

The *Camellia*

REVIEW

*A publication of the Southern California Camellia Society*

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# Southern California Camellia Society, Inc.

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

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## THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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## Cover Photo

C. sasanqua 'Yuletide'  
Nuccio's Nurseries most popular introduction.  
Sturdy, compact growth. Blooms Thanksgiving  
to Christmas.

Photo by Gene Phillips

## JOIN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Southern California Camellia Society will welcome you as a member.  
Annual membership of \$25.00 includes subscription to *The Camellia  
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## THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

It's summer time here in Southern California. If the buds on your camellias are not announcing that they are preparing for camellia shows early next year, the show schedule below will bring those upcoming events to your attention. Mark your calendars now so you won't miss any of these shows.

Our prolific contributor Bradford King has done his part once again. We appreciate Brad and his ventures down a variety of information avenues. His research into early camellia nurseries produced the sources for a number of our favorite cultivars. Aren't we all appreciative that these blooms have lasted over the years! You will enjoy learning more about Les and JoAnn Brewer and how their love of camellias developed into a hobby that brings them, and the rest of us, joy! Beth Stone reports again this year on a pruning day at Descanso. Thanks to those willing pruners and to Beth for her pruning, reporting and camera work. Don Bergamini reported the winning cultivars for the 2011 shows once again. Thanks, Don.

Donna Denton's story of the ten years that turned her and her husband into camellia lovers is a great tribute to friendship, endurance and determination. (It may be well to also mention "muscle" and "hard work" here.) It once again proves that the love of camellias is usually "caught" from a friend or friends. It's another reminder that we need to encourage our reluctant friends to try something new. Donna is a very new member of our Society and you will enjoy her sharing of the experiences of the Dentons.

In this issue we are also introducing "Sun Camellias," a new publication of the Southern California Camellia Society. Brad King and I were excited to find a 1955 *Camellia Review* dedicated to "Sasanquas" and the rest, as they say, is history. Our research showed that there were no other publications written in English dedicated to those camellia cultivars that don't need semi-shade but can thrive in sun. Brad needed a "project" and wrote some new articles; we included a number of articles from that earlier *Review*; I found gracious photographers willing to share their photos and we went to print. Brad grouped *C. sasanqua*, *C. heimalis* and *C. vernalis* into a category he labeled "sun camellias" and made up a list for your shopping convenience. Information about ordering this informative book is on page 5.

As always, we welcome contributions from our readers. You surely have a picture of your favorite bloom(s) and can write a sentence or two about why it or they are your favorite(s). Send your e-mail with a jpeg attachment to [socalcamellias@gmail.com](mailto:socalcamellias@gmail.com) or by "regular mail" with a photo.

—In anticipation, Bobbie Belcher, Editor



### Southern California Camellia Show Schedule 2012

January 7	Judges and Exhibitors Symposium 9:00 - 2:30 (Lunch will be served for a small fee)	Descanso Gardens
January 14-15	Pacific Camellia Society Bloom placement 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Descanso Gardens La Canada
January 21-22	Orange County Camellia Society Bloom placement 7 - 10:15 a.m.	Sherman Gardens Corona del Mar

January 28-29	Southern California Camellia Society Bloom placement 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Descanso Gardens La Canada
February 4-5	San Diego Camellia Society Bloom placement 8 - 10:00 a.m.	Casa del Prado Balboa Park
February 11-12	Southern California Camellia Society Bloom placement 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Huntington Gardens San Marino
February 18-19	Pomona Valley Camellia Society Bloom placement 6 - 10:30 a.m.	Community Center La Verne
February 25-26	Southern California Camellia Council Bloom placement 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Descanso Gardens La Canada
March 4-5	Kern County Camellia Society Bloom placement 6 - 10:30 a.m.	Golden State Mall Bakersfield
March 10-11	Pacific Camellia Society "Late Bloomers Show" Bloom placement 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Descanso Gardens La Canada



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### 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 United States and \$10.00 per set outside the United States.

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 United States and \$9.00 each outside the United States.

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 online at [socialcamellias.org](http://socialcamellias.org).



Our apologies to Michael Mathos whose 'High Fragrance' won the Best Fragrant award at the San Diego show. That win was not recorded with the other show results in *The Camellia Review*, Vol. 72, No. 2. Sorry, Michael.

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## Something New Under the Sun

A very wise man named Solomon once wrote that there was nothing new under the sun. Undoubtedly true, but have you discovered that there are a number of camellias that do very well under the sun? Are some of these growing in your garden?

Most folks believe that camellias are shade or, at least, semi-shade plants, and that is true about most camellias. However, there are a number of cultivars that do quite well growing in the sun. Information about these "sun camellias" has recently been published by the Southern California Camellia Society. A 1955 edition of *The Camellia Review* dedicated to sasanquas prompted Bradford King and Bobbie Belcher to put together a 48 page book to include a number of the articles from that early

publication. New articles are also included about *C. sasanqua*, *C. heimalis* and *C. vernalis* and new and different ways to use them as well as a shopping list guide, a list of camellia nurseries and lots of pictures!

Copies of "Sun Camellias" can be ordered through Southern California Camellia Society, 3800 Bradford Street, Space 43, La Verne, California 91750, at [socalcamellias@gmail.com](mailto:socalcamellias@gmail.com) or on our website [socalcamellias.org](http://socalcamellias.org). The price in the United States per copy is \$10 plus \$2.50 postage. Buy two copies today—one for yourself and one to encourage a new camellia enthusiast. Orders of 10 or more will be discounted 10%. For our international purchasers, we ask that you inquire about postage prices before ordering.



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## THE CAMELLIA CONNECTION

### Les and JoAnn Brewer

#### Still in love with camellias and one another

A recent publication of "Inter View," the house publication of Inter Valley Health Plan, featured Les and Jo Ann Brewer. Some of us who have known Les and Jo Ann a long time were surprised to learn some new things about them. Of course, we already knew they are a team when it comes to camellias. Here are some excerpts from the Inter Valley publication:

"Spring is an especially meaningful time for Jo Ann and Leslie Brewer, who share 58 years of marriage, three children, four grandchildren—and a lifelong passion for camellias. Most recently they co-chaired the 64th Annual Pomona Camellia Society Show at the La Verne Community Center, one of

many shows they participate in every spring. And, say the Brewers, they feel fortunate that their retirement offers them the opportunity to pursue their passions.

The Brewers met by chance through a cousin of a good friend and soon discovered that both came from families that raised camellias. Jo Ann's parents were involved in the Santa Rosa Camellia Society while Leslie's family was known for their huge Southern California garden—with its abundant and very mature camellia plants. Not surprisingly, the couple's wedding reception was adorned with camellias from his parents' garden. ...

Now retired, both Brewers worked while raising their children,







Lindsey, Melanie and Marshall. JoAnn taught Kindergarten through fifth grade in the Charter Oak School District, often teaching several grades at the same time in an 'open classroom.' In addition she served on the President's Advisory Board and as an adjunct professor at La Verne College (now University of La Verne). JoAnn retired after 30 years of teaching in 1992.

Leslie retired a year earlier from Stillinger's Interiors in Pomona. 'He executed the ideas of the firm's interior designers,' says Jo Ann.

'That's always been his gift—building things and making them work—and he's still a "fixer" kind of guy. Nothing stays broken long around our house.

The Brewers' absolute favorite thing to do, however, is tending the camellias in their garden consisting of 90 bushes and 90 plants in pots. They have a sophisticated drip irrigation system to help water the plants and make their own mulch out of acorns and tree leaves. 'We're outdoor working in the garden every day, which is a lot of work, but also very

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therapeutic and a lot of fun,' Jo Ann says. ...

In addition to their love of gardening, the Brewers also enjoy the time spent 'showing' their prize-winning camellias. ... 'Our first win was in 1988,' Jo Ann says, 'and now, every year, we're showing our flowers from mid-January to the second week in March—from Bakersfield to San Diego.' Their son Lindsey has stayed involved with the family passion, attending as many of his parents' shows as time allows.

They also have an adventurous side, having celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary in January by going hot air ballooning. And Jo Ann celebrated her 80th birthday last summer by taking the Catalina Zip Line with her grandchildren. 'Gliding from the hills in Avalon, among the treetops and down to the sea was a hoot!'

Both JoAnn and Leslie are extremely vigilant about taking responsibility for maintaining their health. Leslie at age 87 has been in the Cardiac Wellness Program at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center for 14 years, where he works out three times a week in the fitness center. Jo Ann has also taken advantage of the hospital's wellness program, attending the Aquatic Therapy program twice a week for the past five years at Ability First in Claremont. Additionally, they watch their diet, eating whole grains, lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as mainly chicken and fish, rather than red meat."

*And here are a few words from the sponsor, Inter Valley Health Plan:*

"The Brewers most certainly would agree that gardening connects people with nature, is empowering, creative and enriches the spirit. The physical benefits of fresh air and exercise can help strengthen muscles, bones, and the respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

Gardening for just 30 minutes a day helps increase flexibility, strengthen joints, stimulate appetite and foster a good night's sleep.

Working in the garden can help reduce blood pressure and cholesterol levels, lower risks for diabetes and slow osteoporosis.

Gardens and houseplants give off oxygen and absorb airborne toxin.

Gardens can be a form of meditation, it releases stress-reducing endorphins and provides a sense of wonder for life's simple pleasures. Gardening also engages your senses, promotes a feeling of achievement and provides a peaceful, yet powerful sense of well-being. So, what are you waiting for?"

*Editor's note: Thanks to Inter Valley Health Plan for graciously sharing their article and photographs.*

•••••

You have achieved success if  
you have lived well,  
laughed often  
and loved much.

—Author unknown

## SHIRO KARAKO

Bradford King

Photo by Joe Tunner

'Shiro Karako' means "White Anemone" in English. It has a long history in Japan dating back to 1788. It is a very pretty miniature-to-small white anemone form and grows on a vigorous spreading plant. The blooms are fairly uniform and look similar to the japonica 'Man Size'. However, 'Man Size' grows more openly and upright and is a creamier white anemone flower. 'Shiro Karako' is considered a mid-season flowering camellia, but there were six very lovely blooms the second week of January 2011 at the Judges' Symposium which had been grown by Linda and Joe Tunner in their garden in Encinitas. If you like miniature and small flowers, this very pretty cultivar is one you might like to grow. It is a *C. rusticana* (snow camellia), a sub variety of japonica and would be exhibited in the "species" class in a camellia show.

Nuccio's Nurseries catalog lists fifteen *C. rusticana* camellia of which the most popular is 'Botan-Yuki'. A larger and attractive white medium flower with pointed petals was christened 'Shooting Star' by the Nuccio's.

The *C. rusticana* come from higher elevations in Japan where they are able to survive and grow insulated by a layer of snow which is why they are called "snow camellias." When the snow melts, they burst into colorful blooms. Generally, these camellias are characterized by bushy, compact growth, slender supple branches and profuse red blooms. They make good foreground landscape camellias where their many small blooms can be

appreciated. A few red cultivars can be seen in The Huntington Botanical Garden in front of taller cultivars close to the paths between the Japanese and Chinese gardens.

It is interesting that the white *C. rusticana* cultivars like 'Shiro Karako', 'Botan-Yuki' and 'Shooting Star' are more popular in Southern California than the more traditional red "snow camellias." If you have ever lived or visited parts of the country where there is snow, you know how red flowers are appreciated against a layer of white snow and how colorful



flowers are so appreciated after months of cold and snow. Imagine living in the snowy mountains of Japan and looking forward to the snow melting to see red flowers appear as the snow melts. Simple beauty and the joy of spring come to mind.

(Continued on page 25)

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## WHEN A WELL THOUGHT OUT PLAN DOES NOT WORK

Story and Photos by Donna Denton  
West Columbia, South Carolina

There has long been a debate about growing camellias in containers versus in the ground. My experience has been that necessity often dictates the road you take.

When we purchased the property which is now our home (Laurel Graydon) we were enthusiastic about the size of the property. We imagined that we would now have plenty of space to landscape and plant many gardens with hundreds of plants that we had dreamed of having. We had grandiose plans to install rose gardens, herb gardens, vegetable gardens, hydrangea gardens and on and on. But, at this point in our lives, we had never owned a camellia and had not put a camellia garden on our drawing board.

One day, soon after we had moved in, a long time friend and camellia grower came to visit with a housewarming gift, *C. japonica* 'White by the Gate', and about a dozen additional cultivars. He took me to one of our walled gardens near the front entrance and showed me how to space and plant them with an interesting path to create a perfect camellia garden. I cleared out the path he had indicated and planted all my new camellias with high hopes for show blooms the following year.

Well, that did not work out so well. Now, I was already a Master Gardener and thought I knew enough about the care of these plants to be successful. Plus, I had seen old camellias growing and blooming with absolutely no care on old home sites that had been deserted for years. What I had not factored into the equation was the overwhelming competition from the abundant plant material which had lived and thrived undisturbed on this property for who knows how long. There are literally hundreds of old growth lichen-encrusted *Vaccinium*, *Yaupon* and

giant *Magnolia grandiflora* in addition to the forest of long leaf pine trees and countless other native trees and shrubs, ferns and acres of *Kalmia* (mountain laurel) on this property. My big mistake was underestimating the vigor of this virgin and generations-old stand of plants and trees and the extent to which they would successfully compete for every one of the resources my new camellias required. I can say with certainty that the *Vaccinium* and *Yaupon* in that first camellia garden put on lots of new growth and beautiful fruit with the amended soil and fertilizer intended for those dozen or so camellias I planted in their habitat. And, to add insult to injury, they shaded the camellias too much at the wrong time of the day. The existing plants got a new lease on life while the newly introduced camellias languished.

Our original intent, as caretakers of this very old property, was to keep and protect as much of the existing plant material as possible in this unusual soil mix and microclimate. We even purchased additional acreage surrounding our property to protect the magnificent old growth of *Kalmia* (Mountain Laurel) which is somewhat rare in this part of the state and for which our property was aptly named by the original owner. Clearly, "original intent" would not be an option if we really wanted to introduce new plants, including camellias, in this space. For the camellias to live and grow, some huge sacrifices had to be made in this smaller garden space.

So, extensive editing (read "removal") of over half the trees and other competing vegetation from this small garden freed up both the ground and the sky for the benefit of the camellias and for the last two years they have put on a show with

considerable new growth and beautiful blooms.

But, our friends, who are very successful both growing and showing camellias, had further ambitions for Laurel Graydon. They had a vision, which my husband and I totally concurred with, to create a much larger camellia garden(s) which could be a repository for old and new cultivars on a much larger scale than the 25 x 15 foot space of the original garden. So, Richard Mims gifted me 250 well-rooted camellia plants in containers with the proviso that I first drill wells and install a well-planned

irrigation system. You probably know how long it would take to plant 250 camellias but you may not realized how long it would take to clear the space of established plant material and roots, then install irrigation and heavily amend the absolutely pure "beach sand" soil that

constitutes our property. But, given our experience in the original camellia garden, we did this right! Or so we thought.

We made this garden in what we imagined was the most visible yet protected area on the property. But, it is surrounded by several magnolia trees that are probably over 60 years old and I certainly was not going to take those out. Even with the near "clear cutting" for this garden, we ended up facing the same problem as with the original garden. After one year of care and feeding, everything else flourished while growth buds on the camellias that survived remained

dormant. The roots of the original plants and trees had been so aggressive that, when I dug the camellias, I removed hands full of other plant roots to find only 2-4 inches of roots belonging to the camellias.

My new master plan then reverted back to the old master plan—be caretakers of the original, native trees and shrubs. The vegetation here has told me in no uncertain terms that it will compete with anything introduced. However, by this time my husband and I were so bewitched by camellias that we just had to find a way to grow and enjoy them in large numbers at Laurel Graydon.

Our solution was to dig them all up and put them back into containers. I stumbled onto this solution while writing an article about using containers to overcome problems with heavy clay soil and/or no space for a garden. Containers allow you to control the soil mix and drainage, and containers can be

placed on decks and patios and moved around for flexibility in a tiny "landscape." Why couldn't I use containers to nurture my camellias?

Thankfully, I have a heated glasshouse and have also built an unheated "hoop house" with shade cloth cover and irrigation. Our containerized plants live in the "summerhouse" after last frost and I move them into the cool (35 degree) glasshouse before the first frost in late fall. I once had a small lathe house; but it was too small, and I wanted to convert it to a "tea house" for an upcoming garden tour here.

Another benefit of having the



large selection of camellias in containers is that I can place them in other gardens around the property and swap them around to enjoy every cultivar everywhere. I have eight container plants in our kitchen garden which allows me to see them many times every day. I sometimes put a plastic nursery container inside another, interesting, container (such as a huge copper jelly pot or an antique iron pot) and put pine straw around the top to disguise the nursery pot.

Although I have not shown any flowers yet, my container grown camellias have prospered and last winter the glasshouse was full of healthy plants with many beautiful flowers. And, guess what? I can see them from my kitchen window every day.

I have learned that growing camellias in containers, or in a glasshouse for that matter, has its own set of challenges and problems. It seems to be a ventilation and humidity problem which I think I can work out with the help of my many experienced and generous Camellia Society friends.

As far as I'm concerned, that is the best thing I have gotten out of this 10 year experience—the many knowledgeable and helpful friends we have made through the Camellia Society. No grower in our group keeps secrets. Members are anxious and willing to share every bit of knowledge and information about their successes and/or failures. AND, they share their plants with you too!

*Preceding page: Antique copper jelly pots make great containers for camellias. Below: Container camellias under an old American holly bush.*



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## CAMELLIA PRUNING EVENT AT DESCANSO GARDENS

Story and Photos by Beth Stone

On Saturday morning May 14, 2011, members of the Southern California Camellia Society and the Pacific Camellia Society teamed together to prune camellias at Descanso Gardens. The hardy band of volunteers worked in the West Camellia Forest under the expert guidance of Wayne Walker. The areas selected for pruning were on either side of the paved path which is shared by the popular trams and the many visitors on foot.

The group's pruning goals were two-fold. The first was to head back camellia branches extending over the path and thin the foliage at turns in the path. This would improve visibility for the tram drivers thereby increasing safety. The second goal was to reduce the height of the camellias bordering the path to about 5 feet, which would improve visibility of the tier of camellias behind them.

Descanso's West Camellia Forest is rich in a wide variety of camellias ranging from some of the earliest cultivars introduced from Japan to the handiwork of numerous hybridizers across the United States. In just one

morning, the group pruned at least 30 different cultivars. The hybridizers whose introductions were presented reads like a Who's Who of Nurserymen: Ashby, Carter, Ingleside Nursery (Georgia), Kramer, Longview, Magnolia, McCaskill, Nuccio, Peer, Short, Tinsley (Louisiana), Urabek, and Wilkes Nursery (Georgia). Most of the camellias pruned were *C. japonica* with the exceptions of 'Anticipation', a *Saluenensis/Japonica* hybrid, 'Harold L. Paige', a *C. reticulata* and one *C. sasanqua* 'Jean May'.

The oldest varieties pruned were 'Elegans (Chandler)' (1831), 'Herme' (1875) and 'Margaret Walker' (1890). Other pre-1950 varieties represented were 'Blood of China', 'Comte de Nesselrode', 'Conflagration', 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Eureka Red', 'Tinsie' (Bokahan) and 'Ville de Nantes'. Interestingly, most of these have blooms which are various forms in shades of red. One exception was 'Dr. Tinsley' which, in May, still had some blooms of very pale pink shading to deeper pink at edge. The reverse sides of the petals of 'Dr. Tinsley' are a flesh pink. (Continued on page 15)





Preceding page: At 5' 3" Dorothy McQuiston makes a perfect yardstick for pruning camellias.

Above: Joe Berendt, George Harrison and Brad King practice ladder safety.

Bottom: John O'Neill and Wayne Walker contemplate their next move.





'Tinsie' also had a few late blooms—miniature, anemone forms with bright red petals and pure white petaloids. 'Tinsie' is known for abundant seed set. Every flower forms a seed, but they are so loved by squirrels that you'll never find one left! More recent red varieties pruned were 'Cardinal' and 'Memphis Belle'

Nuccio's introductions were well represented in the varieties to be pruned: 'Elegans Champagne', 'Gullio Nuccio', 'Hit Parade', 'Nuccio's Pearl' and 'Virginia Robinson'. 'Nuccio's Pearl', introduced in 1977, was the youngest variety pruned.

White-flowered varieties pruned included 'Coronation', 'Fairest Day' and 'White Nun'. 'Coronation' is particularly valued for home

landscaping because of the way it displays its beautiful, upward-facing white, very large semidouble blooms.

Pink-flowered varieties which were pruned honored the following ladies: 'Julia France', 'Lena Jackson', 'Lucy Hester' and 'Marilee Gray'. 'Lucy Hester' was named for the wife of hybridizer and nurseryman K. O. Hester in Laguna Hills, CA in 1959. The original seedling of 'Lucy Hester' is planted in the Descanso garden and commemorated with a plaque. Other pink varieties pruned included 'Tiffany' and 'Tomorrow Park Hill'.

For the volunteers it was a great opportunity to study the mature forms of so many varieties and to support Wayne in caring for the exceptional camellia collection at Descanso Gardens.

### 2009 Camellia Nomenclature

Copies of the 2009 Camellia Nomenclature are still available. Special sections were added listing cold hardy and fragrant cultivars.

Price is \$20.00 including tax and shipping.

Orders can be placed by sending a check to:

Southern California Camellia Society

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and order online.

## WHAT MY GARDEN GIVES

It gives me many small surprises  
when the sun sets and also rises  
a place to think and capture grace  
it slows my mind to a peaceful pace  
it bring me color filled with cheer  
that lasts and lasts throughout the year  
it gives me patience and peace of mind  
it gives me the time I so need to find  
it glows and dances with such great hope  
it offers me the strength to cope  
So bless this garden, my place to start,  
for every day it lends me its heart.

*Editor's note: These words come from a sampler a friend found in an antique shop and gave to Mel and me as a gift. Punctuation and capitalization were copied from the sampler.*

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## A LOOK INTO THE PAST—CAMELLIA NURSERIES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Story by Bradford King

Photo credits on page 23

From the 1930's until the late 1980's there were over thirty nurseries in the Pasadena and surrounding areas specializing in camellias. Today these Pasadena nurseries are gone with the exception of Nuccio's Nurseries in nearby Altadena. Citrus groves and other agricultural farms, as well as these family-run nurseries gave way to the population explosion. This resulted in the increase of land prices and

and other blends of marmalade, jams and preserves which they sell from a small store on the original property tucked in among family residences.

Sifting through records and collecting oral history from old timers, we get a picture of small, vibrant family businesses many of which propagated plants in their backyards to sell to the burgeoning population. What follows is a story of those nurseries that developed new



home developments boomed in Southern California. Citrus owners are all gone, too, except E. Waldo Ward. In 1891 E. Waldo Ward Sr. planted citrus groves in Sierra Madre, a small town just east of Pasadena. Today the Ward family continues the heritage by making numerous products like Blood Orange Marmalade, Tangerine Marmalade

and other blends of marmalade, jams and preserves which they sell from a small store on the original property tucked in among family residences.

### **KRAMER BROTHERS NURSERIES**

Kramer Brothers Nurseries, Rancho Cucamonga, California was founded on Long Island, New York in 1896 by Otto and August Kramer who, for twenty years, grew potted



plants and cut flowers. In 1929 they moved to California and became known for their azaleas, camellias and gardenias. Ben Mackall married August Kramer's daughter Marie in 1937. After August died, Ben and Marie managed the nursery until 1986 when the nursery closed and the land was sold to the San Antonio Community Hospital.

While this wonderful camellia nursery is no longer with us, many of the camellias they propagated and introduced are still grown and enjoyed today. Kramer's japonica introductions include at least 20 cultivars. The best know are 'In the Pink', 'Kramer's Delight', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Marie Mackall', 'Red Garnet' and 'Splash of Pink'. The non-reticulata hybrids they introduced are even more outstanding. Those that have survived the test of time are some of the show winners we exhibit today.

These include 'Angel Wings', 'Coral Delight', 'Coral Delight Variegated', 'First Blush', 'Kramer's

Fluted Coral', 'Kramer's Fluted Coral Variegated', 'Pink Dahlia' and 'Spring Daze' plus other less well-known cultivars. If you are a camellia show exhibitor, you undoubtedly have several of these beautiful cultivars. My favorites are 'Coral Delight Variegated' and 'Spring Daze'

Ben and Marie must have admired Richard Nixon. President Nixon grew up in Southern California; his Presidential Library was built in Yorba Linda where he was born. The Mackalls named a camellia for the President's wife, Pat Nixon, and his two daughters, Tricia and Julie. Pat Nixon was present in 1971 when the camellias named for her and for Tricia were planted in Capital Park in Sacramento. In 1974 'Julie Nixon' was added which completed the honoring of the President's wife and daughters. 'Pat Nixon', a sport of 'Richard Nixon' was introduced in 1954 by U. B. Stair from Whittier, California where the President attended college.

## McCASKILL GARDENS

Vernon McCaskill was a major camellia hybridizer. His nursery was located near Michillinda Avenue in Pasadena which is now a residential area. Between 1930 and 1988, McCaskill introduced 72 japonica cultivars and 8 non-reticulata hybrids. I know this because I counted everyone in the Camellia Nomenclature. If you are compelled to check up on me, you are in bigger trouble than I am. While most of these cultivars are no longer seen, the

between the petals really makes the flower look like a cup and saucer. It is a show quality cultivar that often wins in the "treated" and "untreated" categories. Another winner from McCaskill is the miniature light pink anemone flower 'Kewpie Doll' with its high petaloids center. I believe the best non reticulata hybrids introduced by this grower are 'Waltz Time' and 'Waltz Time Variegated'. This medium semidouble flower is a bright and clear lilac pink. When variegated with white slashes, it is



ones we do see are wonderful. Japonica cultivars that are still popular include 'Demi- Tasse', 'Kewpie Doll', 'Cloisonne' and 'White Nun'. The latter is a very large white semidouble and is seen planted in gardens of homes built in the 1950's and early 60's. 'Demi-Tasse' is a semidouble small to medium peach blossom pink with a unique hose-in-hose form. The row of petaloids

striking and capable of garnering crystal at a camellia show. In 1964 McCaskill introduced 'Star Above Star' a wonderful vernalis seedling. This semidouble bloom has white petals shading to lavender on the edges in the form of one star superimposed on another star. This attractive form and lovely toned colored flower won the 1969 Ralph Peer Sasanqua Seeding Award. It

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grows vigorously, upright, bushy and grows well in the sun.

### STAR NURSERY

No story about the early nurseries in the area would be complete without acknowledging the contribution of Star Nursery. J. W. Uyematsu owned and operated Star Nursery which was the largest and most successful in Southern California. The more than fifty japonica cultivars shipped from Japan to America in 1930 all bear Japanese names and

Yoshimura, the owner of Mission Nursery, were sent to the interment camps during World War II, Manchester Boddy bought their entire stock of camellias and had them planted in Rancho del Descanso, which we now know as Descanso Gardens. Today the former Mission Nursery is known as San Gabriel Nursery.

### OTHER EARLY PASADENA NURSERIES

Between 1954 and 1955, *The*



have been used by landscapers and camellia breeders for years. One example is 'Fukurin-Ikkyu', a lovely miniature semidouble light pink flower with petals edged with white and rose red stripes. (Tom Nuccio says you never want to say "Fukurin-Ikkyu" when drinking.) In addition, Star Nurseries introduced seven of their own cultivars to camellia lovers. When Mr. Uyematsu and Mr.

*Camellia Review* advertised a number of the early lesser-known camellia nurseries. For example, Marshall's Camellia Nursery, was located on Rosemead Boulevard in San Gabriel, just south of Duarte Road. Today medical offices, a retirement home and a small shopping center occupy that property. Marshall's introduced 'Sierra Spring' and sold a variety of other camellias and plants



The Don and Blanche Miller Camellia Nursery was located a mile away in San Gabriel. They didn't introduce any camellias but were more a wholesale and retail enterprise. In fact, that location was Miller's Garden Fountains when I move to California in 1985. At that time it sold interesting garden products including statues and decorative rocks. Today there are new owners in the same location selling garden and landscaping decorations, but there are no plants.

Boorman's Camellia Gardens was further south in Temple City. Temple City calls itself "Home of Camellias" and a camellia parade, sponsored by the Temple City Chamber of Commerce, is held there every winter. William E. Wyman advertised "Rare Camellias at Give Away Prices" and was open only on Sundays on North Hudson Avenue in Pasadena.

Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens on Foothill Boulevard in East Pasadena sold camellias originated by Harvey F. Short, a well-known camellia plant breeder at the time. While he introduced several dozen cultivars, we see few of his blooms in competition today. His 'Pink Clouds' won the Margarete Hertrick Award in 1952-1953.

All of these early Pasadena area nurseries provided camellias and other plants that are seen today in foundation plantings as we drive around Pasadena. The nurseries are gone, but the camellias continue to bloom every winter. We need to remember a few more of these camellia pioneers who introduced new camellias.

In 1930 Busch Gardens introduced 'Rose Queen', a pink formal double, to honor the Rose Parade Queen. We don't see the flower

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today, but we continue to enjoy the Rose Parade and the crowning of a new queen each year. The parade was begun in 1890 by the Pasadena Hunt Club with 2,000 people viewing flowered-covered carriages. Today millions of people celebrate New Year's morning in front of the TV and enjoy numerous marching bands, equestrian groups and floats decorated with hundreds of thousands flowers.

Let us not forget that America was founded on small family businesses frequently by brothers working together to make a living to support their families. For example, the Tuttle Brothers grew and sold camellias in the heyday of small family nurseries in Pasadena, California. One of their early introductions in 1947 was 'Paulson's White'. In 1954 they named a rose opal pink medium peony camellia 'Carolyn Tuttle' and advertised it for sale in *The Camellia Review* for \$7.50.

Recently, while speaking to an 81

year-old friend, I learned about her relatives, Clarence and Josephine Hearn who grew hundreds of cultivars in the back of their home in Arcadia just minutes from where I live. Clarence, a wounded veteran, made his living growing camellias and other plants. He introduced 16 japonica cultivars, one of which was named 'President Franklin D. Roosevelt'. His wife, to honor her husband, introduced 'Clarence Hearn', a deep rose red large anemone flower. Their home, Hearn's Nursery, was bulldozed to make room for what I call "Arcadia starter castles."

Farther east on the famous Route 66 were other camellia growers. Paul Gains Nursery in San Dimas, California, may have been forgotten but not their introduction, 'Elegans Splendor'. One of the most beautiful and popular sports of 'C. M. Wilson', it is a large to very large light pink flower with deep serrated petals dged in white.



Councilman Camellia Acres was located in El Monte just west of Peck Road. Councilman Nursery introduced a dozen or so cultivars. Elizabeth Councilman wrote "Two Cats and Forty Camellias," a 136 page story about the growing of camellias, cats and cooking. It sold for \$3.00. I wonder where a copy can be found. It sounds like a clever and fun read.

1950 when 'Katherine Nuccio' was first introduced. They have introduced 129 japonica cultivars including variegated forms, 24 sasanqua cultivars and 5 species seedlings for a grand total of 158 cultivars. Most of these are still listed in the 2009-2010 catalogue. Thirty of the cultivars, mostly from the 1950's, are no longer listed in the 2009



Perhaps someone will put it on the Southern California Camellia Society web site for all to enjoy and thereby save a piece of our local camellia history.

#### **NUCCIO'S NURSERIES**

Nuccio's Nurseries, begun by Joe and Julius Nuccio in 1935, continues to be a thriving nursery in Altadena and is operated by Jude (Julius), Tom and Jim Nuccio. World-famous for their camellias and azaleas, they have been introducing new cultivars since

Nomenclature. It is an outstanding achievement for any nursery to have introduced this many camellia cultivars but, even more impressive, is the large number of these introductions that are great landscape camellias and also produce show-winning flowers. They have also been able to import a number of great camellia and azaleas from Japan. The most famous of these is 'Tama-No-Ura', which they used as a parent of nine new cultivars. The best of these is 'Tama Peacock,' a frequent show



flower winner. 'Tama Peacock' is also a very good garden camellia because it grows vigorously and produces numerous small maroon red flowers with wide white borders.

We have looked at the past camellia nurseries in the Los Angeles area of California and look forward to future camellia introductions that

may be introduced by new growers, but we rest comfortably knowing that Nuccio's will continue to offer our current favorites as well as offer new and exciting camellias for the foreseeable future.



A thing of beauty is a joy  
forever!  
—John Keats

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'Coral Delight Variegated'  
'Spring Daze'  
'Demi-Tasse'  
'Fukurin Ikkyu'  
'Nuccio's Carousel'  
'Elegans Slendor'  
'Tama Peacock'  
'Star Above Star'

Bradford King  
Bradford King  
Mel Belcher  
Bradford King  
Bradford King  
Mel Belcher  
Bradford King  
Bradford King

# CALIFORNIA WINNERS OF 2011

Don Bergamini

This year was dominated in both the single and multiple categories by 'Frank Houser' and 'Frank Houser Variegated' with a total of thirty-eight wins. This cultivar has captured the eye of the judges in most shows. If it doesn't win, it is still in the running on the final judging table. It seems to always make an appearance.

'Junior Prom' and 'Royal Velvet' are still the big winners in the Japonica large to very large category. 'Nuccio's Carousel' was far ahead in the medium Japonica class. The miniature class was lead by 'Something Beautiful' and the nonreticulata hybrid class was led by 'Island Sunset'.

Some of the newer cultivars on the way up are 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Variegated', 'Happy Harlequin', 'Tudor Baby Variegated' and 'Chris Bergamini'.

I am looking forward to the 2012 show season to see what will catch the eye of the judges and what varieties will surface next year. I hope your favorites made the list.

## SINGLES

### Large / Very Large Japonicas

'Junior Prom'	5
'Royal Velvet'	5
'Carter's Sunburst'	4
'Lady Laura'	4
'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Var.'	4
'Elaine's Betty'	3
'Elegans Champagne'	3
'Katie Var.'	3
'Rachel Tarpy'	3
'Dusty'	2
'Elegans Splendor'	2
'Miss Charleston Var.'	2
'Moonlight Bay'	2
'Nuccio's Bella Rossa'	2
'Royal Velvet Var.'	2
'Showtime'	2
'Veiled Beauty'	2
13 others with 1 each	

### Medium Japonica

'Nuccio's Carousel'	6
'Betty's Beauty'	2

'Cloisonne'	2
'Firedance Var.'	2
'Happy Harlequin'	2
'Haru No Utena'	2
'In The Pink'	2
'Margaret Davis'	2
'Nuccio's Pearl'	2
'Wildfire'	2
17 others with 1 each	

### Small (Any Species)

'Hishi-Karaito'	5
'Pink Perfection'	4
'Red Hots'	4
'Demi-Tasse'	3
'Tama Peacock'	3
'Ave Maria'	2
'Cabernet'	2
'Ellen Daniel'	2
'Marchioness of Salisbury'	2
'Spring Daze'	2
'Tinker Bell'	2
'Tudor Baby Var.'	2
8 others with 1 each	

### Miniature ( Any Species)

'Something Beautiful'	7
'Grace Albritton'	3
'Lemon Drop'	3
'Little Michael'	3
'Man Size'	3
'Chris Bergamini'	2
9 others with 1 each	

### Reticulata/Reticulata Hybrid

'Frank Houser Var.'	11
'Frank Houser'	9
'Bravo'	3
'Larry Piet'	3
'Ruta Hagmann'	3
'Sir Robert Muldoon'	3
'Crinoline'	2
'Edith Mazzei'	2
'Emma Gaeta Var.'	2
'Harold L. Paige'	2
'Hulyn Smith'	2
'Jack Mandarin'	2
'Miss Tulare'	2
'Valentine Day'	2
'Valentine Day Var.'	2
13 others with 1 each	

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**Non-Reticulata Hybrid**

'Island Sunset'	9
'Buttons 'N Bows'	4
'First Blush'	3
'Joe Nuccio'	3
'Nicky Crisp'	3
'Pink Dahlia'	3
'Les Jury'	2
'Lucky Star'	2
'Senritsu Ko'	2
'Taylor's Perfection'	2
'Tom Perkins'	2
21 Others with 1 each	

**Species**

'Egao'	5
'Shibori Egao'	3
'Shooting Star'	2
5 others with 1 each	

**MULTIPLES****Japonicas**

'Royal Velvet'	7
'Nuccio's Carousel'	4
'Prima Ballerina'	4
'Carter's Sunburst'	3
'Haru No Utena'	3
'Herme'	3
'Kramer's Supreme'	3
'Snowman'	3
'Cherries Jubilee'	2
'Elegans Champagne'	2
'Firedance Var.'	2
'Fire Falls'	2
'Grand Prix'	2
'Happy Harlequin'	2
'Jennie Mills'	2
'Junior Prom'	2
'Margaret Davis'	2
'Mathotiana Supreme'	2
'Ragland Supreme'	2

'Silver Anniversary'	2
26 others with 1 each	

**Small/Miniatures (Any Species)**

'Red Hots'	7
'Man Size'	5
'Maroon and Gold'	5
'Hishi-Karaito'	4
'Little Michael'	4
'Spring Daze'	4
'Alison Leigh Woodroof'	3
'Buddy'	2
'Cabernet'	2
'Freedom Bell'	2
'Lemon Drop'	2
'Little Babe Var.'	2
'Spring Festival'	2
'Tama Peacock'	2
11 others with 1 each	

**Reticulata/Reticulata Hybrids**

'Frank Houser'	13
'Frank Houser Var.'	5
'Dr. Clifford Parks'	2
'LASCA Beauty'	2
'Valentine Day'	2
13 others with 1 each	

**Non-Reticulata Hybrids**

'Lucky Star'	5
'Nicky Crisp'	4
'Buttons 'N Bows'	3
'Waltz Time Var.'	3
'Island Sunset'	2
'Super Star'	2
'Taylor's Perfection'	2
8 others with 1 each	

**Species**

'Egao'	4
3 others with 1 each	

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(Continued from page 9)

However, in our area we have no snow and only what I call "California Cold" (40° to 50°). We lack that burst of spring that brings relief from a cold dismal winter season, so we are more attracted to the white cultivars. Besides, how can a small red *C. rusticana* compete with stunning red

camellias such as 'Red Hots', 'Wildfire', 'Grand Slam', 'Dr. Clifford Parks' or 'Harold L. Paige'? They can't. But the small, interesting, lovely, profuse white blooms of the *C. rusticana* fill a niche in the landscape and appeal to those growers who like unique camellia flowers growing in their gardens.

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## PLANTING SEEDS—FOR THE BEGINNER

Rudy Moore

From *The Camellia Review*, Vol. 36. No. 2

... This is a hobby within a hobby. Almost every camellia enthusiast should try his or her hand at growing seeds some time or other, so you may just as well start now instead of later. This way, about four years or so from now, you can be looking forward to seeing your first seedling bloom. Who knows! You may discover the most beautiful variety of all and, even if you don't, you'll have plenty of understock to graft new varieties.

There are several reasons why we grow seedlings. I guess the main reason would be to get new varieties, although some hobbyists and growers grow them for understock. *C. sasanqua* seeds would be better for understock because of their more vigorous root system. If your main interest is new varieties, then you should grow plenty of *C. japonica* seeds. For the larger and more exciting type flowers, you could try your hand with *C. reticulata* seeds. These are somewhat harder to grow than the *C. sasanqua* or *C. japonica* seeds and, as a rule, do not make very good grafting stock, plus the seeds are hard to come by. Therefore, I wouldn't recommend these for the beginner (maybe the second year after you are an old pro). ....

Next comes germinating the seeds and the following is a step-by-step guide to follow the first year or so. When you select your seeds, you should also get a clean jar or plastic ice cream container (about one dozen seeds for a pint size). Then, get some peat moss and soak it in water until it's wet through. Remove the peat, squeezing out all excess water, leaving it damp. You should always do this when using peat moss. Now mix 50-50 with sponge rock. This helps aerate the peat so it doesn't become soggy and rot the seeds before they can germinate. Next, mix about 6 seeds per handful of mix and

put in container until about 2/3 full. Cover and place on propagation bench in the greenhouse. If you don't have a greenhouse, the next best place would be around your hot water tank or some area where they would stay warm. They should be kept at about 65-75°F.

Check the seeds after about 1 week. They should have started germinating by this time, as the usual germinating period is 2 to 8 weeks. When the seeds germinate, they will have a small, white taproot. When it becomes about one inch long, take the seed out and pinch 1/8 inch off the very end and then plant. Repeat this process each week until they have all been planted.

To plant you should get some 4 or 6 inch pots or a wooden flat about 5 inches in depth depending on how many seeds you are planting. Fill the pots or flat to about one inch from top with a light weight mix such as equal parts of peat moss, sandy loam, fir bark or forest humus and sponge rock or coarse sand. This mix will give your seedlings a chance to form a vigorous root system the first year. Dampen all medium before mixing. Do not pack but tamp the mix firmly into the container you have chosen. Then, using a pencil point or sharp object, make a hole 1/2 inch deep in the mix. Place the tap root (that you have pinched) in the hole and tamp soil around the root. Put no more than 6 seeds in a 4-inch pot or no more than 10 in a 6-inch pot. Water lightly with a spray and return to the greenhouse or a well-protected place away from direct sunlight. In a few days the taproot will callus and start to form small feeder roots. They probably won't need much water until the roots start using it up, but keep a check on them and water when soil starts to dry out.

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When 4 to 5 leaves appear on the stems, you can give them about 40% filtered sunlight. This would also be good time to start feeding. Use a 6-4-2 or 10-10-5 fertilizer at one-half

strength. Feed once a month through September. You should start repotting your plants into individual pots the first cool weather in October.

Sprouting camellia seeds by Carol Stickley.



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## A LITTLE CAMELLIA FLOWER

Story and Photo by Bradford King

"Just living is not enough. . . One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower." said Hans Christian Andersen, the Danish author and poet. He was noted for his fables and delighted children worldwide with stories like "The Little Mermaid," "Thumbelina," "The Little Match Girl" and "The Ugly Duckling." His stories and poems have been translated into 150 languages and have inspired movies, plays, ballets and animated films. He has touched multiple generations with his stories and the Disney-animated movies based on his work. They bring meaning to old and young in ways that each appreciate. The quote is brief and simple but has a meaning for reflection— that living requires much more. Sunshine is warming, relaxing and provides the vitamin D necessary for health and activity. We cherish freedom and are even willing to fight to maintain it. A "little flower" reminds us of the beauty that

abounds in nature and brings us closer to the Heavenly Father. In his book *The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God*, published in 1932, George Bernard Shaw put it another way when he wrote: "The best place to seek God is in a garden. You can dig for him there." Martin Luther said it this way: "God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars."

Gardening may challenge the back and dirty the hands but, to me, it seems to lead to beauty and joy and makes life worth living. It is the "value added quality" which Hans Christian Andersen meant—literally and figuratively. In addition, as noted by George Bernard Shaw and Martin Luther, it is a way to communicate spiritually with God.

'Pink Perfection' is a small camellia that I believe reflects the above sentiments

*Below: "Pink Perfection"*



## 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](mailto:fkane@sonic.net). Meetings: 2nd Monday, September-May. Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson Street, Napa.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY:** President—Robert Ehrhart; Secretary—Mary 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—Patti Stern, 6050 Marita Street, Long Beach, 90815. ([pattiannstern@yahoo.com](mailto:pattiannstern@yahoo.com)) Meetings: 1st Monday, October-April, 7:00 p.m. Irvine Ranch Water District Duck Club, Irvine.

**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 3800 Bradford St., Spc. 43, La Verne, 91750 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.



Camellias for the sun? See page 5.

Above: 'Egao Corkscrew'

Right: 'Double Rainbow'

Below: 'Star Above Star'

'Egao Corkscrew', Photo by Bradford King

'Double Rainbow', Photo by Yuri Panchul

'Star Above Star', photo by Barry & Denise DiSalvia

