and packed in shredded paper into containers. On February 3 we left for LAX and met with Joe and loaded the luggage and the buds on boxes via Pan Am. We departed at 12:12 pm on Friday, February 3, crossed the International Date Line at 5:15 pm our time

and it became 11:00 am Saturday, February 4.

At Narita Airport in Tokyo we were sent to the Agricultural Inspection where two zealous young inspectors examined each and every one of our buds, taking a total of about two hours. After we cleared inspection we were able to go out and meet Hideo and Mr. Takehisa Nakamura, Associate Professor at Tokyo University of Agriculture. The flower boxes were loaded on a van there to await the arrival of Julius and his party and another load of buds from China. We were taken by taxi from Narita to Tokyo, about an hour's drive away, and to the Hotel Okura across from the U.S. Embassy where Mr. Nakamura checked us in and invited us to a Japanese dinner that evening. Dinner was delicious, but *never* ask what you are eating. Dog tired, we got to bed after too many hours awake.

The next morning we had breakfast with Julius, Bonnie, Mr. Kimura, Mr. Tarada, Mrs. Xia Lifang and Mrs. Su Rongsheng. Japanese breakfasts are most interesting. After breakfast we all left for Funaki Nursery in Tokyo for our first look at Camellia Chrysantha blooms. One thing I learned about the Japanese custom is that before any business is transacted, you must have green tea and cookies. When we arrived at Funaki Nursery, I was amazed to see camellias standing in about a foot of snow and showing none the worse for wear about it. After about 30 minutes of green tea and formalities we were taken to Funaki's greenhouse where we were delighted to see two blooms of Camellia Chrysantha Tuyame. The blooms were tubular in shape and a very deep shade of yellow. The leaves of this culture were long and narrow, quite in contrast with the leaves of Meyer Piet's Chrysantha. The understock was growing in the ground and was about 4 inches in diameter. The scion had been grafted

quite high and the plant was about 6 feet tall. Mr. Funaki's greenhouses were all of the Quonset hut type and enclosed in heavy clear plastic. In the center of each greenhouse there is planted a 3-foot wide row of Australian Hiryu which were put in as understock for cutting. They are about 1½ inches apart and when they reach a diameter of about ¾", they are all cut off at one time and grafted as a unit and covered with a plastic dome along the length of the row — a very tedious process.

Leaving Funaki's Nursery, we went to see the largest collection of *Sasanqua* and *vernalis* at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. Again, the green tea and cookies with Dr. Naotoshi Hakoda, head of the facility. Unfortunately, the extreme cold had browned all the flowers grown out of doors so we visited the greenhouses where all the species were kept. Mrs. Xia Lifang disagreed with what we call *Macrocarpa*, saying it was *Euffibia* and not *Macrocarpa*. After much discussion with the translators we left to see what I had hoped to see — the opening of flowers from bud form.

The first phase is the storage of the buds in a very cold room at about 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Since the show in Tokyo lasts a week, the buds are opened as they need them. From this cold room the buds are removed from their tubes and placed in trays about 3 inches deep and 18 inches wide by 30 inches long and filled with water and covered with ¼" wire mesh. The buds are inserted in the holes in the mesh so that the stems reach the water. The trays are then put in a frame enclosure about 4 feet high and 10 feet across and 15-20 feet long. The frame is then covered with heavy clear plastic and sealed, and the outside of the room is heated causing a great deal of humidity inside the enclosure. As the flowers open they are taken to the show and the spent flowers are removed. The blooms do not size up as large as normal, but condition and size mean little to Japanese flower lovers. Small single

flowers are much in demand in Japan and the prices paid for 4" pots are 4-5 times what we pay here. The show was to be held the next day at the Mitsukoshi Department Store and preparations were quite hectic.

After viewing the process of flowers opening, we returned to our hotel for a very elegant dinner hosted by Mr. Kimura. The next day Mr. Kimura was to be gone all day working on the show, so he arranged a day and evening tour for the Nuccios and ourselves which we thoroughly enjoyed.

The following day was the opening of the show, and it was decided that as a *Camellia* hobbyist, I was to speak for the Southern California *Camellia* clubs. The media were there in force and the opening of the show was telecast on national television. Speakers for the opening ceremonies besides myself were Mr. Kimura, Mrs. Xia Lifang and the Chinese Ambassador to Japan. The ribbon cutting ceremony opening the show was to be done by Bonnie, Elsie and Mrs. Kimura (Sitoshi's mother). They were provided with a large pair of gold scissors and cut the ribbon as a team.

The opening was by invitation only, so only about 150 people were able to see the first day's festivities. The flowers were displayed in black bud vases about 6" tall and they looked quite elegant. Adorning the walls of the show area were many beautiful photographs of *camellias* taken by Mr. Tarada which added immeasurably to the general atmosphere. Also, on one side of the show area were products relating to *camellias* such as *camellia* oil, soap, charcoal, jewelry, and many, many publications (both in Japanese and other languages). There was an American section, a Chinese section and a Japanese section each containing flowers from their respective areas.

After viewing the show we were all invited to a reception in an adjoining dining room where we were privileged to meet many of the invitees. Mr. Kimura had thoughtfully arranged to

have an interpreter be with us all day so that we were able to converse with them.

After leaving the show that afternoon we checked out of our hotel and left by fast train to Mr. Kimura's residence at Ata Gawa on the Izu Peninsula (about 2 ½ hours south of Tokyo). We were to be Mr. Kimura's houseguests for the next three days so that we could see his gardens there. The third floor of Mr. Kimura's residence is devoted to houseguests and when the Emperor of Japan visits the gardens, he also stays there.

"Ata" in Japanese means "hot", and "Gawa" means "river", so the area surrounding the gardens is in a thermal area and steam vents are everywhere. Mr. Kimura's greenhouses are of the conservatory type and are heated by the steam and hot water of the area. As the gardens are laid out on the side of a hill, elevators take you from one level to another. One greenhouse is devoted entirely to ferns while another is all orchids. The beauty was unbelievable! A large lake covered by lotus pads that were 5 feet across was in the middle of one house. Another house about 200 feet long was completely covered by water lilies in bloom. Bananas, palms, cycads and flowers of every kind are featured in each of the other greenhouses and to describe them all would take forever.

The Japanese are fond of alligators and among the 30 species which inhabit the earth, 27 are found in Mr. Kimura's gardens.

That evening Mr. Kimura had rented a private dining room in the Silversands Hotel in the next town. He has also arranged for geisha girls for both Julius and me. The meal and service were elegant and the girls did not hurt a bit.

The next day we went by boat to Oshima Island in the Sea of Japan to see the camellias there. Oshima is known as the Camellia Island and is covered with 10-12 foot camellias. Mr. Kimura has another garden on Oshima which is a copy of his garden on Ata Gawa. This range is heated by oil. Also on Oshima he has a camellia garden about an acre in size growing in full sun. The extreme cold had browned all of the flowers; however, we were able to see a few. We also toured a factory which processed camellia seeds for oil. It takes 7 pounds of seed to yield 1 pound of oil. After returning to the mainland and dinner at Satoshi's, we went to bed very tired.

The next day we left for Tokyo and Julius and I put on a program for Japanese hobbyists and again toured the show. We were informed that 65,000 people had already seen the show and that is a tribute to the love the Japanese people have for flowers.

May I say that the attention and kindness of Satoshi Kimura, his wife and family were beyond belief. We shall always be in their debt. We in California are most fortunate to have in our area two of the most liked and popular figures in the camellia world. Julius and Bonnie Nuccio should be Ambassadors to the World. People came from hundreds of miles away to see and to talk to them. Every nurseryman in the area invited us to visit. It was also gratifying for me, as a member of SCCS, to see all the nomenclature books in Japan. It is indeed a tool of the hobbyist. May thanks to every one who made our trip a success.

THANK YOU
SATOSHI KIMURA!



WORKING WITH YELLOW

by Meyer Piet

The 1985 camellia season really got rolling with a big bang. A "Santana" (devil) wind reaching 85 MPH, coupled with a neighbor's heavy swaying bamboo forest and a 6 foot concrete block wall, 135 feet long, in which the contractor, 30 years ago decided on the sly to save a few dollars by leaving out the reinforcing steel, all produced a chain of events that destroyed several hundred of our camellia plants and knocked out over 30 panes of glass in our greenhouse. What a mess, almost unbelievable, enough to make you want to plow it all under. Very fortunately, Lee Gaeta and I and our wives were at a basketball game when it happened. We had been working in the greenhouse that morning and had we been there when the 6' concrete block wall toppled over, hit and jarred the greenhouse, scattering all the broken glass into the inside, we could have been seriously cut. The cleanup continues to this day. I don't have to cut down my 6 foot Howard Asper, Willow Wand, Purple Gown, for grafting purposes, since the accident sheared them all off at the base. We also lost a great many seedlings and known cross-plants. Imagine a 6 foot x 135 strip all neatly spaced with 1 and 2 gallon pots, solid, pot to pot, only a few hours earlier, now covered over with 6' of concrete block wall. The greenhouse has been repaired, about 75% of the cleanup is complete and Lee and I will soon have the place presentable.

During the 1985 season we were pleased to see some of our favorite flowers come into bloom, Emma Gaeta, Arcadia, the small spiral formal Josh Fenska, named after my daughter's son, was outstanding and continued to bloom for 3 months. Our pink sparkle granthamiana cross produced excellent 6 inch diameter, high flowers. We enjoyed about 6 different pink formals, mostly small or miniatures, and several extremely dark red miniature

formals that bloomed for the first time and subsequently were grafted for additional plants for the future.

The Yoshiaki Andoh plant was absolutely outstanding. When you see this Higo flower with the color of the "Ole Rose", on a large 5 foot plant, covered with large 5 to 6 inch flowers, it is breathtaking. Our Fiesta Grandes bloomed their unique light purple, frost white flowers on a bush the form of a Christmas tree and even though the flowers are large, 4 to 5 inches in diameter, the Sasanqua shape and size leaves make it an ideal garden plant. The plant my good friend Al Kruger gave to me, "Captured Enriches" was outstanding. Everyone that sees it and realizes it is fragrant, falls in love with it. The one outstanding flower was the cross of Firechief X Ruby. Both Lee and I made the identical cross about 6 or 8 years ago and in evaluating the various 8 or 10 different flowers, we finally decided one of Lee's was best. About three years ago we variegated it. It bloomed last year and was a study in contrast. We grafted up some more, it bloomed this year and both Lee and I agree that both the solid and variegated version should be eventually released as they are far superior in color, size and form to Fire Chief.

Several new small miniatures' faces appeared. The best was a 2" diameter formal pink, light pink, dark pink flower. It throws 3 or 4 different types of flower forms, all formal, petals tiered, normal petal arrangement, extremely tight spiral, an unbelievable flower, etc. It's a seedling of June McCaskill, the plant is in a one gallon pot and is probably 6 or 8 years old. We grafted up several plants and plan to pot it up into a 3 gallon pot and watch it carefully. I have tentatively named this flower Amy Fenska after my impish granddaughter in San Diego.

The second nice miniature is a pinkish white formal with dark pink stripes

that seemed to vary in the various flowers. Since this one is about the size of a silver dollar, we have identified it accordingly \$1985, and will watch it for future introduction.

In the middle of August 1984 our various crosses using Olympic Gold pollen (name of our seed of Chrysanthema) started to open their seed pods. As I mentioned in my last article, there was only one seed that seemed to set on the mother plant but that also dropped off, which meant that *no* seed was set on the Olympic gold plant. We were successful in obtaining about 50 to 60 seed pods using the Olympic Gold pollen. The first group of seeds had a great deal of Japonica in the blood line. This resulted in our greatest loss due to hollow seeds. We did obtain a few seedlings with straight Japonica blood line and this year have tried again, since this could be the best combination for color and flower form transformation. Of the first 14 seed pods, we had 32 seeds, of these 22 were hollow, or a loss of about 66%. The next group of seed pods started to open about two weeks later. These were mixed hybrids, most with some Saluenensis and Retic hybrid blood line. Our luck seemed to change, we had about 140 good seeds and only 18 hollow seeds or a loss of about 12%. It's difficult to talk of the mother plants because both Lee and I have discarded most of the standard plants that you may be growing and instead use our various large seedling plants as mother plants since we feel they have much superior flowers for show or breeding purposes.

We used our normal method of germinating the seeds which is to bag them in a plastic bag using a mixture of peat moss and vermiculite, the mix being damp, but definitely not *wet* or soggy with water. Too wet a mix is the reason most people lose the seeds due to rot or excess moisture. The bags are then placed in a warm grow box, which has a bank of fluorescent lights on 24 hours continuously.

Our starting group contained about 132 seeds, some very weak looking. Of

these we eventually grafted 93 plants and assuming we lose another 10%, we will have about 84 new plants using "Olympic Gold" pollen.

I have read the various published articles written by the Chinese and Japanese on the hollow seed problem using Chrysanthema pollen. Both Lee and I feel that the pollen in Olympic Gold is definitely different than that of other Camellia species. It is extremely fine and should be used almost when the flower starts to open. We both feel that if we wait too long, most of the fine pollen will be lost due to slight wind or breeze. I did not look at the anthers under a microscope, but I believe most of the pollen is gone, so our work last year, when we only had a dozen flowers to work with, when we carefully used tweezers to hold the anthers to try to apply pollen, was probably a wasted effort. Even though we used a magnified eye piece to check the pistil to see if pollen had deposited. This season we had about 75 flowers to work with, so we reverted to collecting pollen in a small glass dish and used a small artist brush to apply it to the mother plant. Being aware of the "Hollow Seed" problem helps us to try different things to correct this deficiency. What we are trying to do is to be positive that *all* of the "stigma" of the mother plant is covered with pollen. It will be interesting to see if we correct some of this deficiency and reduce the "hollow" seed occurrence. This is especially important since we would like to use the Japonicas as mother plants.

Our stored pollen from last year produced *no* new seed pod set. Here again, the problem may be too sparse an application of pollen. We have stored pollen from about 15 flowers for use next blooming season. This sounds like a lot of pollen, but it is not.

Some of our crosses are as follows (1984):

1. Irradiated Saluenensis X Ruby X Olympic Gold
2. Willow Wand X Silver Mist X Olympic Gold

3. Arcadia X Olympic Gold
4. 4 Winds X Olympic Gold
5. White Retic (Saluenensis X C'Robe) X Olympic Gold
6. Kohinor X Elsie Jury X Olympic Gold
7. Eliz. Johnson - Mouchancha X Olympic Gold
8. Ruby — Pink Sparkle — Ruby X Olympic Gold
9. A Gum — Flowergirl X Olympic Gold
10. Rudy's Granthamiana — Ville X Olympic Gold
11. Several others including straight Japonica X Olympic Gold

All of the above seedlings plus some others were *all* grafted on to two gallon Sasanqua understock.

This season Lee and I started our grafting program early in November. We cut down any seedling that did not look like it was worth keeping. We were brutal and about 3 or 4 hundred 2 gallon plants had their heads cut off. Next season we hope to weed out even more inferior plants. Using this philosophy of "Selected Breeding" over a long period of time we are actually keeping only 1% of our various crosses. Since these are mostly "both parent" known crosses, you can see how lucky you are if you do hit a good flower.

When our "Olympic Gold" plants started to bud up this year some interesting things were observed. First the new buds started from fresh leaf joints, some of these in clusters of 8 to 10 buds, always one bud to a leaf. The 3 plants at my home *all* budded. For some reason the plant at Lee's home did not set buds even though the plant was large, being about 4 feet tall. Lee and I decided to switch plants so that he would have a flowering plant with fresh pollen to work with.

Our Olympic Gold plant bloomed at exactly the same time this year as it did last year. On February 1 it was open and continued to bloom for two months until April 1.

About April first, our first seedling

using Chinese Chrysantha pollen bloomed. This is the first Chrysantha "F₂" (second generation) hybrid to bloom in the U.S.A. It's a cross of Saluenensis X C'Robe, one of two crosses that I refer to as "White Retics." We obtained a 4 inch pink flower. In keeping with the results the Chinese are having in their hybridizing program using Retics, a pink or red flower was what we should have expected, disappointing, but expected. Fortunately, the very last flowers on Olympic Gold had just finished opening, so we used the Saluenensis - C'Robe X Chinese Chrysantha pollen and hopefully set seed on our Olympic Gold plant. We back-crossed and using Olympic Gold pollen on the Saluenensis - C'Robe X Chinese Chrysantha seedling. Actually 3 flowers bloomed and I will try to save the small amount of pollen for use early next year.

The most important occurrence in our second year of blooming Olympic Gold is that we have definitely set seed on the mother plant. There are a great many unknowns when working with a new camellia species. Like species Granthamiana, species Chrysantha has an over abundance of pollen, but seemingly does not pollenate itself. We may find out 3 or 4 years from now that all we have produced is some more Chrysantha type seeds and not hybrids. In any case, again, only time will tell, and we must put forth the effort in order to obtain results. Our possible Olympic Gold seeds are as follows:

1. Olympic Gold X Lady in Red — Cliff Parks
2. Olympic Gold X Botanuki
3. Olympic Gold X Silver Chalice
4. Olympic Gold X Saluenensis - C'Robe X Chinese Chrysantha

The largest seed, the pollen from Lady in Red - Cliff Parks is about 3/8 of an inch in diameter. The others are still small and could be lost. Some of our new crosses using Olympic Gold pollen are very interesting. For the first time, after trying about 5 years, I have

set a seed on a Granthamiana hybrid, which has never seeded before. I tried many times to get a "take" on the Granthamianas this season, with no success, except for this one plant. It's strange that because of the veined leaf similarity and flower shape, pollen mass when opening etc., one tends to believe the Granthamiana and Chrysantha probably are closely related, and hopefully we would have the missing "bridge" to obtain F₂ and F₃ Granthamiana hybrids, which have for the most part eluded us in the past. The camellia species Irrawadiensis or a cross of Irrawadiensis X C'Robe - Tiffany did not produce any seed set, crossed either way, even though the basic leaf and plant structure is similar to Chrysantha. There is certainly a great deal to learn about the species Chrysantha in the next few years.

Since "time" is a very important factor in camellia hybridizing, let us stop and reconsider what has happened in the last few years.

When the first seeds of Chrysantha were obtained out of China, there were several people that were growing them. In the Los Angeles area another party and I obtained single seeds from two different sources. The other party lost their single seed whereas Lee and I carefully babied our seed along until finally, last year, February 1, 1984, it became the first Chrysantha seed to bloom a true yellow camellia flower in the United States. Prior to its blooming, the various people I talked to and the various articles I read all seemed to agree on carefully labeling the plants in order to properly identify the potentially different flowers and growers.

Even before our plant bloomed last year, I was writing to my dear friend in Japan, Yoshiaki Andoh, discussing the leaf form, color etc., of Chrysantha. I obtained a scion of a Chrysantha plant that has a leaf form that is long and narrow, much more akin to the original plants in China.

After our "Olympic Gold" plant bloomed both Yoshiaki Andoh and I

discussed the lighter color and perhaps the reason for this in the first generation offspring (F₁).

The picture in the new Australian camellia publication (December 1984) of their "first bloom", of a seed of Chrysantha certainly shows a flower that is different in color and form than our flower.

Reports that I have received from northern California and the east coast of the U.S.A. of a different seed of Chrysantha blooming for the first time (1985) also denote a different flower form and color.

It took approximately three years for our seedling of Chrysantha to bloom. During this time camellia people talked of obtaining and labeling the various plants for proper identification and characteristics etc. Lee and I have at least 4 different seedlings of Chrysantha growing. Once *our* seed of Chrysantha bloomed yellow a few people started to make statements to the effect that all the Chrysantha seedlings were identical. An unbelievable comment from people that had seen only one flower, and a far cry from the thought of having the time and patience to properly evaluate other seedling flower characteristics as they bloomed. I don't know the reason for this action, but it is an inescapable fact that Lee and I have bloomed the first yellow camellia in the United States. Nothing anyone can say or do will change this milestone event.

I would like to receive 35mm slides of *all* of the different Chrysantha seeds that bloom over the next few years to use in a slide talk and as a basic reference. I would appreciate the courtesy and help of any individual or camellia club who could make these various slides available to me. I will be glad to pay the expense or perhaps could do something else helpful to reciprocate.

Lee and I have a great deal of patience in our hybridizing work. One generation of flowers takes 3 or 4 years to see. We have some flowers that represent 12 or so years of work. With

over 80 new F₂ Olympic Gold seedlings grafted up and an excellent chance of obtaining at least the same amount from our 1985 hybridizing effort, we are certainly doing our part. The first flowering of our "pink" flower F₂ Hybrid and its back crossing both ways into Olympic Gold shows our effort is moving in the right direction. We feel that the introduction of yellow Chrysantha seedlings into our hybridizing program will produce the desired result of multicolor yellow camellia flowers.

We are willing to devote this time and effort even if it means several more generations of plants that could take another 3, 6, 9 years.

We are on the threshold of exciting *new* times in camellia history. It means hard work and dedication. Your encouraging help will be appreciated.

COLOR ME PINK

by Bill Donnan

Much has been written about the proliferation of *C. reticulata* species and cultivars with *reticulata* parentage. If one compares the number of listings in the 1984 CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE with the number listed in the 1981 Edition one finds that there has been an increase of 164 new cultivars. (Forty-eight of these are the Yunnan *reticulatas* imported to the University of California Botanical Garden in 1980, which were given English names.) Yet there is another category of hybrids which is also increasing rapidly. These are the non-retic hybrids. Seventy-five new non-retic hybrids were registered since the 1981 Edition came out. As more and more hybridists strive for a yellow and for fragrance, there will be more and more new non-retic cultivars which will see the light of day.

Let's trace the development of the non-retic hybrid. Originally it was thought that the different species of camellia would not cross. The first successful cross of a non-reticulata hybrid

was one made at Kew Gardens in London, England in 1935. It was a cross of *C. saluenensis* x and *C. japonica* 'Quercifoliage'. It was named 'C.E. Coates' and, believe it or not, it was a deep rose color in spite of the fact that most subsequent *saluenensis* crosses have been pink. The second and third successful crosses of the non-retic hybrids were made in 1940 by J.C. Williams of Wales. They, too, were *saluenensis* x *japonica* crosses and he named them 'J.C. Williams' and 'Phillipa Forwood'. They were both medium, single pinks. In 1941 J.C. Williams crossed *saluenensis* x 'Donckelarii' and got the famous 'Donation' which has been a favorite around the world. In 1942 he came out with 'Mary Christian,' another *saluenensis* x *japonica* cross. This cultivar is a small, single pink. Subsequently, in 1947 and 1948 two more non-retic hybrids were registered by Williams. Then in 1950 there were a flood of 10 new cultivars registered. Eight of them came from England (Williams; Hangar; Clerke; and Aberconway) and two here in the United States. These first non-retic hybrids registered here in the USA were 'Silvia May' a *cuspidata* x *saluenensis* cross made by Dr. W.M. Wells of Oakland, California and 'William's Lavender' a *saluenensis* x *japonica* cross made at Fruitland Nursery in Atlanta, Georgia. In the 1950 decade there were 45 cultivars registered. In the 1960s there were 82 new hybrids and in the 1970s there were 102 new cultivars registered. As mentioned above there were 75 new cultivars registered so far up to June 1983. Only time will tell how many more new non-retic hybrids there will be by the time the 1987 CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE goes to press.

The predominant color of the non-retic hybrids is pink or some shade of pink. Out of the 315 non-retic hybrids listed in the 1984 CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE, 265, or a little over 84 percent, are described as pink of some shade of pink. Seven of these cul-

tivars are named 'Pink something'. The adjectives used by the originators who have registered these cultivars and have attempted to describe the color runs the gamut of every imaginable shade of pink. There are 26 different shades of pink and I am listing them as follows: pink; pale pink; light pink; orchid pink; salmon pink; apricot pink; rose pink; fuchsia pink; medium pink; peach pink; pastel pink; lavender pink; blush pink; phlox pink; ivory pink; dawn pink; deep pink; warm pink; satin pink; baby pink; lilac pink; cherry pink; mauve pink; raspberry pink; flesh pink; and rich pink. This is not to say that every time someone makes a non-retic cross the resulting bloom will be pink. However, there is an 80 percent chance that the bloom will be some shade of pink. Furthermore, it will probably be a small to medium, single or semi-double. Most species other than reticulata, japonica and granthamiana have small blooms.

This is not to say that there have not been many outstanding blooms created by crosses of the non-retic species. Some of the most outstanding non-reticulata hybrids which have been created are as follows: 'Donation'; 'Waltz Time'; 'Angel Wings'; 'Freedom Bell'; 'Coral Delight'; 'E.G. Waterhouse'; 'Spring Festival'; 'Tulip Time'; 'Elegant Beauty'; 'Garden Glory'; and 'Elsie Jury'. The camellia cultivar 'Elsie Jury' has won more camellia show awards in the last ten years than any other cultivar. So, go for it, you hybridizers! Who knows, you may end up with another non-retic hybrid which will be better than 'Elsie Jury' and you can name it 'Pink Gold'.



RECOGNITION

by Jim Randall

In a hobby such as ours (where everything is on a volunteer basis), one of the many rewards is recognition by your fellow hobbyists. There are many hobbyists who have received little recognition, although they have contributed a great deal to our hobby on the local, regional and even national levels. Several years ago the Northern California Camellia Council (NCCC) instituted a "Camellia Person of the Year" award to recognize outstanding individuals who have contributed greatly to the hobby.

The award is made in the form of a plaque. These have varied in size and shape over the years, but the last few years we have settled on a particular style. The plaque is walnut (7" x 10") with an engraved brass plate (4" x 5") with the appropriate name, date, words, etc. Also, in one upper corner there is a partial round two inch cutout covered with a brass plate on which a camellia is engraved.

Each year a committee may select a person or persons to be recognized. Awards are generally made at the NCCC picnic held in August each year at Micke Grove Park near Lodi. It was only fitting that Dave Feathers was the first to receive the award. Recipients of past awards have been:

Dave Feathers	Jack Mandarich
Ron Kellogg	John Augis
Art Gonos	Ken Hallstone
Al & Vera Parker	Mary Anne & Wilbur Ray

Congratulations to Tony ("Mini-King") Pinheiro who received the 1985 "Camellia Person of the Year" award at the NCCC picnic held on August 25th. Tony has been a driving force within the Modesto Society and the NCCC for many years. He is also one of the persons instrumental in bringing about the popularity of miniature and small Camellias at our shows. His recognition was long overdue!

All of the above individuals contribute in his or her own way, but all have given much time and effort to the hobby they love. I'm sure those who have received awards have been truly thrilled and felt honored to be acknowledged as a leader in the hobby.

Last January the NCCC presented a "Special Achievement Award" to Frank Pursel for his outstanding work in the field of Camellia hybridizing. As you may know, Frank also received a similar award from ACS made at the Mobile convention in late January. In addition, his introduction, Jean Pursel, also won the coveted Aubrey Harris Hybrid Award.

We in Northern California are very proud of these people and the many contributions they have made to our hobby. The NCCC feels this is a very important facet of the hobby and plans to continue this award to deserving individuals.

For those of you who missed the Nuccio's Golden Anniversary bash, the NCCC also presented a plaque to Joe and Julius commemorating their 50 years of contributions to our Camellia hobby. The Nuccios' (all five) stimulus and leadership pertaining to quality Camellia introductions is one of the brightest spots on the Camellia scene.

I have written this article in hopes that more societies and regional councils will recognize their deserving members. This is one way we can reward those who have given so much to our hobby.



Mrs. Hazel Petrovich-Pray
205 E. Driffill Blvd., #109
Oxnard, CA 93030

What on earth can be done about a planting site which is clay on top of a filled gravel pit? Don't tell me to dig up the clay! It's like cement and I'm 77. I'd surely like some articles about difficult spots for camellias.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

by Bob and Alice Neely

The final meeting of the camellia season was held at descanso Gardens on April 30th. The Pacific Camellia Society annual awards banquet was enjoyed by members of several camellia societies of Southern California as well as 33 touring "New Zealanders." An hour of tasting delectable tid-bits and sampling good beverages put everyone in a pleasant mood for a catered dinner served to 105 people in the Descanso Clubhouse.

The New Zealand group put the finishing touches to a great day after touring Nuccio Nursery and visiting Huntington Gardens.

The "Award of Excellence" was presented by the Pacific Society and consisted of high point winners of all camellia shows between San Diego and Fresno, California.

Again we offer to you the winners: None other than Sergio and Elsie Bracci, who added a third year to the perpetual large trophy bowl. A crystal salad dish was presented to the winners. The runner-up couple, Bob and Alice Jaacks, were presented with a crystal salad bowl for their efforts in displaying prize blooms in the many shows. Honorable mention gifts were presented to winners in order of winning points. They were Mel Belcher, Chuck Gerlach, Jack Woo and Dean Alltizer.

Editor's note: Letters from the local hobbyists who have overcome clay or hardpan will be appreciated.

The Braccis

By Pat Greutert

Remember the little kid you looked at when you were young and you thought, "Gee, if that kid wasn't around I'd be the best. I could throw the ball the farthest, I'd be the fastest runner," or perhaps, "I'd be the best speller in the class."?

That's the way camellia hobbyists feel when they look at Sergio and Elsie Bracci. In the six years since the inception of the Pacific Trophy, awarded to the growers who win the most prizes in camellia shows from San Diego to Fresno, Sergio and Elsie have won the trophy four times.

The high standards the Braccis set make California camellia hobbyists try a little harder to raise superior blooms. Victory can be sweet.

Harold Dryden, popular camellia show judge, recalls the time he disqualified himself from judging a particular group of flowers because one of the camellias was his. His flower won the blue ribbon.

"It was one of my moments of greatest satisfaction when the entry cards were flipped over and all the others said 'Bracci,'" smiles Harold.

The Braccis began camellia competition after reading a 1969 Sunset magazine article titled "So You Want to Enter a Camellia Show." They picked all their camellias, stacked them three deep in a little box and marched off to an Arboretum show. There they met Grady Perigan, show chairman and president of the Temple City Camellia Society at the time, who showed them how to exhibit their flowers.

"Surprisingly, we won quite a few blue ribbons and we were hooked," says Elsie.

The Braccis had grown camellias since 1955 when they build their San Gabriel home. Sergio can ever remember the first six camellias they brought from Owen Campbell's Longden Nursery: Adolfe Audusson Special (still his favorite), Finlandia, Mathotiana, Ville de Nantes, Blood of China and

Shiro Chan. A little later they added six Covinas which have developed into an 18 foot long hedge to awe passersby when it blooms beside their driveway.

Much of their success may be attributed to teamwork, believes Sergio. "I grow, fertilize and keep the plants up. Elsie does the watering, pruning, gibbing and picking. She has a good eye for choosing the prizewinners."

You get some idea of the vigor and enthusiasm of these two when you visit their home. Outside, not just camellias, but every tree, plant and blade of grass is developed to its optimum. Inside, Sergio's carefully-maintained beautiful clock collection lines the walls. The aroma of simmering minestrone and baking coffee cake which Elsie prepares for her daughter's catering business fills the air. A pile of wood sits ready for Sergio to turn it into a pinewood derby track on which his grandson's scout troop will race their cars.

Pinewood derbies aren't new to Sergio. Years ago Sergio researched pinewood derby cars as thoroughly as he now researches camellias to make sure his son's car would be a prizewinner.

When she led her daughter's girl scout troop Elsie helped the girls use camellias to construct a prize winning float for the Temple City Camellia Parade.

Fortunately, after entering that first flower show in 1969, the Braccis joined the Temple City and Southern California Camellia Societies. They threw their vast energies into both groups. As current Southern California Camellia Society President Dave Wood says, "Whatever it is, they're in the middle of it."

Not only have they held high offices in both societies and served as flower show chairpersons and judges, Sergio works on the board of directors of both societies and as Southern California Camellia Council representative. He enlivens many meetings as featured

speaker on the camellia circuit. No event would be complete without Elsie to wrap up the details, whether it's a show, reservations or a potluck dinner. Many Society members learned to prune their plants or ready their show blooms from Elsie. The two also have opened their home for some memorable Society fund raisers.

Sergio grows about 1500 seedlings in their back yard to use as grafts for Society plant raffles. He had never refused anyone a scion from one of his prize camellias and he grafts those scions generously onto the plants he donates to the Societies.

In a group, attention centers on the pair. Good listeners as well as voluble talkers, conversation swirls and eddies about them. Much of their camellia culture know-how developed during talk sessions, much of it also through Sergio's intensive research.

Their liveliness, congeniality and camellia knowledge (plus the fact that they're ITALIAN) prompted noted nurseryman Julius Nuccio and wife Bonnie to take the Braccis with them as goodwill ambassadors to Japan in 1984 at the invitation of Japanese flower show producers.

In Japan Sergio, assisted by an interpreter, lectured on camellias to an elite group of 125 professional Japanese nurserymen, as well as to a large television audience. Fish-hating Elsie put on a stellar performance at banquets, eating raw fish as though she enjoyed it.

Sergio and Elsie share common roots. Their parents all came from Bagni di Lucca near Florence, Italy. There, in a land of white houses and red-tiled roofs called "The Cradle of the Renaissance," many people supported themselves in the arts. Sergio's father has a statuary business, as did Elsie's father.

Later the two families migrated to the United States. The Braccis

brought three year old Sergio along and settled in Chicago. Elsie's family, the Dell' Ossos, chose to settle in Los Angeles where Elsie was born. The two families kept ties. When Sergio got out of the service in 1945 he came to California where he met, courted and then married Elsie.

Sergio, like his father, went into the statuary business. In his El Sereno shop he still casts statues from sculptured originals.

When Sergio first went into business, because he had a truck, he helped a nurseryman down the street by picking up flowers for him at the wholesaler. He became interested in plants and the old nurseryman nurtured that interest in long talks they had together.

Along with their three children, Sergio and Elsie began raising plants. Sergio first tried cycads, of which he still has a goodly number. Elsie now specializes in sheffleras, ferns, gloxinias, asters, snapdragons and raises flat after flat of impatiens, besides camellias, of course.

In discussing the Braccis no article would be complete without a few tips from the prizewinners. They have the following advice:

"Don't give camellias a lot of nitrogen.

"Feed saluenensis hybrids about half what you do other camellias.

"Waxed boxes used to deliver chickens to Colonel Sanders make great carriers for show blooms."

And from Sergio, "Enjoy — that's the secret of growing anything."

And a last word from Elsie, "Winning is fun. We all like winning, but when you go to a flower show be generous, take flowers for the enjoyment of the public, whether you think they'll win or not."

It takes a superhuman effort to beat this pair in competition but the Braccis will be the first to give a helping hand to those who want to try.



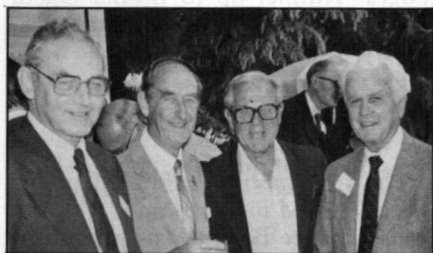
NEW ZEALAND CAMELLIA SOCIETY TOURING PARTY

In May of 1985 a group of 33 New Zealanders visited Nuccio's Nursery, Huntington Library and Gardens, and were hosted by the Pacific Camellia Society at Descanso Gardens as well as by a Camellia group at the Bracci's.



Back row from left: (1) Irene Decke, (2) Terry Devereux, Chairman, Nelson Bays Branch, (3) John Donald, (4) Judith Donald, (5) Jim Rolfe, Editor, (6) Pat Nelson, President, (7) Harry Cave, Registrar (8) Jim Hansen, Vice-President

Front row from left: (1) John Hedley, (2) George Wallis, (3) Rudy Moore, (4) Lesley Hedley, (5) Dorothy Abraham, Chairman, Manawatu Branch, (6) Joyce Wallis, (7) Betty Wragge, (8) Heather Rolfe, (9) Anne Devereux, (10) Richard Clere, Honorary Life Member, Past President, (11) Agnes Betschalt, (12) Anne Williams, (13) (Obscured) Barbara Campbell, (14) Jean Clere, (15) Phyllis Drury, (16) Dorothy Hansen, (17) Mary Campbell, (18) Alison Wilson, (19) Jean Knox, (20) Keith Knox, (21) Coreen Fitzwater, (22) Jo Curry, (23) Vonnie Cave, Honorary Life Member, (24) Bob Bischoff, (25) Joan Bischoff, (26) Audrey Beasley



Left to right: Jim Rolfe, Editor, New Zealand Camellia Bulletin; Jim Hansen, Vice-President, New Zealand Camellia Society; Julius Nuccio; Glenn Smith.



Left to Right: Caryl Pitkin, Two lovely New Zealanders, Belcher, Helen Perigan

1985 CAMELLIA AWARDS

At the recent Awards Picnic held at the Hospitality House in beautiful Descanso Gardens, the Southern California Camellia Society made the following awards.

The MARGARITE HERTRICH AWARD which may be made annually to an outstanding outdoor grown camellia japonica seedling or variegated form of that seedling is to be made to the originator only. The award went to C. Japonica "Eleanor Martin Supreme" developed by the late Caesar Breschini of San Jose, California.

The FRANK L. STORMENT RETICULATA AWARD was made to C. Reticulata "Lasca Beauty" developed at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

The WILLIAM E. WYLAND MINIATURE AWARD went to C. Japonica "Tama No Ura" developed at Nagasaki, Japan.

The DR. JOHN TAYLOR HYBRID AWARD which may be made annually to an outstanding hybrid camellia without reticulata parentage or variegated form of this hybrid is made to the originator only. The award was made to Vern McCaskill of McCaskill Nursery for his outstanding cultivar, "Waltz Time Var."

The WILLIAM E. WOODRUFF CAMELLIA HALL OF FAME AWARD which may be made annually to not more than two camellia cultivars of any species including mutants and hybrids which have been generally available in Southern California for a period of at least 10 years went to Camellia Reticulata hybrid "Mou-chang" developed by Howard Asper of Escondido, California and to Camellia Japonica "Midnight" developed by Nuccio's Nursery of Altadena, California.

THE TOP SINGLES OF 1985

by Don Bergamini

The judges have spoken and have chosen the following varieties as the top singles in their classes.

In the miniature class, Pink Smoke tops the list with four wins followed by Cottontail and Ellen Daniel with three wins each. Eighty-five was a good year for Pink Smoke and Cottontail as they have never been the big single winners in the miniature class before.

The small class saw a three-way tie with five wins each among Ave Maria, Splash of White and Demi-Tasse. Splash of White is new to the winner's circle as a top variety. Watch for this one in the future.

Nuccio's Jewel takes the top honors in the medium class with five wins and Sawada's Dream as runner-up with four wins.

Top honors in the large to very large class go to Tomorrow Park Hill with six wins followed by Elegans Champagne and Showtime with four wins each.

The big winner in the Reticulata Hybrid class was Emma Gaeta Var. with eight decisions as top retic by the judges. Runner-up to Emma Gaeta Var. was Dr. Clifford Parks and Lasca Beauty with six bests each.

Elsie Jury and Angel Wings take top honors in the non-reticulata class with five wins apiece.

The information compiled below was organized in accordance with the Nomenclature Book as far as size was concerned. A variety was given a win if it won a best or a runner-up in an open, closed or special class.

Miniatures (any species)

Pink Smoke	4
Cottontail	3
Ellen Daniel	3
Fircone Var.	2
Chrysantha	2
Francis Council	2
Hopkin's Pink	2
Little Michael	2
Little Red Ridinghood	2
Lemon Drop	2
Man Size	2
Shuchuka	2
12 others	1 each

Smalls (any species)

Ave Maria	5
Demi-Tasse	5
Splash of White	5
Alison Leigh Woodroof	5
Grace Albritton	3
Tom Thumb	3
Black Tie	2
15 Others	1 each

Large/Very Large Japonicas

Tomorrow Park Hill	6
Elegans Champagne	4
Showtime	4
Elegans Supreme	3
Grand Slam Var.	3
Miss Charleston Var.	3
Moonlight Bay	3
Adolphe Audusson Var.	
Carter's Sunburst	2
Elegans Splendor	2
Fashionata	2
Helen Bower	2
Kramer's Supreme	2
Silver Cloud	2
Snowman	2
Swan Lake	2
Tomorrow's Dawn	2
16 others	1 each

Medium Japonicas

Nuccio's Jewel	5
Sawada's Dream	4
Eleanor Martin Sup.	3
Midnight	3
Wildfire	3
Alta Gavin	2
Anita	2
Cherries Jubilee	2
Donnan's Dream	2
Feathery Touch	2

In the Pink Var.	2
Magnoliaeiflora	2
Margaret Davis	2
Nuccio's Cameo	2
Nuccio's Pearl	2
Tenju	2
16 others	1 each

Reticulata/Reticulata Hybrids

Emma Gaeta Var.	8
Dr. Clifford Parks	6
Lasca Beauty	6
Harold Paige	5
Valley Knudsen	4
Al Gunn	3
Hulyn Smith	3
Valentine Day	3
Valentine Day Var.	3
Arcadia	2
Arch of Triumph	2
Betty Ridley	2
Pharaoh	2
10 others	1 each

Non-Reticulata Hybrids

Angel Wings	5
Elsie Jury	5
Julie Hamiter	4
Anticipation Var.	3
Anticipation	2
Freedom Bell	2
Garden Glory	2
Mona Jury	2
Pink Dahlia	2
Waltz Time	2
Waltz Time Var.	2
Wynne Rayner	2
10 others	1 each

Species

Shibori Egao	4
Roseaflora	2
Star above Star	2
7 others	1 each

Newer varieties which made the grade this year that you should keep your eyes open for in the future are: Cherries Jubilee, Nuccio's Cameo, Showtime, Donnan's Dream, Shibori Egao, Splash of White, Lemon Drop, Chrysantha, Emma Gaeta Var., Hulyn Smith and Mona Jury.

Good luck to all in the 1986 show season.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM DAVID C. TREHANE

Probus, Truro
Cornwall TR2 4JG

1/28/85

Dear Editor,

After 'The Agonising Reappraisal' (which at 76 I much enjoyed) I can understand Bill Donnan dropping a century but when Bill Woodroof, another camellia giant plays Rip van Winkle too and takes our great plant collector, George Forrest, along with him back to 1832 my old typewriter starts chattering!

How I agree with them both about the flood of retics. So long as they are registered separately grown in containers they will all be beautiful offspring. Is the same process halted in Australia and New Zealand by planting them out in fields where the best have to be either outstanding or in some special way distinct? Could not the Southern California Camellia Society promote a trial ground?

To get the *reticulata* record straight we must go back to Captain Rawes who obtained a plant of the camellia later named after him and brought it from China in 1820 and gave it to Thomas Carey Palmer then of Bromley in Kent, having married Rebecca Rawes on 28 April 1807. He later moved to Beckenham and died in 1839. His memorial in Bromley church was unfortunately destroyed by bombing during the last war.

The camellia was shipped in the East India Company's ship Warren Hastings and it was apparently the last voyage of Capt. Richard Rawes. He died on the 24th September 1831 aged 44 years.

In 1824 John Dampier Parks, collecting for what is now the Royal Horticultural Society, brought home from China a very similar *reticulata* camellia. In fact it was different for one of

these was fertile and one thought to be sterile. They were confused in their publication and illustration.

In 1857 Robert Fortune obtained and brought safely home a plant of *C. reticulata* flore pleno, Fortune's Double, Pagoda or, correctly, the Yunnan camellia Songzilin.

To complete the history of introductions from China we move on to George Forrest, who found a wealth of wild *reticulata* camellias (along with wild *C. japonica* close to *C. saluenensis* to complicate matters) growing near Tengyueh in Yunnan. He sent home to his sponsors seed under the numbers 9305 and 9715 in 1913-14, 25352 in 1924 and 27165, and 27393 in 1925. Here another spanner crept into the works for it seems that the camellias listed in *Camellia Nomenclature* under the heading *Species Saluenensis* germinated among his seeds of single *reticulata* camellias. It looks now as if these are wild hybrids from *C. reticulata*, except *Alba Simplex*, but their similarity to the *williamsii* hybrids later bedevilled the discussion and fostered a great deal of disbelief among the botanists when *Salutation* appeared upon the scene.

Putting *Salutation* on one side for a moment let us refer to the RHS *Rhododendron & Camellia Year Book* for 1968 wherein Neil Treseder drew attention to *Camellia 'Emperor'* described and illustrated in Plate I of Verschaffelt's "Nouvelle Iconographie des Camellias" volume III of 1850. Mr. Davies, a horticulturist of Liverpool (Wavertree) had raised it by putting pollen of *C. reticulata* on a flower of *C. japonica Colvili*. The description reads like that of many retics today 'A beautiful and unusual variety, the petals being very large, crowded, twisted, waved, irregularly grouped, of a deep scarlet becoming almost white at the margins'. This Emperor was distributed widely and was grown at Ghent.

Late another camellia was called Emperor and probably another but the true one seems lost. Anyone with an old lead label inscribed Emperor could get his name in the camellia history books!

Emperor had shown that reticulata hybrids were possible but when the new camellia, Salutation, was given its Award of Merit by the RHS in March 1936 this had either been forgotten or not known and a fairly lively debate ensued, mostly in the Year Books of 1956-59. The Commissioners of Crown Lands, in practice the royal gardeners of Windsor Great Park, exhibited a flower of Salutation as 'any other hybrid of saluenensis' but were doubtful of its validity. That discussion was avoided by setting a special class for Salutation!

The raiser of Salutation was Col. R. Stephenson Clarke of Borde Hill, Sussex who wrote that he had not raised any hybrids of *C. reticulata* Wild Form and that the only hybrids he had raised were *C. saluenensis* x *C. reticulata* (Captain Rawes) named Salutation and *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica* Donckelarii named Donation, and in that order.

Mr. C. P. Raffill of Kew had visited Borde Hill with Dr. Harold Hume and concluded that Salutation was a williamsii hybrid, in fact 'a sister seedling of Donation'. This was the conclusion of an article by George Johnstone, a leading authority who had in his garden at Trewithen all George Forrest's seedlings including a fine set of those camellias listed as Species Saluenensis in Camellia Nomenclature. From a reading of an Editor's Note in the Yearbook it becomes apparent that Mr. Johnstone sent foliage of these up as Saluenensis itself, which is in fact quite distinct with smaller reticulate leaves. Chromosomes, too, entered the debate with different counts bedevilling the discussion which ended with the leading expert, Dr. Janaki Ammal giving the count of Salutation as 60, thus confirming its reticulata parentage, in her article in the American Camellia

Year Book of 1952.

The hybridity of Salutation has, of course, been mirrored in the characters of Brian, Barbara Clark, and Phyl Doak in New Zealand and in Dr. Louis Pollizzi and Free Style in the USA, all with foliage and flowers similar to those of williamsii hybrids. Felice Harris and the Girls share the same characteristics, although they derive from Sasanquas.

What is more important to us in Britain is that reticulata hybrids, where the pollen of a reticulata camellia has been put on *C. saluenensis*, are so very hardy. I had noticed this in Free Style and it is confirmed in an article by Peter Fischer in the current journal of the International Camellia Society on Camellias in Germany wherein he names this hybrid as a success in conditions of a short summer and a hard winter which would appall most of us.

Perhaps all I have done is to correct the calendar of Bill Donnan and Bill Woodroof leaving them to go on grappling with the weightier problems of the Yunnan retics and their offspring from 1947 onwards, to which we add no quota in Britain! But I have forgotten the seed I have picked off Lasca Beauty, Dr. Clifford Parks and Royalty after the past hot summer. Perhaps I am too old to join the sinners!

Yours sincerely,
David Trehane

FROM WILLIAM W. DONNAN
2/11/85

Dear Glenn Smith:

Thank you for sending me a xerox copy of David C. Trehane's letter of January 28, 1985. Trehane is correct in his analysis of the chronology of the introduction of *C. reticulata* into the Western World. The listing in our recent article on "The Reticulata Hybrid Problem" is in slight error due to

the typesetting by the printer.

When I received my copy of the November-December issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW I shuddered inwardly when I read the listing and the several incorrect dates appended thereto. I immediately made corrections — including the correction that there were 18 (and not just 1) *C. reticulatas* imported from China in 1948. These corrections were airmailed to Tom Savige, the International "Chief Justice of the Supreme Court" regarding *Camellia Nomenclature*. I did this because I thought he would be "all over me like a tent" when he discovered the errors and I wanted to beat him to the punch.

Well, it remained for David Trehane to set the record straight and I think that he has added some very interesting sidelights into the historical background. When I was the Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW I used to get the letters calling attention to the misspelled words. Now that I am beginning to wade into some of the botanical facets of the hobby my neck will be out a mile.

For example — I am not a botanist nor a horticulturalist. Yet it upsets me when our good friends from overseas and from "down under" keep harping about the so-called "williamsii" cultivars. Apparently a "williamsii" *camellia* is any cross of *saluenensis* X *japonica*. It is given that epithet because J.C. Williams made the first cross of *saluenensis* X *japonica*. NOT SO! According to the CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE Mr. C.F. Coates made the first cross of *saluenensis* X *japonica* five years before Williams, in 1935 at Kew Gardens! Thus they should be referred to as "coatesii" cultivars.

Furthermore, if one is going to carry this practice to the ridiculous we would be obliged to refer to all *sasanqua* X *reticulata* crosses as "aspersii" after the first successful crosses made by Howard Asper. Any *Japonica* X *Irriwadiensis* crosses would be called "hilsmansii" after Dr. P.L. Hilsman. And the list goes on. Alas! Dr. Hils-

man also made the first cross of *Cuspidata* X *Fraterna* with his "Milky Way" in 1965. Now we would have two different "hilsmansii" epithets to deal with!

What I am saying is this: Why confuse the ordinary hobbyist with all this reference to the "williamsii" cultivars? Again, I want to thank David Trehane for setting the record straight on *reticulata* chronology. With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely Yours,
William W. Donnan



Roger Borland
1540 Ranchero Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056

You have a very frustrated reader down in Oceanside!

We like to show *camellias* and over the years have been very successful in the Southeastern U.S. Now, we have only one show (San Diego), and several we have entered in and around L.A. but we have trouble keeping blooms fresh for these.

So, in the Nov.-Dec. '84 Review, we were excited over the article by Frank Reed (Pg. 21 & 22). We found the Calbiochem Corp. in nearby La Jolla, but they refused to sell us NAA (Naphthalene-Acetic-Acid). Said they could legally sell only to *research organizations*, no individuals.

I've tried Floralife, but it hasn't worked for me and while florists generally use it to some extent, they aren't very enthusiastic about its effect.

Anyway, if you have found a source or if you do find one, please let me know. I wonder if a small item in the Review might uncover a source.



"OPEN" the SHOW and YOU LOCK US OUT

by Richard A. Stiern

The thrill of competition is basic. The anticipation, preparation, and finally the experience of the event itself all are a source of excitement and pleasure. Regardless of the sport, game, or contest, we are usually very careful that the affair is not spoiled by advantage or unfairness of competition.

The oval of the running track is carefully prepared and chalked, and the runners must never "jump the gun" or run out of their lanes. Hormones and steroids once gave some competitors tremendous advantage in lifting weights or running until the drugs were recognized and forbidden. Race horses are carefully segregated on the day of the meet, and saliva tests are taken after the races in order to preclude any drugging which could sooth arthritic legs or faulty respiration.

It's just not "cricket" or Marquis of Queensberry, you know. The chunk of iron in the boxing glove is history from the past, and competition must be equitable and fair.

Camellia hobbyists enjoy what has remained one of the most remarkable of competitions. Unlike many other more emotional events with their rancor and tears, camellia fanciers try very hard, succeed a little, and of all things they manage to help each other along the way. Where else will you find the winners willing to give their best stock (scions) to others so that even better blooms will be shown in future shows? Many of my finest plants are the result of such generous sharing from friends.

But a new concept has invaded our Camellia shows. It's called an "Open" show, and in my opinion this is a trend that threatens to end the enjoyable, unpredictable competition we have enjoyed in past years.

Now before anyone jumps to conclusions, I'd like to state that I have absolutely no objection to the use of gibberellic acid and the "jibbing" of

blooms. The practice is a delightful means of extending the camellia blooming seasons, so that lovely flowers may be enjoyed from early autumn until Easter. Gibbing also provides an additional and interesting facet to a camellia show, where a table of "Chemically Treated Blooms" will evoke interest, gasps and exclamations from spectators who have never seen such colossal blooms. And significantly, they will often remark, "If I could only grow camellias like that," never suspecting that God's best effort has been greatly augmented by clever agricultural scientists.

For reasons entirely my own I choose not to "gib" my plants, and I have never shown a chemically treated flower. Whether right or wrong, I don't believe removal of strategic scions in order to "jib" what remains can benefit my plants. And, perhaps it's old fashioned, but it rankles me to compete in a category of normal flowers and to find that one in the group has been "jibbed". I don't like to hear talk of spraying the entire plants with the hormone or injecting the stems with hypodermic needles. That's reminiscent of injecting the foreleg of the colt at Santa Anita, isn't it?

So the day of the Bloomsville Open Camellia Show has arrived. Before dawn my flowers are painstakingly cut by flashlight, (luckily none of the neighbors takes a shot at me) blooms are carefully boxed and packed in the car, and I drive 100 to 250 miles to the show. Friendly greetings are exchanged toward good folk too seldom seen, and I proceed to place my best blooms on the tables. That Charlean Varigated is the best I've ever seen in my yard, and my multiples are not too shabby either.

In the few minutes left before the judges convene, I make a tour of the tables to see that my flowers are looking their best. But Holy Toledo, look what's happened; there are now six

Charleans placed around mine, all at least half again larger than my lovely normal one. The same is true of the flowers I placed in all categories except miniatures and smalls. Huge bombs abound in the multiple divisions, and unfortunately to many judges large means good.

Perhaps my perspective is all wrong. In my opinion, camellia shows are intended for the enjoyment of the spectators, and perhaps to increase the interest in and knowledge of camellia culture. Why else do we engage a hall in a popular and attractive location, do all the back-breaking and tedious work to set up and tear down a show, and obtain maximum publicity? Small informal displays at our meetings are adequate for our members, but the annual event is to promote our fascinating hobby in our community.

So the spectators leave the Bloomsville Open Show, many with a carefully compiled list of the blooms they

enjoyed most, including some gigantic "gibbed" specimens. They will order and buy plants at their local nursery, and of course be disappointed at the very normal flowers which result. Much of the enthusiasm nurtured by the efforts at the show will be lost because their flowers are only normal in size.

In summation: I believe that the proliferation of the so-called "Open Show" will ultimately destroy the joy of exhibiting camellias. Chemically treated flowers should be kept on a table where they belong. Growers who feel like I do will become disgusted and will lose interest. Surely, we cannot be expected to chemically modify our blooms in order to continue to compete at the shows. It's a bit deceiving to display "hyped-up" flowers to a public who assumes they are looking at normal camellias.

It's a great and fascinating hobby; let's keep it so.

THE 'NAMING' DILEMMA

by Houghton S. Hall

In the past several months I have had occasion to register and name a number of new seedlings, the flowers on four of them having been under observation for six years, and three years on the fifth, thus I have had plenty of time to think about names for them.

Strange as it seems however, this is a great deal more difficult than one would suppose at first blush, and poses problems which become increasingly apparent.

I try to fit the new flower to a name which in some way is descriptive and distinctive of that particular bloom, but keeping in mind that the name must be used only once, and not for more than one species. This immediately limits the naming options available.

I was surprised to find, on careful review of both the 1981 and 1984 editions of 'Camellia Nomenclature', that most of the names I would like to have used had already been taken. What was more astonishing was that a similar careful check of all ACS Journals, published since the 1984 Edition, in order to check new registrations, revealed that 95%, or better, of all new seedlings are being named after a *person*, rather than a noun, adjective, or placename which would give some indication of what the new flower was like. This is the easy way out since it eliminates the 'problem' of trying to find a suitable name without doing a lot of research.

There are also some examples of people or person naming of camellia

cultivars that actually result in de-meaning the flower. These are the result of using the prefix 'Mr.', 'Mrs.', 'Dr.', or initial(s), without using a first name in conjunction thereto. An example of this is the great C. Japonica 'Mrs. D.W. Davis'. It is of course realized that there is a reason behind every name, but the beautiful flower deserved a better fate. By dropping the 'Mrs.', the 'D.W.', and using a first name in their place, the name would have still been personalized, but in a far more pleasing manner.

Although under current nomenclature Rules, No. 9 states:

"Although not mandatory, avoid use of the following names: (a) Names containing forms of address as distinguished from forms of title. (Example: Miss, Mr., Mrs., but forms of title such as Dr., Judge, Capt., etc., are permissible."

Perhaps the Registration Committee should consider a revision of the above and eliminate the use of the forms of address 'Mr.' and 'Mrs.' completely.

From the above I do not mean to dogmatically imply that a family or other person's name should never be used; it most certainly has its proper place in the nomenclature procedure, but at least currently the proportion of new camellias being named for people seems to be so predominant that the mix is extremely over-balanced.

Regardless of all the names for camellia cultivars which are already in place and cannot be used again, all we have to do is a little research and imagination — there are a million or more good expressive names out there that will fit any new camellia bloom to a 'T', without having to resort to the easy way by using a person's name.

WHO HAS 'BRESCHINI'S PRIDE'?

by H. Simon — NSW Foundation Branch

While in the garden of Eryldene recently, I was surprised to discover that quite a thick old trunk of a camellia was completely camouflaged by a half metre of healthy sasanqua foliage. Closer inspection revealed the label still attached to a dead branch bearing the name 'Breschini's Pride', a camellia japonica.

Alas, this disaster was the result of neglect to cut off all growth from the understock of a graft, if and when it occurs. Refer to article "After The Graft" in *Camellia News*, December 1983.

As it is the policy at Eryldene to preserve all original cultivars in the garden, this is a sad loss. It could be

overcome if a member has this cultivar growing and would be willing to propagate a new plant from it. The Eryldene Trust would be most grateful for supplying a plant or scions to graft again on the original understock.

Perhaps it will be necessary to appeal to members in the USA for a replacement. 'Breschini's Pride' was registered in the USA in 1962 by Breschini himself.

Please direct all offers of help to:
The Eryldene Trust,
PO Box 293,
Gordon, NSW 2072 Australia

Editor's note: We have a plea from Helen Simon, National Editor of Australian Camellia Research Society and a governor on the Eryldene Trust, for any information leading to the whereabouts of a Breschini's Pride so that a plant or scions can be obtained. Please reply to Glenn Smith, Editor, Camellia Review.

SHOW SCHEDULE — 1985 & 1986

Central California Camellia Rama	11/2/85
Pacific Camellia Society	12/14 & 12/15/85
	1986
Southern California Camellia Society	1/11 & 1/12
South Coast Camellia Society	1/25 & 1/26
No. Calif Camellia Council "Kick-Off"	1/25 & 1/26
Peninsula Camellia Society	2/1 & 2/2
San Diego Camellia Society	2/1 & 2/2
Temple City Camellia Society	2/8 & 2/9
Pomona Valley Camellia Society	2/15 & 2/16
Santa Clara Camellia Society	2/15 & 2/16
Southern Calif Camellia Council "Spring Show"	2/22 & 2/23
Delta Camellia Society	2/15 & 2/16
Sacramento Camellia Society	3/1 & 3/2
Camellia Society of Kern County	3/1 & 3/2
Central California Camellia Society (Fresno)	3/8 & 3/9
Northern California Camellia Society	3/8 & 3/9
Modesto Camellia Society	3/15 & 3/16
Sonoma County Society	3/22 & 3/23

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY 1985 SHOW RESULTS

Held at E&J Gallo Winery March 16 & 17

<i>Trophy</i>	<i>Variety</i>	<i>Winner</i>
Best of Show	<i>Emmett Phingstl</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Sweepstakes		Robert E. Ehrhart
Runner-up Sweepstakes		Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini
Best Japonica large-very large	<i>Elegans Champagne</i>	William Stewart
Runner-up Japonica large	<i>Carters Sunburst</i>	Art Gonos family
Best Japonica medium	<i>Emmett Phingstl</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up Japonica medium	<i>Donnan's Dream</i>	Art Gonos family
Best Small Bloom	<i>Little Babe Var</i>	Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Achterberg
Runner-up Small Bloom	<i>Little Man Formal</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini
Best Three Japonica large-very large	<i>Grand Prix</i>	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Three Japonicas medium	<i>Wildfire</i>	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Three Small Blooms	<i>Tama-No-Ura</i>	Mr. and Mrs. James Randall
Best Five Japonica large-very large	<i>Snowman</i>	Art Gonos family
Best Five Japonicas medium	<i>Yours Truly</i>	Julie Vierra
Best Five Small Blooms	<i>Ellen Daniel</i>	Wilbur & MaryAnne Ray
Best Retic or Retic Hybrid	<i>Curtain Call</i>	Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Achterberg
Runner-up Retic or Retic Hybrid	<i>Lasca Beauty</i>	Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Achterberg
Best Three Retic or Retic Hybrid	<i>Lasca Beauty</i>	Mr. William Breuner
Best Hybrid 'Non-Retic'	<i>Mona Jury</i>	Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Achterberg
Runner-up Hybrid 'Non-Retic'	<i>Charlean</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Three Hybrids 'Non-Retic'	<i>Water Lily</i>	Ronald Morrison family
Best Miniature	<i>Spring Festival</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up Miniature	<i>Francis Council</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Tony Pinheiro
Best Three Miniatures	<i>Francis Council</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Tony Pinheiro
Best Five Miniatures	<i>Spring Festival</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini
Best Seedling medium-very large		Robert E. Ehrhart
Best Seedling mini or small		S. Bracci

Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY— President, Marvin Belcher; Secretary, Nadine Wade, 172 N. Jaye Street, Porterville 93257. Meetings: To be announced.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF MODESTO— President, Harlan Smith; Secretary, Merry Harris, 416 Maple St., Modesto 95351. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., Centenary Methodist Church, Room 6 Norwiegan & McHenry Avenues, Modesto.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY— President, William McGrath; Secretary, Mrs. Frances L. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, California Federal S & L Bldg., 1802 North Main Street, Santa Ana.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO— President, Tom Lee; Secretary, Lana Paulhamus, 1909 Discovery Way, Sacramento, 95819. Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 7:30, October, January through April, 3rd Wednesday, November and December, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY— President, Mary Anne Ray; Secretary, Ruth Ann Lewis, 6440 Sequoia Dr., Fresno 93711. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February, Sheraton Smugglers Inn, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY— President, Jack Lewis; Secretary, Nancy Pitts, 2606 Desrys Blvd., Antioch 94509. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through March, Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Rd., Concord.

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY— President, Ernie Pieri; Secretary, Warren Dickson, 1935 Apex Ave., Los Angeles 90039. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, December through April, Union Federal Savings & Loan, 2450 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles 90039.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY— President, Don Bergamini; Secretary, David L. Hagmann, 464 Camino Sobrante, Orinda, 94563. Meetings: 1st Monday, November through April, Heather Farm Community Center, 301 N. San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY— President, Dean Alltizer; Secretary, Marice Alltizer, 1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale 91202. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., Descanso Gardens.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY— President, Bill Lockwood; Secretary, Cameron Ainsworth, 3879 Vineyard Dr., Redwood City 94061. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October through March, Ampex Cafeteria, 411 Broadway, Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY— President, Ann Geerken; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St, Riverside 92504. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, Pomona First Federal S & L, Pomona.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY— President, Palmer Groenewold; Secretary, Edalee Harwell, 2165 Leon Ave., San Diego 92154. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Casa del Prado, Room 101, 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— Correspondent, Jim Grant, 3282 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa 95401.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY— President, Dr. Glenn Burroughs; Secretary, Pauline Johnson, 1251 10th, San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, October through May, 7:30 p.m., South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274.

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY— President, Marion Schmidt; Secretary, Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, Nov. 21, Ayres Hall; 4th Thursday, January through March, Lecture Hall; 4th Thursday, April 24, Ayres Hall.

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