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.

Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues, $15.00

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COVER PHOTO

The cover flower is Leonora Novick. The bloom is large to very large, white, and a loose peony form. The plant has a medium upright growth and blooms early to mid-season.

THOUGHTS *from the editor*

Unlike Harold Dryden, whose phrasing flows like a stream through a meadow, gracefully directed with sunlit sparkles, or Bill Donnan, who has the ability to make historical and technical research read like a current novel, your editor must work at prose. Excuses aside, we need to approach the problem of insufficient new membership which all the societies seem to be encountering. A fallout of this is decreasing circulation of THE CAMELLIA REVIEW, which is compounded by increased printing costs. Sergio Bracci, president of the Southern California Camellia Society, will be discussing these problems at the coming meetings. In the meantime, at a recent board meeting a decision was reached to establish a Camellia Review Fund. Your support will be appreciated.

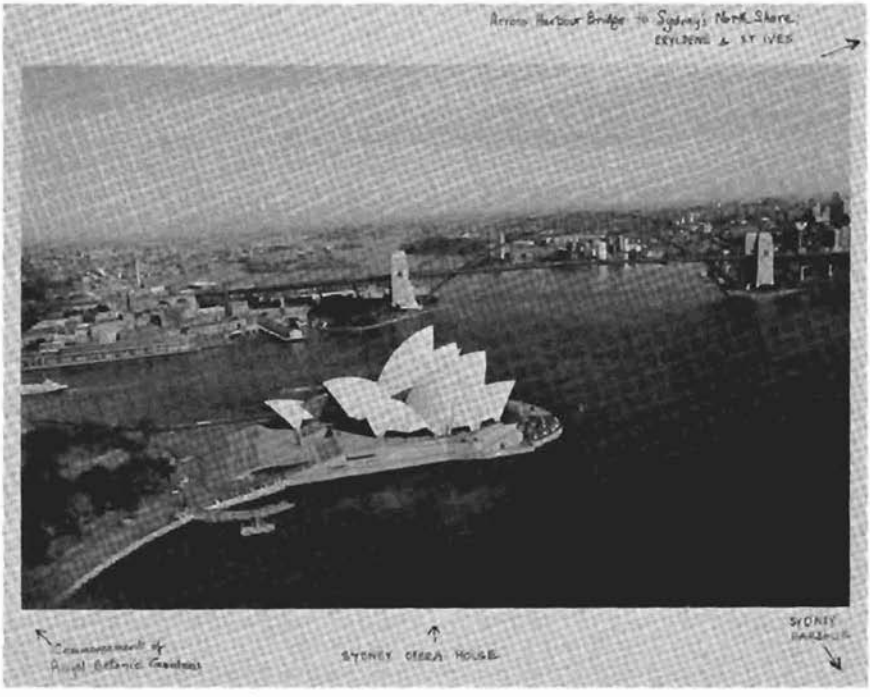
It is time to print an updated membership roster. Please check your listing for correct spelling, address, zip, and telephone and area code. Since camellias are a family affair, some of you may wish to list the first names of both husband and wife, i.e., Glenn and La Verne Smith instead of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Smith. Please direct changes to Warren Dickson, 1935 Apex, Los Angeles, CA 90039.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA REVIEW FUND

In memory of Ruth Goertz
Warren and Rosario Dickson
Ab and Leone Summerson
Glenn and La Verne Smith
Caryll Pitkin

INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA SOCIETY CONGRESS IN AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1986

by Harold E. Dryden



People who travel for pleasure should include in their travel plans a trip to the South Pacific, particularly to Australia and New Zealand. Both countries have their own merits to justify such a trip, Australia with its beautiful cities and land expanses, New Zealand with its Alpine areas and sheep grazing fields. The factor that contributes most to the traveler's pleasure, however, is the hospitality that one encounters in both countries, particularly if the traveler is with a group of people with common interest such as camellias. In no other country in which I have traveled did I leave with such a feeling that the people with whom I had associated had indicated a feeling of personal obligation to contribute to my personal enjoyment.

Camellia people will have an opportunity in 1986 to visit Australia under these circumstances. The Australian Camellia Research Society will be host to the Annual Meeting of the International Camellia Society. One need not be a member of the International Camellia Society to visit Australia under these favorable circumstances. The Australian Society has planned a schedule that will be attractive to all camellia people, including the Convention meetings that will be convened in the Sydney Menzies Hotel in Sydney and the trips that are planned for Sydney and the surrounding areas.

A further plus for the American traveler is the favorable dollar that one encounters in his travels. While there is a present drive to devaluate the dol-

lar, I would venture a guess that not enough will be accomplished in this direction within the next year to seriously disturb 1986 travel plans. 1986 would seem, possibly, near the end of the free ride that Americans have been receiving in their travels to other countries.

Here are a few details of the plans for the Congress. On Sunday, September 14, all congressionists are to register at the ICS Congress Suite at the Sydney Menzies, regardless of where they are accommodated. From 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. there will be a get-together Welcome Party at the Hotel, with dinner following at one's own arrangements.

The Official Opening of the Congress will be Monday morning, September 15th at 9:00 a.m. Breakfast will be own arrangements. Congress addresses will take from 9:15 to 12:30, including a coffee break. Lunch is provided at 12:45. From 2:00 to 5:15 p.m. there will be an afternoon Coach Tour visiting Koala Park and seeing unique Australian animals and birds; and Eryldene, the superbly restored garden and home of the late Professor and Mrs. E. G. Waterhouse which won the 1984 Award of Australian architects for the finest restoration project of that year. Evening is free, with home hospitality offered by Sydney members for visiting congressionists.

On Tuesday, September 16, there will be Congress addresses between 9:00 and 12:30. Breakfast will be own arrangements. At 12:40 coaches will leave the Menzies to board M. V. "City of Sydney" for a two-hour luncheon cruise around Sydney Harbor, one of the world's most beautiful harbors. Lunch is supplied, with liquor at one's own expense. At 3:00 coaches leave for alternating guided tours of Sydney Opera House and Sydney Botanic Gardens. Return to hotels by 5:30 p.m. Evening, own arrangements, with home hospitality available.

Wednesday, September 17, is a day of sight-seeing. At 9:00 a.m. coaches leave the Menzies for a full-day tour of Sydney's suburban area, including private gardens at Pymble; Camellia Grove, St. Ives, one of the world's great camellia nurseries (this is the former nursery of Jim Fisher, who with his wife Mary visited Southern California extensively several years ago); Australian Wildflower Garden, St. Ives; West Head, enjoying lunch in a wildflower preserve offering breathtaking views of Broken Bay, Lion Island, Barrenjoey Lighthouse, Palm Beach, and picturesque Pittwater. The tour continues via Church Point, Bayswater, Mona Vale, Palm Beach. Return to Sydney via Wakehurst Parkway, French's Forest, The Spit, Sydney Harbor Bridge, reaching hotels by 5:30 p.m. Evening, own arrangements with home hospitality available.

Thursday, September 18, tours in the morning with the Farewell Banquet at 7 p.m. at the Menzies Hotel. This concludes the Congress. At 9 a.m. choose from alternative half-day coach tours: (1) Via Rose Bay to Vaucluse House, beautiful home and old camellia gardens of a distinguished early Australian statesman, William Charles Wentworth. Then to South Head with glorious views of Sydney Heads, Bondi Beach, Centennial Park (Sydney's "Central Park"), returning to City by 1 p.m. (2) Via Centennial Park to the E. G. Waterhouse National Camellia Garden at Miranda. Return to city by 1 p.m. In both tours, lunch and afternoon are own arrangements.

Reservations have been made at the Sydney Menzies Hotel and in limited number at the Olims Hotel in Potts Point, on the bus route about 2 miles from the Menzies. Rates at the Menzies in Australian dollars are $480 on a twin-share basis and $700 on a single-room basis. This equates to $336 and $490 respectively in U. S. dollars at August 30, 1985 exchange rates. Rates at the Olims Hotel are $410 in Austra-

lian dollars on a twin-share basis, $287 in U.S. dollars. There are no rooms on a single-room basis. These prices include hotel accommodations for 5 nights, Sunday evening Welcome Party, Congress sessions, 2 mornings with coffee/tea, lunches Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Tuesday harbor cruise on "City of Sydney," Monday and Tuesday afternoon coach tours and entrance fees, Thursday night Farewell Banquet. Some of these prices are firm, others have yet to be confirmed. Deposit payments will be subject to any unavoidable increases prior to final payment. Deposit of at least 20 percent is due for the Olims by March 30, for the Menzies by May 20. Final payment is due by April 30 and May 20 for the two hotels, respectively. Payment will be in bank draft in Australian dollars, to Nance Swanson, 43 Wellington Rd., East Lindfield, New Zone, Australia.

In a trip to Australia the post-Congress trip is of equal interest to the time spent in and around Sydney. The Australian Society has suggested two optional tours and will come forth shortly with additional recommendations. They have designated these two tours TOUR PCT/1 and TOUR PCT/2. TOUR PCT/1 covers the New South Wales south coast and Canberra, the national capital. The coach will leave Sydney Friday morning, September 19 for the South Coast and its magnificent views from Stanwell Tops and Sublime Point. Then climb the Southern Highlands via Robertson to Bowral where a barbeque lunch will be served at Browley Farm, a working sheep station. Following lunch, on to Canberra via the Hume Highway and Goulburn. The group will spend three nights at the Canberra International Motor Inn. Tours of Canberra are planned by the Australian Capital Territory branch of the Australian Society during the days of the 20th and 21st.

By coach on Monday, the 22nd to Cowra and across the western plains of New South Wales. Lunch will be provided at the Cowra Ex-Servicemen's Club. Visit the Cowra Japanese War Memorial Garden, then via Bathurst to the Blue Mountains region of the Great Dividing Range. Accommodation 2 nights at Everglades Motor Inn, Laura. On Tuesday there will be a tour of Blue Mountain scenic highlights. On Wednesday the 24th from Laura to the Blue Mountains Rhododendron Gardens at Blackheath, then via Bell township to Mount Wilson. There will be visits to gardens at Mount Wilson and a picnic lunch at Mount Wilson Park. The coach will return to Sydney via Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights, Richmond and Windsor.

Cost of the tour is $380 Australian (currently approximately $266 U.S.) for twin-share occupancy and $556 Australian (currently approximately $390 U.S.) for single room. Price is based on minimum of 65 persons.

TOUR PCT/2 flies on Friday, September 19, from Sydney direct to Adelaide, the capital city of South Australia, across the New South Wales "outback" and the Murray River. Accommodations Friday and Saturday nights are at Town House Motor Inn. Saturday and Sunday tours of Adelaide and the Adelaide area. Monday, September 22, overland coach from Adelaide to Melbourne. Accommodations Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights at the Sheraton Hotel. On Tuesday there will be a full-day tour of Mount Dandenong and environs. On Wednesday Melbourne highlights will be seen, as suggested by the Victorian branch of the Australian Society. The tour concludes in Melbourne on Thursday, September 25th, as most international airlines can be boarded at Melbourne.

Cost of TOUR PCT/2 for all travel Sydney-Adelaide-Melbourne, six nights accommodation and two full-day coach tours is $282 Australian (currently $198 U.S.) for twin-share occupancy, $427 Australian (currently

$299 U.S.) for single room occupancy. Price is based on minimum of 30 persons.

To repeat, all inquiries and all Congress reservations should be directed to Nance Swanson, 43 Wellington Road, East Lindfield, NSW 2070, Australia, phone (02)46-1287. Official Congress Travel Agent is Traveland South Pacific, GPO Box 3489, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia. Congress Co-ordinator is Eric Craig, whom many of us know from our trips to Australia and his trips to the United States. Remember that you need not be a member of International Camellia Society to attend this Congress. My trip to Australia and New Zealand has been a pleasant chapter in my book of memories during the eighteen years since I visited these countries.

THE C. CHRYSANTHA CLASSIFICATION DILEMMA

By Bill Donnan

Anyone who has been associated with the camellia hobby for the last eight or ten years has been privy to the mad scramble to obtain seeds or scions of C. chyrsantha, the yellow-colored camellia flower. Thanks to the generosity of the Chinese botanical people, seeds were given out to all of the major botanical agencies in the Western World and to many individual camellia hybridizers and plant breeders. Subsequently, scions of C. chrysantha were exchanged among botanical gardens, nurseries, and individuals, and grafted scions have been sold for the past three years world-wide.

It seems safe to estimate that here in the United States of America, upwards of 1,000 camellia hobbyists, gardeners, horticulturists and plant breeders now own one or more of the C. chrysantha shrubs. Furthermore, at this very moment (October 1985) these people are avidly scanning these plants for buds. Alas! If the buds do open and the yellow bloom comes forth they are going to have a terrible urge to name the new flower! Now this is where the dilemma occurs!

We can assume that any individual who can trace his or her C. chrysantha plant back to the grafted scions sold by the Southern California Camellia Society from scions developed by Mr. Meyer Piet of Arcadia, California should name the plant 'Olympic Gold.' But what about all the other plants originating as seedlings? What about all the other plants originating from grafted scions from other unnamed seedlings? For example, Nuccio's Nurseries has six separate "categories" of C. chrysantha plants under propagation. (See the article — "THE CRAZY C. CHRYSANTHA CONFUSION" by Donnan and Nuccio, Am. Cam. Soc. Journal, Vol. 40, No. 2, May 1985.) Theoretically every seed which has been propagated becomes a new cultivar. There would appear to be marked differences in the growth habits, bud set and bloom color on the six separate "categories" of C. chrysantha at Nuccio's Nurseries. When this variation is projected worldwide, especially to Japan, New Zealand, and Australia where seeds of C. chrysantha were distributed early on, one can visualize a real problem for future nomenclature people.

However, this circumstance is only the "tip of the iceberg"! Let us look a

little closer at the so-called species C. chrysantha. The amateur camellia hobbyist may feel very smug in thinking that he has the real, honest-to-goodness, yellow-flowered bonanza! Well, theoretically he does. BUT WHICH OF THE "YELLOW FLOWERED" CAMELLIAS DOES HE OWN? Did you know that there are 10 species of the Section Chrysantha? In the translation from Chinese to English of the 1981 Monograph of the genus camellia by H. T. Chang, it is pointed out that the entire genus camellia can be classified into four subgenus categories — namely: PROTO CAMELLIA; CAMELLIA; THEA; and META CAMELLIA. Then in the sub-genus THEA, Chang lists eight Sections, of which Section Chrysantha is one. Now under the broad heading of Section Chrysantha, Chang sets forth the following description: Flowers axillary, medium-large, petals yellow, pedicellate, etc., etc., etc. He also lists 8-12 petals — heavy veined leaves, and, as I have noted, he identifies no less than 10 species which have characteristics which are similar. The 10 different species within the Section Chrysantha are as follows: FLAVA, AUREA, CHRYSANTHA, FLAVIDA, IMPRESSINERVIS, EUPHLEBIA, CHRYSANTHOIDES, TUNGINENSIS, PINGGUOENSIS, and PUBIPETALA. All of these different species have yellow-colored flowers. Who is to say that in the generous distribution of seeds and scions from China to the Western World that several of these species have not found their way into the present mix of seedlings and scions which are now coming into bloom? One last complication could be added to the mix of conflicting factors which have and will continue to cloud the efforts of nomenclature people in their attempts to bring order out of the classification of future cultivars. At one time, in about 1980, Chinese botanists indicated that they had distinguished two variants from the type form C. chrysantha (Hu Tuyama). They were listed as C. chrysantha macrophilla and C. chrysantha microcarpa. In fact, this last variant is shown in a color plate in the excellent book CAMELLIAS OF THE YUNNAN, edited by the Yunnan Botanical Institute. The Chinese have since indicated that C. chrysantha macrophilla is, in fact, C. euphlibia and that C. chrysantha microcarpa is not a variant.

Here in Southern California we have witnessed one blooming season of the C. chrysantha camellias. There have been pale yellow, golden yellow, and buttercup yellow colored blooms with stamens in a tight column and also in a plum blossom burst; with both profuse pollen and little or no pollen. We have seen green leaves, brown leaves, wide oval leaves, long narrow leaves and crinkled leaves — all heavily veined. We have seen heavy bud set, sparse bud set, and no bud set — even on four- and five-year-old grafts. This is at considerable variance with the observations made in Australia where buds are found on one-year grafts! Some of this variation may be due to culture, propagation, or microclimate. At Nuccio's Nurseries in addition to the six "categories" of C. chrysantha, they are propagating C. euphlebia. It looks similar to C. chrysantha but, so far, it has not bloomed.

Well, where do we stand today when it comes down to naming new yellow flowered camellia cultivars? Should every new seedling be given a name? More especially, where will the newly named and registered "yellow" camellia cultivars be listed in a future issue of the Southern California Camellia Society publication CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE? If the new "yellow" camellia cultivar is a hybrid it will be listed in the Reticulata Hybrid list or the Non-reticulata Hybrid list — depending on the parentage. If the new "yellow" camellia seedling cultivar is named and registered, it will have to be determined which of the ten Section Chrysantha species it falls into before it appears in the CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE.

REDISCOVERY OF OLD CAMELLIA VARIETIES IN ITALY

By Antonio Sevesi
Milano, Italy

The task developed by the commission for the nomenclature of camellias, whose leader is Tom Savige, is surely very hard and of the greatest importance. Very often one has to face very big problems for which the solution, notwithstanding the material at our disposal and the researches that are continually made, remains uncertain. Therefore, it is sure that a lot of time will be necessary in order to arrive at a complete list of the names which were given to camellias. Obviously the list to be perfected will be submitted in the future.

The second step will be the exact description of each single name and variety; this will be a harder task than the first. When the old descriptions of the old varieties are the same, and this happens very seldom, they are generally not complete.

The third task of this research on camellias is that of discovery of those which still exist. This is the most difficult thing, but "per aspera ad astra" and therefore, before the last camellias of a certain variety will disappear we will try to describe them.

This research is based on information that sometimes, though better than nothing, is only probable. It is evident that if a certain variety is found in a garden of the zone of him who has obtained it, very likely it is exact. Very important too is to own an illustration and this is luck indeed. For this reason we always keep in view the "Iconographie due Genre Camellia" by Berlese, the "Flore de Serres et des Jardins" by Van Houtte, the "Nouvelle Iconographie des Camellias" by Verchafflet, etc. First of all is necessary a lot of desire to come to a certain conclusion. If there is something wrong, we have to start everything from the beginning. In order to begin let's examine the following camellia japonica.

CAMILLA HEBERT

In a very old Ligurian nursery there existed a camellia called 'Camilla.' Now in the list of the names of the different varieties that with much skill and patience Tom Savige is collecting, there are:

'Camilla Galli'
'Camilla Hebert'
'Camilla Ingram'

Excluding the 'Camilla Ingram,' completely different from the one under consideration, and excluding too the 'Camilla Galli' that is described as "White pointed and listed carmine, imbricated," it does not remain the 'Camilla Hebert' which on the catalogue of Mercatelli of 1882 is described as "Pure white, center yellow, big cupped flower." This camellia always, according to Mercatelli, has been obtained at Genoa by a certain D'Aste, and this is proved by the fact that it has been found in the zone.

Here are some characteristics:
Growth habit: Erect.
Growth rate: Rapid.
Leaf dimension 15 cm. × 75 cm.
Leaf color: Young: Light green
Mature: Dark green

Leaf shape: Oval.
Leaf serration: Marked.
Leaf surface: Bright.
Leaf petiole: 0.8 cm.
Leaf venation: Inconspicuous.
Flower form: Cupform.
Unopened buds shape: Globular.
Unopened buds color: Light green.
Flower season: Medium.
Flower form: Rose form.
Number of petioles: 15.
Flower deep: 7 cm.
Flower diameter: 14 cm.
Petal color: White.
Petaloids color: White.
Stamen color: Yellow.
Filaments color: Yellow.
Characteristic of petals: Obovate.
Abundance of flowers: Moderate.
No change occurs when grown under glass.

VANISHING MEMBERSHIP

By Andrew F. Sears
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Smith,

In June I received your letter soliciting an article for the Review. The fact that I did not reply to your letter sooner does not indicate that I don't fully appreciate the need.

My age, health and other activities have prevented me from doing enough research and experimenting with camellia culture to develop enough information as a basis for a worthwhile article. However, I will submit a few comments on a subject that I feel all camellia fans should give serious consideration.

As near as I can determine, practically all camellia societies in the country are suffering serious declines in membership primarily from deaths, retirements, moving into retirement homes, condominiums, etc. An overwhelming percentage of the members of our societies are over 65 with many in their late 70's and 80's with a surprising number even older — practically none in their 30's or younger. When our societies were first organized and became the large successful organizations they are, most of the members were middle aged or younger. A lot of the members are still with us but are rapidly becoming incapable of continuing their efforts. *We must* recruit and train younger and more vigorous replacements while the few "old timers" are around to guide them.

What is the explanation of why we are not obtaining enough new members?

I believe the main reason is the decline in the number of small hobby or "sideline" nursery propagators. It does no good to put on the wonderful and successful shows and interest new people in camellias and when they ask, "Where can I obtain a plant of this variety?" which has caught their eye and have to tell them, "We don't know" or, "We will give you a scion and you can graft one," they are not experienced enough to do so.

The large commercial growers can not afford to propagate all the old choice varieties plus the many new varieties and hybrids becoming available.

I know from my own experience that one of the factors in maintaining the interest of those already infected with the "camellia bug" is the ability to acquire the old or new varieties that have captured their fancy.

I am of the opinion that the best way to achieve the above objectives is to cooperate with the commercial growers by offering them *free* cuttings or scions

of the varieties you have. They will not all choose to propagate the same varieties and the more propagators the more varieties available and the more varieties available the more chance of having a variety that will interest the new grower.

We need the commercial growers to supply plants. They need us to supply the demand — *The Key Is Cooperation.*

Feel free to use any of these ideas in any way you want.

I have been trying for several years to locate a source of "Sylvia May" and/or "Robbie" or any of their progeny. They both have been the parents of a number of choice new varieties and I have been looking for them to make them available to persons newly interested in hybridizing camellias.

With the numbers of new species and hybrids becoming available, the potential for producing more new choice varieties is mindboggling and I believe these have great potential.

Yours for more and better camellias,
9/5/85
Andrew F. Sears

CAMELLIA TRIVIA

By Ernie Pieri

For your camelliaphiles that dote on camellia history in California, perhaps you can remember when the first large scale camellia show was sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society, the Show being held in the Horticultural Building located in Brookside Park under the Chairmanship of Dr. John Taylor.

The first Temple City Camellia Society Show was held in two tents on the corner of Rosemead and Las Tunas Boulevards. It was held at the request of the Temple City Chamber of Commerce to help advertise the Camellia Festival Parade. This was on the northwest corner; on the southeast corner was a carnival show with a huge merry-go-round. Some of the backers of the Temple City Camellia Society were Verne and Billie McCaskill, Les Marshall, Pappy Campbell and several influential businessmen of Temple City.

The Temple City Chamber of Commerce felt that probably because the Temple City Camellia Society had been invited once, that they would continue the program, but it became difficult for the Society to find a place to hold their monthly meetings. It was interesting that the Festival Committee not only wanted the society members to place blooms in the show, but also to furnish blooms for petals on the children's floats.

Temple City as a community has plenty of camellia plants throughout the city, but it became increasingly difficult to get people to participate in the Show.

One tent of the Show was for the display of cut blooms, the other tent for flower arrangements and miniature landscapes using camellias and azaleas. Fierce competition was always between Harvey Short, the McCaskills and Les Marshall. Louis Stohmeyer was the sweepstakes winner for the first of these Shows.

As for meeting places, there were many. For several years we were permitted to hold our meetings in the Longden Elementary School. Something happened, because we could not have our permit renewed. So our next meeting place was in the American Legion Building directly behind the library. It was a small room, hardly big enough to hold our 25 to 30 members. As far as putting on a show in the place, it was impossible. Our show manager came up with the most brilliant idea presented to the Board of Di-

rectors: Why not put on an open air show along the pathways in the park? Knowing it would cost us nothing but work to put it on, the Board agreed. What a fiasco! The judging got done(?) but not because of the help from the Chamber of Commerce. To top it all, the Show Chairman had taken the Festival Committee out to breakfast and was not on hand to open the show to the public. The public, however, was pretty nice during the show. We had to take the trophies from the trophy table and place them in storage until the next day. We did not see the Show Chairman for several of our monthly meetings.

Will wonders never cease! Somehow through several of our members who belonged to the Temple City Woman's Club, we were able to obtain a permit and have the use of their auditorium at a nominal rental fee. Did the Board accept that in a hurry! We held our regular monthly meetings there as well as our shows for several years or until the rent was raised to a point which the Society could not afford.

About our shows, they were something special. We could not start staging the auditorium for the show until after 4:30 p.m. Clarence Rose, a former camellia nurseryman used his truck to go to a church in Alhambra to pick up the tables and bring them back to the building. In the meantime, seven or eight of the members had arrived to get the show materials together — and the best was that all of the workers had arranged a menu and after the tables and cup placements were set up about 10:00 p.m. everyone sat down to a late dinner.

The day of the Show arrived. All blooms were exhibited by color, irrespective of size or form. Do you know that Verne and Billie McCaskill and Harvey Short had completed the judging before 11:00 a.m. and the awards were all in place when the Show opened at 12:00 p.m.?

Details are a bit fuzzy, but someplace along the line we found a new meeting place and a place to hold our shows. We were offered what is now, I think, the Lloyds Bank Building. We used it for a couple of years until they bought out the store next door and closed the bank for repairs. However, they did make an arrangement whereby we could use the Bank of America Building for our next show. Pete Folino was Chairman of the Show, but Les Marshall had taken him as his guest to the Festival Committee breakfast, so there was no Chairman to open the show.

We were pretty discouraged about this time as to a meeting place and a show place. Someone had told Pete as Show Chairman and Larry Shuey as Society President, that there was a possibility that they might make a good connection with the Arboretum. Thanks to this lucky incident we now have an excellent place for the Temple City Camellia Show and Annual Camellia Show.

Garden Doctor

By Paul B. Engler

Most gardeners associate camellias with only the winter months. Actually, much camellia bud drop and bloom failure can be traced to neglect in early fall. Since little can be done once flower buds begin to drop during the bloom season, fall is definitely the time to take preventive action.

Adverse weather — particularly hot and dry autumns — are responsible for much bud dropping. Although these conditions may be uncontrollable, you can counteract them by proper watering and feeding. Using a mulch to keep shallow roots cool and keeping the surrounding atmosphere as moist as possible helps prevent the drying of flower buds. During warm weather, you can maintain humidity by sprinkling the tops of camellia shrubs each day. Since hot sunlight beating down on moist foliage may result in sun-scalding of leaves, sprinkle in early morning and

in the evening.

Some camellia varieties set an unusually large number of flower buds, and considerable bud drop can — and should — occur naturally. With these varietal types, remove buds by hand whenever natural thinning is inadequate. Bud removal also helps with some of the fully double varieties that tend to develop "bull heads" — a condition in which flower buds swell into a normal fall bud but do not open completely or fail to open at all.

Occasionally, worms will feed on the tips of camellia flower buds and prevent them from opening. Such pests should be controlled with Sevin as soon as they are detected. Weevil feeding on the plant crown and surface roots can weaken the plant to the point that it will drop all its buds.

Too much fertilizer can force new growth at the expense of the flower buds and will cause bud drop. For that reason, fertilizing should be scheduled for the spring and summer and discontinued before early fall.

Camellias can be thinned and pruned to help bloom development anytime before flowering — even as late as September. Most pruning, however, serves primarily to provide home gardeners with plants of particular forms and shapes, not to promote flowering. If a plant spreads over too large an area, shorten only the lower branches.

— Los Angeles Times Home
9/1/85

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Ray
Nuccio's Nurseries
Bernice and Victor Thompson
Andrew F. Sears in memory of
William J. Ingram

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.

1985
PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY PICNIC

By Chuck Gerlach

Seventy-two camellia hobbyists and their guests gathered on a very warm afternoon in July for our annual get-together. The Descanso Garden oak trees provided some shade that helped minimize the heat.

Among the guests were the present editor of the Camellia Review, Glenn Smith and his wife, LaVerne and the past editor, Bill Donnan and his wife, Geri.

The Alltizer brothers, Wayne and Dean, assisted by Herm Belcher barbequed delicious hamburgers while "Chef" Boris Koneff served his usual "out of this world" baked beans. A hard working group of Pacific board members brought the rest of the goodies.

A fine selection of assorted wines brought by our members helped make the afternoon most "enjoyable."

Jerry Biewend conducted the raffle of a large array of camellias, azaleas and other donated plants.

A drawing was held for cash door prizes and in addition our six younger guests each received a silver dollar — (Eisenhower dollar that is).

A very pleasant afternoon for all.

THE OREGON CAMELLIA SOCIETY

January 1985

The most exciting news in camellia literature this year is the story of the new yellow camellias. They have been bloomed by Mr. Sergio Bracci and Mr. Piet in Southern Calif. Several of our members now have *yellow Chrysantha.* This plant can be obtained from Nuccio's Nursery, Altadena, Calif for $25.

There is complete lack of knowledge on culture of Chrysantha. Perhaps a cool situation is best, for they grow in deep woods in southern China.

My own plant was obtained in Nov 84 and is now being held on a heating mat at 70 degrees F. I do have terminal growth, and several axil buds are elongating. I have used dilute fish fertilizer once.

It seems that a plant must be several years old to produce flowers on Chrysantha. Bud drop has been very disappointing to some growers.

There are several other yellow members in the sub genus camellia. Recently added is Luteoflora.

Nuccio's report a pure yellow Japonica of unknown parentage. This is the result of 500,000 chance camellia seedlings and 250 specific crosses! The seed was harvested in 1981 and bloomed in 1984. It is a yellow formal double and was named "Nuccio's Golden Anniversary" to celebrate their 50th year as a nursery.

Perhaps *tissue culture* is the best approach to propagating and hybridizing yellow camellias. The microscopic tissue culture plants are open to addition of new genes (unlike seeds or cuttings.)

For those interested in tissue culture, there is a "growing" article in "Hortscience Magazine" April 1984. Only three schools subscribe to it. They are Clackamas College, Linn Benton College, and Oregon State University. I have copied this article and others and hope to study them and find definite procedures for growing tissue culture camellias. (With this system, hundreds of identical clones, or plants, can be reproduced without virus, or other problems.) New colors, apricot & orange may result.

From The San Diego Camellia Society

At a recent ACS convention in North Carolina a quiz was given to the attendees. Answers to some of the questions are given to aid us in our search for proper techniques.

1. The most desirable soil pH factor for growing camellias is 5.5 to 7.
1. A leading cause of death of outdoor camellia plants is planting too deeply.
3. The best time to purchase a camellia plant is when it is in bloom.
4. A rooting hormone appreciably increases the percentage of "takes" when rooting cuttings.
5. The most satisfactory grafting understock is sasanqua.
6. The best time to take cuttings for rooting is when the first growth has hardened off. (Usually June-July in our area.)
7. The best protection against petal blight is good sanitation.
8. Probably the most consistently effective parts-per-million dilution of gibberellic acid is 15,000.
9. For best results, a bloom bud should be gibbed only once.
10. Only low nitrogen fertilizers should be used in fall feedings.
11. Reticulatas require a lighter soil mix than japonicas.

GRAFTING

JACK OSEGUEDA
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Reprinted from The Camellia Journal
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One of the biggest thrills a camellia fancier can have is to see a new prize graft "take off"! Starting from a tiny bud, growth is very fast, for in a few weeks a good graft will grow from a few inches to several feet, according to the size and vigor of the understock. Depending upon the amount of light and warmth, many grafts will set flower buds the first year (if your luck and the variety are exceptional), producing robust blooms as a result of the great energy the over-sized root system is providing.

Reason for Grafting: If you have a camellia that is strong and healthy but lacks attractive flowers or blooms sparsely, rather than discard it and lose the established, vigorous root system, graft it with a desirable variety. Many camellias do not grow readily from cuttings, while reticulatas are almost impossible to root, and some new choice ones are simply not yet available except for scions. Grafted plants grow more rapidly and produce more and larger flowers for the first 3 to 5 years until the above-ground part of the plant balances with the root system; some may continue to do so indefinitely.

Selection of Understock: Use vigorous-growing plants having long terminal growth — they have a wide cambium layer and the ability to heal and callous rapidly. *C. japonica* varieties such as 'Prof. Sargent', 'Sarah Frost', 'Debutante', Barbara E', 'Pink Perfection' and *C. sansanquas* such as 'Cleopatra' and 'Daydream', are among the most popular for understock. Vigorous seedlings are good but may have varying cambium thickness — seedling *C. reticulatas* are ideal understock on which to graft *retics* as they eventually match up perfectly rather than leaving an un-

sightly bulge which often results from the use of other species. The writer has grafted camellias on 6″ understock but it is tricky and takes a little experience and time.

Tools Required: Good, heavy pruning shears, a very sharp knife, single razor blade, perhaps a fine-tooth small saw, rubber bands, plastic electrician's tape or string, a small screwdriver, and plastic bags or large ("pickle") jars for cloches are needed. A magnifying glass comes in as a helpful adjunct in the case of less than normal vision. Try Gibberellic Acid and Rooting Hormone on some — you might be surprised, as I was.

Time to graft: It is not completely facetious to say that the "time to graft" is when you have the good fortune to get the scions you want! Actually, success can be had in almost any month except during the period of active growth — in the spring and early summer. There is really no size limit on understock — anything from match-stick up to several inches in diameter can be grafted successfully. The experts and commercial growers, however, prefer pencil size up to about ¾ inch, using the easy cleft graft, in the winter months, December through February. Scions may be kept several weeks in good condition by moistening them slightly, inserting in an airtight plastic bag and placing them in the refrigerator (NOT the freezer). Late grafting sometimes results in the scion sprouting before healing is complete. New growth will die if the jar is removed prematurely; therefore just let it grow and, if necessary, use a taller plastic bag or raise the jar by using a metal collar (a coffee can or gallon can with both ends removed). It will be necessary to let this new growth harden off before the cover can be removed safely.

KINDS OF GRAFTS

Cleft Grafting

As a result of surveys made throughout the country and years of experimenting with thousands of grafts, it has been found that the best result is had when only *one* side of the understock (½ to 1 inch dia.) is cut. First cut off the stock with sharp shears or a small saw about 5 to 6 inches above the soil level, making a laterally sloping cut which is then trimmed smooth with a sharp knife. A vertical incision is then made ⅔ of the way across the top, extending about 2 inches down the side, being careful not to split the cambium (green) layer and bark on the opposite side of the stock. This is possible with a sloping cut. A hammer and chisel would make a damaging, rough split. Slightly notch each side of the slit in the stock about the width of the scion. Then, with a small screwdriver which has been filed to a point on one side, the slit is forced open and a 3-inch scion having two or three leaves is carefully inserted so that the cambium layers on scion and understock exactly match, or in any case cross each other by slanting the scion slightly so that part of it is inside and part outside the understock. It is important that the scion be carefully trimmed and shaped, so that the inside edge is thinner, thus allowing the outside edge to fit tightly. The writer prefers a single edge razor blade for this purpose. The vital part is that the green cambium layers (not the outside bark) of both scion and understock make contact firmly enough to insure knitting and the greater area of contact the better the graft. The scion is tapered both vertically and horizontally, so as to be a "wedge" both ways. Experience will teach you to make the proper taper about 1½ inches long, even on both sides, and also tapered completely the width of the scion. Scions which are not quite round in shape should be tapered on the flat sides or it will be difficult to match the scion with the understock. Reticulata scions often are not uniformly round, which accounts for the difficulty some have in making successful grafts, due to the unevenness. Practice will develop the proper technique and always remember that ⅛ inch of the cut portion of the scion

must extend above the understock so that the callus will knit over the top. If the stock is not split down both sides, the scion may hold secure without tying but to be sure bind the graft with a heat-treated grafting rubberband, waterproof string, or ½ inch electrician's plastic tape, which is tight-fitting and easy to apply.

Whip Grafting

This is a very interesting as well as practical method, usually being 100% successful. It is best accomplished when the scion is the same diameter as the understock. You can whip graft with a smaller scion than the understock, matching on one side only, but the result may not be as good. Sparse-growing *C. japonicas* and *C. reticulatas* in particular can be made into beautiful, bushy plants if whip-grafted, using a number of the "suckers" produced by the understock of grafts from the previous year or two that failed to take. The writer even deliberately cuts off ordinary reticulata seedlings about 6 inches from the base, allows a few branches to develop, then whip-grafts them the following season. Heavy scions from sturdy growth of new wood are the best sort for this technique. A sloping cut an inch or longer is made on the scion to exactly match the same type of sloping cut on the understock. It is then notched with a tongue to hold the scion firmly, so that there is little chance of failure as the cambium layers will match in several places. This type of graft must be completely wrapped with the usual grafting rubber, tape or whatever, being careful to so bend the scion as to match the stock evenly and make certain that none of the cut part is exposed. The same after-care procedure is followed as in cleft grafting except that the binding medium is not removed. The entire section of the graft portion is covered with wax or tree-seal after healing. Months later, the binding will deteriorate and fall off, or it can be removed so as to avoid constriction. Fall and winter is the best time for whip-grafting — as with cleft grafting. As is the case with all grafts, mild fertilization may be given after a year has elapsed, to induce sturdy top growth.

Regrafting

Assuming that the original graft has been made on stock cut about 6 inches above ground level, if you are unhappy with the result and wish to put on something else, the original stock can be utilized by "working it over." Simply cut it off slightly below the first graft and do the cleft graft again at the lower level. This may not be possible when the original graft was made fairly low. In such case, you can cut off the old graft at a convenient level above the union and regraft, although this may leave a somewhat less desirable plant as there may be a lack of uniformity in the trunk.

Cutting Grafts

This is an unusual and fairly new technique in which the cutting roots at the same time the top graft takes. An easy-rooting japonica cutting is clefted down the top after having the tip removed, scion inserted and bound with a grafting band and buried in a rooting medium of sponge rock and sand. (Or a whip-graft can be used.) In this process, while the base of the cutting roots, the top (grafted section) readily calluses, knits and the graft grows. If a *C. reticulata* or vigorous *C. hybrid* is the objective, in a few years, with the graft union below ground it will send out roots of its own and eventually push off the understock and thus make a healthy plant on its own roots. This is a good way to eliminate the "bulge" from *retic* grafts, which occurs unless grafted on *retic* understock.

Bark Grafting in Summer

As stated, cleft grafting is difficult in summer unless you have arranged to keep understock dormant by withholding water to as great extent as possible (which can be done by keeping the stock indoors or in deep shade). The principal justification for this would be

where scions are obtained from an area where the seasons do not coincide. This can be avoided by bark grafting in summer. The bark is then loose and this fact, in conjunction with the bleeding that occurs after cutting the stock, makes it practically impossible to successfully graft by the cleft technique. But the conditions are then favorable for bark grafting because the bark is then loose — an ideal situation for bark grafting. A vertical cut is first made about 1½ inches long down the side of the understock, through the bark, which is then loosened on each side of the cut from top to bottom. The scion is then cut so as to be leveled on one side, resulting in a smooth, slanting cut about 1 inch long, then slid bevel-side in, inside and along the vertical cut made in the understock. Leave ⅛ inch of the bevel cut exposed above the understock, then securely wrap it in place with a grafting band or plastic tape, being careful not to damage the bark. The care from then on is the same as for the cleft graft, avoiding direct sun exposure that would burn the scion. A burlap bag over the sunny side of the jar or bag will afford the necessary protection. When water is needed, a light application is sufficient. However, if a plastic bag is used to cover the graft, water may not be required.

Successful Grafts

They are the result of the use of good, healthy understock — unhealthy plants will not prove satisfactory. If in containers, the stock should be kept on the dry side preferably, and the grafts given only as much water as is necessary to keep the plant alive. The roots of weak, soggy understock eventually die even though the graft may knit and grow a bit at first. Dieback and fungus can result from too much moisture or when bleeding is excessive — remember that a graft needs very little moisture because it has almost no foliage and leaf transpiration is practically nil. If mold forms on the cut, wipe it clean and air for a few hours, then dust with a dry fungicide, return the plastic bag or jar and repeat the treatment if necessary.

After Care

It is desirable to remove loose mulch or topsoil from the surface of the understock before grafting and, after the graft is completed, replace it with an inch or two of sand or sponge rock, then dust everything with a fungicide, If a jar is used, then place it over the graft carefully and stabilize it with four small stakes, to avoid accidental tipping over. The jar should be pressed firmly on the sand, which tends to seal out the air and hold it. For small container plants, plastic bags are excellent as a cover. They may be held in place by short sticks inside of them and the bottom of the bag can be made tight by using a rubber band around the sides of the container. In a glasshouse, callusing should start within a few weeks and in about two months the scion will have knit firmly to the stock. In the colder outdoors it will take a bit longer but can be safer. When firmly callused, the jars can be raised very gradually and slightly, just a slit at first through the insertion of thin shims between the jar and the sand, then increasing the opening by doubling the shims, removing the jar entirely after a few days. If plastic bags are used as the cover, punch a small hole in the top at first, then in a day or two enlarge it and finally take it off entirely when no wilting is observed. If wilting appears at any stage, close up the aperture again until it ceases. This removal of the jar, etc. is perhaps the most critical phase of aftercare and requires careful attention. A good many grafts are lost simply because the jar or bag was taken off too early or too suddenly. The next step after successful removal of the jar is to cut off the binding material (rubber band, etc.), after which, and only then, the junction of the scion and stock should be thoroughly sealed with wax or tree seal.

Other Comments

It is recommended that you use only one scion on each stock when cleft grafting. A scion with 3 leaves is preferred, as a large understock usually develops two or three branches from a single scion. Some prefer to cut each leaf about in half, in order to reduce the drain upon the scion. Scions with but one leaf and eye, taken lower on the branch rather than the tip, give excellent results and produce a single stalk. Multiple grafts of different varieties or growth habits do not grow evenly, appear unmatched and finally result in your cutting off all but one variety. The effect is hodgepodge. However, multiple grafts of like kinds, particularly of one family such as 'Elegans', have the merit of looking like they belonged together and save valuable space in the small garden where there is room for only a limited number of camellias. Grafting plays an important part in camellia culture. It is an economical and effective way of keeping current with new camellia developments.

The Wanderings of Johnny Appleseed

Reprinted from Fedco Reporter July 1985

by Keith Monroe

With a bottomless bag of seeds scounged from a dump heap in Pittsburgh, a long-haired wild-bearded man named John Chapman roamed our land for 50 years. Today as for generations past, our choice of food — and sometimes our choice of words — are slightly different than they might be if he'd never lived.

He made us a nation of apple-eaters. In ballads and verse he became celebrated by his nickname, Johnny Appleseed. He was born in 1774 in Leominster, Massachusetts, but almost nothing is known of him before he turned up in western Pennsylvania around 1800.

He loved apples. They were already a staple in New England, for apple seeds were among the precious supplies the early colonists brought.

However, Chapman found few apple trees around the stockaded Pittsburgh. But there was a cider mill. From its wastes, the young Yankee sifted out bags of seed. He loaded a canoe and set out to make the frontier lands white with apple blossoms. He was barefoot and ragged and stayed that way, for he never resisted the impulse to give away to the needy any clothes or boots that well-wishers bestowed on him. He said angels and spirits often visited him.

Anyone who met him was offered apple seeds. He moved down the Ohio Valley, stopping often along the line of the coming migration of settlers to scatter handfuls of seed in half-acre clearings. As his seedlings grew, pioneers were free to come and take what planting stock they liked. Countless apple orchards in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana caused the settlers to bless Johnny Appleseed's choice of a queer way to live.

Stories about him became part of local legends. There were tales of his kindness and generosity to people and to animals; tales of his endurance and courage. The Indians considered him a great medicine man.

Mansfield, Ohio became his base in later years, but each autumn he filled bags with seeds from cider presses and went wandering. He planted whole nurseries and orchards and helped settlers establish their own. He carried his mission as far as Fort Wayne, Indiana and finally settled down there, where he died at 72. Probably he left everything in apple-pie order, because he was the apple of everyone's eye and no one ever upset his applecart. As sure as God made little green apples, to say that John Chapman was crazy would be applesauce.

PRUNING

DR. T. E. PIERSON

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One of the main jobs for this time of the year is pruning. All plants will benefit from pruning, even reticulatas. The trick lies in how you do it and why.

If you have *old, leggy, woody japonicas* you can afford to be rather ruthless and if you are prepared to sacrifice a blooming period then be heavy-handed. Cut hard but before you do cut out the water for at least a week before hand and do it before growth commences or you will get excessive bleeding from the cuts and probable infection of the wounds. In fact, if you are going to cut into wood thicker than your thumb then I would suggest that you seal the cuts with grafting mastic as you do them. In this case keep the water restricted until new growth commences then, while the plant is growing vigorously, water and feed liberally. This type of pruning should be done before new growth commences, that is, as soon as flowering has finished; as should also the following:

Plants that really only need to be brought back within bounds and which don't warrant such excessive methods can well be reduced by up to a quarter of the plant in any one season; this way you won't reduce your flowering by much and by spreading the process over a four year period you will keep the plant bushy and well furbished so that it will not become unsightly. As well as reducing the overall height of the plant you should aim to remove all spindly and twiggy growths from the interior and centre of the bush as such growth as a general rule will not produce much in the way of worthwhile flowers. Also any blooms that are produced are much more liable to wind damage, etc.

The previous is mostly applicable to *japonicas* and even more so to *sasanqua* varieties, when it comes to the saluenensis hybrids and the reticulatas one needs to be a little more discreet.

Saluenensis hybrids ('Donation,' 'Angel Wings,' etc.) have a nasty habit of die-back even without provocation and heavy-handed pruning is indeed provocation, always use mastic on wood of more than pencil thickness, always cut so that sap flow continues onwards; that is, cut to a growth point either to an obvious shoot or cut back flush to a main branch. Remember also that such hybrids have as a rule a rather open growth habit and as such you must grow that plant in accord with its natural character; you cannot make a naturally open and rangy plant into a dense, little bush.

What we classify as *reticulatas* must be further subdivided if you are thinking of pruning them, into reticulata and reticulata hybrids where the other parent is frequently a japonica.

True reticulatas, particularly the so called *Yunnan varieties* like 'Shot Silk,' 'Willow Wand,' etc. are *trees*, not bushes — they grow from a leader shoot and if this point is removed or damaged then that branch will die unless there is somewhere else for the growth to proceed, so this class of plant must be pruned to an ongoing eye not just to where you hope there will be one in a leaf axil. Again, as die-back can be a problem use mastic to seal the cuts and be a little circumspect.

With *reticulata hybrids* it is possible to be a mite more adventuresome. Depending on what the other parent is, some such as 'Flower Girl' can be treated like their sasanqua half, others like 'Lila Naff' can almost be treated as japonicas without any ill effects, but varieties such as 'Howard Asper,' which obviously tend back towards the reticulata side of their parentage, must be treated as if they were straight retics and these you will never get bushy.

So basically: Prune to reinforce the natural growth pattern of the plant, not in direct contradiction to it.

Prune when the plant is as near to dormant as it ever becomes, not when

it is growing at its most vigorous. Most important, remember that a heavily pruned plant has a large rootstock and may be a small head so it will grow most rampantly when it starts off; you will get growth but probably no flowers for a season or two until it settles down again.

Pruning Time Will Soon Be Here

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Most people prefer to prune at time of blooming or very soon thereafter. Whatever time you should select, here are some pointers by Jim Wagner, a horticulturist, at the Oregon Camellia Society's meeting in November 1982.

1. Opening up the plant to let in light and air will help to eliminate scale.

2. There are exceptions to all pruning practices. One should observe each individual plant for its needs.

3. Suggestions for the "right attitude" toward pruning seem important. *Think* you will be *successful* and you will be.

4. In pruning young camellias, watch for a second leader which would give competition to the main leader, and keep the second leader subdominant to the main leader.

5. Watch for branches lower down, growing parallel to the main trunk. Prune to structure your camellia the way you want it to go. Don't be timid in doing this. They can take a lot of pruning.

6. Prune to open up things so you don't have a ball of leaves and stems.

7. Drop-crotching: cut tip of branch to a bud, branch or crotch. Terminal buds control the growth of the bud directly below them. Thinning and drop-crotching will force more buds.

8. Pruning is a dwarfing process. Frequent pruning is more dwarfing. Even three times a year it can be done. Removal of buds does no harm. It is what you *leave* that counts. Open spaces fill up. Any place you let light get in, will fill up as it forces new growth.

9. The blooming period tells what happened last summer. Camellias need a summer resting period in order to bloom well. They need to dry out between watering during the resting period. During the summer rest period the leaf buds turn to flower buds. Withhold water and fertilizer during the resting period.

10. The dormant season is not necessarily the best season to prune. Pruning in late Spring and early Summer slows next year's growth. The best time to prune is just about the time growth stops and before it starts its storage of food to harden the wood.

11. Fertilize camellias in the fall with low nitrogen and high phosphorus and potash.

12. consider root pruning for large plants. Go around the plant with a sharp, straight spade, digging down a spade's depth. No set rules for this distance. It differs with each plant. When the top of a plant is pruned severely, the roots should be pruned, too. This keeps the plant in balance and helps to dwarf or control growth. Hard pruning can delay or prevent bud formation, however.

13. Where to start pruning? It makes no difference, but one way is to 1st remove dead, diseased and damaged wood. 2nd, reduce size if necessary by drop-crotching. 3rd, start thinning. What is left of the plant is what is needed. Look at the structure.

14. Espaliering: All the above rules apply to espaliering. Use cuphooks in the wall for training branches. The cuphooks come in all sizes and eliminate tying. In espaliering, remove all

undesired branches. Support the remaining branches in the desired place. The second year remove long side branches and shorten others to thicken the foliage. The third year, start pruning. Do not cut the ends of permanent branches while they are developing. Practice. Become familiar with plant growth. Pruning is not an exact science — therefore there are exceptions to all rules.





MANAGING SOIL AND ROOT ECOLOGY IN THE GARDEN

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Introduction

Healthy gardens require an "integrated" approach to proper culture. by planning ahead you can enjoy the benefits of many cultural advantages.

Selecting a Site for Purchase and/or Use

1. Survey gardens in the immediate vicinity, look for familiar/desirable plants and examine their color, stature, and overall condition.
2. Use a shovel and your hands and examine the soil here and there to determine character and variability on the site. Watch for indications of fill, compaction, contamination, etc.
3. Dig one or more pits to a depth of about one foot, fill with water and examine drainage time.
4. If any doubts exist, secure a soil analysis including N, P, K, E.C., pH, organic matter, lime content, type-texture, and interpretations and recommendations for stated or projected use. Where serious doubts exist, perhaps a more extensive mineral analysis and a phytotoxicity or plant growth test might be in order.
5. Secure any available information on your area available from developer, former owner, or county agricultural agent.

Selecting Plant Material—A MOST CRUCIAL STEP

1. Plan ahead.
2. Consider all available information/recommendations on appropriate plants for site, compatible plants, disease susceptibilities, etc.
3. Obtain plants from reputable sources.
4. Always insist on healthy (pathogen free) plants. Examine plants before purchase (including root ball examination, stability in container, overall appearance). Reject sub-standard or sick plant material.
5. For large landscapes/expensive projects, obtain consultation of plant pathologist to review plant material before purchase.
6. Establish a suitable holding area for planting material and assure proper care until planting. Try to minimize holding time before planting. Examine plant introductions for possible disease or insect infestations.

Preparing the Site

1. Plan ahead.
2. Consider basic landscape/building plan before doing anything. Strive for a "total" design including shade, layout, drainage patterns,

etc. Look ahead to the mature nature of trees and shrubs. Plan plant material wisely for your area. Consider also your adjoining neighbors' gardens in terms of esthetic compatibility, backdrop, shade competition, etc.
3. Grade, install drainage tile, or take other steps to permit/encourage proper drainage.
4. Amend soil as needed (particularly organic matter, for pH adjustment, textural modification, drainage/aeration) and allow at least a few weeks prior to planting for stabilization/equilibrium. Good soils should be left alone or given only slight surficial amendment. Follow all available information and label directions.

Maintaining Healthy Container Plants

1. Review appropriate literature, including my article "Integrated Control of *Phytophthora* Root Rot" published in *The Camellia Journal* and the *Camellia Review*. Learn the direct (root) and indirect (top) symptoms of root disease and other problems.
2. Minimize holding time for container stock intended for field planting.
3. Elevate all containers at least 1 inch (to 2 or 3 feet) from ground to minimize infestation with soilborne disease and pest organisms.
4. Avoid shifting stock to oversized containers (especially deep containers).
5. Do not reuse potting mixes.
6. Formulate well-drained media of good-quality components.
7. Discard or isolate all sick plants.
8. Separate propagation and young plants from older, long-term stock.
9. Isolate incoming plants until you are certain they are not infested with pests.

Alternatives for Overly Wet or Poorly Drained Garden Areas

1. Plan ahead.
2. Improve drainage via grading, roof gutters and downspout rerouting, tiles, soil amendments, etc.
3. Select tolerant plants or water-"using" plants.
4. Plant intolerant plants in raised beds or berms of well-drained soil/mix (provide as needed for water drainage from berms).
5. *Control* irrigation. If you must use automatic systems, emply an area-specialized multi-control system — or relegate certain garden areas to manual care.
6. If automatic irrigation is used, install irrometer control (electronic tensiometers) to override the autocycle under wet or dry conditions.

Alternatives for Deficient, Overly Salty, or Otherwise Poor Soils

1. Plan ahead.
2. Improve/amend soil *based on analysis* and consultative recommendations.
3. Grow tolerant plants on site soil.
4. Grow intolerant plants (e.g., deciduous magnolias, camellias, etc.) on raised planters or berms with suitable soil mix (consider placing impervious layer between native soil and berm in extreme cases, and to provide then for lateral drainage; consult as necessary).
5. Keep plants in surface containers or sunken tubs with necessary provided drainage.

Alternatives to Combat or Live with Root Competition

1. Plan ahead.
2. Select plant material combinations carefully.
3. Give competitive trees and shrubs room.
4. Encourage deep rooting of trees by watering separately, deeply, infrequently (but according to a climatically adjusted schedule)
5. Grow intolerant plants in walled (buried) tubs, in raised beds, or on berms (possibly with barrier between underlying soil and planters). Always provide for adequate air and water access to tree

and shrub roots — and drainage from planters.

6. Water more frequently, lightly in stress periods (for underplantings) (See #5, 6 under Overly Wet Soil Section).

Other Considerations to Satisfy Needs of Different Plants in Garden

1. Plan ahead. Consider plant needs and compatibilities. View your developing garden as a natural landscape (although it isn't) and place/stage plants accordingly. give plants room for growth. Keep them in scale with other surrounding plants and nearby buildings.
2. Place spring bulbs in areas, walled containers or raised beds where summer irrigation is minimized.
3. Use selective manual or automatic (tensiometer-regulated) irrigation to provide "custom" care for different garden sections.
4. Minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides to the point of just achieving desired results. "Back off" of present amounts or dosages of fertilizers until you find a minimal level for satisfactory care. Follow all label directions on pesticides and other regulated products.
5. Use disease resistant or tolerant plants or rootstocks.
6. Maintain moderate surface mulches where possible to retain soil moisture, to buffer the soil against rapid climatic changes, and to stimulate nutrient cycling and other beneficial microbial activities.
7. Examine plants regularly and take prompt action against serious disease and pest problems.
8. Keep heavy vegetation (including vines) away from and off of tree trunks.
9. Plant at proper depths.
10. Avoid altering the natural soil level around established trees such as oaks. If such changes are desired, take all recommended actions/ measures to provide for drainage, aeration, water access, feeding, etc.

There are many other points that could be mentioned. Take time to understand the nature and requirements of each kind of plant you use and try to integrate that plant into the garden by satisfying its needs as much as possible. Some plants are incompatible in the same soil side by side, but may be brought together via raised beds, isolated sunken tubs, seasonal planting or other approaches. Other plants may be better kept well apart because of appearance or the fact that they share disease problems, etc.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

Did it ever occur to you that man's life is full of crosses and temptations? He comes into the world without his consent and goes out against his will.

When a man is little the big girls kiss him. When he is big the little girls kiss him.

If he is poor he is a bad manager. If he is rich he is dishonest. If he is poor and needs credit, he can't get it. If he is rich, everyone wants to do him a favor.

If he is in politics, it is for money. If he is out of politics he is no good for the country. If he does not give to charity, he is a stingy wretch. If he does, it is for show.

If he is actively religious, he is a hypocrite. If he takes no interest in religion he is a hardened sinner.

If he gives affection he is a soft mark. If he cares for no one, he is cold blooded. If he dies young, there was a great future for him. If he lives to an old age, he missed his calling.

If you save your money, you're a miser. If you spend it, you're a fool. If you get it, you're a twister. If you don't get it, you're no good. So what's the use of worrying. Life's just one darn thing after another.

So keep smiling.

GARDEN PLANTS CAN BE UNHEALTHY FOR CHILDREN

Those *potatoes, tomatoes, and rhubarbs* growing in back yard gardens can be dangerous to your health. In fact they can kill you.

Children are especially vulnerable to harm from eating the leaves or berries of household and garden plants, according to Dr. William J. Cassidy, chairman of the department of emergency medicine at the Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, Virginia.

The *leaves of the rhubarb,* for instance, can be fatal when eaten either raw or cooked, he said.

"Any green part of a potato, including the green skin and sprouts, is poisonous," he added. "So are the leaves and stems of the garden tomato plant."

All parts of the azalea, laurel and *rhododendron are toxic,* especially the foliage — eating as few as two leaves can cause serious illness.

Other shrubs and ornamental plants that can be poisonous include *daphne, English ivy, holly, hydrangea, lily-of-the-valley, wisteria and yew.*

There is a danger from house plants, too. *All parts of the mistletoe* are poisonous, for instance, and children have died from eating the berries.

Castor bean seeds are also very poisonous, especially if the hard outer shell is cracked. Two or three seeds can cause death. *Children have also died from eating just one poinsettia leaf.*

"Eating the wrong parts of these and many other plants can make even a normal, healthy adult nauseous and cause diarrhea and other bad effects," Dr. Cassidy said.

"But children suffer the severe and sometimes fatal effects. *They must be protected from their own curiosity."*

Small children have been known to eat anything, he pointed out. "Just because an adult would not consume a plant or berry or chew on a twig, it's not safe to assume that your children will not eat plants."

If you think your child may have eaten a poisonous plant, immediate action is imperative, Dr. Cassidy stressed.

"Call the nearest poison control center," he urged. "The number should be kept posted in a conspicuous place near your telephone."

For most poisonous plant substances, you will be told to induce vomiting. *Syrup of ipecac can be bought at most drug stores for this purpose. Every parent should have this on hand.*

"In an emergency, you can also use plenty of water with soapsuds — not detergent — or salt, baking soda, raw eggs or milk. And very large amounts of water help to dilute the poison."

"Don't wait for the symptoms to appear," Dr. Cassidy added. "Often symptoms will take time to manifest themselves — and then it may be too late for effective treatment."

THE 19TH REVISED EDITION OF *CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE*

The Nomenclature Research Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society has set a target date of October 1, 1986 for the release of its 19th Revised Edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE.

Therefore, the *cut-off date of June 1, 1986* has been established for the inclusion of any new registrations and/or for any changes in descriptions of camellia cultivars. Any registrations or changes in descriptions submitted after the date of June 1, 1986 will be held for inclusion in the 20th Revised Edition which is presently targeted for release in 1989.

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, Warrren 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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