

THE

Camellia Review



C. Sasanqua 'Charmer'

Kodachrome courtesy McCaskill Gardens

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$5.00.

DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

- Central California Camellia Society** Fresno, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Elementary School Auditorium, Fresno State College
 Secretary: Mrs. Maynard Munger, 5140 N. Fruit, Fresno
 Date of Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of each month through March. Exception—December meeting on 3rd Monday.
- Camellia Society of Kern County** Bakersfield, Calif.
 Meeting Place: City Hall Annex, Room 3, 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield
 Secretary: Mrs. Alvin Reimer, 119 Jeffrey St., Bakersfield
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru May
- San Diego Camellia Society** San Diego, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park
 Secretary: Mrs. Russell H. Parker, 3927 Loma Alta Dr., San Diego 15
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- Pomona Valley Camellia Society** Pomona, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Claremont Women's Club, 345 W. 12th, Claremont
 Secretary: Mrs. George Bill, Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April
- Temple City Camellia Society** Temple City, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kaufman, Temple City
 Secretary: Gertrude S. Rose, 6025 North Muscatel, San Gabriel
 Date of Meeting: 4th Monday of each month, Nov. thru April
- Camellia Society of Orange County** Santa Ana, Calif.
 Meeting Place: YWCA Building, 1411 North Broadway, Santa Ana
 Secretary: Mrs. Geo. T. Butler, 1121 Orange Ave., Santa Ana
 4th Wednesday, Nov. to April
- Huntington Camellia Garden** San Marino, Calif.
 Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Rd., San Marino
- Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley** Arlington, Virginia
 Meeting Place: Alternates between Alexandria, Virginia; Washington D.C.
 and Chevy Chase, Maryland
 Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Milton H. Brown, 2220 N. Trenton St.,
 Arlington, Virginia
 Date of Meetings: 1st Monday of month, October through April.
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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

Thanks Too, For Camellias

There's an old song that goes "Most the days I disremember, but I always knows November—" and that applies to a lot of us, at least to Americans to whom November always means Thanksgiving. And that means not only turkey and its fixin's but some bright sasanquas and early japonicas centering the table around which we gather. Of course there is plenty of reason for us to give daily thanks for being able to enjoy our American way of life but we can do it especially on Thanksgiving, not forgetting to include a little thanks for camellias tucked in somewhere.

Spreading the Word— Camellia, that is

Western news is going to have 'specially wide dissemination next month when Howard Asper of the Huntington Botanical Gardens goes south and east for a series of talks to Camellia societies from Mississippi to Texas. He has promised to write the highlights of his trip for the Review.

Coming—An Already Famous February

A glimpse of what will be the site of the giant Camellia Show next February 25th and 26th is given in this issue by John Threlkeld, Superintendent of the Descanso Gardens. With four local Camellia Societies uniting to present a joint camellia show in these beautiful gardens already riotous with camellias, we cannot think of a more wonderful setting for the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society. It will be well worth a trip across the country and we know that many plans are already being made to attend. We are going to put

a large sign on us and try to meet everyone.

It Does NOT Pay to Be Ignorant

We call your attention to 'Captain Rawes's,' the spelling which William Hertrich has accepted as authentic and which from now on will appear in the Review. It may drive the linotyper crazy and our proof-reading too but as this reticulata was first known only as "Captain Rawes's Camellia," that spelling is now accepted in highest camellia nomenclature circles. So in there we shall edge. For more on the subject see our inadequate review of Mr. Hertrich's second Camellia book on page 17 of this issue. Also please note that 'Arajishi,' is the accepted form for that darlin' japonica. Maybe the "restive lion" will calm down now for good.

It Was (Pink) Perfection

It's always good weather when good camellia fellows get together but when you add a hearty breakfast and wonderful camellia plants given away to lucky numbers (were we ever thrilled to have one) then that is a real event. Over 100 of the G.C.F. got together at Les Marshall's Nursery on a balmy Sunday morning for the opening of the season of the Temple City Camellia Society. Such a success! Why do bacon and eggs taste so good mixed with camellias? We should try it oftener.

There May Be a Future

Anybody notice that we have changed from a Bulletin to a Publication? Maybe if we keep on and don't weaken, we'll be a magazine yet.

Years Young

The Camellia of the month and our sincere congratulations go to Miss Charlotte Hoak who has recently celebrated her 81st birthday. The

(Continued on Page 24)

DESCANSO GARDENS PRESENT CAMELLIAS EN MASSE

By JOHN L. THRELKELD

Camellia growing in the Southland has reached a position of great importance. Several varieties of Camellias are now grown in practically every home garden in the Los Angeles area.

Camellias as first introduced to the Southland were considered curiosities and were grown in botanical collections and by certain adventuresome gardeners. Through public education and the great selflessness of a few people, Camellias are now the main plant interest of hundreds and hundreds of people in various organizations dedicated to furthering knowledge and interest of camellias in every garden.

Camellias are unique in their growth requirements. It is reasonable to assume that Camellias will never become a run-of-the-mill garden shrub because of these unique requirements. Never in the history of horticulture have such plants waned in popularity.

A few years ago Camellias zoomed to popularity in the Southland. It was feared by many that they would follow the pattern of other plants and soon be forgotten — but fortunately this is not true. That zoom was caused by the unanimous desire of gardeners to fill their gardens to the maximum with this wonderful plant. Now the Camellia's popularity will



Courtesy Pasadena Star-News

Youth and Daikaguras bloom in Descanso Gardens where some thousands of camellia lovers will meet among masses of camellias next February 25th and 26th.

settle down to a regular pattern. It will not zoom again, but certainly will never decrease to the point of being forgotten.

Descanso Gardens has played an outstanding role in creating interest in Camellias of all types. Camellias as grown and displayed in Descanso Gardens show the ideal natural garden conditions necessary for best gardening results. The home gardener can view the massive plantings and attempt to provide conditions in his own garden as closely resembling Descanso Gardens conditions as possible.

Descanso Gardens is not designed for the purpose of showing the botanical curiosity. The Camellias are planted en masse to create a dazzling color spectacle which can be enjoyed by everyone, whether botan-

ically interested or not.

Of course, great educational value is realized by everyone viewing the expansive plantings. Descanso Gardens shows what can be done by man when cooperating with Nature rather than opposing natural laws. Indeed, Descanso Gardens as a whole is a study of Nature from the geologically interesting terrain to the introduced exotic plants, the protective covering of California Live Oaks, and the natural animal and bird life inhabitants of the area.

It is impossible for gardeners, designers or architects to create conditions even remotely approaching those which take Nature eons of time to build. It is this naturalness that makes Descanso Gardens unique in the world. Even though the first exotic plant was installed a few short



Courtesy Pasadena Star-News

The clear waters reflect the peace and beauty of a small portion of the Descanso Gardens in La Canada, California, site of the 1956 meeting of the American Camellia Society and the mammoth Camellia Show to be sponsored jointly by the Southern California, Temple City, Pacific and Los Angeles Camellia Societies.

years ago, the gardens have the appearance and quality of great age.

The natural atmosphere presents conditions ideal for display. The first great public participation in display is being presented as the opening feature of the Second Annual Camellia Festival, February 25-March 11, 1956. The Los Angeles Camellia Council, representing all Camellia Societies in Los Angeles County, is co-sponsoring one of the largest cooperative Camellia Shows ever staged, in honor of the West Coast Convention of the America Camellia Society. Both the Camellia Council and Descanso Gardens' management are working on detailed planning of this grand event.

The displays will be in the gardens proper—protection from the elements being provided by attractive awning covers over the display tables and trails. Warmth and atmosphere will be provided by huge, roaring fireplaces conveniently located throughout the display areas.

The remaining festival time after the opening week-end will be dedicated to tours of the garden areas, lectures by widely known horticultural experts, movies and slides shown in a beautiful meeting room, folk dancing, music and fine food service.

It is anticipated that this big event will be the first of many more to follow—not only for Camellias, but also for Azaleas, Roses, Iris, Fuchsias, Begonias and other types of plants as represented in Descanso Gardens.

Outstanding in future development will be the establishment of a Half-Mile Trail through the wooded area which will include many new and unusual types of flowering plants. The cooperative efforts of Los Angeles County's Descanso Gardens and the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum will establish this spectacular planting.

Descanso Gardens is designed and planned to be a year-around flower

KNOW YOUR PEAT

So that our readers will be informed when they buy peat moss we carry the following information from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Peat moss is one of the best and most economical forms of organic matter to use in the garden. Mixed with clay soil, it loosens and aerates it. Mixed with sandy soils, it increases their moisture holding capacity. Mixed with an equal amount of sand, it is one of the best seed beds available. As a mulch, it is good, although not as good as chopped corn cobs.

There are two kinds of peat, usually sold for garden use. Sedge peat is from reeds and sedges. It is usually from this country and is sold in bulk or bags as it does not compress too well. The other kind of peat is peat moss, which is dried and compressed in bales. The bulk of the peat sold is from Europe, although some is obtained from Canada.

The Federal Law requires that peat contain a minimum of 75% organic matter, but good sedge peat will be well over 85% organic and peat mosses will be well over 90% organic. On the other hand, much of the so-called peat dug locally and sold in bulk may be more muck than peat and may have as low as 50% organic matter. This is inferior material and usually not worth the price, no matter how cheap.

Reprinted from "Golden Gardens," October 1955.

show of great interest at any time of year—but particularly during the early Spring when the Camellias en masse take the spotlight.

A real gardener builds a mental retreat from the care of this world; a place to plan, meditate and work with God.

