

*Southern California
Camellia Society
The Camellia Review*

BRADFORD KING ARTICLES

2016 – 2020



C. reticulata 'Jim Smelley'

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ANNOUNCING
THE CAMELLIA SEASON

BY BRADFORD KING

The sun loving evergreen sasanquas usher in the camellia season every year with masses of beautiful blooms. In Southern California one of the best places to enjoy them is Descanso Gardens in and around the beautifully designed Japanese garden. *C. sasanqua* peak in November and are accompanied with displays of wonderful arrangements of potted Chrysanthemums at Descanso. This small Japanese garden features a tea house and a lovely stream landscaped with mass plantings of azaleas and camellias. Several mature plants of 'Narumigata' are along the main pathway and entrance to the Japanese garden with their single white flowers touched with pink welcoming you. The midsize blooms may be irregular, flat or cup shaped.

'Showa-no-sakae' is an early blooming sasanqua seen among the 'Narumigata' offering a contrast with their pink semidouble to peony formed flowers.

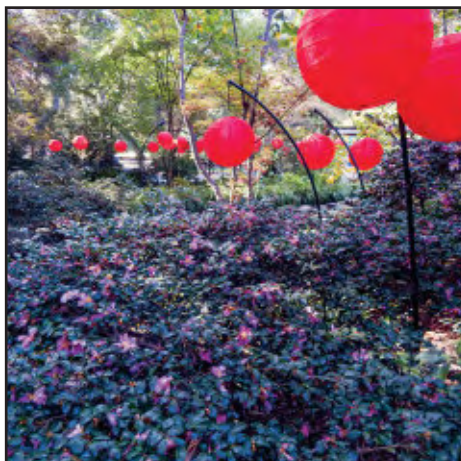
The entrance gate, decorated with colorful mums, gives one a glimpse of camellias and is a good place to take photos. The red lanterns are lighted at night and provide nice color among the trees, azaleas and camellias during the day—a nice Asian decoration that enhances this Japanese inspired garden. Chrysanthemums and camellias are highly valued flowering plants in Japanese culture and make wonderful companions.

The pathway in the Japanese garden has multiple plantings of camellias. Especially attractive are 'Jean May' with its shell pink double flowers, the masses of single irregular pink flowers of 'Hugh Evans' and the lovely rose red flower of 'Shishi Gashira'.

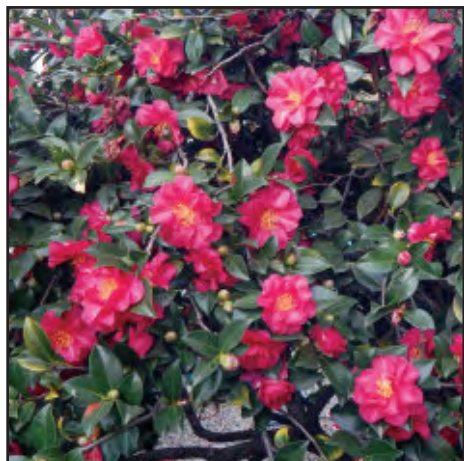




'JEAN MAY'



'HUGH EVANS' AND LANTERNS



'SHISHI GASHIRA'



TEA PLANT FLOWERS



'DAIKAGURA'



'MEMMAI'

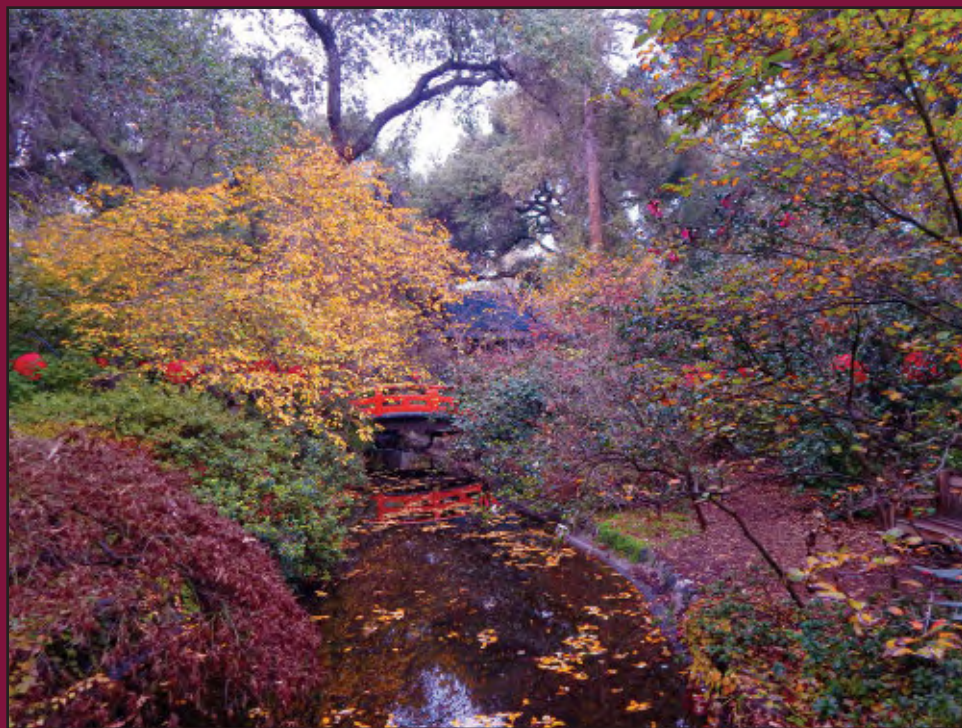
Do not miss the mature, beautifully pruned *C. sinensis* (tea plant) on the far side of this garden. We usually see *C. sinensis* growing as manicured hedges where the new leaves are harvested for making tea. This camellia species blooms early and is especially attractive to bees. The small white flowers hang down on long flower stems (pedicles), a classic characteristic of this species.

Small red tubular flowers on a small bushy plant have caught my eye the last few years with its early flowers. It was introduced in 1991 by Hayakawa who named this *C. vernalis* ‘Mennai-Chidori’ which means “Blind Plover” in English. The Japanese frequently have picturesque names for camellias. This is an interesting but confusing name as plovers are sturdy small to mid-sized shore birds with white and black or brown plumage. The eyes are black and beaks black or yellow in America. Further investigation using *The Sibley Guide to Birds* published by the National Audubon Society brought clarity. The Mongolian Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) is rarely seen in America but known in Asia. It is colored like other plovers except in its adult breeding plumage when it has a distinctive white throat and a rufous breast. Why a blind plover? Perhaps a translation error or Hayakawa observed a blind Mongolian plover... What do you say?

‘Daikagura’ is one of very few *C. japonicas* that reliably bloom in the fall. The medium to large bright rose red bloom with white variegation is seen throughout Descanso.

The combination of camellias and chrysanthemums in Descanso Gardens makes taking a fall walk delightful.





DESCANSO FALL FOLIAGE

‘AUTUMN DAWN’



AUTUMN LEAVES AND CAMELLIA BLOOMS

BY BRADFORD KING

Autumn, also known as fall, marks the transition from summer to winter when daylight shortens and the temperature cools. One of its main features is colorful fall foliage on deciduous trees then the shedding of these leaves.

Another autumn feature is the beginning of the camellia season. The sun loving *C. sasanqua* begin to bloom in the fall and are also referred to as sun camellias because they may be grown in full sun. There are nine *C. sasanqua* cultivars whose names begin with autumn and four *C. japonicas*. The only one we see in southern California is 'Autumn Dawn' because it is a Nuccio's Nurseries introduction. It has a medium loose peony white flower that shades to deep pink on the petal edges. Dawn is the presence of light just before sunrise. This tells us that 'Autumn Dawn' is therefore an early blooming variety.

The *C. japonicas* 'Early Autumn' and its variegated form introduced by Clarence Gordy are beautiful varieties. We can see this and other of his introductions when visiting camellia shows and gardens in the southeast.



'EARLY AUTUMN'



'EARLY AUTUMN VARIEGATED'



DON AND MARY BERGAMINI BRED CAMELLIAS THAT CELEBRATE FAMILY

BY BRADFORD KING

Don and Mary Bergamini live in Martinez, California. They have five children and seven grandchildren. Mary is an American Camellia Society (ACS) accredited judge and attends camellia shows with Don in California and the southeast. She and Don have traveled in Europe and Asia as a member of the International Camellia Society. Don is on the ACS board of directors and served as President from 2013 to 2015. He is also International Camellia Society Vice President for The Americas. In addition to being active in camellia organizations, they grow, show and breed new camellias.

'NORA KATE'



'MARY BERGAMINI'



'DON BERGAMINI'



Don's first introduction was '**Baby Sis Blush**'. It is a color sport of 'Baby Sis' that he registered in 1980. It is a lovely miniature flower.

He has introduced fifteen camellias many of which are named for family members. '**Bryanna Nicole**' is the eldest granddaughter who is attending Saint Mary's College in Moraga where she plays softball.

'Landon Waters' was named for their second grandson who is a student athlete as a senior at Alhambra High School. He plays football and track.

'Siena Elizabeth' is their second granddaughter who is in the second grade at Hidden Valley Elementary.

'Rayna Simone' is their third granddaughter who is also in the second grade at Hidden Valley Elementary and is into dance and gymnastics.

'Irene Bergamini' was named for Don's sister, an avid photographer.

'Nora Kate' was named for Mary's sister who died in 2017 from ALS.

'Mary A. Bergamini' was named by Don "for the love of my life."

Recently he bred a medium to large semidouble creamy white *C. reticulata*. "I wanted something different to name for myself. I think I found it!"

It takes 5 to 7 years before a seedling begins to bloom and several years to

'ASTRO NOVA'





'RENA BERGAMINI'

PHOTO BY DON BERGAMINI



'CHRIS BERGAMINI'



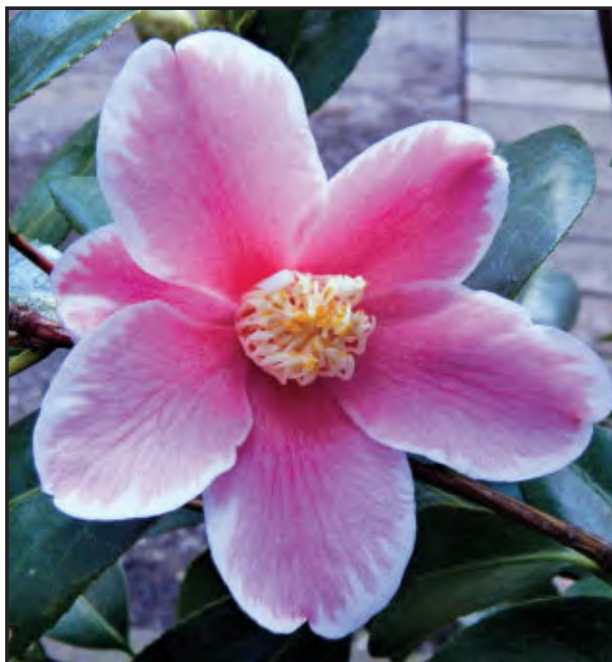
'JUST PEACHY'

evaluate the quality and reliability of any cultivar before it would be deemed distinctive and worthy of being introduced. Therefore, Don began naming camellias for family that were originated by other growers. This is illustrated by ‘Anita Roche’ named for Mary’s mother. Don named it for his mother-in-law, but it was a Ken Hallstone seedling. Don also named Hallstone’s ‘Astro Nova’ which has won at camellia shows.

Jack Mandarich grew many seedlings and gave Don permission to name two for his parents, Mario Bergamini and Rena Bergamini, as well an Aunt named ‘Mary Mustante’.

The most popular of Don’s introductions is ‘Chris Bergamini’ which has a miniature to small white anemone flower with beautiful stripes of pink and red. It was named for their eldest grandson who is working for Tesla installing solar systems. It is propagated by Nuccio’s Nurseries.

Don also introduced an aptly named non-reticulata hybrid ‘Just Peachy’.



‘EASTER BASKET’

This fragrant medium anemone peach pink to cream flower has yellow anthers and white filaments. It is a distinctive peach color toned camellia. I grafted two scions in 2019, but one died and one looks great.

A fun cultivar with a single small bright pink flower with white petal edges looks like an Easter Basket. While Don grows a wide range of camellias, he is noted for his show winning miniature and small camellias like ‘Easter Basket’.

Don is not finished hybridizing. He said, “I still have 2 granddaughters, 3 sons, 2 daughter-in laws to go.” We look forward to seeing what the future camellia seedlings look like.



'NUCCIO'S BELLA ROSSA' AT THE NURSERY



'NUCCIO'S BELLA ROSSA'



'NUCCIO'S BELLA ROSSA VARIEGATED'

Return to TOC

WHAT'S NEW AT NUCCIO'S NURSERIES

BY BRADFORD KING

Nuccio's Nurseries is a family business started by Joe and Julius Nuccio in 1935. They began propagating and breeding camellias and azaleas in their parents back yard before moving to Altadena, California after World War II. Joe and Mary's son was named Julius (Jude). He joined the Nursery after high school on a full-time basis in 1957. Julius sons Tom and Jim joined the Nursery in 1972 and 1980 respectively. Today Tom and Jim run the business since Jude died March 2020. The Nuccio's have introduced over 200 camellias and 100 azaleas. This article highlights Nuccio's recent camellia introductions that you would enjoy growing.

'Nuccio's Bella Rossa' was introduced in 2000. Jude, Tom and Jim Nuccio wanted to name it 'Julius Nuccio' to honor the Nurseries co-founder. Julius did not want a camellia named for himself, therefore, it was named 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa'. The flower is a large red formal double with heavy bud set and a long blooming season. The plant grows bushy and upright making it an excellent landscape camellia which is capable of winning points at a camellia show. Even a small one-gallon plant can have large flowers which makes it a good choice to give as a gift.

It was awarded the American Camellia Society Illges Seedling Japonica Award in 2004. The variegated form, with stark contrasting of white marks on bright red petals, is impressive. After Julius Nuccio retired, the "Nuccio's boys" — Jude, Tom and Jim decided a gorgeous large to very large brilliant red semidouble camellia would be named in his honor. 'Julius Nuccio' was registered in 2014, and the American Camellia Society awarded it the Illges Seedling Japonica Award in 2018. It blooms mid to late season on a vigorous upright plant. If you like a dark red glamorous flower, then this is a "cannot miss" choice.

The first Ferris Wheel was launched June 21, 1893. It was a popular and



'JULIUS NUCCIO'



'FERRIS WHEEL'



'CIRCUS'

magnificent success at the Saint Louis World's Fair. When the fair closed, Ferris became immersed in lawsuits about the debt he owed suppliers. In 1896 he filed for bankruptcy. He died at age 37 from typhoid fever. The original Ferris Wheel was sold in 1904 and two years later scrapped for its metal parts. Therefore, the only official Ferris Wheel expired. However, this iconic amusement park ride lives on at county fairs and carnivals where it whirls through the sky lit up at night where it is the first sight when approaching a carnival. The large to very large white *C. japonica* 'Ferris Wheel' has many random pink and red stripes which make the flower stand out on the plant or on the show table just as the Ferris Wheel does at a county fair. The flared stamens make the semi double flower pop. Occasionally this cultivar has a loose peony or anemone form both of which are showy! It can sport a strawberry colored background flower which Nuccio's have proposed naming 'Circus' when they introduce it sometime in the future.

In 2017 'Shock Wave' was introduced. It is non-reticulata hybrid with a medium single very brilliant deep bluish pink. It has white filaments and yellow anthers. The plant grows fast in an upright open growth and blooms mid to late sea-

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

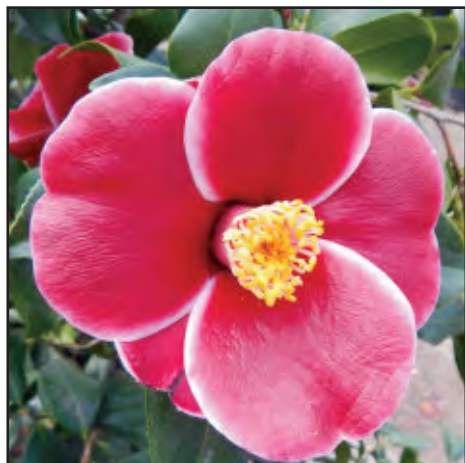


‘SHOCK WAVE’

A kaleidoscope is made of at least two mirrors positioned at an angle to each other forming a triangle with a collection of objects positioned at one end of the mirrors and an eyehole at the other end. What you see when you

‘KALEIDOSCOPE’





'TAMA VELVET'



'TAMA VELVET DUO'



'STOP!'

look through that eyehole is only the portion of the objects that fall within the space of the triangle that are reflected. No two “looks” are ever the same because there are many objects that don’t fall in the triangle space, and they change in each new view. It was invented by Sir David Brewster (1781-1868). This Scottish physicist is remembered for his experimental work in physical optics especially the study of the polarization of light including the discovery of the polarization angle which was named the Brewster angle.

In 2019 ‘Tama Velvet’ was introduced. It is the most recent of the eight Nuccio’s ‘Tama-no-ura’ seedlings. The flower is a medium to large dark velvet red semidouble. The white border is variable and contrasts nicely with dark velvet red petals. It blooms early to midseason. The color is like their award-winning cultivar ‘Royal Velvet’ but smaller with a nice border.

‘Stop!’ has a large red anemone flower with white petaloids. It may need to have some size before it sets buds but it is a very fast-growing camellia. It blooms mid to late season on an upright open plant. It has a very showy flower which promises to win show points and be a good addition to your garden. Tom Nuccio doesn’t care for ‘Stop!’ unless it



‘LUCKY STAR VARIEGATED’

has a mass of distinctive petaloids but I think the big cup shaped bright flower is still great even without petaloids.

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

In 2020 they named a cluster blooming non-reticulata hybrid with an extensive bud set ‘Party Popper.’ It blooms mid to late season on an up-right plant. The flower is a miniature rose form with white to blush toned deeper pink on the petal edges.

What will the next decade of camellias from Nuccio’s look like?



‘PARTY POPPER’

[Return to TOC](#)

CAMELLIA SPECIES:

C. CHEKIANGOLEOSA

BY BRADFORD KING

C. chekiangoleosa is native to China where it is extensively cultivated for its oil bearing seeds. It is widely distributed even into the northern mountainous regions where camellias grow in China. It has a single, medium salmon-pink to red flower. The plant is sturdy, robust and upright producing a handsome small tree. It can produce large attractive seed pods. The flower buds are rusty brown. Dr. Clifford Parks has described it as having a large clear red flower, while Nuccio's describes the flower as small to medium cup shaped salmon pink to orange red. It appears the flower size and color are variable. The ones we have seen at camellia shows in Southern California tend to an orange red tone and are irregular cup shaped with large petals making a striking entry.





HIGO TREASURES FROM JAPAN:

‘MANGETSU’

BY BRADFORD KING

The medium flat single white flower with spreading white filaments of ‘Mangetsu’ looks like a beautiful full moon which is the translation in English. The spreading vigorous plant blooms mid to late season

A full moon occurs roughly every month. When there are two full moons in a month, the second is called a blue moon which is the origin of the phrase “once in a blue moon” meaning it is a rare occurrence. A full moon occurs when earth is directly between the sun and the moon. That is, the nearside of the moon is completely sunlit and looks like a full circle. This is a beautiful sight and never seems to fail to be appreciated just as the wonderful ‘Mangetsu’ catches our eye. The Huntington Botanical Gardens has a wonderful specimen for you to enjoy. It blooms during the winter.

Return to TOC

PARTING SHOT: **‘TAMA VINO’**

BY BRADFORD KING

In 1947 Mr. Kichiji Tazaki, who was working at a charcoal pit in a forested area on Fukue Island in Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan, found one plant of ‘Tama-no-ura’. It was a chance seedling of unknown origin named after the town of Tamanoura where the charcoal pit was located. This *C. japonica* was first exhibited in 1973 in Nagasaki City, Japan. It was imported and propagated by Nuccio’s Nurseries in 1979.

Nuccio’s Nurseries has introduced ten ‘Tama-no-ura’ seedlings. Several other breeders have also registered new Tama varieties. ‘Tama Vino’ has small to medium semidouble wine red bloom with clusters of narrow petals. The burgundy red spreads into the small white border which makes it distinctive from the other Tama seedlings.





'ELEGANS'

'C.M. WILSON'



BIG BEAUTIFUL CAMELLIA SPORTS

BY BRADFORD KING

Some of the most glamorous camellias are genetic mutations. Today let's explore the large and very large camellia sports that make a splash in the garden and win at camellia shows.

ELEGANS

The 'Elegans' family began in England in 1831. 'Elegans' was grown from seed by Chandler and Booth. The flower is a lovely pink anemone form that has mutated a dozen new "sports". This "grandmother" herself produced four sports: 'Elegans Miniata', a light lavender pink medium anemone form flower; 'Elegans Supreme', a rose pink with deep serrated petals; 'Elegans Improved', a growth sport with larger flowers and leaves than its parent; and 'C.M. Wilson', a light pink flower with white edges. 'C.M. Wilson' appeared in the garden of Mrs. A.E. Wilson of Florida in 1949 and was named for her husband. There is also a variegated form of 'Elegans' which has a sport named 'Barbara Woodroof', light orchid pink outer guard petals and cream white center petaloids. This cultivar was introduced by William Woodroof of Sherman Oaks, California.

'C. M Wilson' is a lovely light pink sport of 'Elegans.' It has thrown three sports: 'Hawaii', a pale pink peony form with fimbriated petals; 'Shiro Chan', a white flower with occasional pink at the base of the petals; and 'Elegans Splendor', a beautiful light pink edged with white serrated petals. Each of these sports has also mutated. 'Hawaii' begat 'Kona', a full tight peony with fimbriated petals which is green before it opens and is an unusual green toned white flower when it is fully open. 'Kona' begat 'Maui', a large heavy white anemone form with rippled guard petals. 'Shiro Chan', when it is pure white, is called 'Snow Chan'. It was introduced by Nuccio's in 1957. The two



‘ELEGANS SPLENDOR’

most beautiful of all the Elegans sports are ‘Elegans Splendor’ and ‘Elegans Champagne.’

ELEGANS SPLENDOR

This sport from ‘C. M. Wilson’ was caught by Paul Gaines who named it ‘C. M. Wilson Splendor.’ When Nuccio Nurseries began to propagate it, Julius convinced him to rename it ‘Elegans Splendor’ so that the public would understand it was an Elegans mutation. The large to very large anemone flower is a lovely light pink with deep serrated petals edged in white making it an outstanding flower.

ELEGANS CHAMPAGNE

‘Elegans Champagne’ is the finest of the many sports that have mutated from the “Elegans Family.” It is the Dom Perignon of camellias. Champagne is the wine of celebration. Ships are launched with it; toasts are made at wed-

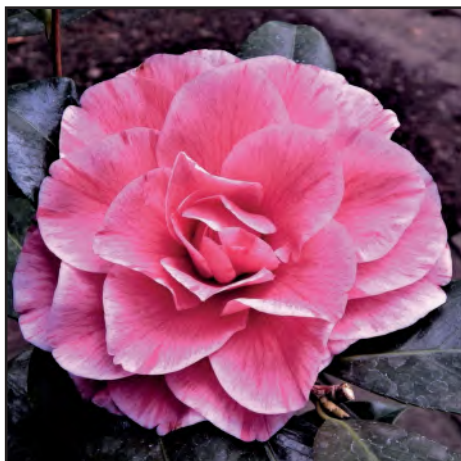
dings and special occasions. Dom Perignon was a Benedictine monk who in 1688 was appointed treasurer at the Abby Hautvillers. Management of the wine making and the cellars were part of his duties. While he did not invent champagne, he developed the basic principles still used in making champagne. Today we have a brand of champagne named after him called Dom Perignon champagne sometimes spelled Dom Perion. Many people laude this brand as the best champagne in the world due to its delicious flavor and thousands of tiny bubbles. We focus on ‘Elegans Champagne’ as the Dom Perignon of camellias. The large to very large white flower with creamy petaloids bubbling up from the center may show a burst of yellow stamens like champagne bubbles. It is a beautiful flower that when gibed looks gorgeous. This lovely japonica cultivar is a sport from ‘Elegans Splendor.’ The green leaves are heavily serrated making it easy to identify even when not in bloom. It was introduced in 1975 by Julius and Joe Nuccio, the founding brothers of Nuccio’s Nurseries. There are many brands of champagne and many japonica cultivars, but there is only one Dom Perignon champagne

‘ELEGANS CHAMPAGNE’





'CARTER'S SUNBURST'



'CARTER'S SUNBURST BLUSH'

just as there is only one 'Elegans Champagne.' Some may prefer other brands of champagne or other japonica cultivars, but there can be no disagreement when 'Elegans Champagne' wins first place at a show.

CARTER'S SUNBURST

In 1959 Mr. Carter registered a large to very large pale pink flower with deeper pink stripes that resemble color bursting from the sun. This beautiful flower is most attractive when in its formal double form and becomes less impressive as the form becomes a less complicated peony or semidouble. Do you think he envisioned its popularity? Fifty years and it is still a winner in the garden and at camellia shows. I also doubt he figured it would produce a cluster of genetic mutations. Not counting variegated sports there are half a dozen lovely mutations--'Carter's Sunburst Blush,' 'Carter's Sunburst Pink,' 'Carter's Sunburst Special,' 'Carter's Sunburst Sweetheart,' 'Chow's Han Ling Raspberry,' and 'Chow's Han Ling.' The most widely known continues to be 'Carter's Sunburst' followed by 'Carter's Sunburst Blush.' (Photo of 'Carter's Sunburst') (Photo of 'Carter's Sunburst Blush')

HAN-LING SNOW

Leland Chow from Bakersfield caught a white mutation with a blush center and occasional pink markings from 'Carter's Sunburst' which he regis-

tered as 'Chow's Han' Ling' in 1971. It is expected that a sport has the name of the camellia it muted from in its name. Dr Chow ignored this convention. Several years later it too sported. This cultivar retained the large to very large complicated flower but was pure white which he registered as 'Han-ling Snow.'

FERRIS WHEEL

The first Ferris Wheel was launched June 21, 1893. It was a popular and magnificent success. For more than nineteen weeks 1.4 million people paid 50 cents for a 20-minute ride at the Saint Louis World Fair. When the fair closed, Ferris became immersed in lawsuits about the debt he owed suppliers. In 1896 he filed for bankruptcy. He died at age 37 from typhoid fever. The original Ferris Wheel was sold in 1904 and two years later scrapped for its metal parts. Therefore, the only official Ferris Wheel expired. However,

'HAN-LING SNOW'



this iconic amusement park ride lives on at county fairs and carnivals where it whirls through the sky lit up at night and is the first sight when approaching a carnival.

The large to very large white *C. japonica* 'Ferris Wheel' has many random pink and red stripes which make the flower stand out on the plant or on the show table just as the Ferris Wheel does at a county fair. The flared stamens



'RED FERRIS WHEEL'

make the semidouble flower pop. Occasionally this cultivar has a loose peony or anemone form both of which are attractive, but the semidouble with stripes representing the spokes of a Ferris Wheel is the key to its name. 'Ferris Wheel' mutates a strawberry colored flower which is very showy. The Nuccio's are isolating the branches on plants with this flower color mutation with the intention of introducing it as 'Circus.' A large red sport with

flecks of white also mutates from 'Ferris Wheel' but there is no plan to propagate this mutation. I have all three forms on my plant. Who knows if other mutations will develop over time?

CAMELLIA SPORTS

A sport is a genetic mutation that may produce different flower colors or forms as well as a change in foliage. Typically, one branch shows the mutation. This is marked with colored yarn or a tie and observed for three years to ensure that the change is a mutation and not due to weather or other environmental factors. When propagated by cuttings or grafts, the change must remain consistent indicating it is in fact a genetic mutation. Sports have contributed some of the most interesting and beautiful camellias. Therefore, keep your eyes open to see if one of your camellias develops flowers distinctly different than all the others on the plant.



'JAPANESE GARDEN'

'BERENICE BODDY'



'BERENICE BODDY'



CAMELLIAS IN A PEACEFUL PLACE

BY BRADFORD KING

A walk in Descanso Gardens is a wonderful way to enjoy camellias in bloom. The camellias are in shade provided by mature live oaks. The variety of camellia flower colors and forms is extensive. I walk to take pictures, others walk briskly for exercise, mothers with baby carriages enjoy being in fresh air, couples also enjoy the natural intimacy of the gardens. We all find enjoyment...and peace.

Manchester Boddy purchased the property in 1935. He raised cattle and began planting camellias with the intention of developing them for the cut flower industry. The Descanso Garden camellia icon is 'Berenice Boddy' named for Mrs. Manchester Boddy. The flower is a lovely medium semi double light pink with deeper pink under the petals. There are many of them in the garden. One location is behind the Japanese Garden on the path next to a bridge that goes to the Lilac collection.

Located on the other side of the bridge are several plants of 'Coronation,' one of which has a lovely pink sport yet to be propagated by Descanso. A sport is a genetic mutation that is different from the original flower. I think the sport is worthy of propagating as it is a lovely flower. What do you think?

Nearby is 'Lovelight,' one of Harvey Short's 32 introductions. Harvey was from Ramona, California, 30 miles inland from San Diego. Nuccio's introduction 'Sweet Dreams' has a lovely medium to large formal double, pale orchid pink flower which is also in this area of the garden. Both camellia names depict warmth and romance which fit comfortably in this peaceful garden.

On the path leading to the Boddy house are several trees of *C. japonica* 'Gigantea.' This variety came to the USA from Europe in 1840 to Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. The large bright red anemone flower with white blotches provides a background to a few fragrant camellias. One is the sweet smelling 'Minato-no-akebono' which attracts bees.

Further along this path to the Boddy House are a collection of classic



'CORONATION'



'PINK CORONATION SPORT'

cultivars. They are on the left side and require walking off the path to enjoy their flowers. A one of a kind cultivar registered by Tom Gilfoy was his wife's choice. Tom named it 'Dody's Delight' for her.

'Easter Morn' has a wonderful large baby pink peony flower. It was bred by another amateur grower, Dr. C. C. Wright, who selected a perfect name for this cultivar that originated in Sacramento, California.

Vernon Mc Catskill's introductions are represented here with 'Cloisonné' registered in 1988. It has a beautiful large pink flower with ribbed petals finely edged in white. Nuccio's small late blooming red formal double 'Spring Formal' is also here. These cultivars were grafted by Tom Gilfoy to increase the diversity of the Descanso camellia collection.



'SWEET DREAMS'



'GIGANTEA'



'MINATO-NO-AKEBONO'



'DODY'S DELIGHT'

In conclusion, the 30,000 camellia plants in Descanso Gardens make it one of the largest collections in America which has been recognized by The International Camellia Society as a Garden of Excellence. The camellias are in a California native habitat growing under a canopy of Coastal Live Oaks making it a lovely and peaceful place to visit.



'EASTER MORN'



'CLOISONNÉ'



'SPRING FORMAL'



‘FERRIS WHEEL’

‘STRAWBERRY FERRIS WHEEL’





‘A. BEDFORD’

‘TAHITIAN DAWN’



WHAT'S NEW IN THE

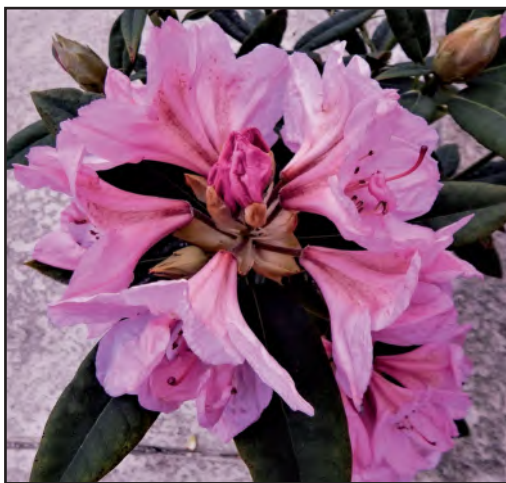
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA WORLD

BY BRADFORD KING

NUCCIO'S NURSERIES

In 2019 Nuccio' began propagating Rhododendrons, a close cousin of camellias. Nuccio's are offering a dozen cultivars in a range of colors—white, pink, lavender, purple and red. They were all in bloom in mid-May except 'Helen Johnson' which has a pink flower which blooms late May into June. Rhododendrons grow very well in the North East and North West. When a planted in bright shade they make a good addition to the garden landscape in Southern California.

Tom Nuccio gave a talk to the local bonsai society describing some of the best camellia to bonsai. He recommended the following cultivars. 'Yume', which has an interesting small single pink flower with genetic white markings. It produces flowers even on a small plant which makes for a fine bonsai. 'Hishi Karito' was recommended because the small pink flower with a fountain of white stamens looks pretty with its small green leaves. Corkscrew cultivars like 'Egao Corkscrew', 'Shibori Egao Corkscrew' and 'Unryu' because the branches turn and twist like a



'HELEN JOHNSON'

corkscrew making an excellent bonsai. The flowers of 'Egao Corkscrew' and 'Shibori Egao Corkscrew' are perhaps too large for the small leaves and small



'SHIBORI EGAO CORKSCREW'



'UNRYU'

plant in a bonsai dish. However, I have really enjoyed making and caring for 'Shibori Egao Corkscrew'. It is interesting to see how much white variegation occurs on the petals and if the bloom will be semidouble or a more complicated loose peony.

'Unryu' has a small unremarkable single deep pink flower that is in proportion with the small leaves. The turning and twisting of the branches make this a good bonsai.

Foliage camellias like 'Tiny Gem' and 'Taiyo' are also good bonsai plants. The very compact dwarf 'Tiny Gem' with tiny white single flowers will remain compact and neat looking. 'Taiyo' (The Sun) has rich green foliage with an irregular yellow central leaf pattern. The single medium flower looks nice among the leaves.

Higo camellias are traditionally grown as bonsai in Japan. Good examples are 'Ohkan', 'Hi no- maru' and 'Mikuni-no- homare'. The medium white flower with a rose red boarded and flared stamens is outstanding. It is a slow compact grower that looks good in the foreground in the garden or in bonsai dish.

DESCANSO GARDENS

The Body House served as the Pasadena Showcase Home Spring 2019. Reviews were very positive as the rooms flowed providing coordination among the beautifully decorated rooms. "The Camellia Room" was an entertain-

ment lounge with an impressive camellia chandelier with 13 handcrafted clear glass camellia blooms.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Society is pleased to announce the revised edition of the Camellia Nomenclature and the Camellia Nomenclature and Picture Gallery. The 2020 Nomenclature has all the newest introductions as well all the Camellia Nomenclature Supplement (The Red Book) cultivars that have been seen at any camellia show in America since 2019. This expanded edition can be purchased on Amazon for \$20 plus shipping. The Camellia Nomenclature and Picture Gallery is the electronic version of the Nomenclature plus photographs of 3,000 cultivars to help in identification. It can be downloaded to an iPhone or an electronic book for \$20 through Amazon.com.

THE HUNTINGTON

The Huntington began its centennial celebration in September 2019 which will initiate a digital initiative whose purpose is to create digital representations of key fragile holdings such as rare maps and literary manuscripts as well as medical historical documents. In addition, new sections of the Chinese garden have been constructed this spring and summer by Chinese artisans from Suzhou, China. For example, they have installed roof tiles, carved wood panels made in China to insure these new features are authentic. New Chinese plant material including camellias have been added to the landscape.



‘TAIYO’



‘OHKAN’



'C. YUHSIENENSIS'

'YUME'



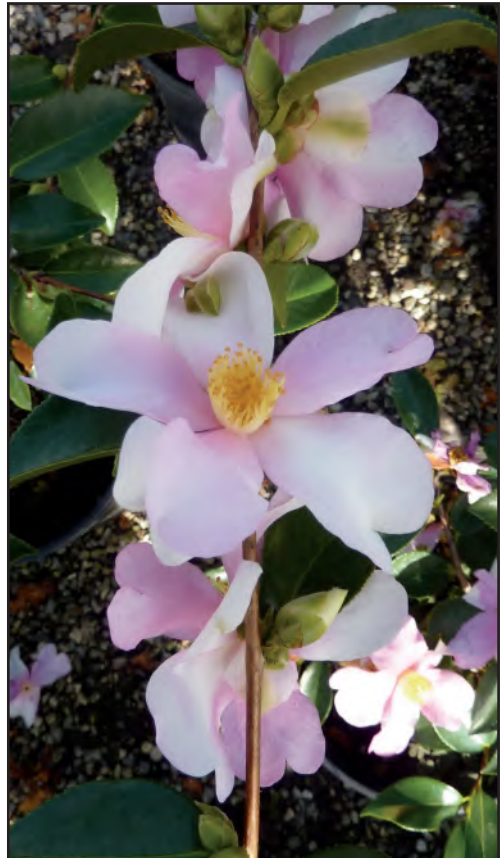
CAMELLIA SPECIES:

C. YUHSIENENSIS

BY BRADFORD KING

This species was described scientifically in 1965. It is native to China growing in the mountains and lower hills in Hunan. It has a very small white flower with a pleasing scent. The plant grows upright and blooms profusely midseason making it a cluster blooming camellia. It is one of several camellia species used to produce edible oil from its seeds. There are some taxonomists that believe this is a variety of *C. grijsii*, not a separate species. Further investigation, including DNA results, is needed. (Photo of *C. yuhsienensis*)

While hybridizing has been limited with this species, one outstanding cultivar has been produced when crossed with 'Shishi Gashira' by Dr. Kaoru Hagiya. He named it 'Yume' (Dream). It has a small pink single flower with white markings. The white blotches are a genetic variegation not a virus. When petals alternate pink and white, it is like a dream come true. This heavy blooming camellia is a showstopper. The plant grows in a spreading loose manner blooming mid to late season. It sets seeds easily and has produced some pretty seedlings but so far none as beautiful and unique as 'Yume'.



CLUSTER OF 'YUME'



HIGO TREASURES FROM JAPAN:

‘NIOI-FUBUKI’

BY BRADFORD KING

‘Nioi- Fubuki’ has a medium to large flat single white striped rose red fragrant flower. There are about 150 stamens with pale yellow filaments and 7 petals. The slight sweet scent and white flower give its name “Fragrant Snowstorm” when translated to English. It blooms mid to late season on a vigorous upright plant. It grows best in the ground. It was developed in Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan in 1968. This area of Japan has a humid subtropical climate with hot summers and cool winters. June and July have heavy precipitation. According to Scientific America there are scents that precede coming storms and some that accompanying precipitation; however poetic license is allowed in naming flowers. ‘Nioi-Fubuki is an outstanding Higo and had been used in breeding new cultivars in Japan and the USA.

PARTING SHOT:

LOVELY CLUSTER BLOOMING CAMELLIAS

BY BRADFORD KING

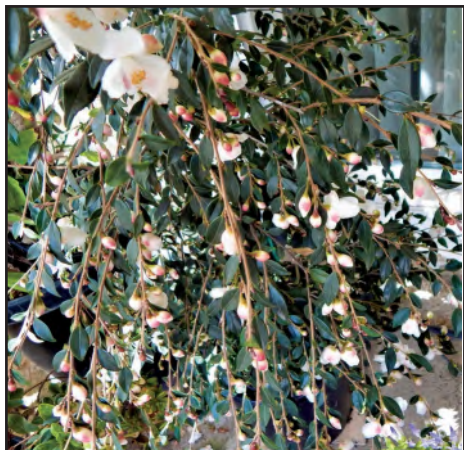
Modern hybridizers have sought to develop cluster blooming camellia hybrids. All of them have a profusion of miniature or small flowers. They look wonderful as cut flowers arranged artfully in a vase. They are not usually seen in camellia shows but are cherished in the garden for their masses of pretty buds and flowers. This “Parting Shot” article highlights five examples of cluster blooming camellias available at camellia nurseries.

‘Bunny Ears’ has a miniature to small semi double pink flower with rabbit ears. This *C. rosaeflora* blooms in a vigorous bushy upright manner in mid to late season and was bred by Nuccio’s Nurseries. Multiple flowers bloom up and down the stems which look lovely in a vase.



‘BUNNY EARS’

‘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, pretty foliage camellia shrub. New foliage has a lovely bronze hue in the spring.



'ELINA CASCADE'



'FAIRY BLUSH'



'PARTY POPPERS'

'Fairy Blush' has a fragrant single miniature flower the color of apple blossoms. The attractive bud is bright pink. The plant grows vigorously in an upright manner and blooms early to late season. This profuse bloomer is a *C. lutchuensis* seedling bred by Mark Jury of New Zealand and is propagated by Monrovia Nurseries.

'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,' 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*.

The most recent example is **'Party Poppers'** which was introduced this season by Nuccio's Nurseries. The miniature rose form double flower is white to blush toned deeper on the petal edges. It is a mid to late season profuse blooming non reticulata grijsii hybrid. It grows upright with spikes that are full of clusters of buds.



‘MINATO-NO AKEBONO’



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S
CAMELLIA TRIPLE CROWN

BY BRADFORD KING

The Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing comprises three races for three-year-old thoroughbred horses. The three races are the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and The Belmont. It is an outstanding achievement for a horse to win the triple crown. Since 1919, there have only been thirteen horses to win that crown. In 2018 Justify won the Santa Anita Derby in Arcadia to become eligible to enter the Kentucky Derby. Justify won the Derby in the rain and mud then held off all comers to win the Preakness and led from start to finish to win the Triple Crown by winning the Belmont on June 9, 2018.

THE CAMELLIA TRIPLE CROWN

The Southern California Camellia Triple Crown is comprised of The Huntington Botanical Gardens which began in 1903 with just two cultivars;



‘HENRY E. HUNTINGTON’

Descanso Gardens when Manchester Boddy bought 165 acres for a ranch and a home for his family in 1935; and Nuccio’s Nurseries in 1935 when Joe and Julius Nuccio began propagating and selling camellias from their parents’ back yard.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

The camellia collection was begun in 1908 when twenty-four plants were purchased from a local nursery. William Hertrick, curator, began growing camellias from seed in 1912 to serve as under stock to graft new cultivars to be used in the camellia collection. He published the results of his propagation studies of thousands of camellias in his three volume *Camellias in the Huntington*. In 1913 the Japanese garden was developed including the planting of camellias. In 1918 a small shipment of camellias was imported from Japan. In 1944 the Southern California Camellia Society and the Friends of the Huntington Library planned for the camellia to become a distinctive feature of the Huntington Botanical Gardens. The two main camellia sec-

tions are The North Vista and The North Canyon Camellia Garden. Camellia species and new introductions continued to be added through the years. Howard Asper, when he became superintendent of the gardens, made plans to plant masses of *C. sasanqua* which are now mature flowering small trees across from the Chinese and Japanese Garden. Camellias and azaleas were included in the landscaping of the Chinese Garden which opened in 2008. In 2015 a new path was constructed behind the *C. sasanqua* camellias which features camellias from Nuccio's.

In 2017 a dozen *C. reticulata* were added to augment the original Yunnan Camellias imported by Ralph Peer in 1948. The Huntington west entrance has new plantings of both camellia species and camellias along with trees. Today, with The Huntington Botanical Gardens stretches over 120 acres in San Marino, and the camellia collection has grown to 14,000 cultivars and 60 camellia species. In 2001 the International Camellia Society recognized The Huntington Gardens as an International Camellia Garden for its rich camellia collection and reaccredited them in 2012.

The Scott Gallery landscaping is a wonderful example of a creative and practical use of camellias. The loge has a collection of nine fragrant 'Minato

'MINATO-NO AKEBONO'





'KANJIRO'

no Akebono' among statues of dogs. The Scott north entrance pathway has 'Kanjiro' hedges on both sides that look good all year long and are beautiful in the fall and early winter when in full bloom.

DESCANSO GARDENS

In 1935 Manchester Boddy purchased 125 acres of land in La Canada where he raised cattle and began planting camellias with the intention of developing them for the cut flower industry. By 1941 he had amassed a collection of 600 camellias. He and his family lived in a 22-room mansion built in the then popular Regency style. As the camellia collection continued to expand, Boddy hired Howard Asper, a camellia specialist, as curator and chief propagator. Together they developed a commercial camellia plantation to serve the cut flower industry. Camellias became the flower of choice as corsages for the well-dressed ladies of the time. Boddy added thousands of camellias to his inventory during the forced relocation of Japanese Americans to internment camps during World War II. He purchased the inventory of two Japanese owned camellia growers when they were forced into the camps. J.W. Uyematsu owned and operated Star Nurseries, which was the largest

and most successful in California. F. W. Yoshimura owned Mission Nursery which continues today as San Gabriel Nursery.

Howard Asper supervised the planting of many of these camellias beneath the oaks of 'Rancho del Descanso'. He grafted dozens of varieties onto 'Eureka' rootstock to enlarge the camellia plantation that served their cut flower business. In 1945 Dr. Walter Lammerts joined Boddy and Asper at Descanso. They admired the giant flowers of *C. reticulata*. They envisioned hybridizing with them but none were available outside of China. Dr. Lammerts identified a Chinese botanist in the Yunnan Providence of China. In early 1948, Professor T. Tsai, a botanist at Kunming Institute, wrote that 20 different cultivars of *reticulata* were available. These 20 varieties were shipped to San Francisco with 15 surviving. Some were lost with additional plants and scions imported by Descanso and Ralph Peer. This was a major contribution to the western camellia world.

In 1950 Boddy opened his estate, now named "Descanso Gardens," to the public. In 1952 he decided to retire, sell his ranch and move to San

'BUTTONS' N BOWS'



Diego County. Concerned by the prospect of development, neighbors approached the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors with the idea that the County purchase the property, keeping it intact and in the public trust. In 1953 Descanso Gardens went from private estate to public garden.

The Descanso Garden camellia icon is 'Bernice Boddy' named for Mrs. Manchester Boddy. The flower is a lovely medium semidouble light pink with deeper pink under the petals. The plant grows vigorously in an upright spreading manner and is very cold hardy. It has been field tested over a forty-year period in the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan area. Dr. Clifford Parks April Series of 10 cold hardy cultivars used 'Bernice Boddy' as the seed parent for six of them. This cold hardy trait is what makes this pretty flower so important. It was one of the plants Boddy bought from Star Nursery who imported it from Japan.

The 30,000 camellia plants in Descanso Gardens make it one of the largest collections in America. The camellias are in a California native habitat growing under a canopy of Coastal Live Oaks. In 2001 the International Camellia Society recognized Descanso Gardens as an International Camellia Garden and reevaluated the garden in 2011 granting them continued recognition as an International Camellia Garden of Excellence in February 2012.

NUCCIO'S NURSERIES

The nursery began when Joe and Julius Nuccio began to grow camellias and azaleas in their parents' backyard in Alhambra, California in the 1930's. The two brothers began to propagate camellias and azaleas which led them to grow seedlings hoping to produce new cultivars. When Julius went into the Army at the beginning of World War II, Joe built a lath house at his home in Santa Monica to house all their stock plants. Joe worked during the war as a shipwright. When Julius returned from the war, the two brothers moved the nursery business to Altadena, California which is the present location. New camellia cultivars have been introduced since 1950 when the founding fathers introduced a rose pink medium rose form double for their mother, Katherine Nuccio. Joe and Julius honored their father by naming a large to very large coral rose red semidouble flower with irregular petals that stand up like rabbit ears 'Guilio Nuccio'.

When the co-owners retired, the Nursery passed to the second genera-

tion to be run by Joe's son Jude and Julius's two sons Tom and Jim. Today, it is managed by Tom and Jim since Jude retired. One of the very best new registrations is 'Julius Nuccio.' The flower is a very large beautiful dark red semidouble with two rows of long pointed petals, with one row superimposed over the other, that stand out from each other. It was introduced in 2014 to commemorate the 97year old surviving founder of the nursery who subsequently passed away. Julius really didn't want any camellia named for himself, but the "boys" overruled him. Nuccio's claims there will be no new camellia introductions bearing the family name.

Nuccio's Nurseries has introduced 209 camellias from 1950 to 2018 which include sports and variegated cultivars. The American Camellia Society (ACS) provides awards to outstanding camellias each year. The Illges Seedling Japonica Award is given to the originator of a seedling, not a sport or mutation, each year since 1945. Nuccio's Nurseries has won this prestigious award thirteen times. These award-winning cultivars are still popular and widely distributed as they are some of the best camellia available today.

'JULIUS NUCCIO'





‘BLAC OPAL’



‘PINK DAHLIA’



‘NIGHT RIDER’

COLORFUL CAMELLIA NAMES

BY BRADFORD KING

Several camellias have used the flower color as a part of their name. Others have been named based on a key characteristic such as their petal shape. A name that accurately describes a flower is a good marketing strategy. Colorful camellia names are interesting and vivid reminders of the bloom. Let's look at some examples.

'Black Opal' is an especially rare and valuable gemstone. Pure opal is colorless with impurities generally responsible for the yellow and red hues. The opal is the month of October's gemstone. The finest opals have been found in Australia and New Zealand. Therefore, it is not surprising that Oz Blumhardt, a hybridizer from New Zealand, named a black red hybrid camellia 'Black Opal'. The small to medium semidouble flower is a seedling of 'Ruby Bell' and 'Kuro Tsubaki'. It is rarely seen in America just like the black opal. We do see 'Night Rider' which is the same cross made by the same breeder. It has a miniature to small semidouble very dark red flower. They both have colorful names. Can you spot their differences?

Dahlia is a genus of bushy, tuberous, herbaceous perennial plants native to Mexico, Central America, and Colombia. There are at least 36 species of dahlia with hybrids coming in a variety of colors and some with a mix of colors. Flower forms are variable, with one head per stem; these can be as small as 2 inches and up to a foot in diameter frequently referred to as "dinner plate dahlias." The camellia **'Pink Dahlia'** looks like a typical formal double dahlia, hence its name. This saluenensis miniature to small flower is orchid pink with slender pointed petals. **'Pink Dahlia Variegated'** has a strikingly beautiful flower. They were both developed by Kramer Brothers Nursery, Cucamonga, California. Otto and August Kramer grew potted plants, cut flowers and were known for their azaleas, camellias and gardenias. Ben Mackall



'PURPLE GOWN'



'CRIMSON ROBE'



'GRAPE SODA'

married August Kramer's daughter Marie in 1937. After August died, Ben and Marie managed the nursery until 1986 when the nursery closed and the land was sold.

A **gown** is an elegant, woman's full-length dress for special occasions or a long **robe** often dark in color worn on special occasions by judges, professors and university students. Language is fun, tricky and interesting. For example, a gown can be an elegant woman's dress or a robe but a robe is never a woman's formal dress. If she were wearing a robe, it would most likely be to cover sleep wear to provide warmth and privacy. A physician can't wear a robe to the office but frequently wears a gown to cover his clothes to maintain sanitary conditions while seeing patients. There are two wonderful *C. reticulata* cultivars whose names are **'Purple Gown'** and **'Crimson Robe'**. They are elegantly dressed in purple red and crimson.

Candles have been used to illuminate human celebrations for more than 5,000 years. However, their origin is unclear. The ancient Egyptians may have developed the first candles when they used torches made by soaking the pithy core of reeds soaked in animal fat, but these torches had no wick as do true candles. It is known that the Egyptians used



‘CRIMSON CANDLES’



‘CORAL BOUQUET’

wicked candles in 3,000 B.C. The ancient Romans are credited with developing the wicked candle when papyrus was rolled and dipped in melted tallow or beeswax. These candles were used to light homes, for traveling at night and in religious ceremonies. Dr. Clifford Parks, known for breeding cold hardy, fragrant and *reticulata* hybrid camellias, introduced **‘Crimson Candles’** a *C. reticulata* X *C. fraterna* seedling in 1955. The flower is a bright rose red, small single late season bloomer that is cold hardy. It looks best on the bush in full bloom when the multiple buds look like a candle arbor.

When candles and a lovely bouquet of flowers decorate a dinner party, it is celebration time. The Nuccio’s celebrated their introduction of **‘Coral Bouquet’** with its rich coral pink medium to large single flower that is toned lighter in the center with wavy petals. Camellia enthusiasts celebrate these hybrids because of the wonderful new color tones.

Another color breakthrough is the japonica hybrid **‘Grape Soda’**. The small to medium single flower has unique lavender to lavender red petals that tend toward purple. The name and color conjure up the image of drinking grape soda from a bottle in hot summer weather. In Boston these soft drinks were called “Tonic.” The word may refer to tonic water, a drink traditionally containing quinine; soft drink, a carbonated beverage; tonic (physiological), the response of a muscle fiber or nerve ending typified by slow continuous action; Herbal tonic a herbal medicine with tonic effects; Tonic (music) a concept of musical theory and even an American rock band.

Language and camellia names are frequently beautiful and colorful!



‘BUTTERFLY WINGS’



‘CHANG’S TEMPLE’



‘CORNELIAN’

Return to TOC

THE HUNTINGTON
CAMELLIA RETICULATA
COLLECTION
BY BRADFORD KING

The Yunnan *C. reticulata* first came to Descanso Gardens from China in 1948. A second importation was received by Ralph Peer. This began the propagation of these camellias with large and very large beautiful flowers in America. Ralph Peer and Descanso Gardens generously shared plants with The Huntington. At the Huntington they can be found in the North Vista in an area labeled “Reticulata Knoll.” Examples of these original camellias are clearly labeled and can be found in bloom usually in February and March. Some of the original specimens have survived. Recently the Huntington has augmented the collection with several new plants of the original imports which makes this the most comprehensive collection of the Yunnan *C. reticulata* in Southern California.

‘Butterfly Wings’ (‘Houye Diechi’) has a rose pink very large semidouble flower with irregular broad wavy petals that resemble a butterfly’s wings. The Chinese frequently describe a semidouble reticulata flower with multiple upright petals as a semidouble butterfly wing type bloom.

Since it is common for Chinese people to decorate their wrists and necks with rose colored necklaces and bracelets, ‘Chang’s Temple’ (‘Zhangjia Cha’) color has been described as “China rose.” Rose is a color halfway between red and magenta on the HSV color wheel. It has a large to very large semidouble flower with up to 20 heavily notched petals in 4 or 5 rows with an open center that may have petaloids. The leaves are very large.

‘Lion Head’ (‘Shizitou’) has a deep red large to very large peony flower with irregular heavy crinkled petals at the base that may arch and cover the center of the flower as it matures not unlike a lion’s mane. When variegated, it is called ‘Cornelian’ (‘Domanao’). The beautiful flower is large to very large red with blotches of white on the irregular wavy, crinkled petals. There may



‘CAPTAIN RAWES’



‘MOUTANCHÁ’

be a few petaloids in the semidouble to peony formed bloom. It is an example of early camellia variegation in China which is likely where the camellia virus originated.

The history of ‘Captain Rawes’ is interesting. Chinese records indicate that between 1673 and 1681 a semidouble blooming cultivar was introduced to Japan called “Tang Dynasty” in English. It is the same cultivar as ‘Captain Rawes’ which was introduced to England from Canton, China in 1820 by Captain Richard Rawes. The flower has a very large semidouble carmine rose pink flower with irregular petals.

‘Moutanchá’ has a large to very large formal double bright pink flower with white veins that are striped white in the inside of the wavy crinkled petals. It is interesting that Descanso kept the Chinese name for this cultivar which means peony flower due to its similarity to the peony.

‘Pagoda’ (‘Songzilin’) has a deep scarlet formal double to rose form double flower. The depth of the flower and its striking color make for a popular variety both in China and America. In 1847 on one of his plant gathering trips, Robert Fortune, a great plant hunter, imported a *reticulata* cultivar to England that he labeled *C. reticulata, flore plena*. It has at times been called ‘Robert Fortune’, ‘Pine Cone’, ‘Pine Cone Scales’ and ‘Pagoda’ but is known in China as ‘Songzilin’ which means pine cone. The large red formal to rose form double has petals that may open like pinecone scales. ‘Pagoda’ is how it is listed in the *Camellia Nomenclature* while the International Camellia Registry uses the Chinese name.

Professor Tsai in China crossed 'Butterfly Wings' with 'Moutancha'. Descanso Gardens named it for him. 'Professor Tsai' ('Mayae Taohong') has a medium rose pink semidouble flower with undulating petals.

'Purple Gown' ('Zipao') has one of the most complicated *C. reticulata* flowers with a large to very large formal double to peony dark purple red flower with thin strips of white to wine red on the wavy petals.

A large brilliant pink semidouble flower with loose wavy petals was named 'Shot Silk'. It grows vigorously, and has vivid lively flowers which has led to its being widely distributed. Since red is the dominant *reticulata* color, this lovely pink flower makes 'Shot Silk' special.

One of the many reasons to visit The Huntington Botanical Gardens is that you can see all these *C. reticulata* cultivars.



'PAGODA'



'PROFESSOR TSAI'



'SHOT SILK'



'LION HEAD'



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

BY BRADFORD KING

On January 16, 2020 the Southern California Camellia Society celebrated its 80th anniversary at the society's monthly meeting.

The Southern California Camellia Society (SCCS) was organized in January 8, 1940 by 30 charter members. They had an organizing dinner meeting at the Constance Hotel on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena. Most of those present were camellia nursery owners. They elected Lovell Swisher as president even though he was a rose man. Dues were set at a \$1.00 a year.

THE USA IN 1940

In 1940 a new house cost \$3,920.00, and the average family income per year was \$1,725. The average cost of a new car was \$850, and gasoline was \$0.11 a gallon. However, the Ford Super Deluxe Coupe would have cost you \$1,395.

Men could get a suit for as little as \$24.50 and women their nylons for \$0.33.

World War II dominated the news in 1940 with Germany invading Denmark, Norway, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Germany began bombing London to weaken the British Royal Air Force.

President Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act, making it the first military draft to be created during a peacetime in the United States. He was elected for an unprecedented third term as the U.S. president.

SCCS IN THE 1940'S

The *Camellia Nomenclature* was first published by the SCCS in 1947 under the leadership of William "Bill" Woodroof. He was its organizer and editor from 1947 through 1990. The 1947 edition contained 911 cultivars and had a black cover with the large red bloom 'Mathotiana' on the cover. (Photo of 'Mathotiana')

During the first five years of the existence of the SCCS, one cent post cards were sent out as meeting notices. Later a single page newsletter was sent to members. The earliest SCCS *Camellia Review* was from 1950. Hard cover copies were used during the 1950's.

SCCS TODAY

The 2020 *Camellia Nomenclature* is the twenty ninth edition with 7,000 cultivars listed, and the *Camellia Nomenclature and Picture Gallery* has all these cultivars with over 3,000 photos to help in identifying camellia blooms.

The *Camellia Review* has been continuously published since 1950. Today it is published three times a year and is illustrated with digital photographs which were not available until the late 1900's. While the first digital camera prototype was built in 1975 by Nikon, the first professional digital camera was introduced in 1991 and cost \$13,000. The *Camellia Review's* first digital photos were taken by Mel Belcher in 2000 when he was the editor. Today everyone has a point and click digital camera built into their cell phones.





'SOLSTICE' CREDIT: DAVID PARKS



OPTICAL ILLUSION: CREDIT GENE PHILLIPS

CAMELLIA SPECIES:

C. FLAVA

BY BRADFORD KING

C. flava was scientifically described by Sealy in 1949. It is native to the green forests and hillsides in northern Vietnam. Until it was rediscovered in 1994, it remained unknown to the camellia world. Since then it has been grown in China and recently America. The yellow miniature flower blooms on a 15 foot well shaped dense tree. The leaves are small with raised midveins and depressed lateral veins. The flower has from 10 to 13 petals which makes an attractive tubular semidouble bloom.

This yellow blooming species has been used in breeding programs most notably by Dr. Clifford Parks. He has introduced two hybrids, 'Solstice' and 'Optical Illusion,' that are propagated by *Camellia Forest Nursery* in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. 'Solstice' has a light-yellow medium rose form double flower. The plant has narrow green foliage with a long tip. It grows vigorously in an upright manner. It was crossed with *C. japonica* and registered in 2009 by Dr. Parks, a botanist and noted camellia hybridizer.

In 2015, he introduced 'Optical Illusion' which has a medium formal double pale-yellow flower with pink overtones. The strap like petals look best when arranged in a spiral. These hybrids seem to be sterile, so they can't be used to back cross or used to set seeds to produce new varieties. Therefore, Dr. Parks is working on doubling the chromosomes to produce deeper yellow camellias that are hardier. I have tried to graft good quality scions of these cultivars with limited success.



PHOTO BY GENE PHILLIPS



HIGO CAMELLIA TREASURES FROM JAPAN:

‘MIKUNI NO HOMARE’

This higo has a beautiful, medium veined pink flower with a fine white border and occasional red stripes. There are 7 undulating petals and 150 to 190 golden stamens that have pale yellow filaments arranged like the spokes of a wheel in the classic higo style. The name means “Nation’s Pride”. The leaves are dark green, elliptical and wavy. It was officially recognized in 1961 and became popular in Japan, Europe and the US with those who admire higo camellias. It is grown as a bonsai and looks good in the garden. The Huntington Botanical Garden has one in its collection, and Nuccio’s has them available for purchase. The flower’s background is variable as is the delicate crimson veining and the number of red bars. This can be observed in the photo. Bradford King

Return to TOC

PARTING SHOT:

SNOW

In Southern California we rarely get snow except periodically on the San Gabriel mountain tops such as Mount San Antonio, better known as Mount Baldy, which is 10,064 feet tall, the highest mountain in the area. It gets about a foot of snow or more per annum. Snowflakes are ice crystals that precipitate from the atmosphere and take many shapes. No wonder there are pure white camellias with interesting forms bearing 'snow' in part of their name.

Nuccio's *C. sasanqua* 'Snowfall' has a small single white flower. It can be seen in bloom across from the Chinese garden in The Huntington Botanical Garden. This area has a good collection of *C. sasanquas* planted on a hillside. They are all fall blooming camellias that peak in November. *C. sasanquas* are the first camellias to bloom every year providing a taste for what is coming. They are the camellia appetizers with japonicas the entree that bloom in the winter.

The Japanese *C. sasanqua* cultivar 'Mine-No- Yuki' means "Snow on the ridge." It has also been known as 'Snow' and frequently in the USA as 'White Doves'. It has



'SNOWFALL'



'WHITE DOVES'



'SNOW CHAN'



'SNOWMAN'

a small semidouble to loose peony flower. It makes a good ground cover in sunny areas because it has a low spreading growth habit.

When *C. japonica* 'Shiro Chan' mutated a large to very large pure white anemone flower, Joe and Julius Nuccio named it 'Snow Chan' in 1957. Joe's son, Julius ('Jude') graduated from high school that year and went to work full time with his father and uncle. Jude told me they agreed that his Uncle Julius would be his boss and give him any necessary "orders." A good strategy to keep peace in the family.

The *C. japonica* 'Snowman' originates from Savannah, Georgia where it rarely snows and, even then, may not accumulate enough to build a snow man. Therefore, its large semidouble 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 flower that blooms midseason on a vigorous spreading upright plant.

In conclusion, fresh clean white snow is a treat and so are pure blemish-free white camellias. Bradford King

Return to TOC

A Story About Hope

by Bradford King

In the spring gardeners hope for spring rain “to bring May flowers.” Camellia lovers say good bye to the late blooming cultivars and relish in the flush of new green foliage. During the summer we hope that multiple buds emerge. The long warm days of summer trigger the growth of buds, which as we see them develop brings hope for wonderful camellias flowers. In the fall the sun camellias bloom heralding the camellia season and we observe the development of the camellia fruit. To those who collect these pods to propagate the seeds inside hopes soar--will we get a new



‘Dolores Hope’

and beautiful camellia. In winter our hopes become reality, as beautiful camellias flowers emerge. We hope some are good enough to enter a camellia show.

The camellias bearing the name hope are named for Bob and Dolores Hope. The famous comedian, Bob Hope, is most well-known for his trips entertaining American troops. These performances began during World War II and later to the wars in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. These shows, many televised to the American public, became his signature shows as they brought laughter and hope during the most difficult of times when America was at war. Bob was also known during the 1940s and 1950s for his work in radio, film and television where he acted, sang and danced but is most remembered as a comedian. When the super star years ended in the 60s, Bob Hope continued guest appearances into the 1990s. In May 2003 he celebrated his 100th birthday with a typical wisecrack: "I'm so old they've canceled my blood type". He died a few months later in July. Bob Hope was born in Eltham, England May 29, 1903 and named Leslie Townes Hope. He was the fifth of seven sons born to an English father and a Welsh mother. When he was 4 years old his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio where he was raised. Years later Bob jokingly said, "I left England at the age of four when I found out I couldn't be King". In 1934 he married Dolores Reade. They adopted four children: Anthony, Linda, Honora (Nora), and William Kelly.

'Bob Hope' the camellia is an international favorite like its namesake. It has a deep brilliant black red camellia flower with purple-black markings on its buds and irregular petals. It was introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena California in 1972. It first bloomed in 1969 from a nine-year-old seedling. It has a large to very large flower that blooms from mid to late season. The plant is upright and dense with a medium growth rate. The foliage is dark green making this *japonica* a great landscape plant. The dark red marbled white flower of its variegated form is striking. Joe and Julius Nuccio, the founders of Nuccio's Nurseries, named this flower 'Bob Hope' upon the recommendation of Ralph Peer a friend of Bob and Dolores Hope. Ralph Peer is well known in the camellia world for importing the Yunnan *reticulata* camellias to America in 1948 and in Hollywood as the founder of the Peer Music Company. He named a very large light rose pink flower with orchid veins and some white central petals 'Dolores Hope'. It is a *reticulata japonica* hybrid introduced in 1971. Dolores Hope was well known to the Nuccio's as she visited the Nursery several times as a customer.

We end as Bob Hope did "Thanks for the memories".



'Bob Hope'



'Bob Hope Var.'

Return to TOC

Camellias and Azaleas are Great Companions by Bradford King



Azaleas at Nuccio's Nursery

Pairing camellias and azaleas in the landscape makes a wonderful combination. The camellias are placed in the back and the azaleas in the foreground. One of the best landscaping designs is to use three tiers - trees, camellias and azaleas. However, creative variations could include upright tall camellias, bushy mid-sized camellias and then the azaleas. Clustering in groups of three, five and seven is a

traditional design that looks better than even numbers.

Red and white

One of my friends landscaped the front of his new home with a red and white combination. In the back row against the house he planted five 'Grand Marshall' *C. japonicas* which has a medium rich deep red anemone flower with handsome foliage. It grows vigorously upright and blooms in midseason. A great choice as he loves the Pasadena rose parade and looks forward every year to hear who has been chosen the Grand Marshall. In the middle row he chose 'Nuccio's Gem' which has a beautiful medium to large formal double flower that blooms early to midseason. The three bushy and upright shrubs were staggered with the 'Grand Marshall'. The foreground was filled with 'Red Bird' azaleas. The flower is a large ruffled hose in hose brilliant red that blooms from fall into spring.



'Grand Marshall'



'Nuccio's Gem'

Mixed colors

Camellias and azaleas have a wonderful range of colorful flowers. Mixing your favorite camellias and azaleas on a garden path or as a foundation planting works well. I inherited the following example when I moved to Arcadia, California in 1985 that has continued to thrive and bloom very year. Planted in the shade of the house was 'Debutante' which has a medium full peony flower; 'Kramer's Supreme' which has a large red peony flower and 'Alba Supra' which has a medium white semidouble flower. The pink, red and white colors bloom from early winter into March led by 'Debutante' followed by 'Kramer's Supreme' and 'Alba Supra' in midseason. These are classic camellias used to landscape new homes in the 1950s and 60s. 'Debutante' and 'Kramer's Supreme' have continued their

popularity but 'Alba Supra' has been supplanted by better white blooming camellias such as 'Silver Waves', 'Snow Man' and 'Nuccio's Gem' to name a few beautiful newer white camellias.

The azaleas are planted in the foreground next to a pea stone pathway. They include 'Rose Queen' which has a rose red flower; 'Red Bird' which has a ruffled red flower; and 'Iveryana' which has a variegated lavender pink flower with white edges. The azaleas bloom later than the camellias with a few scattered flowers still appearing as late as June.



'Debutante'



'Kramer's Supreme'

Designs in full sun

Azaleas are very versatile plants that grow in pots, espalier, hedges and specimens but look best in groups or drifts. Pairing camellia *sasanqua* and other sun tolerant camellias with Southern Indian Azaleas the "Sun azalea" can make a great floral display. There are many sun camellias with a range of colors to choose from. One of the very best is 'Kanjiro' which grows vigorously in an upright manner. The small to medium rose pink flower shades to rose red on the petal edges of the semidouble flower. It can be used as a specimen, hedge, espalier or planted in groups to grow free form. White Southern Indian Azaleas such as 'Fiedler's White' and 'G.G. Gerbing' have large single flowers that would make a good pairing with 'Kanjiro'. My pick would be the large single lavender pink flower with white edges and a purple throat of 'George Taber'. However, there are red, salmon, lavender and purple flowering Southern Indian Azaleas that could be chosen to group in front of 'Kanjiro'.



'Kanjiro' bush in bloom



'George Taber'

Plant for a Long Blooming Season

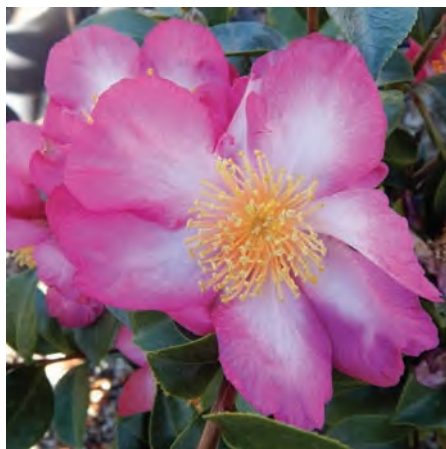
Buddy Lee in Alabama bred Encore hybrid azaleas that start blooming in spring and keep going through winter. In Southern California they can be found at Home Depot. They are compact small to dwarf plants that will require afternoon shade in Zone 10 (the LA Arboretum area in Arcadia). Most of the 19 Encore "Autumn series" will thrive when fertilized, pruned and watered in Southern California.

These varieties will make a great long blooming border in front of camellias. By choosing camellia species and cultivars that bloom at different times you can get blooms from September into March. Early fall blooming *C. sasanquas* like 'Hugh Evans,' a profuse blooming pink single; or the low growing 'Showa no sakae' with a soft pink peony flower and 'Dazzler' with a brilliant rose red bloom thrive in full sun but will appreciate shade in the afternoon.

There are many *C. sasanqua* that will bloom next. Good examples are 'Double Rainbow' which has a white flower with rose border; 'Jean May' with a light pink double flower and 'White Doves', which is low growing with a white semidouble flower. Later blooming *C. sasanquas* like 'Bert Jones' with its musky fragrant large silver pink bloom; 'Interlude' with its light orchid pink formal double flower and 'Painted Desert' which has a large single pale pink bloom with a rose border or *C. heimalis* 'Egao' with its pink flowers will carry the blooming season to early winter.



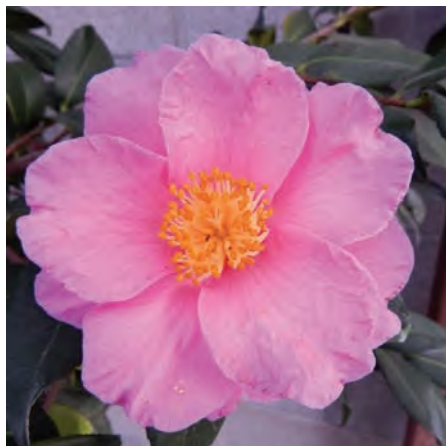
'Hugh Evans'



'Painted Desert'



'Interlude'



'Egao'

Extend the Blooming Season

The many *C. japonica* cultivars will need dappled sunlight (50 percent) shade. They bloom in the winter when there are no other flowering trees or shrubs. There are literally hundreds of choices. Let's illustrate by choosing red camellia cultivars. One of the earliest bloomers is 'Daikagura' which has a medium to large peony flower splotted with white. My choice for an early blooming red camellia is 'San Dimas' which has a large wavy semidouble flower. Midseason cultivars will bloom next. 'Cherries Jubilee' with burgundy red flowers and red and white petaloids is a good example. Others include 'Firedance' which has a medium tubular semidouble flower; 'Grand Prix' which has a very large brilliant red semidouble flower; 'Grand Slam' which has a large dark red flower with a semi double to peony form; and 'Giulio Nuccio' which has a coral rose large to very large

semidouble flower with occasional petals that stand up like rabbit ears.

The cultivars that bloom mid to late season will continue to provide wonderful flowers as winter progresses. A reliable older red cultivar is 'C.M Hovey' also known as 'Col. Firey' because of its dark red medium formal double flower. The large to very large dark red irregular semidouble bloom of 'Bob Hope' also is a good choice. Many of us love 'Black Magic' for its very dark glossy red medium semidouble to peony formed bloom and holly like foliage. However, as outstanding as the flower can be when it opens it is noted for bull nosing and dropping off before opening.



'Black Magic'

Late blooming cultivars continue the blooming season. Three favorites are 'Cabernet' with its small rich burgundy formal double flower; 'Candy Apple' which has a dark red medium to large semidouble to loose peony flower and 'Maroon and Gold' which has a small loose peony maroon flower with golden stamens. 'Glen 40' blooms in Arcadia, California through March with occasional flowers in June with its rose form medium to large deep red flower.



'Daikagura'



'Guilio Nuccio'



'Glen 40'

C. Reticulata cultivars usually bloom mid to late season. Three wonderful mid to late blooming hybrid cultivars that will help extend the blooming season are 'Barbara Goff', 'Ruta Hagmann' and 'Valley Knudsen'. 'Barbara Goff' has a very large beautiful soft pink flower that has a complex semidouble to rose form double. 'Ruta Hagmann' has a wonderful very large light coral pink peony flower, 'Valley Knudsen' has a lovely large semidouble to loose peony deep orchid pink bloom. One of the best late season bloomers is 'Harold L. Paige'. The rose form very large bright red flower is one of the last camellias to bloom.



'Barbara Goff'



'Ruta Hagmann'

The Summer Blooming Camellias

There is only one camellia that blooms in the summer. It is a *C. azalea* a species from China that blooms all year long in China. It will have some flowers in Southern California from March through December. It peaks in the hot summer months of July and August and has a smaller flush of flowers again in October. *C. azalea* has attractive buds and very smooth foliage.



C. azalea in bloom



C. azalea showing new growth and bloom in late December



C. azalea with bud, flower and leaves

In China *C. azalea* is grown in full sun but in America it is grown like a *C. japonica* in partial sun. Therefore, if you want summer camellia flowers plant this cultivar as a specimen or in groups behind azaleas. It has a flower that reminds us of an azalea hence the name.

Return to TOC

The Devil Made Me Do It

By Bradford King

In the book of Genesis Adam blames the serpent for his taking a bite of the poison apple that God had forbidden him from eating. The serpent is a symbol of the devil. Adam is rationalizing his behavior. A rationalization is a plausible reason for one's action that protects self-esteem but is an excuse for unwarranted behavior.

The *C. japonica* 'Red Devil' has a small to medium red semidouble flower. It blooms mid to late season on an upright bushy plant. It is not listed in Nuccio's catalogue but is available for purchase. Therefore, it is grown mainly in Southern California where it competes well in trays of like blooms in camellia shows.



5 winning blooms of 'Red Devil'

Bright attractive red camellia flowers when variegated make striking blooms. Therefore, nurseries and hobbyists seek to introduce variegation by grafting them

on virus root stock. Will the virus make wonderful white blotches or just produce a few white markings that ruin a red flower? ‘Grand Slam’, ‘Grand Prix’ and ‘Wildfire’ seem resistant and don’t variegate well. However, ‘Adolphe Audusson’, ‘Guilio Nuccio’, ‘Firedance’, and ‘Royal Velvet’ have outstanding variegation. Will ‘Adolphe Audusson Variegated’, ‘Guilio Nuccio Variegated’ or ‘Shibori Egao’ rootstock produce the best variegation? Is one better than the other for variegating a specific cultivar? Is there a chance for the highly valued moiré type variegation? What would work with ‘Red Devil’?

Finally, after several years seeking to variegate ‘Red Devil’ it seems to be successful. I used ‘Adolphe Audusson Variegated’ as rootstock. What do you think of the results?



‘Red Devil Variegated’



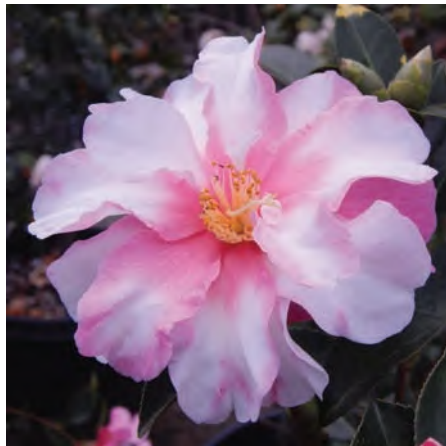
Moiré variegated ‘Red Devil’

Can the wonderful new cultivar ‘Julius Nuccio’ become variegated? Tom Nuccio recently said results so far have been disappointing. However, while wandering the nurseries look what I spotted. (Photo on opposite page) This was produced on a ‘Guilio Nuccio’ rootstock, and according to Tom who reported it, the best so far. Will the variegation improve and be constant so that Nuccio’s will propagate it for us?

Gary Schanz used ‘Shibori Egao’ rootstock to produce a beautiful ‘Lucky Star Variegated’ which he shared with Nuccio’s Nurseries. It is another beauty that Nuccio’s is propagating for distribution.



'Julius Nuccio Variegated'



'Lucky Star Variegated'

Return to TOC

Field Trip

by Bradford King

On Saturday March 9, 2019 the Southern California Camellia Society had a field trip to Joey and Carolee Goldfarb's home in Laurel Canyon, Hollywood.

Coffee, tea and refreshments were served by our hosts. The three-acre garden is planted with many camellias growing under mature trees many dating to 1920s. In the 1980s camellias were dug and transplanted from Ralph Peers Park Hill estate before it was sold. While many of the camellias are identified some have not been identified when labels were lost.



Joey and Carolee Goldfarb

We were pleased to see so many camellias still in bloom. 'Hishi Karaito' and 'Happy Holidays' are just two of the many camellias in bloom. *C. nitidissima* took seven years to produce its first flower but now blooms regularly. Joey has won consistently with it in the species or yellow camellia show classes. It was a treat to see a duo of its flowers.



'Hishi Karaito'



C. nitidissima



'Happy Holidays'

The view of Los Angeles from the property through camellias, plants and a statue were impressive. It is so LA to see palm trees and camellias growing side by side. A good time was had by all as can be seen in the group photo.



View of Los Angeles



SCCS Group Outing

Return to TOC

What's New In The Southern California Camellia World by Bradford King

NUCCIO'S NURSERIES

In early January Tom Nuccio called to tell me the Nursery had decided to introduce another new camellia in 2019. This *C. japonica* cultivar has a single medium flower with many stripes with a shape like 'Haru no utena'. It is very colorful, so they named it Kaleidoscope. Tom said it is a name that should have been used years ago. He was pleased to be able to use the name on this beautifully striped flower.



'Kaleidoscope'



Tom Nuccio with 'Tenrinji Gakko'

Tom Nuccio is one of the most popular speakers at Camellia Society meetings because he is enthusiastic, informative and generous. We always learn something new when he presents. At the January Southern California Camellia Society meeting he showed us a miniature red flower with white anthers and stamens from Japan called 'Tenrinji Gakko' which we had never seen. The name means "Moon Light on Tenrin Temple." It has a miniature single tubular flower. The one he showed us had white anthers and stamens. According to *Camellias of Japan* it is a wabisuke formed single dark red flower introduced in 1970 by Goichi Endo. They report it was a mutated *japonica* connected in the root system of normal wild camellias growing in Tenrin Temple in Maysu'e City. According to an internet post the Tenrin-ji Temple was founded in 1639. It is particularly well known for its view of Lake Shinji and for beautiful views of Matsue.

DESCANSO GARDENS

This year walking in Descanso there is a new and improved look. The camellia pathway has many new camellias planted and mulched. These new cultivars are protected by wire cages so the deer will not eat the leaves. The resident deer think of foliage the way humans think of a salad bar—they load up. Pruning old camellias and mulching has improved many areas of the garden. This is illustrated in the Hester section which has been used for a TV location site. The good news is it looks clean and neat as brush was removed. The down side is that several older camellias seemed to have been removed. I couldn't find 'Cark Hubbs', Nuccio's 'Maroon and Gold' and several Howard Asper's *C. reticulata* hybrids.

On a walk in January an old cultivar 'Rainy Sun' was impressive. It was introduced by Edward Avery McIlhenny, the son of Edmund McIlhenny who invented tabasco sauce. Edward created a 170-acre botanical garden and bird sanctuary called Jungle Gardens on Avery Island. Azaleas, papyrus, camellias and other exotic botanical treasures were planted. In the early 1900s he moved mature camellia trees from local towns and plantations to Avery Island to serve as central features of the camellia collection.



'Rainy Sun'

From 1929 through 1938 Edward imported thousands of camellias from nurseries in England, Germany, Holland, France and Japan. The importations from



'Han-Ling Snow'

camellia entered by Carol Stickley. This cultivar is a mutation from 'Chow's Han Ling' which sported from 'Carter's Sunburst'.

Europe were the best *japonica* cultivars that could be located. Edward also grew thousands of camellia seedlings every year for forty years enabling him to introduce many new cultivars most of which are no longer frequently seen or propagated. Therefore, it is a treat to see several of his 'Rainy Sun' at Descanso in full bloom.

THE LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM

The Arboretum was the site for a Southern California Camellia Society camellia show. The most impressive winner was 'Han Ling Snow' a very large white camellia

Marvin Belcher continues to bring winning flowers to shows at 93 years old. He was assisted by his wife Virginia and rooted on by his twin brother Mel and his wife Bobbie who edited the Camellia Review for many years.



Virginia, Marvin, Mel and Bobbie Belcher

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Huntington planted several new camellia plants the last few years at the east entrance adjacent to the conservatory. One that bloomed this year was 'Tinsie Grande' which has a medium dark red anemone flower.



'Tinsie Grande'



'Margarete Hertrich'

In addition they planted several new plants of camellias already in the collection. This is illustrated by 'Margarete Hertrich' and 'Richard Nixon'. 'Margarete Hertrich' was introduced in 1944 by The Huntington and named for William Hertich's wife. He was Superintendent of the Gardens and responsible for building the camellia collection.



'Richard Nixon'

For many years there was one good specimen of 'Richard Nixon' in the North Vista. Today at least two young plants are in other areas of the garden which helps fill out the camellia collection and ensures that visitors get to see this large white anemone flower with pink stripes. It was introduced in 1954 when Richard Nixon was serving as Vice President. He served eight years as VP during Dwight Eisenhower's Presidency before becoming president in 1969. He resigned in 1974, the only US President to do so.

Return to TOC

Camellia Species: *C. tsaii*

by Bradford King



C. tsaii

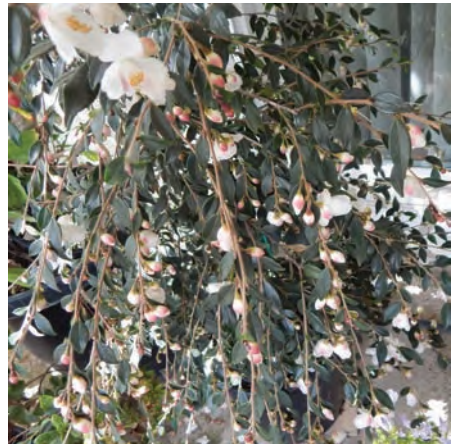
This species is native to Southern Yunnan, China and Vietnam and Burma. It grows reasonably fast reaching 26 feet in height. The slender, wavy foliage is attractive. It has miniature single white fragrant flower that blooms midseason. The name is pronounced “sigh” --the T is silent.

It has been hybridized with *C. japonica* to produce cluster blooming cultivars. The one propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries is ‘Elena Cascade’. It grows pendulously with clusters of single miniature flowers.

The bud has a touch of rose red which looks good as they cluster up and down the slender weeping branches. I grow it on a shaded patio in a pot where it looks good among philodendrons and potted begonias. The profusion of flowers on cascading branches provides winter color. People are frequently unaware it is a camellia because of this growth habit.



‘Elena Cascade’



‘Elena Cascade’ plant in bloom

Return to TOC

The Higo Treasures From Japan: 'Hi-No Maru'

by Bradford King



'Hi-No-Maru'

It is believed that the first Higo camellias were created by crossing a *C. japonica* cultivar with the subspecies of *japonica* known as *C. rusticana*. It is unknown when or which varieties were used. Until the middle of the 19th century only priests and the Samurais under order from their masters were permitted to grow Higo camellias. Only nobles and the highest classes were permitted to possess them. After the middle of the 19th century the government system in Japan was changed which reduced the number of nobles and military. Therefore, the Samurais lost their masters and their wealth. The old customs and culture changed including abandoning camellia collections. The interest in camellias diminished in the Kumamoto region which was the new name for the area previously called Higo.

Fortunately, in 1958 the Higo Camellia society was created to propagate higo camellias and promulgate their heritage. In 1974 the city of Kumamoto voted to have the Higo Camellia be its symbol. The national flag of Japan is a white rectangle with a crimson disk in the center officially called Nisshok ("the sun mark flag") but commonly known as Hi no maru ("circle of the sun")

The higo 'Hi-no-maru' (National flag of Japan) has a deep dark red flower with wavy petals, red filaments and yellow anthers. It has 120 to 150 stamens. Many rate this the best red higo.

Return to TOC

Parting Shot: Bev Piet

by Bradford King

Bev and Meyer Piet raised their family in Arcadia, California. This is also where Meyer Piet and Lee Gaeta hybridized and grew hundreds of camellias from 1970 until 1995. They introduced 37 camellias—12 *japonica*, 9 *Non-reticulata* and 16 *reticulata*. Many of their introductions were named for family and friends. For example, they named a *C. reticulata* for one son and a hybrid for the other. ‘Larry Piet’ has a large to very large *C. reticulata* formal double to peony form flower. ‘Phil Piet’ has a large pink and white semidouble. They named camellia *reticulata* hybrids for their wives. ‘Emma Gaeta’ is a rose red bloom which is especially beautiful in its variegated form. It is named after Lee’s wife. They also named a very dark red medium bloom for Meyer’s wife--‘Bev Piet’. It is a striking flower when variegated as the white patches contrast beautifully with the dark red petals.



‘Bev Piet’



‘Bev Piet Variegated’

In 2008 Konrad Hooper registered ‘Bev Piet Smile’ for Meyer Piet who had passed away. Konrad visited and befriended Meyer when he visited his garden several years prior. Konrad returned home with scions one of which one was *C. japonica* ‘Bev Piet Smiles’. The beautiful flower is a medium to large peony dark red and white with yellow anthers. It is the last introduction of Piet and Gaeta’s breeding program. Bob Ehrhardt and I visited Bev in her home and toured the garden which featured Meyer’s introductions and fifty full grown unnamed seedlings. After Bev sold the property and moved to San Diego to be near family, the new owners removed all the camellias. While Bev Piet recently passed away, we remember her fondly especially her warm smile which inspired Meyer to name this outstanding camellia for his lovely wife.



'Bev Piet Smiles'



Bev Piet with 'Bev Piet Var' in front of the family home

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Camellia Popularity

by Bradford King

Why is it that some camellia cultivars are widely accepted and sought after in one part of America and rarely seen in another? There are many highly desirable and admired camellias grown in the Southeastern states that we hardly ever see in Southern California. A great example is 'Cile Mitchell' which has a large light orchid pink rose form to formal double flower. It was introduced in 1992 by Hulyn Smith, a prolific hybridizer from Georgia. This non-*reticulata* hybrid is a top winning camellia show flower winner in the Southeastern States but one that has not been seen at the camellia shows in Southern California. Is it grown by anyone in California? I don't know but I have never seen it here. It competes favorably with the more widely grown camellias like 'Buttons 'N Bows' and 'Spring Daze' that win both in the South and California. Why is this?



'Cile Mitchell'

INTRODUCTIONS BY HOMEYER

Dr. Walter Homeyer from Macon Georgia introduced 'Frank Houser' in 1989. It is the most popular *reticulata* along with its variegated form in America. They are the biggest winners in camellia shows throughout the U.S. the last fifteen years. While his 1973 'Betty Ridley' wins show points in the Southeast, it is not seen in Southern California shows. Why is this? 'Betty Ridley' has a lovely medium to large pink formal double flower introduced in 1973. Dr. Homeyer used 'Felice Harris' as the pollen parent. Howard Asper introduced 'Felice Harris' a large semidouble pale orchid pink flower with fluted petals as a *C. reticulata* hybrid in 1976. The mother according to the International Camellia Registry was imported to America in 1930 by Star Nursery, Montebello, California as 'Narumigata'. The pollen parent was listed by Aster as *C. reticulata* hybrid 'Buddha'. The original ACS registration form shows he has a question mark after the listing because the plant label had been lost. Subsequent investigation has revealed the pollen parent was an unknown *C. japonica* not 'Buddha'. This cultivar looks and grows like a *japonica* because of its paternal inheritance. This required the nomenclature research committee to move 'Felice Harris' into the non-*reticulata* section of the Camellia Nomenclature; consequently, also moving its children 'Betty Ridley', 'Betty Ridley Variegated' and 'Virginia Womack' to the non-*reticulata* section. 'Betty Ridley' and 'Betty Ridley Variegated' are propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries who confirm the plant and flower grow like a *japonica*. Now that 'Betty Ridley' is available in California perhaps it will win in local camellia shows.



'Betty Ridley'



'Edna Bass Var.'

In addition, Dr. Homeyer introduced 'Edna Bass' in 1992. This very large red semi double to peony form flower wins its share of show points. However, none of these points come from camellia shows in Southern California. In fact, I have

no recollection of seeing it in any recent local show. In the 2017 “Judges have Spoken!” the best show blooms in the very large *japonica* class were ‘Lauren Tudor’ 65 points, ‘Edna Bass Variegated’ 60 points; ‘Charlie Bettes’ with 39 and ‘Edna Bass’ with 19. In the eight camellia shows held in Southern California we didn’t even have entries of these four winners. Why is this?

BEST WHITE CAMELLIAS

Several camellia shows in the Southeast have a “Best White Class”. The usual winners are the large to very large loose peony to peony formed ‘Mellissa Ann’ and the semi double ‘Charles Bettes’ They also win regularly in the *japonica* classes. We have no “Best White Class” in Southern California camellia shows. We also don’t see either of these cultivars in their respective *japonica* classes. Why is this?



‘Mellissa Ann’



‘Charles Bettes’

The miniature white flower which shades to pink of ‘Tiny Princess’ isn’t impressive in a show cup that can seem to swallow it but with some petals and petaloids standing in the center it does look like a princess. The plant can be impressive when covered in these tiny formed flowers. This cultivar was bred by K. Sawada and is a popular plant in the southeast that we rarely ever see locally.

MISSING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

We also don’t see ‘Kiku-Toji’ a small deep red flower blotched white in Southern California. It has been available in Japan since 1895 and wins points at camellia shows in the Southeast. Why don’t we see ‘Punkin’? ‘Punkin’ has a rose-pink flower with outer petals that shade lighter in the center of this small tiered formal double hybrid with incurved petals. It was introduced in 1966 in Northern

California by Novak, yet this cultivar is rarely seen in Southern California. It wins many show points in southeast camellia shows but not here. In fact, it won 75 points in 2017 while 'Freedom Bell' a cultivar popular throughout the States won 37. Why is this?



'Tiny Princess'



'Punkin'

Speaking of tiered formal double camellias, we don't see 'Les Marbury'; which has a pink and white flower or 'Les Marbury Red' in California but they win points in other areas of the country with their clear bright colors. In general, I am not attracted to the tired formal double flower form, but these two cultivars have changed my mind. They look great!



'Les Marbury'



'Les Marbury Red'

FAMILIARITY INFLUENCES POPULARITY

In general, I think popularity is highly influenced by familiarity. Unless a new song, band, actor, movie, cereal, drink or camellia is publicized it will never gain a following. Millions of dollars for advertisement and public appearances do this for thousands of products and entertainers. Every year the TV show “American Idol” creates new stars. The winners and even the losers are interviewed on other TV programs and discussed in magazines like “People.” There is limited publicity for plants. In addition, even major commercial nurseries catalogues tout seeds, annual flowers, perennials and trees but many have no camellias listed. Traditionally camellia cultivars gain popularity in the camellia world at camellia shows and camellia society meetings. More recently web sites and digital photography has helped increased interest. Books and magazines certainly help once people become interested in camellias.

There are at least three factors that are involved in camellia popularity. First and foremost, the cultivar must reliably produce beautiful flowers that are distinct from other camellias. Second it should be an attractive and relatively easy plant to grow. Third it must be available in sufficient numbers. Size is not a key to popularity but clear bright colors and distinguishing markings seem to help. Popular show flowers winners tend to have more complicated forms with very few outside the species class having single flowers.

REGIONAL POPULARITY

Why are some camellia cultivars popular in one country or region of America? One factor is where a camellia is introduced. If introduced in the US, it is most likely to be first distributed locally. Many cultivars are just distributed to family and friends, never gaining more wide spread interest. Some camellias bred and propagated by nurseries in the South never are seen in California. This is even more likely if the cultivar was bred in Australia or New Zealand. However, choice cultivars do become desired internationally. For example, ‘Nicky Crisp’ a hybrid seedling from New Zealand and ‘John Hunt’ from Australia are admired worldwide. In addition, there are numerous southern bred camellias that are also popular in California— ‘Glen 40’ from Alabama, ‘Frank Houser’ from Georgia, ‘Miss Charleston Variegated’ from South Carolina and ‘Lady Laura’ from Florida just to note a few.

The main reason a camellia cultivar becomes popular in California is that it is propagated here in the state. Today in California, Nuccio’s Nurseries is the main camellia nursery. They began in 1935 and continue to introduce new camellias and propagate hundreds of wonderful cultivars. In the last twenty-five years al-

most all camellia plants in California have come from this world-famous source. Yes, large growers like Monrovia Nurseries distribute camellias but they sell a very limited number of camellia cultivators to the public but not the rare and diverse varieties sought by camellia enthusiasts. Before 1985 Kramer Brothers, McCaskill as well as over 30 other small nurseries now out of business, introduced interesting new camellias in California. Some of their introductions can be found throughout the U.S. In Southern California we get almost all our camellias from Nuccio's especially in the last twenty-five years. In other words, if they don't propagate a cultivar it is unlikely to be seen here. There are many very good nurseries and camellia breeders in the east, but unless they do mail order, or the California grower is highly motivated to get cuttings or scions from the other coast the cultivar is never seen here.

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Creative Camellia Names by Bradford King



'White Bouquet'

Some camellias have been named to honor famous people. The older European camellias often use titles like Baron, Duchess, King and Queen that don't resonate with Americans seeking independence from these traditions. A great many camellias in America are named for family and friends reflecting the importance of these relationships for people registering a new variety. On the other hand,

nurseries most typically name their introductions to help identify and market the plants to the public. Let's enjoy some of the beautiful camellias with creative and artistic names.

'Button's N Bows' has a small formal light pink flower that shades to a deeper pink on the petal edges. Pink is a classic feminine color and so is the name which brings to mind an image of a school age girl formally dressed for a party or church with bows in her hair. Nuccio's introduced this *saluenensis* hybrid camellia in 1985. One of the most famous paintings in the Huntington Botanical Garden and Art Galleries is "Pinky" a lovely oil painting by Lawrence of a young girl in a light dress and hat with pink flowing ribbons. She may not have buttons and bows but this masterpiece reflects the same beautiful youthful mood.

In 2006 Nuccio's registered 'White Bouquet' a medium to large semidouble flower that grown on a vigorous upright plant with somewhat loose growth. I won a plant in the Southern California Camellia Society raffle and have enjoyed the many pure white blooms. A bouquet is a collection of flowers artfully arranged in a vase. The trio of 'White Bouquet' blooms is a natural bouquet arranged on the bush by Mother Nature.



'Button's N Bows'



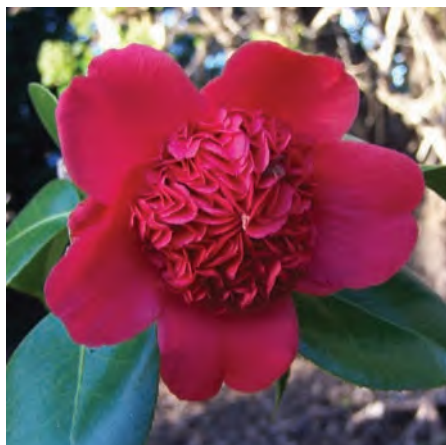
'Angel Wings'

Kramer brothers introduced 'Angel Wings' in 1979. This medium semidouble white washed with shades of lovely orchid pink has narrow up right petals that resemble wings. This beautiful pink camellia is another example of creative naming. Angels are sprits usually depicted in humanoid form with feathered wings and halos. They are found in various religions typically their roles include protecting and guiding human beings and carrying out God's task.

Other Nurseries have also invoked religious names for new camellias. Vernon McCaskill named a very large white semidouble *C. japonica* 'White Nun'. McCaskill Gardens introduced 72 *japonica* cultivars and 8 non-*reticulata* hybrids between 1930 and 1988. While Surina's Camellia Garden found the fitting name 'Cardinals Cap' for their cardinal red miniature to small anemone formed flower. The bloom's color and shape resemble a cardinal's cap.



'White Nun'



'Cardinals Cap'

In Asia a pagoda is a structure associated with a temple used as a place of worship. Originally pagodas came from India and spread to China with the expansion of the Buddhist religion throughout Asia. 'Pink Pagoda' has a large medium to large formal double flower.



'Pink Pagoda'



'Grand Sultan'

Sultan is an Arabic term meaning strength, power, authority which later came to be used as the title of rulers who claimed lack of dependence on any higher ruler. The name “Grand Sultan” is the name of a five star Golf and Tea resort in the capital of Bangladesh whose ads claim you will feel powerful and pleased to be treated as a sultan. The camellia *japonica* ‘Grand Sultan’ has an impressive large dark red semi double to formal double flower that came from Italy to Belgium in 1849 then to America as ‘Te Deum’.

When dinning out in a four or five star restaurant after choosing your favorite entry, the dessert menu is presented. One of the treats one might find is Cherries Jubilee made with cherries, liquor flambéed and served over vanilla ice cream. When served at the table the flambéed liquor provides a brief dramatic flame that catches attention of all those nearby. It was first served to Queen Victoria at a Jubilee ceremony in 1887. The camellia ‘Cherries Jubilee’ looks as delicious as the dessert tastes and is an eye catching beauty with its burgundy red medium to large semidouble to loose peony form flower with red and white petaloids intermingled with yellow stamens. Yummy!



‘Cherries Jubilee’



‘Funny Faced Betty’

The ‘Betty Sheffield’ camellia has mutated at least 30 color variations. The one with the most interesting name is ‘Funny Faced Betty’. This cultivar has a medium to large pale pink that turns to a darker pink with occasional deeper pink stripes across the face of the flower which gives us the name. She is also known as ‘Charming Betty’ perhaps so her feelings can be spared.

Many of us talk or sing to our flowers even complementing them on their beauty and grace but so far none have spoken to me not even ‘Charming Betty’.

The bright pink small to medium formal double flower bred in Australia has an adorable flower so it was named 'Adorable'. It is a *C. pitardii* seedling that has become widely distributed in the camellia world.



'Adorable'



'Star Above Star'

The *C. vernalis* 'Star Above Star' has a lovely white flower that shades to lavender pink on the petal edges with one set of petals superimposed over another that resemble one star over another star. Vernon McCaskill named this seedling as well as 'Cloisonné', 'Coronation', 'Demi Tasse', 'High Wide 'N Handsome', 'Kewpie Doll', 'Lady In Red', 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'White Nun' getting my nomination for providing the most creative camellia names.



'Sweet Dreams'

Nuccio's Nurseries are just as imaginative with at least five Nuccio's who have contributed to the naming of over two hundred camellias the last 75 years. We end this piece with their lovely medium formal double pale orchid pink 'Sweet Dreams'.

See you later alligator; don't let the bed bugs bite or even better wishing you sweet dreams.

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Camellias Named for Cities in Southern California

By Bradford King

Four Southern California cities have had camellias named for them. The cities honored are Arcadia, Covina, San Dimas and San Marino.

Arcadia

The city of Arcadia is best known for the Santa Anita race track and the LA Arboretum. Lucky Baldwin purchased 8,000 acres in 1875 of Rancho Santa Anita where he cultivated the land for farming, orchards and a ranch. He built the Queen's Ann cottage for his fourth wife and himself in 1886. Today this historic building is preserved in the arboretum. Baldwin was the first mayor of Arcadia when it was incorporated in 1903. Beginning in the 1930's Arcadia began to transition to the residential city it is today.

Meyer Piet raised his family with his wife Bev on Anokia Street in Arcadia. Meyer had a successful career in the aerospace industry and a passion for camellias. Meyer and his friend Lee Gaeta hybridized camellias in the nineteen seventies and eighties from Meyer's home. They registered sixteen new *reticulata* hybrids. Most of these were named for family members. In 1979 he named a salmon pink very large semidouble *C. reticulata* flower for his home town.



'Arcadia'



'Covina'

Covina

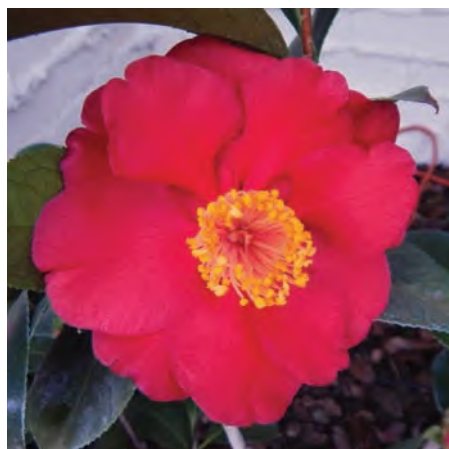
This small city with beautiful mountain views of the San Gabriel Mountains began as a coffee plantation. Coffee proved to be unprofitable crop. Therefore, the land was sold and subdivided for homes. The city of Covina was incorporated

in 1901. Local farmers discovered that citrus grew well in the area. It was the main industry in the early 1900s. After world War II, the citrus industry faltered, and the city became more urban with high tech industry a mainstay of the local economy. The *camellia japonica* ‘Covina’ was introduced in 1888 by Dr. Burdick. The small rose red flower is semidouble to rose form double. It grows vigorously, blooms profusely and tolerates more sun than other *japonicas* which has made it a mainstay for landscaping in Southern California.

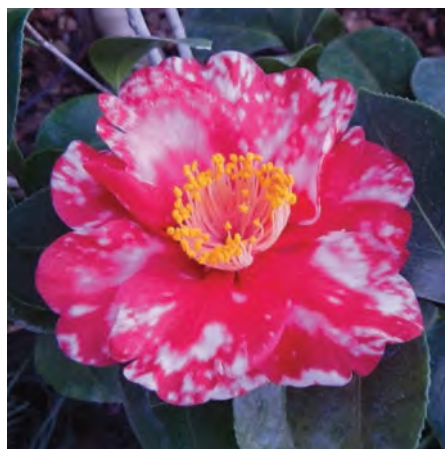
San Dimas

The name comes from San Dismas Canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains which serve as background for the northern section of the city. San Dimas is named in Spanish for Saint Dismas, the “Penitent Thief” or the “good thief” mentioned in the bible at the crucifixion asking to be remembered when Jesus comes into his kingdom.

Like the other cities and towns in the San Gabriel Valley wheat and other Mid-western United States crops were planted first; then orange and lemon groves dominated the landscape. Four citrus packing houses and a marmalade factory were located in San Dimas at one time. The Sunkist name originated here, first spelled “Sunkissed.” Oranges were the major crop and business in San Dimas until the mid-20th century. San Dimas incorporated as a city in 1960. It is now known for its western art, equestrian activities and small-town feel. In the 1990s San Dimas was host to the Miss Rodeo California State Pageant. The week-long pageant was held in conjunction with the city’s Western Days and Rodeo, until the pageant moved to its new home in central California.



‘San Dimas’



*‘San Dimas Variegated’
with moiré pattern*

Mr. C. W. Thomas wanted a red camellia to be named San Dimas to plant near city hall. In 1971 Nuccio's nurseries agreed to name a large red *C. japonica* 'San Dimas'. The flower is a wavy semidouble with occasional petaloids, it blooms early to midseason on an upright spreading plant with dark green foliage. The variegated version is very beautiful with the white markings contrasting with the red petals. Variegation is often white blotches but is most beautiful when in a moiré pattern which resembles water marks on the petals.

San Marino

The City of San Marino originally consisted of orchards and vineyards. They were owned by early day pioneers-- Benjamin D. Wilson, George S. Patton and James De Barth Shorb. In the 1800s, this area was part of the California mission system. As the missions grew, a need arose for a grist mill to process grain. In 1816 a mill was constructed. Today the Old Mill (El Molino Viejo) is the oldest building in the city. San Marino's most famous resident was Benjamin D. Wilson, who, in 1854, established the Lake Vineyard Ranch. He was a Mayor of Los Angeles and served as a State Senator for two successive terms. When Wilson's daughter, Maria, married James De Barth Shorb, Wilson gave them the top knoll of his estate as a wedding gift. Maria and James built a home where the current Huntington mansion now stands.

Henry E. Huntington visited the Shorb estate and loved the location. He purchased this property in 1903. Today the Huntington Botanical Gardens, Library and Art Galleries are world famous. Wilson's daughter, Ruth, married George S. Patton, who became the first Mayor of San Marino, incorporating the area into the City of San Marino in 1913. He was also the father of General George S. Patton, Jr famous as "The fightenest General" in World War II. General Patton served as a decoy for the landing at Normandy. Hitler was convinced General Patton would lead the invasion and moved his troops to oppose him. This assisted the allies in the bloody but successful landing at Normandy Beach.

The *Camellia reticulata* 'San Marino' was introduced in 1975 by William Goertz, a camellia lover who lived in San Marino. The flower has a semidouble dark red bloom with heavy textured petals.



'San Marino'

Return to TOC

From My Window

by Bradford King

As I look out the kitchen eating area window to view the sun light up Mount Wilson in the distance, I see camellias in the foreground. Today a pretty ‘Tama Peacock’ turns her face in my direction. This *C. japonica* is arguably the best of the many seedlings from ‘Tama no ura’. It grows upright and somewhat pendulous in growth habit. The Nuccio’s report that it blooms mid to late season, but it blooms for me early to midseason with many lovely maroon semidouble flowers with a good white border. The maroon washes into the border rather than having a distinctive edge which makes it more attractive. In addition to producing many flowers it is an excellent seed setter for those interested in growing seedlings. Some of the seedlings will have various amounts of the picoted border but many others will not.



‘Tama Peacock’



Allen's Hummingbird

My favorite view from the window where I sit to eat, answer emails and write articles is the birds perched among the camellia flowers. The male Rufus Hummingbird is the most colorful. Typical one male dominates the feeder keeping the larger ‘Anna’s Hummingbirds’ at bay. He occasionally is chivalrous allowing a female to feed. The ‘Anna’s’ congregate in large numbers on a back feeder. In Southern California these two hummingbirds are all year residents.

During winter we feed other birds who take the food from the feeder and seek protection in the camellias. The Lesser Goldfinch flock to the thistle feeder and the house finches, scrub jays, white crowned sparrows the sunflower feeder. The Yellow Rump Warblers, Kinglets and Bewick Wren look for insects in the camellia bushes. In March as the camellia season is winding down, we look for the

return of the Hooded Oriole who also feeds on sugar water in the hummingbird feeders. The male usually comes two weeks before the females. He is scouting for food, nesting areas and contesting a territory waiting for a partner. They typically nest in the palm trees among the dead fronds that provide protection for the babies. When the young fledge they join their mother on the hummingbird feeders before migrating to Central America.



Lesser Goldfinch



House Finch

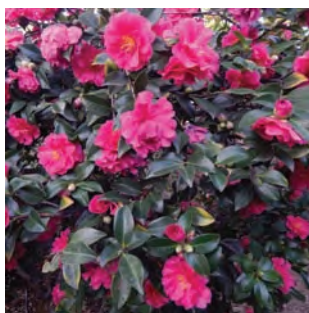


Hooded Orioles

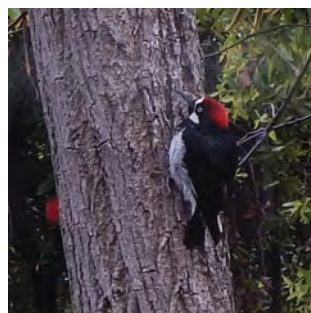
When the camellias bloom in the cool of winter, we open the shutters in the bedroom letting sunlight illuminate and warm the room. This makes my day as I see a mass of flowers blooming on 'Kramer's Supreme' and 'Shishi Gashira'. They are both outstanding landscape camellias. They were planted by the previous owner about 50 years ago and reliably bloom every year. 'Kramer's Supreme' has large to very large red peony flowers borne on a vigorous compact upright plant.



'Kramer's Supreme'



'Shishi Gashira'



Acorn Woodpecker

'Shishi Gashira' (Lions head) has a small semidouble flower that blooms profusely on a compact busy plant. This *C. heimalis* cultivar originated in Japan and is widely distributed. It tolerates sun and has a sweet musky scented flower that the bees love which produces an abundance of small dark brown seeds. The camellias are partially shaded by a Golden Trumpet tree which at times features an Acorn Woodpecker looking for food.

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What's New In The Southern California Camellia World

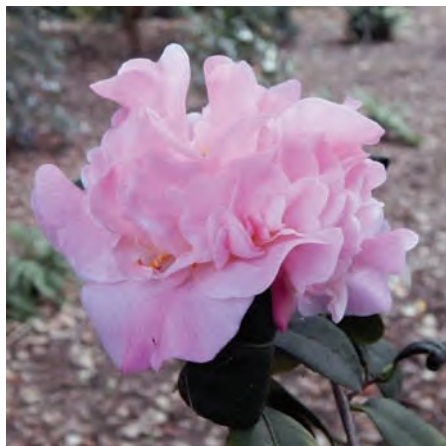
by Bradford King

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Southern California Camellia Society (SCCS) and The Huntington have a long history of cooperation dating from 1942 when William Hertrich was superintendent. SCCS donated new camellia cultivars and Hertrich evaluated and propagated them. This cooperation continues today with the forty seventh annual camellia show February 9 & 10, 2019. This premier show features camellia entries from San Diego to Sacramento. David MacLaren, curator of the Asian gardens, runs a camellia sale that features dozens of camellias, some are hard to find varieties in large sizes.



'Julius Nuccio'



'High Fragrance'

A new path that begins at the entrance to the Japanese garden and ends at the Boone Gallery honors Nuccio's Nursery. It is planted with Nuccio introductions featuring 'Nuccio's Gem', 'Julius Nuccio', and 'Giulio Nuccio' to name a few. In addition several hybrids like 'High Fragrance' by James Finley and 'Tulip Time' registered by David Feather provide a peaceful place to sit and enjoy camellia flowers.



New Stone Gathering Place

DESCANSO GARDENS

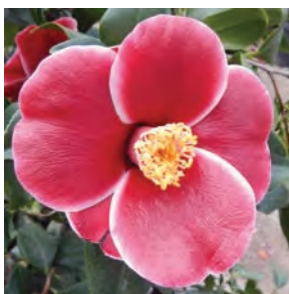
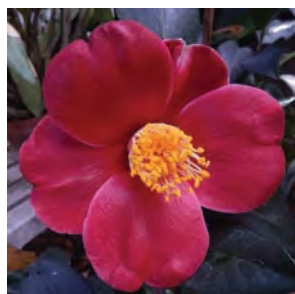
The entrance circle at the garden has been redone featuring attractive stone work. The original circle is planted with drought resistant plants many indigenous to California. The new curved stone wall demarks a gathering place for speakers and tours. These improvements provide a nice welcome to the garden. It is a pleasure to introduce Richard Troche, the new camellia horticulturist. He has been hired to replace Wayne Walker and to oversee the extensive camellia collection at Descanso. Welcome Richard.



Richard Troche & Rachael Young

NUCCIO'S NURSERIES

This camellia season Nuccio's Nurseries has introduced two new *Camellia japonica* cultivars that I believe you would enjoy growing. 'Tama Velvet' which has a medium to large dark red semidouble flower with a white border of varying width. The growth habit is medium, upright and spreading. It blooms early to midseason. This is the eighth seedling from 'Tama-No- Ura' Nuccio's has introduced. The color is like their award winning cultivar 'Royal Velvet' but smaller with a nice border. My five gallon purchase already has buds which should produce show quality flowers as a medium single, tray of three like blooms or an option for a tray of six Nuccio introduction.

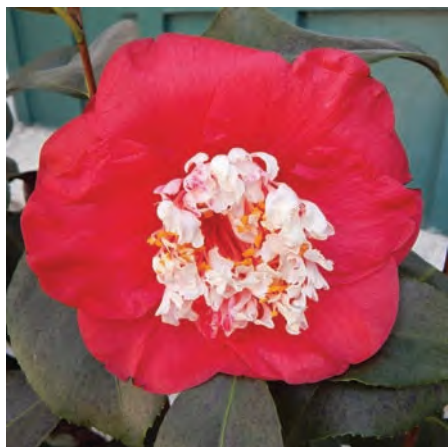


'Tama Velvet' like many of the "Tamas" has a range of color forms like the three shown here

'Stop!' has a large red anemone flower with white petaloids. It may need to have some size before it sets buds but it is a very fast growing camellia which helps. It

blooms mid to late season on an upright open plant. It has a very showy flower which promise to win show points. Tom Nuccio recommend planting it where the dramatic bloom will be easily seen. When in bloom you will want to stop and enjoy the flower; therefore mine is planted in the front garden.

On a recent visit to the nursery I discovered they are selling several varieties of rhododendrons this year. I chose a well budded pink cultivar. The challenge in Southern California is where to grow them. They like shade and dislike our hot dry summers. I have 'President Roosevelt' thriving for 15 years where it gets no direct sun but receives sunlight most of the day. In Descanso they grow and bloom in the heavy shade under the live oaks among the Clivia.



'Stop'



Garden d'Lights

LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM AND BOTANIC GARDEN

Throughout America public gardens are offering special high tech light festivals seeking to draw a wider audience that are also financially beneficial to the gardens. Descanso Gardens the last three years has sponsored a light festival entitled "Enchanted Forest". This fall the Arboretum added a special evening event the "Moonlight Forest". It provided an experience in art, culture, and discover . It features crafted lanterns depicting animals, flowers, and figures from Chinese legends. The lanterns reflect three themes; Nature, Children's Garden, and Chinese Culture, all of which embrace the mission of the Arboretum. Skilled artisans from China's Sichuan province created this program.

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Camellia Species: *C. transnokoensis*

by Bradford King

This Chinese species was first scientifically described in 1919. It is characterized by tiny slightly fragrant white flowers with buds showing a red spot which when there are masses makes an attractive display. The foliage is small and narrow which provides lacy looking plant. The plant grows slowly and can reach twenty feet over time. It has been used in breeding cluster blooming hybrids.



C. transnokoensis



'Sweet Jane'



'Sweet Jane' arrangement

Ray Garnett from Australia introduced two *transnokoensis* hybrids of interest for their cluster blooming characteristic. 'Transtman' is a miniature single with a pale pink flower with deeper lavender pink on the edges of the petals. 'Sweet Jane' is seen more frequently in America. The lovely miniature peony to formal double pale pink center of the flower shades deeper on the outer petals. It grows vigorously and upright making it a good landscape plant. The floral arrangement shows three semidouble and a formal double not fully open which gives us a view of the range of forms of this little beauty.

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The Higo Treasures From Japan: ‘Yamato Nishiki’

by Bradford King



‘Yamato Nishiki’

In Kumamoto, Japan, there are six ornamental plants that have been developed and improved since the Edo period known as “the Higo six flowers”. They are Higo *japonica* camellias, Higo chrysanthemum, Higo morning glory, Higo iris, Higo herbaceous peony and Higo *sasanqua* camellias. They were cultivated and bred to produce unique models for each of these flowers. It has been said that they are the result of the spirit “mokkosu” which means perseverance and obstinacy, qualities necessary to bred and grow these flowers in a harsh environment. Today only the Higo *japonica* camellias are famous outside of Japan. Camellia enthusiasts may also be familiar with the much less well known Higo *sasanqua*.

The model Higo camellia flower is a single with just 5 to 7 large flat brightly colored petals with a mass of (100 to 250) circular stamens. One that reflects these characteristics is ‘Yamato-Nishiki’ (Brocade of Japan). It has a wonderful white flower striped red with white filaments and 200 to 210 stamens. It is an old cultivar from 1830 and an example of a first-class variegated Higo bloom. It is a flower that symbolizes the values of old Japan--poetry and grace with the contrast of the red stripes on a medium white bloom. It has mutated eight times examples include ‘Ohkan’ (King’s Crown); ‘Showa-no-hikari’(Light of Showa); and ‘Kuni-no- hika’ (Glory of the Nation).

Return to TOC

Parting Shot: Look Alike Yellows

by Bradford King

It has been a dream of hybridizers to breed yellow camellias. Therefore, when look-alike yellow cultivars were bred they were introduced even though they were not distinctively different from each other. Two from Australia and one from New Zealand come to mind.

In 1965 a white flower with creamy to pale yellow petaloids was registered in Australia. Dr. Morey named it 'Gwenneth Morey'. It was a chance seedling of 'Edith Linton' which first bloomed in 1961. The medium anemone flower is similar in appearance but not identical to 'Brushfield's Yellow'. It too has a white flower with creamy yellowish central petaloids. It was bred by by Keith Brushfield, Australia.



'Gwenneth Morey'



'Brushfield's Yellow'

Les Jury used 'Gwenneth Morey' as the pollen parent to get 'Jury's Yellow'. It has a lovely white anemone flower with cream yellow petaloids that is widely grown. It blooms early to late on a compact upright plant. As the photos show they all have medium white flowers with different degrees of pale yellow petaloids that form an attractive anemone flower. However, an outstanding show entry shows an example of a very yellow 'Jury's Yellow'. Wow!

Since yellow is a rare camellia cultivar, the hybridizers registered them with their family names. Who can blame them!



‘Jury’s Yellow’



*An outstanding show
entry of ‘Jury’s Yellow’*



‘Honeymoon’

Return to TOC

Upgrading Your Camellia Collection

by Bradford King

Whether you are a novice, intermediate or long time camellia grower; these camellias should be on your bucket list. These selections will look good in the garden and can have show winning flowers. They are all available at Nuccio's Nurseries.

C. japonica Cultivars

While 'Julius Nuccio' only became available September 2014, it had 10 wins in the large to very large camellia class in the 2015 show season in California and was the top winner in its class in 2016 with 6 best single awards and 4 wins in trays of matched blooms. It was the top winner in its class in the 2017. In 2018 it had seven wins coming in second to 'Carter's Sunburst'. However it won as a natural single bloom, in trays of three and as a treated flower. The treated 'Julius Nuccio' at the Southern California Camellia Council show in 2018 was magnificent. It was about 8 inches in diameter with upright dark red petals.



Treated 'Julius Nuccio'



'Julius Nuccio'

The plant grows vigorously in an upright manner and blooms mid to late season. The brilliant dark red irregular semidouble flower is large to very large. In addition, it has lovely dark green foliage and sets plenty of buds.

It is named for the co-founder of Nuccio's Nurseries. It will also be propagated and sold by Monrovia Nursery so it will be widely distributed. If you have room for only one more camellia, this is the one to add. In professional sports millions are handed out for the number one draft pick who may or may not live up to expectations. A three foot 'Julius Nuccio' can be purchased for \$37.50 and is a "can't miss" camellia star.



'Chris Bergamini'



'Tudor Baby Var.'

In 1999 Don and Mary Bergamini registered 'Chris Bergamini' named for their grandson. This miniature to small white anemone flower with stripes of pink and red in varying tones has continued to gain popularity. It won four times in California in 2015 tying its biggest rival 'Man Size' in the miniature class. In 2016 it continued its winning ways with four best singles as a miniature. In 2017 it placed second, 3 to 5 with its chief rival 'Mansize'.

Don Bergamini, American Camellia Society President 2013 -2015 and Mary live in Martinez California. He specializes in growing miniature and small camellia winning show flowers. He has introduced the following *japonica* cultivars: 'Mary A. Bergamini', 'Chris Bergamini', Joellen Christine', 'Baby Sis Blush', and 'Landon Waters'. Don also registered the lovely and aptly named *nonreticulata* hybrid 'Just Peachy'. This medium anemone peach pink to cream flower has yellow anthers and white filaments. To date 'Chris Bergamini' is his most widely grown camellia and well worth adding to your camellia collection.

In 2001 the late Hulyn Smith registered a dark red small formal double with black petal edges. Hulyn was a past President of the American Camellia Society and a prolific camellia grower. He loved large red camellias so he threw this seedling now named 'Tudor Baby' in the creek. It was saved by others and was named for his granddaughter. It is a very good camellia and becomes outstanding when variegated. A 'Tudor Baby Variegated' dark red flower with clear bright white flowers makes a great choice to add to your collection. The plant grows vigorously in an upright manner with dark green leaves and blooms mid to late season. The Nuccio's began offering it in 2015. It had two wins in the small class in 2015, 4 in 2016, and 2 in the 2017 season in California. It has been winning

in the southeast where it was introduced in Valdosta, Georgia for several years.

C. reticulata Cultivars

Nuccio's nurseries catalog first listed 'Jack Mandarin' and 'Barbara Goff' in 2015. 'Jack Mandarin' was registered in 1995 by Jack L. Mandarin an avid camellia hybridizer from Menlo Park, California. He was President of the American Camellia Society from 1983 to 1985. He specialized in breeding *reticulata* hybrids.

'Jack Mandarin' has a beautiful large deep pink formal double to rose form double with 45 or more undulating petals. It blooms early to late season on upright spreading plant with light green foliage. It makes a good garden plant and is capable of winning show points as a natural or treated bloom. It is one of Mandarin's introductions that is widely distributed and propagated by several camellia nurseries.



'Jack Mandarin'



'Barbara Goff' treated

The late Gordon Goff, Lafayette California named his beautiful soft pink very large semidouble to rose form double to formal double for his wife, Barbara. He registered it in 2009. In the 2015 season it became a big winner in California with five wins. She had the most in the *reticulata* class with 8 wins in 2016, 2017 and seven in 2018. It grows upright and blooms early to late season. It makes a handsome plant. My cultivar bloomed from January through April with the best natural blooms in February. It takes gib well and can be entered in early shows where it can win in the treated *reticulata* class. This is one of very best *reticulata* hybrids to come along since 'Ruta Hagmann' in 1992 and 'Frank Houser' in 1989. 'Barbara Goff' is a camellia that will give you years of enjoyment with its very large

complicated pink flower with yellow anthers and filaments. In addition, when at its best it is capable of beating both Ruta and Frank in camellia shows.



‘Barbara Goff’

Return to TOC

Welcome to Brittany: The Land of The Camellia

by Bradford King



Les Jardins de Kedalo

When traveling in Brittany, France for the International Camellia Congress held March 2018, we visited camellia nurseries and gardens, two of which were International Camellia Gardens of Excellence. We saw hundreds and hundreds of camellias, more than half of which we had never seen before. We discovered the people in Brittany love their camellias. Many have mature bushy camellia trees in their gardens, some dwarfing the house.

In general, camellias grow twice as fast in Brittany as in America due to the abundance of rain, cool climate and fertile soil. The foliage is larger and twice as thick as our leaves. 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.

Jacques Saignon and Rene Mahuas, who we met, wrote a book in French and English for the occasion --*1001 Camellias in Nantes and Throughout Brittany*. Besides a couple of bottles of wine consumed in France, this was my only purchase. I was like a child getting Jacques to autograph the book and having a photo taken with Rene in his camellia garden.



Bradford King and Rene Mahuas

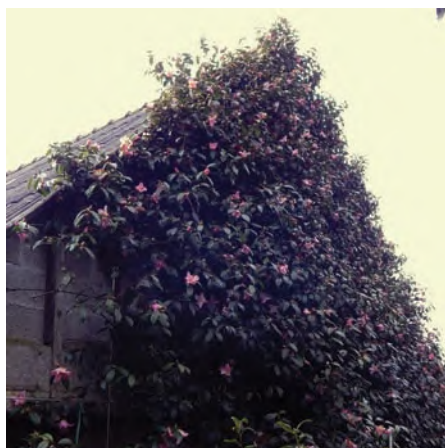


Harvesting camellia trees

All our French hosts were magnificent, providing food and drinks which was greatly appreciated but not needed when you get a three-course lunch and a bottle of wine followed by “supper” also with three courses and local wine at 9 PM finishing two to three hours later. Exhausted but enthused, we were up at around 6 :30 AM for a buffet breakfast. I love my coffee, but French coffee was so strong I gave it up for tea. French breads are outstanding for breakfast and at all meals, usually served first with no plate or butter. Who cares; they were clearly freshly baked and delicious. I loved toasted dark bread in the morning with local honey that was in one of the four gift bags provided by our local hosts.



'Freedom Bell' plants in bloom



'Tulip Time' espalier

We found to our delight that Nuccio's Nurseries cultivars were well known and grown in local nurseries. Potted 'Nuccio's Cameo', 'Carousel', 'Jewel', 'Gem', 'Pearl'



'Arch de Triumph' with Barbara Carroll and Jim Fitzpatrick

was well represented by several of his introductions. A 'Tulip Time' espalier covered a wall of the garden house. They prune it yearly after it blooms. It is 20 feet tall and thirty feet at its base. An awesome display! One of Feather's iconic *C. reticulata* hybrids, 'Arch de Triumph,' was a fifteen-foot-tall tree in full bloom in the nurseries "retired" section. I have looked for it in The Huntington and Descanso and never seen it in bloom. What a sight! It served as a great backdrop for a photo of Jim Fitzpatrick and Barbara Carroll holding 'Jury's Yellow'.

We saw Feather's 'Desire' in floral arrangements, gardens and nurseries. We were impressed by a floral exhibit of several hundred entries at Château de Trévaréz (the red castle). Each entry was placed in the same sized container and artfully arranged.

and 'Ruby' were in bloom as well as hybrids 'Button's 'n Bows' and 'Freedom Bell'. One nursery grew cultivars in the ground, each five-foot-tall. that sold for several hundred Euros each. When purchased, they were dug up and 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 80s,



'Ville de Nantes' fimbriated



'Lady De Nantes'

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 serrated which led to numerous discussions and speculations that we are propagating its mother and not the “real” Ville. ‘Ville de Nantes’ is a sport of *C. japonica* ‘Dockelari’ registered in 1910 by Heurtin, France. Both have virus variegation. There is also a red mutation ‘Ville de Nantes Red’ which is much less popular.



Château de Trévarez Flower exhibit Photo Credit Mark Crawford



Château de Trévarez Flower exhibit “Pink Section”

In Brittany there is a tradition of inviting guests to a camellia baptism. We attended the baptism of the camellia '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.

There is an interesting practice in Brittany 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 several examples, many with very long names. This is illustrated by 'Souvenir de Pl Kerambrun' which has 21 letters and a very beautiful flower. It was planted in the collection of camellia cultivars of Britany in Chateauneuf du Faou.



'Desire' floral display



'Souvenir de Pl Kerambrun'

After viewing hundreds of wonderful camellias and taking photos, I was impressed with the diversity and quality of the camellias grown in Brittany. Two cultivars stood out from the all the rest. These are the cultivars many of us would love to have. The most distinctive is a foliage sport of 'Nuccio's Cameo'. 'Kerguelen' has a medium to large formal double light pink flower with variegated silvery white to yellow leaves. The story I was told is that this genetic mutation was discovered by Monrovia Nursery 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.



'Kerguelen' plant with flowers



Potted cuttings of 'Kerguelen'

The sharp contrasts of white stripes on the red 'Park Leo' petals make it to my bucket list. This *Camellia japonica* was introduced in 2004 by Andre Gloaguen, France. The medium formal double flower is a bright dark red with a vertical white stripe in the middle of each petal. The white stripe is genetic.



'Kerguelen'



'Park Leo'

If you love camellias and travel, consider attending an International Camellia Society congress and tours. The next one is 2020 in Goto City, Japan.

Return to TOC

What's New in the Southern California Camellia World

by Bradford King

The Huntington

Many landscape and street trees are being lost due to the exceptionally dry climate and significant heat waves in Southern California which makes trees less resistant to disease and insect damage. The staff of The Huntington, especially Tim Thibault are working with other experts in collecting data on the destructive beetle polyphagous short hole borer in ways to deal with this threat to trees. This tiny beetle has many host plants including camellias.



Dead Birch Tree

Trees need more water than what is provided to keep the lawn alive. Therefore, if you depend on an automatic system, supplement with deep watering with a hose around trees especially vulnerable birch trees. For three years I told my neighbor that this birch tree was dying due to lack of water and the lawn sprinklers were inadequate. Baseball rules-- three strikes and you are out!



Bud of the Corpse Flower



Harvesting Pollen (2014)

In July, The Huntington announced that the Corpse Plant (*Amorphophallus titanum*) would bloom. However, by August 8, it was determined this one nicknamed "The Little Stinker" was unable to open. They have 50 corpse plants in

different stages of development. The Huntington's have bloomed four times, the most recently 2014. The foul smell attracts curious human visitors to the garden to view the largest known flower. In its native Sumatra pollinators are also attracted to the pungent odor. These flies are not here in California so the botanist at the Huntington collects pollen by cutting it open and harvesting pollen to use later.

Descanso Gardens

Descanso Gardens was awarded a grant to plan a “Camellia Pathway”. The Descanso staff, board members and several local camellia people have met to plan and develop this pathway. There will be eight areas: an entry garden to the pathway, a Japanese camellia section which builds on the current collection; a Chinese section with both *Camellia reticulata* from Yunnan and new *C. reticulata* hybrids like ‘Queen Bee’; Camellia Displays and special hybrids like yellow, fragrant and cluster flowering cultivars; History of Descanso gardens section highlighting Descanso introductions like ‘Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso’ and ‘Bernice Boddy’; a section for new introductions and a trial garden featuring Nuccio introductions and other Southern Camellia breeders introductions; a section with Species and finally Historic Vistas and the Boddy Plantation camellias. There will be appropriate signage and a focus on educating the public to the ornamental and economic uses of the camellia.



‘Queen Bee’



‘Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso’

The Southern California Botanical Artists Guild have an exhibit in the Boddy house. The blending of botanical accurate details with creative selection of flower form is what makes them worth viewing. Beth Stone’s “Flowering Cherry” illus-

trates this creativity. Beth is a treasure to the Southern California Camellia Society. Akiko Enokido entered her award-winning water color of 'Kuro tsubaki' which is the only camellia painting in the exhibit.

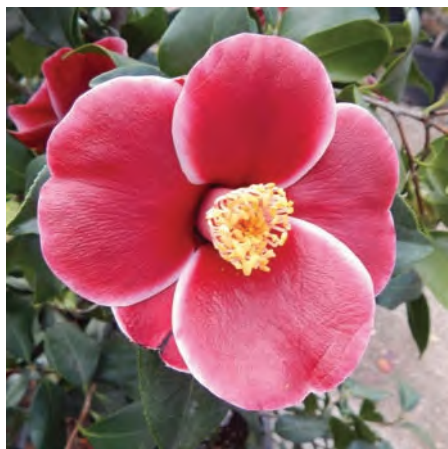


Beth Stone's "Flowering Cherry"

Nuccio's Nurseries

Nuccio's plans to introduce three new camellias this year. One is a small loose pink cluster blooming *C. grijsii* seedling to be name 'Party Popper'. One of the goals of current camellia hybridizers is to develop more cluster blooming camellias. This cultivar fits this goal. They will be selling a striped camellia yet-to-be named. Tom Nuccio reported that the flower is somewhat like the old favorite from Japan 'Haru-no-utena' but not as dramatic as 'Ferris Wheel'. Stripped camellias are uncommon so we will look forward to seeing this one in bloom.

They will be adding another beautiful 'Tama-no ura' seedling which has a medium to large dark red semidouble flower with a clear white border. The color is like 'Royal Velvet'. We have seen this flower on the Nuccio's table at several camellias shows the last two years where it was greatly admired.

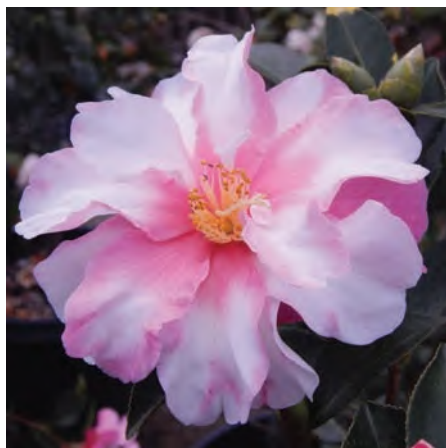


'Tama Velvet'

We can hardly wait for the variegated 'Lucky Star' to be available. 'Lucky Star' was registered in 1995 and become a popular garden and show winning camellia. The flower is a medium rich pink semidouble that blooms mid to late season. Gary Schanz from Sacramento, used 'Shibori Egao' rootstock to produce a beautiful 'Lucky Star Variegated' which he shared with Nuccio's Nurseries. It is another beauty that Nuccio's is propagating for future distribution. It is strikingly beautiful and one to add to your bucket list.



'Lucky Star'



'Lucky Star Var.'

Return to TOC

Camellia Species: *C. cuspidata*

By Bradford King

C. cuspidata grows in the woodlands of Southern China. It is fast growing, cold tolerant and widely distributed. It may not thrive in hot climates. It has been cultivated for many years and has been used in camellia breeding for cold tolerance and cluster blooming hybrids. The white flower is fragrant sometimes with pink markings on the outer petals. The leaves are pointed and narrow. It grows into a tall shrub.



C. cuspidata

Two attractive *C. cuspidata* hybrids are 'Moonstruck' and 'Spring Festival'. 'Moonstruck' has nice red buds opening to single, medium, blush flowers with pink tones in the centers and on the petal edges. Each bloom looks like a full moon that was splashed with pink. It was registered by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1996.

'Spring Festival' is a miniature rose form double that puts out masses of pink to light pink flowers that bloom mid to late season. New growth is an attractive reddish brown. The plant growth is upright and narrow. This cultivar is very sun tolerant. It was introduced in 1975 by Toichi Domoto.



'Moonstruck'



'Spring Festival'

Return to TOC

The Higo Treasures from Japan: 'Goshozakura'

By Bradford King



'Goshozakura'

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

Higo is a special type of *C. japonica* that originated in the Province of Higo which is now Kumamoto, Japan. 'Goshozakura' dates back almost two centuries in Japan but was not officially registered until 1912. The name means "Imperial Palace Cherry." In American we frequently hyphenate the words for ease of reading and pronunciation to 'Gosho-zakura'.

While touring Brittany, France, March 2018, we had the good fortune to see a camellia floral exhibit at Domaine De Trevarez, an International Camellia Garden of Excellence in Brittany, France where this arrangement of 'Goshozakura' stood out.



'Goshozakura' arrangement

Return to TOC

Parting Shot: E. G. Waterhouse Story and Photos by Bradford King

Eben Gowrie Waterhouse (1881- 1977) was a professor of German and comparative literature as well as camellia expert. In 1912 he was appointed senior lecturer in modern languages at Teachers' College in Sydney Australia. He was noted for innovative and effective language teaching. He married Janet Frew Kellie in Scotland where they had met while she was a student. When they were married they commissioned a house named Eryldene after her home in Scotland. The extensive and beautiful gardens highlighted camellias and azaleas.

In 1939 he established Camellia Grove Nursery. When he retired he learned Japanese and studied the origins of Australian camellias. He examined records of the plants imported by Sir William Macarthur of Camden Park. He investigated the surviving specimens and collected catalogues from camellia nurseries in North America, Europe and Australia. Waterhouse demonstrated that the camellia known as *Aspasia* in Australia was a Macarthur seedling quite different from the European *Aspasia*. He wrote two camellia books, *Camellia Quest* (1947) and *Camellia Trail* (1952), which were illustrated by Paul Jones. He helped to found the State branch of the Australian Camellia Research Society (1954) and the International Camellia Society (1962) serving as the first President.



'E.G. Waterhouse'



'E.G. Waterhouse Variegated'

E. G. Waterhouse bred a number of camellia cultivars. The one he named 'E.G. Waterhouse' is his very best. The flower is a light pink formal double hybrid. The variegated form is even more popular as the soft pink with white markings makes

a lovely flower. 'Janet Waterhouse' is a *C. japonica* seedling with a pure white semidouble flower with a crown of golden central stamens which he named for his wife in 1955. The floral arrangement is interesting as it shows the flower in various stages of opening.



'Janet Waterhouse'



'Margaret Waterhouse'

A widely grown *Williamsii* hybrid introduced by E.G. Waterhouse is 'Margaret Waterhouse' named for his daughter in law. It has a amaranth rose (a reddish rose like the flower color of the amaranth plant) medium flower.

The E. G. Waterhouse National Camellia Garden contains a collection of 600 camellias with over 450 different cultivars and species. It is an International Camellia of Garden of Excellence.

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Return to TOC

The George Lewis “Best Of Show” Trophy

by Beth Stone and Bradford King

George Lewis donated a perpetual trophy to the Southern California Camellia Council which was awarded at Council shows beginning in 1987. The George Lewis Trophy is a 14” diameter sterling silver bowl on a wooden base. The base reads like a “Who’s Who” of Southern California Camellias with an engraved name plate for each exhibitor who won “Best of Show” for their blooms from 1987-2004.

With only one trophy, many thought it was unfair for natural blooms to have to compete with treated blooms for best of show. At times, different head judges decided to have the judging team vote on just natural blooms; other years both treated and untreated. This controversy was finally resolved by the addition of a second trophy in 2002, a crystal bowl on a wooden base, for best treated bloom.

As time wore on, there was consensus within the members who put on the shows, that having a “Best of Show” was more trouble than it was worth. Controversy aside: One winner reminisces about the year he was awarded the George Lewis trophy. “It was a high honor, and I can recall distinctly the particular winning flower and the elation experienced in winning. I thought it was a high honor, and that the value was greater than the inconvenience.” Another member recalls that “George was much beloved”; and a third “The winner was given the trophy to take home to display for one year”. It was a real honor to win. Awarding the best of show continued to honor George Lewis who was loved by all....”

George Lewis

George earned a degree in Botany from Hampton University and was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He joined the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens in 1957. In 1970 he came to Descanso as assistant to then-superintendent Mark Anthony. Lewis became superintendent when Anthony retired in 1974 and continued in that job until his own retirement in 1990.

During those years Lewis brought many changes to Descanso. Working closely with the Guild and staff, he helped design display beds and established the first formal Spring Show with its mass plantings of tulips along the promenade. Lewis founded the “Plant Prop” program and spent many years teaching hard-working volunteers how to propagate and grow a wide variety of plants.

Best of Show winners from 1994 to 2004

The people who won the George Lewis trophy the last ten years it was awarded were the best growers of show camellias of that time and their winning blooms pictured here are examples of these outstanding natural varieties.



*1994 Mel and Bobbie Belcher
'Harold L. Paige'*



*1995 Jack and Ann Woo
'Dr. Clifford Parks'*



*1996 Milt and Marion Schmidt
'Eleanor Martin Supreme'*



*1997 Dale and Mary Kay Mittag
'Margaret Davis'*



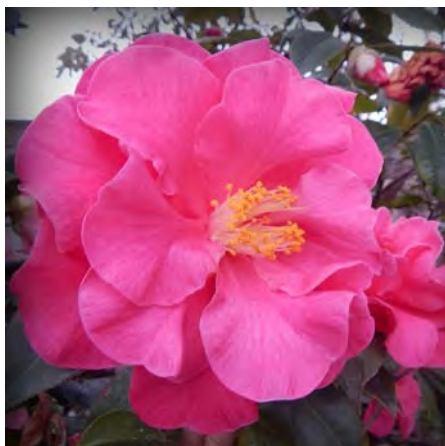
*1998 Don and Dolores Martin
'Valentine Day'*



*1999 Les and Joanne Brewer
'John Hunt'*



*2000 Marvin and Virginia Belcher
'Junior Prom'*



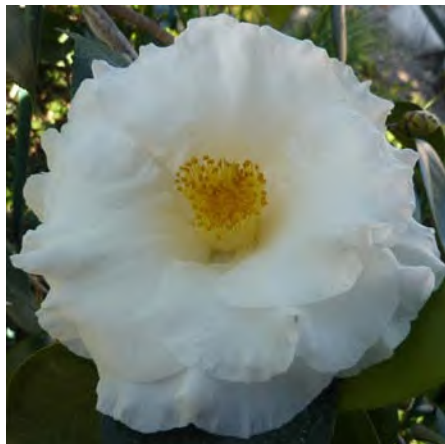
*2001 Marilee and Don Gray
'Frank Houser'*



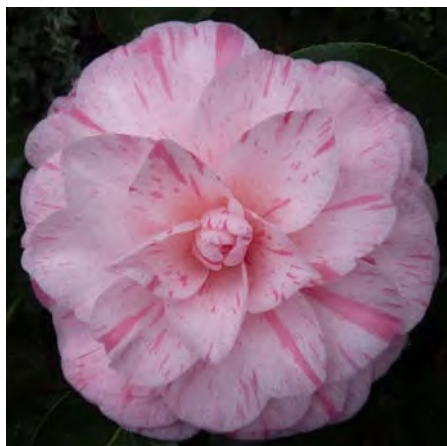
Libbie Stull with the Lewis Cup



*2002 Sergio and Elsie Bracci
'Frank Houser Variegated'*



*2003 Victor and Linda Rodriguez
'Tata'*



*2004 Dale and Mary Kay Mittag
'Carter's Sunburst'*



*2018 Tom and Libbie Stull
'Elegans Splendor'*

The Southern California Camellia Council voted fall 2017 to reestablish “Best of Show” at the Council show in 2018 and award the Lewis Cup to the best natural camellia bloom at the show. Tom and Libbie Stull won this prestigious award at the 2018 Council show with a magnificent bloom of ‘Elegans Splendor’ which is this issue’s cover photo.

Return to TOC

Camellias Call To Us by Bradford King

Camellias don't speak but they communicate in a way we can see and almost hear. In the fall the call to the garden is to see if the camellia pods have opened and are ready for harvest. In the winter the beautiful color of the flowers announce their presence and draw us outside.

The camellia *japonica* flower told a Victorian lover "My destiny is in your hands". The camellia stood for honest excellence. Its excellence lies in their beautiful blooms and evergreen foliage. It "boasts no fragrance and conceals no thorn" wrote an anonymous poet.

In 1848 Alexander Dumas published his best known novel *The Lady of the Camellias*. It was later adapted for the stage and premiered at the Théâtre du Vaudeville in Paris, France on February 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 her medical condition (tuberculosis) precludes making love. Armand falls in love with Marguerite and ultimately becomes her lover, convincing her to turn her back on her life as a "Courtesan" and live with him in the countryside. This idyllic existence is broken by Armand's father, who, concerned by the scandal created by the illicit relationship and fearful that it will destroy his daughter's chances of marriage, convinces Marguerite to leave Armand who believes, up until Marguerite's death, that she has left him for another man.

Gabrielle Chanel, nickname Coco, was a fashion designer. Coco Chanel catered to women's taste for elegance in dress, with blouses and suits, trousers and dresses, and jewelry of simple design that replaced the opulent, over-designed, and constrictive clothes and accessories of 19th-century. She was familiar with Dumas's novel and the opera *La Traviata*. Therefore when Coco Chanel was given a camellia by her polo playing lover she fell in love with the camellia. She started pinning silk versions to her lapels, her hair and the blossoms found a home on the carved Chinese wooden folding screen coated in black-and-gold-lacquer in her apartment.

The camellia came to be identified with The House of Chanel, making its first appearance as a decorative 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 camellias become her emblem, and the brand's signature, as it evokes the true spirit of Chanel.

In 1792, the white camellia *japonica*, 'Alba Plena,' came to England from Asia eventually spreading to the rest of Europe and America. This pure white formal double was most likely the camellia worn by Marguerite Gautier to signal her availability and later to serve as symbol of The House of Chanel.

Today the beautiful evergreen camellia continues to call you and me.



'Alba Plena'

Return to TOC

Innovative Ways to Grow and Display Camellias

by Bradford King

Most camellias are grown in the ground as part of the home garden landscape. However, they do exceedingly well in pots. Nuccio's Nurseries grows seedlings and almost all camellias in standard black plastic containers. While in-the-ground and plastic pots are the most popular ways to grow camellias; there are also creative ways to grow camellias and innovative means of displaying blooms.

Colorful Containers

One of the easiest ways to grow camellias that improves the presentation is to place the black plastic container inside a more attractive container of your choice. This serves two purposes-- providing insulation in hot or cold weather as well as reducing loss of moisture. One advantage of pots is the ability to move them



'Jewel Box'

when in bloom to where they can be easily enjoyed. While potted camellia plants may be moved indoors for a special event, more than a couple of days indoors is not recommended. The dry warmer indoor temperature during the blooming season can be deadly to camellias which naturally like the sunny cool climate out of doors.

There are a wide variety of pottery and ceramic containers in a range of colors currently available. By choosing what you most enjoy you can make a creative display of your own. There are dwarf camellias like 'Jewel Box' that lend themselves to a small container placed on a table that

can be grown on the patio where they provide winter flowers and green foliage all year long. The white flower with small green foliage nestled in a black ceramic container looks attractive.

Foliage camellias like 'Ginyo Tsubaki' with its unusual small light gray leaves with heavily serrated edges make interesting container plants in a shady spot on the patio or similar location. It is a hardy slow grower with a small tubular red single flower.



'Ginyo Tsubaki'



'Shibori Egao Corkscrew' Bonsai

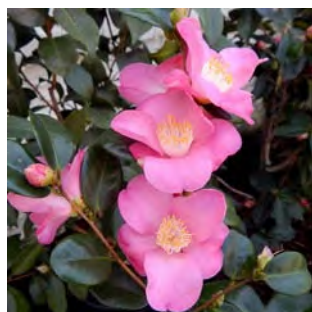
Hanging Baskets

An interesting way to grow certain camellias is in hanging baskets. Those with pendulous growth habits look best as the branches flow and sweep downward. Initially I grew several in hanging baskets lined with coconut matting. They looked good with their black metal shaped baskets and brown matt holding

Camellias with unusual growth habits and pretty flowers also make wonderful additions to a patio. 'Egao Corkscrew' and 'Shibori Egao Corkscrew' are good examples. 'Egao Corkscrew' has zig-zag branches and a medium pink flower. The pink mottled white variegated flower of 'Shibori Egao Corkscrew' with its corkscrew branches is both interesting and attractive in a pottery container. It

takes more sun than a typical *japonica* so may be grown on a patio or picnic table as decoration.

Fragrant camellias are a good choice for entry ways, patio and near seating areas where their scented flowers can be enjoyed. The best choices are 'Koto-No-Kaori' and 'Minato-No-Akebono' as they have many pleasing scented blooms even when the plants are small. 'Koto-No-Kaori' has a small single rose pink flower borne on an upright lacy growing plant. 'Minato-No-Akebono' has a single miniature light pink flower toned darker pink that blooms on an upright somewhat open plant.



Koto-No-Kaori

a plant with dark green foliage and pink flowers. However, they dried out quickly in the cocoa mats and struggled if not watered daily in the heat of the summer. A hanging basket loses more moisture than a regular pot due to its full exposure to sun and wind. I found plastic containers more forgiving especially those with a water saving lower compartment.



'Sweet Emily Kate'



Espalier Camellia for sale at Nuccio's

Espalier

Espalier is a trellis or framework of stakes which traditionally has fruit trees or other ornamental trees attached to it. However, *Camellia japonica* and *sasanqua* adapt very well to being trained as espalier. An espalier is especially attractive, useful and effective in small places. In the ground or container grown espalier is a wonderful addition where it can make an attractive privacy screen from neighbors, the children's play area or to hide trash cans and storage sheds. Nuccio's Nurseries and Lincoln Avenue Nursery, to name two local establishments, offer a number of espaliered camellia varieties. They are well grown and ready to bloom in a range of colors. In a sunny area a *sasanqua* cultivar would do well and in dappled sunlight a *japonica*.

Bonsai

Bonsai is the art of growing a miniaturized tree or bush in a small dish by rigorous pruning of roots and branches. In Japan the Higo camellia is frequently grown as bonsai. Traditionally a scion of the desired Higo is grafted on a wild camellia root and placed in a beautiful pot. This makes the bonsai appear old. The leaves and flowers are the same size when grown as a bonsai or in the ground.

Today in America a camellia bonsai can be found for sale through the internet.

However, it is more fun and creative to make your own. Three and five gallon camellias are root and foliage pruned to fit in a ceramic pot of your choice. Details on how to do this can be found in my articles in the American Camellia Society website. Bonsai camellias require significant care if they are to survive long term. However, the beauty of a small camellia in full bloom in a well-matched dish is a special treat. The zig-zag growth of ‘Corkscrew Egao’ and ‘Shibori Egao’ lend themselves to an informal bonsai form with minimal need to train them. Other *non-reticulata* hybrids like ‘Nicky Crisp’ make good bonsai.



‘Nicky Crisp’



‘Ohkan’

Higo camellias on their own roots make excellent bonsai as can be seen in the image of ‘Ohkan’. The foliage camellias also make good displays throughout the year as a bonsai.



Benten foliage bonsai

DISPLAYING CAMELLIA FLOWERS

At the Southern California Camellia Society shows the blooms are shown in small cups. This produces a fair and efficient way to judge the many flowers entered. One can use these type of cups to display camellias at home but there are other more attractive containers and vases to display the flowers. Two improvements can be seen at the local camellia shows. First, usually the fragrant, yellow and cluster blooming camellias on the Nuccio’s display table are exhibited in small green bottles. This makes for added depth and height to the blooms.



'Bunny Ears'

The other improvement also seen at Camellia shows is when the flowers in their cups are placed into crystal. For example, three perfectly matched miniature 'Shikibu' flowers fit nicely between the candles in the following photo.

The use of flowers at the dinner table adds beauty to the occasion. Central flowers need to be short enough for people to see and converse with other people across the table. A beautiful camellia in a family treasure helps remember family no longer with us as we enjoy conversation and a delicious meal.



Trio of 'Shikibu'

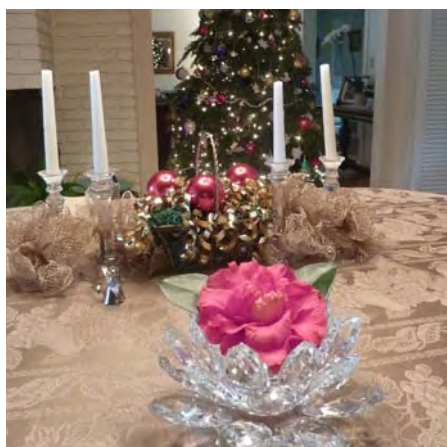
A clear art bowl decorated with Gingko, maple and poplar leaves etched in the glass with a large *reticulata* 'Frank Houser' camellia add to the ambiance of the living room. It is fun to be able to use art glass, collectables and vases you are fond of to display camellia flowers.

A camellia bloom in a vase adds to a special occasion. The bright red color of 'Grand Slam' in a small vase fits well with other Christmas decorations. The use of antique cut glass or newer pieces is welcomed into the home during the winter months adding warmth and beauty to the home. This is illustrated with the pink double bloom of 'Showboat' with its incurved petals contrasting with a candle holder's clear petals holding the floating flower.



Flower arranging with camellias has become a part of the last three camellia shows in Southern California. The beauty and creativity improves the show as can be seen in the two photos. Flower arranging with camellias can also be done for the home providing innovative pieces of art.

'Frank Houser'



'Grand Slam'



'Showboat'



Examples of Camellia Flower Arranging

Return to TOC

What's New in the Southern California Camellia World by Bradford King

We begin this tour of what's new in the camellia world in Southern California with Nuccio's Nurseries. The Nuccio' display table at camellia shows is very popular. Visitors get a chance to look at 75 to 100 varieties placed close together on two tables which makes a beautiful display. The fragrant camellias are the most popular. There are several sprays in green bottles of 'Spring Mist', 'Koto-no-Ka-ori', 'Minato-No-Akebono' and several flowers of 'High Fragrance'. Occasionally 'Scented Gem', 'Fragrant Pink' and 'Scentuous' are also on display.



'Scentuous'

The experienced camellia growers look to see what is new. At the council show we saw 'Pearl Maxwell Coral' which is a new sport from 'Pearl Maxwell' that Nuccio's sells that is not in their most recent catalogue.

In addition, the bluish pink large flower with ruffled petals labeled as 'Blue Twilight' has striking color. It is a Dr. Clifford Parks introduction registered in 1965 which is not often seen. It is a *reticulata* hybrid crossed with a *Williamsii* seedling of 'Williams Lavender' which gives this *reticulata* a unique bluish tint.



'Pearl Maxwell Coral'



'Blue Twilight'

This year the Camellia Festival at Descanso Gardens was during the entire month of February, rather than one weekend. During the last weekend in February 2018, George Harrison presented a camellia flower arranging demonstration in the patio, and Southern California Camellia Council members Brad King and Jim Fitzpatrick conducted one hour walking tours of the Descanso camellia forests.



George Harrison doing the camellia floral arrangements demonstration

Camellia floral arranging has recently become a part of several camellia shows which adds new and creative opportunities. This year Beth Stone won Designer's Choice with Barbara Counsel taking first place in the Line Design class at the Council Show.



1st Place Line Design

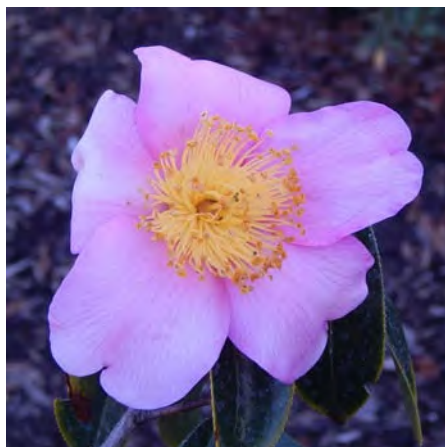


1st Place Designer's Choice

The west entrance at The Huntington Botanical Gardens has new plantings of azaleas and camellias that bloomed this year for the first time. We are greeted by 'Spring Mist' with its lovely scent and sweet small blush flower that shades to a very pale pink in its center. It was bred by Dr. Clifford Parks.



'Spring Mist'

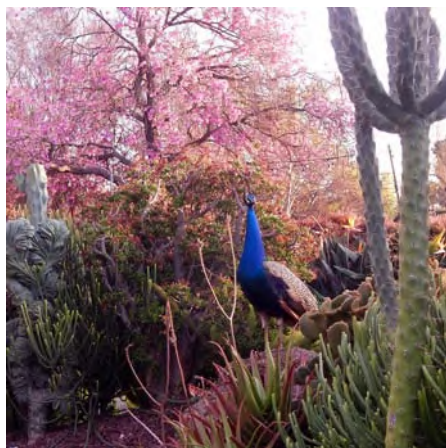


C. compressa

Camellia compressa is a species unfrequently seen that originates in China and can be found among these new plantings. The large single flower is pink with occasional white markings on its petals. The large petals are very pretty but are soft and floppy at least on this young specimen.



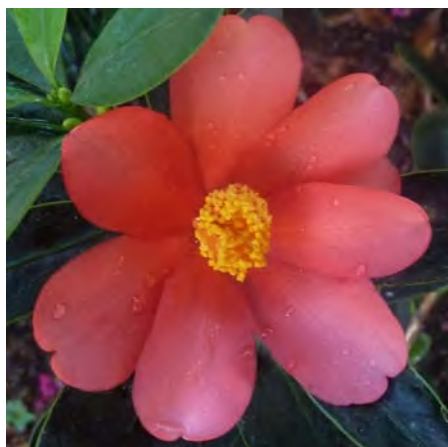
'Shinonome'



LASCA Peacock

The path leading from the east entrance to the back side of the camellia collection in the "North Vista" also has had new camellias added to the existing camellia species collection. Of major interest is a newly planted Higo 'Shinonome' because Franco Ghirardi in the Higo Camellia book states that this cultivar is lost and probably extinct. The Huntington has a mature plant of this cultivar in the Higo collection in the Japanese Garden. They have been grafting new plants to insure it will survive. The name means "Lost Clouds" in English. The flower has 6 to 7 white to blush petals with scarlet stripes and spots. It is a mutation from 'Yamato-Nishiki' with 180 to 100 stamens.

The Southern California Camellia Society tour of the new species collection in the LA County Arboretum on March 15 was led by James Henrich, curator of living collections. We were noisily greeted by the icon of the arboretum-- a magnificent Peacock.



C. azalea



C. pitardii

Jim explained that historically the arboretum made important contributions to plant breeding and introducing new camellias from 1957 to 1991. In Spring 2017 the Arboretum acquired and planted 67 species of camellia to restore the collection's diversity and to preserve species. The plants were donated by Tom Nuccio, Nuccio's Nurseries. The site for this collection has a high deciduous tree canopy. The soil is crumbly sandy loam which is optimal for camellias. The plants currently are between one and two feet. Many produced flower buds this season. Camellia *azalea* bloomed in June. It can bloom all year. In my garden it bloomed from June to March this year.

Society members appreciated the new species addition to the Arboretum collection and could view a few late blooming species such as *C. pitardii* variety *Pitardii*.

We thoroughly enjoyed Jim's informative talk and walking tour. We look forward to seeing the cultivars mature into erect shrubs and small trees over the years.



Jim Henrich with SCCS members

Return to TOC

Camellia Species: *C. edithae*

By Bradford King

C. edithae is a very late blooming camellia species that has medium rose form to formal double rose red flowers. It grows upright and very bushy with handsome dark green heavily ribbed leaves. New shoots are densely hairy and mature branches are gray brown and only slightly hairy. The flower buds are brown looking like spent flowers and grow singly at the tips of shoots and in leaf axils. It is native to China where it is called 'Dongnan Sancha'.



C. edithae flower and buds

In eastern China, it has been cultivated as an ornamental plant where a formal double dark red cultivar is called 'Momuda' (a place of worship) and a formal double pink variety is called 'Jiuqu'. "Jinqu" is a liquid mold used to ferment traditional Chinese alcoholic beverages. While we do not see these cultivars in America, Nuccio's Nurseries has introduced *C.*

edithae 'Heimudan' (Black Peony). It has a medium formal double salmon red flower that may occasionally be a rose form double bloom.



'Dongnan Sancha'



C. edithae 'Heimudan'

Return to TOC

The Higo Treasures from Japan: 'Ozeki'

By Bradford King

Since Higo camellias have a single flat irregular shaped flower, they don't successfully compete at camellia shows. However, they have bright colors and a mass of beautiful central stamens which are highly valued in Japan and by discerning camellia growers. Therefore, the Southern California Camellia Council show has a special class for Higo Camellias. It is a fun and competitive class that provides an opportunity to enter a variety of lovely Higo blooms. A display of multiple Higo cultivars demonstrates the diversity and beauty of this form of *C. japonica* flowers.

Last year the winner was 'Ohkan' (King's Crown) which has a white flower with a rose red border which was highlighted in the fall issue of this publication. This year's winner, 'Ozeki'. was entered by George and Karen Harrison. 'Ozeki' (Second class Sumo wrestler) has a large single rose pink single flower with flared stamens with occasional pinkish white petaloids. The plant grows vigorously, upright and open. The flowers typically bloom in midseason. The flower originated in Kumanoto Prefecture, Japan in 1979. The historical name for this area of Japan was Higo from which the flower gets its name.



'Ozeki'

Return to TOC

Parting Shot: White Mermaid Story and Photos by Bradford King

A mermaid is a legendary aquatic figure with a female human body and the tail of a fish. Mermaids are part of the folklore of many cultures and popular subjects of art and literature.

Christopher Columbus reported seeing mermaids in the Caribbean which were most likely sightings of the slow moving peaceful mammals we know as manatees who 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 Anderson 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, 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 by sailors. Since then, many women have adopted this tattoo design to represent their femininity, because the mermaid is perceived as a strong female figure.

Camellia japonica ‘White Mermaid’ is the white sport of the “Goldfish leafed camellia.” ‘Kinkyoba-tsubaki’ was named for its leaves that resemble a fish tail and has a medium single pink red flower. When it mutated a white single flower, it was given the name ‘White Mermaid’ in the English-speaking world.



'White Mermaid'

Return to TOC

Appreciating Ralph Peer by Bradford King

The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino California and Ralph Peer have collaborated for many years in developing a world class camellia collection. The Peer family has continued this relationship. They arranged to have the oldest documented camellia, 'California', moved from Park Hill to the Huntington in 2004 and in 2017 donated his book collection to the Library. Who was Ralph Peer?

Ralph Sylvester Peer

Ralph Peer (May 22, 1892 – January 19, 1960) was an American talent scout, recording engineer and record producer in the field of music in the 1920s and 1930s. He attended Kansas City high school, and later the University of Chicago Naval Reserve Officer's Training. After the war, he joined the recording industry. In 1924, he supervised the first commercial recording session in New Orleans, Louisiana, recording jazz, blues, and gospel music groups.

He is credited with what is often called the first country music recording, Fiddlin' John Carson's disc "Little Old Log Cabin In The Lane"/"That Old Hen Cackled and The Rooster's Goin' To Crow". In August 1927, while talent hunting in the southern states with Victor Records he recorded both Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family in the same session.

Ralph went on to publish and record other country and jazz artists and songs through his company Southern Music Publishing Company for example Fats Waller, Louis Armstrong and Count Basie. 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 'n' roll came along he 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. In the 1950's he helped found the Los Angeles Camellia Society serving as the first President. He was a State Director from California to the American Camellia Society board of directors from 1954 to 1958. He served as ACS President from 1957 to 1959. He established the Ralph Peer *Sasanqua* award for the American Camellia Society. He financed J. Robert Sealy's book on the Genus Camellia.

He and his wife Monique Iverson Peer were married on January 11, 1940. Ralph Peer II, their heir, was born April 9, 1944. In the late 1940s Ralph took an avid interest in horticulture, growing, and becoming an expert on, camellias. Shortly after Descanso Gardens imported the Chinese Yunnan *reticulata* to the America, Ralph 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 Botanical Gardens. These 1948 imports from China to the United States are the beginning of growing and hybridizing new *reticulata* hybrids.

The Yunnan *Reticulata*

Ralph Peer wrote in the Northern California Camellia Bulletin (Vol. 8 #1 1954) how he ordered the Yunnan *reticulata* cultivars. He was on his way to China in December 1948 when he met Mr. Hazelton, an Australian nurseryman. Hazelton had ordered *reticulata* plants from Professor Tsai which he had yet to receive. Peer telegraphed Professor Tsai. Tsai wrote back listing the 20 varieties using his English translation of the Chinese name. The price was \$15 each with 5 varieties costing twice this amount. When Peer met Dr. Yu in London in April 1950, Yu had his own translation of the original Chinese cultivars. In addition, Dr. Yu reported that 19 of the original cultivars were old dating to 900AD. One was a cross of 'Butterfly Wings' x 'Peony Flowered' made by Professor Tsai. This cultivar 'Maye Taohong' was named in America 'Professor Tsai'.



'Professor Tsai'



'Butterfly Wings'

The Huntington Appreciates Ralph Peer

As I walked through Elegans Way in the North Vista camellia collection I came to *Reticulata* Knoll a gentle rise which when Mr. Huntington bought the property in 1902 had a magnificent specimen of *C. japonica* 'Pink Perfection'. It was enjoyed for over a hundred years before storms with very high winds toppled the Live Oaks that shaded it were blown down resulting in the demise of this wonderful specimen. Therefore, this knoll needed to be replanted. In 2017 a dozen of the Yunnan *C. reticulata* originally imported by Peer were planted among several of the mature Yunnan *reticulata* that were planted in the 1950s from grafts supplied by Ralph Peer. They planted 'Buddha', 'Butterfly Wings' ('Houye Diechi'), 'Cornelian' ('Domanao'), 'Crimson Robe' ('Dataohong'), 'Juban' ('Chrysanthemum Petal') 'Shot Silk' ('Dayinhong') 'Pagoda' ('Songzlin') and 'Tali Queen' (Dali Cha').



'Cornelian'



'Shot Silk'

The Huntington placed a bronze plaque “In appreciation of Ralph S. Peer” in the *reticulata* knoll to honor the man responsible for helping distribute the Yunnan *C. reticulata* to America.



Scientific Discoveries That Have Informed Camellia Growers

by Bradford King

Scientific discoveries are the result of the application of the scientific method which is a way to ask and answer questions by making observations and doing experiments. There are some key scientific discoveries that have enlightened hobbyist and increased our camellia knowledge. In addition some discoveries have informed and influenced how we grow and show camellias.

THE DISCOVERY OF GIB

The discovery of gibberellins led to gibbing camellias for home decoration and entering blooms in camellia shows. Briefly this is what happened. Gibberellins were first recognized in 1926 by a Japanese scientist, Eiichi Kurosawa, studying diseases in rice-- a major agriculture crop in Asia. He learned that filtrates from cultures in which the fungus *Gibberella fujikurui* had been grown contained material which, when applied to plants, increased their height and other growth responses. Interest in gibberellins outside of Japan began after World War II. In the United States, the first research was undertaken by a unit at Camp Detrick in Maryland studying bean seedlings. Interest in gibberellins spread around the world as the potential for its use on various commercially important plants became more obvious. For example, research that started at the University of California, Davis in the 1960s led to its commercial use on Thompson seedless table grapes throughout California by 1962.

Gibberellic acid (gib) when it is purified, 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. Gibberellins have a number of effects on plant development by stimulating rapid stem and root growth and increasing seed germination rate. Foliar spraying of Thompson grapes will produce earlier and larger crops. However foliar spraying of camellias is not recommended as it will most likely kill the plant.

It has been reported that gib may be used for faster germinating a number of plant seeds especially in assisting with breaking seed dormancy. However my studies on camellia seed germination reported in the 2007 Camellia yearbook found that while gib solution did speed up the germinating process it produced weak, spindly seedlings lacking adequate roots as compared with camellia seeds germinated without gib. Since camellia seeds generally germinate easily, there is no need to treat their seeds with gib.

In the United States gib is used to produce earlier blooming and larger camellia flowers. When a camellia “takes the gib” it produces a beautiful and striking large flower in 30 to 90 days with recent research finding the average time is 60 days when gib is in a 2% solution.

The person most responsible for popularizing the present method of gib application to camellias was Col. Frank Reed of Pasadena California. In the 1960's he reported extensively on his procedure of breaking off the vegetative growth bud at the base of the flower bud and filling the resulting cup with a solution containing gib. This was a faster and more direct method of delivering a substantial amount of gib into the vascular system at the point where it is most effective. Camellia hobbyists became enthralled with camellia blooms treated with gib because they were ten to forty percent larger than normal and bloomed six to ten weeks sooner. The increased size became a problem at camellia shows. The show rules were revised to have two classes –treated and untreated flowers. As gibbing became more widespread, many shows became “open” that is one class for treated or untreated.



'Grand Prix' Natural and Gibbed

WHY THERE ARE BLACK RED CAMELLIAS

The earliest well known dark red camellia came from Japan in 1829. 'Kuro-tsubaki', the "black camellia", has a small semidouble to peony form flower with irregular red stamens. It is a midseason to late blooming *japonica*. The intense pigmentation in the flower also extends to the stems, mid ribs and veins of the leaves as well as the roots. It is the seed parent of 'Night Rider' and 'Black Opal' both bred by OZ. Blumhardt of New Zealand. He used hybrid 'Ruby Bells' as the pollen parent. 'Black Opal' has a miniature to small flower with red filaments and gold stamens but is not seen often in America. 'Night Rider' has a small very black red semi double flower with heavy waxy narrow petals and irregular yellow anthers and reddish filaments. The plant is also very attractive with new growth a deep maroon. The roots are even 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 flower.

Dr. William Ackerman, a plant geneticist and camellia breeder of fragrant and cold hardy camellias was doing extensive cytological investigation (the cellular study of the structure, function and formation of cells) of his cold hardy breeding stock. He accidentally discovered an abnormally long chromosome among the metaphase figures from root tips on several 'Kuro-tsubaki' x *c. saluenensis* hybrids. This led to a research question -- which parent gave the seedlings the long chromosome. When he conducted cytological examination of 'Kuro-tsubaki' he discovered that it was the donor of the long chromosome. The next step was to see if other hybrids involving 'Kuro-tsubaki' had inherited the long chromosome. He tested seven hybrids and found three of the seven did indeed have the long chromosome. These three cultivars also exhibited the intense black red pigmentation.



tion in stems, leaves, and roots just like ‘Kuro- tsubaki’. The four that did not inherit the long chromosome also lacked the intense black red pigmentation. Dr. Ackerman reported in his book *Beyond The Camellia Belt* this research concluding that there is a direct correlation between the long translocation chromosome and the intense black pigmentation.

At left; Tom Nuccio shows the red roots of ‘Night Rider’

Dr. Ackerman believes this abnormal chromosome is rare and may have occurred just once years ago in ‘Kuro-tsubaki’ with all hybrids having the dark pigmentation and roots inherited from the “black camellia”.



‘Kuro Tsubaki’

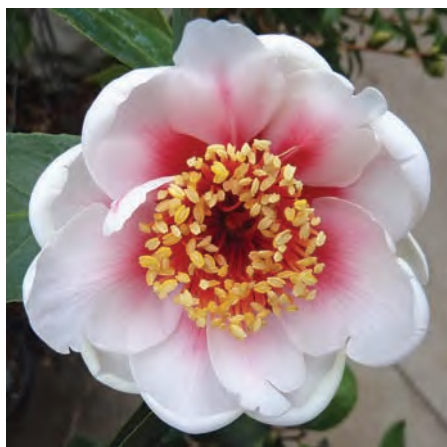


‘Night Rider’

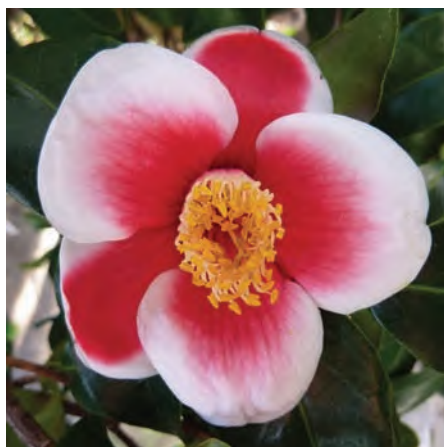
WHY ‘TAMA -NO -URA’ HAS A PICOTEED BORDER

Did you ever wonder what causes a camellia to have a white border? Tateishi, Ozaki and Okubo from Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan researched how the white border is expressed in ‘Tama-No-Ura’. They “demonstrated that the white picoteed part lacked an accumulation of anthocyanins, and it was caused by the gene suppression of chalcone synthase.” (International Camellia Journal 2010 page 114) Basically chalcone synthase are enzymes associated with organic compounds found in plants as a natural defense mechanism for example in the production of pigment. Anthocyanins are water soluble compartments of pigments that may appear red, purple or blue according to pH. Therefore, when the red

flower pigment compartments on the petal margins of ‘Tama no ura’ are suppressed it produces a white border.



‘King’s Cup’



‘Tama no ura’

Some of the seedlings of ‘Tama No Ura’ will inherit differing amounts of the desired white border. Many will have small red flowers. The seedlings that inherit the white border also can pass the trait onto their seedlings. For example, ‘Tama Peacock’ X ‘San Dimas’ has produced a seedling with a white medium cup shaped flower with a burgundy central spot which I call ‘King’s Cup’.

‘Tama Peacock’ has also inherited from ‘Tama-No Ura’ the ability to set seeds readily making it an excellent seed parent.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

The discovery of Gibberellic acid and how to use it to get earlier, larger and more beautiful camellia blooms has increased the fun and excitement of growing camellias to decorate the home or enter in a camellia show. The cytological investigation by Dr. William Ackerman has increased our understanding of the importance of chromosomes in determining what colors are inherited especially in this case the very dark red pigment in the flowers and roots of seedlings of ‘Kuro- tsubaki’. Likewise, we are informed by Japanese researchers, Tateishi, Oza-ki and Okubo who demonstrated the importance of gene suppression in producing white borders on the red flower of ‘Tama- No Ura’. While we can’t see these internal genetic processes with the naked eye, it is good to know that scientists are interested in investigating camellia plants and flowers.

Return to TOC

Investigating Potassium Permanganate by Bradford King

Don Lesmeister in the 2017 Spring Camellia Review reported on his use of Potassium Permanganate (PP) placed in a container with fresh camellias stored in a refrigerator. He found the camellia flowers “looked reasonably good after 30 days”. In this issue, Don provides an update for prolonging camellias bloom life specially using PP dry. In science one study builds on the observations and studies of others. Therefore, a study comparing the use of (PP) as liquid and dry was begun November 17, 2017.

METHOD

Two plastic containers with a wet paper towel with fiber filler on top were used. The wet paper towel was used to provide a moist environment within the closed container. Flowers were placed on the filler so they were not in touch with any water. The flower stem was placed in a grape. Container number one had two table spoons PP mixed with four table spoons of water to make the liquid condition. Container number two had two tablespoons of PP dry which was the dry condition.

Three cultivars with gibed flowers had two flowers each which served as match pairs one was placed in each of the two containers. This included ‘Maroon and Gold’, ‘Cupcake’ and ‘Villa de Nantes’. The pairs of flowers were very similar in appearance, were gibed the same day in October and bloomed the same day in November. Four ‘Little Slam’ natural blooms (nontreated blooms) were harvested with two placed in each container.

A gibed bloom of ‘Button’s N Bows’; and ‘Cabernet’ were placed in the container with liquid PP and a gibed ‘Happy Harlequin’ and a ‘Mansize’ were placed in the solid PP container. To control for the influence of inserting a grape on flower stems four camellias were placed in the container with no grapes on their flower stems. They were an untreated ‘Tata’ and gibed ‘Tama Peacock’, ‘Cup Cake’ and ‘Mrs. Tingly’ The covered containers were placed in a refrigerator registering 40 degrees temperature.

RESULTS

After two weeks, the containers were opened. The PP wet box had a 'Button's N' Bows' that looked good. The 'Villa da Nantes' fair, 'Cup Cake' looked good but had a mark on one petal and the two 'Little Slam' were in fair condition. The PP dry had a very good 'Mansize', and a good 'Maroon and Gold', 'Cupcake', 'Happy Harlequin' and 'Ville de Nantes.' The dry PP container with flowers without grapes all looked good.

The container covers were replaced and the boxes returned to the refrigerator. After 23 days, the containers were reopened. Look at the results in the following photos.



PP wet



PP dry with grapes



PP dry without grapes

Please note that several flowers have moldy stamens except the flowers without grapes. All the grapes also had “mold”. There appears to be no advantage in using grapes.

The use of standard cups filled with a solution of water and “Florallife Crystal Clear” was studied. Four white ‘Tata’ blooms were refrigerated with dry PP for two weeks and remained in good condition. One small ‘Tata’ was placed in the container without water, it too remained in good condition.

Concluding Remarks

The use of PP either dry or wet helps reduce appearance of aging in cut flowers with or without a grape placed on the flower stem for two to three weeks. Quality of flowers was variable with some showing mold and brown marks but others still looking good. In conclusion, the use of dry PP was as effective as wet PP. Therefore, it is concluded dry PP is easier and much cleaner to use. If you have a green thumb and wish to avoid the dreaded brown fingers; it is highly recommended to use dry PP to keep cut camellia flowers fresh when stored in a refrigerator in cups containing a flower preservative.



Fingers stained by PP

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Cute Baby Camellias

By Bradford King

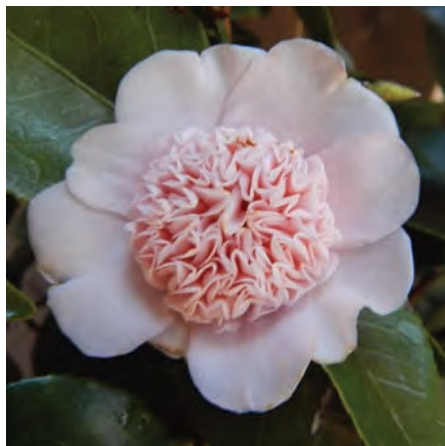
Babies are cute, adorable and loveable. Many of us have “Baby Books” with photos, locks of hair and even baby teeth tenderly compiled by our Moms. This tradition seems to have died out. However, it has been replaced with masses of digital photos shared on Facebook with family and friends. There are no doubts; babies are cute. In the camellia world there are a few very cute miniature camellias and some adorable small beauties.

CUTE BABIES

Seven miniature camellia flowers are as cute as babies. In 1949 ‘Baby Sargent’ was introduced. The flower is a dark red full peony that resembles Professor Sargent. Magnolia Gardens introduce ‘Professor Charles Sargent’ in 1925. Charles Sprague Sargent was an American botanist who became professor of arboriculture at Harvard in 1879 and the first Director of the Arnold Arboretum.

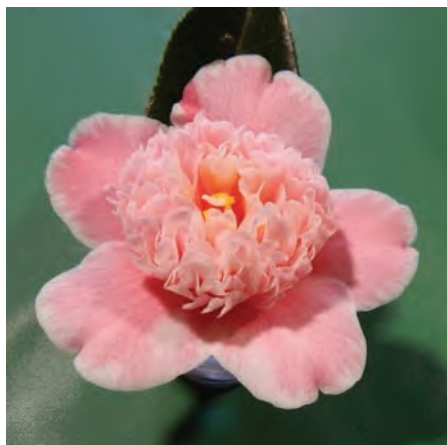


‘Baby Sargent’



‘Baby Doll’

A camellia we no longer see is ‘Angel Baby’ a white semi double. It was introduced in 1968 by Pieri of San Gabriel California. Unfortunately, there are hundreds of camellia varieties no longer popular many lost or hidden in someone’s garden. This frequently is the case when the variety was introduced by a grower who only propagated a few for family and friends. Those that are propagated by a nursery are much more likely to become popular. A good example is Nuccio Nurseries introduction ‘Baby Doll’. It has a cute light pink anemone flower that was registered in 1992 and continues to be popular.



'Baby Sis Blush Var'



'Baby Sis Pink'

In 1958 Shackelford registered 'Baby Sis' which has a white single flower with a pink stripe and a mass of central petaloids. This loveable miniature has mutated several times producing cultivars that are winners at camellia shows. Don Bergamini, a recent President of ACS from Martinez California, saw a different flower on 'Baby Sis'. He marked the branch it was growing on and observed that it had the new flower for three years before naming it 'Baby Sis Blush'. It has a fine white edge on each of its blush toned petals which makes a very cute flower. Don recently found a variegated form of this flower. 'Baby Sis Blush Variegated' has a flower that is a show winning baby.

'Baby Sis' also mutated a lovely pink sport aptly named 'Baby Sis Pink' There are many camellias that don't produce sports and a few that do many times. These mutations are due to genetic changes in one or more of the plants branches. While not well understood, we get to enjoy some wonderful new varieties like the cute 'Baby Sis' mutations.

ADORABLE SMALL BEAUTIES

There are several good camellias with names that refer to babies. They too are little, cute and perky. A good example is Nuccio's loveable introduction 'Baby Pearl'. This small variety was named after another of Nuccio's introductions 'Nuccio's Pearl' which is a medium sized bloom. They both have white washed flowers in shades of orchid pink with a lovely border.

In camellia shows the *japonica* varieties are entered in classes based on their size. Two of the strong contenders to win points in the small class (2.5 to 3 inches) are 'Little Babe' and 'Little Babe Variegated'. They 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. ‘Little Babe’ and its variegated form was awarded the Kathryn and Les Marbury Award in 1992.



‘Baby Pearl’



‘Little Babe Variegated’

‘Little Man’ a small medium white formal double was introduced in 1953. It has attracted a following continuing 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 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 mature man. ‘Little Michael’ was awarded the John A. Tyler Jr. miniature Award in 1994 and the Kathryn and Les Marbury Award in 1998.

Hulyn Smith was a prolific camellia hybridizer, American Camellia Society 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 this seedling in a nearby creek. Fortunately, it was rescued by others. He registered it in 2001 and named it ‘Tudor Baby’ his name for one of his granddaughters. When this very good flower is variegated the contrast of white cloud like markings on the dark flower makes it outstanding. ‘Tudor Baby Variegated’ was awarded the Kathryn and Les Marbury Award in 2006.



'Tudor Baby' photo by Gene Phillips



'Tudor Baby Variegated'

CONCLUSION

The most frequent camellia flower is a medium (3 to 4 inches) semidouble with many hobbyists attracted to flowers that are five or more inches. There are also beautiful rose form double and formal double flowers. The small formal doubles like 'Little Babe' and 'Tudor Baby' illustrate that "good things come in small packages". The anemone flower accounts for ten percent of the camellias with many miniature and small flowers just like 'Baby Sis' and her sports. The beautiful miniature and small camellias are like babies; loveable, adorable and cute.

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What's New In The Southern California Camellia World

By Bradford King

There is always something new and interesting happening in the Southern California camellia world. It may be a new camellia cultivar introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries, additions to the camellia collection at the LA Arboretum, Descanso Garden or The Huntington.

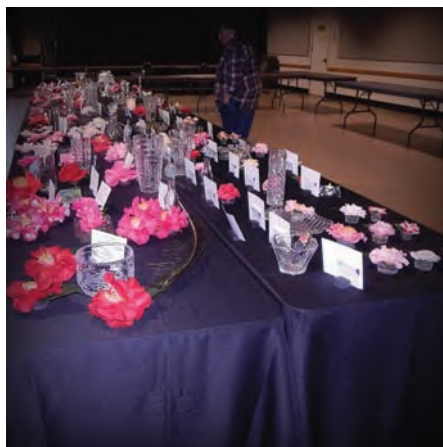
While the Nuccio Nurseries did not announce a new camellia cultivar in their 2017- 2018 catalogue; they usually have camellias not listed that catch our attention. This happened in November when we saw the largest *Camellia sasanqua* flowers we had ever seen. All the beautiful blooms of 'Mountain Moonrise' were an impressive four to five inches. It is a good bloomer when it becomes a large plant. Tom Nuccio was clear that it doesn't bloom when the plant is small but mine looks great growing and blooming among other sun camellias.



Nuccio's Table at a Descanso Show



'Mountain Moonrise'



Camellia Show Ayres Hall

The Los Angeles Arboretum has added a wide variety of camellia species to its collection. The plantings are an easy walk from the entrance in an area that is not well traveled by visitors. The Southern California Camellia Society will hold its third camellia show in Ayres Hall on February 21 and 22.

The Huntington Botanical Gardens has added a wide variety of camellias in the west entrance to the garden and over a dozen of the Yunnan *C. reticulata* originally imported from China by Ralph Peer. There is a new plaque in the North Vista "*Reticulata Knoll*" commemorating Peer's contribution.



Ralph S. Peer appreciation plaque



*'Dataohong' aka 'Crimson Robe'
a Peer introduction in 1948*



*Art in the Boddy House
Camellia Room at Descanso*

The Southern California Camellia Society 46th annual show at The Huntington is February 10 and 11. The Huntington will have an excellent selection of large camellias for sale.

Descanso Gardens has rebuilt the bird watching area and the paths around the pond and waterfall. They have designated February as Camellia month. There are camellia shows January 27 & 28; February 17 & 18 and February 24 & 25. Camellia shows are one of the most enjoyable way to see a wide variety of camellias. If you have a camellia and wish to have it identified bring a bloom or two and a few of its leaves for us to identify. A visit to the Camellia Room in the Boddy house is a good place to visit as it is located by walking through the camellia forest.

The Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden is a little gem located in Pasadena, originally designed in the mid 1930s. This private garden is only open to the public on Thursdays and the fourth Sunday of the month. It is best to get a group ticket and go on a Thursday as parking is limited in this residential area. The garden has recently been refurbished and a small art gallery has been opened this year. The garden is well planted with a variety of traditional Japanese plants including *C. japonica* cultivars, a lovely pond, fountain and teahouse.



Tea House at Storrier Stearns



Hiroshima Camellia

When an atomic bomb destroyed the city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, it was predicted that nothing would grow in the ruins of Hiroshima for 75 years. The trees were scarred and blackened all around Hiroshima. Therefore, when green shoots were found on the burned trunks of some 170 trees, people were encouraged. Hope for recovery of the trees as well as for the country and its people was stimulated. Green Legacy Hiroshima, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Tokyo Yoneyama Yuai, are spreading seeds and plants of the ‘Hibaku Jumoku’ (“A-bombed trees”) throughout the world. The Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden was chosen as the home of a second generation “A-bombed camellia” that descended from one of the trees considered lost after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. This *Camellia japonica* cultivar has not yet bloomed in the garden but is expected to produce red flowers. Twenty-seven countries have received these plants with two located in the USA. The other is in St Louis. The plants symbolize the resiliency of the human spirit and the need for peace as well as the interdependency of people around the world. The Storrier Stearns garden joins others in promoting the message of world peace represented by this camellia that survived the atomic bomb.

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Camellia Species: *C. grijsii* by Bradford King



C. grijsii plant



C. grijsii single bloom

C. grijsii was first described in 1879. It is native to China in the mountains near Fujian, Sichuan and Guangxi. It is a potential garden plant due to its fragrant profuse white flowers. The small flat flower blooms midseason on an upright somewhat columnar shrub with small, coarse leaves. The branches are smooth and rust-gray in color when mature. Young shoots are thin and have sparse hair. Scientists have found chromosome numbers of $2n = 30, 60, 75$ and 90 in different plants. While this is not an issue for using it as a landscape plant it is a concern for breeding. It is expected that the best results would be obtained between parents with the same number of chromosomes.

Nuccio's Nurseries bloom hundreds of *C. grijsii* seeds with all most all identical to the parent. However, one had a little larger flower that retained the lovely fragrance. In addition, the leaves were larger and darker making for a nice landscape plant. They call it 'Grijsii Select'.

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The Higo Treasures from Japan: 'Asagao'

By Bradford King

'Asagao' (Morning Glory) is an old variety registered in 1912. It has a wonderful medium to large pale pink flower with 140 to 170 yellow flared stamens with yellow-white filaments. The morning glory is one of the ornamental flowers highly valued in Japan. 'Asagao' has stamens describes by the Japanese as umejin. This means stamens are arranged like an apricot bloom in which the stamens flair out in the center like a sunburst. Stamens are the hallmark of a Higo and greatly appreciated when they spread out like the stamens on an apricot flower.



'Asagao'

The Japanese character for jin is translated as spirit. Since the Higo blooms in winter cold, ume is a symbol of a warrior's courage; therefore, umejin means a warrior's courageous spirit.

One interesting tradition was to lay Higo flowers on a warrior grave or to plant one nearby so that flowers fall decorating the grave. Due to this practice, old cemeteries have been a source for rescuing ancient Higo cultivars.

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Parting Shot:
Dr. Clifford Parks
by Bradford King

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'. 'Dr. Clifford Parks' has a very large red flower. It is one of the cultivars with several forms - semidouble, anemone, loose peony and full peony. It is still a camellia show winner.



'Dr. Clifford Parks'

‘LASCA Beauty’ is also capable of winning show points with its lovely soft pink semidouble flower. LASCA are the initials Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Dr. Parks has continued hybridizing when he moved to North Carolina but shifted to breeding cold hardy and yellow cultivars.



‘LASCA Beauty’

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C. Sasanquas: The Best Fall Blooming Camellias by Bradford King

The beautiful fall blooming sun tolerant *Camellia sasanqua* herald the camellia season. They originate in Japan where they have a long history and are their most popular camellia. The native species always have small white flowers borne on a fine textured shrub or small tree. The cultivated varieties have a wide range of beautiful colors many of which are fragrant. They usually have numerous single or semidouble flowers with many having delicate fluted or ruffled petals. They are

widely grown in the United States, New Zealand, China and Australia. They may be grown in pots, as hedges, espalier as well as in the landscape. They may be used as a single specimen in a sunny garden location, or clusters of mixed cultivars or a mass planting of one variety.

The original *C. sasanqua* had unimpressive small single white flowers, however, today there are many white cultivars with medium and large flowers that make excellent candidates for your garden. ‘Setsugekka’ (Snow, Moon and Flowers) has a large semidouble white flower with ruffled petals. This Japanese cultivar has become popular in America. The Japanese frequently give picturesque descriptive names to their cultivars.



‘Setsugekka’



‘Mine No Yuki’

The cultivar ‘Mine No Yuki’ (Snow on the ridge) is another example of a picturesque name. Often in America growers give a cultivar an English name for marketing. In this case, it was renamed ‘White Doves’ also a good description of this cultivar which has a white semidouble flower. The plant grows laterally and low to the ground suitable for a planter or a ground cover.

The Nuccio’s introduced and named a large creamy white single flower ‘French Vanilla’ which captures the color of this wonderful cultivar.



‘French Vanilla’



‘Hugh Evans’

An early blooming single pink with curly petals is ‘Hugh Evans’. It is a profuse blooming variety that typically is the first camellia to bloom in my garden. When the flower falls, the beautiful petals shatter making a lovely welcome mat for the coming season.

‘Choji Guruma’ (Wheel of Anemone) is a graphic name for this miniature light pink anemone flower with deeper pink tones on the edges of the petals and petaloids. It is one of a very few anemone *sasanquas* and the most well-known with this form.



‘Choji Guruma’



‘Double Rainbow’

C. sasanqua ‘Rainbow’, ‘Double Rainbow’, ‘Painted Desert’ and ‘Old Glory’ have white flowers with beautiful rose red borders. These names are just as colorful

as their blooms. ‘Rainbow’ has a large single white flower with a red border and ‘Double Rainbow’ has a semidouble flower with a rose red border. The combination of a white flower with a red or pink border is one of the popular color combinations found in *C. sasanqua*. A rainbow is caused when sunlight reflects inside a raindrop and the much less common double rainbow is caused by a double reflection of sunlight inside the raindrops. This occurs only when the drops are centered on the sun itself.

‘Painted Desert’ has a large flower with showy stamens. The Painted Desert is known for its brilliant varied colored rocks, even shades of lavender. It is in Arizona and part of the Petrified Forest National Park.



‘Painted Desert’



‘Old Glory’

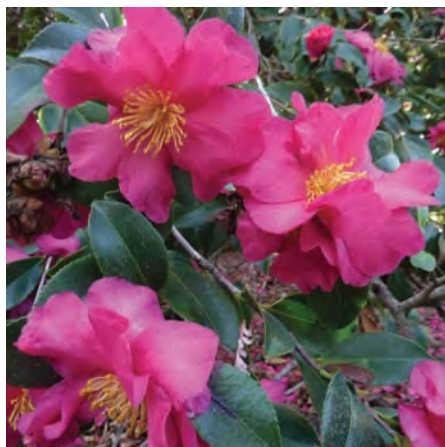
Nuccio’s Nurseries named a single to semidouble medium white flower with a deep rose red to pink tones ‘Old Glory’ for its wavy petals that resemble an American flag flying. The original Old Glory flag is now a weather-beaten 17- by 10-foot banner that has been a patriotic symbol used today to describe the American flag.

There were initially no red *sasanqua* flowers; however, through hybridizing a few beautiful red cultivars have been introduced. One of the very best is ‘Bonanza’ which has a large deep red semidouble flower. Bonanza is defined as “a large amount of something desirable” which fits this camellia to a T.

Another example of a red camellia with a great name is ‘Dazzler’. It has a semidouble rose red flower that dazzles the eye with its numerous early flowers. It is a Nuccio’s introduction.

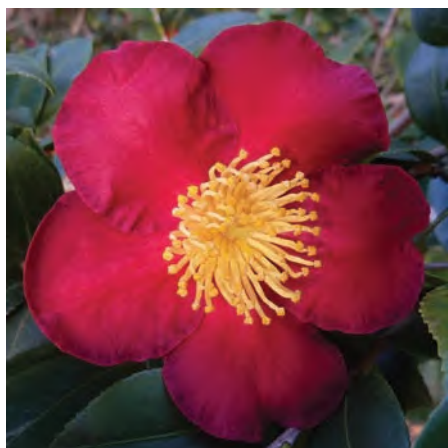


‘Bonanza’



‘Dazzler’

The most popular red *sasanqua* is another Nuccio’s introduction. ‘Yuletide’ blooms late season typically during the Christmas season. The brilliant red single flower with bright red stamens grows on a sturdy compact upright plant. Yuletide in America refers to Christmas or the Christmas season and in Japan is a common name for the *Camellia sasanqua*.



‘Yuletide’



Yuletide Landscape Plant

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A Brief History of California

by Bradford King

The oldest camellia in California with a documented history is 'California'. It came to America on a Japanese tramp steamer in 1888 as a three year old seedling. Webster Cate, a local rancher, purchased it off the dock in Redondo Beach Harbor for twenty five cents. He planted it beside Durfee road in Pico Rivera. In 1901, thirteen years later, it first bloomed a very large rose red flower and became known as 'Durfee Road Pink'. The ranch became Irving's Camellia Nursery started by John C. Irving's parents when he was 4 years old. In 1942 on the recommendation of Vernon McCaskill, a prominent camellia nursery owner, it was renamed 'California'. John Irving grew up alongside the 30 foot camellia growing next to the house. He worked twenty years in the nursery before deciding to sell the family residence and move to West LA. He was a steam and power engineer who had continued the Nursery on a part time basis. He told a newspaper reporter, "In youth it sheltered me and I'll protect it now".



'California'

When Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Peer became aware that the Irving's Nursery would be sold and the tree cut down, they decided to save it. Ralph Peer was a past American Camellia Society President and ardent camellia collector. He was also a music producer who founded the Southern Music Publishing Company. Ralph Peer bought the plant for \$500 in 1959. Mrs. Peer reported that her husband was planning to purchase her a fine necklace but when they learned that the 'California' camellia was about to be destroyed they decided to spend the many thousands necessary to move the 30-foot plant with a trunk diameter of fifteen inches to a place of honor at their home "Park Hill" in Laurel Canyon on Hollywood Blvd in Los Angeles California.

James (Jimmy) Tuliano oversaw moving the fifteen ton tree the twenty miles. They took six months to gradually dig and cut its massive root system to insure its survival. The men had to carefully crawl under the root system to construct a wooden carrying crate. A crane was needed to load the truck. The chosen location was on a terraced hillside that was inaccessible to heavy trucks. Therefore a wooden

track was built down from a street above the 200 foot embankment. The plant was lowered with ropes and pulleys. Half way down there was a loud crack followed by three more as the ropes broke and the tree slid precipitously down the track. Jimmy and his crew held their breath helpless to respond as they watched the plant bounce and miraculously land in the hole they had prepared. 'California' was home!

After twenty years, the tree suffered from Armillaria, a soil fungus, that attacks the roots of many plants. The central trunk died but many of the roots survived and sent up suckers. Three of these are now its new trunks. When Ralph Peer II decided to sell his parents estate, they wanted it to be saved again. They paid for it to be transported to its current home in the Huntington Botanical Gardens camellia collection in San Marino, California. The move was completed on January 29, 2002. The original trunk is completely rotted away but the three trunks are fifteen to twenty feet tall and produce may large red blooms every year.



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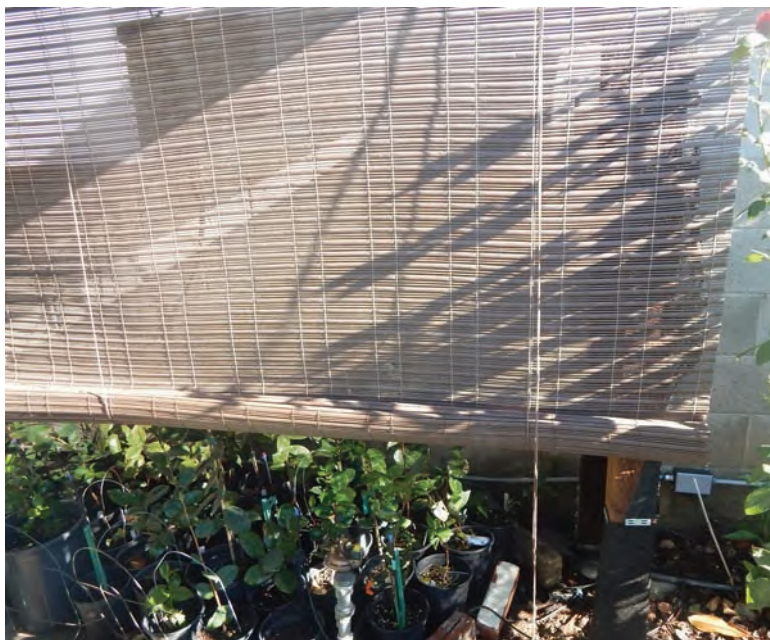
Camellia Foliage Damage Story and Photos by Bradford King

Camellias have beautiful evergreen leaves that are attractive all year. Flowers nestle among the foliage making a wonderful display. However, occasional damaged leaves are found. This is a cause for concern. What is the cause? What can be done to resolve the problem?

SUNBURN

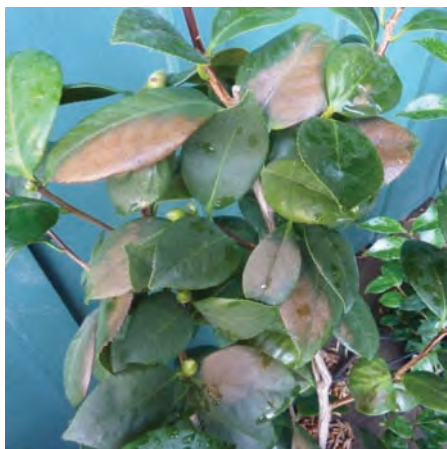
In my experience the most common problem is sunburn. In Southern California we usually have hot dry summer weather but this year we continued to have high temperatures deep into fall with very little rain. In addition we have water restrictions which may also be a contributing factor. Camellias need to be moist at all

times, neither soggy nor dry. A few sunburned leaves serve to warn the grower to move potted camellias to a more shaded area or find other solutions. Jim Fitzpatrick uses garden umbrellas to increase shade for some of his small camellias. I added a roll up shade where I grow grafts and seedlings. During the summer it was not needed but in the fall the sun has moved such that they get full sun light from 12 to 3pm which began to burn foliage especially in the 90 degree heat. Perhaps you too have discovered creative ways to add shade for your camellias.



Roll up shade

When the plant is in the ground, investigate. Did shade trees die or get pruned so there is too much sun on nearby camellias? If so, will the pruned tree grow back to provide adequate shade or do you need to consider other ways to increase shade. Adding a layer of mulch around camellias is a good strategy to increase moisture and periodic late afternoon sprinkling of foliage will also be greatly appreciated by camellias. If you use an automatic watering system, is it providing water to all the camellias? I have had plants die when a sprinkler tube is clogged or disrupted. As plants grow and fill in, the sprinklers may not reach some plants that in the past received adequate moisture. In years when we receive adequate rain camellias may survive but in this drought camellias and other established plants may not survive without additional water being provided.



Sunburn



Needs repotting

FERTILIZER BURN

Appropriate amounts of cottonseed meal as a camellia fertilizer are not likely to cause fertilizer burn, but too much blood meal, Miracle-Gro for acid loving plants, and commercial granular azalea and camellia fertilizers can cause fertilizer burn. In addition slow release fertilizers release their nutrients when watered which may be too frequent. In general a nitrogen level over ten needs to be used very carefully as it can cause burned leaves.

The solution to fertilizer burn is easy. Use less fertilizer and be sure plants are watered well. Never fertilize a dry camellia. A good approach is to water the day prior to fertilizing. The general rule of thumb is to fertilize every 6 to 8 weeks from April through September. In addition remember the obvious— small plants need less fertilizer than large. Pots may require more frequent but smaller amounts of fertilizer. Over fertilizing is more a problem than no fertilizing. Less is more when fertilizing camellias.



Pestalotia

SUMMER FUNGUS

Tom Nuccio showed me examples of pestalotia, a summer fungus that will damage the top foliage of some camellia cultivars. The damaged branches need to be removed and the pruning shears sterilized with bleach. Tom reported that there

was no cure but he plans on spraying with copper as a preventive measure in the spring. The fungus apparently doesn't remain in the plant and attacks only certain cultivars.

CHLOROSIS

A single yellow leaf among dark green foliage is an old leaf being shed which is a normal part of the camellia life cycle. While the yellowing of a number of leaves is usually "chlorosis" which is a deficiency of magnesium or iron. Magnesium is not usually a problem as it is available in a form that is readily used by the plant. While iron is in most soil, it may not be in a form that can be used by the plant. Chlorosis is easily treated by applications of commercial iron chelate for plants. Iron chelate is iron in a water soluble form which is readily available to plants. It may be used as a foliage spray or applied to the soil.

Carefully read the label to be sure that the nitrogen level in the product is low (less than N 10) as too much will damage plants. Follow the manufacture's directions for camellias.

OTHER LEAF DAMAGE

On occasion damage to foliage in a potted camellia is seen. The foliage has multiple dark brown to black spots and the leaf edges are yellow as seen in the photo. The Nuccios have seen it but are unaware of what it is called. It is most likely due to depleted soil that lacks necessary micronutrients. The solution is to repot or pot up the infected plant with a loose well drained potting mix with humus. If seen on a plant in the ground remove old leaves or mulch around the camellia and sprinkle coarse peat mulch cover with a thin layer of pine bark and water. Camellias planted too deeply or smothered with leaves or mulch may die. In the spring when new growth first appears, fertilize with a product that contains nitrogen, potassium, potash and trace minerals including iron every 45 to 60 days through September.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

We have had five years of drought with more days during the summer and fall that reached or exceeded 90 degrees. Many trees have died. The first in my neighborhood were several beautiful European White Birch. According to Daniel Goyette, arborist for The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, this species was the first to succumb and has been followed by Alder trees and some southern Magnolias. Even the California Oaks that have survived low rainfall for years become stressed when there are multiple days of 100 degrees and up. The drought and high heat produced what is described as the tipping point,

making trees more vulnerable to disease and insect infestation that can cause death to mature trees. Remember camellias originally come from Southeast Asia where the climate is just as warm as California but has high humidity and more rain; therefore, we need to provide both ground moisture optimally with a drip system augmented by sprinkling camellia foliage with a hose in the late afternoon or evening to keep them at their best.

Hope abounds as we have had many rainy days in 2017 which helps leach out accumulated salts in the soil and provide some drought relief.

Camellia Species: *C. Oleifera*

by Bradford King

C. oleifera is a Chinese species that is an important source for edible oil also known as tea oil or camellia oil. The oil is obtained from the seeds. *C. oleifera* is widely distributed with over 3 million hectares cultivated for oil production in China. It can be found in forests, foothills and banks of streams at elevations from 300 to 4000 feet. 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. It has potential to become an oil producing plant in the southeast where Dr. John Ritter of the University of Georgia has explored its uses. The seeds can be pressed to yield an edible oil that is usually 80% monounsaturated fat and is high in antioxidant content.



C. Oleifera

However, this camellia species is best known in America for its cold tolerance. Dr. William Ackerman used *C. oleifera* 'Plain Jane' and *C. oleifera* 'Lu Shan Snow' in his cold hardy camellia breeding program. He used these cultivars in making thousands of controlled crosses with many other species and varieties. These seedlings were field tested for cold hardiness and ornamental value. This extensive breeding program led him to introduce 51 cold hardy camellias of which many have *C. oleifera* in their background.

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The Higo Treasures from Japan:

‘Ohkan’

by Bradford King

‘Ohkan’ also spelled ‘Okan’ means “Kings Crown” in English. It has a medium white flower with a lovely rose red border and about 160 stamens that have white filaments. It has a beautiful unforgettable flower. Its slow growth makes it easy to keep in a pot or to bonsai.

‘Ohkan’ mutated from ‘Yamato nishiki’ (Brocade of Ancient Japan) in 1980 and was registered in 1982. ‘Ohkan’ has itself mutated: ‘Kyokkokan’ and ‘Nagoi no Haru’.



‘Ohkan’



‘Potted ‘Ohkan’ In Bloom

The Japanese Higo rule of “go ben snekaku” expresses the aesthetic principle which a top Higo cultivar seeks to reach. There are five “go” petals, arranged on a flat plane “ben” with three central main petals creating a triangle “senkaku”. This is illustrated in the image of the three ‘Ohkan’ blooms with the larger flower on the right a superior flower than the other two blooms.



Trio of 'Obkan' flowers in bloom

Return to TOC

Parting Shot: Christmas Beauty by Bradford King

Christmas is a holiday observed on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people worldwide. It celebrates the birth of Jesus of Nazarene as Christ.

The beauty of Christmas is celebrated with decorations, cards, tree trimming, gifts to family and friends and holiday parties. A beautiful red camellia with green foliage floating in a bowl makes a wonderful table decoration during the holiday season.

‘Christmas Beauty’ is a *Camellia japonica* with a large bright red semidouble flower with fluted petals. It was introduced in 1958 by Vernon Howell, Pelahatchie, Mississippi.



‘Grand Slam’ in a bowl



‘Christmas Beauty’

Return to TOC

Patriotic Camellias

by Brad King

As I write this piece about patriotic camellias, it is September 11. As a retired psychologist, I don't believe this was chance. My subconscious was tuned to this historic date before my conscious writing mind caught on to the importance of the date. A few camellia names reflect the indomitable American patriotic spirit. While they were all named before the tragic events of September 11, 2001, they all symbolize the United States of America.

Nuccio's named a single to semidouble medium white flower with a deep rose red to pink tones 'Old Glory' for its wavy petals that resemble an American flag flying. The original Old Glory flag is now 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. It belonged to William Driver, a sea Captain originally from Salem, Massachusetts, who defiantly flew it from his home in Nashville, Tennessee in the midst of the Civil War which made national news. It is the source of the term Old Glory used today to describe the American flag.



'Old Glory'

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 a *non-reticulata* hybrid that has the ability to thrive in sun and has fall blooming habit just like a *C. sasanqua*. Striped *sasanquas* are rare, so this profuse and showy hybrid makes a welcomed 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. It is often conceded to be Sousa's best composition as it arouses patriotic emotions when it is played at concerts, sporting events and especially when played by a military marching band.

One of the better 'Tama-No-Ura' seedlings is 'Tama Americana'. It is the whitest of the nine Tama varieties introduced by Nuccio's. The medium semidouble rose red flower has a wide white border with occasional petaloids. This lovely flower is a tribute to America. The mother or seed parent was 'Tama-No-Ura' which the Nuccio's imported from Japan in 1978. It has a small to medium single red flower with a white border and sets a multitude of seeds. While not all of its seedlings will have a white border, some will inherit this genetic characteristic. The father or pollen parent is unknown for the nine Tama cultivars introduced by the Nuccio's because they let the bees do the pollinating. It is good that eight of the nine of these varieties begins with 'Tama' as it tells us its mother. The exception is 'Merry Christmas' introduced in 1991 before the other varieties were registered in 1993.



'Stars N' Stripes'

In 1921 Lindo introduced a camellia he named 'Uncle Sam' which has a large rose red rose form double flower. Did he name it for one of his Uncles named

Sam or for the iconic American symbol “Uncle Sam”? Uncle Sam--initials U.S. is a common national personification of the United States. According to one legend, it was first used in the War of 1812 named for Samuel Wilson. This Samuel Wilson was born in Arlington, Massachusetts to one of the oldest Boston families. He and his older brother Ebenezer relocated to Troy, New York. The Wilson brothers were among the first pioneer settlers of the community of Troy which was close to the Hudson River and made it an attractive place to resettle. He became a meat packer who supplied barrels of beef to the United States Army during the War of 1812. Wilson (1766-1854) stamped the barrels with “U.S.” for United States, but soldiers began referring to the food as “Uncle Sam’s”. The local newspaper picked up the story and Uncle Sam eventually gained widespread acceptance as the nickname for the U.S. Federal government.

On the other hand, an Uncle Sam is mentioned as early lyrics of the American Revolutionary War. However, it is not clear whether this reference is to Uncle Sam as a metaphor for the United States or to an actual person named Sam. Thus we come full circle as to when is Uncle Sam referring to an actual human being or the national symbol.

The famous poster “Uncle Sam Wants You” was first published as the cover for the July 6, 1916, issue of Leslie’s Weekly with the title “What Are You Doing for Preparedness?” This portrait of “Uncle Sam” was created by James Montgomery Flagg. Over four million copies were printed between 1917 and 1918 as the United States entered World War I.

Today Uncle Sam is an icon for the Government of the United States of America and is an American patriotic symbol. Patriotic songs, phrases and the national flag are all potent symbols of our past, present and future as Americans. “Long Live the United States Of America”.



‘Tama Americana’

Return to TOC

There Are Superior Camellias

by Brad King

There are specific camellia plants that are superior to their clones. These are the plants that produce bigger and better flowers than their siblings. They are the ones that regularly win year after year at camellia shows. They may not have superior genes but definitely have been well cared for and have been planted in an ideal location that meets their needs. This is illustrated by five examples that I have observed for a number of years winning camellia show after show.

Joe and Linda Tunner's 'Tama Electra'

'Tama Electra' has a single small to medium brilliant dark red flower with a white border. It grows vigorously, upright on a compact plant that blooms early to mid-season. It inherited the picoteed border from its seed plant 'Tama No Ura'. It is notorious for not regularly having a white border. Some plants, however, are much more reliable. Joe and Linda Tunner have what I call a superior plant. It almost always has many beautiful brilliant red flowers with a pure white border. They have been entering it in the small class for a number of years and regularly winning show points. It is uncommon for single flowers to get to the head table but their little beauty does. For example, it won as best tray of three in the 2015 Pacific Camellia show and runner up as a single in the 2015 Council Camellia Show. In 2016 it was even a bigger winner winning two first places as small and several more times in trays of three and five.



'Tama Electra'



'Prima Ballerina'

Photo by Barbara Carroll

Jim Fitzpatrick and Barbara Carroll's 'Prima Ballerina'

'Prima Ballerina' has a medium to large semidouble white washed flower with orchid pink shading and fluted petals. It blooms mid to late season on a compact plant. Jim and Barbara's plant is the largest and most prolific 'Prima Ballerina' that the Nuccio's have seen. They should know as they introduced it in 1983. Jim reports it bloomed early to late season this year with a total of more than 250 blooms. In 2015 it won Best tray of 3 treated, Best tray of 5; Court of Honor for 3 like blooms and Runner up for a tray of 5 of like blooms. In 2016 in trays of multiple flowers it won 5 times tying for first place with Nuccio's Carousel won by several different entrants. I saw him bring a box full of 'Prima Ballerinas' for every show this season. The volume of quality flowers whether natural or treated makes this an example of a superior camellia.

Don and Marilee Gray's 'Miss Charleston Variegated'

The Gray's 'Miss Charleston Variegated' has been winning show points for more than 30 years at Southern California Camellia Shows. It has won gibel and natural when the flower was entered in the large *Japonica* class. When the size was changed to medium to large it continued its winning ways as a medium. The flower is a deep red semidouble to formal double with a high center. Marilee's flower wins because the ones entered are formal double with uniform white blotches which makes a much more beautiful bloom than when a semidouble or loose peony in form.



'Miss Charleston Variegated'

Don and Marilee are retiring from regularly entering flowers at shows but their 'Miss Charleston Variegated' is burned into our memories. Marilee has been a mentor to many of this generations camellia enthusiasts. Thank You!

Marvin And Virginia Belcher's 'Astronaut'

'Astronaut' was introduced in 1962 by Select Nursery, Brea California to honor American astronauts. Since this nursery is no longer in business their medium single to semidouble rose pink medium flower is not grown widely. Marvin, a vital 90 year old from Bakersfield, grafted his 'Astronaut' from his friend the late Dr. Richard Stern's whose plant died soon after the graft was made. This graft has grown into a super 'Astronaut'. It has been winning for years because it is a beautiful semidouble with crisp upright petals. In 2014 he and Virginia won 3 times. This placed 'Astronaut' as the third most frequent winner in



'Astronaut' Arrangement



'Astronaut'

the medium class. ‘Elaine’s Betty’ and ‘Margaret Davis’ were one and two but these entries were grown by several different growers. In 2015 it continued to win with 2 first place Best as a single and 3 wins in multiple blooms then again it won four first places in 2016. Marvin is the Camellia guru of Kern County and a mentor to many in the Kern County Camellia Society members.

Anne And Steve Dashiell’s ‘Joe Nuccio’

Joe Nuccio was the oldest son of Giulio and Katherine Nuccio. Joe and his younger brother Julius founded Nuccio’s Nurseries in 1935. In 1991 they introduced a non *reticulata* hybrid seedling of ‘Garden Glory’ with a lovely orchid pink flower with incurved petal tips that are a deeper tone of pink. It is a medium formal double that blooms early and may continue to have flowers through the camellia blooming season. The two toned pink colors on a formal double flower with the distinctive attractive incurved petals make ‘Joe Nuccio’



‘Joe Nuccio’

a wonderful addition to a camellia collection. I asked Tom and Jude how did it come about that they named this flower for Jude’s dad. Tom said his father, Julius, persuaded them. Jude recalled that his father really liked this flower. ‘Joe Nuccio’ is a great camellia that commemorates one of the founding fathers of Nuccio’s Nurseries.

The Dashiell’s have a mature ‘Joe Nuccio’ plant that year in and year out produces many wonderful blooms. Consequently, they consistently win show points in the Non *reticulata* class especially in January when this early bloomer is at its best. It wins as a single and in trays of like blooms. The reasons they have a superior plant is the volume of well-formed formal double flowers with incurved petals all decked out in vivid light and dark pink.

A Superior Camellia In The Making

Several years ago my wife, Lynn, and I went to Nuccio’s to purchase two ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ 5 gallon plants. Tom Nuccio and I selected the two “best” plants available. Since one was to be birthday gift for our son, Brad; mom gave the “best” one to him. He planted it next to ‘Frank Houser’ in a small raised bed in the front of his house. This small garden has turned out to be an excellent location for four *reticulata* camellias and three *japonicas*. He has won with both

'Frank Houser' and 'Frank Houser Variegated' the last several years. Like real estate, location, location, location is a key to growing a superior camellia. When a well rooted plant coupled with good culture has an optimal in-ground location a superior camellia will bloom show winning flowers treated, natural, single, in trays of 3 and 5 like blooms. Since many people grow 'Frank Houser' and 'Frank Houser Variegated' a variety of people win with these very large red flowers. Therefore, it takes a superior plant to win points which son Brad has been doing. However, he took a new job in New York City. Will the new owners know the beauty they have inherited? Recently 'Frank Houser Variegated' is beginning to win more often than 'Frank Houser' as the contrasting white markings on red makes a strong impression on judges.



'Frank Houser Variegated'

Return to TOC

Driving Alone To Bakersfield

by Brad King

Driving alone early Saturday morning to the Bakersfield Camellia show listening to the radio, the Rolling Stones song “Far Away Eyes” came on. The lyrics are about the lowness of life and the possibilities of finding love. Driving alone is a peaceful and productive time to reflect. When I returned home I looked up the song on the internet. This is what I found.

Mick Jagger in a 1978 interview with Rolling Stone magazine said, “You know, when you drive through Bakersfield on a Sunday morning or Sunday evening, all the country music radio stations start broadcasting black gospel services live from L.A. But the songs really are about driving alone, listening to the radio.” The Stones incorporated many aspects of Bakersfield style country music into “Far Away Eyes”, for example Ronnie Wood’s use of a pedal steel guitar. I didn’t know there was a “Bakersfield style” of country music. Did You?

Bakersfield Sound

The internet informed me that the Bakersfield sound was developed at honky-tonk bars and on local TV stations in the 1950s and 1960s. The town noted for

oil production and agriculture was the destination for many of the dust bowl migrants from Oklahoma who brought their music with them which resonated with audiences in California's Central Valley. Bakersfield country was a reaction against the slickly produced string orchestra Nashville Sound. Bob Wills "Louisiana Swing" was the first song recorded in the style known today as the legendary "Bakersfield Sound". In the early 1960s, Merle Haggard, Buck Owens and the Buckaroos, among others, brought the Bakersfield sound to mainstream audiences, and it soon became one of the most popular kinds of country music. It influenced later country stars such as Dwight Yoakam, Marty Stuart, Brad Paisley and The Mavericks. Women were also prominent figures in Bakersfield country. Jean Shepard, one of country music's first significant female artists, began her recording career on the West Coast in the 1950s.

Miss Bakersfield

The Miss Bakersfield Pageant is held annually. A teen, Miss and Mrs. are crowned. A bright red camellia was named 'Miss Bakersfield' in 1982 by Ted Alfter of Bakersfield. It has 50 to 60 petals that form a loose peony to full peony flower. This 'Kramer's Supreme' X 'All American' cross first bloomed in 1973. A variegated form was also introduced by Alfter. A beautiful flower honors talented women from Bakersfield.



'Miss Bakersfield'



Novice Bloom Winners

Camellia Society Of Kern County

This camellia society has its annual show at the Bakersfield Racket Club. To me the most impressive part of the show is the novice class which can have more than forty entries.

The flower quality was excellent. The three judges sent twelve blooms to the head table for voting. In 2014 the Best Bloom was 'Toichi Domoto' entered by Gary Johnson. He will get his name placed on the large Silver Revere Bowl which is a great tradition of this Camellia Society. Runner-up was the wonderful variety 'Mathotiana' entered by Lorraine Gonzales.

In addition to the usual classes of camellias, there were three flower arranging classes that give entrants an opportunity to create creative and beautiful camellia arrangements.



43 Novice Bloom Entries

Return to TOC

Camellia Species: *C. nitidissima*

Story and Photos by Brad King



While there are forty yellow camellia species, there are only a few available in America. The most popular and widely distributed is *C. nitidissima*. The flower is a small golden yellow single to semidouble. The petals are shiny, thick and highly

textured frequently folding back to form a cup like bloom. The plant grows vigorously upright and open with very large ribbed leaves that are distinctive. It blooms midseason. The flower stem (pedicels) are long. This can be clearly seen on the photo of the seed pods which are dark with a purple hue. The plant is endogenous to southern Guangxi, China and northern Vietnam. It is widely grown for its yellow flowers and distinctive foliage.



C. nitidissima foliage



C. nitidissima seed pods

When *C. nitidissima* was first described in the 1960s it caused great excitement in the camellia world due to its deep yellow pigmentation which can vary in saturation from pale to deep yellow. Hybridizers used it widely in their breeding programs seeking large and more complicated yellow flowers. However it is highly incompatible with most other camellia species. When successful crosses were obtained, seedlings are almost all sterile thus preventing back crossing to enhance color. There are a few dozen pale or light yellow cultivars that are available in specialized camellia nurseries. Four of the best varieties are 'Ki-No-Senritsu' (yellow melody), 'Senritsu-Ko' (pinkish melody), 'Ki-No Moto #95' (basic yellow number 95) and 'Kogane Nishiki' (metallic gold brocade).

'Ki-No-Senritsu' has a small to medium soft yellow peony to loose peony flower that blooms midseason on an upright open fast growing plant. It is a shy bloomer, at least when young.

'Senritsu-Ko' has a small to medium formal double to rose form double light yellow flower with peach pink on the petal edges. It blooms midseason on a moderately fast upright open plant. It will bloom when young and produce many flowers. Depending on microclimate it may open fast looking like a spent rose or stay in a formal double form capable of winning show points because of its beauty.



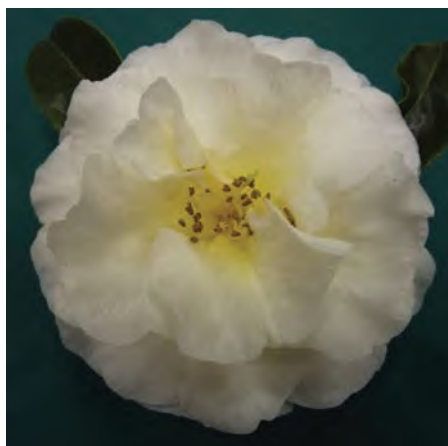
'Ki-No-Senritsu'



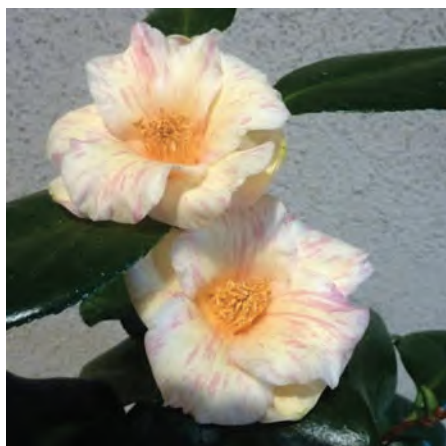
'Senritsu-Ko' rose form

'Ki-No-Moto #95' has a light yellow large semidouble flower borne on a slow upright plant that blooms mid to late season. It gets its large size from its *reticulata* parents and the yellow from *C.nitidissima*. It frequently has a creamy flower shading darker yellow in the center.

'Kogane-Nishiki' has a small single trumpet shaped flower that is pale yellow with slender red stripes inherited from 'Betty Foy Sanders'. It blooms mid to late season on a vigorous upright plant. When established it produces many identical flowers which makes a good entry in trays of like blooms.



'Ki-No-Moto #95'



'Kogane-Nishiki'

Return to TOC

High Tea

by Brad King

Queen Elizabeth II born April 26, 1926 at 91 years of age has ruled the United Kingdom for 65 years, the longest ruling female monarch in history. In 2012 she celebrated a Diamond Jubilee. The only other time in British history that a monarch celebrated a Diamond Jubilee was in 1897, when Queen Victoria celebrated hers. People all over the world celebrated Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee.

In America we can celebrate any time of the year by going to high tea. This tradition was brought to America by our British ancestors. Who doesn't love tea, sipping champagne, scones, Devonshire cream, petite pastries, strawberries and

tiny sandwiches with the crust removed? Tea time is an experience to be enjoyed with friends and loved ones. Birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, graduations are memorable when celebrated at tea time. Romance and love are kindled when we partake of high tea. Where are some of the best places in the Pasadena, California area for tea time?



Rose Garden Tea Room at the Huntington

The Huntington Rose Garden Tea Room

The Tea room overlooks three acres of roses, one of the many beautiful gardens at the Huntington Botanical Garden in San Marino. A pot of brewed tea and a basket of freshly baked scones are served at each table. Guests may choose from an array of savory finger sandwiches, imported and domestic cheeses, fresh fruit, chilled seasonal salads, and specialty petite desserts. Best of all, you eat as much and stay as long as you wish. The Huntington is familiar to camellia lovers as the Southern California Camellia Society has an annual camellia show the second week of February which is usually close to Valentine's Day one of the most popular times to celebrate with high tea. Reservations will be required. My adult son celebrated his anniversary there describing it as expensive sandwiches with the crust removed but lauded it also had the best tea he ever drank. When Lynn and I took out of town friends there for tea we all loved the scones with Devonshire cream and choice of several different teas. Our female friend commented on a delicious sandwich she was eating asked "What is it"? When told it was filled with a black olive spread; she put it down, became silent and never touched it again. The loyal husband told us later she "dislikes black olives". One of the best parts about tea is there are choices to please every palate. Our guest went on to enjoy the many dessert petite foresh. The Huntington is located at 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA and the tea room # is (626) 405-2100.

Rose Tree Cottage

Friends went to the Rose Tree Cottage for the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. Another female friend goes often because she enjoys the atmosphere, delicious food and socializing with her women friends. Guests are warmly greeted by Butler Edmond Fry and his lovely wife. They are very attuned to details even anticipating the special needs of a guest in a wheelchair. In fact, all the staff are very pleasant. The atmosphere provides a rich British cultural experience of hospitality of grace and class, leaving guests wanting more. My personal favorite is the roast beef Yorkshire pudding and my wife, Lynn, loves the currant scones. Reservations are required so plan your next celebration in advance. They are located at 801 S Pasadena Ave, Pasadena. Phone:(626) 793-3337.

The "T" House

My wife celebrated her 70th birthday this past year with friends at The "T" House in Montrose. She raved about it and loved the friendly atmosphere. She found the decor reminiscent of "English Garden Style". The owner and staff were amazing-- treating guests like long lost friends spending time visiting and explain the teas and food being served. The Reviews on the internet all praised the warmth of this family owned and run tea room. One wrote "perfect, an ideal destination for a bridal or baby shower, a birthday celebration or simply to treat yourself and people you love." They are located at 2405 Honolulu Ave, Montrose for reservations contact them at (818) 249-6677.



Four Seasons Tea Sandwiches and Dessert

The Four Seasons Tea Room

This lovely spacious home tea room is tucked away at the base of the Southern California foothills in the small charming downtown Sierra Madre just a few miles from my home. They are now in their 20th year of tea service to

Southlanders and British Royals yet I had never had the pleasure; therefore, a reservation was made for my wife and I for a rainy day in January.

We had the choice of twenty-one flavors of black tea, several green teas, decaffeinated tea and even herbal tea. Each person gets to choose and has their own tea pot. The tea pots throughout the tea room were one of a kind. The freshly baked scones served with raspberry jam and clotted cream were scrumptious. The five different sandwiches were delicious. When I saw how small they were, I wondered if I would leave hungry. Far from it... I was so full I thought about skipping dessert but when I saw what was offered I forged ahead disregarding my New Year's Resolution about no desserts. Each of us had a lemon bar, shortbread cookie topped with sugar and a chocolate truffle. Service was attentive and appropriately leisurely in this cozy cottage setting. They are located at 75 North N Baldwin Ave, Sierra Madrid. For reservations call 626 445-0045.

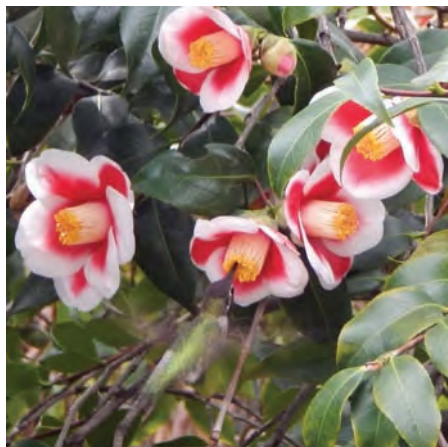
Return to TOC

Birds and Camellias

by Brad King

Many birds look for food, seek shelter and build nests in camellias. The bright colored camellia flowers attract hummingbirds. However, getting a photo of these rapid moving, fleet little birds takes a bit of luck and loads of patience.





*A male Anna's Hummingbird in
'Tama No Ura'*



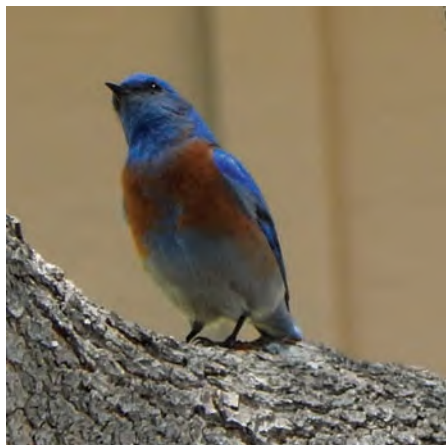
*A male Allen's Hummingbird enjoys
the sugar water feeder*

Hummingbird feeders among camellia blooms of 'Adolphe Audusson Variegated' and 'Prima Ballerina' provide interesting viewing during winter months in Southern California.

Inspiration for some camellia names comes from colorful birds. The hybrid camellia 'Blue Bird' is a good example. The deep pink flower with blue tones reminds us of a "bluebird". In America, we have three beautiful "blue birds" –the Mountain Blue Bird, Western Blue Bird and Eastern Blue Bird. The use of DDT decimated the Eastern Blue Bird population until this pesticide was banned. People rallied by building and placing nesting boxes for this lovely "blue bird" such that it is now seen throughout its original range.



'Blue Bird' Camellia

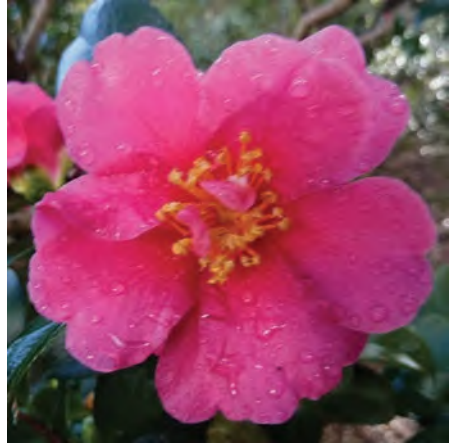


Western Blue Bird

White Doves are symbols of love and peace. Doves are also religious symbols of Judaism and Christianity. The Japanese *C. sasanqua* 'Mine-No-Yuki' (Snow on the Mountain) is better known as 'White Doves' in America. The white semidouble flowers are borne on a low growing bush that has become a popular landscape plant.



'White Doves'



'Hiryu' aka 'Red Bird'

The *C. sasanqua* 'Hiryu' is also known as 'Red Bird' because of its crimson red flower. The wavy and twisted petals unfurl from a tight bud which makes a nice display in a fall garden. 'Miyakodori' is Japanese for seagull which is the name given to a pure white medium semidouble flower with elongated petals like the wings of a gull. This flower was named not just for its gull like wings but because it blooms when the gulls migrate in Japan.



'Miyakodori'

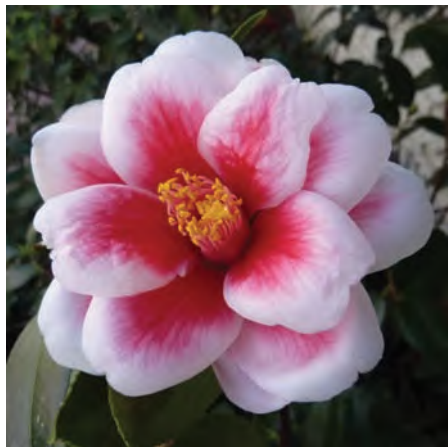


Male Peacock

The peacock with its massive tail and iridescent colors has fascinated people for years. During the breeding season, he defends his territory by displaying his gorgeous tail feathers and screeching. Recently it was discovered that the tail feathers quiver emitting a low frequency sound we humans can't hear but is used to attract mates. The female peahen's plumage blends with the earth tones of the garden which is good for survival when nesting and raising a brood of peachicks.

Peafowl are not native to America but are a popular attraction in the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia where the Southern California Camellia Society holds its monthly meetings from October through April on the third Thursday of the month except December. The 250 to 300 Peafowl present today all descended from three pair that Lucky Baldwin imported in the late 1800's from India. The native coyotes, bobcat, and raccoons manage to keep the population to somewhere under 300.

One of the most beautiful camellias bred from 'Tama No Ura' is 'Tama Peacock'. This *C. japonica* has a small tubular semidouble flower. The maroon color bleeds and blends into a clear white border that is as dramatic as its namesake's tail. The plant grows upright in a pendulous manner. It produces many early to midseason flowers and sets seeds readily making it a terrific mother plant.



'Tama Peacock'

Return to TOC

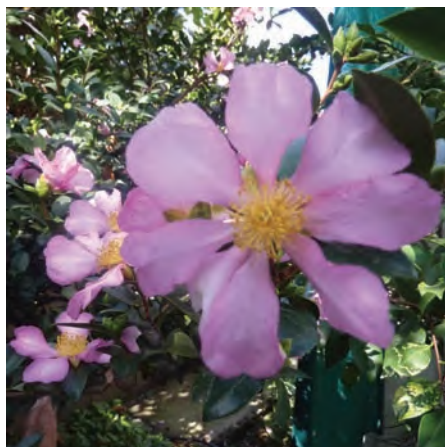
Camellias Make A Wonderful Winter

by Brad King

As the leaves turn brilliant colors of yellow, orange, and red it ushers in the cooler weather. As the leaves and temperatures drop, they leave the garden with annuals spent and perennials dormant. But in camellia country these colorful evergreen shrubs and small trees begin to bloom. They are the royalty of the winter garden and favorite places for birds to seek shelter and food. In Southern California the camellia flowers provide nectar to the resident hummingbirds in the winter months. The beautiful red camellias are especially attractive to the Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds that do not migrate. The small perky Ruby Crowned Kinglet, a winter resident, moves quickly among the camellia leaves searching for insects. The Bewick's Wren stays close to ground searching the undercover for food. The male House Finch looks perky among the green foliage in the red bloom of a 'Wildfire'. These are some of the local residents that "make my day" during the winter months.



Male House Finch in 'Wildfire'



'Hugh Evans'

SUN CAMELLIAS

The camellia season begins in the fall when *C. sasanqua* and other sun loving camellias begin to bloom. While most camellias are grown in dappled sunlight, these are the camellias that thrive in full sunlight and provide a profusion of flowers in the fall and early winter. It is the mass blooming of bright colored flowers that make the sun camellias outstanding landscape plants. One of the earliest is the profuse blooming 'Hugh Evans' which has a lovely single pink flower. A white flower with a rose red or rose pink border is a classic *sasanqua* flower such as 'Painted Desert', 'Rainbow', 'Double Rainbow', and 'Old Glory'. One of the

most popular landscape camellias that blooms in the holiday season is ‘Yuletide’.



‘Old Glory’



‘Yuletide’

There are sun camellias that bloom in between the fall blooming *sasanquas* and the winter blooming *japonicas*. One of the best is ‘Egao’ with a large semidouble pink flower and its variegated form ‘Shibori Egao’.



‘Egao’



Descanso Gardens Tea House

One of the best displays of sun camellias in Southern California is the artfully designed landscape around the Japanese Tea house at Descanso Gardens.

QUEEN OF THE WINTER

Camellia japonica is the Queen of the winter garden with beautiful flowers that are all colors and shades of the rainbow except blue and, of course, brown and black. They can have very small to very large blooms in many shapes from simple

to complex. There are literally thousands of *japonica* varieties. While some have pretty perky single flowers, they most frequently have semidouble flowers. A good example is ‘Betty Foy Sanders’ which has a white flower variegated with many rose red streaks. (See cover photo). ‘Lady Laura’ has a medium to large striking pink variegated loose peony flower. Peony formed flowers are called loose when the stamens peek out among the petals and full peony when stamens don’t show. Ten percent of camellias have anemone formed flowers. A good example of a medium red anemone *japonica* is ‘Rudolph’ named by the Nuccio’s for Rudolph the red nosed reindeer. The rose formed camellias get their name from hybrid tea roses because they initially have a tight bud center which over several days opens up displaying the stamens. Most people prefer roses and camellias with a bud center. ‘Glen 40 Variegated’ illustrates this in the accompany photo.



‘Lady Laura’



‘Glen 40 Var.’

Many camellia lovers find the formal double the most desirable of all the camellia forms. These flowers have many rows of overlapping petals such that no stamens are seen. In fact this complicated flower is sterile with neither stamens nor viable female parts. A very good mid to late season medium formal double is ‘Nuccio’s Pearl’.

KING OF THE WINTER

The King of the winter garden is *camellia reticulata*. The very large flowers are magnificent on the plant or decorating one’s



‘Nuccio’s Pearl’

home. The most popular *reticulata* the last fifteen years throughout the camellia show world is 'Frank Houser'. However, the last several years its variegated form has taken over first place as it wins as a single, and in trays of three and five like blooms.



'Frank Houser Var.' and 'Frank Houser'

One of the most beautiful newer *C. reticulata* hybrids is 'Barbara Goff'. She has a very large semidouble to formal double soft pink flower borne on a very handsome plant. It was introduced by Gordon Goff who named it for his wife. It is my candidate to knock the Frank Houser brothers off the head table at camellia shows. However, even if she doesn't, the handsome plant with beautiful flowers makes an outstanding show in the garden.



'Barbara Goff'



'Harold L. Paige'

Many of the *reticulata* hybrids have very large red flowers that stand out among the green foliage. One that blooms late season and can extend the season into April is 'Harold L. Paige.'

PRINCESS OF THE WINTER

The non-*reticulata* hybrids are crosses between two camellia species. They are the princesses of winter, the children of a King and his Queen, except these camellias can't have parents with any *reticulata* in their lineage. The first of these hybrids were made between *C. saluenensis* and *C. japonica* varieties. They are also known as "Williamsii" hybrids named for J.C. Williams, the first person to make these crosses in England in the 1940's. They are noted for their vigorous growth and for having many beautiful colorful flowers. 'Adorable' has a small to mid-size bright pink flower that blooms mid to late season. It is a *C. pitardii* hybrid from Australia. 'Night Rider' comes from New Zealand and has one of the darkest black red flowers. It has a miniature to small flower borne on a plant that has red roots and stems with bronze toned new leaves that turn green over time. (See photo of 'Night Rider' inside cover.)

Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, California has introduced sixteen non-*reticulata* hybrids. Their most popular hybrid is 'Buttons 'N Bows'. It has a small formal double light pink flower that shades to a deeper pink on the petal edges. Another stand out is their 'Island Sunset' which has a medium semidouble flower with a rich coral pink flower that shades lighter in the center. When at its best, it is awesome.

Kramer Brothers introduced 'Spring Daze' in 1989 which is a widely distributed show winning camellia that also makes a good landscape plant. It has a small to medium formal double to rose form double flower that usually opens into a lovely light blush pink with a bold coral pink edge. It is one of the rose form double blooms that when open is as beautiful as when it is in its bud form.

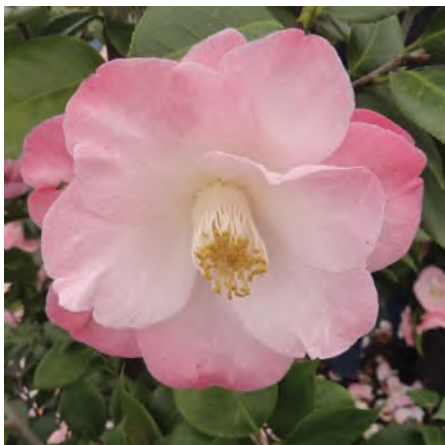
COLD HARDY CAMELLIAS

Camellias can now be grown on the east coast as far north as Maryland by selecting cold hardy varieties. These hybrid camellias make wonderful landscape plants that will thrive down to USDA Zone 5b (-15 degrees F). There are over eighty cultivars to choose from thanks to hybridizers Dr. William Ackerman, Dr. Clifford Parks, Barry Yinger and Longwood Gardens.

Dr. Ackerman's favorite of his 50 introductions was 'Ashton Ballet'. It has a lovely two-toned pink medium rose form double flower.



'Ashton Ballet' photo by Gene Phillips



'April Remembered'

Dr. Parks introduced a series of cold hardy camellias whose names begin with April. One of the best is 'April Remembered' a large soft pink and white semi double bloom. The most popular cold hardy camellia introduced by Barry Yinger is 'Korean Fire'. It has a small to medium single red flower.



'Korean Fire', photo by Mason McNear

Longwood Gardens has introduced a few very cold hardy camellias. 'Longwood Valentine' is a good example with its small to medium single pink flower.

CONCLUSION

Camellias and birds keep the winter garden beautiful and lively during the late fall and winter months. Camellias have lovely evergreen foliage all year long and absolutely sparkle in the winter when other plants aren't in bloom. Camellias are easy to grow in containers or in the garden.

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Camellia Species: *C. lutchuensis*

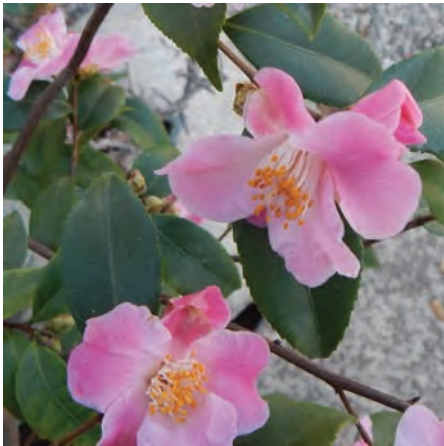
Story and Photos by Brad King



C. lutchuensis

This species of camellia has a wonderful sweet fragrance that emanates from its many small white single flowers. The flower buds usually have a lovely red spot on the outer petals. Buds grow singly and in small clusters in the leaf axis emerging along the stems and branches among the small pointed leaves. The plant, when mature, can reach ten feet in height. Indigenous to Ryukyu Island, Japan, it makes a good landscape plant in warm frost free areas but can be temperamental.

While camellia flowers are beautiful, the vast majority lack fragrance. There are a few *C. japonica* cultivars that may occasionally produce flowers with a thin scent; for example, ‘Herme’, ‘Kramer’s Supreme’, and the Higo ‘Nioi Fubuki’ (scented snow storm). Several *C. sasanqua* varieties have flowers with an earthy musky scent that some people like but others detest, such as ‘Bert Jones’. Therefore, when the sweet smelling *C. lutchuensis* became available and it bred easily with *C. japonica*, new fragrant cultivars were introduced. There are now over a hundred non *reticulata* hybrids with *C. lutchuensis* in their lineage. The three most popular are ‘High Fragrance’, ‘Koto-No-Kaori’, and ‘Minato- No- Akebono’.



‘Minato-No-Akebono’



'High Fragrance'



'Koto-No-Kaori'

'High Fragrance' has a pale ivory pink flower with deeper pink on the petal edges. It has a medium peony form flower that grows on an open vigorous plant with light green foliage. It blooms mid to late season. 'Koto-No-Kaori' has a small single rose pink flower that blooms profusely on an upright lacy plant early to midseason. 'Minato-No Akebono' has a miniature single light pink flower that shades to a darker pink. The profuse flowers are borne on an upright somewhat loose plant that blooms early to midseason.

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Who Drinks Tea?

By Brad King

Worldwide, China is far and away the largest consumer of tea at 1.6 billion pounds a year. However, per person there is a different picture with Turkey, Ireland, and the United Kingdom, home to the world's largest number of tea drinkers. In Turkey people consume about seven pounds each year. Worldwide tea is the most consumed prepared beverage, second to water, as the number one drink. The United States ranks 35th out of the 55 countries noted for tea drinking.

TEA DRINKING IN AMERICA

Tea can be found in 80 percent of all American households. On any given day over 158 million Americans drink tea. It is the only beverage drunk hot or iced at any time and for any reason. Eighty-five percent of all tea consumed is Black Tea; 14 percent Green Tea; and small amounts of oolong, white and dark tea. America is the third largest importer of tea after Russia and Pakistan. Therefore, just under half of Americans drink tea, with the South and Northeast leading the way. It must be noted that 85 percent of the tea consumed in America is iced. In the South iced tea is highly sweetened, but this is not as popular in other areas of the country.

Iced tea is also a popular packaged drink. It can be mixed with flavored syrup, with multiple common flavors including lemon, raspberry, lime, passion fruit, peach, orange, strawberry, and spearmint. It accounts for a half billion dollars a year in sales. More than half the hot tea is purchased in bags. Loose tea made up only 1% but continues to grow in volume and dollars while bag sales are flat.



Prepared iced teas



Boxes of bagged teas

HERBAL TEA

While “real tea” is prepared only by steeping tea leaves (*Camellia sinensis*), herbal teas are produced from any number of different herbs and combinations of herbs. Herbal teas can be prepared from steeping the leaves, stems, flowers, and roots with added flavors such as cinnamon, cardamom, and ginger. Herbal teas are also sometimes served cold and referred to as iced tea. Sales of herbal teas are also on the increase reaching thirty percent of all tea sales.

SUN TEA

In the summertime a popular, romantic, and old-fashioned way of making iced tea is to place a few tea bags in big jar of water and let it slowly steep in the sun. It may be sweetened in the jar or individually by the glass to accommodate different people’s preferences. Since it isn’t boiled, bacteria may be present and grow in the heat. Therefore, it is technically not strictly safe, but it is unlikely to make people ill when clean tap water is used and the tea jar is clean. In addition, the caffeine in black tea does somewhat inhibit bacteria growth. Herbal tea should never be used to make sun tea.

TEA ADDITIVES

Tea is often consumed with additions to the tea and water. Some are flavors added to the tea during processing before they are sold. The most common additions to hot tea are sugar or honey and a slice of lemon with iced tea. The biggest dilemma for tea drinkers is whether to add milk, and if so, before or after the tea has been made. This is a hotly debated topic among tea consumers.

TEA QUOTES

We close with several quotes that capture the mind of the tea drinker.

First from C. S. Lewis: “You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me.” Second from Dostoyevsky (*Notes from Underground*): “I say let the world go to hell, but I should always have my tea.” Third from Henry James (*The Portrait of a Lady*): “There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea.”

And my favorite from Eleanor Roosevelt: “A woman is like a tea bag - you can’t tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.”

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Camellia Battles

By Brad King

Do you remember playing games in your neighborhoods as a youngster? We played baseball, basketball, football, kickball, as well as red rover red rover send “X” right over, red light green light, kick the can, Simon says. It was especially fun when parents joined in the games. Teams of parents were the “Old Fogies” and the children “The Young Whipper Snappers”. As a parent we played the same games with our children. Today all the children in my neighborhood join organized sports run by adults or have private lessons and even personal trainers in a workout facility. They don’t know the joy of catching a pass from your mother or tagging your dad out at home plate. It was friendly competition and a bonding experience with family and friends. Today we have camellia shows where winning camellias may be grown by a woman, a man or a couple. The last dozen or so years ‘Frank Houser’ dominated the *Reticulata* class throughout the camellia growing states. Over the last couple of years ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ has been gaining. In 2014 ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ won 91 to 75 points for ‘Frank Houser’. However, in 2015 and 2016 there were fierce battles in the camellia world in the *C. reticulata* class between cultivars named for women and those named for men. The top camellias named for women are mounting serious challenges to the ‘Frank Houser’ brothers.

BATTLE REPORT FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

In the seven camellia shows in Southern California that stretch from San Diego to Bakersfield ‘Frank Houser’ and ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ have been the guys to beat. They win as singles natural and gibed as well as in trays of 3 and 5 like blooms. This year the biggest battle was between them with ‘Frank Houser Variegated’ taking more points in the trays. Now that Nuccio’s is propagating ‘Barbara Goff’ she is challenging the Houser brothers. For example at the 2015 and 2016 Bakersfield show ‘Barbara Goff’ was second to ‘Frank Houser’ and has become his chief rival. Can she knock him out of first place in the years to come?



‘Barbara Goff’ and ‘Frank Houser’



'Frank Houser' and 'Frank Houser Var.' Trays of 3

BATTLE REPORT FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

When the Northern California and Southern California show reports are combined as reported by Don Bergamini in the 2015 Camellia Review; there was shocking news that the *reticulata* women were dominating. Three of the top winners were 'Ruta Hagmann' with 6 wins; 'Barbara Goff' with 5 and 'Linda Carol' with 4 tied with 'Frank Houser Variegated'. These beautiful women were all introduced by hybridizers from Northern California where they have become established winners.



'Ruta Hagmann'



'Linda Carroll'

The battle continued in 2016 as can be seen in Don Bergamini's article in this issue. 'Barbara Goff' had eight wins to top the list of *C. reticulata* winners followed by 5 wins each for 'Frank Houser' and 'Frank Houser Variegated'. However the

men rallied with 'Larry Piet' and 'Harold L. Paige' tied for fourth place followed by 'Linda Carrol' with 2 wins. What happened to last year's winner 'Ruta Haggmann'? In 2015 my 'Ruta Haggmann' produced a number of beautiful blooms especially when gibed but not so in 2016 when fall weather was less than optimal. In addition it seems to me that my plant does better every other year. While this may account for my plants bloom, it seems unlikely that other grower's plants cycle in the same years as mine.

BATTLE REPORT FROM THE ATLANTIC AND GULF COAST

Richard Buggeln reports for the 2015 camellia season a point system with 5 points for winners, 3 for second and 1 third was used. The combined report shows 'Frank House Variegated' winning with 107 points followed by 'Frank Houser' 97 with the third place finisher 'Ray Gentry Variegated' with 48 points which is half as many as 'Frank Houser'. When the Houser brother's scores are combined they overwhelmed all other *reticulata* entrees which include only two women in the top ten. They are 'Lady Ruth Ritter' which is not seen in California and 'Linda Carrol' which was introduced by Frank Pursel in Northern California. They both have beautiful flowers. In conclusion in the Atlantic and Gulf camellia regions the guys win because the brothers Houser are still dominating the *reticulata* class.

NATIONAL BATTLE REPORT

Nationally the *C. reticulata* blooms are shown by size—very large (over 5 inches), large (4 to 5 inches) and medium (4 to 3 inches). In 2015 camellia season in the very large class 'Frank Houser' was number one with 90 points followed by 'Frank Houser Variegated' with 81 points, 'Linda Carrol' 40 and 'Ray Gentry Variegated' with 45. Therefore, nationally 'Frank Houser' is still number one closely followed by its variegated form. In the large class 'Larry Piet' was first with 49 points followed by 'Phyllis Hunt' with 33 points. 'Lady Ruth Ritter' topped the medium class with 34 points.



'Frank Houser' Photo by Joe Tunner



'Ray Gentry Variegated'



'Valentine Day'



'Phyllis Hunt'



'Lady Ruth Ritter'

CONCLUSION

'Frank Houser' continues to be the number one *reticulata* show flower in America followed by 'Frank Houser Variegated'. However in California where 'Barbara Goff' originates she is challenging the Houser brothers and is capable of beating them. In the southeast 'Linda Carrol' and 'Ray Gentry Variegated' are the big challengers to the Houser brothers in the very large class. Since there are many wonderful *reticulata* blooms varying in size many shows have multiple classes just as has been the case with japonicas. This allows large and medium flowers to compete against each other and earn show points. Therefore, 'Larry Piet' 'Phyllis Hunt', 'Valentine Day' and 'Hulyn Smith' win as large blooms and 'Lady Ruth Ritter', 'Black Lace' and 'Mary O'Donnell' compete successfully as medium blooms.

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Camellia Species: *C. saluenensis*

Story and Photos by Brad King



C. saluenensis

This camellia species is from the central and western Yunnan Province and southern Sichuan province in China. It is widely distributed tolerating dry soil but vulnerable to diseases in warm humid conditions. The profuse small single flowers are white flushed with pink. They are borne on a small tree that blooms mid to late season.

It was introduced to the western world in 1917 by George Forrest. John Charles Williams of Caerhays Castel in Cornwall, England was a major sponsor for George Forrest plant collecting trips to China. Williams received seeds of *C. saluenensis* which he shared with Col. Stephenson Clarke. They found the plants grew well, flowered freely, and readily set seed. They began to make controlled crosses with *C. japonica* cultivars.

In 1923 William's 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's Castel. 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 semidouble flowers but other hybridizers were able to produce more complex flowers. One of the first formal doubles was introduced in 1954 by E. G. Waterhouse, Australia which bears his

name. The flower is a medium light pink.

In the 1960's Les Jury in New Zealand introduced 'Anticipation' which has a medium to large rose red peony flower and 'Elegant Beauty' which has a deep rose large semidouble to anemone flower. In America David Feather introduced in the 1950's two beautiful pink single hybrids 'Demure' and 'Tulip Time' which are propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries.

The Nuccio's registered 'Buttons N' Bows which has a lovely small formal double light pink flower that shades to a darker pink on the petal edges. Kramer Brothers introduced 'Coral Delight' in 1975 which is one of the first and best coral toned pink flowers. A good example of the lavender pink Williamsaii hybrids was introduced in 1950 by Fruitland Nursery which they called 'William's Lavender'.

In summary we cherish *Camellia saluenensis* for its role as a parent of hybrid camellias that produce vigorous plants that have numerous beautiful flowers in a wide range of colors. Some of the pink blooms have a vivid coral tone and others a lavender hue which adds diversity to the range of camellia flower colors.



'Coral Delight'



'William's Lavender'

Return to TOC

Tea: Where is Tea Grown in North America?

By Bradford King



Camellia sinensis



Tea plants in bloom

Tea (*Camellia sinensis*) is grown in 70 different countries with India and China the largest growers and the USA one of the smallest. The tea plant can be grown in warmer parts of the United States. Today there is a relatively large plantation with full mechanization in Charleston, South Carolina, and numerous small numbers of commercial tea gardens and smaller artisan operations that currently pick tea by hand. These domestically grown teas are available through mail order and online purchases. The Charleston Tea Plantation's American Classic Tea brand is carried in Walmart under the American Choice label. Commercial tea farms are springing up across the USA, with producing farms located in Alabama, Washington, Oregon and there is a collective of 40 small growers in Hawaii. In addition there are a few of commercial farms in the process of being developed in the states of Mississippi, New York and Texas. The US League of Tea Growers is an organized tea farming group that has formed in 2013 to address issues of small tea growing in the USA.

Alabama

As part of a Lipton Tea Company study in South Carolina, a small experimental farm was established in Fairhope, Alabama. The tea plants in Fairhope were destroyed by a hurricane not long after its inception and was abandoned. However, the out-station supervisor rescued a few seeds and cuttings which were used to start a private plantation nearby. Today it is known as the Fairhope Tea Plantation, owned by Donnie Barratt, 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 assistant. Tea is still produced at the plantation in small quantities and sold through a nearby gift shop.

Hawaii

Tea was first introduced in Hawaii in 1887 and grown commercially until 1892. The high cost of farm labor compared to other tea growing areas in Asia and Africa was a key factor in its demise. In addition the lower production costs of coffee and its high popularity was also a factor. Finally the pineapple industry was booming cutting into the desirability of growing tea commercially.

In the 1960s Lipton and A&B formed a joint venture to investigate the possibility of growing tea commercially in Hawaii. Both companies decided not to open gardens on the Island, but rather to open plantations in South America where land and labor were readily available and less expensive. In 2000, horticulturist Francis Zee found a strain of *Camellia sinensis* that flourishes in the tropical climate and volcanic soil of Hawaii. A joint study of commercially growing tea in Hawaii was started by University of Hawaii and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It was determined with the decline of the sugar industry in Hawaii that tea cultivation was a possible replacement crop. Tea production has increased yearly. Today there are approximately two dozen tea farms in Hawaii. The Big Island specifically the Hilo area is the prime growing area which has the acidic soil, good drainage, higher elevation, 75 to 90 percent humidity, 65 to 80°F temperatures, and ample sunlight needed to grow tea in Hawaii. Hawaiian tea is especially flavorful with a distinct bright clear flavor with elements of citrus and a subtle honey like sweetness due to the acidic volcanic soil. It should be noted that coffee is grown on the other side of the Big Island in the Kona area. Kona coffee is also noted for its distinctive flavor.

Washington

The Sakuma Brothers have been growing tea for 15 years. They are amongst a handful of Artisan tea growers in the United States that handpick and craft teas by hand. They have more than 5 acres in the fertile Skagit valley planted with *Camellia sinensis*. Only two leaves and bud at the end of each branch are used for Sakuma tea. The leaves are heated, rolled and dried. The brittle flakes of tea leaves are steeped in water and served as tea. The tea is grown among acres of berry vines and apple trees. Richard Sakuma may frequently be found tending to his tea plants. He is a third generation Japanese-American. His family has been running Sakuma Brothers Farms for more than 85 years. These days, Sakuma and seven cousins farm more than 700 acres of strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and apples in Burlington. When a couple of men from Oregon talked to Richard

about their vision to create a tea-growing region in the Northwest, he jumped at the chance. “I like to do unique things, trying to create or do something that’s not common.”

Oregon

The story of Minto Island Growers, a farm in the fertile Willamette Valley in Western Oregon began in 1988, when Rob Miller and John Vendeland planted an experimental half acre of *Camelia sinensis*, imported from all over the world. Tea plants takes years to mature into full bushes however the plants are long lived, as much as a hundred years or more. Elizabeth Miller, the owner of Minto Island Growers, the farm she grew up on, says it’s taken a quarter century for her family to grow the plants and learn how to best take care of them. She says that tea is the most complicated plant she’s ever farmed. The tea plot is small, about an acre. Its labor intensive, requiring the top two leaves and a bud be picked by hand thus only a limited amount of Minto Island’s tea is marketed.

California

In closing we wondered if there will be tea farms in California. Ray Fong, a successful tea merchant has two retail stores the Bay area and a tea farm project. In 2010 he purchased a picturesque, twenty-three-acre farm in Yolo County, just east of the famed wine regions of Napa and Sonoma, and set about creating a tea garden. The first few years he tried many approaches and watched a lot of tea plants die. He learned how important soil and water pH are to plant viability and how to install solar panels, hydroponic growing tanks, and 3,000 feet of irrigation pipes. Many of the tea varieties didn’t adapt well to the soil and climate. He found the local water too alkaline. However new varietals are being grown in a greenhouse where they can be closely monitored. Roy dreams of a demonstration garden in Northern California. Many local camellia lovers share this dream and look forward to visiting a California tea farm.



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Julius Nuccio Dedication

by Bradford King



Julius Nuccio 1969

Julius “Jude” Nuccio (August 26, 1917-January 6, 2016) lived a full and productive life dedicated to family, friends and the Nuccio’s Nurseries. Julius knew when he was eleven year old that he wanted to grow camellias for a living. In the preface of Sterling Macoboy’s *The Colour Dictionary of Camellias* he wrote about his love of camellias “not only as a nurseryman and grower, but also as an interested collector and hybridizer. I can remember the excitement (in the 1930s and 1940s)

of discovering long-lost varieties from the 1800s. These were in great demand, because until that time we had but few varieties of *C. japonica*, a mere scattering of *C. sasanqua* and one only *C. reticulata*, the tried and true ‘Captain Rawes’.



Nuccio's Nurseries

Julius and his older brother Joe began propagating camellias and azaleas in their parents' backyard in Alhambra California in 1935. During World II Julius served in the Army and Joe worked in a navy yard. They bought land in Altadena in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains near the end of the war. This was a family enterprise then, and one that continues today in Altadena where Joe's son Jude (Julius) and Julius' sons Tom and Jim continue to run the Nursery. Joe and Julius began breeding their own camellias in 1940's. In 1950 they introduced their first camellias, 'Katherine Nuccio', 'Primavera' and 'Warrior' to the public. This Camellia Review is dedicated to Julius Nuccio with photos bearing the Nuccio name to illustrate some of their most remarkable introductions. The cover photo is the 2015 introduction 'Julius Nuccio' which is the latest and last to carry the Nuccio name. A summary follows of the award winning Nuccio's Nurseries camellias which serves to highlight the reason they are known as a "World Famous Camellia and Azalea Nursery".

Nuccio's Award Winning Japonica Seedlings

Nuccio's Nurseries has introduced 209 camellias from 1950 to 2016 which includes sports and variegated cultivars. The American Camellia Society (ACS) provides awards to outstanding camellias each year. The Illges Seedling Japonica Award is given to the originator of a seedling, not a sport or mutation, each year since 1945. Nuccio's Nurseries has won this prestigious award thirteen times.

These award winning cultivars are still popular and widely distributed as they are some of the best camellias available today. They are ‘Guilio Nuccio’, ‘Grand Slam’, ‘Nuccio’s Gem’, ‘Show Time’, ‘Cherries Jubilee’, ‘Nuccio’s Jewel’, ‘Moonlight Bay’, ‘Royal Velvet’, ‘Junior Prom’, ‘Nuccio’s Bella Rossa’, ‘Grand Marshal’, ‘Black Magic’ and ‘Happy Harlequin’.



‘Black Magic’



‘Nuccio’s Gem’



‘Show Time’



‘Guilio Nuccio’

Sasanqua Winners

One of the best of all the sun camellias is Nuccio’s introduction ‘Yuletide’. It produces many single bright red flowers with equally bright yellow stamens. The plant has attractive small green foliage born on a sturdy compact upright shrub that blooms typically in the holiday season. Julius collected seeds from ‘Hiryu’ a *C. vernalis* that only occasionally sets seeds which motivated Julius to harvest and grow a number of seedlings one of which we now know as ‘Yuletide’. It

won the Ralph Peer Sasanqua Award in 1974 and continues to be a very popular landscape plant that thrives in full sunlight in most microclimates where camellias are grown.



‘Yuletide’

Reticulata Hybrids

The ACS awards the Harris Hybrid Award each year to the originator of a seedling, not a sport, involving a cross of two or more camellia species. Nuccio’s Nurseries has won with three *C. reticulata* hybrids and two nonreticulata hybrids. The reticulata hybrids are ‘Francie L’ which has a very large rose red semi-double flower with irregular upright wavy petals; ‘Nuccio’s Ruby’ which has a large semi-double rich dark red flower with ruffled petals and ‘Curtain Call’ one of the largest reticulata hybrids which has a deep coral rose semi-double flower. ‘Francie L’ is widely distributed internationally in areas warm enough for them to bloom. In addition ‘Francie L’, ‘Curtain Call’ and ‘Queen Bee’ have won the Charlotte C. Knox Reticulata Award.

Non Reticulata Hybrids

Two of the most recent awards were made to Nuccio’s. ‘Buttons ‘N Bows’ a beautiful *C. saluenensis* formal double hybrid with a small light pink flower that shades to deeper pink and ‘Island Sunset’ a medium semi-double saluenensis hybrid flower with a rich coral pink petals that become progressively lighter in the center.



‘Island Sunset’



‘Buttons ‘N Bows’

The Kathryn and Les Marbury Award

This award is issued each year to the originator of the best small or small to medium *C. japonica* or non reticulata hybrid. ‘Buttons N’ Bows’ won the award in 1995. In camellia shows it is one the favorites of young women and children with the ruffled pink formal double flower resembling buttons and bows on a party dress. The *C. japonica* ‘Red Hots’ a small to medium with a bright red tubular semi-double flower with an occasional white petaloids won in 2012. This cultivar is a frequent show winner as a small due to its vibrant color and upright petals which are eye catching. It also has wonderful long dark green foliage on a columnar upright shrub.

Sports

The Swell Mutant Award is awarded to the originator of a sport showing a distinct break in color form not due to virus variegation. Nuccio’s Nurseries was awarded a silver Revere bowl in 1980 for ‘Elegans Champagne’ which has a large to very large impressive white anemone flower with a creamy center. When looking down into the bloom it reminds us of our favorite champagne with creamy yellow bubbles created by the petaloids and the mostly hidden yellow stamen.



‘Elegans Champagne’

Azaleas

Nuccio's Nurseries is also a premier grower and breeder of Azaleas. The catalogue list one hundred and five azaleas introduced by them. The Nuccio's Carnival Azaleas are noted for their large flowers, long booming season borne on vigorous sun tolerant plants. The Nuccio's Dragon Azaleas have very unusual cluster blooming flowers much like a spider chrysanthemums which make a unique eye catching plant. In one of many trips to Japan, Julius acquired Satsuki azaleas which means "fifth" month in Japanese. These plants bloom from mid-April through June thus providing beautiful late blooming flowers. They have bred seventeen of their own Satsuki hybrids to go along with the dozens of other Satsuki azaleas they offer.

Conclusion

Camellia growers worldwide have looked to Julius Nuccio for his wisdom and knowledge. The camellias introduced through the nursery are a worthy legacy of this remarkable family man. We close with words he wrote in 1981 in the Macoboy Preface cited above. "The camaraderie of camellia lovers is unequalled. It spans oceans and transcends both national and linguistic boundaries. Never in the world has a single flower brought together more people from different walks of life than has the camellia."



Julius Nuccio

Return to TOC

Camellia Species: *C. amplexicaulis*

Story and Photos by Brad King



C. amplexicaulis

Camellia amplexicaulis is a beautiful and unusual camellia. The flowers are single small to medium with 7 to 11 fleshy thick petals. It was formally discovered and described in 1916. It grows rapidly, forming a small tree when mature. The flower buds are never green but are deep pink to red from early formation until opening. The leaves are large, oblong, textured and finely serrated.

In Vietnam this camellia species is sold in local markets for cut flowers and potted plants. This species is of North Vietnamese origin but so far no wild populations have been located. It has been propagated for hundreds of years around Buddhist temples.

There are different clones of this species with different sized leaves and color flowers (pink, red to purplish red). The Nuccio's Nursery propagates two forms. Type A (from Atagawa Tropical Garden and Alligator Farm, Atagawa, Japan) has large leaves up to nine inches with pinkish red bud with a deep pink small to medium semi double flower with a fine white edge. Type T (from Mr. Hiroshi Terada, Oshima, Japan) which has a slightly smaller flower and smaller foliage up to five inches with a very red bud that opens to a red flower with a fine white edge.

C. amplexicaulis is a rather rangy ungainly growing camellia that when small may require staking. It can form a small tree when mature with a tropical look. It blooms mid to late season both from the terminal branches and along the stems. It has potential when crossed with japonica cultivars to produce attractive new

cultivars with foliage larger than most japonica leaves on a plant that grows more like a japonica. The ovaries have 3 to 5 locular (small compartment which contains the seeds). The seed pod is oval, smooth and green turning to an eggplant plant reddish purple as it matures.



C. amplexicaulis buds



C. amplexicaulis seedpod

Return to TOC

What's New At Nuccio's: Their Azaleas are Outstanding

By Bradford King

Azaleas have been grown by Nuccio's Nurseries since 1935. Thousands of seedling have been propagated over the last eighty years with several hundred introduced by Nuccio's. They have chosen beautiful cultivars in varying colors, size and forms to propagate. Today over one hundred Nuccio introductions are listed in the nursery catalogue which also list over two hundred other azalea varieties. This includes sixteen Nuccio's Hybrid Belgian type Azaleas, fourteen Kurme type, seven Carnival, five Nuccio's Dragon azaleas, seventeen Satsuki hybrids and eighteen Nuccio's miscellaneous azaleas.

Recently I asked Tom and Jim Nuccio about new azaleas. They both became enthusiastic about 'Green Glow' a miscellaneous hybrid azalea. The breeder was seeking to get a yellow azalea and produced this unique light green flower.



‘Green Glow’



‘Nuccio’s Carnival’

The Nuccio’s “Carnival” Azaleas are characterized by large flowers, long blooming season borne on vigorous sun tolerant plants that are outstanding in the landscape that do especially well in sunny California. Many years ago the followers of the Catholic religion in Italy started the tradition of holding a wild costume festival right before the first day of Lent. Because Catholics were not supposed to eat meat during Lent, they called their festival, carnevale, which means “to put away the meat.” A Carnival typically involves a public celebration and parade combining some elements of a circus, masks and a public street party. We celebrate Nuccio’s Carnival Azaleas for the show they provide in the garden like a carnival party.

In their azalea breeding program they used ‘Koromo Shikibu’ a Japanese native azalea with a single lavender flower with narrow well separated spaced petals. This petal trait has provided a few unusual, cluster blooming spider chrysanthemum like azalea flowers. They are eye catching unique flowers. In 1999 they introduced ‘Nuccio’s Purple Dragon’ which inspired them to call these seedlings “Dragon Azaleas”.

A dragon is a mythological representation of a reptile. Dragons were mostly envisaged as serpents until the Middle Ages when it was common to depict them with legs, resembling a giant lizard. There are two distinct cultural traditions of dragons: the European dragon, derived from European folk traditions and the Chinese dragon, with counterparts in Japan, Korea and other East Asian countries.

Currently there are five “Dragon Azaleas.” The two newest are ‘Nuccio’s Be-

witched'; a large single with a soft orchid pink toned lighter flower with full broad petals that taper to a very narrow base and 'Nuccio's Wicked Witch' which has a large single dark reddish purple flower with narrow well-spaced petals.



'Nuccio's Wicked Witch'

Julius Nuccio imported Satsuki Azaleas from Japan where they have been grown for centuries. They are treasured for their adaptability to bonsai culture, late blooming season (May-June), dense growth, and their blooming time which is valued for extending the blooming season until spring.



'Nuccio's Lucky Charm'



'Nuccio's Blue Moon'

The most recent Nuccio azalea introductions are 'Nuccio's French Lace' which has a medium single to semidouble lavender to white flower with ruffled petals and 'Nuccio's Spitfire' which has a medium single white flower with brilliant orange red speckles and stripes. It sports a few red flowers and occasionally a solid pink bloom.



'Nuccio's Spitfire'



'Nuccio's French Lace'

Return to TOC

Tea: The Most Important Camellia In The World

By Bradford King

The tea plant (*Camellia sinensis*) is the most important camellia commercially throughout the world. In fact tea has changed the world in many ways over the centuries. Worldwide it is second to water as the drink of choice. The history of tea is long and complex, spreading across multiple cultures and thousands of years. Although many stories are told about the beginnings of tea being used as a beverage, no one is sure of its origins. One popular legend is that Shennong, Emperor of China, was drinking a bowl of just boiled water when a few leaves from a tea tree blew into the bowl which changed its color. The emperor took a sip and enjoyed the flavor. Another version is that the emperor was testing on himself the medical properties of various herbs, some of them poisonous, finding tea worked as an antidote.

SANITATION

Because contaminated water was a major cause of death, the boiling of water for tea sanitized the water thereby greatly reducing illness and death. Early generations bathed, washed clothing and were unaware of the need to separate human elimination from their source of drinking water. Even in industrial nations, clean

drinking water was not always available. Therefore the French drank wine, Germans beer and the British ale instead of water. Consequently when tea was introduced productive work was greatly improved. The brewed tea was disease-free contained caffeine and antioxidants improving health and energy.

MEDITATION

Tea began in China and spread to Japan where it became connected to Zen Buddhism. Monks spent hours in meditation found that the stimulants in tea kept them awake and alert as they meditated. Elaborate tea rituals evolved over time. In the tea service a sweet is first served to guests to balance the bitter taste of the tea. The tea utensils are purified symbolically with a silk cloth.



Tea Sweets



Silk Cloth Cleaning



Tea Utensils

Invited guests also symbolically cleaned themselves at a water fountain before entering the tea house. The pace is slow to help bring a relaxing, pleasant and respectful tone to the ceremony. A tea house is frequently located in a beautifully landscaped garden. A parchment scroll with the word for the day is hung near a vase containing a single flower. These rituals bring simple beauty, peace and serenity to participants.



Tea House



Tea Ceremony

TEA IN THE WEST

Tea arrived in Europe via Dutch and Portuguese sailors at the beginning of the 17th century. They had trade relations with China and brought the tea to Britain and Holland, where it was sold at auctions and became very popular among the aristocracy and the wealthy. The beverage's initial high price prevented it from circulating among the western population at large. The tea trade was a significant factor in establishing connections between east and west. In China, tea leaves were used as a substitute for coins. In Europe, tea was used as a symbol of high status and as a stimulus for many technological developments, for instance, the development of fast sail boats such as the "Clipper", which shortened the time it took to sail from China to Europe and made it possible to provide shipments of fresh tea to the west.

Tea was imported in the 1660's to Britain with the marriage of King Charles II to Catherine of Braganza a Portuguese princess, who introduced the drinking of tea to the court. British companies were established for the importing tea, for example "The East India Trade Company". The royal family empowered them to operate in any way necessary to ensure the continuous supply of this popular drink. At the beginning of the 18th century, with the expansion of tea imports to the west and the consequent decrease in its price, tea became a common product enjoyed by all sectors of the population.

China exported tea in the 1760's demanding silver in return. Opium from India was traded for tea. For three centuries after the arrival of the Europeans, China maintained a tight control over trade with Europeans. In the 1830's conflict broke out between China and the British over the trade of opium, which was causing severe problems in Chinese society. When the Chinese authorities began seizing and destroying chests of opium, the English declared war. The British, with their superior technology, attacked and defeated China. In the aftermath, the Chinese were forced to open several ports to English merchants and allow the ports to be governed by British consuls who were not subject to Chinese law. Hong Kong became a colony of the British Empire until 1997. This opened up trade of many goods including the supply of tea to European markets.

TEA IN AMERICA

At the beginning of the 18th century, tea arrived in Northern America, quickly becoming a desirable drink. In New York and Boston, London-style teahouses started developing, where the drink was sold to the general public. At around that time, the British Empire decided to place taxes on the tea supply to the colonies of North America who were under their power. This decision greatly angered the

American settlers who decided to boycott the taxed products in protest. Whenever the British ships arrived at the harbors laden with tea, the settlers would start demonstrations which forced the ships to leave without unloading their wares. The most famous occurrence in this regard was named the “Boston Tea Party”, during which a group of settler’s boarded one of the ships anchored in the Boston harbor and started throwing hundreds of crates of tea from its deck into the sea. England retaliated by sending military forces to the harbor and shutting it down. This event marked the beginning of the American War of Independence.

MARKETING OF TEA

The invention of tea bags significantly increased its popularity. A New York tea merchant by the name of Thomas Sullivan is credited with inventing tea bags in 1908. Sullivan, a New York tea importer, inadvertently invented tea bags when he sent tea samples to clients in small silk bags. His customers mistakenly steeped the bags whole. Sullivan did not realize this until his customers started to complain that the orders they received were no longer in the silk sample bags. Silk was too expensive for bagging; therefore, he invented tea bags made of gauze. Most tea sold today is in paper bags, although there is a growing demand for both the loose leaf teas and for the ready to drink iced tea in western countries.



CONCLUSION

Tea has impacted and changed the world in many ways as an agricultural crop that has benefitted the health and wellness of people around the world. Initially because brewing tea sanitizes the beverage. In addition tea contains the mild stimulant we know as caffeine which helped Buddhist priest while meditating as well as a millions of people worldwide stay awake and alert whether farming, tending to children, or working in an office or industrial plant. Green and black teas have antioxidants that are beneficial to human health. Traditional Japanese tea ceremonies or a cup of tea enjoyed at home or work is both relaxing and energizing.

Return to TOC

Southern California Sports Article and Photos by Bradford King

The National Football League has no local team in Southern California but we have USC and UCLA college football teams that have energetic fans. Those who follow basketball can debate whether the Lakers or Clippers are the dominant basketball team in Los Angeles. We have no natural lakes, ponds or rinks that form ice but we have a great hockey team in the Anaheim Ducks. In the past baseball was “America’s pastime” and the most popular professional sport. While football is currently more popular; we have the Angels in the American league and the Dodgers in the National league followed by many.

In the camellia world we have a number of cultivars that have produced sports that are cherished throughout the camellia world. And just like professional sports, different parts of America have their own camellia sports. The best Southern California camellia sports (mutations) are discussed and illustrated here.



‘Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso’



‘Tomorrow Park Hill’

In 1970 Descanso Gardens introduced a sport of ‘Mrs. D. W. Davis’ they named ‘Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso’. The flower is a large blush pink like its parent but with a striking tight full peony form as opposed to the semidouble bloom of the parent. While we don’t see it often in camellia shows, it is a stunning flower which is why it is this issue’s cover flower.

There are at least seventeen sports of ‘Tomorrow’. Other regions of America may think the sport introduced in their home town is the best. But like local fans in professional sports we know the best of them all is ‘Tomorrow Park Hill’ because the stunning flower is large to very large soft pink tinted deeper pink in the center with wonderful white markings. It is a sport of ‘Tomorrow Variegated’ inheriting its variegation but having distinctly different pink colors. The original mutation was little more than a twig with a flower. Fortunately this was successfully propagated and introduced in 1964 by Ralph Peer. He was an American talent scout, recording engineer, record producer and founder of The Southern Music Company. In the 1950’s he helped found the Los Angeles Camellia Society serving as the first President. He served as American Camellia Society President from 1957 to 1959. He established the Ralph Peer Sasanqua award for the American Camellia Society. Along with Descanso Gardens he imported the first *c. reticulata* from China in 1948. He named this sport for his Estate, “Park Hill”, located in

Laurel Canyon which overlooks Los Angeles. It was used as the cover photo on the last issue of the Camellia Review.

‘Elegans’ Sports

‘Elegans’ (Chandler) was registered in 1831 in England and has produced over a dozen sports. Seven of these mutations were caught here in Southern California and an eighth, ‘Shiro Chan’ was discovered by Touché Domoto in Northern California. ‘Shiro Chan’ sported form ‘C. M. Wilson’ a mutation from ‘Elegans Variegated.’ This Domoto sport has a large to very large anemone formed white flower with occasional pink markings. Nuccio’s Nurseries found a pure white form of this flower and named it ‘Snow Chan’. William “Bill” Woodruff, the first editor of the Camellia Nomenclature, discovered a sport on his ‘Elegans Variegated’. He named it ‘Barbara Woodruff’ for his daughter.



‘Barbara Woodruff’



‘Snow Chan’

Like many of the Elegans sports, the flower has a large to very large anemone flower with this bloom having a light orchid pink outer guard petals usually having creamy white center petaloids and an occasional pink petaloid. ‘C. M. Wilson’ continued to produce other color sports. Hamilton and Clark Nursery in Upland California introduced ‘Hawaii’ in 1961 and ‘Kona’ a sport of ‘Hawaii’ in 1969. ‘Hawaii’ has a medium to large pale pink peony flower with fimbriated petals and ‘Kona’ has green buds that turn white with occasional green tint among the fimbriated petals.



‘Hawaii’



‘Kona’

Nuccio's Nursery discovered a sport among their 'Kona' plants. They continued the Hawaiian theme naming it 'Maui' in 1975. The flower is a large white anemone flower with rippled guard petals. This lineage reminds me of the adults discussing the Deans, Wales and Walcotts around the Sunday dinner table when I was a child-very confusing to remember who was related to who especially as none were alive.



‘Elegans Splendor’



‘Elegans Champagne’

The best sport from 'C. M. Wilson' is 'Elegans Splendor'. This beautiful light pink large to very large anemone flower edged in white was registered by Paul Gaines Nursery in San Dimas. He originally named it 'C.M. Wilson Splendor' in 1969. Julius Nuccio recommended it be renamed 'Elegans Splendor'. It was propagated and distributed widely by Nuccio's Nurseries. When 'Elegans Splendor' sported

a large to very large white flower with creamy white central petaloids, the Nuccio's named it 'Elegans Champagne'. We can debate which is the better flower, but they are both outstanding.

More Nuccio's Sports

The Nuccio's are all good sports. But did you know that Joe Nuccio played on the 1931 Alhambra High School football team? He played outside halfback in the old single wing formation. According to one of his classmates, Grady Perigan, Joe regularly scored touchdowns and was the fastest runner in the 100 yard dash on the track team. Joe's son, Jude (Julius) joined the Nursery full time after he graduated high school in 1957 and continues today part time and plays golf several times a week. Tom went to Santa Clara University where he was on the crew joining the nursery in 1972. Jim graduated college in 1972, worked in unrelated ventures until he began working at the Nursery in 1980. He was the one to notice the distinctive zigzag growth on an 'Egao' plant. As a result the Nuccio's named this sport 'Egao Corkscrew'. The flower is also a mutation with its lovely pink bloom with ruffled petals. About half the blooms are semidouble and the other half loose peony formed.



'Corkscrew Egao'



'Bella Rosa Crinkled'

'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Crinkled' is both a flower and foliage sport of 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa'. The flower color and form are like the parent but the red flower is reduced to a medium with very wavy petals. The foliage is a Benten type with the classic green center with an irregular yellowish green edge. The leaves are irregular and crinkled.



‘Oo-La-La’



‘Ay-Ay-Ay’

When the very showy ‘Oo-La-La’ sported, an equally showy strawberry pink single to semidouble medium flower with dark red stripes sometimes mottled with white Nuccio’s called it ‘Ay-Ay-Ay’.

Grady Perigan, a longtime volunteer at The Huntington and camellia hobbyist, caught a sport on ‘Egao’. The veined light pink medium semidouble flower with a fine white edge on the petals makes a good show in December and January.

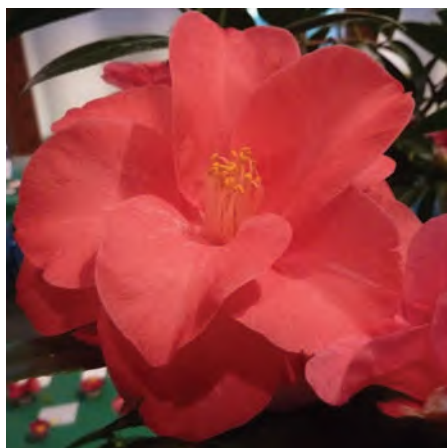


‘Grady’s Egao’

The flower is smaller than ‘Egao’, buds up when young and is more compact in its growth than its parent.

Rudy Moore's sports

Rudy Moore was the Camellia curator at the Huntington Gardens for many years. He introduced two sports--'Rudy's Magnoliaeflora' and 'Betty's Beauty'. The former is a sport of 'Magnoliaeflora' which has a medium semidouble blush pink flower. 'Rudy's Magnoliaeflora' has the same size and form of its parent but with a deep pink flower which at times has one or two white stripes. It looks better when the flower is totally pink. 'Betty's Beauty' is a sport of 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' a sport of 'Betty Sheffield'. The 'Betty Sheffield' family of color sports numbers around 30. 'Betty's Beauty' has a medium white flower with each petal edged in a light orchid. It lives up to its name as it is a real beauty.



'Rudy's Magnoliaeflora'



'Betty's Beauty'

The camellia breeder, Harvey Short from Ramona, California 30 miles inland from San Diego at an elevation of 1500ft introduced more than 30 new camellias from 1950 to 1980. In 1964 he introduced 'Owen Henry' a beautiful sport of 'Sunset Glory'. 'Owen Henry' has a large peony light orchid flower with strawberry undertones. The Huntington Botanical Garden has a magnificent twenty five foot specimen located between two statues on the west side of the North Vista.

Monrovia Nurseries

In 2006 Monrovia Growers established a 60 acre camellia nursery in Visalia California to proactively prevent the spread of harmful pathogens such as sudden Oak Death. They propagate and distribute their camellias through California and other camellia states. They have introduced two sports from their original nursery in Azusa.



‘Owen Henry’



‘Raspberry Ice’

‘Raspberry Ice’ is a sport of ‘Cinderella’ they registered in 1987. The medium semidouble has a light rose pink flower with wide white edges and streaks of raspberry on the petals. More recently in 2011 they introduced *C. sasanqua* ‘Mon Del’ a single pink fragrant sport of ‘Yuletide’ with seven petals marketed under the name ‘Pink A Poo’ also known by many as ‘Pink Yuletide’.

‘Yours Truly’

We end this article with one of the traditional phrases used to end a letter or message. The camellia ‘Yours Truly’ is a sport of ‘Lady Vansittart Shell’ which is sport of ‘Lady Vansittart’. J. S. Tormey of “Temple City Home of Camellias” registered it in 1949. The medium flower is pink striped deep pink with a white border.

Yours Truly,
Brad



Return to TOC

Camellias from Australia and New Zealand

By Bradford King

Today people travel the world on business and pleasure. We receive news flashes on television of disasters from all over the globe. We also get world news in newspapers, magazines and TV. Many of us get information on the internet and interact with international friends on Facebook. We are well aware that the economy is global and that we impact each other. Camellia people in Australia, New Zealand and The United States enjoy many of the same camellia cultivars. Let's explore some of the most popular varieties that originated in Australia and New Zealand.

AUSTRALIA

There are a number of the camellia cultivars originating in Australia that are widely grown and appreciated in America. The most popular *C. japonica* from Australia is 'Margaret Davis.' 'Margaret Davis' is the beautiful sport of another well-known Australian cultivar 'Aspasia MacArthur.' 'Margaret Davis' is a creamy white peony form flower with dashes of rose red with petals edged in bright vermillion. It is a medium flower that blooms in midseason on a bushy upright plant. It was introduced in 1961 by Mr. Davis who named it for his wife. Margaret was the founding President of the Garden Clubs of Australia and wrote gardening books until age 90. This camellia has been distributed throughout the camellia world and is a popular and successful show winner here in the USA. 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 annual show.



‘Margaret Davis’

Two fantastic *C. reticulata* hybrids that came from Australia to America were bred by John Hunt. He named his very large pink semi double to loose peony flower with veined petals 'John Hunt'. It is widely grown in America and is a frequent winner at camellia shows. When gilded this very large bloom becomes even more impressive. 'John Hunt' gets its show winning abilities from its pollen parent 'LASCA Beauty' and its lovely pink color, very large size and loose peony form from both parents. The seed parent 'Arch of Triumph' is a beautiful cultivar introduced by Feathers in 1970 that seems to have retired from entering camellia shows.

The other flower Hunt introduced has a deep pink on the petal edges shading to lighter pink with a white center. This peony flower he named 'Phyllis Hunt'. It grows slowly in an open spreading manner. It has a very beautiful flower with 30 or more petals in tones of pink and white.



'John Hunt'



'Phyllis Hunt'

We are fortunate to have four lovely non-reticulata hybrids bred in Australia that are popular in America. One of the first to make it across the Pacific was 'E.G. Waterhouse'. Professor E. G. Waterhouse bred a number of cultivars. The most well known is this light pink formal double which bears his 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.

Another beautiful formal double hybrid we see is 'Adorable'. The bright pink pirtardii seedling bred by Sebire certainly lives up to its name (photo back cover). When visiting Nuccio's Nursery in Altadena, California with my wife, Lynn; the first thing she said when first seeing it in bloom was "What an adorable flower."

The medium full peony light pink flower that shades to a paler pink center of 'Sweet Emily Kate' is popular in a hanging basket due to its pendulous growth habit and lovely fragrance. It was introduced by R. Garnett.



'E.G. Waterhouse'



'E.G. Waterhouse Variegated'

NEW ZEALAND

It may be difficult for Americans to remember which of the New Zealand Jury's bred and introduced what camellias over the last fifty years. We are most familiar with Les Jury who released many of his camellias internationally. Les was responsible for 'Elegant Beauty', 'Jury's Yellow', 'Debbie', 'Elsie Jury', 'Mona Jury' and his last cultivar the lovely red 'Les Jury' named for himself. We enjoy all of these cultivars in America.



'Elegant Beauty'



'Jury's Yellow'

Les 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.



'Anticipation'



'South Seas'

Les Jury was an early breeder of *C. Williamsaii* hybrid camellias who introduced 'South Seas' another color breakthrough with its white flower toned pink with hues becoming paler and less distinct with age.

Flex Jury was his younger brother who focused on breeding formal double hybrids like 'Dream Boat' and 'Water Lily' both popular in America. Mark Jury concentrated on breeding miniature blooms suited to modern smaller gardens; most have not been imported to America. He is Felix's son and lives with his wife Abbie on the original Jury property, owned by the family since the 1870s. This is where Felix and his wife Mimosa built their house and garden during the 1950s. It is purported to have one of the best private plant collections in New Zealand.

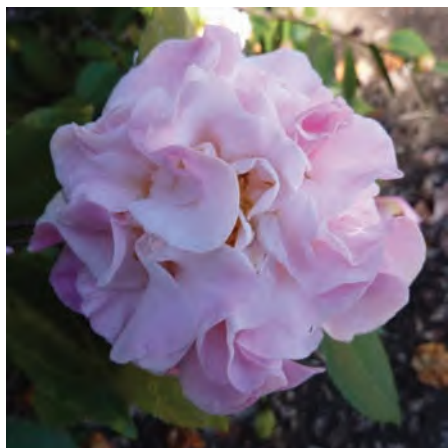
While we do not see any of the wonderful cultivars Mark introduced, thanks to the internet and the New Zealand Camellia Bulletin we can see photos of 'Moon Moth', 'Peach Cascade', 'Apple Blossom Sun', 'Cream Puff', 'Gay Button's', 'Itty Bitty' and 'Jury's Pearl'. We are so closely tied with the internet, yet widely separated in being able to grow each other's new camellia cultivars.



‘Itty Bitty’

James Finley’s fragrant camellia breeding program goal was to develop lovely scented camellias on a good plant that produced beautiful flowers. He took pollen from a large pink loose peony *C. japonica* ‘Tiffany’ flower and placed it on an emasculated miniature white single flower bud from the sweet scented *C. lutchuensis*. This controlled cross resulted in a seedling that produced a fragrant small 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 pink petal flush 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. Finley introduced at least thirty fragrant camellias as a result of this breeding program. The most popular fragrant camellia in America is his ‘High Fragrance’. The very beautiful medium pale ivory pink peony flower with deeper pink 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.



'High Fragrance'



'Scentuous'

J. Taylor of Alton introduced 'Taylor Maid' and 'Taylor Supreme' which we don't see in America. We grow the beautiful light pink very large semidouble 'Taylor's Perfection'. It is a frequent camellia show winner in the non-reticulata hybrid classes. The large size, light lavender pink flower borne on a vigorous plant make it popular in the garden, show flower and as an espalier.

First there was Colonel Tom Durrant and his wife Bettie Durrant responsible for importing the Yunnan Camellias to New Zealand then his daughter Dr. Jane Crisp also a hybridizer. Mrs. Bettie Durrant is credited with introducing one of the most beautiful hybrid camellias 'Nicky Crisp' in 1979.



'Grace Caple'



'Nicky Crisp'

She named this semidouble fresh looking pink flower with distinct 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. Oz Blumhardt is best known in America for breeding dark 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, maroon spring foliage and even the red roots.



'Night Rider'



Red roots of 'Night Rider'

Richard Clere propagated and registered a sport from 'Aspasia' in 1969 naming it for his wife. 'Jean Clere' is an attractive red flower with a lovely white picotee border that is appreciated in America along with a number of the other 'Aspasia' mutations.



'Jean Clere'

We are able to visit each other's countries. We can choose to attend local, national and international camellia events. We speak the same language so we can read newspapers, magazines, books and communicate by telephone and the internet. And as camellia growers we can enjoy some of the same beautiful flowers.

Return to TOC

Camellia granthamiana

By Bradford King

A single specimen of *C. granthamiana* was first discovered in a wooded ravine of Tai Mo Shan, Hong Kong in 1955 by C.P. Lau. A few more wild populations were subsequently found in China. It is a rare species now protected in China that grows ten to thirty feet tall when mature. Fortunately it has been propagated and widely distributed. In 1958, Sealy named it in honor of Sir Alexander Grantham, governor of Hong Kong when it was discovered. It was placed in Section *Protocamellia* by Professor Chang in 1996 with five other species.

The two species seen in America are *C. granthamiana* and *C. yunnanensis*. The large white flowers are borne at the tip of the plant stems. The flower has 10 to 14 petals. There are 12 to 16 persistent perules. The stamens and styles are free—not fused together at the base. The ovary has five sections. The seed pods are large with a thick wall. It has large leathery serrated oblong pointed foliage with brown scaly flower buds. The flower bud looks like a spent flower. In fact unless the observer looks carefully the bud and seed pod look similar as can be seen in the photo.



C. granthamiana

‘Phil Piet’

This species has been used in hybridizing because of its deep green foliage, abundant large flowers, early blooming, setting seeds readily and sun tolerance. It may need greenhouse protection in colder areas. Examples of its hybrids are ‘China Lady’ which has a very large, irregular semi double, rich orchid flower; ‘Moonrise’, which has a very large, semi double, white to blush pink flower with pale yellow at the base of the petals; and ‘Shanghai Lady’ which has a very large, irregular

light orchid flower. One of the most beautiful is 'Phil Piet' introduced by Meyer Piet and Lee Gaeta. They bred this and many other new camellia in Arcadia at the home Bev and Meyer Piet. This hybrid is named for one of their sons. It has a large to very large pink and white flower that blooms early to midseason on a dense vigorous plant.

Return to TOC

Tea: How to Make Tea

By Bradford King

When a bright verbal ten year old was asked this question, she clearly and confidently told me “My mother boils water in a kettle and puts a tea bag in a mug and pours the hot water over the tea bag. In a few minutes when she likes its color she takes the bag out with a spoon. When Mom lets me have some, I put sugar and cream in the mug so it is sweet and cool to drink. Now when my aunt drinks tea, she puts several spoons of loose tea in a very pretty tea pot with hot water and lets it steep, then carefully pours herself a cup so the leaves stay in the pot. She will only use a china cup with a matching saucer. My mother thinks her sister is rather fussy and full of herself. Dad laughs and says she thinks she is sophisticated. My favorite tea is English Breakfast. What yours?” I said Earl Gray is my favorite but in the summer I prefer ice tea especially half tea and half lemonade. She said “that sounds refreshing...Did you know lots of people put lemon in their tea?” Talking with children is great fun. While everything she said is true, it won't help you prepare tea from your *Camellia sinensis* plants.



Tea plant in bloom



Harvesting Machine

Almost all the tea drunk in America is imported from Asia and South America. Although *Camellia sinensis* can be grown in warmer parts of the United States, currently the US mainland has only a very small number of commercial tea gardens. The largest is the fully mechanized plantation in Charleston, South Carolina, a smaller operation that picks its tea by hand in Burlington, Washington, an even smaller farm in Fairhope, Alabama and the Camellia Forest Nursery. In addition there is a collective of roughly 40 small growers in Volcano, Hawaii. These teas are available through mail order and online purchases.

FOUR TYPES OF TEA

The four types of tea are white, green, black and Oolong. All begin with picking fresh new leaves from *C. sinensis* the tea plant. It is how the leaves are processed that produces the type of tea. In other words, it is the tea recipe that makes white, green, black or oolong. Most of the tea sold commercially is a blend of black tea. There are many named blends such as English Breakfast Tea, Irish Breakfast Tea, Darjeeling Tea, and Earl Gray to name a few. The different *C. sinensis* clones or plant strains rarely produce flavors that can be differentiated except by experts with highly developed taste and smell. The major taste and aroma of tea for you and me is a result of the way it was processed.

White Tea recipe

1. Tender young growth is picked by hand from *Camellia sinensis*. Young shoots with 2-3 leaves are recommended. The leaves and shoots are allowed to wilt in the shade or indoors for 6-24 hours. The leaves can be spread on a tray and left in a shady spot and out of the sun for a couple days.
2. When dry they may be used or stored in an air tight container. White tea is the

least processed with a delicate taste that may appeal to children and other family members who are not regular tea drinkers but may not satisfy those who like a robust tea.

Green Tea recipe

This is how they prepare green tea at the Camellia Forest Nursery which produces a delicate flavor and a lovely scent.

1. Tender, young growth is handpicked from young shoots with two or three leaves. The leaves and shoots are allowed to wilt in the shade for a few hours to help with drying.
2. In order to stop oxidation the leaves are heated on a dry frying pan for 2 to 3 minutes on medium heat, stirring constantly and gently until all the leaves have been heated. A second option is to add a small amount of water to steam the leaves in the frying pan which is covered with a lid.
3. The leaves are dried in an oven at 200 degrees for at least thirty minutes until all the leaves are completely dry. Once all the water is removed from the leaves the tea is ready to use or stored in an air tight container.



Green tea prepared for Japanese tea ceremony

Black Tea recipe

1. The handpicked tender new growth is allowed to dry on racks for 10 to 20 hours to reduce the internal moisture between 60 and 70 percent.
2. The leaves are bruised to begin the process of fermentation. Several shoots are rolled or crushed between your hands until the bruised leaves turn a bright copper like a new penny.
- 3 The leaves are allowed to ferment by placing thin layers on a tray in a shady protected area-- free from wind and pests. After 2 or 3 days they are ready for drying.
4. The leaves are placed in the oven set at 250 degrees F. This step removes all the moisture in the leaves, stops fermentation and seals in the flavor. Now the tea may be used or stored in an airtight container.

Oolong Tea recipe

1. The fresh handpicked leaves are spread out in a thin layer on a table covered with a mat or towel. The shoots are allowed to wilt in the sun for thirty minutes to one hour depending on the temperature.
2. The leaves are then taken indoors where they are left to wither for four or five hours at room temperature. Every hour the leaves are gently agitated by hand. This will cause the leaf edges to turn red and reduces the moisture in the leaf to

about 20 percent. This controlled process causes the enzymes and the biochemical processes in the leaf to produce the aroma and colors found in oolong teas.

3. Next the leaves are dried in an oven at 250 degrees F. for 15 to 20 minutes which stops the enzymatic processes.

4. The leaves may now be used or stored in an air tight container.

Camellia sinensis can be grown in America anywhere other camellias thrive. They make an excellent landscape plant. A cluster or hedge makes a neat and attractive display that can be kept at 3 or 4 feet by pinching the new growth during the growing season using the new foliage to make tea. Tea is harvested many times a year as frequently as every ten days during the growing season. Large plants are also acceptable for landscaping and harvesting leaves for tea. A hedge may be needed to supply a family. Tea made from freshly cured leaves is superior to tea which has been stored for even a few months.