

THE
Camellia
REVIEW





INSIDE COVER: 'STAR ABOVE STAR' Photo by Bradford King

FRONT COVER: 'EGAO' Photo by Bradford King

Published by the Southern California Camellia Society
socialcamelliasociety.org

Bradford King, Editor • bdk@usc.edu

Karen Harrison, Associate Editor

Michelle Glush, Graphic Design • mglush@mac.com

Barbara Council, Membership

Southern California Camellia Society,

PO Box 1312, La Canada CA 91012

© 2023, all rights reserved.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOL 84. NUMBER 3

The Cover Photos	2
Invitation to Join	3
Officers and Director	4
Thoughts from the Editor <i>by Bradford King</i>	4

FEATURES

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow <i>by Bradford King</i>	7
Camellia Forms and Color Names <i>by Bradford King</i>	13
Striking Red and White Flowers <i>by Bradford King</i>	16
My Experience Growing Sun Camellias <i>by Bradford King</i>	23

DEPARTMENTS

Camellia Species: <i>C. hongkongensis</i> <i>by Bradford King</i>	28
The Higo Treasures From Japan: 'Shira-ogi' <i>by Bradford King</i>	29
Parting Shot: Beneficial Insects <i>by Bradford King</i>	30

AN INVITATION TO JOIN

Annual membership - \$35

includes subscription to *The Camellia Review*, three issues per year.

Sponsoring member: \$50 • Sustaining member: \$100

Patron member: \$150

Send payment to Southern California Camellia Society

PO Box 1312, La Canada CA 91012

Memberships can also be paid online at socialcamelliasociety.org

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

IT NEVER RAINS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BY BRADFORD KING

Southern California weather was dramatic this year. A good winter rainfall was followed by the typical hot dry summer before a once-in-a-lifetime tropical storm brought a deluge of rain in late August which ended the California drought—at least for now.

Camellias were able to survive these changes, and most actually performed better due to the abundance of rain. When talking to Jim Nuccio, he told me they had no damage due to the tropical storm Hilary, and wind only blew over one tree azalea. He reported they had 4.5 inches of rain from Hilary. Several other growers reported as much as 6.5 inches of rain. I hope you too had no serious damage to your camellias.



BOARD OFFICERS

President, Bradford King • bdk@usc.edu
Vice-President, James Fitzpatrick • JJF4849@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Beth Stone • bethstone456@gmail.com
Recording Secretary, Joey Goldfarb • joeyhe@aol.com
Corresponding Secretary, Alexis Slafer • aslafer@ca.rr.com
Membership, Barbara Council • barbjaponica@outlook.com

DIRECTORS

George Harrison • gjhdhk@msn.com
Michael Nealon • mikenealon777@gmail.com
Susan Stull • susan.stull@icloud.com

The Southern California Society will have three camellia shows in 2024. Mark your calendar for January 27 and 28 at the Los Angeles Arboretum, February 3 and 4 at The Huntington, and February 24 and 25 at the Los Angeles Arboretum.

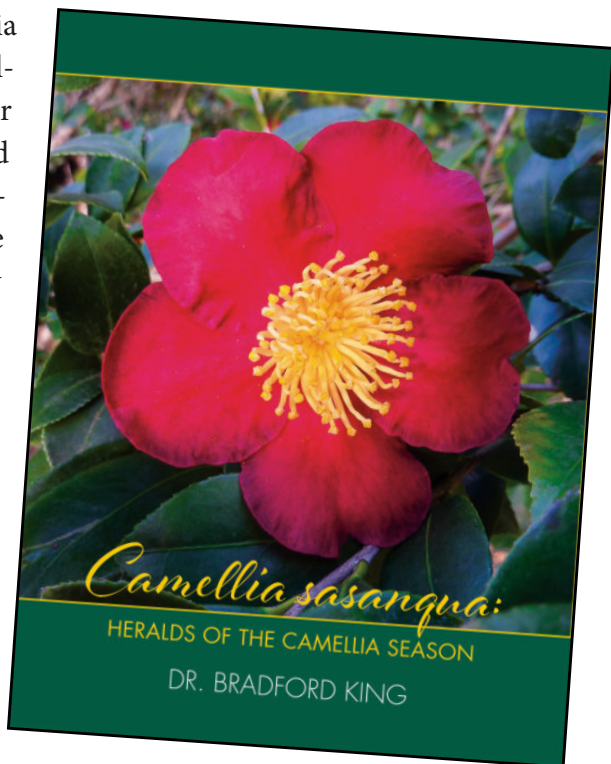
I am pleased to announce that the 2024 Camellia Nomenclature is available to purchase on Amazon.com. This Southern California Camellia Society publication includes all the American Camellia Society new camellia registrations since

the last edition. It is the 30th edition thanks to the dedication of my coeditors Beth Stone and Richard Buggeln.

This fall the SCCS will also publish *Camellia sasanqua*: Heralds of the Camellia Season. It can be found on Amazon.com. It includes how these camellias came to America, their landscaping use, care, hybridizing, flower forms, versatility, life cycle, and a shoppers guide organized by blooming season with beautiful photos to illustrate each cultivar. I began thinking, observing, and researching sun camellias earnestly several years ago. It seemed to me sun camellias have too often been overlooked and not appreciated for their many lovely fall and early winter flowers.

In this issue of the Camellia Review, I share My Experiences Growing Sun Camellias which is a story of the sun camellias that thrive for me here in Southern California and the lessons learned.

We would like to hear from you about your camellia experiences. Submitting an article with at least two or three photos makes a good article. Remember to take many high-resolution photos this season for printed publication. Thumbnail iPhone photos are fine for email but not for printing.





'YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW'

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

BY BRADFORD KING

The title is the popular name for ‘Brunfelsia’, a shrub with small pretty flowers from spring until the end of summer. The flowers begin purple and gradually fade to lavender and then to white. It has sweet scented flowers in all three colors throughout its blooming season.

It is the goal of ardent camellia growers to have flowers yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We want a long blooming season which means early (mid-September and November), midseason (December, January, and February), and late (March and April) blooming cultivars. This article will focus on a few *C. japonica* cultivars to grow for a long blooming season. Top choices for red, pink, and white varieties will be discussed and illustrated, plus several that bloom early to late season.

EARLY BLOOMERS

The earliest blooming *C. japonica*, that is well known, is ‘Daikagura’. It has a medium to large bright red variegated peony flower. I see it when the fall blooming “sun camellias” are producing flowers. It is from Japan and has been widely cultivated since its introduction in 1891.

Most of the early *C. japonica* continue to bloom into mid-season. A wonderful early blooming red camellia is ‘San Dimas’, and the variegated version is even more beautiful. San Dimas is named in Spanish for Saint Dismas, the “good thief,” mentioned in the Bible at Jesus’ crucifixion asking to be remembered when Jesus comes into his kingdom. The “bad thief,” according to the book of Luke, said, “If you are the Christ, save yourself and us with you.”

‘San Dimas’ is a wavy semidouble flower with occasional petaloids which blooms early to mid-season on an upright spreading plant with dark green foliage. The variegated version is very beautiful with the white markings contrasting with the red petals. Variegation is often white blotches but is most



'DAIKAGURA'

beautiful when in a moiré pattern, which resembles water marks on the petals.

'Elegans Champagne' has a very large creamy white anemone flower with petaloids that look like bubbles surfacing in a glass of champagne. It was celebrated by the American Camellia Society in 1980 by being awarded The Sewell Mutant Award as an outstanding "sport." It is a strong candidate for adding an early to mid-season white flower to begin the season.

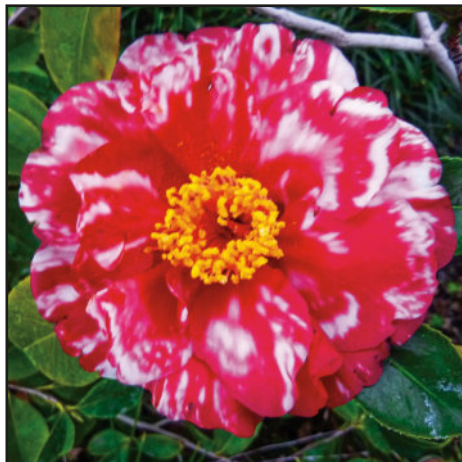
MID-SEASON BLOOMERS

This is prime *C. japonica* blooming season with hundreds of excellent varieties. There are a wide range of sizes, colors, and forms. This is illustrated by 'Cherries Jubilee', 'Hishi-karaito', and 'Man Size'.

According to Wikipedia, the recipe for Cherries Jubilee was created by Auguste Escoffier for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1897. This delicious dessert is made with cherries and liqueur, usually Kirschwasser, which is flambéed and served as a sauce over vanilla ice cream.



'SAN DIMAS'



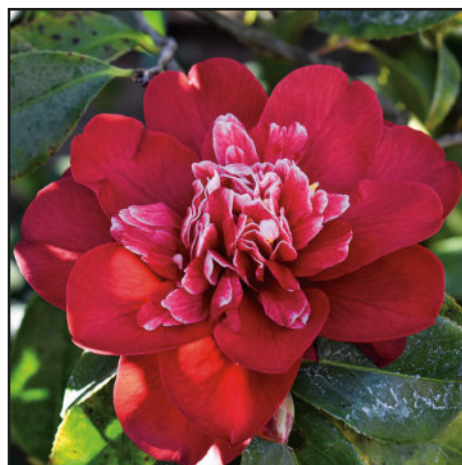
'SAN DIMAS VARIEGATED'

In 1983, Julius and Joe Nuccio, the cofounders of Nuccio's Nurseries, registered 'Cherries Jubilee', a medium cherry red seedling with a mass of red and white petaloids mixed with the stamens which resembled the classic cherries jubilee dessert. The plant is compact and upright blooming mid to late season. 'Cherries Jubilee' makes a good landscape plant that can produce camellia show winning flowers.

'Hishi-karaito' has a small semidouble lovely pink flower with a fountain of white petaloids and stamens in the center. It was first distributed in 1934 by Kob's Chugai Nursery. However, it dates back in Japanese camellia literature to 1844. The name comes from the diamond shaped petals with their stamens and petaloids that look like silk threads.



'ELEGANS CHAMPAGNE'



'CHERRIES JUBILEE'



'HISHI-KARAITO'



'MAN SIZE'

There are several *C. japonica* that have white to creamy flowers. One of the most popular is the small anemone 'Man Size'. It produces many identical finely shaped flowers. The name is somewhat strange for this lovely bloom which gets comments like, "How can such a small flower be MAN SIZE?" Because it is the size of a flower a man would wear as a boutonniere when in formal attire.

LATE BLOOMERS

There are several red late blooming camellias such as 'Cabernet', a small formal double; 'Elena Nobile', a rose form double, and 'Midnight Magic', a very dark maroon semidouble to anemone form. 'Midnight Magic Variegated' is my pick because the white marking is striking against the maroon petals.



'MIDNIGHT MAGIC VARIEGATED'



'SPRING FORMAL'

When a formal dance is held in the spring, it is called a spring formal. Women wear gowns and men wear tuxedos. ‘Spring Formal’ has a lovely medium deep pink formal double flower. The plant grows vigorously in a compact upright manner.

LONG BLOOMERS

This is a special category for varieties that begin to bloom early and continue through to late season. Generally, this means they have some flowers for four to five months depending on the cultivar, climate, and culture.

‘Nuccio’s Bella Rossa’ was introduced in 2000 by Nuccio’s Nurseries. Jude, Tom, and Jim Nuccio wanted to name it ‘Julius Nuccio’ to honor the Nurseries’ co-founder. Julius did not want a camellia named for him, therefore, it was

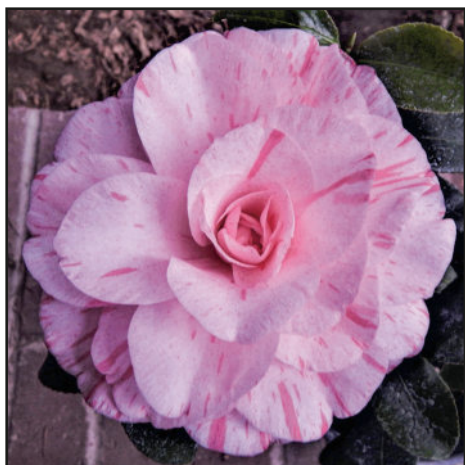


‘NUCCIO’S BELLA ROSSA’

named ‘Nuccio’s Bella Rossa’. The flower is a large red formal double with a heavy bud set and long blooming season. The plant grows bushy and upright making it an excellent landscape camellia which is capable of winning points at a camellia show. It was awarded the Illges Seedling Japonica award in 2004.

The large to very large pale pink ‘Carter’s Sunburst’ has a very beautiful flower with deeper pink markings. The flower form is semidouble, peony, or formal double. It is a popular garden camellia that can produce show winning blooms from early to late season. It was introduced in 1959 by Elvin H. Carter, Monterey Park, California. This cultivar has produced many flower mutations which include ‘Carter’s Sunburst Blush’, ‘Carter’s Sunburst Pink’, ‘Carter’s Sunburst Pink Variegated’, ‘Carter’s Sunburst Sweetheart’, ‘Carter’s Sunburst Variegated’, ‘Chow’s Han-Ling’, ‘Han-Ling Raspberry’, and ‘Han-Ling Snow’. The most widely grown and popular is the original ‘Carter’s Sunburst’ which received the ACS National Camellia Hall of Fame Award for 1978 and Illges Seedling Japonica Award in 1964.

The first Ferris wheel was launched on June 21, 1893, and was a popular and magnificent success. For more than 19 weeks, 1.4 million people paid 50 cents for a 20-minute ride at the Saint Louis World Fair. The original Ferris wheel was sold in 1904 and two years later scrapped for its metal parts. 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 make the semidouble flower pop. Occasionally this cultivar has a loose peony or anemone form, both of which are showy! The plant grows upright and blooms early to late season.



‘CARTER’S SUNBURST’



‘FERRIS WHEEL’



CAMELLIA FORMS AND COLOR NAMES

BY BRADFORD KING

Roses and peonies are popular plants that have some characteristics that have been used to describe camellia forms. In addition, the color rose red and rose pink have been used widely to describe colors.

CAMELLIA FORMS

One of the six camellia flower forms is rose form double. The name comes from the characteristic of the hybrid tea rose that begins with a tight bud which slowly opens its petals until it shows petals surrounding the stamens in its final form. A rose form double camellia flower is like a formal double flower until it matures and shows its stamens. This is illustrated by 'Glen 40 Variegated'.

The shape of the peony formed camellia closely resembles the herbaceous perennial peony flower. Peonies are extensively cultivated in Europe and America. It is a long-lived perennial that reliably blooms every spring.



'NUCCIO'S JEWEL' FULL PEONY

They are difficult to grow in southern California heat but are available in June as cut flowers. Typically, the peony bud slowly opens with the petals hiding the stamens which is what we call the full peony camellia form.

When a camellia flower looks like a peony but has loose petals, petaloids, and stamens intermingled, it is known as a loose peony bloom. A good example of a loose peony formed camellia flower is illustrated by 'Dr. Clifford Parks'. Peonies may be full peony blooms or have loose flowers which is seen in the following image. Peony flowers have a scent that is less pleasing, in my opinion, than the sweet scent of 'High Fragrance', a peony formed nonreticulata hybrid camellia.



PEONY



'DR. CLIFFORD PARKS'



FULL AND LOOSE PEONY FLOWERS.



‘HIGH FRAGRANCE’

COLOR

The color name “rose” dates to the 1300s and is a typical color of a red rose. It is a shade between red and pink but looks more like red than pink. Rose red is linked to love and romance. It can be deemed an optimistic color, as seen in the expression “rose colored glasses,” but also anger, as in “seeing red.” Rose red camellias include ‘Covina’, Daikagura’, and ‘Tama Americana’.

Rose pink is a bright color combination of red and pink perceived as pink as opposed to red. It is a feminine color associated with first love and tenderness. Examples of rose pink camellias are ‘R. L. Wheeler’ and ‘Tama Beauty’.

‘Tama Americana’ and ‘Tama Beauty’ are both seedlings of the small red picotee ‘Tama-no-ura’. A key difference is color, as they are both medium semidouble flowers with white borders. Rose red is illustrated by ‘Tama Americana’ and rose pink by ‘Tama Beauty’.



‘TAMA AMERICANA’



‘TAMA BEAUTY’



'APPLE BLOSSOM' PLANT IN A GARDEN IN FULL BLOOM

STRIKING RED AND WHITE FLOWERS

BY BRADFORD KING

Red and white flowers are found on amaryllis, tulips, azaleas, camellias, desert rose, rhododendrons, and roses. They are a delight to see in bloom.

AMARYLLIS

Amaryllis flowers are produced from bulbs which are sold in nurseries and mail order companies. They are grown as a potted plant in most parts of the United States but can also be grown outdoors in mild climates such as California and Florida where they can naturalize. They are a popular holiday plant because they can be forced to bloom during the holiday season. The trumpet shaped flowers are up to seven inches across. New cultivars

can have three stocks and produce multiple blooms on each stock, making a wonderful display. While colors are white, pink, orange, and red, the most spectacular are the multicolored white and red cultivars. The flowers appear before the foliage which has glossy strap like leaves that are 18” long and an inch and half wide. One of the best is ‘Apple Blossom’.



RED AND WHITE TULIPS



‘NUCCIO’S SPITFIRE’

TULIPS

Tulips are one of the most popular spring bulbs. They have large brightly colored “tulip” shaped blooms. There are many beautiful red, pink, yellow, white, and multicolored tulips. New hybrids can have fringed petal edges and unique colors. The classic tulip may be red, but the red and white cultivars are some of the showiest. Tulips are most often grown as annuals in the home garden.

AZALEAS

Azaleas are one of the most widely used garden plants. They can be grown in pots, specimens, tree types, bonsai, espalier, or hedges and are at their best in mass plantings.

There are cultivars that survive the cold winters of the northeast; there are others that do well in the heat of summer in California, and the ‘Southern Indica’ are the pride of the south. Azaleas come in a wide range of beautiful colors. ‘Nuccio’s Spitfire’, with its medium single white flowers with red stripes and markings, is an example of a bright colorful red and white azalea.

‘Nuccio’s Tattle Tale’ has a perky flower with an amusing name. The flower has large red petals surrounding a white center. It is a Satsuki hybrid which means it will bloom in May. Julius Nuccio was responsible for bring the Satsuki Azaleas from



'NUCCIO'S TATTLE TALE'



'TAMA-NO-URA'

Japan to America. Nuccio's propagate over 100 Satsuki azaleas plus 18 Satsuki hybrids.

CAMELLIAS

There are thousands of evergreen flowering camellias in a range of col-

ors except green, blue, brown, and black. Some of the most striking are those that are red and white. 'Tama-no-ura' is a small single red flower with an attractive white border that has produced other red cultivars with a white border.



'KING'S CUP'



'BETTY FOY SANDERS'



'GUILIO NUCCIO VARIEGATED'

'King's Cup', a third generation Tama, has a white flower with a touch of burgundy inherited from its seed parent 'Tama Peacock'.

Another white camellia with red variegation that is widely grown is 'Betty Foy Sanders'. She is noted for blooming all white to half white and half red but is at her best with abundant red markings.

The virus variegated red camellias are very desirable. Some red camellias never show white virus

markings, others just enough to be distracting, and several are drop dead gorgeous when the white is spread evenly on red petals. 'Guilio Nuccio Variegated' illustrates these award-winning flowers.

There are even small dark red flowers that are show winners such as 'Tudor Baby Variegated'. This late bloomer may need gib to make it to a camellia show. It can win as a single, in a tray of like blooms, or be enjoyed in the garden as late as



'TUDOR BABY VARIEGATED'



'OHKAN'

May helping to prolong the camellia blooming season.

Higo camellias may only be a single flower, but when 'Ohkan' has five large petals forming an irregular triangle and a mass of golden stamens, it stands out.

DESERT ROSE

Desert Rose (*Adenium obesum*) is a succulent with trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom in the summer. Desert rose hybrids have two- to three-inch flowers in shades of white, pink, and red with and without stripes. They are profuse bloomers that require six or more hours of bright sunlight every day. They make a dramatic specimen for a deck or patio. They are sensitive to temperatures below 40 degrees and will die in chilly rain (45°F). Therefore, they are usually grown in containers that can be brought inside for winter.

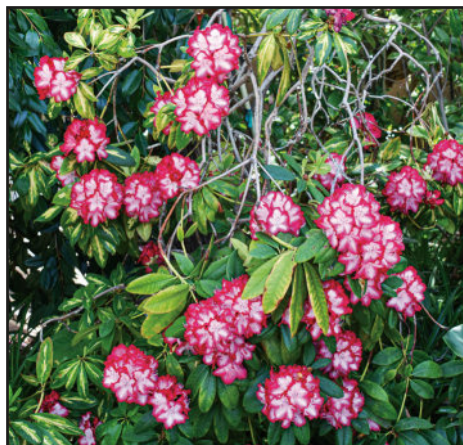


DESERT ROSE

The typical desert rose has a single red and white flower. However, new grafted hybrids have double flowers that may be red, pink, or yellow. The most striking have double red and white blooms.

RHODODENDRONS

Native rhododendrons grow in the Northwest and Northeast down the Appalachian Mountains into the southern states. They grow in dappled sunlight. Today there are also hundreds of hybrid cultivars available in a range of clear beautiful colors. They make wonderful spring flowering bushes. They are uncommon in Southern California where they need protection from direct summer sunlight. 'President Roosevelt' has variegated foliage and a white flower with bright cherry red petal edges. It has thrived and bloomed in my yard for 20 years.



'PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'

ROSES



'DOUBLE DELIGHT'

tucked between two small trees surrounded by camellias and is the only one in my garden. After all, where there is dappled sunlight, camellias take precedence.

Roses are extremely popular cut flowers and are widely grown in full sun. They are high maintenance, yet the beauty and range of colors make them worth growing. They begin to bloom in spring as the camellia season is ending, which is one of the reasons to have a rose garden. 'Double Delight' is one of my favorites. The white flower and bright clear red on each petal make it a true delight. It is also one of the most fragrant hybrid tea roses. It has a lovely, sweet scent making it a "double delight." I take great delight in seeing them in a vase decorating the home.



A VASE OF 'DOUBLE DELIGHT'



'HUGH EVANS'

MY EXPERIENCE GROWING SUN CAMELLIAS

BY BRADFORD KING

This is a story of the sun camellias that thrive for me here in Southern California and the lessons learned. When we moved to California from Massachusetts in 1985, I had only seen a few *C. japonica* like ‘Pink Perfection’ in a Boston spring flower show. They were raised in a heated conservatory, so I had much to learn!

There were only two sun camellias around the home we purchased in Arcadia. One was ‘Hugh Evans’, the first camellia to bloom every year in my garden. It has a single pink flower with twisted petals that produces abundant flowers every year.

The other cultivar, ‘Shishi-Gashira’, is widely grown for its profusion of small red flowers with a face like a lion’s mane, which is what the name means in English. The plant is low growing and compact and is one of the best landscape sun tolerant cultivars.

The first sun camellia I purchased was ‘Egao’. The five-gallon plant, bought from Nuccio’s Nurseries, has continued to thrive, and bloom for more than 30 years. It grows well in a bushy upright manner having reached eight feet in height. The beautiful large semidouble clear pink flowers have never been disappointing. It makes my list of the best sun camellia to grow.

Next, I purchased five ‘Yuletide’ plants to replace a small hedge along the front walkway. They looked good for a few years but began to look haggard. I learned why! Automatic sprinklers may keep grass green but fail to provide



‘SHISHI-GASHIRA’



'EGAO'



'SHIBORI-EGAO'



'KANJIRO'

deep watering needed for camellias. They were removed and replaced by grass. Lesson learned...!

When I joined the Southern California Camellia Society, I learned about camellia culture from Sergio Bracci, Marilee Gray, and Mel Belcher, all now in camellia heaven and fondly remembered. One of the many things learned was about camellia virus variegation. Sergio had a magnificent 'Shibori-egao' plant that won at camellia shows. Since I loved 'Egao', I added 'Shibori-egao', its variegated form, to my collection with mixed results. While at times it produces beautiful blooms, some have little or no variegation. In addition, both of my plants struggle, tending to be bushy but not tall and upright like 'Egao'. When at its best, it has a very showy flower.

On one of many visits to Nucchio's, Jude declared his favorite sun camellia was 'Kanjiro'. This comment stayed in my mind when I used it as rootstock, planted it in the sun to help shade japonicas, took its photo in The Huntington, and wrote about it as one of the most versatile camellias. However, I didn't love it until I grew it in a pot where I could see it every day. It is one of the very best sun camellias.

One of the most popular activities at Southern California Camellia Society meetings is the raffle.

Recently I won 'Showa-no-sakae'. I knew it had a pretty pink bloom and was a low growing cultivar frequently used as a ground cover, but I had never grown one. Since I had no space in the ground, I repotted it and placed it on the patio. I was rewarded with a succession of lovely pink flowers from November into January. It kept its flowers during the hard rains of January in the covered patio. I learned one of the advantages of potted camellias is that they can be moved to centerstage when blooming and grown elsewhere during the rest of the year.

Over the last few years, I had sunny places that were inhospitable for *C. japonica* cultivars. This led to considering which sun camellias to add as replacements. I chose 'Apple Blossom', 'Yuletide', and 'Pink-A-Boo'.

'Apple Blossom' has a single white flower with blush pink on the petals. I like it as do the bees, but so far, I am not yet in love even though it has a pleasant earthy scent emitting from lovely flowers.

My early failure to keep 'Yuletide' alive during my naïve days in the late 1980s haunted me. It was time to grow 'Yuletide' again. I have always loved the brilliant red with golden stamens of its single abundant flowers. The sturdy compact upright plant fit perfectly where a *C. japonica* failed.



'SHOWA-NO-SAKAE'



'APPLE BLOSSOM'



'YULETIDE'



'PINK-A-BOO' AND 'YULETIDE'



'EGAO CORKSCREW' BONSAI



'SHIBORI EGAO CORKSCREW' BONSAI

I first heard there was a sport of 'Yuletide' called 'Pink Yuletide' at a camellia show. Later I learned it was found growing in a large bed of 'Yuletide' by one of the workers at Monrovia Nursery. Subsequently, they registered it as *C. sasanqua* 'Mondel'. "Mon" for Monrovia and "Del" for the daughter of the man who found this sport. However, the marketing name is 'Pink-A-Boo'. It grows just like 'Yuletide' but blooms earlier, has more petals, and has a slight sweet scent. I placed it next to 'Yuletide' in my garden where their blooming seasons overlap.

I have camellia friends in the southeast who have acres of land to grow their camellias. Well, this is rare in Southern California due to the high cost of land needed for housing 24 million people, which is 60% of the 40 million people living in California. What I learned is to create my own bonsai camellias. My favorites are 'Egao Corkscrew', 'Shibori Egao Corkscrew', and 'Yume'.

Jim Nuccio discovered a unique cultivar with zigzag branches growing in a bed of 'Egao' plants at the nursery. The twisting growth habit was aptly named 'Egao Corkscrew'. Jim jokingly says since the bed looks out at the Jet Propulsion Labs, perhaps stray radiation had something to do with its strange growth habit.

When this cultivar was propa-

gated, it was determined that flowers were also different from 'Egao'. Roughly half are loose peony, and the others are semidouble. Both flower forms have wavy petals unlike the large smooth petals of 'Egao'. The flower color is clear pink like 'Egao'. It makes an interesting bonsai.

'Shibori Egao Corkscrew' is the variegated form of 'Egao Corkscrew'. The white blotches on the pink petals make a wonderful camellia. The zig-zag growth habit lends itself to bonsai. The showy flowers will bloom on a small plant. Bonsai flowers are the same size as the ones in a pot or in the ground. Some may find this flower too large for the small foliage, especially when grown as a bonsai.

Others will enjoy the large dramatic bloom! Like 'Egao Corkscrew', there are two flower forms—semidouble and loose peony, both having wavy petals.

'Yume' (Dream) has a small single pink flower with genetic white markings. It is a cross between 'Shi-shi-Gashira' and *C. yuhsienensis*. I like it as a bonsai because it blooms freely when it is a small plant. Since it has a loose upright growth habit, it makes a good-looking informal style bonsai.

I have retired from USC and physically slowed down over the last 30 years, but I never stop growing and learning about camellias.



'YUME' BONSAI



CAMELLIA SPECIES:

C. HONGKONGENSIS

BY BRADFORD KING

This handsome plant originates in Hong Kong and nearby islands. It has rusty brown buds and a small rose red flower which at times has purple on the petal edges. It blooms late season. It is cold hardy and requires protection from direct sunlight to avoid burned foliage. The long leaves are textured and dark green. It will develop into a shrub or small upright tree when mature.

HIGO TREASURES FROM JAPAN:
‘SHIRA-OGI’ (HAKUSSEN)

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRADFORD KING

‘Shira-ogi’ has a lovely medium single pure white flower with 170 flared white stamens. It blooms midseason on a spreading plant. It is called ‘Hakussen’ in Japan which means “White Flag.” It was recognized by the Higo Camellia Society in 1962 and is propagated by Nuccio’s Nurseries as ‘Shira-ogi’.



‘SHIRA-OGI’ AKA ‘HAKUSSEN’



LADYBUGS ON A CAMELLIA LEAF

PARTING SHOT:
BENEFICIAL PREDATORS

BY BRADFORD KING

There are beneficial insect predators in your garden. The two that eat aphids, a common pest that sucks new foliage, are ladybugs and lacewings. Ladybugs are welcomed in the garden because an adult ladybug may consume hundreds of aphids a day and thousands in its lifetime. In addition, ladybugs feed on other soft-bodied, plant-eating insects, such as mites, scales, thrips,



GREEN LACEWING EGGS



GREEN LACEWING



**A FEMALE PRAYING MANTIS
ON 'TAMA-NO-URA'**



PRAYING MANTIS ON 'HUGH EVANS'

and white flies. While they are found naturally in most gardens, they may be purchased at garden nurseries and released to help control pests.

Less well known are the green lacewings. They can be purchased on the internet, but you probably have some already living among your garden plants. The miniature larvae are brown in color and look like alligators. One place to look for their eggs is on a long fine stalk near a cluster of aphids.

They are excellent predators who relish eating aphids, mites, and insect eggs. Unfortunately, ants herding aphids and foraging on plants eat lacewing eggs and larvae. There is a miniature war going on in your garden with all trying to survive.

The praying mantis looks like it is in the act of praying, when in fact it is preying on insects. It is an indiscriminate predator that will eat beneficial in-

sects like bees as well as pests like flies and is known to occasionally prey on hummingbirds. There are two color varieties—green and brown. When young, they feed on small insects like aphids. When mature, they can be found patiently waiting to catch grasshoppers and other insects.

In conclusion, while bees are not predators, they are frequent visitors to the camellia flowers and are welcomed to one's garden.



**A BEE IN 'ADOLPHE AUDUSSON
VARIEGATED'**



‘BONANZA’