

The *Camellia*  
REVIEW

*A publication of the Southern California Camellia Society*

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October  
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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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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vol. 74

October - December, 2012

No. 1

Camellia Show Schedule for 2013 .....	1
Thanks to Generous Members .....	2
Welcome New Members .....	2
Descanso and Huntington Gardens Contributions to the Camellia World, Bradford King .....	4
Relocating Large Camellias Successfully, Gene Phillips .....	9
The Holistic Approach to Camellia Culture, Mel Belcher .....	13
Camellias, More Than a Flower, Part One, Daniel Charvet .....	20
Camellias, Not Just a Pretty Flower, Part Two, Daniel Charvet .....	23
Simple Steps for Hand Pollinating, Author Unknown .....	25
How Temple City Became Home of Camellias, Bradford King .....	27

## Cover Photo

*C. Japonica* 'Red Hots'

Small to medium, tubular semidouble  
Average upright growth, early to mid season bloom  
Nuccio's, 1992

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Southern California Camellia Society will welcome you as a member.  
Annual membership — \$25.00 Includes subscription to *The Camellia Review* (three issues per year).

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## 2009 Camellia Nomenclature

Special sections have been added listing cold hardy and fragrant cultivars. The price has been reduced to \$10.00 for US orders and includes tax and shipping. International orders, please contact for shipping costs.

Orders can be placed by sending a check to:

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The book can also be ordered online as [socialcamellias.org](http://socialcamellias.org)

New cultivar introductions since the publication of the 2009 Nomenclature can be downloaded from the website [socialcamellias.org](http://socialcamellias.org)

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## THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Fall Greetings, fellow camellia hobbyists living north of the Equator. You have been watching your favorite plants putting out little buds and big buds to bring you pleasure in just a few weeks. If you have some of those varieties you read about in our Society's *Sun Camellias*, you are already enjoying their beauty. If you don't have your copy yet, let me know and one will be on its way to you. In the United States the cost is \$10 plus \$2.50 postage. International members, please inquire about postage before ordering. (FYI: Postage for multiple copies to the same address will cost less per copy than individual copies. This is particularly true for international postage.)

In this issue of *Camellia Review* we welcome new contributors Dan Charvet and Gene Phillips. Dan writes about camellias being so much more than the beauty of their blooms and Gene Phillips gives good advice about moving large camellias. Brad King has written more information about early days at Descanso and Huntington Gardens and reports on new plans for each garden. Most of our members probably know much of the information contained in a reprint of an earlier article by Mel Belcher, but there may be some helpful points for our newer hobbyists.

Now I have a question. Why are all of our authors men? Women grow and show camellias. Where are you, ladies? We are always looking for information about how and why any of you do what you do in your garden and would enjoy seeing pictures of your beautiful garden and learn what you do to keep it that way. And, if your garden is not looking all that beautiful, perhaps a cry for help might bring you some helpful hints. Let us hear from you.

Some of our camellia societies are struggling to survive. How is your Society doing? If you are doing well, share your secrets. A recent note from Cam Ainsworth, San Francisco Peninsula Society, reported that their Society had recently named three of its long-time members to Honorary Membership—Edwin Tooker, Past president during the 90's; Franklin Olmsted, long-time past Treasurer and Society Photographer; and "YC" Shen, photographer and author of a recent book about camellias which is to be republished in English from the Chinese edition. Each member was feted and presented with an engraved plaque.

Looking forward to your contributions,  
Bobbie Belcher, Editor

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### Camellia Show Schedule 2013

January 5	Symposium for Judges/Clerks Southern California Camellia Council 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m	Descanso Gardens La Canada
January 12 & 13	Pacific Camellia Society Show Tom Gilfoy, Show Chairperson	Descanso Gardens La Canada
January 25 & 27	Southern California Society Brad King, Show Chairperson	Descanso Gardens La Canada
February 2 & 3	San Diego Camellia Society Gene Snooks, Show Chairperson	Casa del Prado Balboa Park
February 9 & 10	Southern California Society Brad King, Show Chairperson	Huntington Gardens San Marino

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February 16 & 17	Pomona Valley Society Carol Stickley, Show Chairperson	Community Center La Verne
February 23 & 24	Southern California Camellia Council Wayne Walker, Show Chairperson	Descanso Gardens La Canada
March 2 & 3	Kern County Society Helen Maas, Show Chairperson	Bakersfield Venue TBD
March 9 & 10	Pacific Camellia Society Wayne Walker, Show Chairperson	Descanso Gardens La Canada

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## DESCANSO AND HUNTINGTON GARDENS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAMELLIA WORLD

Photo and Story by Bradford King

Many of the major gardens in America were developed by wealthy landowners with passions and visions to develop their gardens. In Southern California this included Descanso Gardens, Huntington Botanical Gardens, Sherman Gardens, Virginia Robinson and the Getty. Very few of these gardens have remained in the originator's family. Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston, South Carolina is a major exception as it is still in the Drayton family. It was founded in 1676 making it the oldest public garden in America. It was opened to visitors in 1870 and is known for its Romantic Garden and its thousands of camellias, many of which were imported from Asia and Europe. Because camellias are not indigenous to America, it was wealthy families and nurseries that imported the first camellias to the United States. In Southern California, we are very fortunate that people like Ralph Peer, Manchester Boddy, Henry Huntington, William Hertrich, Howard Asper and Dr. Walter Lammerts became interested in developing extensive camellia collections. Their contributions were shared with local nurseries such as Star Nursery, Nuccio's Nurseries, Mc Caskills, Kramer Brothers and Hearn Nurseries and now thousands of cultivars and camellia species are found in home and public gardens in Southern California. The camellia collections in Southern California began in the early 1900's and have continued to evolve today despite the fact that Nuccio's Nurseries is the only camellia and azalea nursery still in business in this area.

### DESCANSO GARDENS

In 1937 Manchester Boddy purchased 125 acres of land in La Canada where he raised cattle and began planting camellias with the intention of developing them for the

cut flower industry. By 1941 he had amassed a collection of 600 camellias. He and his family lived in a 22-room mansion built in the then popular Regency style.

As the camellia collection continued to expand, Boddy hired Howard Asper, a camellia specialist, as curator and chief propagator. Together they developed a commercial camellia plantation to serve the cut flower industry and camellias became the flower of choice as corsages for the well-dressed ladies of the time.

Boddy, an admirer of Asian culture and the Japanese people in America, purchased the entire inventory of two Japanese camellia growers when they were forced into the internment camps during World War II. J.W. Uyematsu owned and operated Star Nurseries, the largest and most successful in California, which had imported 50 camellia cultivars from Japan in 1930. F. W. Yoshimura's Mission Nursery continues today as San Gabriel Nursery.

Howard Asper supervised the planting of many of these camellias beneath the oaks of "Rancho del Descanso." He grafted dozens of varieties onto 'Eureka' rootstock to enlarge the camellia plantation that served their cut flower business. In 1945 Dr. Walter Lammerts joined Boddy and Asper at Descanso. The three men admired the giant flowers of *C. reticulata* and envisioned hybridizing with them, but none were available outside China. Dr. Lammerts learned of a Chinese botanist in the Yunnan Providence of China who might be able to help and, in early 1948, Professor T. Tsai, a botanist at Kuming Institute, wrote that 20 different cultivars of *C. reticulata* were available. Twenty varieties were shipped to San Francisco, but only 15 survived. This was a major

contribution to the western camellia world. Fifteen *C. reticulata* cultivars became available with the following English names: 'Pagoda', 'Lion Head', 'Chrysanthemum Petals', 'Purple Gown', 'Shot Silk', 'Willow Wand', 'Osmanthus Leaf', 'Crimson Robe', 'Moutancha', 'Butterfly Wings', 'Butterfly Peony', 'Tali Queen', 'Cornelian', 'Buddha' and 'Confucius'. These cultivars produce beautiful large and very large blooms that are still appreciated. Hybridizing between *C. reticulata* and other species, especially *C. japonica*, introduced a vast new world of outstanding camellias that are still appreciated today. This importation of the Yunnan *reticulata* was a crowning achievement for Descanso Gardens where many of the original cultivars camellias remain as 20-30 foot trees growing along the paved drive to the Boddy house.

Descanso Gardens has also introduced *C. japonica* cultivars which include 'Berenice Boddy', 'Gibson Girl', 'Descanso Blush', 'Descanso Yuletide' and 'Mrs. D. W. Descanso' a full peony blush pink bloom which is a sport of 'Mrs. D. W. Davis'. The most important of these introductions is 'Berenice Boddy' named for Mrs. Manchester Boddy. A lovely medium semidouble light pink with deeper pink under the petals, this plant grows vigorously in an upright spreading manner and is very cold hardy. It has been field tested over a forty year period in the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan area and is recommended for planting in Zones 6a and 6b. Dr. Clifford Parks "April Series" of 10 cold hardy cultivars used 'Berenice Boddy' as the seed parent for six of his introductions. This cold hardy trait is what makes this pretty flower so important. It was one of the plants Boddy bought from Star Nursery that had been imported from Japan. The cold hardy ability imbedded in the genetic make up of 'Berenice Boddy' was crucial because it allowed the

cold hardiness to be transferred to its seedlings. This reality has helped camellias to thrive in areas not traditionally hospitable for camellias.

The 30,000 camellia plants in Descanso Gardens make it the largest collection in America and are grown in a California native habitat under a



'Berenice Boddy'

canopy of Coastal Live Oaks. In 2001 the International Camellia Society recognized Descanso Gardens as an International Camellia Garden of Excellence. Two recent key additions to the Descanso camellia collection are yellow and fragrant camellias. This best local collection of yellow camellias is planted in Descanso along a small stream and under a canopy of redwoods. It includes a few plants each of 'Ki-No -Moto #95', 'Kogane Yuri', 'Kogane Nishiki', 'Ki-No Senritsu', 'Senritsu-Ko' and 'Ki-No Joman'. Fragrant camellias have been artfully planted in a curved bed in groups of five with a 30 foot 'Gigantea' as a background. The collection includes 'Minato-No-Akebono', 'Spring Mist' and 'Koto-No-Karori' all with clusters of single fragrant flowers in shades of pink and white.

Descanso Gardens has an ambitious strategic plan to modernize its irrigation system, conserve water,

and develop new gardens. Camellia lovers will support this plan as long as it includes a commitment to maintain and enhance the Camellia Forest, which is of historical importance and the signature piece of Descanso Gardens.

### HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

When Henry Huntington acquired his Southern California estate in 1903 there were only two camellias growing on the property one of which, 'Pink Perfection', continues to bloom profusely every year. In 1912 Curator William Hertrick began growing camellias from seed to serve as under stock for grafting new cultivars for the camellia collection. The results of his propagation studies of thousands of camellias have been published in his three-volume *Camellias in the Huntington*.

In 1944 the Southern California Camellia Society and Huntington Gardens joined forces to develop a camellia collection and test garden in an undeveloped canyon. The Society would provide the plants, Curator William Hertrick would evaluate the varieties to be planted under live oak trees, and Superintendent Howard Asper made plans to plant masses of *C. sasanqua* which are now mature flowering small trees across from the Chinese and Japanese Gardens. The original goal was to develop a camellia collection that would be a distinctive feature within the botanical gardens. Today Huntington Botanical Gardens stretches over 120 acres in San Marino. The camellia collection has grown to 14,000 cultivars and 60 camellia species distributed on a 12-acre area divided into two sections—the North Canyon and the North Vista.

While camellia species are generally not "show flowers" and only infrequently used in the home landscaping, it is important that they be exhibited in public gardens so that the public can appreciate their diversity. The Huntington has dozens

of camellia species growing on the far side of the North Vista on the way to the Conservatory. Many are small white flowers with foliage unlike *C. japonica* and *C. reticulata*. However, I recently was struck by the numerous large single white flowers blooming on several mature five by five foot bushy plants labeled *C. drupifera*. I was unable to find this species in the *Camellia Nomenclature* or in the Gao, Parks and Du species book. However Dr. Clifford Parks in an email told me that '*C. drupifera* is a synonym for *C. oleifera*'. Sealy considers it a "nomen confusum" and should be dropped as a name. There are also large plants of it in the Descanso garden. The flowers are larger than typical *C. oleifera* because it probably has crossed with other species such as *C. sasanqua* in cultivation. It is not known in the wild state. It might be quite a decent ornamental.

The Huntington played a part in



*C. drupifera*

the introduction of a number of new camellia cultivars. One is a *C. reticulata* named after Carl Tourje, an avid camellia grower, Huntington supporter, and Editor of *Camellia Culture*, published by the Southern California Camellia Society in 1958. 'Carl Tourje' has beautiful pink flowers with deeper pink shadings and is located in the North Vista camellia garden.

The Huntington's *C. japonica* hybrids introductions include two





'Carl Tourje'

sports discovered by Mr. F. "Rudy" Moore — 'Betty's Beauty', a sport of 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', and 'Rudy's Magnoliaeflora', a sport of 'Magnoliaeflora'. These varieties continue to be popular show flowers. Mr. Moore hybridized 'Little Michael', a miniature to small, anemone bloom with soft pink flower and white petaloids. Other Huntington japonica introductions are 'Robert Casamajor', 'Mrs. Goodwin Knight', 'Marjorie Townsend' and 'Margarete Hertrick', which was propagated by William Hertrick in 1944. It is a medium white formal double he named for his wife. The saluenensis hybrid 'Beverly L. Baylies' is a medium pink flower with darker pink on the petal edges and was introduced in 1986 by The Huntington.

In 1917 The Huntington also imported 'Baronne De Bleichroeder' from Japan under the name of 'Otome-Shibori'. It is a medium rose form soft pink streaked crimsons flower. In 1925 a mutation of this cultivar produced a pink flower introduced by The Huntington as 'Bleichroeder Pink'.

In 2001 the International Camellia Society recognized The Huntington Gardens as an International Camellia Garden of Excellence for its rich camellia collection. For example, the Huntington has the best local

collection of Higo camellias, a type of japonica characterized by a mass of prominent stamens in the center of an irregular single flower.

The oldest camellia growing in California is a large, light rose semidouble flower with broad thick petals that grows on an average spreading japonica tree. In 1988 the original plant was purchased by Harlem Cate at Redondo Pier, Los Angeles, California from a sailor on a Japanese tramp steamer. It was planted on property at Durfee Road, Pico, California where it was known as 'Durfee Road'. Ralph Peer bought the plant to add to his camellia collection at "Park Hill" in North Hollywood, California, where it became know as 'California'. Mrs. Peer said that Ralph had planned to buy her a fine necklace but, when they learned that 'California' was to be destroyed, they chose instead to spend the several thousand dollars to move the camellia to a place of honor in Park Hill. When Park Hill was sold,



'California'

'California' was moved to the Huntington Botanical Garden in order to preserve this historical camellia.

The Huntington keeps pace by adding new introductions to its collection. In the Chinese garden a cluster of 'Buttermint' has been

planted as well as specimen plants of 'Red Hots' and 'Tama Peacock', all fairly recent Nuccio Nurseries introductions. Fragrant camellias 'Koto-No-Karori' and 'Spring Mist' are planted in groups of three along the paved road leading to the serpentine wall that marks the Chinese Garden. This makes for an attractive woodland setting. Along the formal entrance path to the Chinese Garden groups of *C. griseisii* with their abundant blooms of small single fragrant flowers have been planted.

In the Chinese pavilion 'Darleen Stoner', a new hybrid introduced by Martin Stoner, Pomona, California, in 2006 and propagated by San Gabriel Nurseries has been added. This medium to large semidouble cranberry coral flower, named for Martin's wife, is a cross between 'Coral Delight' and 'Kramer's Supreme' and has medium to large semidouble cranberry coral blooms.

A trip to the newly renovated

Japanese Gardens provides visitors an opportunity to see how camellias and other plants materials are integrated.

### THE TRIPLE CROWN

In Southern California we have been blessed with a climate that makes growing a wide variety of plants, including camellias, relatively easy as long as water is available to augment rainfall. We applaud the vision and dedication of Manchester Boddy and Henry Huntington and their wisdom to hire camellia experts to manage and propagate their gardens. The legacy of these men is the wonderful camellia forest at Descanso Gardens and the rich diversity of the Huntington's camellia collection. When we include Nuccio's Nurseries, we have the triple crown of the camellia world right here in Southern California.



Have you ordered your copy of *Sun Camellias* yet? With its 48 pages of good information and gorgeous photographs plus a shopping list, it is a bargain at \$10 and should be in every camellia hobbyist's library. Send your check for \$10.00 plus \$2.50 postage to SCCS, 2531 2nd Street, La Verne, CA 91750 or order online at [socalcamellias.org](http://socalcamellias.org).

### 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 US.

Cards can still be ordered through Susan Streeter, 1947 Midwick Drive, Altadena, CA 91001 Make your check payable to SCCS. Prices include tax and shipping. Orders can also be made on the website [socalcamellias.org](http://socalcamellias.org)

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## RELOCATING CAMELLIAS SUCCESSFULLY

Story and photos by Gene Phillips

Have you ever wished that one of your camellias could be relocated to a different place in your garden? If you have had this desire, then you are like countless other camellia growers. In most instances, the idea of relocating your camellia is just a fleeting one. The idea of killing your beloved camellia in a transplant usually deters you to forget about the whole thing.



Many plants such as azaleas, ligustrum, and boxwood are much easier to successfully relocate than camellias. Not much thought process needs to be applied in relocating the common shrubs. With camellias, it is a whole different story.

Sometime after you have planted a small camellia, you realize that the plant would be better off in a different location than the one that you originally chose. If your camellia has only been in its present location for a few years and the plant is still small, you could likely relocate it with no problems. In the Southeastern United States, fall is the best time to relocate camellias. Just when the temperatures are beginning to get noticeably cooler,

the time is about right for moving your camellias. With cooler and then colder temperatures, there is less water requirements for your camellias, so a relocation at this time is less stressful. If you do indeed move your camellias during the fall or winter, you still need to water it and water it often to further minimize the stress. Again, camellias that are small and have not well established themselves can be relocated without too much fuss, but old and well established camellias require some planning and preparation.

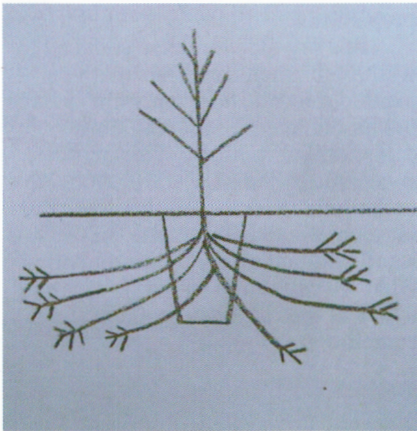
Let's say that you have some large well established camellias that you need to relocate, and you want to have the best chances of moving these camellias successfully. The key to success is called stress reduction. No matter how large and established your big camellia may be, at one time it was small and had a very tight root ball of what we call white feeder roots. Take a look at the root system of the small camellia in the image below.



This plant has an abundance of healthy white feeder roots. They enable this small camellia to take up water and nutrients. If the plant does encounter a stressful situation, it is well equipped to survive because of its good root system. If this small plant

were planted in the ground and you dug it up and relocated it during the fall or winter, the chances of it dying would be very slim. However, after a small plant like this establishes itself in the ground things can change.

In the picture below there are many healthy feeder roots, and they are very close to the base of the plant. After many years in the ground, especially if the camellia does not have the best of care, the root system begins to change. Over a period of many years, the root system of these older camellias begin to stretch out further away from the base of the



*This drawing depicts a more established root system spread out with fewer feeder roots.*

plant. The feeder roots usually become much more sparse as well. If this plant were dug even with a tree spade, most of the life support system of the large camellia would be cut off. This would be what we would call a major stressful situation for the plant, and as a result the likelihood of this camellia surviving would be seriously diminished. So, what can we do to significantly reduce the stress of the plant and increase the chances of a successful relocate? The first thought would be to improve the overall health of the camellia prior to relocation attempts. This means coming up with a plan over a year in

advance of a relocation to get your camellia beefed up and ready to get moved to a different location in the garden.

**Water:** The first consideration is water. Usually older well established camellias do not get watered as much as new plantings. In the year prior to your big moving day, increase the frequency and depth of your watering. This alone will help your camellia to improve its health and wellbeing, but watering is just the beginning.

**Nutrients:** Although older well established camellias may be fertilized infrequently and sometimes not at all, in the year prior to the relocation, these plants would benefit greatly from a fertilization program that aims at improving the health and root system of the plant. Fertilizers with low nitrogen numbers such as 5-10-15 would be beneficial in improving the root system of the camellias to be relocated. If these type of fertilizers had a good package of minor elements in their mix, this would further help to beef the plants up before the big move.

**Pruning:** Keep in mind that your camellia's root system has to provide the top of the plant with water and nutrients. If you could dramatically prune your camellias in the year leading up to the relocation, the stress of the plant would be reduced significantly. All of this would be done in anticipation of the camellia loosing some of its root system once it is actually dug and relocated.

**Root Pruning:** This stress reduction technique is probably one of the most important things you can do to increase your chances of a successful move. I remember my daddy explaining this to me many years ago. When you actually dig a plant whether it is done manually with a shovel or mechanically with a tree spade, there is a specific location where you cut through the soil and the roots. Usually this location is around the outside of the base of the plant at approximately the drip line of the

plant. In many instances, it is even closer to the base than that. If you went out and dug a plant, you would cut most of the feeder roots off all at one time. My Daddy always used to say that you start cutting roots a year ahead of time, but you only cut a small section every month. You can do this with a regular spade shovel. Think of it like a clock. You cut the portion of roots between 12:00 and 1:00 this month, and then cut the roots between 1:00 and 2:00 next month. If you keep doing this, you will wind up back where you started by the time that you are ready to relocate your camellias. Each time you cut through a small section of roots, all of the other roots that were not cut still supplies the camellias water and nutrient requirements. Each time you cut the roots of a small section, you are root pruning that section. It forces that section of stretched out roots to form many new healthy feeder roots closer the base of the camellia. By the time you get all the way around root pruning the camellia, your plant has the most concentration of healthy feeder roots around the base that it has had since it was a small plant like in

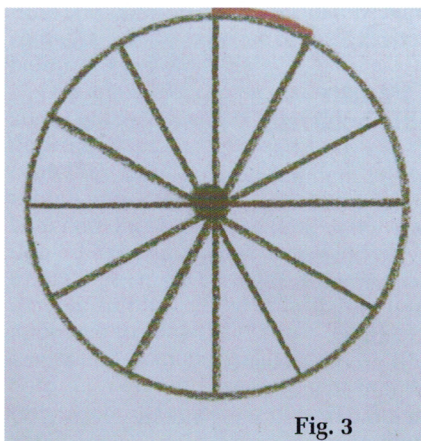


Fig. 3

our earlier picture. See Figure 3. If you start your root pruning in October and continue it for a year, then your plant should have a much improved root system in anticipation of a relocation

the following November.

**Transplant Fertilizer:** The week prior to the big move, it would be helpful to drench your camellias to be relocated with a liquid transplant fertilizer. It would not be a bad idea to drench it again after the move. These fertilizers are designed to further reduce the stress of relocation. Many of the transplant fertilizers have numbers such as 8-16-8, and they may have other ingredients such as vitamins. This will only increase your chances of success.

**Keep the root ball intact:** One of the most important tasks for a successful move of your large camellias is to keep the root ball intact. If your root ball falls apart during the move, the chance of success are degreased significantly. For larger camellias, the best thing to move them with is a tree spade and an experienced operator. The tree spade will surround the entire plant as it digs it. The angle of the spade holds the root ball together as it lifts the entire weight of the soil out of the hole. In Savannah, a number of old well established camellias were successfully relocated a few years ago this way. See Figure 4. The camellias in this image had to be relocated immediately to make way for a new parkway in town. There was no time to beef them up in advance, but most still survived the relocation.

**Other Thoughts:** When relocating camellias, place the top of the root ball a few inches higher than the surrounding soil. This will compensate for settling later. Do not put any soil on top of the root system. After the relocation, watering regularly and deeply is a must. Depending on the size of the relocated camellias, it might be a good idea to stake the plants after they have been relocated. This will reduce the chances of wind blowing them over later. Mulching the entire area after the relocation will further reduce the stress of the newly relocated camellias.

Moving large well established camellias is never an easy chore, but it can be done. Proper planning and preparation allows for the maximum

amount of stress relief on the camellias, and the more stress relief, the better are your chances of a successful relocation.



Fig. 4

The capabilities of the Tree Spade and the knowledge of the operators make this move easier and more successful. (Image courtesy of Mary Beth Evans)

*Editor's note: Most hobbyists will not have access to something as useful as this Tree Spade, but most of them will have a shovel!*

### **The 23rd Psalm (sung by a camellia hobbyist)**

The Camellia is my flower, I shall not want.  
It maketh me to enjoy the green foliage.  
It leadeth me to be happy when it blooms.  
It restoreth my contentment.  
Yea, though I must water and prune  
and fertilize and mulch  
I will fear no fatigue.  
For I knoweth that it will produce beauty.  
Its new growth and new buds comfort me.  
In the late Fall and Winter when the new flowers bloom  
My cup runneth over.  
Surely wonder and goodness will follow me  
if I share the blooms with others  
and  
I will dwell in a state of bliss forever.

—Author unknown

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# THE HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CAMELLIA CULTURE

Mel Belcher

Reprinted from an earlier *Camellia Review*

... As a Professor of Electrical Engineering, I spend considerable time with students solving problems and establishing methodologies for obtaining reasonable solutions. One effective method for a large problem is to break it down into local manageable parts . . . These local manageable parts as related to camellias are listed as follows:

1. Location—sun/shade preferences
2. Proper soil mix—pot v. planted
3. Water requirements—irrigation methods
4. Nutrient needs—fertilizers
5. Pest control—pesticide
6. Wind protection—screens
7. Pruning—creative (fall)
8. Disbudding—vigorous with pruning

Each of the cultural topics is very important; however they, as a group, emphasize the visual side of the camellia hobby.

The beauty of the camellia plant, both foliage and blooms, can so hypnotize us that we devote too much time and effort to caring for the “visual camellia” at the expense of the unseen below ground camellia.

An argument can be made that the above ground camellia is totally dependent on the below ground camellias. In other words, the camellia is both above and below ground level. I am convinced that we hobbyists don't devote enough of our attention to the unseen. So I want to suggest that we emphasize the holistic approach to camellia culture. The leaves and branches can't exist without roots, and the roots can't exist unless fed by the part exposed to the sun.

I think a lesson can be learned by taking a look at the gigantic baobab tree, a strange looking specimen widely viewed along the Equatorial Zone of East Africa. Legend has it that “The gods became angry with the tree,

pulled it out of the ground and stuffed it upside down back into the ground” thus leaving the root structure exposed above ground. It's a strange looking creature and appears to have leaves growing out of its roots.

If we could examine the roots of our camellias, as we can symbolically examine the baobab tree roots, we might find them to really look awful, neglected, mistreated and diseased. Question—what would your camellia roots look like if “The gods exposed them?” See Circle diagram—Fig. 1

As an engineer, my experience and expertise does not encroach on the territory of botany, but I do have an interest in plants, particularly fruit and nut tree culture and, of course, camellias. So, for the non-botany hobbyist, let's review what the whole plant requires to exist and then dig into the underground to see what is there and what the camellia plant needs down beneath the surface. But first, let's look at the chemistry involved.

## The Chemical Tree

Healthy plants must have water, oxygen and carbon

Water is needed to make the nutrient element movable through the cells of the plant. The cells are made up of a gel-like substance that may consist of 99% water.

Oxygen is taken from the air, which is approximately 20% oxygen. Oxygen combines with other elements forming oxides and complex organic compounds. Oxygen can oxidize sulfites and nitrites to form beneficial sulfate and nitrates.

Carbon, which as carbon dioxide is taken from the air, is a most essential element in the development of a plant. It is actually the keystone of all organic substance. This element is obtained when the sun acts upon the chlorophyll in the cells of the leaves. Because of this, it is important that the

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leaves be kept free of dust, dirt and insect residue. Frequent hosing down the entire plant will be beneficial.

Let us detour for a moment for some relevant history. Jan Baptista Van Helmont, a Flemish chemist, thought he had proved water to be the "principle" in a famous experiment with a willow tree. In about 1635 he planted a small tree in 200 pounds of oven-dried soil. After growing 5 years, protected from dust and given only rainwater, the tree was removed. The soil was re-dried and weighed. Because the soil loss was only 2 ounces (which could be considered experimental error) and the tree had gained 165 pounds, Van Helmont assumed that the growth was due to water alone. Now we know that the 2 ounces were critically important nutrients and that the bulk of the 165 pounds was carbon, oxygen and hydrogen taken mostly from the air and water,

### **Soil**

Let's take a closer look at the subterranean culture of camellias. (Steps 2-6 on the circle diagram) It is important that we start by reviewing soil characteristics. Even though we want to apply the "holistic" approach to the underground culture, I think we can best understand what goes on by applying the "Logical Management Parts" approach. Soil can be viewed as having a mineral fraction and an organic fraction.

### **Mineral Fraction**

The mineral fraction defines soil as being composed of sand, silt and clay and all soils are mixtures of these three particles. A delta triangle can be designed that graphically illustrates the relationship of various mixtures of the mineral fraction.

The properties affected by particle size are water percolation, water retention, aeration nutrient supply, nutrient release rate, nutrient storage and resistance to change in temperature. The mineral fraction

also provides a plant with most of the essential nutrients it needs for growth.

### **Organic Fraction**

Organic matter is a broad term which includes an amazing display of living soil microorganisms along with decomposing plant roots, leaves, compost, bugs and insects. Whether it is living, or in any of the various states of decomposition, organic matter is what makes up the organic fraction of the soil.

Most importantly, organic matter is the food of the microorganisms that inhabit the soil in unbelievable numbers. For example, if we examine a cubic inch of typical soil we find that it contains these incredible facts:

- 6 billion bacteria
- 90 million fragments of fungi
- 300,000 protozoa.

Most of these microorganisms are not only beneficial but also essential for plant growth. The above numbers are not static but part of a dynamic process that works day and night, 365 days a year. The effects of countless microorganisms keep organic matter in an almost constant state of change. These microorganisms use organic matter for food—as a source of energy. They use it for a time then pass it on in a form usable by plants. Organic matter in the soil usually contains approximately 5% nitrogen, nearly all of which cannot be used by plants until the microorganisms have converted it to a form of usable nitrogen.

A bit of irony enters the picture here in that we should concentrate on feeding and caring for the microorganisms; they in turn will take care of the camellia roots and support the structure above ground. This means that fresh organic matter must be put back into the soil periodically to feed the "bugs." We feed the camellia through our friendly out-of-sight intermediaries.



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## Fertilizer

The circle diagram (Fig. 1) lists Step #5 as fertilizer. The requirement of plants for nutrients is continuous and the small daily amount should always be available. Holistically, the plant above ground will give signals if it needs nourishment. But by that time, the plant has been stressed and "Head Table" goals may have been thwarted.

Any fertilizer applied to camellias should be of the type and quantity that does not adversely affect the roots and the microorganism's dynamic system. Plants also resemble humans in the wide range of food they are capable of assimilating.

Almost every element available is or can be made use of. Like humans, plants are at times greedy and take in more of a given food than is good for them; furthermore, plants do not differentiate between non-harmful and harmful materials—if it is in an available form, in it goes. Many hobbyists have learned this lesson the hard way. It can also be an expensive lesson that some hobbyists learn more than once.

The major nutrients required for all plants are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (N-P-K). Camellias consume these elements in large quantities. Therefore, they must be replaced as needed. Secondary elements of sulfur, magnesium, calcium and iron are needed in smaller quantities but are essential elements for good healthy plants.

## Water vs. Air

Step 4 of our circle diagram lists water in the soil as one of the steps to the "Head Table." This is another important consideration for the subterranean and is one of the most complex since plants need a regular and uniform supply of moisture, but air must also be available. They both compete for the same space. This space is a function of the soil mix of sand, silt and clay. If the soil mix inhibits percolation and, if too much

water is applied, the pore spaces in the soil stay saturated with water and the roots drown.

Water has been called the "hazardous necessity." It is easy to kill a plant with too much water. Plant roots require both moisture and air for growth. The roots require a growing medium through which air can move, bringing oxygen to them and removing the carbon dioxide they respire. Unfortunately, it is difficult to know the condition of the air/water battle. Too frequently a conscientious grower will notice a plant that needs something and, assuming that it needs water, unintentionally proceeds to drown it. Soil moisture meters would aid in establishing optimum irrigation schedules. It is probably impossible to keep the soil moisture at its optimum continuously. We can, however, alternate brief periods of time in which the soil is too moist followed by a time of less moist but not excessively dry.

## Total Plant Energy Transfer (Fig. 2 and 3)

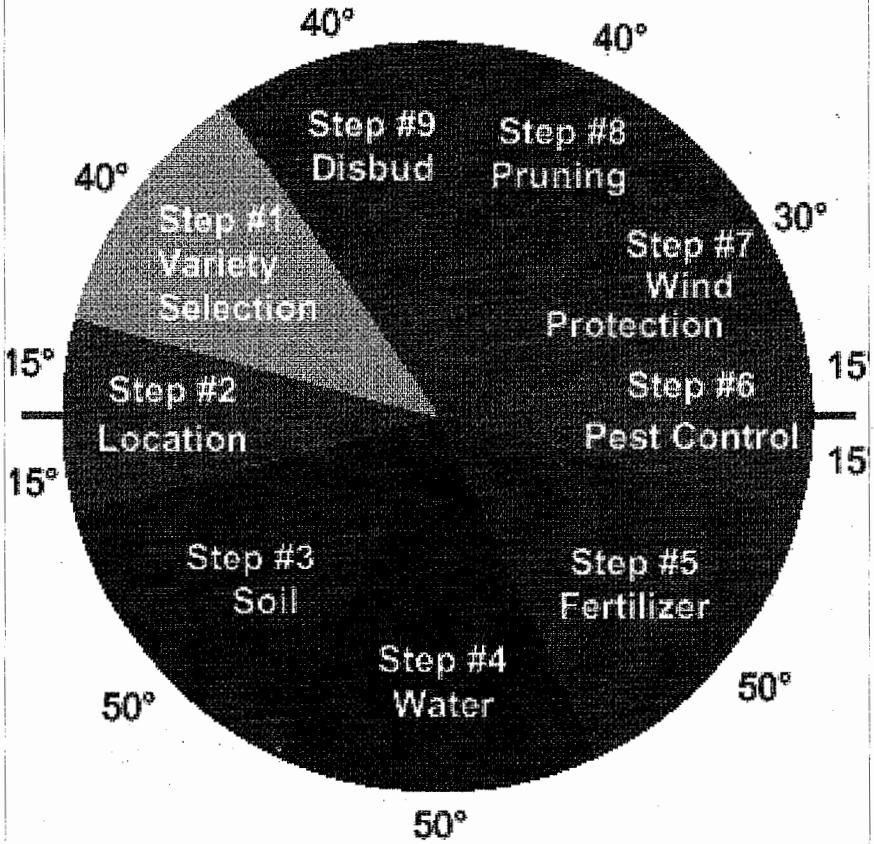
I want to conclude by revisiting leaves and roots. The leaves above ground are connected to the roots below ground by a nutrient highway—the unglamorous trunk. This is a two-way highway with water and nutrients going up and photosynthetic products coming down. There is also an air transportation system that works alongside the tree trunk. This air transport carrier hauls carbon dioxide up from the ground to the stomata—breathing pores on the underside of the leaves. The return haul brings oxygen emitted from the top of the leaf down to and through the soil to the roots.

Above ground the leaves produce food for the plant and release water and oxygen into the air. This reaction takes place when light interacts with chlorophyll bodies within the cells in  
(continued on page 19)

# TREE STRUCTURE

Above Ground

50%

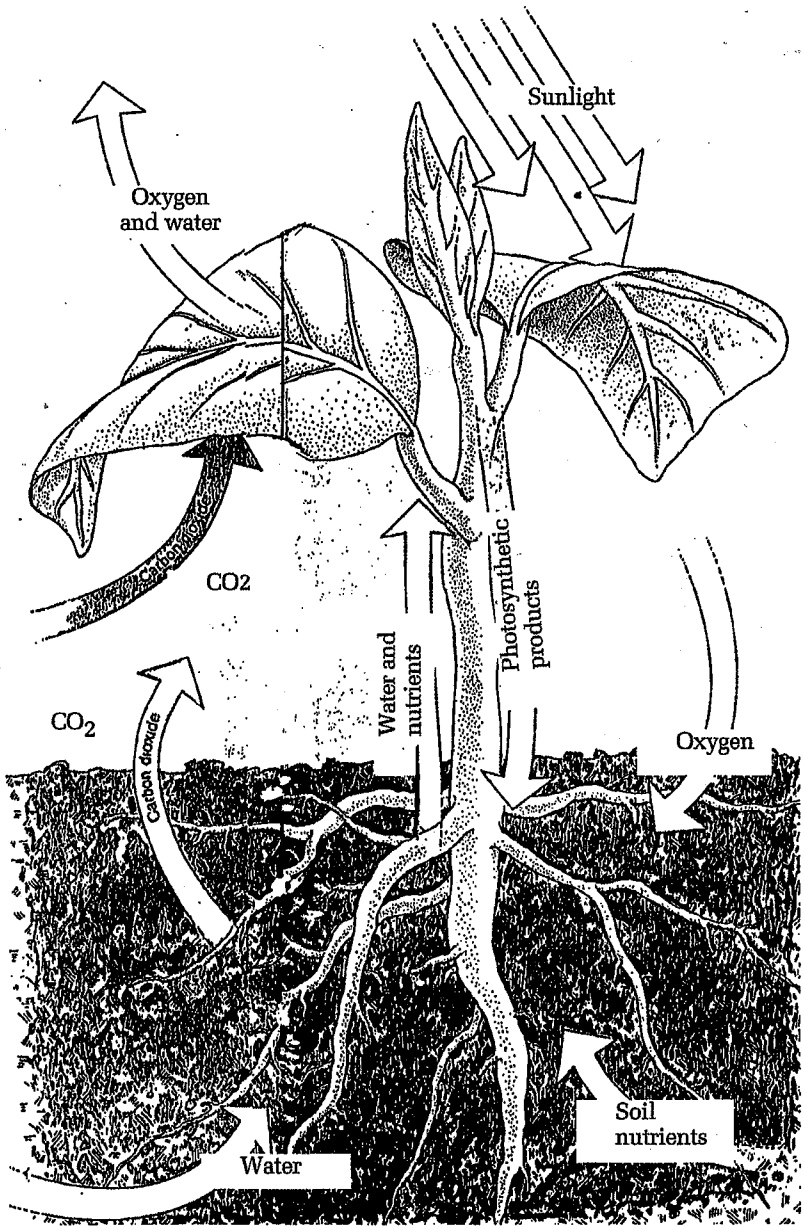


# ROOT SYSTEM

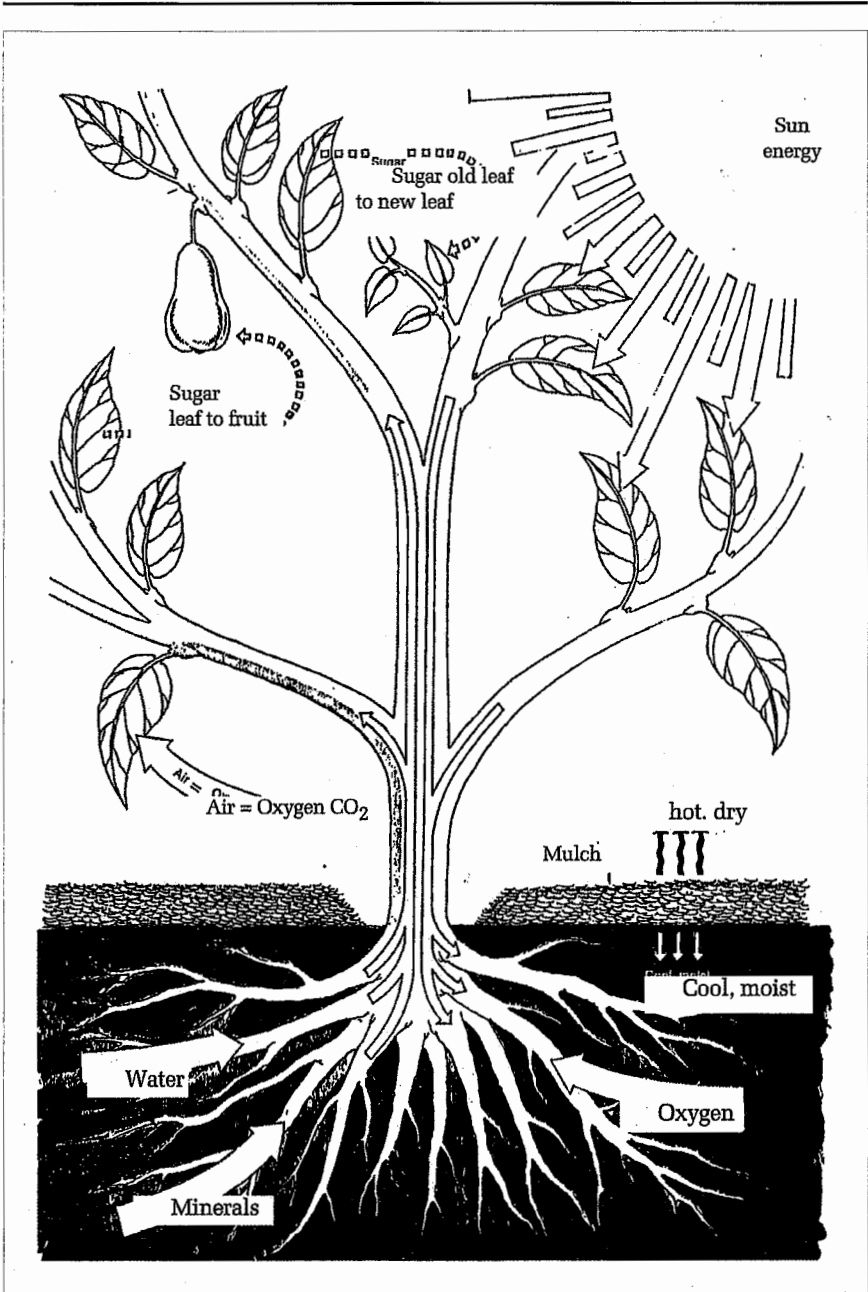
Below Ground

50%

Fig. 1



Energy Transfer—Fig. 2



Energy Transfer—Fig. 3

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which photosynthesis takes place in order to manufacture starches and sugars (food) for the plant, both above and below ground.

Meanwhile, below ground level the plant has feeder roots that grow from the lateral roots above. Additionally, the feeder roots have helpers in rounding up water and nutrients by using microscopic root hairs attached to feeder roots. These root hairs are most prominent on the feeder roots at the outer drip line of the plant. Presumably, in potted plants, the preponderance of root hairs is on the tips of the feeder roots. Whether it be with a hoe, fertilizer or water, we must not damage these feeder roots.

I have only recently been introduced to a new soil amendment mycorrhizae. "Myco" means fungus and "rhiza" means root. Mycorrhizae are root structures created when

young lateral roots are invaded by specific fungi that form symbiotic associations to the advantage of each. Mycorrhizae-infected plants are reported to grow more vigorously and remain healthier than non-infected plants, particularly under stressful conditions and poor soil conditions. Plants benefit from mycorrhizae in several ways but most commonly by moisture and nutrient uptake. Mycorrhizae tablets can be obtained at garden supply stores.

My concluding statement is that somewhere in these ramblings you were stimulated to consider more seriously the value of holistic camellia culture. Perhaps you will have concluded, as I have, that what we don't see may be more important than what we do see.



## Things to Wish for One Another

That you might have a shaft of sunlight on the gloomiest of days

That you might have patience because sometimes the world will insist on walking when you want to run

That no matter how venerable an age you attain, at least once a year you splash in a puddle

That you know where the fuse box is when the lights go out

That, when you're blessed with old age, you have memories to feast on and a mind that's still hungry

That at least once a year you ditch responsibilities early and go to see a movie in the afternoon

That you have the sense to laugh at the world and all its absurdities, and the wisdom to laugh at yourself before others do

That you have a home as welcoming as a mother's embrace

That you have have one wish left

## CAMELLIAS: MORE THAN JUST A FLOWER, PART ONE

Story and Photos by Daniel Charvet

Camellia lovers are often consumed, and rightly so, by the beauty of the blooms and the diversity in the number of unique varieties available. But the flowering of any given variety generally spans only three months. Interestingly, some varieties express additional ornamental characteristics that can add year 'round interest.

One of these is foliar variegation, a combination of color where, depending on the variety, each leaf can vary in color from yellow/gold in combinations of light and dark green. This can be caused by a virus, most

mostly because they are usually more consistent in the leaf patterns they display.

Among the more readily available varieties in this group are: 'Golden Spangles', a wonderful foliage sport



often introduced as an incidental by product in an effort to create a bicolor flower. With this type of variegation the coloring is highly irregular—anywhere from dark green with a few specks of gold to an entirely golden leaf. Being a disease, the effect of this form of variegation sometimes elicits strong negative opinions from some hobbyists. It seems to be that you either love it or hate it.

However, there are several genetically variegated leaf varieties of camellia that are quite ornamental,



'Golden Spangles'

of an already excellent garden variety, *C. x williamsii* 'Mary Christian', 'Reigyoku', 'Hana Jiman Special' and, perhaps the most



'Reigyoku'

interesting, being 'Ginyo' with its bright green interior and deep green,



'Hana Jiman Special'

heavily serrated leaf margins. In the reverse of that pattern, other varieties having the suffix 'benten' typically



'Ginyo'



'Kangua Benten'

display a lighter green on the margins of the leaf with a dark green interior. These are usually found as bud sports on already established varieties. For example, the aforementioned 'Hana Jiman Special' has 'benten' characteristics, and 'Kagura Benten', an excellent example of a variety with strong 'benten' markings. 'Benten' sports are not that unusual, but they can vary greatly in the degree of contrast between the fields of green. None the less, it is probable that any hobbyist with a large number of plants can find 'benten' bud sports in their own collection.

Growing variegated foliage seedlings can be both very interesting but also quite challenging, most often because the new variant becomes difficult to propagate. The clear



distinctions between the areas of contrast that growers are trying to sustain often seem to lessen, even disappear, over time.

However, there are always exceptions. The seedling pictured in the image above is a *C. reticulata* x *C. fraterna* hybrid. The unusual characteristic of the seedling is that the variegation, although genetic, is highly variable.

Another seedling, very similar to the variety 'El Dorado' was, for that reason, cut to the ground. However, when it regrew it displayed three



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

different patterns of variegation that have unexpectedly remained very stable when propagated, either by grafting or rooting cuttings. This pattern can be seen in fig. 8-10. It is not entirely known why such traumatic pruning might induce such an effect but it has also been observed in other genera, e.g. *Hypericum*.

Consider adding variegated foliage varieties to your collection. Most are uncommon and sure to draw attention with their beauty and additional ability to brighten up locations that just need that "something special."



Fig. 10



## Some Obscure Engineering Conversion Factors

- basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
- 8 nickels = 2 paradigms
- 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 Fig Newton
- 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
- half a large intestine = 1 semicolon
- weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
- 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz
- shortest distance between two jokes = a straight line
- 5 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University hospital = 1 I.V. League



## CAMELLIAS ARE NOT JUST A PRETTY FLOWER PART TWO

Story and Photos by Daniel Charvet

There are thousands of varieties of camellias with significant new forms and colors that continue to increase the number of unique flowering varieties available. However, there are still those other nine months of the year, and without a doubt camellias can be one of the most handsome out of season plants you can have in your landscape.

But there are often additional characteristics that can contribute to off-season interest; in particular, if you are growing the majority of your plants in containers or even like to 'bonsai' the occasional camellia you might want to consider some of the finer contorted stem varieties available.

First on the list is *C. japonica* 'Unryu', a truly fine plant with the simple but elegant single rose red flower, typical of wild 'tsubaki,' on an



'Unryu'

upright compact plant. But the real uniqueness of this variety is seen in the artfully contorted stems that bend

at every node up to 45 degrees and are completely random in the direction they take. When grown from rooted cuttings and left unpruned at an early age each plant will exhibit a unique growth habit. With age it usually has an upright, compact habit.

Another variety with contorted stems and readily available is the result of a bud sport discovered at Nuccio's Nurseries in a crop of 'Egao'. It is definitely contorted; however, with the more open growth habit of the original 'Egao' the



'Egao Corkscrew'

stems tend to gently undulate in a more subtle but, as in 'Unryu', an equally charming manner. This variety is now grown under the name 'Egao Corkscrew'. One additional difference between the original and the bud sport is that the medium mid-pink flower of 'Corkscrew' is slightly more double than that of the original 'Egao'.

If you like growing camellias from seed you might want to make an attempt at raising your own contorted seedlings. By all appearances the gene or genes responsible for contorted growth is unquestionably dominant. This has been independently confirmed by unpublished results from Nuccio's Nurseries using open pollinated seed of 'Unryu' and Heartwood Nursery results using 'Egao Corkscrew' as a pollen parent. In both cases contorted stems occurred in almost exactly 50% of the seedlings grown. However, like results when breeding for fragrance, there is a significant degree of variability in the outcomes in regard to the amount of contortion observed.

Significantly differing results from the cross of 'Egao Corkscrew' with 'Mother Superior' (HW9934-a *C. x yunnanensis*) can be seen in figs. 3-5.

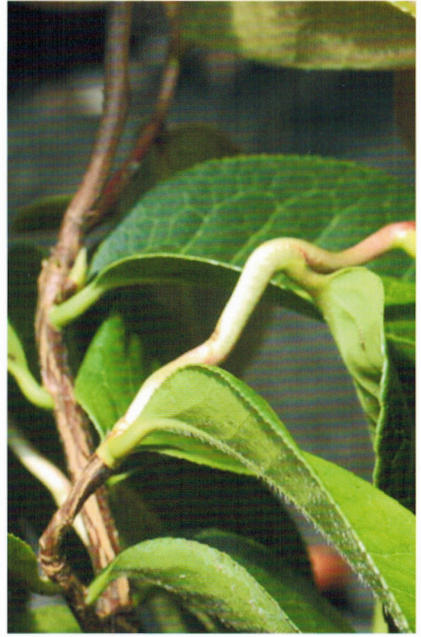


Fig. 4



Fig. 3



Fig. 5

# SIMPLE STEPS FOR HAND POLLINATING CAMELLIAS

Author Unknown

*Camellia Review* October 1962

## 1. Have an objective

One can pollinate just for the fun of doing it. It is much better, however, to have an objective because the fun is just as great and the results will be much more satisfying. For example: early or late varieties; particular shades such as, for example, the shading of 'Ballet Dancer' or the red of 'Flame'; interspecific hybridizing (between different species) such a *reticulata* x *japonica*.

## 2. Select proper seed bearing or female parent

A great deal of time and labor can be wasted if hand pollinations are made on plants that do not produce seed. A good rule is to use only plants which have in previous seasons been observed to set seed regularly. These will be usually single or semidouble varieties. 'Donckelarii', 'Berenice Boddy' and 'Lady Vansittart' are among the favorites as seed bearing parents. Other varietal forms do set seed occasionally; for example 'Elegans' has been a seed parent. For one who wishes to hand pollinate on a limited scale, however, he should seek the highest expectancy of obtaining seeds from his effort.

## 3. Select the pollen parent

Pollen can be taken from any variety that ripens the pollen. This will be most varieties but there are some in which the anthers do not open and pollen is not available. A dusty pollen is wanted, one that will spread easily. Obviously the pollen parent will possess the qualities that one is seeking in the new seedling

## 4. Emasculate the flower on the seed parent that is to be pollinated

Select a bud that is just ready to open (See Fig. 1). If the bud has opened, even just a little bit, a bee may have crawled in and deposited

some pollen. Take off the petals down to the calyx, using fingers or scissors. Then remove all stamens to the same level. (See Figure 2 keeping in mind that the illustration shows part of the petals remaining only for comparison between the before and after.)

## 5. Place pollen on the emasculated flower

The pollen from the pollen parent is placed on the stigma (the sticky substance that appears on the end of the pistil) of the emasculated flower. (See Figure 2) Pollen may be transferred from one flower to the other with a brush, a match stick, one's finger or what have you. The important things are that the stigma is thoroughly covered with the pollen and that, before pollinating with another variety, the old pollen is completely removed from the instrument used. Alcohol should be used for cleaning a brush. A man can rub a matchstick or his finger on the

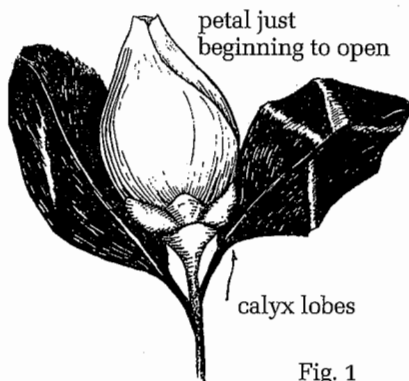


Fig. 1

seat of his pants. At least one person who gets excellent results in large numbers uses his forefinger. It should be pointed out that this is written for the person who uses live pollen. The use of stored pollen is another subject.

Steps 4 and 5 should be done during the warm part of a warm day if the work is to be done on outdoor plants, i.e., not in green houses. Temperatures above 65° or even above 70° are necessary for best results. It has been established in actual operation in the Los Angeles area that the percent "takes" from December pollinations is very low compared with percent "takes" from work done in February and March.

#### 6. Cover the pollinated flower?

There are different views on this. The purpose of covering is to prevent the bees from depositing other pollen. Most successful hybridizers have concluded that the bees do not add foreign pollen to the stigma often enough, if at all, to warrant the time required to cover the flower. Those who do cover the power use a small manila bag tied securely around the pollinated flower. A plastic bag should not be used because it is too hot.

#### 7. Keep records of what has been done

Since the purpose of hand pollinating is to achieve results from known varieties, full records should be kept. Attach to the seed parent a plastic interlocking label or any other that cannot be removed. In one case string was used for tying on the label.

Birds wanted the string for building their nests and took the string. The labels were found on the ground. Record on the label the name of the pollen parent. Code numbers can be used to simplify the record work. The label should be left on until the seed is harvested; then, of course, the seeds themselves will be identified both before and after they are planted.

#### 8. After care

The seeds will start to form soon after pollinating has taken place. Excessive heat can cause the seed capsules to drop. If the plants are outdoors, they should be given extra shade during hot spells in early summer. Plants that have been pollinated should not be kept in a green house after the beginning of hot weather.

Also, watch out for squirrels, blue jays and whatever else likes tender young seedpods. Paper bags will not keep out such creatures. Use a netting around the seed pod. Seran cloth would be excellent. This also allows one to leave the seed pods on until they are fully ripe without fear of danger or loss.

Other than such after care, the results are in the laps of the gods. Then comes seed harvesting and planting time and the beginning of a new chapter.

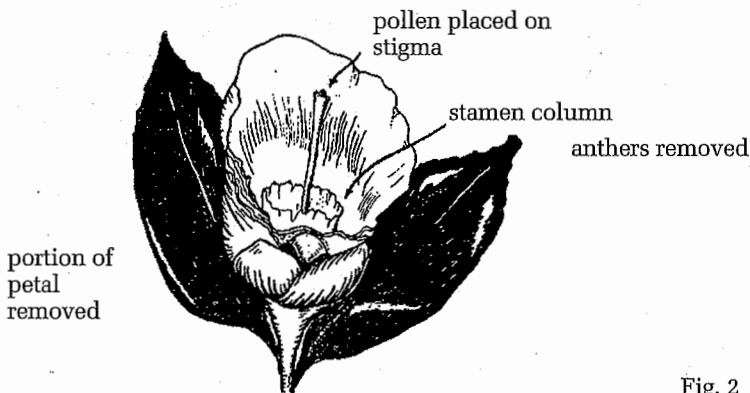


Fig. 2

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## HOW TEMPLE CITY BECAME HOME OF CAMELLIAS

### Bradford King

Temple City is a small city in the San Gabriel Valley five miles southeast of Pasadena, California. Pasadena is the home of the famous Rose Parade and Temple City is the home of camellias. In 1944 the Women's Club of Temple City held a contest to choose a flower and slogan for the community. Mrs. Ralph Saunders submitted the winner "Temple City, Home of Camellias." The following year this slogan inspired a camellia festival and parade. Mrs. Dan Crowley, President of the Women's Club that year is credited with beginning this camellia tradition. The original Festival Parade started with an eight-month old Queen, Sharon Ray Pearson who rode in an open car down Las Tunas Avenue accompanied by a small group of Camp Fire Girls who tossed camellia blooms to the crowd. In 1949 the Temple City Chamber of Commerce asked the newly formed Temple City Camellia Society to host a camellia show as part of the Camellia Festival and Parade. The

first show was held in a tent on an open lot at the corner of Baldwin and Las Tunas Avenues. The show lasted three days and was a hit.

By 1961 the show had grown to fifty floats built and decorated by children. The Royal Court was comprised of six first graders who were part of youth activities in Temple City. The camellia show was held at the Temple City Women's Center and amateurs were invited to enter camellia flowers.

The Camellia Festival Parade is now held each year on the last Saturday of February. Floats are designed and decorated with camellias by children. No commercial or motor-driven vehicles are allowed. By 2011 the parade had grown to greet 20,000 visitors and over 5,000 children. However, there is no longer a camellia show as part of this wonderful event that recognizes the importance of youth organizations in this family-oriented community.

*Editor's note: Perhaps it could be asked "Why not a camellia show?"*

#### Join Australia and New Zealand Camellia Societies

Australia Society  
\$37.000

New Zealand Society  
\$36.00

These are U.S. dollars.

Send your check payable to Southern California Camellia Society  
c/o Beth Stone  
1997 Queensberry Road  
Pasadena, California 91104-3351.

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## 'Egao Corkscrew' in the garden



In his article about interesting camellia leaves, Dan Charvet mentioned the corkscrew branches of the cultivar that has become known as 'Egao Corkscrew'. The cultivar also makes beautiful potted plants and does well in hanging baskets, too. Photos by Mel Belcher



## 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—Helen Maas; For meeting dates and times, call Helen Maas (661)872-2188.

**MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF:** President—Sharon Adams; Secretary—Marvin Bort. Meetings: 2nd Sunday, October-April, 1:30-4:30 p.m., 7th Day Adventist Church, G & 16 Street, 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.

**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 Monday, October-March, 7:00 p.m., Lutheran Church of the Master, 1900 Potrero Way, Sacramento 95822

**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—Caroline Beverstock; Secretary—Linda Kancev, 1514 S. Delaware, San Mateo 94402. Meetings: 4th Monday, October-March, Veterans' Memorial Building Annex, Madison Street, 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—Bradford King, Secretary—Bobbie Belcher, [bobbiebelcher@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiebelcher@gmail.com) 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.

**Red and White or White and Red—Everyone loves these  
Nuccio's Nurseries introductions**



**Above: 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Var.'**

**Below: 'Tama Peacock'**

**Photos by Bradford King**

