

American Camellia Society
The Camellia Journal

BRADFORD KING ARTICLES

2021 – 2025



C. reticulata 'Jim Smelley'

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The

Do you know that Campbell's alphabet soup has every letter in the alphabet? You may not find them all because some get broken, but there are in fact 26 different letters in each can. This is a companion article to the *Camellia Alphabet* which highlighted the first 13 letters of the alphabet. This article discusses letters N through Z just like the soup, but none are broken.

C₃

A₁

L₁

P₃

H₄

A₁

B₃

E₁

T₁

M₁

E₁

L₁

L₁

I₁

A₁

Part 2: Alphabet Soup

N₁

Nuccio's Nurseries, grower of rare camellias and azaleas since 1935, has introduced more than 200 camellias and over 100 azaleas with 10 camellia names beginning with Nuccio's and 77 Nuccio azaleas. Which one to pick?

I chose 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa' because 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, so it was named 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa'. The flower is a large red formal double with a heavy bud set and a 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. There are only eight *C. japonica* cultivars that the Nuccio's judged to be worthy of bearing their name. The 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Variegated' was developed by the Nuccio's and introduced in 2001. The sharp contrast of the white on red petals makes it a very beautiful camellia which is why I chose it above all the other options.

O₁

"Oo-La-La! Wee! Wee!" is a World War I era song released in 1919. Lyrics and music were written by George Jessel and Harry Ruby. It is a song about a man named Willie Earl who falls in love with a French girl. It is a humorous song because he only knows two words in French—"oo-la-la" and "weee-weee"—which he repeats throughout the song as the girl continues to try to talk to him.

Not only does the *C. japonica* 'Oo-La-La' have a very showy flower, but also it has a long blooming season. The medium pink flower is single to semidouble with red stripes and edges in white. There are occasional white markings on the petals. It grows upright and blooms from early to late season.

By
BRADFORD
KING



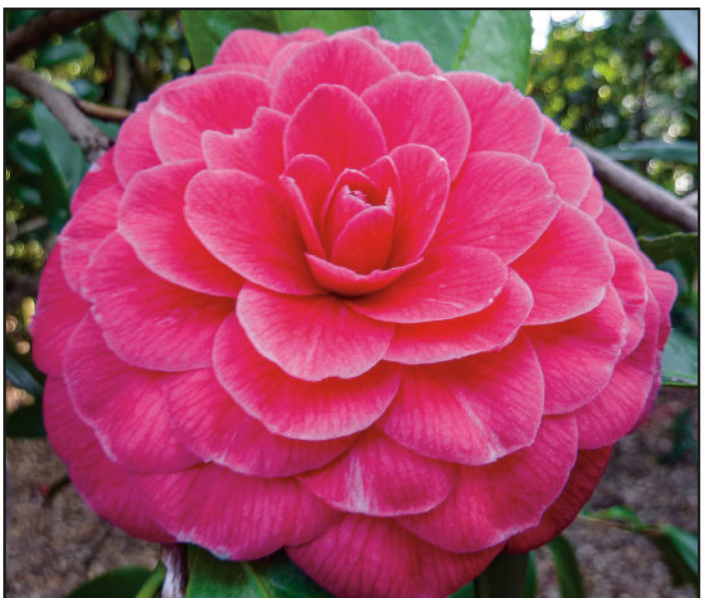
'NUCCIO'S BELLA ROSSA VARIEGATED'



'OO-LA-LA'

P₃

Both Pope and Prince begin with the letter P. 'Pope Pius IX', also known as 'Prince Eugene Napoleon', has a cherry red formal double medium flower with many small rounded petals that become smaller toward the center. It may also have occasional white streaks on some of its petals which are genetic, not a virus. It is a popular cultivar that was originated in Belgium in 1859 when Pope Pius was the Pope of the Catholic Church. Pope Pius IX (1792-1878) was the longest head of the Catholic Church serving for 31 years. He convened the First Vatican Council, considered his greatest achievement, as it helped to centralize the church in the Vatican and clearly defined the Pope's doctrinal authority of infallibility.



'POPE PIUS IX'

Q₁

Queen bee is an adult, mated female living in a beehive who is the mother of the bees in that colony. There is only one queen bee in a hive. The rest of the bees will fiercely protect her in order to maintain the survival of the colony.

The *C. reticulata* hybrid 'Queen Bee' is a very large irregular semidouble beautiful soft pink flower. Unlike the queen bee in a hive, it has many flowers from mid to late season on an upright plant.

R₁

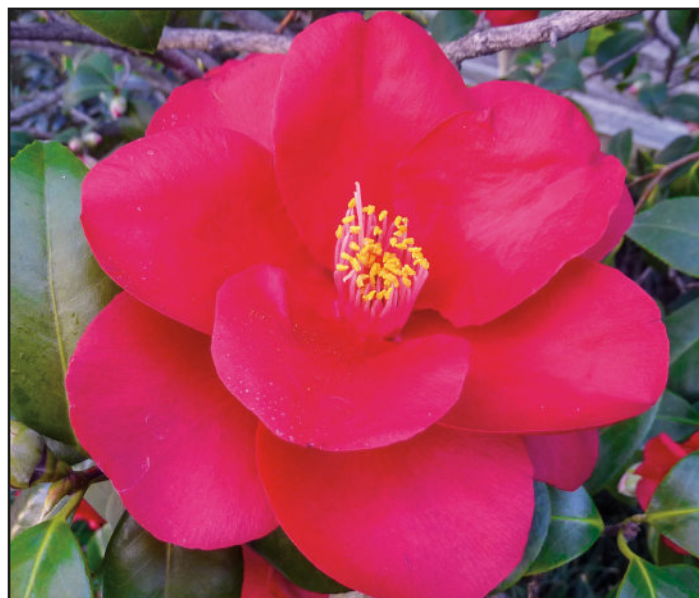
Royal Velvet is a company that for over 60 years has offered bedding, towels, and bathmats for sale, which is how the rich dark velvet red large semidouble camellia got its name. Nuccio's Nurseries was looking for names for a new introduction in 1987. Jim Nuccio was in the bathroom taking care of business when he noticed the dark velvet red bathmat, turned it over, and read the label—"Royal Velvet."

S₁

Silver is a soft, white shiny metal that is valued as a precious metal. It has been used in many cultures for coins and as an investment medium as bullion. It is used in solar panels, water filtration systems, tableware, conductors, and jewelry. There are 14 white camellias whose names begin with silver. But why are there no *reticulata* blooms named silver? Because there are no pure white *reticulata* blooms. Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena, California, has introduced nine silver camellias, all of which are



'QUEEN BEE'



'ROYAL VELVET'

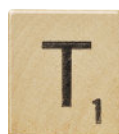


'SILVER ANNIVERSARY'



'TAMA PEACOCK'

lovely. 'Silver Anniversary' has a large semidouble flower with irregular petals intermixed with golden stamens. In America, the 25th wedding anniversary is known as the silver anniversary, and the couple frequently receive silver gifts to commemorate the occasion.



There are over a dozen 'Tama no ura' seedlings which have inherited various amounts of the picoted white border. 'Tama Americana', with its medium rose red flower, has the largest white border. 'Tama Beauty' is medium to large with a nice border as does 'Tama Glitters'. 'Tama Vino' has a dark red wine flower edged in white. 'Tama Velvet', introduced in 2018, has a dark red medium flower with varying amounts of white on the petal border. Which is the best of the Tama seedlings?

My favorite is 'Tama Peacock' which is also the biggest winner at camellia shows the last several years. The flowers bloom on an upright bush with weeping branches. The handsome plant has a robust bud set that produces quantities of small to medium semidouble flowers from early to late season, peaking in mid-season. What makes the bloom special is the central maroon color tone which washes onto the white edged petals. It is a bonus that it sets abundant seeds with pods that turn a lovely bronze tone when mature.



U is the fifth vowel letter in the alphabet. Only a few camellia names begin with U, and most of those are Japanese.

The *C. japonica* 'Unryu' was introduced by Kyoto Garden Club, Japan, in 1967. This single deep pink flower is supported by unusual zig zag branches. It is a camellia grown for its unusual growth pattern, but it has a nice small flower.



'Ville de Nantes' is the iconic fimbriated camellia. The famous French hybridizer, Heurtin, introduced it in 1910. It is a sport from 'Donckelarii' with a medium to large semi-double variegated red flower. In France, the petals are upright and fully fimbriated. In America, it tends not to develop upright petals with little or no petal fringes until late season blooms. The amount of variegation is highly variable.



While there are no church rules governing the color of a nun's habit, typically, they were white or black. White is favored by communities dedicated to nursing and regions where elevated temperatures make dark clothing less desirable. The religious order determines for themselves, based on their traditions and mission, what color habits they will wear. A nun is a member of a religious community of women who usually take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Nuns exist in Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Jainism, and Taoism. In Christianity, nuns are found in Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran traditions. The camellia 'White Nun' name was chosen in 1959 by Vernon



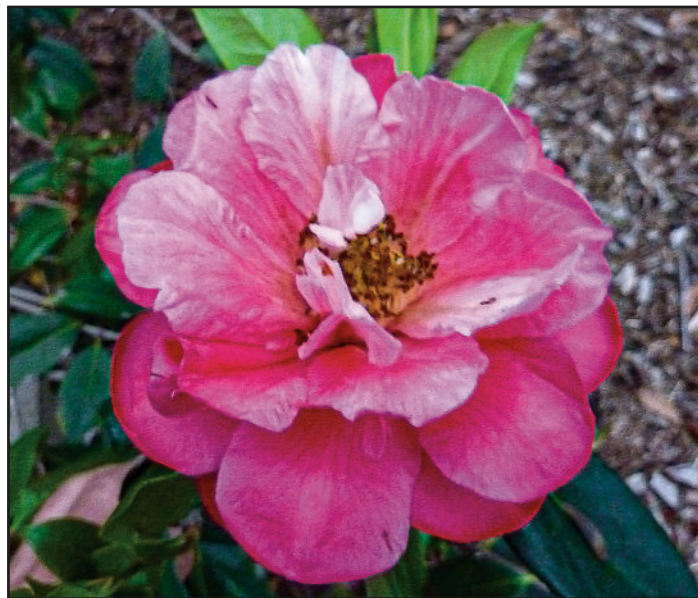
'VILLE DE NANTES'



'WHITE NUN'



'UNRYU'



'XIAOGUIYE'

McCaskill because it has very large white semidouble flowers with crisp clean full petals. It was very popular as a landscape camellia in California in the 1960s, 70s, and early 80s when McCaskill Nursery was propagating this cultivar. Today, it is still seen in older private and public gardens.



'YAMATO-NISHIKI'



There are few camellia names beginning with the letter X and all are from China. The *C. reticulata* 'Xiaoguiye' is known in English as 'Small Osmanthus Leaf.' Its foliage resembles *Osmanthus fragrans* whose leaves are used in cooking as bay leaves. 'Xiaoguiye' has a medium rose form double pink flower.



'Yamato-nishiki' (Brocade of Ancient Japan) is an old higo recognized by the Japanese Higo Society in 1912. The white flower is variegated with crimson stripes and has 6 to 8 petals and a mass of about 200 stamens. This makes it a first-class Higo which symbolizes the grace, poetry, and strength of old Japan.

The Japanese word for brocade is Nishiki. There are at least 10 Higo camellias with Nishiki as part of their name. Brocade is a type of richly decorated shuttle woven fabric. At times, colored silk and even gold and silver threads are used. The weave gives the fabric the appearance of being embroidered on. This makes a rich colorful attractive fabric which is no doubt why a Higo with clean colorful markings has Nishiki in its name.



The last letter of the alphabet brings us to the last sip of our soup. 'Zambo' was introduced in 1874 in Australia making it of historic interest. The formal double flower is a medium crimson red with dark red veining.



'ZAMBO'



THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Matthew Israel, misrael@americancamellias.org, 478-967-2358. Established in 1945, ACS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of the genus *Camellia* and the education of the public about camellias. Contributions are welcomed to help further the goals of the Society and can be made to: The American Camellia Society, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

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APPRECIATING CAMELLIAS

BY BRADFORD KING

The five human senses are key to appreciating camellias. There is no doubt that **sight is the most significant sense in appreciating camellia flowers**. It is the main reason for growing the beautiful camellia flowers. The sight of buds maturing, opening to show a cluster of stamens surrounded by a cluster of petals, is one of many reasons to grow camellias. During the fall, this is illustrated by the single blooms of the sun camellias, like 'Stars 'n Stripes'.

In the winter, more complicated flowers are seen, like the very large peony 'Lauren Tudor Variegated', with a show winning bloom, and medium formal double flowers like 'Bella Jinhua', a newer introduction capable of winning "Best of Show."

Sight is the sense that perceives the beautiful range of colors in camellia flowers as illustrated by the two-toned coral pink flower of 'Island Sunset'.

When we get to see a bright white flower with no blemishes, it is a remarkable sight as illustrated by 'Melissa Ann'.

It is the sense of sight that is used to perceive color, size, form, and condition of camellia flowers and also the shades of the green leaves, as well as the size and shape of camellia foliage.

The sense of smell is the next most important sense used in appreciating camellia flowers. While the majority of camellias have little or no fragrance, there are *C. sasanqua* cultivars with an earthy musky fragrance, as



'LAUREN TUDOR VARIEGATED'

well as several dozen camellia species with unremarkable small white scented flowers. Five nonreticulata hybrids have names that seek to capture their unique scent. 'Spring Mist' has a soft fresh scent of a light spring rain. 'Minato-no-akebono' is reminiscent of the scents at dawn emitting from a seashore harbor. 'Koto-no-kaori' has a distinct smell that may remind one of an ancient city with layers of the scents of mature wood and moist stone with a touch of sweetness. 'Cinnamon Cindy' and 'Cinnamon Sensation' have a scent like the cinnamon spice.

Taste is the most significant sense in appreciating camellia foliage. The new leaves of *C. sinensis* are harvested and processed to make tea. Worldwide the taste of tea is enjoyed more than any other beverage. It is second to water, and due to being lightly boiled, is

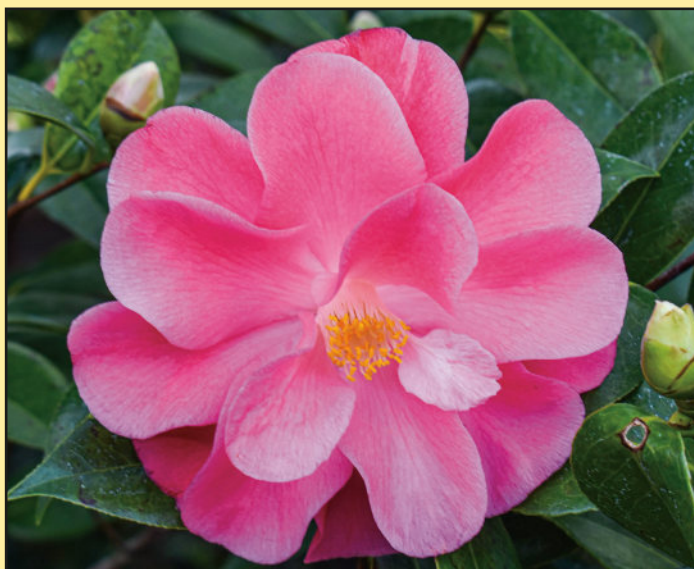


'BELLA JINHUA'

safe to drink anywhere on the planet. Iced tea is also very popular. Since there are many preferences in what "tastes good," some tea is laced with sugar and others add orange, ginger, or lemon. Brands and types of tea differ in flavor based on how they are processed. Black tea is most widely consumed, but green tea is also enjoyed.

The sense of touch is a powerful part of human behavior. We use it as a means of bonding. It is essential for a baby's development that an infant and mother form a strong attachment, which begins with touching. We need it to connect to family and friends. According to a recent National Geographic article, "research reveals how our connections keep us healthy."

The sense of touch for sighted people is not used in judging camellias, but it is used in picking camellias and cleaning dirt and aphids from camellia foliage. Howev-



'ISLAND SUNSET'



'MELISSA ANN'



BLACK AND GREEN TEA



GREEN TEA POWDER

er, close your eyes and run your finger over the surface of the leaves of a *C. reticulata* leaf. You can feel the mid vein and the network of smaller veins.

For a contrast, feel the smoother leaves on *C. azalea* that lack a serrated edge.

I can hear my camellias, can you? During windy days, camellia leaves can be heard. Usually, it is a gentle rustling; sometimes it seems like rain falling even when there is no precipitation, and occasionally, they whistle. I am amazed how they move and bend but rarely break.

There are even times my mind perceives camellias speaking. When they are in a drought, I hear them crying for water. Some mornings I hear them whispering for me to get up and see what has bloomed during the night. Look what I saw when listening to my camellias calling me one early morning.



'GUILIO NUCCIO VARIEGATED'



***C. reticulata* FOLIAGE**



***C. azalea* FOLIAGE**



Generally, the term “grand slam” refers to a clean sweep. It also has specific meanings in sports and is a popular name for flowers and vegetables.

In baseball, it means a home run with the bases loaded. In tennis and golf, it refers to winning all four of the most significant championships in the same year.

In bridge, it is the winning of all the tricks in one hand of cards. The term “little slam” refers to winning all but one of the tricks in bridge.

There are dozens of plants named grand slam including cultivars of Dianthus, Rose, Hosta, Rhododendron, and Camellias. In addition, there is a tomato and a cantaloupe called Grand Slam.

Nuccio's Nurseries introduced *C. japonica* 'Grand Slam' in 1962, and it was awarded the prestigious Illges Seedling Japonica Award in 1969. The large to very large flower is brilliant dark red. It blooms midseason on a vigorous upright somewhat open plant with semi-double and anemone form flowers.

In 1969, Nuccio's named a miniature full peony rich red flower 'Little Slam'. It blooms early to midseason on a compact upright plant. In 1981, it was awarded the John A. Taylor Jr. Miniature Award.

In conclusion, the term “grand slam” refers to outstanding success in sports and used as a plant name to connote excellence.





'NUCCIO'S CAMEO' | LIGHTBOX PHOTO OF A CAMEO

Camellias And Their “Light Box” Namesakes

BY BRADFORD KING

Some camellias have names of jewels, wine, and adornments. These interesting and beautiful camellias are illustrated here with their light box namesakes. A light box is a device used to light objects to customize a photo.

Nuccio's Nurseries introduced over 200 camellia cultivars naming a few of their best as 'Nuccio's Cameo', 'Nuccio's Gem', 'Nuccio's Jewel', 'Nuccio's Pearl', and 'Nuccio's Ruby'.

'Nuccio's Cameo' is a medium to large pink formal double flower that occasionally opens as a rose form double. My plant has reliably bloomed for 30 years

from early to late season on an upright compact bushy plant, which makes it an excellent landscape camellia. When a gem is engraved with raised relief features, it is known as a cameo. 'Nuccio's Cameo' is like a beautiful engraved brooch with its raised formal double flower.

A gem is a piece of mineral crystal which is cut, polished, and used to make jewelry. These crystals are precious like diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, and rubies, as well as semi-precious stones like opals, garnet, and lapis lazuli. 'Nuccio's Gem' has a medium to large white beautiful formal double flower. It is a precious camellia gem.



'NUCCIO'S GEM'



GEM BRACELET



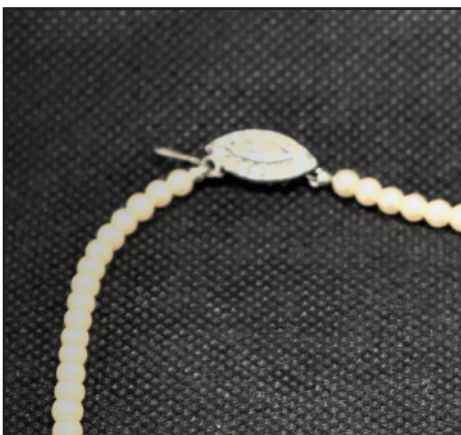
'NUCCIO'S JEWEL'



JEWELRY



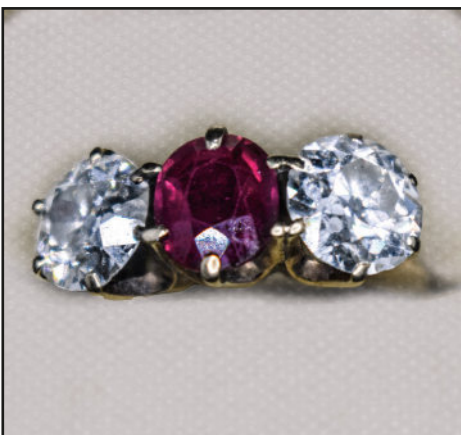
'NUCCIO'S PEARL'



PEARLS IN A LIGHT BOX



'NUCCIO'S RUBY'



A RUBY RING

'Nuccio's Jewel' has a medium loose peony white flower that shades to coral pink on the petal edges. Jewelry includes precious and semi-precious stones and minerals such as a diamond engagement ring, amethyst (the February birthstone), gold, and silver.

Pearls are valued as a gem when finely colored and lustrous. They are used in jewelry with a pearl necklace being a classic. Pearls are a smooth rounded bead formed within the shells of certain mollusks. The mollusk produces concentric layers of a protective coating around an irritating foreign object to make a pearl.

'Nuccio's Ruby' has a large to very large semidouble dark rich red flower with irregular ruffled petals. This *C. reticulata* hybrid was awarded the Harris Hybrid Award by the American Camellia Society in 1987. It was named for the gemstone which has a red color due to the element chromium. The quality of a ruby affects its value, which is determined by its color, cut, clarity, and weight. The most valuable shade of red is blood red. A ruby without an inclusion may indicate that the stone has been manufactured or treated. The ruby is the birthstone for July.

Lipstick is a cosmetic that contains pigments, oils, waxes, and emollients that applies color, texture, and protection to the lips. Red tones are the most popular color of lipstick, which is why the shiny dark red miniature anemone japonica flower with white petaloids, and red edges got its name.

People in most cultures adorn themselves to look more distinctive. In western culture, ribbons on

a gown or in one's hair are a way to improve one's looks. Buttons have a practical purpose of holding a garment together, but different sizes, shapes, and colors are used to make it more attractive. Combining buttons with bows, with a creative spelling, provides a lovely feminine name for the beautiful small pink formal double 'Buttons 'n Bows'.

Wine and champagne are alcoholic beverages made by fermenting grapes. Wine has been produced for thousands of years. Today the five countries with the largest wine-producing regions are Italy, Spain, France, the United States, and China. The most widely known red wine grape cultivar is cabernet sauvignon. Typically, cabernet wines are full bodied with tannins and taste acidic. The rich dark red wine inspired the Nuccio's to name a small formal double with burgundy red color 'Cabernet'.

Champagne is officially a white sparkling wine from the Champagne Region of France. Today, it is frequent to refer to any sparkling white wine as champagne. Champagne is used in celebrating special events such as weddings or wedding anniversaries. Drinking champagne and celebrating with other people symbolizes good fortune. However, a spilled glass of champagne means there is much left to be done.

'Elegans Champagne' is 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."



LIPSTICK IN LIGHT BOX



'LIPSTICK'



BOW AND BUTTONS IN A LIGHTBOX



'BUTTONS 'N BOWS'



CABERNET WINE Photo: Andrew King



'CABERNET'



'CHAMPAGNE' IN THE LIGHTBOX



'ELEGANS CHAMPAGNE'

Camellia Pollen

BY BRADFORD KING

Pollen is necessary for trees and flowering plants to continue life. Camellia pollen is a fine coarse yellow powdery substance. It is used for transferring the camellia flowers' male genetic material to the female part of a flower which has the female genetic material. The pollen is located on the top part of the stamen, which is called the anther. The female flower part is the pistil, which has the ovule that supports a long style topped by the stigma. The stigma is sticky, which collects the pollen. Typically, it is in the center of the flower and surrounded by multiple stamens. In most ornamental camellias, it is creamy to a light greenish color and slightly taller than the stamens.

Nature's Way

Bees are the most common pollinators of camellias. This is illustrated here with a bee visiting 'Adolphe Audusson Special'.

Wasps, flies, and hummingbirds may also pollinate camellias. In Southern California, we have seven species of hummingbirds. The most often seen are the

Anna's and Allen's who are year-round residents. These hummingbirds visit camellias in bloom. Typically, the hummingbird makes brief visits to camellia flowers, which makes it a challenge to get their picture.

The Ruby Throated Hummingbird is the east coast hummingbird who migrates to Central and South America; however, some may stay in Florida during fall and winter and pollinate camellias.

A variety of insects, including ants, aphids, and grasshoppers, as well as slugs and snails, are seen in camellia flowers seeking nectar or moisture.

They may also enjoy eating buds and flower petals but are not camellia pollinators.

In addition, lady bugs and praying mantis are seen in camellias seeking insects to eat.

Camellia Hybridizing

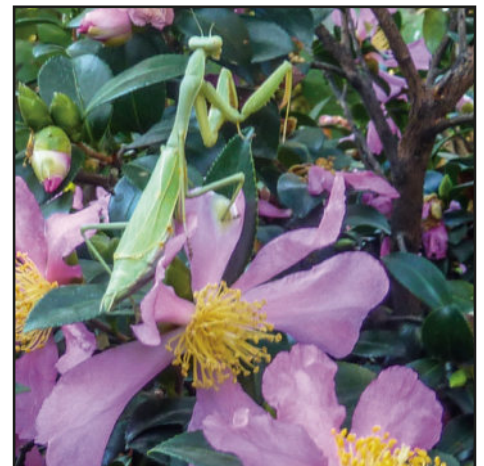
When hybridizers wish to try to develop a distinct new camellia, they pollinate camellias. Pollen is collected and placed on an emasculated flower bud. This is accomplished by removing all the anthers and petals up



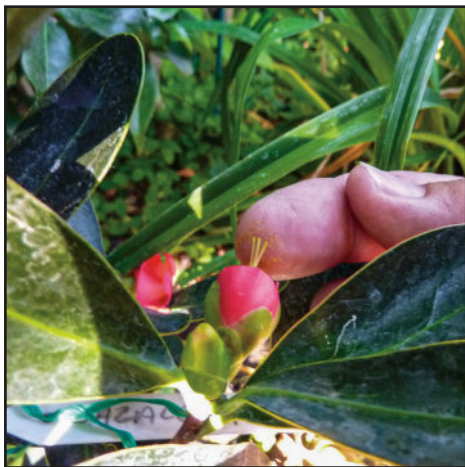
'ADOLPHE AUDUSSON SPECIAL'



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD IN
'TAMA NO URA'



PRAYING MANTIS IN *C. sasanqua*
'HUGH EVANS'



POLLEN BEING PLACED ON THE STIGMA



COLLECTING POLLEN



***C. azalea* POLLEN IN A CONTAINER**

to the calyx. The calyx holds the emasculated bud and must remain intact. Pollen is placed on the stigma.

Pollen is collected by removing a flower with ripe pollen. Many flowers have dried up pollen that cannot be used to pollinate other camellias. One strategy is to pick a new bloom or a flower bud just ready to open and place it in a warm dry protected spot allowing the pollen to ripen. This usually occurs in a few hours, or at most a day or two, before it dries out. The ripe pollen is gently knocked off onto a clean dry container or placed directly on a flower.

Pollen may be stored in the refrigerator for several months and even placed in the freezer where it should remain viable for several years. I replenish pollen in the freezer every year. Typically, I collect and store *C. azalea* pollen in this manner, as the pollen is collected when it blooms in the summer before other camellias are in bloom.

In addition, storing pollen from late bloomers like 'Julius Nuccio' to use on early bloomers like 'Tama Pea-

cock' is a sound breeding strategy.

The bright yellow camellia pollen is attractive on flower petals and an impressive sight when a mass of pollen has been collected.

What we cannot see is the two pollen cells dividing. One grows a pollen tube that moves down the styles to the ovaries. The second cell divides into two sperm cells and moves down the pollen tube entering the ovule, where there must be an egg for fertilization to occur. The ovule grows and matures into seeds that remain enclosed by the ovary which slowly develops into a fruit. In camellias, the fruit is referred to as a pod. In ornamental camellias, the pods usually have from one to nine seeds. When the three chambered pod opens, the seeds fall to the ground. They may germinate where they fall or get moved. Wind, water, animals, and people can distribute seeds.

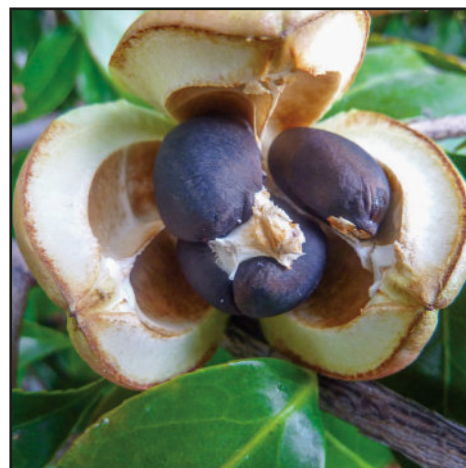
In conclusion, this is how camellias continue from generation to generation.



LABELED POLLEN CONTAINERS
Photo: Gene Phillips



LARGE QUANTITY OF POLLEN
Photo: Gene Phillips



A CAMELLIA POD WITH SEEDS

SPOTLIGHT



Nonreticulata Hybrid: 'Yume'

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRADFORD KING

'Yume' is a cross between the hiemalis 'Shishi-Gashira' and *C. yuhsienensis* which produced a small single pink flower with blotches of white. The white markings are genetic, not a virus. It is at its best when the petals alternate pink and white. The growth rate is average in a loose upright manner. It produces abundant buds even when a young plant in a one-gallon pot. The small

leaves and flower lend themselves to a pretty informal upright style bonsai.

Since the variegation is genetic, it can be inherited in its seedlings. It was introduced in Japan in 1992 by Kaoru Hagiya who had his dream come true. He named this little beauty 'Yume' which means "Dream."

Cover: 'Senritsu-Ko' is a nonreticulata hybrid with a small to medium formal double to rose form double form. The beautiful yellow flower has peach pink on the petal edges. **Photo by Bradford King**

Return to TOC

There are six camellia forms in the Camellia Nomenclature. This is the first of a series of articles which will highlight each of these forms.



THE SINGLE FORM

BY BRADFORD KING

The single form has one row of 5 to 7 petals with conspicuous stamens. The petals may be regular, irregular, or loose. The flower may or may not have petaloids.

Species

The camellia species typically have single flowers. One that is well known is *C. nitidissima*. It helps illustrate that single flowers may have a variety of petal characteristics. *C. nitidissima* has a yellow cup shaped bloom and thick waxy petals.

C. granthamiana has a white flower. It illustrates

one of the many petal characteristics, in this case, irregular long spear shaped petals.

C. grijsii also has a white flower, but the petals are oblong and notched. These are a few of the characteristics that distinguish among camellia species. They also highlight that single flowers have a wide variety of characteristics.

Flower Characteristics

The *C. sasanqua* 'Hugh Evans' has long twisted petals, another characteristics of some single blooms.



C. nitidissima



C. granthamiana Photo: Gene Philips



C. grijsii Photo: Gene Philips



'HUGH EVANS'



'TAMA GASUMI' Photo: Gene Philips



'RED TULIP'

In Japan, single camellia flowers are very popular for their uncomplicated beauty. “Wabi-sabi” is a Japanese aesthetic style, based on a world view centered on the acceptance of transience and imperfection. It has evolved for centuries and may be simply defined as “flawed beauty.” This can be seen in the Japanese appreciation of the irregular and random marks on the single Higo camellia and in the beauty of small single camellia flowers.

A few single cultivars have cup shaped blooms that have a distinctively shaped flower as illustrated by ‘Tama Gasumi’. This is a unique and attractive bloom.

There are single camellias shaped like a tulip as illustrated by the pink nonreticulata hybrid ‘Tulip Time’ and *C. japonica* ‘Red Tulip’.

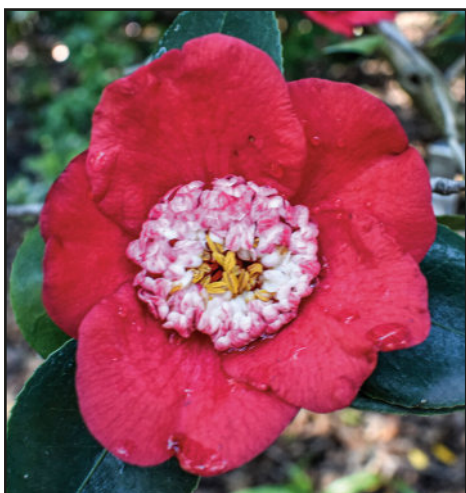
Some single camellias will have petaloids that make them interesting and attractive cultivars as illustrated by ‘Kumagai’.

Fragrance

Several species have a scent. The one used in hybridizing for fragrance is *C. lutchuensis*. The miniature white flower emits a lovely sweet scent which has been inherited by two popular single flowering cultivars. ‘Minato-no-akebono’ has a pink miniature tulip formed flower and a sweet scent. ‘Koto-no-kaori’ has a rose red flat flower with a strong scent for its size.

Higo

Higo camellias are a special type of *C. japonica* that originated in the Province of Higo, which is now Kumamoto, Japan. The single flower is irregular and roughly triangular with a mass of central stamens. There are two Higo types based on their stamens. Umejiri (Japanese apricot stamens) that flare out like the Japanese apricot and Wajiri (circular stamens) with two or three ringed



'KUMAGAI'



'MINATO-NO-AKEBONO'



'KOTO-NO-KAORI'



'OHKAN'



'GOSHO-ZAKURA' Photo: Gene Philips



'PINK-A-BOO'

layers of stamens. The majority of the most highly regarded Higos have the Umejin stamen form. This includes among others 'Asagao', 'Fuji', 'Ohkan', 'Nioi Fubuki', and 'Yamato-Nishiki'.

The Wajin form is illustrated by 'Gosho-zakura'. The single flower is round with a mass of yellow circular stamens.

Ornamentals

The sun loving camellias are better known as the *C. sasanqua* spectrum which would include *C. sasanqua*, *C. hiemalis*, and *C. vernalis* cultivars. They have many wonderful colorful single flowers and are illustrated here by 'Pink-A-Boo', a pink slightly scented sport of 'Yuletide'.

There are several wonderful single *C. japonica* cultivars that are widely grown. One of the most famous is

'Tama no Ura'. The small bright red flower has white petal edges. This picotee petal characteristic is genetic and has been used in breeding cultivars with white petal edges.

While there are *C. reticulata* single cultivars in China, they are not typically grown in America. The most widely grown single *C. reticulata* cultivar is 'Crimson Candles'. The small single flower is cold hardy. Dr. Clifford Parks named it for its abundant bright red candle shaped buds.

One of the most interesting and unique nonreticulata single hybrids is 'Yume'. The small single flower has genetic white markings. When the pink and white petals alternate, it is a dream come true.

Conclusion

The bright colorful single flowers are not to be overlooked. In the next issue of *The Camellia Journal*, Camellia Forms Class Two will highlight Semidouble.



'TAMA NO URA'



'CRIMSON CANDLES'



'YUME'



The modern English alphabet originated around the seventh century from the Latin script. According to internet sources, letters have been added or removed to give the current Modern English alphabet of 26 letters. The word alphabet comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet—alpha and beta.



The top grade in school is an A, and products so ranked are considered the best. Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet and connotes a person who is dominant or top ranked, as “he is the alpha dog in the pack.” In wolf packs, the Alpha is the top ranked female.

Therefore, ‘Alba Plena’, one of the first camellias to be imported to the western world in 1792, was chosen to begin this camellia alphabet. It came from China and was given its name in England which means full white. It has a medium fully formed formal double bloom.



The letter B, when received on a school exam, is a good grade but 10 points lower than a top A score. The first *C. japonica* yellow tinted camellia was ‘Gwenneth Morey’, registered in 1965. It was followed two years later by ‘Brushfield’s Yellow’ making it the second yellow tinted japonica to be introduced. They are both good plants with solid B flowers, but they left camellia lovers looking for better yellow camellias.



‘ALBA PLENA’



‘BRUSHFIELD’S YELLOW’



ALPHABET

This camellia article will discuss the first 13 letters of the alphabet, highlighting a camellia whose name begins with each letter.



‘C.M. HOVEY’



‘DAHLOHNEGA’



We ask young children if they know their ABCs, not do they know their A's or B's when referring to learning their letters. The C note is a popular nickname for a 100-dollar bill which stands for the Latin word for “centum” which is 100. There are 14 camellias in the 2020 *Camellia Nomenclature* whose first name begins with just the letter C. This is illustrated by C.M. Hovey whose full name was Charles Mason Hovey (October 26, 1810-1887). C.M. Hovey was an American nurseryman, seed merchant, journalist, and author of horticultural books. He is best known for his two-volume *The Fruits of America* published in the mid-1800s. In addition, he collected ornamental plants with a fondness for camellias. He wrote about them between 1835 and 1850. In the 1852 Hovey and Company seed catalogue, 102 camellia cultivars were listed. He exhibited regularly with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and was its president for four years. He was responsible for producing at least three camellia cultivars—‘Mrs. Anne Hovey’ in 1872 (named for his wife), ‘C.H. Hovey’ in 1878 (which is rarely seen today), and ‘C.M. Hovey’ in 1853 (which continues to be seen in private and public gardens) and has also been known as ‘Colonel Firey’.



Dahlohnega (“Dah-lahn-e-ga”) is a small city in middle Georgia not far from Mobile. The city got its name from the gold found nearby. When prospectors found gold in the 1820s, masses of hopeful miners rushed to the area. This was America’s first gold rush and later the home to a U.S. mint. The name “Dahlohnega” is Cherokee for “golden.”

‘Dahlohnega’ has a small to medium creamy to pale yellow formal double flower. It has a long blooming season from midseason into spring. My last flowers made it until the end of April. Since I gib, some began blooming in December.



The “Elegans” camellia family began in England in 1831. ‘Elegans’ was grown from seed by Chandler and Booth. The flower is a lovely pink large to very large anemone that has mutated a dozen new “sports.” This includes ‘C. M. Wilson’, ‘Elegans Supreme’, ‘Elegans Splendor’, and ‘Elegans Champagne’. When ‘Elegans’ is variegated, the large anemone flower has lovely white markings. It has been grown widely and blooms regularly every year.



In school, an exam grade of F indicates failure and numerically less than 60% correct responses. The first Ferris Wheel was launched June 21, 1893. It 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 St. Louis World Fair. This iconic amusement park ride lives on at county fairs and carnivals. It whirls through the sky, lit up at night, where it 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 make the semidouble flower pop.



‘ELEGANS VARIEGATED’



‘FERRIS WHEEL’



‘GUILIO NUCCIO VARIEGATED’



'HAPPY HIGO'



'INTERLUDE'



'JUNIOR PROM'



The most significant word that begins with the letter G is God.

God is usually thought to be all-knowing, all-powerful, and an eternal existence. Some take this literally and others as an analogy.

The most acclaimed camellia nursery in America is Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, California. Nuccio's is a family business that began in 1935 when two brothers grew camellias in their parent's backyard. Katherine Nuccio and Guilio Nuccio were commemorated by their sons Joe and Julius naming a camellia for them. 'Katherine Nuccio' was named first in 1950 and 'Guilio Nuccio' in 1956. The large to very large semidouble coral rose flower, with some upright irregular petals, is glamorous when variegated.



Higo camellias are noted for their mass of stamens and bright colorful irregular single flat flowers with five to seven large petals. They are a type of *C. japonica* that originates in Japan. The Higo Camellia Society was founded in Kumanoto, Japan, in 1958. Five members of the Higo Society Registration Committee observe the plant for five years to ensure that the flower pattern is stable. There must be at least 100 plants for sale at the time of registration. However, there are Higo cultivars that have been introduced and not approved by The Higo Society of Kumanoto. This is illustrated by Nuccio's 'Happy Higo' which is a very large Higo style red camellia with a mass of golden stamens.



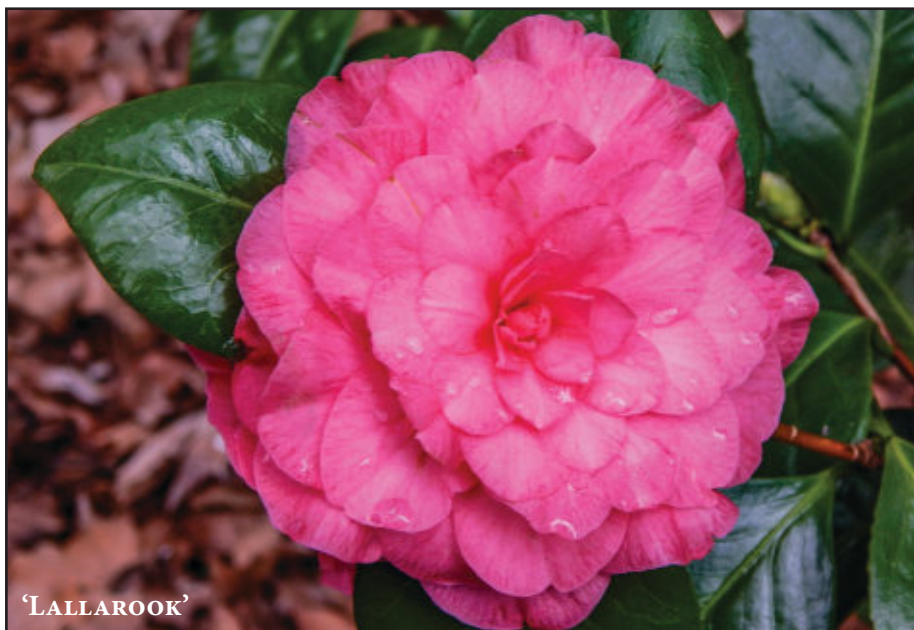
An interlude is an interruptive period of time. In a musical composition, an interlude is inserted between two larger parts of a composition. There are *C. sasanqua* that bloom in the fall and later varieties of *japonica* that bloom in the winter. There are some *C. hiemalis* that



bloom in the interval between them. One very beautiful example is 'Interlude'. The small rose form double light pink flower has a lavender tint with upright crinkled petals that make a beautiful bloom.



A son named after his father is called junior. In high school, a junior is the same as the 11th grade. When the high school juniors sponsored a formal dance, it was called a Junior Prom. A large rose form double white to light blush flower was named 'Junior Prom' by the Nuccio's in 1996. Today's juniors have abandoned the junior prom that camellia folk enjoyed in their youth.



THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Matthew Israel, misrael@americancamellias.org, 478-967-2358. Established in 1945, ACS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of the *genus Camellia* and the education of the public about camellias. Contributions are welcomed to help further the goals of the Society and can be made to: The American Camellia Society, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

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The Nuccio's first camellia introduction was named Katherine Nuccio in 1950 to honor their mother. However, it is more frequent for those named Katherine to be called Katie. Therefore, when a very large pink semi-double was developed in 1979, it was named 'Katie'. The variegated form has wonderful white blotches on the petals.



Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) is an evergreen tree with fragrant green foliage from the Mediterranean region. Its leaves are used as bay leaves in cooking. 'Lallarook' (Laurel Leaf) has a medium to large formal double pink flower with white marbling. Occasionally, petals are incurved. It originated in Italy and went on to France before coming to America. It dates to 1893 and still has its fans.



The Marchioness of Salisbury was Georgina Gascoyne-Cecil, the wife of the British statesman Lord Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, the third Marquess of Salisbury. They were married on July 11, 1857 and had eight children. He entered the House of Lords after his father's death and served in several positions in the British government. He was Prime Minister three times serving for a total of 13 years. He was the first British Prime Minister of the 20th century and the last Prime Minister to head his full administration from the House of Lords.

The camellia 'Marchioness of Salisbury' came from England in the 1800s to Magnolia Gardens, South Carolina. Magnolia Plantation and Gardens was founded in 1676 by the Drayton family. It is the oldest public garden in America, opening its doors to visitors in 1870, where camellias have been a mainstay. 'Marchioness of Salisbury' has found its way from England throughout America. The small anemone flower with dark maroon petals, liberally marked with white, is eye catching.



‘HUGH EVANS’



‘HUGH EVANS’

Twisted & Screwy

BY BRADFORD KING

Unfortunately, with age some of us may find our bodies ache and even become twisted. Some people have had twisted thoughts for years and are known as “screwy.” Perhaps after weeks of being sheltered and isolated due to Covid-19, your thoughts are becoming twisted and screwy. I wash my hands, keep six feet from others, wear a face mask in public, and write about my favorite flower. Is this “screwy” or just unusual? Well, how about a short story about camellias with twisted petals and screwy branches.

Twisted Petals

The single pink flower of ‘Hugh Evans’ has long narrow twisted petals. This early blooming *C. sasanqua* has a profusion of flowers on an upright bushy shrub. The petals make an interesting flower just like a slightly twisted friend who keeps us entertained.

‘Lemon Twist’ has a medium semidouble pale yellow

flower with several central twisted petals. The name catches the two key characteristics of this nonreticulata hybrid—yellow colored twisted petals.

Some people seem screwier sometimes than at other times. Perhaps they have narrow opinions and a pointed delivery. The cultivar ‘Mark Alan’ seems to have twisted petals or are they narrower and pointed?

There are several irregular semidouble camellia flowers that are not twisted or screwy. They remind me of a relative who is described as a diamond in the rough—not smooth and polished but.... Bob Hope was a famous comedian and TV actor. Many comedians are funny because they are irregular thinkers. ‘Bob Hope’ is a large red semidouble flower with irregular petals. The wavy and various sized petals make a more interesting flower.

There are also women who are quirky irregular thinkers such as the acclaimed actress Shirley McClain. Likewise, ‘Elizabeth Dowd Silver’ has quirky formed



‘LEMON TWIST’



‘MARK ALAN’



'BOB HOPE'



'SILVER ANNIVERSARY'



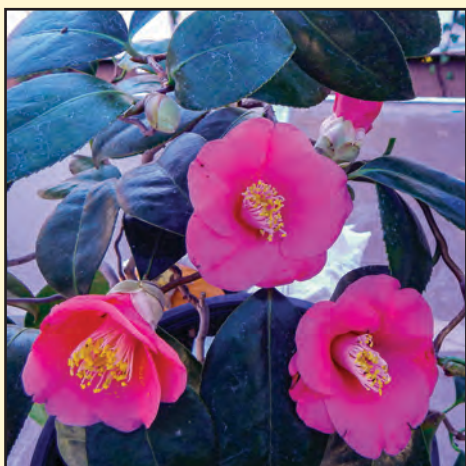
'SILVER ANNIVERSARY'

petals that some feel is a distraction, but others find appealing. She has a beautiful blush pink flower with a white border and irregular petals.

Being married for 25 years is an achievement worth celebrating ones "Silver Anniversary." The camellia 'Silver Anniversary' illustrates something all camellia growers have experienced—one beautiful formed bloom and on the same plant a flower that's so irregular it isn't worthy of a celebration.

Screwy Branches

The *C. japonica* 'Unryu' was introduced by Kyoto Garden Club, Japan, in 1967. The small single deep pink flower is supported by unusual zig zag branches. Leaves grow in opposite directions at a 45° angle. I grow it as a bonsai and move it when in bloom where it can easily be enjoyed.



'UNRYU' BONSAI



'ELIZABETH DOWD SILVER'

Jim Nuccio found an unusual plant with zig zag branches in a bed of 'Egao' plants. Nuccio's propagated this sport and named it 'Egao Corkscrew'. Not only do the branches twist and turn like a corkscrew, but the medium pink flowers are also a mutation. Approximately half of the flowers are semidouble with ruffled petals, and the other half are a peony with ruffled petals. The plant grows slowly and spreading while its

parent 'Egao' is more vigorous and grows upright.

'Shibori Egao Corkscrew' is the virus variegated form of this cultivar. The white blotches on a peony flower with ruffled petals is striking. I like to grow it as a bonsai where the natural twisted branches lend themselves to pot culture. When in bloom, they can be moved where they can be enjoyed by others, such as an exhibit on the ACS show table.



'EGAO CORKSCREW'



'SHIBORI EGAO CORKSCREW' BONSAI



To Treat or Not To Treat

BY BRADFORD KING

In terms of human health, the question to treat or not to treat can be a question of life or death. Fortunately, to treat or not to treat your camellias is never a life-or-death issue. When we treat camellia buds with gibberellic acid by removing the adjacent growth bud and placing a drop of gib on this surface, we have two expectations. First, we expect the flower to bloom earlier than an untreated flower bud. Second, we expect the treated flower bud to produce a larger flower than an untreated flower bud.

These results can be seen in the garden and at camellia shows. This is illustrated here by 'Spring Daze', a mid to late season nonreticulata hybrid. Those flower buds that are treated generally bloom sooner than the

untreated buds growing on the same plant. In addition, they are more likely to be formal double than loose peony. By late season most flowers will be rose form double or loose peony. This is what is known as an $N=1$ investigation. That is, only one plant is in the study, because as a hobbyist I have only one plant. The observation is valid, but care is needed assuming it is true for other plants and different microclimates. At least 10 plants are the minimum in a study, and the larger the sample the better. In other words, $N=10$ is minimal, and the larger the number in a sample, the better to make recommendations and conclusions. This year the first four flowers were formal double treated flowers like 'Spring Daze' above. In April, the untreated flowers were loose



UNTREATED 'SPRING DAZE' IN APRIL

peony form. They are, however, both very beautiful.

Treated camellia flowers are generally larger than untreated flowers grown on the same plant. This is illustrated by 'Miss Charleston Var.' The natural untreated bloom appears first in the photo, and the second treated flower is clearly larger. Typically, 10% to 20% larger is expected, but some may be much larger, and some may actually have no size change but bloom early. There are also flowers that show no size change and bloom the same time as the natural bloom. Why this occurs has not been scientifically investigated. However, we count on having earlier and larger blooms when we treat with gibberellic acid. 'Grand Prix' illustrates the clear benefit of gib in producing a larger flower.

In California, we have camellia show classes for treated and untreated. Other areas of the camellia world have protected and unprotected. Both treated and pro-



'GRAND PRIX' NATURAL AND TREATED

tected are expected to provide advantages, which is why they are entered in different classes to ensure fairness.

One of the significant issues in treating a health problem is the side effects or risks due to the treatment. However, there are usually consequences when choosing not to seek or accept treatment.

Fortunately, in treating camellias with gib, there is little to no risk. There may be some who fear that treating a camellia with gibberellic acid will have negative effects on the plant. When gib is applied to the growth bud adjacent to the flower bud, there is no significant negative impact on the camellia plant's growth or ability to produce foliage and buds the next season. This is seen in the photo below. The hole in the leaf indicates where the gibbed bloom was removed, and new foliage has grown. In the "Gib with no damage" photo, the dead stem that looks like a dragon head is the result of gib after the flow-



NATURAL AND GIBBED 'MISS. CHARLESTON VAR.'



NEW GROWTH AFTER GIB



'SPRING DAZE' BUD FORM AND OPEN

er was picked. The multiple new buds were formed the next season. One drop of gib placed on the growth bud will only travel a very short distance—less than an inch.

Spraying camellias with gib to get better flowers is a high risk and very low probability strategy, most likely interfering with growth and possibly causing its death. Don Lesmeister has experimented with using gib to enhance growth in small potted camellias—1- to 5-gallon pot size. He reports that he sprayed gib on selected plants when new green leaves are around $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ open. He sprays the green part of the stem and leaves early in the morning with the 200 ppm gib mix—4-6 squirts. You can spray the underside of the leaf with the 200-ppm solution without adverse effects. There is no need to spray the older brown wood. He warns us that if the plant shows any signs of burn, extend the spraying by another day or move the plant into full shade. He con-



GIB FAILURE

tinues spraying the plant until the green wood begins to turn brown, usually sometime in July, and then stops the treatment. The treated plants usually do not set buds the first year after this treatment but will the next year.

The study I did several years ago on the ability of gib to improve germination resulted in the seedlings sprouting sooner than untreated seedlings, but they were weak and spindly. I concluded there was no reason to gib, as camellia seeds germinated easily on their own.

Are there any unintended consequences of gibbing camellia buds? Yes, poor flower form may occur. This is illustrated by this extreme example I observed in my garden this season.

In conclusion, it takes patience and time to gib dozens of camellias. There are no significant risks to the camellia plant, however, when the gib takes, you will be very pleased just as I was when I picked 'Julius Nuccio'.



GIB WITH NO DAMAGE



GIBBED 'JULIUS NUCCIO'

SPOTLIGHT

C. sasanqua: 'Mondel' is 'Pink-A-Boo'

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRADFORD KING

'Pink-A-Boo' ('Mondel') is a beautiful pink sport of 'Yuletide' with a single small to medium flower with seven petals. The center is a deep pink that shades to lighter pink, and the flower has a light sweet scent. It grows vigorously upright and blooms mid to late season. It is propagated by Monrovia Nursery who trade-

marked it as 'Pink-A-Boo', but the nomenclature name is *C. sasanqua* 'Mondel'. The "Mon" refers to Monrovia Nursery, the propagators. "Del" is the initials of the daughter of the man who found the sport among the 'Yuletide' plants at the nursery.

Cover: 'Stars 'N Stripes' is a nonreticulata hybrid that can be grown like a sun camellia. *Photo by Bradford King*

Best Camellias Bred

Camellias are grown in a dozen southeastern states, as well as the Pacific Coast from Southern California to Washington, and indoors in a few northern states. This is one of a series of articles highlighting the camellias originating in each state.

BACK STORY

According to internet sources, the earliest people to live in what is now North Carolina were hunters and gatherers at least 10,000 years ago. Over the years, many Native American cultures called the area home, including the Cherokee, Woodland, and Mississippian tribes. English colonists began to settle the coastal areas in the mid-1500s. The most well-known were the two begun by Sir Walter Raleigh that failed. North Carolina remained a rural state with no cities and a few villages in the early 1900s populated by small farms. However, after the cotton gin was invented in 1794, the eastern part of the state developed plantations.

The state capital is Raleigh (“City of Oaks”) and was named after Sir Walter Raleigh. Some interesting facts about North Carolina: 1. Babe Ruth hit his first home run in Fayetteville on March 7, 1914. 2. The state is the largest producer of sweet potatoes in the nation and leads the nation in furniture, tobacco, brick, and textile production.

The state bird is the Northern Cardinal, wildflower is the Carolina Lily, and tree is the Longleaf Pine.

The state nickname is “The Tar Heel State,” which is believed to originate from the fact that tar, pitch, and turpentine, created from the pine forest, were the most important early exports in the state’s economy.

CAMELLIA HISTORY

Elizabethan Gardens were kept honoring Queen Elizabeth I during her reign. According to the Elizabethan Garden website, the garden was created as a living memorial to the time when Sir Walter Raleigh’s lost colonists lived in this very place over 400 years ago. The Gardens include a collection of Renaissance statues and fountains in a formal garden setting. A statue of Virginia Dare, the first person born in the colonies to English parents, is in the garden. Today, the Elizabethan Garden contains over 500 species of plants and contains a collection of more than 85 varieties of camellias which were donated by The Camellia Society of North Carolina. The original specimens were grouped by color and include early blooming *C. sasanqua*, winter blooming *C. japonica*, and *C. sinensis*, the tea plant. In 2003, the collection was dedicated as a tribute to Louis Midgette, Jr., who served as superintendent of The Elizabethan Gardens for its first 28 years. He won many show awards for camellias grown in his home garden.

BEST CAMELLIA BRED IN NORTH CAROLINA

One of the most successful camellia breeders was Dr. Clifford Parks. Early in his career, he began to make controlled crosses between

in North Carolina

BY BRADFORD KING

C. reticulata cultivars and a variety of other camellia species when he was at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, California. He continued this program when he moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, as a professor of botany. He also bred yellow and fragrant hybrids. Most notably, Dr. Parks is a pioneer hybridizer of cold hardy camellias. He introduced a dozen cold hardy cultivars which are known as the April series for their spring blooming season and two fall blooming cold hardy cultivars, 'Autumn Sprit' and 'Red Jade', that bloom late January to February. In addition, Cliff had a long-standing interest in collecting and preserving camellia species. He collected wild camellia seeds from China and brought them to the U.S. He coauthored the *Collected Species of the Genus Camellia: An Illustrated Outline*.

Dr. Clifford Parks' cold hardy breeding program is an outstanding achievement. Therefore, the whole series makes this list of "best bred camellias in North Carolina." Frequently, he used 'Berenice Boddy' as the pollen parent, which, as the April name indicates, is a spring blooming camellia. This includes the popular 'April Remembered' which has a medium to large semidouble cream to pink shaded flower. While its color tones and

form are like its parent 'Berenice Boddy', it has a slightly larger flower and is more cold tolerant (zone 6A which is -5 to -10 degrees). The seed parent was 'Dr. Tinsley' which also is a semidouble pink toned bloom that shades deeper on the petal edges. This cultivar is propagated by Camellia Forest, Monrovia Nursery, and Bennett's Creek Nursery, as well as others, which makes it widely available to the public.

A medium to large shell pink semidouble flower was named 'April Blush'. It is cold hardy in zone 6B which is 0 to -5 degrees. It sets buds freely and grows slowly into a nice bushy plant.

Candy striped flowers are extremely attractive, which is the description for 'April Dawn'. The flower is white with various amounts of pink stripes. The small to medium formal double flower is especially variable; for example, it can produce all white or all pink or half white and half pink blooms. It has a long blooming season and produces many flowers which are hardy to zone 6B. The photo of 'April Dawn' shows its variability with two typical white flowers with pink stripes and two all pink flowers in the foreground.

The earliest blooming of the April series is 'April Kiss'. The small to medium pinkish red formal double flower



'APRIL REMEMBERED'



'RED JADE'



'APRIL BLUSH' photo by Gene Phillips



'APRIL DAWN' Photo by Gene Phillips



'APRIL KISS' Photo by Gene Phillips



'APRIL ROSE' Photo by Gene Phillips

has a heavy bud set and is borne on a vigorous upright plant of slow to average growth. It is hardy to zone 6B.

The very compact slow growing 'April Rose' plant has a medium rose red formal double flower. It is a late season bloomer that is cold hardy in zone 6B. David Parks reports it was the only one of thousands of plants to bloom in 1985 when temperatures reached -9 degrees with no winter dieback recorded.

White cold hardy camellias are represented by 'April Snow', which has a medium to large rose form double flower, and 'Survivor', which has a small single very cold hardy flower. It is a hybrid cross between *C. sasanqua* 'Narumigata' and *C. oleifera* bred by Dr. Parks.

'April Tryst' has a medium bright red anemone flower. The plant grows upright and has a heavy bud set and long blooming season. According to its propagator, David Parks, even in cold weather the flowers open undamaged.

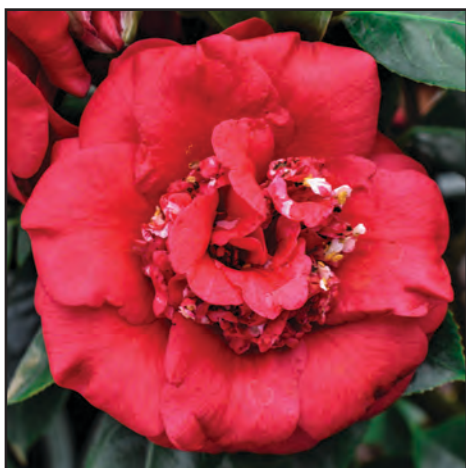
The cold hardy to -5 degrees profuse blooming 'Red

Jade' has a small light red semidouble flower that blooms midwinter and may continue into spring. Dr. Parks crossed 'Berenice Boddy' with 'Midnight' to obtain this cultivar.

In 1995, Dr. Parks registered a cold hardy (zone 7A) *C. reticulata* X *C. fraterna* hybrid he named 'Crimson Candles'. The heavy bud set produces lovely red candle shaped buds which open to a small bright rose red single flower. It blooms February to March, then a new growth flush produces bronze leaves.

BEST SPORTS ORIGINATING IN NORTH CAROLINA

'Look Away' is a beautiful sport of 'Hermé'. It was propagated by Orton Plantation Nursery, Winnabow, North Carolina, which assisted in distributing this cultivar. It was found by Mealing in 1948 in South Carolina. The medium peony flower has a wide white border and deep rose pink center which makes for a striking bloom.



'APRIL TRYST'



'LOOK AWAY'



'CRIMSON CANDLES'

Camellia Bonsai:



BALD CYPRESS IN THE HUNTINGTON



SATSUKI AZALEA BONSAI IN THE HUNTINGTON



BONSAI FALL FOLIAGE



'SHOWA-NO-HIKARI'

A Living Art Form

BY BRADFORD KING

The art of bonsai originates in ancient China. Bonsai culture and techniques have developed in Japan for 500 years and have become a part of America in the last 100 years. Many trees and shrubs make outstanding bonsai. Traditional evergreen favorites include Japanese Black Pine, Mugho Pine, Sargent's Juniper, and Bald Cypress.

Deciduous trees with lovely foliage are also popular such as the Ginkgo Biloba and Japanese Maples.

Flowering plants are highly valued bonsai such as Wisteria, Cherry and Kurume, and Satsuki azaleas. While camellias make wonderful bonsai, they are rarely seen in America.

Higo Bonsai

The Higo camellias are a special type of *C. japonica* that originated in the Province of Higo which is now Kumamoto, Japan. The Higo camellias have a single flower with a central mass of 100 to 250 stamens. A typical bloom is flat and irregular with large petals. They may be grown in the ground, but in Japan they are frequently a bonsai. The classic Japanese Higo camellia bonsai highlights the trunk, leaves, and blooms. This is illustrated by 'Ohkan' (King's Crown) which is a sport of 'Yamato-Nishiki'. It has a medium single white flower with a lovely rose red border and flared golden stamens. It is a slow growing compact plant that blooms midseason which makes an informal upright bonsai.

The Literati style bonsai is described as "refined elegance." It traditionally has slender twisting branches with curves and a minimal amount of foliage, just enough to sustain its life. It is most like the informal upright style of bonsai but lacks many lower branches. It is like an abstract art form, as it has no definite pattern but has a shape which may look disfigured.

The Literati style is illustrated by 'Showa-no-hikari'

(Light of Showa) which has a medium pink flower striped with rose red and flared golden stamens. It is a genetic mutation from 'Yamato-nishiki'. It has the "wa-jin" (circular) style stamens. The flared rows of stamens are a hallmark of this cultivar. "Showa" is a period in Japanese history (1926-1989) corresponding with the time Hirohito was emperor. It means "Enlightened Peace."



'OHKAN' BONSAI

'Gosho-zakura' (Imperial Place Cherry) has a very lovely shade of light cherry pink flower with a circle of pale yellow stamens. The petals may fade to white at their base and softly fold back as the bloom ages. There are 120 to 130 stamens arranged in a ring. Most Higo flowers are single, flat, irregular, and roughly triangular shape. 'Gosho-zakura' is one that is an exception, as the single flower is round and not flat with a mass of yellow circular stamens. The small green leaves are oval to elliptical shaped.



'GOSHO-ZAKURA'

Foliage Bonsai Camellias

There are several camellias with striking leaf patterns that make wonderful bonsai. These camellias are rarely seen at camellia shows and only occasionally in home gardens. Foliage camellias like 'Taiyo' and 'Hana-Daijin Special' are two of the better candidates to bonsai.



'GOSHO-ZAKURA' BONSAI

'Taiyo' has wonderful rich green foliage with an irregular yellow pattern in the center of the leaf. It has a single coral rose flower on an upright spreading plant. This *C. japonica* variety *rusticana* (snow camellia) blooms early to midseason.

The upright growth of 'Hana-Daijin Special' lends itself to a formal upright bonsai form. It has a good bud set and will bloom in the fall. The pink single medium to large flower looks pretty among the small gray green leaves with a light yellow border. In Japanese, Hana Daijin means "Minister of Flowers" so this cultivar is a "Special Minister of Flowers."

Zig-zag Camellias to Bonsai

'Egao Corkscrew' is a sport of 'Egao'. It has a natural distinctive zigzag growth habit that lends itself to bonsai. It has a beautiful pink medium to large flower with highly ruffled petals. The bloom is semidouble to loose peony in form. The growth habit is average and spreading and may be grown in sun or partial shade. Some may find the flower too large for the small foliage. Others will appreciate the bright colors of a large bloom



'TAIYO' AS A BONSAI

How To Bonsai

A bonsai is a “tree in a pot.” The key factor is getting a tree to grow in a small pot.

1. Prune the camellia into your bonsai mental image.
2. Wire the camellia into the desired shape with bonsai wire (soft easy to bend copper wire) which can be purchased from specialized nurseries, garden shops, or on the internet.
3. Shop for bonsai pots that are the correct size, shape, and color to go with your camellia. In general, round or oval are used for flowering plants and rectangle for non-flowering.
4. Prepare the camellia mix for your bonsai. This mix needs to be loose in order to drain well, slightly acidic, and high in humus.
5. Prepare the bonsai pot by cutting wire screening to be placed over the drain holes.
6. Carefully remove the camellia from its container by turning it onto its side and tapping the sides of the pot until the root ball is loose.
7. Wash all the soil from the root ball being careful not to damage roots.
8. Prune the roots up to a third. Remove any dead or damaged roots. If the root ball is small or not fully developed, reduce the root pruning accordingly.
9. Place your camellia in the bonsai pot. This may mean dead center for a zigzag ‘Egao Corkscrew’. In others, slightly off center may be preferable. Roots should be carefully spread throughout the pot. If possible, one or two large roots and a few small roots are left exposed. This gives the perspective of old age.
10. A bonsai will thrive in a northern or eastern exposure under a tree or in a shady area protected from full sun. A C. *Sasanqua*, ‘Egao Corkscrew’, and ‘Shibori Egao Corkscrew’ will take more sun. Bonsai camellias are to be kept moist and not allowed to dry out. Pour water on the soil to the top of the pot and allow the water to soak in. Repeat three or four times until the water flows freely from the bottom of the pot.
11. Feed every other week with a liquid fertilizer from the middle of March until the end of August using a product like Miracle-Gro for Azaleas and Camellias (30-10-10) at one third strength to reach 10-3.3-3.3. From September to March, feed sparingly with a fertilizer with a low amount of nitrogen, less than N3. Less is better than more.
12. Bonsai need ongoing shaping for as long as necessary to maintain or improve the desired look. Prune plants in the spring after the growth flush. Prune to the leaf growth bud pointing in the direction you wish for new growth to push out. Wires can be removed after a few months. If needed, new wires may be added to improve the shape of the bonsai.
13. Repot every two years, but never longer than three years, before new growth begins. The cool days of February are optimal for repotting. Pull the camellia out of the pot and trim 20% of the larger roots. Fill the empty space with a high-quality camellia mix. Keep the repotted bonsai in a protected area out of wind and sun for two weeks.
14. Enjoy your bonsai creation!





'HANA-DAIJIN SPECIAL' BONSAI



THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Matthew Israel, misrael@americancamellias.org, 478-967-2358. Established in 1945, ACS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of the *genus Camellia* and the education of the public about camellias. Contributions are welcomed to help further the goals of the Society and can be made to: The American Camellia Society, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

THE CAMELLIA JOURNAL

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'EGAO CORKSCREW'



**'EGAO CORKSCREW'
SLANTED FORM BONSAI**



'SHIBORI EGAO CORKSCREW' BONSAI

on a small plant. Bonsai camellias have the same size flowers and foliage as those in the ground.

'Egao Corkscrew' can also be trained to grow in a slanted style which makes for an interesting bonsai.

'Shibori Egao Corkscrew' is the variegated form of 'Egao Corkscrew'. It too has the distinctive zigzag growth habit with green leaves that are blotched with yellow. This makes for a very attractive foliage bonsai that has a pink flower with white markings.

"Old" Roots

In Japan, wild camellia roots are harvested to be used as rootstock to provide an aged look to the bonsai. The strategy I use is to look for old potted plants in nurseries that have been overlooked. Sometimes camellia

friends pass into camellia heaven leaving plants that need a new home. It was in this way I inherited 'Midnight Variegated' barely thriving in a three-gallon pot. After repotting, it began to have new leaves and an occasional flower. Three years later it was placed in a bonsai pot that showed its interesting gnarled roots.

Interesting Camellias

The small single flowers of 'Yume' (Dream) make a showy bonsai. The flower has pink petals with genetic white blotches. The amount of white is variable and is particularly outstanding when petals alternate pink and white. A small plant will have profuse flowers. The spreading loose form makes a lovely informal upright bonsai.



**'MIDNIGHT VARIEGATED'
BONSAI ROOTS**



**'SHIBORI EGAO CORKSCREW'
BONSAI**



'YUME'

Flowering Camellia Trees

BY BRADFORD KING

When a camellia tree is in full bloom, it is a beautiful sight. In the fall, the sun loving *C. sasanqua*, *C. hiemalis*, and *C. vernalis* light up the landscape. When the cool short days of winter arrive, our days are brightened by colorful *C. japonica* and the glorious Williamsii hybrid blooms. The camellia shows may have ended before the large gorgeous *C. reticulata*s show their faces. Do you have favorites? I will share some of mine.

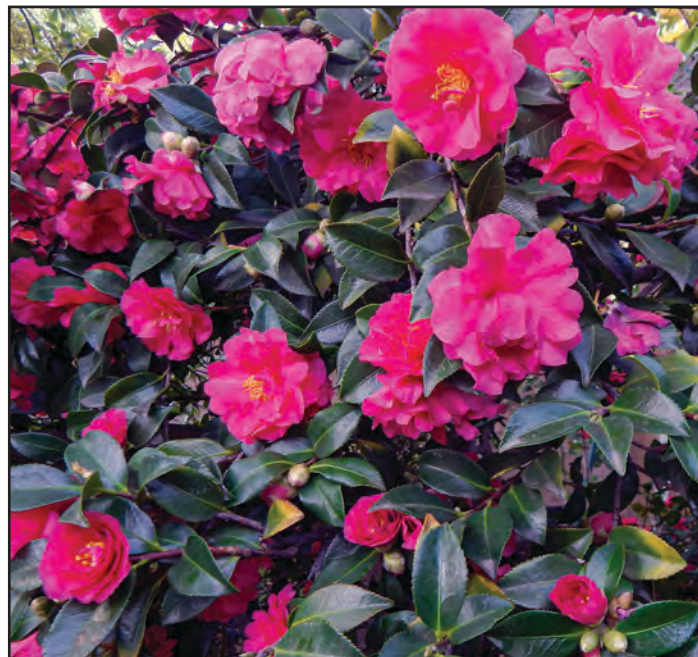
‘EGAO’



'HUGH EVANS'

Fall

For more than 30 years, the first sasanqua I see is 'Hugh Evans'. The single pink flower has twisting irregular petals. A single flower is not exciting, but when a tree is in full bloom with a mass of flowers, it is! My favorite fall camellia is 'Shishi-Gashira' which has lovely small red flowers that cover a neat five by five-foot plant. The colorful masses of flowers are in full view from our bedroom window. A cheerful sight! When walking in the garden, the red flowers emit a lovely scent which is



'SHISHI-GASHIRA'

very attractive to bees.

In late fall and early winter, the smiling face of 'Egao', with its pink flower, ushers in the winter season. This medium to large flower grows on a bushy upright plant. The pretty flowers look good in the garden and are capable of winning awards in a camellia show.

Winter

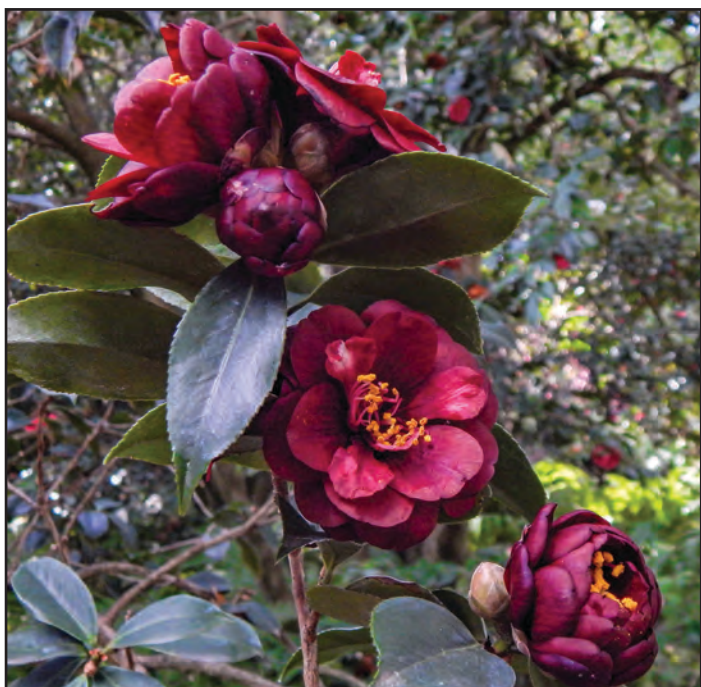
The short cool days of winter are not conducive for outdoor flowers. However, the queen of the winter gar-



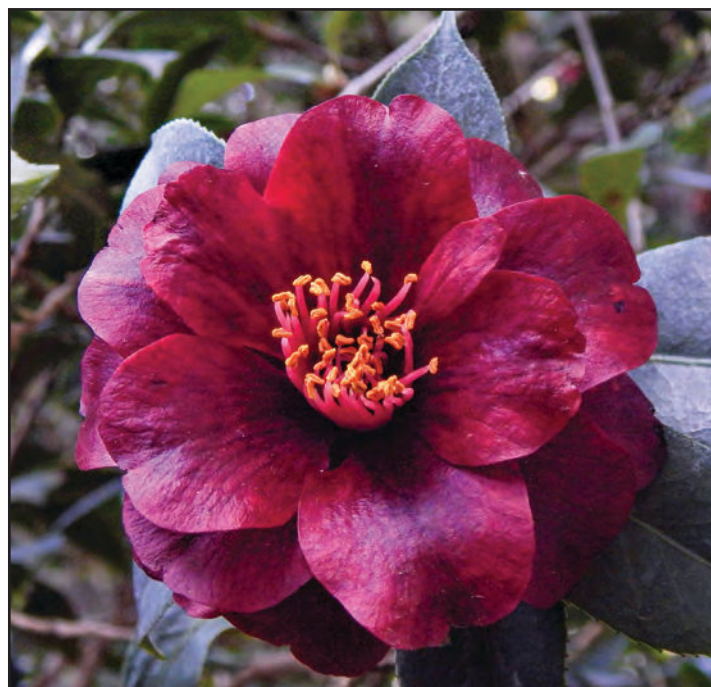
'HERME' AND 'HERME PINK'



'FASHIONATA' TREE IN BLOOM



‘KURO-TSUBAKI’ PLANT IN BLOOM



‘KURO-TSUBAKI’

den is the evergreen winter blooming *C. japonica* and hybrids. There are hundreds of beautiful cultivars to choose. My favorite old timer is ‘Herme’. The medium semidouble bloom has several rows of petals streaked with red with an irregular white border. It was brought from Japan in 1875 to Sacramento, California. It continues to be seen in gardens and at camellia shows. It has sported several times. Many mature bushes will show both ‘Herme’ and ‘Herme Pink’ on the same tree.

Whenever I walk in the Huntington Botanical Gar-

den during the camellia season, I am impressed with the large apricot pink blooms of ‘Fashionata’. The curled and creped petals add to its beauty. This tree blooms reliably with an abundance of high-quality blooms. The mature 15’ foot tall ‘Fashionata’ towers over the Allegory of the Greek river god Alpheus and Arethusa the water nymph. Alpheus loved nymphs, but Arethusa was afraid of him. He pursued her until eventually their waters mingled. This allegory does remind us of human courtship ending with a successful coupling!



‘TUDOR BABY VARIEGATED’



‘TUDOR BABY VARIEGATED’ PLANT



'FLIRTATION'



'FREEDOM BELL' BLOOMS

The black red camellia with red filaments 'Kuro-Tsubaki' may have a small flower but is a standout when it blooms mid to late season. The very dark red color is what makes it impressive. It originated in Japan in 1896 and has been used in breeding other dark red camellias notably 'Night Rider'. Did 'Black Magic' also get its color from the black camellia. Jude Nuccio told me no, however, I am not convinced. What about you?

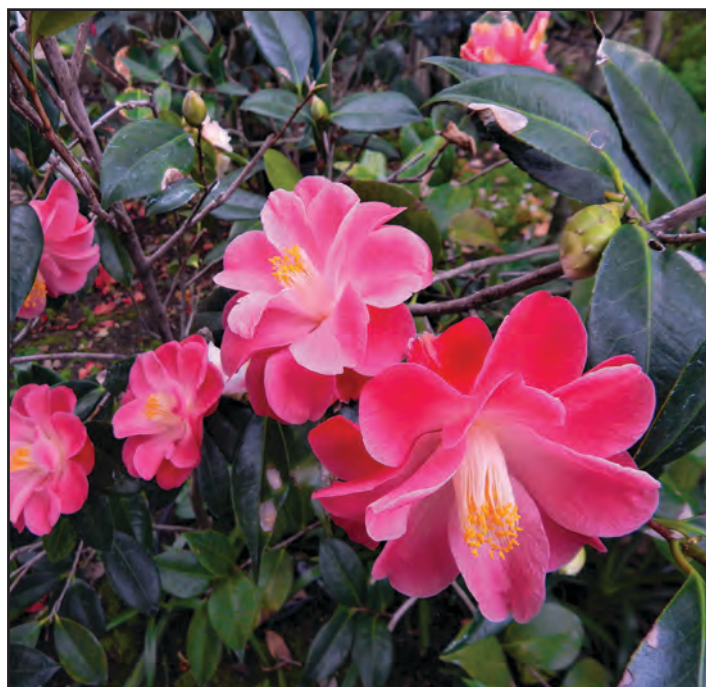
When 'Tudor Baby Variegated' failed to bloom even when gibbed during the camellia show season, I mut-

tered, "Now I know why Hulyn threw you in the creek." When she began to bloom in late March, I thought, "Boy am I glad someone rescued this seedling." The variegated form is one of the best small formal double camellias and is capable of winning first place in the japonica small class or Best Formal Double.

The Williamsii hybrids bloom freely even in young plants. In 1961, Armstrong introduced 'Flirtation', a good example of a profuse blooming Williamsii hybrid. It is not a show flower but blooms every year in my gar-



'ISLAND SUNSET'



CLUSTER OF 'ISLAND SUNSET'



'SPRING DAZE' OPEN



'SPRING DAZE' TREE

den where the previous owner planted it in full sun.

My three favorite hybrids are 'Freedom Bell', 'Island Sunset', and 'Spring Daze'. 'Freedom Bell' has a profusion of small bell shaped semidouble bright red flowers. Dozens are identical which makes them ideal for trays of three or five like blooms in a show. The abundant blooms put on a show in the garden.

The rich coral pink semidouble 'Island Sunset' flower is beautiful in the garden especially when several are in bloom at the same time. Individual flowers look good in a flower arrangement or in a camellia show. The color tones remind me of the summer sunsets at our summer cottage on Lake George in upstate New York.

'Spring Daze' has two flower forms which are capable of winning camellia show points. When the small

to medium white flower is open, it has beautiful coral pink petal edges. However, it can also have a pink formal double flower with coral edges.

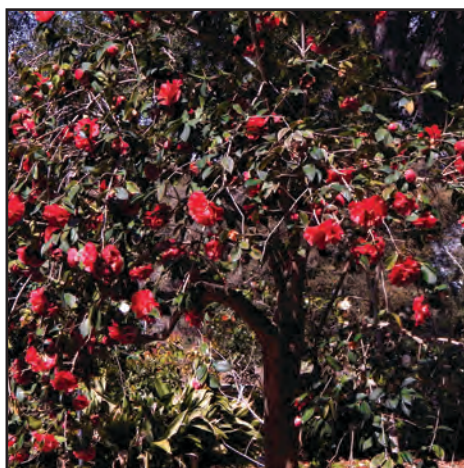
Spring

Many trees bloom in spring with small white flowers that are barely noticeable. Magnolias have wonderful flowers as do the azaleas, however, the Yunnan Reticulata blooms are the most impressive. This is illustrated by the glamorous large red flowers of 'Lion Head' scattered among the branches. The red blooms among the green foliage are outstanding.

Likewise, the many large bright pink veined flowers of 'Moutancha' are another large flowering Yunnan Reticulata imported in 1948 to America by Descanso and



'LION HEAD'



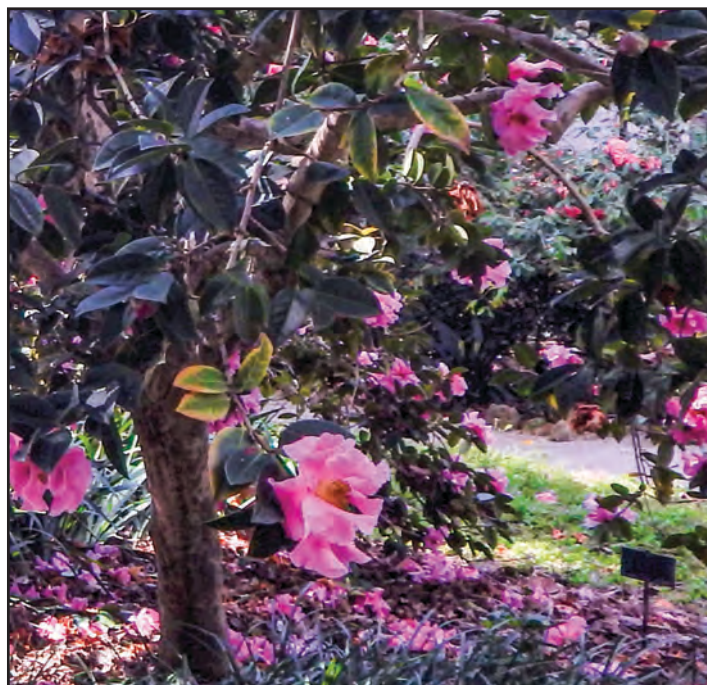
'LION HEAD' TREE IN FULL BLOOM



'HAROLD L. PAIGE'



'MOUTANCHA'



'MOUTANCHA' TREE IN BLOOM

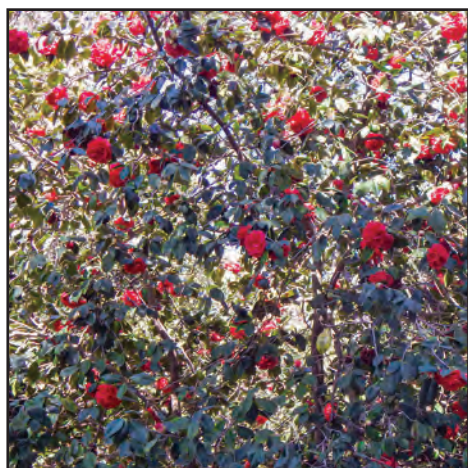
Peer. Ralph Peer shared extensively with The Huntington and other camellia growers which helped distribute them in America.

Camellia breeders began hybridizing *C. reticulata* in the 1950s. These second generation reticulata hybrids are also impressive. 'Frank Houser' has become the most popular with camellia show flower people. One of my favorites is the very large bright red rose form 'Harold L. Paige' that may bloom too late for shows unless it is gibbed.

'Ruta Hagmann' is also one of my favorites because of its beautiful very large light blush peony flower shading to coral tones on the wavy textured petals. It is a seedling of *C. reticulata* hybrid 'Curtain Call' but has a very different color and form from this parent. 'Ruta

Hagmann' is one of the best peony formed reticulatas with the multiple pink tones shading to coral.

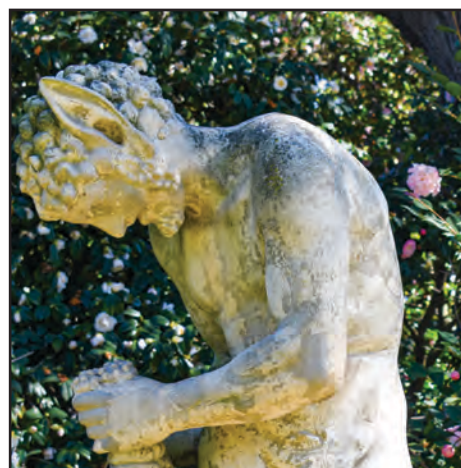
Before concluding this article, we can't overlook fragrant camellias. One of the most widely grown is 'High Fragrance'. It is highlighted here growing behind Pan, the Greek god of nature, shepherds, and flocks. Pan, whose goat feet and horned head scared mortals, scared even Nymphs. The nymph Syrinx chose to be transformed into marsh reeds to save herself from Pan's advances. Pan created the first set of panpipes when seeking her by cutting the reeds in decreasing size then joining them side by side. This is why he is seen here with the panpipes. The lovely scented 'High Fragrance', with its pale white and pink peony flowers, can be seen in the background in full bloom.



'HAROLD L. PAIGE' TREE IN BLOOM



'RUTA HAGMANN'



PAN AND 'HIGH FRAGRANCE'

SPOTLIGHT



C. japonica: 'Happy Birthday'

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRADFORD KING

This beautiful light pink peony flower, with deeper pink stripes, has fluted and crinkled petals. It is interesting how 'Happy Birthday' was named. Louis McDowell, a physician in Lakeland, Florida, and a camellia hobby-

ist, grew this seedling. When the plant first bloomed, it was on his wife Helen's birthday, and it became her birthday gift. The joy of giving can be as meaningful as receiving a special gift from a loved one.

Cover: *C. japonica* 'Julius Nuccio' introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries to honor their cofounder. **Photo by Bradford King**

Camellias are grown in a dozen southeastern states as well as the Pacific Coast from Southern California to Washington and indoors in a few northern states. This is one of a series of articles highlighting the camellias originating in each state.

According to internet sources, South Carolina was settled in 1670 by the English. Its early economy was agricultural. South Carolina was one of the original 13 colonies. It was formed in 1729 when the Carolina colony was divided to form North and South Carolina. People of African descent comprised two thirds of the population

capital is Columbia with a population of about 134,309.

Famous South Carolinians include musicians James Brown, Chubby Checker, and Dizzy Gillespie, novelist Pat Conroy, boxer Joe Frazier, tennis champion Althea Gibson, politician Jesse Jackson, and U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond. The palmetto has been a symbol for South Carolina since the American Revolutionary War when it was used to build a fort on Sullivan's Island that withstood British attack. The palmetto tree appears on the state flag and became the state tree in 1939. The state bird is the Carolina Wren, and the flower is Carolina Jessamine.

CAMELLIA HISTORY

The first camellia to be grown in South Carolina was in 1786 at Middleton Place. Middleton family tradition has held that the famed French botanist André Michaux brought four camellia plants to the home of Arthur Middleton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, just outside of Charleston, South Carolina. Today among the 4,000 camellias, there remains one of the four original Michaux plants, which is known as the 'Reine des Fleurs' or 'Queen of Flowers'. The bloom is described as a medium double red with splashes of white.

Magnolia Gardens and Plantation is the original home of the Drayton family in America. Twelve generations have continually owned this property along the Ashley River in Charleston, South Carolina. The historic gardens and plantation house were founded in 1676. It is the oldest public garden in America, opening to the public in 1870. The gardens were designed in a formal English style which had its origins in France. In the mid



TRAY OF THREE 'DR. BURNSIDE'

by 1730. South Carolina was the site of the first shots of the Civil War at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Today, South Carolina coastline near Myrtle Beach has become a major resort destination with over 100 golf courses. The

Best Camellias Bred

BY BRADFORD KING





'ELEANOR HAGOOD'



'KING'S RANSOM'



'MRS. CHARLES COBB'

1800s, English landscaping evolved into a more informal style. Rev. John Grimke Drayton was studying for the ministry in England when he returned to America and converted Magnolia to this informal English garden. Magnolia concentrated on building on their *Azalea indica* and *C. japonica* collections. Camellias were grown indoors in the northern states and moved to outdoors in the south in 1840.

Many camellias were propagated and distributed by Magnolia over the years which was a significant contribution to the distribution of outstanding camellias. Three they imported into the U.S. that are well known are 'Gigantea', 'Marchioness of Salisbury', and 'Mathotiana'.

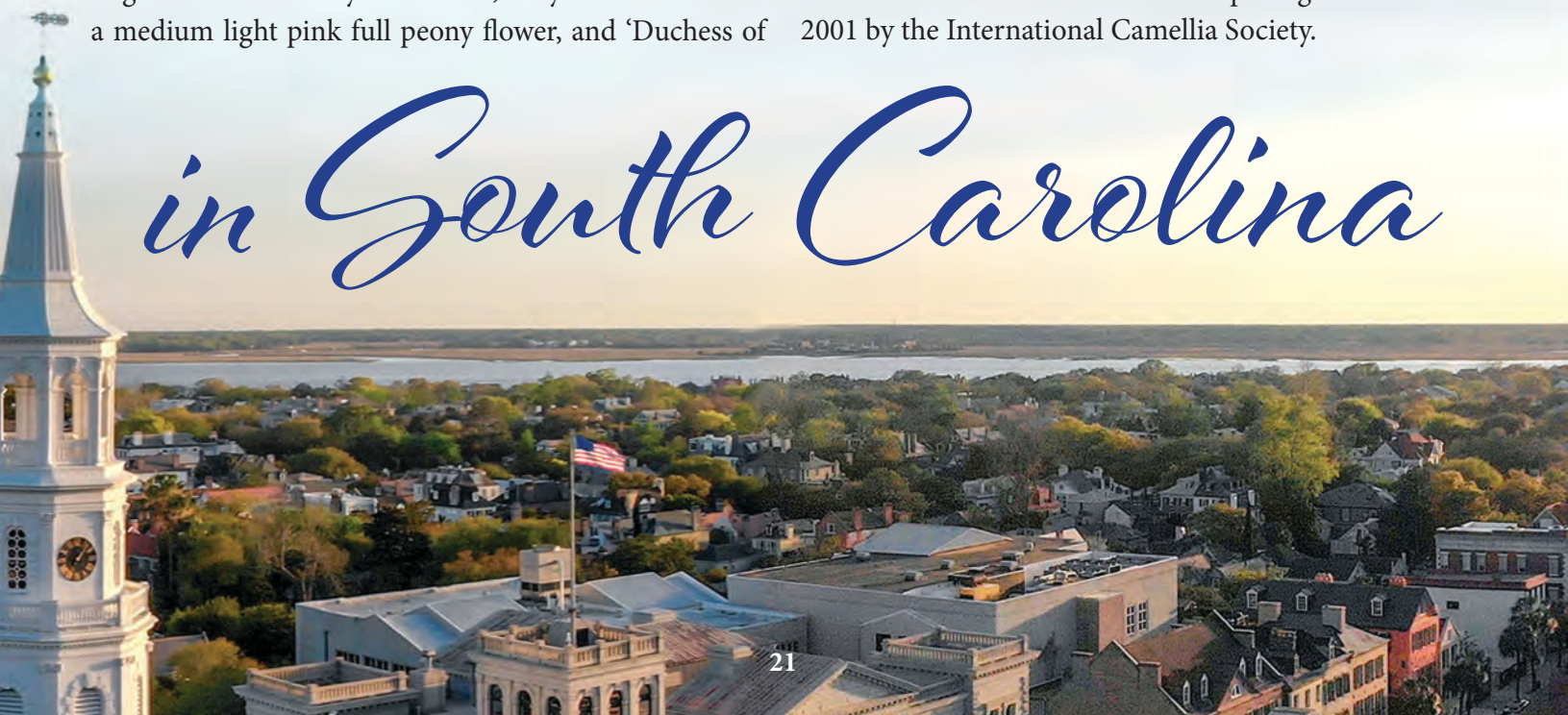
Magnolia introduced dozens of their own seedlings. Several examples include 'Alba Supra' which has a medium semidouble white flower; 'Conflagration' which has a large semidouble fiery red flower; 'Daybreak' which has a medium light pink full peony flower, and 'Duchess of

Sutherland' which has a large white semidouble flower. In addition, 'Rev. John Bennett', which has a medium salmon pink semidouble flower, was named to recognize John Bennett, the son of a slave at Magnolia Gardens. John succeeded his father, Adam, as garden superintendent and remained in that position for 30 years. This wonderful camellia was one of the first camellias in America to be named for an African American.

There may have been as many as 50 japonica seedlings introduced by Magnolia Gardens, five of which make our list of Best Camellias Bred in South Carolina and are discussed below.

Today the collection contains 25,000 camellias, including 6,500 sasanquas, the country's largest heirloom camellia collection, and a hybrid collection of reticulatas and other hybrids. Magnolia is an International Camellia Garden of Excellence awarded this prestigious award in 2001 by the International Camellia Society.

in South Carolina





'MARQUIS DE MONTCALM VARIEGATED'



'PROFESSOR CHARLES S. SARGENT'



'MISS CHARLESTON VARIEGATED'

BEST CAMELLIAS BRED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

In 1962, Dr. A. F. Burnside, Columbia, registered a dark red medium to large semidouble to peony form eight-year-old chance seedling he named 'Dr. Burnside'. There is a variegated form of this midseason bloomer. When the 2018 ICS Congress met in Brittany, France, we were pleased to see a lovely tray of three 'Dr. Burnside' entered at Domaine de Trévarez, an ICS Garden of Excellence.

'Eleanor Hagood', with its medium pale pink formal double flower, has continued its popularity since it was introduced by Magnolia Gardens in early 1900s. It has been widely propagated and can be seen throughout the southeast as well as California.

Another wonderful Magnolia introduction is 'King's Ransom'. The medium loose peony flower is pale pink to deeper pink at the petal edges which are broad and wavy.

In the early 1900s, Magnolia introduced 'Mrs. Charles Cobb'. The medium dark red semidouble to loose peony form has been widely distributed in the camellia world.

An example of a *C. japonica* originated by Magnolia, introduced in the late 1800s, is the wonderful cultivar 'Marquis de Montcalm'. It has a medium rose pink semi-double pinecone form which describes the way the petals become narrower near center and end as petaloids. The variegated form is incredibly attractive.

One of the best known Magnolia introductions is 'Professor Charles S. Sargent'. It was introduced in 1925



'MARK ALAN'



to honor Charles Sprague Sargent, an American botanist who was appointed as the first director of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1872.

'Mark Alan' and 'Mark Alan Variegated' have made many fans since they were registered in 1958. The medium to large wine red semidouble to loose peony flower has small pointed petals with long slender petaloids. The compact upright plant blooms early to midseason. The variegated form, when well variegated, is a stunner. It was registered by Mr. and Mrs. Ashby, Charleston.

In 1961, W.I. McGill, Adams Run, registered 'Miss

Charleston'. The medium to large bright red semidouble to formal double has a high center. This beautiful flower was awarded the Illges Seedling Japonica Award in 1985. It is still capable of winning camellia show points. However, its variegated form is even more outstanding, especially when in a formal double form with a bud center and uniform white marking either as blotches or watermarked variegation. 'Miss Charleston Variegated' is our candidate for the most beautiful camellia bred in South Carolina. This magnificent flower has spread from its home state of South Carolina throughout the camellia world.

Shades

Green symbolizes growth and a feeling of peace. It is the color of grass, leaves, vegetables, and fruits. As Patrick Geddes said, “This is a green world, with animals comparatively few and small, and dependent on the leaves. By leaves we live.”

Camellia foliage is abundant and comes in many shades of green. Some are very dark, others bright, and a few are light green. A camellia bud begins developing in the spring until it blooms among a mass of leaves. The green foliage contrasts sharply with the red and white flowers but is more subtle with the many shades of pink camellia flowers.

Flowers and Leaves

Leaves are necessary for a plant to live and grow by pro-

viding the nutrients to the plant through photosynthesis. The purpose of flowers is to attract pollinators who fertilize the bloom resulting in seeds which are nature’s way of propagating new plants. As gardeners, we appreciate the beauty of flowers and their foliage. The combination of red camellia flowers blooming among their foliage is strikingly beautiful. *C. japonica* ‘Glen 40’ and *C. reticulata* ‘Frank Houser’, small trees in full bloom, illustrate the beauty of flowers and leaves.

The small dark green foliage of ‘Shishi-Gashira’ sets off the bright rose red colors of a mass of its blooms. The different shades of green and red make us appreciate the beauty of camellias. A trio of pure white *C. japonica* ‘Tata’ flowers look wonderful among dark green leaves and help illustrate why we appreci-



‘GLEN 40’



‘FRANK HOUSER’ TREES IN BLOOM



‘TATA’

of Green

"By Leaves We Live"

BY BRADFORD KING

ate the diverse colors of camellias and their leaves.

The red and white flowers of 'Tudor Baby Variegated' look lovely among the green leaves.

Pale pink single flowers illustrate "Williamsii" hybrid's ability to produce a profusion of flowers amongst light green foliage.

Shades of Green

Dark green leaves are especially attractive. This is illustrated by *C. japonica* 'Flame' flowers nestled among its foliage.

A classic camellia has rich green leaves. New foliage is a shade lighter than its mature leaf as seen in the photo. The hole in the mature leaf indicates that a flower bud was gibbed in November, and new

growth was not hampered by gibbing the flower.

In the Patrick Geddes quote he said, "This is a green world, with animals comparatively few and small, and dependent on the leaves." A small light green frog is dependent on a slightly darker leaf to survive predators. In addition to this camouflage, the large leaf provides moisture which attracts insects for its food.

Some camellias have different shapes and color toned foliage. The green holly-like serrated leaves of 'Holly Bright' have light green veins which make it particularly attractive.

The heavily ribbed leaves of the dark green foliage of *C. edithae* look handsome along with a salmon red flower. A mix of dark green, red, and brown colors is interesting and attractive.



'TUDOR BABY VARIEGATED'



'FLIRTATION' IN FULL BLOOM



'FLAME' WITH SURROUNDING FOLIAGE



'HOLLY BRIGHT'



NEW GROWTH AFTER GIB



C. edithae



A POD & LEAVES OF *C. reticulata*

The typical *C. reticulata* foliage has a network of veins and duller green leaves than *C. japonica*. When not in bloom, it is the foliage, pods, and growth habit that identify a *reticulata*. Some *C. japonica* pods have a bronze toned pod among the green foliage which are lovely to view.

Virus variegated leaves are the same shape as other *C. japonica* foliage but have various amounts and shapes of light green to yellow hues.

In conclusion,

"By leaves we live."



***C. japonica* POD WITH LEAVES**



***C. japonica* VARIEGATED FOLIAGE**



FROG ON LEAF

Spring CAMELLIAS

BY BRADFORD KING

Spring is the time of year to clean up spent flowers, prune, repot, and fertilize camellias. However, it is also the time to pick the best camellia flowers to float in a bowl and make attractive home camellia displays since camellia shows are over for the year. The reward is enjoying their beauty and sharing them with family and friends.

There are late blooming *C. japonicas* like 'Ace of Hearts', 'Julius Nuccio', and 'Spring Formal' that finally show their beautiful red colors without the help of gib.

Several nonreticulata hybrid cultivars like 'Lavender Swirl', 'Nicky Crisp', and 'Spring Daze' enliven the garden with their bright colorful flowers. But

some of the most impressive flowers are the *C. reticulata* blooms. Late winter and spring are when they naturally bloom. Examples include 'Holy Pure' ('Sheng Jie'), 'Ruta Hagmann', and 'Harold L. Paige'.

In between repotting, weeding, and picking up spent flowers, there is time to cut the most attractive camellias to bring into the home. One of the easiest ways is to float a single flower in a bowl. When we had lunch with camellia friends,

'Barbara Goff' was a lovely centerpiece floating in a bowl recently gifted to us.

Now that I am retired, Lynn and I take turns cooking dinner. This means when she is cooking, I can walk



'BARBARA GOFF'



'SPRING FORMAL'



'SPRING DAZE'



'HAROLD L. PAIGE'



'HOLY PURE'



'SAINT PATRICK'

in the garden enjoying the flowers. This spring I spotted a nice 'Holy Pure' hiding under its foliage. It made a lovely dinner table addition in a bowl we both found at a local glass makers shop in Pasadena.

Every month or so Lynn redecorates a "Library Table" with antiques and collectables. Each arrangement has a theme based on the time of the year—Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, etc. It takes her several hours to find, unpack, repack, and arrange the display. She enjoys displaying objects that otherwise would never see the light of day. After being married over 55 years, I stay out of her way. My one contribution is to add a camellia floating in a bowl.

It is fun to pick white camellias and use food dye in the water to create a green camellia to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day.

In the spring there are cluster-blooming nonreticulata hybrids that look good in a vase. Nuccio's Nurseries uses a simple green bottle that looks great. This is illustrated by 'Party Poppers'.



TABLE DISPLAY WITH 'RUTA HAGMANN'



THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Matthew Israel, misrael@americancamellias.org, 478-967-2358. Established in 1945, ACS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of the *genus Camellia* and the education of the public about camellias. Contributions are welcomed to help further the goals of the Society and can be made to: The American Camellia Society, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

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'PARTY POPPERS'

Today I was looking for seedpods developing on the crosses I made in January and was surprised to see a lone flower on a 'Yume' bonsai that had already bloomed. 'Yume' is a cross between the *C. hiemalis* 'Shi-shi-Gashira' and *C. yuhshienensis* which produces this small single pink flower with genetic blotches of white. It is at its best when the petals alternate pink and white.



'YUME' BONSAI

Spring cleaning is an essential part of having a beautiful garden; however, late blooming camellias bring joy before perennials or annuals are ready to bloom. Camellias also make wonderful indoor displays. In conclusion, spring is when we begin to see seed pods developing and the flush of new leaves, thus offering hope and the promise of life continuing.



A SEED POD AND NEW LEAVES



'YUME'



Breathtaking New Camellias

BY BRADFORD KING

There are a dozen new camellias that have beautiful flowers. Some you may have seen, and others may be new to you. Regardless, they are impressive garden plants with the ability to win show points.

Nuccio's Introductions

Each camellia season, Nuccio's Nurseries add new cultivars. The most outstanding recent cultivars are 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa', 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Variegated', 'Julius Nu-

ccio', 'Ferris Wheel', 'Kaleidoscope', 'Stop!', and 'Lucky Star Variegated'.

'Nuccio's Bella Rossa' was introduced in 2000. Jude, Tom, and Jim Nuccio wanted to name it 'Julius Nuccio' to honor the Nurseries' co-founder. Julius did not want a ca-

mellia named for himself, therefore, it was named 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa'. The flower is a large red formal double with a heavy bud set and a long blooming season. The plant grows bushy and upright making it an excellent landscape camellia which is

capable of winning points at camellia shows. It was awarded the American Camellia Society Illges Seedling Japonica Award in 2004. The variegated form, with stark contrasting of white marks on bright red petals, is impressive.

After Julius Nuccio retired, Jude, Tom, and Jim Nuccio ran the nursery. Jude was the son of Joe Nuccio, the cofounder with his brother Julius. Tom and Jim are Julius' sons who continue to manage the nursery after Jude's death in 2020.



JIM NUCCIO, BRAD KING, AND TOM NUCCIO

The three “Nuccio Boys” decided a gorgeous large to very large brilliant red semidouble camellia would be named to honor Julius Nuccio. ‘Julius Nuccio’ was registered in 2014, and the American Camellia Society awarded it the Illges Seedling Japonica Award in 2018. It blooms mid to late season on a vigorous upright plant. If you like a dark red glamorous flower, then this is a cannot miss choice.

The first Ferris Wheel was launched June 21, 1893 and was a popular and magnificent success at the St. Louis

World Fair. When the fair closed, Ferris became immersed in lawsuits about the debt he owed suppliers, and 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, 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 make the semidouble flower pop. Occasionally, this cultivar has a loose peony or anemone form, both of which are showy! It can sport a strawberry-colored background flower which Nuccio’s have named ‘Circus’, registered in 2021.



‘NUCCIO’S BELLA ROSSA VARIEGATED’



‘NUCCIO’S BELLA ROSSA’



'JULIUS NUCCIO'



'FERRIS WHEEL'



'CIRCUS'



'STOP!'

The *C. japonica* 'Kaleidoscope' was introduced in 2019. The single flower is white with multiple stripes and dashes of red hues in various amounts. It is like a kaleidoscope in that each flower has different colored markings. One may be almost all white, another may have a few markings, and a few are almost all red. However, it is most striking with a mass of irregular-colored markings in varying amounts and color tones from light red to brilliant red covering much of each petal. This is also the expected color form which is indeed reminiscent of a kaleidoscope.

A kaleidoscope is made of at least two mirrors positioned at an angle to each other forming a triangle with a collection of objects positioned at one end of the mirrors and an eyehole at the other end. What you see when you look through that eyehole is a reflection of only the portion of the objects that fall within the space of the triangle. No two "looks" are ever the same, because there are many objects that do not fall in the triangle space, and they change in each new view. It was invented by Sir David Brewster (1781-1868). This Scottish physicist is remembered for his experimental work in physical optics, especially the study of the polarization of light, including the discovery of the polarization angle which was named the Brewster angle (photo on page 10).

'Stop!' has a large red anemone flower with white petaloids. It may need to have some size before it sets buds, but it is a very fast-growing camellia. It blooms mid to late season on an upright open plant and has a very showy flower, which promises to win show points and be a good addition to your garden. It indeed looks like a red stop sign with a white center.

'Lucky Star' is a *C. saluenensis* hybrid introduced by Nuccio's in 1995. It has a rich pink medium semidouble flower that blooms mid to late season. The new release is 'Lucky Star Variegated', which has a high white virus that makes this lovely pink nonreticulata hybrid stand out.

Gary Schanz is responsible for producing the high white variegation in this cultivar. He gave it to Nuccio's Nurseries so we all can get this wonderful bloom.



*Twelve
new camellias
with
beautiful flowers
that make
impressive
garden plants*





'LUCKY STAR VARIEGATED'



'MISS SALLY'



HOWARD AND MARY RHODES
Photo by Randolph Maphis



'JIM SMELLEY'

Three Glamorous Women and a Handsome Man

Many camellia hobbyists name their best introductions for family members. This is illustrated by Douglas Simon who registered a glamorous camellia for his wife Sally, and Howard Rhodes for their daughter, and Elaine and Jim Smelley named one for her and one for him.

Doug Simon named a very large *C. reticulata* 'Miss Sally' which has a wonderful red flower with fluted petals. The bright color and large size make it a worthy addition to the garden capable of winning show points. It was registered in 2004 and is propagated by Bennett Creek Nursery.

Mary and Howard Rhodes named a *C. reticulata* seedling of 'Frank Houser' for their daughter in 2013. 'Adrienne Boueres' has a wonderful medium to large rose form double dark pink bloom and was awarded the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award in 2020. Adrienne lives in North Carolina with her husband and two children.

Elaine and Jim Smelley were a formidable camellia team, who grew, showed, and bred camellias. In 2013, they registered two outstanding *C. reticulata* hybrids, one named for each of them. 'Elaine Smelley' has a beautiful very large semidouble pink flower. It was awarded the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award in 2014.

'Jim Smelley' has a handsome dark pink bloom that was awarded the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award in 2013.



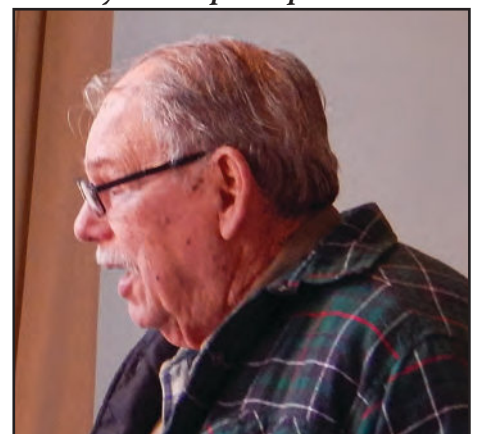
'ELAINE SMELLEY'



DOUG SIMON



'ADRIENNE BOUERES'
Photo by Randolph Maphis



JIM SMELLEY



'ANTICIPATION' TREE IN BLOOM

GORGEOUS *Peony Camellia Flowers*

BY BRADFORD KING

Camellias with peony formed flowers were named for one of the most popular garden plants in temperate regions. The peony is a flowering plant native to Asia, Europe, and Western North America. There are 33 known peony species. Most are herbaceous perennial plants from one to three feet tall. Some are woody shrubs one to 11 feet tall. The fragrant colorful flowers bloom in late spring and early summer and make wonderful cut flowers.

There are hundreds of camellia cultivars with peony formed flowers. They bloom in the fall and winter in beautiful colors. When the flower has a mass of loose petals, petaloids, and stamens, it is referred to as a “loose peony.” When it has a mass of convex petals with little or no visible stamens, it is a “full peony” bloom. Peony form flowers usually have fertile pollen. In fact, one of the best ways to get complicated new camellias is to use it as a pollen parent with a semidouble flower. Many hybridizers believe that peony camellia flowers are female sterile.

The iconic full peony form is ‘Debutante’. The medium flower is light pink with a mass of over 30 petals. It came to Magnolia Gardens and Plantation in the 1900s. This cultivar is cherished for its beautiful ball shaped early blooms and ability to tolerate more sun than most *C. japonicas*.

Flower form is a genetic trait. It is illustrated by the genetic mutations from ‘Aspasia MacArthur’ which has a medium white full peony flower with a few red markings. It originated in Australia in 1890 and has sported several cultivars. Its full peony sports include ‘Camden Park’, ‘Jean Clere’, ‘Lady Loch’, ‘Margaret Davis’, and ‘Strawberry Blonde’. The most well-known is ‘Margaret Davis’ which is also one of the most beautiful *C. japonica* cultivars.

Many camellias have multiple forms. In this article we will highlight some of the cultivars that typically produce peony blooms.

SUN CAMELLIAS

Generally, sun camellias are grown for their numerous fall blooms and the fact that they will thrive in full sunlight. There are only a few dozen *C. sasanqua* cultivars that have peony blooms. They are represented here by ‘Bonanza’. It has a large rich red peony flower that blooms early season on a compact plant.

There are only a handful of *C. hiemalis* cultivars with a peony flower. A good example is ‘Showa Supreme’ which is a Nuccio’s introduction with a soft clear pink flower. The low growing cultivar can be useful un-



‘DEBUTANTE’



‘MARGARET DAVIS’



‘BONANZA’



'SHOWA SUPREME'



'EGAO CORKSCREW'



'PAUL HASKEE'



'EASTER MORN'

der a sunny window or grown in clusters of three or five plants.

There are several *C. vernalis* cultivars with peony flowers. The most interesting is a sport of 'Egao'. Jim Nuccio discovered a cultivar with twisting branches and a peony flower growing among dozens of pots of 'Egao'. They named it 'Egao Corkscrew' for its zig zag growth habit. Approximately 50% of the flowers are peony, and the other half are semidouble. Both forms have a medium pink flower with ruffled petals.

C. japonica

There are several hundred *C. japonica* cultivars with peony blooms. Many can have several different forms. This is illustrated here by the very large red 'Paul Haskee' which can have an anemone or peony flower. It blooms early to late season on a vigorous upright bushy plant. It was bred by Jack Mandarich and registered in 1995.

Many of the most beautiful peony flowers have lovely shades of pink. Some like 'Easter Morn' have a very large light pink flower. This flower was named for the early morning twilight on the day that Jesus rose from the dead.

Others like 'Lauren Tudor' have clear pink blooms. Hulyn Smith named this very large solid pink peony flower with golden anthers for one of his three daughters. Many of the peony camellias have been variegated, which adds wonderful white markings to an already beautiful flower. This makes them stand out in the garden or on a camellia show table. This is illustrated here by 'Lauren Tudor Variegated'.

Peony camellias have a wide range of beautiful colors including white. 'Lucy Stewart' has a large to very large pure white loose peony flower that blooms midseason on a vigorous upright plant. It was registered in 1971 and was awarded the Harold Cawood Award for best white.





C. reticulata

There are about 200 *C. reticulata* cultivars with peony blooms listed in the American Camellia Society Encyclopedia on the ACS website. Many of these cultivars may look like a peony but could be semidouble flowers with a cluster of upright petals. When we define peony as only those blooms with 30 or more petals, many of those labeled as peony would be semidouble blooms. As hobbyists, we have usually introduced cultivars based on visual inspection, not petal counting. In this article, *C. reticulata* cultivars, which usually have 30 or more petals, will be used to illustrate the peony form.

Two of the original *C. reticulata* from Yunnan, China, have peony forms. 'Lion Head' has a large to very large red peony flower with irregular heavy crinkled petals that curve over and cover the center.

'Cornelian' has a large rose red flower with lovely marbled white markings. The irregular wavy petals can form either a semidouble or peony formed flower.

The best example of a *C. reticulata* hybrid that clearly has a peony form is 'Ruta Hagmann'. She reliably blooms as a very large light coral pink loose peony flower. This beautiful flower was registered in 1992 by David Hagmann who named it for his wife.

NONRETICULATA HYBRIDS

The first hybrid crosses between *C. saluensis* and *C. japonica* were made in England by J. C. Williams. Therefore, they are frequently known as "Williamsii" hybrids. Today, crosses exist between many camellia species. Les Jury, a prolific hybridizer from Australia, was successful in introducing at least a half dozen peony cultivars. This is illustrated by 'Anticipation' which has a large red full peony flower. When registered in 1962, it created excitement because it was one of the first nonreticulata red hy-



'LAUREN TUDOR VARIEGATED'



'LION HEAD'



'CORNELIAN'



'RUTA HAGMANN'

brids. One of the successes of camellia breeding with species was the introduction of fragrant camellias by using *C. lutchuensis*. Dr. William Ackerman registered 'Fragrant Pink' in 1961. It was one of the first scented camellias, and it continues to be popular today. The plant blooms early to midseason with abundant miniature deep pink



'ASHTON SUPREME'

peony flowers. James Finley's fragrant camellia breeding program goal was to develop lovely, scented camellias on a good plant that produced beautiful flowers. He took pollen from a large pink loose peony *C. japonica* 'Tiffany' flower and placed it on an emasculated miniature white single flower bud from the sweet-scented *C. lutchuensis*. This controlled cross resulted in a seedling that produced a fragrant small semidouble white flower with pink flush on the backs of its petals. He named it 'Scentuous'. The fragrance clearly was inherited from the seed parent and the increased size and pink petal flush from the pollen parent. This plant

became a camellia bridge to produce larger and more complicated fragrant camellia cultivars. A bridge camellia must be fertile and have inherited the desired traits. Finley introduced at least 30 fragrant camellias. The most popular is 'High Fragrance'. The very beautiful medium pale ivory pink peony flower with deeper pink on the petal edges has a pleasing scent. It is a product of his

bridge camellia 'Scentuous'. In this case, it was used as the pollen parent.

Another significant result of inter species hybridization was the development of cold hardy camellias. Dr. William Ackerman introduced over 50 cold hardy camellias. Three of his cold-hardy cultivars that have peony flowers are 'Arctic Dawn', 'Ashton Cameo', and 'Ashton Supreme'. The small lavender pink flower of 'Ashton Supreme' serves to represent them.

We note as we conclude that there are thousands of beautiful camellia flowers. Many of the best have wonderful masses of petals which make peony shaped blooms.



'HIGH FRAGRANCE'



C. japonica: 'Sue Kendall Variegated'

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRADFORD KING

Don Kendall from Modesto, California, registered 'Sue Kendall' in 1998. He named this introduction for his wife. The variegated form is a pink formal double with lovely white markings making it a beautiful miniature bloom capable of winning at a camellia show in its class. Many amateur camellia breeders name their best introduction for their wives. In addition, this flow-

er highlights that a variegated bloom is frequently more valued because pretty splashes of white make a more striking flower. Gary Schanz variegated 'Sue Kendall' for his friends Don and Sue. He gave Nuccio's a high white variegated plant which they propagate. The beautiful flower in the photo grew on the plant purchased from Nuccio's.

The cover: 'Holly Bright' has a large glossy salmon red flower with crinkled petals and holly like leaves.

Photo by Bradford King

Camellias Origin

BY BRADFORD KING



'FIRCON'



'FIRCON VARIEGATED'



'LILY PONS'

Many species of camellias, and a wide range of cultivars, are grown in home and public gardens in a dozen southeastern states as well as the Pacific coast from Southern California to Washington and indoors in a few northern states. This is one of a series of articles highlighting camellias bred in each state.

Back Story

Oregon was named from the French-Canadian word “Ouragan” which means storm. It is believed that the Columbia River was called “the river of storms” by Canadian fur traders working in the area. Portland is the largest city in the state named after Portland, Maine. The Oregon settlement began in 1830 near the end of the Oregon Trail and lies between the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. The Willamette Valley’s numerous water ways continuously deposit fertile soil creating a very productive agriculture area. According to Internet sources, the valley was widely publicized in the 1820s as a “promised land of flowing milk and honey.” It was the destination for the oxen-drawn wagon trains of those who made the dangerous journey along the Oregon Trail. Today the valley is known as “Oregon Wine Country.”

Camellia History

Camellias arrived in Oregon during the late 1800s, with the oldest plant believed to have been carried west by pioneers and planted in Sutherlin, Oregon. Today, mature landscape camellias can be seen in Portland neighborhoods built in the 1920s. A computer search found 58 camellias registered from Oregon in areas from the coast and inland cities along what is now route 5, the major North-South Interstate highway.

Best Camellias Originating in Oregon

‘Fircone’ and ‘Fircone Variegated’ are the most well-known and widely grown camellias originating in Oregon. The miniature fircone shaped blood red camellia was registered in 1950 by Rhodellia Nursery. Most years ‘Fircone Variegated’ is the top winner in the *C. japonica* miniature class followed by ‘Fircone’. They were awarded the John A. Tyler,

ating in Oregon

Jr. Miniature Award in 1982 and the Illges Japonica Seedling Award in 2017. They are the best miniature camellia cultivar grown today.

The camellia 'Lily Pons' has a striking white medium single to semidouble flower. The petals are very long and narrow, with a delicate groove that surrounds a cluster of long golden stamens. It was introduced in 1955 and is perhaps more popular in France due to its namesake than in America where it was registered.

Lily Pons (1898-1976) was a French-American opera singer in the late 1920s through the early 1970s. Pons was a petite woman of great beauty who built an international reputation as an opera star. She was a coloratura soprano associated with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City where she performed 300 times. Lily also made appearances on radio and TV including The Ed Sullivan Show, The Dave Garroway Show, and starred in the first broadcast of the TV series Sunday Night at the London Palladium. She was awarded the Croix de Lorraine and the Légion d'Honneur by the government of France. Lily Pons was adept at promoting and marketing herself and became a cultural icon. Woman Magazine reported on her home decorating and fashion opinions. She was the face for Lockheed airplanes, Knox gelatin, and Libby's tomato juice advertisements.

In 1949, H.H. Harms registered a semidouble white he named 'Mrs. Bertha A. Harms' in Portland, Oregon. It first bloomed in 1947 and at times may have a pink cast on the ivory petals and a light hint of pink on its buds. Today it is seen in older gardens.

'Wicke' is a *C. japonica* registered in 1950. 'Wicke' has a small semidouble pink, white, and red variegated flower, all on the same plant, which helped attract growers to this cultivar. It can earn points today at camellia shows.

Jack L. Mandarich was an avid camellia hybridizer and President of the American Camellia Society from 1983 to 1985. He specialized in breeding reticulata hybrids. In 1995, when he lived in Grant Pass, Oregon, he introduced 'Jack Mandarich'. The flower is listed as having a large spiraea red formal double to rose form double flower with undulating petals. In my opinion, the color is pink, or, if you are familiar with wine label descriptions, it would be "pink with lavender red tones." It is widely distributed and is outstanding when it retains a bud formal double form.



'MRS. BERTHA A. HARMS'



'WICKE'



'JACK MANDARICH'



‘FIRCONE VARIEGATED’



‘HUGH EVANS’



‘HANJIN SPECIAL’



‘LESLIE ANN’

2021

BY
BRADFORD
KING

THE CAMELLIA YEAR IN PICTURES

Beautiful camellia flowers provide inspiration and joy even as the Covid pandemic spreads throughout the world. While most camellia shows were canceled, camellias continued to bloom. Look through the following pages for your favorites.

The *Camellia sasanqua* spectrum begins the camellia blooming season which includes *C. sasanqua*, *C. hiemalis*, and *C. vernalis* due to the fact they are all inter hybrid crosses with *C. sasanqua* genes. They are sun tolerant, hybridize readily with each other, and are some of the best landscape camellias.

Autumn

Early fall bloomers are illustrated by

‘Hugh Evans’ and ‘Hanjin Special’.

November is peak season for the sun loving camellias such as ‘Leslie Ann,’ ‘Purple Haze,’ ‘Kanjiro,’ and ‘Pink-A-Boo.’

‘Yuletide’ is a favorite, as it blooms during the holiday season.

‘Egao’ and ‘Shibori Egao’ begin in the fall and continue into the winter.

Winter

This is the coldest, wettest time of the year known as winter wonderland due to the presence of snow in much of the U.S. For camellia lovers though, it is a wonderland due to the hundreds of camellias in bloom.

One of the most popular large

C. japonicas is ‘Royal Velvet’ known for its beautiful red flower.

The dark red bloom of ‘Black Magic’ represents the wide range of medium camellia blooms grown in the U.S.

The many lovely small camellias are illustrated here by the nonreticulata ‘Spring Daze’.

One of the most desirable miniature camellias is ‘Fircone Variegated’.

Since the most cherished camellia flower form is a formal double, they are highlighted here by *C. japonica* ‘Nuccio’s Gem,’ *C. reticulata* ‘Valentine Day Variegated,’ and nonreticulata ‘Tom Perkins’.

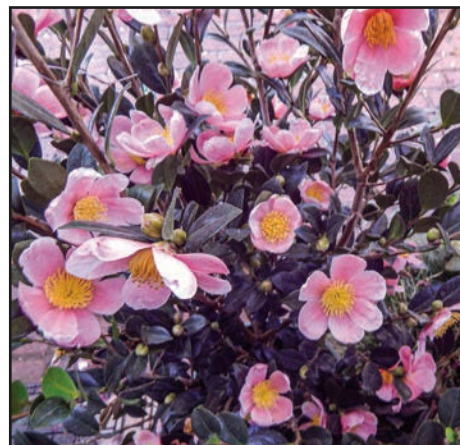
‘Tama Peacock’ is a picotee cultivar that has the most show win-



‘PURPLE HAZE’ Photo by Bobby Green



‘KANJIRO’



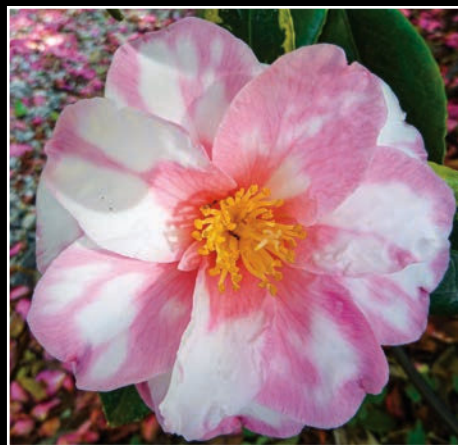
‘PINK-A-BOO’



'YULETIDE'



'EGAO'



'SHIBORI EGAO'



'ROYAL VELVET'

ning points of the camellias with white petal edges.

Camellias with stripes are highly valued. 'Carter's Sunburst' is one that has been popular for many years, while 'Ferris Wheel' is beginning to have fans since its introduction. 'Circus' is a very promising mutation from 'Ferris Wheel'.

Many people in America may overlook the flat irregular Higo camellias, but others appreciate their bright colors and wonderful mass of central golden stamens. Higos are represented here by 'Ohkan'.



'BLACK MAGIC'



'SPRING DAZE'

Late Winter

C. reticulata can bloom anytime during winter but are at their best when scores of them have flowers in February. The most popular of



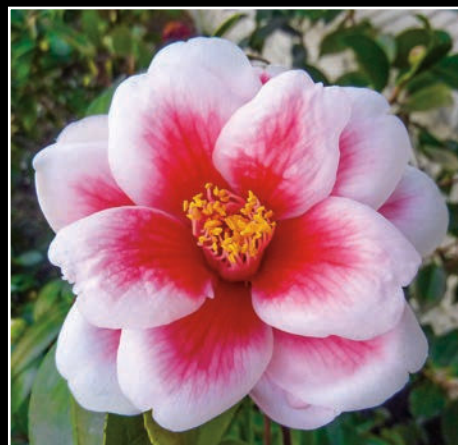
'NUCCIO'S GEM'



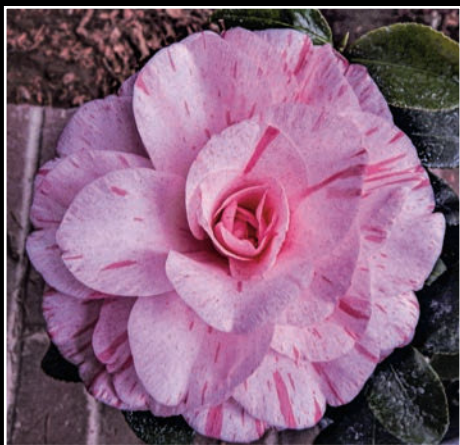
'VALENTINE DAY VARIEGATED'



'TOM PERKINS'



'TAMA PEACOCK'



'CARTER'S SUNBURST'



'CIRCUS'



'FRANK HOUSER'



'FERRIS WHEEL'

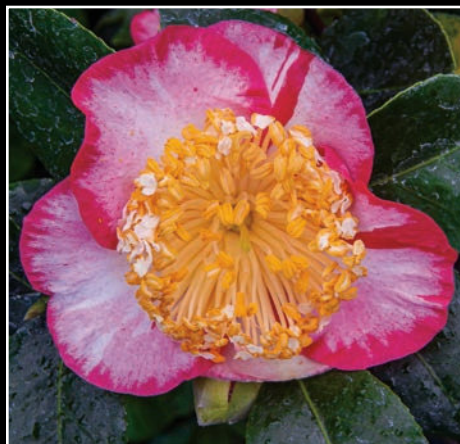
all of them is 'Frank Houser' and 'Frank Houser Variegated'. However, there are many beautiful pink reticulatas; for example, 'Linda Carol' and 'Ruta Hagmann'.

Spring

While most camellias have bloomed out by spring, there are still wonderful camellias that show their faces. One of the best is 'Harold L. Paige'.

Summer

C. azalea is the best-known summer blooming camellia. It begins in the spring, peaks in summer, and has some flowers in the fall. This camellia has the longest blooming season known.



'OHKAN'



'FRANK HOUSER VARIEGATED'



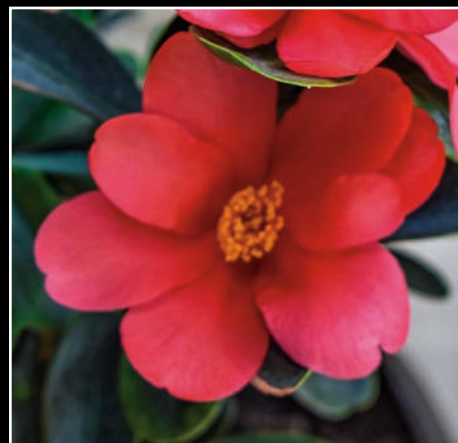
'RUTA HAGMANN'



'HAROLD L. PAIGE'



'LINDA CAROL'



C. azalea



'GRAND SLAM'

Camellia

FLOWER ARRANGING

BY BRADFORD KING

According to Wikipedia, floral design or flower arrangement is the art of using plant materials and flowers to create a pleasing and balanced composition. It can be traced back to Ancient Egypt. While a wide array of plant material and blooms are used in making floral arrangements, we will focus on the use of camellias. Camellia flower arranging is a fun and creative way to enjoy camellias, especially inside one's home. I also enjoy making outdoor arrangements using bonsai and camellias in pots when they are in bloom.

TRADITIONAL WESTERN FLORAL DESIGN

Western flower arranging is characterized by symmetrical, asymmetrical, horizontal, and vertical styles of design, frequently with large amounts of flowers and

other plant materials. Florists make outstanding large arrangements for hotel lobbies, funerals, weddings, and other special events. Arrangements as gifts and home decoration tend to be just as lovely but smaller in size. However, rarely will you find camellias in these arrangements. This is a major reason to make your own arrangements. Pat Johnson made this beautiful floral arrangement for an ACS reception several years ago.

IKEBANA

Ikebana is Japanese floral arranging described as “making sculptures using living plant materials.” It is a style of floral design that has also been described as “beauty of elimination.” This is accomplished by showing individual flowers, leaves, and branches. Camellias have



RECEPTION FLOWER ARRANGEMENT



OHARA STYLE ARRANGEMENT



SOGETSU STYLE ARRANGEMENT

abundant foliage; therefore, most leaves will be removed to accentuate the blooms and highlight the branches, which in nature are covered by the foliage. In most cases, Ikebana designs are asymmetrical, forming a triangle.

There are several different Ikebana schools with different rules for arranging plant material. Two examples of Ikebana using camellias illustrate the distinctive styles of these schools.

The Ohara School was founded in 1895 by Unshin Ohara. He developed a style of Ikebana which incorporated flowers for western style rooms that allowed for flowers to be piled up. In addition, he developed a low, wide container in which materials could be positioned freely allowing for a greater sense of depth.

The Sogetsu School was established in 1927 by Sofu Teshigahara. It is a modern style where the use of unconventional material is encouraged, providing a very different perspective.



RED CAMELLIAS



THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Matthew Israel, misrael@americancamellias.org, 478-967-2358. Established in 1945, ACS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of the *genus Camellia* and the education of the public about camellias. Contributions are welcomed to help further the goals of the Society and can be made to: The American Camellia Society, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

THE CAMELLIA JOURNAL

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CAMELLIA SHOW FLORAL DESIGNS

Several Southern California camellia shows have floral arranging judged by an experienced flower judge. There are usually three classes—Line, Oriental, and Designer's Choice. A class may also have a theme such as "Whisper of Winter." A line design may be either horizontal or vertical as illustrated in the accompanying image of a vertical arrangement that recently was chosen as the winner of the class "Whisper of Winter."

The use of all white camellias certainly captures the spirit of winter which is another example of a lovely vertical floral design.

A horizontal mass of red camellia blooms, artfully attached to a branch, took first place at a show but would look good at home as a table arrangement. A dining room table arrangement needs to be low so those sitting around the table may be seen and converse with each other. It also must look good from all sides.

HOME DESIGNS

The holiday season is a prime time for beautiful camellia blooms. One large red camellia with green leaves in a cup makes a wonderful addition at Christmas.

A round bowl with two 'Mont Blanc' blooms and foliage surrounded by sphagnum moss makes a lovely arrangement. Do you like the informal placing of turned leaves or would you rather have them placed showing their surface? A Designer's Choice.

OUTDOOR DISPLAYS

The large pot of *C. japonica* 'Julius Nuccio', with primrose and alyssum at its base, looked great at Descanso Gardens.

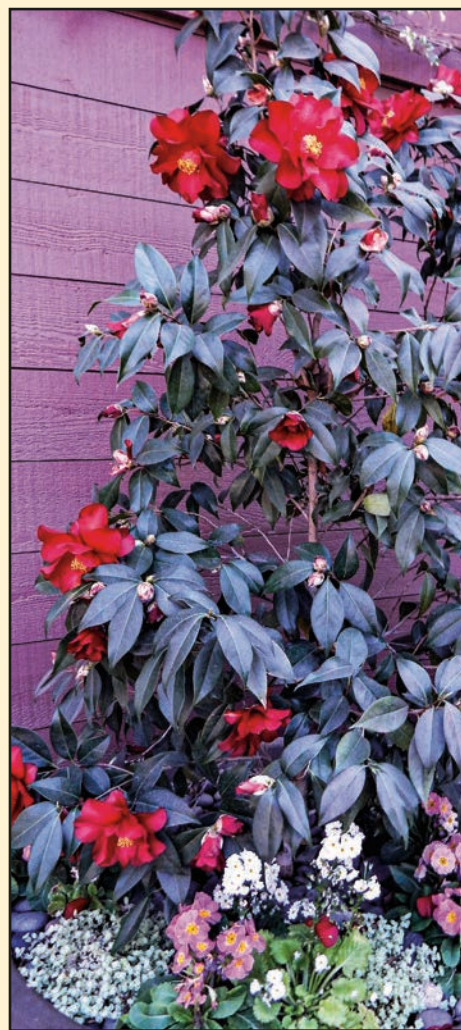
Baskets or other objects of your choosing filled with camellias make attractive arrangements. They can be used inside or outside. I used a fountain whose pump had worn out to display freshly cut camellias.



WHISPER OF WINTER



WHISPER OF WINTER WINNER



'JULIUS NUCCIO'



'MONT BLANC'



'SHIBORI EGAO CORKSCREW' 'OHKAN IN BLOOM'

BONSAI

While bonsai is not generally thought of as flower arranging, it is included here, because when a camellia bonsai is in bloom, it may be moved inside for a few days or placed in the garden where its flowers may be easily observed.

Bonsai is the marriage of plant material to a contain-

er. In Japanese it means "tree in a tray." It is accomplished by growing a small tree that is trained into an attractive shape like a full-grown tree. It originated in China but was more fully developed as an art form in Japan.

When my camellia bonsai bloom, I move them where I can easily see and enjoy them or, if the timing fits, as a display at a camellia show.



WATER FOUNTAIN WITH A COLLECTION OF CAMELLIAS



Delicious Camellia DESSERTS

BY BRADFORD KING

My favorite dessert is ice cream in a sugar cone...or maybe a warm brownie topped with French vanilla ice cream...or a freshly baked apple pie served warm with real whipped cream or...

Yes, it changes all the time. It is also why there are several camellias with sweet candy and dessert names that are delicious treats.

The most delicious is 'Cherries Jubilee' which has a dark red petal topped with creamy petaloids. The dessert is vanilla ice cream with cherries and served with a liqueur in flames. The flaming alcohol puts on a brief dramatic display before it burns out slightly melting the ice cream and leaving a pleasant burnt flavor. It was

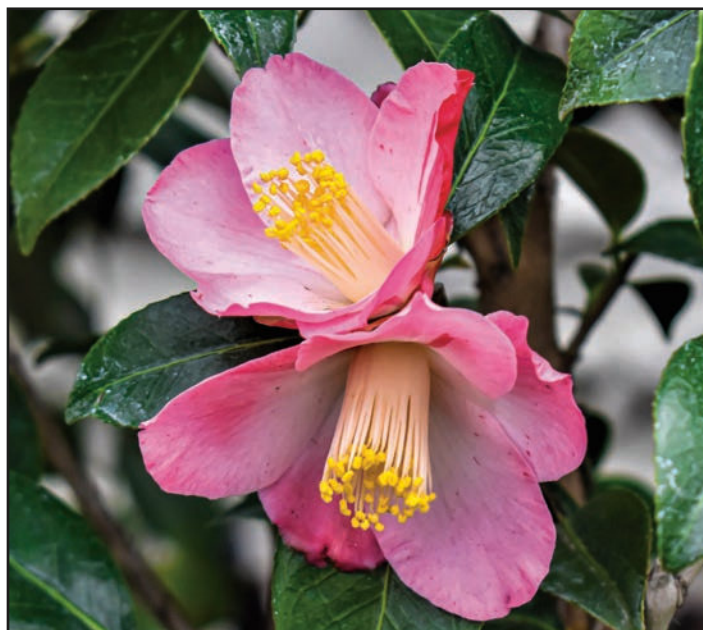
first served in 1897 to Queen Victoria at her diamond jubilee.

Many people love fresh cupcakes after a meal, and many crave them with a glass of milk, while others nibble on them as they sip tea or coffee talking with friends. We love the nonreticulata hybrid 'Cupcake' with its small delicate coral pink tones that shade darker on the petal edges with occasional deeper pink stripes. Like cupcakes, it produces many like sized blooms with a variety of toppings. Some petals have wide pink stripes, others a few slim stripes, and others are plain like the attached photo.

A candy apple is most often seen at a fall festival



'CHERRIES JUBILEE'



'CUPCAKE'



'CANDY APPLE'

providing a treat for young and old while strolling among colorful leaves enjoying crisp fall weather. Pumpkins, decorative corn, and arts and crafts exhibits are seen while background music is played. Apple cider and the candy apples are traditional treats. 'Candy Apple' has a medium to large dark red flower that blooms mid to late season. When in a loose peony form, it most resembles a candy apple, and when semidouble, its rich dark red petals surrounding the yellow stamens are attractive.

The profuse clusters of miniature creamy to light yellow flowers that bloom up and down the stems of 'Buttermint' make a lovely display in the garden or in a vase. The nonreticulata hybrid resembles the buttermint candy enjoyed by many. The Nuccio's named it 'Buttermint' because their aunt loved buttermints. She was Tom and Jim's Aunt Tata, a nickname they adopted



because when very young they couldn't say Katherine.

The white bloom with a yellow center that looks like a lemon drop candy was named by the Nuccio's for this candy. The miniature to small formal to rose form double can also take a peony form which most closely looks like a lemon drop.

The miniature to small anemone pink flower heavily marked with red stripes of 'Candy Mint' is a little beauty. A bowl of candy mints is often seen on the cashiers stand as you leave a restaurant. I love the mint flavors but not the cinnamon after a dinner out. What would be your choice?

Candy is a very popular and colorful treat with a sweet taste which has inspired names of the camellia cultivars 'Ashton's Candy,' 'Candy Cane,' and 'Robin's Candy.'



'BUTTERMINT'



'LEMON DROP'



'CANDY MINT'



'ASHTON'S CANDY'



'CANDY CANE'



'ROBIN'S CANDY'

Dr. William "Bill" Ackerman is known for breeding cold hardy camellias on the farm he and Kittie retired to in Ashton, Maryland. He named over a dozen of his cold hardy introductions Ashton x. 'Ashton's Candy' is not found in the Camellia Nomenclature, but we saw it when at the ACS convention in Norfolk, Virginia, at the entrance to Becky's Bulbs. It caught my eye just like a colorful dish of candies. The medium semidouble bloom with various amounts of thin and wider red stripes with flecks of pink makes an outstanding flower. I believe Bennett's Creek Nursery is evaluating it for possible production.

'Candy Cane', a Nuccio's introduction, is a white formal double flower with red stripes. The candy cane is just as popular at Christmas as evergreen trees, ornaments, and gifts. It is believed to have originated in Germany 300 years ago. The first ones were just a straight white stick used as a baby pacifier to keep them quiet during religious services. The addition of red with the peppermint flavor and curved neck began around 1900 and were hung on Christmas trees.

When 'Candy Cane' sported a medium formal double flower in Fresno, California, in 1990, the Rays named it 'Robin's Candy'. My guess is it was named for

their daughter or a grandchild, but if you actually know please contact me. The red and pink stripes on a white flower make a very perky pretty bloom.

In 2008, the Camellia Shop, Savannah, Georgia, introduced 'Peppermint Candy'. The white flower is beautifully marked with red stripes and flecks. This medium semidouble flower blooms midseason to late on a compact plant which makes it a good landscape plant. Peppermint has been reported to help with digestion and reduce bad breath which is why it is a popular after dinner treat.

'PEPPERMINT CANDY' Photo by Gene Phillips



Dream

*“If you can
dream it,
you can
do it.”*

An inspirational quote
by Walt Disney.

Camellia people like Bill Donnan and K. Sawada had dreams to introduce beautiful camellias. We get a glance into their inner dream world when we see the camellias they chose to name. ‘Donnan’s Dream’ has a medium to large formal double bloom with white petals washed in orchid pink. It is propagated by Nuccio’s Nurseries in Southern California.

‘Sawada’s Dream’ is one of the most well-known formal double camellias grown. It has a medium white flower with many outer petals painted a lovely shade of light pink. It was introduced by Sawada’s Overlook Nursery in Mobile, Alabama.

Scientists have determined that everyone dreams. We dream when there is intense brain activity during rapid eye movement, also known as REM sleep. Most dreams are not remembered. Most people dream in technicolor but around 12% of people dream only in black and white. Dreams may be pleasant, scary, violent, and very strange. Sigmund Freud believed they were “the royal road to the un-



‘DONNAN’S DREAM’

‘YUME’ (DREAM)

my Camellias

BY BRADFORD KING

conscious.” Others think they are ways of handling everyday life, and their purpose is to help us solve problems. Some theorists say they have no purpose. In short, there are many unproven theories. However, research does tell us that the most common emotion in a dream is anxiety and that dreams are more frequently negative than positive.

However, the camellia ‘Sweet Dreams’ reminds us that some dreams are pleasant. The lovely flower is a medium soft pink formal double introduced by Nuccio’s in 1984.

‘Yume’ (Dream) has a small single pink flower with genetic white markings. It is most outstanding when it is “ichimai-gawari” (petals alternate pink and white). It is a unique bloom with a thin scent.

Bobby Green, Green Nurseries, introduced three ‘Yume’ crosses with *C. sasanqua*—‘Dream Quilt’, ‘Dream Team’, and ‘Dream Weaver’. They are represented here by ‘Dream Weaver’.

Many cultures use “Dream Weav-

er” to refer to a connection to the spirit world or the inner higher self. It can also refer to the mind’s ability to “weave dreams.” The nonreticulata ‘Dream Weaver’ has a wonderful medium to large blush to rose color semi-double to rose form double.

‘Dream Boat’, the striking bright lavender pink formal double with incurved petals, was bred in New Zealand by Felix Jury in 1976. The word is a reference to a very attractive person. It is my experience that women use it to describe a desirable male, while men would use this term when fantasizing about a sailboat or yacht. When men are well-bred, they might say ‘Dream Girl’, which Howard Asper used to name a large to very large salmon semidouble *C. reticulata* hybrid.

What new camellia hybrid is in your dreams? I have several. A large, complicated bloom with a wide white border or a *C. reticulata* with a picotee edge or a beautiful hybrid camellia that blooms several times a season.

“If you can dream it, you can do it,” but you must try!



‘DREAM BOAT’



‘DREAM WEAVER’



‘SAWADA’S DREAM’



‘SWEET DREAMS’



‘DREAM GIRL’ Photo by Randolph Maphis

SPOTLIGHT




C. japonica: 'Shikibu'

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRADFORD KING

The miniature red anemone flower with red petaloids edged in white, named 'Shikibu', is a little beauty. The name means "Master of Ceremonies" and is a chance seedling of 'Tinsie' (Bokuhan) introduced in Japan in

1957 and imported by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1981. It has many fans and is capable of winning show points as a single or in trays of like blooms. It blooms from mid to late season on an upright plant.

The cover: 'Walter Homeyer' Photo by Randolph Maphis



[Return to TOC](#)

'AIDA'

BY BRADFORD KING

*The Best
Camellias
Bred In*

Pennsylvania



‘GENERAL WASHINGTON’



‘SARA FROST’

Many species of camellias and a wide range of cultivars are grown in home and public gardens in a dozen southeastern states as well as the Pacific coast from Southern California to Washington and indoors in a few northern states.

This is one of a series of articles highlighting camellias bred in each state.

BACKSTORY

Pennsylvania is a northeastern state noted in the camellia world for camellias grown in greenhouses and originating some of the most cold hardy camellias suitable to be grown outside.

According to Wikipedia, Pennsylvania began in 1682 when William Penn received a royal deed from King Charles II of England. The native American tribes were run off or decimated by smallpox. It was colonized by Swedish and Dutch settlers before the English took over in 1667. William Penn established a colony based

on religious tolerance which was settled by the Quakers. Today Pennsylvania is the 33rd largest state by area and the 6th most populous state. The two largest cities are Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The state capital is Harrisburg with a population of about 50,000.

CAMELLIA HISTORY

Like other Eastern states with cold winters, camellias were raised in the 1800s by a few well-to-do people in glass and wood greenhouses. The most prolific grower was J.B. Smith of Philadelphia. He introduced ‘Binney II’ in 1841 which has a rose pink to light red flower, ‘Brooklynia’ in 1844 which has a pink and white formal double flower, ‘Conspivua’ in 1837 which has a large red semidouble flower, ‘General Washington’ in 1844 which has a white flower with occasional pink lined petals, and ‘Stilles Perfection’ in 1844 which has a white medium anemone flower with several pink toned flecks and markings. These cultivars are rarely seen today. The





‘WILLIAM PENN VARIEGATED’



‘KOREAN FIRE’

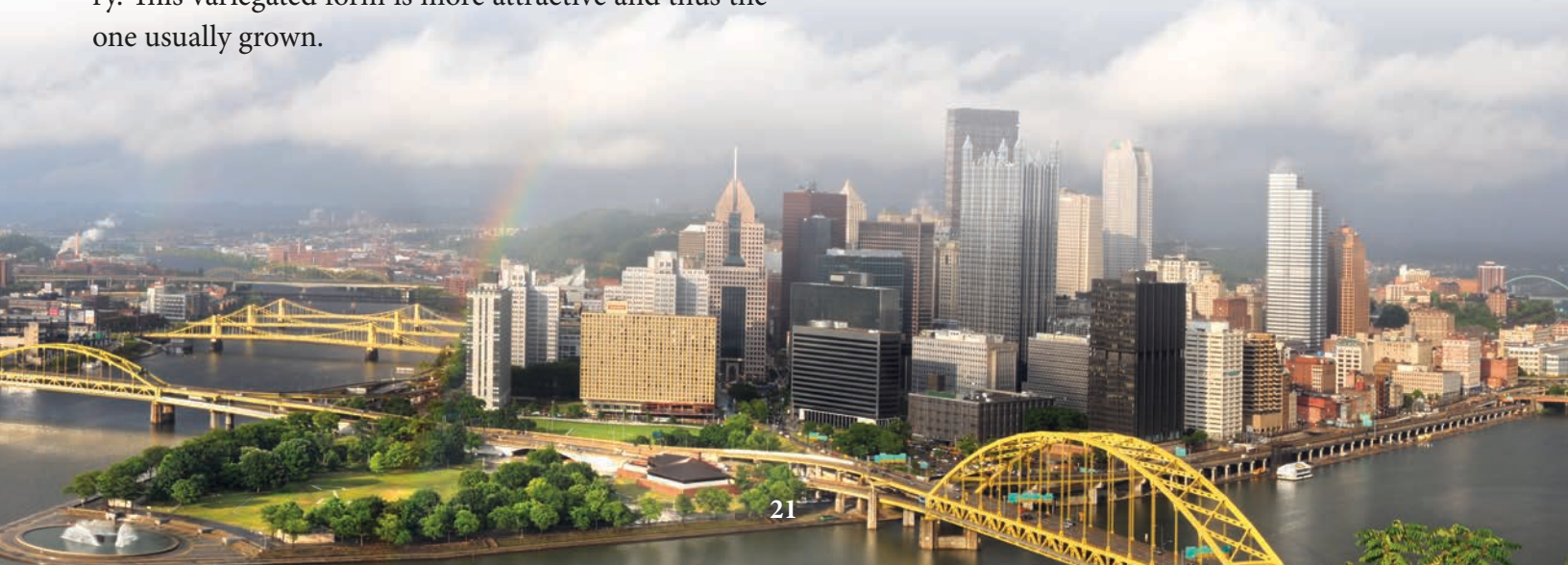
only one I personally have seen is ‘General Washington’. Magnolia Gardens has a specimen as does the Botanical Garden in Nantes, France.

Two popular older camellias that originated in Pennsylvania were introduced by Ritchie and Dick of Philadelphia. ‘Sara Frost’ was introduced in 1840. The medium formal double flower is crimson varying to a deep rose pink and is very lovely. It has accumulated a number of names such as ‘Owl Face’, ‘Clarke’s Red’, ‘Red Clarke’, and ‘Frostie’. It got the name ‘Owl Face’ because it sometimes has two centers. It is still a popular camellia grown in many southern gardens.

In 1854, ‘William Penn’ was introduced. The small to medium anemone flower is an interesting dark purple red. Over the years it has been called ‘Purple Peony’, ‘Purple Penny’, ‘Bell Camp’, and ‘William Penn Variegated’. It apparently became variegated early in its history. This variegated form is more attractive and thus the one usually grown.

LONGWOOD GARDENS

Pierre du Pont purchased a farm in 1906 that has evolved today into a botanical garden with over a thousand acres in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. The camellia collection began in 1919 in a small conservatory and expanded in 1921 when camellias imported from France were planted. Du Pont had a desire for very large specimen camellias, which he acquired from rural Georgia. Well shaped plants with good flowers would be dug, crated, and shipped to Longwood Gardens. Thirteen camellias were collected in this fashion. Du Pont’s passion for camellias continued, and in 1928, he discovered a grower in France whose specialty was camellias. He ordered three each of 189 varieties. By 1937, the Longwood Gardens camellia collection included 372 plants representing 167 cultivars. All were *C. japonica* cultivars except for one *C. reticulata*.



Longwood began a research program to develop cold hardy camellias in 1957. Several seed collecting trips to North Korea were made, and field testing was conducted. In 2006, for the 100th anniversary of du Pont's purchase of the Longwood Gardens property, three cold hardy cultivars were introduced. They are 'Aida', 'Longwood Centennial', and 'Longwood Valentine'.

THE BEST CAMELLIAS BRED IN PENNSYLVANIA

Three cultivars make the "best list." They are 'Sara Frost' and 'William Penn Variegated' discussed earlier in this story. The third is 'Korean Fire' developed and introduced by Barry Yingar. He visited and collected camellia material from the Yellow Sea coastal Sochlong and

Taecheon islands in North Korea. This area is very cold in winter where the prevailing winds originate from Siberia. He returned several times between 1982 and 1984. He field tested numerous Korean seedlings beginning in 1994 in south central Pennsylvania. 'Korean Ice' is the most well known of the Korean seedlings introduced in America. It was one of hundreds of seedlings planted at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Joe Gray of Hines Nurseries in California selected it to be field tested on Yinger's Pennsylvania farm. It was found to have excellent cold hardiness (Zone 6a) and had a larger flower than a typical wild plant. The flower is a small to medium red single. It blooms early season on a compact plant with handsome green leaves. It is available through Camellia Forest Nursery, North Carolina.

THE CLARK APPROACH

BY JIM DICKSON



Recently at the Atlantic Coast Convention, Diane Clark shared with me that she and Marty have mentored several couples on judging camellias. They are spending time tutoring folks about the nuances of different cultivars and the ins and outs of the judging process. New judges are being added to our list of judges from these efforts.

Diane brought this up because she thought this activity would enhance the overall judge's program if it were adopted by certified judges in other clubs. I wholeheartedly agree and encourage every certified judge to look for interested persons and establish a mentoring program with them. As the 2021 camellia season is upon us, it would be great to add more judges to our ranks.

This personal approach should produce more knowledgeable judges, and we all agree that new judges need every opportunity possible to start off on the right foot. Having someone to review things is a big plus. According to Diane, lingering back at the end of the judging line with a novice can be valuable time spent in the mentoring process.

I am reminded of Tyler Mizzell, always teaching while judging when a novice was on her team. We need the Tyler's of every club to step up and share their expertise with new and upcoming experts of the future.

Let's all consider using Diane and Marty Clark's example to encourage new "novices" in a way that helps our overall judging process.

Camellia



‘GOLDEN SPANGLES’

Name Day

BY BRADFORD KING

A **name day** is a tradition in many European countries of celebrating a day based on an individual's given name. According to Wikipedia, this custom originated with the Christian calendar of saints when a believer named after a saint would celebrate the saint's feast day or the day of the saint's death in the Eastern Orthodox tradition. The celebration of name days differs greatly between countries. There are many countries that consider name days as significant as their birthdays, while there are some that still barely recognize the tradition, such as the USA.

There are seven camellias whose name day should be celebrated because they have beautiful flowers with interesting stories on how their names came to be.

Roosevelt's Blues

In 1912, Robert O. Rubel bought land along the Mobile River in the city of Crichton, Alabama. The magnificent view of the city and the river gave name to his nursery--

"Longview." This successful nursery flourished until his heart attack in 1950. Robert Rubel introduced 'Roosevelt's Blues' in 1944. Rubel was against the "New Deal" and Roosevelt's running for a fourth term as President. Therefore, he expressed his sadness about Roosevelt and his political agenda by naming a medium semidouble to peony formed purplish red flower 'Roosevelt's Blues.' 'Roosevelt's Blues Variegated' is striking with white markings on a purple toned bloom.

Royal Velvet

Jim Nuccio was sitting on the throne taking care of business when he looked down and saw a dark red bathmat whose color reminded him of a new camellia cultivar that Nuccio's Nurseries was looking to name. He turned over the mat and read the label which said "Royal Velvet." He told his father, uncle, brother, and cousin he had the perfect name for the new large semidouble *C. japon*--



'ROOSEVELT'S BLUES VARIEGATED' Photo by Matt Hunter



'ROYAL VELVET'



'TUDOR BABY'

ica seedling. In the fall of 1987, 'Royal Velvet' was introduced. The large velvety dark red flower is impressive. It grows vigorously in an upright manner and blooms midseason. It is grown throughout the camellia world and consistently wins points at camellia shows. Nuccio's Nurseries was founded in 1935 by Joe and Julius Nuccio. Joe's son was named Julius for his brother and was known as Jude. He joined the Nursery in 1957. Julius's sons Tom and Jim joined the Nursery several years after graduating college. Tom in 1972 and Jim in 1981.

Tudor Baby

Ellis Hulyn Smith (1929-2011), Valdosta, Georgia, was very active in the American Camellia Society, serving as president from 2005-2007. He was awarded The ACS

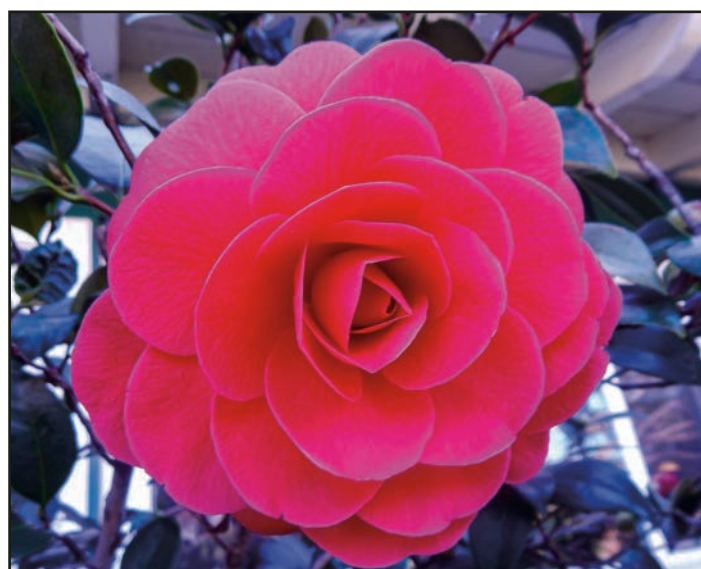


'TUDOR BABY VARIEGATED'

Tablet of Honor in 2010 for his contributions to ACS. He was a prolific camellia hybridizer who introduced 36 camellia cultivars during his lifetime. In addition, some of his seedlings are still being introduced by his friends. They plan on introducing one a year to keep his legacy alive. Hulyn was known for growing big red reticulatas, therefore, he threw a small late blooming small japonica seedling into the creek. Fortunately, it was rescued and named for a grandchild he always referred to as 'Tudor Baby.' It is a good reminder not to throw the baby out with the bath water. The plant grows vigorously in an upright manner and blooms mid to late season. The variegated bloom is highly valued and does well at camellia shows. They were both registered in 2001.

Glen 40

Azalea Glen Nursery, Loxley, Alabama, introduced *C. japonica* 'Glen 40' in 1942. The original seedling was growing in bed 40. When nursery staff observed the deep red medium formal double to rose form double flower, they recognized its potential. Therefore, it was propagated for distribution and named for the bed where it was first discovered in the nursery, appropriately omitting the word azalea in the name of this camellia cultivar. A red camellia is a symbol of wealth and a favorite color of many men which contributed to its popularity. The plant grows slowly in a compact upright manner and blooms mid to late season. The variegated form is also popular and is frequently known as 'Thunderbolt' which describes the flashes of white on the red petals. It makes for a showy flower.



'GLEN 40'

Elegans Splendor

In 1969, a large to very large sport of 'C.M. Wilson' was discovered and named 'C.M. Wilson Splendor' by Paul Gains Nursery in San Dimas, California. When Julius Nuccio, cofounder of Nuccio's Nurseries, was shown the beautiful light pink anemone flower with deep serrated petals fully edged in white, he convinced them to change the name to 'Elegans Splendor.' This change documented that it was a flower mutation from the "Elegans Family." It is a nomenclature tradition to include the parent of a sport in the mutations name which was not clear with the original name. 'Elegans Splendor' grows vigorously in an open, upright manner and blooms early to midseason. The evergreen leaves are serrated.

Man Size

This miniature to small white perfectly formed anemone flower is the most successful camellia show winner in its class since it was introduced in 1961. The plant is an average grower with an open upright growth habit. It blooms midseason with many identical flowers. People at camellia shows kept asking me about this name. I was puzzled too. What was Mr. Wilson thinking giving such a small flower a name connoting a large masculine image? What do you imagine? It wasn't until my granddaughter's wedding when I had an "aha" moment watching the men in the wedding party have white boutonnieres pinned to their suits. 'Man Size' is a perfect size and form for a man's formal wear boutonniere.



'GLEN 40 VARIEGATED'



'ELEGANS SPLENDOR'

Golden Spangles

There is an interesting story about the origin of 'Golden Spangles.' Ralph Peer was sent a 'Mary Christian' with golden variegated foliage. He inquired as to whether this was typical of 'Mary Christian.' Mr. Julian Williams of Caerhays Castel reported he had never seen this variegation on any camellias at Caerhays. It was determined that it was found in 1946 among a cluster of *C. X Williamsii* at Wisley, England, labeled as 'Mary Christian.' This foliage mutation was renamed 'Golden Spangles.' The flowers are three inches across and a golden cherry rose, which is a shade deeper than 'Mary Christian,' with finely serrated dark green leaves and a central splash of soft yellow green. It blooms mid to late on a vigorous erect slightly spreading plant (shown on page 4).



'MAN SIZE'

A PERSON HONORED

BY BRADFORD KING

Honoring one's family and friends by naming a camellia for them is a wonderful tradition. Haven't you ever wondered what the person looked like and what their relationship was with the originator of the camellia? In this article a few people and the camellia named for them are discussed. Photos of the person and "their" camellia are paired for your viewing pleasure.



'JOE NUCCIO'

JOE NUCCIO

Joe Nuccio was the oldest son of Guilio and Katherine Nuccio. Joe and his younger brother Julius began to grow camellias, azaleas, and gardenias in the backyard of the Nuccio family home in Alhambra, California, in the 1930s and sold them to local nurseries. The two brothers began to propagate camellias and azaleas to sell which led them to grow seedlings hoping to produce new cultivars. When Julius went into the Army at the beginning of World War II, Joe built a lathe house in his parent's backyard in Santa Monica to house all their stock plants. Joe worked during the war as a shipwright. When Julius returned from the war, the two brothers moved the nursery business to Altadena, California, which is the present location of Nuccio's Nurseries. Today the Nursery is run by Julius's two sons, Tom and Jim.



In 1991, a nonreticulata hybrid seedling of 'Garden Glory,' a lovely orchid pink flower with incurved petal tips that are a deeper tone of pink, was named 'Joe Nuccio' and introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries. It is a medium formal double that blooms early and may continue to have flowers throughout the camellia blooming season. The two-toned pink colors on a formal double flower with the distinctive attractive incurved petals make 'Joe Nuccio' a wonderful addition to a camellia collection. I asked Tom and Jude how they came to name this flower for Jude's dad. Tom said his father, Julius, persuaded them. Jude recalled that his father really liked this flower which was the clincher for them. 'Joe Nuccio' is a great camellia that commemorates one of the founding fathers of Nuccio's Nurseries.



'JULIUS NUCCIO'



JULIUS NUCCIO

Julius knew when he was eleven years old that he wanted to grow camellias for a living. In the preface of Stirling Macoboy's *The Colour Dictionary of Camellias*, he wrote about his love of camellias

“not only as a nurseryman and grower, but also as an interested collector and hybridizer. I can remember the excitement (in the 1930s and 1940s) of discovering long-lost varieties from the 1800s. These were in great demand, because until that time we had few varieties of *C. japonica*, a mere scattering of *C. sasanqua*, and only one *C. reticulata*, the tried and true ‘Captain Rawes.’ Julius ended the preface this way: “The camaraderie of camellia lovers is unequalled. It spans oceans and transcends both national and linguistic boundaries. Never in the world has a single flower brought together more people from different walks of life than has the camellia.”

In 2001, Jude, Tom, and Jim wanted to name a large red formal double for Julius, but he vetoed the idea, so they named it ‘Nuccio’s Bella Rossa.’ Fifteen years later when Julius was 97, they named a large to very large brilliant dark red semidouble for him. The flower has become a winner just like Julius himself.



WILLIAM WOODRUFF

Bill was the founder of the “*Camellia Nomenclature*” published by the Southern California Camellia Society (SCCS). This book serves as the official nomenclature for the American Camellia Society which brought order and stability to camellia shows. He served as its editor for the first twenty editions from 1947 to 1990. He was honored by SCCS in 1978 with his name being used to announce the award of the outstanding camellia cultivars generally available in Southern California for a period of ten years. The “William E. Woodruff



Camellia Hall of Fame Award,” given annually to no more than two cultivars, is a list of the best camellias grown in California. This list can serve as the foundation for an outstanding camellia collection. Nuccio’s Nurseries honored him in 1989 by naming a very large scarlet *C. reticulata* seedling ‘Bill Woodruff.’ This was a perfect choice, as he was noted for proclaiming a winning show camellia needs to be big and red.



‘HULYN SMITH’



HULYN SMITH

Hulyn was a well-known camellia hybridizer and grower from Valdosta, Georgia, who served as president of the American Camellia Society from 2005 to 2007. He worked on numerous ACS committees and was awarded the ACS Tablet of Honor in 2010 for his contributions to ACS. He was responsible for getting the repeat summer blooming *C. azalea* imported to America from China. He grew the first American seedling from *C. azalea* which he called ‘Wendzalea’ for its seed parent.”

Hulyn was known and respected as the Chairman of Judges at camellia shows. Many camellia judges remember his humorous sayings such as, “Hurry up! We’re judging them, not growing them.” He had a camellia scion business called “Valdosta Camellias” for many years. He was proud to have the best of the new cultivars registered in the camellia world.

Hulyn was a prolific hybridizer who registered 36 camellias. Many of his hybrid crosses are still being registered by friends. One of his favorite introductions is the magnificent very large red ‘Ray Gentry.’ This cultivar earned the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award in

2009. Hulyn was accompanied and helped by his wife Janet, a great gardener herself.

Hulyn was a camellia mentor to many people in the camellia world. He shared his camellia knowledge and advice freely.



**RENEE, MANDY,
AND LAUREN**

**'LAUREN TUDOR
VARIEGATED'**

Janet and Hulyn had three lovely daughters—Renee Powell, Mandy White, and Lauren Tudor. Pursel named camellias for Renee and Mandy, and Hulyn named a very large pink peony camellia with small red flicks for Lauren.

'DR. CLIFFORD PARKS'



**DR. PARKS
RECEIVING AN
AWARD FROM
INTERNATIONAL
CAMELLIA
SOCIETY
PRESIDENT,
PAT SHORT**

CLIFFORD PARKS, Ph.D.

One of the most successful camellia breeders was Dr. Clifford Parks. Early in his career, he began to make controlled crosses between *C. reticulata* cultivars and a variety of other camellia species when he was at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, California. He continued this program when he moved

to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The three most popular introductions are 'Crimson Candles,' 'LASCA Beauty,' and 'Dr. Clifford Parks.' They are strong growing plants that produce quality flowers. Dr. Parks was also a pioneer hybridizer of cold hardy camellias. He introduced seven cold hardy cultivars which are known as the April series for their spring blooming season. In addition, he has introduced two fall blooming cold hardy cultivars, 'Autumn Spirit' and 'Red Jade' that bloom late January to February. He has also introduced fragrant and yellow camellias. In addition, Cliff had a long-standing interest in collecting and preserving camellia species. He collected and planted numerous wild camellia seeds. He donated many of these plants to Masee Lane so the garden will have a world class species collection. 'Dr. Clifford Parks' is a cross between *C. reticulata* 'Crimson Robe' and *C. japonica* 'Kramer's Supreme.' It is a very large beautiful red flower with orange tones which comes in various forms from semidouble to loose peony to peony and even anemone.

'MARILYN MAPHIS'



'RANDOLPH MAPHIS'



MARILYN AND RANDOLPH MAPHIS

Marilyn and Randolph are well known camellia growers from Tallahassee, Florida. They are

active in their local camellia society and are frequent camellia show winners. Randolph is a prolific propagator of new camellias. In 2007, Philip Mandarich, a noted camellia hybridizer, named a very large semidouble pink frosted *C. reticulata* with golden anthers and white filaments for Marilyn. The following year, Hulyn Smith named a very large red frosted semidouble to peony *C. reticulata* hybrid flower with golden an-



thers and red, pink filaments for his friend and mentee, 'Randolph Maphis.'



'BROOK MAPHIS'



BROOK MAPHIS

In 2008, Dr. Walter Homeyer, a noted hybridizer from Macon, Georgia, named a beautiful pink medium to large *C. reticulata* camellia for Brook Maphis. The photo of Marilyn and Randolph's daughter is a wonderful photo of her as a child.

'BEV PIET VARIEGATED'



'BEV PIET'S SMILE'



BEV PIET

Bev was the engaging wife of the late great camellia hybridizer, Meyer Piet, from Arcadia, California. He and Lee Gaeta introduced 16 new *C. reticulata*

hybrids, most of which were named after their family members. It is clear from their introductions that developing dark red *C. reticulata* camellia blooms was a major priority. 'Bev Piet' has a very dark red medium semidouble flower, a cross between two *C. reticulata* hybrids—'Fire Chief' and 'Nuccio's Ruby.' The variegated form of 'Bev Piet' is very striking with the white blotches contrasting sharply with the dark red. The photo shows Bev with 'Bev Piet Variegated.' Those of us who got to know Bev were charmed by her smile which

is why Meyer named a large dark red and white *C. japonica* with a semidouble to peony flower 'Bev Piet's Smile.'

'HOWARD RHODES'



'MARY RHODES'



HOWARD AND MARY RHODES



Howard and Mary grow winning camellia flowers outside as well as protected in greenhouses in Tallahassee, Florida. When the ACS convention was held in Tallahassee, it was a treat to visit the Maphis and Rhodes greenhouses to see the way camellias are grown in a protected environment. It was also this photographer's dream come true to see cultivars not typically grown in California.

Hulyn Smith, their friend and fellow camellia show competitor, named a *C. reticulata* hybrid for each of them. 'Howard Rhodes' has a large dark red peony flower, while 'Mary Rhodes' has a large to very large semidouble pink flower shading to white.



'JIM SMELLEY'



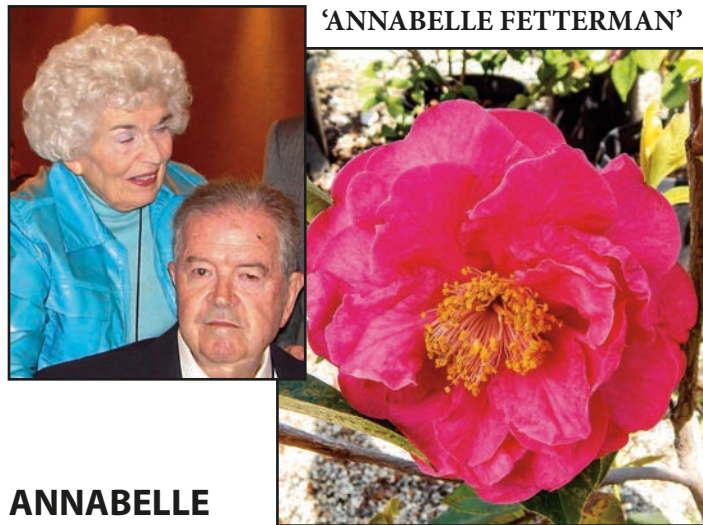
'ELAINE'S BETTY'

JAMES AND ELAINE SMELLEY

Jim and Elaine were camellia lovers before they were married in 1954. They were founding members of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. In 2013,



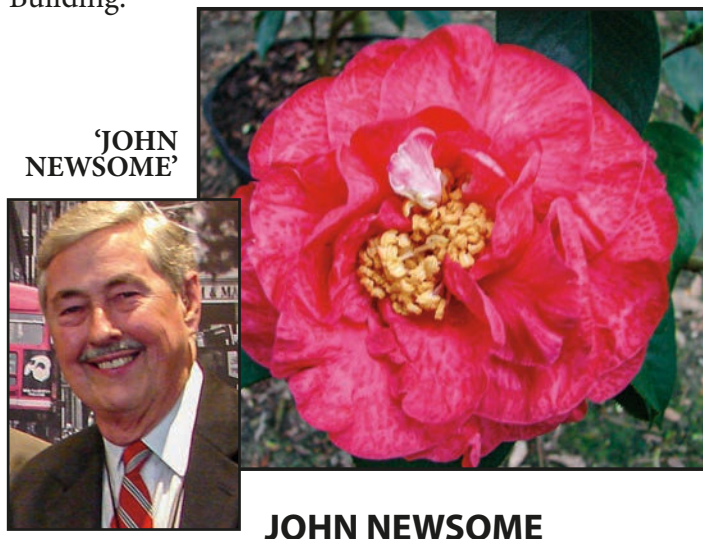
they were presented with the American Camellia Society Tablet of Honor for all their contributions to the American Camellia Society. Jim is a top camellia grower and a frequent camellia show winner. Elaine taught camellia judging schools and was a head judge for many shows. They introduced 'Elaine's Betty' (a sport of 'Betty Sheffield'), 'Elaine' (a very large semidouble pink reticulata) and 'Jim Smelley' (a very large dark pink).



'ANNABELLE FETTERMAN'

ANNABELLE FETTERMAN

Annabelle was a well-known camellia hobbyist and strong supporter of the American Camellia Society from Clinton, North Carolina. She served as ACS President from 1987 to 1989. Mrs. Annabelle Fetterman and her husband Lewis were elected for the ACS Tablet of Honor in 2007 for their many contributions to the ACS and Masee Lane Gardens, including the Fetterman Building.



'JOHN NEWSOME'

JOHN NEWSOME

John Newsome is a noted camellia show chairman and judge from Georgia. He should be remembered and

thanked for his help in encouraging Leon Silver to generously donate funds in memory of his wife for "The Lois and Leon Camellia Center" built at Masee Lane in 2021.

Frank Pursel registered and named a very large red reticulata in 1983 to honor John.



'DICK HARDISON'

ROBERTA AND DICK HARDISON



This camellia couple from Tallahassee, Florida, were known for their winning camellia show entries. Dick also enjoyed hybridizing, naming a large deep rose pink formal double *C. japonica* cultivar for his wife years before he registered the bloom that he named for himself. 'Dick Hardison' has a medium to large formal double flower noted for the black red petal edges on this red flower. In 2014, it was awarded the Illges Japonica Seedling Award.

IN CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the practice of naming camellias for family and friends continues. The revised and easy to use new camellia seedling registration forms are found on the ACS website at www.americancamellias.com.

Semidouble Sun Camellia Flowers Are Great!

BY BRADFORD KING

The bright colorful semidouble sun camellias are the first camellias to bloom. The petals fall after a few days with flowers opening in succession for four to six weeks. The petals on the ground form a lovely carpet that can be left as an attractive freeform artistic display. An additional attraction is that many of the flowers are fragrant. The foliage is dense with small leaves which lend themselves to topiary, espalier, and bonsai. Sun camellias are excellent in landscaping for hedges and foundation plants. Their beauty is in the profusion of their lovely masses of flowers and evergreen foliage.

C. *Sasanqua* Semidouble Blooms

The most popular sun camellias are *C. sasanqua* which are native to the evergreen coastal forests of the southern Japanese archipelago. The native species have a small white flower borne on a small tree or shrub. They have a long history of being cultivated in Japan where they are very popular. They were first described during the Japanese Edo period by Ihei Ito. There are decorative *C. sasanqua* cultivars and 400-year-old ancient trees growing in temple gardens in Kyoto, Japan. In 1784, Thunberg was the first person to use the

term *C. sasanqua*. Most *sasanqua* flowers are single or semidouble. Examples of semidouble blooms are 'Bert Jones,' 'Dazzler,' 'Double Rainbow,' 'Old Glory,' 'Mine-No-Yuki,' 'Navajo,' and 'Setsugekka.'

'Bert Jones' has a medium to large pink flower. It is a late fall blooming cultivar with a musky scent. Some people are repelled by this smell, but others enjoy its earthy scent.

If you enjoy bright red flowers, 'Dazzler' is a wonderful choice. It is a Nuccio's introduction that blooms late fall into early winter.

Many of the best *sasanquas* have white flowers with different tones of pink on the petal edges. 'Double Rainbow' has a rose border, 'Navajo' has a wider deep rose pink border, and 'Old Glory' has deep rose on its wavy petals.

One of the most widely grown white *sasanquas* originating in Japan is 'Setsugekka' (Snow, Moon and Flowers). It has a white fluted semidouble large flower. When visiting Nuccio's Nurseries in November, it is an impressive sight to see several hundred blooming in full sun.

The low growing 'Mine-No-Yuki' is better known in the USA as 'White Doves.' It was common before the



'BERT JONES'



'DAZZLER'



'DOUBLE RAINBOW'



'STAR ABOVE STAR'

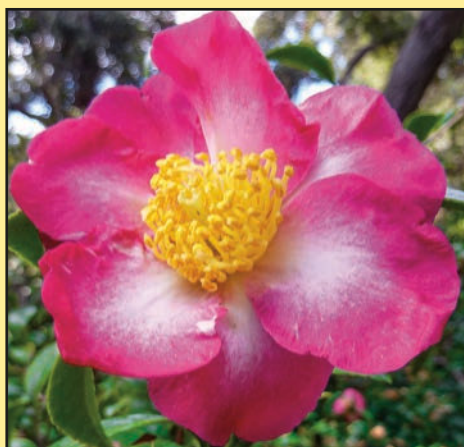
1950s for nurseries to market Japanese imports to the U.S. with English names. This cultivar develops into a beautiful bush that can also be used as a ground cover. It has a small white semidouble to loose peony flower.

***C. Hiemalis* Semidouble Blooms**

'Shishi-gashira' (Lion's Head) is one of the very best sun camellias which originates from Japan. It has a lovely mass of small red flowers. They bloom fall to early winter on a compact bushy mid-sized plant that keeps its form with little or no pruning. It is a very popular cultivar that is grown throughout the camellia world as

a landscape plant. It has been the seed parent for other *C. hiemalis* cultivars. Two examples are 'Chansonette' and 'Interlude.'

One of the most popular sun camellias is 'Kanjiro' (a personal name). It originated in Japan and has been distributed widely. It has medium semidouble rose pink flowers that shade to rose red. It is an extremely versatile cultivar that can be used as a tall growing specimen, pruned hedge, informal hedge, espalier, or bonsai. It is also one of the better camellias to use as understock in grafting as it has a thick cambium layer and a robust root system.



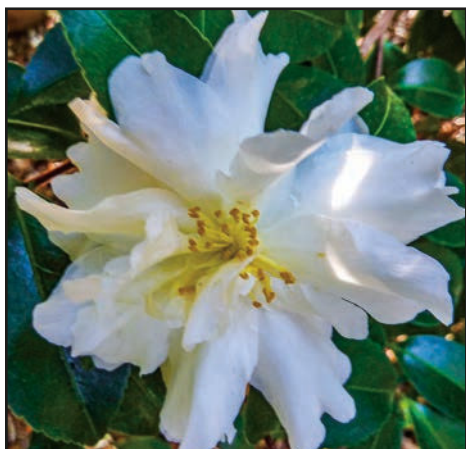
'NAVAJO'



'OLD GLORY'



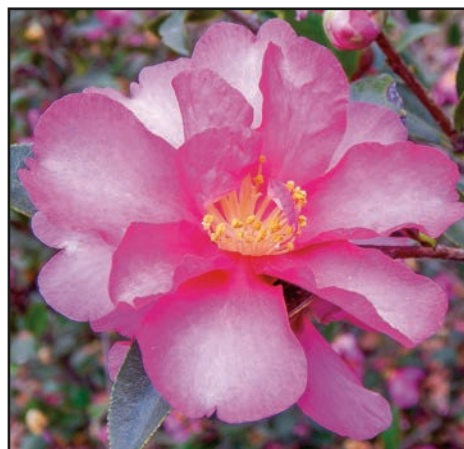
'SETSUGEKKA'



'MINE-NO-YUKI'



'SHISHI-GASHIRA'



'KANJIRO'

'Showa-no-sakae' (Glory of the Showa Era) has a soft pink flower with occasional white marbling and a musky fragrance. It is small to medium in size, and its form is semidouble to rose form double. It blooms early season and makes a good ground cover or landscape plant as it is a vigorous low growing compact plant. It was first imported by McIlhenny from Japan in 1935. Edward Avery McIlhenny, the second son of Edmund McIlhenny, the inventor of Tabasco sauce, created a 170-acre botanical garden and bird sanctuary called Jungle Gardens. It is located on Avery Island, Louisiana. Edward McIlhenny, or "Mr. Ned" as he was affectionately known, founded a bird colony in the 1890s now called Bird City. After plume hunters slaughtered egrets by the thousands for feathers to make fashionable ladies' hats, Mr. Ned gathered up eight young egrets, raised them in captivity on the Island and released them in the fall to migrate across the Gulf of Mexico. The following spring, the birds returned to the Island with others of their species. This migration continues to this day, as

thousands of snowy white egrets and other water birds return to Bird City. This vast, protected rookery owes its existence to Mr. Ned.

C. *Vernalis* Semidouble Blooms

In 1964, McCaskill introduced 'Star Above Star.' It has a wonderful white flower with petals shading to lavender on the edges on a semidouble flower in the form of one star superimposed over another star. This attractive form and lovely toned flower won the 1969 Ralph Peer Sasanqua Seedling Award. It grows vigorously, upright, and bushy. It is a wonderful garden plant that is highly appreciated by gardeners and also wins points at camellia shows.

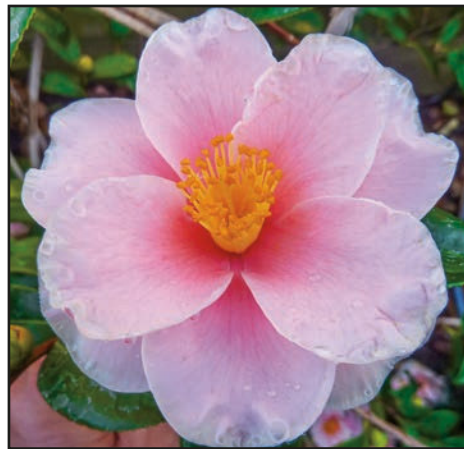
The beautiful deep pink shading to darker pink in the center of 'Egao' makes it one of the very best sun camellias. 'Egao' looks more like a japonica than a sasanqua with its medium pink bloom of 16 to 20 petals with clear yellow anthers. Its Chinese name is 'Xiaoyan' which means "smiling face" in English. It was brought



'SHOWA-NO-SAKAE'



'SHIBORI EGAO'



'GRADY'S EGAO'



‘EGAO’

from Japan to the USA in 1972 by Nuccio's Nurseries. The medium sized leaves and vigorous upright spreading growth habit make this camellia a good specimen plant as well as a camellia show winner. It blooms from November until February depending on local conditions.

When ‘Egao’ is infused with virus variegation, it is called ‘Shibori Egao.’ Shibori is an old Chinese term that means “spotted cloth.” It is a common way to label a variegated camellia because it has white spots on the flower petals. ‘Shibori Egao’ has an exquisite pink bloom with white blotches. It was originated at Kurume in Japan and imported to the USA by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1974. The leaves are oval and green with yellow splotches due to the virus. It is less vigorous than ‘Egao,’

prefers less sun, and is more spreading in growth habit. Overall, it is a very classy camellia plant and flower. It is also one of the better rootstock cultivars, because it is generally compatible with other camellias and carries a strong high white virus.

Grady Perigan of San Marino, California, discovered a genetic mutation of ‘Egao.’ ‘Grady's Egao’ is smaller than its parent, grows more compactly with smaller foliage, and sets buds at an early age. It blooms late fall and early winter like ‘Egao.’ The flower is a very pretty light pink veined with a fine white edge. Grady was a member of the Southern California Camellia Society and a volunteer at The Huntington Botanical Gardens. He was noted for his woodworking making gavels, rolling pins, and fountain pens from camellia wood.

SPOTLIGHT



C. reticulata : 'Ray Gentry'

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRADFORD KING

Hulyn Smith was a prolific camellia hybridizer with a fondness for large red blooms. In 2004, he introduced 'Ray Gentry,' named for a friend who also loved camellias. The very large brilliant red semidouble to peony formed flower has golden anthers and white filaments.

It blooms mid to late season on a vigorous upright plant. Hulyn was very fond of this cultivar because of its size, rich color and it grows well. The variegated form is less well distributed but makes a striking flower with the white markings on the large red petals.

The cover: 'Elegans Splendor' is a beautiful sport of 'C. M. Wilson' introduced in 1969.

Photo by Bradford King

The Best Camellias Bred In

MASSACHUSETTS

BY BRADFORD KING

Camellias are grown in a dozen southeastern states as well as the Pacific coast from Southern California to Washington and indoors in a few northern states. This is one of a series of articles highlighting the camellias originating in each state.

Back Story

Massachusetts is a northeastern state noted in the camellia world for camellias grown in heated greenhouses. The state is named after the Native American Massachusetts tribe who lived in the area. It is one of the original thirteen states. The capital is Boston, which is also the most populous city in New England. According to Wikipedia, more than 80% of Massachusetts's population lives in the Greater Boston metropolitan area,

a region influential upon American history, academia, and industry. It is the home to us Bostonians, the Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins, and Celtics; and for the academic minded Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and over one hundred schools of higher education.

Massachusetts Camellia History

Ornamental plants have been grown in New England for centuries with camellia cultivation beginning in the late 1700s. However, due to the very cold winter months, camellias were grown in large glass greenhouses

on large estates owned by the affluent. The Lyman Estate greenhouse is a good example and one that still contains camellias



'C. M. HOVEY'

MASSACHUSETTS

according to Lynn Ackerman, the estate manager. They have an entire greenhouse dedicated to camellias of which some are over 100 years old. In the 1900s, florist greenhouses grew camellias for cut flowers and corsages. Today the Massachusetts Camellia Society continues to have a camellia show every year. It is the oldest continuing camellia show in America. The 185th annual Massachusetts Camellia Show was held in Tower Hill Botanic Garden.

Charles Mason Hovey (October 26, 1810 to 1887), was an American nurseryman, seed merchant, journalist, and author of horticultural books best known for his two-volume *The Fruits of America*, published in the mid-1800s, which was illustrated with 96 chromolithographs making it a lavish publication. According to Wikipedia, Charles and his brother Phineas started Hovey & Co., a seed store and nursery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The nursery included greenhouses on 40 acres of land. He collected cultivars of pear, apple, plum, and grape. The strawberry cultivar he introduced became very popular. In addition, he also collected ornamental plants, with a fondness for camellias. He wrote about them between 1835 and 1850. In the 1852 Hovey and Company seed catalogue, 102 camellia cultivars were listed. He exhibited regularly with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and was its president for four years. He was responsible for producing at least three camellia cultivars—‘Mrs. Anne Hovey’ in 1872 named for his wife, ‘C. H. Hovey’ in 1878 which is rarely seen today, and ‘C. M. Hovey’ in 1853 which continues to be seen in private and public gardens.

Best Camellia Bred in Massachusetts

‘C. M. Hovey’ is the one and only best camellia bred in The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The medium dark red formal double flower is also known as ‘Colonel Firey’.





The Camellia PINNACLE

BY BRADFORD KING

The formal double is the pinnacle of camellia flowers. The beautiful, complicated bloom is both male and female sterile, so it is the end of the line for camellia hybridization. It can only be reproduced by cuttings or grafts. The odds of getting a formal double flower are close to zero if parents are single flowers and only slightly better if both are semidouble. The odds increase when a fertile semidouble flower is pollinated by a peony formed flower. When someone does get a formal double camellia seedling, it is very likely to be propagated; consequently, there are many wonderful formal double camellias. We highlight some of the very best *C. japonica* formal doubles.

Red Formal Doubles

One of the earliest red formal double camellias bred in America is 'C. M. Hovey.' Charles Mason Hovey was owner of a 40-acre nursery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a noted breeder and propagator of fruit trees. In the 1852 Hovey and Company seed catalogue, 102

camellia cultivars were listed. He exhibited regularly with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and was its president for four years. He introduced three camellia cultivars: 'Mrs. Anne Hovey' in 1872 (named for his wife), 'C. H. Hovey' in 1878 (which is rarely seen today) and 'C. M. Hovey' in 1853 (which continues to be seen in private and public gardens. It has also been known as 'Colonel Fiery'.)

One of the best large red formal double flowers is 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa.' It was introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena, California, in 2000. Jude, Tom and Jim Nuccio wanted to name it for Julius Nuccio, the cofounder of the Nursery, but he vetoed it. What makes this cultivar stand out is its long blooming season, heavy bud set and that it will bloom on a small plant. I have seen dozens of 1-gallon plants with multiple flowers growing in the nursery which makes it a great gift. Occasionally, a 1- or 3-gallon plant will produce an exceedingly large natural bloom. If it has a fault, it is that petals may begin to droop as they age. Personally, I like the variegated form even better, be-



'C.M. HOVEY'



'NUCCIO'S BELLA ROSSA'



'NUCCIO'S BELLA ROSSA VARIEGATED'

cause the white markings make a very showy flower.

An outstanding medium to large red camellia is 'Dick Hardison.' It was introduced in 1997 by Dick Hardison of Tallahassee, Florida. What makes it stand out from other formal double red flowers is the black red incurved petal edges. Unfortunately, it is not seen in California, but when visiting the Southeast, it is readily seen in private gardens and camellia shows.

There are many good medium formal red camellias like 'Pope Pius' ('Prince Eugene Napoleon'), 'Tom Knudson' and 'Spring Fling.' However, 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Crinkled' stands out with its wavy petals and crinkled green leaves with an irregular creamy edge. It is a slow growing compact upright plant that looks good as a specimen, in the foreground or along a path where the flowers and lovely foliage can be easily viewed.

The rich burgundy red 'Cabernet' makes a good addition to a camellia collection if you like beautiful small flowers. It blooms late season which helps extend the camellia season, and when gibbed, can be enjoyed midwinter.

'Tudor Baby,' bred by Hulyn Smith, also blooms late season. When variegated, the small dark red flower with black red petal edges makes the list as a pinnacle formal double bloom. Hulyn loved large red flowers, so he threw the original plant in the

**'NUCCIO'S BELLA ROSSA'
PLANTS IN BLOOM AT
THE NURSERY**



creek which fortunately was rescued and named for a granddaughter in 2001.

Pink Formal Doubles

The most iconic pink formal double camellia is 'Pink Perfection.' It has a small formal double pink flower and blooms early to late season on a vigorous upright plant. It came to Sacramento, California, from Japan in 1875 where it was called 'Usu-Otome' (Hand Maiden). It is widely distributed and very popular, as it regularly produces masses of perfectly formed flowers.

'Nuccio's Cameo' has a medium to large pink formal flower with a long blooming season. My plant has reliably bloomed for 30 years from early to late season on an upright compact bushy plant which makes it an excellent landscape camellia. A cameo is a method of carving an object such as an engraved gem, item of jewelry or vessel. It features a raised relief image. 'Nuccio's Cameo' is like a beautiful engraved gem with its raised formal double flower.

The coral pink medium to large 'Elizabeth Weaver' was introduced by Dr. Walter Homeyer in 1975. It continues to be seen at camellia shows and blooms early to midseason in public and home gardens. The coral pink color tones make it a special formal double variety. Walter named it for his favorite aunt.

Yellow Formal Doubles

Dahlonge ("Dah-lahn-e-ga") is a small city in north



'NUCCIO'S BELLA ROSSA CRINKLED'



'CABERNET'



'DICK HARDISON'



'TUDOR BABY VARIEGATED'



‘PINK PERFECTION’

Georgia not far from Mobile, Alabama. The city got its name from the gold found nearby. In the 1820s when prospectors found gold, masses of hopeful miners rushed to the area. This was America’s first gold rush and later the home of a US mint.

Dr. Homeyer chose to spell Dahlohnega with a second “h” because it is Cherokee for “golden color.” This formal double yellow *C. japonica* camellia has a small to me-

dium pale yellow flower which readily blooms on an open upright plant. In 1996, Dr. Homeyer was awarded the Kathryn and Les Marbury Award for ‘Dahlohnega’ as originator of the best small to medium *C. japonica* or hybrid.

White Formal Doubles

Since white is genetically recessive to red and pink, it is amazing that



‘NUCCIO’S CAMEO’



‘ELIZABETH WEAVER’



THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Matthew Israel misrael@americancamellias.org, 478-967-2358. Established in 1945, ACS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of the *genus Camellia* and the education of the public about camellias. Contributions are welcomed to help further the goals of the Society and can be made to: The American Camellia Society, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

THE CAMELLIA JOURNAL

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we have more than a hundred white formal double camellias. When a formal double white flower is blemish free, clean and fresh, it is special. The first formal double white camellia known in the western camellia world was 'Alba Plena.' It was brought from China to England in 1792 by Captain Conner.

Since 1984, four formal double white camellias have won the ACS Harold Cawood Award that is given to the originator of the best white camellia. They are 'Nuccio's Gem,' 'Mary Alice Cox,' 'Ragland Supreme' and 'Sea Foam.' They



'DAHLOHNEGA'

gifted to me by Miles Beach, is growing and blooming here in Arcadia, California. The medium to large flower has cupped petals and a lovely spiraled form.

The milk white medium 'Ragland Supreme' forms a wonderful tight bud center. This cultivar produces many lookalike blooms which can be entered as a single or trays of like blooms at a camellia show. It blooms midseason on a spreading plant that also makes a good landscape camellia.

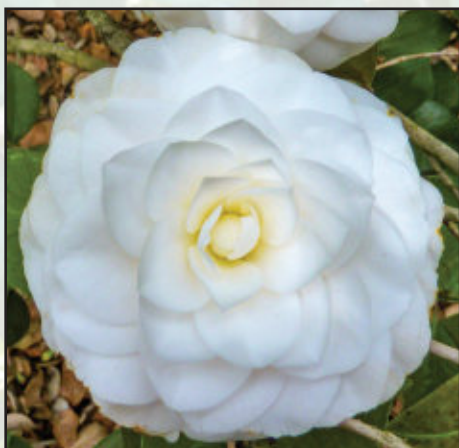
In conclusion, formal double camellias represent the culminating point in hybridizing and the most desirable complex beautiful flowers.

are the cream of the crop.

'Nuccio's Gem' has a medium to large flower borne on a vigorous compact upright plant introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1970.

The medium to large 'Mary Alice Cox' has lovely cupped petals. Since it was registered in South Carolina, this wonderful cultivar is not seen in Southern California, however, it wins camellia show points in the Southeast.

'Sea Foam' is another Southeast beauty rarely seen in California. Fortunately, my air layered plant,



'NUCCIO'S GEM'



'ALBA PLENA'



'MARY ALICE COX'



'SEA FOAM'



'RAGLAND SUPREME'

Twenty Questions

BY BRADFORD KING

The “Twenty Questions” game originated in the United States and was widely played in American homes. It became a popular radio quiz show in the 1940s and later a TV show where the initial question was “Is it animal, vegetable or mineral?” Careful questioning helped players reach an answer in 20 or less questions to win the game. For example, if an animal, the next question would be “Is it a person?” If yes, it would be followed by “living?” Deductive questioning and reasoning would always win over random guessing. The winner was the person who was able to come up with the answer in 20 or less questions. Participants took turns asking the question:

1. Is it a vegetable? Yes
2. Is it edible? Maybe (*but not in the usual use of the term*)
3. Is it an annual? No
4. Is it indigenous to the United States? No
5. Is it a house plant? No
6. Is it a landscape plant? Yes
7. Is it grown for its blooms or foliage? *Rephrase-- a question must be able to be answered by yes or no.*
8. Is it grown for its flowers? Yes (*with exceptions*)
9. Does it have thorns? No
10. Does it grow in full sun? No (*with exceptions*)
11. Is it bigger than a bread box? Yes
12. Is it an evergreen plant? Yes
13. Is it in the conifer family? No
14. Is it an azalea? No
15. Is it a camellia? Yes

What is a Dahlia?

A dahlia is a plant grown from small tubers planted in the spring. It is a tender perennial, only winter hardy in Zones 8 to 11, that prefers moist moderate climates. Dahlia flowers range in size from petite 2-inch pom-poms to giant 15-inch “dinner plate” blooms and come in a rainbow of colors. Plants can grow from 12 inches to 15 feet tall with newer varieties moderate to dwarf in height. They make a bright addition to a summer garden.

The *C. saluenensis* hybrid ‘Pink Dahlia’ is a dahlia shaped medium formal double with a bright lavender pink flower. It was introduced by Kramer Brothers Nursery in 1980 and has continued to delight camellia gardeners. It blooms in the winter, preferring shade like most nonreticulata hybrids.

What is a Tulip?

Tulips are a plant grown from bulbs that have 2 to 6 leaves with a bright colorful cup shaped flower. They grow upright and may have single or double blooms on a 6-inch to 2-foot-tall stem.

Are tulips a perennial? Botanically yes, but hybridizing has so weakened this growth characteristic that today they are grown as an annual.

When do tulips bloom? Spring is tulip time, usually beginning in March depending on the cultivar and climate.

A lovely camellia with a single light pink tulip shaped flower was introduced by David Feathers in

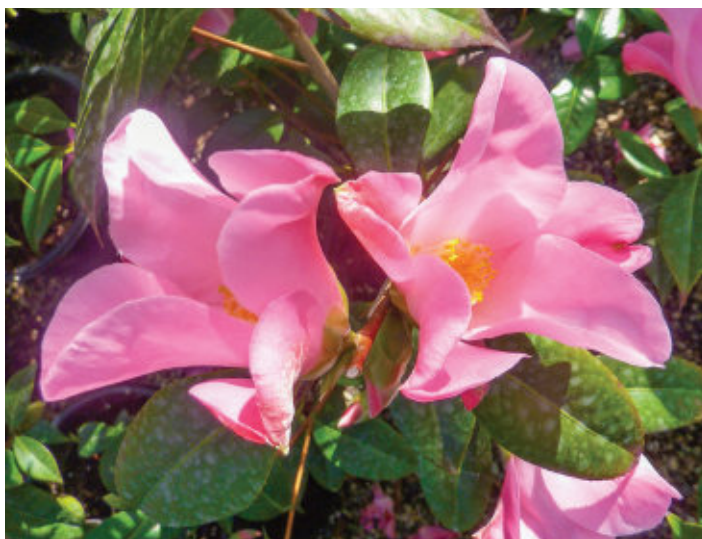


DAHLIA

1978 and named 'Tulip Time.' It continues to be a popular *C. saluenensis* hybrid, as it grows vigorously and blooms freely in midwinter.

What is a Water Lily?

A water lily is a plant that has evolved to grow and bloom in an aquatic setting like a pond or lake. They typically have showy, fragrant, solitary, spiraled formed flowers from summer to fall. Most species have round,



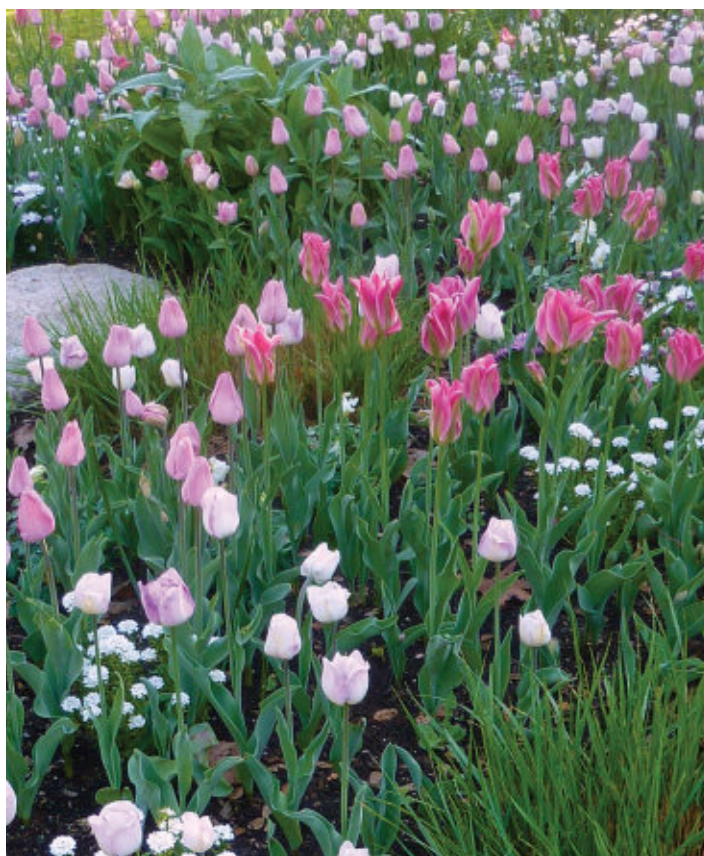
'TULIP TIME'



'PINK DAHLIA'

notched, waxy leaves on long stalks that are attached to the underground stems. The flowers come in a wide range of bright colors, some of which are two toned.

The *C. saluenensis* hybrid 'Water Lily' has a beautiful bright pink flower with a lavender tint. The numerous petals are incurved making it an especially attractive formal double bloom. It was bred by Felix Jury in New Zealand and became well known in the camellia growing states in America.



TULIPS



WATER LILY



‘WATER LILY’

What is a Peacock?

A peacock is a male peafowl, and the female is a peahen. The peacock is known for its piercing calls, that sound like a baby crying, and its beautiful eye spotted tail which is displayed during courtship.

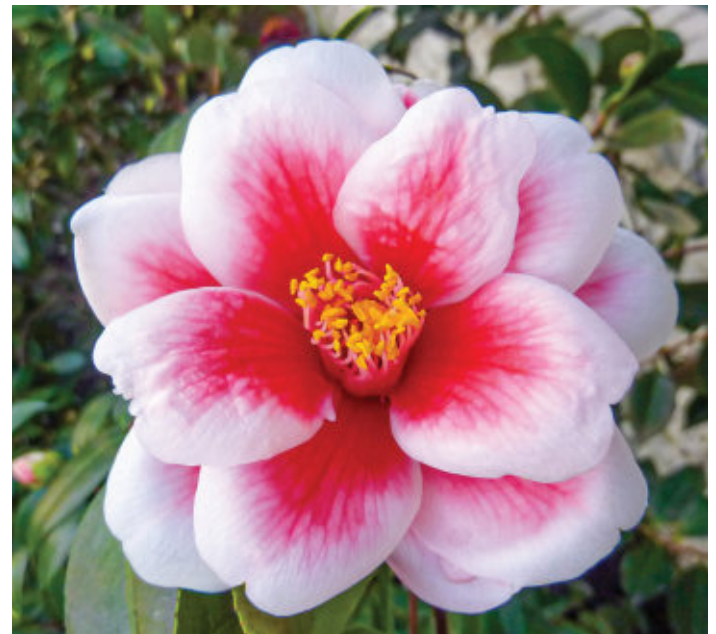
‘Tama Peacock’ is a seedling of ‘Tama-no-Ura’ that inherited its picoted border. The small to medium semidouble flower has a maroon, red tint that washes into the white border. It has become a top camellia show winner in California as a single and in trays of like blooms because it produces numerous flowers that are identical.

What is a Seagull?

Seagulls are medium to large seabirds, usually grey or white, with black markings on their heads or wings. The typical call is a harsh squawking. They have a long stout bill and webbed feet. They are carnivores that take live food and are opportunistic scavengers who consume crabs and small fish. They are primarily coastal and inland birds. They are long lived with one Herring Gull reported to be 49 years old. They nest in large densely packed noisy colonies and have 2 to 3 speckled eggs. Documented use of a tool in Herring Gulls was observed when pieces of bread were used as bait to catch fish.



PEACOCK



‘TAMA PEACOCK’



HERRING GULL

The Japanese camellia ‘Miyako-Dori,’ which means “Seagull,” has a medium to large semidouble flower with upright narrow petals like bird wings.

Who was Buddha?

Siddhartha Gautama was a philosopher, mediator, spiritual teacher and religious leader who founded Buddhism. He became known centuries after his death as Buddha which means the “Enlightened One.”



The *C. reticulata* ‘Buddha’ came to Descanso Gardens from China in 1950. The very large deep orchid pink flower has ir-



‘BUDDHA’



‘MIYAKO-DORI’

regular upright wavy petals. The Kunming Botanical Gardens and Institute sowed thousands of seeds for many years, choosing the best cultivars to propagate. ‘Buddha’ and ‘Confucius’ were two selected from the 40 cultivars in this open cross project.

Who was Confucius?

He was an influential Chinese philosopher and politician whose teachings are the basis for Eastern Asian culture. He emphasized government and personal morality such as justice, kindness and sincerity.

The *C. reticulata* hybrid ‘Confucius’ has a beautiful large semidouble orchid pink flower.



‘CONFUCIUS’

Higo Brocade CAMELLIAS

BY BRADFORD KING

The Japanese word for brocade is Nishiki. There are at least 10 Higo camellias with Nishiki as part of their name. Brocade is a type of richly decorated shuttle woven fabric. At times colored silk and even gold and silver threads are used. The weave gives the fabric the appearance of being embroidered.

This makes a rich colorful attractive fabric which is no doubt why a Higo with clean colorful markings has Nishiki in its name.

A classic example is 'Yamato Nishiki' (Brocade of Ancient Japan). It is an old higo recognized by the Japanese Higo Society in 1912. The white flower is variegated with crimson stripes with 6 to 8 petals and a mass of about 200 stamens. This makes it a first-class Higo which symbolizes the grace, poetry and strength of old Japan. It has mutated eight times. My favorite is 'Ohkan' (King's Crown) which has a white bloom with a bright crimson border and 160 golden central stamens. It looks like a King's Crown.

Higos are traditionally grown as bon-sai and handed down from father to son across the generations, however, they also are grown in the ground where they do very well when treated like other *C. japonica* cultivars.

'Kyo-nishiki' (Brocade of Kyoto) has a lovely white flower with streaks and spots of pink. This sweet flower has no fragrance but is attractive to bees as you can see in the photo. In Japanese "Kyo" means Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan, which is famous for gorgeous brocade fabrics.

The mass of crimson dots and dashes almost covers the white flower of 'Shin-tsu-kasa-nishiki' (New Governor's Brocade). It almost looks like a pink flower with 160 to 200 stamens. Not all the blooms will be as dramatic as this one, but it illustrates that a new governor gets a rich decorative fabric when taking office. A Higo camellia always has a flat irregular single bloom with bright

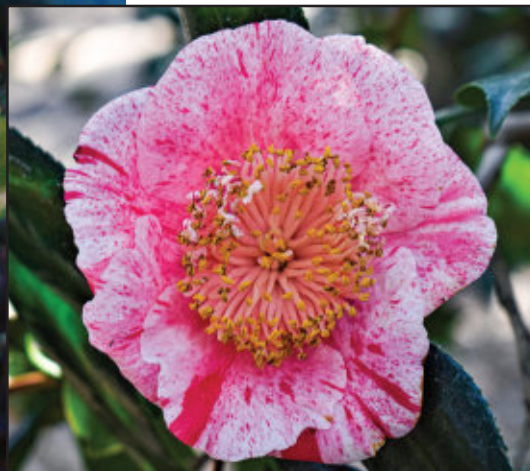
clear colors and a central cluster of stamens that number 150 to 200 making it easy to identify from other *C. japonica* cultivars.



'YAMATO NISHIKI'



'KYO NISHIKI'



'SHIN-TSUKASA-NISHIKI'

SPOTLIGHT



C. japonica: 'Man Size'

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRADFORD KING

'Man Size' is a sport from 'Magnoliaeflora' caught by Walter. F. Wilson, Jr., who was better known as Hody. It has a pure white anemone flower which blooms freely. When entered at camellia shows, it usually is the top winner as a miniature or small camellia. The name refers to the size of a man's boutonniere. Hody was su-

perintendent at the Hammond Research Center in Louisiana from 1936 to 1975. He was internationally known for his camellia breeding and was responsible for creating the camellia garden there. 'Man Size' is his most famous introduction.

The cover: 'Tom Perkins' has a large formal double pink nonreticulata hybrid flower with incurved petals. Photo by Bradford King

The Best Camellias Bred in

Camellias are grown in a dozen southeastern states as well as the Pacific Coast from Southern California to Washington and indoors in a few northern states. This is one of a series of articles highlighting the camellias originating in each state.

BACK STORY

According to Wikipedia, indigenous people inhabited the area now known as Mississippi for thousands of years. French colonists were the first Europeans to settle in the area, followed by some Spanish and English. Through the 1830s, the federal government forced most of the native Choctaw and Chickasaw people west of the Mississippi River. White planters developed an economy based on the export of cotton produced by slave labor along the Mississippi and Yazoo rivers. The Mississippi is called the Old Man River and is the chief waterway in the United States running along the borders of 10 states. The state of Mississippi is named after the river, which came from the Native American's Ojibwe word "misi zibi" meaning "great river" or "Fath-

er of Waters." Mississippi is also called the Magnolia State because of the abundance of magnolia flowers and trees in the state. Aside from magnolias, almost half of Mississippi is covered in trees, such as pine, elm, oak, hickory, cotton, tupelo, pecan and sweetgum. The state tree is the Magnolia, the state flower is Coreopsis and the state bird is the Northern Mockingbird. The state capital is the City of Jackson which is the most populous. The city is named after General Andrew Jackson who later served as U.S. president.

CAMELLIA HISTORY

Historical records show a camellia came to Woodville, Mississippi, from Europe in 1822. The plant was found in the garden of Mrs. Thomas White. It became



'WOODVILLE RED'



'JIM SMELLEY'

Mississippi

BY BRADFORD KING

known as 'Woodville Red' in 1944-45 when listed in the Blackwell Nursery Catalogue. Edwina N. Mogabgab's article "Old Camellia of the Mississippi Gulf Coast," in the 1950 edition of the American Camellia Society Yearbook, recounts the history. Mississippi has the distinction of having three public gardens designated on The American Camellia Society's Camellia Trail. The Natchez National Historical Park's Melrose estate in Natchez, The Eudora Welty House and Gardens in Jackson and the Mynelle Gardens Arboretum and Botanical Center in Jackson are part of the "American Camellia Trail: Coast to Coast Camellias."

In Welty's novel, *The Optimist's Daughter*, she describes that her father planted his favorite camellia on her mother's grave. It was the classic 'Elegans Chandle-

rie'. Planting a tree on a grave has a long tradition in Mississippi.

THE BEST CAMELLIAS BRED IN MISSISSIPI

'Woodville Red' is not only the first known camellia grown in Mississippi, but also one of the best. The large irregular peony formed flower is a brilliant red which at times is described as strawberry red. It has been widely distributed and has accumulated many names: 'Mrs. White' (because it was found in her garden), 'Martin Roberts,' 'Kollock,' 'Black Beauty,' 'Mrs. Wright,' 'Gruenwald Red' and 'Henri Bry.'

In 2013, Elaine and Jim Smelley, Moss Point, registered a very large dark pink *C. reticulata* they named



'ELAINE'



'MELISSA ANNE'



'SIMEON' Photo by Gene Phillips



'MISSISSIPPI BEAUTY' Photo by Randolph Maphis

'Jim Smelley.' It is a controlled cross between 'Curtain Call' and 'Pleasant Memories.' The semidouble flower has golden anthers and white filaments. It was awarded the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award in 2014.

The Smelleys also introduced 'Elaine' in 2013. It was awarded the Charlotte C. Knox Award in 2015. The very large pink semidouble flower with flared petals is highly regarded.

One of the very best white japonicas is the award winning 'Melissa Anne.' The large to very large peony form pure white flower has a cluster of central yellow stamens. It was introduced in 1955 by Dr. L. Audioun of Biloxi and is a frequent winner as best white in camellia shows in the south. 'Melissa Anne' was awarded the Illges Japonica Seedling Award in 2001, and her originator was awarded the Harold Cawood Award in 2007 for best white japonica.

The large formal double 'Tom Perkins' (shown on cover) has rose pink imbricated petals. This *C. williamsii* hybrid seedling of 'Creation' was bred by F.F. Becker II of Brookhaven. The 60 petals are toned from dark to lighter in the center. It was named to honor Thomas Perkins III. Tom had a passion for camellias and inspired the town of Brookhaven to landscape public areas with camellias. He was president of the International Camellia Society in the late 1980s and in the early 1990s.

'Simeon' has a large semidouble to loose peony pink flower with large petals. It was registered in 1949 by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clower, Gulfport. While it is an older cultivar not often seen at camellia shows, the large flower with large pink petals has helped it maintain its fans. It is a cross between 'Reverend John Bennett' and 'Herme,' an early example of a controlled cross.





'TOMORROW'S DAWN'



'ELAINE'S BETTY' Photo by Randolph Maphis

A large white flower with lovely pink markings was named 'Mississippi Beauty' by C. L. Chiles in 1956. It is a seedling of 'White Empress' that has mutated three color sports: a white, a red and a pink variety, as well as a variegated flower, all beginning their names 'Mississippi Beauty' then the color.

BEST SPORTS ORIGINATING IN MISSISSIPPI

Camellia japonica 'Tomorrow' has sported eighteen genetic mutations. One of the best is 'Tomorrow's Dawn'. The large to very large flower is a deep soft pink that shades to light pink to white at the petal edges. Some petals may also have red markings. It is a glamorous flower which can win at a camellia show. It was awarded the Swell Mutant Award in 1964.

'Betty Sheffield' has mutated numerous times. One

of the very best is 'Elaine's Betty', named and registered by Jim and Elaine Smelley. The medium peony to rose form double flower has a pale peach center with darker pink ruffled petals. It was awarded the Sewell Mutant Award in 2001. It too has continued to mutate lovely color sports such as 'Elaine's Betty Pink' and 'Elaine's Betty Red'.

In Brookhaven, Mississippi, Jason McDonald and Timothy Gipson started a tea farm—The Great Mississippi Tea Company. It was constructed with help from nearby Mississippi State University agricultural experts. Bromwich Tea, an American tea producer, will be handling the production of the raw leaves from the company, which had its first harvest in 2015. In 2017 and 2018, they won a Silver medal at the Global Tea competition for their green tea. Their black tea is sold exclusively at The Cultured Cup in Dallas, Texas.



Four Seasons

BY BRADFORD KING

Each of the four seasons of the year provides camellia growers interest and beauty. There is a need to shift and refocus to appreciate each of the unique features of the seasons. The most dramatic season is winter when the japonica and reticulata cultivars bloom. Winter is followed by spring with its paucity of camellia flowers. We begin with spring with its affirmation of new life.

SPRING

Spring is the season where the axis of the earth increasingly tilts to the sun so that the amount of daylight increases. Temperatures are warming significantly causing new plant growth to “spring forth” giving the season its name. While many flowering plants will begin blooming this time of year, generally, camellia flowering has ceased. The grower must shift focus from flowers to the presence of new growth to appreciate the beauty of the camellias. The camellia is breaking in dormancy just like most other woody plants. The beauty is in the fresh foliage feathering out representing new life and affirm-

ing the camellia plant is thriving. Most camellias have pretty shades of green foliage when new, but others produce wonderful bronze, red-toned leaves. The nonreticulata hybrid ‘Night Rider’ has dark new red stems and small shapely maroon leaves that provide a spring show.

There are a few japonica cultivars that also have dark hues on new leaves which are eye catching. A good example is ‘Tama Peacock.’

The warmth of the spring sun beckons the gardener to spend more time outside, especially on rain free days. This is the time of year to fertilize your camellias. In fact, if you only do this once a year, this is the best time to use a commercial fertilizer formulated for acid loving camellias and azaleas. This is also the recommended time of year to prune camellias. This may only entail removing dead stems and branches. It may also include light grooming to shape the plant to the desired form. This may be all that is ever required for camellias and brings satisfaction to see how attractive they now look. Of course, more extensive pruning may also be initiated. Camellia show flower exhibitors may do heavy pruning



‘NIGHT RIDER’ STEMS AND LEAVES

of Camellias

in order to get larger and more spectacular blooms next winter. Overgrown camellias can also be pruned to open them up so they will produce better flowers or to shape those that block windows, other plants or structures. Please don't let your gardener or partner take hedge clippers to any camellia; it is not needed. There are much better ways to groom a camellia, even a hedge. The use of hedge clippers only drastically reduces next season's flowers. Details on camellia pruning are covered in the ACS publication *Camellia Culture*, ACS website, camellia society meetings or by consulting local experts.

SUMMER

This is the warmest of the four seasons when the days are longest and nights are shortest, with day length decreasing as the season progresses. The date of the beginning of summer varies according to climate, culture and tradition. When it is summer in the United States and Europe, it is winter in Australia and New Zealand, all places where camellias are grown. More than 125

years ago, Charles Darwin discovered that most plants grow in nightly spurts rather than at a steady rate. This helps me understand the joy experienced in the summer when some camellia plants have grown overnight. Recently scientists have discovered that these rhythmic spurts and the ability of plants to move in response to light are controlled by genes involved in circadian rhythms. These genes are influenced by light and dark, vary their activity based on time of day and can control a wide variety of functions from growth to fertility.

Camellias consolidate their growth spurt in the summer and produce flower buds as a result of the long daylight hours if they receive adequate moisture. Camellia plants need to be kept moist, not soggy, and certainly not allowed to become dried out. This is the key summer camellia culture requirement and should be based on your local environment. For example, in the hot dry summer heat in Southern California with no rainfall, the gardener must provide the water, including late afternoon sprinkling of foliage. In rainy areas of the Southeast with high humidity, this may not be



'TAMA PEACOCK' FOLIAGE WITH LADY BUGS

required, but periods of drought are not uncommon in areas of the South.

The camellia pleasures I most enjoy during the summer months are the cool refreshing dark green foliage serving as attractive background for summer flowering plants, watching flower buds appear and viewing camellia fruit swell. It is particularly satisfying to see a controlled cross seed pod mature. It means there may be fertile seeds developing—an important step in breeding programs. The surprise of finding a nice seed pod due to pollination by the bees is another summer joy. In addition, hand watering late afternoons in hot weather is a cool and relaxing activity.

The introduction of *C. azalea* to the garden is very exciting. My plants in Southern California begin to bloom in June and last until March. Episodic new growth in the summer produces more buds and flowers. This means the plant reblooms in the golden days of October. This species is capable of blooming all year under optimal conditions. In China, they have produced more than 5,000 *C. azalea* seedlings that will bloom in the summer. Ten of the “best” have been sent to America and will be released from a legally required quarantine this summer. They will be propagated, which means that in a few years, we can have camellias flowering in all four seasons.

AUTUMN

Autumn marks the transition from summer into winter when daylight decreases and night becomes noticeably earlier with cooler refreshing night temperatures.



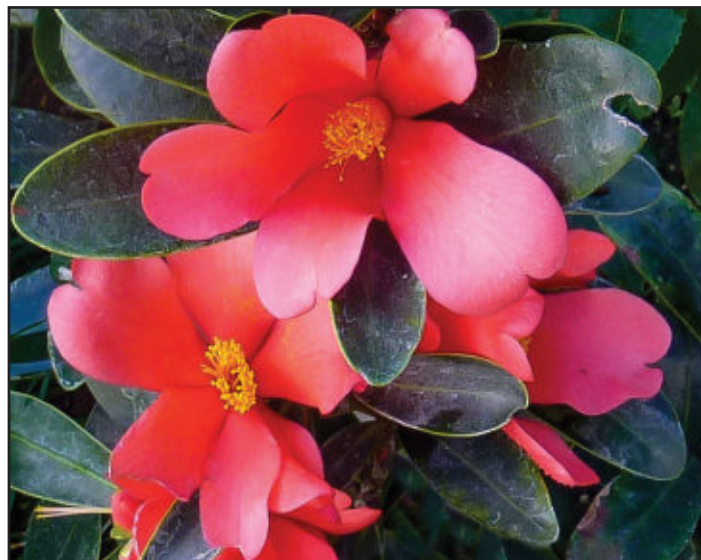
SEED PODS



‘YULETIDE’

Falling leaves and temperatures give us the alternative name “fall” for this season. We begin to look for the first camellia flowers. The *C. sasanqua* cultivars are the heralds of the blooming season. Year in and year out the first camellia to bloom in my garden is ‘Hugh Evans.’ It produces a profusion of lovely single pink flowers that drop their petals when spent making an attractive display. This will not cause petal blight at this time of year. In general *C. sasanqua* cultivar flowers left on the ground do not seem to lead to this dreaded disease which causes brown spots on flowers. Which cultivar blooms first for you?

There are many wonderful white sasanquas with red, rose, pink and lavender pink borders. They usually have many bright flowers that are eye catching. I particularly enjoy the pretty white flowers with rose red borders on ‘Double Rainbow’ and ‘Old Glory’ with wavy



C. AZALEA IN FULL BLOOM IN LATE OCTOBER



quently described as orange red or red with overtones of orange, but personally I don't perceive an orange hue in this flower. Do you? Regardless, it is a sturdy compact neat upright growing camellia with small attractive dark green leaves that blooms profusely between Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Monrovia Nursery is propagating and marketing a new cultivar, 'Pink A Boo,' a sport of Yuletide and registered as *C. sasanqua* 'MonDel.' These late bloomers overlap with the early flowering *C. japonica* cultivars, providing us with a continuous supply of beautiful flowers.

Fall, with leaves turning colors and sun camellias blooming, is a spectacular season before the colder weather of winter arrives. A big plus for camellia enthusiasts is the fun of gibbing. In brief, the growth bud adjacent to the flower bud to be gibbed is removed and a drop of gib is place where the growth bud was removed. Thirty to ninety days later that bud swells to produce a much larger flower than is normal for that cultivar. Gib also usually causes a flower to bloom earlier than if untreated which means beautiful *C. reticulata* and later blooming *C. japonica* can be forced to flower for early camellia shows and home decorating in the holiday season. Some of these treated flowers are absolutely gorgeous as they bloom throughout winter.

WINTER

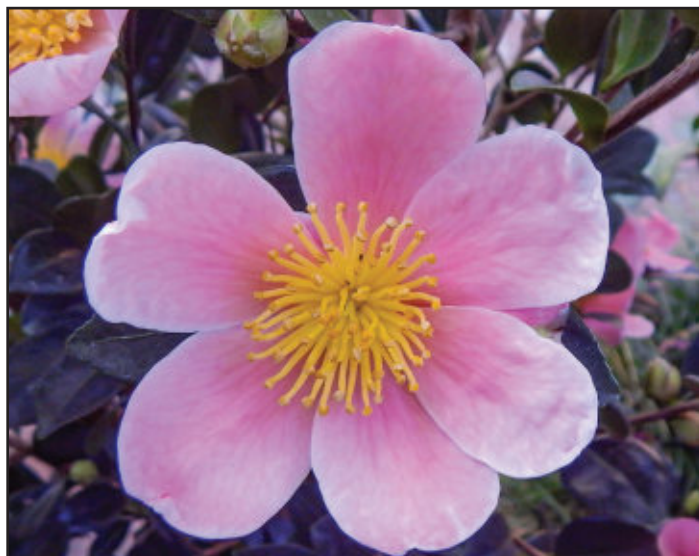
Winter is the season that planet Earth is farthest from the sun bringing colder weather and shorter days. This is also the holiday season when evergreen trees and poin-

petals and a deep rose pink border. They both peak in November in Southern California which is midseason for these sun camellias.

Later blooming *C. sasanquas*, like the large fragrant silvery pink semidouble 'Bert Jones,' extend *C. sasanqua* flowering season and blend with 'Egao' and 'Star Above Star,' also sun camellias but classified as species *C. vernalis*. 'Egao' (Smiling faces) has a large semidouble pink flower with show quality blooms. The lovely white markings on 'Shibori Egao,' the variegated form of 'Egao,' are even showier. 'Star Above Star' has a lovely white flower that shades to lavender pink on the edges. It gets its name because the crinkled petals are arranged in star-shaped layers superimposed on each other. One of the most popular *C. sasanquas* is the late blooming 'Yuletide.' It has a small single regularly shaped bright red flower with golden stamens. It is fre-



'OLD GLORY'



'PINK A BOO'



'SEA FOAM'

setia plants are used to decorate the home. However, few plants outdoors are in bloom except camellias. Camellia lovers celebrate the flowering *C. japonica*, *C. reticulata* and nonreticulata hybrids. Camellias are unique in that they bloom in the winter when they are dormant. This is the season most looked forward to by camellia growers. What camellia flowers are most intriguing to you? One joy for me is to see which of my new seedlings will flower. Will it be just another simple red bloom or a beautiful flower worthy of introduction? Another anticipatory pleasure is to look for the first bloom on a recently planted camellia. For example, the very popular 'Sea Foam,' a white formal double, is rarely seen in Southern California. After four years, the one I was gifted and planted finally produced a flower.

Since there are literally thousands of camellia cultivars with beautiful flowers, there is much to enjoy. This can be the mature camellia you have loved for years continuing to produce a mass of flowers again this year. Perhaps it is a camellia associated with a family member. An early morning walk through the garden to see what has bloomed is a peaceful and enjoyable adventure. Taking photographs of these camellias can add to the pleasure.

In conclusion, this year, due to COVID-19, there were few camellia shows. All the more reason to bring beauty to one's home by floating a camellia in an art glass bowl or a cutglass vase inherited from one's parents or a bowl won at a camellia show.



'GRAND SLAM'



THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Matthew Israel misrael@americancamellias.org, 478-967-2358. Established in 1945, ACS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the genus *Camellia* and the education of the public about camellias. Contributions are welcomed to help further the goals of the Society and can be made to: The American Camellia Society, 100 Massee Lane Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

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Happy Camellias

BY BRADFORD KING



*Camellias growing and blooming make us happy.
Some camellia growers have joyfully introduced delightful camellias with happy names,
like 'Happy Birthday,' 'Happy Holidays,' 'Happy Higo,' 'Happy Harlequin' and 'Happy Amy Fenska.'*

'Happy Birthday'

"Happy Birthday to You" is a folk song that is traditionally sung to celebrate the anniversary of a person's birth and usually known simply as "Happy Birthday." It is the most recognized song in English. The melody of "Happy Birthday to You" comes from the song "Good Morning to All," which has been attributed to American siblings Patty and Mildred J. Hill in 1893. Patty

was a kindergarten principal in Louisville, Kentucky, developing various teaching methods. Mildred was a pianist and composer. The sisters used "Good Morning to All" as a song that young children would find easy to sing. The combination of melody and lyrics in "Happy Birthday to You" first appeared in print in 1912 and probably existed even earlier. The *C. japonica* 'Happy Birthday' was introduced in 1979 by L. G. MacDonald from Lakeland, Florida. The flower is a large peony light pink striped deeper pink.



'HAPPY BIRTHDAY'



'HAPPY HOLIDAYS'

'Happy Holidays'

Holidays are happy when celebrated with family and friends. Usually there is a party with delicious foods. Many holidays have traditional foods closely associated with the holiday such as turkey with cranberry sauce for Thanksgiving. Nuccio's Nurseries have introduced over two hundred camellias, three of which are "Happy" and described here. 'Happy Holidays' was registered in 1984. It has a medium to large formal light pink flower. It blooms early to midseason in a compact upright manner.

'Happy Higo'

The Higo camellia is a strain of *C. japonica* with some *C. rusticana* in its background. A Higo is distinguished by their 100 to 250 stamens that flare out to form a central sunburst. The classic bloom is an asymmetrical single with 5 to 9 large petals and a dense center of beautiful long stamens. In Japan, the irregular form is considered an asset, because it serves to emphasize the symmetry of the striking stamens. The flower color is always bright and pure. Blooms may be white, cream, pink, rose, crimson and various combinations. In 1992, Nuccio's introduced a large to very large single red Higo style camellia. The large size and bright red make this a popular camellia that is capable of winning points in a show. It is indeed a happy flower.

'Happy Harlequin'

Nuccio's introduced 'Happy Harlequin' in 2006, a very showy camellia veined strawberry pink with rose red stripes that shades to deeper pink at its center with an

irregular white border. The flower is a medium to large semidouble that blooms early to midseason on a vigorous upright somewhat open plant. A harlequin is typically a mute character who communicates through pantomime and is masked and dressed in a diamond patterned costume. It is a clown or jester known for playing jokes on others. 'Happy Harlequin' was awarded the Illges Seedling Japonica Award in 2012.



'HAPPY HIGO'



'HAPPY HARLEQUIN'



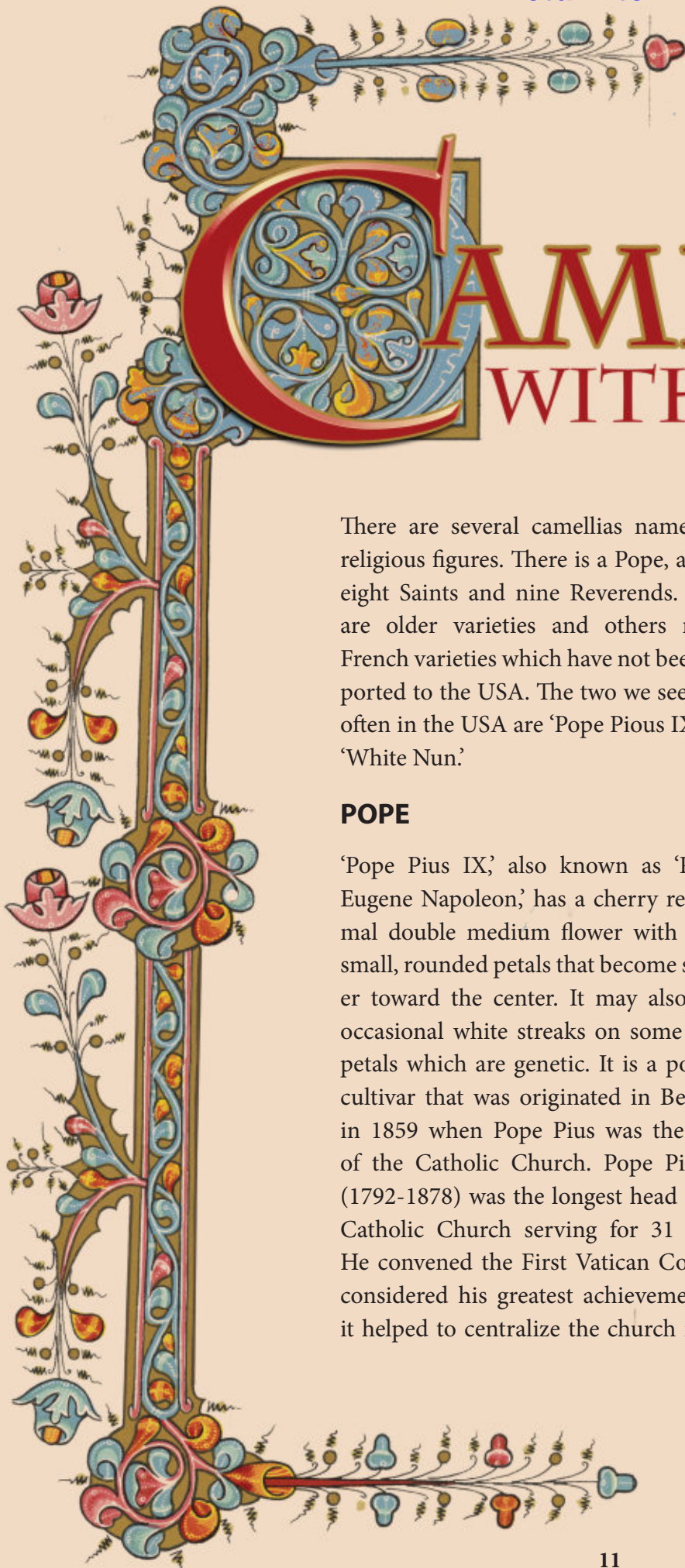
'HAPPY AMY FENSKA'

'Happy Amy Fenska'

Meyer Piet and his friend Lee Gaeta hybridized camellias in the 1970s and 80s from Meyer's home in Arcadia, California. They registered 16 *C. reticulata* hybrids. Most of these were named for family members. They also bred a number of *C. japonica* hybrids that are seen occasionally at camellia shows. They frequently named introductions for their children and grandchildren. They named a small rose form to formal double that has various shades of pink 'Happy Amy Fenska' for one of the Piet grandchildren. The bloom is perky, very much like a happy energetic grandchild.

Many experiences make one happy and glad to be alive. One camellia experience that always makes me happy is a visit to Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena, California, where one is always cordially greeted. The fun conversation and the pleasure of

walking among rows and rows of camellias in bloom, searching with one of the "Nuccio Boys" (Tom or Jim) to find the camellias you want to add to your collection, is a very "Happy Time."



CAMELLIA'S WITH RELIGION

BY BRADFORD KING

There are several camellias named for religious figures. There is a Pope, a Nun, eight Saints and nine Reverends. Some are older varieties and others recent French varieties which have not been imported to the USA. The two we see most often in the USA are 'Pope Pious IX' and 'White Nun.'

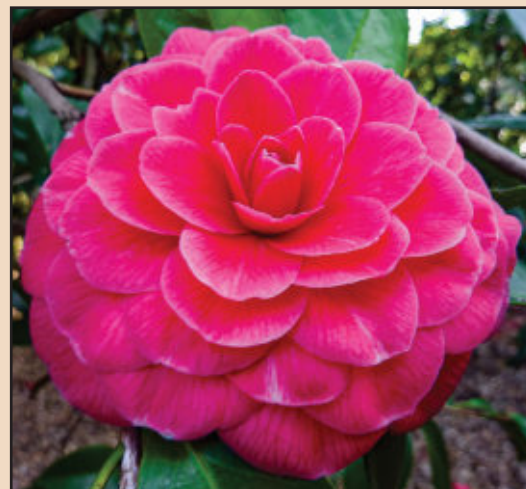
POPE

'Pope Pius IX,' also known as 'Prince Eugene Napoleon,' has a cherry red formal double medium flower with many small, rounded petals that become smaller toward the center. It may also have occasional white streaks on some of its petals which are genetic. It is a popular cultivar that was originated in Belgium in 1859 when Pope Pius was the Pope of the Catholic Church. Pope Pius IX (1792-1878) was the longest head of the Catholic Church serving for 31 years. He convened the First Vatican Council, considered his greatest achievement, as it helped to centralize the church in the

Vatican and clearly defined the Pope's doctrinal authority of infallibility.

NUNS

A nun is a member of a religious community of women who usually take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Nuns exist in Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Jainism and Taoism. In Christianity, nuns are found in Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran traditions. While there are no church rules



'POPE PIUS IX'



'WHITE NUN'

governing the color of a nun's habit, typically they were white or black. White is favored by communities dedicated to nursing and regions where high temperatures make dark clothing less desirable. The religious order determines for themselves, based on their traditions and mission, what color habits they will wear. The camellia 'White Nun' name was chosen in 1959 by Vernon McCaskill because it has a very large white semi-double flower with crisp clean full petals. It was very popular as a landscape camellia in California in the 1960s, 70s and early 80s when McCaskill Nursery was propagating this cultivar. Today it is still seen in older home gardens and public gardens including ICS Gardens of Excellence in Brittany, France.

SAINTS

A saint is a person who is recognized as having an exceptional degree of holiness. In the Catholic Church, saints go through a lengthy process of canonization. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, they undergo a process of glorification—an ecclesiastical recognition of great honor. There are nine camellias that have been named for Saints. They are 'Saint Bon Ami' (a single red flower), 'Saint Brelade' (no known description available), 'Saint Claire' (a pink semidouble to loose peony flower), 'Saint Germaine-des-Pres' (a creamy white *C. sasanqua* bloom), 'Saint Michael' (a *C. williamsii* hybrid with a single deep pink flower) and 'Saint Patrick' (a light red *C. reticulata* hybrid). In addition, 'Saint Ewe,' 'Saint Philibert' and 'Saint Valentine' are highlighted here.

Saint Philibert was a monk who was promoted as an abbot but was too inexperienced for this position and left to travel and gain experience. In 654, he received a gift of land from Clovis II on which he founded the Jumieges Abbey. Today tourists may visit the Abbey ruins which are located on the Seine River in Normandy, France. The *C. japonica* 'Saint Philibert' was registered in 2003 by Pepiniers Thoby. It was in France where we saw it in an ICS Garden of Excellence. The large red semidouble flower with white filaments and yellow anthers looks good in a floral arrangement or as a garden plant.

Saint Ewe is a female saint who is practically unknown as little has been written about her. An internet search had references to the camellia and to the church dedicated to her in Cornwall, England. 'Saint Ewe' is a



'SAINT PHILIBERT'



'SAINT EWE'

C. williamsii hybrid with a medium single rose pink flower with broad funnel-shaped petals and a cluster of golden stamens. It was registered in 1947 in Great Britain.

Saint Valentine is a widely recognized third century Italian Saint associated with romance and love. He was martyred and buried in a cemetery near Rome on February 14. It is unclear if Saint Valentine was one person or a pseudonym for several individuals. 'Saint Valentine' was registered by Roger Salaun, Brittany, France, in 2009. He was the President of the Brittany Camellia Society in 2018. The flower is a large rose red semidouble that looks good in the landscape and in a floral arrangement.

REVEREND

Reverend is a title placed before the name of ministers and members of the clergy in the protestant traditions. There are seven camellias which honor a reverend but are rarely seen today. Descriptions can be found in the International Camellia Registry. The camellia reverends we are most familiar with are intimately associated with Magnolia Gardens. Reverend John Grimke Drayton was studying for the ministry in England when he returned to America and converted Magnolia to its informal English garden style. Today the collection contains 25,000 camellias, including 6,500 *C. sasankwas*, the country's largest heirloom camellia collection and a hybrid collection of *C. reticulatas* and other hybrids. Magnolia is an International Camellia Garden of Excellence awarded this prestigious award in 2001 by the International Camellia Society.

In the late 1800s, the *C. japonica* 'Rev. John G. Drayton' was introduced. The flower is a medium light pink semidouble to loose peony. The plant grows vigorously in a compact upright manner blooming mid to late season.

'Rev. John Bennett' is a beautiful camellia with an interesting backstory. Rev. John Bennett was the son of a slave at Magnolia Gardens named Adam Bennett. John succeeded his father as garden superintendent and remained in that position for 30 years. This old camellia is perhaps the first camellia in America to be named in honor of an African American. It can be seen in older gardens and parks today. The original plant was imported from Europe to Magnolia in the 1840s.



'SAINT VALENTINE' FLORAL ARRANGEMENT



'REV. JOHN G. DRAYTON'



'REV. JOHN BENNETT' Photo by Gene Philips

Spring Ahead

BY BRADFORD KING

The expression “spring ahead” describes the setting of clocks one hour ahead for the start of Daylight Savings in the Spring. This term is mainly used in the USA and Canada with records showing the phrase “spring forward and fall back” dates to the early 20th Century. There are seven beautiful *C. japonica* cultivars and ten nonreticulata hybrids, whose names begin with Spring, listed in the 2020 *Camellia Nomenclature*. Today we highlight *C. japonicas* ‘Spring Fling,’ ‘Spring Formal,’ ‘Spring Sonnet’ and ‘Spring’s Promise,’ along with the nonreticulata hybrids ‘Spring Mist,’ ‘Spring Daze’ and ‘Spring Festival.’

C. japonica

Nuccio’s introduced ‘Spring Fling’ and ‘Spring Formal,’ both of which have medium formal double flowers that bloom late in the camellia season. ‘Spring Fling’ has a clear bright red bloom. The name denotes that an activity is engaged in with energy and abandonment. In a romantic relationship, it may connote a short intense relationship, not unusual for spring break experience.

‘Spring Formal’ has a lovely deep pink flower named for a spring dance where formal dress is required—women in gowns and men in tuxedos. In the 1940s, a camellia corsage would have been a top choice

to give one’s date. Camellias were grown and harvested for cut flowers at Descanso Gardens until 1953.

The sonnet is a poetic form. This is illustrated by the Thomas Nash verse, “Spring, the sweet spring, is the year’s pleasant king, Then blooms each thing....” In 1952, Vernon McCaskill propagated a sport of ‘Colonial Lady’ which he named ‘Spring Sonnet.’ The medium semidouble light pink flower has darker pink on the petal edges.

The prolific hybridizer Dr. Clifford Parks (March 1936-July 2020) registered 59 new camellias during his long productive career. In 1990, he introduced ‘Spring’s Promise,’ a cold hardy small single rose red bloom that blooms freely on a dense plant.

Nonreticulata hybrids

Dr. Clifford Parks was a pioneer hybridizer of fragrant camellias as well as the aforementioned cold hardy camellias. He and Longley introduced ‘Spring Mist’ when Dr. Parks was in his first position after graduate school as a botanist at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia, California. ‘Spring Mist’ has a miniature semi-double blush pink flower with a sweet scent. The plant blooms freely early to midseason in a vigorous spreading manner.



‘SPRING FLING’

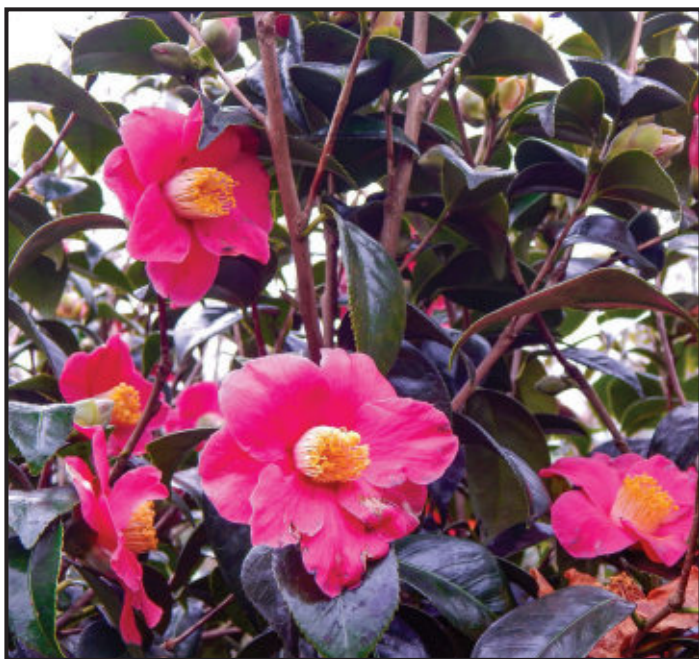


‘SPRING FORMAL’



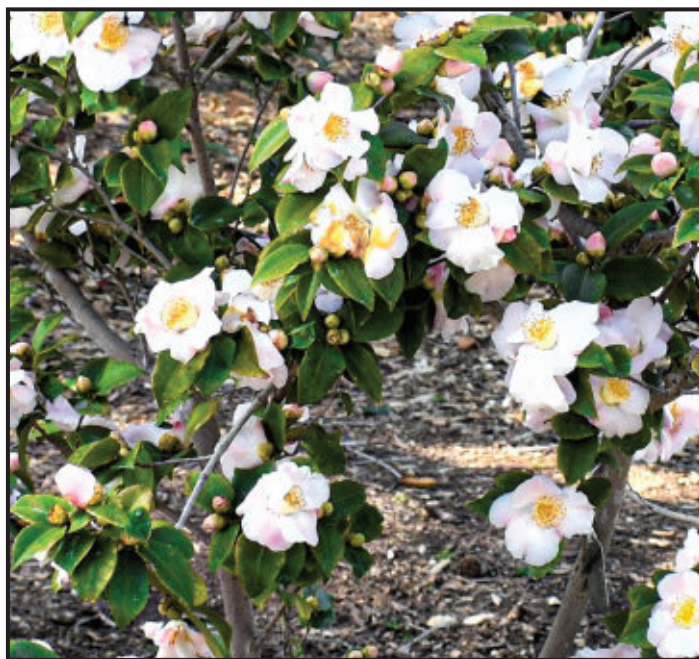
‘SPRING SONNET’





'SPRING'S PROMISE'

Kramer Brothers Nurseries, Rancho Cucamonga, California, was known for their azaleas and camellias. Ben Mackall married August Kramer's daughter, Marie, in 1937. After August died, Ben and Marie managed the nursery until 1986. One of the most popular and widely distributed of their hybrids is 'Spring Daze.' This small to medium blush white flower with beautiful coral pink petal edges was awarded the Harris Hybrid Award in 2016. Due to different microclimates, it may be a formal double, or when open, it can have two different forms.



'SPRING MIST'

In 1975, Toichi Domoto registered a *C. cuspidata* seedling he named 'Spring Festival.' The miniature rose form double pink flower fades to a lighter pink in the center. Domoto was a pioneer camellia grower and breeder who introduced camellias from Japan to the United States through his nursery in Hayward, California, as well as breeding new cultivars.

The most important Chinese holiday is the "Spring Festival," also known as the Chinese New Year. It ends with the Lantern Festival which brings us to a colorful ending to this story.



'SPRING DAZE' CLUSTER SHOWING TWO FORMS



'SPRING DAZE' AS A FORMAL DOUBLE

SPOTLIGHT



C. japonica: ‘Marchioness of Salisbury’

BY BRADFORD KING

The Marchioness of Salisbury was Georgina Gascoyne-Cecil, the wife of the British statesman Lord Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, the third Marquee of Salisbury. They were married on July 11, 1857 and had eight children. He entered the House of Lords after his father's death and served in a number of positions in the British government. He was Prime Minister three times serving for a total of 13 years. He was the first British Prime Minister of the 20th century and the last Prime

Minister to lead his administration from the House of Lords.

The camellia ‘Marchioness of Salisbury’ came from England in the 1800s to Magnolia Gardens, South Carolina. ‘Marchioness of Salisbury’ has a small anemone to peony mahogany flower with many small white markings. This historic camellia continues to be valued due to its very dark red flower with contrasting white markings.

The cover: ‘Linda Carol’ was introduced in 1995 by Frank Pursel. It's one of his best and the last *C. reticulata* he registered.

THE BEST
CAMELLIAS
BRED IN

Northern California

BY BRADFORD KING

Many species of camellias and a wide range of cultivars are grown in home and public gardens in a dozen southeastern states as well as the Pacific coast from Southern California to Washington and indoors in a few northern states. This is one of a series of articles highlighting the camellias originating in each state.

BACK STORY

There are many reasons for considering Southern and Northern California as different regions. The biggest difference is the climate. Southern California is sunnier, warmer and drier. Northern California generally is cooler; the coast is very foggy with more rain. Camellias grow well in both areas.

The San Francisco Bay area is the seventh most populated in the country and is the heart of Northern California. Sacramento, The Camellia City, is the state capital located 90 miles north and east of San Francisco at the confluence of the Sacramento River and the American River. It is the sixth largest city in California with less than 500,000 people and the 35th largest city in the United States.

CAMELLIA HISTORY

Northern California has a rich camellia history. The flower has been a trademark of Sacramento since early statehood. Camellias made their debut in Sacramento during the Gold Rush when **John Stevens** brought the first seeds from Boston in 1852. In 1875, 'Usu-Otome' ('Pink Perfection') and 'Hikaru-Genji' ('Herme') were imported from Japan to Sacramento. Sacramento became known as the Camellia City in 1908, and by the 1920s, the official title of Sacramento was "Camellia City of the World."

Toichi Domoto was a pioneer camellia grower and breeder who introduced camellias from Japan to the United States through his nursery in Hayward, California, as well as breeding new cultivars. Toichi was born in Oakland, California, in 1902. After graduating from college, Toichi bought 26 acres in Hayward and opened his nursery specializing in camellias. He is responsible for importing dozens of *C. japonica* cultivars to the USA in the 1930s, most notably 'Flame,' 'Purity' and 'Pink Perfection' ('Usu-Otome') which assisted in their distribution.

The American Camellia Society posthumously awarded **David Feathers** its tablet of honor in February 2011 for all his contributions to the camellia world. He spent over 40 years as a writer, lecturer and innovator of new camellias. He touted the camellia hobby as "a way to health and happiness." He was the Editor of the classic but now out of print book "The Camellia: Its History, Culture, Genetics and a Look Into Its Future Development." The book jacket has a picture of his introduction 'Arch of Triumph' which is a very large deep pink to wine red loose peony *C. reticulata* hybrid. He introduced 12 other *C. reticulata* hybrids including 'Lauretta Feathers,' a large to very large blush white edged with pink flower which is one of a very few cream-toned *C. reticulata* camellias. He also bred and registered 14 *C. japonica* and eight nonreticulata hybrid cultivars from the mid-1950s through the mid-1990s.

Frank Pursel's focus as a hybridizer was breeding new *C. reticulata* hybrids. He introduced 112 *C. reticulata* hybrids which is a huge number for an individual breeder. He first introduced 'Jean Pursel' in 1975, a very large light purplish pink peony flower which has been used by several hybridizers in their breeding programs. In 1995, he introduced his last introduction, the very lovely 'Linda Carol.' It has a very large light pink semi-double flower that is seen in camellia shows. The most popular and widely distributed of his introductions is 'Hulyn Smith.' These two cultivars make our list of best camellias originating in Northern California.

THE BEST CAMELLIAS BRED IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

It is interesting that *C. reticulata* hybrids dominate the list of best cultivars bred in Northern California with just two *C. japonica* making this list and two hybrids.



'BARBARA GOFF'

'Barbara Goff' was introduced in 2009 by Gordon Goff, Lafayette, California, and named for his wife. The flower has a very large soft pink flower. The form varies from semidouble to rose form to formal double. It is most attractive when the yellow stamens show among the large pink toned petals. It is a winning show flower as well as a fine landscape plant with a long blooming period.

'Harold L. Paige' has a spectacular very large bright red rose form double to peony flower. The plant grows upright, vigorously and blooms late in the season. J. Os-egueda of Oakland, California, crossed *C. japonica* 'Adolphe Audusson' with *C. reticulata* 'Crimson Robe' ('Dataohong') to get this seedling. It was named in 1972 for Harold L. Paige, the most senior man in the Northern California camellia world and 90 years of age when this cultivar was introduced to honor him. The flower was awarded the Harris Hybrid Award in 1980 and the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award in 1988. This wonderful flower continues to be popular and widely grown throughout the camellia world. In 1985, Houghton S. Hall, San Ansel-



'HAROLD L. PAIGE'

mo, California, introduced **'Hall's Pride'** which has a very large semidouble radiant salmon pink flower that blooms mid to late season on a vigorous upright open growing plant. This 'Cornelian' ('Damanao') seedling took nine years to first bloom in 1981. It has 20 petals, golden anthers and yellowish white filaments. In 1992, 'Hall's Pride' was awarded the American Camellia Society Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award and the next year the Harris Hybrid Award. It has continued to win points in camellia shows. However, its variegated form, with its wonderful white markings on the rose-pink flower, has become more popular.

John Wang introduced **'Holy Pure'** ('Shengjie') in 2007. The white flower is a large to very large semidouble with inner petals tinted pink and outer petals a deeper pink with a slender light purple petal edge. It has one of the best white *C. reticulata* blooms. It was awarded the Charlette C. Knox Reticulata Award in 2018.

'Hulyn Smith' has a large soft pink semidouble flower that is admired for its very lovely color. It has



'HALL'S PRIDE'



'HALL'S PRIDE VARIEGATED'



'HOLY PURE'



'LINDA CAROL'

been widely distributed and is a show winner throughout America. It was awarded the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award in 2007. Frank Pursel named it for his friend, a past President of the American Camellia Society and noted hybridizer from Valdosta, Georgia.

'Linda Carol' has a very large semidouble beautiful light pink flower that grows on a vigorous open upright plant. It is an early to midseason bloomer whose parents were *C. reticulata* 'Cornelian' and *C. japonica* 'Mrs. D. W. Davis.' It is widely distributed and is seen at camellia shows winning points frequently. It was awarded the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award in 2006.

In 1975, **'Miss Tulare'** was registered by M. W. Abramson of Tulare, California. The large to very large bright red peony rose double to formal double flower was awarded the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award in 2016. 'Miss Tulare' is a wonderful *C. reticulata* that takes its name from the Tulare County, California pageant which is sponsored by Visalia Charter Oak Lion's Club. It is a seedling of *C. reticulata* 'Crimson Robe'

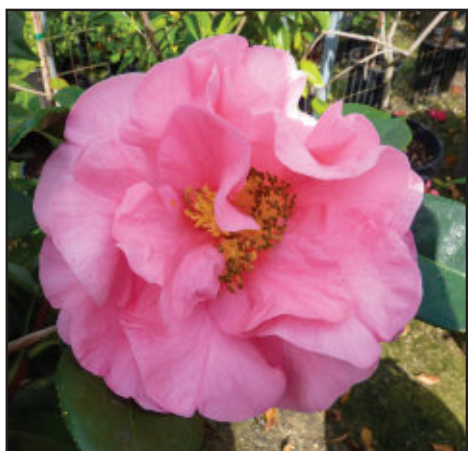


'CHRIS BERGAMINI' DUO

('Dataohong') that first bloomed in 1973. There are not many formal double *C. reticulata* flowers, or for that matter rose form doubles, which is one reason this camellia is highly valued. It certainly is eye catching when the bright red flower is in top form. It is especially beautiful when it holds its bud center.

David Feathers registered two nonreticulata hybrids that continue to be popular garden and show flowers. 'Demure' has a pale pink small single irregular flower, and 'Tulip Time' has a small tulip-shaped single lovely light pink flower. They both make good garden plants with potential, when well-formed, to win at camellia shows.

'Chris Bergamini' is a *C. japonica* small white anemone flower with wonderful stripes of pink and red decorating the petals, which can win at camellia shows. The upright growing plant blooms midseason in time to enliven the garden and be harvested for a show entry. It was bred by Don Bergamini and named for Mary and Don's grandson.



'HULYN SMITH'



'MISS TULARE'



'DEMURE'