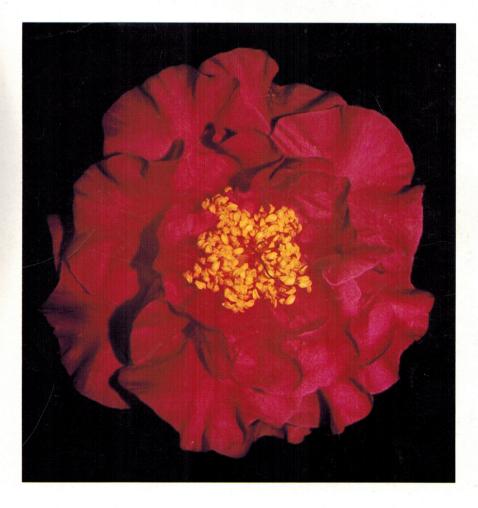


A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Big Dipper'

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 will hold open meetings at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, on October 17, November 21 and December 19 in Ayres Hall, January 23, February 27 and March 26 in the Lecture Hall. The last meeting, April 23, will be in Ayres Hall. A camellia culture demonstration / lecture and cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 p.m. precedes the program which begins at 8:00 p.m. Blossom placement at 7:00 p.m. for the exhibit.

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THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC. Copyright 1991

Four issues per volume — September, December, February and May.

Correspondence and manuscripts for publication should be sent directly to the editor.

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Printed by Wood & Jones

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THOUGHTS from the editor

This Review reaches you later than desirable because my husband Ray went into the hospital in mid-October for an emergency, but successful heart bypass operation complicated by pneumonia which kept him in the hospital for five weeks and then at home into the new year. He's back on track now, and so am I.

Glenn Attrill has added much to the quality of sight and sound at our meetings this year through his skillful manipulation of video and audio

equipment. He deserves a special pat on the back.

What a pleasure to share this page with so many new and returning members! All of us will try to make the Society fun and informative for you, hoping our camellia hobby will provide a new vista to enrich your lives.

NEW MEMBERS

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Dr. Alvin E. Johnson* 6348 Pratt Dr. New Orleans, LA 70122 (504)288-7802

The Seedling Time Machine

by Houghton Hall

In our San Anselmo, California garden we have many visitors, including people keen and knowledgeable in the art of gardening, as well as many who have none or very little gardening interest but who come to see our camellias in bloom season.

Regardless of the varying degree of horticultural knowledge of these visitors, I have found it well-nigh impossible to explain to them the extreme variableness of the Genus Camellia. The fact that a camellia seedling is never the same as the parents seems so contrary to the norm that most people find it hard to believe since the seeds of most plant species reproduce true to the parents.

Then there is the almost unbelievable time factor involved in the development of a new camellia variety from seed through various stages to the commercial market and beyond. Again, this time frame is almost impossible to explain to our casual visitor because of its length and complexity (this may also include and surprise some camellia growers who are not involved in this phase of camellia culture).

The table below indicates the stages in the development process of a worthy camellia seedling and the time factor for each segment, keeping in mind the variables which may apply to each individual case:

seed planting and germination 6 months reporting to 1 gal. container 1 year reporting to 2 gal. container 4 years (hold for first bloom)
first flower evaluation 3 years graft evaluation 2 years show exhibition as a seedling 1 year registration and naming 1 year commercial propagation and distribution 3 years

Total 151/2 years

Segment Comment

All of the segments above are variable, plus or minus, depending on many factors, including the following:

1. Greenhouse or outdoor culture: If greenhouse protected;

(a) Grolux lighting

(b) winter heating

- 2. Repotting at the end of one year to a two gallon container: This applies to all species, but in particular to reticulata hybrids which do not like to have their root system constrained.
- 3. First flower evaluation: All seedling first flowers must be observed for at least three years because of instability. The second year flower is many times completely different

from the first year flower.

Also, the time element for first flowering must be considered due to considerable variation between species and variety. Four to five years has generally been considered the norm, but this can vary greatly.

Under the evaluation category, too, is the necessity to see the potentially fine new flower on a graft. Often the original seedling may be on the weak side so an early graft is a must, and will in almost all cases improve both the vigor of the plant as well as the size and color of the flower.

A personal observation on this will serve to illustrate the point: In

1967 I crossed japonicas 'Reg Ragland Var.' and 'Kramer's Supreme'. After bringing the seedling to first flower, which proved to have some potential, I continued to observe it for many years but was not convinced that it was outstanding. Then in 1979 I finally grafted it and voila, both the flower and plant were vastly improved to the point where I decided to register and name it in 1979, so it became 'High Time' after a 20-year interval between seed and registration.

4. Show exhibition as a seedling: While this is not mandatory, due to the fact that it is sometimes difficult to get a seedling flower to the table due to scarcity of blooms or their condition, it is nevertheless a source of great satisfaction to see it a winner in what must be considered the most difficult of all show

sections to judge.

5. Finally, there is the time element of propagation and commercial introduction of any new flower. A good propagator can have scions of the new flower for sale in about two years, then after a few more years, it is on to the shows, the ribbons and the trophy table.

As a final note, the timetable can be cut down, with particular reference to the first two years after germination. This, however, requires extremely specialized treatment and handling, and although it may save two or three years, it does not eliminate or subtract from the balance of the total timetable. For those who may wish to try to cut down the time, please refer to two articles written by F. N. Spencer and H. P. Mathews in the 1970 ACS Yearbook, entitled "Germination of Reticulata and Hybrid Seeds" and "Growing Reticulata Seedlings."

No seedling of mine is ever discarded, given away or relegated to understock until it has bloomed. If it has potential, it is observed for a second, sometimes a third year.

After this trial period, I set out plants to be used as grafting understock, keeping in mind the premium yearly grafting period of December through March. I bring the plants up from one of the growing areas in June, keep them in one particular spot, prune them heavily and then pull them out of the container (usually 2 gallon size) to inspect the roots. If there is any sign of root rot or other problem, I discard them at once so as not to jeopardize the success of the imminent graft. Also, this is the ideal time to add extra soil mix to the bottom and around the sides of the container should the level in the container so indicate.

This procedure saves a lot of time and wasted effort. The use of Subdue in the soil mix in the past few years has substantially reduced the root-rot problems, but I still feel it is essential to visually inspect the root system. This method of handling results in hardy seedling understock five to six or more years old with a developed root system for a substantially better graft.

1991 CROP HUNTINGTON GARDENS CAMELLIA SEEDS

Japonica Seeds — \$7.50 per 100 (minimum order)
Sasanqua Seeds — \$5.50 per (00 (minimum order)
Reticulata Seeds — \$.25 each

Southern California Camellia Society

c/o Dean Alltizer, 1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale, CA 91202

Random Thoughts on Seedling Understock

After many years of growing seedlings, certain varieties stand out for me as above average, with their offspring being on the whole superior on both growth and vigor, and in many cases outdoing their parents on both counts.

Listed below by species and variety are those I have found to have

outstanding seedlings:

'Ariana Hall'*
'Berenice Boddy'
'Betty Sheffield Supreme'
'Covina'
'Demi-Tasse'

Camellia japonica
'Kuro Tsubaki'
'Magnoliaeflora'
'Mark Allen Var.'
'Nancy Mandarich'
'Tama-No-Ura'

'Dr. Tinsley' 'Tiffany'
'Elsie Ruth Marshall' 'Yours Truly'

'Golden Gate' *seedling of 'Dr. Tinsley'

Of the above, perhaps the top is 'Dr. Tinsley'.

The reader may wonder why 'Kuro Tsubaki' is included, since it is certainly not a heavy seed-setter, but if by any chance you have seeds from this variety, be sure to grow them on—they are outstanding.

Camellia saluenensis hybrids

'Brigadoon' 'J. C. Williams'*
'Donation'

*All 'J. C. Williams' seedlings are above average

Camellia sasangua

'Bonanza' 'Rainbow'
'Glad Tidings'* 'Yuletide'

'Hugh Evans' *seedling of 'Yuletide'

All sasanquas seedlings are excellent but take longer to grow to maturity than other species.

Camellia reticulata and reticulata hybrids

'Arch of Triumph'
'Buddha'
'Carl Tourje'
'Cornelian'
'Crimson Robe'
'Lasca Beauty'

Camellia reticulata and reticulata hybrids

'Milo Rowell'
'Mouchang'
'Nuccio's Ruby'
'Pink Sparkle'
'Tali Queen'

All of these camellias have excellent seedlings, but special mention should be made of 'Pink Sparkle' seedlings' fast growth, exceptional vigor and upright structure which make them a standout. This opinion was confirmed by members of the Northern California Camellia Society Research Committee at one of their recent meetings.

I am sure that many camellia growers have their own favorite varieties to produce seedlings for grafting understock, thus the above listings are merely

my own personal preferences.

Editor's Note: In his article "Stress Problems? Try Camellias" for the August 1991 Camellia Journal, Jim Pinkerton notes: "What are the best of the recent introductions? First, I would rate 'Hall's Pride Var.'. As far as I know, it is undefeated. It was entered in four shows and four times it was a winner. It will make the folks in San Anselmo, California [Hall's home] forget "Maddog" Reilly, the guitar player for the Kingston Trio, and proclaim Houghton Hall as their greatest citizen. His 'Big Dipper' is also undefeated, but I think only one flower has bloomed outside San Anselmo. It won the Aiken show in January."

Pinkerton is speaking of shows in the Southeast where he lives.

Meyer Piet Speaks on Research

In the spring of 1991 Meyer Piet spoke at a Society meeting to catch members up on his and Lee Gaeta's camellia research.

I can tell you that I feel Lee and I are ahead of everyone else in hybridizing with Chrysantha. It is not easy and takes a great deal of patience. We have crossed and grown about 10 or 12 seeds that come from the mother plant Chrysantha. The pollen parent was Japonica, Japonica-Retic, Saluenensis, etc.

We have seen one of our third generation plants, white Retic x 'Olympic Gold' (Chrysantha) then crossed back with Chrysantha, the mother plant. We expected to see yellow and did, a light yellow, but we repotted the plant up and it has not bloomed again for two seasons. The plant is healthy, and we expect it to bloom this next season.

Most of our yellow crosses have a great deal of Japaonica or Sasanqua in the blood line. We keep many of the seedlings for back-crossing, but we have discarded most of the red offsprings as they have dark retic in the blood line. Lee and I don't believe this color can be worked out of the heredity characteristics.

At the present time we have not seen any yellow flower worth introducing. When an acceptable flower does bloom, it must be better than its mother plant, 'Olympic Gold'. Next season we have several yellow parent seedlings that will bloom for the first time. About two or three years ago we started to graft onto very large understock. This will definitely speed up our progress as most of the big,

grafted plants are much better than the original two gallon grafts.

So we will keep trying. It's lots of fun and we do see some unusual seedlings and are also encouraged by yellow streaks and color.

While this program goes on, we are getting an excellent group of peony, anemone, formal, etc. flowers, most small or miniatures, as shown by the 19 new seedlings slides.

We are still crossing for big retics. This last season our seedling, 'Karrie Armijo', threw absolutely beautiful 6" diameter, very full, strong flowers. The mother plant was 'Mandalay Queen'.

Most of you saw the 'Diego Armijo' that Lee brought to the last meeting. It is best described as a huge 6" orchid type flower.

The Lee Gaeta flowers bloomed great this year. A big 6" red flower, much fuller than 'Emma Gaeta', will be winning shows soon. 'White Lightning' is a great, true anemone, white flower about 5" in diameter.

This season, like last season, I cut down about eight or 10 of my large camellia plants and grafted on some of our new flowers. These new grafts will be five or six feet tall in two or three years and will be new flowers worth keeping.

If you think we are slowing down, forget it. This year we are growing our usual 200 plus new seedlings. It is a great hobby, and I am certain Lee and I will continue to enjoy our work.



A 'Yuletide' Christmas Tree

Did you see the 'Yuletide' Huntington camellia curator Ann Richardson pruned into a Christmas tree form for the December 1991 Sunset magazine? The 'Yuletide' is but a tiny sample of

Ann's artistry with pruning tools. The Huntington Gardens' magnificently pruned camellia collection testifies gloriously to Ann's skill at this horticultural art.

My Favorite Camellia Varieties

I have grown, tested and observed hundreds of camellia varieties in my Southern California garden for a period in excess of fifty years. During this time, a number of growers and hobbyists have listed, in writing and orally, what they consider to be the best varieties. In my opinion there are no best varieties of camellia, but only favorite varieties. What would by considered a best variety by a grower or hobbyist in his or her given area and climate may not even produce an acceptable bloom in my particular location and culture. This is why I maintain that there is no such thing as a *best* variety but only a *favorite* variety based on one's preference, location, climate and culture.

In selecting my favorite varieties, consideration is given to flower color, size, form, plant growth habits, blooming time and consistent performance over

a period of years in my growing area without chemical treatment.

Let us take color for example; I know several hobbyists who would choose mostly white flowers. Although my list of favorites includes all colors, I will confess that I prefer the red colors, and the deeper red, the better.

As far as size goes, while I do not prefer the smaller sizes, you will note that I have several small blooms on my list. This is because there are some small blooming camellias with outstanding performance.

Form is not as important a criteria as others.

One of the most important attributes which would influence my choice of favorite camellia is the plant growth habit. The camellia varieties on my list of favorites all have a compact growth. In fact, in order for a variety to get on my list, it must be a good garden shrub as well as a plant which produces beautiful blooms. Bloom period is also an important factor to me because I like to observe fresh flowers in my garden. Too often, in my particular hot, dry Sherman Oaks location, late blooming varieties tend to wilt and droop if an early spring hot spell occurs.

As far as consistency is concerned, this is my most important criteria as I judge a variety on its ability to produce good blooms year after year in my area.

Based on the above, there are hereinafter set forth my favorite varieties of the species *Camellia japonica* and camellia hybrids.

C. japonica

'Adolph Audusson Var.' 'Barbara Woodroof' 'Betty's Beauty' 'Bob Hope' 'Cherries Jubilee' 'Debutante' 'Eleanor Martin Supreme' 'Elizabeth Dowd Silver' 'Fashionata' 'Grand Slam' 'Guilio Nuccio' 'Guilio Nuccio Var.' 'Hishi Karaito' 'Iwane' 'Jean Clere' 'Katie' 'Katie Var.' 'Magnoliaeflora' 'Margaret Davis' 'Margaret Davis Picotee'

'Mathotiana' i 'Mathotiana Supreme' 'Moonlight Bay' 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' 'Nuccio's Cameo' 'Nuccio's Gem' 'Nuccio's Jewel' 'Prima Ballerina' 'Reg Ragland' 'Reg Ragland Var.' 'R. Ľ. Wheeler' 'R. L. Wheeler Var.' 'Scarlet Glory' 'Show Time 'Silver Chalice' 'Silver Lace' 'Spring Sonnet' 'Tiffany' 'Tomorrow Park Hill' 'White Nun'

camellia hybrids

'Arcadia' 'Baby Bear' 'Buttons 'n Bows' 'Terrell Weaver'

'Lasca Beauty'
'Margaret Hilford'
'Nuccio's Ruby'

In addition, there are four other camellia varieties which have been released during the past several years which I believe will merit inclusion in my favorite camellia list. They are: *c. japonica* 'Joe Nuccio' and 'Royal Velvet'; and hybrids 'Bill Woodroof' and 'Bravo'.

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Court of Honor Workers

by Bob and Alice Jaacks

Editor's Note: Alice and Bob wrote up some of their tips for making Court of Honor judging run smoothly for the Temple City Camellia Society in 1986. Since they are especially competent mainstays at the tables, I asked them for permission to print some of their ideas.

After the exhibitor places the blooms on the table before judging, as court of honor workers we do not rearrange the blooms in their cups. A bloom is judged and "sent up" to the Head Table if the judges deem it a superior blossom. The Head Table judges arrange the flowers by turning the cups, not the blooms themselves, so that each flower is seen at its very best by the final panel of judges.

When setting up these blooms for final judging, we try to arrange them on the tables so that a pink bloom is not next to another pink, same for white blooms, reds and variegated blooms. By breaking up the colors, we feel each bloom stands out by itself and thus the final judging can be done on each flower's own merit as much as possible. There are times that it is impossible to separate the colors. In that case, we still try to arrange the flowers so that each is seen as an individual flower, not just as a mass of red or whatever.

We use color codes in setting up our court of Honor. Our ballots and the paper used to cover the entry cards are the same color for each category. We find the judges seem to like this. It helps to make sure they are using the right ballot for the right category.

Al Gamper brought up the fact that blooms are better judged if all blooms are placed in a single line instead of two or possibly three lines. This would be great if floor space and tables were always available. Sometimes the number of blooms sent to the Head Table makes it necessary for additional rows of blooms. We don't like to see only a few blooms available for final judging. We believe it fairer if more blooms are seen by the final judging group. Hobbyists

are growing more and more competitive each year and each good bloom worthy of going to the Head Table should have an equal chance. Screening in some cases is necessary due to space, but screening judges are available to accomplish this task.

After several final judges have judged a particular category, a Head Table judge may remove the ballots and start the tallying process in order to expedite the procedure. A Head Table judge may have two or perhaps three categories to tally. By tallying the votes after several judges have completed one category, the Head judge can then proceed to the next one. In this way the overall judging can be completed within a reasonable time.

After the last ballot is tallied, the Head Table judge counts the number of first, second, third and fourth place votes according to the number of tally marks recorded. The bloom with the most overall votes would be awarded "Best" of that particular category. In the event of a tie, the bloom with the most first place votes would be considered "Best" and the other bloom would be considered "Runner-up." If there is still a tie, the Head Table judge would consider the number of second place votes to determine the final placement. If there is still a tie, then the number of third place votes would be considered, etc. At this writing, we don't believe we have ever had to go beyond second place veotes to break a tie. If a tie cannot be broken, we suggest that the Chairman of Judges, a roving judge or screening judge be asked to assist.

When the winners are determined, stickers are then attached to the entry cards and runners take the flow-

ers, with the entry cards, to the recording table. Usually, the Court of Honor blooms remain on the Head Table until requested by the recording persons. We generally put the

Court of Honor blooms together so that the "also ran" blooms can be taken to the designated area set aside for these special blooms.

Pacific Camellia Society Gib Show December 7-8, 1991

Best Large Treated Japonica 'Easter Morn' Best Medium Treated Japonica Grand Marshal' Runner-up 'Nuccio's Jewel' Best Large Japonica 'Kramer's Supreme' Runner-up 'Harvey Short's Finale' Best Medium Japonica 'Margaret's Joy' Runner-up 'Desire Best Small Treated Japonica 'Demi-Tasse' Runner-up 'Irene' 'Grace Albritton' Best Treated Miniature Japonica Runner-up 'Kewpie Doll' Best Small Japonica 'Ave Maria' Runner-up 'Pink Perfection' Best Miniature Japonica 'Shala's Baby Runner-up 'Kewpie Doll Best Retic Hybrid (open)* 'Valentine Day' Runner-up 'Bill Woodroof' Best Non-Retic Hybrid (o) 'Angel Wings' Runner-up 'Elsie Jury' Best Species (o) 'Star Above Star' Runner-up 'Egao' Best 3 Lrg Japonicas (o) 'Grand Prix' Runner-up 'Miss Charleston' Best 3 Med. Japonicas (o) 'Wildfire' Runner-up 'Rudolph' Best 3 Small Japonicas (o) 'Pink Perfection' Runner-up 'Kewpie Doll' Best 3 Retic Hybrids (o) 'Dr. Clifford Parks' Runner-up 'Shanghai Lady' Best 3 Non-Retic Hybrids(o) 'Angel Wings' Runner-up 'South Seas' Best 3 Species(o) 'Shishi-Gashira' Runner-up 'Shibori Egao' **Best 3 Mixed Varieties** Runner-up Collector's Tray 'Valentine Day'

Runner-up

Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jaacks Mr. and Mrs. Ben Mackall Marvin Belcher Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harmsen Tom Hughes Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jaacks Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jaacks Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jaacks Mr. and Mrs. Berkley Pace Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harmsen Dean Alltizer Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Melvin Belcher Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Lee Chow Melvin Belcher Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracce Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jaacks Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan Mr. and Mrs. Berkley Pace Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Tom Hughes Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jaacks Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jaacks Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Novice 4"or more

Novice less than 4" Debutante Dorothy McQuiston *open (o) denotes a class in which treated and untreated blooms are accepted.

Show Chairman-Russell Monroe Chairman of Judges-Julius Christinson

CORRECTION

'Silver Lace'

Unfortunately the following member was omitted from our Registration List. Sincere apologies to:
Nagamasa Furuichi
112 Shiom-Cho Showa-Ku
Nagayo 466

Japan

California Camellia-Rama XVII

by Mary Anne Raye

Friday, November 1, 1991, Pat Melton and her crew of Central California Camellia Society members backed up by their spread of special delicacies greeted and treated California camellia lovers in the Camellia Hospitality Room at Sheraton-Smuggler's Inn in Fresno. (17 years! I wonder if that is some kind of record for such an affair held in the same place by the same society.)

Some beautiful blooms were entered in the earliest California camellia show managed by Virginia Rankin and Dick Pozdol. Trophy winners were: Best Boutonniere-'Little Michael'-Bob and Alice Jaacks, San Gabriel. Best Species-'Navajo'-Ruth Ann Lewis, Fresno. Best Hybrid-'Buttons 'n Bows'-Jack and Ann Woo, Fresno. Best Retic-'Al Gunn'-Sergio and Elsie Bracci, San Gabriel. Best Large Japonica-'Tiffany'-Sergio and Elsie Bracci, San Gabriel. Best Me-

dium Japonica and Best of Show-'Nuccio's Jewel'-Sergio and Elsie Bracci, San Gabriel. Smuggler's Inn and CCCS provided the trophies.

Chairman Bob Kellas presented the following interesting and informative speakers: Dr. C. J. Phene, Research leader of Water Management Research Lab, USA-ARS* (Fresno) spoke on water conservation, especially with subsurface equipment.

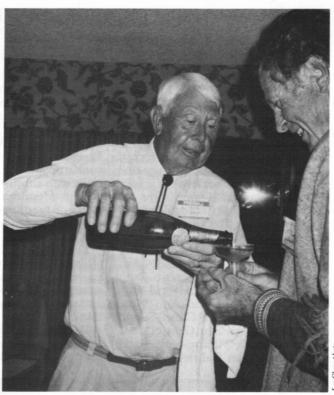
John Mendoza III (Santa Clara) spoke on seedlings and grafting seedlings to shorten first blooming peri-

Lowell Cordas, Director of Saratoga Horticultural Foundation** (Gilroy) spoke on preserving the gene pool of camellias developed in this country and preserving large camellia collections.

Bob and Alice Jaacks with Sergio Bracci gave a very colorful travelog of Europe and Southern California in-

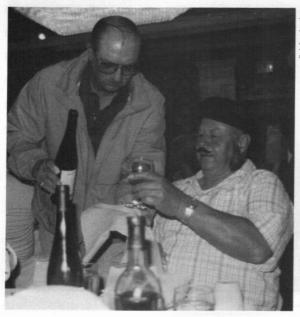


Mary Anne Ray, sweetheart of Camellia-Rama



Al Taylor pours for a receptive Jim McQuiston.





The Italians are pickier. Sergio Bracci questions what Juge Nuccio wants to pour into his glass.



Chris Gonos thinks the party is A-okay.

cluding the beautiful tulip fields of Holland.

Scheduled speakers Bob and Ruth Marcy missed their appearance because Bob broke his ankle the day before Cammelia-Rama. See you two next year!

The Saturday afternoon symposium ended with a question and answer panel.

Many door prizes were awarded throughout the day.

The evening fun began with the uniquely costumed "Movie Stars" Parade from the Champagne Hospitality Room to the Banquet Room. The judges selected these winners: Best Couple-"Days of Wine and Roses"-Jim and Jackie Randall, Sacramento.

Runner-up-"Fiddler on the Roof"-Bob Ehrhart and Linda Williams, Walnut Creek.

Most Original-"Jaws"-Sergio and Elsie Bracci, San Gabriel. Most Comical-"Pinocchio"-Ann Richardson, San Marino.

Runner-up-"Couch Potatoes"-Dick and Pat Pozdol, Fresno.

Best Theme-"Ninja Turtles"-Vir-

ginia Rankin, Modesto, and Bob and Betty Kellas, Fresno.

Silliest-"Clowns"-Bob and Nancy Steele, Auburn. Most Glamorous-"Sonja Henie"-Tom Lee, Sacramento, who did an ice-skating number on blade skates under the guidance of Director Marge Lee.

One person at each table won the centerpiece, a Movie Doll, made from an old Reader's Digest (a Dee and Mary Anne creation).

Guests won over 200 prizes in the Awesome Raffle manned be Wilbur

Ray and Ed Streit.

Of the five winners in the "Winners Need Not Be Present to Win Raffle," three winners proved to be just that.

For the evening parade and dancing, Johnny Salatine and Son provided unlimited variety and styles of music ending in some rousing group numbers; including the "Tarantella," with nearly everyone on the floor-

dancing that is. Ring leaders physically encouraging everyone, were Julius Nuccio and Art Gonos.

Fortunately all were recuperated Sunday morning for the Farewell Breakfast.

Thank you all for particapating in our gala affair. Good luck in the coming camellia season, and remember the theme for 1992 is "Islands"—any island, any where—even including "The Island in the Sky."

For further information:

*Dr. C. J. Phene Water Management Lab-USDA-ARS 2021 S. Peach Fresno, CA 93725

**Lowell Cordas Saratoga Horticultural Foundation Inc. 15185 Murphy Ave. San Martin, CA 95046



Lee Chow caught Lavenia and Roger Treischel in a pensive mood.



Linda Williams and Robert Ehrhardt portrayed an actress and actor from "Fiddler on the Roof."



Tom Lee flits around the room on blade skates as Sonia Heinie.

ob Jaacks p



Sergio and Elsie Bracci had a whale of a time as "Jaws."

Letter to the Editor

Napa, CA

Hi:

In your *Camellia Review* of Nov.-Dec. 1990 you indicated that I am 90 years old—Tain't so!! Admittedly there are days when I feel like I am 90 years old. I should also mention that I will be 84 years old before you open your Christmas presents.

New subject: Maybe you would like to include our Napa Valley Camellia Society among your listings of camellia societies. Our Society was founded by Judge Donald Fretz during 1990 and it is growing by leaps and bounds.

Our second camellia show will be held at the beautiful Mondavi Winery in Napa Valley. We had a very successful show in 1991 in the same lovely showroom, a show that will be remembered for many years to come.

Fondly, Edward T. Hall 2091 West F St. Napa, CA 94558

P.S. Nov. 8 we are leaving for a 19 day tour of New Zealand and Australia and hope to be able to visit some of the camellia growers down under.

Editor's Note: In the Nov.-Dec. 1991 Review I mentioned that Edward met Sergio Bracci in the Napa Valley and asked Sergio how he could get camellia seeds. After he got the information, he and his wife, Juanita, joined the Society. I thought Edward was a 90 year old optimist. His letter proves that I was wrong. People like Edward never grow old, as you can judge from his letter.

And yes, Edward, we will include the Napa Valley Camellia Society in next season's

directory and wish you all well in your vigorous new society.

1991 Camellia Winners

by Don Bergamini

As I began to write this article, I began to think about what these winners had to endure; a severe drought and a very cold freeze. These camellias truly deserved to win. Take note of the winners, because they were the survivors.

Large Japonicas	
'Miss Charleston Var.'6	'Tammia'2
'Grand Slam'5	9 others with 1 each
'Royal Velvet' 5	Reticulata Hybrids
'Elegans Champagne' 3 'Ivory Tower' 3	'Valley Knudsen'
'Ivory Tower'3	'Emma Gaeta Var.'6
'Katie Var.'	'Curtain Call'5
'Moonlight Bay'	'Harold Paige'5
'Easter Morn'2	'Francie L'3
'Elizabeth Weaver'2	'Al Gunn'2
'Grace Chow'2	'Arcadia'2
'Fire Dance'2	'Corrie Van Gastern'2
'Nuccio's Carousel'2	'Lois Shinault'2
'Wendy Var.'2	17 others with 1 each
16 others with 1 each	Non-Retic Hybrids
Madison Israeniasa	'Elsie Jury'
'Alta Gavin'4	'Angel Wings'3
'Alta Gavin'	'Elsie Jury' 7 'Angel Wings' 3 'Buttons 'n Bows' 3
'Margaret Davis'4	'Freedom Bell'3
'Wildfire'4	'Garden Glory'3
'Betty Foy Sanders'3	'Pink Dahlia'3
'Desire'3	'Waltz Time Var.'3
'Midnight'3	'Coral Delight Var.'2
'Dr. Tinsley'	'Hot Pink'
'Dr. Tinsley'	'Julie Var.'
'Raspberry Ice' 2 'Spring Sonnet' 2	'Kramer's Fluted Coral'2
'Spring Sonnet' 2	12 others with 1 each
14 others with 1 each	Species
Smalls (any species)	'Shibori Egao'5
'Demi-Tasse'4	'Egao'
'Dahlohnega'3	'Star Above Star'2
'Marchioness of Salisbury' 3	2 others with 1 each
'Marchioness of Salisbury'	Multiples Winner Japonicas
'Hishi-Karaito'	Multiples Winner Japonicas 'Nuccio's Carousel'8
'Hishi-Karaito'	'Royal Velvet'8
14 others with 1 each	'Grand Slam'4
Miniatures (all species)	'Magnoliaeflora'4
'Fircone Var.'4	'Wildfire'4
'Lemon Dron' 4	'Betty Foy Sanders'2
'Lemon Drop'4 'Shala's Baby'4	'Betty Foy Sanders'
'Botan Yuki'3	'Eleanor Martin Supreme'
'Chrysantha'3	'Fire Dance Var.'2
'Ellen Daniel'3	'Ivory Tower'
'Little Michael'3	'Julia France'2
'Little Slam'3	'Tiffany'2
'Little Slam Var.'2	27 others with one each
'Man Size'2	~
'Something Beautiful'2	'Hishi-Karaito'5
cometing beautiful	baylance over the second of the second

Ellen Daniel'	ç
Fircone Var.'	
Black Tie'	. 2
Botan-Yuki',	2
First-Blush [/]	2
Man Size'	2
Night Rider'	2
Spring Festival'	. 2
12 others with 1 each	
Retic Hybrids	
Harold Paige'	Ę
Cornelian ⁷	. :
Lasca Beauty'	. 3
Lasca Beauty' Valley Knudseh'	. 3
Emma Gaeta,	. 2
11 others with one each	
Non-Retic Hybrids	
Freedom Bell'	. 6
Julie Var.'	ç
Waltz Time Var.'	ç
Coral Delight Var.'	٠,٠
Corai Dengni var	. 4
Elsie Jury'	. 2
South Seas'	. 2
South Seas' Waltz Time'	. 2
5 others with one each	

'Miss Charleston Var.' took top honors in the large to very large class of japonicas followed closely by 'Grand Slam' and 'Royal Velvet'. The medium class had a four way tie with 'Alta Gavin', 'Grand Marshal', 'Margaret Davis' and 'Wildfire'. Smalls were led by 'Demi-Tasse', while the miniatures had a three way tie with 'Fircone Var.', 'Lemon Drop' and 'Shala's Baby'. There were really no runaway winners in these classes.

On the other hand, the Retic-hybrid and non-Retic hybrid classes did have runaways with 'Valley Knudsen' and 'Elsie Jury'. It was good to see 'Elsie Jury' back winning again after a five year hiatus from the top position.

If you want to win with multiples

take note of what's winning:

'Nuccio's Carousel', 'Royal Velvet', 'Hishi-Karaito', 'Harold Paige' and 'Freedom Bell' were the big winners. They really make beautiful trays and are a must for all exhibitors.

Thank You

Southern California Camellia Society extends thanks to the following members for their added financial support when paying yearly dues:

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Herbert Segner Kenneth C. Wagner

Book Report

by Bill Donnan

One of the most delightful and informative books on camellia culture is the recently released 100 page, paperback handbook "Growing Better Camellias in the 1990s" edited by Val Bieleski and published by the New Zealand Camellia Society in July 1990.

Although written by and for New Zealand hobbyists, this book has a wealth of cultural topics which would find application in any region where

camellias are grown.

Beginning with a chapter titled Introduction to the Genus Camellia, following chapters include: Choosing a Plant and Planting, Camellias and Your Soil, and General Plant Care. Other chapters cover: Nutrition, Camellia Pests, Pruning and Camellia Diseases. These chapters are especially informative to the novice camellia hobbyist because color photos illustrate, for instance; how and where on the plant to prune. Excellent photos also show camelllia die back, corky leaf and virus, plus color photos of the presence of thrips and mites and scale infestation on camellia leaves. These photos would be most helpful, even to the veteran camellia hobbyist, in recognizing pest and disease problems.

The chapter on Propagation is one of the most concise and informative in the book. There are sections on: Hybridizing, Vegetative Propagation, Grafting and Air Layering, all repleat with line drawings showing the amateur just how to carry out these propagation jobs.

The book concludes with short chapters on Container Growing of Camellias, Espalier, and Bonzai Camellias plus Camellias in Floral Art, Exhibiting Camellias (in shows), and even a chapter on How to Photo-

graph a Camellia.

The book has a nice centerfold chart outlining the various month-by-month jobs for the care of one's camellia collection. Obviously this chart is set up for the Southern Hemisphere but it could easily be interpreted for our Northern climes. Also, the book is well indexed and thus it is easy to locate specific topics.

Well, what more can I say? I highly recommend this book and feel that it should be in every hobbyist's library.

The book may be purchased by mail from Mr. J. L. Warsaw, Secretary-Treasurer, New Zealand Camellia Society, Box 204, Wangui, New Zealand. The price is \$6.00 US post paid.

The Yellow Camellia

While doing research on camellia sinensis for our Society's Huntington Camellia Show, Huntington camellia curator Ann Richardson came across the following by Scottish botanist Robert Fortune in his book Visit to the Tea Districts of China and India (1852, p.339):

"I visited several other nursery gardens about ten or twelve miles to the eastward of Shanghae. One of them contained a very remarkable plant which I must not omit noticing. Those who have read my 'Wanderings in China' may remember a story I told of my endeavours to find a Yellow

Camellia,—How I offered five dollars for one—how a Chinaman soon found two instead of one—and how he got the money and I got taken in!

In one of these nurseries, however, I found a yellow Camellia, and it was in bloom when I bought it. It is certainly a most curious plant, although not very handsome. The flowers belong to the anemone or Warratah class; the outer petals are of a French white, and the inner ones are of a primrose yellow. It appears to be a very distinct species in foliage, and may probably turn out more hardy than any of its race."

1991 Fair Garden Displays

by Marilee Gray

When most societies are taking a breather between busy camellia seasons, the Pomona Valley Camellia society is gearing up to do its most rigorous activity of the year. For many years, the Pomona members have presented garden displays in the world's largest county fair, the Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona. This endeavor has grown from a small display members installed the night before judging to multiple, elaborate displays that require most of the summer to install and many thousands of dollars to outfit in props and plant material. Each year the challenges are a little different; each year we attempt to present something that is both new and exciting to the interested public.

This year the serious shovel and crow bar work began in mid-July very late by the standards of other years, but the garden area was getting a thorough renovation, and our work simply couldn't begin until the new curbs had been poured. Once started, however, work quickly developed from a three to four-day week into a five, six and even seven-day work week to finish on time. There were yards and yards of soil to be moved from here to there. All of this had to be done with a shovel or a shovel and a wheelbarrow because of the renovation work encumbrances. Pallets of concrete block went into a temporary wall foundation in the Mediterranean garden, and giant boulders were brought in for the mountainous Japanese garden. Some of these "feather rock" required eight strong men to roll them into place; one super giant simply had to be used where the forklift dropped it. Julius Christinson, Sergio Bracci and his nephew Matthew provided most of the muscle needed to sculpt the soil and rocks into the landscapes.

After a few weeks of very strenous work, the displays hardly showed all

the effort, but the really important and critical design work had been done. Now all that was left to do was to develop and complete the gardens. We called on more members to help—help wash the thousand pounds of pebbles, help water the hundreds of pots, help dig the hundreds of holes, etc., etc.

Sergio's contacts brought in an incredible collection of concrete garden decor from Al's Garden Art, one of the nation's largest manufacturers of such, for the 'Mediterranean Terrace.' Another manufacturer provided the interlocking bricks for the walkway and the terrace floor. The garden was resplendent with large wall fountains, benches, concrete and wrought iron walls, urns and fountain statuary—all framed by varied specimen plants and surrounded with many dozens of blooming azaleas, ferns, calatheas and other exotic plants. This feature exhibit won the bonus award for the display that was second in overall judging points and two additional bonus awards for Outstanding Use of Color and Design and for Outstanding Horticultrral Skills.

The Japanese garden, 'On the Slopes of Mt. Fuji, featured a floating spirit bridge, a shika odoshi (the ancient water-powered deer scare), numerous Japanese lanterns and a large deck with several bonsai and specimen plants. Silhouetted rhapis palms and grass bamboos towered over azaleas, ferns, iris and begonias. This display was judged the highest in overall points, and it received two additional bonus awards; Excellence in Cultural Expression and Educational Qualities of Design. We were ecstatic to have won our limit of bonus awards including the two top overall displays!

Once the fair opened its 24-day run on September 6, our work was far from done. Not only were we doing



This formal Mediterranean Terrace is appointed with many items of lovely garden decor. Cascading water strikes a tranquil note from the wall fountains that are surrounded by lush foliages and colorful azaleas.



A side garden of the Mediterranean Terrace featured the humble Hebe, waitress to the gods, rising above colorful azaleas and greenery, and pouring water from her urn into the surrounding pond.



The spirit bridge moves the guest in three dimensions to traverse a rocky ravine and reach the deck and entry of the home in this the pathway beside azaleas and camellia species.

mountainous Japanese garden. Lanterns light daily maintenance of the displays,

but we presented 14 camellia culture programs throughout the run of the fair in addition to manning the horticultural booth the four Fridays of the fair. During these days we conducted non-stop lectures, demonstrations and slide shows, and dispensed information on camellia culture and our societies. We enjoyed meeting a very interested public and gave out our show schedule for the coming season. We hope to see some of these people again and recruit still more members for our societies.

Our exhibits at the fair have developed into a multi-purpose endeavor. Not only are we taking pride and creative delight in presenting some-

thing of merit in design and beauty to the public, but we are, with the awards, more than meeting the financial needs of our group. And we are utilizing a marvelous opportunity to provide horticultural information to the public and to make that public aware of our societies and what they have to offer. We believe that communication is, indeed, the key to perpetuating and building our societies, and we are, indeed, giving it our all!

Editor's note: The Pomona Valley Camellia Society presented a check for \$1000 to Southern California Camellia Society, mainly in recognition of Sergio Bracci's assistance in executing this tre-

mendous endeavor.

Nuccio Favorites

At the November 21 Southern Califonia Camellia Society meeting Juge, Tom and Jim Nuccio answered members' questions:

What is the best all round Nuccio camellia?

Unanimously agreed: "Guilio Nucció"

What is your personal favorite? Jim: "Nuccio's Pearl! and 'Katie!"

Tom: "Twilight'. It's as close as you can come to white and still be pink."

Juge: "Nuccio's Carousel". It grows easily everywhere."

What are Nuccio's best-selling camellias?

"'Yuletide, and 'Nuccio's Gem'. Also, we are selling more low-growing sasanquas like 'White Doves' and 'Shishi Gashira."

What are the Nuccios looking at in new camellias?

"Wild species from China"

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Novice Mini-Show, Saturday, February 8, 1992

Novices, bring your blooms to an Arboretum Camellia Mini-Show. Society members will teach you how to stage your flowers. Qualified judges will judge the show and nice awards will go to the winning entrants.

Show: 10-12 a.m. 12-1: Lunch break

1-3: Lecture session on mid-season camellia care, grafting, hybridizing, and variation in camellia form and species.

Address Changes

These changes are listed for those of you who are keeping your Registration List up-to-date:

Bill Donnan 880 Morningside Dr. #319 Fullerton 92635

David M. Donnan (Julie) 445 Ribbon Beach Way #282 Oceanside 92054

Mrs. C. A. Gillette New Zip-Hemet 92544 Bill & Lisa Green 2882 Barton Skyway #249 Austin, TX 78746

Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Hufford P.O. Box 2415 Dillon, CO 80436

Edith Mazzei 1486 Yosemite Circle Clayton 94517

A rather serious error on the inside front cover of the Review lists an incorrect phone number for Marilee Gray under **OFFICERS**. Her correct phone number is (714)624-4107 as it is listed under **DIRECTORS**. Unfortunately, this mistake will be repeated in the April-May Review because the outside cover was printed last summer.



Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB AND CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Lyman Duncan; Secretary, Ruby Gorden, P.O. Box 918, Atwater 95301. Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Bloss House, Cedar & First Street, Atwater.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mary Anne Ray; Secretary, Chris Gonos, 5643 North College Avenue, Fresno 93704. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February, 7:30 p.m., Sheraton Smuggler's Inn, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, JoAnn Weeks, 2337 Westbrook Ct., Walnut Creek 94598. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through March, Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Rd., Concord.

KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Glen Burroughs; Secretary, Fred Dukes, 733 Del Mar Dr., Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: Call Fred Dukes for meeting dates, time and location.

MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President: Ronald Jackson; Secretary, Betty Grover, 1108, Ulrich Ave., Modesto 95350. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, September through April, 7:30 p.m., Centenary Methodist Church, Room 6, Norweigian & McHenry Ave., Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, C. Adair Roberts; Secretary, Jim Toland, 1897 Andrews Drive, Concord 94521. Meetings: 1st Monday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., Oak Grove School, Concord. A final meeting in May is a dinner meeting.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Russell Monroe: Secretary Mary L. Simmons, 5616 Freeman Ave., La Crescenta 91214. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, 8:00 p.m., Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Dr. LaCanada.

PENNINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Bob Logan; Secretary, Mickie Farmer, 360 Santa Margarita Ave., Menlo Park 94025. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October through March, Veteran's Building Annex, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Julius Chrisinson; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 2nd Monday, November through April, 7:30 p.m. Church Fellowship Hall, White & 6th St., La Verne.

SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Donald Lesmeister; Secretary, Evalena Smith, 601—34th St., Sacramento 95816. Meetings; 4th Wednesday, October through April, 7:30 p.m., Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Beth Kalal; Secretary, Edna Baskerville, 4871 Lucille Pl. San Diego 92115. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY INC. CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, John Mendoza 111; Secretary, Mrs. Roy Williams, 1159 Park Ave., San Jose 95126. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, September through April, except Wednesday, November and December, 7:30 p.m., Sumitomi Bank Community Room, 515 No. First St., San Jose.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Helen Smith; Secretary, Pauline Johnson, 1251—10th St., San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 7:30 p.m., South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA

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