THE CONNECTION REVIEW



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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS SEASON

By Bradford King

The 2020 Camellia show season highlighted large gibed camellias in the early shows and multiple flowers in trays of five and camellia floral arranging at later ones. The Southern California Council Show has a fragrant class and a Higo class which adds to the fun. This is topped by voting for the "Best of Show". In 2020 the "Lewis Cup' which is the perpetual awarded to best of show



was won by Marvin and Virginia Belcher. While they have won many prizes times over the last 40 years this was their first-time winning best of show. They won with a beautiful formal double 'Senritsu Ko'. Marvin is 94 and the

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David MacLaren • dmaclaren@huntington.com Michael Nealon • mikenealon@icloud.com Susan Stull • susan.stull@icloud.com camellia mentor for growers in Bakersfield California. Enjoy the photo of the devoted couple and their winning bloom.

Since Higo camellias have a single, flat irregular flower they rarely win as a Japonica even with their mass of stamens This is why a Higo class has become a tradition at the Council show. A dozen blooms were entered representing eight varieties. Visitors enjoyed a hundred beautiful camellias on the Nuccio nurseries exhibition table especially fragrant cultivars and Higo camellias.

SPRING CARE OF CAMELLIAS

After camellias break dormancy and produce new foliage, is the best time to fertilize. Cottonseed meal is an excellent organic fertilizer and granular fertilizers for acid loving plants are also good as they also include iron and mineral appreciated by camellias and azaleas.

Since we have received very little rain this year, it is a necessity to water camellias even established trees at least once a week and more when the weather heats up or the soil becomes dried out by wind.

Spring is also the best time to prune camellias. While camellias require little pruning, it is best to remove dead branches and those that are deformed or cross into the center of the plant. If a camellia intrudes on a pathway or is overgrowing windows; cut it to the size and shape that pleases you.



HIGO CLASS



'BELLA JINHUA'



'EGAO'



2020 CALIFORNIA WINNERS

THE BEST OF 2020

BY DON BERGAMINI

This has been a very interesting show season. We had heat during the day and very cold nights. The camellias did not seem to know what to do - stay as a bud or open. This made for some interesting cultivars showing up at the shows. The shows seemed to have fewer blooms but very nice bloom were on the show tables.

Carter's Sunburst led the Japonica large/very large class with 6 wins, fol lowed by Elegans Splendor, Julius Nuccio, and Royal Velvet with 4 each. The Japonica mediun class was led by Bella Jinhua and Fire Dance Var with 3

wins each. Tama Peacock took the Small class with 7 wins and Sue Kendall Var. took the Mini class with 4 wins. Frank Houser dominated the Reticulata class with 10 wins and Island Sunset topped the Non-Reticulata class with 6 wins.

In the multiple classes, Tama Peacock took the lead with 8 wins fol-



'TAMA PEACOCK'

lowed by Margaret Davis and Frank Houser with 5 wins each.

Remember that the varieties had to win either a best or a runner-up in order to make the list. These represent the 13 shows that took place in California in 2020.

Stay safe and healthy and take care of your camellias for a great season next year.





'FRANK HOUSER'

'ISLAND SUNSET'



SINGLES	Tama Bambino 2 4 others with 1 each	Prima Ballerina
JAPONICA LG/VLG	RETICULATA & RETICULATA HYBRID	Showtime
Carter's Sunburst 6 Elegans Splendor 4 Julius Nuccio 4 Royal Velvet 4 Ferris Wheel 2	Frank Houser	SMALL & MINIATURE (ALL SPECIES) Tama Peacock
Junior Prom	Harold Paige	Pink Perfection 5 Maroon and Gold 4 Crimson Candles 3 Freedom Bell 3
JAPONICA MED.	NON-RETICULATA HYBRIDS	Koto-No-Kaori
Bella Jinhua	Island Sunset	Spring Festival 3 Takanini 3 Grape Soda 2 Hishi-Karaito 2 Kewpie Doll 2 Ki-No-Joman 2 Man Size 2 Red Devil 2
19 others with 1 each	SPECIES 2	Tama No Ura
SMALL (ALL SPECIES) Tama Peacock	Egao	RETICULATA & RETICULATA HYBRIDS Frank Houser
Something Beautiful3 Demi-Tasse2 Hishi-Karaito2	MULTIPLES JAPONICAS	Valentine Day
Maroon and Gold	Margaret Davis	NON-RETICULAT A HYBRID Lucky Star
MINIATURE (ALL SPECIES)	Haru-No-Utena	Nicky Crisp
Sue Kendall Var 4 Ellen Daniel 3 Grace Albritton 3	Adolphe Audusson Var 2 Betty Sheffield Supreme . 2 Carter's Sunburst 2	Waltz Time Var
Kewpie Doll 3 Ann Clayton 2 Man Size 2 Night Rider 2 Shikibu 2	Dixie Knight Supreme 2 Elegans 2 Fire Dance Var 2 Herme 2 Kaleidoscope 2	Egao



'ELEGANS' 'C.M. WILSON'



BIG BEAUTIFUL CAMELLIA SPORTS

By Bradford King

Some of the most glamorous camellias are genetic mutations. Today let's explore the large and very large camellia sports that make a splash in the garden and win at camellia shows.

ELEGANS

The 'Elegans' family began in England in 1831. 'Elegans' was grown from seed by Chandler and Booth. The flower is a lovely pink anemone form that has mutated a dozen new "sports". This "grandmother" herself produced four sports: 'Elegans Miniata', a light lavender pink medium anemone form flower; 'Elegans Supreme,' a rose pink with deep serrated petals; 'Elegans Improved,' a growth sport with larger flowers and leaves than its parent; and 'C.M. Wilson,' a light pink flower with white edges. 'C.M. Wilson' appeared in the garden of Mrs. A.E. Wilson of Florida in 1949 and was named for her husband. There is also a variegated form of 'Elegans' which has a sport named 'Barbara Woodroof, 'light orchid pink outer guard petals and cream white center petaloids. This cultivar was introduced by William Woodroof of Sherman Oaks, California.

'C. M Wilson' is a lovely light pink sport of 'Elegans.' It has thrown three sports: 'Hawaii,' a pale pink peony form with fimbriated petals; 'Shiro Chan,' a white flower with occasional pink at the base of the petals; and 'Elegans Splendor,' a beautiful light pink edged with white serrated petals. Each of these sports has also mutated. 'Hawaii' begat 'Kona,' a full tight peony with fimbriated petals which is green before it opens and is an unusual green toned white flower when it is fully open. 'Kona' begat 'Maui,' a large heavy white anemone form with rippled guard petals. 'Shiro Chan,' when it is pure white, is called 'Snow Chan'. It was introduced by Nuccio's in 1957. The two



'ELEGANS SPLENDOR'

most beautiful of all the Elegans sports are 'Elegans Splendor' and 'Elegans Champagne.

ELEGANS SPLENDOR

This sport from 'C. M. Wilson' was caught by Paul Gaines who named it 'C. M. Wilson Splendor.' When Nuccio Nurseries began to propagate it, Julius convinced him to rename it 'Elegans Splendor' so that the public would understand it was an Elegans mutation. The large to very large anemone flower is a lovely light pink with deep serrated petals edged in white making it an outstanding flower.

ELEGANS CHAMPAGNE

'Elegans Champagne' is the finest of the many sports that have mutated from the "Elegans Family." It is the Dom Perignon of camellias. Champagne is the wine of celebration. Ships are launched with it; toasts are made at weddings and special occasions. Dom Perignon was a Benedictine monk who in 1688 was appointed treasurer at the Abby Hautvilers. Management of the wine making and the cellars were part of his duties. While he did not invent champagne, he developed the basic principles still used in making champagne. Today we have a brand of champagne named after him called Dom Perignon champagne sometimes spelled Dom Perion. Many people laude this brand as the best champagne in the world due to its delicious flavor and thousands of tiny bubbles. We focus on 'Elegans Champagne' as the Dom Perignon of camellias. The large to very large white flower with creamy petaloids bubbling up from the center may show a burst of yellow stamens like champagne bubbles. It is a beautiful flower that when gibed looks gorgeous. This lovely japonica cultivar is a sport from 'Elegans Splendor.' The green leaves are heavily serrated making it easy to identify even when not in bloom. It was introduced in 1975 by Julius and Joe Nuccio, the founding brothers of Nuccio's Nurseries. There are many brands of champagne and many japonica cultivars, but there is only one Dom Perignon champagne

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'ELEGANS CHAMPAGNE'





'CARTER'S SUNBURST'

'CARTER'S SUNBURST BLUSH'

just as there is only one 'Elegans Champagne.' Some may prefer other brands of champagne or other japonica cultivars, but there can be no disagreement when 'Elegans Champagne' wins first place at a show.

CARTER'S SUNBURST

In 1959 Mr. Carter registered a large to very large pale pink flower with deeper pink stripes that resemble color bursting from the sun. This beautiful flower is most attractive when in its formal double form and becomes less impressive as the form becomes a less complicated peony or semidouble. Do you think he envisioned its popularity? Fifty years and it is still a winner in the garden and at camellia shows. I also doubt he figured it would produce a cluster of genetic mutations. Not counting variegated sports there are half a dozen lovely mutations--'Carter's Sunburst Blush,' 'Carter's Sunburst Pink,' 'Carter's Sunburst Special,' 'Carter's Sunburst Sweetheart,' 'Chow's Han Ling Raspberry," and 'Chow's Han Ling.' The most widely known continues to be 'Carter's Sunburst' followed by 'Carter's Sunburst Blush.' (Photo of 'Carter's Sunburst') (Photo of 'Carter's Sunburst Blush)

HAN-LING SNOW

Leland Chow from Bakersfield caught a white mutation with a blush center and occasional pink markings from 'Carter's Sunburst' which he regis-

tered as 'Chow's Han' Ling' in 1971. It is expected that a sport has the name of the camellia it muted from in its name. Dr Chow ignored this convention. Several years later it too sported. This cultivar retained the large to very large complicated flower but was pure white which he registered as 'Han-ling Snow.'

FERRIS WHEEL

The first Ferris Wheel was launched June 21, 1893. It was a popular and magnificent success. For more than nineteen weeks 1.4 million people paid 50 cents for a 20-minute ride at the Saint Louis World Fair. When the fair closed, Ferris became immersed in lawsuits about the debt he owed suppliers. In 1896 he filed for bankruptcy. He died at age 37 from typhoid fever. The original Ferris Wheel was sold in 1904 and two years later scrapped for its metal parts. Therefore, the only official Ferris Wheel expired. However,

'Han-ling Snow'

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this iconic amusement park ride lives on at county fairs and carnivals where it whirls through the sky lit up at night and is the first sight when approaching a carnival.

The large to very large white C. japonica 'Ferris Wheel' has many random pink and red stripes which make the flower stand out on the plant or on the show table just as the Ferris Wheel does at a county fair. The flared stamens



'RED FERRIS WHEEL'

make the semidouble flower pop. Occasionally this cultivar has a loose peony or anemone form both of which are attractive, but the semidouble with stripes representing the spokes of a Ferris Wheel is the key to its name. 'Ferris Wheel' mutates a strawberry colored flower which is very showy. The Nuccio's are isolating the branches on plants with this flower color mutation with the intention of introducing it as 'Circus.' A large red sport with

flecks of white also mutates from 'Ferris Wheel' but there is no plan to propagate this mutation. I have all three forms on my plant. Who knows if other mutations will develop over time?

CAMELLIA SPORTS

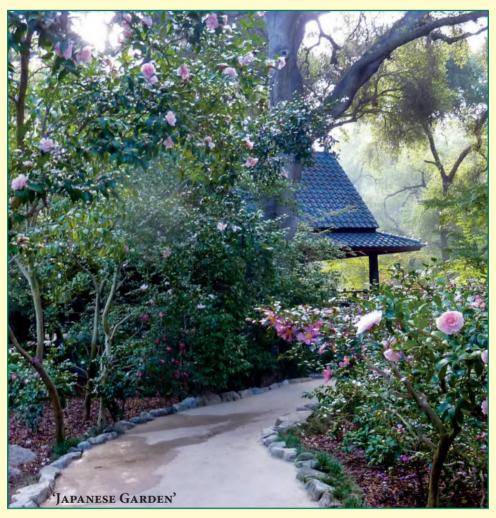
A sport is a genetic mutation that may produce different flower colors or forms as well as a change in foliage. Typically, one branch shows the mutation. This is marked with colored yarn or a tie and observed for three years to ensure that the change is a mutation and not due to weather or other environmental factors. When propagated by cuttings or grafts, the change must remain consistent indicating it is in fact a genetic mutation. Sports have contributed some of the most interesting and beautiful camellias. Therefore, keep your eyes open to see if one of your camellias develops flowers distinctly different than all the others on the plant.



'FERRIS WHEEL'

'STRAWBERRY FERRIS WHEEL'





'BERENICE BODDY'



'BERENICE BODDY'



CAMELLIAS IN A PEACEFUL PLACE

By Bradford King

A walk in Descanso Gardens is a wonderful way to enjoy camellias in bloom. The camellias are in shade provided by mature live oaks. The variety of camellia flower colors and forms is extensive. I walk to take pictures, others walk briskly for exercise, mothers with baby carriages enjoy being in fresh air, couples also enjoy the natural intimacy of the gardens. We all find enjoyment...and peace.

Manchester Boddy purchased the property in 1935. He raised cattle and began planting camellias with the intention of developing them for the cut flower industry. The Descanso Garden camellia icon is 'Berenice Boddy' named for Mrs. Manchester Boddy. The flower is a lovely medium semi double light pink with deeper pink under the petals. There are many of them in the garden. One location is behind the Japanese Garden on the path next to a bridge that goes to the Lilac collection.

Located on the other side of the bridge are several plants of 'Coronation,' one of which has a lovely pink sport yet to be propagated by Descanso. A sport is a genetic mutation that is different from the original flower. I think the sport is worthy of propagating as it is a lovely flower. What do you think?

Nearby is 'Lovelight,' one of Harvey Short's 32 introductions. Harvey was from Ramona, California, 30 miles inland from San Diego. Nuccio's introduction 'Sweet Dreams' has a lovely medium to large formal double, pale orchid pink flower which is also in this area of the garden. Both camellia names depict warmth and romance which fit comfortably in this peaceful garden.

On the path leading to the Boddy house are several trees of C. japonica 'Gigantea.' This variety came to the USA from Europe in1840 to Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. The large bright red anemone flower with white blotches provides a background to a few fragrant camellias. One is the sweet smelling 'Minato-no-akebono' which attracts bees.

Further along this path to the Boddy House are a collection of classic





'Coronation'

'Pink Coronation sport'

cultivars. They are on the left side and require walking off the path to enjoy their flowers. A one of a kind cultivar registered by Tom Gilfoy was his wife's choice. Tom named it 'Dody's Delight' for her.

'Easter Morn' has a wonderful large baby pink peony flower. It was bred by another amateur grower, Dr. C. C. Wright, who selected a perfect name for this cultivar that originated in Sacramento, California.

Vernon Mc Catskill's introductions are represented here with 'Cloisonné' registered in 1988. It has a beautiful large pink flower with ribbed petals finely edged in white. Nuccio's small late blooming red formal double 'Spring Formal' is also here. These cultivars were grafted by Tom Gilfoy to increase the diversity of the Descanso camellia collection.



'SWEET DREAMS'



'GIGANTEA



'MINATO-NO-AKEBONO'

In conclusion, the 30,000 camellia plants in Descanso Gardens make it one of the largest collections in America which has been recognized by The International Camellia Society as a Garden of Excellence. The camellias are in a California native habitat growing under a canopy of Coastal Live Oaks making it a lovely and peaceful place to visit.



'CLOISONNÉ'



'DODY'S DELIGHT'



'EASTER MORN



'SPRING FORMAL'



'A. BEDFORD'



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WHAT'S NEW IN THE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA WORLD

By Bradford King

NUCCIO'S NURSERIES

In 2019 Nuccio' began propagating Rhododendrons, a close cousin of camellias. Nuccio's are offering a dozen cultivars in a range of colors—white, pink, lavender, purple and red. They were all in bloom in mid-May except 'Helen Johnson' which has a pink flower which blooms late May into June. Rhododendrons grow very well in the North East and North West. When a planted in bright shade they make a good addition to the garden landscape in Southern California.

Tom Nuccio gave a talk to the local bonsai society describing some of the best camellia to bonsai. He recommended the following cultivars.

'Yume', which has an interesting small single pink flower with genetic white markings. It produces flowers even on a small plant which makes for a fine bonsai. 'Hishi Karito' was recommended because the small pink flower with a fountain of white stamens looks pretty with its small green leaves. Corkscrew cultivars like 'Egao Corkscrew', 'Shibori Egao Corkscrew' and 'Unryu' because the branches turn and twist like a



'HELEN JOHNSON'

corkscrew making an excellent bonsai. The flowers of 'Egao Corkscrew' and Shibori Egao Corkscrew' are perhaps too large for the small leaves and small



'SHIBORI EGAO CORKSCREW'



'Unryu'

plant in a bonsai dish. However, I have really enjoyed making and caring for 'Shibori Egao Corkscrew'. It is interesting to see how much white variegation occurs on the petals and if the bloom will be semidouble or a more complicated loose peony.

'Unryu' has a small unremarkable single deep pink flower that is in proportion with the small leaves. The turning and twisting of the branches make this a good bonsai.

Foliage camellias like 'Tiny Gem and 'Taiyo' are also good bonsai plants. The very compact dwarf 'Tiny Gen' with tiny white single flowers will remain compact and neat looking. 'Taiyo' (The Sun) has rich green foliage with an irregular yellow central leaf pattern. The single medium flower looks nice among the leaves.

Higo camellias are traditionally grown as bonsai in Japan. Good examples are 'Ohkan', 'Hi no- maru' and 'Mikuni-no- homare'. The medium white flower with a rose red boarded and flared stamens is outstanding. It is a slow compact grower that looks good in the foreground in the garden or in bonsai dish.

DESCANSO GARDENS

The Body House served as the Pasadena Showcase Home Spring 2019. Reviews were very positive as the rooms flowed providing coordination among the beautifully decorated rooms. "The Camellia Room" was an entertainment lounge with an impressive camellia chandelier with 13 handcrafted clear glass camellia blooms.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Society is pleased to announce the revised edition of the Camellia Nomenclature and the Camellia Nomenclature and Picture Gallery. The 2020 Nomenclature has all the newest introductions as well all the Camellia Nomenclature Supplement (The Red Book) cultivars that have been seen at any camellia show in America since 2019. This expanded edition can be purchased on Amazon for \$20 plus shipping. The Camellia Nomenclature and Picture Gallery is the

electronic version of the Nomenclature plus photographs of 3,000 cultivars to help in identification. It can be downloaded to an iPhone or an electronic book for \$20 through Amazone.com.

THE HUNTINGTON

The Huntington began its centennial celebration in September 2019 which will initiate a digital initiative whose purpose is to create digital representations of key fragile holdings such as rare maps and literary manuscripts as well as medical historical documents. In addition, new sections of the Chinese garden have been constructed this spring and summer by Chinese artisans from Suzhou, China. For example, they have installed roof tiles, carved wood panels made in China to insure these new features are authentic. New Chinese plant material including camellias have been added to the landscape.



'Taiyo



'OHKAN



'C.Yuhsiienensis'



CAMELLIA SPECIES:

C. YUHSIENENSIS

By Bradford King

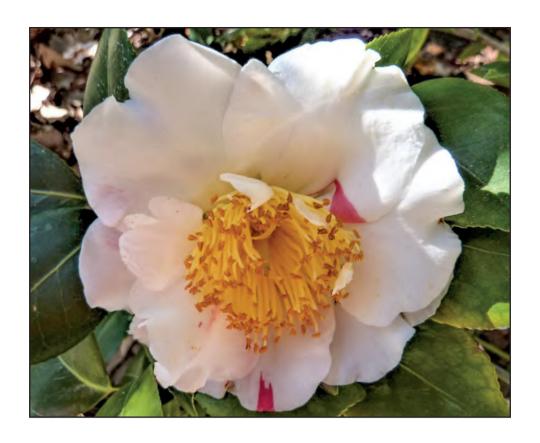
This species was described scientifically in 1965. It is native to China growing in the mountains and lower hills in Hunan. It has a very small white flower with a pleasing scent. The plant grows upright and blooms profusely midseason making it a cluster blooming camellia. It is one of several camellia species used to produce edible oil from its seeds. There are some taxonomists that believe this is a variety of C. grijsii, not a separate species.

Further investigation, including DNA results, is needed. (Photo of C. yuhsienensis)

While hybridizing has been limited with this species, one outstanding cultivar has been produced when crossed with 'Shishi Gashira' by Dr. Kaoru Hagiya. He named it 'Yume' (Dream). It has a small pink single flower with white markings. The white blotches are a genetic variegation not a virus. When petals alternate pink and white, it is like a dream come true. This heavy blooming camellia is a showstopper. The plant grows in a spreading loose manner blooming mid to late season. It sets seeds easily and has produced some pretty seedlings but so far none as beautiful and unique as 'Yume'.



CLUSTER OF 'YUME'



HIGO TREASURES FROM JAPAN:

'NIOI-FUBUKI'

By Bradford King

'Nioi- Fubuki' has a medium to large flat single white striped rose red fragrant flower. There are about 150 stamens with pale yellow filaments and 7 petals. The slight sweet scent and white flower give its name "Fragrant Snowstorm" when translated to English. It blooms mid to late season on a vigorous upright plant. It grows best in the ground. It was developed in Kumanoto Prefecture, Japan in 1968. This area of Japan has a humid subtropical climate with hot summers and cool winters. June and July have heavy precipitation. According to Scientific America there are scents that precede coming storms and some that accompanying precipitation; however poetic license is allowed in naming flowers. 'Nioi-Fubuki is an outstanding Higo and had been used in breeding new cultivars in Japan and the USA.

PARTING SHOT:

LOVELY CLUSTER BLOOMING CAMELLIAS

By Bradford King

Modern hybridizers have sought to develop cluster blooming camellia hybrids. All of them have a profusion of miniature or small flowers. They look

wonderful as cut flowers arranged artfully in a vase. They are not usually seen in camellia shows but are cherished in the garden for their masses of pretty buds and flowers. This "Parting Shot" article highlights five examples of cluster blooming camellias available at camellia nurseries.

'Bunny Ears' has a miniature to small semi double pink flower with rabbit ears. This *C. rosaeflora* blooms in a vigorous bushy upright manner in mid to late season and was bred by Nuccio's Nurseries. Multiple flowers bloom up and down the stems which look lovely in a vase.



'BUNNY EARS'

'Elina Cascade' has a profusion of tiny pink buds and very small white flowers that bloom in clusters up and down the slender pendulous branches in late winter and early spring. It is a *C. tsaii* cultivar registered in 1996. The very small, shiny green leaves are pretty all year long on the slender branches that sweep down to form a neat, pretty foliage camellia shrub. New foliage has a lovely bronze hue in the spring.



'Elina Cascade'



'FAIRY BLUSH'



'PARTY POPPERS'

'Fairy Blush' has a fragrant single miniature flower the color of apple blossoms. The attractive bud is bright pink. The plant grows vigorously in an upright manner and blooms early to late season. This profuse bloomer is a *C. lutchuensis* seedling bred by Mark Jury of New Zealand and is propagated by Monrovia Nurseries.

'Snow Drop Cascade' has a miniature white flower that shades to pink on the petal edges. The single to semi double flowers bloom profusely on a spreading plant early to midseason. It was registered in Australia in 2005 by Steve Campbell. The masses of flowers make a beautiful display. It is a seedling of 'Snow Drop,' a cross of *C. pitardii variety pitardii* and *C. fraterna*. 'Snow Drop Cascade' inherited the cluster blooming trait from *C. fraterna* and the white flowers toned pink from *C. pitardii variety pitardii*.

The most recent example is 'Party Poppers' which was introduced this season by Nuccio's Nurseries. The miniature rose form double flower is white to blush toned deeper on the petal edges. It is a mid to late season profuse blooming non reticulata grijsii hybrid. It grows upright with spikes that are full of clusters of buds.

