

American Camellia Society
The Camellia Journal

BRADFORD KING ARTICLES

2016 – 2020



C. reticulata 'Jim Smelley'

Table of Contents

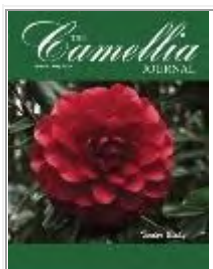
	March – May 2020	
		Spotlight: ‘Betty’s Beauty’
		Whales Dolphins and Camellia Pods
		Best Camellias in Southern California
		Pretty Woman
		Camellia Milky Way
	December 2019 – February 2020	
		Spotlight: 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Crinkled'
		Celestial Camellias
		Camellia Look Alikes
		Best Camellias in Florida
	September – November 2019	
		Spotlight: ‘Snowman’
		Best Camellias in Alabama
		Where Have You Been?
		Kewpie Doll
		Camellia Oddities
	June - August 2019	
		Spotlight: 'Pink Dahlia'
		Color Psychology: Lavender Camellias

		The Striking Red and White Camellias
		Cascading Camellias
	March -May 2019	
		Spotlight: 'Oo-La-La!' and 'Ay Ay Ay!'
		Beautiful Children
		Color Psychology: Burgundy
		'Auburn White'
		Camellia Treasures from Japan: Interspecific Hybrids
	December 2018 – February 2019	
		Spotlight - Camellia japonica ‘Lily Pons’
		Camellia Treasures from Japan - Camellias with Unusual Foliage
		Camellia Color Psychology - Yellow
		Camellias with Economic Value
		“No Brittany Garden without a Camellia”
	September-November 2018	
		<u>Spotlight - Camellia japonica ‘Toichi Domoto’</u>
		<u>Camellia Treasures from Japan - Camellia sasangua</u>
		<u>Camellia Color Psychology - White</u>
		<u>The Village Green</u>
		<u>The Hunt for ‘General Washington’</u>

	June – August - 2018	
		Spotlight - Camellia japonica 'White Mermaid'
		Love-Hate Relationship
		Camellia Treasures from Japan - Camellia wabisuke
		Camellia Flower Symbolism Around the World
		An American in Paris
		Camellia Color Psychology - Pink
	March – May 2018	
		Spotlight - Camellia hybrid 'Waltz Time Variegated'
		Camellia Romance
		Camellia Treasures from Japan - Camellia rusticana
		Camellia Color Psychology - Red
		Camellia Pollinators
	December 2017 – February 2018	
		Spotlight - Camellia reticulata 'Lady Pamela'
		Big Better Best
		Water, Water Everywhere
		Purity and Love
		Treasures from Japan - Camellia japonica

	September – November 2017	
		Spotlight - Camellia Hybrid 'Honeymoon'
		Mary Mary Quite Contrary
		Remembering our Past - David L. Feathers
		Everybody Loves Candy
		Picturesque Camellias
	June – August 2017	
		Spotlight - 'Hishikaraito'
		One, Two, Three
		Happy Camellias
		Remembering the Past - New Zealand Camellia Hybridizers
		What's Up Bud?
	March – May 2017	
		Spotlight - Camellia japonica var. rusticana 'Botanyuki'
		A Camellia Still Life - Flutes, Cups and Flowers
		Delicious Camellias
		Remembering the Past - Australian Hybridizers
		Petaloids - Are they Good or Bad

	December 2016 – February 2017	
		Spotlight - Camellia japonica ‘Sea Foam’
		Not a Bad Way to Go
		Hit Parade
		Remembering Our Past - Meyer Piet and Lee Gaeta
		Winning Camellia Hybrids
	September – November 2016	
		Spotlight - C. japonica 'Georgia National Fair'
		When a Carnival or Circus Comes To Town, Its Thrilling!
		Remembering Our Past - Jack Mandarich
		Big Bad Boys and Lovely Ladies
		In Between
	June – August 2016	
		Spotlight - C. reticulata hybrid ‘Miss Tulare’
		Remembering Our Past - Frank Purcel
		Precious Camellias
		Behind the Great Wall of China
		Dancing Camellias
		All Things Camellia - Book Review

	<p>March – May 2016</p>	
		<p>Spotlight - Camellia japonica ‘Lauren Tudor’</p>
		<p>Remembering Our Past - Harvey Short</p>
		<p>Camellia Babies</p>
		<p>Camellia Cities</p>



Spotlight: *C. japonica* ‘Betty’s Beauty’

In 1975 Rudy Moore, from West Corvine, California and a member of the Huntington Botanical Garden staff, captured a new sport from ‘Betty Sheffield Supreme’ which he named ‘Betty’s Beauty’. The original ‘Betty Sheffield’ is the American camellia sporting Queen, having mutated at least fourteen times. She continues to win show points. One of these mutations was ‘Betty

Sheffield Supreme’ who also is a show winning flower. ‘Betty’s Beauty’ has a medium to large white flower with each petal edge with a lovely shade of orchid pink making it a truly beautiful camellia. It was awarded the Sewell Mutant Award in 1999. This beautiful flower looks great in the landscape and is capable of winning at a camellia show.

Story and Photograph by Bradford King

Whales, Dolphins and Camellia Pods

Story and Photographs By Bradford King



**'Black Magic' bloom and 'Cherries Jubilee' bloom
seed pod**



and seed pod



**'Betty Foy Sanders'
bloom and seed pod**



**'Shishigashira' bloom
and seed pod**



**'Stop!' bloom
and seed pod**

Several marine animals and fish hunt in pods. According to *Wikipedia*, "species of dolphins accompany large tunas on hunting expeditions, following large schools of fish. The killer whale hunts in pods and targets belugas and even larger whales. Humpback whales, among others, form bubble carpets in collaboration to herd krill or plankton into bait balls before lunging at them."

Camellias don't hunt like marine animals and fish but they do form life surviving pods. These pods result when a flower is pollinated. The pods slowly mature with one to nine seeds developing nestled in the three chambers of the pod protected by the fleshy pericarp. Pods are small in spring growing larger throughout the summer and mature in the fall. When ripe the three-chamber pod opens allowing seeds to fall to the ground where they may be dispersed by gravity, wind, rain, birds and other creations. Humans are one of the main creatures that help distribute camellia seeds.

Buddhist monks collected seeds hundreds of years ago and planted them in monasteries in many places in Asia. Today, camellia people in Asia, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and North America observe pods and collect seeds. A vast number of seeds are collected in Asia to be pressed to make edible camellia oil. Some camellia hobbyists collect seeds without knowing the parents. Others know the seed parent. Dedicated hybridizers know both parents as they personally placed pollen on the stigma of a flower bud and labeled this "controlled cross."

Attractive Camellia Pods

Some of the most beautiful camellia flowers also develop attractive pods. 'Black Magic' has a glossy very dark red bloom and a glossy black red pod. The burgundy flowers on 'Cherries Jubilee' resemble the color of cherries and it develops beautiful shiny dark burgundy pods twice the size of a classic 'Bing Cherry'.

'Betty Foy Sanders' is described as a semi-double medium white flower with wonderful red markings. It is pleasant surprise to find a cluster of its seed pods hanging like Christmas ornaments among the leaves. This random natural cluster makes an attractive display hidden among its lowest branches away from summer heat.

A mass of flowers on 'Shishigashira' produced many small green and brown seeds by the middle of July. The small dark green serrated leaves among the flowers, and now among the developing pods, are attractive.

Interesting Camellia Pods

A camellia cultivar *C. japonica* 'Stop!' was offered by Nuccio's Nurseries in 2019. The large red anemone flower has a mass of central white petaloids and stamens. How do the bees find the pistil and deposit pollen on the well-hidden stigma? Well, they do, which is interesting. In addition, 'Stop!' produces large pods.

Hybridizers are always very interested in the seed pods that develop from their controlled crosses. This means that



Seed pod and label

Placing a jewelry bag or nylon stocking over the pod in late summer before it opens will be helpful for collecting seeds. Hybridizers don't want to lose precious seeds after spending hours doing controlled crosses.

pollen from a known cultivar is placed on the stigma of another known cultivar's emasculated flower bud. For example, when 'Tama Peacock' is the seed parent and 'Julius Nuccio' the pollen parent, a label so marked should be attached to the developing seed pod.

velop eggplant-purple seed pods. A good example is *C. amplexicaulis*, whose pods begin as green and when mature are purple. *C. nitidissima* also has the eggplant-purple hued pod but it is small—the size of misshaped marble with a flattened top and a noticeable pedicle (neck).



***C. reticulata* seed pod**



Seed pod on a jewelry bag



Seed pod in a jewelry bag



***C. semiserrata* seed pod**

The black seeds of *C. japonica* are attractive. The three-chambered pod is interesting to see when open, revealing what has developed inside the pod.

C. reticulata pods tend to be larger than *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua* pods and have a rough cantaloupe like texture on the pod which makes them easy to distinguish.

Many camellia species have interesting pods that are key characteristics of the species. For example, *C. semiserrata* has a rounded golden-brown toned pod that looks like a tiny ripening pumpkin. Several species de-



Pod with seeds

Concluding Remarks

When ocean cruising there is nothing more exciting than a pod of dolphins swimming and jumping next to the ship or watching them playfully leap through the wake. One of the joys of gardening is picking the vegetables one grows.

My favorite are tomatoes because store tomatoes look great and are long lasting but can't compete with a homegrown ripe tomato's rich flavors. Eat it warm off the vine, make a BLT or use in a salad with a head of lettuce, also from your garden.

Less dramatic than playful dolphins or as tasty as homegrown vegetables, there is the quiet pleasure of observing camellia pods developing and harvesting their seeds. This feeds a camellia lover's soul....



***C. nitidissima* seed pods**

[Return to TOC](#)

THE BEST CAMELLIAS

BRED
IN

‘Giulio
Nuccio’

*Southern
California*

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.

BACKSTORY

According to *Wikipedia*, California is the third largest state in area after Texas and Alaska. It has 39.5 million residents, the most populous state in the United States. If it was a country its economy would place it as fifth in GNP just behind Germany and before France. Therefore, given the above facts, and that Southern and Northern have very different climates, they will be treated as two different regions.

The dominant city in Southern California is Los Angeles. It is the entertainment capital of the world, with more than 100 museums, and two International Camellia Gardens of Excellence—The Huntington Botanical Garden and Descanso Garden. It is the only city in North America to have hosted the Summer Olympics twice.

The County of Los Angeles has more than 10 million inhabitants as of 2017; therefore, it has more people than 41 states. It is the third-largest metropolitan economy in the world and is one of the most ethnically diverse counties in America.

CAMELLIA HISTORY

In the 1950s until the mid-1980s there were over 35 camellia nurseries. Today there are just two extensively propagating camellias—Monrovia Nurseries in Azusa, California and Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena, California.

Nuccio's Nurseries began in 1935 and continues to be the dominate camellia nursery in California. They have introduced more than 200 new camellias. The ten best *C. japonicas*, and three *hybrids* are this writer's choice for best camellia originating in Southern California from Nuccio's Nurseries. Consequently, many very wonderful cultivars were left on the bench.



'Julius Nuccio'

BEST CAMELLIAS BRED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The co-founders of Nuccio's Nurseries, Joe and Julius Nuccio, named one of the classic early large coral red



‘Black Magic’



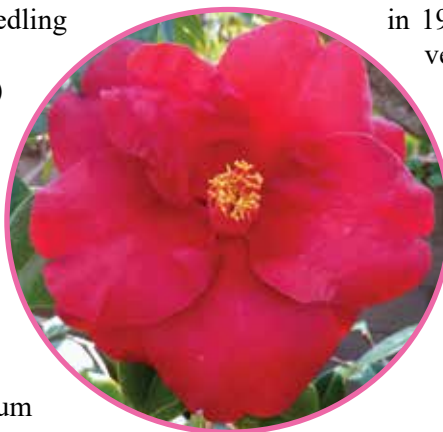
‘Nuccio's Gem’

blooms for their father Giulio Nuccio. The semi-double flower with irregular petals is most impressive when it has “rabbit ears”—upright petals appear in the center. It was awarded the Illges Japonica Seedling Award in 1958.

Tom, Jim and their cousin Jude (Julius) Nuccio took over the nursery from their fathers. They named one of the most impressive large brilliant dark red camellias ‘Julius Nuccio’. While it was only registered in 2014 it has become widely grown and continues to gain in popularity. It was awarded the Illges Seedling Japonica Award in 2018.

The very dark red semi-double medium flower with thick waxy petals make ‘Black Magic’ one of the most admired camellias. The dark green foliage is heavily serrated adding to the distinctiveness of this cultivar. The buds may not open fully and drop off. However, when it does open, it is a spectacular flower. It was awarded the Illges Japonica Seedling Award in 2009.

One of the best white formal double medium flowers is ‘Nuccio's Gem’. It is more popular in California than in the southeast. It was awarded the Illges Japonica seedling Award in 1979.



‘Royal Velvet’

The very large semi-double blush flower of ‘Moonlight Bay’ is just as popular in the southeast as it is in California.

It was awarded the Illges Japonica Seedling Award in 1997. This is equally true with ‘Royal Velvet’ because the large dark velvet red makes a glamorous bloom. It was named by Jim Nuccio who was on the throne taking care of business and looked down at the bath mat, whose label read “Royal Velvet”, and recognized it as a great name for this camellia. This show-winning camellia wins regularly at camellia shows and was awarded the Illges Japonica Seedling Award in 2001.

Two small blooms make our list of best introductions. They are ‘Red Hots’ and ‘Tama Peacock’. They have both been awarded the Katherine and Les Marbury award for best small or medium cultivar in 2012 and 2015 respectively. ‘Red Hots’ has a small tubular brilliant semi-double red flower with pointed petals. The foliage is a dark glossy green which helps make this a wonderful cultivar.

There are nine ‘Tama-no-ura’ seedlings introduced by the Nuccio's that have their fans. The favorite in California is the small tubular maroon flowers with white petals edges of ‘Tama Peacock’. It grows upright with many pendulous



‘Moonlight Bay’



‘Red Hots’



‘Tama Peacock’



‘Buttons'n Bows’



‘Freedom Bell’

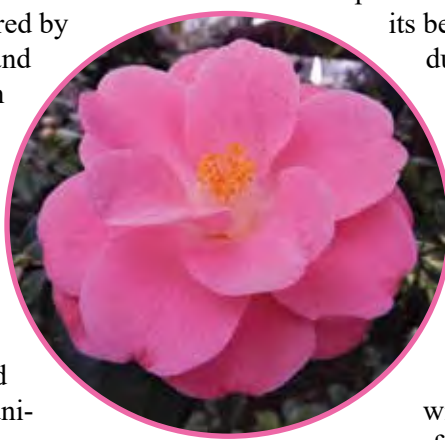


‘Kramer’s Supreme’

branches which support large quantities of flowers that tend to hang down. The maroon color bleeds into the picotéd border which makes an especially attractive flower.

The three best *non-reticulata* hybrids bred by the Nuccio’s are ‘Buttons’n Bows’, ‘Island Sunset’, and ‘Freedom Bell’. ‘Buttons’n Bows’ has a small formal pink flower and ‘Island Sunset’ has a medium rich coral pink semi-double flower that are popular in California but less well known in the southeast. They both were awarded the Harris Hybrid Award.

‘Freedom Bell’ is widely grown because it has many small bell-shaped red semi-double flowers. It produces many uniform flowers which make wonderful trays of like blooms and attractive floral arrangements. In the garden the profuse small flowers put on a grand show. It is one of the top winners in the small *hybrid* class at camellia shows throughout the US.



‘Island Sunset’

THE REST OF THE BEST IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Kramer Brothers Nurseries was located in Rancho Cucamonga, California and is no longer with us. Many of the camellias they propagated and introduced are still grown and

enjoyed today. Kramer’s *japonica* introductions include at least 20 cultivars. One of the most widely grown is ‘Kramer’s Supreme’. The large to very large peony flower is at its best when turkey red while some plants produce only light red flowers. It is an outstanding landscape plant which reliably blooms year in and year out. It is one of a very few *C. japonicas* with a slight scent. It was awarded the Illges Japonica Seedling Award in 1986.

‘Spring Daze’ is a *non-reticulata* hybrid introduced in 1989 and is the most popular and widely distributed of their hybrids. The flower is a camellia show winner when shown open in a loose peony form white flower with beautiful coral pink petal edges, or as a formal double coral pink bloom. Either form has a small to medium flower. In the Los Angeles area of California, it is almost always an open flower but in Bakersfield and Sacramento, it can be a formal double. The two forms look like two different flowers due to the different microclimates. It is also grown in the southeast where the form and color is variable. The ones I have seen are somewhat larger, more muted in color and fuller—almost peony formed. Welcome to the effects of gib and microclimates. It was awarded the Harris



‘Spring Daze’



‘Carter’s Sunburst’



‘Valentine Day’



‘Dr. Clifford Parks’



‘LASCA Beauty’



‘Elegans Splendor’

Hybrid Award.

Some of the very best camellias have been introduced by camellia hobbyists. In Southern California the best example is ‘Carter’s Sunburst’ which has a very beautiful large to very large pale pink flower with deeper pink markings. The flower form is semi-double, peony or formal double. It is a popular garden camellia that can produce show winning blooms from early to late season. It was introduced in 1959 by Elvin H. Carter, of Monterey Park, California. ‘Carter’s Sunburst’ has received the ACS National Camellia Hall of Fame Award for 1978; the Southern California Camellia Society Margarete Hertrich award for 1963; John Illges Award for 1964; and the RHS Award of Merit in 1977.

Howard Aster was curator of camellias at Descanso Garden and later superintendent of The Huntington Botanical Gardens. He had a passion for camellias and was dedicated to propagating and hybridizing them on his own time. He introduced seventeen *C. reticulata* hybrids. Many people consider ‘Valentine Day’ the very best of his introductions. It was awarded the Harris Hybrid Award in 1972 and the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award in 1998. It has a large to very large salmon pink bloom with a formal double form with a rose bud center. It is one of only a few formal double *reticulata* flowers. ‘Valentine Day’ is a spectacular bloom that is seen from coast to coast in America.

When Clifford Parks, Ph.D. was a young botanist working in the Los Angeles County and State Arboretum in Arcadia, California, he was breeding *reticulata* hybrids. Two that are widely distributed, and popular today are ‘Dr. Clifford Parks’ and ‘LASCA Beauty’. They both have been awarded

the Harris Hybrid Award and ‘Dr. Clifford Parks’ was also awarded the Charlotte C. Knox Award in 1989. ‘Dr. Clifford Parks’ has a very large red flower. It is one of the cultivars with several forms—semi-double, anemone, loose peony and full peony. It is still a camellia show winner. ‘LASCA Beauty’ is also capable of winning show points with its lovely soft pink semi-double flower. LASCA are the initials Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Dr. Parks continued hybridizing when he moved to North Carolina but shifted to breeding cold hardy and yellow cultivars.

BEST SPORTS ORIGINATING IN CALIFORNIA

The Paul Gains Nursery caught a sport from ‘C. M. Wilson’ that was first named ‘C. M. Wilson Splendor’. Julius Nuccio convinced Paul Gains to rename it ‘Elegans Splendor’ to show it was a mutation from the ‘Elegans’ family. Is ‘Elegans Splendor’ the most beautiful camellia mutation of all time? This may be argued, but no one can deny that it has one of the most beautiful camellia flowers. The large to very large anemone petals are serrated. The soft pink flower has a lovely white irregular border. It looks spectacular in the garden, on the show table and in flower arrangements.

When Nuccio’s Nurseries caught a creamy white sport from ‘Elegans Splendor’ they named it ‘Elegans Champagne’. This very large anemone flower is another outstanding Nuccio’s Nurseries introduction. The central petaloids with a few stamens look like bubbles surfacing in a glass of champagne, hence its name.



‘Elegans Champagne’

PRETTY WOMAN

Story and Photographs by Bradford King



'Barbara Goff'

Photo by Randolph Maphis



'Linda Carol'



'Ruta Hagmann'



'Miss Tulare'



'Phyllis Hunt'

Pretty Woman was a 1990 comedy film directed by Garry Marshall from a screenplay by J. F. Lawton. The film stars Richard Geer who plays Edward Lewis, a wealthy businessman, and Julia Roberts who plays Vivian Ward, hired by Lewis to be his escort for several events. A romantic relationship develops over the week she spends in his penthouse.

It is widely known that camellia growers also develop romantic relationships with "pretty women". Both men and women growers proclaim their love for 'Barbara Goff.' Gordon Goff named a very large soft pink *reticulata* for his wife in 2009. This beautiful flower with upright petals is one of the many pretty women camellia lovers cherish. She competes well in camellia shows against the handsome 'Frank Houser'. Is she as beautiful as 'Linda Carol' who was introduced in 1995 by Frank Pursel? They both have beautiful soft pink petals and reach five inches in diameter. 'Barbara Goff' may have a few natural white central petals, just as some modern women add highlights to their hair.

'Ruta Hagmann' is another pretty woman. The *C. reticulata* hybrid looks best when she is fully dressed in a petal skirt of coral pink with light blush tones just like subtle make up some women use. The full peony formed flower of 'Ruta Hagmann' reaches five inches or more with over 30 petals. I have noticed it blooms better on even years and has low yields on odd years. This year only a few flowers showed in March—too late for local camellia shows.

Another late blooming pretty woman is 'Miss Tulare'. She looks her best as a large formal double with bright rose red petals. Women in red dresses catch one's eye. According to *Wikipedia*, a woman wearing a red dress is perceived to be more appealing than when wearing other colors. All I know is 'Miss Tulare' is very appealing when she wears bright red.

'Phyllis Hunt' has a very large flower edged in deep pink that shades to light pink and then to white in the center. This pretty woman comes from Australia and was registered by John Hunt. She looks best in a formal double dress that may open with maturity confirming her rose form double form.

Let us not overlook the *Camellia japonica* pretty women. Some are large, others medium and some of the most beautiful are small or even petite. Size doesn't matter but shape and color make for "pretty women". 'Tiny Princess' has a miniature light pink single flower introduced by Kousaka Sawada. The name seems to connote a petite sized woman, child or even a small dog like my Katie, who is the Princess in the King household. 'Grace Albritton' is small and tends to be shy but when dressed in her formal gown of light pink edged in deeper pink, she is top of her class.

The average American woman's height is five feet three to four inches. The medium camellia is from three to four inches and is the most common-sized camellia. However, there is nothing common about these "pretty women". 'Eleanor Martin Supreme' dress is a beautiful shade of red with lovely white shading. The ruffled petals help add her to our



'Tiny Princess'



'Grace Albritton'



'Eleanor Martin Supreme'



'Lady Laura'



'Miss Charleston Variegated'

list of pretty women. She is more popular than her cousin 'Eleanor Martin' who lacks the white markings that provide a dramatic flair.

A genetic mutation from 'Betty Sheffield' was caught by Jim and Elaine Smelly and named 'Elaine's Betty'. The flower has a pale peach center with occasional rose red spots and stripes and shades to a deeper pink at the edges of the ruffled petals. What a pretty lady!

When she herself sported a deep rose red dress that shades to a deeper red; she was named 'Elaine's Betty Red'. The 'Betty Sheffield' wardrobe has at least thirty gowns and dresses just like many women. No one dress fits all occasions and who wants to be seen in last year's gown? No camellia can beat 'Betty Sheffield's' award-winning wardrobe. She is an American beauty however she dresses.

American beauties are found in every state. Two of the best southern belles are 'Lady Laura' from Florida and 'Miss Charleston Variegated' from South Carolina. 'Lady Laura' has a pink variegated peony formed flower. In some beauty contests there is a "Miss Congeniality". 'Lady Laura' is popular in the south where she comes from, but is equally popular in California. Therefore, when we tally the votes, she is our "Miss Congeniality".

One of the biggest winners in camellia shows is the beautiful 'Miss Charleston Variegated'. The medium to large flower with lovely white markings is most striking when in a bud formed formal double like the one in the photo. She is a pretty lady when in a loose peony form, but rarely seen unless variegated. The contrast between the red flower and white markings on the petals make her a very "Pretty Lady".

There are many large and very large "Pretty Ladies". Two with blush colored dresses are the very large 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' and her sport, the large 'Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso'. 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' was introduced in 1954 and became popular as a garden plant, show flower and parent for new seedlings. There is something especially beautiful about a

expectant mother—the healthy glow, the new life growing, and the sweet promise of a baby. 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' with her full rounded blush petals and her potential fertility is a "Pretty Lady" and a "Mom". She is the mother of the full peony formed 'Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso' who inherited size and color from her but whose form illustrates she is distinctive in her own right.

The international beauty from Australia 'Margaret Davis', is grown throughout the camellia world as she is one of the most popular "Pretty Ladies". The medium peony flower is sport of 'Paeoniiflora' caught by Arthur Da-

vis who named it for his wife. The creamy white petals are dashed and edged in vermillion making a beautiful bloom. 'Margaret Davis' frequently wins the Australian Research cup at the annual American Camellia Society's national show. In 2019 she was eclipsed by the pretty flower of 'Lady Pamela' but regained her title in 2020. 'Lady Pamela' is a white toned *reticulata* that has light pink shading to a darker pink on the outer edges of this large flower with rabbit ears. She is a welcomed addition because she provides a color break from the genetic dominance of the red and pink *reticulata* flowers. A pretty woman who has the creativity and courage to break free from a traditional gown stands out on the red carpet at the Oscars.



'Elaine's Betty'

Photo by Randolph Maphis



'Elaine's Betty Red'



'Mrs. D. W. Davis'



'Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso'



'Margaret Davis'
Photo by Gene Phillips



'Lady Pamela'

The Camellia Milky Way

Story and Photographs by Bradford King

The Milky Way is the galaxy that contains our solar system and billions of stars. White camellias are like stars. They are bright flowers that shine among dark green leaves just as the stars shine in the dark night sky.



'Ama-no gawa'

There is a Japanese cultivar 'Ama-no gawa' that means "The Milky Way". I spotted this large semi-double with a slender column of stamens blooming brightly in The Huntington.

There are many wonderful white *Camellia japonica* varieties. The white camellias that star in my garden are 'Nuccio's Gem', 'Junior Prom', 'Ragland Supreme', 'Tata' and 'Sea Foam'. A fresh white formal double flower can star at a camellia show. Growers and visitors are impressed by the form and pure white petals. In California, 'Nuccio's Gem' is the star formal double camellia. In the southeast 'Sea Foam' is the star. They both have medium to large flowers with beautifully formed petals.



'Nuccio's Gem'



'Sea Foam'

'Junior Prom' and 'Ragland Supreme' have rose form double flowers that are most impressive in their early bud stage before the flowers mature and open to show stamens. 'Junior Prom' has a large white to slight blush colored flower that blooms early to midseason. 'Ragland Supreme' has a medium white flower that blooms mid to late season. It can



'Junior Prom'



'Ragland Supreme'

produce many identical flowers which make it highly valuable.

'Tata' has a large to very large pure white semi-double flower with golden stamens and large green leaves. Tata is how Bonnie Nuccio said her eleven-year-old sister Catalina's name when first learning to speak. The nickname stuck. Tom and Jim Nuccio called her "Tata" and named this beautiful white cultivar for her. It has a strong upright spreading growth habit.



'Tata'

There are fourteen camellias in the *Camellia Nomenclature* with names that begin with "silver", a clear sign the flower is white. The one in my garden is 'Silver Waves'.

The very large semi-double flower has wavy petals which give the bloom its name. The vigorous bushy plant blooms early to mid-season.



'Silver Waves'

There are thirty-five camellias listed under white in the *Camellia Nomenclature*. The one I grow is 'White Bouquet' which I won in 2006 in a camellia raffle. What I enjoy about this cultivar, introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries is its vigorous upright bushy growth habit and the numerous medium to large flowers it reliably produces. This makes it an excellent landscape camellia. What detracts from its value as a show flower is that the semi-double form is not symmetrical and the large petals may get floppy even when fresh.

That said, it has won a few times in trays of like and unlike blooms because of the clear white color and golden stamens.

In conclusion, on a clear night it is easy to see some of the many stars that make up the Milky Way. In the camellia world every grower with a dozen or more cultivars will have at least one white camellia. One of the Southern California Camellia Society members grows most of his camellias in pots and almost all are white. He enters some that are as beautiful as any star in the sky.



'White Bouquet'



Spotlight: *C. japonica* ‘Nuccio’s Bella Rossa Crinkled’

This cultivar is a flower and foliage sport of ‘Nuccio’s Bella Rossa’. The red flower and formal double form are the same as its parent. However, the size is reduced to a medium rather than the parent’s large bloom. It has very wavy petals, which distinguish it from its parent. The leaves are irregular-shaped, crinkled, and

green in the center, with an irregular yellowish-green edge. The growth is rather slow, compact and upright. It blooms early to midseason. It is useful in the foreground of the garden, as it provides texture and has a nice showy flower. The descriptive name was used as both the petals and the foliage are crinkled.

Story and Photograph by Bradford King

Celestial Camellias

By Bradford King



The name of the “snow camellia” ‘Taiyô’ means “the sun”.

There are wonderful celestial camellias with names that suggest heaven—especially the sun, stars, moon and planets. Many of the planets in our solar system are named for Greek and Roman gods, including Mercury (messenger god); Mars (god of war); Neptune (god of the sea); Saturn (god of agriculture); and Pluto (god of the underworld). Pluto is now reclassified as a dwarf planet. Astronomers change and reclassify celestial bodies while botanists evaluate and change the classification of plants, including the camellia taxonomy—especially with the discovery of new species.

Sun

The earth’s sun is a “Yellow Dwarf Star”, according to astronomers. It is the center of our solar system and is responsible for the earth’s climate and weather. It is almost a perfect sphere. There is no camellia named “the sun” in English, but the Japanese named one ‘Taiyô’, which means “the sun”.

It is a *C. japonica* var. *rusticana* which is also known as the “snow camellia”. The beauty of this camellia is its glossy dark green foliage with light yellow variegation along the center of the leaves. The flower is a medium single form Claret rose that looks pretty among the foliage. Mature plants tend to grow upright and some-

what spreading. It makes a good landscape plant that provides an interesting contrast with other camellias.

Stars

‘Shooting Star’ is another snow camellia that is a celestial camellia. Shooting stars are not stars, but meteors that enter the solar system and burn up in the earth’s atmosphere, providing a few moments of great beauty. ‘Shooting Star’ has a white medium semi-double flower with pointed petals that provides beauty mid to late season on a very bush upright plant.

While there doesn’t seem to be any camellias named for any of the billions of stars, there are camellias that have star quality, such as ‘Lucky Star’ and ‘Super Star’. They are both hybrids between *C. saluenensis* and *C. japonica*. ‘Lucky Star’ has a lovely rich orchid pink



‘Shooting Star’



‘Lucky Star’



‘Lucky Star Var.’

medium semi-double flower with an unusual shape, due to the offset, narrow, upward curved petals. Gary Schanz of Sacramento, California used ‘Shibori-égao’ rootstock to make a very beautiful ‘Lucky Star Variegated’ that is being propagated by Nuccio’s Nurseries. This will make a wonderful new celestial camellia to add to your garden. I am predicting it will win points at camellia shows.



‘Super Star’

A large white semi-double with long narrow petals and white filaments tipped with golden anthers was named ‘Super Star’ when it was registered by Mrs. J. E. Shaw of Waima, Northland, New Zealand in 1984. Since it is large, white, and star shaped, the name fits this cultivar. We are fortunate that it was imported to America before the very strict agricultural regulations between countries were adopted to protect us from unwanted diseases and insects.

Planets

There are two camellias named for planets—‘Mercury’ and ‘Mars’, both introduced in 1911 by William Paul, an English horticulturalist and writer. The planet Mercury is the smallest and closest to the sun. It orbits around the sun in 87.97 days, which is the shortest planetary orbit in our solar system. Mercury is named for the Roman god who serves as the messenger of the gods. The camellia ‘Mercury’ was bred in England, therefore, this *C. japonica* it is rarely seen today in America. However, it is still grown in Europe because



‘Mercury’



‘Mercury Var.’

The American Camellia Society

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Celeste M. Richard, crichard@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, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

The Camellia Journal

The Camellia Journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the American Camellia Society.

Editor: Bradford D. King (bdk@usc.edu); Associate Editor and Production Manager: Celeste M. Richard; Associate Editor and Design Director: Camille Bielby.

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy of the ACS or of its officers or directors. While the *Journal* endeavors to assume the reliability of its advertising, neither the *Journal* nor the ACS assumes responsibility for any transaction between our advertisers and our readers.

© 2019 American Camellia Society articles may not be republished without written permission.

The Camellia Journal (USPS 555-900)(ISSN 008 204X)

Published quarterly by the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley, GA. Four issues per year. March, June, September, and December. Subscription price is included in the annual membership dues. Periodical Postage paid at Fort Valley, GA, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: The Camellia Journal, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030.



‘Mars’

it has an attractive large, deep rose pink, semi-double flower. The flower of the virus variegated variety is also very pretty.

Mars, known as the red planet due to the abundance of reddish iron oxide on its surface, can be seen without a

telescope. It is fourth from the sun and the second-smallest planet in the solar system. In ancient Roman myth and religion, Mars was the god of war and a guardian of agriculture. He was the most prominent of the military gods in the religion of the Roman army. ‘Mars’ has a large scarlet semi-double flower. It is grown in England and Brittany, France, where we saw it on an International Camellia Society Garden of Excellence tour in March 2018, which featured a wonderful exhibit of camellia floral arrangements. The four scarlet blooms were eye catching.

The Moon

The planet Earth has only one moon, but a very beautiful and prominent one. Mercury and Venus do not have moons. Mars has two moons, Pluto has five, and the other four planets have multiple moons. As far as I know, no camellias are named for the moons from other planets. However, perhaps I missed sighting a camellia name among Jupiter’s 69, Saturn’s 62, Uranus’s 27 and Neptune’s 14 moons.

Our moon is very visible and easily seen as it changes from just a slip to a gorgeous full moon, which is a key reason it is used for camellia naming. It is fascinating to see the moon rise in the evening. Therefore, Nuccio’s named a very large semi-double white to blush pink bloom ‘Moonrise’. The plant has distinctive foliage and grows upright.

The Nuccio’s are propagating ‘Mountain Moonrise’, which has perhaps the largest *C. sasanqua* flower yet. The plant grows upright and needs to be mature to produce the four to over five-inch white flowers with pink

shading on the petal edges. The very large flowers bloom on a five-foot to six-foot-tall plant, making a striking fall display. Nuccio’s is in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, in Altadena, California so they have seen the moon rise in the moun-



‘Moonrise’

tains, which explains this camellia name.

A medium single white flower with a striking patch of pink on the center and edges of its petals was named ‘Moonstruck’ by the Nuccio’s. Perhaps you have seen a full moon with



‘Moonstruck’

pink edges. Neville Haydon of Papakura, New Zealand named a medium formal double, coral red flower ‘Moonsong’ and Edgar R. Sebire of Wandin North, Victoria, Australia named a large soft pink semi-double to rose form flower ‘Moonbeam’. These camellias symbolize the fascination people throughout the world have with the Earth’s moon. They show why it is used for naming wonderful camellia cultivars.

Heaven

When a full moon shines and lights up a bay surrounded by trees, it is a spectacular sight conducive to love and romance. The very large, lovely pale orchid pink semi-double flower ‘Moonlight Bay’ captures the essence of a full moon. A full moon occurs every 29.5 days on average. The phrase “once in a blue moon” means that the full moon occurs twice in a given month, and symbolizes an unusual, if not a rare, occurrence.

The universe—which includes the sun, stars, moon and other celestial bodies—is often simply called the “heavens”, a religious, cosmological or transcendent place considered the home of gods, angels, spirits and saints. The Higo camellia ‘Jitsugetsusei’ has a medium flower with a name that means “host of heaven”, a fitting camellia to conclude this story about celestial camellias. It has 150 stamens with pale yellow anthers, and filaments tinged with red. The white blotches on the crimson petals are symbolic of stars; the yellow anthers the moon; and red filaments the sun—making it the host of heaven.



‘Mountain Moonrise’



‘Moonlight Bay’



‘Jitsugetsusei’

Camellia Look Alikes

C. japonica 'Flame'

By Bradford King

Do you know someone who looks like you? Do others say “You look like so and so” referring to someone famous? There are people who look like actors and actresses posted on the internet. The photographer Francois Brunelle has a series of photos of strangers who look like twins.

In the camellia world, we are often baffled by varieties that look alike. We ask friends to help identify them. We look them up in *The Camellia Nomenclature* or find photos on the ACS *Camellia Encyclopedia*. When judging new seedlings, selecting a flower that is distinctive is the most important characteristic to consider.



C. japonica 'Wildfire'



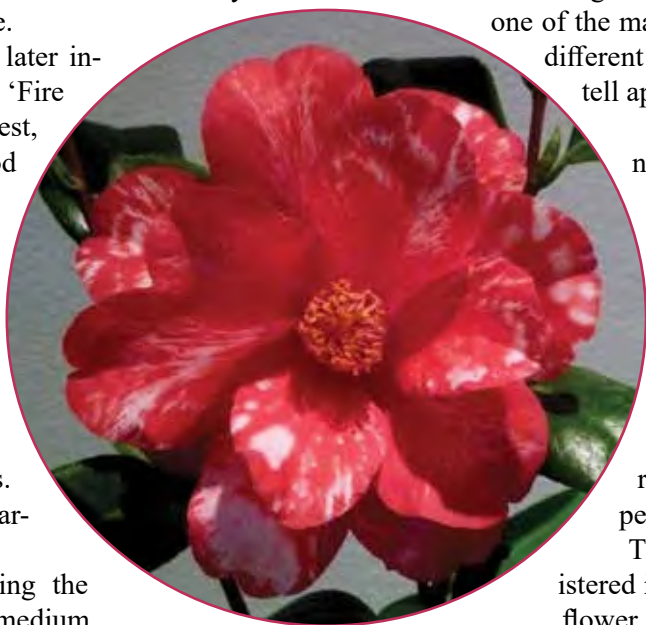
C. japonica 'Fire Dance'

Medium Red Semi-double

There are at least 21 red medium semi-double *japonica* camellias. Many have different red hues that help in telling them apart. Three are more of a challenge. 'Flame', imported from Japan and introduced by Toichi Domoto of Hayward, California in 1917, is a great cultivar that is rarely seen in camellia shows any more.

How is it different from the later introductions of 'Wildfire' and 'Fire Dance'? Usually, when at its best, it is somewhat larger. Is it as good as or better than newer introductions? Jude Nuccio thinks so, and he is not alone in this opinion. In 1963, Nuccio's Nursery of Altadena, California introduced an orange red camellia they named 'Wildfire', which gained popularity over the years and is still seen at camellia shows. It has reliably bloomed in my garden for thirty years.

After many years of debating the value of introducing another medium red camellia flower, Nuccio's Nursery introduced 'Fire Dance' in 1979. It has a slightly darker red hue with narrower petals than 'Flame' and 'Wildfire'. Nuccio's received the Illges Seedling Japonica Award by the American Camellia Society for the seedling in 2013. When virus variegated, 'Fire Dance' has a striking flower which has more reliable variegation than either 'Flame Variegated' or 'Wildfire Variegated'.



C. japonica 'Fire Dance'

Large Anemone White with Markings

Anemone form camellias account for only ten percent of the *japonica* cultivars.

Do you know there are many more miniature and smaller anemone-formed camellias than large or very large ones?

When we see a large anemone camellia bloom, it is usually one of the many 'Elegans' sports. They all have different colors, so they are easy enough to tell apart.

However, three large white anemone flowers with attractive markings are more of a challenge. In addition, there are several cultivars that occasionally have anemone forms which adds to the confusion of proper identification. This is illustrated by 'Ferris Wheel' whose typical form is semi-double. It has a large white flower with pink and red markings, and occasionally has peony and anemone form blooms.

The camellia 'Richard Nixon', registered in 1954, has a large white anemone flower with rose pink markings. Richard Milhouse Nixon was elected President of the United States from 1969 to 1974, when he became the only president to resign from office due to the Watergate scandal.

Nixon usually is ranked in the middle of president surveys with some considering him "great" or "near great" and others downgrading him for his ethical behavior related to the Watergate break-in and cover up. Regardless of one's opinion about the man and his presidency, the camellia flower



C. japonica 'Ferris Wheel' anemone form



C. japonica 'Richard Nixon'

named for him is outstanding. In 1960, Harvey Short introduced 'Extravaganza', which also has a large white flower but with many red markings. They both bloom in The Huntington Botanical Garden but are rarely seen at camellia shows. Can you tell them apart?



C. japonica
'Extravaganza'

More recently, in 2009, John Davey introduced 'Daddy Mac', which has the same form and white bloom, but has a variety of flecks and streaks ranging from dark red to light red and coral pink to light pink, making it a beautiful flower. It takes a keen eye to differentiate color shadings and markings among these large anemone camellia flowers.



C. japonica
'Daddy Mac'

Large Virus Variegated

C. reticulata

'W. P. Gilley Variegated' was introduced seven years before the more popular 'Frank Houser Variegated'. They can be difficult to tell apart. 'Frank Houser Variegated', when at its best, has a larger red flower while 'W. P. Gilley Variegated' has more of a pink flower. However, due to growing conditions, the size and the difference between a deeper pink and lighter-toned red can be hard to differentiate, especially in variegated blooms.



C. japonica
'W. P. Gilley Var.'

If you guess which is which, you have a fifty-fifty chance of being correct. To improve the odds, look for the smaller size, pink tone and more crinkled petals to identify 'W. P. Gilley Variegated'.

Rose Form Double and Formal Double *C. reticulata*

There are only a few *C. reticulata* camellias that have formal double flowers and a couple of dozen that have a rose form double bloom, which means they may look like a formal double prior to maturing into their open form and showing their stamens. This may make it hard to distinguish between the following three look-alikes.

In 2009, Gordon Goff from Lafayette, California introduced 'Barbara Goff', named for his wife. Like many camellias, it has several forms. It can be semi-double form and rose form to formal double. It has a very large wonderful pink flower borne on a handsome plant.

Jack L. Mandarich of Grants Pass, Oregon was an avid camellia hybridizer

and President of the American Camellia Society from 1983 to 1985. He specialized in breeding *reticulata* hybrids. He frequently named them for family and friends. His most widely distributed introduction is 'Jack Mandarich'. It has a beautiful



C. japonica
'Frank Houser Var.'



C. reticulata
'Jack Mandarich'



C. reticulata 'Barbara Goff' as a formal double



C. reticulata 'Barbara Goff' rose form open

ful large pink formal double to rose form double with 45 or more undulating petals.

A few years later he introduced 'Patricia Haskee', which has the same size, color, and forms as 'Barbara Goff' and 'Jack Mandarin', but with pointed, slightly incurved petals. When 'Patricia Haskee', 'Barbara Goff' and 'Jack Mandarin' are seen next to each other, it is easy to tell them apart. The challenge is when you encounter only one of them.



*C. reticulata
'Patricia Haskee'*

These flowers look alike due to the similarity in form and because there is variation in each cultivar's pink tones. This is usually due to weather and microclimates. These photos illustrate the possible variation. When

grown in a greenhouse or gibed, even more variability may occur.

The 2020 *Camellia Nomenclature* lists 'Barbara Goff' as "soft pink" and 'Jack Mandarin' as "spiraea red", with both of the color descriptions provided by the originators of the flowers. While I edit this publication, it is my opinion that these color descriptions are inaccurate. Both cultivars produce a range of "pink" toned flowers with colors like 'Patricia Haskee'.

Medium Formal Double White *C. japonica* with Pink Borders

There are at least three dozen medium white formal double flowers with pink



*C. japonica
'Donnan's Dream'*

markings and six with pink borders. The beautiful look-alikes we encounter today are as follows: 'Commander Mulroy' which has a blush to white flower edged in pink;

'Donnan's Dream' which has a white flower that shades to pink on the petal edges; 'Miss Lillian' which has a creamy white flower with a pink border;

'Nuccio's Pearl' which has a blush white flower with the outside petals toned pink; and 'Sawada's Dream' which has a white flower with the outer petals shaded a delicate pink.



*C. japonica
'Miss Lillian'*

Conclusion

Identifying and distinguishing one camellia cultivar from others is most frequently done through observation of its key characteristics—color, size, form, foliage and growth habit. Studies by criminologists routinely find that eyewitness identification of people is often invalid. Much more accurate are fingerprints and DNA. Identifying camellia species and cultivars by DNA is usually too expensive to be practical, but would be accurate. Perhaps someday, an inexpensive and quick test of DNA will become the gold standard.



*C. japonica
'Commander Mulroy'*



*C. japonica
'Sawada's Dream'*

[Return to TOC](#)

THE BEST CAMELLIAS

BRED
IN

‘Aunt Jetty’

Photo by Gene Phillips

Florida

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 prominent camellia-growing states.

BACKSTORY

According to *Wikipedia*, the history of Florida begins with the first Native Americans 14,000 years ago. Written records about life in Florida began with the arrival of the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León. Florida was under colonial rule by Spain, France, and Great Britain during the 18th and 19th centuries before becoming a territory of the United States in 1821. It became the twenty-seventh state in the United States on March 3, 1845.

Florida is nicknamed the “Sunshine State” due to its warm climate which has attracted northern vacationers and retirees since the 1920s. In 2011 Florida, with over 19 million people, surpassed New York and became the third largest state in population. The state bird is the mockingbird; the state flower the orange blossom; and the state tree the sabal palm.

CAMELLIA HISTORY

It may be that Robert Gamble was the first person to bring camellias to Florida. He brought a *C. japonica* from a conservatory in Baltimore in 1811. It was named ‘Aunt Jetty’ and registered by the Tallahassee Camellia Society in 1991. It was planted in Camellia Nursery, the Gamble family’s business. It is probably the

most famous variety originally grown in Tallahassee. Tallahassee camellia breeders have registered many new camellias, including well over 30 varieties dating back to 1947. Other varieties include: ‘Welaunee’, which has a deep red semi-double flower and was introduced by Ritchie Rosa in 1948; ‘Tallahassee

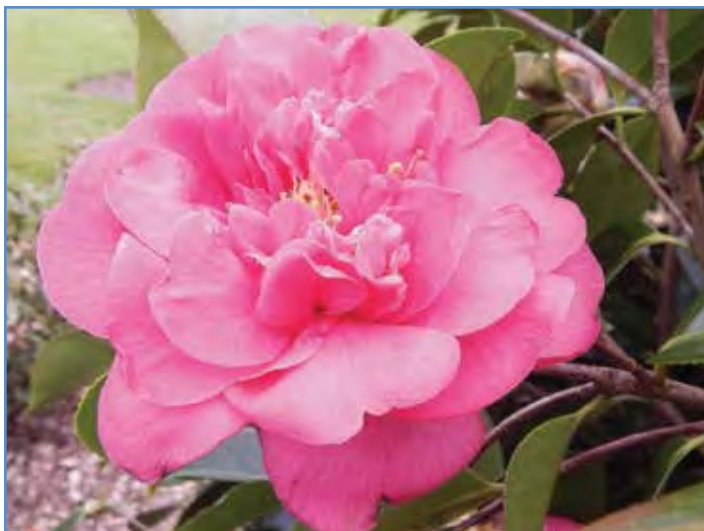


‘Welaunee’

Photo by Randolph Maphis

Girl’, which has a blush pink semi-double flower and was also introduced by Ritchie Rosa in 1949; ‘Julia Brock’, which has a medium lavender pink semi-double flower and was registered by Paul Brock in 1952; and ‘Anne Gramling’, which has large rose-red rose form double flower and was registered by Robert Burke Gramling in 1978.

According to the Pensacola Camellia Society, there are



‘Beau Harp’



‘Charlie Bettes’

125 camellias that originate in Pensacola. The first camellia bred and registered with ACS from Florida was ‘Beau Harp’. It is number ten on the ACS list of the first one hundred registrations. It has a medium to large red peony bloom. The Illges Seedling Japonica Award was established in 1949 and George Harper Wilkinson of Pensacola, Florida, the originator of ‘Beau Harp’, was the first awardee. Wilkinson also introduced ‘Marjorie Magnificent’ (named for Marjorie Murdock Wilkinson) which has a light pink semi-double to anemone form bloom; and ‘Elizabeth Le Bey’ which has a large rose pink peony bloom. William F. Bray of Pensacola, Florida registered ‘William Forrest Bray’ which has a large dark red formal double flower with purple on the petal edges.

The Pensacola Camellia Club and the University of West Florida (UWF) Retired Employee Association established a permanent camellia garden at UWF with the primary purpose of housing and protecting one specimen of every known variety that had been registered by Pensacola camellia

growers. According to the Club’s website, the UWF Camellia Garden currently has over 100 of the approximately 125 Pensacola originated varieties.

BEST CAMELLIAS BRED IN FLORIDA

One of the best white camellias is the show winning ‘Charlie Bettes’, registered in 1960 by Charles Bettes of Jacksonville, Florida. The large to very large flower semi-double has deep yellow stamens that look good among the upright central petals. ‘Charlie Bettes’ was awarded the Harold Cawood Award for originating the best white *japonica* in 1988. It won best white in the ACS 2019 National Camellia Show hosted at the annual convention in Mobile, Alabama.

In 1954, Mr. Davis named a very large blush pink semi-double flower for his wife. ‘Mrs. D. W. Davis’ is a pop-



‘Marjorie Magnificent’



‘Mrs. D. W. Davis’



‘Lady Laura’

ular ornamental camellia that has also been used in breeding new cultivars due to its lovely color and very large size. It was awarded the Illges Japonica Seedling Award in 1954.

Talmadge Edwin Lundy, known as Doc Lundy, of Pensacola, Florida introduced several camellias including ‘Lady Laura’ and ‘Lundy’s Legacy’. ‘Lady Laura’ was registered in 1973 and is widely distributed and valued by many camellia hobbyists. The medium to large peony to rose form double flower is a beautiful pink variegated with rose red dots and stripes. In 1993, Lundy was awarded The Illges Seedling Japonica Award for ‘Lady Laura’. Doc Lundy grew it from a bag of seeds friends brought to him when they visited him in Florida. Laura was the name of one of these friends.

‘Lundy’s Legacy’ was registered in 2009 which was 34 years after ‘Lady Laura’. The name recognizes a rich camellia history for T. E. Lundy, PhD. The flower is a beautiful coral red with a blush pink fringe. It has a medium to large peony bloom with gold anthers and cream filaments.



‘Little Babe’

In 1994 W. Maurice Harrison of Pensacola, Florida registered a 21-year-old seedling that first bloomed in 1955. ‘Little Babe’ has a small dark red rose form to formal double bloom. When variegated, the white markings are striking against the dark red petals. They are both popular and widely grown cultivars. Harrison was awarded the Kathryn and Les Marbury award for the best small to medium flower for ‘Little Babe’ and ‘Little Babe Variegated’ in 1992.

‘Something Beautiful’ has a small pale pink formal double flower with burgundy petal edges. It was registered in 1983 by Edwin and June Atkinson. It is indeed a beautiful little flower that has gained many followers. In 2010 it was awarded the Kathryn and Les Marbury Award. It continues to gain show points in camellia shows.

Roberta Hardison of Tallahassee, Florida registered ‘Dick Hardison’ in 1992. The medium to large formal double red flower with black petal edges has begun to gain many fans since its introduction. It was awarded the Illges Seedling Ja-



‘Lundy’s Legacy’

Photo by Randolph Maphis



‘Little Babe Variegated’



‘Something Beautiful’



‘Miss Lillian’

Photo by Gene Phillips



‘Elegans Supreme’

Photo by Randolph Maphis

ponica award in 2014. It has become a frequent winner at camellia shows. ‘Dick Hardison Variegated’ is also highly valued.

Clarence Gordy—Gordy as he was always called—had never grown camellias when he and Lillian Love Gordy lived, worked and raised their family in Mississippi. But when they retired to Ocala, he became a passionate camellia hobbyist. He produced many seedlings. A few good examples are ‘Marie Crawford’, ‘Jimmy Carter’ named for the 39th President of the United States, and ‘Miss Lillian’. The miniature he named ‘Miss Lillian’ has become a show winner. The formal double creamy white flower with a pink border won the 2017 Kathryn and Les Marbury Award.

BEST SPORTS ORIGINATING IN FLORIDA

‘C. M. Wilson’ is a sport from ‘Elegans Chandler Variegated’, caught by Mrs. Ada E. Wilson of Pensacola, Florida.

The beautiful large to very large light pink anemone flower was registered in 1949. She was awarded the Sewell Mutant Award in 1993 for the sport. It is the parent, by way of mutation, of ‘Elegans Splendor’ arguably the most beautiful of all the ‘Elegans’ mutations and was originally named ‘C. M. Wilson Splendor’. The name change was made to clarify its origin as an ‘Elegans’ mutation.

Another wonderful ‘Elegans’ genetic mutation originating in Pensacola, Florida is ‘Elegans Supreme’. The large to very large rose-pink anemone flower with wavy and ruffled petals is an outstanding sport. It was registered by W. F. Bray in 1960. He was awarded the Sewell Mutant Award in 1966 for the sport, which still continues to win at camellia shows.

In 2017, Jerry Conrad of Plymouth, Florida registered the beautiful ‘Louise Fitzgerald’. It is a sport from ‘Sweetie Pie’. The large to very large semi-double flower is a creamy pink with a nice irregular wide white border. He was awarded the Sewell Mutant Award in 2013 for this sport.



‘Dick Hardison’

Photo by Randolph Maphis



‘Dick Hardison Variegated’

Photo by Randolph Maphis



‘Louise Fitzgerald’



Spotlight: *C. japonica* ‘Snowman’

When there is adequate snow in those parts of the country that receive snow, children and their fun-loving parents set out to build a snowman. The traditional snowman has three snowballs—a very large one is the base, a middle-sized one represents the body and a small head size snowball is placed on the top and decorated with pebbles for eyes and a carrot nose. Branches may be used for arms, and clothing such as a hat or scarf may be added.

‘Snowman’ was registered in 1964 by Wilmer Stew-

art of Savannah, Georgia where it rarely snows and even then may not accumulate enough to build a snowman. Therefore, its large semi-double flower with curled and twisted inner petals and notched incurved outer petals, when coupled with its pure white color, provide its name. It is a complicated semi-double flower that blooms midseason on a vigorous spreading, upright plant. Fresh, clean white snow is a treat, and so are pure blemish free white camellias. Our spotlight shines on the beautiful *C. japonica* ‘Snowman’.

Story by Bradford King and Photograph by Gene Phillips

THE BEST CAMELLIAS

BRED
IN
'Sawada's Dream'

Alabama

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 on the Pacific coast, from Southern California to Washington, and indoors in a few northern states. This is the first of a series of articles that will highlight the best introductions originating in each state. We begin with Alabama.

BACKSTORY

The state nickname is the “Yellowhammer State” after the state bird which is the Northern Flicker; and the state tree is the longleaf pine. Alabama is known as “The Heart of Dixie” and the “Cotton State”. The capital of Alabama is Montgomery. The largest city by population is Birmingham, which has long been the most industrialized city; and the largest city by total land area is Huntsville, Alabama. The oldest city is Mobile, founded by French colonists in 1702 as the capital of French Louisiana.

The United States Census Bureau estimates that the population of Alabama was 4,858,979 on July 1, 2015. Alabama is home to a diverse array of flora and fauna. The state is usually ranked among the top in the nation for its range of overall biodiversity. Alabama is in the subtropical coniferous forest biome and once boasted huge expanses of pine forest, which still form the largest proportion of forests in the state. It currently ranks fifth in the nation for the diversity of its flora.

CAMELLIA HISTORY

The state flower is the *Camellia japonica* which replaced the goldenrod sixty years ago. However, there is no camellia named for the state. There are numerous camellias that originate in Alabama and three *japonicas* with “Alabama” as part of their names. They are ‘Alabama Dawn’ which has a large red anemone form flower, ‘Alabama Tide’ which has a large deep rich red formal double to semi-double flower, and ‘Alabama’s Lurleen’, a large blush pink full peony flower. There is also a *C. sasanqua* ‘Alabama Beauty’ that has a rosy red semi-double flower that blooms in the fall. Many of us received this cultivar at the American Camellia Society Convention in Mobile earlier this year.

Tea (*C. sinensis*) is grown in many countries, but has not become a major agriculture crop in America. However, as part of a Lipton Tea Company study, a small experimental research station was out-stationed in Fairhope, Alabama.



Camellia sinensis

The tea plants were destroyed by a hurricane soon after, and the experiment was abandoned.

However, the out-station supervisor rescued some seeds and cuttings. They were used to start a private plantation nearby now known as the Fairhope Tea Plantation, owned by Donnie Barrett, the son of the out-station supervisor. He learned how to grow, harvest and make tea by visiting China several times and hiring a Chinese expert to assist him. Tea is produced at the plantation in small quantities and sold through a nearby gift shop.

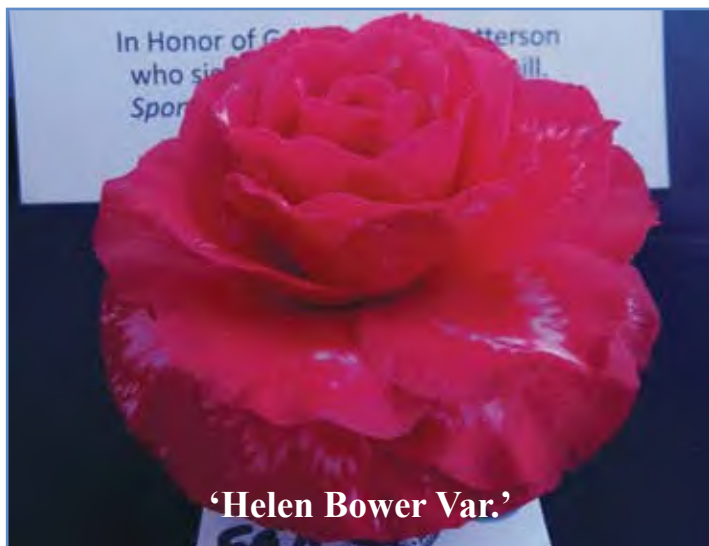
THE BEST CAMELLIAS BRED IN ALABAMA

Forrest Latta wrote an article, “Alabama’s Top Camellias,” published in the Mobile, Alabama convention program, which discussed ten *japonica* cultivars. One was

ling was first seen in bloom in 1961 at the age of 7 years. The flower is dark red with yellow anthers, white filaments and lovely moiré white variegation. Moiré variegation (like water marked paper) is highly valued. The plant blooms in midseason on a vigorous open upright plant. ‘Magic City’ won the coveted American Camellia Society Illges Japonica Seedling Award in 1989. The name reminds me of a city at night with twinkling lights. There is indeed something magical about this flower.

Azalea Glen Nursery introduced ‘Glen 40’ and ‘Glen 40 Variegated’. The latter is also known as “Thunderbolt”. This variety is very popular in California where it has been propagated and distributed by Nuccio’s Nurseries. Thirty years ago, I redid the landscaping in the front of our home. The theme was red and red variegated flowering camellias. They were my first choice and have reliably bloomed every year.

Forrest Latta’s list of the ten best *japonicas* from Ala-



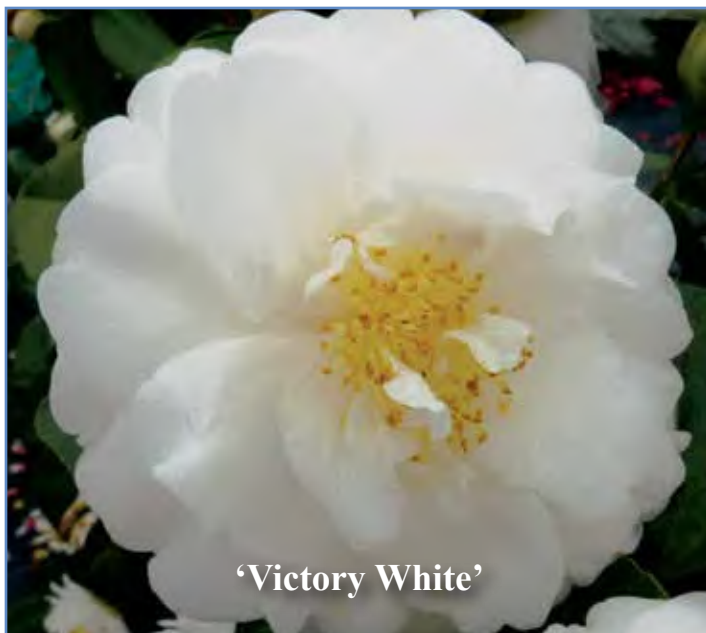
‘Helen Bower’ which we don’t see in California. However, I enjoyed seeing ‘Helen Bower Variegated’ win the trophy in Mobile for the Best Camellia Originated in Alabama. It was beautiful!

While we also never see ‘Magic City’ in California, I have seen it when visiting camellia growers in the southeast. This *C. japonica* was introduced in 1965 by Dr. Robert T. Cale of Hueytown, Alabama. This peony form chance seed-

bama and mine are identical to this point. He went with ‘Emmett Pfingstl’, ‘K. Sawada’ and ‘La Peppermint’ — varieties I rarely see. But I couldn’t overlook ‘La Peppermint’, with its white flower and lovely red markings, when I saw multiple blooms at the Mobile Camellia show.

I chose ‘Glen 40 Variegated’, ‘Victory White’ and ‘Blood of China’. ‘Blood of China’ has a deep red medium semi-double to peony flower. I see it at camellia shows,





‘Victory White’



‘Feathery Touch’
Photo by Gene Phillips

The Huntington Botanical Garden, Descanso Gardens and Nuccio’s Nurseries. It was introduced in 1928 by Longview Nursery which was owned and operated by Robert Rubel, one of the pioneer camellia hybridizers.

‘Victory White’ is the best of several outstanding white cultivars introduced by Overlook Nurseries. The medium, pure white flower is semi-double to loose peony form, and first flowered in 1938. Ken Sawada wrote in the 1995 *American Camellia Yearbook* that camellias were first propagated at Overlook Nurseries in 1915. The future Mrs. Sawada, Nobu Yoshioka, came from Japan in 1916 with a dowry of 500 camellia seeds. They were planted spring 1917. Each year more seeds were planted. The first outstanding varieties came from seeds planted in 1925. A dozen of the most desirable were selected to be propagated and marketed to the public. Several have survived the test of time and are still seen in public gardens and older private collections. These include ‘K. Sawada’, ‘Frizzle White’ and ‘Queen Bessie’.

In conclusion, the best of the best Alabama originated camellia is, in my opinion, ‘Sawada’s Dream’. The medium

white formal double has delicate pink petal edges, which makes it a very beautiful flower.

BEST SPORTS ORIGINATING IN ALABAMA

‘Mathotiana Supreme’ is a sport of ‘Mathotiana’ registered in 1951 by Harry Hardy Smith, who founded Flowerwood Nursery. The very large red semi-double flower with loose irregular petals is a standout in the garden and still competes in camellia shows.

When ‘Faith’ sported a large semi-double apricot pink flower with curled and creped petals, it reminded Fred Everett of the swirling skirts of dancing girls so he named it ‘Fashionata’.

The lovely white medium sport with ruffled petals inspired Charles Butler to name his introduction ‘Feathery Touch’. Butler was a Mobile attorney who also served as president of ACS in 1968. ‘Feathery Touch’ is a sport of ‘Frizzle White’ introduced by Overlook Nurseries in 1935.



‘Mathotiana Supreme’



‘Fashionata’

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRADFORD KING



‘Ferris Wheel’

The pickup line “Where have you been all my life?” comes to mind when we go to a camellia show and see a beautiful camellia for the first time. In fact, a camellia show is one of the very best ways to see prime camellias and to appreciate the wide range of colors and forms. It is fun to enter one’s flowers and to join the friendly competition. Let’s look at some flowers that you may see at a camellia show that aren’t in your garden, or perhaps not seen in your part of the country.



‘Julius Nuccio’



‘Mrs. Tsutako Nakasone’



‘Can Can’

Photo by R. Maphis



‘Baby Doll’

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Nuccio’s Nurseries has introduced over 200 new camellia cultivars and sells over 375 varieties; therefore, at Southern California camellia shows, their display tables are full of favorite camellias. Some varieties displayed are not well known and sometimes a teaser is included—a gorgeous flower to be introduced in a year or two.

In January 2014, two six-inch white blooms with red markings were displayed and identified as N#0331. In 2016, it was named ‘Ferris Wheel’. Wow! It won first place as a large *japonica* in Mobile, Alabama at the 2019 ACS national camellia show.

At the Huntington Garden camellia show, the second week of February 2019, Nuccio’s Nurseries displayed an awesome, very large, dark red semi-double form camellia *japonica* flower. It has the color of ‘Royal Velvet’ with a dozen long scooped pointed petals. It was spectacular, with camellia growers admiring the blooms, and the public oohing and aahing. It was released in the fall 2014 and named for Julius Nuccio, the founding father of the nursery, who passed away in 2016. It won Best of Show in the 2019 ACS national camellia show.

In addition, older cultivars not usually seen at the shows are on display. ‘Mrs. Tsutako Nakasone’ has a white-toned flower with pink on the petal edges. This lovely small to medium single tubular flower blooms early to midseason and was introduced by Nuccio’s in 1985. Mrs. Nakasone was the wife of Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister of Japan from 1982 to 1987. They were contemporaries of Ronald and

Nancy Regan, Margaret Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The lovely ‘Can Can’, a sport of ‘Lady Loch’ that originated in Australia in 1956, was also displayed. The flower is a soft rose, veined deeper rose, and shows pale pink striations at the base of its petals, with occasional small, bright rose splashes, irregular very pale pink to white bordering, and edged by a narrow band of bright rose. This flower is very lively, like the can can dance, which is a high-energy and physically-demanding music hall dance, traditionally performed by a chorus line of female dancers, who wear costumes with long skirts, petticoats, and black stockings. The main features of the dance are the lifting and manipulation of the skirts, with high-kicking movements.

‘Baby Doll’ was introduced by Nuccio’s 1992. The flower is a pretty, light, clear pink miniature. The tight centred anemone makes for an interesting bloom. The plant has a bushy spreading growth and blooms midseason to late. It is no longer in the Nuccio’s catalog, as they only propagate a few for sale.

In California, ‘Nuccio’s Carousel’ and ‘Nuccio’s Pearl’ are very popular, but are less frequently seen in the southeast. ‘Nuccio’s Carousel’ has a medium to large semi-double, lovely, soft pink flower that shades to a deeper pink on the petal edges. It blooms early to late season on an upright plant that produces numerous buds, thus ensuring the grower has many blooms. It is a good candidate to gib as the flower gets a more vibrant color and increases in size.

‘Nuccio’s Pearl’ has a medium formal double, blush white flower with touches of darker pink on the petal edges and bud center. It flowers mid to late season on a vigorous compact upright plant that blooms freely. By giving the buds



‘Nuccio’s Carousel’



‘Nuccio’s Pearl’



‘Shuchûka’



‘Shuchûka Blush’



‘Pincushion’



**‘Spring Daze’
Formal**



**‘Spring Daze’
Semi-double**



**‘Spring Daze’
Open**

gib, large flowers can be harvested in time for early camellia shows or used to float in a bowl in home decorations.

The *International Camellia Register* lists four cultivars with the name ‘Shuchûka’—which means “Flower in Sake”—all from Japan. The ‘Shuchûka’ we see is a medium white flower with rosy edges that looks like ‘Margaret Davis’, but is tighter with more bunched petals. The Nuccio’s have a very pretty ‘Shuchûka Blush’ which is not listed in the 2017 *Camellia Nomenclature* or the *International Camellia Register*. The flower is a small to medium blush with a loose peony form and a lovely rose border.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

There are many reasons for considering Southern and Northern California as different regions. The biggest difference between the two is climate. Northern California is generally cooler; the coast is very foggy, with more rain. Southern California is sunnier, warmer and drier. The climate along the Southern California coast is never very hot or cold. The inland parts of Southern California are desert, with more shrubs and bushes than trees. Camellias are grown widely in California, except in the desert and mountainous areas.

While many of the same varieties are grown, there are also differences in camellia forms between the regions. The best illustration of a different form is ‘Spring Daze’. In Southern California, the flower is seen as a white flower with a lovely coral pink edge in a loose peony form. In Modesto, California and Sacramento, California, it can be seen as a

formal double. In Mobile, Alabama, the bloom had higher petals and a different shade of color. These differences are due to climate and culture.

A very pretty and interesting *C. japonica*, ‘Pincushion’, originated by George A. Stewart of Sacramento, is not seen often outside Northern California. The small to medium bright red semi-double with a marvelous mass of yellow stamens makes the bloom look like a pin cushion filled with pins. The *C. japonica* ‘Little Bit’ was originated by Dr. John D. Lawson of Antioch, California, which is located in the San Francisco Bay area. The flower is red with white flecking and 150 to 200 petaloids, making for a very interesting and pretty bloom. It is rarely seen outside the Bay area.

Don Bergamini, a past President of ACS, regularly enters blooms in Southern California Camellia Society shows. He and Mary Bergamini are noted for growing miniature and small camellias, many of which are unfamiliar to other growers. They frequently win best small with ‘Takanini’, which was originated by Neville Haydon of Auckland, New Zealand. The flowers are small with a deep plum red color. It has 15 petals and 140 - 200 stamens with an occasional petaloid. In the January 2019 Southern California show at Descanso Gardens, they won with ‘Easter Basket’, a lovely single miniature. Bergamini registered and propagated this 20-year-old *C. japonica* chance seedling that first bloomed in 2007.

As an avid collector of smaller camellias, Bergamini shows ‘Thumbelina’, a sport of ‘Tom Thumb’ both of which were originated by Al Kruger of San Gabriel, California, a



‘Takanini’



‘Easter Basket’



‘Thumbelina’



‘Chris Bergamini’

city near Pasadena, California. ‘Tom Thumb’ has a pink formal double flower with white on each petal edge. It received the Southern California Camellia Society’s William E. Wylam Miniature Award in 1974. ‘Thumbelina’ has a small rose red flower sometimes with darker red edges. The miniature to small ‘Chris Bergamini’ was named by Don Bergamini for their grandson. It has a wonderful white anemone flower with lovely stripes of varying shades of pink and red. It is gaining in popularity and is propagated by Nuccio’s Nurseries.



‘Dolores Edwards’

SOUTHERN BEAUTIES

There are many beautiful cultivars that are popular in the southeast that are rarely seen in California and the Pacific Northwest. Many of the Hulyn Smith registrations have been propagated and distributed in the southeast, but not in California. For example, Smith registered ‘Cile Mitchell’ in 1992. This large orchid pink, rose form to formal double *wiliamsii* hybrid flower is a frequent show winner in the south.

The first name Cile is a variant of Cecilia from Latin and Old Welch. Randolph Maphis reported that Cile Mitchell was the wife of Ivan Mitchell of Melrose, Florida. When Ivan Mitchell and John Edwards (of Jacksonville, Florida) visited Smith’s greenhouses, they saw two *non-reticulata* seedlings they really liked and wanted to name the seedlings for their wives. ‘Dolores Edwards’ was named by Hulyn Smith because her husband really liked the bloom. It has a lovely, large light orchid semi-double to anemone to peony flower.

Dr. Walter Homeyer, Jr. of Macon, Georgia introduced many wonderful camellias. Regardless of where one lives, camellia lovers know his outstanding ‘Frank Houser’ and ‘Frank Houser Variegated’. They were named by Dr. Homeyer for his friend and next door neighbor, Dr. Frank Houser. These *C. reticulatas* are winners at camellia shows throughout the country with their wonderful rose red flower with upright central petals that look like butterfly wings. They are spectacular in the garden and on the show table. But have you seen his ‘Chie Tarumoto’? The medium blush pink, for-

mal double flower is only occasionally seen. Perhaps there are too many other medium formal double flowers that are white or blush for it to attract a following.

The most popular formal double white camellias are ‘Sea Foam’ in the south and ‘Nuccio’s Gem’ in California. Why do growers overlook ‘Walter Wilson’? It is a large formal double introduced in 1980 by Walter Wilson of Augusta, Georgia. Prowling the back lot of Nuccio’s Nurseries, where hundreds of cultivars that are not for sale can be seen, was where I saw this wonderful bloom.

CONCLUSION

The 2017 *Camellia Nomenclature* describes 4,000 cultivars and the *International Camellia Register* lists 30,000—meaning there are too many camellias for one person to be able to identify. A camellia show is one of the best ways to extend your knowledge. Visiting camellia shows in different parts of America will expose people to camellias they have never seen before. It is a joy to see beautiful camellias one has not previously had the opportunity to observe.



‘Chie Tarumoto’



‘Walter Wilson’



‘Sea Foam’



‘Nuccio’s Gem’

Kewpie Doll

Story and Photographs by Bradford King



‘Kewpie Doll’

It is well known that children have played with dolls since the beginning of time. Archeologists discovered dolls in Egyptian tombs in 2000 B. C. Greek and Roman children were found with dolls buried with them in their graves. An early doll fad began in 1910 when Rose O’Neill’s illustrations of a Kewpie doll were made into a doll.

Who was Rose O’Neill?

O’Neill loved to draw as a child and copied pictures from the books in her father’s library. When fourteen, she entered a contest sponsored by the Omaha World Herald, her drawing was thought to be too good for someone so young. The editor requested she demonstrate her drawing ability in person. She won a \$5 gold piece for her entry titled “Temptation Leading Down into an Abyss”.

When sixteen, she moved to New York City. She created the first comic strip published by an American woman in 1896 for *Truth Magazine*. In the same year she was hired as the first female staff illustrator by the popular gentlemen’s humor magazine, *Puck*. She also wrote short stories and illustrated for magazines, including advertisements for products like Jell-O, Oxydol and Kellogg’s Corn Flakes.

The Kewpie doll began accidentally. O’Neill had been adding small illustrations of round headed children at the top and bottom of pages sent to *Ladies Home Journal*. The editor, Edward Bok, asked her to create a strip featuring these cherubic characters.

The Invention of the Kewpie Doll

She named these characters “kewpies”, a play on “cu-

pid" the Roman god of love. She spelled it with a "K" because it was amusing. The Kewpie cartoon illustrations in the *Ladies Home Journal* became instantly popular. O'Neill gave her Kewpies playful personalities who did good deeds in a humorous way. Kewpies first appeared in the 1909 Christmas issue of the *Ladies Home Journal*. Paper doll cutouts of Kewpies were published in the 1912 edition of *Woman's Home Companion*. She received numerous letters from fans requesting a real doll.

This led to the creation of a doll which was patented in 1913. Kewpies appeared in advertisements, coloring books, cups, plates, postcards, talcum powder boxes and salt and pepper shakers. The Kewpie craze continued well into the late 1920s. The time capsule at the 1939 New York World's Fair contained a Kewpie doll. The Kewpie doll made O'Neill a millionaire, but by 1939 they were no longer selling enough to sustain her generous life style in Westport, Connecticut on the Saugatuck River.

In 1941 she moved and worked on her memoirs. She suffered several strokes and died in 1944. In April 2018, "Frolic of the Mind: The Illustrious Life of Rose O'Neill", an art exhibit of her illustrations was held at the Springfield Art Museum in Missouri.

***Camellia japonica* 'Kewpie Doll'**

Vernon McCaskill of Pasadena, California introduced 'Kewpie Doll' in 1971. The flower has chalky pink petals and a high perky cluster of petaloids, which is why he named it 'Kewpie Doll'. It is a little cutie with a knot of petaloids, just like its namesake.

Who was Vernon McCaskill?

McCaskill was a prolific camellia hybridizer who opened McCaskill Gardens in Pasadena, California in 1932. Mc-

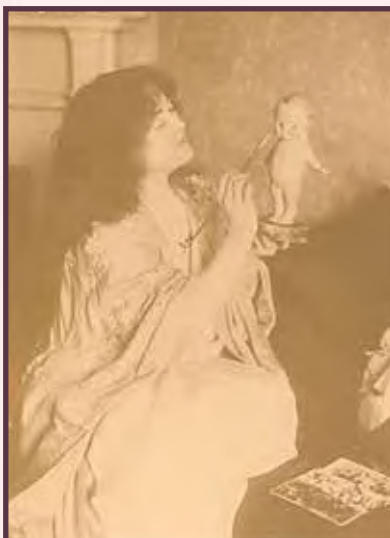
Caskill Gardens introduced 72 *japonica* cultivars and eight *non-reticulata* hybrids between 1930 and 1988. The *japonica* cultivars still popular today include 'Allison Leigh Woodroof', 'Cloisonné', 'Coronation', 'Demi-Tasse', 'High

Wide'n Handsome', 'Kewpie Doll', 'Lady in Red', 'Little Red Ridinghood' and 'White Nun'. Photos of flowers are frequently taken on the plant or at a camellia show. I was impressed with floral arrangements in an exhibition in Brittany, France, like 'Allison Leigh Woodroof' shown below.

The best *non-reticulata* hybrid introduced by McCaskill is 'Waltz Time'. The medium semi-double flower is a bright and clear lilac pink. When variegated with white slashes, it is striking and capable of garnering crystal at a camellia show.

In 1964, McCaskill introduced 'Star Above Star', a wonderful *C. vernalis* seedling. It has white petals shading to lavender on the edges of a semi-double flower in the form of one star superimposed on another star. This attractive form and lovely-toned flower won the 1969 Ralph Peer Sasanqua Seedling Award. It grows vigorously, upright, and bushy and likes sunlight. It is still widely grown, and a frequent camellia show winner.

McCaskill Gardens is no longer in business, succumbing to the population explosion in Southern California and the resulting increased value of land for housing and business. He had a knack for choosing descriptive names that captured the form and beauty of their introductions. While this is a sound marketing strategy, even more impressive is their naming creativity. The legacy of McCaskill Gardens is the wonderful and the ongoing popularity of their introductions is epitomized by 'Kewpie Doll'.



Rose O'Neill painting a Kewpie doll.

Image courtesy of Bonniebrook Gallery, Museum, and Homestead



'Allison Leigh Woodroof'



'White Nun'



C. japonica 'Unryu'
Photo by Gene Phillips

Camellia Oddities

By Bradford King

Some people may not appreciate camellia oddities; while others are drawn to their uniqueness. Such is the vast difference among what people think and feel. What is your opinion on these camellia oddities?

Zigzag Growth Patterns

This is seen in *C. japonica* 'Unryu' (zigzag) which has a small single rose red flower where every node on the stem makes a 45 degree turn which results in a maze of zigzag branches. It was registered by the Kyoto Garden Club of Japan in 1967.

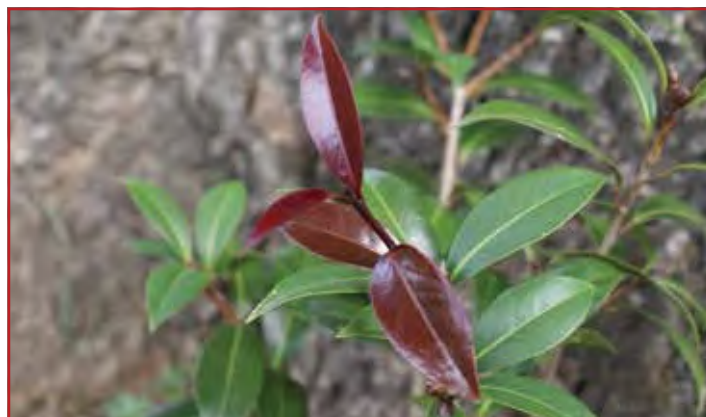
The flower color description is also odd. *The Camellia Nomenclature* describes the flower as pink and the *International Camellia Register* references the tone as crimson. The

Camellia Forest Nursery describes it as rose red. When a color is described as rose red, it is a color tone between pink and red. This means some perceive the color as pink, and others red. What we have is an example of different people's perception of color. In addition, micro climates and culture may also contribute to a flower having a more pink or red tone.

Jim Nuccio discovered a plant with zigzag branches growing among dozens of 'Egao' plants. Nuccio's Nurseries propagated this genetic mutation and registered it as 'Egao Corkscrew' in 2000. The plant has a spreading growth habit, which is very different from the upright form of 'Egao'. The pink flower is a small to medium with some developing a semi-double form, and others a more complicated loose pe-



‘Egao Corkscrew’ and ‘Shibori-egao Corkscrew’ are known for zigzag branches.
Photos by Bradford King



The deep red leaves of new growth on ‘Night Rider’ offers an intriguing contrast to mature foliage.
Photo by Camille Bielby

ony form with crinkled petals. When this plant is variegated, it produces a pink flower with many white markings, while retaining the zigzag growth habit. It makes an attractive bonsai.

Camellias with Red Roots

‘Kuro-tsubaki’ (the black camellia) has a very dark red flower and red roots. The *C. japonica* cultivar is Japanese in origin, described in 1829 and imported to the U.S. in 1977 by Nuccio’s Nurseries. The flower is a small semi-double to peony form with twisting red stamens which blooms mid to late season. The intense pigmentation in the flower and roots also extends to the stems, mid ribs and veins of the leaves. It is the seed parent of ‘Night Rider’ and ‘Black Opal’, both breed by Os Blumhardt of Whangarei, New Zealand.

He used the *hybrid* ‘Ruby Bells’ as the pollen parent. ‘Black Opal’ has a miniature to small flower with red filaments and gold stamens, which is not often seen in America. ‘Night Rider’ has a small, very black red semi-double flower with heavy, waxy, narrow petals, irregular yellow anthers, and reddish filaments. The plant has attractive deep maroon new foliage. The roots are also red. The plant grows spreading and upright at a medium rate with small dark green leaves. This makes for a popular camellia with a striking very dark red flower.

Dr. William Ackerman, a plant geneticist and camellia breeder, reported in his book *Beyond the Camellia Belt* that

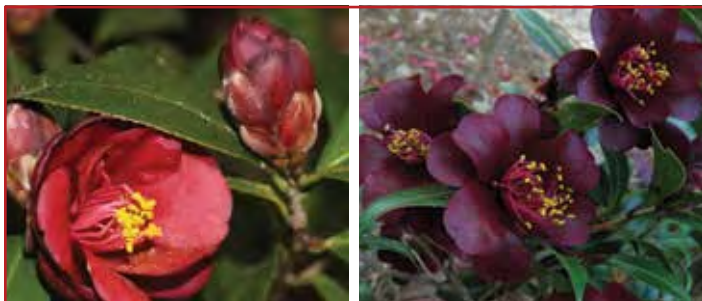
there is a direct correlation between the long translocation chromosome he discovered and the red pigmentation of the flower and roots. He surmised that this abnormal chromosome was rare and may have occurred not only in ‘Kuro-tsubaki’, but with all *hybrids* having the red pigmentation inherited from the “black camellia”.

Camellia Fruit

C. japonica var *macrurcarpa* has very large round green-blushed-red seed pods which look like apples ripening. Therefore, it is no wonder is called “Ringo Tsubaki” (“apple, peace be with you”) in Japan and the “Apple Camellia” in the English speaking camellia world. The plant grows vigorously and opens upright blooming early to midseason.

When I came across this camellia with a dozen apple-sized pods in August while walking in The Huntington, I was impressed by how different they look from the common pods of our ornamental cultivars. It was smooth like a *japonica*, but round and hanging down like a Christmas ornament. It is a pleasant oddity to be enjoyed.

I have no interest in adding one to my collection, but I had to refrain from picking one when no one was looking. The dark side of my mind thought: “pick one, it won’t be missed. No one will collect the seed anyway.” My psychological mind labeled this correctly as a perfect example of a rationalization. What did I do? I took photographs.



‘Kuro-tsubaki’ and ‘Night Rider’
Photos by Gene Phillips



C. japonica var *macrurcarpa* pods
Photo by Bradford King



Spotlight: *C. saluenensis* hybrid ‘Pink Dahlia’

A dahlia is a bushy tuberous perennial plant native to Mexico. It is the national flower of Mexico. There are 42 species of dahlia with a wide variety of hybrids in many bright colors and forms. Dahlias are related to sunflowers, daisies, chrysanthemums and zinnias—all of which are popular summer blooming flowers grown as annuals or tender perennials in America.

August Kramer’s Kramer Brothers Nursery, of Upland, California, was well-known for the knack of

selecting camellia names that fit their introductions. Therefore, when they discovered a medium lavender pink, dahlia-shaped formal double flower with slender pointed petals, they named it ‘Pink Dahlia’.

Ben Mackall married August Kramer’s daughter, Marie, in 1937. After August died, Ben and Marie managed the Kramer Brothers Nursery until 1986. The beautiful ‘Pink Dahlia’, registered in 1981, is in the spotlight.

Story by Bradford King and Photograph by Mike Chelednik



[Return to TOC](#)

Camellia Color Psychology: LAVENDER CAMELLIAS

Story and Photographs by Bradford King

The color lavender is created by mixing blue and pink. When it is heavily toned with pink, it is used to symbolize refinement, grace, elegance, love, and purity. It is a feminine color that invokes feelings of romance and devotion. When toned more purple, it promises opportunity and new adventures. When it shades to blue, it represents depth, trust, loyalty, sincerity and wisdom. The many tones of lavender camellias make for special flowers.

C. hybrid 'William's Lavender'

‘Water Lily’



‘Lavender Swirl’



‘Little Lavender’



‘Contemplation’



Lavender Pink

One of the achievements of breeding *C. japonica* with *C. saluenensis* is new color tones. Especially noteworthy are the lavender pink *hybrids*. This is seen in ‘William’s Lavender’, ‘Lavender Swirl’ and ‘Water Lily’. ‘William’s Lavender’ was introduced by Fruitland Nurseries in 1950. The medium single has a lavender pink flower borne on a vigorous spreading plant. This early introduction was the herald of more complicated and beautiful lavender *hybrids*.

Claude Monet painted 250 water lily paintings the last 30 years of his life in his garden at Giverny, France. Many camellia growers are like Monet in that they love to be in their garden enjoying the different seasons and appreciating the different amounts of sunlight during the day and across the seasons. When Felix Jury of Waitara, New Zealand saw a lavender pink water lily shaped flower on one of his seedlings he named it ‘Water Lily’. The lavender-tinted pink medium formal double is as beautiful as any of Monet’s masterpieces. It blooms early to midseason on a vigorous compact upright plant.



‘Nicky Crisp’

Oswald Blumhardt of Whangarei, New Zealand introduced ‘Lavender Swirl’ in 1998. This *non-reticulata* *hybrid* has a soft lavender pink large to very large formal double flower. The bloom is most impressive when very large and in a spiral form. We are delighted to see large and very large flowers, particularly in color tones like ‘Lavender Swirl’. Nuccio’s Nurseries continues to propagate the above *hybrids* for those of you who wish to add lovely lavender-toned flowers to your winter garden.

Another lovely cultivar is ‘Little Lavender’. It was originated by McCaskill Gardens, of Pasadena, California. The lavender pink miniature to small anemone form flower blooms midseason on a vigorous compact upright plant.

Mrs. A. B. “Bettie” Durrant of Rotorua, New Zealand introduced several very good camellia cultivars, most notably ‘Nicky Crisp’, named for her grandson. In 1985, she registered the lesser known ‘Contemplation’, a *C. pitardii* x *C. japonica* cross. The lovely flower is medium semi-double lavender pink with occasional petaloids. At times, seeing a beautiful camellia triggers us to contemplate—nature’s wonders, the meaning of life, family, friends, and God.

One *reticulata* *hybrid* ‘Fiesta Grande’ has a medium semi-double to loose peony light lavender pink flower. It was produced by Meyer Piet and Lee Gaeta in 1986 by crossing a *japonica* with *reticulata* ‘Flower Girl’. The variegated form is very attractive with the white markings contrasting nice-

'Fiesta Grande Variegated'



'Princess Lavender'



'Grape Soda'



'William Penn Variegated'



Photo by Randolph Maphis

ly with the lavender pink. It makes an attractive landscape plant that shows off a unique flower color for a *reticulata* hybrid camellia. The photo was taken in Meyer and Bev Piet's back yard before the new owners removed all the camellias.

Lavender Red

When the color lavender is redder than pink, it is called "Lavender Red". Two camellias are described as having lavender red-toned blooms. 'Princess Lavender' has a large semi-double lavender rose flower. It blooms in mid-season on a vigorous plant. The variegated form is very pretty with white markings contrasting on the lavender rose petals. It was introduced by George H. Wilkinson, Sr. of Pensacola, Florida in 1950 and is propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries of Altadena, California.

'Grape Soda' has a small to medium single flower with a lavender red color that reminds us of being young and relaxing with a tasty grape soda. 'Grape Soda' is a Nuccio's introduction that blooms mid to late season on a medium upright plant.



Purple

Purple-toned camellias are seen in Portugal and other countries when grown in heavy clay or shale soils. It is also reported that colder climates assist in producing the purple hues. A good example also bears the longest camellia name: 'Dona Herzília de Freitas Magalhães'.

'Dona Herzília de Freitas Magalhães'

A good example of an American cultivar with a dark purple red flower is 'William Penn Variegated'. This small to medium flower is variegated with white markings. It rarely is seen today, as it was introduced in 1854 by Ritchie and Dick from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to commemorate William Penn (October 14, 1644 – July 30, 1718). He was the founder of the Pennsylvania Province, the English North American colony that eventually became the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This famous Quaker was an early champion of democracy and religious freedom who directed the planning and development of the city of Philadelphia.

A newer purple camellia introduction is 'Purple Passion'. The flower has a reddish-purple center that shades to deep purple on the outer petals with deep purple veining. It has a medium formal double flower and was originated in 2013 by Richard Dodd of Marshallville, Georgia and registered by County Line Nursery of Byron, Georgia.

Blue

One *C. japonica* with blue tones is 'Roosevelt Blues'. The flowers are medium semi-double to loose peony with a dark maroon blue hue. It first bloomed in 1938 when six years old

on an upright bushy plant. It was introduced by Robert O. Rubel, Jr., of Longview Nursery in Crichton, Alabama. He was anti-Roosevelt and the New Deal. He used this cultivar in a personal campaign against the reelection of Roosevelt to a fourth term as President. However, Franklin D. Roosevelt was reelected. He is the only president elected to more than two four-year terms. When historians rank American Presidents, FDR is most often ranked in the top five. The variegated form of this older camellia is very beautiful with white blotches contrasting with the purplish maroon. These cultivars can be found in older gardens and parks, especially in the south.

Camellia sasanqua 'Green's Blues' has wonderful blue tones. It is a chance seedling of 'Shishigashira' with a rose form double violet to purple color flower that as it ages becomes blue. It has long lasting blooms and is cold hardy. The unusual color makes it a popular and desirable landscape camellia. This cultivar was originated by Bobby Green of Green Nurseries, in Fairhope, Alabama and is available at the Nursery.

Saluenensis hybrid 'Bluebird'

has a deep bluish pink medium semi-double flower borne on an open upright plant with mid-green foliage in mid-season. It was originated by Mrs. Ida Berg of Whakatane, New Zealand. It is a lovely flower that has been widely distributed. Dr. Clifford Parks intro-



'Bluebird'

duced *C. reticulata* 'Blue Twilight' in 1965. It is one of the few *reticulatas* with a bluish pink-tinted flower. The bloom is a large semi-double with ruffled petals, yellow anthers and pinkish filaments. It blooms midseason on a vigorous open plant.

Concluding Remarks

While there are no true-blue camellias, they can be made. Place a white camellia in a container with blue food coloring in the water and watch the camellia take up the blue water slowly turning the white petals shades of blue. Single and semi-double flowers seem to work better than peony and formal double forms but it's fun to experiment to see what you can create.

The various lavender-toned camellias are special additions to the landscape. Psychologically they add a touch of feminine royalty on a show table and in the garden.



'Blue Twilight'

'Purple Passion'



Photo by Brenda Alden

'Roosevelt Blues'



Photo by Gene Phillips

'Roosevelt Blues Variegated'



Photo by Matt Hunter

'Green's Blues'



Photo by Bobby Green



‘Leslie Ann’ Photograph by J. D. Thomerson

Red and White Make a STRIKING CAMELLIA

There are a great many beautiful camellias. Some of the most striking are white with red markings. The only time this occurs in *C. reticulata* blooms are when the white is the result of virus variegation. On the other hand, both *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica* have several wonderful varieties with these characteristics.

Story and Photographs by Bradford King



‘Painted Desert’

Camellia sasanqua

The sun-loving, fall blooming *sasanquas* herald the camellia season—generally with a mass of flowers among shapely, small green leaves. These cultivars make good landscape plants. Some will also emit a sweet musky scent that is very attractive to bees. A white flower with a red border is a classic *sasanqua* bloom. Four good examples are discussed here.

‘Leslie Ann’ has a small semi-double flower with irregular petals. It can also have a more complicated peony bloom. The white flower is tipped with a lovely shade of red with a lavender tint. When well-formed and in full color, it is outstanding.

The variety we know as ‘Navajo’ was a seedling from Japan that lost its label. Therefore, Nuccio’s Nurseries

renamed it ‘Navajo’ when they propagated it. A story circulated that they named this camellia for the Navajo tribe that once lived on the land where the nursery is located. The Nuccio’s say this is not so.



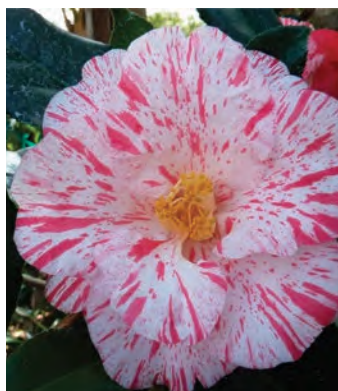
‘Navajo’

Per *Wikipedia*, the Navajo are natives of the Four Corners region: Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. The Navajo people are still living in their traditional territory today on reservation land that belongs to them and is under their control. The medium semi-double white flower with a rose red border of ‘Navajo’ is like the colorful markings Native Americans used to decorate their faces for rituals and festive dances.

Likewise, ‘Painted Desert’—with its large single, white to pale pink flower with a deep red border and showy stamens—is like the Painted Desert. The Painted Desert is a United States desert badland. It is in the Four Corners area that



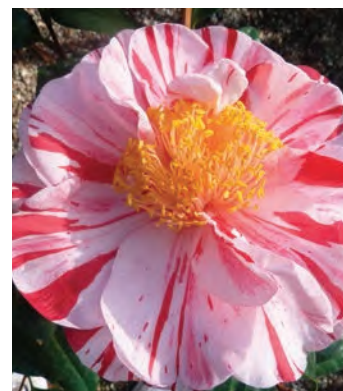
'Stars 'N Stripes'



'Betty Foy Sanders'



'Chris Bergamini'



'Ferris Wheel'

stretches from the Grand Canyon to the Petrified Forest National Park. Much of it is within the Navajo Nation.

"Old Glory" is a weather-beaten, 17 by 10 foot banner that has long been an artifact, second only to Francis Scott Key's *Star-Spangled Banner* as a patriotic symbol. According to *Wikipedia*, a flag which belonged to sea Captain William Driver made national news when it was flown defiantly from his home in Nashville, Tennessee during the Civil War. It is the source of the term "Old Glory" used today to describe the American flag. Nuccio's named a single to semi-double medium, white flower with a deep pink petal edging 'Old Glory' for its wavy petals that resemble a flying American flag.

As we continue with the patriotic theme the single white flower striped rose red, and at times, with a rose red border, brings us to 'Stars 'N Stripes'. It is technically a *non-reticulata* hybrid but resembles a *sasanqua* in its ability to thrive in sun and its fall blooming habit. Striped *sasanquas* are rare, so this profuse and showy *hybrid* makes a welcome addition to the fall landscape.

Stars and Stripes is an American newspaper that reports on matters of interest that affect the United States Armed Forces. While it operates from the Department of Defense; it is editorially separate and protected by the freedom of the press as protected by the First Amendment. It is distributed to the military serving overseas. The patriotic American march *The Stars and Stripes Forever* was written by John Philip Sousa. In 1987, Congress declared it to be the official National March of the United States of America.

Camellia japonica

'Betty Foy Sanders' is a popular, widely distributed,

medium semi-double, white flower with heavenly rose-red stripes. 'Betty Foy Sanders' is an excellent, small upright bushy tree in the landscape. The early to mid-season blooming flower is capable of making it to the head table at a camellia show. It was named for the wife of the governor of Georgia when it was introduced in 1965. Like many white flowers with genetic red markings, the amount of red varies greatly. Occasionally, there will be a plain white flower or one with just a few red marks. However, when it is heavily marked, it is an outstanding flower.

In 1999, Don Bergamini of Martinez, California introduced 'Chris Bergamini'. The miniature to small, anemone, white flower with varying shades of red, has developed a following. It was named for Bergamini's first grandson, who is now a young man. The anemone camellia form is neither rare nor common, accounting for about ten percent of camellia flower forms.

Nuccio's Nurseries of Altadena, California, is world famous for its camellias and azaleas. Since their inception in 1935, they have introduced over 200 new camel-

lia varieties. A recent introduction is 'Ferris Wheel'. The large to very large white semi-double to loose peony flower has extensive bright red markings. The vertical red slashes are like the spokes of a Ferris Wheel.

According to *Wikipedia*, the first Ferris Wheel was designed and constructed by George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr. as a landmark for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The term "Ferris Wheel" is used for all such structures, which are now the most common type of amusement ride at state fairs in the United States. When approaching a carnival, it is so prominent, that it is the first structure one sees.



'Old Glory'



‘Sporting Class’



‘Daddy Mac’



‘Princess Masako’



‘Richard Nixon’

The flower ‘Ferris Wheel’, with its large white flower and vivid red markings, is equally prominent on the plant or on a camellia show table. This plant is like several other camellia cultivars in that it can mutate. One of its sports is just another red flower, but another is pink, rather than white, with vivid red markings. It has the potential to become a beautiful new introduction if scions selected from the pink sport remain stable. The Nuccios are very careful when they take cuttings from stock plants to ensure the scions are true to the form being sold to customers.

The principle is the same for any mutation which is to mark the branch with the new sport. For example, my ‘Ferris Wheel’ has one branch that sported a red flower, so it was marked with a yellow tape. The general rule is that a branch needs to produce the new sport for three years to rule out one-time chance blooms caused by weather or some other environmental factor. Some of the great camellia introductions are from mutations that growers have “caught” and propagated.

John Davy of Milton, Florida introduced a camellia that he discovered mutated regularly, so he named it ‘Sporting Class’. It has a medium peony form, white flower with splashes, flecks, streaks and petals of dark coral pink. One of its sports is ‘White Sporting Class’, which has no red markings.

He also introduced ‘Daddy Mac’, which has a large peony to anemone white flower with flakes and streaks of dark red, along with light red and some pink markings in an irregular pattern, which makes for a great bloom. It was named for Davy’s maternal grandfather, John McNair of Pensacola, Florida, who was known as Daddy Mac.

Higo camellias also mutate new colors. For example,

‘Yamato-nishiki’ sported ‘Ohkan’ which has a lovely medium single, white flower with a rose red border and numerous flared yellow stamens, typical of a first rate Higo. The name translated in English as “Kings Crown”, which it resembles. It was my favorite Higo, even before knowing its English translation.

The medium lotus-formed semi-double to loose peony flower of ‘Princess Masako’ comes to us from Japan where it was named for the crown princess. The flowers are white, with both small and large red stripes. At times, it may also have a fine red edge to the fluted petals. This mid to late season bloomer is a mutation sporting from ‘Ikari-shibori’.

Princess Masako is best known for her independent nature before she married the Crown Prince Naruhito after a long courtship. Now married over twenty years, she has led a quiet royal life. There is speculation she suffers from depression due to the intense pressure on her to produce a son, as only a male heir may inherit the crown. The couple does have one daughter.

Before Richard Nixon became President of the United States, U. B. Stair of Whitter, California—where Nixon attend-

ed college—introduced ‘Richard Nixon’. It has a large white anemone flower shading pink, with rose red and pink stipes. The guard petals tend to be upright and crinkled, giving it a complicated look, not unlike the man it was named for.

Conclusion

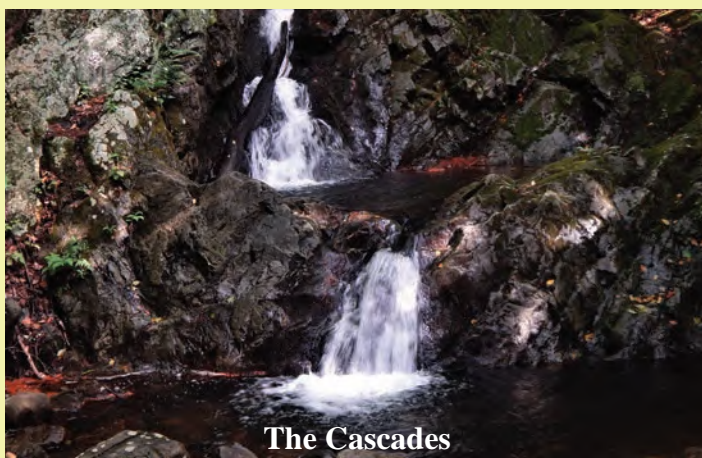
White camellia flowers with variegated red flecks, stripes and streaks—without blemishes and flaws—make for some of the most beautiful blooms. When complicated by increased numbers of petals, a stunning mass of golden stamens, and bright red markings, they become some of the most striking camellia flowers.



‘Ohkan’

THE **CAMELLIA** CHRONICLESCascading
CAMELLIAS

Story and Photographs by Bradford King



The Cascades



'Elina Cascade'



'Pink Cascade'

A cascade is a beautiful series of small waterfalls with water flowing and tumbling over rocks making delightful sounds. In the spring the water rushes and even crashes against the rocks, while the sound may be gentle and soothing during the dryer times of summer and fall. Camellias that cascade have pendulous arching branches with masses of flowers that are lovely in the garden and make graceful flowing floral arrangements.

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

When Fei Jian-Guo crossed *C. japonica* 'Kuro-tsubaki' with *C. parviovata*, he got seven seedlings, one of which he named 'Pink Cascade'. The single pink to pale pink flower blooms in March and early April. It is a good example of a lovely cluster-blooming camellia that to date has not been imported to America. A detailed report of its development appears in the 2015 *American Camellia Yearbook* on page 106.

'Snow Drop Cascade' has a miniature white flower that shades to pink on the petal edges. The single to semi-double flowers bloom profusely on a spreading plant early to

midseason. It was registered in Australia in 2005 by Steve Campbell. The masses of flowers make a beautiful display. It is a seedling of 'Snow Drop', which is a cross of *C. pitardii* variety *pitardii* and *C. fraterna*. 'Snow Drop Cascade' inherited the cluster-blooming trait from *C. fraterna* and the white flowers, toned pink from *C. pitardii* variety *pitardii*.

Concluding Remarks

Modern hybridizers have sought to develop cluster-blooming *hybrids*. Almost all of them have miniature flowers. Pink flowers were developed from breeding with *C. rosae-flora* and *C. pitardii* variety *pitardii*. The tiny slender, shiny leaves with wavy-edged leaves are inherited from *C. tsaii*, and the cluster-blooming traits are from *C. fraterna*.



'Snow Drop Cascade'



‘Oo-La-La!’



‘Ay-Ay-Ay!’

- Medium sized blooms measure 3.5 - 4 inches across x 5 inches deep
- 7 - 15 petals
- Plant growth is upright and average
- Dark green leaves average 3 inches long x 1.5 inches wide

Spotlight: *C. japonica* ‘Oo-La-La!’ and ‘Ay-Ay-Ay!’

Not only does ‘Oo-La-La!’ have a very showy flower, but it has a long blooming season. The medium pink flower is single to semi-double 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. It was introduced by Nuccio’s Nurseries in 1991.

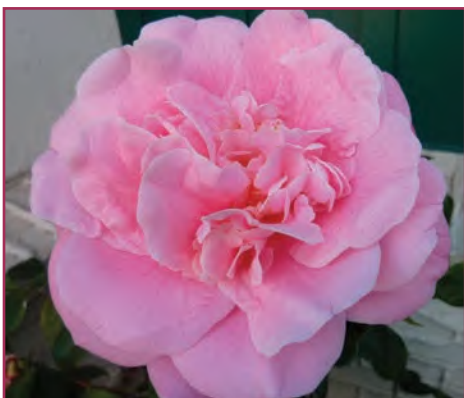
In 1992, it sported a seedling that the Nuccio’s named ‘Ay-Ay-Ay!’ It, too, has a single to semi-double flower that is born on an upright plant that blooms from early to late season. However, this mutation has a deep pink veined flowers, red stripes and some petals have white edges. They make good garden plants. Which do you like best?

Story and Photographs by Bradford King

Beautiful Children



(Top) 'Crimson Robe', (Left) 'Tiffany', (Center) 'Terrell Weaver', (Right) 'Mouchang'



Story and Photographs By Bradford King

One of the joys of hosting a camellia show is talking to people. For me the most fun is talking with the children. One rambunctious boy I gave the assignment of finding the darkest red camellia in the show. This delighted his mother as he slowed down and focused on the task. He quickly found ‘Black Magic’ and asked for a new assignment. I asked him to find a fragrant camellia and off he went returning in less than five minutes to show me ‘Koto-no-kaori’, because he didn’t know how to pronounce the name. AThis made for a good opportunity to discuss where camellias originate.

Mother’s carrying sleeping infants stroll around the show with their baby nestled in a warm pouch, soothed by mother’s heart beating, almost like being back in the womb. Beautiful babies and children are mankind’s future.

Camellia parents also have beautiful children. The mother camellia is the seed parent and the father is the pollen parent. Hybridizers select a good seed-producing plant and place pollen on an emasculated flower—which means the stamens are removed leaving the female (pistil) part intact. This ensures that both parents are known.

BEAUTIFUL *RETICULATA* CHILDREN

‘Crimson Robe’ makes an excellent seed parent. It was used by several pioneer hybridizers to get new *reticulata* hybrids. Howard Asper used *C. reticulata* ‘Crimson Robe’ in 1969 as the female parent and *C. japonica* ‘Tiffany’ pollen to produce the beautiful formal double ‘Valentine Day’.

Dr. Walter Hoymeyer used it in 1974 to get the rich dark semi-double flower with fluted petals of ‘Terrell Weaver’. He used ‘Ville De Nantes’, a dark red virus-variegated *C. japonica*, as the pollen parent. The white markings produced by the virus are not inherited.

Meyer Piet crossed *C. reticulata* ‘Mouchang’ with *C. sasanqua* ‘Bonanza’ to get ‘Arcadia’. Piet named the camellia for the town of Arcadia, California where he bred camellias and raised his family with his wife, Bev.

Piet, like many hybridizers, named his new introductions for family members. One of his best he named for his son. The seed parent for ‘Larry Piet’ was *C. reticulata* ‘Pharaoh’ and the pollen parent was *C. reticulata* ‘Harold L. Paige’.

Camellia japonica ‘Mrs. D. W. Davis’ because of its very



‘Larry Piet’

large semi-double blush flower has been sought as a camellia parent ever since it was introduced in 1954. It is the pollen parent of two very beautiful *reticulata* hybrids. Dr. Clifford Parks used it on ‘Cornelian’ to get ‘Lasca Beauty’ and Frank Pursel got ‘Linda Carol’ using the same parents.

BEAUTIFUL *JAPONICA* CHILDREN

The majority of *C. japonica* cultivars have been pollinated by bees, which means that the pollen parent is unknown. If the grower has identified the seeds collected, the mother plant is known—otherwise the parents are a mystery. A good example of *C. japonica* cultivars whose seed parent is known are the nine cultivars of ‘Tama-no-ura’ introduced by Nuccio’s Nurseries. The genetic white border is seen in various amounts on each.

Recently ‘Tama Carousel’ was registered with its documented lineage. The white border was inherited from ‘Tama-no-ura’ and the pink color from the pollen of ‘Nuccio’s Carousel’. Where did the petaloids and off-set semi-double



‘Pharaoh’



‘Cornelian’



‘Linda Carol’



petals come from? This mystery of the complex gene pool makes camellia breeding fun.

BEAUTIFUL HYBRID CHILDREN

When two camellia species excluding *C. reticulata* are crossed, not only are some of the progeny beautiful, but they inherit what botanist call “hybrid vigor”, which means they produce a robust growing plant. These hybrids are listed in the Camellia Nomenclature as “Non-reticulata hybrids”. They are noted for blooming freely, with some having new color tones, and a few that are fragrant.

One of the first of these *hybrids* was ‘Donation’ introduced by Col. Stephenson R. Clarke in England in 1941. It was grown from *C. saluenensis* seed donated to Clarke by J. C. Williams and pollinated by *C. japonica* ‘Donckelari’. *C. saluenensis* *hybrids* crossed with *C. japonica* are known as “*Williamsii* *hybrids*”.

C. lutchuensis has a small white flower with a lovely scent, which is why it is used frequently by hybridizers seeking fragrant camellias. This is illustrated by ‘Scented Gem’. Toichi Domoto used it as the seed parent with ‘Tinsie’ providing the pollen.

One of the key reasons we have only pale yellow camellia varieties is that when the golden yellow *C. nitidissima* is crossed with other camellias, the seedling is sterile. This means the breeders can’t increase the yellow hue by backcrossing it to *C. nitidissima*. The exception is that Tadao Yamaguchi of Ishikawa, Japan made a successful back cross of ‘Kihô’ to *C. nitidissima* to produce ‘Senritsu-ko’. This cultivar is the most popular of the new yellow *hybrids* that have been introduced. ‘Senritsu-ko’ is a medium formal double to rose form double. It is most beautiful when it is a formal double, as can be seen in the award-winning flower pictured below.

Camellia Color Psychology:

BURGUNDY FLOWERS



Story and Photos by Bradford King

The color burgundy is a dark shade of red near purple. It is a warm color. Symbolically, it is a mix of reds (action) and purples (mystery). Therefore, it is a mysterious shade of red that is popular in decorating, art and as a dinner wine.

C. sasanqua 'Midnight Lover'

Photo by Mason McNear

'Burgundy Gem'



'Cabernet'



'Tudor Baby'

Photo by Gene Phillips



Psychology of Burgundy

The people whose favorite color is burgundy are planners who like to strategize. Therefore, they are very good leaders as athletic team captains, managers who lead special projects, and owners of their own business. Fact finding and organized thinking are personality traits. There is a sense of duty to defend the weak and a strong dislike for bullies.

Burgundy talents keep thinking ahead and seeking to find the most effective way to move the team forward. While winning is the goal, they find it undesirable to become a bully and win at any cost. Speaking up for themselves and others must be learned as is facing confrontations which are very distasteful to this personality type.

Burgundy Wine

The French say, "vin de Bourgogne". It is wine made in the Burgundy region of eastern France. The most famous wines produced here are dry red wines made from pinot noir grapes. These wines are dark red or burgundy in color with rich earthy flavors. There are also white wines from Burgundy made from chardonnay grapes.

Burgundy Camellia Flowers

These flowers are like a fine Burgundy wine—a mix of drama and sophisticated beauty. The miniature anemone to peony form of 'Burgundy Gem' captures the color tone perfectly. Mark Jury from New Zealand introduced this little gem in 1991.



'Candy Apple'

C. japonica 'Cabernet' resembles the color of cabernet wine with its small formal double, rich burgundy flower. This late bloomer was introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries. The cabernet sauvignon grape is widely grown in almost every major wine producing country. It typically produces a full bodied, dark red wine with high tannins.

Another dark red small formal double that looks like a burgundy wine is Hulyn Smith's 'Tudor Baby'. The bloom has black edged petals that add to its beauty, just as blackberry flavors add to the taste of a good cabernet wine.

A larger dark red camellia is 'Candy Apple'. It has a medium to large semi-double to loose peony flower that took its name from the fall treat, candy apple, made by dipping an apple on a stick in sugar candy coating and allowing it to



'Midnight'

Photo by Camille Bielby

cool before serving.
Midnight occurs at 12 o'clock at night. Midnight also connotes a deep or extended period of darkness—hence several dark red camellias bear this name. There is 'Midnight' which

has a medium semi-double to anemone flower; 'Midnight Magic' which has a medium to large peony flower with some white petaloids; 'Midnight Serenade' which has a medium to large single flower; and 'Midnight Lover' which has a semi-double flower. 'Midnight Lover' is a fall blooming *C. sasanqua* whose name has two meanings—person who loves midnight and the more romantic meaning of appearing in the darkness of night perhaps to serenade a lover.

Camellia breeders have a long tradition for naming their introductions for themselves and family. A dark red, medium to large *C. japonica* was bred and named by Dr. Alfred Flounoy Burnside of Columbia, South Carolina for himself. The semi-double and peony forms are both seen in the arrangement of three flowers. Meyer Piet of Arcadia, California named two cultivars for his lovely wife. 'Bev Piet' has a very dark red a medium semi-double *C. reticulata* bloom.

'Bev Piet Variegated' is striking with its white markings contrasting with the dark red flower.



'Midnight Magic'

Bev Piet inspired Meyer Piet to name the *C. japonica* medium to large semi-double to peony flower with white markings and yellow anthers 'Bev Piet's Smile'.

'Burgundy Gem'



'Dr. Burnside'



'Bev Piet'



AUBURN WHITE

Story and Photographs by Bradford King



Auburn is a reddish brown color. It is the name of cities in the states of New York, Alabama, Washington, Maine and Massachusetts. Auburn University is a public university in Auburn, Alabama with over 23,000 undergrads and a faculty of about 1,200.

It is the second largest university in Alabama and one of the state's flagship universities. It's rivalry with the University of Alabama is legendary. The city of Auburn, Washington is a suburb of Seattle and where the camellia 'Auburn White' originates. This *C. japonica* was registered in 1900. The flower is a large white semi-double with long yellow stamens. The original plant was in Mrs. Jaffes'

garden near Auburn, Washington.

We did not see this flower at the show held during the camellia show at the ACS national convention in 2017 in Newberg, Oregon. However, at the March 2018 International Camellia Society congress and tours, we found it in bloom. How did a camellia bred in the Seattle area of Washington get to Brittany, France? Does anyone know?

Mark Crawford, owner of Loch Laurel Nursery, and I admired 'Auburn White'. He said "I could sell that flower" referring to its bloom quality and that Auburn University Alumni will

buy anything referring to the University.

Accession card from the University of Washington Botanic Garden.

For historic use only. Do not use for name verification. Contact the Registrar's Office at 206-616-1118 for records request.

Accession No. 625-576 Name Camellia Jap. 'Auburn White' Source E. G. Jaffes, Bellevue, Wn. Date Received 1/9/74 Received as No. Planted 1(5') Grid 66 P6 Location In new bed west of south corner of parking area S. of coll'n. - towards look-out

Flowering Dates 5/20/74 - still many flowers on 7/6/74 - just past full bloom.

Presence (x) Fly. Glom. (x) (4.5-5.5 cm), white, no petaloid stamens, growing in the n.w. bath house, it is probably true to name.

Leaves ovate, dark green & glossy above, lighter green & glossy beneath, serrated, apex short acuminate, 5-10 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, on upper side, pale green.

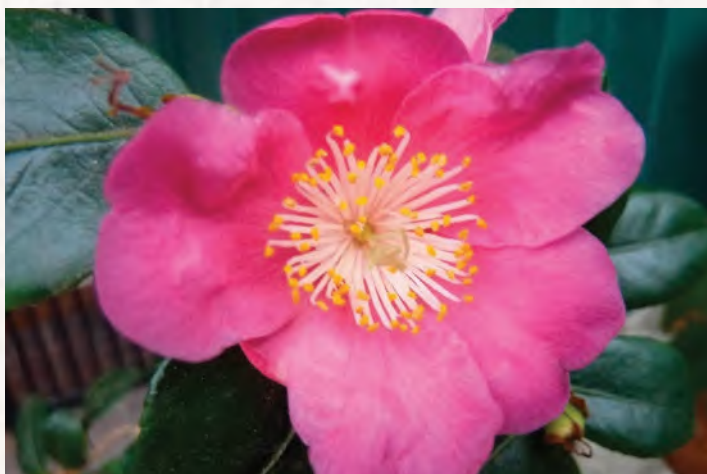
椿 CAMELLIA TREASURES FROM JAPAN Interspecific Hybrids

Story and Photographs By Bradford King



The introduction of sweet-scented *Camellia lutchuensis* prompted the development of many varieties of fragrant camellias. *Lutchuensis* is distributed in the mountain areas of Japan's Ryukyu Islands in the Okinawa Prefecture. The species *C. chrysantha* and *C. nitidissima* have been crossed with many other species to produce yellow hued camellias.

(*Camellia lutchuensis* photo by Jim Dwyer)



‘Koto-no-kaori’



‘Minato-no-akebono’

Even though there have been camellia species in Japan for several thousand years, the Japanese Camellia Society has only been recording interspecific camellia *hybrids* for forty years. The main hybridizing successes between species in Japan are fragrant and yellow camellias. In addition, there are three attractive ornamental *hybrid* cultivars occasionally seen in America.

FRAGRANT HYBRIDS

Traditionally, fragrance has been a quality lacking in camellias. Hybridizers worldwide have attempted to breed fragrance into camellias. However, not until the introduction of *Camellia lutchuensis*, with its sweet scent, were fragrant camellias developed. *C. lutchuensis* is one of the four camellia species from Japan. The others are *C. japonica* variety *japonica*, *C. japonica* subspecies *rusticana* and *C. sasanqua*. *Camellia lutchuensis* is distributed in the mountain areas in the Ryukyu Islands, such as Mount Nago in the Okinawa Prefecture. The Latin scientific name comes from Ryukyu, another name for Okinawa.

There are three Japanese fragrant successes that have been propagated in America. ‘Koto-no-kaori’ (Fragrance of An-

cient City) has a small single rose pink flower with a sweet scent. It blooms early to midseason on an upright, attractive lacy-looking plant. This cultivar blooms when young and produces abundant flowers. It was named by Tokuji Ôoka in 1977, released by Kaoru Hagiya, from Niigata Prefecture. The seed parent was ‘Tôkai’ and the pollen parent was *C. lutchuensis*.

‘Minato-no-akebono’ (Harbor at Dawn) has a miniature single light pink flower, toned deeper pink. It blooms early to midseason on an upright, somewhat loose plant. The sake cup-shaped flowers bloom profusely with a lovely scent. It was a cross between ‘Kantô-tsukimiguruma’ and *C. lutchuensis*, bred by Masaomi Murata who released it in 1981.

‘Minato-no-haru’ (Harbor in Spring) has a deep pink single miniature flower. It blooms mid to late season on an upright, somewhat loose plant. The sake cup-shaped flower is born on small thin weeping branches. Its seed parent was ‘Konwabisuke’ and its pollen parent was *C. lutchuensis* bred

YELLOW HYBRIDS

by Masaomi Murata in 1980.

There are two Japanese pioneer hybridizers of yellow ca-



C. nitidissima
Photo by Camille Bielby



C. chrysantha
Photographer Unknown



‘Shokô’



‘Kichô’



‘Kihô’



‘Ki-no-gozen’

Photo by Gene Phillips

mellia hybrids that have introduced cultivars now enjoyed in the US. They are Tadao Yamaguchi of Ishikawa Prefecture and Kazuo Yoshikawa of Oosaka Prefecture. They both used the yellow species *C. nitidissima* variety *nitidissima* from China in their breeding programs, even though it is nearly incompatible with many other camellia species. Therefore, their creativity and persistence is to be applauded.

Tadao Yamaguchi released six cultivars that can be found in American camellia specialty nurseries. The first was ‘Shokô’ (First Yellow) which has a small pale yellow tubular flower. In 1989 this cross between ‘Shigi-tatsuzawa’ and *C. chrysantha* was introduced. ‘Kichô’ (Yellow Tone) is a cross between *C. japonica* ‘Haku-arashi-saga’ and *C. chrysantha* which produces a small tubular pale yellow flower. It is born on a vigorous upright plant that blooms early to late season. It was named and released in 1990.

‘Kihô’ (Yellow Phoenix) has a single small pale yellow tubular flower with wavy petals. The seed parent was *C. chrysantha* and the pollen parent was *C. japonica* ‘Haku-hô’. It blooms early to midseason on a vigorous, upright plant. ‘Ki-no-gozen’ (Yellow Imperial Presence) has a small to medium light yellow single, cup-shaped flower with thick petals. It is a seedling of *C. japonica* ‘Gozen-no-yuki’ pollinated by *C. chrysantha* that first flowered in December 1989. It has the most yellow of Yamaguchi’s creations.

‘Ki-no-senritsu’ (Yellow Melody) has a lovely, soft yellow peony to loose peony formed flower that thrives in deep shade, where it grows moderately fast. But, it is a shy bloomer at least when young. The bloom is small to medium, appearing in midseason on a fast growing, upright, open

plant. This cross between *C. nitidissima* and ‘Haku-hô’ was released in 1998.

‘Senritsu-ko’ (Pinkish Melody) has a beautiful small to medium formal to rose form flower which has light yellow petals with peach pink edges. It grows moderately fast on an upright open growth pattern. It sets multiple buds and flowers in midseason. In Southern California, it has many more rose form flowers than formal double. It, too, prefers more shade than a typical *japonica*. It is a backcross between ‘Haku-hô’ x *C. nitidissima*. It is a show winner in American camellia shows, and has become the most popular of these yellow hybrids.

Kazuo Yoshikawa relentlessly pursued the goal of developing a yellow camellia. He used camellia species *saluenensis*, *reticulata*, *japonica* and *sasanqua* crosses with *C. nitidissima* in numerous combinations. In the United States, four of his yellow hybrids are now available at camellia specialty nurseries. He released cultivars ‘Kinomoto 90’ through ‘Kinomoto 96’. The one that we see is ‘Kinomoto 95’ (Yellow Base 95). It has a large, light yellow semi-double flower that blooms mid to late season. The foliage is oblong, large, but not particularly glossy. It grows slowly in an upright manner. It is a 1995 cross of *C. reticulata* x *C. japonica* ‘Lasca Beauty’ x *C. nitidissima*. It has the largest flower of the yellow hybrids. Since it has *reticulata* in its background, it may not be entered in the *non-reticulata* hybrid classes in camellia shows.

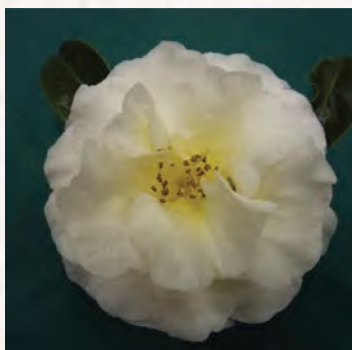
‘Kagirohi’ (First Light of Dawn) has a medium formal double light yellow flower that was released in 1996. It is a cross between *C. nitidissima* and *C. japonica* ‘Silver Chal-



‘Ki-no-senritsu’



‘Senritsu-ko’



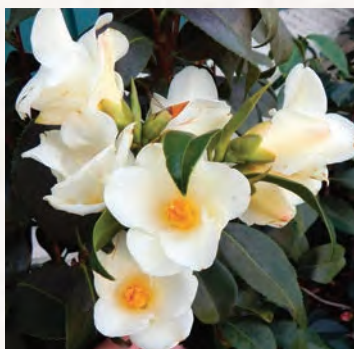
‘Kinomoto 95’



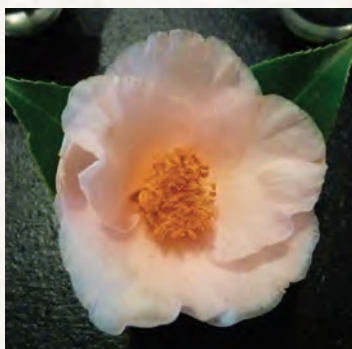
‘Kagirohi’



‘Kogane-nishiki’



‘Kogane-yuri’



‘Ki-no-jômanji’



‘Etsu-botan’

ice’. Using this large white full peony *japonica* as the pollen parent increased the size and complexity of this yellow seedling, even though yellow is recessive. ‘Kagi-rohi’ grows upright and sets a few buds that frequently refuse to open or drop off.

Nuccio’s had a few mature plants in 15-gallon pots for years, but declined to propagate them for sale due to this lack of flowers. Is this the plant or Southern California microclimate? However, at times we see a very yellow formal double appear at camellia shows that is impressive.

‘Kogane-nishiki’ (Golden Brocade) has a small trumpet-shaped pale yellow flower with multiple, slender stripes of red, inherited from its seed parent ‘Betty Foy Sanders’, which was crossed with *C. nitidissima*. It was introduced in 1993. This mid to late season bloomer will produce a good number of similar looking flowers which make for good trays of like blooms at a camellia show. It is unusual—a subtle combination of red markings on pale yellow petals, not seen in any other camellia.

‘Kogane-yuri’ (Golden Lily) is a *C. saluenensis* x *C. reticulata* hybrid ‘Barbara Clark’ crossed with *C. nitidissima*. The flower is a small pale yellow tubular single. The prolific flowers bloom midseason up and down the upright slender branches. The many tubular flowers are like a cluster-blooming camellia, making for nice sprays for flower arranging, even when the color is more creamy than yellow.

NEW HYBRID ORNAMENTALS

‘Ki-no-jômanji’ is a cross between *C. japonica* ‘Jômanji’ and *C. nitidissima* made by Tadao Yumaguchi. While it did not develop a yellow flower, it has a lovely shade of salmon pink. This plant produces a profusion of small single flowers on a bushy, upright, strong growing plant. Since it produces many like blooms, it makes a good tray in a camellia show *non-reticulata* class.

‘Etsu-botan’ (Etsu’s Peony) has a large to very large pink peony flower the result of a cross between *C. amplexicaulis* and ‘Tama Americana’. It was originated by Yuki’e Hisatomi

in 2005. It is one of a very few *C. amplexicaulis* seedlings to be named and propagated. It is rarely seen, but is significantly different in size and color, and therefore has value.

‘Yume’ (Dream) was named and developed by Dr. Kaoru Hagiya who registered it in 1981. It has a small single pink flower which has many genetic white markings. The profuse blooms occur mid to late season on a spreading somewhat low, loose growing plant, which produces a showy display. It is a cross between *C. heimalis* ‘Shishigashira’ and *C. yuhsienensis*. It has a unique habit of sometimes having alternating white and pink petals. The Japanese call this characteristic of color changing alternatively petal by petal “Ichimai-kawari”. This plant is a good seed setter and useful in breeding new seedlings that can inherit white markings.

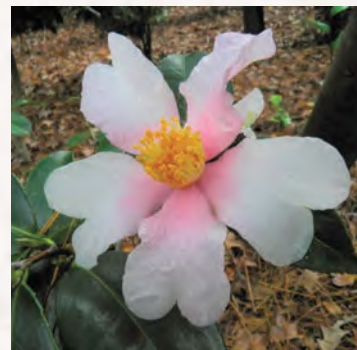
CONCLUSION

While we are familiar with the species used in these interspecific crosses, by in large we have never heard of the Japanese cultivars that were used to develop most of the camellias discussed here. This is not surprising when the *International Camellia Register* lists 30,000 cultivars. This diversity and *hybrid* vigor, or outbreeding enhancement—also called heterosis according to *Wikipedia*—is the improved or increased function in a hybrid offspring. Specifically, camellia hybrids frequently have increased bud set, more flowers and vigorous growth habits. When we add fragrance or yellow to the new *hybrid*, we have an outstanding camellia to add to our gardens, thanks to Japanese hybridizers.



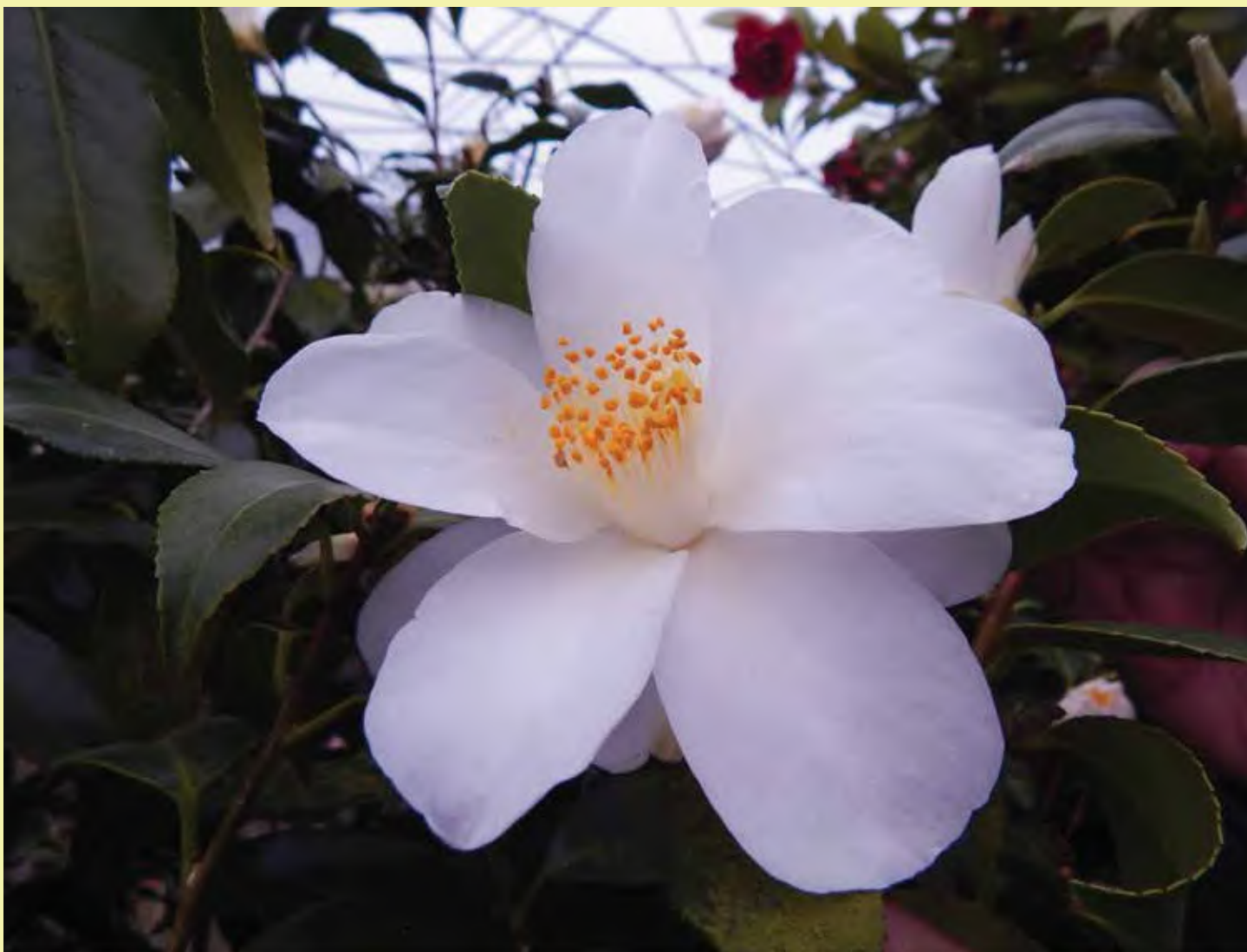
C. yuhsienensis

Photo by Gene Phillips



‘Yume’

Photo by Gene Phillips



Spotlight: *C. japonica* ‘Lily Pons’

Lily Pons (1898 - 1976) was a French-American opera singer in the late 1920s through the early 1970s. Pons, a petite woman of great beauty, 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. Pons also made appearances on radio and TV including *The Ed Sullivan Show*, *The Dave Garraway Show* and starred in the first broadcast of the TV series *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*.

Pons recorded classical and popular music as well as making three musical films for RKO Pictures—*I Dream Too Much* in 1935, *That Girl from Paris* in 1936 and *Hitting a New High* in 1938. She was awarded the Croix de Lorraine and the Légion d'honneur by the government of France.

Lily Pons was adept at promoting and market-

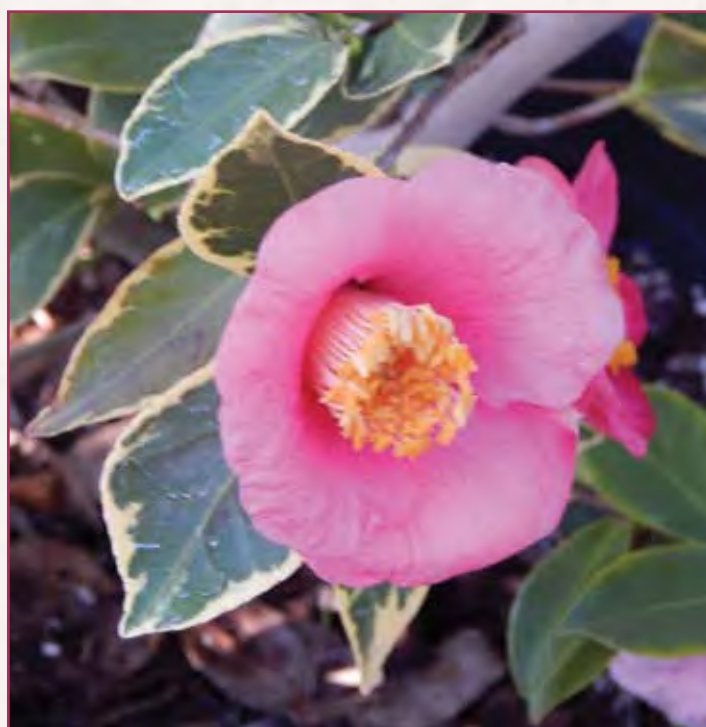
ing herself to become a cultural icon. Popular ladies' magazines reported on her home decorating and fashion opinions. She was the face for Lockheed airplanes, Knox gelatin and Libby's tomato juice advertisements. Pons was second to none in marketing savvy in her generation.

The camellia ‘Lily Pons’ has a striking white medium single to semi-double flower. The petals are very long and narrow, with a delicate groove, surrounding a cluster of long stamens that have a greenish cast at the base. It was introduced in 1955. It is perhaps more popular in France, due to its namesake, than America where it originated.

The spotlight has shined for many years on the glamorous opera diva and cultural icon Lily Pons. Today we direct the spotlight on *C. japonica* ‘Lily Pons’ with her perky pure white bloom.

Story and Photograph by Bradford King

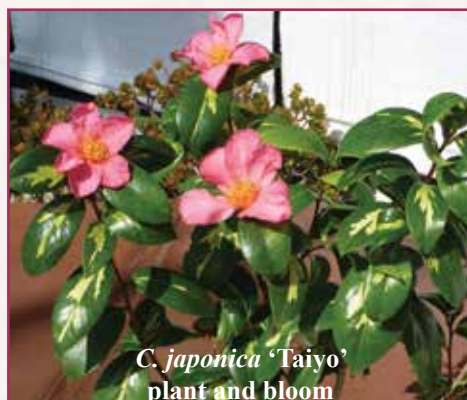
椿 **CAMELLIA** **TREASURES** **FROM JAPAN** *Camellias with Unusual Foliage*



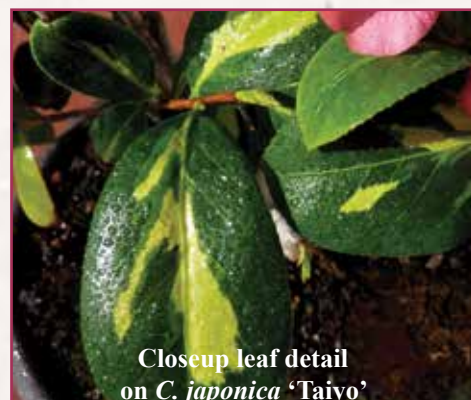
(Top Left) 'Kinyoba-tsubaki' by Artist Akiko Enokido, (Top Right) 'Shira-fukurin Benten'



C. japonica 'Kingyoba-tsubaki' leaves
(Goldfish leafed camellia)



C. japonica 'Taiyo'
plant and bloom



Closeup leaf detail
on *C. japonica* 'Taiyo'

Story and Photos By Bradford King

Camellias with genetic variegated leaves became popular in Japan in the second half of the Edo period. Interest in these plants has waxed and waned over the years until the 1960s, a time when a relatively large number of cultivars were propagated and marketed. Today few nurseries are selling them, but camellia collectors continue to prize them. In Japan there are sixty described and illustrated with photographs in *The Camellias of Japan* published by the Japan Camellia Society. In the U. S., the number imported from Japan is limited.

BENTEN FOLIAGE

Benten is a Japanese term which indicates a variety in which the leaf has a darker center than the leaf margins; that is the leaves have either a yellow or white border. The name 'Benten' was taken from the Benten Shiranami Kozô, the name of the character in this popular, ancient story. "Benten Shiranami Kozô" which means "white waved young boy". This white wave implies white margined leaves. Therefore, all camellias which include "Benten" in their cultivar name have variegated leaves.

This is illustrated by 'Benten-kagura' (Dance of the Goddess of Luck). This *C. japonica* originated in 1933 with leaves that have a fine yellow border. It has a medium to large rose red peony flower that blooms early to midseason. The foliage is a genetically variegated sport of 'Daikagura'.

Another good illustration of Benten is 'Shira-fukurin Benten' which has a small single salmon flower with a prominent tubular ring of yellow stamens, and lovely elliptic leaves that are finely bordered with white. The Japanese appreciate this type of foliage and admire single flowers that look attractive among the leaves.

CENTRAL LEAF VARIEGATION

A good example of central leaf variegation is 'Taiyo' (The Sun). The small to medium *C. japonica* flower is a coral red. The rich green foliage has a wonderful yellow central irregular pattern. It originated in the Nagoya District of Japan and



Camellia rusticana 'Reigyoku' (Beautiful Jewel)

was registered in 1966. This is a great cultivar to grow for its beautiful foliage which is attractive all year long. It makes a good bonsai, potted plant or landscape specimen.

A second example is 'Reigyoku' (Beautiful Jewel) which has glossy green leaves with a variegated center ranging from light pink to pale yellow or white as the foliage matures. There is a central burst of golden anthers with yellow filaments. The flower is a flat small light red single. It was selected from wild growing *C. rusticana*, a subspecies of *japonica*, in the Niigata Prefecture, Japan. It was named and released by Jitarô Nagao.

SAW TOOTHED FOLIAGE

The unusual and attractive *Camellia japonica* 'Gin'yô-tsubaki' (Silver Leaf Camellia) has small light gray green leaves with a narrow dark green serrated border. The small tubular flower is red. The plant is hardy, but extremely slow growing, forming an upright very compact bush. It looks good in a small garden setting in front of other shade plants and does well in a pot or bonsai due to its very slow growth.

(Bottom Left) *C. x williamsii* 'Golden Spangles' has dark green finely serrated leaves with a central splash of soft yellow green in the midrib area. (Center). *C. japonica* 'Gin'yô-tsubaki' has sharply serrated leaf edges with thickened, turned up teeth. (Bottom Right) 'Nokogiriba-tsubaki' has very coarse, saw-like serrations on the margins of the narrow leaves.





C. japonica 'Showa-no-sakae Benten'

Another saw leaved camellia is 'Nokogiriba-tsubaki' (Serrated Leaf Camellia). This Japanese *C. japonica* was first described in 1859. It has a flat small light red mottled white flower. The slow-growing, spreading plant has small serrated foliage.

FISHTAILED LEAVES

The "Goldfish leaved camellia" is 'Kingyoba-tsubaki' named for its leaves that resemble a fishtail. It has a medium single pink red (rose red) flower. The award winning Japanese-American botanical artist Akiko Enokido painted its blooms and unique foliage. When the goldfish leaved camellia mutated a white flower which retained the fishtail-like foliage, it was called 'White Mermaid' in the English speaking world.

PEACOCK LEAVES

'Kujaku-tsubaki' (Peacock Camellia) has long narrow peach-like leaves with a small single red, mottled white, flower with tubular, slender petals. It blooms mid to late season on a semi-cascading plant.

SAKE CUPPED LEAVES

'Sakazukiba-tsubaki' (Cup Leafed Camellia) has dark green cupped, thick leaves and a medium rose red cup shaped flower, with round petals reminiscent of a traditional Japanese sake cup. This *C. japonica* is a strong growing compact, upright plant that blooms late season. It is reported in the *Camellias of Japan* to be sterile, with chromosome numbers of $2n=44$.

CONCLUSION

Camellias with unusual foliage are generally grown for their attractive and interesting leaf patterns rather than their flowers. They make good additions to a diverse camellia collection. These Japanese cultivars may be found in American camellia specialty nurseries.



C. japonica 'White Mermaid' is a sport of 'Kingyoba-tsubaki' with fishtail leaves.



Photo by
Gianmario Motta

C. japonica 'Kujaku-tsubaki'



C. japonica 'Sakazukiba-tsubaki' leaves

Camellia Color Psychology:

YELLOW FLOWERS



Story and Photos by Bradford King

Yellow is between green and orange on the light spectrum and a primary color in subtractive color systems used in painting. Carotenoids give the characteristic yellow color to fall foliage, canaries, lemons and bananas. The pigment, yellow ochre, was one of the first colors used in art. The Lascaux cave in France has a painting of a yellow horse 17,000 years old. In China, yellow was the color of the Middle Kingdom, and could be worn only by the Emperor and his household; special guests were welcomed on a yellow carpet.

C. nitidissima



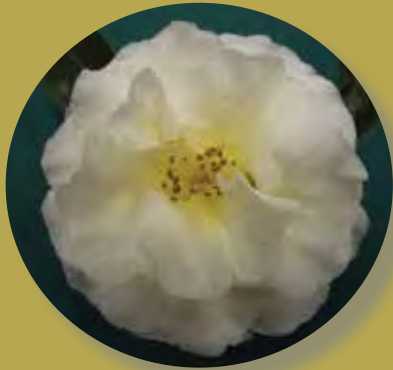
'Ki-no-gozan'



'Kogane-nishiki'



'Kinomoto 95'



YELLOW COLOR PSYCHOLOGY

According to surveys in the United States, yellow is the color people most often associate with amusement, gentleness, and spontaneity, but also with duplicity, envy, jealousy, avarice and cowardice. In Asia, it is the color of happiness, glory, harmony and wisdom.

Yellow is the color of the intellect, inspiring original thought, inquisitiveness and the acquisition of knowledge. It is the color that stimulates the left brain which is the seat of logic and perception. Yellow is uplifting, offering hope, happiness, cheerfulness and fun. Yellow helps people focus, recall information and make decisions. It is an intellectual color as opposed to an emotional one.

The downside to yellow is that it may tend to cause impulsivity, fast movement, agitation and produce anxiety. When yellow is overused, it can be abrasive and lead to visual fatigue. A warm yellow flower attracts attention in the garden, especially in the colder months of the year when camellias are in bloom.

YELLOW CAMELLIAS

There are as many as forty yellow camellia species in China and Vietnam where they originate. However, only about a dozen yellow species are seen in the United States. The most popular and widely grown is *C. nitidissima*. It is the parent of most of the yellow *hybrids* grown in America today. It has a small cup shaped single to semi-double yellow flower with shiny, textured petals. When at its best, it produces the most beautiful bright golden yellow blooms.

Its *hybrid* seedlings tend to have pale, light or soft yellow flowers. This includes the single flowers of 'Kicho', 'Hiho', 'Ki-no-gozan', and 'Kogane-yuri'. The flower of 'Kogane-nishiki' has a single pale yellow background with slender attractive red stripes, inherited from the cross of *C. japonica* 'Betty Foy Sanders' x *C. nitidissima*.

One of the largest light yellow cultivars is the semi-double 'Kinomoto 95', a cross of *C. reticulata* 'LASCA Beauty' and *C. nitidissima*. It blooms on a slow growing plant mid to late season. Peony and loose peony formed yellow blooming cultivars have been introduced. This is illustrated by the shy blooming 'Ki-no-senritsu'. The flower is small to medium and is a lovely soft yellow.

The show winning and most popular *C. nitidissima* *hybrid* is the small to medium formal double to rose form double 'Senritsu-ko'. The flower is a beautiful light yellow, with peach-toned pink on the petal edges. It has the advantage of also being a moderately fast growing plant with multiple

buds that bloom freely in midseason. It may need staking and pruning when young, as it tends to be rangy.

One of the best yellow flowers is seen on 'Kagirohi'. The flower is a small to medium formal double. However, while it produces buds on mature plants, it tends to be a sparsely-blooming plant. Nuccio's Nurseries had fifteen-gallon plants with just a few blooms that rarely opened, which led them to refuse to sell and propagate this cultivar. It may do better in the moist climate of the southeast. However, when it does bloom, the flowers are impressive.

Dr. Clifford Parks used *C. flava* in his yellow breeding program to obtain medium rose form double flower which he named 'Solstice' in 2009. It has light green narrow leaves with long leaf tips on a vigorous upright plant. In 2015 as a result of this breeding program he introduced 'Optical Illusion'. The yellow flower with pink overtones has a medium formal double spiraled form, with strap-like petals. These cultivars are available at Camellia Forest Nursery.

Gene Phillips was able to enhance the creamy yellow flower of 'Golden Glow' by backcrossing it to *C. nitidissima*. This produced 'Alice B. Dupont', which has a small light yellow semi-double flower.

CREAMY YELLOW CAMELLIAS

There are a few *C. japonica* cultivars with creamy to pale yellow flowers. This includes 'Dahlohnega', 'Lemon Glow', 'Gwyneth Morey', 'Brushfield's Yellow', and 'Lemon Drop'. The creamy to pale yellow medium formal double 'Dahlohnega' and 'Golden Glow' have more yellow tint on their petals than either 'Gweneth Morey' or 'Brushfield's Yellow', where the pale yellow hue is produced by central petaloids forming an anemone flower. 'Lemon Drop' has a white miniature flower with a yellow center.

The *C. kissi* seedling 'Buttermint' produces an abundant number of miniature creamy to pale yellow rose form double flowers which make a nice garden display from early to late season. 'Jury's Yellow' has a medium anemone white flower with creamy yellow petaloids. It is a *non-reticulata* hybrid from New Zealand.

Three hybrids introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries have creamy yellow flowers. They are 'Golden Glow', which has a creamy flower with light yellow at the base of the petals; 'Honeymoon', which has pink buds that open to a creamy flower with yellow at the base of the petals forming a ring of yellow around the stamens; and 'Lemon Twist', which has a medium semi-double off-white flower with a pale yellow center and a few upright twisting petals.

CONCLUSION

Yellow is perceived by people as gentle, spontaneous, and harmonious. In the garden, yellow camellias bring joy, warmth and happiness in the cool winter months.

'Senritsu-ko'



'Optical Illusion'



Photo by Gene Phillips

'Kagirohi'



'Jury's Yellow'



Photo by Gene Phillips



Camellias with Economic Value

Article and Photographs by Bradford King

Camellia sinensis (the tea plant) is the most widely grown camellia worldwide and is commercially the most important camellia. It is found from India through China, including some of the islands in the western Pacific. Tea is the beverage of choice, after water, throughout the world. It is the most popular beverage in China, which has over 1.357 billion people.

The first report of processed tea imported to America was by the Dutch into New York in 1650. Today in America, iced tea is more popular than hot tea, especially in California and the southeast due to the warm climate. The iced tea in the south is traditionally highly sweetened. There are many great iced tea recipes with lemon or other fruit flavors. The following recipe for cranberry iced tea is easy and refreshing. One quart of tea, brewed and cooled; two cups of cranberry juice; juice from one lemon; and two tablespoons of sugar. Enjoy!

India is the largest producer of tea, but retains 80 percent for domestic consumption. Thirty countries today grow tea. Kenya and Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) are the largest exporters. Tea is consumed in over 150 countries with Turkey, Ireland, United Kingdom, Russia and Morocco the top five



Loose leaf tea in a bowl.

different types of tea.

In America, the traditional way to make tea is to use tea bags. In Asia, many brew loose tea, allowing the leaves to settle in the pot before serving. Loose tea leaves placed in an infuser work like the tea bag which, some claim, is the best of both worlds.

Black tea and white tea have been used as perfume in Italy. The internet lists many uses for tea that are not well publicized. While I find them interesting, I have no personal experience with them, and take no credit or blame. A few examples illustrate the range of potential uses.



Potted tea plants, *Camellia sinensis*.



Closeup of tea flower.

countries in 2016, per Wikipedia.

Camellia sinensis has also become a popular landscape plant as it forms a well-shaped bush that blooms in autumn and early winter. It produces many buds. The single small white (occasionally pink) flowers with yellow anthers bloom on the tips of the branches and in the leaf axils. Tea is made by harvesting the new leaves. Eighty-five percent of all tea consumed is black tea, 14 percent green tea, with the remainder small quantities of oolong, white and dark tea. The way the tea leaves are processed accounts for the



Example of containers that contain loose leaf tea.



Loose leaf tea and tea infuser.

REMOVE UNPLEASANT SMELLS

If your refrigerator smells, simply place a used tea bag on a shelf and it will absorb the unpleasant odors. To remove that fishy smell from your hands after preparing a fish dish, rinse your hands with warm or cold tea to remove the odor. If you have a cat, used tea leaves are helpful in deodorizing the litter. Place the used, green tea leaves in the litter and allow them to absorb the unpleasant smell from the cat's litter. If you have smelly feet after spending hours with your sneakers on, give your feet a hot tea bath. This will remove the odor and relax your tired feet, soothe the skin and strengthen your toenails.

SOOTHE TIRED EYES

Apply wet tea bags on your eyes to soothe them. It will also help in reducing puffiness. If you don't have the time to brew the tea and wait for the tea bags to cool before applying them, place unused tea bags in the freezer for one minute, then apply them to your eyes or under your eyes to reduce the puffiness.

FERTILIZE POTTED PLANTS

Fertilize your potted plants with tea, as the tannins will help nourish them. Spread used tea leaves around the plants that require acidic soil.

KEEP AIR FRESH

If you don't like the rather odd smell of commercial air fresheners in your car, replace them with used tea bags or fresh tea leaves. Just place them in a box under the seat. Dust rising from the ashes in your fireplace can also be reduced by simply sprinkling a few wet tea leaves on the ashes, before cleaning the area.

SOOTHE BURNS AND BLISTERS

Wet tea bags or tea baths help soothe sunburns. Canker sores and fever blisters heal faster if covered with warm tea bags. Also, razor burns can be relieved by applying wet tea bags on irritated skin.

TENDERIZE MEAT

Marinating meat in tea before cooking will make it tender. Use black tea for an enhanced taste by adding it to your regular marinade.



Black tea perfume and white tea perfume.



Camellia tea product display.



C. oleifera



Camellia oil beauty products. Photo by Jennifer Trehane.

Camellia oleifera is a Chinese species that is an important source for edible oil, also known as tea oil or camellia oil. *C. oleifera* is widely distributed with over three million hectares cultivated for oil production in China. It can be found in forests, foothills and banks of streams at elevations from 500 to 1,300 meters. The small single white flower is not impressive, thus the plant is generally not used as a landscape plant, even though it is easy to grow.

Of great economic importance in Asia the cooking oil is made by pressing the seeds of *C. oleifera*. It is the most important culinary oil for hundreds of millions of people, particularly in southern China. The United States has been trying to develop methods to press camellia oil on a large production scale for quite some time now. It has been near impossible for researchers to find the key to success here.

In addition, camellia oil is commonly used to clean and protect the blades of cutting instruments. In Japan, camellia oil is called “tsubaki oil,” and has been used for hair care and as a body lotion, as the oil is light and not at all greasy feeling.

CONCLUSION

C. oleifera is of great importance economically, especially in China and Japan. Camellia oil is not well known in America, where vegetable oil and olive oil are the cooking staples. While the tea plant, *C. sinensis*, is not widely grown commercially in the United States, supermarkets are well-stocked with several brands, including bottles of prepared iced tea, displayed prominently.



C. oleifera seeds.



Bottled camellia oil.
Photo courtesy of SunPlan.

THE **CAMELLIA** CHRONICLES

“No Brittany Garden without a Camellia”

Article and Photos by Bradford King

During the International Camellia Society (ICS) Congress and tours, in March 2018, we discovered the people in Brittany, France cherish their camellias. Many have mature camellia trees in their gardens. In general, camellias grow twice as fast in



‘Donation’ in bloom in the Lamézec’s garden.

Brittany as in America due to the abundance of rain, the cool climate and the fertile soil. The foliage is larger and twice as thick as is common in the United States. This is illustrated by a magnificent tree of ‘Donation’ in Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Claude Lamézec’s garden.

It had snowed several days prior to our arrival, followed by several days of intermittent cold rain. Consequently, many blooms had damage and thousands of buds had yet to open. We were impressed at the abundance of bud set on the camellias outside, as well as on the protected potted plants in the nurseries. The snow and cold rain had no negative impact on the camellia plants.

All our French hosts were magnificent, providing pastries and beverages on tables decorated with camellias. Camellia floral arrangements welcomed us to the ICS Garden of Excellence of Mr. and Mrs. Fanch Le Moal in Guingamp. Camellias were also used to decorate a stone well located in the farmhouse courtyard.



Stone well with two camellia arrangements.

A highlight of the tour of Brittany was a camellia floral exhibit of several hundred entries at Château de Trévarez, an ICS Garden of Excellence in Saint Goazec. Entries were placed together by color—using the same size container—and creatively arranged. The quality of



‘Paradise Illumination’

the flowers was excellent. There were entries originating throughout the camellia world that are now growing in Brittany.

Australia

Australia was represented by ‘Adorable’, ‘Brushfield’s Yellow’ and ‘Sweet Jane’ which we see regularly in America. Other less well known Aussie introductions were ‘Roger Hall’, ‘Charles Colbert’, ‘Janet Waterhouse’ and ‘Paradise Illumination’. Bob Cherry has introduced dozens of wonderful camellias, usually including “paradise” in their name, which was the name of his nursery. Few of his introductions have been imported to the United States. Therefore, it was a treat to see ‘Paradise Illumination’.

New Zealand

New Zealand was very well represented by ‘Anticipation’, ‘Dream Boat’, ‘Fairy Blush’, ‘Nicky Crisp’, ‘Night Rider’, ‘Jury’s Yellow’ and ‘Takanini’, all of which are commonly seen in America. The ‘Night Rider’ entry had excellent flowers and was beautifully arranged with new red foliage.

In America, we see very few of Mark Jury’s wonderful introductions. Therefore, it was a treat to see ‘Burgundy Gem’, ‘Mimosa Jury’, ‘Daintiness’, ‘Peekaboo’, ‘Rose Bouquet’, ‘Raspberry Ripple’ and ‘Volunteer’ as floral arrangements. They were beautiful and creatively displayed.

While only a few of the floral arrangements used just one flower, the entry of Neville Hayden’s ‘Volcano’—with its bright scarlet anemone bloom



‘Night Rider’

THE CAMELLIA CHRONICLES

surrounded by light green moss—was striking.

Japan

There were several dozen camellia entries from Japan. Many reflected the Japanese appreciation of single flowers such as ‘Karabenten’ and ‘Taro-An’, while oth-



‘Burgundy Gem’



‘Volcano’

ers reminded us that camellias have been cultivated for many years in Japan. ‘Bokuhan’ was bred in 1719 and known in the United States as ‘Tinsie’. It was imported in 1930 by Star Nursey.

In addition, the fragrant ‘Koto-no-kaori’, a foliage camellia ‘Nokogiriba-tsubaki’ and six different Higos were exhibited. While we usually see Higo camellias grown as a bonsai, the three lovely pink flowers of ‘Goshozakura’ looked beautiful as an arrangement.



‘Karabenten’



‘Goshozakura’

France



‘Ville de Nantes’ with strong serration.

The iconic French camellia is ‘Ville de Nantes’ which is popular throughout the camellia world. In France, the petals are highly serrated. Most of the flowers seen in the States are not, which led to numerous discussions and

speculations that we are propagating its mother, and not the “real” Ville. ‘Ville de Nantes’ is sport of *C. japonica* ‘Donckelarii.’ ‘Ville de Nantes’ was registered in France 1910 by Jean Heurtin. ‘Donckelarii’ was bred in Japan in 1788 where it is known as ‘Masayoshi’.

In Brittany, there is a tradition of inviting guests to a camellia baptism. We attended the baptism of ‘Lady de Nantes’ by the Mayor of Nantes. The ceremony, while not religious, is a social political ceremony with speeches in French, and in this case, also an English translation. The plant was baptized with warm tea, then planted in the Nantes Botanical Garden, which has an excellent camellia collection of 600 cultivars grown among the 10,000 plants.



‘Lady de Nantes’



‘Souvenir de PL Kerambrun’

In addition, there is the French practice of naming a camellia in remembrance of someone who has died. The person’s name is preceded by “Souvenir”, which is Old French “to recall” and Latin “to come to mind”. We saw a number of examples, many with very long names. The longest was ‘Souvenir de PL Kerambrun’ which has 21 letters and a very beautiful flower. It was planted in the collection of camellia cultivars of Brittany in Chateauneuf du Faou.

Europe

Spain, Portugal, Italy, Belgium, Germany and Great Brittan all had camellias that are also seen in Brittany, but which, by and large, are not seen in the United States. Many are cultivars from the 1800s such as ‘Montironi’, Italy 1841.

China

There were very few Chinese *C. japonica* culti-



‘Montironi’

THE CAMELLIA CHRONICLES



‘Captain Rawes’



C. transnokoensis



‘Tulip Time’ espalier.



‘Arch de Triumph’

vars in Brittany such as ‘Cup of Beauty’ and several *C. reticulata*. We visited Yves and Yvette Chapel’s camellia garden in Leurcarpin. The garden has 600 camellias, of which 50 are *C. reticulatas*. One from China was ‘Captain Rawes’.

Camellia species originating in China were seen in the botanical gardens and grown in the camellia specialty nurseries we visited. The species most frequently propagated was *C. transnokoensis*.

United States

There were over a hundred camellias originating in America that are grown in Brittany, France. We found to our delight that Nuccio Nurseries cultivars were well known and grown in local nurseries. Potted ‘Nuccio’s Cameo’, ‘Nuccio’s Carousel’, ‘Nuccio’s Jewel’, ‘Nuccio’s Gem’, ‘Nuccio’s Pearl’ and ‘Nuccio’s Ruby’ were in bloom as well as *hybrids*, ‘Buttons’n Bows’ and ‘Freedom Bell’. One nursery grew 4 to 6-foot tall cultivars in the ground that sold for several hundred Euros each. When purchased, they were dug, wrapped in netting with the root ball in burlap. Rows and rows of hundreds of plants made an impressive sight. The mass of flowers on a long row of Nuccio’s ‘Freedom Bell’ was spectacular.

David Feathers, a noted northern California hybridizer in the 1950s into the 1980s, was well represented by several of his introductions. A ‘Tulip Time’ espalier

covered a wall of the garden house at Mr. and Mrs. Fach Le Moal’s ICS Garden of Excellence in Guin-gamp. They prune it yearly after it blooms. It is 20 feet tall and 30 feet at its base. An awesome display!

One of Feather’s iconic *C. reticulata hybrids* ‘Arch de Triumph’ was a 15-foot-tall tree in bloom in the Stervinou plant nursery in Guipronvel.

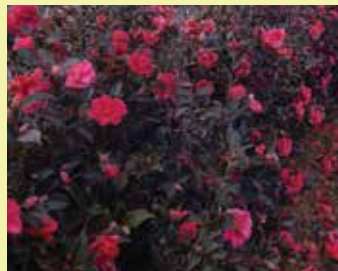
Born in America: Propagated in Brittany

The foliage sport of ‘Nuccio’s Cameo’ was discovered in America and called ‘Kerguelen’. It has a medium to large formal double light pink flower with distinctive variegated silvery white to yellow leaves. The story I was told is that this genetic mutation was being propagated by Monrovia Nurseries in America. However, all were destroyed by the agriculture inspectors when they discovered their camellias suffering from *Phytophthora cinnamomi* which is a soil borne fungus that destroys the roots of infected plants. Somehow cuttings were alive and disease free in Brittany where it is being propagated by several nurseries we visited. It was thriving in the cool wet climate.

In conclusion, it is the most distinctive new cultivar seen in Brittany. It makes my bucket list to add in a shady part of my garden as it is purported to be heat and light sensitive. When and where we can get ‘Kerguelen’ is our ending question.



Harvesting large camellia plants.



‘Freedom Bell’



‘Kerguelen’ bloom.



‘Kerguelen’ plant.



Spotlight: *C. japonica* ‘Toichi Domoto’

Toichi Domoto was a Japanese-American hybridizer who imported two dozen camellias from Japan to America, beginning in 1935. One of the most popular is ‘Pink Perfection’. In addition, Domoto bred and introduced seven *japonicas*, two *non-reticulata* hybrids and two sports. One example is *C. japonica* ‘Bon Bon’ a miniature to small white flower with red markings. The sports he propagated are the popular ‘Shiro Chan’, a sport of ‘C. M. Wilson’, and ‘Flowerwood’, a fimbriated sport of ‘Mathotiana’. The two *hybrids* are still favorites.

‘Scented Gem’ is a lovely miniature fragrant pink anemone form flower, with white petaloids it inherited from ‘Tinsie’. The fragrance was inherited from its seed parent—*C.*

lutchuensis. The plant grows slowly with small lacy foliage. The Domoto *cuspidata* seedling, ‘Spring Festival’, is a lovely pink that has a lighter pink tone in the center. It has profuse miniature rose form double flowers.

‘Toichi Domoto’ is a beautiful medium formal to rose form double rose pink with deep rose pink stripes. The plant grows slowly into an upright compact plant. It blooms early to midseason. It was bred by Toichi Domoto, and named and propagated by Nuccio’s Nurseries to celebrate this pioneer camellia hybridizer.

We shine the spotlight on ‘Toichi Domoto’ a wonderful cultivar that honors a camellia hybridizer who was a kind and respected man from Haywood, California.

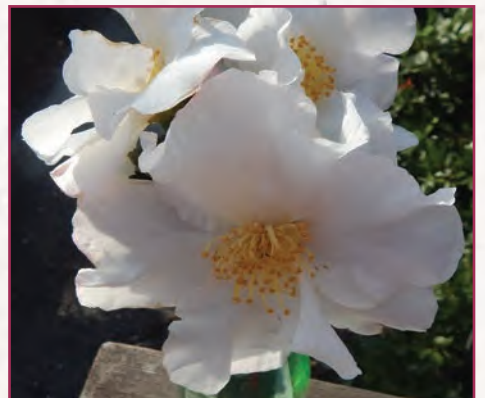
Story and Photograph by Bradford King

椿 CAMELLIA TREASURES FROM JAPAN *Camellia sasanqua*



Photo by Gene Phillips

(Top) 'Mine-no-yuki', (Left) 'Setsuzan', (Center) 'Fuji-no-yuki', (Right) 'Setsugekka'



Story and Photos By Bradford King

Sasanqua camellias are a species of camellia that are native to the coastal forests of the southern Japanese archipelago found growing up to an altitude of 3,000 feet. The Japanese call them Sazanka which means glory. The native species have a small white flower borne on a small evergreen tree or shrub that can grow up to 12 feet tall and wide. According to Gao Ji Yin, Clifford Parks and Du Yueqiang in *Collected Species of The Genus Camellia*, the chromosome number for the wild form is $2n=90$, with cultivated varieties ranging from $2n=45$ to $2n=120$.

Sasanquas were first described during the Japanese Edo period by Ihei Ito (1695 - 1733). They have a long history of cultivation in Japan initially for economic reasons. The seeds were used to make camellia oil, which was used for lighting, lubrication, cooking and cosmetic purposes. Later they were cultivated for ornamental use. There are decorative *sasanqua* cultivars and ancient trees 400 years old growing in temple gardens in Kyoto, Japan. Carl Peter Thunberg (1743-1828) was the first person to use the term *Camellia sasanqua* in *Flora Japonica*, published in 1784. They were introduced into England in 1811 where they never gained the popularity they achieved in Australia, China, New Zealand and the United States.

HIGO SASANQUA

While the Higo *japonica* cultivars are well known and propagated by camellia specialty nurseries in America; very few Higo *sasanquas* are grown in the U.S. In Japan, the Higo Sasanqua Society recognizes several cultivars. This is illustrated by two cultivars 'Gingetsu' and 'Fuji-no-yuki'. 'Gingetsu' (Silver Moon) has a white bloom and is propagated by Camellia Forest Nursery, Chapel Hill, N.C. 'Fuji-no-yuki' (Snow on Fuji) has a medium white flower which is bud centered in its early blooming stage, and, as it develops, visible stamens emerge providing the expected Higo form.

WHITE FLOWERS

'Setsuzan' (Snow Mountain) has a large white flat single flower that blooms early season. It is from the Edo period in Japan. Edo means an estuary and is the former name of Tokyo. It is one of the largest cities in the world and home to an urban culture centered on the notion of a "floating world," per *Wikipedia*.

One of the most widely grown white *sasanquas* originating in Japan is 'Setsugekka' (Snow, Moon and Flowers). It



Wild *C. sasanqua* bloom

has a white fluted semi-double large flower. It was an impressive sight in November when several hundred were blooming in full sun at Nuccio's Nurseries. The low growing 'Mine-no-yuki' is better known in the U.S. as 'White Doves'. It was common before the 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 semi-double to loose peony flower.

PINK FLOWERS

A 'Shinonome' (Daybreak) flower, with its large flat single pale pink bloom, does remind us of a pink sky at dawn. It has slender petals and narrow light green leaves. It is listed as a grand champion in Yagorô Ashizawa's classic book, *Chabaika Taishû*. It is seen in the U.S. in public botanical gardens and private collections. It can be found in camellia specialty nurseries like Nuccio's.

The lovely pink shades to white in the center of 'Momozono-nishiki' (Peach Garden Brocade). It has also been described as a white flower with a rose red border. This large single flower has broad petals and blooms early. It is from the Edo period and was described as early as 1898 by Ashizawa.

The light pink miniature anemone flower of 'Chôji Guruma' (Wheel of Anemone) shades deeper in the center of the petals and petaloids. It is from the Kansai region, and was first described in 1789. It is one of a few anemone formed



'Shinonome'



'Momozono-nishiki'



'Chôji Guruma'



'Nodami-ushiro'



'Hinode-no-umi'



'Taishuhai'

sasanqua cultivars.

The color "rose pink" is perceived by some people as pink while others see it as red. It is a color tone somewhere between them. This is seen in the medium to large single flower of 'Nodami-ushiro'. It was introduced by Toichi Domoto in 1934, but originally came from Japan. It is unclear what the name means. It is possible that it has a different name in Japan.

RED FLOWERS

Most of the red-blooming, sun-loving camellias are classified as *C. heimalis* or *C. vernalis*. However, 'Hi-no-tsukasa' (Scarlet Lord) has a flat single medium red flower with dark green foliage. It originates in the Kumamoto Prefecture. 'Hinode-no-umi' (Sunrise Sea) has a deep crimson small to medium flat flower with occasional short white streaks. The color is indeed reminiscent of an ocean sunrise.

WHITE FLOWERS WITH RED EDGES

Some of the most popular *sasanqua* cultivars have white flowers with either red or pink tones on their petal edges. 'Narumigata' (Tideland of Narumi) is an excellent example. It originated in the Edo period and was described in 1898. It is widely distributed in Japan and America where the large white, cupped flowers with red petal edges bloom early season. 'Hanajiman' (Flower to Boast About) has red stripes on its white petals. It is a large semi-double flower that blooms midseason. It was first described in Japanese in 1910 and in English in 1941.

The brilliant red petal edges surround the large single white center of 'Taishuhai' (Large Vermillion Cup). Shunsuke Hisatomi developed it in 1960. It blooms early on an upright vigorous plant with slender branches. The single white flower with red edges looks like a sake cup, hence the name.



'Brilliancy'

'Navajo' has a medium semi-double rose red flower that fades to white in its center. It was imported from Japan by Nuccio's Nurseries. Since the label was lost, they provided the name which reflects the classic Native American facial markings used in ceremonies.

HOW *C. SASANQUA* CAME TO AMERICA

It is most likely that the first *sasanqua* came to America around 1930 imported by Star Nursery of Montebello, California mixed among the many thousands of *japonica* cultivars that Mr. Fred M. Uyematsu imported as red, white and pink camellias. Toichi Domoto, the famous Japanese American camellia grower from Haywood, California, imported both *japonicas* and *sasanquas*, listing them in the Domoto Nursery catalogue of 1937-38. In the southeast, Edward McIlhenny imported *C. sasanqua* to America in 1935.

K. Sawada bred and propagated *C. sasanqua* at his Overlook Nursery in Mobile, Alabama. The Overlook Nursery Catalogue for 1939-1940 lists 'Brilliancy' on page 39. It was imported from Japan in 1933.

Yoshiaki Ando, of Kobe, Japan promoted friendships with camellia people in America. This resulted, after World War II, in Nuccio's importing *C. japonica* cultivars 'Tama-no-ura' and 'Kakure-iso' in 1978. Nuccio's Nurseries offer several Japanese cultivars appearing in this article. The original stock plants

came from Domoto Nurseries and directly from Japan.

CONCLUSION

The *Camellia sasanqua* originated in Japan, where they have been growing wild for centuries. They were first described in Japanese literature in the Edo period and have been cultivated extensively in Japan, Australia, New Zealand and America. They are the heralds of the camellia season as they bloom in the fall. *Sasanqua* are excellent sun-loving, evergreen landscape plants noted for their abundant blooms.

Camellia Color Psychology: **WHITE FLOWERS**



Story and Photos by Bradford King

The color white has no hue because it reflects and scatters all the visible wavelengths of light. It is the opposite of black. There are dozens of words for white such as alabaster, cream, egg shell, ivory, old lace, linen and pearl. The most commonly used terms for describing a camellia flower are white, cream and blush.

C. japonica 'Alba Plena'

Photo by Celeste Richard

'White Retic'



'Holy Pure' ('Shengjie')



'T. S. White'



'Narumigata'



Psychology of White

The psychological meaning of white is purity and innocence. In color psychology white is the color of new beginnings. It symbolizes equality, fairness, neutrality, independence and especially purity. Therefore, brides traditionally wear white. It is also why physicians and dentists wear white jackets. White is used in hospitals and doctors' rooms as an indication of cleanliness and efficiency.

White is a color of protection and encouragement, offering a sense of peace, calm, comfort and hope, which helps in alleviating emotional distress. White offers an inner cleansing and purification of thoughts and feelings. However, too much white can be cold, isolating and empty. It implies a feeling of sterility, detachment and disinterest, providing little stimulation.

White is the color most often associated with perfection, goodness, honesty, cleanliness, the beginning, the new, and neutrality, when surveys are taken in the U.S. and Europe. White is an important color for many religions. The Pope has worn white since 1566 to symbolize purity and sacrifice. In Islam, and in the Shinto religion of Japan, it is worn by pilgrims. In many Asian cultures, white is also the color of death and mourning.

In ancient Egypt and Rome, priestesses wore white as a symbol of purity, and Romans wore a white toga as a symbol of citizenship. In the Middle Ages, a white unicorn symbolized chastity and a white lamb sacrifice. In American neo-classical architecture, white became the most common color of new churches, capitols and other government buildings.

White Camellias

The first white camellia in the western world came from China to England in 1792. Captain John Corner of the East Indiaman, *Carnatic*, gave *C. japonica* 'Alba Plena' to John Slater who grew it in his glass house in London. It is nicknamed the "Bourbon Camellia". It has a pure white medium formal double flower.

White camellia flowers with no blemishes are a lovely sight. There are three dozen *C. japonica* cultivars with names beginning with white and fourteen beginning with silver. Therefore, there are many *C. japonica* cultivars with white flowers but only a few *C. reticulata*. In fact, these usually have some blush pink tones on the flower edges. This is illustrated by 'White Retic', 'White Lighting', and 'Holy Pure' ('Shengjie').



'Purity'

There are several lovely white *C. sasanqua* cultivars that thrive in the sun and bloom in the fall; examples include 'Setsugekka', 'Silver Dollar', 'T. S. White' and 'White Doves' ('Mine-No-Yuki'). In addition, there are numerous white *C. sasanqua* flowers with red or pink borders. They are some of the most popular sun camellias which include 'Apple Blossom', 'Rainbow', 'Double Rainbow', 'Hana-Jiman', 'Little Pearl', and 'Narumigata'.

Creamy Camellias

The color cream comes from the cream produced by cows grazing on natural pasture with grass and other plants rich in yellow carotenoid pigments. This produces a light yellow tone to white. Cream is a pastel color made by mixing yellow and white. There are several *C. japonicas* that have white to creamy flowers. One of the most popular is the small anemone 'Man Size'. The *C. sasanqua* 'French Vanilla' has a large single creamy flower on a fast growing upright somewhat open plant.

Off White Camellias

When a white flower has a very light tint of pink it may be described as blush. The *C. japonica* 'Junior Prom' is described as white to faint blush, as it is not creamy, nor pure white. Another example is 'Nuccio's Pearl', described as a medium formal double with a blush white flower that tones deeper pink in its center and on the petal edges. One of the most unusual off-white camellias is 'Kona'. It has green buds that open to a white flower, with a green tint on some of the petals.

Conclusion

A white camellia flower reflects simplicity, purity and innocence. They come from small to very large and may have as few as five petals and as many as forty. Many have names that indicate they have white flowers such as pearl, lace, and snow. White camellia flowers in top condition, with no marks or blemishes, are special.



'Setsugekka'

Sources: Retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org> and www.colorpsychology.org.

'Man Size'



'French Vanilla'



'Junior Prom'



'Kona'

Photo by John Wang



The Village GREEN

By Bradford King



A village green or park is a large green area usually used for recreation in a town or city. The first parks in the western world were English deer parks where land was set aside in medieval times for hunting by royalty.

They had thick hedges or walls to keep the deer in and people out. It was forbidden for the commoners to hunt in these deer parks. From the sixteenth century on these game preserves evolved into landscape parks usually set around mansions. When towns and cities became more crowded, the private hunting grounds became places for the general public.

As countries became more industrial, parks were set aside to preserve a sense of nature, with many of these urban parks used for sports. When the landscape was outstanding, they were set aside as national parks to prevent the landscape being spoiled by development.



'Camden Park' tree in bloom



'Camden Park'



'Big Dipper'

Camellia Parks

Today, Norfolk, Virginia, has three neighborhoods named for camellias: Camellia Gardens, North Camellia Acres, and Camellia Shores. The Camellia Grove on the California State Capitol grounds in Sacramento, California, was dedicated in 1953 as a living memorial to the early builders of California.

There is a 26-acre amusement park near Huntington, West Virginia, called Camden Park. It was established in 1902 as a picnic spot by the Camden Interstate Railway Company. The park is home to more than thirty rides and attractions, including a full-size traditional wooden roller coaster, the "Big Dipper". The *C. reticulata* 'Big Dipper' may not have been named for this park, but it is a wonderful very large semi-double to peony carmine pink bloom.

Camden Park was a large sheep station, established by John Macarthur, south of Sydney near present-day Camden, New South Wales, Australia. Macarthur, who had arrived in the colony of New South Wales in 1790, quarreled with local governors and was forced to return to England to face trial for dueling—the charges were dismissed. While he was there, he gained the patronage of the Colonial Secretary,

Lord Camden. Camden supported Macarthur and ordered Governor King to grant Macarthur 5,000 acres. In 1805 Macarthur named his new property Camden Park in honor of his patron. After John Macarthur's death, his sons, James and William, stayed on the estate continuing its agricultural enterprises and establishing impressive gardens. The Camden Park estate has always been associated with camellias. William Macarthur produced the first Australian camellia cultivar 'Aspasia Macarthur'. In 1952, he introduced the *C. japonica* 'Camden Park' a sport of 'Aspasia Macarthur'. It has a medium peony rose red flower blotched with white.

Historically, an important park for American camellia hobbyists is the Park Hill estate, located in Laurel Canyon overlooking Los Angeles, California. It was the estate of Ralph Sylvester Peer (1892–1960). He was an American talent scout, recording engineer, and record producer who founded the Southern Music Publishing Company. The company became influential in the 1930s and success came through Peer's introducing Central American music to the world. Peer published songs such as "Deep in the Heart of Texas", "You Are My Sunshine", and "You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You". When rock and roll came along, he



'Tomorrow Park Hill'



Park Hill Estate

published hits by Buddy Holly, Little Richard, and The Platters. He was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1984.

Ralph Peer was active in the camellia societies in the Los Angeles area. He was the first President and co-founder of the Los Angeles Camellia Society in the 1950s. Peer served as a California State Director to the American Camellia Society Board of Directors, before becoming President in 1957. He established the ACS Ralph Peer Sasanqua Award in 1958 for the originators of new *sasanqua*, *hiemalis* and *vernalis* seedlings. He financed J. Robert Sealy's book, *A Revision of the Genus Camellia*, published by the Royal Horticultural Society, 1958.

Shortly after Descanso Gardens imported the Chinese Yunnan *reticulatas* to America, Peer also received a shipment of the Yunnan *reticulata* cultivars. Over time he generously shared these cultivars with local growers, Descanso Gardens and The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. He traveled to many places for business and pleasure always looking for camellia cultivars to bring back to the States. When in England in 1949, he had 'Kew Rose', a medium pink rose form double, and 'Lady Ardilaun', a small white formal double, brought to America. In 1954 and 1955, he imported three *japonica* cultivars from Taiwan: 'Chung Cho Yang', 'Eighteen Scholars' and 'Mona Monique'. He also bred 'Granada', a large to very large vivid red semi-double to peony form *japonica*, and a *reticulata hybrid* 'Buddha' seedling he named 'Three Dreams'. It is a large to very large deep rose pink with wavy crinkled petals.

However, Peer's most famous camellia introduction is 'Tomorrow Park Hill'. The bloom is a large to very large

light soft pink with deeper pink petal edges, and variegated throughout with lovely white markings. It is a sport of 'Tomorrow Variegated'. He named this *japonica* after his estate "Park Hill" in 1964. Park Hill comprised five acres overlooking Los Angeles, California, with thousands of exotic plants, including 3,000 different camellia cultivars. Unfortunately, the next owner removed the camellias.

The Surname Parks

This very interesting medieval surname is Anglo-Scottish with French origins and is recorded as "Park" or "Parke" and sometimes "Parkman". It describes a person employed in or at a "park". Park is also a notable Korean surname linked to King Hyeokgeose Park, with his descendants inheriting the name. The name "Park" is usually assumed to come from the Korean noun "bak", which means "bottle gourd," or the Korean adjective stem "balk", which means "bright."

One of the most successful camellia breeders in the United States is Dr. Clifford Parks. Early in his career, he began to make controlled crosses between *reticulata* cultivars and a variety of other camellia species when he was a taxogeneticist at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia, California. He continued this program when he moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He has introduced the following *reticulata hybrid* cultivars: 'Buddha's Child', 'China Girl', 'Crimson Candles' (pg. 19), 'Dot Spengler', 'Dr. Clifford Parks', 'Dr. Gordon Richmond', 'Gladys Parks', 'LASCA Beauty', 'Moon Festival' and 'Scarlet Temptation'. One of the most popular and widely distributed of his introductions is the very large red *reticulata hybrid* 'Dr. Clifford Parks'. It is like a number of other camellias that have multiple



'Dr. Clifford Parks'



'Captain Parks'

forms—semi-double, anemone, loose peony and full peony. Dr. Parks' son, David Parks, is the co-founder and owner of Camellia Forest Nursery located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The mail order nursery specializes in camellias, exotic trees and shrubs, and publishes a catalog with many beautiful camellia photos.

The *C. japonica* 'Captain Parks' was described by William Hertrich in *Camellias in the Huntington Gardens Volume II* in 1955. It has a rose pink medium formal double flower that blooms on an upright open branching plant. It has a lovely flower that was originated in America. However, no breeder's name or identification of the person the plant was named after exists. A healthy plant can still be found blooming midseason at The Huntington.

Concluding Remarks

Local parks are appreciated for the green space that provides playgrounds for children, fields for sporting events and natural areas with trees, shrubs, ponds, streams with grounds for picnicking and walking trails. One of the very few social political issues the American people generally agree on is the natural treasures that make up the National Park System.

In the camellia world we appreciate the success of Dr. Park's breeding program with *reticulata*, cold hardy, fragrant and yellow camellias. We applaud that MacArthur's Camden Park has been preserved as a historical site in Australia. We continue to enjoy 'Tomorrow Park Hill' even though Ralph Peer's Park Hill Estate no longer has his camellia collection. We can enjoy the *C. reticulata* cultivars he imported to The Huntington. His son and daughter-in-law, Ralph Peer II and Liz Peer, donated Peer's documents related to camellias to

The Huntington's library, including rare botanical volumes like *Nouvelle Iconographie des Camellias* edited by Ambroise Verschaffelt and published in 1849.

Source: Retrieved from en.wikipedia.org



International Camellia Society's President, Pat Short, presents an award to Dr. Clifford Parks.

HUNTING FOR 'GENERAL WASHINGTON'

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
BRADFORD KING
INTRODUCTION BY CAMILLE BIELBY



Camellia japonica
'General Washington'

INTRODUCTION

Camellia japonica 'General Washington' is listed in an 1844 edition of the *Magazine of Horticulture*, 1845 - 1846 *Oudin Nursery Catalogue*, 1846 - 1847 *Van Houtte Catalogue*, Verschaffelt's 1851 *Nouvelle Iconographie*, the *International Camellia Register*, and the Southern California Camellia Society's *Camellia Nomenclature Supplement*. Its synonym is 'Gigantea Alba'. It has a medium rose form white flower with some petals lined in pink.

It was part of a collection of camellia seedlings imported by J. B. Smith of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and described by the Horticultural Society of Pennsylvania in 1830. "Mr Smith's collection of Camellias is extensive. He owns one plant of the single white that is more than 73 feet high and is perhaps the largest of any imported into the United States."

Daniel Boll of Bloomingdale, New York acquired Smith's seedlings for his nursery, located in what is now the upper west side of Manhattan. The February 1850 edition of *The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste*, called attention to Boll's "extensive establishment" with "two large houses devoted to" camellias. Boll introduced

Smith's white camellia as 'General Washington', which subsequently became the parent of the sport 'Distinction', and seedlings 'Ice Queen' and 'Ragland Supreme.'

FINDING 'GENERAL WASHINGTON' IN THE NANTES BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Nantes Botanical Garden camellia curator caught the interest of American camellia enthusiasts with the hope of seeing this rare camellia during the 2018 International Camellia Congress tour in Nantes, France. A dozen dedicated, slightly possessed, camellia lovers hunted for 45 minutes with no more than the bed and row number, and a notation that it was planted in 1928.

None of us had ever seen 'General Washington'. We diligently looked for this rare cultivar row by row, passing up hundreds of other cultivars, until we finally found the mature plant in bloom. Snow the week before and cold rainy days had left many blooms damaged or yet to open. Fortunately, the plant was in bloom and had some good flowers.

When Chuck Shirk burrowed into the center of the plant to find the label, he spotted one red bloom. All the other flowers were medium white, with no sign of any pink lines.

We left the "General" with a sense of accomplishment, feeling the pleasure of a successful hunt. Thus, we share with you the images of our search. We hope to see 'General Washington' again growing in an American garden.



Forrest Latta and Chuck Shirk of Mobile, Alabama search for 'General Washington' plant tags in Nantes, France.



Spotlight: *C. japonica* ‘White Mermaid’

Camellia japonica ‘White Mermaid’ is the white sport of the “Goldfish leaved camellia”—‘Kinkyoba-tsubaki’ which was named for its leaves that resemble a fishtail. ‘Kinkyoba-tsubaki’ has a medium single pinkish red flower. When it mutated a white single medium flower, it was given the name ‘White Mermaid’ in the English-speaking world, as it too, has leaves that narrow down and flare out to three points, thereby resembling the tail of a fish.

This camellia gets its name from the mermaid, a legendary aquatic figure with a female human body and the tail of a fish. Mermaids are part of the folk lore of many cultures and popular subjects of art and literature. The first stories appeared in the 25th century B.C. in ancient Assyria, a major kingdom in Mesopotamia, in which the goddess Atargatis (chief goddess of northern Syria in antiquity) who transformed herself into a mermaid out of shame for accidentally killing her human lover.

Christopher Columbus reported seeing mermaids in the Caribbean, which were most likely sightings of the slow moving peaceful mammals we know as manatees, which frequently carry their young cradled in their arms like humans

do. It is surmised sailors seeing these unfamiliar creatures assumed they were a humanoid species and spread these accounts of their sightings when returning home.

The Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, *The Little Mermaid*, was written in 1836 and made into an animated musical fantasy by Walt Disney Pictures in 1989. This Danish fairy tale is about a beautiful mermaid princess who dreams of becoming human. However, mermaids are often associated with misfortune and death, and luring ships off course onto rocky shoals.

The mermaid tattoo symbolizes sensuality, femininity, the moon, intuition, temptation, danger and dual nature. This tattoo first became popularized in the early 20th century with sailors. Since then, many women have adopted this tattoo design to represent their femininity, because the mermaid is a strong female figure.

The spotlight shines on this interesting foliage camellia with a simple lovely white bloom.

Source: Retrieved from en.wikipedia.org and www.reference.com

Story and Photograph by Bradford King

Love-Hate Relationship

Story and Photos by Bradford King

A love-hate relationship is defined in popular culture as an interpersonal relationship involving simultaneous or alternating emotions of love and hate. Do you have any love hate relationships? I do! Yes, there are a few camellia cultivars I love and hate. You may wonder which ones and why. Let me tell you about them.

'Elegans Champagne'

'Elegans Champagne' has a beautiful white flower with a creamy center of petaloids that remind me of the profusion of little bubbles in a glass of champagne. I love this bloom. After seven years, I had recovered from the love and hate relationship with 'Elegans Splendor' so I purchased a five gallon 'Elegans Champagne' and planted it. It was growing well and setting buds with the promise of lovely flowers.



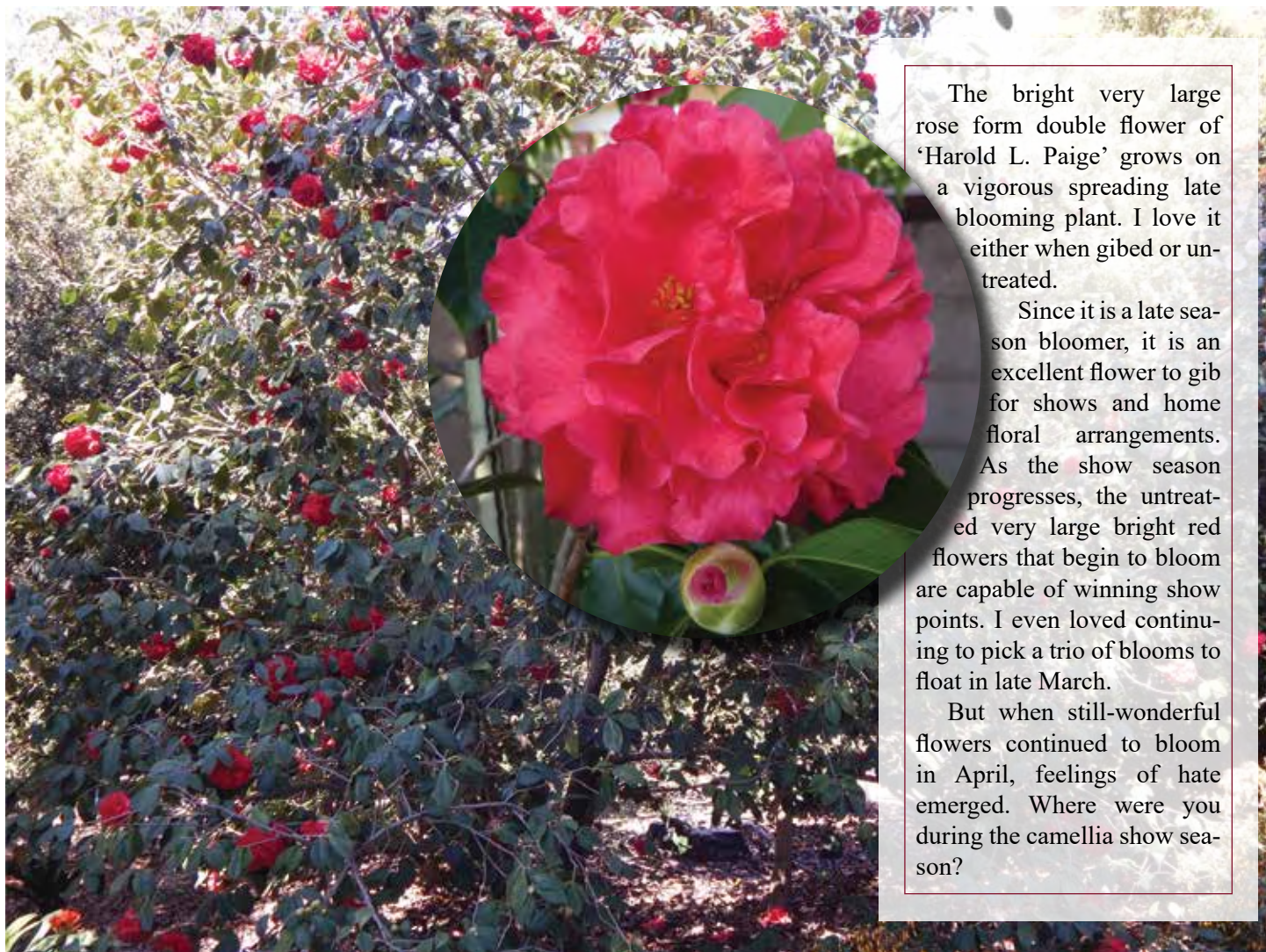
'Elegans Champagne'

Every November I have the trees that provide summer shade for the camellias pruned. The next day, when checking on the condition of the plants, I discovered 'Elegans Champagne' had been crushed by the gardener who left the damaged top lying nearby. This left a "squat" and damaged plant, which I knew would probably never have a central trunk. After two more years of growth and no central trunk, which I hated, it was removed and never replaced.



'Elegans Splendor'

'Harold L. Paige'



The bright very large rose form double flower of 'Harold L. Paige' grows on a vigorous spreading late blooming plant. I love it either when gibed or untreated.

Since it is a late season bloomer, it is an excellent flower to gib for shows and home floral arrangements. As the show season progresses, the untreated very large bright red flowers that begin to bloom are capable of winning show points. I even loved continuing to pick a trio of blooms to float in late March.

But when still-wonderful flowers continued to bloom in April, feelings of hate emerged. Where were you during the camellia show season?

'Harold L. Paige' tree in full bloom and close-up of a flower

The American Camellia Society

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Celeste M. Richard, crichard@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, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

The Camellia Journal

The Camellia Journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the American Camellia Society.

Editor: Bradford D. King (bdk@usc.edu); Associate Editor and Production Manager: Celeste M. Richard; Associate Editor and Design Director: Camille Bielby.

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy of the ACS or of its officers or directors. While the *Journal* endeavors to assume the reliability of its advertising, neither the *Journal* nor the ACS assumes responsibility for any transaction between our advertisers and our readers.

©2018 American Camellia Society articles may not be republished without written permission.

The Camellia Journal (USPS 555-900)(ISSN 008 204X)

Published quarterly by the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley, GA. Four issues per year. March, June, September, and December. Subscription price is included in the annual membership dues. Periodical Postage paid at Fort Valley, GA, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: The Camellia Journal, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

'Black Magic'



'Black Magic' has the darkest red medium *C. japonica* flower grown today. The dark red, glossy waxy petals and holly-like foliage make it a striking cultivar.

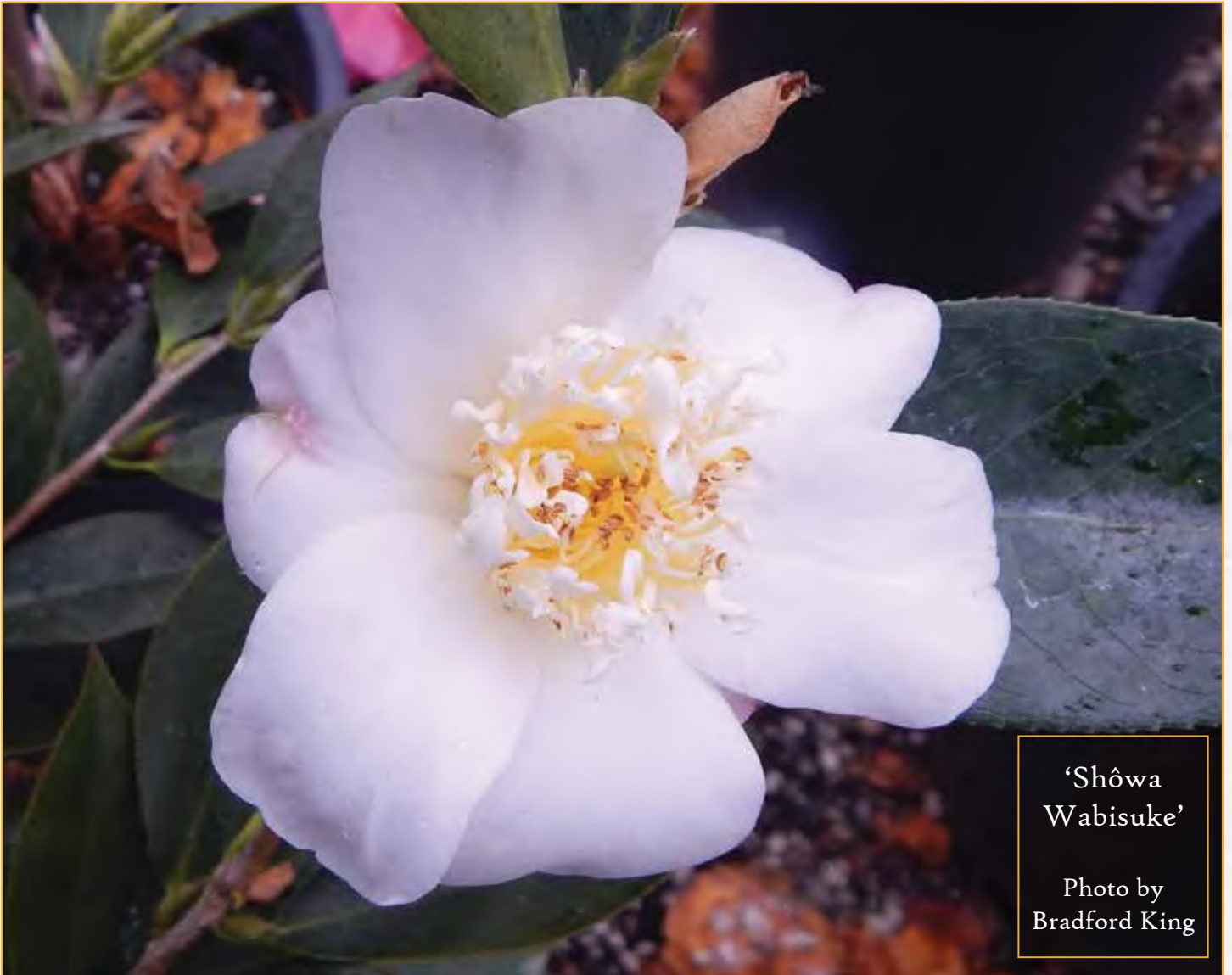
It has a reputation in



Southern California, where it originated, of being another variety that "bullnoses" (buds open part way and drop off). I hate this and avoided growing this cultivar with the dark red flower I love.

However, this year my wife saw a great looking 'Black Magic' plant in bloom at Nuccio's Nurseries and convinced me to take it home. This year it opened about half of its buds, but dropped the second half. Will 'Black Magic' be a winner or my next camellia love-hate relationship?

椿 CAMELLIA TREASURES FROM JAPAN



‘Shôwa
Wabisuke’

Photo by
Bradford King

Camellia wabisuke

By Bradford King



‘Tarôkaja’
aka
‘Judith’

Photo by
Bradford
King

‘Fukurin
Wabisuke’

Photo by
Bradford
King



The *wabisuke* (pronounced “wa-bis-kay”) camellias of Japan are similar in appearance to *japonicas*. While the origin is unknown, some consider it a subspecies of *japonica*. However, most experts consider it a *hybrid* with *japonica* in its lineage. Generally, the plants are small to medium leaved and shrub-like. The flowers are tubular, single and small. Curiously, most have stamens without, or with very few, pollen sacs (anthers). They produce plants of simple beauty in the garden, and the exquisite single blossoms are a flower arranger’s delight.

The 2017 *Camellia Nomenclature* lists 19 *wabisuke* cultivars, all originating in Japan. The most well-known *wabisuke* is called ‘Judith’ in America. How it acquired this name is unknown, except we Americans do prefer English names and have a long history of naming flow-

ers after women. Its priority Japanese name is ‘Tarô-kaja’. Tarô-kaja is an unsophisticated country-bumpkin comedy character in Japan whose dialect is not understood by his educated master and he doesn’t understand his master. This motivates Tarô-kaja to perform a comic dance.

The ‘Tarôkaja’ flower is a miniature to small single deep pink that grows on a slow compact bushy plant that blooms mid to late season. There are reports of this cultivar setting seeds but this is a rare occurrence. There are large ancient specimen trees of this cultivar in Japan.

There are several fragrant *wabisuke* which makes them appealing. The fragrant cultivar ‘Fukurin Wabisuke’ (“Bordered Wabisuke”), therefore, has its fans. The flower is a light pink, small, single with a white border. It is a sport of ‘Hatsukari’ from the Kanto area of Japan. The small, single, rose pink fragrant flower on ‘Hina Wabisuke’ (“Doll Wabisuke”) grows in an upright manner. It is a sport of ‘Shiro-wabisuke’.

A very fragrant cultivar is ‘Shôwa Wabisuke’ which has a small, single, white flower, toned light pink. There are at least a dozen camellia names beginning with “Shôwa” which refers to an era in Japanese history by that name. It is not the equivalent of the English adjective “showy”.

The *wabisuke* camellias are delightful landscape camellias that add variety, beauty and fragrance to the garden.



‘Hina Wabisuke’
Photo by Joe Tunner

Camellia Flower Symbolism Around the World

Story and Photos by Bradford King

A camellia flower expresses a variety of intense feelings such as desire and passion. It stands for perfection, excellence, refinement, faithfulness and longevity. The camellia has a long and rich history that began in Southeast Asia before making it to the western world.





'Kuro-tsubaki'



C. nitidissima



'Ragland Supreme'



'Bunny Ears'



'Korean Snow'
Photo by G. Phillips

China

The camellia flower is highly regarded in China and is the national flower of southern China. In the Chinese tradition, the camellia form symbolizes long lasting devotion. The petals reflect the spirit of a young woman and the calyx, which hold the petals, a young man who is entrusted with caring for and protecting her. When the calyx of the camellia falls with the petals, it symbolizes unity and undying love between a man and a woman. In many parts of China, the camellia is considered the flower for young sons and daughters. Pink camellias symbolize heartfelt longing, which is perfect for long-distance lovers.

Red camellias symbolize love, desire and passion. White camellias represent admiration, good luck, perfection and loveliness. They are used in wedding ceremonies as they symbolize a long and faithful marriage.

Japan

Flowers such as the chrysanthemum are national symbols and have the power to invoke intense emotions. They are ingrained in Japanese thinking. The Japanese traditional language of flowers, called *Hanakotoba*, has faded and is almost lost in modern Japan. In Japan, the camellia flower is called "tsubaki" and symbolizes the divine. It is often used in religious and sacred ceremonies. It also represents the coming of spring. The red camellia represents love, yellow longing, and white death. Therefore, giving a white camellia is thought to bring bad luck, evil and even death. In Japan, flowers are a traditional gift for both men and women. They are often used to convey what can't be spoken.

Korea

In Korea, the camellia flower is a symbol of faithfulness and longevity and has been part of traditional Korean wedding ceremonies since 1200 B.C. Frequently, a camellia branch was placed on traditional bridal al-

tars, a symbol of the new couple's hopes for a life of eternal happiness in the sun's warm rays.

According to local legend, the beautiful camellia groves of Odongdo grow over the grave of a beautiful woman who drowned trying to escape a vicious bandit. The tree's beauty is said to come from the legendary maiden. Many temples are home to several very old camellia trees. When the camellia blooms drop it makes a sound but remains silent on the ground which is seen as a reflection of the Buddhist belief of life's transience and how quickly time passes. The flowers help us realize life's great moments and significant sufferings are separated by little more than a few breaths.

Camellias have been part of Korean life for centuries and are part of the Korean psyche. The camellia is a symbol of winter, signifying a beauty that overcomes cold and adversity. It embodies cool thinking and heartlessness. It represents an idealistic sense of human integrity and honor that bravely endures the winter season. In addition, it is admired for its simple beauty, grace and splendor, as well as the plant's long life span.

England

Camellias became very popular when brought to England from Asia during the Victorian era. They were keenly sought as accessories for winter balls. The camellia bloom when sent conveyed the message that the recipient was adorable. A poem by Charlotte Elizabeth Tonna in 1834 described the white *Camellia japonica* as "Thou beauteous child of purity and grace, What element could yield so fair a birth?"

France

Alexandre Dumas (July 1824 – November 1895) was a French writer and dramatist, best known for *The Lady of the Camellias*, a novel first published in 1848. It was later adapted for the stage and premiered at the Théâtre du Vaudeville in Paris, France on Febru-



'Adorable'



'Queen of England'



'Silver Anniversary'



'Lady in Red'



'Alba Plena'



ary 2, 1852. The play was an instant success. Giuseppe Verdi immediately set about putting the story to music. His work became the 1853 opera *La Traviata*. In the English-speaking world, *The Lady of the Camellias* became known as *Camille* and 16 versions have been performed at Broadway theatres alone. The theme of the *Lady of the Camellias* is a love story between Marguerite Gautier, a “Courtesan”, a woman “kept” by various lovers, including a young provincial bourgeois, Armand Duval. She is named the “Lady of the Camellias” because when she wears a white camellia she is available to her lover and a red one when unavailable due to her medical condition (tuberculosis).

The white *Camellia japonica* came to be identified with The House of Chanel, making its first appearance as a dec-

orative element on a white-trimmed black suit in 1933. The camellia appealed to Chanel’s taste of provocation due to its reference as the forbidden flower, like Dumas’ courtesan, without perfumes or thorns. The camellia seduces by its simplicity. Coco Chanel adored the pure white camellia for its form and perfectly ordered petals. The white camellia became her emblem, and the brand’s signature, as it evokes the true spirit of Chanel.

United States

Camellia symbolism in America is articulated by Harper Lee in her famous book *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Killing a mockingbird is to destroy innocence. A number of characters, including Jem Finch, can be identified as mock-

birds—an innocent injured by contact with evil. Jem Finch describes his elderly neighbor, Mrs. Dubose, as “plain hell” for her verbal assaults. He retaliates by cutting off all the tops of her camellias. His father, Atticus Finch, sentences him to regular sessions at Mrs. Dubose’s house as punishment for destroying the camellia blooms. Mrs. Dubose tells Jem, “You can’t kill them that easily—you have to attack them from the roots.” Jem and his sister, Scout, gradually discover the importance of those flowers. They represent Mrs. Dubose’s humanity. Jem receives a jewelry box containing a single camellia, specifically a ‘Snow-on-the-Mountain’ after Mrs. Dubose dies. This gesture symbolized that she had forgiven him, but wanted him to remember what he did. As Atticus explains to Jem, “I think that was her way of telling you—everything’s alright now.”

The *Camellia japonica*, also known as the “rose of winter”, became the state flower of Alabama in 1959, replacing the goldenrod. It symbolizes southern beauty. The American Camellia Society convention and national show will be held February 15-18, 2019 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the state flower designation and Alabama’s bicentennial.

Conclusion

The significance of camellia symbols helps us remember the emotions behind the flowers. We can pick as gifts the



‘Something Beautiful’

ones that best reflect our feelings for our loved ones or a special friend. Therefore, to combine red and pink camellias is to celebrate romantic love.

Sources: Retrieved from en.wikipedia.org; www.gardenerdy.com/what-do-camellia-flowers-symbolize; www.issuu.com/the_korea_foundation/docs/1995_01_e_b_a; and Tae-wook, Kim, Professor of Forest Resources, Seoul National University, “The Camellia”, *Koreana*, The Korea Foundation, Spring 1995.



‘Mabel Bryan Strawberry’
Photo by Gene Phillips

An American in Paris

Story and Photos By Bradford King

An American in Paris is a 1951 musical film starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Carron with music by George Gershwin. We may not have danced in Paris, but we had stimulating scientific reports and interesting tours of camellia gardens and nurseries at the International Camellia Society (ICS) congress and tours.

In March 2018, 30 adventurous Americans attended the ICS Congress in Brittany, Nantes, and Paris, France. There were 300 people from 27 countries in total. "Pictures are worth a thou-



Jim and Carolyn Dickson
(Photo by Celeste Richard)



Peggy and Dean Troyer and Ellen and Roger Vinson

several days. We all made new friends and renewed friendships. Florence Crowder and Pascal Vieu get reacquainted. Some days the gardens we toured were chilly for us Californians. Isn't that so Justin and Melissa Bergamini?

Every lunch was a three-course meal with wine which made us very merry. Cheers from Peggy and



Florence Crowder
and Pascal Vieu



Nancy Russell



Ron Wolfe and
Celeste Richard



Don Bergamini

sand words" and those featured here capture the mood and fun had by all.

Jim and Carolyn Dickson stayed in good spirits even though their bags didn't get to the hotel in Brest for

Dean Troyer and Ellen and Roger Vinson. Beth Stone figuring out how to eat the fresh seafood appetizer "off with their heads" was the group's consensus. Dinners were served as late as 10:00 p.m., but Mary and How-



Justin and Melissa Bergamini



Lynn King



Beth Stone



Mary and Howard Rhodes



Barbara Carroll and
Jim Fitzpatrick



Mary Bergamini, Jackie Randall and Carol Schanz



Mark and Sherrida Crawford

ard Rhodes took this in stride.

Ron Wolfe and Celeste Richard are happy to pose in front of a camellia tree. Nancy Russell smiled when the French guide gave her the 'Ville de Nantes' bloom he picked to show us. Don Bergamini was pleased to see 'Nuccio's Cameo' blooming in one of the nurseries we visited. 'Arch de Triumph' was a wonderful background for Barbara Carroll and her husband, Jim Fitzpatrick, with a 'Jury's Yellow' bloom. Mark and Sherrida Crawford enjoyed the camellias propagated in Brittany. We toured the historic walled city of Saint Malo in the wind and cold rain resulting in several umbrellas getting destroyed. We mostly kept dry with ponchos and rain gear as can be seen in the photo of Lynn King.

In Nantes, we toured a botanical garden which had 600 camellias among the more than 10,000 other plants. There were miles of paths so Mary Bergamini, Jackie Randall and Carol Schanz found a quiet bench to rest and enjoy themselves.

Jacques Soignon and René Mahuas wrote *1001 Camellias in Nantes and in All Brittany* which was a special feature of the Congress. I had Soignon autograph my book and was pleased to have my picture taken with Mahuas in his garden. When in Paris we toured Versailles on Easter Sunday with 30,000 others and still had smiles on our faces. Forrest Latta and ICS President Guan Kaiyun remained at ease as we waited to enter.



Melissa and Irene Bergamini (Photo by Celeste Richard)



Brad King and René Mahuas

Camellia Color Psychology:

PINK FLOWERS

Story and Photos by Bradford King



C. japonica 'Egao'

Color is a phenomenon of light and a characteristic of human visual perception. Perception of color derives from stimulation of the cone cells in the human eye. Colors are described in terms of hue (shade or tint); lightness (relative degree of black or white); saturation (intensity); and temperature (perceived warmth or coolness). Color psychology involves the study of the effect of hues on human behavior and perception.



'Pink Perfection'

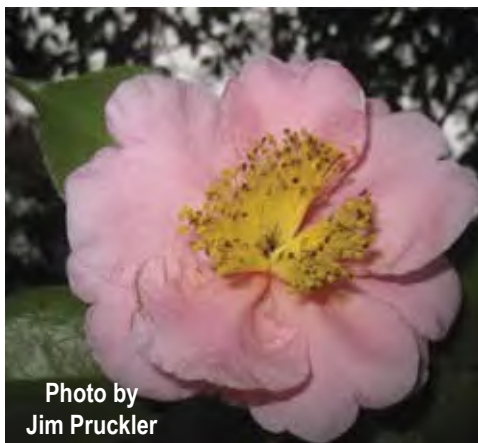
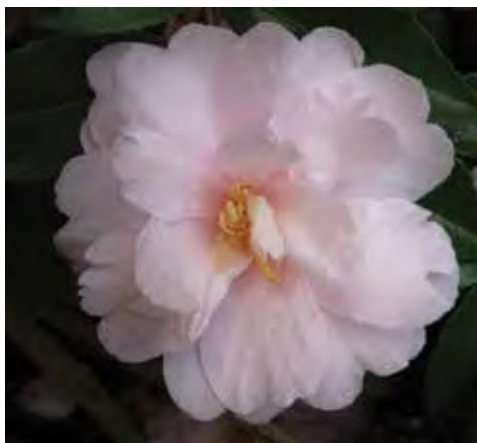


Photo by
Jim Pruckler

'LASCA Beauty'



'Jean May'

Pink

Wikipedia lists four shades of pink—pink, light pink, hot pink and deep pink—plus 46 additional commonly used pink names. Pink is made by mixing white and red pigments and is recognized as a shade of red in scientific color systems.

The classic pink camellia flower is illustrated by ‘Hishikaraito’ and ‘Egao’. When a solid pink flower has less saturation, it is described as light pink, soft pink, or shell pink, as illustrated by ‘Pink Perfection’, ‘LASCA Beauty’ and ‘Jean May’.

When pink is highly saturated the color is more intense and described as hot pink as illustrated by ‘Mary A. Bergamini’ introduced by Don Bergamini in 2006. When pink has darker tint, it is described as dark or deep pink, as illustrated by ‘Phyllis Hunt’.

Pink Color Psychology

In Japan, pink has a masculine association. The annual spring blooming of the pink-blossomed cherry trees (the Sakura) is said to represent the young Japanese warriors who fell in battle in the prime of life. In western culture, pink is a feminine color that symbolizes unconditional love and denotes romantic love.

Hot pink conveys playfulness and pastel pink tenderness. Pink hues provide images of soft, delicate femininity. A hint of pink makes a white flower blush, and as pigment is added, the flower colors become soft pink, rose pink, and finally, a shade a few degrees from red. When pink is highly saturated, the color is more intense and seen as hot pink. Pastel pink is perceived when saturation is low.

Flower color and form are controlled by genes inherited from the plant’s parents. Some of the most beautiful camellias have white flowers with shades of pink; others have light pink blooms shading to darker pink on the petal edges.

Shades of Pink

The first recorded use of cherry blossom pink as a color name in English was in 1867. Cherry blossom pink is an important color in Japanese culture. Hanami is the Japanese traditional custom of enjoying the transient beauty of flowers, especially the viewing of cherry blossoms. This custom has spread to the United States with the institution of the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. Cherry blossom pink represents the more than 30 shades of pink—rarely, if ever, used to describe a camellia. However, the top ten shades of pink that are used to describe camellias are as follows.

The color bright pink is highly saturated, which means the surface looks bright as opposed to dull. This is illustrated by the small formal double *hybrid* ‘Adorable’. Blush pink is a very light or pale pink as illustrated by *C. japonica* ‘Magnoliaeflora’ and ‘Little Michael’. There are many other camellias described as blush pink.

While there are no orange camellias, there are several

‘Mary A. Bergamini’



Photo by
Don Bergamini

‘Phyllis Hunt’



‘Adorable’



‘Magnoliaeflora’



Photo by
Gene Phillips



'Coral Bouquet' (top)

'Coral Delight' (bottom left) and 'Island Sunset' (bottom right)



Photo by
Gene Phillips



pink varieties with tints of orange, which is the definition of coral pink. Three beautiful coral pink *hybrids* are ‘Coral Bouquet’, ‘Coral Delight’ and ‘Island Sunset’. The *C. reticulata* ‘Ruta Hagmann’ has a light coral pink toned flower.

One of the loveliest *hybrid* colors is lavender pink. Lavender is a light purple, referring to the flower of the same name. When lavender is on the pale side, it is frequently described as lavender pink. Camellias ‘Lavender Swirl’, ‘Little Lavender’, ‘Dream Boat’ and ‘Water Lily’ are good examples of lavender pink blooms.

Orchid is a bright rich purple color that is named for the flowers of some members of the orchid plant family. There are various tones of orchid, from grayish purple to strong reddish purple. When in its midrange, it is a purplish pink, typically referred to as orchid pink. This is illustrated by *hybrid* camellias ‘Donation’ and ‘Pink Dahlia’. When toned lighter, it is illustrated by ‘Easter Morn’.

Rose pink refers to a light pinkish red. It is pinker than rose red, which tends to be more towards “true red”. Many *reticulata* camellias have red tones but, when they have tints of pinkish red, they are described as rose pink. Think ‘Francie L.’, ‘Butterfly Wings’, ‘Mandala Queen’ and ‘Professor Tsai’. A classic rose pink *C. japonica* is ‘R. L. Wheeler’.

Peach blossom pink is a pale color named for the petals of the peach tree’s flowers. It is used in interior design to create a pastel palette. In other words, it is a pale pinkish yellow hue. Several camellia flowers illustrate this color, such as ‘Demi-Tasse’.

The color salmon is a range of pale pinkish orange to light pink colors named after the flesh of the salmon fish. The actual color of salmon flesh varies depending on their diet. A rich diet of krill and shrimp produces more orange, and a depleted diet makes for almost white flesh. Compounding this is that fish farms may feed the salmon artificial coloring in their food. A favorite salmon pink camellia is *C. reticulata* ‘Valentine Day’.

The color silvery pink entered the world of interior design in 1948 and has been used to describe camellias. A silvery tinted pink makes for a pale, sometimes shiny, flower. This is seen in the profuse flowers of the *hybrid* ‘Flirtation’ introduced by Armstrong Nurseries in Ontario, California in 1960, which tolerates heat and full sun.

Conclusion

Beautiful pink camellia flowers are soothing and peaceful. A garden walk among pink camellia blooms helps us relax and enjoy life.

Source: Retrieved from: <https://en.wikipedia.org>

‘Lavendar Swirl’



‘Pink Dahlia’



Photo by
Camille Bielby

‘Easter Morn’



Photo by
Gene Phillips

'R. L. Wheeler'



'Professor Tsai'



'Demi-Tasse'



'Valentine Day'



C. hybrid 'Flirtation'



Spotlight: *C. hybrid* ‘Waltz Time Variegated’

The waltz is a ballroom and folk dance performed in closed position to a three-beat count with steps and turns. It originated in the suburbs of Vienna and in the alpine region of Austria in the seventeenth century.

Waltzes were played in the ballrooms of the Hapsburg Court. The *Blue Danube* written by Johann Strauss, Jr. (1825-1899) is the all-time favorite. It is broadcast at midnight on New Years' Eve on television in Austria. The next morning, it is played on the radio by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

‘Waltz Time’ was registered in 1961 by McCaskill Gardens, in Pasadena, California. Vernon McCaskill, who owned and operated this nursery, introduced 72 *japonica* cultivars and eight *non-reticulata* hybrids between 1930 and 1988.

‘Waltz Time’ is a cross between the *C. saluenensis* hybrid ‘William’s Lavender’, which has a single medium lavender pink flower, and the *japonica* ‘Kuro-tsubaki’ which has a small black red semi-double flower.

The color was inherited from ‘William’s Lavender’ and the form from its seed parent. The abnormal gene that gives ‘Kuro-tsubaki’ its dark red color was not inherited.

The lilac pink medium flower blooms midseason on a vigorous bushy upright plant. The variegated form was introduced in 1962 by McCaskill. It was chosen to be in the spotlight as the white markings on the lilac pink large upright petals make a gorgeous flower.

Story and Photograph by Bradford King

Camellia Romance

Story and Photos by Bradford King

‘Valentine Day’

People have basic needs to form bonds with each other. Some of these relationships are romantic, which means an emotional attraction towards another person. In brief, love. There are camellias we link to love and romance.

Valentine Day

Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine is more commonly known as Valentine's Day. There are several saints called Valentine who are honored on February 14. The day became associated with romantic love in England during



"Descanso Love" Valentine

The most common Valentine's Day symbols are the heart, particularly in reds and pinks, and pictures or models of Cupid. Cupid is usually portrayed as a small winged figure with a bow and arrow. In mythology, he uses his arrow to strike the hearts of people. People who have fallen in love are sometimes said to be struck by Cupid's arrow. Other symbols of Valentine's Day are couples in loving embraces and the gifts of flowers, chocolate, red roses and jewelry that couples often give each other.

The large to very large formal double rosebud center of the very beautiful salmon pink camellia, 'Valentine Day', is one of only a few formal double *C. reticulata* hybrid flowers. Its variegated form is pink with striking white markings. Both flowers are spectacular when at their best. 'Valentine Day' is a cross between *reticulata* 'Crimson Robe' and *japonica* 'Tiffany' made by Howard Asper.

He was Curator of Camellias at Descanso in 1948 when the first *Camellia reticulatas* were imported from China to Rancho del Descanso (Descanso Gardens) in La Cañada Flintridge, California. When Asper became Superintendent

of The Huntington Botanical Gardens, he supervised the gardens to ensure the rare trees and plants brought from the far corners of the world thrived. He was a prolific camellia breeder.

Hazel and Howard Asper bought ten acres of land near the town of Escondido, California, a city occupying a shallow valley ringed by rocky hills, just north of the city of San Diego, California, where they built an attractive cottage in 1952. They proceeded to grow camellias on weekends and holidays when he worked at the Huntington. He retired in 1962 and named the property Green Valley Nurseries. The Aspers grew Birds of Paradise, *Magnolia grandiflora* and thousands of camellia seedling.



'Valentine Day Var.'

Love

Many people have had summer romances and others have fallen in love on cruises. *Love Boat* was an ABC American television series set on a cruise ship that aired from May 1977 to May 1986. The show revolved around the ship's captain and a handful of its crew and passengers—played by different guest actors for each episode—having romantic and humor-



'Lovelight'

The American Camellia Society

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Celeste M. Richard, crichard@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, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

The Camellia Journal

The Camellia Journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the American Camellia Society. Editor: Bradford D. King; Advertising: Camille Bielby; Production: Camille Bielby and Celeste Richard.

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy of the ACS or of its officers or directors. While the *Journal* endeavors to assume the reliability of its advertising, neither the *Journal* nor the ACS assumes responsibility for any transaction between our advertisers and our readers.

© 2018 American Camellia Society articles may not be republished without written permission.

The Camellia Journal (USPS 555-900)(ISSN 008 204X)

Published quarterly by the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley, GA. Four issues per year. March, June, September, and December. Subscription price is included in the annual membership dues. Periodical Postage paid at Fort Valley, GA, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: The Camellia Journal, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030.



'Midnight Lover'
Photo by Camille Bielby

ous adventures. The *C. japonica* 'Love Boat' has a medium semi-double to peony flower with a lovely light pink to white petals with a vivid pink margin. It was introduced by David Feathers in 1981. He spent over forty years as a writer, lecturer and innovator of new camellias. He in-

troduced 62 *japonicas*, 54 *reticulatas* and *reticulata hybrids*, 30 *williamsii hybrids*, and 24 *non-reticulata hybrid* cultivars from the mid-1950s through the mid-1990s.

There are other camellia *japonicas* that refer to love: 'Love Letters', which has a medium anemone to peony flower; 'Lovelight', a large white semi-double with heavy petals; and 'Lover Boy', a very large rose red semi-double with crinkled petals. The newest is *camellia sasanqua* 'Midnight Lover', a seedling of 'Crimson King'. It was introduced and registered with the ACS in 1995 by Dr. Clifford Parks of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. It has a semi-double intense deep burgundy red flower that will stand out in the garden among the white and pink fall blooming sun camellias.

Brides

Traditionally, the bride wears a wedding dress and a veil, and carries a bouquet. There are several stories about the origin of a bride's veil. One version originates with the Romans that evil spirits were attracted to the bride, so they covered her face to confuse and conceal her features. In medieval times, it was believed the veil protected the bride's eyes from the "evil eye". Others say the veil originated when it was common for marriages to be arranged by the parents. In this case, the veil was lifted after the ceremony to reveal her features, and was used to keep the groom from backing



'Bride's Bouquet'
Photo from ACS Slide Collection

out of the deal if he didn't like what he saw. Some say the veil was used in the past as a symbol of a bride's submission and obedience to her husband. More commonly, the veil is a symbol of purity, chastity and modesty.

The wedding

bouquet has its origins in ancient times, when the bride carried aromatic bunches of herbs and garlic to ward off evil spirits. The bride and groom in ancient Greece and Rome wore garlands around their necks to symbolize new life, hope and fertility. The traditional Celtic bouquets were made of ivy, thistle and heather in the belief that the strong smells would keep away evil spirits. When Queen Victoria married Prince Albert, the herbs and spices were replaced with fresh flowers.

The camellia breeder, Harvey Short from Ramona, California introduced more than 30 new camellias from 1950 to 1980. He registered the aforementioned 'Lovelight' as well as 'Bride's Bouquet', which has a lovely large white semi-double with fluted and notched petals and 'Bridal Veil', a large flat single. The color white is a traditional color of bridal gowns and veils and a symbol of purity.

Weddings

A white wedding is a formal or semi-formal ceremony that began in Britain. The term originates from the white color of the wedding dress, which first became popular with Victorian era elites, after Queen Victoria wore a white lace dress at her wedding. The term now also represents the Christian religious wedding tradition, which generally includes a ceremony during which the marriage begins, followed by a reception. Harvey Short introduced 'Wedding Bells', which has a medium semi-double bell-shaped blush pink bloom, and 'Wedding Ring', a medium to large white single with slender petaloids and a ring of golden stamens.



'White Bouquet'

The wedding ring is the most famous symbol of the joining a couple in the institution of marriage. It has an interesting history that began in the desert of North Africa with the ancient Egyptians. The rushes and reeds alongside the Nile were braided into the first wedding rings. The ring is a circle which is a symbol of eternity with no beginning or end. The center hole is a symbol of a gateway leading to things and events of the known and unknown. Therefore, giving a wedding ring is a representation of the eternity of the relationship, hopefully taking on the characteristics of the circle.

The wedding ring is worn on the fourth finger because of the mistaken belief that the vein of that finger went directly to the heart. This legend was taken up by Greeks



'Wedding Cake'

Photo from ACS Slide Collection

use leather, bone or ivory to make rings a longer lasting symbol of love.

Today, in western countries, wedding rings are usually made of white or yellow gold, often with engravings of the couple's names and date inside. In ancient Rome, it was a custom to exchange a series of gifts. This custom is seen today with the giving of an engagement ring, followed by the wedding ring. Originally only women wore a wedding ring, but in America, men began to wear them in the 1920s. It became a well-established tradition after World War II, spearheaded by the De Beers diamond cartel and others through marketing campaigns.

Wedding cakes were originally baked to bring good luck to the couple and all their guests and served at the wedding reception after dinner. Many modern weddings now use the cake as a centerpiece, and in some occasions, may not even be served to the guests. Some cakes have only a single edible layer for the bride and groom to share. In 1980, Phillip Mandarich introduced the large peony soft pink *C. japonica* 'Wedding Cake'.

Honeymoon



'Honeymoon'

couple drinking honey mead for a month. The word first appeared in the 16th century when couples were expected to remain chaste until marriage, thus the honeymoon was

when Alexander the Great captured Egypt in 332 B.C. and passed along to the Romans. In Latin, it was called "vena amoris" which means "vein of love". The rings made from reeds lasted only one year before wearing out. Thus, some decided to

The origins of the word honeymoon are unclear, with many historians agreeing that the "moon" is a reference to the "full moon". In ancient times weddings were held under a full moon. The "honey" part may refer to the European tradition of a newly married

the time for the couple to become intimate. The idea of the honeymoon as a vacation began in the 1800s but it did not become a common practice until the 1930s.

The *hybrid camellia* 'Honeymoon' has a coral pink bud that opens to a creamy white flower with yellow at the base each of the petals. It has a medium to large semi-double flower introduced by Nuccio's in 1992.

Wedding Anniversary

Wedding anniversaries date back to the Holy Roman Empire when husbands crowned their wives with a silver wreath on their twenty-fifth anniversary and a gold wreath on the fiftieth. Commercialism in the twentieth century led to the addition of more anniversaries being represented by a named gift. For example, the first anniversary is recognized with paper; the second, cotton; and the third leather etc.

'Silver Anniversary' has a large white semi-double flower with irregular petals and a center of golden stamens. It was introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1960 which was their silver anniversary.

While there is no camellia named for the golden anniversary, *C. japonica* 'Dahlongega' has been referred to as 'Nuccio's Golden Anniversary' as it was introduced at the time of the fiftieth anniversary of Nuccio's Nurseries. It was bred and registered by Dr. Walter Homeyer of Macon, Georgia. The flower is a small to medium pale yellow formal double.



'Silver Anniversary'
Photo by Jim Dwyer



'Dahlongega'

Concluding Remarks

Romance is a frequent theme in cinema and television as it reflects peoples deeply felt emotions and need for love. While walking in Descanso Gardens on Valentine's Day, I saw a young couple designing this valentine using camellia blooms. (See photo on page 5.)

椿 CAMELLIA TREASURES FROM JAPAN

‘Botanyuki’
(Snow Peony)

Camellia rusticana

Story and Photos By Bradford King



‘Shirokarako’
(White Anemone)

The *rusticana* camellias are a *japonica* sub species (*Camellia japonica* subspecies *rusticana*) which have hair on their leaf stocks (petioles). In Japan, they are called yuki tsubaki. They are found in the mountains of northwestern Honshu where they are being protected by conservation organizations for future generations. While not widely grown in the United States, some cultivars make it to camellia shows and specimens can be seen in botanical gardens. It is a good small bushy foreground camellia with many flowers that has its place in

the garden, especially for those seeking lesser-known, interesting camellia cultivars.

They are also known as snow camellias because they grow at higher elevations where they can survive and grow, insulated by a layer of snow. Generally, *rusticana* are characterized by their bushy, compact growth. The slender, flexible branches bend under the snow covering, which serves as insulation from the cold weather. Typically, when the snow melts in the spring, the bushy compact plant bursts into a profusion of small colorful



'Izumi'
(Fountain or
Source of Water)

flowers. *Rusticana* come in a variety of colors—white, pink, red and variegated.

They are not frequently seen at camellia shows. When shown, they are entered in the species class. They make good foreground landscape camellias where their small and profuse blooms can be appreciated. They are not as cold hardy as *japonicas*, and grow well in very humid weather. Unless provided with adequate moisture, they may not be at their best in dry areas.

The most popular *rusticana* cultivars seen in America are 'Botanyuki' (Snow Peony) and 'Shirokarako' (White Anemone). 'Botanyuki' was collected in 1958 in Niigata, Japan. It is a miniature flower with an anemone form. It has a nice blush flower with a yellow petaloid center which makes for an attractive flower. The bud is peach pink. It blooms midseason on a compact upright plant.

'Shirokarako' is one of the best *rusticana* camellias and can compete with any of the small *japonica* cultivars. It has a long history in Japan, dating back to 1788. It has a white miniature to small flower with an anemone form that grows on a vigorous spreading plant. The multiple blooms have notched petals that may be

irregular. This distinguishes it from the more uniform 'Man Size', a typical *japonica*. If you like a miniature or small white flower, 'Shirokarako' is a very pretty cultivar that is worth growing.

The *Camellia Nomenclature* includes 60 *rusticana* cultivars, and the *International Camellia Register* lists 565, most with Japanese names reflecting their country of origin. There are a few snow camellias with pink flowers that are interesting and appealing garden cultivars. The lovely pale pink semi-double 'Izumi' (Fountain or Source of Water) has an attractive tubular-shaped medium flower that grows on a bushy round plant. It blooms mid to late season. Izumi is a common unisex Japanese name, most popular for a female child.

'Ai-no-izumi' (Fountain of Love) has a wonderful light pink formal double flower, which is a slightly looser bloom than 'Pink Perfection'. It makes a great addition to the garden. Its growth habit is very upright, almost columnar. It is available at Nuccio's Nurseries and the Camellia Forest Nursery.

'Hanamigasa' has a medium to large white flower heavily striped red. Hamami means "flower viewing". The pleasure of viewing a flower's beauty is an old



'Hanamigasa'
(Flower Viewing)



'Yukigeshiki'
(Snow Scene)



'Kasugayama'
(Mount Kasuga)

Japanese custom. They like best to view cherry blossoms when they bloom in March to April. The custom of Hanami is more than a thousand years old. However, an older form of Hanami celebrates the plum blossoms instead of cherry blossoms. Cherry blossom parties are enjoyed by younger people and can be very crowded and noisy. The older people prefer the viewing of plum blossoms and the accompanying sedate parties.

'Yukigeshiki' (Snow Scene) has a blush pink miniature to small semi-double flower with creamy petaloids making for an anemone to peony flower as the creamy petaloids become more abundant. As the flower matures it may become white with a pale yellow cast at its center. It blooms mid to late season on a bushy compact upright plant.

'Kasugayama' has a small irregular semi-double red flower with virus variegation. The white markings contrast

beautiful with the rose red petals.

Nuccio's Nurseries has introduced two *rusticana* seedlings that are interesting and attractive landscape camellias. 'Campfire' has a small flat single orange red flower with golden stamens. It is a profuse bloomer, which makes it a good garden plant. It blooms early to mid-season on a bushy upright plant. A larger and attractive white medium flower with pointed petals was christened 'Shooting Star'. The plant is bushy and upright and is a mid to late season bloomer.

Learn more about "The Discovery of *Camellia Rusticana*" and "The Native *Camellia Japonica* and *C. Rusticana* in Japan" in the 1951 and 1996 editions of the *American Camellia Yearbook*. The 1962 *Yearbook* features "Studies on Snow Camellias" and the 1971 *Yearbook* includes and article called "The Snow Camellia in Japan."



'Campfire'



'Shooting Star'

Camellia Color Psychology:

RED FLOWERS



Story and Photos by Bradford King

Color is a phenomenon of light and a characteristic of human visual perception. Perception of color derives from stimulation of the cone cells in the human eye. Colors are described in terms of hue (shade or tint); lightness (relative degree of black or white); saturation (intensity); and temperature (perceived warmth or coolness). Color psychology involves the study of the effect of hues on human behavior and perception.

Red *C. japonica* 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa'

Red camellia psychology

Red is a warm positive color connected to the will to survive. It is a strong and powerful masculine color. Red connotes energy and motivates people to action. It signifies leadership, ambition and determination. When positive, it is color that stimulates sexuality, intimacy and love. At its most positive, its sexual energy can create life. When negative, it stimulates revenge, anger and hate. At its most negative, it can be destructive and fuel war.

Red is a color used to express love, as in Valentine's Day. It is linked to sexuality and lust, while pink is more expressive of romantic tenderness. Pink is a more feminine, softer form of red, made by mixing white with red. A gift of red flowers is symbolic of the human heart, thus communicating intense passion.

Red is a color that boosts physical energy levels and promotes action and fast movement. Red demands attention and alerts us to danger, which is why stop signs and traffic lights are red. It is the universal color for danger. Men and women who drive red cars get more traffic tickets for speeding. Perhaps it is because they feel more aggressive when driving. It could also be because those who buy red cars are more action oriented, assertive, and aggressive. These traits, when unleashed while driving, can catch the attention of the police.

Variations of red

Red has a range of tints or hues with a plethora of names. When accurately understood and applied by those who are assigning color descriptions, it helps identify and distinguish between the hundreds of red camellia blooms.

Red is a primary color which most people are readily able to identify without a color wheel or a scientific color chart. It is a popular camellia flower color which includes the following *C. japonica* cultivars: 'Ace O' Hearts', 'Fircone', 'Grand Prix', 'Happy Higo', 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa', 'Pope Pious IX', 'Spring Fling' and 'Wildfire'.

Burgundy is a dark purplish-red, tending toward brown, like the wine by that name. It is more serious and sophisticated than red, but less energetic. It indicates controlled power, determined ambition and dignifies action. This is illustrated by the small formal double camellia 'Cabernet', noted for its rich burgundy color, like the wine cabernet sauvignon.

Scarlet is a bright red with an orange tint which gives it a richness and brightness and connotes enthusiasm and a love of life. Scarlet camellias are illustrated by the large *C. reticulata* 'Bravo' (an enthusiastic shout to express approval especially at a performance).

Carmine is a highly saturated deep red that is purple, and is closer to red than crimson. Dedicated and controlled leadership are associated traits. The very large *C. reticulata* 'Captain Rawes' comes to mind. Rich carmine is also called Chinese carmine. This is the color usually referred to as carmine in fashion and interior design.

'Cabernet'



'Bravo'



'Captain Rawes'



'Mathotiana'



‘Maroon and Gold’

Photo by Gene Phillips



Crimson is a strong bright red, like a cherry, with a tint of blue, resulting in a purple cast, as illustrated by *C. japonica* ‘Mathotiana’. The color indicates determination to succeed without upsetting others

Cardinal is a vivid red color named for a Cardinal’s cassock and the male northern cardinal as the female is rusty red brown. The northern cardinal is the state bird for seven states: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia—which is more than any other species. The *C. japonica* ‘Cardinals Cap’ reflects the vivid red color called cardinal. The color is associated with spiritual and moral authority.

Maroon is a dark brownish-red color from the French marron, meaning chestnut. It denotes a more controlled and thoughtful approach to action than bright red. The small loose peony formed *C. japonica* ‘Maroon and Gold’ illustrates this camellia color.

Turkey red, a color used in the 18th and 19th century to dye cotton, comes from the *Rubia* plant root, which originated in India and Turkey. It was brought to Europe in the 1700s. The color is also used to refer to a turkey’s wattle. The *C. japonica* ‘Kramer’s Supreme’ illustrates the color turkey red.

Magenta is located midway between red and blue on the color wheel. Its complementary color is green. It is described as purplish-red, reddish-purple, and purplish-pink. It is a color infrequently used to describe a camellia flower.

Rose red was first used to describe a camellia’s color in Chinese literature around 1743. It is described as a color halfway between red and magenta on the color wheel. The name originates from roses and is common camellia color. It is perceived as a color between red and pink, but more to the red side than the color rose pink, which is more to the pink side. ‘Frank Houser’ is a very large *C. reticulata* described as rose red. ‘Covina’ is a rose red *C. japonica* as is ‘Mark Alan’ and ‘Rudy’s Magnoliaeflora’.

Red modifiers

To gain clarity, adjectives are used to more fully describe a colorful flower. Bright colors are strong but not dark. This is illustrated by ‘Red Hots’ described as **bright** or **brilliant red**. Dark colors are deep not pale. This is illustrated by ‘Bob Hope’, which is described as **dark red**.

When a flower is very dark it may also be described as black red. The iconic **black red** camellia is ‘Black Magic’ which is also described as glossy to further clarify what it looks like.

Concluding remarks

Red is a warm masculine color that, as it becomes dark red and reaches the purple-red color range, carries symbolism for passion and action. The purple tones reflect riches and mysteries. Blood red is associated with blood, even if it isn’t the color of blood. It’s close to burgundy, maroon,

‘Cardinal’s Cap’



‘Kramer’s Supreme’



‘Frank Houser’



and dark red in hue. Depending on how it is used, blood red can carry a darker, sinister symbolism of red such as anger, aggression, and death. These dark tones of red—whether labeled as blood red, burgundy, maroon or dark red—are some

of the most interesting and striking camellia colors. Red and bright red flowers attract our attention, just like a passing red firetruck, which is a key reason red camellias are some of the most popular flowers.

'Red Hots'



'Bob Hope'



“Red modifiers are used to add clarity and more fully describe the characteristics that affect the perception of colors when describing camellia blooms. ‘Red Hots’ is described as “brilliant” or “bright” red. ‘Bob Hope’ is described as “dark” red. ‘Black Magic’ is described as “black” and “glossy” red.”



Japanese white-eye
in a camellia tree at
Hatonomori Park in
Moriyama, Japan

Photo by Greg Peterson



Camellia Pollinators

By Bradford King

A pollinator is a bird, insect, bat or human who moves the pollen from the male anther of a flower to the sticky female stigma of the flower. This can fertilize the ovules of the flower when the pollen grains split and grow. In camellias, a pod develops which contains seeds that have genes from the seed parent and the pollen parent.

Bird Pollinators

Pollinating birds are hummingbirds, honey eaters and sunbirds, all of which have long beaks. In North America, only hummingbirds that do not migrate are around when camellias are in bloom. In the west, this

includes Anna's hummingbird and Allen's hummingbirds, which are yearlong residents along the coast from Seattle, Washington to San Diego, California. They are particularly abundant in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, which includes the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, The Huntington, Descanso Gardens and private homes that provide sugar feeders.

The ruby throated hummingbird is commonly found on the east coast. They are carnivores who use nectar to fuel their bodies to catch insects. Since insects are not abundant in cold weather, most migrate to Central America in the winter or risk starvation. A few ru-



Anna's Hummingbird and a bee
in 'Tama Americana'

Photo by Bradford King

by-throated hummingbirds will remain along the Gulf coast each winter. These are usually those that are sick, too old or fledglings from very late nests who have not had time to build up fat for the long migratory flight. If the winter is severe, they may perish, but in milder winters they may survive and pollinate camellias. In addition, a small population winters in the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

In Japan, China, Vietnam, and Taiwan, the Japanese white-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) is known to pollinate camellias. This bird is omnivorous, feeding on fruit, insects, and nectar. It was introduced to Hawaii in 1929 to control insects and has become a common bird on the

Hawaiian Islands.

Insect Pollinators

Insect pollinators include bees, bumblebees, mosquitoes, butterflies, and moths as well as other insects. Honey bees and bumblebees are the most likely insects to pollinate camellias, as they have been observed frequently in camellia flowers. This is illustrated with a carpenter bee nestled in the *C. sasanqua* 'Double Rainbow'. Bees are seen frequently in a wide variety of camellia flowers. Honey bees are highly attracted to *Camellia sinensis*, the tea plant. In November, they were abundant in a large block of tea plants in Nuccio's



Carpenter bee in *C. sasanqua*
'Double Rainbow'

Photo by Bradford King

Nurseries. They were so numerous, the area literally buzzed. It was a feast for them and for humans passing by who were greeted with a clear sweet smell and buzzing among masses of lovely small white flowers and green buds.

Human Pollinators

Hybridizers are patient, persistent people interested in improving animals and plants. They have made great advances in the food supply. As a child, do you



Honeybees on
C. sinensis blooms

Photo by Bradford King

recall eating watermelon? There were hundreds of seeds in each slice taken from a very large watermelon—great for a picnic, where seed spitting wars and distance shots were frequent. Today small, family-sized seedless juicy melons are available. Nearby in the fruit section are tasty small tangerines that are

also seedless and long lasting. In the vegetable section of the market you will find nicely formed red tomatoes that have a very long shelf life, a welcome achievement. Unfortunately, they are essentially tasteless when compared to home grown heritage tomatoes. This is an example of the tradeoffs in hybridizing goals.

Controlled camellia crosses require a person to emasculate a ripening unopened flower bud by removing all the stamens (the male flower part) and placing fresh pollen on the stigma (female part of the flower). While one may choose buds and pollen that are ready on a given day, it is better to have a breeding goal.

If, for example, the goal is a large red flower with a picotéd border, one would select a plant such as 'Tama Peacock', which is a good seed-setter with a genetic white border. Since it is a small



Hand pollinating
a camellia

Photo by Bradford King



Collecting camellia pollen

Photo by Bradford King



Placing camellia pollen
in container

Photo by Bradford King



Camellia pollen in container

Photo by Bradford King

flower, a large red flower would be picked for its pollen such as 'Royal Velvet' or 'Julius Nuccio'.

This strategy improves the odds of producing a distinctive flower to one in a hundred. Since 'Tama Peacock' is an early to midseason bloomer and 'Royal Velvet' is midseason, this will increase the odds that seedlings will bloom midseason. 'Julius Nuccio' is a mid to late season bloomer, thus increasing the odds for later season blooms. The genetic white border of 'Tama Peacock' may be inherited in various amounts, or not at all.

If the hybridizer wants to increase the size and complexity of a seedling with a white border, the seed parent 'Tama Americana', which has a medium semi-double flower with occasional petaloids and a wide white border, could be used even though it sets seeds less readily than 'Tama-no-ura' or 'Tama Peacock' which have smaller flowers, with a picotéd border. Approximately ten percent of *C. japonica* seedlings were developed through controlled crosses, while the majority of *C. reticulata* and *non-reticulata hybrids* are products of controlled crosses.

Collecting Pollen

Camellia breeders may use fresh pollen for hybridizing or collect and save pollen for future use. Saving pollen is required when the seed and pollen parent bloom seasons do not overlap. This is illustrated with *C. azalea* which blooms March to December, before *C. japonica* and *C. reticulata* cultivars bloom. A freshly opened flower with stamens is harvested. Pollen may be removed by gently striking the anthers with a pencil to make the pollen drop off into a collecting container. Pollen must be dry when collected and not allowed to

gather moisture.

A clear plastic container with a snap-on cover serves well for storing pollen in a refrigerator for three or four months. It can also be placed in a freezer for storage for a year or more. Remember to label the container with the pollen's name.

Concluding Remarks

Open crosses are those made by nature's pollinators. It is estimated that one in a thousand of these chance crosses will produce a camellia with a bloom worth introducing. To improve the odds, controlled crosses are made. A goal is set and a seed parent with one or more of the desired characteristics is selected. Pollen is collected from a flower that has one or more of the desired characteristics. The pollinated flower bud is labeled and allowed to bloom. To ensure that seeds are not lost when the pod opens, a jewelry bag is placed over the pod.



Pod, seeds, jewelry bag

Photo by Bradford King

Seeds are planted in one gallon pots until they bloom, usually five to seven years later. Therefore, camellia breeders need to be patient, persistent, dedicated and optimistic people. If this is not for you then take your chances with nature's pollinators, but keep track of the seed parent to add to your fun in propagating new camellias.



Spotlight: *Camellia reticulata* ‘Lady Pamela’

There are very few light colored *reticulata* hybrids. Red is genetically dominant in this species; although there are also some lovely pink hybrids. Several exceptions are ‘White Retic’, ‘Lauretta Feathers’ and ‘Lady Pamela’. ‘White Retic’ has a large semidouble white flower with blush pink under the petals. This color breakout bloom was introduced in 1977 by Mr. Fish of Santa Cruz, California.

David Feathers registered ‘Lauretta Feathers’ in 1983 naming it for his wife. It has a large to very large blush white flower edged in pink. John Wang of Orinda, California, has continued the search for lighter colored *reticulata* flowers in his breeding program which has produced some very beautiful hybrids notably ‘Holy Pure’ (‘Sheng Jie’). It has a large to very large rose form double to semi-double white bloom

tinged pink with darker pink to light purple edges. It was registered in 2007 and has been growing in popularity as it blooms readily on a vigorous upright plant.

Today we celebrate ‘Lady Pamela’ introduced in Australia in 1996 by Dr. Robert Withers. ‘Lady Pamela’ has a large white flower that shades from bicolorlight pink to darker pink on the fluted petal edges. The semi-double bloom has 21 petals. The 13 inner petals are white with the eight outer petals shading from light to dark pink. The bloom sometimes has rabbit ears that surround the yellow stamens.

It grows in a vigorous open upright manner. Leaves are glossy olive green. It is a cross between *reticulata* hybrid ‘Suzanne Withers’ and *reticulata* ‘Arcadia’. The beautiful bicolored flower shines in the camellia spotlight.

Story and Photograph by Bradford King

Big Better Best

Story by Bradford King

C. reticulata hybrid
'Big Apple Var.'

Photo by Randolph Maphis

There are many big camellia flowers with some better than others. Currently, the two best *reticulatas* are 'Frank Houser' and 'Frank Houser Variegated'. They are the big show winners. Two good big *C. reticulata* hybrids are 'Big Apple' and 'Big Dipper'. They are made even better when variegated.



C. reticulata hybrid

‘Big Dipper Var.’

Photo by Randolph Maphis

The American Camellia Society

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Celeste M. Richard, crichard@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, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

The Camellia Journal

The Camellia Journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the American Camellia Society.

Editor: Bradford D. King; Advertising: Camille Bielby; Production: Camille Bielby and Celeste Richard.

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy of the ACS or of its officers or directors. While the *Journal* endeavors to assume the reliability of its advertising, neither the *Journal* nor the ACS assumes responsibility for any transaction between our advertisers and our readers.

© 2017 American Camellia Society articles may not be republished without written permission.

The Camellia Journal (USPS 555-900)(ISSN 008 204X)

Published quarterly by the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley, GA. Four issues per year. March, June, September, and December. Subscription price is included in the annual membership dues. Periodical Postage paid at Fort Valley, GA, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: The Camellia Journal, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030.



'Frank Houser'
Photo by Bradford King



'Frank Houser Var.'
Photo by Randolph Maphis

Big Apple

New York City is known as the “Big Apple”. This nickname was first popularized in the 1920’s by John J. Fitz Gerald, a sports writer for The Morning Telegraph, in reference to New York horse racing. Apple referred to the substantial prizes being awarded for the races.

He wrote “The Big Apple. The dream of every lad that ever threw a leg over a thoroughbred and the goal of all horsemen. There’s only one Big Apple. That’s New York.” in his 1924 article *Around the Big Apple*. Since the 1970s, the nickname has been used as a promotional campaign by the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The camellia ‘Big Apple’ was introduced in 1984 by Frank Pursel, a prolific hybridizer from Northern California. The flower is a large to very large semi-double peony dark red bloom. When variegated, the contrasting white markings on the dark red make this bloom pop. A good example of a big flower made better when variegated.

Big Dipper

As children we were taught the location of a few constellations of stars. One was the “Big Dipper”, actually an asterism (a group of stars smaller than a constellation and typically having a popular name) with its major stars forming a rough outline of a large ladle or “dipper”. This design was originally seen as a drinking gourd in Africa. American Indians had the bowl as a bear and the handle three cubs following their mother.

Houghton S. Hall of San Anselmo, California, named a very large carmine pink semi-double flower the ‘Big Dipper’. The wonderful pink flower, when uniformly marked with clear white markings, becomes an even better bloom.

The Best Reticulata

The American Camellia Society’s show point system assigns ten points for winners of the Best Bloom in Show category, three points for Runner-up, and one point for Court of Honor winners. The last dozen or so years ‘Frank Houser’ dominated the *reticulata* class throughout the camellia showing states.

Over the last couple of years, ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ has been gaining points on the show circuit. In the 2012-2013 show season ‘Frank Houser’ dipped to 91 points, while ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ earned 99 points. In the 2013-2014 season, ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ received 91 points and ‘Frank Houser’ dipped further to 75 points. In the 2014-2015 season, ‘Frank Houser’ and ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ have been the flowers to beat in the seven camellia shows in Southern California that stretch from San Diego to Bakersfield. They won as singles and in trays of three and five like blooms.

This year, the biggest battle in California was between them with ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ taking more points in the trays. ‘Frank House Variegated’ also led in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast regions for the 2014-2015 season with a combined total of 107 points, followed by ‘Frank Houser’ at 97 and the third place finisher ‘Ray Gentry Variegated’ with 48 points, which is half as many as ‘Frank Houser’. On the national level in the 2015-2016 camellia season, ‘Frank Houser’ earned 74 points, ‘Linda Carol’ earned 49 points and ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ earned 48 points.

In conclusion, the best *C. reticulata* hybrid since 2000 has been ‘Frank Houser’. However beginning in 2013, ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ has, in some years, earned more points. Again, we see that even the best can be better when striking white markings are added to the very large red flower of ‘Frank Houser’.

[Return to TOC](#)

“WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE...”

C. japonica
‘Silver Waves’

STORY AND PHOTOS By BRADFORD KING

As I write this story, hurricanes have wreaked havoc in Texas, Florida, the Caribbean and other areas of the southeast including downing trees at Massee Lane Gardens. Water was everywhere causing floods, loss of life and property, yet water is also essential for life.

James Casey’s poem captures our ambivalent attachment to water when he wrote:

*“Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink
That is of course until this lovely ship does sink
There is nothing to compare to a sunrise at sea
Oh how I’ve missed those moments special to me...”*



C. japonica
'Sea Foam'

The sea, waves, ocean life and fantasy ocean creatures have inspired the names of camellias, some well-known, and others obscure.

SEA FOAM

The most well-known “sea” camellia is the beautifully shaped medium white formal double ‘Sea Foam’. Sea foam, ocean foam, or beach foam is a type of foam created by the agitation of seawater, usually because it contains high concentrations of dissolved organic matter such as algae. It takes many forms and sizes along the seashore. Some are outstanding and attract out attention which undoubtedly inspired the name for this gorgeous white camellia. The ocean has attracted people for generations inspiring stories and magical creatures like the Sea Witch a folklore character portrayed as a woman with a magical power over the sea, the weather, or aspects of seafaring life. The camellia ‘Sea Witch’ has a rose pink miniature to small rose form to formal double flower.

SEA PEARLS

The camellia ‘Sea Pearl’ has large shell pink semi-double flowers which may have reminded Tuckfield, who introduced it from Australia in 1971,

of the sunrise noted in Casey’s poem. Sunrises are indeed special for their subtle colors and announcing the dawn of a new day.

Pearls are also special. A natural pearl is usually formed when a parasite works its way into an oyster, mussel, or clam. A fluid is used to coat the irritant thus protecting the host mollusk. Layer upon layer of this coating is deposited until a lustrous pearl is formed.

Pearls, known as the “Queen of Gems” have a long history with a natural pearl necklace comprised of matched spheres as a classic women’s piece of jewelry which when paired with the equally classic black dress make an understated form of beauty. Camellias are also known as the “Queen of the Winter Garden”.

‘White Pearl’ is a lesser known camellia variety, but the large white semi-double flower depicts the traditional white color of many pearls. However, several *C. japonicas* with blush colored flowers also include pearl in their name. ‘Nuccio’s Pearl’ is a medium formal double blush white flower with deeper tones of pink on the petal edges that also reaches the center of the bloom. ‘Baby Pearl’ has a small formal double flower washed orchid pink that blooms among green leaves. The pairing of green foliage



C. japonica 'Nuccio's Pearl'



C. japonica 'Baby Pearl'

with colorful flowers is one of the many reasons camellias are the "Queen of the Winter Garden".

SILVER WAVES

People love viewing ocean waves with their power, rhythm, flashes of white and blue colors curling and crashing on the beach, some small, others powerful and a few destructive. The popular saying "Don't make waves" ("don't make trouble") is inspired by ocean waves. The popular camellia 'Silver Waves' is no trouble maker. The very large white semidouble has wavy petals that remind us of gentle peaceful waves. It blooms early to midseason on a vigorous bushy plant and makes a good landscape plant with show winning qualities.

WATER LILY

Water Lily (Nymphaeaceae) is a family of flowering plants that are rooted in the soil in bodies of water. The series of 250 paintings of water lilies by the French Impressionist, Claude Monet (1840-1926) at his flower garden in Giverny were the focus of the last thirty years of his life. The paintings are done during different seasons and times of day depicting a wide range of color and light. The *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica* 'K. Sawada' hybrid 'Water Lily' has a medium bright lavender pink formal double flower. It is one of the best *hybrids* introduced by Felix Jury, the noted hybridizer from New Zealand. It has be-



C. hybrid 'Water Lily'

come widely grown since it was introduced in 1967. *Saluenensis* hybrids are noted for producing lovely shades of lavender pink flowers which make them very desirable.

MERMAIDS

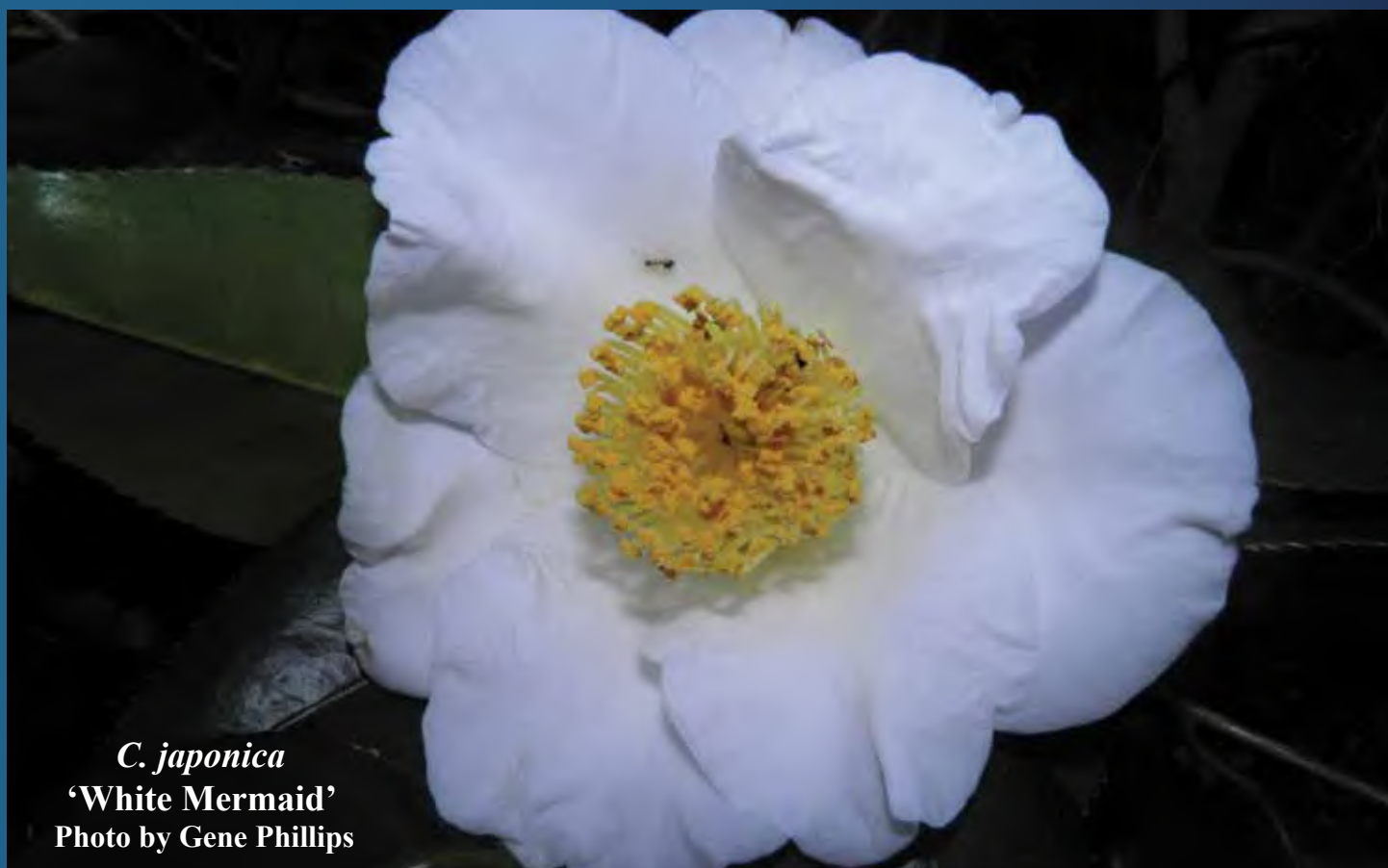
Mermaids are legendary aquatic creatures with the head and upper body of a woman and lower body a fish tail. They appear in the folklore of many cultures including Asia, Africa, Europe and the Near East.

Mermaids at times fall in love with man and can be beneficial, providing gifts and assistance to humans. However, they are sometimes also associated with floods, storms, shipwrecks, drownings and other perilous events.

In 1994 two Japanese camellias 'Pink Mermaid' and 'White Mermaid' were imported by Piroche Plants of British Columbia, Canada and by Nurseries Caroliniana in North Augusta, South Carolina by Ted Stephens in the 1990s. Stephens emailed that he checked his

Japanese camellia reference and under the picture of the pink-flowering form was the name 'Kingyo-tsubaki' which we believe to be the Japanese priority name for 'Pink Mermaid'.

In addition, Stephens said "Every plant that I saw available in Japan was white flowering, but I ordered liners from a Chinese nursery (now defunct) of the white flowering form back in the 90s, and out of 50



C. japonica
‘White Mermaid’
 Photo by Gene Phillips

or so liners, there was one pink flowering form. We separated it out and it is presently eight to nine feet. We have been calling it ‘Pink Mermaid’”.

‘Pink Mermaid’ has a medium single “spinel” pink flower with golden stamens and narrow leaves that flare out to three points like a fishtail. It blooms mid to late season. ‘White Mermaid’ is a medium single sport of ‘Pink Mermaid’ which also has fish-tail foliage. The ancient “Goldfish Leaved Camellia” (‘Kinyoba-tsubaki’) is usually described as a tubular deep pink-red (rose red) that, as it matures, flattens.

CONCLUSION

Color descriptions and camellia names can cause a flood of opinions and even stormy conflicts. ‘Pink Mermaid’ is most likely the “Goldfish Camellia” (‘Kinyo-tsubaki’) which dates to 1789 in Japan. American nurseries are using a catchy and easily understood marketing name ‘Pink Mermaid’ that reflects the pink flower and fish-tailed leaves. However, the sport ‘White Mermaid’ has been imported and now propagated, but has not been officially registered, even though white flowers have been observed on ‘Kinyo-tsubaki’ in Japan for years. ‘White Mer-



Left: *C. japonica* ‘Pink Mermaid’ and leaves (Photo by Ted Stephens). Right: “Fishtail” leaves of *C. japonica* ‘White Mermaid’ (Photo by Bradford King).

maid’ is available through specialty camellia nurseries, specifically Loch Laurel Nursery of Valdosta, Georgia, Nurseries Caroliniana of North Augusta, South Carolina, Nuccio’s Nurseries of Altadena, California, and Piroche Plants of British Columbia, Canada. ‘White Mermaid’ is a bushy handsome plant with dark green foliage and many fish tail leaves that has a good bud set and a nice white flower.



Story and photos by Bradford King

The color white is a symbol of purity. It is also the traditional color of a bridal gown. The first white camellia in the western world came from

China to England in 1796. A British sea captain gave 'Alba Plena' to John Slater who grew it in his glass house in London. We particularly cherish the pure blemish free white camellias.

Pink symbolizes unconditional love and denotes romantic love. Hot pink conveys playfulness and pastel pink tenderness. Pink hues provide images of soft, delicate femininity. A hint of pink makes a white flower blush, and, as pigment is added, the

flower colors become soft pink, rose pink and finally a shade from red.

When pink is highly saturated, the color is more intense. It is seen as hot pink while pastel pink is perceived when the saturation is low. Pink is made by mixing white and red pigments.



C. japonica 'Junior Prom' is a blush white camellia. Photo by Jim Pruckler

Flower color and forms are controlled by genes inherited from the plants' parents. Some of the most beautiful camellias have white flowers with shades of pink, while others are light pink blooms shading to darker pink on the petal edges. They may be pretty single flowers or more complicated as the number of petals increases until they reach the level of being a magnificent formal double.



'Doris Ellis'



'Nuccio's Pearl'



'Grace Albritton Flair'

White with Shades of Pink

Formal dress for women in our culture includes cocktail dresses, evening gowns, and formal gowns. The tuxedo is the traditional formal attire for men. Unisex uniforms can also be official clothing appropriate as formal attire for example formal military uniforms and academic and graduate robes and hoods. In America and other western countries dress codes have become more informal. Fortunately at camellia shows the judging of formal double flowers has never been relaxed.

Formal double white flowers with shades of pink on the petal edges are widely grown because they are truly magnificent. They come in different sizes with many having similar hues. This can make telling the blooms apart difficult. A partial list of these cultivars includes: 'Baby Pearl', 'Commander Mulroy', 'Donnan's Dream', 'Doris Ellis', 'Grace Albritton Flair', 'Jerry Donnan', 'Kitty', 'Nuccio's Pearl', and 'Sawada's Dream'.

Less formal white camellias with shades of pink are also very beautiful. A white peony flower with lovely shades of pink becoming dark at the petal edges is a striking sight. 'Nuccio's Jewel' is a beautiful example as the white shades to a lovely coral pink on the mar-

gins.

Shades of Pink

Generations of *C. japonica* cultivars were cultivated in China and Japan. Camellia growers especially in Japan bred and propagated the most attractive, which are the foundation for the lovely current shades of pink camellias. Japanese-American growers and nurseries began importing camellias from Japan as early as the 1930's. One of the most successful was Mr. Uyematsu who owned and operated Star Nursery located in Southern California. He had over fifty *japonica* cultivars shipped from Japan to America in 1930. One example is 'Fukurin-ikkyû'. It is a lovely miniature semi-double light pink flower with petals edged white and rose red stripes. Tom Nuccio says, "You never want to try and say 'Fukurin-ikkyû' after drinking alcohol."

When Mr. Uyematsu was sent to an internment camp during World War II, Manchester Boddy, founder of Descanso Gardens, and Mr. Jones, President of Richfield Oil Company, bought most of his camellias. One of the unnamed seedlings was later named 'Bernice Boddy' to honor Manchester Boddy's wife. 'Bernice Boddy' was introduced in 1946 by Jones and Descanso Gardens and provides us a model of how shades of pink



'Nuccio's Jewel'



Photo by Jim Dwyer

'Fukurin-ikkyû'



'Bernice Boddy'



C. japonica 'Dr. Tinsley'

camellias have evolved.

Dr. Clifford Parks of Chapel Hill, North Carolina used it extensively in his cold hardy breeding program and has observed its progeny inheriting, in many cases, the pink shading. One lovely example is his 'April Remembered', which inherited the pink shading and its cold hardy traits from 'Bernice Boddy' as did 'April Dawn Blush'. Dr. Parks has postulated that a shading

gene is responsible for this color phenomenon.

There are other camellia forms with lovely flowers that have color blends deepening as they reach the petal edges. Examples include 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Nuccio's Carousel', 'Mrs. George Bell', 'Love Boat' and 'Prima Ballerina'. 'Nuccio's Carousel' illustrates this with its medium to large tubular semidouble soft pink flower that shades to a deeper pink on its edge. 'Dr. Tinsley'

'April Dawn Blush'



'Nuccio's Carousel'



'Grace Albritton'



Photo by Randolph Maphis



C. hybrid 'Showboat' with incurved petals (top) and traditional rose form (right inset).

is described as a semi-double flower, but I found one labeled in Descanso Gardens that is a formal double. Is this an identification error or is this flower the sport known as 'Dr. Tinsley Supreme'?

Formal double light pink flowers with darker pink petals include *C. japonica* 'Desire', 'Grace Albritton' and *saluenensis* hybrid 'Demure'. David Feathers of Lafayette, California introduced 'Desire', 'Demure' and 'Love Boat'. He spent over forty years as a writer, lecturer and innovator of new camellias. He introduced twelve *reticulata* hybrid, fourteen *japonica* and eight *non-reticulata* hybrid cultivars from the mid-1950s through the mid-1990s. A new *hybrid*, 'Showboat' from Nuccio's has a large formal double flower that occasionally has lovely incurved petals edged in lavender pink and was introduced in 2012.

Conclusion

The purity of a totally white flower becomes more interesting when shades of pink appear on the petal edges. The genetics involved are not well researched.

It would seem that multiple genes are responsible for the color and forms in camellia flowers. When red and white pigments are introduced, this gives us pink. How the pink pigments migrate to the petal border is unclear.

Since the *C. japonica* flowers were originally red and pink, they already had genes that provided those pigments in their genome. Since red is usually dominant and white recessive, both parents would need to carry the white recessive gene to get a white flower. We know this occurs on a fairly regular basis. We also know from 'Bernice Boddy' that pink shades can be inherited. We also know that sports are genetic mutations that have given us new flower and color forms, some of which have the most beautiful shades of pink, including lovely light pink to dark pink on the petals.

椿 **CAMELLIA** **TREASURES** **FROM JAPAN**



‘Pink Perfection’

Camellia japonica

Story and Photos By Bradford King



'Herme Pink'
and 'Herme'



'Tinsie'



'Magnoliaeflora'

C*amellia japonica*, also called the “Rose of Winter”, is the most well-known species of the genus *camellia*. While found in China, Taiwan, Korea and other parts of Southeast Asia, the species name refers to Japan. In Japan, the camellia flower is called “Tsubaki” and symbolizes the divine. It is often used in religious and sacred ceremonies. It also represents the coming of spring. The red camellia represents love, yellow longing, and white death. Therefore, giving a white camellia is thought to bring bad luck, evil and even death.

In Japan, flowers are a traditional gift for both men and women. They are often used to convey what can't be spoken. There are a thousand *Camellia japonica* cultivars illustrated in *The Camellias of Japan*, published in 2011 by the Japanese Camellia Society, which describes and illustrates varieties originating in Japan. Unfortunately, most are unknown in the United States. Eighteen varieties that originated in Japan have become established in America.

THE CLASSICS

'Hikaru-genji' (hero of the genie story) is better known as 'Herme' in America where it has also been called 'Jordan's Pride'. The medium semi-double flower is pink with an irregular white border and deep pink stripes. Its documented history begins in 1859. It came from Japan to Sacramento, California in 1875.

The Tale of Genji is a classic work of Japanese literature written by Murasaki Shikibu in the early years of the 11th century. It is sometimes called the first psychological novel. It illustrates the lifestyles of high courtiers. There is a central character and a very large number of well-developed major characters. The work has no plot but events occur with the characters growing older. Almost none of the numerous characters are given names; rather, they are referred to by their function or their relation to other characters such as “heir ap-

parent”, which makes complicated reading for modern readers.

'Herme' is one of the camellias that has mutated new varieties. Examples include 'Herme Pink', 'Herme Red', 'Colonial Lady' and 'Look-Away'. In fact, it is common to see a mature 'Herme' with one or more branches of pink or red flowers. Star Nursery of Los Angeles, California imported 'Herme Pink' to the United States in 1930.

The owner of Star Nursery was Mr. F. M. Uyematsu. He came from his native Japan as a twenty-three-year-old in 1904. He began importing plants in 1908 from Japan to Figueroa Nursery in Los Angeles and peddling camellias and other plants with a horse and buggy. In 1912 he moved to a five-acre lot in Montebello, California and established a wholesale business named “Star Nursery”.

Over the years, Star Nursery imported hundreds of thousands of camellias. Uyematsu paid three cents for camellias in Japan, five cents to import them to the U.S. and sold them for 25 cents in cart loads of up to 60,000. Commercially he stuck to varieties requested by retail nurserymen. This is how varieties like 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Herme', 'Tinsie' and 'Pink Perfection' became widely grown.

In 1930 Star Nursery imported 'Bokuhan' (a person's name) commonly known today as 'Tinsie' to California. It has a miniature red flower with outer guard petals and a central cluster of white petaloids. This makes it a wonderful anemone flower. It is interesting to see bees just plow through the petaloids to reach the pollen and fertilize what at first glance looks like an impenetrable bloom. It sets seeds readily.

'Hagoromo' we know as 'Magnoliaeflora'. It has been documented as appearing in 1842 in Japan. It was imported to Italy in 1886. 'Magnoliaeflora' has a medium blush pink flower. It blooms freely and resembles a magnolia flower which accounts for the English name.



‘Lady Clare’



‘Daikagura Red’ and
‘Daikagura’

While walking in Descanso Garden, people were taking pictures of a young woman in a “robe of feathers” which reminded me of ‘Hagoromo’.

One of the most popular and widely known of the Japanese cultivars is ‘Pink Perfection’ which was imported to Sacramento, California in 1875, but known as ‘Usu-Otome’ in Japan. The flower is a small perfectly formed pink formal double. Trees twenty feet tall can be seen when they have been left to grow naturally. They are spectacular when in full bloom.

We know ‘Akashigata’ (Akashi Bay) as ‘Lady Clare’. The flower is a large deep pink semi-double with crepe like petals. It can be traced back to 1859 in Japan and was imported to England in 1887. It was renamed ‘Lady Clare’ when it arrived in America.

‘Surusumi’ (Rubbing Black Ink Stick) has a large single white flower with heavy textured petals and a wonderful cluster of circular-flared stamens. It blooms early to midseason on a vigorous compact upright plant. It is said to have originated in the 1800s and named in 1876.

While I enjoy the picturesque Japanese camellia names, this one doesn’t make sense to me, as the bloom is white and sake-cupped in shape with stamens that reminds us of a Higo. The Japanese describe a single camellia as sake-cup-shaped when the flower depth is

shallower and sharper than a single round bowl shaped flower.

‘Daikagura’ (Great Sacred Dance) has a medium to large red peony flower with white markings caused by virus variegation. It has been grown as early as 1788 in Japan. It is one of the most widely grown camellias worldwide. When not variegated, it is known as ‘Daikagura Red’.

‘Arajishi’ (Fierce Lion) has a crimson medium peony flower which appears very early to midseason. It originated in Yokohama, Japan in 1891. There is a variegated form of this cultivar and some controversy as to whether ‘Arajishi’ is the name for the variegated form. In America, the virus variegated blooms is called ‘Arajishi Variegated’ and the red ‘Arajishi’.

‘Haru-no-utena’ (Tower of Spring) has a white or pale pink flower with various amounts of vertical large and small red stripes. It has a lotus formed semi-double flower. It has continued to be a popular camellia show entry to this day. The Japanese describe a semi-double flower with separated petals that are channeled like a gutter that have recurved petal tops as lotus formed. The beautiful lotus flower is highly valued in Japanese culture.

‘Hishi-Karaito’ (Rhombic Chinese Silk Thread) has a small pink flower with a fountain of white pet-



‘Surusumi’



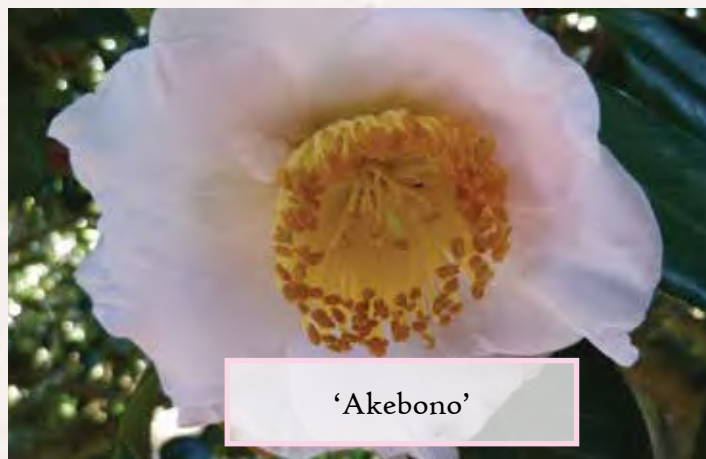
‘Arajishi’



‘Haru-no-utena’



'Miyakodori'



'Akebono'

aloids in its center. It dates to 1844 in Japan coming to the United States in 1934. It is one of the most popular small camellias flowers for its many consistently formed blooms. In America, we describe the form as semi-double, but the Japanese see it as an anemone due to the three or four rows of outer petals and the consistent mass of central petaloids. Regardless, the cluster of central white petaloids emerged among the clear pink petals makes for a great bloom.

'Miyakodori' (Seagull) has a medium to large pure white lotus formed semi-double flower that was named for the upright petals that are like the wings of a seagull. It is sometimes called 'Magnoliaeflora Alba' which isn't as picturesque a name for this flower as the Japanese priority name.

'Akebono' (Dawn) has a bowl shaped pale pink single flower with a center of upright stamens. It was brought to the United States by Toichi Domoto in 1948. He is one of the Japanese Americans who introduced camellias from Japan to the United States. He was born in Oakland, California in 1902, the first son of Kanetaro Domoto, who immigrated to this country in 1882. He was one of thirteen children born to Teru Morita Domoto.

He grew up in the family nursery business and entered Stanford University in 1921 and transferred in

1923 to the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana because the floriculture program at Illinois was one of the best. After graduating, Domoto bought twenty-six acres in Hayward, California and opened his nursery specializing in camellias. Financial responsibility, discriminatory land laws, the great depression and the 1941 internment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry were some of the burdens he endured without loss of his integrity, love of family and passion for camellias.

HOW THE JAPONICAS SPREAD IN AMERICA

Japonica cultivars were first imported from Europe by wealthy homeowners in Boston, New York and Philadelphia to grow in their conservatories. The Boston Conservatory boasted of having 1,000 *japonica* plants in bloom during the 1838 Christmas season. The first record of a camellia in a show was in Philadelphia in 1828, the year Andrew Jackson was elected president where only three blooms were shown. Records of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society show that in 1829 the society offered an award of \$3.00 for the greatest number and finest kinds of blooms of *Camellia japonica*.

David Landreth founded the first seed company in Philadelphia in 1784 where he also sold camellias.



'Koshi-no-yoso'oi'



'Tama-no-ura'



'Fukutsuzumi'



'Princess Masako'

He opened a branch in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1818. From 1830 to 1860 thousands of camellias arrived for the plantation owners of the low country. It was during this same period that Magnolia and Middleton Gardens

were established and planted with camellias. Fruitland Nursery in Augusta, Georgia was established in 1858 and sold camellias until this property became the Augusta National Golf Club.

In the 1800s, camellias from Japan spread from Asia to Europe then to America. In the west, it was James L. L. F. Warren who traveled from Boston to Sacramento in 1850, the year California became a state. He sent back to Boston for plants and seeds, which arrived in San Francisco in 1852. The camellias thrived and fueled widespread interest.

There are some 100-year old trees in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco and the capital grounds in Sacramento are planted with camellias. Camellias arrived in Oregon during frontier days, with the oldest plant believed to have been carried west by pioneers and planted in Sutherlin, Oregon. It was in the early 1900s with the immigration of the Japanese who developed nurseries in America that made importation of *C. japonica* seeds and plants directly to the states.

CONTEMPORARY INTRODUCTIONS

'Koshi-no-yoso'oi' (Niigata Adornment) is from Niigata, Japan. It was grown by a private family and named by Mitsurokou Makino in 1970. The small to medium formal double flower is pale pink. It is larger and lighter pink than the more famous 'Pink Perfection' whose English name is much easier to remember and say than this cultivar which has retained its Japanese priority name. Before 1950 nurseries regularly renamed the Japanese cultivar with English names that were more understandable and appealing to English speaking customers. This helped market the Japanese cultivars. Today there is a commitment to keeping the original priority name.

'Tama-no-ura' was named for the town where it was discovered. Tama means jewel. The small single bright red flower has a lovely white border. It was released by Tomokazu Fujita and named by the Prefectural Camellia Society in 1973. Nuccio's Nurseries imported

it in 1978 to America. They propagated and used it as the mother of nine cultivars with a picotéd border. The white border makes beautiful and highly valued plants. For hundreds of years the Japanese have appreciated the wild single flowers of *Camellia japonica* known there as 'Yabu Tsubaki'. They are found in Japanese art and in simple but elegant flower arrangements.

Nuccio's Nurseries has imported seven 'Yabu Tsubaki'. They are illustrated here by the simple form of 'Fukutsuzumi' (Fortune's Hand Drum). The flower has various amounts of random white markings on a single tubular dark red flower. It was first imported by Yoshiaki Andoh in 1971.

A medium lotus formed semi-double to loose peony flower was named for the crown princess of Japan. 'Princess Masako' has a white flower with both small and large stripes. At times, it may also have a fine red edge to the fluted petals on this mid to late season bloomer. It is a mutation sporting from 'Ikari-shibori'; named and originated by Soshin Hirai in 1989. Princess Masako is best known for her independent nature before she married the Crown Prince Narhuito after a long courtship. Now married over twenty years, she has led a quiet royal life.

'Mahoroba' (Excellent Country) has a formal double deep pink medium to large flower with a white border and imbricated petals. It blooms mid to late season on a vigorous bushy plant. It was named and released by



'Mahoroba'

Soshin Hirai in 2007. While not yet well known, it has its fans in Europe and America. My plant has grown well, but tends so far to produce only a few medium sized flowers. Grafts take and are easily grown, which may help in its wider distribution.

TODAY

We can keep up with current news and information around the world. We can enjoy Facebook images of friends and their camellia blooms from around the world. However, we are not able to exchange live plant material as most countries have developed strict laws about importing and exporting live plants. These regulations protect the environment and limit new camellia cultivars from becoming established. It is also the reason only about two percent of the *C. japonica* Japanese cultivars are grown in America, with most of those introduced before 1950.



Spotlight: *C. hybrid* ‘Honeymoon’

The custom of a newlywed couple going on a holiday began in Great Britain with the upper class in the early 1800s to visit relatives who had not been able to attend the wedding. It was the time a newlywed couple would take to share private and intimate moments to celebrate and enhance a loving relationship.

Today’s concept of a holiday voyage undertaken by the married couple is one of the first instances of modern mass tourism. Typically honeymoons started on the night the couple was married. However, today many couples will not leave until one to three days after the ceremony in order to enjoy the reception to its fullest and have a relaxing night afterwards to recover.

The honeymoon is to a destination the couple chooses which lasts anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. The term “honeymoon” comes from ancient Germanic weddings, where the newly married couple would drink mead for thirty days after their wedding. Weddings were only held

on a night where there was a full moon. They drank the honey wine for a month until the next full moon, thus the name “honey moon.”

The *non-reticulata* hybrid ‘Honeymoon’ is the result of a controlled cross between a seedling of *C. pitardii* v. *yunnanica* x *C. japonica* ‘Guilio Nuccio’ and *C. nitidissima* introduced in 1992. Julius Nuccio tried numerous back crosses to *C. nitidissima* with their first-generation yellow camellias like ‘Honeymoon’, ‘Lemon Drop’, ‘Golden Glow’ and ‘Buttermint’. He found they did not contain as much yellow as the first-generation hybrids; consequently, this hybridizing program was not pursued.

However, ‘Honeymoon’ has attracted its followers because of its unusual pink bud, medium to large semi-double flower and the striking golden center surrounded by creamy white petals. It blooms late season on a vigorous upright somewhat open plant. The spotlight illuminates this eye-catching *hybrid*.

Story and photograph by Bradford King

Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

By Bradford King

‘Mary Alice Cox’
Photo by Gene Phillips

“With silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maids all in a row” is a popular English nursery rhyme. As a child we changed the ending to “and one damn petunia.”

Religious scholars being more serious see it as a religious allegory of Catholicism, with bells representing the Sanctus bells (a set of altar bells to create a joyful noise to the Lord), the cockle shells (name for a flower better known as Campanula) the badges of the pilgrims to the shrine of Saint John in Spain and pretty maids are nuns. Another theory sees the rhyme as connected to Mary Queen of Scotland with “how does your garden grow” referring to her reign over her realm, “silver bells” referring to cathedral bells, “cockle shells” insinuating that her husband was not faithful to her, and “pretty maids all in a row” referring to her ladies-in-waiting.

The most important Mary of all time was the mother of Jesus. The New Testament describes Mary as a vir-

gin who conceived through the Holy Spirit and married Joseph and accompanied him to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. Mary is a vital part of Christianity. It is why over the last one hundred years Mary is the number one ranked name for a female child in America. Social security records reveal that there are 3,569,442 women named Mary. Therefore it is not surprising Mary is also a popular camellia name. In the *Camellia Nomenclature* there are 73 *C. japonicas*, 16 *C. reticulata* and three *non-reticulata* hybrids with Mary names. The *International Camellia Register* lists 119 camellia varieties named Mary. Let’s look at some of the most beautiful camellias named Mary.

C. japonica

‘Mary Alice Cox’ is a lovely medium to large formal double with medium wide petals at the base that narrow to short petals at the rose bud center. It first bloomed in 1963 as an eight-year-old seedling. It was originated



'Mary Edna Curlee'
Photo by Bradford King

and named for a loved one by T. N. Cox, of Georgetown, South Carolina.

Miles Beach of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, introduced 'Mary Edna

Curlee' in 1996 naming it for a close family friend. The flower is a blush pink splotted with rose pink and dark red highlights. It is a chance seedling of 'Erin Farmer' that first bloomed in 1992.

Kramer Brothers Nurseries of Upland, California, introduced 'Mary Fischer' in 1980. This is one of twenty *japonica* introductions by this nursery from 1929 to 1986. It was founded on Long Island, New York, by Otto and August Kramer in 1896 and moved to California in 1929. The nursery was continued after the brothers retired by August Kramer's daughter, Marie, who married Ben Mackall in 1937. Ben and Marie Mackall introduced this bloom with blush pink to deeper pink on the outer petals. It has a large irregular semi-double to peony form that blooms midseason on a bushy plant.



'Mary Fischer'
Photo by Randolph Maphis

C. reticulata

'Mary A. Bergamini' was originated by Don Bergamini who named it for his lovely wife in 2006. Ber-

gamini grows, shows and breeds camellias especially miniature and small varieties in his Martinez, California garden. This seedling of 'Arch of Triumph' has a large hot pink flower. Mary Bergamini always participates in local society meetings and assists Don Bergamini at camellia shows. Bergamini was ACS President from 2013-2015.



'Mary A. Bergamini'
Photo by Don Bergamini



Mary Bergamini
Photo by
Camille Bielby

'Mary Elizabeth Dowden' has a wonderful medium to large pink semi-double heavily-veined flower with golden anthers and white filaments. At times the mid-season bloom has a lovely silver sheen. It was originated by Charles C. Bush of Slidell, Louisiana and propagated by Robert A. Stroud, a past ACS President. This camellia was named for Stroud's oldest granddaughter. Today she is a 17-year-old graduating Senior at Northshore High School in Slidell, Louisiana.



Mary Elizabeth
Dowden
Photo by
William Dowden



'Mary Elizabeth Dowden'
Photo by Bradford King

The American Camellia Society

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Celeste M. Richard, crichard@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, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

The Camellia Journal

The Camellia Journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the American Camellia Society.

Editor: Bradford D. King; Advertising: Camille Bielby; Production: Camille Bielby and Celeste Richard.

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy of the ACS or of its officers or directors. While the *Journal* endeavors to assume the reliability of its advertising, neither the *Journal* nor the ACS assumes responsibility for any transaction between our advertisers and our readers.

© 2017 American Camellia Society articles may not be republished without written permission.

The Camellia Journal (USPS 555-900)(ISSN 008 204X)

Published quarterly by the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley, GA. Four issues per year. March, June, September, and December. Subscription price is included in the annual membership dues. Periodical Postage paid at Fort Valley, GA and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: The Camellia Journal, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

The Ozone Camellia Club is one of the oldest and largest camellia clubs in the States with about 250 members. According to Stroud, the women of the First United Methodist Church promoted camellia propagation and sponsored local camellia shows ten years before the Ozone Camellia Club was organized. In fact, it was through the introduction of camellias to the city of Slidell that Slidell became “The Camellia City”.

The avid camellia hybridizer (and a past ACS President), Jack L. Mandarich, specialized in breeding *reticulata* hybrids. He introduced 19 *reticulata* hybrids. One of his best is ‘Mary O’Donnell’, which has a medium to large orchid pink peony to rose form double to formal



‘Mary O’Donnell’
Photo by Bradford King

double flower. It blooms early to late season on a vigorous dense, spreading plant upright. This large rich full peony phlox pink flower is a terrific camellia, winning 22 points at camellia shows in the medium *reticulata* class in 2014.

Hulyn Smith, the noted hybridizer and a past ACS President from Valdosta, Georgia, registered ‘Mary



‘Mary Phoebe Taylor’
Photo by Bradford King

Rhodes’ in 2013. He named the large to very large semi-double light pink flower that shades to white, for a camellia friend from Tallahassee, Florida. It blooms late season on a vigorous dense spreading plant. It is a controlled cross between *reticulata* hybrids ‘Suzanne Withers’ and ‘Annabelle Fetterman’. While Smith had a passion for large red camellias, this is a great pink-hued flower. The flower photo was taken in the greenhouse of Mary and Harold Rhodes.

Non-*reticulata* Hybrid

‘Mary Phoebe Taylor’ is a beautiful *C. x williamsii* hybrid introduced in 1975 by James Chadwick Taylor of Alton, Taranaki, New Zealand. This *C. saluenensis* hybrid first flowered in 1965. The flower has a very large light rose pink peony flower with yellow anthers and creamy filaments. It blooms early to midseason on an upright semi-spreading plant. The very large size is uncommon with *non-reticulata* hybrids and the color tones make this an impressive bloom.

Changing Times

Most camellia folk have a friend or relative named Mary, yet over the last decade girl’s names have changed drastically. Our grandchildren are no longer named Mary but more likely Emma, Olivia or Ava. In 2017, Mary is listed as the 189th most popular name. However, the many camellias carrying the name Mary are cherished just like our friends and relatives named Mary.



Mary Rhodes
Photo by
Camille Bielby

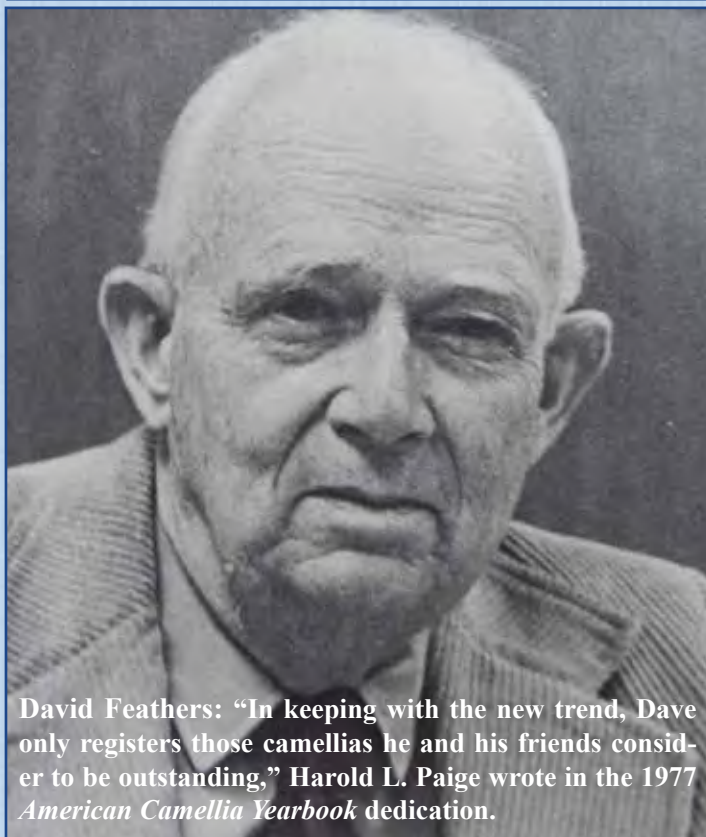


‘Mary Rhodes’
Photo by Bradford King

Remembering Our Past

David L. Feathers

by Bradford King



David Feathers: "In keeping with the new trend, Dave only registers those camellias he and his friends consider to be outstanding," Harold L. Paige wrote in the 1977 *American Camellia Yearbook* dedication.

David Feathers spent over forty years as a writer, lecturer and innovator of new camellias. He became a Fellow of the American Camellia Society in 1969. He served as an ACS Vice President, State Director, and member of several committees.

Feathers served as the special issue guest editor for the November 1975 *Camellia Journal*, on the subject of the future of camellia hybridization. He obtained

articles written by William Ackerman, Ken Hallstone, Walter Homeyer, Julius Nuccio and Clifford Parks. The 1977 *American Camellia Yearbook* was dedicated in his honor.

He and 12 camellia friends founded the Northern California Camellia Society (NCCS) in 1945. He held many positions in the NCCS, including 11 years as editor of *The Camellia Bulletin*.

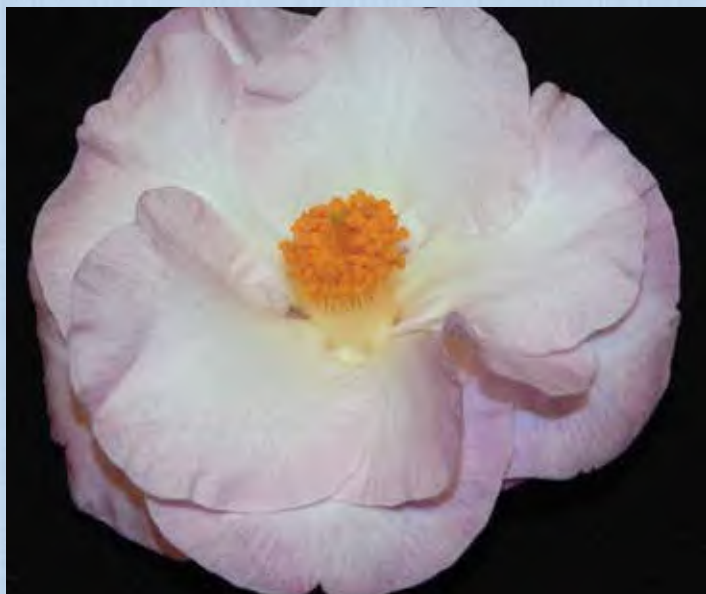
He touted the camellia hobby as "a way to health and happiness." He was the editor of the classic now out-of-print book, *The Camellia: Its History, Culture, Genetics and a Look Into Its Future Development*. The book jacket has a picture of his introduction, 'Arch of Triumph', which is a very large deep pink to wine red loose peony *reticulata* hybrid. It was awarded the 1974 ACS Aubrey Harris Hybrid Award.

Feathers and his wife Lauretta, lived at Number One Camellia Way, Lafayette, California, on a rather steep natural oak-covered estate. He had a small greenhouse for starting seedlings, a lath house for plants being evaluated, several acres with thousands of seedlings in containers, and hundreds of camellias planted over the rolling hillside. He was an avid and successful camellia hybridizer for over 40 years.

He began when he wished to honor his mother by creating a new white formal double camellia. He introduced thirteen *reticulata* hybrids, including 'Lauretta Feathers', named for his wife. It has a large to very large blush white flower edged with pink. It is one of a very few white-toned *reticulata* camellias.



Left: Jack Osegueda with 'Harold L. Paige' and David Feathers with 'LASCA Beauty'. **Above:** American Camellia Society Members tour Feathers' garden at One Camellia Way, in Lafayette, CA. **Photos:** ACS Slide Collection



'Lauretta Feathers'
Photo by Bradford King



'Desire'
Photo by Bradford King

He also bred and registered 14 *japonica* and eight *non-reticulata* hybrid cultivars from 1952 through the mid 1990s. One of his best *japonicas* is 'Desire' which has a very pretty medium pale pink formal double flower. In 1977 he registered 'Freckles' which has a lovely miniature white flower with pink dots and flecks.

Two of his most beautiful pink *hybrids* are 'Demure'

and 'Tulip Time' which are propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries. 'Demure' has a pretty single small pale pink flower with deeper pink edges. 'Tulip Time' has a lovely medium light pink tulip-formed flower.

Feathers also bred fragrant camellias. He introduced 'Salab', a cultivar often used by others in hybridizing fragrant camellias because it produces abundant seeds



'Demure'
Photo by Bradford King



‘Freckles’
Photo by Bradford King

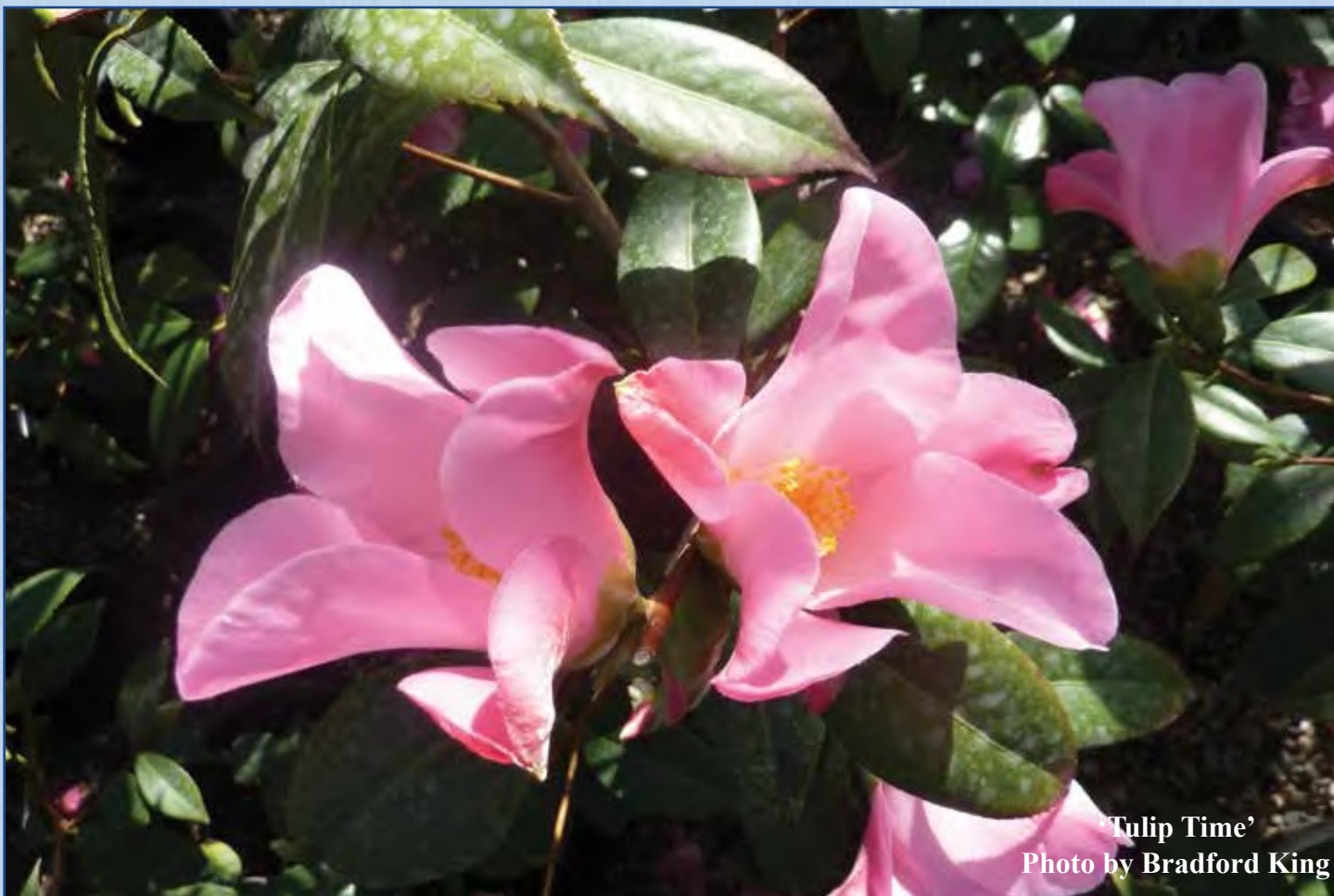


‘Salab’
Photo by Bradford King

and has a nice musky scent inherited from *C. sasanqua* ‘Apple Blossom’ when it was crossed with *C. saluenensis*.

He was generous in providing advice, pollen and scions to anyone interested in growing camellias. He was a firm believer that the future of camellias lies in breeding species and *hybrids*.

The American Camellia Society posthumously awarded David Feathers the Tablet of Honor Award in February 2011 for all his contributions to the camellia world. Bob Ehrhart, in his presentation of the Tablet of Honor, noted that Feathers was a generous donor of matching funds to camellia societies and made a significant donation to the ACS “Fight Petal Blight Fund.”



‘Tulip Time’
Photo by Bradford King

Everyone Loves Candy

By Bradford King



'Candy Cane'
Photo by Brad King



'Candy Mint'
Photo by Brad King

Is there anyone who doesn't love candy? Perhaps there are a few people who proclaim their dislike and who abstain. Yet, almost everyone has at least one they can't pass up.

Those with diabetes know that sweets should be avoided or eaten in very small amounts because candy is a confection whose main ingredient is sugar. They differ from desserts, which are shared among people after a meal, while candies are usually eaten casually as a snack between meals and most often with the fingers. Each culture has its own views of what is candy rather than dessert. The popularity and colorful shapes of candies lend themselves to be used as camellia names.

'Candy Cane'

The candy cane or peppermint stick is a cane-shaped candy associated with the Christmas Holiday. Traditionally, it is white with red stripes and flavored with peppermint. Today it may also have other colors and flavors.

It is believed to have been originated in Cologne, Germany in 1670 by the Choirmaster of the Cologne Cathedral. He asked a local candy maker for some sweet sticks to be made so he could give them to the children who tended to be noisy during the Living Crèche tradition held on Christmas Eve. In order to justify giving candy during a worship service, he requested the candies have a crook at one end to help the children remember that shepherds visited the infant Jesus.

The white color was chosen to symbolize the sinless life of Jesus. The red may have symbolized the blood

of Jesus linked to Holy Communion. The candy canes spread to other parts of Europe where they were handed out during plays reenacting the Nativity, and are thereby linked to the Christmas season. Candy canes came to America with European settlers.

The medium formal double white *C. japonica* striped with red flower was named 'Candy Cane' by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1963. It is a colorful sweet flower. When it mutated in Fresno, California, in 1990, it was named 'Robin's Candy'.

'Candy Mint'

In 1987 Nuccio's Nurseries introduced 'Candy Mint'. This vigorous compact plant grows upright and blooms midseason. The miniature to small pink flower is heavily striped red, like some candy mints. A mint is a candy flavored by mint oil, peppermint oil, or spearmint oil, and is frequently called "peppermints." They are often used to freshen one's breath. Historically eaten like any other candy, today mints are especially popular as an after-meal refreshment candy since the taste and smell of mint oil and its active components feel clean and cool to the mouth, as well as soothing to the stomach.

'La Peppermint'

This old camellia variety has a flower that looks like peppermint candy with its white flower and fine red stripes. The medium formal double blooms early to midseason on a bushy upright plant. When it produces all red flowers, it is called 'Brilliant'. Robert O. Rubel first offered 'La Peppermint' in 1934 at his Longview



'La Peppermint'
Photo by Jim Dwyer

Nursery. Today it is available at David Parks' Camellia Forest Nursery in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

'Peppermint Candy'

In 2008, the CamelliaShop, of Savannah, Georgia, introduced 'Peppermint Candy'. The white flower is beautifully marked with red stripes and flecks. This medium semi-double flower blooms mid to late season on a compact plant, which makes it a good landscape plant. The CamelliaShop is owned and operated by Debbie Odom and Gene Phillips, both ardent camellia advocates.

'Bonbon'

A bonbon is a candy that frequently contains a fruit or nut center dipped in fondant or chocolate. According to Wikipedia, the first reports of bonbons come from the 17th century, when they were made at the French

royal court. Their name arose from infantile reiteration of the word bon, meaning "good". Today the term refers to any type of candy or small confection.



'Bonbon'
Photo by Jim Dwyer

Toichi Domoto, the prolific camellia hybridizer from Haywood, California, registered his 'Bonbon' in 1961. It produces a miniature peony white flower splotted red. It resembles a delicious small piece of candy. In 1971, Vernon McCaskill, the noted nurseryman from Pasadena, California, caught a sport from 'Bonbon' with a deep pink flower with white petal edges, which he named 'Bonbon Blush'. A red sport was named

'Bonbon Red' in 1970 by H. F. "Hody" Wilson. The bonbon camellias are like the bonbon candies, small with different colors and forms.



'Candy Apple'
Photo by Brad King

'Candy Apple'

Candied fruit has existed since the 14th century. Whole fruit, smaller pieces, and pieces of peel are placed in heated sugar syrup, which absorbs the moisture within the fruit. This essentially preserves it. This process of preservation can take several days to several months depending on the type and size of the fruit. The most commonly candied fruits include dates, cherries and pineapple. The usual candied peels are oranges and lemons. While different regions use various recipes, in general, the fruit is boiled, steeped in increasingly strong sugar solutions for a few weeks, and then dried.

Candy apples are whole apples covered in toffee or a sugar candy coating, with a stick inserted for a handle. These are common treats in autumn when apples are harvested. It is believed that a Newark, New Jersey candy maker, William Kolb, pro-

duced the first red candy apples in 1908. He was experimenting using red cinnamon candy for the Christmas season when he dipped a batch of apples into the mixture. He placed the colorful candied apples in the store window and sold them for five cents. He sold thousands yearly so they became popular along the Jersey shore, a

noted tourist area. They spread across the country in candy shops, carnivals and the circus. It is a popular treat today especially with children young and old.

Nuccio's Nurseries introduced 'Candy Apple' in 1991. The medium to large apple-sized semi-double to loose peony bloom has a dark red color similar to the candied apple fruit color. It blooms mid to late season on an average growing, dense and upright plant.

Candies are sweet and enjoyed by people worldwide. Camellia flowers

are beautiful with those named for candies, some of the sweetest.

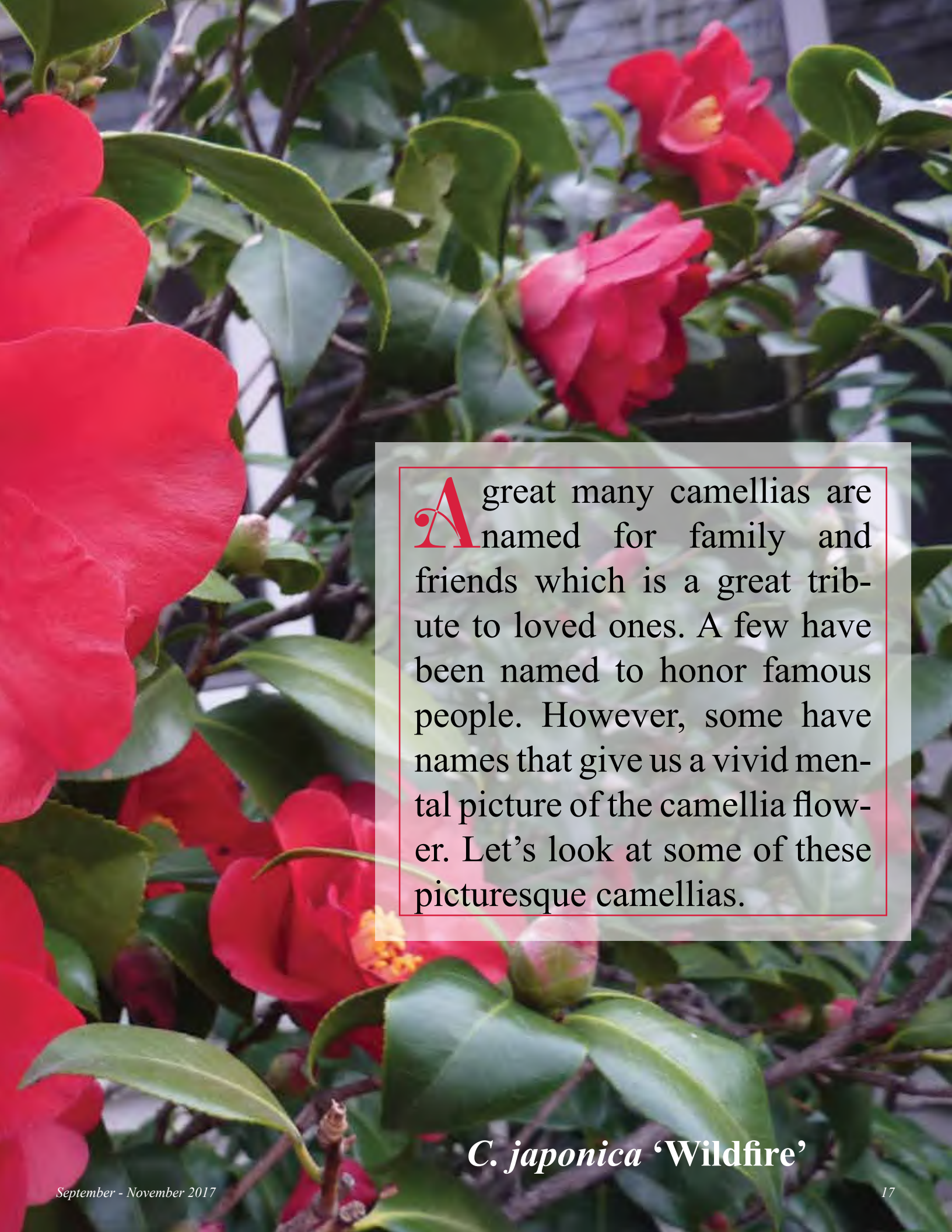


'Bonbon Red'
Photo from ACS Slide Collection

Picturesque Camellias

Story and
Photos By

Bradford King



A great many camellias are named for family and friends which is a great tribute to loved ones. A few have been named to honor famous people. However, some have names that give us a vivid mental picture of the camellia flower. Let's look at some of these picturesque camellias.

C. japonica 'Wildfire'



‘Vulcan’

Fire

In ancient Roman religion and myth, Vulcan is the god of fire including volcanic fire. The camellia flower ‘Vulcan’ is described as a deep fiery red when introduced in 1958 by W. F. “Hody” Wilson. The flower is a large to very large semi-double to peony with irregular petals.

It is not surprising that we have camellias named ‘Flame’, ‘Campfire’, ‘Fire Dance’, and ‘Wildfire’, given that the control of fire by humans was a significant turning point in the development of human civilization. It allowed humans to cook food and obtain warmth and protection from predators and insects. When mankind learned to build fires, it allowed them to expand activity into the dark and colder hours of night.

The *C. rusticana* hybrid ‘Campfire’ is a small flat single orange red with bright yellow stamens. When enjoying a campfire or fireplace we dreamily stare peacefully at the flames as they seem to dance up and down. This feeling is captured when we look at the medium semi-double camellia ‘Fire Dance’. When variegated, it is a striking flower with blotches of white-like smoke intermingled with bright red flames. It’s no wonder that in 1918 Toichi Domoto named his large deep fiery red semi-double ‘Flame’.

When fire is out of control it can destroy homes, human life and acres of forests. There is a dangerous fascination with such fires that occur all too frequently in the dry hot months of summer. The Nuccio’s Nurseries is in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains



‘Campfire’



‘Fire Dance’



‘Fire Dance Var.’



‘Flame’



‘Fire Chief’



'Snow Flurry'



'Nioi Fubuki'



'Snowman'

which have had wildfires swirling nearby. Their medium semi-double orange red *C. japonica* with its many blooms is aptly named 'Wildfire'.

When fire becomes out of control we look to firefighters to extinguish the flames. These dedicated men are directed by a fire chief. Howard Asper named a large deep red semi-double to loose peony *C. reticulata* 'Fire Chief'. When variegated the white markings remind us of smoke among the flame red petals of this irregular formed flower.

Snow

Snow comes from the clouds in flakes of crystals of ice. These small ice particles are white, open and therefore soft and fluffy unless subjected to pressure. Snowflakes come in a variety of sizes and shapes. The white color and fluffy structure of snow lends itself to be used as a name for white camellias. Dr. William Ackerman, a pioneer hybridizer of cold hardy camellias, used a *C. oleifera* hybrid 'Plain Jane' to produce 'Snow Flurry'. It has a small anemone white flower that looks like a flurry of snow blowing in the wind, the way the petals stand up and twist about.

The medium to large white Higo bloom with a few rose stripes with a mass of yellow central stamens and a mild fragrance is called 'Nioi Fubuki' which in Japanese means fragrant snow storm. This is such a lovely name for a classic scented Higo camellia.

There is no child alive that has not made a snowman when playing in snow. The traditional bottom is a large snow ball that has been rolled over and over to reach a

diameter of two and half to three feet. This usually is accomplished when a parent or several children join in to make the snowman. The second snow ball also requires team work. First, to roll it until it is about half the size of the bottom ball. Then it takes two or three people to lift the ball on top of the first and to pack enough snow around it make a secure fit. The snow needs to be sticky, not light and fluffy, to hold its form. The final ball is head-sized and is given eyes and a nose which brings the snowman to life. The eyes can be just holes or small rocks if they can be located under the snow cover.

On my grandparents' farm, we always used coal from the cellar. Other children raided the pantry for cookie eyes, or large buttons from their grandmothers' sewing basket. A small stick or a carrot is the favorite for a snowman nose. Clothes are optional; but, scarfs, hats, capes and other garments are found by the creative-minded child or adult in a playful mood. What a wonderful family activity which usually ends with a snowball fight. A good time had by all! The *C. japonica* white loose peony flower of 'Snowman' has petals that build up the bloom and catches one's eye just as a well-built snowman does.

Lemon

The lemon is a small evergreen tree native to Asia. Its yellow fruit is used worldwide. The juice, pulp and rind (zest) are used in cooking and baking. Lemon juice is typically five to six percent citric acid which gives lemons a distinctive sour taste that is used as a key ingre-



'Fire Chief Var.'



'Lemon Drop'



'Lemon Twist'



'Raspberry Ice'



Photo by
Randolph Maphis
**'Raspberry Ripple
Picotee'**



‘Bunny Ears’



‘Cottontail’

dient in drinks and foods, such as lemonade and lemon pie. When camellia breeders introduced yellow hued flowers, they naturally associated the flower color with lemons. The camellia ‘Lemon Drop’ is a miniature to small formal rose form to anemone flower with a creamy bloom and a lemony-hued center that resembles the lemon drop candy. The candy is sugar coated and lemon-flavored, and typically shaped like a miniature lemon. ‘Lemon Twist’ has a medium pale yellow semi-double flower with a few petals twisting upward, which are captured by its name. It also reminds us how often water and cocktails are served with a twist of lemon as a garnish.

Raspberry

Raspberries are a popular edible fruit grown on a perennial plant with woody stems. There are numerous types which are popularly known by the color of their fruit such as red raspberries and black raspberries. They are used in baking pies, fruit salads, on cereal, desert toppings and used for flavor in foods as diverse as salad dressing and ice cream. One of the special treats is when black raspberry ice cream becomes avail-

able each summer. Raspberry Ripple is a popular flavor of ice cream. It consists of raspberry syrup injected into vanilla ice cream. The term is thought to have originated in the United States.

There are four *C. japonica* cultivars that have raspberry names: ‘Raspberry Ice’, ‘Raspberry Parfait’, ‘Raspberry Ripple Picotee’, and ‘Raspberry Sherbet’. We feature ‘Raspberry Ice’, a sport of ‘Cinderella’ with white petal edges on a light rose pink medium flower that has streaks of raspberry pink on each petal; and ‘Raspberry Ripple Picotee’, which has a very large semi-double white flower with a defined pink edge. The ‘Raspberry Ripple Picotee’ bloom is delicious, just like the ice cream.



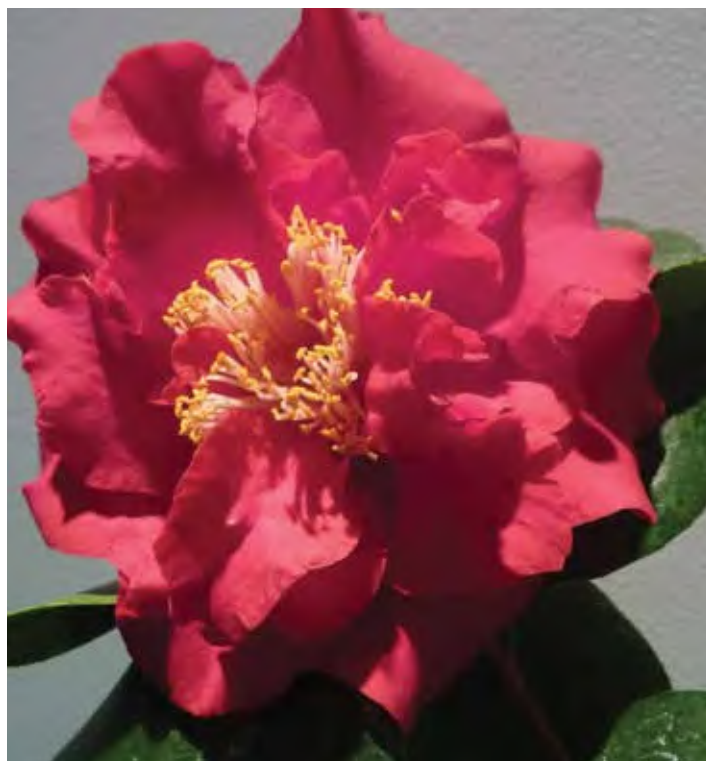
‘Raspberry Sherbet’
Photo by Jim Dwyer

Rabbit

There are two camellias that refer to rabbits: ‘Bunny Ears’ and ‘Cottontail’. The *C. rosaeflora* hybrid ‘Bunny Ears’ has miniature to small semi-double pink clusters of flowers up and down its branches. It looks lovely on the bush and is one of the best camellias to display in a vase, as seen in the accompanying photo. Many semi-double



‘Bluebird’



‘Ragged Dragon’

camellia flowers are described as having “rabbit ears”, when several petals stand up in the middle of a bloom. This camellia flower trait adds to the flowers’ beauty. Some cultivars do so regularly, others only occasionally, and most semi-double blooms don’t have them. ‘Bunny Ears’ is one that typically has this trait.

As a child, my favorite author was Thornton Burgess (1874-1965). He wrote a series of children’s books whose main characters were animals. One popular character was “Peter Cottontail” who was lively, mischievous and frequently hunted by “Reddy Fox”. Vernon McCaskill named a miniature white flower with a full peony form ‘Cottontail’. The bloom looks like a puff of cotton, not unlike a rabbit tail.

Bird

The eastern bluebird is a small bird found in open woodlands, farmlands and orchards. It is the state bird of Missouri and New York. The bright blue breeding plumage of the male, easily observed on a wire or open perch, fluttering down to the mowed grass to capture a grasshopper, cricket or beetle makes this species a favorite of birders. The *C.*

saluenensis x *C. japonica* hybrid ‘Bluebird’ has a deep pink medium semi-double flower with a blue tint. It is this blue hue that makes it of special interest to camellia lovers.

It is generally believed that birds evolved from dinosaurs as scales became feathers. The mythological dragon flies bird-like but is more reptilian. There are



Eastern Blue Bird

two distinct cultural traditions of dragons: the European dragon, derived from European folk traditions and the Chinese dragon, with counterparts in Japan and Korea. The camellia *reticulata* hybrid ‘Ragged Dragon’ has a large red semi-double flower with upright petals inherited from its pollen parent, *C. reticulata* ‘Royalty’ that give it a rugged look. The seed parent was the hybrid ‘Coral Delight’.

Moon

The moon is the Earth’s only natural satellite. It always shows the same face as it rotates synchronously with Earth. It is the most luminous object in the sky, once the sun sets. This prominence at night and the regular cycles of its phases have fascinated man since ancient times. It



‘Moonlight Bay’



‘Moon Moth’



‘Moonrise’
Photo by Jim Dwyer

has influenced language, art, calendars, and mythology, and inspired several camellia names.

The *C. japonica* cultivars include ‘Moonflower’, ‘Moonlight Bay’ and ‘Moonlight Sonata’. The most popular is ‘Moonlight Bay’ which has a very large light orchid pink semi-double flower introduced by Nuccio’s in 1982.

There are two *reticulata hybrid* varieties: ‘Moonrise’ and ‘Moon Festival’. ‘Moonrise’ has a very large semi-double blush pink flower. It is a *reticulata granthamiana hybrid* introduced by Nuccio’s in 2000. Dr. Clifford Parks introduced ‘Moon Festival’, which has a very large single pink bloom.

In addition, there are three *non-reticulata hybrids*: ‘Moonbeam’ a large soft pink flower from Australia; ‘Moonsong’ a coral red formal double from New Zealand; and ‘Moonstruck’ a medium single white flower with pink tones on several petals and petal edges. It has an interesting and strikingly attractive flower with a mass of golden anthers which stand out from the white and pink-toned petals.

The *C. sasanqua* ‘Moon Moth’ with a white flower reminds us that several moths are nocturnal, visiting the garden in the dark of night that can be best seen by moonlight. A beautiful ‘Moon Moth’ tree is alluring when in full bloom at The Huntington Botanical Gardens, in San Marina, California.

Star

The earth’s sun is the star we see every day. It is the source of most of our natural heat and light. Other

stars are seen during the night appearing as a multitude of fixed points of light due to the immense distance from the earth. A star is a massive luminous sphere of plasma held together by its own gravity. Plasma is one of the four basic states of matter along with solid, liquid and gas. When air is ionized, plasma is formed which has conductive properties.

Mankind has considered the sky for generations, learning how to navigate using the North Star. Naming stars and constellations has been practiced for generations. Therefore, it is not surprising that several camellias have star in the name and one for the Big Dipper, a collection of seven stars. The grouping is distinctive, as they are the brightest in the Ursa Major constellation. The *C. reticulata* ‘Big Dipper’ has a very large carmine pink semi-double

bloom introduced in 1987 by Hall. The variegated form has a striking flower.

The white medium star-shaped semi-double *C. rusticana* was named ‘Shooting Star’ by Nuccio’s. A shooting star is not an actual star, but the common name for the visual path of a meteoroid when it enters the earth’s atmosphere. It becomes a meteor, heating up through friction and producing a streak of light from the object and a trail of glowing particles in its wake.

It is common in the English language that words can have different meanings. When we use the word “superstar”, it has nothing to do with astronomy, but is a reference to a celebrity who has great popular appeal and is widely known. Celebrities referred to as “superstars” may include individuals who work as actors,



‘Moonstruck’



‘Super Star’



‘Star Above Star’



‘Shooting Star’

actresses, musicians and athletes. The *hybrid* camellia named ‘Super Star’ has a large white semi-double flower with white stamens tipped in gold.

The best known camellia with star in its name is ‘Star Above Star’. Vernon McCaskill gave it this name because the *C. vernalis* white flower that shades to lavender pink on the petal edges looks like one star superimposed on another. It is one of the most popular sun camellias.

Painting

Some camellia names are like a painted picture, making it easy to imagine what the flower looks like. Three of the very best are ‘Freckles’, ‘Cardinals Cap’ and ‘Demi-Tasse’. David Feathers bred and named the miniature white formal double with pink dots and flecks ‘Freckles’. This is an accurate and beautiful name for this cultivar.

In 1961 Andrew Surina introduced ‘Cardinal’s Cap’ at the American Camellia Society national show at Disney Land in California. The miniature to small anemone cardinal red flower clearly resembles a Roman Catholic Cardinal’s cap.



‘Big Dipper’ Photo by R. Maphis

The unique semi-double form of ‘Demi-Tasse’ looks like a small cup and saucer. Therefore, Vernon McCaskill so named the lovely peach pink flower with a row of petals with a second row of petals and stamens ‘Demi-Tasse’.

When reading the flower names in this story did your mental image approximate the accompanying photo of the bloom?



‘Freckles’



‘Cardinal’s Cap’



‘Demi-Tasse’



Spotlight: *C. japonica* ‘Hishikaraito’

‘Hishikaraito’, with its small semidouble lovely pink flower, and a fountain of white petaloids and stamens in the center, came to America from Japan.

The flower was first distributed in 1934 by Kobe’s Chuagi Nursery. However, it dates back in Japanese camellia literature to 1844.

The name Hishikaraito comes from the diamond shaped petals with its stamens and petaloids that look like silk threads.

Silk thread has been used in embroidery for more than 5,000 years in China where it was

first discovered. Even today silk is cherished for its luster, texture and elegance. Archaeologists found silk in China buried in tombs for 3,000 years, where it was the only fiber that remained intact and recognizable.

‘Hishikaraito’ has been winning points for many years at camellia shows including 20 in 2015 and 18 in 2016, which is one of many reasons the Spotlight shines on this beautiful pink bloom with thread like stamens and petaloids in its center.

Story and photograph by Bradford King

ONE. TWO. THREE. LOOK AT ME

C. nitidissima
Photo by Camille Bielby

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRADFORD KING

Being number ONE is highly valued in American society, whether in business or athletics. In the Olympics the athlete who is number one in his or her event wins a gold medal. Gold is a precious metal known as a symbol of wealth and beauty. In the camellia world *C. nitidissima* is the gold standard for yellow camellia blooms. There are larger and more complicated yellow blooms but the new hybrids don't usually have the golden yellow color that makes *C. nitidissima* number one.

The number TWO in music is a duo or duet. Specifically in classical music, a duet is most often used for a composition for two singers or pianists. With other instruments, the word duo is used. A piece performed by two pianists performing together on the same piano is referred to as "piano four hands".

A piece for two pianists performing together on separate pianos is referred to as a "piano duo". When Mozart was young, he and his sister Marianne played one of his compositions at a London concert in 1765 which helped introduce the duet to the music community. The four-hand, described as a duet, was in

many of his compositions. When a duo of camellias, are fully open in close proximity they attract attention in the garden.

When two things are used together, it is a unit or a pair. For example, two matched horses or two matched socks are a pair and so on. A couple means two, but also connotes a romantic relationship. When camellia flowers and leaves are seen together they are a botanical unit. The green leaves and miniature red flowers with central white petaloids of 'Tinsie' ('Bokuhan') are a pair. 'Tinsie' has been in America since 1930 when Star Nursery imported it from Japan.



Pair of 'Tinsie' blooms
Photo by Gene Phillips

THREE plants grouped together is a favorite landscaping strategy that seems to say "LOOK AT ME". Three large sasanqua camellias provide a wonderful background to the Huntington Botanical Meditation Garden. Three camellia flowers close together on a plant are an attractive sight.

At camellia shows we usually have trays of three like blooms that are judged for quality of the flowers and uniformity. It can take as many as a dozen flowers to make a winning tray of



Duo of 'Buttons'n Bows'



Quartet of 'Lady Kay' blooms

three. Some cultivars are like cookie cutters, turning out many similar sized and colored flowers; others look similar but when examined show differences in size, color and form. Variegated flowers are very difficult to use in a tray of like blooms because the amount and distribution of the white markings is highly variable.

In music, the Italian word trio is used to describe the way three instruments or voices with different sounds or voices blend to make music. The three tenors was the name given to Plácido Domingo, Jose Carreras and the late Luciano Pavarotti who sang during the 1990s and early 2000s. They are the most well-known operatic trio of this generation.

In Southern California camellia shows, there is often an award category for a tray of three unlike blooms—one large or very large, one medium, and one small or miniature—that should flow in three dimensions, from large to small. The quality of the flowers is 70 percent of the score and composition is 30 percent. Some choose like-toned flowers or a progression from simple to complicated blooms.

FOUR musicians is a quartet. Thus, a string quartet is a musical ensemble of four string players usually comprised of two violins, a viola and a cello. A barbershop quartet is four men who sing a cappella



1. Trio of 'Tama-no-ura' blooms. 2. Medium tray of three: 'Junior Prom'. 3. Red-toned semidouble composition: 'Julius Nuccio', 'Cherries Jubilee' and 'Maroon and Gold'.

The American Camellia Society

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Celeste M. Richard, crichard@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, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the year made.

The Camellia Journal

The Camellia Journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the American Camellia Society. Editor: Bradford D. King; Advertising: Camille Bielby; Production: Camille Bielby and Celeste Richard.

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy of the ACS or of its officers or directors. While the *Journal* endeavors to assume the reliability of its advertising, neither the *Journal* nor the ACS assumes responsibility for any transaction between our advertisers and our readers.

© 2017 American Camellia Society articles may not be republished without written permission.

The Camellia Journal (USPS 555-900)(ISSN 008 204X)

Published quarterly by the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley, GA. Four issues per year. March, June, September, and December. Subscription price is included in the annual membership dues. Periodical Postage paid at Fort Valley, GA and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: The Camellia Journal, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030.



Five 'Little Michael' blooms



Five 'Darleen Stoner' blooms

(unaccompanied) with each of the members filling a role. The lead sings the melody; the tenor harmonizes above the melody; the base sings the lowest harmony; and the baritone completes the cord, usually below the lead singer. There is something about musical quartets that appeals to the ear, while a quartet of camellias is appealing to the eye.

The number FIVE is believed to be the only odd un-touchable number (a positive integer that can't be expressed as the sum of all the proper divisors of any positive integer), but this has not been proven mathematically. Five is one of the most useful groupings of plants in the garden. Five fragrant camellias—such as 'Spring Mist', 'Fragrant Pink', 'High Fragrance', 'Ko-to-no-kaori' and 'Minato-no-akebono'—make a beautiful perfumed camellia collection. Five plants of *C. grijsii* along the entrance path to the Chinese Garden in The Huntington are appreciated all year, but when in bloom with masses of fragrant white flowers, it fills the nose and eyes with their beauty. Trays of five like blooms are seen during the peak camellia season at some shows. Exhibitors may bring a box full of one cultivar looking for one outstanding flower to enter as a single; three that match for a tray of three; and five uniform blooms

for a tray of five. In a perfect world, this may work. However, usually it takes a good eye and a strategy to decide what class to enter in order to get to the head table.

SIX is an even number that is not an aesthetically pleasing way to group plants, especially in a straight line. On the other hand, purchasing a half dozen roses or other florist flower is a common practice. When Nuccio's Nurseries celebrated their seventy-fifth anniversary, the Southern California Camellia Society wished to honor their contributions by adding a tray of six blooms in camellia shows. All six blooms must be a Nuccio's introduction. This has been continued and is a very competitive class. It is not easy to have six high quality blooms and arrange them artistically. It helps that the class is open (both treated and natural blooms may be used) with no restrictions on the size or type of camellia.

GROUPS

We have many names for groups of people—crowd, audience, club, society, gang and community. When a group of musicians play together, they are referred to as



C. grijsii



'Fragrant Pink'



'Spring Mist'



Nuccio's Tray of Six



'White Bouquet'



'Coral Bouquet'

an orchestra or a band. When insects, such as ants and bees, gather together they are called a swarm. When lions form a group, it is known as a pride. A flock of geese is a gaggle, but a flock of crows is a murder. A flock of peacocks is a muster and a family of game birds, like grouse or partridge, is a covey.

When fish congregate, we call this a school. The popular tropical aquarium fish Zebra Danio (*Brachydanio rerio*) just made history when scientists mapped the precise order of its 1.4 billion base pairs of DNA, according to a 2013 *Los Angeles Times* article. It joins humans and mice in having 90 percent of its genome completed.

Since this fish is genetically like people, is very inexpensive, breeds readily, is easy to maintain, and its embryos develop fish-like form and organs in a see-through embryo, researchers can easily observe what is going on without dissecting or imaging. This is expected to help scientists figure out what the genes do in the fish and use that to figure out matching human genes, thus helping to understand the causes of human diseases. Genes in the fish can be made to mutate, which is unethical to do to humans and too expensive in mice, but opens up the study of tissue regeneration and cell-mutating diseases like cancer.

Do you remember beginning elementary school singing the song "We're all in our places with bright shining faces"? This cheerful verse is like a cluster of the smiling faces of flowers that bloom on 'Egao'.

When a group of flowers are picked, and placed in a vase it is called a bouquet. While many camellia fans pick camellias to decorate their home, generally we don't think of them as a bouquet. The cluster blooming camellias, however, are the exception. There are also camellias with bouquet as part of their names, e.g., 'Coral Bouquet', 'Pink Bouquet', 'Violet Bouquet' and 'White Bouquet'. These cultivars are known to be robust bloomers, thus the name and color make a great name.

It is exciting when we are able to spot a pod of whales, seals or dolphins. It is a quiet pleasure to find camellia fruit developing after the camellia blooming season, especially if a controlled cross was done. Camellia fruit are also known as pods. Watching them swell and turn from green to brown, or in some cases a lovely bronze, brings hope and promise of new life.

Finally, it is time to put this story to bed, which is also a common garden expression for plants grown together in one location. Goodnight!



'Egao'



'Bunny Ears'



Bronze 'Wildfire' seed pod

Happy Camellias

[Return to TOC](#)

Camellias growing and blooming make us happy. Some camellia growers have joyfully introduced delightful camellias with happy names. For example ‘Happy Birthday’, ‘Happy Holidays’, ‘Happy Higo’, ‘Happy Harlequin’ and ‘Happy Amy Fenska’.

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY BRADFORD KING

‘Happy Harlequin’

‘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 Hill 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. MacDowell, of Lakeland, Florida. The flower is a large light pink peony, with deeper pink stripes.

‘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 are “Happy.” ‘Happy Holidays’ was introduced and registered in 1984. It has a medium to large formal light pink flower. It blooms early to midseason in an upright compact manner.

‘HAPPY HARLEQUIN’

Nuccio’s introduced ‘Happy Harlequin’, 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 semi-double 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 award-



ed the Illges Seedling Japonica Award in 2012.

'HAPPY HIGO'

The Higo camellia is a strain of *japonica* with some *rusticana* in its background. A Higo is distinguished by its 100 to 250 stamens that flare out to form a central sunburst. The classic bloom is an asymmetrical single with five to nine large petals with 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 'Happy Higo', a large to very large single to semi-double 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 AMY FENSKA'

Meyer Piet and his friend Lee Gaeta hybridized camellias in the nineteen seventies and eighties from

Meyer's home in Arcadia, California. They registered 16 new *reticulata hybrids*. Most of these were named for family members. They also bred a number of *japonica hybrids* that are seen occasionally at camellia shows. They frequently named introductions after 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.

HAPPY ENDING

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" (Jude, Tom, or Jim) to find the camellias you want to add to your collection is a very "Happy Time".



[Return to TOC](#)

Remembering Our Past: New Zealand Camellia Hybridizers

Article & Photos by Bradford King



‘Scentuous’

New Zealand has a number of famous camellia breeders who have registered more than 500 new cultivars. Many of their introductions are grown and enjoyed in America. In the December 2015-February 2016 *The Camellia Journal*, Les, Felix and Mark Jury were highlighted. Today we honor other Kiwis who have made significant contributions to the camellia world.

Finlay

James Finlay'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. lutchuenensis*. This controlled cross resulted in a seedling that produced a fragrant small semi-double 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 white petals with pink flush on their backs came from the pollen parent. This plant became a camellia bridge in his breeding program to produce larger and more complicated fragrant camellia cultivars. A bridge camellia must be fertile and have inherited the desired traits.

Finlay introduced at least thirty fragrant camellias as a result of this breeding program. The most popular fragrant camellia is his 'High Fragrance'. The very beau-



‘Taylor's Perfection’

tiful medium, pale ivory pink peony flower with deeper pink shading on the petal edges has a very pleasing scent. It is a product of his bridge camellia 'Scentuous'. In this case it was used as the pollen parent.

Taylor

James Chadwick Taylor of Alton introduced 'Taylor Maid' and 'Taylor Supreme' which we don't see in America. Taylor introduced the beautiful light pink large semi-double *C. x williamsii* 'Taylor's Perfection'. It is a frequent camellia show winner in the *non-reticulata hybrid* classes. The large size, light orchid pink flower with a hint of lavender is borne on a vigorous plant, making it popular in the garden, as a show flower, and as an espalier.

Durrant

Colonel Tom Durrant and his wife Bettie Durrant were responsible for importing the Yunnan camellias to New Zealand. Dr. Jane Crisp, their daughter is also a hybridizer. She registered five *reticulata hybrids* between 1969 and 1972. Bettie Durrant is credited with introducing one of the most beautiful *hybrid* camellias, 'Nicky Crisp', in 1979. She named this semi-double fresh looking pink flower with distinct



Tom and Bettie Durrant
New Zealand Camellia Bulletin



'Grace Caple'



'Nicky Crisp'



'Night Rider'



'Lavender Swirl'

deep petal notches for her grandson. 'Nicky Crisp' is a favorite here as the flower retains its bright colors, producing many identical medium to large flowers. It is generally a mid to late season bloomer which helps extend the camellia season. The slow bushy growth makes it a good candidate in the garden foreground or under windows. The other Durrant *hybrid* we see in America is 'Grace Caple'. The large semi-double to loose peony blush pink flower fades to white. Bettie Durrant also introduced 'Snippet' which is a dwarf plant with a small semi-double soft pink flower with white central petals.

Blumhardt

Oswald Blumhardt is best known in America for breeding dark



Oswald Blumhardt collecting plants in New Guinea
Courtesy of Catherine Ballard, Author
Oswald Blumhardt: New Zealand Plant Pioneer

red camellias. He bred 'Black Opal', 'Ruby Bells' and 'Night Rider' using pollen from 'Kuro-tsubaki', the "black camellia." 'Night Rider' is the one widely grown in America. We appreciate the small very dark semi-double flower's maroon spring foliage and even the red roots. Another favorite seen in America is 'Lavender Swirl' which has a soft lavender pink large formal double flower that blooms mid to late season on a vigorous upright plant. He also introduced *hybrids* 'Gay Baby', 'Tiny Star', 'Fairy Wand', and 'Blissful Dawn' which are not often seen in America.

Clere

Richard Clere propagated and registered a sport from 'Aspasia Macarthur' in 1969 naming it for his wife. 'Jean Clere' is an attractive red flower with a lovely white picoté border that is appreciated in America

along with a number of the other "Aspasia" mutations.

Haydon

Neville Haydon was awarded the *Queen's Service Medal* in honor of the Queen's 90th birthday for his years of dedication as a horticulturist and as expert on camellias on June 8, 2016, when he was also 90. He is recognized as New Zealand's leading authority on camellias. He has bred many camellias, including some



Richard and Jean Clere
New Zealand Camellia Bulletin

resistant to the petal blight disease. Haydon has also been recognized with a number of awards from the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

He credits his grandmother for sparking his interest in camellias. He left school at age 15 to pursue a

career in accounting and took up gardening seriously when 30. When interviewed by the *Papakura Courier* for the *Queen's Service Medal*, he said "I'd always been intrigued by flowers growing on trees as opposed to stalks. ... I started gardening and gravitated towards camellias. ... I'm a person who likes to specialize in things."

Haydon operated a nursery, Camellia Haven, in Takanini, which he ran for 30 years. He registered 20 different camellia cultivars created by "carefully selected" cross-pollination. One of his best known varieties was 'Takanini' named to draw attention to where he started the nursery. He traveled to international camellia meetings and introduced camellias from other parts of the world to New Zealand. Another of Haydon's achievements was the digitization of thousands of ca-



‘Jean Clere’



‘Takanini’



‘Baby Bear’



‘Dancing Blaze’

mellia cultivars into a database for the International Camellia Society.

When I met Haydon at the ACS meeting in Napa, California, he gave me a memory stick of this effort which I continue to use regularly to get data for camellia articles. One of his early introductions is a dwarf *hybrid* with a single light pink miniature he named ‘Baby Bear’. It was the result of a controlled cross between *C. rosaeflora* and *C. tsaii* that he introduced in 1976. It is a good example of an early cross of two camellia species. One of his introductions that have caught the attention of growers in America is ‘Dancing Blaze’. This *hybrid* gets its dark red from ‘Black Magic’. The bloom is a medium semi-double with yellow anthers and red filaments. The plant is slow growing with a spreading growth habit.

Gamlin

Alf Gamlin introduced two *saluenensis* hybrids in 1979—‘Grace Gamlin’ and ‘Neisha Gamlin’. He also introduced several *reticulata* hybrids. The most well-known is *C. reticulata* ‘Sir Robert Muldoon’ which was introduced in 1991 and named after a famous New Zealand Prime Minister. The flower is a large, glowing pink peony.

New Zealand was the first country to grant women the right to vote in 1893. In fact, in 1993 Alf Gamlin named a white anemone form *japonica* with yellow stamens intermingled with petaloids in honor



Neville Haydon
Photo by Celeste Richard



‘Sir Robert Muldoon’

of suffragette Kate Sheppard. According to a *Taranaki Daily News* article, “In 1893, Kate Sheppard went to Parliament in Wellington and presented supporters with white camellias to wear in their buttonholes. Those against enfranchisement for women were given red camellias.”

Gamlin was asked to name the camellia in her honor for the centennial of the landmark historical victory. With the help of his daughter Vivienne Joyce, Gamlin grew over 300 of the plants which “were sold, gifted and planted all over Taranaki, in community, civic and private gardens,” including the Manaia Town Hall and



Suffragette Kate Sheppard and *C. japonica*
‘Kate Sheppard’ on New Zealand \$10 Note
Courtesy Reserve Bank of New Zealand

the Government House in Wellington. A portrait of Sheppard, and Gamlin’s camellia named for her, adorn the ten dollar bank note.

New Zealand Today

New Zealand is one of the most beautiful countries in the world. It is famous for its indigenous people, the Maori, who are descendants of Polynesian explorers who settled the Pacific islands over a 1,000 years ago. The Maori word for New Zealand is Aotearoa which means “Land of the Long White Cloud”.

According to New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated, “Camellias represent an important part of the nursery trade in New Zealand.”

What's Up BUD?

BY BRADFORD KING

Camellia buds are what we are talking about! They can be seen in miniature during the summer, getting larger and fuller in the fall to the point we can easily tell them from the adjacent growth buds. This is very exciting as they are the promise of winter flowers and the hope of show winners. They are interesting in their own right too. One common question we hear is “My camellia plants have healthy foliage but don’t produce flowers. What’s wrong with them?” Most likely it is due to insufficient sunlight. Bud formation occurs during the long days of summer sunlight.

C. nitidissima bud. Photograph by Gao Jiyin

PROTOTYPE BUD

Buds form on terminal branches and stems. Many cultivars will also have multiple axis buds up and down the stems. The popular *japonica*, *reticulata*, *sasanqua* and *hybrid* cultivars are grown for their beautiful flowers which of course mean they bud up. While there are variations in bud sizes, with differences among species and cultivars, prototype buds are similar in appearance. As buds mature, many begin to show their colors and are attractive in their own right.



C. amplexicaulis buds

UNUSUAL BUDS

While most camellia buds are green, some are brown and do not appear viable. This is true for *Camellia granthamiana* and *C. edithae*. The bud of *C.*

hongkongensis is a rusty brown. While the *japonicas*, *reticulatas* and *hybrids* have no noticeable flower stem (pedicle), *C. nitidissima*, *C. amplexicaulis*, *C. sinensis* as well as others have noticeable ones. *C. nitidissima* produces buds and flowers up and down its stems.

The *C. amplexicaulis* buds are an attractive red color for many weeks before the flower emerges. The buds get fuller and fuller but it seems to take forever to open. We have not yet had any amplexicaulis hybrids introduced in America, but this one from Japan has a bud that resembles a pink *amplexicaulis*.

It, too, is pretty and sits for many weeks before it opens. I have looked at it every day for eight weeks in anticipation of seeing the bloom itself. It is a pri-



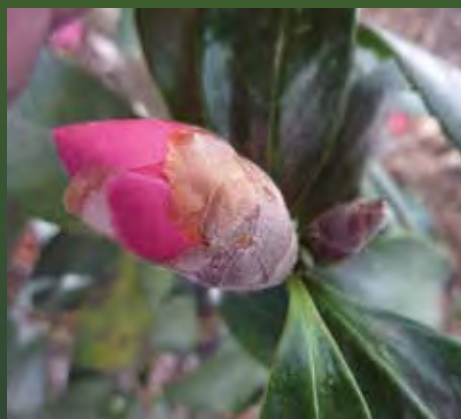
‘Etsu-botan’ bud



C. edithae buds



The *C. granthamiana* life cycle:
bud, flower and seed pod



C. hongkongensis buds

vate pleasure to be the first person in America to see it bloom. Haven't you had this experience too? Perhaps keenly anticipating a newly purchased camellia's first flower or longingly waiting for a seedling's first bloom? A quiet pleasure to be savored then shared with others.

'Etsu-botan' has a medium pink flower that has lighter pink almost white tones on the petal edges and white petaloids. The leaves are heavily textured resembling a smaller version of amplexicaulis. The foliage and bud indicate the cross was successful—no need for DNA or other testing to confirm it. The color and loose peony form were inherited by its other parent, 'Tama Americana', but without a noticeable white border. It was bred by Satie Hisatomi of Kurume Hukuoka Japan in 2005. The plant was a gift from Kiyoko Nishimura, Kobe Camellia Society Director when she visited California in 2012.

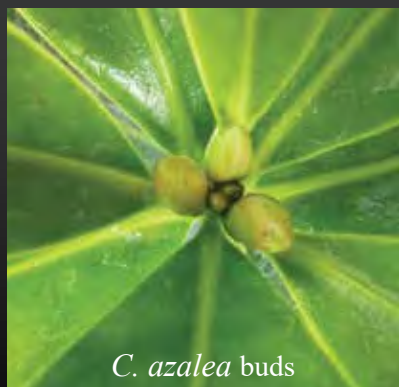
The very small single white flower of *C. transnokoensis* is unremarkable, but the profusion of white buds with a red spot on it among the small narrow foliage makes an interesting and lovely package. Likewise, the small fragrant white flower with a red spot

branches in clusters and as axis buds. I usually leave two buds—one to emasculate for hybridizing and one to let bloom for its pollen, which can be refrigerated or frozen to use when other camellia buds are ready for a controlled cross.

As a landscape or potted specimen, *C. azalea* flower buds can be left on the plant where they will create a show that peaks in the summer months before other camellias bloom. This species flowers from June until March in California, and all year in China. The plant is truly unique. The leaves are oval and smooth, with no serrated edges. The plant has multiple growth spurts that can produce buds under optimal conditions any-time of the year. By the middle of March in California, new leaves are mature and little buds cluster in the center.



C. lutchuensis flower and buds



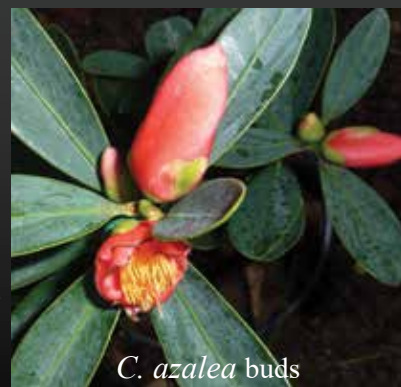
C. azalea buds

on the bud makes the *C. lutchuensis* plant a nice addition to one's species collection.

Camellia azalea is another species that has an attractive long lasting bud. The soft coral red bud looks like an open lipstick tube. They grow on terminal

PESTS

In general camellias are not greatly affected by pests. We do see ants and aphids on new growth, including flower buds. They are drawn to the soft new tissue and sugars in the plant. Ants are also frequently seen in more mature flower buds and even open flowers. While they rarely cause damage, they are distracting on a show flower and capable of making a flower bud look dirty. The best remedy for removing ants and aphids is to wash them



C. azalea buds



Removing one bud will allow the remaining bud to produce a larger flower.



Flower bud and growth bud.

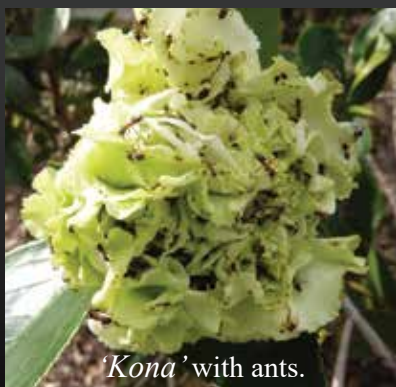
off with a stream of water.

Occasionally, we see buds that have been eaten during the summer or fall by one of the many types of leaf hoppers. The damaged buds should be removed as the flower will be deformed. I look regularly for the offending hopper and destroy all I can catch. Fortunately, we have birds and other natural predators in the garden that enjoy these offenders as a meal.

I also release ladybugs in the spring to rid my garden of aphids and other pests. I also like to cultivate praying mantis to the garden by purchasing egg cases in the spring. When young they eat aphids, thrips and many other insects.

When mature, they dine on hoppers.

Chemical pesticides are not needed or recommended. In fact, when used they destroy all insects including those beneficial for helping control pests, such as lace wings and bees. Several studies indicate there is a rebound effect with more pests in the garden after these pesticides are applied.



'Kona' with ants.



'Nuccio's Jewel' bud with petal damage three months after a storm.

buds by drying them out. In 2011 in California, we had strong winds that took down hundreds of trees in the Pasadena area, including over two hundred in The Huntington Botanical Garden, and one hundred fifty in Descanso Garden. The falling trees did damage camellias, but most survived. However, the winds dried out some flower buds prior to blooming.

DISBUDDING

Disbudding begins in the late summer and fall when one can distinguish the flower buds from the vegetative growth bud. All terminal flower buds on a stem, but one, are removed. Flower buds appearing along the stem are also usually removed, although one or two

several inches from the terminal bud may be retained.

The purpose of disbudding is to remove all competition for water, nutrients and hormones from the remaining flower bud with the hope and expectation of a larger, fuller, more beautiful flower to bring to a camellia flower show. There is no reason to disbud *C. sasanqua* and other fall blooming sun camellias as their beauty lies in the profusion of flowers. Likewise cluster blooming cultivars are not disbudded.

GIBBING

Gibberellic acid is used to increase the size of camellia flowers and bring flowers into bloom a month or two ahead of their scheduled time to flower. It does not hurt



Pinched off growth bud.



One drop of gib is deposited in the cup created by removing the leaf bud.

the plant, and increases the grower's pleasure to be able to decorate one's home, enjoy striking flowers in the garden, or to enter them in a camellia show.

Gibberellic acid (gib) is a potent hormone found in plants that controls their development. It promotes growth and elongation of cells. When it is purified, it is a white to pale yellow solid powder. Since gib regulates growth, applications of very low concentrations can have a significant positive impact while too much may distort flowers and destroy plants.

The method used today of gibbing camellia flowers was popularized in the 1960's by Col. Frank Reed of Pasadena, California. The gib is applied with an "eye dropper" or an inexpensive injection-type needle to deposit one drop of fluid in the cup created by removing the leaf bud. The flower bud is held firmly without damaging it, while the leaf bud is removed with forefinger and thumbnail.

Gibbing is not done when the flower is wet due to sprinklers or rain and optimally not when rain is expected. The solution will be absorbed in a few hours; eventually turning the growth bud cup dark, which is a sign that gib has been applied. It is recommended to mark each treated bud with a hole punched on an adjacent leaf, a piece of colored yarn, plastic bag holder, or marking pen to assist in identifying the treated flower.

When using a punch, it is best to punch the hole first

so as not to knock the gib out of the cup. Likewise, be careful not to do anything that may cause the liquid gib to be shaken loose from the growth bud. It is generally recommended to gib only a few buds on a plant. Since it may take 30 to 90 days for the gib to work its magic

on the flower bud, it is a good strategy to gib 45 days before the flower is wanted. The average time is 60 days to bloom after a bud is gibbed.

CONCLUSION

The camellia bud is an important part of the reproductive life cycle of the camellia. They are interesting to watch mature beginning in the summer culminating when flowers bloom. Camellia lovers "bud watch". It is subdued pleasure—even a secret only shared with others initiated in camellia lore.

Pleasure increases as buds begin to show their colors and the grower anticipates that the flower will be a beauty—perhaps even spectacular—worthy of decorating one's home or bringing to a show, like this one of *C. reticulata* 'Larry Piet'.



C. reticulata 'Larry Piet'



Mark each treated bud to assist in identifying the location of the gibbed flower.

THE **CAMELLIA** CHRONICLES

American Camellia Society Convention 2017 Highlights

Story and Photographs by Bradford King



A terraced stone pathway ascends and zigzags through a water garden of cascading ponds and a lush native forest of towering firs and cedars to the hilltop entrance of the Portland Japanese Garden. The design is intended to “quiet the mind and refresh the spirit” which prepares the visitor for the garden experience.

The 2017 American Camellia Society Convention was held in Newberg, Oregon, on April 5-8, 2017. It was also the ninth annual Newberg Camellia Festival and Flower Show. Sixty camellia lovers renewed friendships and made new friends. We visited local wineries, the Portland Japanese Garden, the Lan Su Chinese Garden and participated in the Camellia Show after conducting the ACS business meetings. It is always good

to know that the Society is in good shape. However, we can't rest on our laurels.

Newberg Named “The Camellia City of Oregon”

The City of Newberg was incorporated in 1889 and currently has 22,500 residents. It is located about 25 miles southeast of Portland. The camellia was adopted as Newberg's official city flower in 1949. Camellias are

THE CAMELLIA CHRONICLES

planted in wine casks in front of businesses throughout the city. Each of the potted camellias is identified on The City of Newberg's Camellia Trail map and brochure. The cultivar names, species, color, and blooming season are featured in the brochure and on plaques affixed to the wine cask planters. Large mature cultivars blooming in local gardens throughout the city were planted as part of the Newberg Men's Garden Club's "Camellia Planting Days" in April 1949.

The 60th anniversary of the adoption of the camellia as the official flower inspired OCS President Denis Dooley and Newberg's groundskeeper Bryan Stewart to help establish the annual Newberg Camellia Festival. ACS convention guest enjoyed a full day of free activities such as the 5k, 10k run in which each participant gets a potted Camellia 'Kumasaka'. Performances by Monmouth Taiko, Lee's Lion and Dragon Dancers, the Oregon Kotos and a tea ceremony celebrated Asian Culture.

The highlight this year was the announcement that the state legislature had named Newberg the "Camellia City of Oregon". Bryan Stewart, with support from City Council, purchased the rights to a new large pink camellia cultivar that will be named 'City of Newberg'. The seedling was bred and propagated by

Dan Charvet at his Heartwood Nursery, in Fort Bragg, California. Charvet is a highly respected camellia breeder known for developing cultivars that are disease resistant, self-grooming and able to grow and bloom in the cooler climate of Northern California and Oregon. The City purchased many of this cultivar, to be established on the local golf course. Bryan Stewart plans to continue to propagate this cultivar to provide plants to Newberg residents.

Portland Japanese Garden

The 9.1 acre Japanese garden was created after Portland and Sapporo, Japan became sister cities in 1959. It

was designed by Professor Takuma Tono, head of landscape architecture at Tokyo Agricultural University. The public enters through a terrace entrance designed by Kengo Kuma in 2017. This entry garden has a series of cascading ponds and a zigzag pathway through towering firs and cedars.

At the top of this steep hill is the Pavilion. It has a tiled roof, wooden verandas and Shoji doors. It is used for Japanese cultural events and art exhibits. Directly across is The Ellie M. Hill Bonsai Terrace which showcases seasonal bonsai specimens.

The main garden has five skillfully designed, separated spaces with many traditional Asian cultivars and



Camellia williamsii 'Donation' in full bloom with a stone lantern in the background.



Portland Japanese Garden. Left to right: waterfall and crane sculptures; pond and Moon Bridge; Zen Garden; and Flat Garden.

THE CAMELLIA CHRONICLES

local plants including camellias, azaleas weeping cherries, and black pines. The largest space is the Strolling Pond Garden which contains several areas. For example, in one, the rocks are built into the path to form the Big Dipper constellation, several ornate and whimsical bridges cross between the creeks and ponds, including a handmade wooden moon bridge.

The Natural Garden has multiple ponds, waterfalls, and streams. Trees, shrubs, ferns, and mosses grow in their natural state. The Sand and Stone Garden consists of artfully spaced, weathered stones rising from rippled sand, suggestive of the ocean. These small stones represent tiger cubs swimming to the Buddha, represented by the largest, centrally located stone. The Flat Garden has raked white sand representing water. The grass islands are shaped like a sake bottle and cup. A beautiful weeping cherry tree was in full bloom. The background had camellias, azaleas and pines draped in moss.

The Tea Garden has two areas which both enhance the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. There is an outer waiting area and an inner garden surrounding the authentic tea house. Three of the key elements used to create a Japanese garden are stone, the “bones” of the landscape; water, the life-giving force; and plants, the complexity and variability of the seasons. Secondary elements include pagodas, stone lanterns, water basins, arbors, and bridges.

Lan Su Chinese Garden

This classical Chinese Garden is a window into Chinese culture, history and philosophy. It began when Portland and Suzhou, China became sister cities in 1988. This garden was designed in the style popular during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 AD) which seeks to duplicate the natural Chinese landscape in miniature. Most of the building materials, including more than 500 tons of rock, came from China. The highlight for ACS visitors was the wonderful blend of water, rocks, and

plant specimens found in traditional Chinese gardens, along with modern camellia cultivars.

Doorways and windows throughout the garden form views within views. As soon as we passed through the entrance, we were greeted with hybrid ‘Taylor’s Perfection’ in full bloom. Two of the many windows framed ‘Jury’s Yellow’ and ‘Tinsie’. A specimen *C. reticulata* ‘Dr. Clifford Parks’ is nestled between the Scholar’s Study and the Teahouse, with the main water feature at its feet.

The flowers of a ‘Drama Girl’ graced the Scholar’s Courtyard and a ‘Nuccio’s Pearl’, also in bloom, was tucked in near the pavilion named “Painted Boat in Misty Rain.” Finally, clusters of large white, wavy semi-double camellia flowers were discovered planted against a shaded wall. What was it? After consulting with Don Bergamini, we confirmed it was another Nuccio introduction, ‘Silver Waves’.

Plants in a Chinese garden provide beauty, color, texture, fragrance and meaning. The plum, bamboo and pine are known as the “Three Friends of Winter”. The plum survives winter to bloom in spring; the pine remains green throughout the cold season; and bamboo bends in storms and does not break. For me, the beautiful winter blooming camellias with their evergreen foliage mean faithfulness, longevity and perfection.

Oregon Wine Country

The State of Oregon has the third largest number of wineries, and the fourth largest volume of wine produced in the United States, behind California and Washington. The wineries in Oregon focus on producing small batch artisan wine of fewer than 5,000 cases.

There are 702 wineries in Oregon which have developed a tourist industry around wine tasting. Pinot noir and pinot gris are the top two grapes grown in the area. The ACS convention included tours of two local wineries and small groups sampled wine at the many local



Lan Su Chinese Garden. Left to right: ‘Jury’s Yellow’, ‘Taylor’s Perfection’, ‘Dr. Clifford Parks’ and ‘Silver Waves’.

THE CAMELLIA CHRONICLES



American Camellia Society members enjoyed the special tours of the scenic Oregon wine country.

tasting rooms. The Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce hosted a wine tasting reception for ACS guests in the Chehalem tasting room.

Friday evening, a hearty satisfying barbeque buffet dinner was held at the Olive Mill. The meal was followed by an informative presentation by Garden designer Lucy Hardiman, of Perennial Partners. Her talk, titled "Back to the Future: Cutting Edge Gardens of the Pacific Northwest", shared the challenges of small space gardening.

The Newberg Camellia Show

The Oregon Camellia Society, in cooperation with the American Camellia Society, presented the 76th Annual Camellia Show at the Chehalem Culture Center in Newberg. The American Camellia Society 2017 National Awards were included on the show schedule. The chairman of judges was Garland Bayley assisted at the trophy table by Grace Bayley. Judging teams were comprised of local and visiting ACS judges.

The best quality flowers in each class were sent to the contention table where seven experienced judges scored each entry for size, form, color and condition. The chairman of judges developed a spreadsheet for tallying these scores.

Best of Show was 'Dusty' entered by Don and Joan

Lesmeister of Carmichael, California. This perfectly formed, large, formal double rose pink flower was in excellent condition. It went on to win the Frances Shannon Racoff Memorial Award for the best formal double *japonica*.

Robert Ehrhart won the Evelyn A. Abendroth Award for the Best 'Rachel Tarp'. Collier Brown won the Australian Camellia Research Society Trophy with 'Margaret Davis' and the Arminta Cawood Award for the best *japonica* with 'Ella Ward Parsons'.

A Good Time Was Had By All

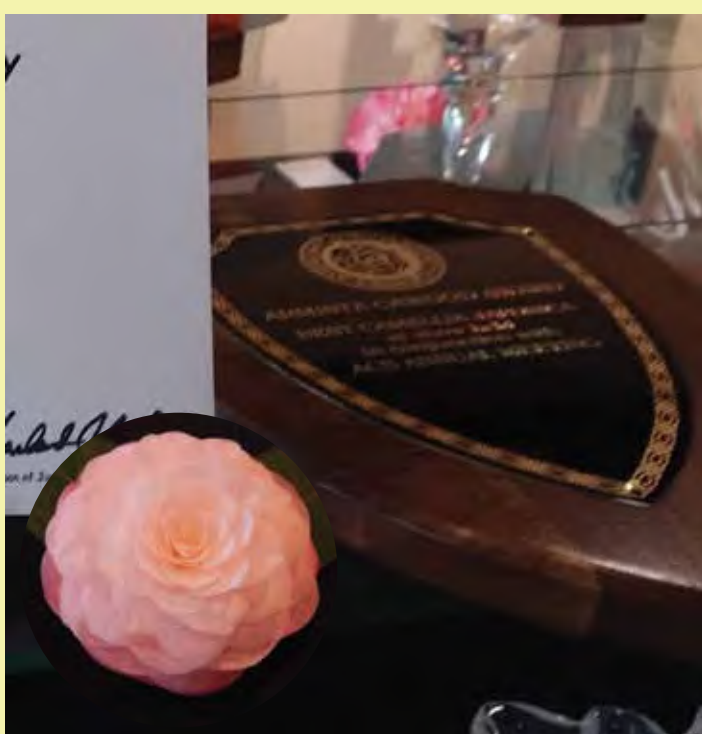
The keynote speaker for the farewell banquet at the Inn at Red Hills was Robert Herald. He presented a creative and lively slide program entitled "Camellias: The Revival of an Aristocrat."

The American Camellia Society thanks Martha Ragland the Oregon Camellia Society for their well organized and enjoyable tours. Ragland secured a number of significant sponsorships for tour buses, receptions, meeting space and gift bags. The convention was sponsored by Oregon Camellia Society with the help of Chehalem Cultural Center, Chehalem Parks and Recreation District, Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce, Anam Cara Cellars and the City of Newberg's 2016-2017 Transient Lodging Tax Grant program.

THE CAMELLIA CHRONICLES



Left: The Frances Shannon Racoff Memorial Award for the best formal double *japonica* was presented to Don and Joan Lesmeister of Carmichael, California for 'Dusty'. Right: The Australian Camellia Research Society Trophy was presented to Collier Brown of Portland, Oregon for his 'Margaret Davis' entry.



Left: The Evelyn A. Abendroth Award for the Best 'Rachel Tarpy' was presented to Robert Ehrhart of Walnut Creek, California. Right: The Arminta Cawood Award for the best *japonica* was presented to Collier Brown of Portland, Oregon for an exceptional 'Ella Ward Parsons' bloom.



Spotlight: *C. japonica* var. *rusticana* ‘Botanyuki’

The *C. rusticana* camellias are adapted to mountainous areas of northeast Japan with heavy snowfall. In Japan they are known as yuki tsubaki which means “snow camellia”.

However, they are not especially cold hardy. The slender, flexible branches bend under the snow covering serving as insulation from the cold weather. Typically, when the snow melts in the spring, the bushy compact plant bursts into a profusion of small colorful flowers. This camellia is adapted to a very humid climate and may be difficult to grow in dry conditions.

Good examples of this *japonica* subspecies are ‘Hanamigasa’ with a medium white flower with red stripes; ‘Kasugayama’ with a small semi-double red

flower with white markings; and ‘Shirokarako’ with a miniature to small white anemone flower.

There are a few dozen cultivars available at camellia nurseries throughout the country as well as several seedlings –‘Campfire’ and ‘Shooting Star’– that can be added to a garden collection.

Today we shine the spotlight on ‘Botanyuki’ which means “snow peony”. The peony is highly revered in Japanese culture. This snow camellia is one of the most beautiful *C. rusticana* cultivars, with its anemone blush pink flower and a wonderful cluster of yellow petaloids in its center. The miniature flower blooms midseason on a compact upright plant.

Story & Photograph by Bradford King

By Bradford King

C. nitidissima hybrid
'Kogane-yuri'

A Camellia Still Life: Flutes, Cups and Flowers

Traditional camellia flower forms are single, semi-double, peony, anemone and formal double. The definitions are well known and can be found in the *Camellia Nomenclature*. However, a more refined and detailed description can capture unusual variations in a camellia flower. Describing a flower as fluted, cupped or tulip-shaped helps form a more vivid picture in our mind, like a still life painting. We begin with some background to help tell this story.

Golden Flutes

The flute is a musical instrument of the woodwind family but is a reedless wind instrument. Flutes are the earliest known musical instruments. A number of flutes dating from 35,000 to 43,000 years ago have been found in Germany documenting the early history and development of a musical tradition in Europe.

A musician who plays the flute is most commonly known as a *flautist* or flutist. The most well-known flautist of this generation is Sir James Galway from Belfast, Ireland nicknamed "The Man with the Golden Flute". He plays regularly in America at Carnegie Hall and

during the summer concerts at Tanglewood in western Massachusetts's Berkshire Mountains.

We too, have a few lovely single golden fluted camellias. 'Kichô' has a small single pale yellow flower; 'Kihô' has a light yellow small to medium flower with wavy petals; and 'Kogane-yuri' has a light yellow flower that blooms prolifically up and down its slender branches. 'Kogane-nishiki' has a trumpet shaped small single pale yellow flower with attractive slender stripes of red inherited from 'Betty Foy Sanders'. Their light golden hues come from *C. nitidissima*.

Fluted Petals

We traditionally celebrate special occasions with a champagne toast. The camellia that this brings to mind is 'Elegans Champagne'. The flower has a large creamy white anemone form with yellow petaloids bubbling up from its raised center.

In terms of shapes, the champagne flute is famous. It is a stem glass with a tall narrow bowl. The stem allows the drinker to hold the glass without affecting the temperature of the beverage while the bowl retains the



'Elegans Champagne'

champagne's classic tiny bubbles. Camellias with beautiful fluted petals add interest and charm to the garden.

Three *japonica* flowers with fluted petals are 'High Wide'n Handsome' which has a large warm pink flower; 'Princess Masako' which has a medium lotus-shaped white flower with red stippling; and 'Show Time' which has a very large clear pink flower. In addition, 'Kramer's Fluted Coral' has a medium semi-double flower with a light coral pink hue and fluted petals, making it a great hybrid camellia.

Cup-Shaped Camellias

A cup of joe or mug of coffee is the way most of us begin the day, but freshly brewed tea (*C. sinensis*) is a beverage that begs to be sipped from a cup with matching saucer. This practice is a soothing ritual. Afternoon tea would be served from a tea pot with matching cups, saucers, creamer, and sugar bowl, along with a plate of cookies or scones. The cup and saucer would be made of porcelain or bone china.

The American Camellia Society

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Celeste M. Richard, crichard@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, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the

year made.

The Camellia Journal

The Camellia Journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the American Camellia Society. Editor: Bradford D. King; Advertising: Camille Bielby; Production: Camille Bielby & Celeste Richard

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy of the ACS or of its officers or directors. While the *Journal* endeavors to assume the reliability of its advertising, neither the *Journal* nor the ACS assumes responsibility for any transaction between our advertisers and our readers.

© 2017 American Camellia Society articles may not be republished without written permission.

The Camellia Journal (USPS 555-900)(ISSN 008 204X)

Published quarterly by the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley, GA. Four issues per year. March, June, September, and December. Subscription price is included in the annual membership dues. Periodical Postage paid at Fort Valley, GA and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: The Camellia Journal, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030.



‘Show Time’



‘Kramer’s Fluted Coral’



‘Demi-Tasse’

At times, the miniature white *Camellia sinensis* flower has a cup-like flower, especially before it opens fully. There are also a few other camellia species with cup-like flowers, but otherwise cup-shaped flowers are rare. *Camellia amplexicaulis* has a red-toned flower with a fine white petal edge that forms a nice cup around the central golden stamens. *Camellia chekiangoleosa* has many red cupped flowers that, when they become fruit, produce edible oil. *C. longicarpa* has a narrow leaf on a bushy, spreading plant that produces white, very small cupped flowers.

There are a few older *japonica* cultivars from Japan with cupped flowers. The Myôrenji series of medium single cupped flowers were named for the Buddhist Temple where they were discovered. They include ‘Benimyôrenji’ which has a scarlet pink flower; ‘Shibori-myôrenji’ which has a white bloom; and ‘Myôrenji’ which has a pale pink flower that was shipped to

America in 1935; while ‘Kamo-honnami’, also introduced in Japan in 1935, has a lovely large single white flower that is slightly cupped. It is named for a famous Japanese tea master.

These Japanese cupped cultivars are not currently popular in America. However, ‘Tamagasumi’, with its single medium white flower and slender red flecks, is available at Nuccio’s Nursery. This unusual cupped flower blooms mid to late season on an upright somewhat open plant, making it an interesting garden plant.

Cup and Saucer

Demitasse is French for “half cup” and is used to serve espresso or Arabic coffee. Typically, the small cups are made of white pottery or porcelain with matching saucers. The camellia flower of ‘Demi-Tasse’ is one of a kind. The small hose in hose semi-double, cup-like



C. amplexicaulis



‘Tamagasumi’



‘Marchioness of Salisbury’



‘Gigantea’



‘Tulip’Time’



‘Red Tulip’

flower has a row of petaloids between the petals. When correctly formed, it really does look like a demitasse cup and saucer.

Tulip-Shaped Flowers

Today tulips are associated with Holland, but commercial cultivation of the flower began in the Ottoman Empire. Tulips comprise many species that together are indigenous to a vast area encompassing parts of Asia, Europe and North Africa. In Persia, to give a red tulip was to declare your love. The black center of the red tulip was said to represent the lover’s heart, burned to a coal by love’s passion. To give a yellow tulip was to declare your love hopelessly and utterly.

It is believed the first tulips in the U. S. were grown near Spring Pond at the Fay Estate in Lynn and Salem, Massachusetts. A wealthy land owner named Richard Sullivan Fay settled on 500 acres in the middle of the 1800’s located partly in present day Lynn and partly in present day Salem. While there, Mr. Fay imported many different trees and plants from all parts of the world and planted them among the meadows of the Fay Estate.

The importing of trees and plants, including camellias, to America by wealthy landowners helped distribute choice plants throughout the states. For example, the Drayton family of Charleston, South Carolina, established Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in 1679. It is America’s oldest public garden. The original estate gardens were constructed in 1840 by John Grimké Drayton who is said to have introduced the azalea to the U.S.

The camellia collection was the most extensive in America before the Civil War. Magnolia introduced over 150 *japonica* cultivars to America from the 1840’s to 1940’s. A few choice examples are ‘Mathotiana’ (a.k.a. ‘Julia Drayton’), ‘Marchioness of Salisbury’, ‘Gigantea’ and ‘Debutante’ (a.k.a. ‘Sara C. Hastie’).

Today, the English-style romantic gardens feature winding paths lined with native azaleas and antique camellias.

While tulips are common in gardens throughout America, there are only a few camellias with a tulip formed flower. Nuccio’s Nurseries’ ‘Red Tulip’ with its dark red medium single flower looks like a red tulip. The plant grows open upright and spreads, making a nice landscape plant or candidate for espalier. If you prefer pink, David Feathers *C. saluenensis* hybrid ‘Tulip Time’, with its profuse single light pink tulip-like flowers, fits the bill. It makes a good landscape plant as it grows vigorously with an open growth habit and blooms midseason.

A Still Life Garden

A still life is a work of art depicting mostly inanimate subject matter, typically commonplace natural objects such as food, flowers, plants, rocks, and shells; or man-made such as drinking glasses, cups, saucers, vases, books, jewelry, coins and men’s pipes. It originated in the middle ages and was popular in Ancient Greece and Rome. A still life painting gives the artist more latitude in the arrangement of design elements within a composition than do paintings such as landscape or portraiture.

A camellia garden with rocks, shells, statues, fountains or other garden art can also be creatively enhanced by adding unusual camellia flower forms to one’s collection. The garden becomes even more interesting without sacrificing beauty. Camellia flowers in flute, cupped and tulip shapes are like a beautiful still life painting. The art of choosing forms and creatively placing them to make a statement is almost as fun as seeing them in full bloom.

References retrieved from en.wikipedia.org and *The Meaning of Flowers: Myth, Language & Lore* (Field & Scoble).



'RASPBERRY FLAMBÉ'

[Return to TOC](#)

Delicious Camellias

BY BRADFORD KING



'RASPBERRY ICE'



'RASPBERRY RIPPLE PICOTEE'



'RASPBERRY RIPPLE'

After a special dinner where you have enjoyed your favorite foods with loved ones, what is your top choice for a delicious dessert? Perhaps something tried and true like ice cream, cake or pie? Perhaps stepping it up a notch with an ice cream sundae or apple pie à la mode? Something more exotic like Bananas Foster, Crème Brûlée, or a chocolate soufflé? One refreshing and nutritious dessert is fresh fruit, which may be served alone or topped with whipped cream, vanilla ice cream or crème fraîche. There are many delicious looking camellias, but only a few with dessert names.

RASPBERRY

Red raspberries are an important widely grown commercial fruit crop in temperate regions of the world. They are the origin for the color named raspberry. They are eaten fresh, made into jelly and jam used as flavor in salad dressing and ice cream.

One February when visiting New York City for my wife's and a friend's birthdays, we celebrated with fresh raspberries for dessert. I no longer remember what we had or the expense, except to tell you that the dessert cost more than the rest of the luncheon. Yet we all clearly remember this delicious treat more than 35 years later.

There are nine camellias beginning with raspberry. They are *C. japonica* 'Raspberry Ice', 'Raspberry Parfait', 'Raspberry Ripple', 'Raspberry Ripple Picotee', 'Raspberry Sherbet', *C. reticulata* 'Raspberry Glow', and two *non-reticulata* hybrids 'Raspberry Delight' and 'Raspberry Flambé'.

'Raspberry Ice' is a sport of 'Cinderella' registered in 1987 by Monrovia Nursery of Azusa, California. The medium semi-double has a light rose pink

flower with wide white edges and streaks of raspberry on the petals.

Raspberry Ripple is a popular flavor of ice cream consisting of raspberry syrup infused in vanilla ice cream. The camellia 'Raspberry Ripple' looks delicious with its raspberry and cream markings. The raspberry border on 'Raspberry Ripple Picotee' makes a striking flower.

The camellia 'Raspberry Flambé' looks like a delicious raspberry dessert served at one's table, drenched in a liqueur and bursting into flame after a gourmet meal. Its medium rich rose red formal double flower with pointed petals marked in white is spectacular. It is a chance *non-reticulata* hybrid that first flowered 1988. It was propagated by Roscoe Dean Nursery, Lucedale, Mississippi and was introduced in 2006. It is the last Kramer Brothers Nursery introduction which was registered after the Nursery was no longer in business. It was awarded the ACS "Harris Hybrid Award" in 2010.

STRAWBERRY

The garden strawberry was first bred in Brittany, France in the 1750's. Today it is a widely grown hybrid cultivated for its fruit. It is appreciated for its characteristic scent, bright red color, juicy texture, and sweetness. It is consumed in large quantities, either fresh or in such prepared foods as preserves, fruit juice, pies, ice creams, milkshakes, and chocolates. Artificial strawberry flavorings and fragrance are also widely used in many products like lip gloss, candy, hand sanitizer and perfumes.

Strawberries and cream is a traditional English dessert and afternoon tea snack. 'Strawberries 'n Cream' is one of a few camel-



'STRAWBERRIES 'N CREAM'

lias introduced from Texas. The Bond Nursery of Dallas registered it in 1999. The owner, Mr. Ray Bond, has written extensively on camellia culture. His articles were published in the



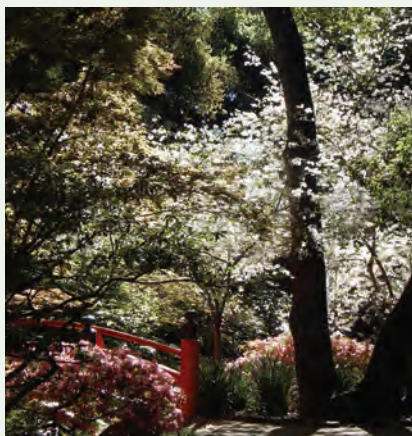
'CHERRIES JUBILEE'

Camellia Review in 2004, as well as in many issues of the American Camellia Journal and American Camellia Yearbook. The Nursery is now closed. The plant has a large semidouble to rose form double light blush pink flower with darker pink on the petal edges.

CHERRY

The cherry is the fruit of many plants of the genus *Prunus*, and is a fleshy stone fruit. The cherry fruits of commerce are usually obtained from a limited number of species such as cultivars of the sweet cherry, *Prunus avium*. The name "cherry" also refers to the cherry tree, and visually similar flowering trees in the genus *Prunus*, as in "ornamental cherry" and "cherry blossom". A number of cities and public gardens have Cherry Festivals when this magnificent flowering tree blooms. Our nation's capital is noted for its wonderful spring flowering cherry trees. Descanso Gardens has a Cherry Festival the third weekend in March which attracts thousands of people, some of their largest attended events.

Cherries jubilee is a dessert dish made with cherries and liqueur usually Kirschwasser, which is flambéed, and served as a sauce over vanilla ice cream. The



FLOWERING CHERRY IN
DESCANSO GARDENS

recipe is credited to Auguste Escoffier, who prepared the dish for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebra-



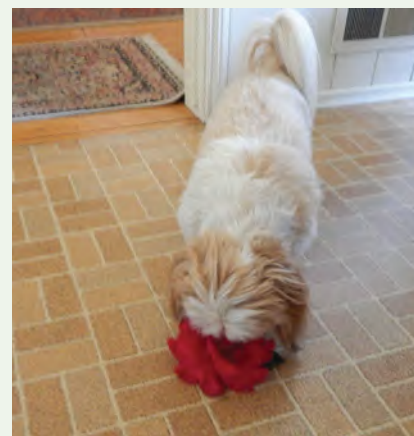
'CINNAMON CINDY'

tion in 1897. There have been many variations on the idea of flambéed fruit since Escoffier's time, the most famous being Bananas Foster. The camellia 'Cherries Jubilee' looks as delicious as the dessert tastes and is an eye-catching beauty with its burgundy red medium to large semi-double to loose peony form flower with red and white petaloids intermingled with yellow stamens. Yummy!

CINNAMON

The spice cinnamon is obtained from the inner bark of several trees from the genus *Cinnamomum* used in sweet and savory foods. It is used to flavor pastries, desserts and a number of other dishes. Dr. William Ackerman bred a number of fragrant camellias. When a rose pink miniature peony flower with white central petaloids had a deep cinnamon fragrance, he named 'Cinnamon Cindy'.

EDIBLE CAMELLIAS



KATIE WITH
'SAN MARINO'

There are many camellias whose flowers look delicious enough to eat. I have observed birds nibbling on camellia petals and have been annoyed to see flower buds chewed by insects. My dog, Katie, appears to be eating *C. reticulata* 'San Marino', but is actually checking it out and trying to get its nonexistent scent.

References retrieved from en.wikipedia.org

Remembering Our Past

Australian Hybridizers

Article & Photos by Bradford King

Camellias first came to Australia in 1831 on board the *SS Sovereign*. They were shipped to Elizabeth and John Macarthur's home and garden at Camden in Southern Sidney for their son, William, who was an ardent camellia lover. The Macarthur family propagated and distributed camellias such as 'Aspasia Macarthur' to other growers as early as 1850 thereby helping to distribute camellias in Australia. 'Aspasia Macarthur' is a medium peony white creamy flower with a few rose lines and dashes that has produced a number of very beautiful sports that have been widely distributed.



'Aspasia Macarthur'

The Early Years

One early camellia grower was Silas Sheather of Parramatta, NSW. In 1875, he introduced 'Harriet Beecher Sheather' a medium to large formal double rosy salmon chance seedling. There is also a variegated form of this flower. In 1880 he also introduced 'Sulphureous' which has a medium large lovely salmon pink formal double flower with occasional white stripes.



'Harriet Beecher Sheather'



'Sulphureous'



'Metallica'

Guilfoyle's Nursery is one of this nation's celebrated early gardening families operating a nursery known as the "Exotic Nursery" from 1851 to 1874 on 3.5 acres centred on a drained swamp. Michael Guilfoyle introduced many trees and shrubs into Australia including the camellia. Guilfoyle Nursery grew a number of seedlings. He originated 'Metallica' in 1877 which has a dark me-

tallic purple-toned medium to large formal double. He also introduced 'Odoratissima' a slightly fragrant *jaпонica* with a large rose-pink semi-double to open peony flower in 1866.

E. G. Waterhouse

Professor Eben Gowrie Waterhouse was the first President of the International Camellia Society and a founder of the Australia Camellia Society. In addition, he bred a number of new camellias. The most well known is the light pink formal double which bears his



'E.G. Waterhouse'



'E.G. Waterhouse Var.'

name. It was one of the very first formal double *hybrids*. 'E.G. Waterhouse Variegated' is perhaps even more popular as the soft pink with white markings makes a lovely flower. The E. G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens was opened in July 1970 as a Captain Cook Bicentenary Project, and was named after Waterhouse. Today the Gardens contain over 600 camellias, and more than 450 individual cultivars and species. It was

named an International Camellia Garden of Excellence in 2014 by the International Camellia Society.

Bob Cherry

Bob Cherry was a nurseryman from the age of sixteen until he retired. He registered many camellia cultivars most of them *C. sasanqua* hybrids. He established Paradise Nursery in 1972 just north of Sidney, Australia. He had 2.5 acres for growing nursery stock and a fine show garden. Cherry made many trips to Asia to collect plants, especially camellia species. Most of his introductions begin with “Paradise”; for example ‘Paradise Audrey’ named for his mother and ‘Paradise Jennifer’ for his daughter. *The International Camellia Register* describes 46 *C. sasanqua* cultivars registered by his Paradise Nursery. Two you may have seen are ‘Paradise Caroline’ and ‘Paradise Blush’. Camellia Forest Nursery in Chapel Hill, North Carolina run by David Parks offers several of the “Paradise” Australian cultivars.



‘Paradise Caroline’



‘Paradise Blush’

(Photos by Gene Phillips)

Thomas James Savige

Savige is best known for compiling the three volumes of *The International Camellia Register* with its descriptions of 32,000 cultivars and 267 species of camellias. This includes 9,000 Asian cultivars which include the Chinese and English names. He was very active in camellia organizations in Australia and in the International Camellia Society, where he served as Vice President in 1974 and President in 1977. He was acknowledged in the U.S. with the Certificate of Commendation from the American Camellia Society in 1999 and chosen to be a Fellow of the American Camellia Society in 1994.

He is also known for breeding small cluster flowering hybrid camellias. He used *C. fraterna*, *C. rosae-flora*, *C. tsaii*, and *C. cuspidata* as parents. Many of his introduction names begin with “Wirlinga” which is an aboriginal word for “meeting of the trees.” For example ‘Wirlinga Belle’, his first introduction in 1973, has a soft pink single flower; ‘Wirlinga Princess’ has a

miniature pale pink fading to white flower; and ‘Wirlinga Bride’ has a clean white miniature flower with a weeping growth pattern that looks good cascading over a bank or rock. It is arguably his best, with its profusion of white flower clusters. Unfortunately, few of these cultivars can be found in the U.S.



‘Wirlinga Bride’



‘Wirlinga Princess’

(Photos by Tony Barnes)

Arthur Davis

Arthur Davis is the originator of one of the very best *C. japonicas* which he named for his wife, Margaret Davis. It is the most beautiful sport of ‘Aspasia Macarthur’. ‘Margaret Davis’ is a creamy white peony form flower with dashes of rose red, and petals edged in bright vermillion. It is a medium flower that blooms in midseason on a bushy upright plant. It was introduced in 1961. Margaret Davis was the founding President of the Garden Clubs of Australia and wrote gardening books until age 90. She was born Margaret E. G. Reardon in 1908 and married Arthur Davis in 1929. Margaret became the second woman to hold a pilot’s license in Australia. She died March 2000 in Santa Barbara, California, where she had lived for many years.



‘Margaret Davis’

‘Margaret Davis’ has been distributed throughout the camellia world and is a popular and successful show winner here in America. For example, the Australian Camellia Research Society Trophy has been awarded to ‘Margaret Davis’ fifteen times in the last twenty-seven years as the best bloom of Australian origin at the American Camellia Society National Camellia Shows.

John Hunt

John Alexander Hunt was born July 26, 1936 and



‘John Hunt’



‘Phyllis Hunt’

passed away at 89 years of age. He had a thirty-year love affair with *Camellia reticulata*. He used the best cultivars in his crosses as both seed and pollen parents. These included ‘Suzanne Withers’, ‘LASCA Beauty’, ‘Arch of Triumph’ and ‘Mrs. D. W. Davis Special’ just to name a few.

He named his very large pink semi-double to loose peony flower with veined petals ‘John Hunt’. It was his first introduction. It is widely grown in America and is a frequent winner in camellia shows. When gibbed this very large bloom becomes even more impressive. ‘John Hunt’ gets its show winning abilities from his pollen parent ‘LASCA Beauty’ and his lovely pink color, very large size and loose peony form from both parents. His seed parent ‘Arch of Triumph’ is a beautiful cultivar introduced by Feathers in 1970.

Hunt also introduced ‘Tony Hunt’ named for his son and ‘Amy Hunt’ named after his granddaughter. John



‘Adorable’

wanted to name one of his cultivars for his wife, Phyllis. She wanted a small lovely bloom name for her; therefore she had rejected the seedlings ‘John Hunt’ and ‘Tony Hunt’ as too big for her taste. Consequently, Hunt forged ahead and registered ‘Phyllis Hunt’ as

part of their 50th wedding anniversary celebration.

The flower is indeed lovely with a clear deep pink on the petal edges shading to lighter pink with a white center. The bloom is a very large peony. The plant grows slowly in an open, spreading manner and may be a shy bloomer when small. However, when it does bloom, it has a very beautiful flower with 30 or more petals in tones of pink and white. ‘Phyllis Hunt’ was awarded the “Charlotte Knox Reticulata Award” in 2012 by the American Camellia Society.

Edgar Sebire

Edgar Sebire used mostly *C. pitardii* and *C. fraterna* in hybridizing camellias. He introduced ‘Annette Carol’, ‘Our Melissa’, and ‘Adorable’. The most beautiful is his formal double *hybrid* ‘Adorable’. The bright pink *pitardii* seedling certainly lives up to its name. When visiting Nuccio’s Nursery in Altadena, California with my wife Lynn, the first thing she said when first seeing it in bloom but not knowing its name was, “What an adorable flower.”

Ray Garnett

Ray Garnett liked to use *C. pitardii*, *C. transnokoensis* and *C. lutchuensis* in his hybridizing. The medium full peony light pink flower that shades to a paler pink center of ‘Sweet Emily Kate’ is his most popular. It does well in a hanging basket due to its pendulous growth habit and lovely fragrance. It was introduced in 1992.



‘Sweet Emily Kate’

Australia Today

The Quarantine Proclamation of 1998 protects Australia against introduced pests and diseases, including plant pathogens like camellia blight (*Ciborinia camelliae*). As you may know, Australia is one of a few countries free from camellia blight. This law prohibits camellia flowers and foliage from being imported into Australia.

Likewise, American agricultural restrictions and quarantine make it difficult for new camellia introductions from other countries to make into America. We understand and support the protection these laws provide. However, it means new Australian camellia cultivars are rarely seen here.

A case in point is Kurt Boesen of Dancraft Nurseries who has originated and recently registered two dozen *C. sasanqua* cultivars in Australia. They are known as “DAN’s Collection” as DAN appears as part of each cultivar’s name.

References retrieved from www.gardenclinic.com.au/how-to-grow-article/australia-s-first-camellia and www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/recreation/parks_reserves_and_playgrounds/list_of_parks_and_playgrounds/parks_and_playgrounds/guilfoyle_park.



Petaloids: ARE THEY GOOD OR BAD?

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRADFORD KING

*P*etaloids are flower stamens with a small piece of petal attached to the filament (stock) that may or may not have a pollen sack. They are almost never seen on a single flower but occur at times on a semi-double flower, becoming more frequent as the flower form becomes complex, for example, as in the anemone form. Petaloids are mid-way between a stamen and a petal.



A cluster of 'Hishikaraito'
blooms with an interesting tight
cluster of white petaloids.

BAD PETALOIDS

Most camellia show judges will find a few petaloids on a semi-double flower distracting from the beauty of a camellia bloom and deduct points. Therefore exhibitors remove these “flag” like petaloids with scissors, tweezers or a quick firm pluck with forefinger and thumb. Many semi-double *japonica* cultivars will sometimes produce these petaloids. Perhaps this is like freckles on humans some of us have a great many, others none but most of us over a life time develop a few. Examples of *japonica* semi-double flowers that will sometimes have petaloids are ‘San Dimas’, ‘Silver Waves’ and ‘Tama Glitters’. In general, these petaloids are unwanted and seen as “bad”.

GOOD AND BAD

Yet this is not the whole picture. When breeding new hybrids a semi-double flowering cultivar that regularly produces petaloids has the ability to produce more complex seedlings, so in this case they are a good thing. I have used, for example, ‘San Dimas’ pollen on the very fertile single blooms of ‘Tama-no-ura’ which results in some very unremarkable single red flowers, but also some interesting anemone, loose peony, and formal double flowers. They may also produce a few seedlings with the genetic white border inherited from ‘Tama-no-ura’.



'Tama Glitters' with petaloids that distract from the beauty of the bloom.

I infer that the anemone, loose peony and rare formal double flower form is inherited from 'San Dimas'. Thus, the petaloids that occur on 'San Dimas' are good and bad. They are unwelcomed to the camellia show exhibitor, but an asset to the camellia breeder. As is frequently the case in life, few issues are simply good or bad.

Another illustration may help bring clarity. As a hybridizer, it is frequently

a goal to seek to produce complex flowers (anemone, peony, rose form double); therefore, one or both parents would have these forms. The more complex the flower parent the more likely its seedlings will also be complex. This is a good thing. However, the more complex the flower becomes with petaloids and petals, the more difficult it is to see the female structure (pistil) and the more difficult it is to emasculate the flower. This is a bad thing. In fact, when the camellia reaches its most complex state—formal double—it is both male and female sterile. The resulting flower is beautiful, but useless in further breeding.

GOOD PETALOIDS

There are a number of beautiful camellias that are grown for their interesting petaloids. 'Hishikaraito' illustrates this point. The flower is a small semi-double bloom with a tight cluster of white petaloids that look like a white cushion resting on the center of a miniature, pink, diamond-shaped bed. Almost all of its stamens have been transformed into petaloids. The plant can produce numerous flowers, almost all having the interesting central cluster of petaloids. It is like each one is a cookie cutout; they are so similar to one another. This is an old cultivar dating back to 1844 in Japan. "Kara" is an ancient name for China and "ito" means thread which describes the petaloids as Chinese thread.

Star Nursery of Pasadena California was owned and operated by J. W. Uyematsu. When he was interned during World War II, Manchester Boddy bought his plants for Descanso Gardens. Star Nurseries had over fifty japonica cultivars shipped from Japan to America in 1930. They all bear Japanese names and have been used in the landscape and by camellia breeders for years. 'Bokuhan' ('Tinsie') has a miniature anemone bloom with red guard petals and a wonderful cluster of central white petaloids. The plant grows vigorously and upright.

There are a number of other *japonica* cultivars with different colored petaloids. Franklin Moore from West Covina, California crossed 'Demi-Tasse' with 'Hishi-

'Bokuhan' a.k.a. 'Tinsie', is a miniature anemone with red guard petals and a cluster of central white petaloids.

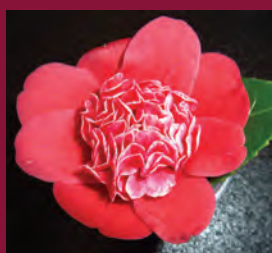




'Little Michael'



'Lipstick'



'Shikibu'



'Bob's Tinsie'



'Kumagai'

karaito' to get 'Little Michael'. It has a pretty miniature to small blush pink anemone flower with creamy to blush pink petaloids. 'Lipstick' has white petaloids with red borders tightly formed in the center of a dark shiny red anemone flower that does look like lipstick.

'Shikibu' has a rose red miniature flower with rose red petaloids with white edges. It was imported from Japan in 1981 by Nuccio's Nurseries. 'Bob's Tinsie' is a miniature to small brilliant red anemone formed flower with a cluster of white-streaked inner petaloids, with brilliant yellow stamens. One cultivar, 'Kumagai' has dark red flowers that exhibits interesting fully capped pink and white petaloids.

Another anemone form flower that has an attractive and interesting high center of petaloids is 'Kewpie Doll'. It has a light pink, miniature to small, bloom that is borne on a vigorous bushy upright plant. This cultivar was developed by McCaskill Gardens of Pasadena, California. The owner, Vernon McCaskill was an ardent hybridizer and grower of camellias. He introduced 72 *japonica* cultivars and eight *non-reticulata* hybrids from 1930 to 1988. While most of these cultivars are not seen very often, the ones we do see are wonderful.

Besides the aforementioned 'Kewpie Doll', there is 'Demi-Tasse' which has a semi-double small to medium peach-blossom pink bloom, with a unique hose in hose form with a row of petaloids between the petals that really makes the flower look like a cup and saucer. It is a show quality cultivar and is one of the most beautiful and interesting flowers when correctly formed. One of the pioneers of the California camellia growers

and breeders, Toichi Domoto, introduced nine *japonicas*, two *non-reticulata* hybrids and one sport. One of his hybrids, 'Scented Gem', is a lovely miniature fragrant pink anemone form flower with white petaloids it inherited from 'Tinsie'. The fragrance was inherited from its seed parent—*C. lutchuensis*. The plant grows slowly with small lacy foliage.

It seems as if most of these attractive flowers with interesting petaloids are miniature and small in size. One exception is 'Cherries Jubilee' which has medium to large burgundy red flowers with red and white petaloids either as semi-double or loose peony in form. The burgundy red color and contrasting white petaloids makes for a striking flower. The plant is a strong growing camellia that is rounded and full. An attractive large rose red semi-double to loose peony flower with interesting long slender cup shaped petaloids describes 'Mark Allen'. The variegated form is beautiful with the white contrasting with the wine red petals.

WHAT IS WHAT?

It is easy to accept that petaloids will at times be an unwelcomed distraction. It is an asset to camellia breeders for cultivars to have petaloids and complex forms when seeking to produce more interesting and distinctive new flowers. There are number of wonderful camellias with petaloids that make them some of the most uniquely formed flowers. It is also only prudent to accept there is both good and bad in in the world around us. "It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good." (John Heywood, 1546)



'Kewpie Doll'



'Demi-Tasse'



'Scented Gem'



'Cherries Jubilee'



'Mark Allan Var.'



Spotlight: *C. japonica* ‘Sea Foam’

In 1959, a medium to large formal double white *C. japonica* was introduced and named ‘Sea Foam’ by its originator, John T. Weisner. It should not be confused with *C. sasanqua* ‘Seafoam’ nor the fuel additive used to clean the fuel system of fuel deposits and sludge which allows a motor vehicle to run better.

This camellia cultivar was named for sea foam that occurs in the ocean, due to its white color and frothy looking incurved petals. When the ocean is agitated by wind and waves, sea foam develops. Algae blooms are a common source of thick sea foams. As large blooms of algae decay offshore, great amounts of decaying algae often wash on shore and get churned by the surf, producing sea

foam. It is usually an indication of a productive ocean ecosystem.

The camellia ‘Sea Foam’ has an outstanding white formal double flower with incurved petals. It blooms late season on an upright plant. It is capable of winning show points. For example, in 2014-2015, it earned 39 points. It is usually a top contender when competing with other white camellias.

There is something special about a blemish-free, fresh looking formal double white flower, which is why the spotlight shines on ‘Sea Foam’. Weisner was a charter member of the Fernandina Beach Men’s Garden Club and registered nine camellias with the American Camellia Society, including ‘Gustav Gerbing’.

Story by Bradford King and Photograph by Gene Phillips

Not A Bad Way to Go

By Bradford King



‘Mathotiana’—a red *japonica* that was introduced in 1840—which could have been one Truman Capote observed in Monroeville, Alabama. Photo by Bradford King

Truman Capote began writing when he was eight years old even though he knew no one who wrote and only few who actually read stories. He was an only child of an alcoholic mother and a father imprisoned for fraud. As a southern youngster growing up in Louisiana and rural Alabama he was a lonely misfit. His gayness, capacity for empathy and observant nature contributed to his writing. When he was only seventeen, he wrote a short story “Miss Belle Rankin” about misfits and camellias

in a small southern town. What follows is a synopsis of this tale.

A stranger came to town and asked “Do you boys know anyone around here with some nice Japonicas trees for sale?” He was looking for them for a client who lived in a nearby town who was building a new house. The boys said “the only person here that has some real purty ones is a queer old doll, Miss Belle Rankin....” He went to see her and requested to buy her old *japonica* trees for two hundred dollars each. She re-



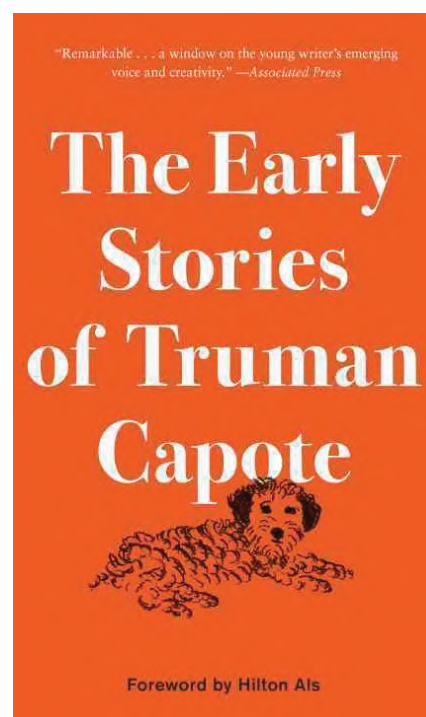
Young Truman Capote with his Aunt, Nanny Rumbley "Sook" Faulk. Photograph was provided by the Monroe County Heritage Museum in Monroeville, Alabama, and used with permission. Capote lived with his The home is no longer there, but a large *japonica* with red blooms remains on the site. The Museum features an exhibit of Capote's childhood in Monroeville. www.MonroeCountyMuseum.org

fused because "she liked them better than anything she had." The boys knew she was poor and just couldn't fathom why she wouldn't sell them.

A few months later it was February and there was a dusting of snow that melted as it hit the ground when Miss Belle looked out and "gasped for she saw down

below that the japonicas were blooming; they were more beautiful than she had ever seen them. The vivid red petals were frozen and still." Even though the weather was nasty she had to walk to town for supplies. It was dark on the way home with snow falling leaving the road mushy and cold. She struggled with her hamper of food, stopping to catch her breath and started picking some of the huge red japonica flowers. She slipped, fell and died picturing her mother. The boy who narrates the story observed, "Well, Miss Belle Rankin was certainly an odd one and probably a little touched, but she really looked lovely that cold February morning with that flower pressed against her cheek and lying there so still and quiet."

Not such a bad way to go.....



Excerpts from "Miss Belle Rankin" from *The Early Stories of Truman Capote* by Truman Capote are used with permission from Penguin Random House, LLC.

The American Camellia Society

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Celeste M. Richard, crichard@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, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax deductible in the

year made.

The Camellia Journal

The Camellia Journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the American Camellia Society. Editor: Bradford D. King; Advertising: Camille Bielby; Production: Camille Bielby & Celeste Richard

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy of the ACS or of its officers or directors. While the *Journal* endeavors to assume the reliability of its advertising, neither the *Journal* nor the ACS assumes responsibility for any transaction between our advertisers and our readers.

© 2016-2017 American Camellia Society articles may not be republished without written permission.

The Camellia Journal (USPS 555-900)(ISSN 008 204X)

Published quarterly by the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley, GA. Four issues per year. March, June, September, and December. Subscription price is included in the annual membership dues. Periodical Postage paid at Fort Valley, GA and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: The Camellia Journal, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030.



Article and Photographs by Bradford King

“Your Hit Parade” was an American and television music program that was broadcast from 1935 to 1955 on radio, and seen on television from 1950 to 1959. Most of us just called it “Hit Parade.” Each Saturday evening, young and old gathered around the radio or TV to hear the top 15 most popular songs of the week. Whenever, I see the *Camellia japonica* ‘Hit Parade’, it reminds me of this wonderful program and the whole family sitting together sharing the experience. ‘Hit Parade’ has a large pink semi-double flower with several upright petals. It was introduced by the Nucchio’s in 1961.

The Fifties

People who lived through the decade have numerous memories. Those born later have heard stories about this eventful era. People were enjoying their family lives and the economy was robust, with an increase in manufacturing and home construction. Marilyn Monroe entertained in the movies and Elvis Presley’s music was making people rock. Hundreds of songs were sung on the “Hit Parade.” Likewise, hundreds of camellias were registered. For each year of this exciting decade, a famous camellia will be highlighted.

C. japonica ‘Hit Parade’



C. japonica 'Katherine Nuccio'



Nineteen Fifty

Do you remember singing “Goodnight Irene” in 1950? I certainly do, yet I can’t remember the last time it was sung. This is when the first credit card (The Diners’ Club) was invented; it was the beginning of the Korean War, and Harry Truman was President. This year is famous for camellia people because Joe and Julius Nuccio, the founding fathers of Nuccio’s Nurseries, introduced their first camellia. They named this rose red medium formal double to rose form double ‘Katherine Nuccio’ for their mother.

C. japonica 'Drama Girl'



Nineteen Fifty-one

The fifties are noted for new inventions. This year ushered in Super Glue™, power steering and the first video tape machine. Nat King Cole, with his soft baritone voice, made popular “Too Young” while Hank Williams sang “Hey Good Lookin’”. In the camellia world, ‘Drama Girl’, a very large deep salmon rose pink semi-double flower, became popular. It was originated by E. W. Miller of Escondido, California. We continue to see this bloom in camellia shows today. It was a favorite of Katherine Nuccio; therefore when one of its seedlings produced a very large semi-double coral pink flower, Nuccio’s named it ‘Katie’.

Nineteen Fifty-two

The holiday season was ushered in with the famous song “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus”. Mr. Potato Head® was distributed, bar codes were invented, and the first diet soft drink was sold. The hydrogen bomb was built by a team headed by Edward Teller. Queen Elizabeth II was Time magazine’s person of the year, with Marilyn Monroe, Ava Gardner, Rita Hayworth, Doris Day and Lana Turner the female stars of film and fashion. ‘R. L. Wheeler’ was introduced in 1949, but it took until 1952 for it to become a popular camellia. The very large rose pink semi-double to anemone flower has heavy outer petals and a solid circle of stamens which makes for a beautiful bloom. It continues to be a popular flower.

C. japonica 'R. L. Wheeler'



Nineteen Fifty-three

The songs sung on the “Hit Parade” this year include the wonderful ballad “Tennessee Waltz” made famous by Patti Page and “Your Cheatin’ Heart”, written and recorded by Hank Williams. Radial tires and transistor radios were introduced and the “black box” (flight recorders) began to be installed on airplanes. The camellia ‘Wildwood’ was registered this year. It has a very large light pink semi-double to loose peony form with very thin petals. It was originated by W. R. Marvin of Wildwood Nurseries in Walterboro, South Carolina.

C. japonica 'Wildwood'



Nineteen Fifty-four

Rock and roll songs were the craze. Three of the biggest hits were “Rock Around the Clock”, “Earth Angel”, and “Shake, Rattle and Roll”. Teflon and “the pill” (oral contraception) were introduced. This was the year when ‘Mrs. D. W. Davis’ was registered. It became a camellia that attracted keen attention at camellia shows, with a long list of customers signing up to get a plant to add to their collection. Mr. D. W. Davis grew this ‘Elizabeth Boardman’ seedling from a seed which had been planted in 1947. When it bloomed in 1952, he named it for his wife. This blush pink semi-double flower is very large, frequently exceeding six inches in diameter. It grows on a vigorous upright plant that blooms in midseason. The lovely green leaves make this camellia plant attractive all year. It became known as the “hundred dollar baby” because all of the first plants sold for at least \$100 each. The D.W. Davis Nursery was located in Seffner, Florida, a small town 15 miles from Tampa.



Nineteen Fifty-six

“Memories Are Made of This” was made famous by Dean Martin. This song was his biggest hit and reached number one on the Billboard chart for six weeks in 1956. Elvis Presley sang and recorded the hit “Don’t Be Cruel”. He appeared for the first time on the Ed Sullivan show and entered the music charts with “Heartbreak Hotel”. The increase in living standards and the focus on education made it possible for one in three high school graduates to attend college. TV shows included “As the World Turns” and “The Price is Right”. Mothers could now buy disposable diapers and Tefal non-stick frying pans. ‘Tomorrow’ was awarded the Illges Seedling *Japonica* Award by the American Camellia Society. The large to very large strawberry red semi-double has irregular petals and large petaloids. It is at times full peony in form. It is one of the camellias famous for mutating. There are seventeen sports bearing the ‘Tomorrow’ name.



Nineteen Fifty-five

Consumerism took off in 1955 with the sale of 7.9 million cars so that seven out of ten American families owned an automobile. Seat belts were required in all new cars. The minimum wage was raised to \$1.00 an hour. The average wage was now \$3,851 a year. The first McDonald’s was built and Coca-Cola® was now sold in cans rather than bottles. The popularity of rock and roll continued to grow. Elvis Presley, Bill Haley and the Comets, Chuck Berry and The Platters became household names. Men’s fashion included pink shirts and charcoal grey suits. In the camellia world, ‘Reg Ragland’, a large to very large red semi-double with some smaller upright central petals surrounded a mass of yellow stamens, became a hit. William E. Woodroof of Sherman Oaks, California, originated this ‘J. J. Pringle Smith’ seedling.



Nineteen Fifty-seven

Dwight David Eisenhower, “Ike”, began his second term as President. New cars sported bigger, taller tail fins, more lights, and bigger more powerful engines. The average car sold for \$2,749. The Soviet Union launched the first space satellite, Sputnik 1. Movies included “Twelve Angry Men” and “The Bridge on the River Kwai”. “Perry Mason” and “Maverick” appeared on TV for the first time. “Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On” was a song first recorded by Big Maybelle, but best known in the 1957 rock and roll hit version by Jerry Lee Lewis. Nuccio’s Nurseries developed a *japonica* with a coral-rose-red, large to very large semi-double flower with rabbit ears (several upright central petals) and named it for their father, Guilio Nuccio. Joe Nuccio’s son Jude (Julius) graduated from high school and joined the nursery full time.

Nineteen Fifty-eight

The hit songs of 1958 included “Volare” and “Good Golly, Miss Molly”. “Volare” is one of the most famous Italian songs made popular in America by Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra, who both recorded it. “Good Golly, Miss Molly” was a hit rock and roll song first recorded in 1956 by the flamboyant American singer and pianist, Little Richard, and released in January 1958 as a specialty single. The song is ranked number 94 on the Rolling Stone magazine’s “500 Greatest Songs of All Time”. Kosaku Sawada, the great camellia grower and hybridizer who emigrated from Japan to America, settled in Mobile, Alabama. When his bride’s family sent him a dowry of camellia seeds, he propagated

them and developed new hybrids that have produced many wonderful plants. His very best introduction was ‘Sawada’s Dream’, registered in 1958. This medium, spiraled, formal double flower is white, with wonderful outer petals shaded a delicate pink.



Nineteen Fifty-nine

Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba. Alaska was admitted to the Union, becoming the 49th state, and Hawaii was admitted to the Union to become the 50th state. The Boeing 707 jet airliner came into service. New television shows included “Rawhide”, “Bonanza” and “The Twilight Zone”. Movies included “Some Like it Hot” starring Marilyn Monroe, and “Ben-Hur” which won a record of 11 Academy Awards, including best picture and best actor in a leading role for Charlton Heston. It is considered by many to be one



of the greatest films ever made. The chariot race is arguably the best of the omnipresent movie chase scenes ever made.

The top five songs of the year were: “The Battle of New Orleans” (Johnny Horton); “Mack the Knife” (Bobby Darin); “Personality” (Lloyd Price); “Venus” (Frankie Avalon); and “Lonely Boy” (Paul Anka). Barbie® dolls, created by Ruth Handler and made by Mattel®, were first introduced and have continued to be popular to this day with little girls and even adult collectors. Camellia enthusiasts continue to grow and appreciate the beautiful ‘Carter’s Sunburst’ introduced in 1959 by E. H. Carter of Monterey Park, California. The flower is large to very large, and is pale pink with deeper pink markings. Its form is semi-double to peony, and is at its most gorgeous with a bud center.



Conclusion

The hallmarks of the 1950s in America included a booming economy with more people than ever before able to own new cars and homes and to purchase consumer goods. The United States was the world’s strongest military power. “Ike” was President during eight years of this decade. Sports, television, film and music were sources of entertainment. However, it was also a time of conflict—the civil rights movement and the crusade against communism at home and abroad. Camellias and camellia collecting increased in popularity during the 1950s. The American Camellia Society, founded in 1945, still thrives today in its promotion of the genus. Local, state and regional camellia organizations sprang up during the mid-1950s. The camellia industry could barely keep up with the demand, and camellia shows became very popular in the winter months.

Historical references retrieved from www.thepeoplehistory.com; en.wikipedia.org; and www.rollingstone.com.

Remembering Our Past: Meyer Piet & Lee Gaeta

Article & Photos by Bradford King



Bev Piet, flashing the smile that inspired the name for the *japonica* 'Bev Piet's Smile', while holding a *C. reticulata* hybrid 'Bev Piet Variegated' bloom and close up of 'Bev Piet Variegated' bloom.

Meyer Piet had a successful career in the aerospace industry and a passion for camellias. Meyer and his friend Lee Gaeta hybridized camellias in the 1970s and '80s, from Piet's home in Arcadia, California. They registered sixteen new *reticulata* hybrids. Most of these were named for family members. It is clear from their introductions that developing dark red *reticulata* camellia blooms was a major priority.

'Bev Piet' is named for Piet's wife. This very dark red medium semi-double flower is a cross between two *reticulata* hybrids—'Fire Chief' and 'Nuccio's Ruby'. The variegated form is very striking with the white blotches, contrasting sharply on the dark red. The rich dark red large to very large rose form double flower of 'Larry Piet' is named after Meyer and Bev Piet's son. It is considered by many to be his very best introduction. The other red introductions include: 'Alma Wood', 'Hody Wilson', 'Lee Gaeta', and 'Fight On'. Piet was an avid University of Southern California football fan. The USC Trojans colors are cardinal and gold; thus, when a cardinal bloom with golden anthers was produced, it was initially called "USC Fight On". Later

he considered calling it the "Spirit of Troy". However, when he and Gaeta registered the bloom, it was shortened to 'Fight On', the name of the team's fight song.

A second hybridizing objective for Piet and Gaeta was to develop distinctive large pink or rose pink flowers. Toward this end, 'Arcadia', 'Brian Gaeta', 'Emma Gaeta', 'Karrie Armijo', 'Margaret Wells Choice', 'Sandra Gaeta', and 'Sean Armijo' were introduced. Two of these lovely varieties continue to be favorites at camellia shows. 'Arcadia' is named after the Piets' hometown and is a very large salmon pink. 'Emma Gaeta' is named after Lee Gaeta's wife. This bloom, when variegated, is a show winner with its deep rose pink color and heavily marked splashes of white. In California, it was the biggest winner in the *reticulata* class until 'Frank Houser' came along. Piet and Gaeta created a lovely color break with 'Fiesta Grande'. This light lavender with white speckles is a medium sized flower and makes a good landscape plant. The variegated form is even more attractive and continues to be seen occasionally at camellia shows. In the process of making thousands of controlled crosses, several interesting flowers



‘Arcadia’



‘Emma Gaeta Variegated’



‘Fiesta Grande’ plant and bloom

were developed. In 1980, using *C. reticulata* ‘Cornelian’ and *C. japonica* ‘Mrs. D. W. Davis’, he produced a dark red, five-inch bloom which has an irregular form and a mass of golden stamens, which make it look like a *Higo* camellia. Meyer named it after a camellia friend from Japan, Yoshiaki Andoh.

The development of fragrant camellias was also a major hybridizing goal. Piet felt his best results were made from crosses with a *C. japonica Higo* called ‘Nioi-fubuki’ which translates to “scented snow storm”. The best example of this line of his work is ‘Bessie Dickson’. The bloom is a white medium anemone form with



‘Fiesta Grande Variegated’



‘Yoshiaki Andoh’



‘Bessie Dickson’



‘Happy Amy Fenska’



‘Bev Piet’s Smile’



‘Phil Piet Variegated’



‘Larry Piet’

a slight fragrance. It was named for James Dickson’s mother. Dickson is active in his local camellia society, including being a past president of the Aiken Camellia Society and the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. He is also active in ACS, currently as a board member for the ACS Trust and Vice President of ACS.

Piet and Gaeta bred a number of *japonica* hybrids that are seen occasionally at camellia shows. They frequently named introductions for 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.

Perhaps their best known *japonica* was a late introduction which was registered after both men passed away. ‘Bev Piet’s Smile’ has a beautiful large dark red and white semi-double to peony flower with yellow anthers.

In addition to *reticulata* and *japonica* hybrids, they did many crosses using *C. nitidissima* and *C. granthamiana*. ‘Phil Piet’ was their best *non-reticulata* hybrid. The flower is a beautiful large to very large, pink and white semi-double. It blooms early to midseason on a vigorous dense growing plant. It is an interesting cross as its seed parent was *C. granthamiana* pollinated by the hybrid ‘Elsie Jury’. It is named for the Piets’ son, Phil. The original plant had a prominent place in the

front of the Piet home, before the plants and house were taken down to rebuild what I call “Arcadia Starter Castles”.

Meyer Piet was a very active man with many interests. Besides his passion for camellias, he was an avid wood carver. He hand carved and painted numerous works of art. Both Piet and Gaeta were family men, and had a passion for breeding new camellias. This partnership produced a wide range of wonderful camellias.



Wood Carving by Meyer Piet



[Return to TOC](#)

C. hybrid 'Kiho'
x *C. nitidissima*
'Senritsu-ko'

Winning Camellia Hybrids

Article and Photographs by Bradford King

The first inter camellia species *hybrids* originated in England and are known as the *williamsii hybrids*. They are crosses between *Camellia saluenensis* and *Camellia japonica*. They began when John Charles Williams of Caerhays Castle in Cornwall, England, received seeds of *C. saluenensis* from George Forrest, who was a plant collector. Williams supported several of Mr. Forrest's plant collecting trips to China. Williams found the plants grew well, flowered freely, and readily set seed. He and his colleague, Col. Stephenson Clarke, began to make controlled crosses with *C. japonica* cultivars.

In 1923, Williams' first crop of seedlings developed. The seed plant was a pale pink *C. saluenensis* that is reported to be still growing outside the carpenter's workshop at Caerhays Castle. The pollen parent was 'Alba Simplex'. The best seedling was named 'J. C. Williams' in 1940 to honor Williams, who had passed away in 1939.

This is the birth of the *williamsii hybrids*, which are noted for their hybrid vitality, free flowering and colorful blooms. The early *williamsii hybrids* had single and semi-double flowers, but through hybridizing, larger and more complicated *hybrids* have been introduced. Today, we have many very



***C. x williamsii* 'Cile Mitchell'**

beautiful hybrids that are camellia show winners. *Hybrids* account for about five percent of the camellias grown in America, and are third in popularity after the many *japonica* and *reticulata* cultivars.

Large Hybrid Winners

'Cile Mitchell' was bred by Hulyn Smith, a prolific camellia hybridizer from Valdosta, Georgia. Smith introduced this light orchid pink rose form double to formal double camellia in 1992. While Smith is best known for breeding large red camel-

lias, this is an outstanding cultivar, which grows vigorously and upright. It was the top winner in the 2014-2015 show season as a large hybrid with 46 points.

The number two large hybrid in 2014-2015 was 'Mona Jury Variegated', with 44 points. 'Mona Jury' was introduced in New Zealand by Les Jury in 1976. Jury was an early breeder of *C. x williamsii hybrid* camellias and was noted for breeding for large, self-grooming flowers on plants that grew well. 'Mona Jury' has an apricot-pink peony flower. The plant has an open habit with light green foliage, with 16 to 22 heavily veined petals, yellow anthers, and white filaments. It blooms from early to late season. When variegated,



***C. x williamsii* 'Mona Jury Variegated'**



***C. x williamsii* 'Tom Perkins'**



C. x williamsii 'Taylor's Perfection'

the white markings make it a winner.

'Tom Perkins' earned 38 show points in the 2014-2015 season. It has a rich, pink formal double flower with high, imbricated petals, which when well formed, makes an outstanding bloom. The plant grows vigorously and upright. This *hybrid* was bred by F. F. Becker, II, of Brookhaven, Mississippi. The ten-year-old seedling first bloomed 1987 and was registered in 1994. It is seen only occasionally in Southern California, more often in Northern California, and frequently in the Southeast.

'Taylor's Perfection' originated in New Zealand in 1975. It has become widely distributed because of the large semi-double, light lavender-pink flower. The lavender tint is one of the characteristics seen in *saluenensis* hybrids. It is a camellia capable of winning as a single, or in trays of multiple blooms at camellia shows from down under to the east and west coasts in camellia growing regions of America.

Medium Hybrid Winners

'Julia' topped the medium *hybrid* class with its beautiful lavender-pink flower with white markings. It is a rose form



C. hybrid 'Julia'

to formal double flower. 'Julia' is a variegated bloom and 'Julia Pink' is its non-variegated form. It blooms midseason on an average growing upright plant. It was followed in show points by 'Raspberry Flambé', 'Julie Variegated', 'First Blush' and 'Island Sunset', all having beautiful medium blooms.

The camellia 'Raspberry Flambé' reminds us of a delicious raspberry dessert served at one's table, drenched in a liqueur, and bursting into flame, after a gourmet meal. The rich rose-red formal double flower, with pointed petals marked in white, is spectacular. It is a chance, *non-reticulata* *hybrid* that first flowered 1988. The plant grows upright at an average rate and flowers midseason. It was originated by Kramer Brothers Nursery of Upland, California, and propagated by Roscoe Dean Nursery of Lucedale, Mississippi. It was registered in 2006 after Kramer Brothers was no longer in business.

'Julie' has a wonderful salmon-pink to peach-pink flower, introduced in 1961 by V. R. James of Aptos, California and variegated by many people including Don Bergamini in 1981. Bergamini is a past president of ACS from Martinez,



C. hybrid 'Raspberry Flambé'



C. hybrid 'Julie Variegated'



C. hybrid 'First Blush'



C. x williamsii 'Spring Daze'

California who has introduced a number of new camellia cultivars. The white markings on the lovely salmon flower makes for a winning bloom. Kramer Brothers Nursery also introduced 'First Blush' in 1989. This winning *hybrid* has a formal double to rose form double blush pink flower with pink petal edges. It blooms midseason on a compact upright plant of average growth habit.

'Island Sunset' was introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries and first published in the 2006 *Camellia Nomenclature*. It is one of the newer *hybrids* with coral color tones. The flower has a rich coral-pink bloom that is toned lighter in the center. The medium to large flower is semi-double and blooms midseason to late season, making it a good camellia to extend the flowering season in your garden. It is a show winner as a single and in trays of like blooms. It is outstanding when treated with gibberellic acid—it blooms early, increases in size, has intense color, and has a striking contrast between the outer coral pink petals and center pink petals. The pink-coral color tone of 'Island Sunset' is a welcomed addition to the camellia color palette, especially in the garden landscape.

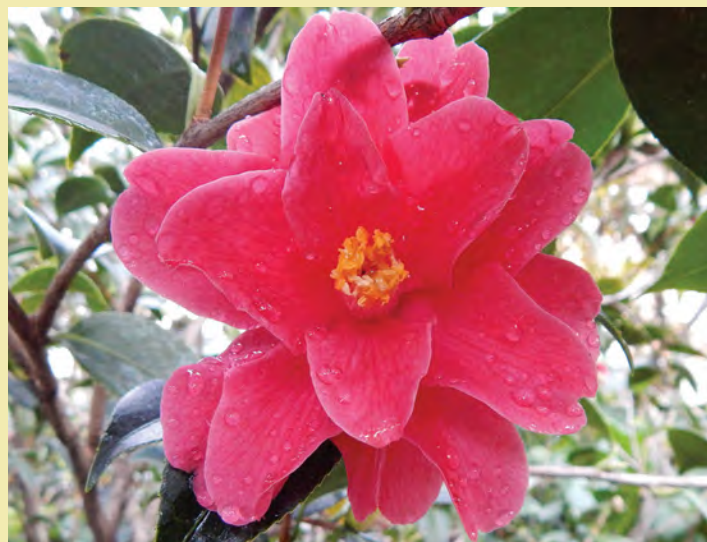
Small Hybrid Winners

The top small winner in 2014-2015 was 'Spring Daze', with 68 points, followed by 'Freedom Bell' with 59 points; 'Punkin' with 54; and 'Buttons'n Bows' with 28 points. 'Spring Daze' has an outstanding blush pink flower with bright coral petal edges. In Southern California, it is almost always a rose form double—that is, it opens quickly on the plant—but in Sacramento, it may be a formal double bloom. Microclimates are responsible for the different forms. The two forms look very different to the point where they appear to be different cultivars. This *hybrid* is another outstanding Kramer Brothers Nursery introduction. The plant is compact, upright, and blooms midseason to late season.

Nuccio's Nurseries introduced 'Freedom Bell' in 1965 and 'Buttons'n Bows' in 1985. While both are small and bloom early to midseason, otherwise they are nothing alike. 'Freedom Bell' has a bell-shaped semi-double, bright red flower, while 'Buttons'n Bows' is a formal double, light pink flower that shades to a darker pink at the petal edges. 'Freedom



C. x williamsii 'Island Sunset'



C. hybrid 'Freedom Bell'



C. x williamsii 'Buttons'n Bows'



C. x williamsii 'Hot Stuff'

Bell' produces numerous cookie cutter like flowers, so it is a frequent winner in trays of like blooms, as well as winning as a single entry. 'Buttons'n Bows' also blooms freely, and is one of the better formal double *hybrids*. Personally, I like 'Freedom Bell' better as a natural flower than as a "gibbed" bloom, as it does little to improve the flower. On the other hand, 'Buttons'n Bows' can be even better when "gibbed". It, too, makes a great tray of like blooms.

While 'Punkin' was introduced by H. Novak of Woodland Hills, California, it is rarely seen in Southern California where it originated. The flower has rose-pink outer petals that shade to a lighter pink at its center. It is a tiered formal double, with distinctive incurved petals.

California Hybrid Winners

The camellia regions in America often have different winning camellias. This reflects, in part where they were originated and propagated, how well they grow in different microclimates, as well as growers' personal preferences. In California camellia shows, the *hybrids* are most often shown in one class, and not broken down in sizes.



C. hybrid 'Punkin'

Don Bergamini compiled California's show results, reporting the winners for the 2016 *non-reticulata hybrid* class in the Fall 2016 *Camellia Review*. The top single-entry winner was 'Island Sunset' tied with 'Lucky Star', followed by 'Senritsu-ko' and 'Taylor's Perfection'. Thus we see that 'Island Sunset' and 'Taylor's Perfection' score well nationally, as well as in California. 'Lucky Star' tied for first in California for single entry classes and second in trays of like blooms. It also won 23 points nationally, so it is highly appreciated throughout the country.

'Senritsu-ko' was second in California as a single entry, and third in trays of like blooms. It received 16 points nationally, and ranked third nationally as an "Outstanding Yellow Bloom". Therefore, it too has attracted followers nationally. Several winning *hybrids* in California also score points nationally. A good example is 'Hot Stuff', which received 23 points, and has an unusual bluish, deep pink that does look "hot". The bloom is a medium semi-double that makes a showy display in the ground or on a show table.

Conclusion

Camellia *hybrids* made between *C. saluenensis* and *C. japonica* in England are known as *williamsii hybrids*. Further breakthroughs were made by hybridizers in America, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and other camellia growing countries producing a wide range of new cultivars. However, other combinations of camellia species were also crossed. When one of the species is *C. reticulata* they are listed as *C. reticulata hybrids*. However, when species other than *C. reticulata* are crossed with each other, they are grouped as *non-reticulata hybrids*, a more inclusive title than *williamsii hybrids*, which include crosses made with *C. lutchuensis*, *C. nitidissima*, and *C. oleifera*, as well as others. In fact, these are the three species that produced the most fragrant, yellow, and cold hardy cultivars.



Spotlight: *C. japonica* ‘Georgia National Fair’

The Georgia National Fair was first held in 1990 and attended by 270,000 people. Today, it is an eleven-day event that draws over 440,000 visitors a year. It is a state-sponsored fair held in October on the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, Georgia.

It features activities and shows such as agricultural, livestock and horse shows, home and fine arts competitions, youth organization events, circus, midway rides and games, food, major live music concerts, family entertainment, and nightly fireworks.

In 1995, Rupert E. Drews of Charleston, South Carolina registered ‘Georgia National

Fair’. The flower is red with many white markings. It is a large to very large, semi-double to full peony, early-to-late bloomer. The plant grows vigorously, dense and upright. In 2009, Hulyn Smith introduced ‘Georgia National Fair Blush’ a color sport of ‘Georgia National Fair’. It has a blush pink color with ample white and yellow anthers and filaments.

‘Georgia National Fair’, with its vibrant red color, striking white markings, and lively upright petals, reminds us of the wonders that can be seen at the Georgia National Fair. Spotlights shine at the nighttime concerts and our spotlight shines on the beautiful ‘Georgia National Fair’.

Story by Bradford King & Photograph by Randolph Maphis



WHEN A CARNIVAL OR CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN

It's Thrilling

Article and Photos by Bradford King

*A*s a child or young adult, do you remember the excitement of a circus coming to town?

The first time I saw the circus, I was five years old and it came by train early morning. Dad explained how the elephants carrying poles helped to set up a huge tent.

Three men with sledge hammers worked together rhythmically in succession to pound in the tent stakes. In the afternoon there was a parade of clowns, animals in cages, elephants, camels, ponies and horses marching among the performers lead by the Grand Marshal through the town to the big top.

There was a similar thrill when a carnival came to town, riding the merry go round with family, and several years later, riding the Ferris wheel with friends. As young adults, the carnival was a good place to take a date. As parents, we took our young children to the circus and the carnival. As a grandparent, the rides were still fun, but the thrill was being with the grandkids. Today, there are subtle joys and thrills—traveling, being with family and friends, and enjoying hobbies like camellias.

Camellias Under the Big Top

*P*hilip Astley is credited with being the father of the modern circus, when he opened the first circus in 1768 in England. These early circuses were usually demonstrations of equestrian skills, with a few other types of acts to link the horsemanship performances. Circus acts developed significantly through the next fifty years, with large scale theatrical battle reenactments becoming a significant feature. The traditional format, whereby a ringmaster introduces a varied selection of acts choreographed to traditional music, developed in the latter part of the 19th century, and continued to be the main style of circus up until the 1970s. Today, the ring master introduces each new act. He is colorfully dressed and usually wears a top hat.

This reminds me of two camellias, 'High Hat' and 'Grand Marshal'. Coolidge Rare Plants in Pasadena, California introduced 'High Hat', a sport of 'Daikagura' in 1945. It has a medium to large peony form, light pink flower. (Figure 1: 'High Hat') 'Grand Marshal'



Figure 2: ‘Grand Marshal’

was introduced by Nuccio’s Nurseries in 1988. It has a rich deep red, medium to large peony to anemone formed flower. (Figure 2: ‘Grand Marshal’)

A modern circus has many acts. Trapeze and high wire performers with many clowns outrageously dressed in funny costumes are the most popular. The camellia ‘Clown’ has a dramatic medium peony form with different red tones from rose red to clear red to dark red and fine white stripes. (Figure 3: ‘Clown’)

A harlequin is a clown or buffoon, typically mute and masked, and dressed in a diamond pattern costume. It is a good name for the camellia ‘Happy Harlequin’. It has a medium to large semidouble bloom, with multiple colorful rose red stripes, toned deeper in the center, and veined in strawberry tones, with an irregular white border. This showy camellia is winning show points in California and has potential as a mother plant in a breeding program, as it sets seeds easily and has a genetic white border, pink veins, shading and rose-red stripes—which makes quite a package. (Figure 4: ‘Happy Harlequin’)

Carnival Camellias

Historically, the carnival is a festive season that occurs just before lent with most activities occurring in February and typically involves a public celebration that combines elements of a circus, public street parties, and masquerade balls. Elaborate costumes for the balls might include dressing up as a member of the royalty. Nuccio’s Nurseries introduced ‘Carnival Queen’, a large to very large semi-double with irregular petals, to a loose peony form. The white flower has occasional stripes of rose-red and pale pink. When it mutated a deep pink flower, they named it ‘Carnival Prince’, and when it mutated a light pink flower with white edges, they named it ‘Carnival Princess’. (Figure 5: ‘Carnival Queen’)

In America, the traveling carnival is an amusement show that is made up of rides, food and merchandise vendors, games of chance, and animal acts. A traveling carnival is not set up at a permanent location, like an





Figure 2: 'High Hat'



Figure 5: 'Carnival Queen'

amusement park, but is moved from place to place. Its roots are similar to the 19th century circus, with both being set up in open fields in or near a town. After a period of time, they are moved to a new location. Unlike traditional carnival celebrations, the North American traveling carnival is not usually tied to a religious observance.

One of the most popular carnival rides is the Ferris wheel. The first Ferris wheel was designed and constructed by George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr. for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Due to its height, it was a landmark for the Exposition and is usually one of the first sights when arriving at a carnival. 'Ferris Wheel' is a large white semidouble to loose peony formed flower, with many wonderful red streaks

reminiscent of the spokes of a Ferris wheel. Nuccio's Nurseries introduced it in 2016. The Nuccio's display tables at the Southern California Camellia shows have featured several of these blooms the last three years, which has wetted local growers' appetites for this bloom. Just as the Ferris wheel stands out in a carnival, the flower does too. (Figure 6: 'Ferris Wheel')

Conclusion

Attending a camellia show is like a trip to the circus or carnival with row after row of beautiful flowers in different colors, sizes and forms. People are talking—even oohing and aahing, and having fun. There may even be a few clowns around.



Figure 3: 'Clown'

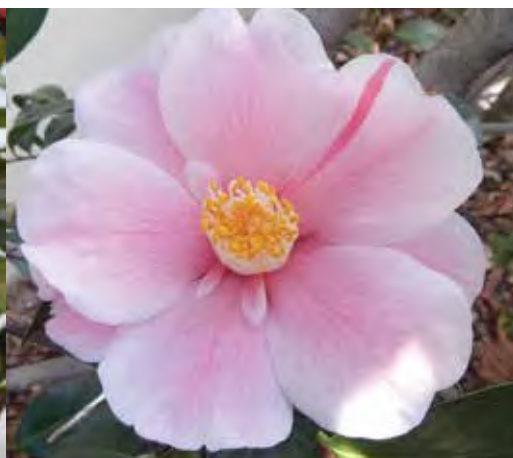


Figure 4: 'Happy Harlequin'



Figure 6: 'Ferris Wheel'



Remembering Our Past: Jack L. Mandarich

[Return to TOC](#)

Article & Photos by Bradford King



Figure 2:
'Jack Mandarin'

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. He frequently named them for family and friends. This includes 'Amanda Mandarich' (granddaughter); 'Christine Gonos' (friend and wife of Art Gonos, an ACS President, Fresno, CA); 'Doctor Fred E. Heitman' (dentist friend, Lafayette, CA); 'Mary O'Donnell' (niece); 'Mrs. H. C. Rambath' (friend, Sacramento, CA); 'Marc Eleven' (son); 'Marilyn Maphis' (friend, Tallahassee, FL); 'Mackenzie Green'; 'Patricia Haskee' (niece); 'Paul Haskee' (nephew); 'Pete Galli' (friend, Pittsburg, CA); 'Philip Mandarich' (father); 'Nancy Mandarich' (wife); 'Howard Burnette' (friend, Redwood City, CA); 'Rena Bergamini'; and 'Rocco' (uncle).

Jack Mandarich gave seedlings to Don Bergamini, ACS President from 2013 to 2015. When the seedlings matured and bloomed, Mandarich allowed Bergamini to name two of them for his parents. 'Rena Bergamini' is a large red, rose form to formal double. 'Mario Bergamini' is a *japonica*

hybrid with a large to very large, semi-double to anemone, red flower. 'Mary Musante', also a Mandarich seedling, was named for Bergamini's Aunt. (Figure 1: 'Rena Bergamini')

One of his best and most popular introductions, Mandarich named for himself. 'Jack Mandarin' has a beautiful large, deep pink, formal double to rose form double bloom, with 45 or more undulating petals. It blooms early to late season on an upright spreading plant with light green foliage. It is a controlled cross between *C. reticulata* hybrid 'Lilette Witman' x 'Hulyn Smith'. The 10-year-old seedling first flowered in 1989. What makes it special, is its lovely formal double flower and long blooming season. It makes a good garden plant and is capable of winning show points as a natural or treated bloom. It is one of Mandarich's introductions that is widely distributed and propagated by a number of camellia nurseries. (Figure 2: 'Jack Mandarin')

Mandarich was able, over the years, to introduce three *reticulatas* with frosted flowers a hybridizing success. They are 'Doctor Fred E. Heitman', a very large semi-double,



Figure 1: 'Rena Bergamini'



Figure 3: 'Marilyn Maphis'



Figure 4: 'Patricia Haskee'

dark red flower with a shine; 'Marilyn Maphis', a very large semi-double pink, with a highly frosted flower; and 'Patricia Haskee', a very large semi-double to rose form double bloom, with luster. Frosting or sheen on the flower petals adds to the beauty of the bloom and is a highly valued characteristic. 'Marilyn Maphis' received 10 show points in 2014 and 2015. (Figure 3: 'Marilyn Maphis' and Figure 4: 'Patricia Haskee')

Other noteworthy cultivars he registered are as follows. 'Phillip Mandalich' has a very large pink semi-double bloom. It is a cross of *C. reticulata* hybrids 'Arch of Triumph' x 'Jean Pursel' that blooms early to late season. The 11-year-old seedling first flowered 1985 and was registered in 1992. It has, on average, 18 petals and golden stamens. The plant grows vigorously, and is upright, spreading and dense. 'Amanda Mandalich' has a large to very large semi-double "roseine purple" flower. It is not often seen, but is distinctive with its purplish-pink hue, silver petal fluorescence, and golden anthers.

'Mary O'Donnell' has a medium to large, orchid-pink, peony to rose form double to formal double flower. It blooms early to late season on a vigorous dense, spreading and upright plant. This large, rich, full peony flower looked terrific in Randolph Maphis' greenhouse in Tallahassee, Florida. It

won 22 points at camellia shows in the medium *reticulata* class in 2014 and 29 in 2015. (Figure 5: 'Mary O'Donnell') The striking, very large, semi-double, cardinal-red flower seen nearby was 'Pete Galli'. It is a cross between 'Crimson Robe' and 'Mouchang', introduced by Mandalich in 1997. It won 23 camellia show points in 2014. (Figure 6: 'Pete Galli')

Marc Mandalich told me this interesting story about his father. "My Dad received a phone call from the White House asking him to donate a 'Richard Nixon' to President Nixon. When he agreed, the secret service arrived in Menlo Park and checked it out for any "bugs". The camellia was loaded on to Airforce One and flown to China where President Nixon gave it to Premier Zhou Enlai. It was planted in the Premier's Garden."

Mandalich gave many people seedlings to test out, with the stipulation that if they chose to name it, that he would be given credit for the cross. 'Mackenzie Green' was one that was around for many years before it was finally named and propagated by Hulyn Smith, a fellow hybridizer and friend. 'Mackenzie Green' has a very large semi-double, beautiful, rose pink flower, with golden anthers and white filaments. (Figure 7: 'Mackenzie Green')

He kept 3,000 camellias and could name every one of them. People frequently tested him and he never failed to correctly name them.



Nancy Mandalich, Vera Parker, Jack Mandalich and Chick Rambath at an ACS convention. (Photo by Greg Davis)



Mark, Nancy, and Jack Mandalich (Photographer Unknown)



Figure 5: 'Mary O'Donnell'



Figure 6: 'Pete Galli'



Figure 7: 'Mackenzie Green'

Big Bad BOYS

[Return to TOC](#)

and

Lovely Ladies



Figure 1:
'Howard Rhodes'

Story and Photographs By Bradford King

Ever wonder why women can't seem to resist bad boys? It's not because they're jerks. It's because they're confident and assertive, which is sexy. Large camellias catch our eye in the garden and on the show table because they, too, are sexy. They confidently stand upright asserting themselves. These are the "big bad boys," which usually means they are red.

One of the most famous musicals worldwide is *Les Misérables*, based on the novel by Victor Hugo, which follows the struggles of a cast of characters as they seek redemption and revolution in 19th century France. One of the popular songs sung by sailors who have been out to sea for months is "Lovely Ladies," a humorous, bawdy song depicting men pining for women. Camellia lovers are more respectable, but we still pine for large lovely pink camellias.



Figure 2: 'Ray Gentry'



Figure 3: 'Ray Gentry Variegated'

Big Bad Boys

The prolific hybridizer from Valdosta, Georgia, Hulyn Smith, was noted for breeding huge red camellia blooms. Four of his "Big Bad Boys" are *C. reticulata* hybrids. 'Howard Rhodes' has a large dark red peony flower. (Figure 1: 'Howard Rhodes'). 'Ray Gentry' has a very large semi-double to peony with golden anthers that contrasts nicely with the large red petals. (Figure 2: 'Ray Gentry'). 'Ray Gentry Variegated' is perhaps even more striking with the vivid con-

trast of bright red with wonderful white markings. (Figure 3: 'Ray Gentry Variegated')

In 2008, Smith registered a very large bloom with red frosting that he named 'Randolph Maphis' for a friend and mentee. Maphis continues to propagate many of Smith's seedlings. The frost or sheen on the petals on 'Randolph Maphis' is a wonderful characteristic which helps make this an outstanding flower. (Figure 4: 'Randolph Maphis') Smith sought to continue to keep frosting in his new introductions. His 2012 'Grandandy' has a distinctive white frosting on the very large semi-double flower. (Figure 5: 'Grandandy')



Figure 4: 'Randolph Maphis'



Figure 5: 'Grandandy'



Figure 6: 'Mary Rhodes'



Figure 7: 'Meredith Green'



Figure 8: 'Victoria Whiddon'

Lovely Ladies

Five very large, pink lovely ladies were introduced by Smith and named for family and friends. 'Mary Rhodes' is a light pink, shading to white, with yellow anthers and white filaments. While 'Meredith Green' has a rose pink rose form double to semi-double flower, 'Victoria Whiddon' has a light pink semi-double bloom. (Figure 6: 'Mary Rhodes', Figure 7: 'Meredith Green', and Figure 8: 'Victoria Whiddon')

'Nedra Ann Mathis' has a light pink semi-double to peony flower, with golden anthers and white filaments and 'Bette Jean Daugharty' has a clear pink semi-double bloom. (Figure 9: 'Nedra Ann Mathis' and Figure 10: 'Bette Jean Daugharty')

Lovely ladies come in all sizes and forms. For example, 'Rebecca Margaret' is a dark pink medium semi-double *reticulata* hybrid. (Figure 11: 'Rebecca Margaret') We usually think of the *reticulata* flowers as being very large and large. But recently, breeders have been introducing medium and small *reticulata* hybrids, which has resulted in adding

size categories in camellia shows. Since size accounts for 25 percent when judging a bloom, it makes sense to have *reticulata* size classes, just as is done with *japonica* flowers. This is illustrated by 'TitleTown USA,' a small to medium light pink semi-double flower, introduced in 2009 by Hulyn Smith. (Figure 12: 'TitleTown USA')

In addition, there are lovely ladies that are *saluenensis* hybrids. One example is Smith's 'Dolores Edwards', a large, light orchid-pink semi-double, which blooms midseason. (Figure 13: 'Dolores Edwards')

Family and Friends

Hulyn Smith was noted for naming his new camellias for family and friends, as can be seen in most of the introductions discussed above. He never named one for his wife, because his friend and fellow hybridizer, Frank Pursel, named a rich pink, large *reticulata* hybrid for her in 1979. In addition, Pursel named *reticulata* flowers for Janet and Hulyn Smith's daughters, Mandy and Renee. Smith and Pursel were close friends who frequently shared stories and



Figure 9: 'Nedra Ann Mathis'



Figure 10: 'Bette Jean Daugharty'



Figure 11: 'Rebecca Margaret'



Figure 15: 'Tudor Baby Variegated'



Figure 16: 'Lauren Tudor Variegated'

discussed camellia seedlings. Therefore, it is not surprising that Pursel named a large, beautiful soft-pink semi-double *reticulata* with heavily textured petals 'Hulyn Smith'. It has become one of Pursel's most popular introductions, honoring this very popular camellia hybridizer. (Figure 14: 'Hulyn Smith')

There is no doubt that Smith loved big flowers. This is most likely why he threw one of his seedlings in the creek. It was a *japonica* with a small, dark red formal double flower, with black petal edges. Fortunately, it was rescued by others from the creek and eventually named 'Tudor Baby', his nickname for a granddaughter. She is a lovely lady, only surpassed by the variegated form. 'Tudor Baby Variegated' has a magnificent, dark red flower with white blotches that makes this an outstanding flower. (Figure 15: 'Tudor Baby Variegated')

Another *japonica* lovely lady is 'Lauren Tudor' which has a very large, pink peony flower with small red flecks, named for the Smiths' daughter. It was fortunate that Buck and Tyler Mizzell variegated this bloom, as it is a gorgeous lady. (Figure 16: 'Lauren Tudor Variegated')

Conclusion

Hulyn Smith bred forty beautiful camellias during his lifetime, with more of his outstanding seedlings being introduced posthumously by his friends. He was a past President of the American Camellia Society (2005-2007). He was awarded the ACS "Tablet of Honor" in 2011. He loved his family and friends, and is a camellia legend.



Figure 12: 'TitleTown USA'



Figure 13: 'Dolores Edwards'



Figure 14: 'Hulyn Smith'

IN BETWEEN

[Return to TOC](#)



Figure 3: 'Interlude'

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRADFORD KING

Camellia *hiemalis* and *C. vernalis* are two types of camellias that are in between *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica*. They are like *C. sasanqua* in that they tolerate sun and have smaller leaves than a typical *C. japonica*. Yet they are like a *japonica* in that they have larger flowers than a *sasanqua*. They both have genetic material inherited hundreds of years ago from *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica*. No wild plants of these camellias have been discovered in China or Japan, where they have been cultivated for hundreds of years.

C. hiemalis is sometimes considered a species by researchers, while *C. vernalis* is usually thought to be a *non-reticulata* hybrid or *japonica* subspecies. They both have beautiful abundant flowers that bloom later than *sasanquas* and before most *japonicas*. This blooming characteristic, and the medium to large flowers, make them a wonderful addition to the garden.

CAMELLIA HIEMALIS

The ten best cultivars for the home garden are discussed below. 'Bill Wylam' has a lovely deep rose, medium, semi-double flower, with fluted petals. It is a seedling of 'Shishigashira' originated by McCaskill Gardens, Pasadena, California in 1955. Vernon McCaskill was a major camellia hybridizer. The nursery is now a residential area. McCaskill Gardens introduced 72 *japonica* cultivars and eight *non-reticulata* hybrids between 1930 and 1988. (Figure 1: 'Bill Wylam')

'Chansonette' is also a seedling of 'Shishigashira' originated by Marjorie Washburne of Port Arthur, Texas. It has a medium brilliant pink, formal double flower with ruffled petals. It earned the first Ralph S. Peer Sasanqua Award from the American Camellia Society in 1958.

(Figure 2: 'Chansonette')

Another beautiful seedling of 'Shishigashira', also intro-



Figure 6: 'Shishigashira'

duced by Washburne, is 'Interlude'. The flower is described as a light pink, rose form to formal double flower that blooms in late season. The dwarf plant grows slowly and compactly, which makes it an excellent choice in front of other cultivars or under a window. (Figure 3: 'Interlude')

Nuccio's Nurseries introduced 'Dazzler' in 1960. It has a rose-red, medium semi-double flower that blooms early and grows on a vigorous plant that is upright and spreading in growth habit. It certainly lives up to its name as a garden plant. (Figure 4: 'Dazzler')

One of the most popular sun camellias is 'Kanjirô'. It originated in Japan and has been distributed widely. It has medium, semi-double, 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. (Figure 5: 'Kanjirô')

'Shishigashira' is one of the very best sun camellias. It has a lovely mass of small red flowers that usually are semi-double, and at times rose form double. It blooms 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 of some of the other lovely sun camellias. (Figure 6: 'Shishigashira')

'Shôwa-no-sakae' (Glory of the Shôwa 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 semi-double to rose form double. It blooms early season. It makes a good ground cover or landscape plant as it is a vigorous, low growing, compact plant. It was first imported



Figure 1: 'Bill Wylam'



Figure 2: 'Chansonette'



Figure 4: 'Dazzler'



Figure 5: 'Kanjirô'



Figure 7: 'Shôwa-no-sakae'

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, McIlhenny 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 McIlhenny. He also prized rare plants and enhanced the Island's



Figure 8: 'Showa Supreme'

natural landscape with numerous varieties of azaleas, camellias, papyrus and other botanical treasures. (Figure 7: 'Shôwa-no-sakae')

In 1956, Nuccio's Nurseries introduced 'Showa Supreme' which is a seedling of 'Shôwa-no-sakae'. It has the soft, clear pink of its parent, with a larger and loose, fluffy, peony-formed flower. It grows vigorously in a compact manner and has lovely green foliage. (Figure 8: 'Showa Supreme')

CAMELLIA VERNALIS

There are seven really outstanding *vernalis* cultivars that are popular and well worth growing. It is only fitting that we begin with 'Dawn'. 'Dawn' is called 'Ginryû' in Japan where it originated. The name means “Silver Dragon”. It has a white semi-double flower, tipped in pink. It blooms late season. It is the parent of 'Star Above Star', discussed below. (Figure 9: 'Dawn')



Figure 9: 'Dawn'



Figure 13: 'Star Above Star'



Figure 10: 'Egao'

The beautiful deep pink shading to darker pink in the center of 'Egao' is one of the loveliest heralds of the camellia season. 'Egao' looks more like a japonica than a sasanqua, with its medium pink bloom of 16 to 20 petals and clear yellow anthers. Its Chinese name is 'Xiaoyan', which means "smiling face" in English. It was brought 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. (Figure 10: 'Egao')

When 'Egao' is infused with virus variegation it is called 'Shibori-egao'. This exquisite pink bloom with white blotches is a show winner. It was originated in Kurume, 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



Figure 15: 'Egao Corkscrew'

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, as can be seen in its photo. (Figure 11: 'Shibori-egao')

Grady Perigan of San Marino, California, discovered a genetic mutation of 'Egao'. The 'Grady's Egao' flower is smaller than its parent. The plant 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. (Figure 12: 'Grady's Egao')

In 1964, McCaskill Gardens introduced 'Star Above Star', a wonderful seedling of 'Dawn'. It has white petals, shading to lavender on the edges, on a semi-double flower in the form of one star superimposed on another star. This attractive form and lovely toned flower won the 1969 Ralph



**Figure 12:
'Grady's Egao'**



Figure 11: 'Shibori-egao'



**Figure 16: 'Shibori-Egao
Corkscrew'**



Figure 14: ‘Takarazuka’



Figure 17: ‘Stars ‘N Stripes’

Peer Sasanqua 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. (Figure 13: ‘Star Above Star’)

‘Takarazuka’ is named for a city in Japan famous for its all-female musical theater troupe. It has an attractive medium to large semi-double light pink with deeper pink toned flowers. It blooms late on a very vigorous upright spreading plant. (Figure 14: ‘Takarazuka’)

NON-RETICULATA HYBRIDS

There are several *hybrids* with growth habits similar to sun camellias that are well worth adding to a diverse camellia collection. They have all been introduced by Nuccio’s Nurseries, in Altadena, California.

Jim Nuccio caught a very interesting flower and growth habit sport from ‘Egao’. It has distinctive zigzag branches which look like a corkscrew. Thus it is named ‘Egao Corkscrew’. The flower also mutated with about half the pink blooms a ruffled semi-double and the second half a more beautiful loose peony with heavy ruffling of the petals. The zigzag growth habit makes this an excellent candidate to bonsai; grow in a decorative container or in a hanging basket. (Figure 15: ‘Egao Corkscrew’)

‘Shibori-Egao Corkscrew’ is the variegated form of ‘Egao Corkscrew’. It has the same growth habit as ‘Egao Corkscrew’ with the added beauty of lovely white markings on its ruffled pink flowers, some of which are semi-double, and others a loose peony form. This makes for a showy and

interesting bonsai or container plant that will grow in partial sun. (Figure 16: ‘Shibori-Egao Corkscrew’)

‘Stars ‘N Stripes’ is a chance seedling of ‘Christmas Rose’ which is a ‘William’s Lavender’ x ‘Shishigashira’ *hybrid*. ‘Stars ‘N Stripes’ has a single medium white flower, striped in various amounts of rose red, often with a rose red border. It behaves like its pollen parent, ‘Shishigashira’, in terms of its blooming period, flower type, leaf size and sun tolerance. It is rare for a sun camellia to have a striped flower, which makes this a unique beauty. There can be a range of different amounts of striped flowers on the same plant, which can look as if they are different varieties. (Figure 17: ‘Stars ‘N Stripes’)

CONCLUSION

The three “sun camellias” are *C. sasanqua*, *C. hiemalis*, and *C. vernalis*. The latter two are genetically a mix of *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica* that fill an “in between blooming period”. They also tend to have smaller leaves than *japonicas* and larger flowers than *sasanquas*. These characteristics make them wonderful additions to garden.

While we usually continue to think of *vernalis* cultivars as species and enter them in the species classes at a camellia show, they are hybrids. Therefore, three *non-reticulata hybrids* that have inherited sun tolerance traits from their *vernalis* parents are also included in this article. Regardless of how they are classified, camellia lovers enjoy their versatility and beautiful blooms.



Spotlight: *C. reticulata* 'Miss Tulare'

'Miss Tulare' is a wonderful *reticulata* that takes its name from the Miss Tulare County/ Miss Central Valley Scholarship Pageant, where one of the many sponsors is the Visalia Charter Oak Lion's Club.

It is a scholarship program that is an official preliminary pageant to the Miss California and Miss America organizations, which stress style, service, scholarship and success. They crown a lovely young woman Miss Tulare every year.

Today we place our lovely 'Miss Tulare' in the camellia spotlight. She has a beautiful large to very large bright

rose red flower that can be fully peony, rose form double or formal double. M. W. Abramson introduced this cultivar in 1975. It is a seedling of *C. reticulata* 'Crimson Robe' ('Dataohong') that first bloomed in 1973.

There are not many formal double *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, as is depicted in the camellia spotlight.

"Some call her a beauty queen, we call her a scholar!"

—Miss America Pageant Advertising Slogan

Photograph & Story by Bradford King

Remembering Our Past: Frank Pursel



Figure 1: 'Jean Pursel'



Figure 2: 'Annabelle Fetterman'

Article & Photos by Bradford King

Frank Pursel's main focus as a hybridizer was breeding new *reticulata* hybrids. He introduced 112 *reticulata* hybrids, which is 13 percent of the 878 *reticulata* camellias listed in the 2014 *Camellia Nomenclature*. This is a huge number for an individual breeder.

One of his key strategies was to graft his one-year-old *reticulata* hybrid seedlings, because they grew much better than on their own roots. 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', which has a very large, light blush colored *C. japonica* bloom, was one of his favorite camellia parents. Therefore, when crossed with a *reticulata*, size was not sacrificed, nor were *reticulata* colors which dominated, providing many large pink and red-toned flowers.

The American Camellia Society recognized his contribution to camellia culture as a hybridizer by designating him a Fellow on September 9, 1986. His first introduction was 'Jean Pursel' in 1975. It was named for his wife of 42 years. They met at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California and had two daughters. The camellia 'Jean Pursel' has a very large, light purplish to pink peony flower, which has been used by a number of hybridizers in their breeding programs. (Figure 1: 'Jean Pursel')

He named a large to very large pale pink flower for his friend Annabelle Fetterman. She is a well known camellia hobbyist and supporter of the American Camellia Society and Massee Lane Gardens and served as ACS President



Figure 3: 'Mandy Smith'



Figure 4: 'Renee Land'



Figure 5: 'Pearl Terry'



Figure 6: 'Sara Dunham'
(Photo by Randolph Maphis)



Figure 7: 'Redwood City'



Figure 8: 'Big Apple Variegated'

from 1987 to 1989. Annabelle Fetterman and her husband, Lewis, were selected for the ACS Tablet of Honor in 2007. (Figure 2: 'Annabelle Fetterman')

Pursel honored his colleague and fellow hybridizer Hulyn Smith by naming a *C. reticulata* hybrid for him. It is the most widely distributed of his introductions. The large soft pink semidouble flower is admired for its very lovely color. Smith was a Past President of the American Camellia Society and noted hybridizer from Valdosta, Georgia.

Every Sunday, Pursel, Smith and Ray Gentry talked long distance on the phone about their camellia breeding programs, sharing successes and failures. Therefore, it is not surprising that Pursel named seedlings for Hulyn and Janet Smith's daughters, Mandy and Renee.

'Mandy Smith' has a very large, red peony flower with a lovely frosted sheen. (Figure 3: 'Mandy Smith') 'Renee Land' has a very large semidouble pink introduced by Pursel in 1994 that has been successfully variegated. (Figure 4: 'Renee Land')

'Pearl Terry' was introduced in 1992. The very large, rose form double to formal double, rose pink flower has interesting veining. (Figure 5: 'Pearl Terry') Pearl Terry was an ACS Judge and camellia enthusiast who lived in Orlando, Florida and traveled to many camellia shows, becoming friends with

Pursel and Smith.

In the early days of breeding *reticulata* hybrids, many of the medium to large flowers were not registered. However, over time, the beauty of these hybrids won people over, even though they weren't huge. A good example is 'Sara Dunham', which has a medium to large semidouble to rose form double rose pink bloom, with lovely red veins. It was introduced in 1983. (Figure 6: 'Sara Dunham') Frank Pursel was from the San Francisco Bay area of California and honored nearby Redwood City, CA, by naming a camellia for the city. The Redwood City Camellia Society was an enthusiastic and vital group of hobbyists from the Northern California area. 'Redwood City' has a large to very large, semidouble to anemone form, red *reticulata* hybrid, registered in 1979. (Figure 7: 'Redwood City')

Since a deep, dark red semidouble to peony formed flower resembled a large ripe red apple, he named it 'Big Apple'. (Figure 8: 'Big Apple Variegated')

In conclusion, one of the many reasons Frank Pursel became such a successful camellia hybridizer was his practice of growing his seedlings in the basement of his house using grow lights. As soon as a little seedling was big enough to cut a scion, he would graft it onto a larger rootstock and produce a new bloom in as few as three years.

The American Camellia Society

The American Camellia Society is located at Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, the headquarters of the organization. The Executive Director is Celeste M. Richard, crichard@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, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Contributions are tax

deductible in the year made.

The Camellia Journal

The Camellia Journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the American Camellia Society. Editor: Bradford D. King; Advertising: Camille Bielby; Production: Camille Bielby & Celeste Richard

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy of the ACS or of its officers or directors. While the *Journal* endeavors to assume the reliability of its advertising, neither the *Journal* nor the ACS assumes responsibility for any transaction between our advertisers and our readers.

© 2016 American Camellia Society articles may not be republished without written permission.

The Camellia Journal (USPS 555-900)(ISSN 008 204X)

Published quarterly by the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley, GA. Four issues per year. March, June, September, and December. Subscription price is included in the annual membership dues. Periodical Postage paid at Fort Valley, GA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Camellia Journal, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030.



Precious Gold and Silver Camellias

Figure 3: 'Dahlonga'

Article & Photos by Bradford King

Precious metals are rare and have significant economic value. They include, but are not limited to, gold, silver, platinum, iridium, rhodium and palladium. Gold and silver are the most well-known, having been sought by people for thousands of years. Gold was discovered in the Middle East before 6000 BC, and was one of the three gifts the wise men brought to honor the birth of Jesus.

It is dense, soft, shiny, and malleable with a bright yellow color and luster. It has been a valuable, beauti-

ful, and highly sought after precious metal for coinage, jewelry, and other arts since long before the beginning of recorded history. Gold standards have sometimes been used as a monetary policy, but were widely supplanted by fiat currency (any money declared by a government to be legal tender), starting in the 1930s.

The last gold certificate and gold coin currencies were issued in the U.S. in 1932. There are approximately a dozen camellias that use gold as part of their name, including one with a Native American word for golden.



Figure 4: 'Golden Glow'

Gold Camellias

In 1982, 'Black Gold', a small to medium black red semi-double bloom with wavy crinkled petals, was introduced. The white markings against the very dark red flower with golden stamens make 'Black Gold Variegated' a smashing flower. (Figure 1: 'Black Gold Var.')

'Maroon and Gold' is an impressive small to medium camellia worth as much as many camellias twice its size. It was introduced by Nuccio's in 1961. It gets its deep maroon color from 'Kuro Tsubaki'—the black camellia. The golden stamens are like gold nuggets peeking out among the petals, completing its loose peony form. It's a mid to late season bloomer that takes gib well, so that flowers can be entered in early camellia shows as a single or in matched trays.



Figure 5: 'Kogane-yuri'

(Figure 2: 'Maroon and Gold' a single or a cluster)

The City of Dahlonega ("Dah-lahn-e-ga"), Georgia, got its name from the gold found nearby. In the 1820's when prospectors found gold, masses of hopeful miners rushed to the area. This was America's first gold rush and later the home to the U.S. Mint. The name "Dahlonega" is Cherokee for "golden color". The flower was bred by Dr. Walter Homeyer of Macon, Georgia. It has small to medium creamy to light yellow formal double blooms. Its nickname is 'Nuccio's Golden Anniversary', as they propagated and released it in their 50th year as a camellia and azalea nursery. (Figure 3: 'Dahlonega') 'Golden Glow' is a Nuccio's hybrid with a creamy white flower, deepening to light yellow at the base of the petals. Buds are toned pink. The back of the flower and petal edges are also toned with a light pink. (Figure 4: 'Golden Glow')

'Kogane-yuri' means "Golden Lily" in English. It has a



Figure 1: 'Black Gold Var.'



Figure 2: 'Maroon and Gold'

small single tubular light yellow flower. The profuse blooms extend up and down the branches, making this simple flower attractive in full bloom. It was bred in Japan by Kazuo Yoshikawa. 'Golden Spangles' has a small single rose pink flower; but it is the beautiful and distinctive foliage marked with a light yellowish green, in an irregular central pattern, that gives this cultivar its name. It was first noticed with *williamsii* hybrid 'Mary Christian' in 1946 in the Royal Horticultural Garden Wisley in England. It is not known if the plant is a separate seedling or a bud mutation. (Figure 5: 'Kogane-yuri' also known as "Golden Lily" and Figure 6: 'Golden Spangles')

The pink flower with gold tipped central filaments named 'Pink Gold' was originated by E. Pieri of San Gabriel, California. While not widely distributed, it can be found in older gardens and public gardens like Descanso Gardens in La Cañada Flintridge, California, where they are preserved for future generations. (Figure 7: 'Pink Gold')

Silver Camellias

Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena, California, has introduced nine silver camellias, all of which are lovely. 'Silver

Anniversary' has a large semidouble flower with irregular petals intermixed with golden stamens. In America, the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary is known as the silver anniversary and the couple frequently receives silver gifts to commemorate the occasion. Perhaps a pair of engraved silver cups or a chalice would be exchanged by the couple. The camellia 'Silver Chalice' has an impressive large, full peony flower with upright, fluted petals that swirl, revealing glimpses of the golden stamens. (Figure 8: 'Silver Chalice')

'Silver Cloud' reminds us of large cumulous clouds. It has a very large loose peony flower that blooms in midseason. 'Silver Lace' gets its name from irregular lacy petals that make up the large to very large semidouble flower. Likewise, the ruffled petals of 'Silver Ruffles' envelop the loose semidouble flower providing a fitting name to this large to very large impressive bloom. When the medium semidouble flower with narrow petals stands upright, it does look like its name—"Silver Tower".

A large to very large semidouble pure white flower with golden stamens was named 'Silver Triumph'. When the flower opens, the petals are notched and somewhat crumpled. One favorite is the large to very large semidouble with wavy petals and petaloids of 'Silver Waves'. It reminds me



Figure 6: 'Golden Spangles'



Figure 7: 'Pink Gold'

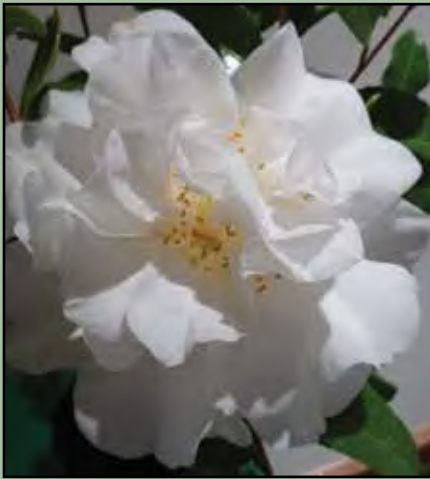


Figure 8: 'Silver Chalice'



Figure 10: 'Silver Lace'



Figure 9: 'Silver Cloud'

of ocean waves lit up in bright sunlight or washed in the glow of a full moon, producing silver waves. (Figure 9: 'Silver Cloud'; Figure 10: 'Silver Lace'; and Figure 11: 'Silver Waves')

'Silver Dollar' is a sasanqua with a complicated medium peony flower that looks like a gardenia. This fall-blooming camellia makes a good landscape plant and has gained some popularity, in contrast with non-silver dollar coins which have found little popular acceptance. Dollar coins have been in circulation in the United States since the late 18th century, but despite several attempts since 1971 to increase usage of the non-silver dollar coin, they have never been completely accepted. This contrasts with currencies of most developing countries, where denominations of similar value exist only in coin.

Major reasons for the lack of acceptance of dollar coins is that they are heavy to carry and too similar to the quarter and fifty-cent piece, which is rarely seen. In addition, today people are making most purchases with credit and debit cards or other electronic means, including iPhone apps and PayPal. Even some of us diehards who pay bills by check don't carry checks to stores. Whatever the reason, a U.S. Mint official recently reported that most of the 2.4 billion dollar coins minted in the previous five years were no longer in circulation. (Figure 12: 'Silver Dollar')

The *japonica* 'Silverado' has a medium, single white flower with a faint rose border. The small, frosty, light gray-green leaves are unusual. The new growth is a reddish brown. It is this foliage which makes it an interesting addition to a camellia collection. In 1878, the unincorporated community in the Silverado Canyon was founded when silver was discovered. It was designated as a California Historical Landmark to commemorate the mining of silver in the Santa Ana Mountains, where remnants of the 19th and early 20th century mines can still be found. (Figure 13: 'Silverado' leaves)

Conclusion

Gold is a precious metal with monetary value. For the wise men, it represented Jesus' Kingship. Gold can also symbolize justice, wisdom and wealth. Worldwide, gold represents divinity.

Silver is a cool metal without the warmth of gold. Silver often symbolizes riches, just as gold does. Silver can be glamorous and distinguished. While gray-haired men and women are seen as old, silver hair denotes a graceful aging. In the camellia world, many of us are silver haired admirers of camellias, especially those bearing gold and silver in their name.



Figure 11: 'Silver Waves'



Figure 13: 'Silverado' Leaves



Figure 12: 'Silver Dollar'

Figure 2: 'Zhanqun Mingzhu'

BEHIND THE GREAT

Article By Bradford King and Photos by John Wang

John Wang, a highly regarded camellia hybridizer from Northern California, encourages his friends in China who are propagating his introductions to name the cultivars. Therefore, many have names with meanings that are unclear to English speaking people, and a few have interesting backgrounds familiar to Chinese speaking people. Today we go behind the Great Wall and search for the background stories.

'Da Qio' (Elder Qio)

This is the name given to a large to very large white and

pink camellia with wavy petals. The name comes from a famous Chinese historical novel, *Romance of the three Kingdoms*. Two of the featured characters were Da Qiao (elder Qiao) and Xiao Qiao (younger Qiao), whose first names were never recorded.

The novel is among the most beloved works of literature in East Asia, and its literary influence has been compared to that of the works of Shakespeare in English literature. It is arguably the most widely read historical novel in China. The story is part history, legend, and myth which romanticizes



Figure 3: 'Sheng Jie'

WARRIORS OF CHINA

and dramatizes the lives of feudal lords. The novel follows hundreds of characters with a focus on the three power blocs that emerged from the remnants of the Han dynasty. Stories deal with the plots, personal, and military battles, intrigues, and struggles of these states to achieve dominance for almost 100 years. (Figure 1: 'Da Qio')

'Zhanqun Mingzhu' (Evening Glow Pearl)

The Chinese are familiar with the legendary glowing stone, depicted everywhere in China as the dragon pearl. They were the emperor's most prized possessions. In Chinese lore there are tales passed through the generations about this elusive glowing stone. The Ye Ming Zhu, which

the emperors possessed, is known as Ancient Ye Ming Zhu, signifying it being found in the ground. It is found primarily in China, is extremely rare and very expensive. The record holder weighs 6.1 tons and is valued at \$3.1 billion. It is most common to find Ancient Ye Ming Zhu with fluorite.

However, it sometimes possesses other minerals including jade, meteor, fossil, and diamond. Regardless, to be considered Ancient Ye Ming Zhu, it must contain a combination of rare earth elements, allowing it to send and receive light and energy. They are so rare—very few of us will ever see or touch a quality piece of Ancient Ye Ming Zhu.

In 1966, during the Cultural Revolution, a few dozen that



Figure 1: ‘Da Qio’

were owned by the royal families disappeared from China. They have not been found. Today in China, you can find many different kinds of counterfeits. The fakes are usually created with plastic, polymer, or calcite with some sort of glowing paint.

The one thing they all have in common is the lack of rare earth elements and crystal structure, which also happens to be the only thing all pieces of Ancient Ye Ming Zhu have in common. In the camellia world, we have a magnificent large to very large, light-pink-toned white bloom, with butterfly-like petals that resemble a glowing pearl, named ‘Zhanqun Mingzhu’, thanks to John Wang. (Figure 2: ‘Zhanqun Mingzhu’)

‘Sheng Jie’ (Holy Pure)

‘Sheng Jie’ (Holy Pure), has a large to very large flower. It is a product of *C. reticulata* ‘Suzanne Withers’ x *C. japonica* ‘Kona’, which is a good example of John Wang’s breeding program using two white camellia cultivars to get a white bloom with pink edges on the petals. He also uses the strategy of backcrossing to get 25 percent *reticulata* to

75 percent *japonica* to reduce the dominate *reticulata* color genes that produce the red and pink flowers in order to get white or light colored blooms.

‘Da Qio’, as discussed above, is an example of this approach, which has great potential for producing beautiful light-colored or bicolored *reticulata* hybrids. ‘Sheng Jie’ grows upright and bushy and sets many buds. It has begun to be entered in camellia shows and looks like a winner. It is propagated by Nuccio’s Nurseries and Randolph Maphis, among others. (Figure 3: ‘Sheng Jie’)

Conclusion

Today the global economy, internet and the International Camellia Congresses in China help the western world look behind “The Great Wall of China.” The rich culture, including fables, myths and stories that are woven into the Chinese culture, have been used in naming many of John Wang’s camellia introductions.

Dancing Camellias

By Bradford King



Figure 1: 'Waltz Time Var.' (Photo by Bradford King)

Dance is an art form that involves body movement, usually to music. It is most often rhythmic and a form of emotional expression, social interaction or exercise. It can be used to express ideas or tell a story and at times is spiritual, ceremonial, or competitive. Dance is performed in many different cultures. It is regarded as nonverbal communication as in mating dances of humans and birds. Bees dance to communicate location of food sources. Dance is incorporated in sports such as gymnastics, figure skating, and synchronized swimming.

There are a great many styles of dance. African dance is interpretive; ballet, ballroom and tango are classical; and breakdancing is a type of street dance. America is the home of hip hop and rock and roll. Square dance came to America with the early European settlers and has developed considerably, where it has been adopted by fourteen states as their official dance.

The competitions *So You Think You Can Dance*, *Americas Best Dance Crew* and *Dancing with the Stars* have attracted a broad audience to dance. *Dancing with the Stars*

is an American dance competition show airing since 2005. The show is the American version of the British television series *Strictly Come Dancing*. The contestant pairs consist of a celebrity paired with a professional dancer. Past celebrity contestants include professional and Olympic athletes, supermodels, actors, singers, astronauts, and teen-heartthrobs.

Each couple performs predetermined dances and competes against the others for judges' points and audience votes. The couple receiving the lowest combined total of judges' points and audience votes is eliminated each week, until only the champion dance pair remains. Since dance is such a significant part of our culture, it is no wonder that there are some camellias named for dance.

The Waltz

The waltz is a smooth, progressive ballroom and folk dance, performed in a closed position in which partners hold each other. The slow waltz is one of five modern styles of ballroom dancing. It is usually the first dance in an international dance competition.



Figure 2: 'Waltz Dream'
(Photo by Bradford King)

The most famous camellia named for the waltz is the *non-reticulata* hybrid 'Waltz Time', and its variegated form. This beautiful lilac pink, medium semidouble flower was originated by Vernon McCaskill in 1961. 'Waltz Time Variegated', with lovely white markings on the lilac pink bloom, is even more popular, winning regularly at camellia shows. (Figure 1: 'Waltz Time Var.')

W.P. Gilley introduced a seedling of 'Waltz Time', which he named 'Waltz Time Supreme'. It has a medium deep rose pink semi-double flower not seen frequently in America.

Vernon McCaskill also introduced 'Waltz Dream' in 1961 at the American Camellia Society's National Camellia Show at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. It was named to honor Walt Disney, the founder of Disneyland. The flower is a very large semi-double, orchid pink. (Figure 2: 'Waltz Dream') Vernon McCaskill was a prolific camellia hybridizer who owned and operated McCaskill Gardens in Pasadena, California. McCaskill Gardens introduced 72 *japonica* cultivars and eight *non-reticulata* hybrids between 1930 and 1988.

The Flamenco

The flamenco is a form of Spanish folk dance and music from the Andalusia region of southern Spain. It combines singing, guitar playing, hand clapping, and dance. 'Flamenco Dancer' has a deep coral rose, small to medium, semi-double flower with some upright furred petals that shade to light pink. Kramer Brothers introduced this *saluenensis* hybrid in 1980.

Kramer Brothers Nurseries in Rancho Cucamonga, California built its reputation on camellias and azaleas. Ben Mackall married August Kramer's daughter, Marie, in 1937. After August died, Ben and Marie managed the nursery until 1986. This nursery is best known for *C. japonica* 'Kramer's Supreme' and hybrid 'Spring Daze'.

The Tango

The tango is a sensual partner ballroom dance that originated in the 1890's along the Rio de la Plata, the border between Uruguay and Argentina. Tango music and dance



Figure 3: 'Tango' (Photo by Don Bergamini) and Figure 4: 'Tango Var.' (Photo by Randolph Maphis)

popularity has spread worldwide. Originally, the tango was performed only by women, but when it spread into Argentina, it developed into a dance for couples that express romance through their synchronized movements. The *C. reticulata* hybrid 'Tango' has a large to very large, black red formal double flower. It is a cross between 'Carl Tourje' and 'Craig Clark' introduced in 1996 by Houghton Hall, of San Anselmo, California. There is also a variegated form seen in Northern California where the flower originated. (Figure 3: 'Tango' and Figure 4: 'Tango Var.')

The Ballet

Ballet is a form of performance dance that originated during the 15th century Italian Renaissance. Later, it developed into a concert dance in France and Russia. Today it is a highly technical dance form, with its own French vocabulary, and is performed worldwide.

Dr. William Ackerman began a cold hardy camellia breeding program after severe cold weather destroyed all

but 15 cultivars of the 950 camellias in the National Arboretum during the 1970s. Over the next 40 years, he introduced 51 cold hardy camellias that can grow and bloom in below zero weather. He made thousands of crosses using *C. oleifera* cultivars 'Plain Jane' and 'Lu Shan Snow'. Years were spent field testing seedlings to find the very best to register. According to Kitty, Bill's wife, his favorite was 'Ashton's Ballet'. The flower has a medium lovely two-toned pink rose form double, and was introduced in 2000. It is cold hardy to -10 degrees F. This is a camellia for adventurous gardeners, those living in Zone 6 areas of the country, such as Maryland, Delaware, Northeastern Ohio near Lake Erie, Pennsylvania (Swarthmore area), Long Island New York and coastal areas such as Cape Cod in Massachusetts. (Figure 5: 'Ashton's Ballet')

Les Jury from New Zealand introduced 'Ballet Queen' which has a large peony salmon pink flower. This 1975 *saluenensis* hybrid is rarely seen in America today. There is a variegated form of this cultivar. (Figure 6: 'Ballet Queen')



Figure 5: 'Ashton's Ballet' (Photo by Gene Phillips)

Figure 10: 'Ballet in Pink' (Photo by Mason McNair)

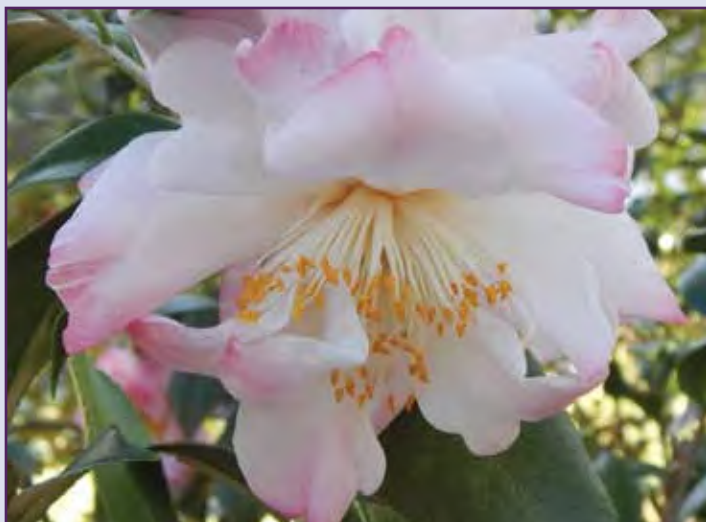


Figure 8 and Figure 9: Two forms of 'Ballet Dancer' (Photos by Bradford King)

and Figure 7: 'Ballet Queen Var.') Les Jury's more well-known introductions include 'Elegant Beauty', 'Jury's Yellow', 'Debbie', 'Elsie Jury', 'Mona Jury' and the lovely red 'Les Jury', named for him. All are seen in America. Jury was breeding for large, self-grooming flowers that grew well, while seeking to extend the flower color range in camellias. He introduced 'Anticipation', which was one of the first red *non-reticulata* hybrids, thus extending the color range in hybrid camellias. 'Anticipation' and 'Anticipation Variegated' are widely grown in America. Les Jury also introduced 'South Seas', another color breakthrough with its white flower, toned pink, and hues which become paler and less distinct with age.

In the 1960s, Nuccio's Nurseries offered twenty of the thirty Harvey Short camellia introductions in their catalogue. Short was from Ramona, California, which is 30 miles inland from San Diego at an elevation of 1,500 feet. 'Ballet Dancer' is one of his best. It received the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit in 1976 and the Award of Garden Merit in

1993. The medium peony japonica bloom is cream, shading to coral pink on the petal edges. (Figure 8: 'Ballet Dancer') 'Ballet in Pink' has a large orchid pink peony flower with blooms opening at each stem node which provides a wonderful spring display in the garden. This *C. x williamsii* hybrid was introduced in 2008 by Camellia Forest Nursery, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This nursery was started by David Parks' mother thirty five years ago. He now owns and operates the business. It has strong connections to David's father, Dr. Clifford Parks, who provides new plants most years. They offer a well-written catalog, illustrated with many color photos, to help in selecting plants. Camellia Forest Nursery offers a good selection of both Dr. Parks and Dr. Ackerman's cold hardy camellias. (Figure 10: 'Ballet in Pink')

Fire Dance

The ancient Aztecs performed a fire dance dedicated to the god of fire, which is performed today for tourists in Mexi-



Figure 6: 'Ballet Queen' and Figure 7: 'Ballet Queen Var.' (Photos by Jim Stephens)



Figure 12: 'Fire Dance Var.'
(Photo by Bradford King)

co. In Bali, the fire dance, also performed for tourists, has its origins in ancient rituals, and was performed to ward off witches at the time of an epidemic. Fire dancing is usually performed to drum music. One variation of the fire dancing is performed by men who jump in and out of a fire pit, kicking up embers to create showers of sparks. A second variation is performed by women balancing flaming tin pots on their heads while dancing. Modern fire dancers twirl torches, eat fire, and dance with hoops and flaming ropes.

In the camellia world, Nuccio's Nurseries grew, for a

number of years, a deep red medium semi-double flower that they thought was too similar to other red semi-double blooms to introduce. However, in 1979 they decided to give it a chance. They named it 'Fire Dance', which did well. They spent over a dozen years trying to get a good quality virus variegated flower on this cultivar. There seem to be camellia varieties that don't variegate well—just a spot or two of white, which is enough to ruin a good flower. However, when they used the "right" virus on 'Fire Dance', it became a strikingly beautiful flower. (Figure 10: 'Fire Dance' and Figure 11: 'Fire Dance Var.')

Gotta Dance

Dance and music are integral in most cultures, providing an emotional expression through movement, rhythm and melody. Camellia hybridizers in Australia, New Zealand and America have named choice camellias for dance styles. Most of these camellias are *williamsii* hybrids. That is, they are hybrids between two camellia species, with no *reticulata* in their genetic makeup.

Typically, one of the parents is *C. saluenensis* and the other *C. japonica*. These two species are very good dance partners, each bringing something to the mix, producing seedlings that have lovely colors, many blooms, and hybrid vigor. When looking at your camellias and spotting an outstanding flower, have you ever begun spontaneously to dance around in joyful celebration?

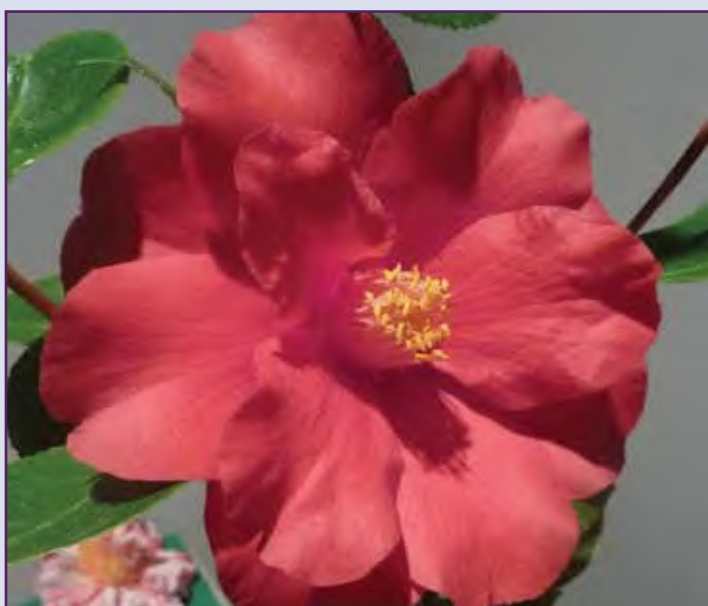


Figure 11: 'Fire Dance' (Photo by Bradford King)

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE NEW CAMELLIA HYBRIDS THAT BLOOM YEAR-ROUND

[Return to TOC](#)

ARTICLE BY BRADFORD KING AND PHOTOS BY GAO JIYIN



Figure 2: 'Caihuang'
(Colorful Yellow)

This impressive, large (9" x 12"), 581 page book, *Illustrations of the New Camellia Hybrids That Bloom Year-round*, by Gao Jiyin, Liu Xinkai and Zhao Qiangmin was published in 2016. The heart of this magnificent publication is the 217 beautiful images of the *C. azalea* hybrids that bloom all year. Each of these new hybrids is illustrated with three or more quality photographs that clearly show its color, form, petals and foliage. There is a brief description in Chinese and English for each cultivar. A good example is the hybrid 'Xiafeng Relang' (Summer's Wind & Hot Waves) which appears on pages 193 and 194 with five photos, of which one is reproduced here with the

courtesy of the Palm Landscape Architecture Company. (Figure 1: 'Xiafeng Relang')

The book is well organized. The seed and pollen parents are described and illustrated, then followed by the resulting hybrids. For example, the forty-five hybrids between 'Tama Beauty' and *C. azalea* are grouped together, as are the seven between *C. azalea* and 'Kramer's Supreme', and so on.

The most interesting and attractive of the *C. amplexicaulis* hybrids are the three with yellow flowers produced when *C. japonica* 'Tama Beauty' is the seed parent. For example, the lovely 'Caihuang' (Colorful Yellow) is a white semi-double with a yellow center



Figure 3: 'Haungchouduan' (Yellow Satins)

and lavender markings on the outer petal edges. (Figure 2: 'Caihuang') 'Haungchouduan' (Yellow Satins) has a beautiful yellow flower pictured here. Three seedlings from this cross have pink or red blooms, and one white with a long blooming season. (Figure 3: 'Haungchouduan')

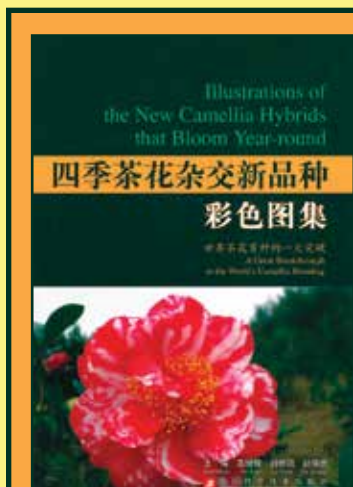
When *C. azalea* and *C. amplexicaulis* are crossed, their seedlings bloom all year. The majority of other *C. amplexicaulis* hybrids feature pink or red flowers and large leaves, are tall, grow vigorously, and have long blooming seasons.

There are also four interesting, clearly written and illustrated chapters. One reviews previous camellia breeding; a second outlines methods of cross pollination; a third reviews the camellia botanical characteris-

tics; and a forth reviews three camellias with the long blooming seasons—*C. azalea*, *C. amplexicaulis* and *C. chuangtsuoensis*.

Gems of wisdom appear, such as, it is best to do crosses with *C. azalea* in the spring, fall and winter when there is more vigorous pollen, but fewer flowers than in the summer when flowers are at their peak, but pollen is weak or nonexistent. Or, when the seedlings are 10 cm tall (4 inches), it is time to begin to fertilize, as the seeds' nutrients have been expended.

In conclusion, the summer and repeat blooming traits of the 217 *C. azalea* hybrids are a remarkable hybridizing achievement, which is a significant breakthrough in camellia breeding, thanks to the Palm Landscape Architecture Company of Guangzhou, China.



BUY NOW!

Illustrations of the New Camellia Hybrids That Bloom Year-round is available from the American Camellia Society's online gift shop.

\$125 + Tax, Shipping & Handling
www.americancamellias.com/gift-shop/books-publications

Or Order by Phone: (877) 422-6355

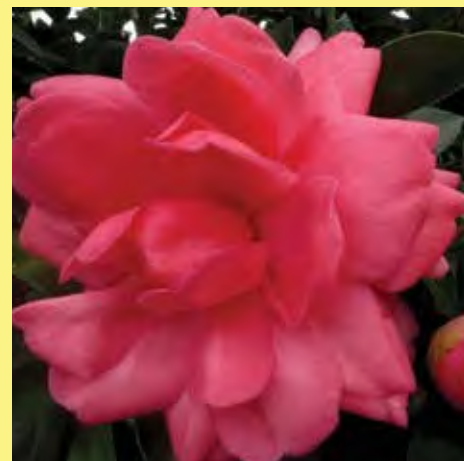


Figure 1: 'Xiafeng Relang'



Spotlight: *Camellia japonica* 'Lauren Tudor'

'Lauren Tudor' has a gorgeous very large pink peony flower with small red flecks named for one of the three daughters of Janet and Hulyn Smith. Ellis Hulyn Smith (1929-2011) of Valdosta, Georgia, was a prolific camellia hybridizer. He introduced 36 camellia cultivars during his life time.

In addition, a number of his seedlings are still being introduced by his friends. He was known for growing big red *reticulata* blooms. One of his favorites was 'Ray Gentry'. He also loved variegated flowers and was especially proud of 'Ray Gentry Variegated'.

Therefore, when a small formal dark red japonica flower was produced; he threw the plant in the creek. Fortunately, it was rescued and registered in 2001 and named for a grandchild, 'Tudor Baby'. It is a good reminder not to throw the baby out with the bath water. The cover photo in this issue is his very beautiful 'Tudor Baby'.

Hulyn was very active in the American Camellia Society, serving as president from 2005-2007. He was awarded The ACS Tablet of Honor in 2010 for his contributions to the American Camellia Society.

We shine the spotlight on 'Lauren Tudor' and the lovely Smith daughters -- Renee Powell, Mandy White and Lauren Tudor. — **Bradford King**

(Below Left to Right: Renee Powell, Mandy Smith and Lauren Tudor. Photo Credit Bradford King)



Spotlight Photograph by Gene Phillips

Remembering Our Past: Harvey Short

Article & Photos by Bradford King



Figure 1: 'Masterpiece'



Figure 5: 'Bride's Bouquet'

The camellia breeder, Harvey Franklin Short (1895 to 1978) from Ramona, California, 30 miles inland from San Diego at an elevation of almost 1,500 feet, introduced 32 new camellias beginning in 1950. Roy Thompson wrote an article in the 1953 *American Camellia Yearbook* highlighting his seedlings. He wrote, "Three years ago the camellia world was stirred by reports from San Diego of a handsome new white variety called 'Masterpiece', and word got around that Harvey F. Short of Ramona had many other fine seedlings."

He went on to say that visitors to Harvey's ranch were amazed at the distinctiveness and beauty of the new varieties that originated from "ordinary" parents. One of these parents was 'Lotus', which came to Baldwin Park, California, in 1909 from Japan where it was called 'Sodegakushi'. This very large white semidouble flower became the parent of his 'Masterpiece', 'Bride's Bouquet', 'Frosty Morn', 'Break

O'Day', 'Guest of Honor', 'Pink Shadows', 'Sun-Up' and 'Fashion Note'. (Figure 1: 'Masterpiece')

Gene Snooks, a friend of Short and a camellia enthusiast from La Jolla, California, was asked to name his last introduction. He came up with 'Harvey Short's Finale' for this very large white semidouble flower introduced in 1980. Margaret Short authorized the name, as Harvey had passed away in 1978.

Twenty of Harvey Short's introductions were propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries in the mid 1960's. Most of these cultivars are no longer listed in the Nuccio's Nurseries catalogue. However, the varieties introduced by him that are offered are: 'Ballet Dancer', a medium full peony cream shading to a coral pink color on the flower edges; 'Fire Falls', a glowing crimson medium to large full peony flower; 'Gay Chieftain', a large semidouble white flower with vivid red stripes; 'Masterpiece', discussed above; and 'Owen Henry', a light



Figure 2: 'Ballet Dancer'



Figure 3: 'Fire Falls'



Figure 4: 'Owen Henry'



Figure 6: 'Fairest Day'



Figure 7: 'Lovelight'

pink flower, which was a sport of 'Sunset Glory'. The latter flower is also a Harvey Short release. It has a large coral red anemone flower, and is not listed in the current Nuccio's catalogue. We continue to see 'Fire Falls' in local gardens and at camellias shows. It is a seedling bred from 'Professor Sargent'. (Figure 2: 'Ballet Dancer') (Figure 3: 'Fire Falls') (Figure 4: 'Owen Henry')

The Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, has several of his introductions. 'Bride's Bouquet' is a lovely large white semidouble with fluted and notched petals introduced in 1950. In 1956, he registered 'Bridal Veil', a large flat single. (Figure 5: 'Bride's Bouquet')

The color white is symbolic of purity and is the traditional color of bridal gowns and veils. A white wedding is a traditional formal or semi-formal wedding, which originated in Britain. The term originates from the white color of the wedding dress, which first became popular with Victorian era elites, after Queen Victoria wore a white lace dress at her wedding. The term now also represents the Christian religious wedding tradition, which generally includes a ceremony during which the marriage begins, followed by a recep-

tion. Harvey introduced other white camellias that can still be found in older gardens and at The Huntington. 'Fairest Day' is a medium to large flat single and 'Lovelight' is large semidouble with heavy petals. (Figure 6: 'Fairest Day' and Figure 7: 'Lovelight')

White is the opposite of black, and represents light in contrast with darkness. According to surveys in Europe and the United States, white is the color most often associated with innocence, perfection, goodness, honesty, cleanliness, beginning, new, neutrality, lightness, and exactitude. 'Margaret Short' has a large, semidouble deep lavender pink flower with irregular upright fluted petals and a center of white stamens with golden anthers. Short named this camellia for his wife. There is a variegated form of this cultivar which looks good with the white markings on the lavender pink bloom. (Figure 8: 'Margaret Short') My personal favorite is his 1960 introduction 'Extravaganza', a large to very large white flower with vivid profuse light red markings and stripes. When at its best, it lives up to its name. (Figure 9: 'Extravaganza')

Harvey Short and his camellia introductions are an important part of camellia history. Short was a charter member of both the Southern California Camellia Society and the San Diego Camellia Society. At the time of his death in 1978, he held honorary membership in both of these societies. Short was a quiet man, dedicated to his family, friends and camellias.



Figure 8: 'Margaret Short'



Figure 9: 'Extravaganza'

Camellia

Article & Photos by Bradford King



Figure 4: ‘Baby Pearl’

Everyone loves babies especially their parents and grandparents. They are treasured as the future generation. A number of small camellias have been introduced with baby as part of their names. They are loveable and cute like babies. When compared to larger camellia varieties, they are less bold but not to be overlooked.

Babies

Baby Sis is a cute synonym for a baby sister or a new born sister that also makes a good name for a miniature camellia. ‘Baby Sis’ has a miniature single white flower with a pink stripe and a mass of central petaloids. Two variations are more frequently seen because they have lovely pink tones and may have an anemone form. They are ‘Baby Sis Pink’ and ‘Baby Sis Blush’. At the 2015 National Camellia Show in Tallahassee, Florida, Don and Mary Bergamini won best miniature *C. japonica* in the unprotected class with

‘Baby Sis Blush’. Bergamini was President of the American Camellia Society from 2013 to 2015 and has become well known for growing and breeding small camellias. (Figure 1: ‘Baby Sis Pink’ and Figure 2: ‘Baby Sis Blush’)

Neville Hayden, of New Zealand, has registered a number of camellias over the years. Two of his *nonreticulata* hybrids are ‘Baby Bear’ and ‘Baby Brother’. They both resulted from a cross of *C. rosaeflora* x *C. tsaii* and are dwarf plants. ‘Baby Brother’ has a single miniature white flower, and is not seen in America. ‘Baby Bear’ has a single miniature light pink to white flower, and is occasionally grown in America. (Figure 3: ‘Baby Bear’)

Nuccio’s Nurseries has registered two *C. japonica* cultivars using baby as a first name. ‘Baby Pearl’ is a small flower that resembles the medium ‘Nuccio’s Pearl’. They share the same formal double form, with a pearl white flower washed and shaded orchid pink. (Figure 4: ‘Baby Pearl’) ‘Baby Doll’ has a miniature tight centered anemone light clear pink flower. There are more miniature and small anem-

Babies



Figure 1: 'Baby Sis Pink'

one formed camellias than large and very large. Anemone camellia flowers and left handed people account for about ten percent of camellias and humans. They are neither rare nor common—both traits originate in the organisms' genetics. (Figure 5: 'Baby Doll')

Hulyn Smith was a prolific camellia hybridizer, American Camellia Society Past President, friend and mentor to other camellia growers. While he loved all camellias, his passion was large red camellias—the bigger the better. Therefore, when a pretty miniature to small formal double dark red with back edged petals bloomed, he was not impressed. He threw



Figure 2: 'Baby Sis Blush'

this seedling in a nearby creek. Fortunately it was rescued by others. He registered it in 2001 and named it 'Tudor Baby' for one of his granddaughters. When this very good flower is variegated, the contrast of white cloud-like markings on the dark flower, make it outstanding. 'Tudor Baby Variegated' was awarded the Kathryn and Les Marbury Award in 2006. (Cover Photo: 'Tudor Baby')

Little Ones

There are several good camellias with names that refer to



Figure 3: 'Baby Bear'



Figure 5: 'Baby Doll'



Figure 6: 'Little Babe'

babies. They, too, are little, cute, and perky. In fact there are thirty *C. japonicas* with names that begin with "little," and three *nonreticulata hybrids*. Let's look at some of the very best.

'Little Babe' and 'Little Babe Variegated' have small dark red rose form to formal double flowers, with the variegated one having lovely white markings. This camellia has gained popularity as a camellia show winner since its introduction in 1974 by W. M. Harrison of Pensacola, Florida. The variegated form won 41 points in 2014 making it the third highest small show winner. 'Little Babe' and its variegated form was awarded the Kathryn and Les Marbury Award in 1992. (Figure 6: 'Little Babe' and Figure 7: 'Little Babe Variegated')

'Little Man', a small medium white formal double, was introduced in 1953. It has attracted a following, and continues to win camellia show points. Many times, a young male is addressed as "Little Man," which has a positive connotation referring to his size or maturity. Rudy Moore from West



Figure 7: 'Little Babe Variegated'

Covina, California, a long term curator of camellias at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, named a miniature to small anemone soft pink flower with creamy white petaloids 'Little Michael' for his son in 1981. Today Michael Moore is a six-foot tall man. 'Little Michael' was awarded the John A. Tyler, Jr. Miniature Award in 1994 and the Kathryn and Les Marbury Award in 1998. (Figure 8: 'Little Man' and 'Figure 9: 'Little Michael')

When the Nuccios produced a miniature rich red peony flower with color tones like their large to very large introduction 'Grand Slam', they named it 'Little Slam'. It blooms very early to midseason on a narrow upright compact plant. It tends to win camellia show points in early shows, whether gibed or natural. In trays of unlike blooms that require a small, medium and large flower, it is a good candidate for the small size especially when a red toned flower is needed. It was awarded the John A. Tyler, Jr. Miniature Award in 1981. (Figure 10: 'Little Slam Variegated')



Figure 8: 'Little Man'

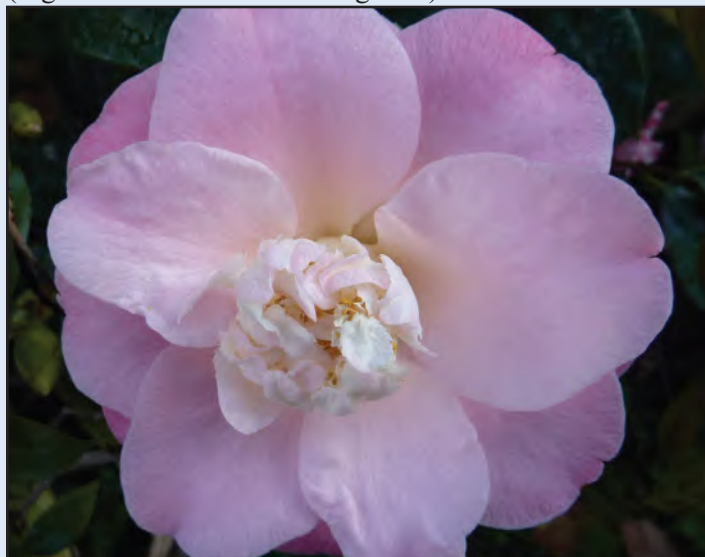


Figure 9: 'Little Michael'



Figure 10: 'Little Slam Variegated'



Figure 12: Tray of five 'Little Red Ridinghood' blooms

Nursery Rhymes and Fables

A lovely *C. japonica* was named for the famous nursery rhyme, "Little Bo Peep" or "Little Bo Peep Has Lost Her Sheep". It is a popular nursery rhyme, first recorded in 1870 by the composer and nursery rhyme collector James William Elliot. Nuccio's named a miniature to small pale pink formal double flower 'Little Bo Peep'. It blooms midseason on a vigorous open upright plant. (Figure 11: 'Little Bo Peep')

"Little Red Ridinghood" is a European fable or fairy tale about a young girl and a big bad wolf made famous by the Brothers Grimm. The *japonica* 'Little Red Ridinghood' has a miniature crimson formal double to peony flower. It was introduced by Vernon McCaskill in 1965 and was awarded the John A. Tyler, Jr. Miniature Award in 1997 and 2012. McCaskill was a prolific camellia hybridizer who owned and operated McCaskill Gardens located in Pasadena, California. McCaskill Gardens introduced 72 *japonica* cultivars

and eight *nonreticulata* hybrids between 1930 and 1988. (Figure 12: 'Little Red Ridinghood') McCaskill Gardens also introduced the *hybrid* 'Little Lavender' in 1965. It has a lovely miniature anemone lavender pink flower. (Figure 13: 'Little Lavender')

Conclusion

The typical camellia flower is medium in size, with many hobbyists attracted to the large and very large flowers. However, it is a mistake to overlook the miniature and small camellias as "good things come in small packages." Just as a diamond engagement ring comes in a small case, so too do the little babies and little ones depicted here. In addition, if you enter flowers in a camellia show, having some miniature and small camellias to enter in those classes broadens your opportunities to win points.



Figure 11: 'Little Bo Peep'

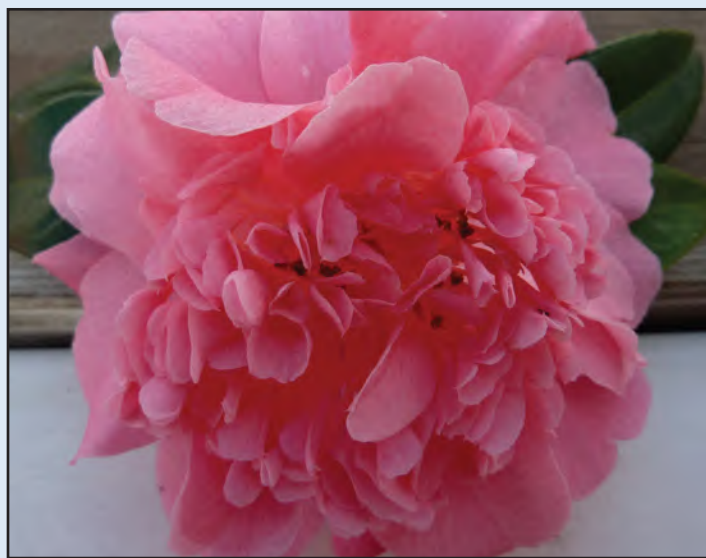


Figure 13: 'Little Lavender'

CAMELLIA CITIES

Article by Bradford King
Photos by Camille Bielby, Gerhard Bock,
Jerry Jambazian, Bradford King,
Forrest Latta, Gene Phillips & Gary Schanz

Figure 2: Camellias in Sacramento California's Capitol Park (Photo by Gerhard Bock)

Many American cities have adopted nicknames to help establish civic identity and promote community unity and pride. In a recent survey to identify the “best” nicknames, New York City’s “The Big Apple” received the most votes followed by “Sin City” (Las Vegas), “The Big Easy” (New Orleans), “Motor City” (Detroit), and “The Windy City” (Chicago). While many cities have no nicknames, five cities in the United States have become “Camellia Cities.” This is a story of how these five communities became known as “Camellia Cities.”

GREENVILLE, ALABAMA

This small city of about 8,000 people is the county seat of Butler County, and became known as the “Camellia City” in the late 1930’s. While there are several southern cities that have adopted the nickname “Camellia City”, J. Glenn Stanley, the former editor and publisher of the Greenville Advocate, believes that only Greenville truly deserves the title. In 1953, his article for the American Camellia Yearbook detailed why.

It seems that Greenville was known to have a number of beautiful mature camellias. Stanley used the nickname as the Greenville Advocate’s slogan, which appeared on the side of the masthead of this newspaper’s front page. Shortly, this slogan was adopted by city officials, members of civic organizations, and businessmen. One dairy featured the pictures of three well-known local camellias—‘Pride of Greenville’, ‘Beauty of Greenville’, and ‘Alba Plena’—on its milk cartons.

An ambitious camellia planting program was initiated in 1937-38. This resulted in most homes having one or more camellias. This upsurge of interest in camellias led to the changing the name of a camellia plant of local fame from ‘Henderson’ to ‘Pride of Greenville’. The story behind the plant that produces this large, bright red, full peony-form flower is that the original camellia was purchased by W. J. Beeland in about 1897 from a nurseryman in Springfield, Ohio. The Beeland property was sold to C. C. Henderson, who lived there many years. The camellia flourished and the flowers were distinctive and beautiful. Attempts to properly identify this cultivar were unsuccessful. In all probability, the original plant was a seedling. The cultivar, therefore, when locally propagated, was named ‘Pride of Greenville’.

Camellia Day programs became part of the Greenville Garden Club in 1938. Shortly, four other garden clubs were organized in Greenville. Each adopted the



Figure 1: ‘Pride of Greenville’ (Photo by Forrest Latta)

camellia as the club flower, and selected names that indicate the camellia is the club’s main objective in gardening—the Sasanqua Garden Club, the Pride of Greenville Garden Club, the Camellia City Garden Club and the Azalea Garden Club. A men’s club, the Greenville Men’s Camellia Society, was also organized. Annual camellia shows were held in Greenville for many years.

The movement to change the Official Alabama State Flower from the goldenrod to the camellia is said to have originated in Greenville. The goldenrod was the state flower from 1927 until 1999, when the state legislature designated the camellia as its state flower. Alabama is the only state that has adopted the camellia as its state flower. (Figure 1: ‘Pride of Greenville’)

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Sacramento is the capital of California and has a long standing attachment to camellias. The flower has been a trademark of the city since early statehood. The discovery of gold in Coloma in 1848 was indirectly responsible for camellias arriving in Northern California. Camellias made their debut in Sacramento during the Gold Rush when John Stevens brought the first seeds from Boston in 1852.

Sacramento became known as the “Camellia City” in 1908, following a production by a theatrical group called “The Camellians” of a play entitled “The Camellia City.” By the 1920’s, the official title of Sacramento

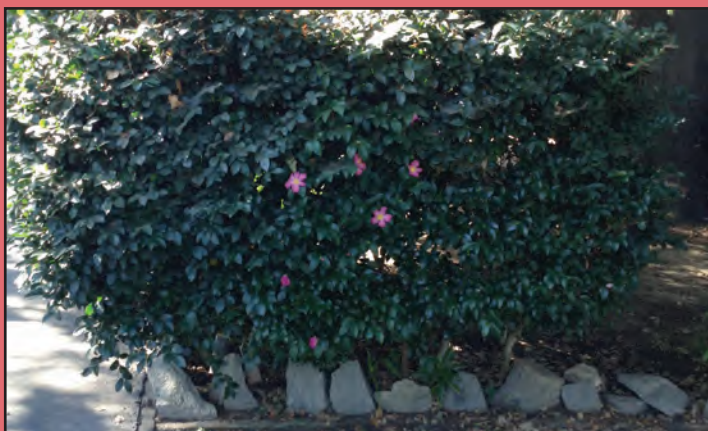


Figure 3: Sasanqua beginning to bloom in Sacramento's Capitol Park (Photo by Gary Schanz)

was "Camellia City of the World." Since then, Sacramento has hosted special events every spring during the peak of the camellia season. In the past, these events were actually festivals lasting several weeks. Volunteers gave out flowers at the airport, convalescent homes, and other locations throughout the city.

The Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West dedicated Capitol Park's "Pioneer Camellia Grove" to the memory of their pioneer ancestors in 1953. More than 800 different varieties can be found throughout the park. Many of the grove's camellias are heirloom varieties and no longer available commercially.

In the 1990s, "Camellia Day at the State Capitol" replaced the longer festivals. The event is sponsored by the California State Capitol Museum and the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association. Each year, volunteers hand out corsages made with flowers picked from the Camellia Grove. (Figure 2: Camellias in Sacramento California's Capitol Park and Figure 3: Sasanqua beginning to bloom in Capitol Park)

SLIDELL, LOUISIANA

Slidell has a humid subtropical climate, with short, mild winters and hot, humid summers, which provides

a climate favorable to growing camellias. The city population was 27,068 at the 2010 census. It is located across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans, thereby retaining its own identity from "The Big Easy". The Slidell web page logo clearly demarcates the nickname "Camellia City," but there is no other mention of camellias or the origin of how this wonderful community adopted their nickname. However, the local Ozone Camellia Club has been active since 1951.



They sponsor a Camellia Festival and Show, traditionally the first week of December. The festival opens with the introduction of the Queen and her court. Robert Stroud, a Past President of ACS and chairman of the Ozone Camellia Show, reported there were 1,129 beautiful blooms entered by 43 exhibitors at the last show.

The Ozone Camellia Club is one of the oldest and largest camellia clubs in the States, with about 250 members. According to Stroud, the women of the First United Methodist church promoted camellia propagation and sponsored local camellia shows ten years before the Ozone club was organized. In fact, it was through the introduction of camellias to the city of Slidell that Slidell became "The Camellia City". (Figure 5: Ozone Camellia Show winner 'Show Time', Figure 6: Ozone Camellia Show winner 'Frank Houser' and Figure 7: Ozone Camellia Show Best White 'Sea Foam')

TEMPLE CITY, CALIFORNIA

This small city in the San Gabriel Valley is five miles south east of Pasadena, California. Pasadena is the home of the famous Rose Parade, and Temple City is the home of camellias. It seems that in 1944, the Women's Club of Temple City held a contest to choose a



Figure 6: 'Frank Houser'
(Photos by Bradford King)



Figure 5: 'Show Time'



Figure 7: 'Sea Foam'



Figure 9: Temple City Camellia Festival Banner (Photo by Jerry Jambazian)

flower and slogan for the community. Mrs. Ralph Saunders submitted the winner “Temple City Home of Camellias.”

The following year, this slogan inspired a camellia festival and parade. Mrs. Dan Crowley, President of the Women’s Club in 1945, is credited with beginning this camellia tradition. The original festival parade started with an eight month old Queen, Sharon Ray Pearson. She rode in an open car down Las Tunas Avenue with a small group of Camp Fire Girls who tossed camellia blooms to the crowd.

In 1949, the Temple City Chamber of Commerce asked the newly formed Temple City Camellia Society to put on a camellia show as part of the Camellia Festival and Parade. The first show was held in a tent and was a big hit, lasting three days. By 1961, the parade had grown to fifty floats built and decorated by children. The royal court was comprised of six first graders who were part of youth activities in Temple City. The camellia show was held at the Temple City Women’s Center. Amateurs were invited to enter camellia flowers.

The Camellia Festival Parade is now held each year on the last Saturday of February. Floats are designed and decorated with camellias by children. No commercial or motor driven vehicles are allowed. There is no longer a camellia show as part of this wonderful event that recognizes the importance of youth organizations in this family-oriented community. (Fig-



Figure 8: Temple City Camellia King, Queen & Court (Photo by Jerry Jambazian)

ure 8: King, Queen & Court and Figure 9: Temple City Camellia Festival Banner)



Figure 10: *C. japonica* ‘Betty Sheffield’ (Photo by Gene Phillips)

ure 8: King, Queen & Court and Figure 9: Temple City Camellia Festival Banner)

QUITMAN, GEORGIA

The City of Quitman was named after General John Anthony Quitman. This small city of 4,000 has a mile long historic section. The city was designed by Jeremiah Wilson, featuring unusually wide streets with ample center strips. These medians were heavily planted with roses, dogwoods, azaleas, palm trees and camellias under the direction of Mrs. Betty Sheffield, the well-known developer of *C. japonica* ‘Betty Sheffield’. This cultivar is a famous American camellia that has sported frequently. In 1981, a U. S. postage stamp featured ‘Betty Sheffield’. The beauty of the parkways, with their rich plantings featuring camellias, and the influence of Betty Sheffield led Quitman to become known as the Camellia City. (Figure 10: ‘Betty Sheffield’ and Figure 11: Betty Sheffield statue)

CONCLUSION

All fifty states have adopted a state flower with Alabama selecting the camellia. Many cities, like friends, are given a nickname that reflects an affectionate characteristic like “Red” for someone with red hair or “Tiny” for a very large man. Three southern cities and two California cities are “Camellia Cities.” This reflects their citizens’ interest in camellias and honors both the city and the flower.



Figure 10: Betty Sheffield statue (Photo by Camille Bielby)