

The *Camellia*
REVIEW



Front Cover: 'Nuccio's Cameo' *C. japonica*
Photo Credit: Bradford King

Inside Cover: 'Moonrise' *C. japonica*
Photo Credit: Bradford King



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Thoughts From The Editor Bradford King , Editor

This winter we were blessed with rain in California which will benefit the trees, shrubs and flowers in spring. Spring is the time to fertilize and prune camellias.



Camellias are fertilized when they begin to “flush out” --that is to grow new foliage. In general, this is in late March and April depending on the cultivars and microclimate. The easiest way to fertilize is to use a granular fertilizer prepared for acid loving plants. Frequently the bag will be labeled for Aza-

leas and Camellias. A tried and true fertilizer that works well is cottonseed meal. It won't burn camellias. Its only draw back is that it contains no iron. If needed iron can be added separately. Miracle grow for acid loving plant may be used as a soil drench or sprayed on camellias. It has a high level of nitrogen so it can burn foliage. Three applications or less in spring helps camellias grow and improves leaf color. It contains iron and other essentials in small quantities. After two or three biweekly applications it should be discontinued and followed up with cottonseed meal every 45 to 60 days until late summer. Some growers use fish emulsion as the

first application of fertilizer in spring. It works well too but has a fishy smell that attracts cats and offends some people. One highly popular show flower fertilizer strategy is one-part iron, one -part blood meal and 4 or 5 parts cottonseed meal. This also works well before our weather gets hot (90 and above) when the blood meal should be discontinued as it is high in nitrogen.

Pruning camellias may be done any time of the year but most experts recommend spring pruning as best. Removal of dead branches is essential. Shaping the plant for beauty or cutting it back off paths and away from windows is highly recommended. This may be all that is required. Some show camellia gardens prune their camellias extensively to get the best blooms possible. This reduces foliage and branches resulting in less blooms but better flowers. A well pruned camellia is open in the middle such that birds can fly through the branches. Camellia hedges need to be pruned after they bloom and well before buds set or there will be no flowers the next season. A sun camellia hedge like 'Kanjiro' should be pruned in March for best results.

The Camellia Review is published three times a year with three feature articles and four departments (What's New, Camellia Species, Higo Treasures and Paring Shot) with quality photographs of beautiful camellias in each issue. We are looking for authors and topics for this publication. Please contact the editor at bdk@usc.edu.

A Story About Hope by Bradford King

In the spring gardeners hope for spring rain "to bring May flowers." Camellia lovers say good bye to the late blooming cultivars and relish in the flush of new green foliage. During the summer we hope that multiple buds emerge. The long warm days of summer trigger the growth of buds, which as we see them develop brings hope for wonderful camellias flowers. In the fall the sun camellias bloom heralding the camellia season and we observe the development of the camellia fruit. To those who collect these pods to propagate the seeds inside hopes soar--will we get a new



'Dolores Hope'

and beautiful camellia. In winter our hopes become reality, as beautiful camellias flowers emerge. We hope some are good enough to enter a camellia show.

The camellias bearing the name hope are named for Bob and Dolores Hope. The famous comedian, Bob Hope, is most well-known for his trips entertaining American troops. These performances began during World War II and later to the wars in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. These shows, many televised to the American public, became his signature shows as they brought laughter and hope during the most difficult of times when America was at war. Bob was also known during the 1940s and 1950s for his work in radio, film and television where he acted, sang and danced but is most remembered as a comedian. When the super star years ended in the 60s, Bob Hope continued guest appearances into the 1990s. In May 2003 he celebrated his 100th birthday with a typical wisecrack: "I'm so old they've canceled my blood type". He died a few months later in July. Bob Hope was born in Eltham, England May 29, 1903 and named Leslie Townes Hope. He was the fifth of seven sons born to an English father and a Welsh mother. When he was 4 years old his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio where he was raised. Years later Bob jokingly said, "I left England at the age of four when I found out I couldn't be King". In 1934 he married Dolores Reade. They adopted four children: Anthony, Linda, Honora (Nora), and William Kelly.

'Bob Hope' the camellia is an international favorite like its namesake. It has a deep brilliant black red camellia flower with purple-black markings on its buds and irregular petals. It was introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena California in 1972. It first bloomed in 1969 from a nine-year-old seedling. It has a large to very large flower that blooms from mid to late season. The plant is upright and dense with a medium growth rate. The foliage is dark green making this *japonica* a great landscape plant. The dark red marbled white flower of its variegated form is striking. Joe and Julius Nuccio, the founders of Nuccio's Nurseries, named this flower 'Bob Hope' upon the recommendation of Ralph Peer a friend of Bob and Dolores Hope. Ralph Peer is well known in the camellia world for importing the Yunnan *reticulata* camellias to America in 1948 and in Hollywood as the founder of the Peer Music Company. He named a very large light rose pink flower with orchid veins and some white central petals 'Dolores Hope'. It is a *reticulata japonica* hybrid introduced in 1971. Dolores Hope was well known to the Nuccio's as she visited the Nursery several times as a customer.

We end as Bob Hope did "Thanks for the memories".



'Bob Hope'



'Bob Hope Var.'

Camellias and Azaleas are Great Companions
by Bradford King



Azaleas at Nuccio's Nursery

Pairing camellias and azaleas in the landscape makes a wonderful combination. The camellias are placed in the back and the azaleas in the foreground. One of the best landscaping designs is to use three tiers - trees, camellias and azaleas. However, creative variations could include upright tall camellias, bushy midsized camellias and then the azaleas. Clustering in groups of three, five and seven is a

traditional design that looks better than even numbers.

Red and white

One of my friends landscaped the front of his new home with a red and white combination. In the back row against the house he planted five 'Grand Marshall' *C. japonicas* which has a medium rich deep red anemone flower with handsome foliage. It grows vigorously upright and blooms in midseason. A great choice as he loves the Pasadena rose parade and looks forward every year to hear who has been chosen the Grand Marshall. In the middle row he chose 'Nuccio's Gem' which has a beautiful medium to large formal double flower that blooms early to midseason. The three bushy and upright shrubs were staggered with the 'Grand Marshall'. The foreground was filled with 'Red Bird' azaleas. The flower is a large ruffled hose in hose brilliant red that blooms from fall into spring.



'Grand Marshall'



'Nuccio's Gem'

Mixed colors

Camellias and azaleas have a wonderful range of colorful flowers. Mixing your favorite camellias and azaleas on a garden path or as a foundation planting works well. I inherited the following example when I moved to Arcadia, California in 1985 that has continued to thrive and bloom very year. Planted in the shade of the house was 'Debutante' which has a medium full peony flower; 'Kramer's Supreme' which has a large red peony flower and 'Alba Supra' which has a medium white semidouble flower. The pink, red and white colors bloom from early winter into March led by 'Debutante' followed by 'Kramer's Supreme' and 'Alba Supra' in midseason. These are classic camellias used to landscape new homes in the 1950s and 60s. 'Debutante' and 'Kramer's Supreme' have continued their

popularity but 'Alba Supra' has been supplanted by better white blooming camellias such as 'Silver Waves', 'Snow Man' and 'Nuccio's Gem' to name a few beautiful newer white camellias.

The azaleas are planted in the foreground next to a pea stone pathway. They include 'Rose Queen' which has a rose red flower; 'Red Bird' which has a ruffled red flower; and 'Iveryana' which has a variegated lavender pink flower with white edges. The azaleas bloom later than the camellias with a few scattered flowers still appearing as late as June.



'Debutante'



'Kramer's Supreme'

Designs in full sun

Azaleas are very versatile plants that grow in pots, espalier, hedges and specimens but look best in groups or drifts. Pairing camellia *sasanqua* and other sun tolerant camellias with Southern Indian Azaleas the "Sun azalea" can make a great floral display. There are many sun camellias with a range of colors to choose from. One of the very best is 'Kanjiro' which grows vigorously in an upright manner. The small to medium rose pink flower shades to rose red on the petal edges of the semidouble flower. It can be used as a specimen, hedge, espalier or planted in groups to grow free form. White Southern Indian Azaleas such as 'Fiedler's White' and 'G.G. Gerbing' have large single flowers that would make a good pairing with 'Kanjiro'. My pick would be the large single lavender pink flower with white edges and a purple throat of 'George Taber'. However, there are red, salmon, lavender and purple flowering Southern Indian Azaleas that could be chosen to group in front of 'Kanjiro'.



'Kanjiro' bush in bloom



'George Taber'

Plant for a Long Blooming Season

Buddy Lee in Alabama bred Encore hybrid azaleas that start blooming in spring and keep going through winter. In Southern California they can be found at Home Depot. They are compact small to dwarf plants that will require afternoon shade in Zone 10 (the LA Arboretum area in Arcadia). Most of the 19 Encore "Autumn series" will thrive when fertilized, pruned and watered in Southern California.

These varieties will make a great long blooming border in front of camellias. By choosing camellia species and cultivars that bloom at different times you can get blooms from September into March. Early fall blooming *C. sasanquas* like 'Hugh Evans,' a profuse blooming pink single; or the low growing 'Showa no sakae' with a soft pink peony flower and 'Dazzler' with a brilliant rose red bloom thrive in full sun but will appreciate shade in the afternoon.

There are many *C. sasanqua* that will bloom next. Good examples are 'Double Rainbow' which has a white flower with rose border; 'Jean May' with a light pink double flower and 'White Doves,' which is low growing with a white semidouble flower. Later blooming *C. sasanquas* like 'Bert Jones' with its musky fragrant large silver pink bloom; 'Interlude' with its light orchid pink formal double flower and 'Painted Desert' which has a large single pale pink bloom with a rose border or *C. heimalis* 'Egao' with its pink flowers will carry the blooming season to early winter.



'Hugh Evans'



'Painted Desert'



'Interlude'



'Egao'

Extend the Blooming Season

The many *C. japonica* cultivars will need dappled sunlight (50 percent) shade. They bloom in the winter when there are no other flowering trees or shrubs. There are literally hundreds of choices. Let's illustrate by choosing red camellia cultivars. One of the earliest bloomers is 'Daikagura' which has a medium to large peony flower splotted with white. My choice for an early blooming red camellia is 'San Dimas' which has a large wavy semidouble flower. Midseason cultivars will bloom next. 'Cherries Jubilee' with burgundy red flowers and red and white petaloids is a good example. Others include 'Firedance' which has a medium tubular semidouble flower; 'Grand Prix' which has a very large brilliant red semidouble flower; 'Grand Slam' which has a large dark red flower with a semi double to peony form; and 'Giulio Nuccio' which has a coral rose large to very large

semidouble flower with occasional petals that stand up like rabbit ears.

The cultivars that bloom mid to late season will continue to provide wonderful flowers as winter progresses. A reliable older red cultivar is 'C.M Hovey' also known as 'Col. Firey' because of its dark red medium formal double flower. The large to very large dark red irregular semidouble bloom of 'Bob Hope' also is a good choice. Many of us love 'Black Magic' for its very dark glossy red medium semidouble to peony formed bloom and holly like foliage. However, as outstanding as the flower can be when it opens it is noted for bull nosing and dropping off before opening.



'Black Magic'

Late blooming cultivars continue the blooming season. Three favorites are 'Cabernet' with its small rich burgundy formal double flower; 'Candy Apple' which has a dark red medium to large semidouble to loose peony flower and 'Maroon and Gold' which has a small loose peony maroon flower with golden stamens. 'Glen 40' blooms in Arcadia, California through March with occasional flowers in June with its rose form medium to large deep red flower.



'Daikagura'



'Guilio Nuccio'



'Glen 40'

C. Reticulata cultivars usually bloom mid to late season. Three wonderful mid to late blooming hybrid cultivars that will help extend the blooming season are 'Barbara Goff', 'Ruta Hagmann' and 'Valley Knudsen'. 'Barbara Goff' has a very large beautiful soft pink flower that has a complex semidouble to rose form double. 'Ruta Hagmann' has a wonderful very large light coral pink peony flower, 'Valley Knudsen' has a lovely large semidouble to loose peony deep orchid pink bloom. One of the best late season bloomers is 'Harold L. Paige'. The rose form very large bright red flower is one of the last camellias to bloom.



'Barbara Goff'



'Ruta Hagmann'

The Summer Blooming Camellias

There is only one camellia that blooms in the summer. It is a *C. azalea* a species from China that blooms all year long in China. It will have some flowers in Southern California from March through December. It peaks in the hot summer months of July and August and has a smaller flush of flowers again in October. *C. azalea* has attractive buds and very smooth foliage.



C. azalea in bloom



C. azalea showing new growth and bloom in late December



C. azalea with bud, flower and leaves

In China *C. azalea* is grown in full sun but in America it is grown like a *C. japonica* in partial sun. Therefore, if you want summer camellia flowers plant this cultivar as a specimen or in groups behind azaleas. It has a flower that reminds us of an azalea hence the name.

The Devil Made Me Do It

By Bradford King

In the book of Genesis Adam blames the serpent for his taking a bite of the poison apple that God had forbidden him from eating. The serpent is a symbol of the devil. Adam is rationalizing his behavior. A rationalization is a plausible reason for one's action that protects self-esteem but is an excuse for unwarranted behavior.

The *C. japonica* 'Red Devil' has a small to medium red semidouble flower. It blooms mid to late season on an upright bushy plant. It is not listed in Nuccio's catalogue but is available for purchase. Therefore, it is grown mainly in Southern California where it competes well in trays of like blooms in camellia shows.



5 winning blooms of 'Red Devil'

Bright attractive red camellia flowers when variegated make striking blooms. Therefore, nurseries and hobbyists seek to introduce variegation by grafting them

on virus root stock. Will the virus make wonderful white blotches or just produce a few white markings that ruin a red flower? ‘Grand Slam,’ ‘Grand Prix’ and ‘Wildfire’ seem resistant and don’t variegate well. However, ‘Adolphe Audusson,’ ‘Guilio Nuccio,’ ‘Firedance,’ and ‘Royal Velvet’ have outstanding variegation. Will ‘Adolphe Audusson Variegated,’ ‘Guilio Nuccio Variegated’ or ‘Shibori Egao’ rootstock produce the best variegation? Is one better than the other for variegating a specific cultivar? Is there a chance for the highly valued moiré type variegation? What would work with ‘Red Devil’?

Finally, after several years seeking to variegate ‘Red Devil’ it seems to be successful. I used ‘Adolphe Audusson Variegated’ as rootstock. What do you think of the results?



‘Red Devil Variegated’



Moiré variegated ‘Red Devil’

Can the wonderful new cultivar ‘Julius Nuccio’ become variegated? Tom Nuccio recently said results so far have been disappointing. However, while wandering the nurseries look what I spotted. (Photo on opposite page) This was produced on a ‘Guilio Nuccio’ rootstock, and according to Tom who reported it, the best so far. Will the variegation improve and be constant so that Nuccio’s will propagate it for us?

Gary Schanz used ‘Shibori Egao’ rootstock to produce a beautiful ‘Lucky Star Variegated’ which he shared with Nuccio’s Nurseries. It is another beauty that Nuccio’s is propagating for distribution.



'Julius Nuccio Variegated'



'Lucky Star Variegated'

Field Trip by Bradford King

On Saturday March 9, 2019 the Southern California Camellia Society had a field trip to Joey and Carolee Goldfarb's home in Laurel Canyon, Hollywood.

Coffee, tea and refreshments were served by our hosts. The three-acre garden is planted with many camellias growing under mature trees many dating to 1920s. In the 1980s camellias were dug and transplanted from Ralph Peers Park Hill estate before it was sold. While many of the camellias are identified some have not been identified when labels were lost.



Joey and Carolee Goldfarb

We were pleased to see so many camellias still in bloom. 'Hishi Karaito' and 'Happy Holidays' are just two of the many camellias in bloom. *C. nitidissima* took seven years to produce its first flower but now blooms regularly. Joey has won consistently with it in the species or yellow camellia show classes. It was a treat to see a duo of its flowers.



'Hishi Karaito'



C. nitidissima



'Happy Holidays'

The view of Los Angeles from the property through camellias, plants and a statue were impressive. It is so LA to see palm trees and camellias growing side by side. A good time was had by all as can be seen in the group photo.



View of Los Angeles



SCCS Group Outing

What's New In The Southern California Camellia World

by Bradford King

NUCCIO'S NURSERIES

In early January Tom Nuccio called to tell me the Nursery had decided to introduce another new camellia in 2019. This *C. japonica* cultivar has a single medium flower with many stripes with a shape like 'Haru no utena'. It is very colorful, so they named it Kaleidoscope. Tom said it is a name that should have been used years ago. He was pleased to be able to use the name on this beautifully striped flower.



'Kaleidoscope'



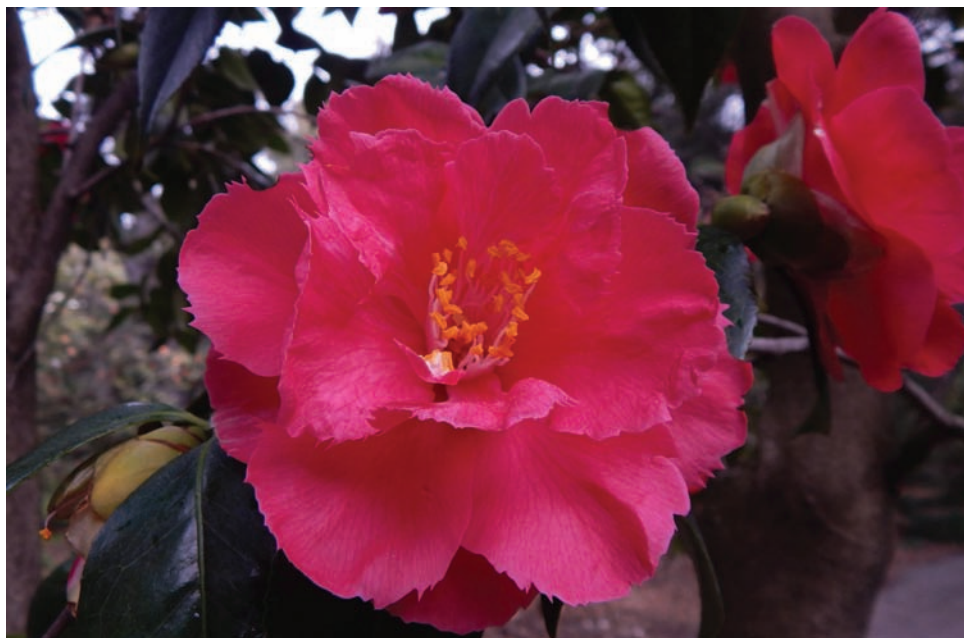
Tom Nuccio with 'Tenrinji Gakko'

Tom Nuccio is one of the most popular speakers at Camellia Society meetings because he is enthusiastic, informative and generous. We always learn something new when he presents. At the January Southern California Camellia Society meeting he showed us a miniature red flower with white anthers and stamens from Japan called 'Tenrinji Gakko' which we had never seen. The name means "Moon Light on Tenrin Temple." It has a miniature single tubular flower. The one he showed us had white anthers and stamens. According to *Camellias of Japan* it is a wabisuke formed single dark red flower introduced in 1970 by Goichi Endo. They report it was a mutated *japonica* connected in the root system of normal wild camellias growing in Tenrin Temple in Maysu'e City. According to an internet post the Tenrin-ji Temple was founded in 1639. It is particularly well known for its view of Lake Shinji and for beautiful views of Matsue.

DESCANSO GARDENS

This year walking in Descanso there is a new and improved look. The camellia pathway has many new camellias planted and mulched. These new cultivars are protected by wire cages so the deer will not eat the leaves. The resident deer think of foliage the way humans think of a salad bar—they load up. Pruning old camellias and mulching has improved many areas of the garden. This is illustrated in the Hester section which has been used for a TV location site. The good news is it looks clean and neat as brush was removed. The down side is that several older camellias seemed to have been removed. I couldn't find 'Cark Hubbs', Nuccio's 'Maroon and Gold' and several Howard Asper's *C. reticulata* hybrids.

On a walk in January an old cultivar 'Rainy Sun' was impressive. It was introduced by Edward Avery McIlhenny, the son of Edmund McIlhenny who invented tabasco sauce. Edward created a 170-acre botanical garden and bird sanctuary called Jungle Gardens on Avery Island. Azaleas, papyrus, camellias and other exotic botanical treasures were planted. In the early 1900s he moved mature camellia trees from local towns and plantations to Avery Island to serve as central features of the camellia collection.



'Rainy Sun'

From 1929 through 1938 Edward imported thousands of camellias from nurseries in England, Germany, Holland, France and Japan. The importations from



'Han-Ling Snow'

Europe were the best *japonica* cultivars that could be located. Edward also grew thousands of camellia seedlings every year for forty years enabling him to introduce many new cultivars most of which are no longer frequently seen or propagated. Therefore, it is a treat to see several of his 'Rainy Sun' at Descanso in full bloom.

THE LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM

The Arboretum was the site for a Southern California Camellia Society camellia show. The most impressive winner was 'Han Ling Snow' a very large white camellia entered by Carol Stickley. This cultivar is a mutation from 'Chow's Han Ling' which sported from 'Carter's Sunburst'.

Marvin Belcher continues to bring winning flowers to shows at 93 years old. He was assisted by his wife Virginia and rooted on by his twin brother Mel and his wife Bobbie who edited the *Camellia Review* for many years.



Virginia, Marvin, Mel and Bobbie Belcher

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Huntington planted several new camellia plants the last few years at the east entrance adjacent to the conservatory. One that bloomed this year was 'Tinsie Grande' which has a medium dark red anemone flower.



'Tinsie Grande'



'Margarete Hertrich'

In addition they planted several new plants of camellias already in the collection. This is illustrated by 'Margarete Hertrich' and 'Richard Nixon'. 'Margarete Hertrich' was introduced in 1944 by The Huntington and named for William Hertich's wife. He was Superintendent of the Gardens and responsible for building the camellia collection.



'Richard Nixon'

For many years there was one good specimen of 'Richard Nixon' in the North Vista. Today at least two young plants are in other areas of the garden which helps fill out the camellia collection and ensures that visitors get to see this large white anemone flower with pink stripes. It was introduced in 1954 when Richard Nixon was serving as Vice President. He served eight years as VP during Dwight Eisenhower's Presidency before becoming president in 1969. He resigned in 1974, the only US President to do so.

Camellia Species: *C. tsaii*

by Bradford King



C. tsaii

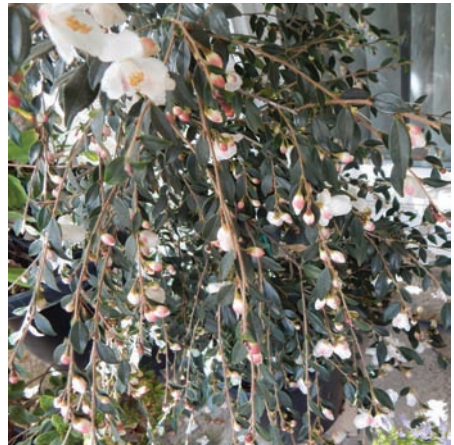
This species is native to Southern Yunnan, China and Vietnam and Burma. It grows reasonably fast reaching 26 feet in height. The slender, wavy foliage is attractive. It has miniature single white fragrant flower that blooms midseason. The name is pronounced “sigh” --the T is silent.

It has been hybridized with *C. japonica* to produce cluster blooming cultivars. The one propagated by Nuccio’s Nurseries is ‘Elena Cascade’. It grows pendulously with clusters of single miniature flowers.

The bud has a touch of rose red which looks good as they cluster up and down the slender weeping branches. I grow it on a shaded patio in a pot where it looks good among philodendrons and potted begonias. The profusion of flowers on cascading branches provides winter color. People are frequently unaware it is a camellia because of this growth habit.



‘Elena Cascade’



‘Elena Cascade’ plant in bloom

The Higo Treasures From Japan: ‘Hi-No Maru’
by Bradford King



‘Hi-No-Maru’

It is believed that the first Higo camellias were created by crossing a *C. japonica* cultivar with the subspecies of *japonica* known as *C. rusticana*. It is unknown when or which varieties were used. Until the middle of the 19th century only priests and the Samurais under order from their masters were permitted to grow Higo camellias. Only nobles and the highest classes were permitted to possess them. After the middle of the 19th century the government system in Japan was changed which reduced the number of nobles and military. Therefore, the Samurais lost their masters and their wealth. The old customs and culture changed including abandoning camellia collections. The interest in camellias diminished in the Kumamoto region which was the new name for the area previously called Higo.

Fortunately, in 1958 the Higo Camellia society was created to propagate higo camellias and promulgate their heritage. In 1974 the city of Kumamoto voted to have the Higo Camellia be its symbol. The national flag of Japan is a white rectangle with a crimson disk in the center officially called Nisshok (“the sun mark flag”) but commonly known as Hi no maru (“circle of the sun”)

The higo ‘Hi-no-maru’ (National flag of Japan) has a deep dark red flower with wavy petals, red filaments and yellow anthers. It has 120 to 150 stamens. Many rate this the best red higo.

From the Archives: Flower Arranging Is An Art Form by Margaret Ingram

(Editor's Note: Most gardeners pick flowers to exhibit in their homes. A few will take lessons or go to a demonstration of flower arranging. Some will enter arrangements in camellia shows. Therefore, when we found this interesting and informative article in the 1984 Spring issue of the Camellia Review we decided to share it with you. Enjoy!)

Flower arranging is an art form-- there are no hard and fast rules. We are all artists. Those of us who love flowers appreciate color, form, line, light, dark and texture. Flower arranging, like photography makes one really look at things. Plants formerly considered obnoxious weeds when dried become beautiful. The mechanics of flower arranging are as necessary as in any art form. Let's consider some of them.

Container: We need containers when using fresh flowers that require water. They need to be large enough to contain enough water to keep the flowers fresh. They don't need to be expensive or complicated. Simple bottles such as salad dressing bottles and those normally thrown out may be used when they have a pleasing shape.

Cups to hold water can be as simple as an empty tuna can sprayed with dull black paint and concealed in arrangements of drift wood or rocks. They are good inside baskets that can't hold water.

Stands under an arrangement help tie parts together and provide the arrangement with unity. These can be a slab of wood, a mat, slate or a piece of structured glass.

Flower Holders: The most useful are the "pin frogs". Plants such as ferns and evergreens can be temporary holders when packed in firmly. These are hard to keep the water fresh and will need the water changed every few days.

Bowls: Ceramic bowls, especially stoneware in soft color—gray greens, earth tones, browns are good. They are practical as they do not rust or discolor. Avoid bowls that are too brightly colored or highly decorated, if you want people to look at the flowers and not the vase.

Flower keeping compounds: “Floralife” or similar products mixed in the water will hold an arrangement fresh for several extra days. Sugar in the water works, too.

Principles of flower arranging (ideas that help):

1. Keep it simple.
2. Put like materials together rather than scattering them all around the arrangement.
3. Have a focal point of interest. This limits the eye from wandering all over the arrangement. When you feature something, let it be dramatized.
4. Don't crowd elements-- keep open in such a manner that a butterfly could fly through.
5. Place plant materials as they grow naturally. Don't push or place elements in unnatural or odd angles.
6. Think of opposition or contrast. Soft petals, hard leaves; fine foliage, large leaves; round leaves, narrow leaves. When using variegated foliage, use only one variety in order to avoid looking too busy.



Ikebana arrangement

Parting Shot: Bev Piet

by Bradford King

Bev and Meyer Piet raised their family in Arcadia, California. This is also where Meyer Piet and Lee Gaeta hybridized and grew hundreds of camellias from 1970 until 1995. They introduced 37 camellias—12 *japonica*, 9 *Non-reticulata* and 16 *reticulata*. Many of their introductions were named for family and friends. For example, they named a *C. reticulata* for one son and a hybrid for the other. ‘Larry Piet’ has a large to very large *C. reticulata* formal double to peony form flower. ‘Phil Piet’ has a large pink and white semidouble. They named camellia *reticulata* hybrids for their wives. ‘Emma Gaeta’ is a rose red bloom which is especially beautiful in its variegated form. It is named after Lee’s wife. They also named a very dark red medium bloom for Meyer’s wife--‘Bev Piet’. It is a striking flower when variegated as the white patches contrast beautifully with the dark red petals.



‘Bev Piet’



‘Bev Piet Variegated’

In 2008 Konrad Hooper registered ‘Bev Piet Smile’ for Meyer Piet who had passed away. Konrad visited and befriended Meyer when he visited his garden several years prior. Konrad returned home with scions one of which one was *C. japonica* ‘Bev Piet Smiles’. The beautiful flower is a medium to large peony dark red and white with yellow anthers. It is the last introduction of Piet and Gaeta’s breeding program. Bob Ehrhardt and I visited Bev in her home and toured the garden which featured Meyer’s introductions and fifty full grown unnamed seedlings. After Bev sold the property and moved to San Diego to be near family, the new owners removed all the camellias. While Bev Piet recently passed away, we remember her fondly especially her warm smile which inspired Meyer to name this outstanding camellia for his lovely wife.



'Bev Piet Smiles'



Bev Piet with 'Bev Piet Var' in front of the family home





'Egao' Photo by Bradford King



C. japonica 'Tata' Photo by Bradford King