

The *Camellia*
R E V I E W

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Southern California Camellia Society

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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Bobbie Belcher, Editor

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Cover Photo

C. japonica 'Pink Perfection'
 Japan to United States in 1873
 Photo courtesy of Gene Phillips

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

The busiest part of the camellia season is over in Southern California for this year, but it's important that you do not think your plants will not be needing your attention during the months between now and when that busy time starts up again. Some of our camellia friends are watching the grafts they did earlier. Some are rejoicing in how well their plants look with all the new growth. Some are enjoying those blooms that showed up later this year. What's happening in your garden that is exciting you?

You will enjoy Brad King's article and his photos about good and bad companions for your camellias. His story about Northern invaders is not about treachery but about friendly competition. Something that perhaps does not get enough attention is that, when camellia hobbyists come as "visitors" to a show, they stay around to help with the details of the show, i.e., judging, clerking, etc., and the local hosts are appreciative.

An article Marilee Gray wrote several years about the basics of fertilizing is considered a "classic" in Southern California. Filled with helpful information and some friendly reminders, it seemed appropriate to include it once again.

Two newcomers to the "Review" contributors are James Fitzpatrick and George Harrison. James and his wife Barbara attended the ICS Congress this year and have shared thoughts and pictures. George has shared how his love affair with camellias began and developed into a companion passion for making floral arrangements and encouraging others to get excited about this hobby.

Don Bergamini has once again faithfully tabulated winners of the year's camellia shows. Newer exhibitors should take note of Don's encouragement and make a "shopping list." Show results for the last four camellia shows in Southern California are included in this issue of the Review.

Thanks, too, are in order to Gene Phillips and his generosity for sharing his beautiful camellia pictures for our Review covers this season.

Enjoy your camellias, my fellow camellia lovers.

— Bobbie Belcher, Editor

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Caroline Beverstock
Atherton, California

Bob Martin
LaCanada, California



Copies of the 2014 Camellia Nomenclature are still available. The price is \$20 per issue including postage and tax within the United States. Buy 5 or more copies and get a 20% discount. Purchases can be made online at socialcamelliasociety.org or by sending a check payable to Southern California Camellia Society (SCCS) to 2531 2nd Street, La Verne, CA 91750. International purchases, please inquire about the price. Membership dues can also be paid online.

CAMELLIA COMPANIONS

Bradford King

There are many different plants and animals that can be considered as “Camellia Companions.” A close look at your camellia plants may bring pleasant surprises — or occasional grief. Do you want the good news or the bad news first? Since camellia growers are stand-up men and women, we want to begin with the bad and end with the good.

THE BAD NEWS

Fortunately, there are only a few camellia companions that bring us grief. The most common and wide-spread are weeds — those annoying and troublesome, unwanted plants. Specific names are unimportant, but the solution is obvious — remove them by hand. This is a pain in the neck, back and hands, but necessary. Using chemical weed killers near camellias is dangerous to the plant and should be avoided, and deep cultivation with tools may damage the surface roots. I have walked through the nursery with Tom Nucchio to find a camellia to purchase and watched him pull every weed he passes as we walked. I would like to tell you I do this at home, but that would be a bald face lie. It is an ongoing effort all year long in Southern California.

The most dreaded camellia companion is petal blight which results in brown spots that spread on camellia flowers. While it is not dangerous to the health of the camellia plant, it has ruined countless flowers. It is rampant once rain and moisture appear, especially during a period of mild weather. There is no current cure available. Caused by the fungus *ciborinia camelliae*, this dark brown fungus hides among leaves and garden debris. There is little reason to look for it because it is very hard for most of us to find. In fact, the spores may come on the wind

currents from gardens several miles away. The best practice is to pick up all spent flowers. By removing flowers on the ground, the life cycle of petal blight is interrupted. If the spent blooms are not removed, small black bodies called *sclerotia* appear at the base of those fallen blooms several weeks later and are usually seen on the decaying petals. The following fall or winter, some *sclerotia* may produce a small, mushroom-like structure called *apothecia*. It is possible for *sclerotia* to remain dormant for up to 5 years. Spores, when released by the *apothecia*, spread to camellia flower buds by wind currents, germinate under favorable weather conditions and rapidly infect the petals.

Flower blight (*Botrytis cinerea*) is a very common plant disease found on many ornamental flowers. It is characterized by small, water-soaked golden tan to gray spots on the petals. Under humid conditions it develops and spreads quickly on rotting flowers. It spreads by air currents and handling of the flower.

The presence of grayish green and dusty foliage that is not dirty but has small dark spots on the underside indicates the camellia has spider mites. They live and breed on the underside of the leaf and leave fine white threads. Flourishing in hot dry weather, they



damage the leaves by sucking the fluid making the plant less healthy and vigorous. A minor infestation of spider mites may only need to be monitored. However, control of an infestation is easy and efficient with a spray of water on both sides of the foliage. When there is visible leaf damage to a number of leaves, the use of horticultural oil every week for three weeks will control the outbreak. In general, good camellia culture will keep camellias healthy and will also help beneficial parasite mites and insects to keep the plants healthy and pest free.

Aphids are attracted to the newly developing camellia foliage. A stream of water from a hose will remove these annoying leaf-sucking pests. Insecticidal soap also works well to kill aphids. Frequently ants accompany the aphids; they will not harm the camellias but should also be removed



because the ants herd aphids to suck the "honeydew" excreted by aphids. It is not recommended to use other chemical pesticides; they are not needed on camellias and may harm children and pets. An interesting natural way to control pests such as aphids is to purchase and release ladybugs in the evening after sprinkling plants with water to keep the ladybugs from flying off.

NOW THE GOOD NEWS

There are several insect visitors that are very much welcomed camellia

companions.

The presence of the aforementioned ladybugs in your garden, especially on camellias, is welcomed because ladybug larvae and adults eat aphids, mealy bugs and mites. Ladybugs are small,



oval-shaped winged insects. These shiny insects are usually red with black spots. The number of spots identifies the type of ladybug. Most ladybugs are less than 1/4 inch long and can eat 50



aphids a day.

Praying mantis may patiently wait for prey. They look like sinister miniature humanoids with slender bodies and long praying "arms." They are also welcomed camellia companions as they control many insect pests. Egg cases may be purchased from local nurseries or mail order garden catalogs.

When first hatching there are 100 to 200 mantids $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in size that hatch from the mud packed egg case seam. They eat many insects - aphids, thrips, white grubs, beetles, cinch bugs, flies and mites as well as other small insects — and one another. By late summer the four inch male is dwarfed by the six inch female. The adult mantis will eat small and large grass hoppers, leaf hoppers, caterpillars and, occasionally, even hummingbirds. I watched with fascination a full grown female one September on the leaves of a hanging geranium that was 7 inches from a hummingbird feeder patiently waiting to strike at the fast flying hummers coming and going from the feeder. She very patiently sat still for two days during daylight and hid in the planter at night. This time she was unsuccessful, and I moved her to the camellia garden the third day. However, there are creditable reports of their successful hunting of hummingbirds.

Bees are the most important visitors to the garden. No fruits, vegetables or camellia seed pods can naturally develop if these little visitors don't pollinate the flowers. As the sun warms the autumn and winter garden, bees find the camellia flowers. They move from flower to flower and pay no attention to you and me. If the gardener remains calm and moves slowly, even when emasculating or picking a bloom,

he or she will be ignored by the bees. A controlled cross requires the breeder to place the desired pollen on the emasculated flower so that bees and other pollinators, like bumble bees, don't place unwanted pollen on the potential seed parent. Without pollinators, such as the bees and bumble bees, we would have no food to sustain us; consequently, they are most welcomed companions to be left alone to collect nectar for their larvae and inadvertently pollinate flowers.



Hummingbirds are the jewels of the sky and one of the favored guests to the garden. My garden is full of these jewels that fly like helicopters one moment and tiny fighter jets the next. In Southern California we have several "varieties" of these frequent flyers. Anna's Hummingbird is an all-year resident of Southern California. Large for a hummingbird (4 inches long with a 5.25 inch wingspan), this specie has a tubular body, a straight short bill and green plumage. The male has a red crown and throat. They frequent camellia flowers in the winter, especially the red ones. The Allen's Hummingbird is distinguished by its smaller size (3.75 inch length and 4.25 inch wingspan) and has a green back with orange red rump and sides. It migrates along the Pacific Coast; many of them winter in Southern California or make Los



Angeles County their permanent residence. Every year I see a male sitting in a *C. japonica* 'Wildfire' and guarding the window feeder from all others. Is it the same one every year? I can't tell, but this species is around all year. It, too, collects nectar from camellia flowers. The other three hummingbirds are frequently seen in Southern California as they migrate through the area. The Black-Chinned, distinguished by its slender body, long bill and drab grayish color, is named for the throat patch that looks black but is a dark purple. The Costa's Hummingbird is small and dumpy with a short tail and a short, slightly curved beak. The male has a purple crown and throat. After their long flights, hummingbirds often remain in a stupor for a few hours at night and can be spotted on the feeders or on a camellia branch. This rest reduces metabolism and saves energy overnight. When the sun warms them up, they feed and move on. The Rufous Hummingbird closely resembles the Allen's in color. The outer tail feathers are broader and some adult males have much more orange plumage. Similar to camellia identification, close observa-

tion is needed to identify the different species of hummingbirds as well as consulting a bird guidebook.

This spring, among the camellias in Nuccio's Nursery, a hummingbird built a nest and raised two babies. The photo clearly shows two feathered babies who will be ready to leave home very soon after I saw them.

CONCLUSION

Camellias and birds make wonderful companions. While my favorites are the hummingbirds, I have also enjoyed watching a mocking bird build a nest in a camellia bush and the Bewick's wrens hunting through the leaves in and around camellias looking for food. In the winter I watch the Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers prowl the leaves and branches looking for insects.

What pleasant surprises have you had the good fortune to see in the company of your camellias?



IMPRESSIONS OF THE ICS CONGRESS 2014

James J. Fitzpatrick
Photos by Barbara Carroll

Prenote: This article is at times a report but mostly reflections and impressions of our (my wife, Barbara Carroll, who took the photos) attending our first International Camellia Society (ICS) Congress (hereafter “the Congress”).

The 2014 ICS Congress commenced for five days on March 11th in the City of Pontevedra, in the province of Galicia, Spain. A Pre-Congress Tour (hereafter “Pre-tour”) March 6th -10th in Porto, Portugal, and a Post-Congress Tour in Galicia were also available for additional fees to all Congress participants. We attended the Pre-Congress Tour but not the Post so that five day event will not be addressed here.

Let us start with the Congress. A grand welcoming reception featuring a local area fifty member Celtic bagpipe and drum corps dressed in striking black and silver trim costumes (including children band members) lined the entry hall of the Pontevedra City Hall as the more than 200 Congress attendees strolled into the auditorium.

Patricia Short, the ICS President who with her husband Herb deserves our gratitude for arranging the Congress, along with various local officials formally welcomed us. A solo musician playing a musical cantata rendered on a stringed Galicia-period instrument also contributed to establishing a receptive mood for all the Congress attendees. This was followed by the Celtic group

musically carrying the attendees to another large room where a quite wonderful mix of tapas and *Rias Baixas* wines concluded the evening.

The Congress Scientific Sessions were delivered over three mornings. Many university professors and researchers from Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Switzerland, Japan, China, New Zealand and Australia shared their knowledge and expertise on such varied topics as:

1. History and ancient camellias
2. Camellia gardens and tourism
3. Identification and characterization techniques
4. Pests and diseases
5. Uses of camellia products—teas, oils and soaps.

What I and other attendees discovered to be one of the most intriguing and informative media presentations featured the commercial application of camellia oil to the manufacture, literally by hand, of organic soaps. A nun, Paula

Tellez, (dressed in business attire for the presentation but wearing a habit in her video) of the Cistercian religious order of the Armenteira Monastery in Pontevedra fascinated us with her lucid observations on the therapeutic effects of Armenteira soaps. Produced via a “Cold-process” by hand, the soaps preserve the vitamins and anti-oxidant



properties of the camellia oils derived from the seeds. Astounding! Should you wish to order or inquire about the product, Sister Tellez can be reached via email at the following: paulaarmenteira@yahoo.es.

The Congress afternoons were packed with bus tours and frequent lunches at the local "Pazos" (estate properties) and public gardens. The Galician Tourism Board promotes a "Ruta da Camelia" (sic) with colorful photos and maps of camellia historic properties. The "Ruta" campaign has far more generous funding and resources than the ACS Camellia Trail promotion. Many of these "pazos" are simultaneously vineyards and wineries so both the wine and the viewing of camellias are marketed hand-in-hand.

Think of the tourism marketing strategies of Napa, Sonoma or Santa



Barbara counties in California and you can begin to approximate the magnitude of the Galician marketing. at the following address: paulaarmenteira@yahoo.es..

The Congress concluded with a bus tour to the Palacio de

Congresos Marde Vigo for the unforgettable 50th Concurso Expositioin International da Camelia (50th Annual Camellia judged show) in Vigo, Spain. Once again, a Celtic group of bagpipers "piped" the public into the convention hall where thousands of beautiful blooms filled display tables on two levels of the hall. Not only were there individual blooms presented but also stunningly gorgeous multi-bloom settings of 15-20 of the same variety and size as well as unusual arrangements (at least for U.S. camellia hobbyists) in baskets. The display tables were not covered in plastic or cloth but real grass





sod (believe it or not) which greatly contributed to dampening the din of the hundreds of public admirers.

I spent a little time with an individual who had multiple floral displays on a table. He spoke with English so we managed to converse. He asked me to clarify the identity of some Nuccios Nurseries varieties that he had brought. I never did quite comprehend how the categories are judged and prizes awarded but it did not matter. The intense rich color of the blooms, especially the purple varieties such as Dona Herzilia

de Freitas Magalhaes, Passos Manoel, and Angelina Vieira and its variegated sister made for enduring memories of the Vigo exhibition. The only complaint heard among the Congress participants was that more time should have been allotted in the schedule for enjoying this event.

The Pre-Tour in Portugal was attended by more than 100 camellia enthusiasts. All were able to reside in one hotel, the Tiara Park in Porto, a condition that made for simpler logistics and a better ate breakfast and lunch together in the



same place. (In Pontevedra the attendees were scattered over four hotels). Daily, the three buses embarked on eight to nine hour tours of public gardens and "Quintas" (estates and equivalent to the Spanish "pazos"). The tour guides (one assigned to each bus) were quite informed and communicative about what the attendees were going to see, where we were going to eat lunch, where we would be walking and what the schedule changes were for the following day.

Several lasting impressions of the Pre-Tour perdure: the size and age (some maybe over 300 but many 200 years) of the camellia trees; the height (35-45 feet) of many of the landscaped camellia hedges; the first encounter with the exotically brash purple of the Rainha Zinga camellia japonica. Perhaps the most memorable site was that the camellia is a basic landscape plant on the streets, in front of the hotels and many houses and apartment buildings

in the city of Porto.

A visit to the 19th Annual Camellia Exhibition at the Porto City Hall was delightful but a bit cramped because the lobby of the building was too small to support both the number of display tables plus the public and our pre-tour folks. Fortunately, one of the highlights here took place in a separate foyer of the building. This was a rather unusual (at least to us) display of intricately cut paper camellias wrought by school children.

My wife and I chose to go off on our own for another ten days in Spain. We did visit the public park in Santiago de Compostela where the post-tour was also going to visit. The further east we headed in north central Spain the fewer camellias we experienced. Without a doubt, northwest Portugal and Spain are certainly worth a visit for any camellia lover.



2014 SHOW WINNERS

Don Bergamini

This was an interesting year with extreme weather conditions – very cold nights and very warm days. The camellias were not sure whether they should bloom or wait a while. There was also very little rain. I believe that is one reason why there are so many cultivars that were one time winners for the season

Some of the cultivars were still leading their respective categories, such as 'Frank Houser', 'Frank Houser Var.', 'Demi-Tasse', 'Elaine's Betty' and 'Waltz Time Var.' This was in the single entries.

In the multiple entries, some of the old favorites were again leading their categories, such as 'Royal Velvet', 'Frank Houser', 'Frank Houser Var.' and 'Waltz Time Var.' There were a few new leaders in the top positions in the single categories. These leaders were 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Var.', 'Astronaut', 'Chris Bergamini', Larry Piet' and 'Senritsu Ko'. The multiple categories also had a couple of new leaders as well, such as 'Tama Electra' and 'Demure'.

Hopefully, 2015 will be what we consider a more "normal" year as far as the weather is concerned. I encourage the new exhibitors to look at the list below and see what is winning and then make up a wish list. I hope to see you all along the camellia trail.

Japonica – Large/Very Large

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 'Lady Laura' | 5 |
| 'Junior Prom' | 3 |
| 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Var.' | 3 |
| 'Royal Velvet' | 3 |
| 'Elegans Splendor' | 2 |
| 'Han Ling Snow' | 2 |
| 'Happy Higo' | 2 |
| 'Holly Bright' | 2 |
| 'Katie Var.' | 2 |
| 'Marie Bracey' | 2 |
| 'Melissa Anne' | 2 |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 'Melissa Anne' | 2 |
| 'Moonlight Bay' | 2 |
| 'Snowman' | 2 |
| 'Veiled Beauty' | 2 |
| 12 others with one each | |

Japonica – Medium

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 'Elaine's Betty' | 5 |
| 'Margaret Davis' | 4 |
| 'Astronaut' | 3 |
| 'Betty Foy Sanders' | 2 |
| 'Black Magic' | 2 |
| 'Cherries Jubilee' | 2 |
| 'Eleanor Martin Supreme' | 2 |
| 'Jennie Mills' | 2 |
| 'Nuccio's Jewel' | 2 |
| 'Toichi Domoto' | 2 |
| 'Wildfire' | 2 |
| 19 others with one each | |

Small – Any Specie

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 'Demi-Tasse' | 5 |
| 'Hishi-Karaito' | 4 |
| 'Red Hots' | 3 |
| 'Spring Daze' | 3 |
| 'Red Hots' | 3 |
| 'Black Tie' | 2 |
| 'Cabernet' | 2 |
| 'Pink Perfection' | 2 |
| 'Red Devil' | 2 |
| 'Tama Peacock' | 2 |
| 'Tom Thumb' | 2 |
| 8 others with one each | |

Miniature – Any Specie

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 'Night Rider' | 4 |
| 'Chris Bergamini' | 3 |
| 'Kewpie Doll' | 3 |
| 'Little Michael' | 3 |
| 'Man Size' | 3 |
| 10 others with one each | |

Reticulata/Reticulata Hybrid

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 'Frank Houser' | 8 |
| 'Frank Houser Var.' | 6 |
| 'Larry Piet' | 5 |
| 'Emma Gaeta' | 3 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| 'Dr. Clifford Parks' | 2 | 'Prima Ballerina' | 2 |
| 'Francie L.' | 2 | 'Ragland Supreme' | 2 |
| 'Kwan Yuen' | 2 | 'Rebel Yell' | 2 |
| 'Phyllis Hunt' | 2 | 'Snow Chan' | 2 |
| 'Ruta Hagmann' | 2 | 26 others with one each | |
| 21 others with one each | | | |
| Non-Reticulata Hybrid | | Miniature/Small | |
| 'Waltz Time Var.' | 6 | 'Tama Electra' | 5 |
| 'Senritsu Ko' | 5 | 'Hishi-Karaito' | 4 |
| 'Coral Delight Var.' | 3 | 'Red Hots' | 4 |
| 'Island Sunset' | 3 | 'Freedom Bell' | 3 |
| 'Julie Var.' | 3 | 'Night Rider' | 3 |
| 'Showboat' | 3 | 'Shikibu' | 3 |
| 'Adorable' | 2 | 'Kogane Nishiki' | 2 |
| 'Darleen Stoner' | 2 | 'Little Babe Var.' | 2 |
| 'Honeymoon' | 2 | 'Little Slam Var.' | 2 |
| 'Hot Stuff' | 2 | 'Man Size' | 2 |
| 'Les Jury Var.' | 2 | 'Spring Festival' | 2 |
| 'Lucky Star Var.' | 2 | 'Tama Peacock' | 2 |
| 'Nicky Crisp' | 2 | 10 others with one each | |
| 11 others with one each | | Reticulata/Reticulata Hybrid | |
| Species | | 'Frank Houser' | 8 |
| 'Egao' | 3 | 'Frank Houser Var.' | 7 |
| 'Grandiflora' | 3 | 'Arcadia' | 2 |
| 'Star Above Star' | 2 | 'Curtain Call' | 2 |
| 5 others with one each | | 'John Hunt' | 2 |
| | | 'Terrell Weaver' | 2 |
| MULTIPLES | | 9 others with one each | |
| Japonica | | Non-Reticulata Hybrid | |
| 'Royal Velvet' | 5 | 'Waltz Time Var.' | 5 |
| 'Herme' | 4 | 'Nicky Crisp' | 4 |
| 'Happy Harlequin' | 3 | 'Demure' | 3 |
| 'Kramer's Supreme' | 3 | 'Island Sunset' | 3 |
| 'Rudy's Magnoliaeflora' | 3 | 'Coral Delight' | 2 |
| 'Wildfire' | 3 | 'High Fragrance' | 2 |
| 'Astronaut' | 2 | 7 others with one each | |
| 'C. M. Wilson' | 2 | Species | |
| 'Elegans Splendor' | 2 | 'Shishi-Gashira' | 2 |
| 'Happy Higo' | 2 | 2 others with one each | |

FLORAL ARRANGING WITH CAMELLIAS

George Harrison

As with most of us, we have a unique story to tell regarding our introduction to and subsequent love affair with camellias. So, in brief, mine was when my wife and I purchased our first home. There were a couple of 30-year old camellias that we discovered amongst the hodgepodge of landscaping in front of our new home. We decided to move these bushes. Unfortunately for them, this decision was made in June (not a good time to move camellias for anyone who may be thinking of doing the same), and they promptly died.

In February of 1998 we stumbled upon a newspaper article about a camellia show at Descanso Gardens and the introduction of a yellow camellia — 'Buttermint'. This sounded like a good place to find some replacements for our now deceased plants. When we walked into Van de Kamp Hall, we were absolutely overwhelmed with the display of camellias and were easily convinced by Bob Jaacks that we needed to come to a Camellia Society meeting to learn more about these winter blooming wonders. Well, the first hook was set and, as the story goes, the rest is history.

We joined Pacific Camellia Society; shortly thereafter Perry Aminian came to speak at a society meeting. Perry was an accomplished and outstanding Floral Designer, well known in Southern California and throughout the U.S. He showed up with vases which he made himself, a couple buckets of greenery and a handful of camellias and proceeded to create some of the most incredible designs I had ever seen. Perry was my first introduction to camellia designs and hook number two was set. After that meeting I went home and nothing was safe from the possibility of getting a camellia stuck

in it — even the dog hid from me.

As our interest and participation in the numerous camellia shows increased, I discovered that Marilee Gray was not only an accomplished designer and owned several Ikebana vases but was willing to do some designs in this Oriental manner for the camellia shows. The presence of these arrangements was always a rich and enjoyable addition to the shows. I also discovered that Marilee would give a class on floral arranging at the Pomona Camellia Society show.

Those of you who have been to a Southern California Camellia Society show at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens would be quick to point out that the Ikebana Society associated with Huntington always sets up and displays a fantastic assortment of designs. These arrangements are in strict accordance with this traditional Japanese style of designs and are absolutely the most beautiful displays available; a little more about Ikebana later.

As my wife Karen and I continued to get more involved with camellia shows, we began to trek to the Kern County Camellia Society show in Bakersfield and found that they had three design classes at their show. Well, my first design was entered in their show but, I must say, not very successfully. It was successful, however, in that a new passion was born. Our dear friend Helen Maas was kind enough to encourage me, despite my entry, and sent me a whole bunch of basic information about designs.

After a couple of years participating in the Bakersfield show, I felt it was time to propose that a design class be added to the Pacific Camellia Society and Southern California Camellia Council shows. In both cases, the

Boards of Directors voted to introduce Floral Arranging to their shows. Presently, the last three camellia shows of the season offer these additional classes.

Much can be said about floral arranging and even more can be learned. It is not the intention, nor is it possible, in this article to teach design; there are hundreds of books on the subject to do just that. I would like to share with you little bits of information that may encourage you to look a little further into this wonderful and creative aspect of the camellia world. I had a most delightful revelation on this two Christmases ago.

It was early Christmas morning, and I took a morning stroll around our backyard. I was enjoying the beautiful day when I noticed my 'Yuletide' camellia. It was in full bloom and just striking. I thought to myself, "Too bad there was no show to take these for others to enjoy; they're not going to be seen by anyone but Karen and me." Then it occurred to me that I could make a 'Yuletide' arrangement and bring it to our neighbor's house where we were going for Christmas dinner. I dug around a little and put together a

design that nearly all of the 23 guests complemented. What a wonderful way to introduce camellias to others other than floating them in a bowl. Below is the basic design that I entered in competition later that season. Of course, these are not 'Yuletide', but use a little imagination. Place some pine needles in the bottom rather than leaves and you get the idea.

The inspiration for the above arrangement was the 'Yuletide' flowers and, of course, the season. Some designs come from the flower, some from the container or vase, some from a thought, some because you can just use what's available, and others a combination of all of these. One of my favorite "vases" is one I found in the woodpile slated for firewood. It was a gnarly looking thing, but I just couldn't burn it. So I cut the bottom flat, drilled a hole in it large enough for a votive candle holder and voila! (See page 16) Many vases will tell you what to do because you can only use them one way.

So where do we get these vases? You can make them, buy them, find them at yard sales or thrift stores, or you may already have them in your garage. In fact, you can use just about anything.



Some vases are very expensive but, in general, you can get away with not spending more than a couple of dollars. I saw a design on a dinner plate that was just beautiful. When your friends and acquaintances know you're doing designs, they'll look for containers and materials for you as well, I've been given some really attractive stuff (and some not so attractive stuff) to use in designs. The design below has seaweed given to me by a dear friend.

One other thing that should be mentioned is the mechanics of holding

judging and horticulture and holds structured courses on such matters. Their handbook details aspects such as the "Elements of Design" — line, form, color, texture, pattern, size, space and light — and how they relate to one another and to the "Principles of Design" — balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, scale and rhythm. That's as technical as I'll get here, but you can see there is quite a bit to learn. NGC judges are used at our camellia shows even though we do not necessary conform to the strict rules of the NGC. We are



a flower in place. There are numerous ways to do this — floral foam, frogs (a heavy disc of various sizes with sharp pins protruding upward), sand or stones, wire, tape, Velcro, water tubes, crumpled up chicken wire and clay. Anything goes, but these are not to be part of the design and must be hidden.

There are hundreds of books on floral arrangements, many of which are available in thrift stores and dollar book store; however, one must be aware of the National Garden Club (NGC). This fine organization has literally written the book on designs, shows and guidelines for nearly all aspects of floral designs, flower shows,

grateful and appreciative for the judges who voluntarily contribute their time so generously to our shows. What this organization has to offer is well worth investigating.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the most revered of floral designs — Ikebana. I can't say I know much about this ancient Japanese art, but I would like to share some things I did find out. First, Ikebana is not judged. It is a gift from the designer to the viewer for enjoyment. The designers must go to one of several schools, and not just a couple of classes, to learn the strict rules and mechanics of this discipline. Originating in Japan, some of these schools are

centuries old and strictly controlled by generations of the same family whose name is borne by the school. In one book I read about Ikebana, the author had a photo of an arrangement that took four men three full, intense days to complete. The arrangement lasted three days. Now that's a labor of love! If you have never been to an Ikebana show by one or more of these schools, it is something you won't soon forget. The key to viewing an Ikebana arrangement is to do just that, view it. Take

time to study it. Try to determine what the designer was trying convey to the viewer; this may take several minutes

In conclusion, this art form can be a lot of fun and exceptionally rewarding. There is a depth of study that can be pursued, if desired, or you can just be as informal and uncommitted to any rules. The idea is to take some of God's beauty and share it with others and, when you run out of camellias, there are all sorts of other flowers out there ready to be displayed. So, pick up a pot, grab a few flowers and try your hand;



Do you remember Paul Harvey – a very wise man

“Like what you do, if you don't like it, do something else.”

“I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon – and mean it. So God made a farmer.” (From a speech to the Future Farmers of America in 1978)

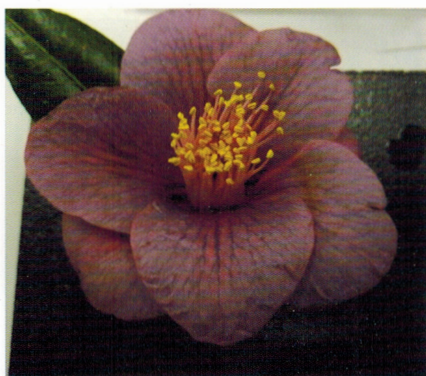
“In times like these, it is helpful to remember that there have always been times like these”

INVADERS FROM THE NORTH

Bradford King

When camellia entries arrive at camellia shows *en-mass* from areas north of the host city, there is an impact. San Diego is the most southern camellia city in our Southern California Camellia Council and has hosted a camellia show in Balboa Park for many years. The top winners are usually "invaders from the north" — areas like Claremont, LaVerne, Arcadia, Pasadena and even as far away as Bakersfield. While this makes for fewer winning entries from San Diego, it does make for more beautiful blooms on the show tables. The San Diego Society has creatively and interestingly mollified this outcome by including several classes for flowers grown in San Diego County. In addition, several San Diego County growers have outstanding camellias. Gene Snooks wins with 'Valentine Day Variegated' and Michael Mathos shows wonderful blooms of 'Arcadia' and 'Grape Soda', just to name a few.

Bakersfield is the location for the and is the most northern member of



our Council. They have a cluster of highly motivated camellia growers who enter camellias shows and they also host an annual show. One interesting outcome is that several cultivars grown in Bakersfield have different flower forms than when grown farther south.

One example is that a gibbed 'Lady Laura' shows as a formal double, while it is always a loose peony form in Los Angeles County. Marvin Belcher frequently wins with his beautiful formal double 'Lady Laura'. He also enters 'Astronaut', a medium semidouble rose pink flower that others no longer grow.

The most exciting recent development from Bakersfield is a large num-



ber of new members. At the Bakersfield show there were seventy flowers in the Novice and Intermediate classes reflecting the success of the Society's efforts to attract new members which were spearheaded by Susan Stull.

Tom and Libby Stull, from Bakersfield, entered a winning bloom in the Pacific Society's "Late Bloomers" show — the very large japonica 'Mrs. D.W. Davis'. In 1954, when 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' was first introduced in camellia shows, she attracted keen attention and a long list of customers signed up to get a plant to add to their collection. Mr. D. W. Davis grew this 'Elizabeth Boardman' seedling from a seed he planted in 1947 which first bloomed in 1952. This very large blush pink semidouble flower frequently exceeds 6 inches in diameter. It became known as the "hundred dollar baby" because all of the first plants sold for at least \$100 each. In today's

dollars, this would put a big dent in a \$1000. In fact, Mr. Davis turned down an offer of \$1000 for this camellia when it was just a two-foot seedling with one beautiful flower. 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' won the coveted John P. Illges Medal for an outstanding *C. japonica* seedling in 1954. This classy camellia is seen in gardens throughout the camellia world and continues to win at camellia shows more than fifty years after her debut. The International Camellia Society still uses 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' as its official logo.

At this year's Pacific Society "late bloomers" show the big winners were Joan and Don Lesmeister from Carmichael in Sacramento County. Their flowers, and those of Gary and Carol Schanz from Sacramento, really added to the local show. What I really enjoyed, though, was seeing cultivars that are not seen locally including 'Freckles' introduced by David Feathers, an early eminent camellia grower from Lafayette, California. This miniature white formal double has pink dots and flecks which certainly look like freckles. He also introduced twelve *reticulata* hybrids including 'Lauretta Feathers', a large to very large blush white edged pink flower, one of a very few cream-toned *reticulata* camellias. It, too, made it to the Pacific late show in 2014. Late flowering camellias bring enjoyment by extending the camellia blooming season. The downside is that there generally are warmer days which results in



smaller flowers or ones that shrivel up in the late afternoon heat.

Three favorite late blooming japonica camellias, introduced by Nuccio's and worth growing, are 'Midnight', 'Spring Fling' and 'Spring Flurry'. Jeffrey Thurnher, a local grower noted for growing and showing winning white camellias, selected 'Midnight' as his raffle winner at the February Southern California Camellia Society meeting.

Don and Mary Bergamini from Martinez in Northern California frequently bring camellias to the shows in Southern California before the shows in Northern Camellia. Don, the current



American Camellia Society President, specializes in growing miniature and small camellias. Two particularly

lovely camellias he shows that many of us wouldn't see otherwise are 'Sue Kendall' and 'Walkers Pink'.

Oldies to Remember

Joey Goldfarb, Los Angeles, often



enters blooms from his camellia collection that includes some older varieties. In the Pacific late show he entered 'Margherita Coleoni' which originated in Italy in 1859. The flower he entered appears to have become inadvertently variegated over the years. It is also been known as 'General Douglas MacArthur' and can be seen in the Huntington Botanical Garden.

In 1960 Nuccio's Nurseries introduced 'Cara Mia'. Although rarely seen these days at camellia shows, this lovely semidouble pink flower shading to blush pink was entered in the medium japonica class in the Pacific



late show.

'Walter Wilson', introduced in 1980, was on the Nuccio's Nurseries display table among their other popular varieties. In the past Nuccio's has propagated this wonderful flower. Tom Nuccio would like to propagate this cultivar again and I agree! It is just as attractive as the medium 'Seafoam' and 'Nuccio's Gem' and has the added benefit of being a large white formal double.



Floral Arrangements

The last three camellia shows in Southern California have flower arranging displays. Judging is done by two experts in flower arranging who give detailed constructive criticism to help improve the designs. Camellias must be included, but the container and other elements are the designer's choice. It is a great opportunity to be creative.

Thanks for the memories!

Editor's note: See page 31 for some floral design winners. Then enjoy George Harrison's story about his enchantment with floral designing with camellias.

BASICS OF FERTILIZING CAMELLIAS

Marilee Gray

Camellias are so easy to grow that many people claim that their camellias are beautiful and productive even though they receive no special attention except watering through the dry seasons. Yet others, who are in the conscientious, attentive gardener classification, despair because camellias are so difficult to grow. Their dead and dying camellias attest to their frustration. Why this disparity? The most likely culprit for the latter is their fertilizing program, for camellias survive better on neglect than on too much attention, particularly where fertilizers are concerned. The attentive gardeners, failing to understand the feeding needs of camellias, smother them with tender loving care and succeed only in killing them. An understanding of the characteristics, the likes, and the dislikes of camellias will establish a few basic rules to permit effective and safe fertilizing.

Consider first the nature of camellias: they are acid-loving, surface-rooting, and light-feeding plants that have both distinct growing and dormant periods. These characteristics dictate the three critical factors that must be considered whenever camellias are to be fed: 1) the type of fertilizer, 2) the amount of fertilizer, and 3) the timing of the particular fertilizer. A violation of any one of the three can result in a lethal situation.

The type of fertilizer: Like most shade plants, camellias are also acid-loving plants. Their preferred acidity is something in the 6-6.5 pH range (7.0 pH is neutral); therefore, a suitable fertilizer must have an acidic reaction. They are light feeders, preferring something in the 5-7% nitrogen range for a growth-season fertilizer. This is a meager diet when compared to most fertilizers; lawn fertilizers, for example, contain roughly 35% nitrogen. There

are a number of commercial fertilizers that are identified as suitable for "azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons and other shade and acid-loving plants." Gro-Power (5-3-1) is a similar product that is non-specific for shade plants. All of these products are water-soluble and granular in nature. As such, they have an inherent danger, particularly here in Southern California. Bear in mind that it is the available nitrogen that produces growth, but it is that same nitrogen that will burn if it is present in excess. Therefore, if a heat wave hits shortly after the camellias have been fertilized, the temperature will require that the plants be watered more frequently. If one of these water-soluble, granular types has been used, the more frequent watering will, unavoidably, dissolve and feed the fertilizer at a faster rate than intended. The light-feeding camellias may be severely damaged or killed. To avoid this scenario, it is suggested that such products be used at a rate that is one-half of the recommended dosage to reduce the amount of available nitrogen that can be present at any one time.

Probably all of the commercial growers and most of the amateur hobbyists avoid this danger by using cottonseed meal, a natural organic product that is perfectly suited to camellias. Its percent nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium content designation is 6-3-1. The beauty of cottonseed meal is that the nitrogen is contained in complex organic molecules and is not available to the plant and is not, therefore, capable of burning the roots until bacteria found in the soil have digested the meal and rendered the nitrogen into a usable form. The digestion process increases as the soil temperature increases, but it usually proceeds at such a pace that the roots survive heat spells without fertilizer burn.

A third growth-season fertilizer that is used by a few hobbyists is Miracle-Gro's 30-10-10 fertilizer and soil acidifier. Its nitrogen content (30) is much higher than that considered safe for camellias in Southern California and caution is recommended. Initial studies have shown that it should only be used at 1/2 T per gallon of water (one-half the recommended amount) and only three to five times during the growing season at two to four-week intervals. Its use should be terminated whenever the foliage becomes excessively large for that variety, an indication that the plant is feeding heavily and is precariously close to becoming over-fertilized. However, its use has been deemed advantageous, particularly in areas where the water and soil are alkaline and unsuited to camellias.

What have been discussed up to this point are fertilizers that can only be used during the growing season. There are other fertilizers that are suited to dormant-season use. The purpose of dormant-season fertilizers is to improve the quality of the blooms; as such, they are used commonly by growers who exhibit camellias, but they are not necessary for the health of the camellia plant. These bloom-enhancing fertilizers have little or no nitrogen and have content designations of nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium of 2-10-10, 0-10-10, or some such formulation with relatively little nitrogen and elevated phosphorus. Here are some examples: Hi-Bloom is a liquid 2-10-10 product; Flower Power is a dry 2-10-10; Super Bloom is a liquid 0-10-10. Studies have shown that the low-nitrogen products are generally more effective than the no-nitrogen products. The effect of phosphorus is seen in the increased brilliance and intensity of the color of the bloom.

The quantity of fertilizers: The rule of thumb that provides a margin of safety is to use only one-half of the recommended amount, regardless of the

product being used. For the granular types and cottonseed meal this becomes about 1 T/ gallon-sized plant, 2 T/2-gallon plant, 3 T/3-gallon plant, a tight fist-full for the 4 or 5-gallon plant, and proportionally more for the larger pots and those plants in the ground. Note that the amounts have been given by the pot size; however, if the camellia has been recently potted up, adjust down the amount used. Likewise, since the leaves are the manufacturing stations, if a plant has relatively few leaves for its size, disregard the pot size and use substantially less fertilizer. The varieties of camellias classified as non-reticulata hybrids tolerate less fertilizers than the other camellia species; their suggested feeding rate is one-half of whatever would be given to another plant of that size. If the liquid dormant season fertilizers are used, apply the same one-half rule and use 1 T/ gallon of water at two to four-week intervals during the bud development and blooming period.

When to fertilize: The correct timing of fertilizing is all-important and is determined by the dormant and growth seasons. Many gardeners fail to understand the significance of these seasons and damage or kill their plants by doing the right thing but at the wrong time. During the seven months from September 1st to April 1st, the time when camellias are developing their buds and blooming, camellias are dormant. This time frame will vary, depending upon the specific variety and the season. If a variety is an early-blooming variety, it tends to go dormant sooner than most; if the season is early, all of the camellias may go dormant sooner than usual. Dormant camellias are not receptive to fertilizers that promote growth; to use a growth fertilizer during this time would be injurious, if not deadly. When camellias have bloomed and the growth buds begin to lengthen

and feather, they are signaling the beginning of another growth phase. Anything labeled as a camellia fertilizer, Gro-Power, cottonseed meal, and Miracle-Gro's 30-10-10 fertilizer are all growth-inducing fertilizers and are to be used only during the growing season—usually from April 1st to September 1st in Southern California. As before, these dates may vary considerably, depending upon the variety and the season.

The first growth feeding is tied to the onset of new growth. Generally two more feedings follow at six to eight-week intervals, provided the temperatures are not excessive. If a heat wave coincides with a feeding time, delay the feeding until the temperatures have moderated. Pushing for growth during a heat wave only increases the stress of an already stressful situation.

It is generally advisable not to feed a growth fertilizer too close to September 1st. Instead, plan to feed far enough in advance of that date so that the particular fertilizer used will be fairly well consumed by that time and then switch to a dormant fertilizer, if desired. If the size of the developing buds leaves any question as to whether or not another feeding of a growth fertilizer can still be given, play it safe and switch to one of the dormant fertilizers instead. Be observant and adaptable and apply fertilizing schedules according to the season, not the calendar.

A number of variations on a basic fertilizing program can be tried. Camellias show a heftier flush of growth if the initial feeding is one of fish emulsion (1 T of the 90+% concentration per gallon of water). Fish emulsion is a 'hot' fertilizer that reacts quickly and can only be safely used early in the season when heat would not be expected. This can be followed in two to three weeks with cottonseed meal at six to eight-week intervals. Additionally, better growth and blooms result if, instead of straight cottonseed meal, a mixture of

four parts cottonseed, one part blood meal, and one part chelated iron is used. Such an iron-containing mixture prevents anemia and gives the leaves a rich green color; it also produces more radiant colors in the blooms. If a camellia shows anemia (the leaf veins are a darker green than the pale color between the veins), it must be corrected with feedings of a chelated iron product before any growth fertilizer is used. Repeat the iron treatment, as necessary, until a healthy green color is restored. Apply dry fertilizers evenly around the drip line and use water to drill it through the mulch material. Cottonseed meal can also be chucked into the side of a pot and watered lightly to form a hard cake. This cake will then break down slowly, and watering will provide an even, slow feeding.

Liquid fertilizers or those that are dissolved in water before using can readily be applied with watering if a proportioning siphon is used at the faucet. Each gallon of solution to be diluted contains the amount of fertilizer that will be dispensed; i.e., when using a 1:15 proportioner, each gallon of concentrated mix contains the fertilizer needed for 16 gallons of water with fertilizer.

Here are some general fertilizing tips. Do not fertilize a thirsty plant; it should be thoroughly watered the day before it is fertilized. Do not let a recently fertilized plant go dry; burning will likely occur. If using liquid fertilizer solutions, add portions until the solution drains from the pot holes.

This has been a brief discussion of fertilizing camellias for the beginner. Let me add one more bit of advice. You would not change the cart axle if it isn't broken; neither should you change your camellia culture if your plants are healthy and are producing good blooms. If you are winning, disregard all of this and stay with your winning ways!

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

66th Annual Camellia Show

February 15 and 16, 2014

Japonica Large/Very Large

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Best Single | 'Han-Ling Snow' | Carol Stickley |
| Runner-up | 'Elizabeth Dowd Silver' | Carol Stickley |
| Court of Honor | 'Katie Var.' | Carol Stickley |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Han-Ling Snow' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
| Runner-up | 'Royal Velvet' | Carol Stickley |
| Court of Honor | 'Happy Higo' | Carol Stickley |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Royal Velvet' | Carol Stickley |
| Runner-up | 'Snow Chan' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Court of Honor | 'Rebel Yell' | Joe & Linda Tunner |

Japonica - Medium

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Astronaut' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Cloisonne' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Magnoliaeflora' | Richard Amaya |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Astronaut' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Ragland Supreme' | Richard Amaya |
| Court of Honor | 'Firedance Var.' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Happy Harlequin' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Pearl Maxwell' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Court of Honor | 'Prima Ballerina' | James Fitzpatrick |

Japonica - Small

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Demi-Tasse' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Tom Thumb' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Court of Honor | 'Ave Maria' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Tama Electa' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Runner-up | 'Hishi-Karaito' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Demi-Tasse' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Pink Perfection' | Beth Stone |
| Runner-up | 'Tama Electra' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Court of Honor | 'Demi-Tasse' | Carol Stickley |

Japonica - Miniature

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Man Size' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Aoi Sangosyo' | Jim & Dorothy McQuiston |
| Court of Honor | 'Little Slam Var.' | Carol Stickley |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Shikibu' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Runner-up | 'Aoi Sangosyo' | Jim & Dorothy McQuiston |
| Court of Honor | 'Little Slam Var.' | Carol Stickley |

Japonica - Special Culture

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Best | 'Red Hots' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Lady Laura' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Astronaut' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |

Reticulata/Reticulata Hybrid

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Best Single | 'Dr. Clifford Parks' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
| Runner-up | 'Frank Houser Var.' | Steve & Nancy Mefford |
| Court of Honor | 'Emma Gaeta Var.' | Carol Sticklely |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Frank Houser' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
| Runner-up | 'Emma Gaeta' | Carol Sticklely |
| Court of Honor | 'Terrell Weaver' | James Fitzpatrick |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Curtain Call' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Runner-up | 'Arcadia' | Michael Mathos |
| Court of Honor | 'Valley Knudsen' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Special Culture | | |
| Best | 'Curtain Call' | Carol Sticklely |
| Runner-up | 'Frank Houser' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Court of Honor | 'John Hunt' | Carol Sticklely |

Non-Reticulata Hybrid -Medium/Large/Very Large

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Island Sunset' | Steve & Gintana Frankel |
| Runner-up | 'Waltz Time Var' | Carol Sticklely |
| Court of Honor | 'Showboat' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Island Sunset' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
| Runner-up | 'Kramer's Fluted Coral' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
| Court of Honor | 'Lucky Star' | Carol Sticklely |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Showboat' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Runner-up | 'High Fragrance' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |

Non-Reticulata Hybrid - Miniature/Small

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Spring Daze' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
| Runner-up | 'Adorable' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Court of Honor | 'Egao Corkscrew' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Demure' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Runner-up | 'Freedom Bell' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Kogane Nishiki' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Demure' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Runner-up | 'Kogane Nishiki' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Court of Honor | 'Minato-No-Akebono' | James Fitzpatrick |

Species

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Best | 'Egao' | Julius & Dorothy Christinson |
| Runner-up | 'Yuletide' | Stephanie Haberfelde |
| Court of Honor | 'Hanami Gasa' | Joe & Linda Tunner |

Collector's Tray of 3 Mixed Varieties

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Best | 'Queen Bee', 'Nuccio's Carousel' | |
| | 'Little Michael' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
| Runner-up | 'Mrs. D. W. Descanso', 'Tama Beauty', | |
| | 'Lemon Drop' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Court of Honor | 'Queen Bee', 'Nuccio's Carousel' | |
| | 'Spring Daze' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |

Best Yellow Bloom

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 'Dahlohnega' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
|--------------|--------------------|

Old Timers Bloom

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Best | 'Adolphe Audusson Spec.' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Runner-up | 'Herme' | Kara Dihn |
| Court of Honor | 'Purity' | Beth Stone |

**Best Fragrant
Best Seedling**

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 'High Fragrance' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| | Steve & Nancy Mefford |

Novice

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Best | 'Grand Prix' | Loretta Garcia |
| Runner-up | 'Fukutsuzumi' | Colette Wayman |
| Court of Honor | 'Pink Perfection' | Kara Dihn |

Intermediate

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Best | 'Royal Velvet' | Chuck Parrish |
| Runner-up | 'Tiffany' | Chuck Parrish |
| Court of Honor | 'Haru-No-Utena' | Steve & Gintana Frankel |

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL**

66th Annual Show
February 22, 2014

Japonica – Large/Very Large

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Marie Bracey' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Elegans Splendor' | Carol Stickley |
| Court of Honor | 'Kramer's Supreme' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Junior Prom' | Carol Stickley |
| Runner-up | 'Royal Velvet' | Chuck Parrish |
| Court of Honor | 'Katie Var.' | Carol Stickley |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Kramer's Supreme' | Jeffrey Thurnher |
| Runner-up | 'Snow Chan' | Joe & Linda Turner |
| Court of Honor | 'Kumagai' | Joe & Linda Turner |

Special Culture

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Best | 'Grand Prix' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Guilio Nuccio Var' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |

Japonica - Medium

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Astronaut' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Cherries Jubilee' | Carol Stickley |
| Court of Honor | 'Silver Tower' | Jeffrey Thurnher |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Nuccio's Carousel' | Joe & Linda Turner |
| Runner-up | 'Astronaut' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Firedance' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Herme' | Beth Stone |
| Runner-up | 'Cloisonne' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Dixie Knight Supreme' | Carol Stickley |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Special Culture | | |
| Best | 'Dixie Knight Supreme' | Carol Stickley |
| Runner-up | 'Lady Laura' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Japonica - Small | | |
| Best Single | 'Black Tie' | Carol Stickley |
| Runner-up | 'Hishi-Karaito' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Tama Peacock' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Japonica Miniature | | |
| Best Single | 'Little Michael' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Runner-up | 'Kewpie Doll' | Carol Stickley |
| Court of Honor | 'Cotton Tail' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Japonica -Small/Miniature | | |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Pink Perfection' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Runner-up | 'Hishi-Karaito' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Tama Electra' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Shikibu' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Runner-up | 'Red Hots' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Maroon and Gold' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Special Culture | | |
| Best | 'Red Hots' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Reticulata/Reticulata Hybrid | | |
| Best Single | 'Frank Houser' | Tom Stull |
| Runner-up | 'Francie L.' | Tom & Libbie Stull |
| Court of Honor | 'John Hunt' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Frank Houser' | Jane Brady |
| Runner-up | 'John Hunt' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Court of Honor | 'Queen Bee' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Curtain Call' | Carol Stickley |
| Runner-up | 'John Hunt' | Carol Stickley |
| Court of Honor | 'Howard Asper' | Michael Mathoss |
| Special Culture | | |
| Best | 'Ruta Hagmann' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Runner-up | 'Larry Piet' | Carol Stickley |
| Court of Honor | 'Curtain Call' | Carol Stickley |
| Non-Reticulata Hybrid | | |
| Best Single | 'Senritsu-Ko' | Carol Stickley |
| Runner-up | 'Island Sunset' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Court of Honor | 'Buttons 'N Bows' | Michael Mathos |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Coral Delight' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Buttons 'N Bows' | Steve & Anne Dashiell |
| Court of Honor | 'FreedomBell' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Best Tray of 5 | 'Freedom Bell' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Night Rider' | Steve & Anne Dashiell |
| Court of Honor | 'Demure' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Special Culture | | |
| Best | 'Showboat' | Brad & Lynn King |

Species

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Best | 'Hanami Gasa' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Runner-up | 'Star Above Star' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Court of Honor | 'Grandiflora' | Steve & Anne Dashiell |

Collectors' Tray of 3 Mixed Varieties

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| Best | 'Elegans Champagne', 'Silver Chalice' 'Man Size' | Jeffrey Thurnher |
| Runner-up | 'Ruta Hagmann', 'Nuccio's Jewel', 'Spring Daze' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Court of Honor | 'Emma Gaeta Var', 'Nuccio's Jewel', 'Lemon Drop' | Carol Stickley |

Old Timers Bloom

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Best | 'Herme' | Beth Stone |
| Runner-up | 'C. M. Wilson' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Court of Honor | 'Magnoliaefora' | Beth Stone |

Higo

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Best Single | 'Yamato-Nishiki' | Carol Stickley |
| Runner-up | 'Happy Higo' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Court of Honor | 'Ohkan' | Joe & Linda Tunner |

Best Fragrant**Best Sport**

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 'High Fragrance' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Sport of 'Firedance Var.' | George & Karen Harrison |

Floral Design**"Designer's Choice"**

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Best | George & Karen Harrison |
| Runner-up | Libby Stull |
| Court of Honor | Libby Stull |

"Line or Line Mass"

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Best | George & Karen Harrison |
| Runner-up | Beth Stone |
| Court of Honor | Beth Stone |

"Oriental Design"

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Best | Richard Amaya |
| Runner-up | Richard Amaya |
| Court of Honor | George & Karen Harrison |



The secret of improved plant breeding,
apart from scientific knowledge, is love.

— Luther Burbank

Fertilizer does no good in a heap, but a little
spread around works miracles all over.

— Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Gardening has just sort of grown on me. I find it therapeutic
And I like smelly things.

— Clive Anderson

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY

Bakersfield Racquet Club

March 1 and 2, 2014

Japonica – Large/Very Large

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Marie Bracey' | Tom & Libby Stull |
| Runner-up | 'Royal Velvet' | Helen Maas |
| Court of Honor | 'Elegans Splendor' | Richard Amaya |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Royal Velvet' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Kramer's Supreme' | Gary Blackburn |
| Court of Honor | 'Elegans Splendor' | Richard Amaya |

Japonica - Medium

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Black Magic' | Stephanie Haberfelde |
| Runner-up | 'Happy Harlequin' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Nuccio's Jewel' | Stephanie Haberfelde |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Herme' | Stephanie Haberfelde |
| Runner-up | 'Cherries Jubilee' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Court of Honor | 'Mrs. Charles Cobb' | Stephanie Haberfelde |

Japonica - Small

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single' | 'Red Hots' | Harriet Simonsen |
| Runner-up | 'Tama Peacock' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Court of Honor | 'Maroon and Gold' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Best tray of 3 | 'Hishi-Karaito' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Red Hots' | Jane Brady |

Japonica - Miniature

| | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Man Size' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------|

Reticulata/Reticulata Hybrid

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Larry Piet' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Runner-up | 'Francie L.' | Tom & Libby Stull |
| Court of Honor | 'Frank Houser' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Frank Houser' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Harold L. Paige' | Helen Maas |

Non-Reticulata Hybrid

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Hot Stuff' | Jane Brady |
| Runner-up | 'Honeymoon' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Spring Daze' | Helen Maas |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Honeymoon' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Spring Daze' | Jane Brady |
| Court of Honor | 'Jackpot' | Ken Belcher |

Special Culture

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Best | 'Bravo' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Runner-up | 'Lady Laura' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Harold L. Paige' | Marv & Virginia Belcher |

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Best Species | 'Grandiflora' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Best Old Timers Bloom | 'Covina' | Pam Gilbraith |
| Collector's Tray of 3 Mixed Varieties | | |
| Best | Henry E. Huntington', 'Nuccio's Carousel', 'Nicky Crisp' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Runner-up | 'Elegans Chandler', 'Glen 40', 'Debutante' | Phil Rudnick |
| Novice - Large/Very Large blooms | | |
| Best | 'Snow Chan' | Fran Hershkowitz |
| Runner-up | 'Royal Velvet' | Linda Roberts |
| Novice - Small/Medium | | |
| Best | 'Spring Formal' | Dave Dmohowski |
| Runner-up | 'Herme' | Susan Cavanagh |
| Best Novice Bloom in Show | 'Spring Formal' | Dave Dmohowski |
| Floral Design | | |
| "Designer's Choice" | | |
| Best | | Richard Amaya |
| Runner-up | | Libbie Stull |
| "Line Design" | | |
| Best | | George & Karen Harrison |
| Runner-up | | Helen Maas |
| "Oriental Design" | | |
| Best | | Richard Amaya |
| Runner-up | | Harriet Simonsen |

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

"Late Bloomers" Camellia Show

March 8, 2014

Japonica – Large/Very Large

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Best Single | 'Junior Prom' | Carol Stickley |
| Runner-up | 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' | Tom & Libbie Stull |
| Court of Honor | 'Royal Velvet' | Carol Stickley |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Royal Velvet' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Runner-up | 'Katie Var.' | Carol Stickley |
| Court of Honor | 'Mathotiana Supreme' | Don & Marilee Gray |

Japonica – Medium

| | | |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Best Single | 'Elaine's Betty' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Runner-up | 'Ace O' Hearts' | Tom & Libbie Stull |

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Court of Honor | 'Nuccio's Jewel' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Nuccio's Carousel' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Runner-up | 'Ace 'O Hearts' | Jeff Longshaw |
| Court of Honor | 'Herme' | Jeffrey Thurnher |
| Japonica - Miniature/Small | | |
| Best Single | 'Red Hots' | Jane Brady |
| Runner-up | 'Ellen Daniel' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Court of Honor | 'Something Beautiful' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Ellen Daniel' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Runner-up | 'Red Hots' | Jane Brady |
| Court of Honor | 'Man Size' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Reticulata/Reticulata Hybrid | | |
| Best Single | 'Frank Houser' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Runner-up | 'Frank Houser Var.' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Court of Honor | 'Jack Mandarich' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Frank Houser' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Runner-up | 'Frank Houser Var.' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Court of Honor | 'Sir Robert Muldoon' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Non-Reticulata Hybrid | | |
| Best Single | 'Showboat' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Runner-up | 'Julie Var.' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Court of Honor | 'Spring Daze' | Jim & Armida Wilkin |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Lucky Star' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Runner-up | 'Nicky Crisp' | Carol Stickley |
| Court of Honor | 'Night Rider' | Steve & Anne Dashiell |
| Collector's Tray of 3 Mixed Varieties | | |
| Best | 'John Hunt', 'Elaine's Betty', 'Tammia' | Don & Joan Lesmeister |
| Runner-up | 'Elegans Chamagne', 'Silver Chalice', 'Man Size' | Jeffrey Thurnher |
| Court of Honor | 'Royal Velvet', 'Cherries Jubilee', 'Herme' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Novice | | |
| Best Single | 'Herme' | Gary Paradise |
| Runner-up | 'Prima Ballerina' | Roland Spengler |
| Court of Honor | 'Marie Bracey' | Bertha Blackburn |
| Intermediate | | |
| Best Single | 'Kramer's Supreme' | Gary Blackburn |
| Floral Design | | |
| "Designer's Choice" | | |
| Best | | Joey Goldfarb |
| Runner-up | | Beth Stone |
| "Line or Line Mass" | | |
| Best | | Beth Stone |
| Runner-up | | George & Karen Harrison |

“Oriental Design”

Best
Runner-up
Court of Honor

George and Karen Hsarrison
Helen Maas
Helen Maas



Above left: Best “Line or Line Mass” won by Beth Stone
Above right: Runner-up “Designer’s Choice” won by Beth Stone
Below: Best “Designer’s Choice” won by Joey Goldfarb



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DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB & CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Kathleen Hill, 2419 Koehn Court, Atwater 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 – Susan Stull; Secretary – Libbie Stull, 406 Vista Verde Way, Bakersfield 93309. 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. 1:30-4:40, 7th Day Adventist Church, G & 16th Street, Modesto.

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

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Robert Ehrhart; Secretary – Mary Bergamini, 2023 Huntridge Ct., Martinez 94553. Meetings: 1st Monday, November - April, 7:00 pm. 1st Baptist Church, 2336 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. December and May are dinner meetings.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – George Harrison. Meetings: 1st Thursday November - April, 7:00 p.m., Descanso Gardens, La Canada

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Mel Belcher; Secretary – Don Gray, d.mgray@verizon.net. 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 95608. Meetings: 4th Monday, October - March, 7:00 p.m. Lutheran Church of the Master, 1900 Potrero Way, Sacramento.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Dean Turney, buydean@juno.com 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. Meetings: 4th Monday, October - March, Veterans' Memorial Bldg Annex, Madison Street, Redwood City.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC., CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President – John Mendoza; Secretary – Philliopa Alvis, pandjalvis@verizon.net. Meetings 3rd Wednesday, October - April, 7:30 p.m., Jameson Brown House, at Triton Museum Grounds, 1507 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Bradford King; Secretary – Bobbie Belcher, 2531 2nd Street, La Verne 91750, bobbiebelcher@gmail.com. Meetings: 4th Thursday October - April, 7:00 pm., Palm Room, LA County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Meeting is 3rd Thursday in November. No meeting in December.



About hummingbirds . . .

A flash of harmless lightning, A mist of rainbow dyes,
The burnished sunbeams brightening.
From flower to flower he flies.

—John Banister Tabb

The woods hold not such another gem
as the nest of the hummingbird.
The finding of one is an event.

—John Burroughs

Above the flower bed. Over the lawn ...
A flashing dip and it is gone.
And all it lends to the eye is this -
A sunbeam giving the air a kiss.

—Harry Kemp