

THE

Camellia Review



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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 SocietyFresno, 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 CountyBakersfield, 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 SocietySan 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 SocietyPomona, 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 SocietyTemple City, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kauffman, 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 CountySanta 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 GardenSan 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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CONTENTS

VOL. 17	DECEMBER, 1955	NO. 3
Camellia Reviewer, <i>Elizabeth Beebe</i>	2
Annual Meeting of the ACS	4
Don't Float 'Em — Arrange 'Em, <i>Edna Schoof</i>	6
Home of 'Drama Girl' Destroyed, <i>Merle S. Gish</i>	7
To the Ladies, <i>Charlotte Hoak</i>	8
Relation of Organic Matter to the Growth of Camellias	10
Some Suggestions on the Photographing of Camellias by Artificial Light, <i>Frank Reinhart</i>	12
Growing Blossoms for Exhibitions, <i>Caryll Pitkin</i>	14
Choosing Camellias to Match the Time, the Place and You, <i>Evelyn Johnson</i>	15
Many Methods Suggested for Preserving Camellia Blooms, <i>C. D. Cothran</i>	17
Annual Camellia Show Planned, <i>Carl A. Weston</i>	23
White for December, <i>Harvey Short</i>	27

Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

Merry Camellias—and Christmas

Camellias and Christmas seem to go together as easily as turkey and cranberry sauce. The holiday hues of red, green and white are seen most glowingly in every camellia garden. The beauty that is Christmas is found in every camellia blossom. The old, yet ever new spirit is as true of camellias as it is of Christmas and as sure as we are that Christmas will come again next year and next year and next year, so do we know that the bloom of camellias will repeat in the same staunch and heartening fashion. Ever new, and ever undying—how wonderful it is to have Christmas and camellias.

Two C's Sitter

The newest thing in "sitters" that has come to our attention is one for cats and camellias engaged by one of our members who went away on a vacation. It's possible that such a combination would keep a sitter busy. If the cats happened to be Siamese we can imagine it was a one-time performance for the sitter. Have to find out about that—the idea intrigues us.

A Somber Camellia, Too

We were most unhappy to learn of the destruction of E. W. "Doc" Miller's fine camellia collection by a sudden brush fire. It was wonderful to know that he apparently was not too dismayed and was actually planning to start afresh before the ashes were cold. We feel he must have absorbed some of the unquenchable spirit from his camellias who through many ages have been struck down so many times only to rise again in the most unexpected places. We hope that of the new ones that emanate from these ashes there will come one or more that will bring extra camellia fame to the good "Doc."

Camellias are Good Business Too

Camellias are certainly creeping into commerce these days. We see there is a luscious new shade of Cannon bath towels labeled "Camellia Rose," and the dashing 1956 car we casually referred to as a Pink Pontiac, now turns out to be a Camellia Catalina. These manufacturers are smart cookies—where could they find greater glamour than tinting their products like the subtle hues of Camellias?

Better Late Than —

Belated but sincere congratulations are tendered to Vern and Billie McCaskill (McCaskill Gardens), to Harvey Short, and to William Woodroof, for their awards from the A.C.S. A Highly Commended Certificate was awarded the first two for their japonicas 'Billie McCaskill' and 'Guest of Honor,' respectively while the A.C.S. Award of Merit went to William Woodroof for his seedling 'Reg Ragland.'

The Birds

Mrs. Helen Shearer, officer of the local Audubon Society comments that of the bird world she would say that the humming bird is more attracted to camellias than any other bird. Well, camellias ought to be satisfied with that. We would never mind being hovered over by a "hummer." Too bad we can't attract one as well as the teeniest camellia.

And the Bees

There seems to be a general feeling that the bees are getting too much credit for the production of hybrid camellias. There is this to be said on the subject — the arguments are one-sided and words only beat fruitlessly against the busy hum of the bees who little care which side gets the credit. What we know is — the principal product of the bee world is honey and if the bees are so all-fired busy

(Continued on Page 28)

To All
Camellia Lovers Everywhere



from

THE CAMELLIA REVIEW COMMITTEE

DR. JOHN H. CLAIRMONT, *Chairman*

ELIZABETH BEEBE, *Editor*

RALPH S. PEER AND MRS. VERN McCASKILL, *Board Members*

ANNUAL MEETING OF AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

February 23-26, Inclusive

Please put a red "X" over these dates on your calendar. We are planning the biggest camellia event in the history of Southern California and want our entire membership and their friends to participate.

The AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY is an organization without a permanent meeting place. Once each year its Officers and Directors travel to a selected city for the Annual Meeting. In 1956, Los Angeles will have the honor and the privilege to entertain ACS members from all over the country. Following is the tentative program:

February 23—Thursday

A.M.—Registration of Visitors

P.M.—Annual Meeting

February 24—Friday

A.M.—ACS Directors' Meeting

P.M.—Banquet with ACS dignitaries as guests

February 25—Saturday

A.M.—Visit to Huntington Gardens

P.M.—Opening of Combined Show at Descanso Gardens, followed by Cocktail Party

February 26—Sunday

Temple City Camellia Festival

The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel has been selected as Headquarters. The Camellia Banquet will be held there Friday evening and, likewise, the Cocktail Party Saturday evening.

Thursday evening, February 23, it is planned to hold a Combined Camellia Meeting to which all members of ACS or any local Society and their friends are invited. There will be as a special feature a Panel of Visiting Experts who will answer any and all questions.

Bus service will be arranged between the Roosevelt Hotel and Huntington Gardens, Descanso Gardens and Temple City.

Visitors, upon arrival in Los Angeles, should register in the Lobby of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. They will then be able to purchase reduced rate tickets entitling them to the Banquet, the Cocktail Party, entrance to the Camellia Show at Descanso Gardens and bus transportation from and to the hotel.

In order to carry out smoothly our program for the entertainment of visitors, a separate entity has been formed called the LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA COUNCIL, LTD. This is a combination of the following Societies:

Los Angeles Camellia Society
Pacific Camellia Society
Southern California Camellia Society
Temple City Camellia Society

The Council is a non-profit corporation which has as its sole function to serve as the representative of the four component Societies. Its "head office" is at 8159 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles 46, California.

Out of town visitors desiring information about sightseeing or special entertainment features should get in touch with Dr. E. Clark Hubbs, 1370 San Luis Rey Drive, Glendale, Calif.

Have you ordered your Camellia seeds yet? Contact the S C C S Secretary.

✓ SASANQUAS TAKE THE STAND

The 1955-56 Camellia season for the S C C S started off briskly with its first meeting on November 8th.

Along with old members, there were many visitors, all being introduced with welcoming friendliness by President Edwards Metcalf. Chairmen of the various committees were also introduced to give everyone a general idea of the number of persons the Society requires to carry on its many activities.

Carrying on a tradition established some years ago, President Metcalf called Harold Dryden, Ex-President, to the front and presented him with a gavel made from camellia wood by Dr. Herbert Shirley.

The program was then taken over by its Chairman, Caryll Pitkin who brought up Vern McCaskill as speaker of the evening. In spite of the sudden

hot spell, the McCaskills had brought two large baskets overflowing with sasanquas, their specialty and topic for the meeting. Very amusing were Mr. McCaskill's opening remarks about camellias in general. He avowed that the only *reticulata* he could recognize was the 'Captain Rawes' and that he considered japonicas often too stiff and haughty. He felt as if some even in his own yard, he said, seemed to stick up their noses (or petals, maybe) as he passed by. But sasanquas, now—"they are so democratic, so friendly," declared Mr. McCaskill, "so full of natural charm and beauty."

The slides which illustrated Mr. McCaskill's subsequent talk bore out his contentions. Like the Fourth of July onlookers who gasp "Ah" as showers of firework stars fill the

(Continued on Page 20)



Harvey F. Short receives the Margarete Hertrich Award for 1955 for his *Camellia japonica* 'Guest of Honor,' judged the outstanding camellia seedling, outdoor grown during a given blooming season. President Edwards Metcalf presents the award at the November meeting of the Society.

DON'T FLOAT 'EM — ARRANGE 'EM

By EDNA SCHOOF

After teaching and lecturing on the "Art of Flower Arrangement" for a number of years, I have found it is like any other form of Art, an ever changing challenge that is very hard to capture in words. However, as far as our Queen of Flowers, the Camellia, is concerned, I think if I could tell you just one thing to remember when using them in an Arrangement, I believe I would say, "Use them simply, use very few of them in each arrangement and give each blossom importance."

I don't believe anything in the floral kingdom looks as hopelessly sad to me as a bowl of "floating camellias." Yes, I know they are beautiful and the color is gorgeous, but because they are lovely is no reason why their poor little heads should be chopped off and they should be made into a sad little pile of blooms.

When we speak of Flower Arrangements, we mean just that—an arrangement. If you look the word up you will find it means to "dispose in an orderly manner; or a system of parts properly arranged." So I believe another recommendation I would make would be to use other foliage with your camellias and their own bright leaves. Bring in some transitional foliage, something finer and in a contrasting color. In the six years I have been a member of the SCCS, the flowers shown in our Shows have been getting bigger and bigger, until when they are used in an arrangement they are too dominant and carry us way back to the days when we used to use a "focal point" or "Center of interest" in our arrangements.

You know the best camellias of all to use? They are the smaller blooms and the sasanquas. The smaller blooms, used importantly and not jammed together, are the loveliest

flowers of all. Also, this solves another problem for the ladies: it eliminates the inevitable explosion when Hubby comes home and finds you have picked one of his prize blossoms, just for an arrangement in the house. So, to you ladies who like to bring your gardens into your homes, via the arrangement route, why not plant some of the smaller flowers—camellias just for yourself?

An arrangement is a wonderful way to utilize blooms that are not "show" flowers and to keep your plants from being robbed of possible winners.

Local members of the SCCS will see and hear Mrs. Schoof at the December meeting as she executes "Camellia Capers" in Arrangements. See page 7.

Camellia Decoration

Here are some hints on Christmassy doings with Camellias:

For a camellia wreath, make the background much the same as you would with evergreen only use Camellia foliage. If you can spare it, cut 4" to 5" tips of branches and overlap them to form a nice fat wreath. If your foliage is not so plentiful, use only leaves and staple each leaf on to the others until you get the desired effect. Attach your blossoms, probably having to renew them from time to time although the foliage will not need changing. An artistic way to arrange the blooms is to fasten them around the circle not too close to each other, having a larger mass of them at one lower side.

For a Christmas dinner centerpiece, a dramatic effect may be obtained by making a gorgeous ribbon bow and centering it with a great cluster of Camellias. Another intriguing style is to start with a large grouping of blooms and taper them in a line in either direction down the table ending with tiny buds.

