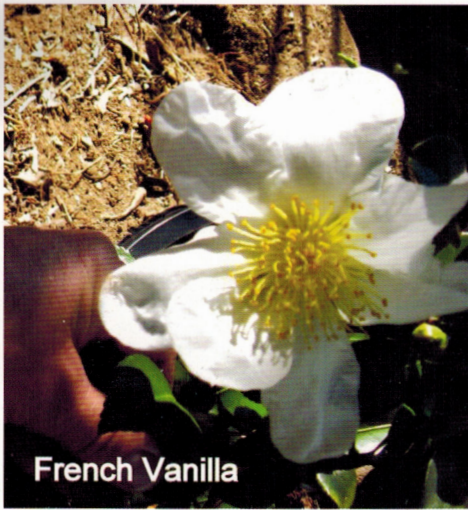


THE
Camellia
REVIEW

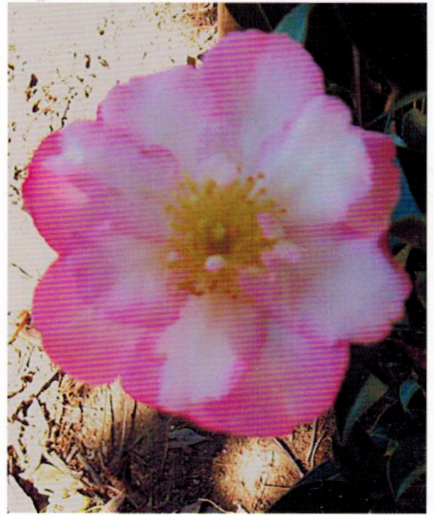
A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



C. japonica 'Tama Peacock'



French Vanilla



Kanjiro



Some of the sasanquas in Brad and Lynn King's new "Anniversary Garden"

Photos by Brad



Left column:
'French Vanilla'
'Kanjiro'
'Sekiyō'

Right column:
'Double Rainbow'
'Old Glory'
'Hugh Evans'



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October - December, 2009

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Cover photo

***C. japonica* "Tama Peacock"**
Small to medium. M-L season.
Nuccio's 2000
Photo by Bradford King



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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

As we think about the forthcoming 2010 camellia season we should take note of some changes. First of all I want to express my appreciation to our outgoing SCCS President Dr. Bradford King. If memory serves me correctly, Brad has been at the helm for a period of time that spans parts of three U.S. presidencies. He was at the helm when Southern California Camellia Society hosted the International Camellia Congress in 2001. Due in large part to his leadership, the Congress was a huge success. Significant evidence of this success was the awarding to both Descanso Gardens and Huntington Gardens the coveted "International Garden of Excellence."

I have particularly appreciated the many articles and pictures Brad has submitted for the Camellia Review. He has now retired from his administrative post at the University of Southern California (Go Trojans!) and plans to spend more time with his new sun camellia garden and his hybridizing program. You can read about his and Lynn's Anniversary Garden beginning on page 7.

As we toast a farewell to Brad's leadership, we raise our glass to toast our new president, James "Jim" Fitzpatrick. You will enjoy learning more about him on page 6. Our Society remains in capable hands.

On page 11 Donald Lesmeister shares how the Sacramento Society came to the rescue of the City when the Memorial Auditorium needed extensive renovations and repairs requiring old camellias to be replaced. The Sacramento camellia group participated in the relocation of some plants and the acquisition of new varieties. We should take note of some changes. It is interesting to "fast return" via the archives to find an article describing the Sacramento Camellia Society's participation in planting the initial camellia garden. One interesting incident happened when a very large camellia plant stopped traffic on a busy street as a strong gust of wind blew it off the truck transporting it from a donor's garden to the Memorial Auditorium garden.

The following is a confession. After 17 years as Editor of the Review and two household moves, I have archival copies of the Camellia Review deposited in storage in several random places. I hope to report to you soon that all the books are in one accessible place. You probably have noticed that we often use archival material in the Review to supplement new material. Prophetically speaking, is there really nothing new under the sun? Perhaps this will stimulate some of you out there to send us your thoughts about this great camellia hobby and tell us what you are doing in your garden.

The Board of Directors of the Southern California Camellia Society will be available to receive and review any and all applications for the editorship of the Camellia Review Applications or not—let's all have a great fun-filled 2010 camellia season.

Mel Belcher, Editor

CAMELLIA STATIONERY

The increasing cost of postage has forced us to raise the price on our beautiful Paul Jones camellia note cards. Sets of 8 cards are now \$8.00 per set in the US and \$10.00 per set outside the US. If any camellia society would like to use these cards as fund raisers, orders for 25 or more sets are priced at \$7.00 each in the US and \$9.00 each outside the U.S.

Cards can be ordered through Susan Streeter, 1947 Midwick Drive, Altadena, CA 91001 (626/797-1059). Make your check payable to SCCS. Prices include tax and shipping.

Cards can also be ordered on line at socalcamellias.org.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS

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Dean and Susan Turney

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Southern California Camellia Show Schedule 2010

January 16-17	Pacific Camellia Society Show Chairman: Tom Gilfoy Judges Chairman: George Harrison Bloom placement—Saturday 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Descanso Gardens La Canada
January 23-24	Orange County Camellia Society Show Chairman: Steve Mefford Judges Chairman: Brad King Bloom placement—Saturday 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Sherman Garden Corona del Mar
January 30-31	Southern California Camellia Society Show Chairman: Brad King Judges Chairman: Beth Stone Bloom placement—Saturday 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Descanso Garden La Canada
February 6-7	San Diego Camellia Society Show Chairman: Dean Turney Judges Chairman: Gene Snooks Bloom placement—Saturday 8 - 10 a.m.	Casa del Prado Balboa Park, San Diego
February 13-14	Southern California Camellia Society Show Chairman: Brad King Judges Chairman: Beth Stone Bloom placement—Saturday 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Huntington Gardens San Marino
February 20-21	Pomona Valley Camellia Society Show Chairman: JoAnn & Les Brewer Judges Chairman: Lindsey Brewer Bloom placement—Saturday 6 - 10:30 a.m.	Community Center La Verne
February 27-28	Southern California Camellia Council Show Chairman: Wayne Walker Judges Chairman: George Harrison Bloom placement—Saturday 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Descanso Gardens La Canada
March 6-7	Hosted by Camellia Society of Kern County Show Chairman: Helen Maas Judges Chairman: Jane Brady Bloom placement—Saturday 7:00 - 10:30 a.m.	East Hills Mall 300 Mall View Road Bakersfield
March 13-14	Pacific Camellia Society "Late Bloomers Show" Show Chairman: Wayne Walker Judges Chairman: George Harrison Bloom placement—Saturday 8 - 10:30 a.m.	Descanso Gardens La Canada

A New Category in the 2010 Camellia Shows

The Southern California Camellia Society and the Pomona Valley Camellia Society voted this year to introduce a new category in the 2010 shows and are calling it "Nuccio's Six." Nuccio's Nurseries have introduced a great many new and beautiful varieties that have added interest and excitement to our shows. The Nuccio men are generous and helpful to our societies and our members, and Society leaders thought a category of six blooms of JUST Nuccio's introductions would be a way to honor and thank them. The collection must be six different

blooms, treated or untreated, introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries. The collections will be judged in a similar fashion to the judging of "three unlike varieties" grouped together in any way the exhibitor feels is appealing. Lest you anticipate hours of searching the *Camellia Nomenclature*, a list has been prepared. You may be as surprised as we were to find that many of our favorites have been introduced by our nearby nursery.

You will find the list on pages 20 and 21 of this Review.

•••••

Don Bergamini, Master Recorder

Don Bergamini went all out this summer. Over the years we have gotten used to Don's recording of the winners after each camellia show season, but this year he decided to compare winners during the 80's, 90's and 00's. His ambitious project was too large to fit in our Review, but you can find it on line at

socialcamellias.org under "Show Results." Our webmaster (or webmistress) Kristina Hooper has included a pdf file that can be printed from the website. If you are not a computer person and would like to have a copy of Don's project, call Bobbie Belcher at 951/304-2507 and she will mail you a copy.

Thoughts for today

"There are many tired gardeners but I've seldom met old gardeners. I know many elderly gardeners but the majority are young at heart. Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized. The one absolute of gardeners is faith.

Regardless of how bad past gardens have been, every gardener believes that next year's will be better. It is easy to age when there is nothing to believe in, nothing to hope for; gardeners, however, simply refuse to grow up. Thomas Jefferson said once, "Though an old man, I am but a young gardener."

—Allan Armitage

Someone has said, "Hope for the future is at the heart of all gardening."

How true for camellia growers!

Meet the New President of the Southern California Camellia Society

James J. Fitzpatrick, currently Deputy Director of the California Film Commission (CFC), has been actively involved with the domestic and international production of feature films, television movies, series, miniseries, commercials, documentaries, and short films for the past thirty-five years. Jim, who continues to be a member of the

instrumental at both the state and federal level in forging legislation and guiding regulation for the economic benefit of film industry employees and employers.

Our new president graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Philosophy from Fordham University, Bronx, New York. He holds a Master of Arts



Directors Guild of America, worked as a freelance assistant director and location manager for twenty-five years filming in many states and countries. He is a member of the Los Angeles City Film Task Force to facilitate filming. Jim was also appointed in 2008 by the United States Secretary of the Interior to serve on the Desert District Advisory Council to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Southern California.

Prior to accepting Governor Schwarzenegger's appointment to the CFC, Jim was the Director of Government and Production Affairs at Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA)—the studio trade association where he was

degree in Film and Television Production from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles as well as a Master of Divinity degree in Theology and Ethics from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California.

Jim's primary hobby is gardening. He raises many of his own vegetables in fifteen gallon containers. He has been a member of the Southern California Camellia Society since 1966 and was recently elected as its President. A Certified Judge of the Southern California Camellia Council Jim is also an accredited American Camellia Society Judge.

LANDSCAPING WITH SUN CAMELLIAS

Bradford King
Arcadia, California

Jim Nuccio recently led an informative and fun-filled behind the scene visit to Nuccio's Nurseries for the Orange County Camellia Society. A good time was had by all with everyone taking home a new camellia. Tom was his usual gregarious and helpful self. Jude and my wife conspired behind my back to keep me in line. I left inspired with ideas about using sun camellias in the landscape.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

My goal was to revitalize the southwest front of out yard. We wanted an attractive area that would also reclaim a lovely brick walkway that had become overgrown.

We wanted flowering evergreen shrubs. The choice of sun camellias fit the bill. While some will choose a landscape architect, I prefer to create my own garden design. The planning and creating is too much fun to pass on to someone else. Some of you may hire a gardener to plant and groom the landscape. I like the digging and getting my hands in the earth. I also like the exercise and satisfaction of accomplishment as a counterpoint to uncontrollable life issues like the financial crisis. Regardless, the key is to do what you can that gives you pleasure.

The first step is to get agreement from your partner that the project is desirable and my wife Lynn was enthusiastic. The second step is to study the site for the make over. I measured it and did a rough sketch. I looked at it critically, sought input from my wife and we agreed on the camellias we wanted for our new garden to commemorate our anniversary.

SUN CAMELLIAS

There are many camellias that will thrive in direct sunlight.

Generally they are *C. sasanqua* which is recognized as a true camellia species. Some taxonomists give *C. hiemalis* the status of also being a species. Most agree that *C. vernalis* is not a separate species but is a non-reticulata hybrid that arose naturally between wild *C. japonica* and wild *C. sasanqua* many years ago. In scientific circles the debate continues. However camellia growers call all of them sun camellias.

C. SASANQUA

The first *C. sasanqua* came to the USA from Japan to California in the 1930's and were imported by Japanese nurserymen and American nurserymen. When the Japanese nurserymen, J.W. Uyematsu, owner of Star Nurseries, and F. W. Yoshimura, owner of Mission Nurseries were interned during World War II, their stock was picked up by sympathetic nurseries including Manchester Boddy, owner of Rancho del Descanso now known as Descanso Gardens. In this process some of the original Japanese names were lost. Subsequently some of these plants have been renamed and introduced into the market place. In addition many new cultivars have been introduced by hybridizers.

The *C. sasanqua* are the first camellias to bloom. Some will begin as early as August but they generally peak in November through January. The flowers are single and small to medium with six to eight petals. The profuse flowers are usually white, pink or white with pink or red edges. The petals fall after a few days and new flowers open in succession for four to six weeks. The petals on the ground form a lovely carpet and can be left as an attractive freeform artistic display. There is little concern that this will cause petal blight. An additional attraction is that many of

these flowers are fragrant. A few people complain that they are too pungent. The foliage is dense with small leaves which lend themselves to topiary, espalier and bonsai. *C. sasanqua* are excellent for hedges and foundation plants Their beauty is in the lovely profusion of their masses of flowers and evergreen foliage.

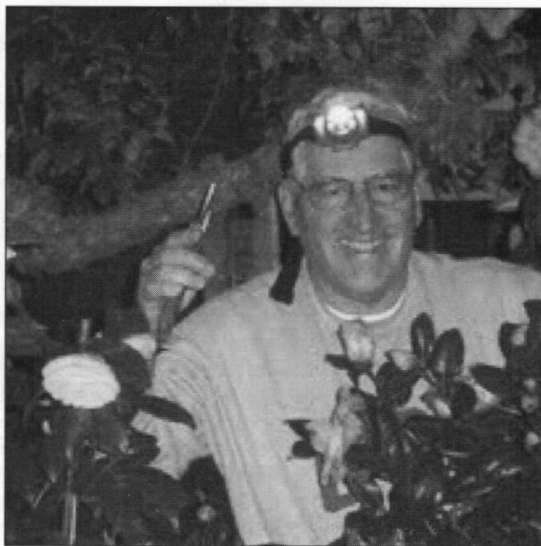
Three good pink *C. sasanqua* are: 'Hugh Evans', a profusely blooming single, 'Jean May', a loose peony to formal double soft pink flower and 'Bert Jones', a large single fragrant silver pink flower. If you prefer white with a pink or red border you might consider 'Navajo', 'Rainbow', 'Double Rainbow' and 'Yae-arare'. 'Navajo', a semidouble rose red flower with a white center, does best in full sun. It was imported from Japan and propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries. The name tag was lost in

shipping. The Nuccio's renamed it 'Navajo'. 'Rainbow' is a large white single with a red border. Personally I consider 'Double Rainbow' with its semidouble white flower and rose colored edge the best of this style *C. sasanqua* and selected it for our new camellia sun garden. However 'Yae-arare' is very popular due to its large size white flower with pink on the tips of the petals. Two excellent white *C. sasanqua* are 'Setsugekka' and 'Mine-No-Yuki' which is sold as 'White Doves'. However, my favorite

white is a new introduction by Nuccio's called 'French Vanilla'. It is a large creamy white single that is a fast upright open grower. This was added to our list for the sun camellia garden. If you want an anemone form *C. sasanqua*, the lovely miniature light pink with deeper pink tones on the edge of 'Choji Guruma' would make a good choice.

CAMELLIA HEIMALIS

This specie has only 41 cultivars listed in the 2009 Camellia Nomenclature, yet several have gained a well-deserved popularity for their beautiful flowers, attractive foliage and usefulness as landscape camellias. The best red-toned sun camellias are found here. For example, 'Dazzler' has a medium rose red semidouble flower that grows vigorously into an open spreading bush. It was introduced by



Sometimes we pick blooms late at night!

Nuccio's Nurseries in 1960. Tom Dodd Jr. from Alabama introduced 'Bonanza', an excellent large deep red semi-peony bloom with wavy fluted petals. It often blooms early and keeps producing flowers through the fall.

The profuse small red semidouble to rose form double flowers on 'Shishi-Gashira' bloom on a low compact shrub with small serrated dark green leaves. It is originally from Japan where it was available in 1894. It is a mainstay in my garden where it

has bloomed for thirty years. It is five feet by five feet and 3 feet wide. It rarely needs to be pruned. I basically cut out the dead wood and any encroachment on the garden path. If you are looking for a small compact camellia for a ground cover or small space, 'Dwarf Shishi' and 'White Shishi' are good choices. 'Dwarf Shishi' is a seedling of 'Shishi-Gashira' introduced by Toichi Domoto in 1988. It has the bright red flower of its parent. 'White Shishi' can be found at Nuccio's Nurseries. Another presumed seedling of 'Shish-Gashira' is 'Showa-no-Sakae'. It is semidouble to peony in form and bears a soft clear pink flower which blooms early. It is a low grower that makes a waist-high hedge or groundcover. 'Showa Supreme', a chance seedling of 'Showa-no-Sakae', was propagated and introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries. It is a larger pink peony form pink and many hobbyists concede that it is an improvement over its parent. Finally, no one should overlook the very popular 'Kanjiro' with its rose pink shading to rose red. It is a medium semidouble flower and grows on an upright bushy plant that can reach 20 feet in height. It makes a great show as a specimen plant, hedge or foundation plant. It sets seed readily and is one of the best camellias to use as understock for grafting. We selected 'Kanjiro' for our new garden.

CAMELLIA VERNALIS

The beautiful 'Egao' with its deep pink shading to darker pink in the center is one of the loveliest heralds of the camellia season. 'Egao' looks more like a *C. japonica* than a *C. sasanqua* with its medium pink bloom of 16 to 20 petals and clear yellow anthers. Its Chinese name is 'Xiaoyan' or in English "Smiling Face". It was brought from Japan to the USA in 1972 by Nuccio's Nurseries. The medium leaves and vigorous upright spreading growth habit make this camellia a good

specimen plant as well as a camellia show winner. It blooms in Southern California from November until February depending on local conditions.

When 'Egao' is infused with virus variegation it is called 'Shibori-Egao'. I am told that "Shibori" is the Japanese word for variegation. This exquisite pink bloom with white blotches is very often a show winner. It was originated at Kurume, Japan and imported to by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1974. The leaves are oval and green with yellow splotches due to the virus. It is less vigorous than 'Egao', but is a very showy camellia plant and flower.

Grady Perigan of San Marino California discovered a sport of 'Egao' with smaller blooms than 'Egao'. It is a lighter pink veined with a fine white edge. The plant is also more compact in growth habit with smaller foliage and sets buds at an early age. It was named 'Grady's Egao' and is propagated at Nuccio's Nurseries.

The Nuccio's caught a very interesting flower and growth habit sport from 'Egao' It has ruffled pink petals in a semidouble to loose peony form and distinctive zigzag branches which look like a corkscrew. Thus, the name 'Egao Corkscrew'. A variegated form is also available called 'Shibori Egao Corkscrew'. They both make wonderful camellia bonsai that can be grown in the sun. 'Egao Corkscrew' is listed in the *Camellia Nomenclature 2009* as a non-reticulata hybrid.

'December Rose' is a seedling of Egao that the Nuccio's introduced and has a larger rosier pink flower than its parent. We choose this semidouble bloomer for our new "Anniversary Garden". It is vigorous and blooms late.

In 1964 McCaskell Gardens of Pasadena, California introduced their *C. vernalis* seedling 'Star Above Star'. The semidouble flower of one star superimposed on another star received the Ralph Peer Sasanqua

Seedling award for 1969. The petals are white shading to lavender pink at the edges. It is a vigorous, bushy and upright shrub that looks good as a specimen or as part of a landscape planting of mixed sun camellias.

Nuccio's extremely popular 'Yuletide' blooms during the holiday season. We loved 'Yuletide' with its single bright red petals and golden stamens and added it to our garden. It provide a transition from a daylily collection that I call the "Maroon and Gold Garden" which is populated with 'California Sunshine' and 'Texas Redstar' daylilies and an 'Orange County Ash' which I grafted from a scion won in the Southern California Camellia Society raffle when Tim Thibault was the program speaker.

I grow all of the above *C. vernalis* because of their early blooms, beautiful colors and their versatility. I have 'Egao Corkscrew' as a bonsai. 'Shibori Egao Corkscrew' is a potted specimen that is moved to the patio when in bloom. 'Egao', 'Grady's Egao' and 'Shibori Egao' are used as sunny landscape camellias that also are good show winners in the species class. 'Star Above Star', also a show winner, is a front yard foundation plant. Originally we used 'Yuletide' as a small hedge around a perennial garden. Its compact upright growth habit with small dark foliage makes it

a very versatile landscape plant. The University of Southern California Alumni House has a double row of over a hundred 'Yuletide' camellias as a combination hedge and foundation planting which is striking in bloom and neat and attractive all year with its dark green foliage.

OUR CAMELLIA PROJECT

The design for the new sun camellia garden was sketched. The camellias ordered included 'French Vanilla', 'Double Rainbow', 'Kanjiro', 'December Rose' and 'Yuletide'. Earlier *C. sasanqua* 'Old Glory' caught our eyes with its lovely medium white blooms, bright rose red edges and crinkled petals. Nuccio's have built up their stock so it is now readily available. Tom recommended a rose red *C. sasanqua* called 'Sekijo' which complimented the colors already chosen so we added it to the new garden.

The next step was to dig out a tired group of basic yellow daylilies and the sun-loving but invasive African Iris (*Dietes*) that Tom aptly calls "gas station flowers." The soil was amended with coarse peat moss. Mondo grass was used to edge both sides of the new garden. This ties the new garden to the rest of the landscape where the mondo grass is well established. (Continued on page 19)

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Which award-winning camellias are suggested by these descriptions?

1. Polynesian ritual
2. Lass from South Carolina
3. Fireman's Terror
4. Her Majesty's Cape
5. Perfume on the top shelf
6. Santa's Helper
7. A joy to behold
8. Philadelphia Gong
9. Flaming Dessert
10. Celebrating sweethearts
11. Rose Parade official
12. A jewel from the nursery
13. A women's adornments
14. Hail Mary
15. Hey! Frosty
16. #1 Toe Dancer
17. Orderly heavenly bodies
18. Sarah Pallin
19. Night Rider
20. 3/4 movement
21. Need a potholder for these
22. Italian merry-go-round
23. A Southern California city
24. Breakfast anyone?
25. A motor race in France
26. An ancient Egyptian
27. "Go Trojans!"

How did you do? See page 19 .

THE CAMELLIA CAPITAL

Donald D. Lesmeister
Carmichael, California

Sacramento is not only the capital of California but is also generally accepted as the Camellia Capital. The support by the local residents, business people and City/County Officials are certainly prime reasons. During the more prominent years, a Camellia parade, Camellia ball, boat regatta, bicycle race, folk dancing, and various luncheons were some of the 28 events held preceding the Annual Camellia Show.

After the Camellia Festival Association disbanded in 1993, some of the emphasis on camellias faded. However, the Annual Camellia Show, sponsored by the Camellia Society of Sacramento, and still the largest Camellia Show in the world, celebrated their 85th show this past year. The public is invited to attend the show free of charge. The Society pays for the building rental and other show expenses through fund raising activities and financial support from members. The of City Council and County Supervisors also assist with finances.

The Memorial Auditorium, which opened in 1925, is located in downtown Sacramento on one square block of property. Over the years the Auditorium has been the venue for boxing, wrestling, skating, music from the "big band" era, doo wop, etc., graduation exercises for schools and nearly every type of event. It has been home to the Annual Camellia Show for many years. The perimeter of the building was surrounded by over 50 camellia plants, many over 30 feet tall and dating back to the origin of the Auditorium.

The Auditorium had been experiencing water intrusion into the basement which was causing severe erosion to the building's foundation. In order to correct the problem, about two years ago the City was forced to begin removing the soil and plants

around the outside of the building in order to retrofit and maintain the foundational integrity of the structure. This would include removal of most of those old camellia plants. Unfortunately, the work had to be accomplished during the dry summer months — the worst possible time to transplant camellias.

City Operations Manager Judy Goldbar, Arborist Mike Butcher and their staff worked closely with Society President Carol Schanz, her husband Gary, and my wife Joan and me in identifying which plants could possibly survive the summer transplanting. Approximately half the plants, which were not enclosed by walkways, entries, and various utilities, were identified. Once the transplanting was accomplished, the structural repair began.

Several months later, after the repairs had been completed, these same City Officials contacted the Society to assist in identifying areas where camellias could be planted at the Auditorium. To date, there are 58 camellias planted around the outside of the Memorial Auditorium. There are also plans for additional future camellia plantings.

There are numerous other locations within Sacramento where similar camellia gardens exist. This is another example of how interested the City officials are in preserving camellias in Sacramento so that we maintain our status as the Camellia Capital.

Editor's note: See Don's picture on the inside back cover of the Review showing one of the larger camellia plants and some of the smaller plants among the large evergreens.

LISTEN TO THE LEAVES

Bill Donnan with Julius Nuccio

Reprinted from *Camellia Review* Vol. 53, No. 4.

... the leaves on our camellia plants are forever trying to tell us all of the secrets about their condition. If you are a good listener your camellia leaves can tell you just about everything you might want to know about the plants. . . . They will tell you whether your plant is healthy or sick' whether it needs water or has been over-watered; whether or not to fertilize' whether or not you have planted the shrub in the right place; when to spray for bugs and believe it or not, what kind of bugs! "Listen to your leaves" and you can probably tell what species you have' whether you will have dark red or pale color blooms on your new seedlings' and if you really get good at "listening to your leaves," what variety your new purchase will be.

... "Dr." Julius Nuccio has convinced me that one can look closely at the camellia leaves and find out quite a bit about the condition of the plant. After all, the camellia shrub is noted almost as much for the foliage as for the flowers. Remember what Linnaeus is alleged to have stated, and I quote: "Camellia is the king of all blooms and the queen of all shrubs!" Also, we must remember that the foliage of camellias is almost as varied as the blooms when it comes to color, size, form and growth habit.

Well, do I have your attention? If so, please read on. You will be reading much of what "Dr." Nuccio has told me and maybe in the future you will look at your camellia leaves and listen to what they have to tell you. . . .

Health of the shrub

A quick glance at your camellia should tell you immediately the general overall condition of the shrub. If the leaves shine with a glossy green hue, chances are that the plant is flourishing. Depending on the season of the year, the leaves should look full of vigorous growth with new shoots

peeking out from the growth bud. If there is no evidence of new growth, if the leaves tend to look dull, or if they tend to droop or start to curl up – if the leaves show chlorosis or yellowing, if the leaves are showing shades of brown or are mottled and corky or, heaven forbid, if the leaves are falling off of the shrub at the wrong time of the year, look for trouble. If you are examining a container-grown plant which shows signs of trouble, you are in luck. Sick container-grown plants are easier to diagnose. Remove the plant from the container and examine the roots of the shrub. If the roots are white and look to be thriving, the plant can be considered to be healthy. All the plant would need would be a little better cultural care. If the roots are brown, it is a sign that they are dead. Furthermore, the plant is in dire straits and even extraordinary care may not be able to save it.

Moisture

Generally speaking, your plant will tell you when it wants a drink. Camellia moisture stress symptoms are quite easily shown in the leaves. During the growing season the first sign of need for water is the languidness of the tender new growth. Leaves and new-green shoots may wilt on a hot day even though the moisture in the root zone is not depleted. But if the wilting of the leaves persists, the plant needs moisture. Optimum soil moisture conditions will show up as optimum color and turgidity of the leaves.

In the bloom period, moisture stress will become evident in the wilting the flower petals. In the non-blooming season, before new growth starts, moisture stress will show up in the droop and curl of the mature leaves. On the other hand, too much moisture in the root zone will also show itself in the color and vigor of

mature leaves. Camellia plants need both good drainage as well as optimum soil moisture. Camellia roots need both air and moisture, and if the soil pores are filled with water, the lack of air will show up in the leaves of the plant. The leaves will then tend to curl and become dull with no sheen or vigor. Also, even through the sub-drainage of the root zone may be optimum, too frequent watering may cause leaves to curl up and form corky growths on the underside. Listen to your leaves when you want to find out about soil moisture in the camellia beds.

Nutrition.

The camellia is a broadleaf evergreen of a semi-tropical nature and its growth is the result of interplay of both the environment and the genetic makeup of the plant. Obviously, in the wild the camellia plant has no need for fertilizers or other amendments. But it responds readily to specific amount of commercial fertilizers and other trace elements when grown in containers or in our suburban gardens.

The leaves of a camellia shrub telegraph both the need for amendments and their over use. Uniform yellowing of otherwise green leaves or delay of the "feathering" of new grown, denotes the need for nitrogen. If, on the other hand, the leaves show no overly dark green color, the plant needs phosphorus. If the leaves become progressively smaller and the tip breaks down, the plant lacks calcium. A need for iron will show up when the leaf turns a pale green or if there is an evidence of white chlorosis on young foliage. Necrotic spots (small black spots of decayed tissue) and white mottling on the leaves indicate the need for trace elements such as zinc, copper and manganese. If the foliage tends to become light yellowish-green, put on some sulfur.

Conversely, too much or too heavy application of nutrients will cause

the tips of the leaves to burn. An excessive application of some fertilizers will cause the shrub to defoliate and may even cause the death of the plant! A little close observation of the leaves on your camellia plants will give you an indication of the need for nutrition and even the kinds of amendments to apply.

Exposure

All plant life needs sunlight but the camellia is a shade-loving shrub. Therefore, exposure to excessive sunlight may show in the leaves of one's plants. Of the three species having the more horticultural potential, the *C. sasanqua* species is the most sun tolerant. This species can be planted in full sun with no visible effect on the leaves or on the plant growth.

On the other hand, *C. japonica* and *C. reticulata* and their interspecific hybrid crosses require some shade in varying amounts. Excessive exposure to sunlight will show up as round brown spots or as the browning of the tip half of mature leaves.

In new green leaves and stems, excessive sunlight will cause the shriveling of both and leaves and stems. They will dry up and fall off of the shrub. This is an indication of severe sunburn and should not be associated with either lack of moisture or nutrition. *C. japonica* camellia plants can become acclimated to full sun if left for several years to excessive exposure, however, these plants will require a long period to recover their full vigor and growth.

On the other hand, too much shade will cause the camellia leaf to crinkle and appear to curl up back-inward toward the stem, a process called crenellation. It is almost as though the leaf were trying to signal the deprivation of the required amount of sunlight needed for normal growth.

Insects and Diseases

Camellias are not subject to attack by many pests or disease and ordinary measures can generally be used to combat and control them. If you "listen to your camellia leaves" you can often tell what pest is bothering your shrub and how to deal with it.

The appearance of small yellowish spots on leaves or on dead or dying twigs or small branches indicates the presence of tea scale. These insects feed on the leaves and plant tissue. Control is accomplished by application of 2% oil spray. Fortunately, we have no tea scale here on the West Coast of California.

A sooty mold on the underside of the leaf will indicate the presence of aphids. Holes eaten inside mature leaves denote the presence of leafhoppers. Portions of the outside of mature leaves eaten away signals the presence of grasshoppers. Red spider mites will attack the underside of mature leaves and, if they persist, will gradually change the color of the leaf from green to dull, brownish green. Good insect sprays will rid the shrub of these pests.

If the leaves of the camellia plant show a marked tendency toward variegation of color from green to mottled and spotted pale yellow, the plant may be infected with a graft-transmissible virus. This virus is very common in camellias and, while it will seldom completely kill the shrub, it will cause a weakening of vigor and cause variegation in the color of the blooms. There is no known cure for this virus, but its spread can be controlled by careful disinfection of the pruning shears.

Species, color of flowers and varieties

By looking at the leaves of your camellia plants you can tell which specie it is! Generally speaking, the *C. sasanqua* plants have small, narrow leaves, while the *C. japonica* plants almost always have oval-shaped leaves of a glossy green color. The *C. reticulata* plants have, as the name states, reticulated shape leaves with deep veins and dull green color.

Many of the newer species tend to be less recognizable by their leaves with the possible exception of *C. chrysantha*, which has a deep-veined, easily recognizable leaf.

The color of the bloom can often be recognized in the color of the new growth and immature leaves. If the new leaves are reddish brown, the bloom will often be dark red. Some camellia experts, like "Dr." Julius Nuccio, can tell the variety of the plant by looking at the leaves. I, for one, need to have a label on my plants in order to be able to tell the variety!

Benten leaves

In closing this saga of the leaves, let me tell you about a superstition regarding camellia leaves, which, I believe, originated in Japan. If you look over the leaves in your camellia garden and you should happen to find a fish-tailed leaf or a leaf with a forked tip or a leaf with two or three twisted tips or a leaf with a very strange coloring (not caused by virus or culture)—you are in luck! Your garden has been visited by the gods or by one of your ancestors, and thus you have been blessed! So—go on out into your camellia garden and look at the leaves. Hey! You might even find a ghost.



Anyone can have dirt. Gardener's have soil.

Gardening is an exercise in optimism.

And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.

—Rudyard Kipling

A REVIEW OF INFORMATION ABOUT SPIDER MITES ON CAMELLIAS

Dr. Eldon W. Lyle

Tyler, Texas

The damage caused to the foliage of camellias by spider mite insects is much more noticeable than the insects themselves. Spider mites are so small they are easily overlooked, but not so the yellowing and mottling of foliage. Finally, in cases of severe infestation, the leaves may turn brown and dry, and even may shed from the plants, causing serious stunting.

Spider mites of the kind that affect camellias are worldwide in distribution and live by sucking the juice or sap from the plant. There are many species of spider mites but only a few that do harm to cultivated plants. Incidentally, the mites differ from most insects by having eight legs instead of six. They belong in the same class with the ticks and are the smallest in size in that group.

The two-spotted mite is the one usually referred to as occurring on camellias and other garden plants. Phlox, marigold, carnations, chrysanthemums, roses, violets, sweet peas, snapdragons, cedars and arborvitae are some of the ornamentals frequently attacked.

The size of the adult mite is less than one-fiftieth of an inch long, and the males are even smaller, but it is possible to see them without the aid of a magnifying glass. Their color and movement help in identifying the mites. Besides the yellowing and russetting of the leaves close observations will reveal a whitish silky webbing, sometimes as a white powdery development mainly on the lower side of the leaves. The mites spin this webbing as they move around, and in cases of severe spread, they and the webbing may be

found on both sides of the leaves.

The adult mites vary in color from green or yellow to orange and red, depending on age, temperature conditions, and the host plant upon which they feed. The spherical eggs of the mites are only a little more difficult to see than the adult insect. In warm weather, the cycle from egg stage through the adult and back to the eggs again may be less than two weeks with each female capable of laying up to 200 eggs in the average life span of three or four weeks. The rapidity of reproduction of the tiny insect accounts for the great destructive capacity that it has.

Spider mites feed as sucking insects, piercing the cells of the epidermis and drawing out the liquid content from this outer layer of cells. There is some evidence that they may inject a toxin or poison into the cells to further damage the plant.

Biological control by action of certain insect predators working on the spider mites does occur to some extent, but it is inadequate to control mites in most gardens. Until the last decade or two, there were few insecticide chemicals that would kill the egg stage as well as the adult. Therefore, control was a difficult problem. Weekly spraying with water helped reduce the adult population but could not prevent the next hatching from the egg stage. Ordinary insecticides might also kill the adults but, in killing the beneficial kinds of insects as well, the spider mites were found to thrive better than ever.

Ordinarily one or two applications of a good miticide will control the mites for a period of

several months. However, it seems that a resistance to a particular chemical gradually builds up in the insects so that a change or rotation of other miticides becomes desirable.

Since spider mites live mainly on the lower side of the leaves, it is important to direct the spraying to that side and to make sure to use enough to penetrate the webbing that may exist.

Some kinds of miticides are absorbed through the foliage and by the roots. These spread through the plant systemically and after a time get into the cells where the mites are feeding; if the concentration is strong enough, the miticide still acts as a poison in killing the mites.

Possibility of damage to foliage exists for most miticide chemicals; Care should be exercised to follow closely the recommendation on the labels as to the concentrations and manner of application. It probably is best not to apply any miticide on the camellias until there is some evidence of the insect. However, there should be no delay in treatment if the mites are present because of the rapid development of the insects and the harm which results under warm, dry conditions. Maintaining dark green foliage not only looks good but also is the only way to insure vigorous plants and good flower production.

Editor's note: Dr. Tyler's paper is a reprint from The American Camellia Yearbook 1968. He mentioned several different miticides that were available at that time. We asked Marilee Gray, an outstanding camellia hobbyist living in Southern California, how she battles the mite problem today and this is her response:

"For mite control, I use a product

called Ultra-Fine Oil, a light weight "year-round pesticidal oil" by SunSpray. Its active ingredient is paraffinic oil (98.8 wt%) with an inert emulsifier (1.2wt%). I consider it a distinct advantage that it does not kill by miticide toxicity but by suffocation from the oil. Since it is an oil and oils will cook foliage, it should not be used if the temperature is above 85°F and the cooler the better.

Since the mites reside on the underside of leaves, it is important to thoroughly wet the underside. The most efficient sprayer I have found is one called a Gilmore sprayer. It is a hose-end sprayer that uses undiluted product with an adjustable proportioner. The mix I use on camellias is 3T oil/gallon of water. It has a deflector that does a very effective job of directing the spray for good coverage.

The most advantageous time to spray is in the early spring when 1) the temperatures are still cool, 2) spring pruning has reduced the amount of foliage to a minimum, and 3) the new growth has not appeared, so the only foliage present is hardened foliage that is less vulnerable than new foliage. If the spraying is merely preventative, then a single spraying should suffice. However, if the growth from the previous season shows lack luster color from a mite infestation, a second spraying should follow in 10-14 days to kill the newly hatched mites before they can reproduce. Mites do their damage during the hot, dry days of summer, so do not be misled by foliage that looks healthy in early summer but turns pale and dull by fall. The infestation did not suddenly appear, but was there all along."

An idea in time for Christmas

The following is part of an article entitled "**Camellias in Arrangements and Corsages**" by Mrs. William J. Roth" and is reprinted from *Southern California Camellia Bulletin*, December 1948.

In the December 1947 issue of *Sunset* magazine, there were three pages of flower arrangements, in all of which camellias could have been substituted.

For my Christmas arrangements, I collected a variety of dried material such as onion seed, agapanthus or Lily of the Nile, thistle, eucalyptus, gladiola stalks without the petals, acorn cups, aralia leaves and magnolia leaves. All of these were silvered, using 25 cents worth of aluminum paint obtained at the dime store. After a vigorous shaking, the contents of the bottle are poured into a one-pound coffee can. The material to be gilded is swished around in the aluminum paint, and the parts that are not covered with paint are touched up with a brush. The dried and silvered material will last a long time.

Pin frogs (Freezons) of all sizes and shapes are necessary. When buying these, be sure they have as sharp points as possible so that stems can be pushed into them without much resistance.

The taller pieces of foliage or stalks that you wish to use for height or for background material, are cut to different lengths and placed in the

needle-type holder (Freezon). The lower part of the arrangements is then filled with camellias which can be replaced every few days to keep the arrangements looking fresh.

For another Christmas arrangements, I used four red candles fastened on a small oblong board. A long and narrow pin frog is placed parallel to the board. Camellia branches, bent to the desired curves, are then placed into the pin frog, low on the left side and about candle height on the right side. Red camellia blooms—or white ones—are then placed low among the leaves. For a Christmas-time door arrangement, I used two large pine cones with magnolia leaves that had been gilded with gold paint. Metallic ribbon was used to make a bow, and one strip of the ribbon was used to hang down through the center. Two camellias are attached to the strip of ribbon and one at the top. Dark red blooms show up beautifully, but white blossoms will look very nice, too.

Editor's note: Mrs. Roth of San Francisco was well-respected for her many awards for flower arrangements. I am not sure where one would buy 25 cents worth of aluminum paint nor do I know where any dime stores are located. I do know that paint now comes in very convenient spray cans which are available at hardware and floral stores—but you will pay a bit more than 25 cents for the can!

• • •

If you are a gardener, you can always put
"Plant Manager" on your resume."

Gardens cannot be considered in detachment from the
people who made them.

—Derek Clifford

Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow.

TOUGH TAPROOT CAMELLIAS DON'T MIND DROUGHT

Kevin Connelly

Camellias and azaleas are the undisputed monarchs of Southern California shade gardens. No other shrubs we grow can beat them for their year-round good looks and long cool-season display of flowers.

So treasured are they that gardeners sometimes lavish more water and fertilizer on them than they actually need. Root rots and foliage burns can result, caused by salty irrigation water and excess fertilizer.

Camellias and azaleas are so often planted together it's easy to assume they have identical water needs. Actually, camellias can stand drier conditions because they are deeper rooted and are grown in soil. Azaleas are best planted in coarse peat moss, which provides acidity and aeration but dries out quickly in hot weather.

Just how much dryness can camellias take? Opinions vary depending on where and why the camellias are being grown. The *Sunset Western Garden Book*, a standard reference for local gardens, says that camellias that have been in the ground three to five years can survive on rainfall alone. Run that statement by L.A. area growers and you'll hear an almost unanimous chorus of "Maybe in northern California, but not here!"

Hobbyists who grow camellias for exhibition-quality blooms are adamant about ample water. Sergio Bracci, president of the Southern California Camellia Society, has raised countless prize-winning flowers.

"Never let camellias dry out in the summer while they are setting flower buds, or the buds will drop off," he advised. "After all, the

flowers are 80% water.

On the other hand, Julius Nuccio, partner in Nuccio's Nurseries of Altadena, emphasizes the toughness of camellias as landscape plants. He harks back to the days of the Great Depression, when gardens in Pasadena, Sacramento and other older communities endure years of extreme neglect. Most ornamental shrubs, but well-established camellias carried on with rainfall only.

Similar results were noted after the severe water rationing imposed on Northern California in the mid 70's.

The major difference between wild camellias and those you buy at a nursery is that wild ones have long, woody taproots that draw moisture from the depths of the soil. Nursery plants are either seedlings that have had their taproots nipped or have been grown from cuttings. In either case they have shallower, more spreading root systems.

If you want to grow a camellia with an intact taproot from seed, you can start now, but it will take three to five years for a seedling to bloom. . . . If you are interested in growing camellias with taproots, you might try the sasanquas (fall blooming and sun tolerate with delicate flowers) as they have especially sturdy disease-resistant roots. Sasanqua seedlings usually resemble the parent plant closely.

Should you be dissatisfied with the flowers of your seedling sasanqua, any type of camellia can be grafted onto the sasanqua's roots.

When you get your seeds, mix them with a quart of moist (not wet) peat moss and put them in a glass jar

atop the water heater, where the gentle heat will hasten germination. The seeds sprout sporadically, so check them after two weeks and at weekly intervals.

A seedling with the taproot more than an inch long is ready to plant. Fill a container at least 12 inches deep (narrow, extra-deep plastic containers called tree pots are perfect) with the mix of equal parts sand and peat. Poke a hole in the soil with a pencil and insert the root, leaving the seed itself sitting on the soil surface. Gently tamp the soil so it fills in around the rot.

After a year, the seedling should have four to eight inches of top growth and a taproot to the bottom of the container. It can then be planted in the ground.

Reprinted from an article in the *Los Angeles Times in Camellia Review*, Vol. 53, No. 2

Editor's note: When we moved to our house on Brydon Road in La Verne there were several old camellia plants that I did not water for the first two years we lived there.

They survived—which supports this article.

•••

Continued from page 10

The camellias provide partial shade which encouraged us to try a specimen peony. There are now a few cultivars that will grow in the Los Angeles Arboretum area (USDA Plant Hardiness Map zone 9). Brought to America by early European settlers, they became favorites in our grandparent's gardens in the Northeast where they bloomed reliably for decades. Peonies are long-lived perennials and require well-drained soil and full sun. In Southern California the new cultivars require part shade. I chose *Paeonia suffruticosa* 'Taiyo' ("the Sun"), a tree peony, a heavy bloomer with double 8

to 10 inch dark ruby red blooms, curled petals and tinted red foliage.

In conclusion, it is always fun to plan, prepare and execute a home landscaping project with camellias. We can hardly wait to see the spring peony flowers and the fall blooms of the new sun camellias as they enliven our anniversary garden.

Editor's note: Do you think Brad's familiarity with the gardens at USC and his naming his collection "Maroon and Gold" may have something to do with the many years he spent on the faculty of that institution?

•••

1. 'Firedance'
2. 'Miss Charleston'
3. 'Wildfire'
4. 'Royal Velvet'
5. 'High Fragrance'
6. 'Rudolph'
7. 'Something Beautiful'
8. 'Freedom Bell'
9. 'Cherries Jubilee'
10. 'Valentine Day'
11. 'Grand Marshal'
12. 'Nuccio's Gem'
13. 'Buttons 'n Bows'
14. 'Ave Maria'

15. 'Snowman'
16. 'Prima Ballerina'
17. 'Star Above Star'
18. a "LASCA Beauty"
19. 'Night Rider'
20. 'Waltz Time'
21. 'Red Hots'
22. 'Nuccio's Carousel'
23. 'Arcadia'
24. 'Tiffany'
25. 'Grand Prix'
26. 'Pharoah'
27. 'Maroon and Gold'

The following is a list of camellias introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries.

How many of these do you have for entry in the new
category mentioned on page 5?

JAPONICAS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ACE O'HEARTS, 1963 | MATILIJA POPPY, 1991 |
| ACS JUBILEE, 1994 | MERRY CHRISTMAS, 1991 |
| AY-AY-AY, 1995 | MIDNIGHT, 1963 |
| BABY PEARL, 1980 | MIDNIGHT VAR. |
| BLACK MAGIC, 1992 | MIDNIGHT MAGIC, 1985 |
| BOB HOPE, 1972 | MIDNIGHT SERENADE, 1973 |
| BOB'S TINSIE, 1962 | MOONLIGHT BAY, 1982 |
| CANDY APPLE, 1991 | MRS. TSUTAKO NAKASONE, 1985 |
| CANDY CANE, 1963 | NUCCIO'S BELLA ROSSA, 2000 |
| CARA MIA, 1960 | NUCCIO'S BELLA ROSSA VAR.,
2001 |
| CARA MARIA VAR. | NUCCIO'S CAMEO, 1983 |
| CHEER LEADER, 1965 | NUCCIO'S CAROUSEL, 1988 |
| CHERRIES JUBILEE, 1983 | NUCCIO'S GEM, 1970 |
| COED, 1962 | NUCCIO'S JEWEL, 1977 |
| COVER GIRL, 1965 | NUCCIO'S PINK LACE, 1987 |
| DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT, 1985 | NUCCIO'S PEARL, 1997 |
| DEBUTANTE BENTEN, 2002 | OO-LA-LA, 1991 |
| DONNAN'S DREAM, 1984 | PINK WINGS, 1993 |
| ELEGANS CHAMPAGNE, 1975 | PRIMA BALLERINA, 1983 |
| FIRE DANCE, 1979 | PRIMAVERA, 1950 |
| FIRE DANCE VARIEGATED, 1993 | RED HOTS, 1992 |
| GRAND MARSHAL, 1988 | RED DEVIL—in catalog not in
Nomenclature |
| GRAND MARSHAL VAR., 1993 | RED TULIP—in catalog not in
Nomenclature |
| GRAND PRIX, 1968 | ROYAL VELVET, 1987 |
| GRAND SLAM, 1962 | ROYAL VELVET VAR. |
| GRAND SLAM VAR. | RUDOLPH, 1981 |
| GULIO NUCCIO, 1956 | RUDOLPH VARIEGATED, 1995 |
| GULIO NUCCIO VAR. | SCENSION, 1967 |
| HAPPY HARLEQUIN, 2006 | SHIKIBU, 1981 |
| HAPPY HIGO, 1992 | SHOW TIME, 1978 |
| HAPPY HOLIDAYS, 1984 | SILVER ANNIVERSARY, 1960 |
| HENRY E. HUNTINGTON, 1994 | SILVER CHALICE, 1963 |
| HOLLY BRIGHT, 1985 | SILVER CLOUD, 1980 |
| JUNIOR PROM, 1996 | SILVER LACE, 1985 |
| KATHERINE NUCCIO, 1950 | SILVER RUFFLES, 1965 |
| KATIE, 1979 | SILVER TOWER, 1988 |
| KATIE VARIEGATED, 1985 | SILVER TRIUMPH, 1973 |
| KICKOFF, 1962 | SILVER WAVES, 1969 |
| LEMON DROP, 1981 | SNOW CHAN, 1957 |
| LITTLE BO PEEP, 1981 | SPRING FLING, 1992 |
| LITTLE SLAM, 1969 | SPRING FORMAL, 1986 |
| LITTLE SLAM VARIEGATED | |
| LIPSTICK, 1981 | |
| MAROON AND GOLD, 1961 | |

SUNNYSIDE, 1990
SWEET DREAMS, 1984
TAMA AMERICANA, 1993
TAMA BAMBINO, 1993
TAMA BEAUTY, 1993
TAMA BELL, 1993
TAMA ELECTRA, 1993
TAMA GLITTERS, 1993
TAMA PEACOCK, 2000
TAMA VINO, 1993
TAMA-NO-URA—Japan to US 1978
and introduced by Nuccios
TATA, 1991
THOMAS PITTS, 1954
TINKER BELL, 1958
TOUCH OF PINK, 1977
TOUCHDOWN, 1962
VIRGINIA ROBINSON, 1957
WHITE BOUQUET, 2006
WILDFIRE, 1963

NON-RETICULATAS

AUTUMN JEWEL, 2000
BUNNY EARS, 1999
BUTTERMINT, 1991
BUTTONS 'N BOWS, 1985
CANDLE GLOW, 1980
CORAL BOUQUET
CUPCAKE
EGAO CORKSCREW, 2000
FREEDOM BELL, 1965
GARDEN GLORY, 1974
GOLDEN GLOW, 1994
HONEYMOON, 1992
HOT STUFF
ISLAND SUNSET
JACKPOT
JOE NUCCIO, 1991
KI-NO-SENRITSU
LEMON TWIST, 1996
LUCKY STAR, 1995
MOONSTUCK., 1996
ORCHID BEAUTY, 2002
PAPER DOLLS, 1997
SENRITSU-KO
SHIBORI EGAO CORKSCREW, 2006
YUME, 1995

SASANQUAS

AUTUM DAWN
BLUSH ROSETTE—in catalog not in
Nomenclature
DECEMBER ROSE
DOUBLE RAINBOW
FRENCH VANILLA—in catalog not
in Nomenclature
LITTLE PEARL
PAINTED DESERT
ROSETTE
ROSY PILLAR—in catalog not in
Nomenclature
SHOWA SUPREMA—in catalog not
in Nomenclature
SILVER DOLLAR
SLIM 'N TRIM
SNOWFALL
STARRY PILLAR—in catalog not in
Nomenclature
STARS 'N STRIPES
ROSAEFLORE 'GRANDE
(technically a species)
TWINKLE TWINKLE
YULETIDE

RETICULATAS

APPLAUSE, 1980
BRAVO, 1970
CALIFORNIA DAWN, 1987
CALIFORNIA SUNRISE, 1988
CALIFORNIA SUNSET, 1988
CURTAIN CALL, 1979
FRANCIE L., 1964
FRANCIS L. VARIEGATED
MOONRISE, 2000
NUCCIO'S RUBY, 1974
QUEEN BEE, 1993
SHANGHAI LADY, 1981
STANDING OVATION, 1984
STAR IS BORN, 1986
THAI SILK, 1992
TROPHY, 1988
WINNER'S CIRCLE, 1984



At last season's camellia show in Gulfport, Jim Campbell, Pattie Perkins, Walter Krzymowski and Lynn Richardson await their team assignments. Note the Camellia Nomenclature in each judge's hand.

Thanks to Geri Jinks, Editor of *The Gulf Coast Camellian* for sharing this photo.



Back in 1982 when Bill Donnan was Editor of *The Camellia Review*, he received a letter from F. F. Becker II, Brookhaven, MS in which Mr. Becker stated: "... I heartily agree that the *Camellia Nomenclature* has to survive as it has truly become the Bible of all real camellia people, not only for California people but the entire U.S. I also find that it is very much prized worldwide.

I have never seen a judge in my experience at shows who truly did a competent job unless he or she had a current issue in hand, as there are just too many varieties for anyone to commit to memory. Anyone who attempts to judge without this help is fooling himself and doing an injustice to the exhibitor. . . ."

A question from the current editor—Do you have your copy of the 2009 Camellia Nomenclature? If not, go to page 1.

Do you have a website where you go for gardening tips?
We would be delighted to have you share any helpful information.

Southern California Camellia Society, Inc.

An organization devoted to the advancement of the camellia for the benefit of mankind—
physically, mentally and inspirationally.

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THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB & CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Kathleen Hill, 2419 Koehn Court, Atwater, CA 95301, (209) 357-0782. Meetings 3rd Tuesday, September-June, 6:30 p.m. St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, 1635 Shaffer Road, Atwater.

KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Ben McMahan;; Secretary—Betty Wachob, 3324 La Cresta Dr., Bakersfield, 93305. For meeting dates and times, call Helen Maas (661)872-2188.

MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Bob Dorn; Secretary—Julie Entwia, 22005 Dayton Ave., Modesto, 95356. Meetings: 1st Sunday, October-April, 1:00 p.m., 220-A Standiford Avenue, Modesto.

NAPA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Nancy McGowen Russell; Secretary—Fran Kane fkane@sonic.net. Meetings: 2nd Monday, September-May. Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson Street, Napa.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Mary Bergamini; Secretary—Don Bergamini, 2023 Huntridge Court, Martinez 94553 Meetings: 1st Monday, November-April, 7:00 p.m., 1st Baptist Church, 2336 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. December and May are dinner meetings.

ORANGE COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Steve Mefford; Secretary—Bob Sheriff, 27333 Paseo Laguna, San Juan Capistrano 92675. Meetings: 1st Monday, October-April, 7:00 p.m. Tustin Senior Center, 200 S. "C" Street, Tustin.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—George Harrison. Secretary—Dorothy McQuiston, 6212 Yucca St., Los Angeles 90028.. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November-April, 7:00 p.m., Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Marilee Gray; Secretary—Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November-April, 7:00 p.m., La Verne Community Center, 3680 "D" Street, La Verne.

SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Carol Schanz; Secretary—Joan Lesmeister, 4512 Marble Way, Carmichael, CA 95608. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October-April, 7:30 p.m., Studio Theater, 1028 "R" Street, Sacramento

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Gene Snooks; Secretary—Lew Gary, 11419 Cabela Place, San Diego 92127. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November-April, 7:30 p.m, Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Mike Ekberg; Secretary—Christina Isenberg, 240 Polhemus, Atherton, CA 94027 Meetings: 4th Monday, October-March, Veterans' Building Annex, 711 Nevada St., Rm. 20, Redwood City (formerly Peninsula Camellia Society)

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC., CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—John Mendoza, 1025 Harrison Street, Santa Clara 95050. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October-April, 7:30 p.m., Lick Mill Park, 4750 Lick Mill Boulevard, Santa Clara.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—James Fitzpatrick; Secretary—Bobbie Belcher 40641 Via Amapola, Murrieta, CA 92562 Meetings 4th Thursday October to April 7:00 p.m., Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Meeting is 3rd Thursday in November. No meeting in December.



Above—one of the remaining “original” camellias at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium
Below—one of the replanted areas



Photos by Donald Lesmeister



C. sasanqua 'Yuletide' at Nuccio's Nurseries



C. sasanqua 'December Rose'