

The *Camellia*
REVIEW



Front Cover: 'Senritsu Ko'
Photo Credit: Brad King

Inside Cover: '*C. nitidissima*'
Photo Credit: Brad King



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The 2017 Camellia Nomenclature published by the Southern California Camellia Society can be purchased on Amazon for \$20. Visit Amazon.com, click on books and search "2017 Camellia Nomenclature"

An Invitation to Join

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Thoughts From The Editor

Brad King, Editor



The five year drought appears to have been broken by the multiple storms this winter. This helps farmer's crops, fills the reservoirs that have run dry, increases the snowpack in the mountains and leaches the salts in the garden soil. As a child in New England when we had spring rain and had to remain inside we were reminded that "April showers bring May flowers". In southern California we sing "It never rains in California".

Patriot's Day in Massachusetts, Maine and Wisconsin commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord, which were fought near Boston in 1775, the first battles of the American Revolutionary War. Patriot's Day is annually held on the third Monday of April. It should not be confused with Patriot Day, held on September 11 to mark the anniversary of terrorist attacks in the USA in 2001. 'Tama Americana', 'Old Glory' and 'Stars, N Stripes' are the blooms featured in the story "Patriotic Camellias" helping us to celebrate our history. The dramatic action film Patriots Day is a 2016 movie about the 2103 Boston Marathon bombing and

the subsequent terrorist manhunt stars Mark Wahlberg, John Goodman, Kevin Bacon and Michelle Monaghan. This terrorist bombing gave rise to the mantra “Boston Strong”.

Switching gears to camellia history we can note that in the 1940’s camellia shows began to thrive. Bill Woodruff, building on some early publications began the Southern California Camellia Nomenclature in 1945. The stated purpose then and now is “to decrease confusion and settle controversies surrounding the name of new and old cultivars of genus *Camellia*.” The 2017 Camellia Nomenclature is the twenty eighth edition and the official American Camellia Society nomenclature. It can be found on Amazon.com books by inserting the title into the search function. An exciting new electronic version 2017 Southern California Camellia Society Camellia Nomenclature and Picture Gallery: Camellia Nomenclature For Judges and Exhibitors can be downloaded on to your Kindle, iPhone or iPad with 2,500 photographs linked with the descriptions. This is a work in progress as we add new cultivars and new or improved photos. If you have a digital photo not included in this publication or a superior image to the one published, please email it to me at bdk@usc.edu.

As Beth Stone and Richard Buggeln tell us in their article the new Camellia Nomenclature and Picture Gallery is “New and exciting, yes? But did you know that long ago there was another illustrated Camellia reference? In 1949 Robert Park Erdman, along with Albert Fendig, authored the American Camellia Catalog.” This publication had 500 listings of which 120 were beautifully illustrated by Italian-American artist Athos Menaboni. We have included three of his best illustrations in their Camellia Review story for your reading and visual pleasure.

We are always looking for camellia articles and writers to publish. Deadlines for submitting articles to Editor Brad King (bdk@usc.edu) are WINTER: December 1, 2017, SPRING: February 1, 2018, FALL: September 1, 2018.

Patriotic Camellias by Brad King

As I write this piece about patriotic camellias, it is September 11. As a retired psychologist, I don’t believe this was chance. My subconscious was tuned to this historic date before my conscious writing mind caught on to the importance of the date. A few camellia names reflect the indomitable American patriotic spirit. While they were all named before the tragic events of September 11, 2001, they all symbolize the United States of America.

Nuccio's named a single to semidouble medium white flower with a deep rose red to pink tones 'Old Glory' for its wavy petals that resemble an American flag flying. The original Old Glory flag is now a weather-beaten 17- by 10-foot banner that has long been an artifact, second only to Francis Scott Key's Star-Spangled Banner, as a patriotic symbol. It belonged to William Driver, a sea Captain originally from Salem, Massachusetts, who defiantly flew it from his home in Nashville, Tennessee in the midst of the Civil War which made national news. It is the source of the term Old Glory used today to describe the American flag.



'Old Glory'

As we continue with the patriotic theme, the single white flower, striped rose red and at times with a rose red border, brings us to 'Stars 'N Stripes'. It is a *non-reticulata* hybrid that has the ability to thrive in sun and has fall blooming habit just like a *C. sasanqua*. Striped *sasanquas* are rare, so this profuse and showy hybrid makes a welcomed addition to the fall landscape.

"Stars and Stripes" is an American newspaper that reports on matters of interest that affect the United States Armed Forces. While it operates from the Department of Defense, it is editorially separate and protected by the freedom of the press as protected by the First Amendment. It is distributed to the military serving overseas. The patriotic American march "The Stars and Stripes Forever" was

written by John Philip Sousa. In 1987 Congress declared it to be the official National March of the United States of America. It is often conceded to be Sousa's best composition as it arouses patriotic emotions when it is played at concerts, sporting events and especially when played by a military marching band.

One of the better 'Tama-No-Ura' seedlings is 'Tama Americana'. It is the whitest of the nine Tama varieties introduced by Nuccio's. The medium semidouble rose red flower has a wide white border with occasional petaloids. This lovely flower is a tribute to America. The mother or seed parent was 'Tama-No-Ura' which the Nuccio's imported from Japan in 1978. It has a small to medium single red flower with a white border and sets a multitude of seeds. While not all of its seedlings will have a white border, some will inherit this genetic characteristic. The father or pollen parent is unknown for the nine Tama cultivars introduced by the Nuccio's because they let the bees do the pollinating. It is good that eight of the nine of these varieties begins with 'Tama' as it tells us its mother. The exception is 'Merry Christmas' introduced in 1991 before the other varieties were registered in 1993.



'Stars N' Stripes'

In 1921 Lindo introduced a camellia he named 'Uncle Sam' which has a large rose red rose form double flower. Did he name it for one of his Uncles named

Sam or for the iconic American symbol “Uncle Sam”? Uncle Sam--initials U.S. is a common national personification of the United States. According to one legend, it was first used in the War of 1812 named for Samuel Wilson. This Samuel Wilson was born in Arlington, Massachusetts to one of the oldest Boston families. He and his older brother Ebenezer relocated to Troy, New York. The Wilson brothers were among the first pioneer settlers of the community of Troy which was close to the Hudson River and made it an attractive place to resettle. He became a meat packer who supplied barrels of beef to the United States Army during the War of 1812. Wilson (1766-1854) stamped the barrels with “U.S.” for United States, but soldiers began referring to the food as “Uncle Sam’s”. The local newspaper picked up the story and Uncle Sam eventually gained widespread acceptance as the nickname for the U.S. Federal government.

On the other hand, an Uncle Sam is mentioned as early lyrics of the American Revolutionary War. However, it is not clear whether this reference is to Uncle Sam as a metaphor for the United States or to an actual person named Sam. Thus we come full circle as to when is Uncle Sam referring to an actual human being or the national symbol.

The famous poster “Uncle Sam Wants You” was first published as the cover for the July 6, 1916, issue of Leslie’s Weekly with the title “What Are You Doing for Preparedness?” This portrait of “Uncle Sam” was created by James Montgomery Flagg. Over four million copies were printed between 1917 and 1918 as the United States entered World War I.

Today Uncle Sam is an icon for the Government of the United States of America and is an American patriotic symbol. Patriotic songs, phrases and the national flag are all potent symbols of our past, present and future as Americans. “Long Live the United States Of America”.



‘Tama Americana’

Prolonging Camellia Bloom Life

by Don Lesmeister

A few years ago my wife, Joan, and I discussed attending a Camellia Show which was after the Northern California Camellia shows were over and our blooming season had nearly ended. We could successfully keep Camellias in our floral refrigerator for around a week, but this show was well over two weeks away. In order to preserve our blooms, we would have to find something which would extend the blooms at least another week.

In researching various literature and commercial products, we found nothing that was the Silver Bullet. Although, I remembered reading something probably 30 years earlier about using a potassium chemical that was supposed to prolong bloom life, that article was never found. Potassium was remembered because this is what our high school chemistry teacher used in playing pranks on his students. It was a product that became purple when wet and nearly impossible to clean from your clothing, hands, or anything else. At our high school you could readily identify chemistry students by checking the above items. Finally, after additional research, Potassium Permanganate (PP) was determined to be the chemical. The PP can be obtained on EBay for around \$10 for 5 ounces. Being “Seat of the Pants” camellia growers, we can’t scientifically explain how this works, except to say that the PP absorbs the ethylene gas which ages camellia blooms.

Without any guidelines of how to use this PP product, this is the initial experimental procedure I used. First, glue a 1 ounce cup, centered, inside a 5 ounce cup (for stability). Fill the 1 ounce cup 1/3 or so with PP. Next fill the remaining portion of the 1 ounce cup with water. Put nothing in the 5 ounce cup.

NOW, cut your camellia bloom(s) and place in a 4 or 5 ounce plastic cup with your FloraLife (or any preservative) mix. I use twice the amount of recommended FloraLife because camellias are hard tissue plants and in my mind they require more preservative than soft tissue plants. Next place your cupped camellia bloom(s) in the boxes used to transport them. We use sponge and batting for support, with holes cut the size of your 4 or 5 ounce cup. Our transportation boxes hold 6-8 or 10 blooms. Place your PP cup in one of the holes. COVER the transportation box & place in your floral refrigerator. If you do not have a floral refrigerator, you can place your blooms and PP mix DIRECTLY, not in a transportation box, in the vegetable crisper of your regular refrigerator. The temperature of our floral and/or regular refrigerator is set at 41 degrees. If you are serious about showing these camellia blooms, DO NOT open the transporta-

tion boxes or vegetable crisper until you are ready to take to the show. If you are just experimenting it is human nature to sneak a peek periodically. When you are ready to take your blooms to a camellia show or whatever, be sure to remove the PP mix while transporting or for sure you will be identified as a chemistry student from my high school.



In my initial experiment, I used a fresh bloom, a somewhat fresh bloom, and a very old bloom. From the first day to 19 days in the refrigerator, there was no detectable difference in any of the blooms. Changes began to show after 19 days, but only on the two older blooms. The fresh bloom still looked reasonably good after 30 days or so. In retrospect, maybe the PP should have been refilled. OR, perhaps use the dry powder without water.

While we didn't attend the later camellia show that initially prompted our "experiment", we have subsequently used this procedure in the intervening years, with great success. I have provided this information to individuals and at Society meetings and the individuals that have utilized this procedure all are pleased with the results.

We hope all of you that try this procedure find it successful....We know you will be pleased....YCFs

Another Use For Gibberellic Acid

By Don Lesmeister

Each year I try to conduct a project designed to improve our camellia plants and flowers. Some of the project examples are soil mix, fertilizing and pruning. Initially only a few plants are used. If the project works satisfactorily, another dozen or so are annually added until all plants receive the same treatment. Some projects take several years to prove their value.

Of these different projects, those involving gibberellic acid have been difficult to obtain good results. Many projects have been complete disasters. Other camellia growers have faced a similar experience. The only gib experiment that has been a complete success is one of spraying young plants in order to get rapid additional growth. I would like to pass this information to you.

First, the main factor in the use of Gib, for any purpose, is to get the powder to dissolve almost entirely. Use a clear glass while mixing, so you will be able to observe this. Water, ammonia and Gib powder are the ingredients. Gib can be purchased on EBay for less than \$3 per gram, and usually comes with a small scoop for mixing. Twelve and ½ scoops equals one gram. A five gram order is more than adequate for both the spraying project and regular bud gibing for a couple of years. Industrial Ammonium Hydroxide 28% is what is used to dissolve the powder. It can be purchased for less than \$20 a quart and last both you and other Society members for many years. Common grocery store ammonia is considerably less than the 28 percent and requires a lot more. If you use the grocery store ammonia, make sure it is clear ammonia and not sudsy or scented. Alcohol or other chemicals to do the dissolving is not recommended. Tap water seems to work fine. The mix used is very mild compared to the 15,000 ppm + for camellia bud gibing. For spraying, 200 ppm is the concentration used and causes no burn on our hot Central Valley 100 + degree days. Use 2 scoops (about 1/6 gram of powder) Gib, in 800 ml of water & 6-8 drops of 28% ammonia. Stir this mixture. If needed, you can add one additional drop at a time and stir until completely dissolved. A friend who lives on the much cooler California coast has increased the mixture to 400 ppm & is pleased with that concentration.

The plants that work best for me are preferably young, rooted one gallon container plants about the size purchased from Nuccio's or other nurseries. One year grafted plants are OK, IF they are at least 18 inches tall. I move the plants to a 2 gallon container when I purchase them, usually October through January. Leave your older/larger or sick plants for another project.

Now, for your experiment: When the selected plants begin to grow, usually late March or April, wait until the NEW GREEN LEAVES are around $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ open. Spray the GREEN part of the stem & leaves early in the morning with the 200 ppm gib mix. About 4-6 squirts is all that is necessary. You can spray the underside of the leaf with the 200 ppm solution without adverse effects. You do not have to spray the brown older wood. Each growing locality is probably a little different. In the Central Valley of California, I would suggest spraying once about every 2-3 mornings. If the plant shows ANY sign of burn, extend the spraying by another day or move the plant into full shade. Be prepared to stake the plant(s) as necessary. Continue spraying the plant until the green wood begins to harden or turn brown. For most plants this is somewhere in July. Discontinue your spraying at this point. If the plant starts a secondary growth surge, I usually do not spray. This is up to you.

I have found that these plants usually spend most of their efforts in adding new growth, and most do not set buds the first year. The succeeding year, they set buds as they normally would. It is very tempting to spray the older/larger plants as you pass them during your spraying. However my experience has been that most of the older plants also do not set many/any buds where sprayed and those flowers are generally inferior to the normal ones.

My suggestion is that you not use a solid fertilizer on these plants, rather a liquid fish (5-1-1) or other mild liquid fertilizer. Do your fertilizing at $\frac{1}{2}$ recommended strength every other week. This way your plant has constant mild feeding. Your usual watering plan should be fine.

That is it! As a general rule, my experience is that these your young plants will grow at least twice the normal growth rate. Hybrids seem to grow the best. Senritsu-Ko and Ki-No Senritsu grow like weeds. Next would be *Japonicas* and lastly *Reticulatas*. Good luck with your project.

There Are Superior Camellias by Brad King

There are specific camellia plants that are superior to their clones. These are the plants that produce bigger and better flowers than their siblings. They are the ones that regularly win year after year at camellia shows. They may not have superior genes but definitely have been well cared for and have been planted in an ideal location that meets their needs. This is illustrated by five examples that I have observed for a number of years winning camellia show after show.

Joe and Linda Tunner's 'Tama Electra'

'Tama Electra' has a single small to medium brilliant dark red flower with a white border. It grows vigorously, upright on a compact plant that blooms early to mid-season. It inherited the picoteed border from its seed plant 'Tama No Ura'. It is notorious for not regularly having a white border. Some plants, however, are much more reliable. Joe and Linda Tunner have what I call a superior plant. It almost always has many beautiful brilliant red flowers with a pure white border. They have been entering it in the small class for a number of years and regularly winning show points. It is uncommon for single flowers to get to the head table but their little beauty does. For example, it won as best tray of three in the 2015 Pacific Camellia show and runner up as a single in the 2015 Council Camellia Show. In 2016 it was even a bigger winner winning two first places as small and several more times in trays of three and five.



'Tama Electra'



'Prima Ballerina'

Photo by Barbara Carroll

Jim Fitzpatrick and Barbara Carroll's 'Prima Ballerina'

'Prima Ballerina' has a medium to large semidouble white washed flower with orchid pink shading and fluted petals. It blooms mid to late season on a compact plant. Jim and Barbara's plant is the largest and most prolific 'Prima Ballerina' that the Nuccio's have seen. They should know as they introduced it in 1983. Jim reports it bloomed early to late season this year with a total of more than 250 blooms. In 2015 it won Best tray of 3 treated, Best tray of 5; Court of Honor for 3 like blooms and Runner up for a tray of 5 of like blooms. In 2016 in trays of multiple flowers it won 5 times tying for first place with Nuccio's Carousel won by several different entrants. I saw him bring a box full of 'Prima Ballerinas' for every show this season. The volume of quality flowers whether natural or treated makes this an example of a superior camellia.

Don and Marilee Gray's 'Miss Charleston Variegated'

The Gray's 'Miss Charleston Variegated' has been winning show points for more than 30 years at Southern California Camellia Shows. It has won gilded and natural when the flower was entered in the large *Japonica* class. When the size was changed to medium to large it continued its winning ways as a medium. The flower is a deep red semidouble to formal double with a high center. Marilee's flower wins because the ones entered are formal double with uniform white blotches which makes a much more beautiful bloom than when a semidouble or loose peony in form.



'Miss Charleston Variegated'

Don and Marilee are retiring from regularly entering flowers at shows but their 'Miss Charleston Variegated' is burned into our memories. Marilee has been a mentor to many of this generations camellia enthusiasts. Thank You!



'Astronaut' Arrangement

Marvin And Virginia Belcher's 'Astronaut'

'Astronaut' was introduced in 1962 by Select Nursery, Brea California to honor American astronauts. Since this nursery is no longer in business their medium single to semidouble rose pink medium flower is not grown widely. Marvin, a vital 90 year old from Bakersfield, grafted his 'Astronaut' from his friend the late Dr. Richard Stern's whose plant died soon after the graft was made. This graft has grown into a super 'Astronaut'. It has been winning for years because it is a beautiful semidouble with crisp upright petals. In 2014 he and Virginia won 3 times. This placed 'Astronaut' as the third most frequent winner in



'Astronaut'

the medium class. ‘Elaine’s Betty’ and ‘Margaret Davis’ were one and two but these entries were grown by several different growers. In 2015 it continued to win with 2 first place Best as a single and 3 wins in multiple blooms then again it won four first places in 2016. Marvin is the Camellia guru of Kern County and a mentor to many in the Kern County Camellia Society members.

Anne And Steve Dashiell’s ‘Joe Nuccio’

Joe Nuccio was the oldest son of Giulio and Katherine Nuccio. Joe and his younger brother Julius founded Nuccio’s Nurseries in 1935. In 1991 they introduced a non *reticulata* hybrid seedling of ‘Garden Glory’ with a lovely orchid pink flower with incurved petal tips that are a deeper tone of pink. It is a medium formal double that blooms early and may continue to have flowers through the camellia blooming season. The two toned pink colors on a formal double flower with the distinctive attractive incurved petals make ‘Joe Nuccio’



‘Joe Nuccio’

a wonderful addition to a camellia collection. I asked Tom and Jude how did it come about that they named this flower for Jude’s dad. Tom said his father, Julius, persuaded them. Jude recalled that his father really liked this flower. ‘Joe Nuccio’ is a great camellia that commemorates one of the founding fathers of Nuccio’s Nurseries.

The Dashiell’s have a mature ‘Joe Nuccio’ plant that year in and year out produces many wonderful blooms. Consequently, they consistently win show points in the Non *reticulata* class especially in January when this early bloomer is at its best. It wins as a single and in trays of like blooms. The reasons they have a superior plant is the volume of well-formed formal double flowers with incurved petals all decked out in vivid light and dark pink.

A Superior Camellia In The Making

Several years ago my wife, Lynn, and I went to Nuccio’s to purchase two ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ 5 gallon plants. Tom Nuccio and I selected the two “best” plants available. Since one was to be birthday gift for our son, Brad; mom gave the “best” one to him. He planted it next to ‘Frank Houser’ in a small raised bed in the front of his house. This small garden has turned out to be an excellent location for four *reticulata* camellias and three *japonicas*. He has won with both

‘Frank Houser’ and ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ the last several years. Like real estate, location, location, location is a key to growing a superior camellia. When a well rooted plant coupled with good culture has an optimal in-ground location a superior camellia will bloom show winning flowers treated, natural, single, in trays of 3 and 5 like blooms. Since many people grow ‘Frank Houser’ and ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ a variety of people win with these very large red flowers. Therefore, it takes a superior plant to win points which son Brad has been doing. However, he took a new job in New York City. Will the new owners know the beauty they have inherited? Recently ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ is beginning to win more often than ‘Frank Houser’ as the contrasting white markings on red makes a strong impression on judges.



‘Frank Houser Variegated’

Driving Alone To Bakersfield

by Brad King

Driving alone early Saturday morning to the Bakersfield Camellia show listening to the radio, the Rolling Stones song “Far Away Eyes” came on. The lyrics are about the lowness of life and the possibilities of finding love. Driving alone is a peaceful and productive time to reflect. When I returned home I looked up the song on the internet. This is what I found.

Mick Jagger in a 1978 interview with Rolling Stone magazine said, “You know, when you drive through Bakersfield on a Sunday morning or Sunday evening, all the country music radio stations start broadcasting black gospel services live from L.A. But the songs really are about driving alone, listening to the radio.” The Stones incorporated many aspects of Bakersfield style country music into “Far Away Eyes”, for example Ronnie Wood’s use of a pedal steel guitar. I didn’t know there was a “Bakersfield style” of country music. Did You?

Bakersfield Sound

The internet informed me that the Bakersfield sound was developed at honky-tonk bars and on local TV stations in the 1950s and 1960s. The town noted for

oil production and agriculture was the destination for many of the dust bowl migrants from Oklahoma who brought their music with them which resonated with audiences in California's Central Valley. Bakersfield country was a reaction against the slickly produced string orchestra Nashville Sound. Bob Wills "Louisiana Swing" was the first song recorded in the style known today as the legendary "Bakersfield Sound". In the early 1960s, Merle Haggard, Buck Owens and the Buckaroos, among others, brought the Bakersfield sound to mainstream audiences, and it soon became one of the most popular kinds of country music. It influenced later country stars such as Dwight Yoakam, Marty Stuart, Brad Paisley and The Mavericks. Women were also prominent figures in Bakersfield country. Jean Shepard, one of country music's first significant female artists, began her recording career on the West Coast in the 1950s.

Miss Bakersfield

The Miss Bakersfield Pageant is held annually. A teen, Miss and Mrs. are crowned. A bright red camellia was named 'Miss Bakersfield' in 1982 by Ted Alfter of Bakersfield. It has 50 to 60 petals that form a loose peony to full peony flower. This 'Kramer's Supreme' X 'All American' cross first bloomed in 1973. A variegated form was also introduced by Alfter. A beautiful flower honors talented women from Bakersfield.



'Miss Bakersfield'



Novice Bloom Winners

Camellia Society Of Kern County

This camellia society has its annual show at the Bakersfield Racket Club. To me the most impressive part of the show is the novice class which can have more than forty entries.

The flower quality was excellent. The three judges sent twelve blooms to the head table for voting. In 2014 the Best Bloom was 'Toichi Domoto' entered by Gary Johnson. He will get his name placed on the large Silver Revere Bowl which is a great tradition of this Camellia Society. Runner-up was the wonderful variety 'Mathotiana' entered by Lorraine Gonzales.

In addition to the usual classes of camellias, there were three flower arranging classes that give entrants an opportunity to create creative and beautiful camellia arrangements.



43 Novice Bloom Entries

Camellia Species: *C. nitidissima*
Story and Photos by Brad King



While there are forty yellow camellia species, there are only a few available in America. The most popular and widely distributed is *C. nitidissima*. The flower is a small golden yellow single to semidouble. The petals are shiny, thick and highly

textured frequently folding back to form a cup like bloom. The plant grows vigorously upright and open with very large ribbed leaves that are distinctive. It blooms midseason. The flower stem (pedicels) are long. This can be clearly seen on the photo of the seed pods which are dark with a purple hue. The plant is endogenous to southern Guangxi, China and northern Vietnam. It is widely grown for its yellow flowers and distinctive foliage.



C. nitidissima foliage



C. nitidissima seed pods

When *C.nitidissima* was first described in the 1960s it caused great excitement in the camellia world due to its deep yellow pigmentation which can vary in saturation from pale to deep yellow. Hybridizers used it widely in their breeding programs seeking large and more complicated yellow flowers. However it is highly incompatible with most other camellia species. When successful crosses were obtained, seedlings are almost all sterile thus preventing back crossing to enhance color. There are a few dozen pale or light yellow cultivars that are available in specialized camellia nurseries. Four of the best varieties are ‘Ki-No-Senritsu’ (yellow melody), ‘Senritsu-Ko’ (pinkish melody), ‘Ki-No Moto #95’ (basic yellow number 95) and ‘Kogane Nishiki’ (metallic gold brocade).

‘Ki-No-Senritsu’ has a small to medium soft yellow peony to loose peony flower that blooms midseason on an upright open fast growing plant. It is a shy bloomer, at least when young.

‘Senritsu-Ko’ has a small to medium formal double to rose form double light yellow flower with peach pink on the petal edges. It blooms midseason on a moderately fast upright open plant. It will bloom when young and produce many flowers. Depending on microclimate it may open fast looking like a spent rose or stay in a formal double form capable of winning show points because of its beauty.



'Ki-No-Senritsu'



'Senritsu-Ko' rose form

'Ki-No-Moto #95' has a light yellow large semidouble flower borne on a slow upright plant that blooms mid to late season. It gets its large size from its *reticulata* parents and the yellow from *C.nitidissima*. It frequently has a creamy flower shading darker yellow in the center.

'Kogane-Nishiki' has a small single trumpet shaped flower that is pale yellow with slender red stripes inherited from 'Betty Foy Sanders'. It blooms mid to late season on a vigorous upright plant. When established it produces many identical flowers which makes a good entry in trays of like blooms.



'Ki-No-Moto #95'



'Kogane-Nishiki'

What's New At Nuccio's: Rhododendrons

By Anne Dashiell

For those who are tired of the red, white and pink of camellias and long for more orange and yellow in their landscape, Nuccio's has developed a sideline in tropical rhododendrons.

Unlike their better known cousins, the vireya species is native to New Guinea and other tropical locations in the South Pacific. Here in Southern California they can be grown outside in the ground with some protection necessary if frost is expected. Since many of them are epiphytic (growing on another plant but not taking nourishment from it) as well as terrestrial (growing in the ground) in their native habitat, it is obvious that excellent drainage is necessary.

Other than that, their care is similar to that of azaleas; semi-shade, slightly acid soil and good air circulation. Those that caught my eye in early summer included 'Tango Time' with clusters of orange flowers and 'Show Stopper' with shiny red flowers which almost seem to glow against its bright green leaves. Among the yellows are 'Eggnog', a pale yellow with a slight scent, and 'Avalon', a brighter yellow with large flowers. Flowers on 'Dawn Chorus' have a pale yellow center with an apricot pink outer border. Besides the named varieties there are a number of unnamed crosses available. This is a whole new sort of plant for our landscape. Many would make lovely pot plants in a shaded patio, blooming just as the summer season begins.



'Avalon'



'Dawn Chorus'



'Show Stopper'



'Tango Time'



'Eggnog'

High Tea
by Brad King

Queen Elizabeth II born April 26, 1926 at 91 years of age has ruled the United Kingdom for 65 years, the longest ruling female monarch in history. In 2012 she celebrated a Diamond Jubilee. The only other time in British history that a monarch celebrated a Diamond Jubilee was in 1897, when Queen Victoria celebrated hers. People all over the world celebrated Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee.

In America we can celebrate any time of the year by going to high tea. This tradition was brought to America by our British ancestors. Who doesn't love tea, sipping champagne, scones, Devonshire cream, petite pastries, strawberries and

tiny sandwiches with the crust removed? Tea time is an experience to be enjoyed with friends and loved ones. Birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, graduations are memorable when celebrated at tea time. Romance and love are kindled when we partake of high tea. Where are some of the best places in the Pasadena, California area for tea time?



Rose Garden Tea Room at the Huntington

The Huntington Rose Garden Tea Room

The Tea room overlooks three acres of roses, one of the many beautiful gardens at the Huntington Botanical Garden in San Marino. A pot of brewed tea and a basket of freshly baked scones are served at each table. Guests may choose from an array of savory finger sandwiches, imported and domestic cheeses, fresh fruit, chilled seasonal salads, and specialty petite desserts. Best of all, you eat as much and stay as long as you wish. The Huntington is familiar to camellia lovers as the Southern California Camellia Society has an annual camellia show the second week of February which is usually close to Valentine's Day one of the most popular times to celebrate with high tea. Reservations will be required. My adult son celebrated his anniversary there describing it as expensive sandwiches with the crust removed but lauded it also had the best tea he ever drank. When Lynn and I took out of town friends there for tea we all loved the scones with Devonshire cream and choice of several different teas. Our female friend commented on a delicious sandwich she was eating asked "What is it"? When told it was filled with a black olive spread; she put it down, became silent and never touched it again. The loyal husband told us later she "dislikes black olives". One of the best parts about tea is there are choices to please every palate. Our guest went on to enjoy the many dessert petite foresh. The Huntington is located at 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA and the tea room # is (626) 405-2100.

Rose Tree Cottage

Friends went to the Rose Tree Cottage for the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. Another female friend goes often because she enjoys the atmosphere, delicious food and socializing with her women friends. Guests are warmly greeted by Butler Edmond Fry and his lovely wife. They are very attuned to details even anticipating the special needs of a guest in a wheelchair. In fact, all the staff are very pleasant. The atmosphere provides a rich British cultural experience of hospitality of grace and class, leaving guests wanting more. My personal favorite is the roast beef Yorkshire pudding and my wife, Lynn, loves the currant scones. Reservations are required so plan your next celebration in advance. They are located at 801 S Pasadena Ave, Pasadena. Phone:(626) 793-3337.

The "T" House

My wife celebrated her 70th birthday this past year with friends at The "T" House in Montrose. She raved about it and loved the friendly atmosphere. She found the decor reminiscent of "English Garden Style". The owner and staff were amazing-- treating guests like long lost friends spending time visiting and explain the teas and food being served. The Reviews on the internet all praised the warmth of this family owned and run tea room. One wrote "perfect, an ideal destination for a bridal or baby shower, a birthday celebration or simply to treat yourself and people you love." They are located at 2405 Honolulu Ave, Montrose for reservations contact them at (818) 249-6677.



Four Seasons Tea Sandwiches and Dessert

The Four Seasons Tea Room

This lovely spacious home tea room is tucked away at the base of the Southern California foothills in the small charming downtown Sierra Madre just a few miles from my home. They are now in their 20th year of tea service to

Southlanders and British Royals yet I had never had the pleasure; therefore, a reservation was made for my wife and I for a rainy day in January.

We had the choice of twenty-one flavors of black tea, several green teas, decaffeinated tea and even herbal tea. Each person gets to choose and has their own tea pot. The tea pots throughout the tea room were one of a kind. The freshly baked scones served with raspberry jam and clotted cream were scrumptious. The five different sandwiches were delicious. When I saw how small they were, I wondered if I would leave hungry. Far from it... I was so full I thought about skipping dessert but when I saw what was offered I forged ahead disregarding my New Year's Resolution about no desserts. Each of us had a lemon bar, shortbread cookie topped with sugar and a chocolate truffle. Service was attentive and appropriately leisurely in this cozy cottage setting. They are located at 75 North N Baldwin Ave, Sierra Madrid. For reservations call 626 445-0045.

Camellia Art:
Menaboni's Camellia Lithographs
by Richard Buggeln and Beth Stone

Ever since the 1940s, the Southern California Camellia Society has published an encyclopedic reference book of camellias. The 1947 issue included about 600 cultivars. The latest 28th edition has grown to nearly 7000 cultivars. This year, in addition to the now familiar paper book, the SCCS presents the 2017 Camellia Nomenclature and Picture Gallery. This new document is an e-book which also includes about 2300 individual bloom photographs linked to the corresponding text descriptions. New and exciting, yes? But did you know that long ago there was another illustrated Camellia reference? In 1949 Robert Park Erdman, along with Albert Fendig, authored the American Camellia Catalog. This was a multi-volume loose-leaf book set. About 560 cultivars were described in a Nomenclature-like format, but that's not all!

In addition, 120 of these varieties were illustrated with beautiful life-size lithographs by Italian-American artist Athos Menaboni. The lithographs were published in yearly installments from 1949 through 1953 and sold by subscription. Printing was limited to 1000 copies. American Camellia Catalog copies are at twenty-two libraries throughout the United States. A recent on-line search pulled up a 4 volume, 107 lithograph set available for sale with an asking price of nearly \$4,000.

While the initial purpose of the American Camellia Catalog is of historical

significance, today it is mainly remembered for the beautiful lithographs generated under this project. As a total work, they are unsurpassed and individual lithographs are some of the best ever produced. The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society obtained permission to display these beautiful lithographs. Please pay a visit to their web site to see them:

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/American%20Camellia%20Catalog.html

The Troup County Archives, in LaGrange, Georgia, has the largest and most complete Menaboni archive. The American Camellia Catalog, along with each lithograph, can be found there. Athos Menaboni (1895-1990) was born and raised in Italy. His early childhood fostered the knowledge and love of nature. His early aptitude for art was also encouraged, and he was able to study under accomplished artists in painting, murals and sculpture. Menaboni immigrated to the United States in 1921. He lived first in New York and then Tampa before settling in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1939 he and his wife purchased six acres where they built first an aviary and later their home. Menaboni is most well-known for his bird portraits. In 1950 Time magazine declared him the heir of James Audubon (1785-1851), an apt designation given the fact he would eventually paint over

two hundred different species of birds. Menaboni studied and thoughtfully portrayed birds in their natural habitats. He was able to obtain federal and state permits to hold rare and protected species in his aviary.

Unlike other printing techniques of the period, lithography makes use of the repulsion of oil and water. Artwork is drawn on polished limestone or a metal plate with an acid resistant material. The plate is then etched to roughen areas which are not to be printed and the drawing material is removed. To make each print the plate is dampened with water followed by an oil based ink. The ink stays on the smooth areas of



C. japonica 'Frank Gibson', Athos Menaboni. This portrait features a detailed rendering of the variety's characteristic petaloids. Notice how Menaboni uses the leaves, which camellias have in abundance, to frame the white petals setting them off against the white background.

the plate but is repelled by water held in the roughened areas. The ink, now in the pattern of the original drawing, can then be transferred to paper.

The lithographs produced in the American Camellia Catalog are all “hand colored”. At the time, it was actually cheaper to hire students to hand paint each lithograph rather than pay the exorbitant cost of color printing. Painting would be done under the strict supervision of the original artist. The hand coloring of Menaboni’s lithographs was done by students from the University of Georgia.

Paging through the American Camellia Catalog artworks, it is clear that Menaboni was a keen observer of the subtle distinctions between camellia varieties. His camellia artwork is masterfully composed and executed.

Menaboni has left a wonderful legacy to art and camellia enthusiasts alike with his beautiful camellia portraits. (See back cover for Menaboni’s ‘Noble Pearl’)

From The Archives:
History Of The Southern California Camellia Council
By Harold E. Dryden

(Editor’s Note: This article was first published in the November 1975 Camellia Review. Since many people have been asking about the Council and its purpose, this article was chosen to be reprinted).

As with so many things in our lives, the Southern California Camellia Council was an outgrowth of a specific event and not a result of a dream to improve the relations among camellia societies or camellia people. The late Ralph Peer was active in the affairs of the American Camellia Society (ACS). He obtained a com-



C. japonica ‘Iwane’, Athos Menaboni. The ¾ profile is a classic device used in botanical art to convey the most information about form. Menaboni’s composition of Iwane also features a triangular arrangement of leaves which is very pleasing to the eye.

mitment from the Directors of ACS that they would accept an invitation from a responsible group in Southern California to hold their annual meeting in Los Angeles in 1956. ACS had previously met in Sacramento but this would be the first meeting in the southern part of the state.

I was President of the Southern California Camellia Society at the time and my first reaction was how nice it would be for the Southern California Camellia Society to host such a meeting. It was obvious, however, that this would not be proper when there were four active societies in the Los Angeles area--the Los Angeles, Pacific, Southern California and Temple City. (*Editor's note: today there are two --The Pacific Camellia Society and the Southern California Camellia Society*) Furthermore three of these societies held camellia shows which would need to be coordinated with the meeting. It was agreed at a meeting at Ralph Peers Park Hill home that the four societies would host the ACS meeting in the name of the Los Angeles Camellia Council. The council would also sponsor a camellia show held in conjunction with the meeting. The Los Angeles Camellia Council, Inc. was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in the state of California. Ralph Peer was elected as the first President.

The Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood was chosen for the meeting because of its central location and the "magic" of Hollywood. The site for the camellia show was more involved. Ultimately Descanso Gardens was chosen even though there were no covered facilities for a show and no means of financing because there was no entrance fee permitted in a public park. The first problem was met by the decision to place tables outside under the large oak trees. The financial problem was solved by obtaining a grant from Los Angeles County as Descanso Gardens had only recently been acquired by the county. Equally important was the start of outdoor camellia shows at Descanso Gardens. The only regularly scheduled outdoor show in the United States and Southern California's biggest annual show.

The success of the first Descanso Gardens show pointed to the desirability of continuing the Los Angeles Camellia Council as a going concern. The Southern California and Pacific Societies decided not to resume their own shows to give their full attention to the Descanso Gardens show. The Council was in full stride, therefore, to again serve as host to the American Camellia Society annual meeting in 1961 at Disneyland and in 1971 at Pasadena. The Council put on two camellia shows in 1961, one at Disneyland in conjunction with the ACS meeting and the other at Descanso Gardens so that the continuity of the Descanso Garden shows would not be broken.

The next significant step of the council was the inauguration of the early camellia show in December 1965 designed primarily for gibed blooms. The May 1965 issue of the Camellia Review announced the show in order to encourage more people to gib in order to get earlier blooms. The first show was held in the Hospitality House in Descanso Gardens. However, every other year this conflicted with the Christmas Decorations Show put on by the Descanso Garden Guild. Therefore, conflicts were avoided by having the shows at the Los Angeles County Arboretum.

It became evident early in the life of the Camellia Council that an organization of camellia societies could be helpful in coordinating camellia affairs in Southern California without conflicting with the autonomy of the seven individual societies. Training sessions for camellia show judges were sponsored by the Council also of even greater significance were the steps to coordinate camellia show rules and schedules.

Since the Council now included societies from as far away as San Diego the name Los Angeles Council was obviously not appropriate. Therefore, in 1972 the name was changed to Southern California Camellia Council. All of the seven societies designated two of their members to serve on the Board of Directors that administrates the affairs of the Council. Additionally, three at large Directors were elected by the Council directors as well as the Editor of the Camellia Review and current and immediate past show Chairmen of the Descanso and Arboretum (Early) shows were on the board. Each year the new Board selects a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Council solved the financing problem by buying, with the consent of Los Angeles County, the tractors and trams that are used at the gardens for conveying visitors around the gardens. Collections on the trams all made gratis by the riders, go to the Council. The Council pays all expenses of maintenance of the equipment, including replacements when necessary. The funds thus collected pay for the two shows sponsored by the Council at Descanso Gardens and the Los Angeles County Arboretum. In addition, it makes it possible for the Council to pay for items desired by the Superintendent of the gardens that cannot be bought within the county budget.

The experience since the Council formed in 1956 points to the advantages of having an organization that seeks to coordinate and activity that is essentially individualistic. All has not been sweetness and roses during these nineteen years. Despite some differences, the Council has worked for the good of the camellia people in the area it serves.

They Call Me Mellow Yellow... Quite Rightly!



C. nitidissima grows and blooms in our garden at last! Originally planted in August, 2004 and moved in February, 2012, she took the slow and mellow road to blooming!

Whether or not you're mad about Saffron, Fourteen, (or Fontine, we're too young to get into the debate), or the Scottish Band, Donovan, most camelliaphiles we know have gone *CRAZY* for the new yellow camellias from China. The most common and widely grown variety is *Camellia nitidissima*, also known as *Camellia chrysantha* – the golden flower camellia.

This 5-meter-tall plant was first botanically described by Mr. Chin Wen Chi in 1948, but was not located in the wild until the 1960s. This new 'mellow yellow' grower from Yongning, Guangxi Province in southern China and also found in north Vietnam created quite a stir, both in botanical classification circles and the camellia hobby itself.



C. nitidissima blooms next to a logo from the period

Nitidissima flowers are considered medicinal in China and 1 kg of dried flowers goes for about 10,000 yuan (approximately \$1,600 U.S. dollars). The leaves from this plant are also used to decoct tea. The biggest threat to the existence of *C. nitidissima* in the wild is habitat loss and the illegal piracy of seedlings. Yellow camellias of all types are being preserved in the Nanning Botanical Garden, the Liang Feng Jiang Natural Forest Park, the Guilin Botanic Garden, the International Camellia Species Garden and the Kunming Institute of Botany Property.

Nitidissima comes from the Latin derivation, where nitid means ‘lustrous’ or ‘shining’ and issima indicates ‘to a superlative degree’. This botanical name for the species refers to the leaves of the plant. Some botanists split *C. crisantha* and *C. nitidissima* into two species and some call the species synonymous.

Our *C. nitidissima* is about 4 feet tall and lives in the garden area that we call the Cloister (Please see photo at right). There is a wooden fence that surrounds it. The left side receives sun as the sun declines north in the winter and the rear receives western sun all year round, so the plant stays relatively warm.

Donovan was quoted by Rolling Stone Illustrated Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll and told readers that the Mellow Yellow phrase in the song meant ‘being cool’ and ‘laid back.’ We thought Mr. and Mrs.



Goldfarb (*that's Joey and Carolee, man*) from Hollywood, California captured the 60's ‘vibe’ with their 2016 winner in the Camellia Species Category at the Huntington Library and Gardens Show. We hereby choose their entry as our parting shot.


Linda and Joe Tunner
Spring, 2017


PARTING SHOT

Have you spread any *bread* out for this great camellia plant? Share your *groovy* stories with our *hip* group at bdk@usc.edu



Camellia Reticulata NOBLE PEARL

HAND COLORED

Copyright 1952 by American Camellia Catalog

Lithographed in the U. S. A. by Foto & Davis, Inc., Atlanta

C. reticulata 'Noble Pearl', Athos Menaboni
This stunning "oriental red" semi-double bloom rests gently on a graceful spray of leaves.