

THE

# Camellia Review



*C. japonica* 'Margaret Short'  
Courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

Vol. 20

March, 1959

No. 6

Fifty Cents

# *Southern California Camellia Society Inc.*

An organization devoted to the advancement of the Camellia for the benefit of mankind—physically, mentally, and inspirationally.

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

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

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**PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.**

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Monthly from October through April, and in July.

All manuscript for publication should be sent direct to the Editor. Publication office, 706 S. Fair Oaks, Pasadena 2, California.

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 Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Road, San Marino
- Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley, Inc.....5001 Fulton St., N.W., Washington 16, D.C.  
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 Hyattsville, Maryland  
 Meetings held 1st Monday of month, October through April, alternating between  
 Alexandria, Virginia; Washington, D.C., and Chevy Chase, Maryland
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# Camellia Reviewer

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ELIZABETH BEEBE

## Time Marches On

When you read this, the Big Show will have come and gone, "trailing clouds of beauty" we have no doubt. Read all about it in the April Review. Ah, old '59 is getting on so fast—why that will be the last Review until July and another year chalked up for us. Might remark we have several distinctly gray hairs, too, marked "Camellia Review."

## Yes—It Can Be Done

John Sobeck the propagator at Descanso Gardens is one of those hardy souls who wouldn't accept the common slogan of "They said it couldn't be done" for he has proved that a grower *can* cross *C. reticulata* 'Captain Rawes' with *saluenensis*. At the moment he has a blooming plant as evidence which, he tells us began blooming in October and still continues. The flowers are ruffled pink and the leaves definitely of *saluenensis* type. We hope to publish a print of it before long.

## Au Revoir

After having been tied down for ten years as Secretary of the SCCS Col. C. M. Gale has shut up his desk and tucking wife Jessie under his arm is sailing off to the Orient this March. Carefree, the Gales have few set destinations and no schedule but will tour Japan, see Hongkong if possible and revisit the Philippines where the Colonel was once stationed. Bon Voyage to a favorite pair.

## We Await

A ride on the Camellia Comet. Thus named is the conveyance especially built for use at Descanso and christened at the Big Show. The "engine" is electrified and will be recharged each night. It pulls three cars each seating fifteen persons. A wonderful idea to help out the gals

who insist on wearing spike heels to the Gardens or for the elderly who find the distance to the Hospitality House a too long and steep climb. O, Comet, wait for us. (Sounds like a song.) We'll go for the ride but we're not going to reveal just which of the above classes we belong in.

## Man and Flower or Flower and Man?

Practically peering out from behind the enormous "Donk" that Dr. E. C. Hubbs wore on his lapel (or rather, his coat front) at the SCCS meeting, the happy doctor remarked, "I'm very fond of Miniatures."

## Show Hint

In spite of care, there may be some dirt on the petals of those fine camellias resulting from rainy weather. Blanche Miller told us that she wads a bit of damp cotton under her wrist watch, using it to dampen a fine camel's hair brush with which she delicately flicks off the dirty spots from tender blossoms. The method must work because the Miller exhibit at the SCCS meeting was breathtaking. Their 'Coral Pink Lotus' flowers were Heavenly glories and the 'C. M. Wilson's' like something from another world.

## With Interest

We note an item from the San Diego Society's Bulletin concerning the Society's meeting room which is looking forward to new cabinets to house its Library. This is quite extensive containing some very old and rare camellia books as well as the newer ones. The Library is called The "Mary A. Greer Memorial Library" in honor and memory of one of the founders of the San Diego Floral Association which has been in existence over fifty years. The Bulletin suggests that books or gifts to this Library are always welcome.

## Camellia Hint

Very pleasant to have Estelle Lindley of Santa Ana tell us that she  
(Continued on Page 27)

# NOTES OF POINTS DEVELOPED IN CRITIQUE ON JUDGING CAMELLIAS

January 30, 1959

A meeting was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dekker on the evening of January 30, 1959 to discuss points which should be considered in judging camellias at camellia shows. Present at the meeting were all accredited judges in the Los Angeles area who were able to attend, some thirty in number. Alton B. Parker, chairman of judges for the 1959 Camellia Show at Descanso Gardens, acted as chairman during the discussion.

Mr. Parker opened the meeting by reviewing the characteristics of the flower which are considered in judging; namely, form, color, condition, size, substance and texture, and distinctive characteristics. He stated that discussion would be by these subtitles and the meeting proceeded accordingly. The significance of the discussion under the different characteristics will be better understood if at the outset of this memorandum a general consensus of the group should be stated, as follows:

In judging a camellia do not take any one factor by itself and reach a conclusion on the basis of this single factor. Consider every factor in relation to all other factors. It is difficult to dissect a camellia. In most cases the blue-ribbon flower in a variety will stand out and it will be unnecessary for the judges to consider the factors individually in selecting the winner. When, however, competition within a variety is close, the judge should break down the points to substantiate that his over-all judgment is sound.

## Form

Form should be judged against the normal form of the variety. When a judge does not know the normal form, he should inquire from others on the team. If none of the judges is familiar with the variety, the chairman of judges should be called in.

If a variety has several forms such as, for example, 'Mattie O'Reilly', each form should be judged against perfection for that form. In other words, a peony form should be judged against perfection for the peony form and a semi-double should be judged against perfection for the semi-double. Personal preferences should be avoided.

A named sport that is not true to the form of the sport, but has reverted, should be placed in and judged with the variety whose form it is. For example, a non-peony form flower from a 'Lady Kay' plant should be judged with 'Ville de Nantes' or 'Donckelarii' as appropriate.

In some cases, such as 'Mathotiana' and 'Glen 40', which produce both bud and open centers, the judges should be practical and accept the principle that the ideal form is the bud center. Under such conditions, if all other factors are equal, a bud center flower would get the blue ribbon.

Weather conditions can be a factor in determining form.

While the Nomenclature Book states the normal form of all varieties, this book should not be used as the final word in judging as to form. The Book should not be referred to unless the judges or chairman are not familiar

with the variety and have no other method of determining what the normal form would be.

It was suggested for discussion that separate competition should be set up for all the forms of a variety with blue ribbons awarded for all forms. It was the consensus that such action would precipitate more problems than are now encountered and that such a system should not be used.

It was the general feeling that there are few cases where there has been a real problem in judging form against normal and perfection for the variety. The chief purpose of considering form is to eliminate from further consideration any flower that does not have top form.

## **Color**

Color varies within a variety due to where grown, water, weather, etc. Freshness of a flower has a bearing on color. Color is acceptable, therefore, if within the range of usual color for the variety. The judge should not concern himself with how a flower got the color it possesses. He should give the award to the flower that has the sparkle. The blue ribbon should go to the flower (on color) that stands out in this manner to two of the three judges.

There was some discussion on "When is a flower variegated." A flower is variegated when it has a speck of white on the petals. White petaloids do not make a flower variegated.

## **Condition**

The flower should be judged according to its condition while being judged—not according to what the judge thinks will be the condition the next day. The point was made that the judges have a responsibility to the public not to give a blue ribbon to a flower that has deteriorated on the second day of the show. It was the consensus that this should not be a factor in judging. It is the responsibility of the Show Committee to remove any flower that has deteriorated to the point that its condition is out of line with the decision of the judges. If proper attention is given to condition on this basis, situations will largely take care of themselves.

Condition should be judged in relation to weather preceding the show. The Show Committee should decide whether allowance for weather will be made by the judges.

The judge should start taking away points when the flower starts to recede from its peak condition. The judge therefore should know the flower. One point for attention here is the condition of the stamens which are an indication of age. No flower passed its peak should get a blue ribbon.

Condition should be conclusive in awarding ribbons only when the flower is equal in all other characteristics. A flower with a spot, for example, should not cause the flower to lose out unless this is the single factor of difference. Judges should not look first at condition and eliminate from further consideration all flowers with spot or blemish. Condition of the flower because of age is different from condition because of blemishes. The former may eliminate a flower entirely, whereas as previously stated, a blemish in itself should not eliminate a flower from competition.

## **Substance and Texture**

Substance is thickness of the petals. Texture is the surface characteristic

of the petals, such as sheen. Since these characteristics would ordinarily be common to all flowers within a variety, they would be considered in judging mostly, if not entirely, when judging between varieties. Any variation within a variety would be due to differences in condition of the flower.

## **Size**

Size is judged against normal for the variety itself. Question was raised as to whether points should be taken off when size is larger than normal on the basis "we take off points if size is below normal, why not take points off if size is above normal." It was the consensus that points should not be taken off just because the size is larger than normal.

Indication of size in the Nomenclature Book should be used only as a guide for judging size. The designation in the Nomenclature Book is indicated by the originator of the variety as grown in the area of origin. Normal size elsewhere may differ from that of the point of origin.

Size is significant only if the flower has all other qualifications in comparison with other flowers. Size alone does not have sufficient weight to offset superiority of another flower in one or more of the other characteristics. A good large flower, however, will always win over a smaller bloom of the same variety.

## **Distinctive Characteristics**

Distinctive characteristic ordinarily is not a factor for consideration when judging within a variety, because in judging by variety we start with an assumed perfection for that variety.

Distinctiveness always applies when judging between varieties. A flower with style should always win over one without style. A judge should be clear as to where "distinctive characteristic" goes beyond normal or perfection in "form" for the variety. When a flower has the best of everything, it can be said to have distinctiveness. Style may be a better word to use in such cases.

## **Rules for Judging New Introductions**

Points of necessity must be considered in judging new introductions, unless of course a single variety stands out head and shoulders above all others in competition.

Blue ribbons for new introductions should be awarded on the basis of whether or not the new variety adds something to varieties now on the market. In other words, is it distinctive, is it merchantable, does it have qualities not possessed by camellias now in the trade? Condition of the flower should not be considered, since the objective in judging new introductions is to award a new variety and not a particular flower. It is not sufficient that the flower has good form, color, substance and texture. These qualities are found in most good varieties and the purpose of judging within varieties is to select a particular flower of that variety which comes closest to perfection for the variety. In judging new varieties, however, the blue ribbon should be given to the flower that is distinctive to a high degree in comparison with the others.

It would be desirable that the team of judges be limited, say to 3 or 5, and that the majority of the judging team be professionals. In a team of three, for example, two should be professionals and the third an amateur with sufficient knowledge of camellias to contribute to the judging.

## THE FEBRUARY SCCS MEETING OVERFLOWS ITS OLD QUARTERS

Even with a big dividing partition opened up in the Club room to double its capacity, the SCCS audience and the tables of camellias practically filled up the space for its February meeting. This month the Orange County Camellia Society was honored and that group had chartered a bus and nearly forty members came up for the meeting en masse, adding much gaiety and interest to the already enthusiastic crowd.

Although the long tables were plentifully covered with specimen flowers, it was admitted that the capriciousness of the Southern California weather had kept the exhibition from twice its size. Still, there were hundreds of fine camellias brought and many, like beautiful sparks thrown from a camellia flame dotted the audience on the women's shoulders, in their hair and on manly lapels.

The meeting was called to order by President Caryll Pitkin who, for the first time used a gavel made from camellia wood which had been made and donated by Dr. Herbert Shirley. The President expressed his gratification at the wonderful turnout of camellia lovers, and then he introduced several persons of note. The first was Joseph Carneiro, a charter member of the Society who received spontaneous applause. A most welcome visitor this evening was David Feathers, foremost hybridist and Editor of the Bulletin of the Northern California Camellia Society. Mr. Feathers spoke briefly of his pleasure in attending the meeting and then announced that he had brought quite a number of seeds of *C. kissi* which he would be glad to give out as long as they lasted. He said the seeds had been sent to him by a friend employed in the Indian Tea Association to whom he had sent many seeds. Mr. Feathers added that although the *kissi* flowers were rather small, the seed germinated very quickly. In fact he had had some germinate in ten days.

As the report from the Nominating

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Committee was now in order, Dr. Lloyd Taylor, Chairman of that committee submitted the names chosen for SCCS Directors as follows: for a two year term, C. D. Cothran and Lynn Crawford, A. W. Garner and Reg Ragland. For a one-year term, Caryll Pitkin and Bill Woodroof. Vern McCaskill was nominated as Commercial Director.

Col. Frank Reed took over the meeting, expressing his gratification on the large attendance of the Orange County Society members and calling up the President of that Society. Bill McGrath introduced other officers of the Society and said how pleased they were to be honored by SCCS. Extra pleasure came later on in the evening as several of the Orange Society people won camellia plants to take home as unexpected mementoes of the evening.

Mack Dinwiddie, President of the Society of the Pomona Valley told of their preparations for their annual Show February 14th and urged all to come.

As all activities were channeled toward the Big Show, Al Dekker, Program Chairman announced this to be Workshop Night and listed the program to be presented, as follows: Mark Anthony to talk on the Physical Layout of the Show: Harold Dryden to talk on How to Make it Easy to Enter Your Flowers: Reg Ragland and Dr. E. C. Hubbs to talk on How to Raise Winning Flowers, Select and Transport Them.

Mark Anthony then rather briefly described the new types of display table to be used (see January Re-



view for details). He also gave explicit directions for reaching the Descanso Gardens, routes in the Gardens and to the Hospitality House.

Hal Dryden emphasized several points in the mechanics of entering blooms. 1—You must determine to enter. 2—Make out your registration beforehand. Then the night before the show when you pick your flowers make out your cards and when you arrive at the Show there will be nothing to do but place your blooms. "If you follow these directions," said Mr. Dryden, "you'll realize it is so simple you will wonder why you didn't do it before."

Mr. Ragland said he had been given quite an assignment, i.e., how to grow fine camellias. All he could suggest was to give the plants loving care and read "Camellia Culture." "Anyone can grow camellias," he said "But only God grows the winning blooms." He advised selecting at least two of any variety you consider of blue ribbon possibility, to insure against accident, bruising, etc., of one of the blooms. Be sure to refer to the standards set down in our own show regulations, when choosing entries. Mr. Ragland makes out his cards and fixes his boxes all before picking the flowers. He places aluminum foil on the bottom, then damp moss and damp paper towels over the moss to protect the blooms.

Last of the speakers was Dr. Hubbs who started his talk by saying that when he found out he could not play golf any more, he wondered what hobby to take up. Then his son, already a camellia enthusiast, had the doctor help make eight grafts. That did it. Dr. Hubbs said he still had five of those growing. He also remarked that he had never known finer people than he had met through camellias and when he was ill last year he had received more cards and good wishes than he had ever gotten

from any other organization he had belonged to.

He had to remove his "boutonniere" (the huge 'Donk') as it interfered with the microphone, and then went on with his talk. He emphasized the importance of picking absolutely fresh flowers to enter in a show and choosing one that looked up at you and possessed personality. He advised fastening oiled paper covers over chosen blooms if the weather was rainy and also fastening back branches or leaves that might touch the flower. He advised putting the blooms in *cold* boxes and when the blooms were put on the display table "Manage to place each flower as if it were looking in a mirror. Give the flower every advantage," he said.

A few tips on entering the Flower Arrangement Show scheduled for March 8th and 9th were given by the Arrangement Chairman, Mrs. Wilber Foss. Mr. Foss, General Chairman of the Big Show also added a few last instructions.

A general survey of the display of flowers brought forth some observations from Bill Woodroof. He chose a few blooms he considered exceptionally fine—including 'Tomorrow', 'Elizabeth Le Bey' and 'Reg Ragland'. Of course I'd think that was the best of the lot," he admitted.

Winning flowers of the evening were: Over 4 inches, Frank Reed carried off 1st place with 'Edelweiss'. E. J. Alvarado took 2nd with his 'Onetia Holland'. 3rd place went to Mrs. Milliken with a 'Reg Ragland', Frank Reed won 4th with his 'Tomorrow' and 5th place went to Dr. and Mrs. L. J. Taylor for their 'Drama Girl'.

In the Under 4" class, W. F. Goertz took 1st with a 'Prince Eugene Napoleon', 2nd place went to T. F. Zuck for a 'Lady Van Sittart', Frank Reed won again, taking 3rd place with his 'Sweetheart', John Robinson

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# HISTORY OF THE POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

By C. D. COTHRAN

Early in October of 1946 John Mason, Everett Greer, and C. D. Cothran gathered at the home of Hubert Reeves in Pomona to discuss the formation of a camellia society. It was decided after a full review of the situation that there were enough people interested in Camellias in the Pomona area to make the attempt. Each agreed to contact the people they knew that were interested, and the meeting date was set for November 7, 1946.

The meeting was held in the auditorium of the Southern California Edison Company in Pomona. Mr. Tourje had been asked to talk to us about the formation of a society, so he was the principal speaker of the evening, and with him had come Dr. Taylor, president of the Southern California Camellia Society, and several members. Two large boxes of Camellia flowers from Descanso Gardens were brought as a gift to the women members. The meeting was a huge success, enthusiasm mounted high, and a new society was formed.

Mr. Tourje agreed to help draft the bylaws and constitution of the new society. San Diego had also just formed a new society, and both infant groups desired to affiliate with the Southern California Camellia Society. After several conferences with Mr. Tourje, Ann Galli, and Dr. Taylor, the constitution and bylaws of the Southern California Camellia Society were amended to permit other groups to affiliate. Many of the members of the affiliated societies think this was a turning point in the affairs of the Southern California Camellia Society, and has been partly responsible for its great growth and success.

The newly formed society was called Pomona Valley Camellia Society, and on January 2, 1947 a total of thirty-seven charter members signed the constitution. C. D. Cothran, who had been acting as tempor-

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ary chairman, was elected as the first president.

The Pomona Society has been a friendly and active group. It has several social affairs during the year, and has put on a large show every year since the year of its organization, and has participated very actively in other shows in the area. A Camellia garden was established on the grounds of the California Polytechnic Institute at San Dimas. The plants grow like natives under the oaks on the hillside.

Camellias have been grown in Pomona for about eighty-five years, and the Society has listed many of the older plants, and has obtained as much history about them as possible.

The general activities of the Pomona Valley Camellia Society have fanned the interest of a number of neophyte growers until they have become experts with fine collections. However, we are very proud of the fact that a goodly number of our charter members are still with us, and are very active in the affairs of the society.

Mack W. Dinwiddie is the eighth and present president of the Pomona Valley Camellia Society. On behalf of the members he has issued a cordial invitation to all to meet with us each second Tuesday during the Camellia season.

# GRAFTING TIME IS HERE AGAIN

By MARY JOHNSON

As a few rather new ideas on grafting have appeared in a number of publications recently, it might be a good idea to discuss some of them.

## The Hamiter Method

I read of an interesting experiment in grafting made by a Mr. Fred Hamiter of Shreveport, Louisiana, who states that since grafting in this manner at first quite by accident, others in the area have had nearly 100% success. Mr. Hamiter says, "The technique is simple. I opened the clefts of grafts that had not been successful the previous season by using my screw driver, made the customary wedges on the scions, and put them in place as though the original grafts were being done. The cloche and cover were replaced and I went about my business. In a very short time, to my surprise, they were callused and growing. Be sure not to remove any of the old callus and unless the bark seems to be torn at the cleft, don't make another cleft in your stock. Just use your screw driver and open up the cleft that was made previously. If the cleft has a heavy callus at the time the regraft is made, it might be well to cut through the callus in the direction of the cleft as it is being opened, in order to keep the callus from tearing on the two sides. Then proceed as though you had just prepared your stock for grafting." Mr. Hamiter also suggests that the idea of storing scions for a short time in the refrigerator adds to the success of grafting in his area. "Be sure that you store the scions in polyethylene bags and not in any other type bag. This technique may also be repeated on grafts that did not take in the early spring by using scions of mature wood in mid-summer."

Mr. Hamiter is a man after my own heart, for he is an experimenter, though he calls himself a nonconformist. There have been others who have, in the past done rather well for themselves through their experiments, and we immediately think of

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Thomas Edison. Then, partly because I, too keep experimenting with Camellias, his ideas intrigued me.

Mr. Hamiter has also suggested this method of speeding up the blooming time of valuable seedlings; "the stocks of Camellias were cut, trimmed and cleft as though for conventional type grafts. One of the valuable little seedlings was planted adjacent to the prepared stump and the bark of the seedling gently scraped on the two sides that would come in contact with the cambium layer of the stock when it was placed into the cleft which had been previously cut in the stump. Several such grafts were made and these left the grafts as though they were conventional except that the bottom part of the seedling extended into the ground and the roots of the seedlings were happily growing in the ground there. The large glass jugs were then placed over the operation and protected in the standard manner. Just as the conventional grafts do, the scion and the stocks began to callus. As time passed, the seedlings continued to increase in diameter *above the graft unions* and grow in proportion to the much larger wood that is used in normal grafting, but the stems from the calluses *down to the ground* have grown very slightly, indicating that the top parts of the seedlings are, as hoped, receiving their push from the large understocks."

## The Sobeck Style

In the October, 1956 issue of the Camellia Bulletin, the very fine pub-

lication of the Northern California Camellia Society, has appeared an interesting article on Seed Grafting by John R. Sobeck of Los Angeles in which Mr. Sobeck states, quote: "For the past five years or so I have been practicing what might be called 'seed grafting' and have found it to be highly successful, both from the standpoint of 'takes' (about 97% are successful) and in the speeding up of the maturity process. I employ both the bud graft and the cleft graft technique, using the former in the summer and the latter in the winter or early spring. To begin with I plant my seed (largely hybrid) just as soon as it has ripened and been harvested. By the next June most of the seedlings are large enough to bud graft. The slower, weaker growers will probably not attain the necessary two inches or more of growth above the seed capsule which is about the right stage for grafting, until winter and these are, therefore, cleft grafted. Most of the understock used is of the 1-gallon size. Only healthy stock is used and before cutting off the top of the stock make the 'T' mark incision to determine whether it will slip readily, thus indicating that it is at the right stage for budding. The top of the understock is then cut off about 3 or 4 inches above the base with pruning shears and the cut surface smoothed with a sharp knife. The incision should be about an inch long and the bark is opened with a budding knife. The little seedling is then removed from the seed flat, being careful not to disturb or break off the seed which is still attached, as this is to constitute source of nourishment until the newly made graft has callused over. This little seedling, having one or two sets of leaves, is then converted into a scion by cutting off the roots at a point an inch or slightly more below the juncture with the plant stem, so that the top growth with the seed capsule still attached

may be grafted onto the stock. The remainder of the process is typical of all bark grafting or budding. The scion is cut thin so as not to break the bark when inserted, formed into a wedge shape so that it may be pressed into the incision until the cut area is concealed in the bark. After placing the scion carefully, it should be tied or held with a rubber band and covered with a glass jug in the usual manner. The same general procedure is followed with cleft grafting of seedlings, only you would use the cleft technique, of course. Due to the soft nature of the scion wood, however, the small sized understock should be used, which will not have a tendency to crush the seedling scion, as would be the case if cleft grafting on heavier understock."

### **My Own Way**

Of possible interest along the same line may be the writer's experience with her own experimentation carried on for the past two years. It has been the practice in our joint hobby (husband and wife) in growing Camellias that Al has done all of the grafting. That has just been an understood fact. Women will always be curious, I guess, and when on rare occasions a graft would fail to "take" I would come along later and just experiment a bit, and so it was with my seed grafting. Being not at all sure of successfully grafting a plant in the first place, I was afraid to take the chance of cutting off the roots of the "precious seedling" as Mr. Sobeck has it, but rather I decided to try to figure out some way by which the same thing could be accomplished and still leave the roots intact, and this is what I did: First I prepared the understock for a regraft job by trimming the top and old callus very carefully. (Now, after reading Mr. Hamiter's method, perhaps it would have been better not to have done all of this trimming.) I did make a "T" in the bark rather than the cleft,

then I carefully opened up the "T" just enough to take the scion. Now this is where this method differs from the other two previously described techniques: I very carefully cut a very thin strip only about three-fourths of an inch long on just one side only of the tap root of the tiny seedling, being careful to leave the roots intact. Then this left the seedling looking quite normal except for the slightly flattened or cut side from which the thin strip had been previously cut. This flattened one side was gently pressed into the "T" and the customary rubber band used to secure it until it had callused and started to grow. The roots now were plainly visible on the ground and a mound of damp peat moss was placed around the stump, which also covered the tiny roots of the seedling in the same operation and the glass jug was put over the graft in the usual manner. There were only two of these grafts made two years ago and both were successful, since both callused and both made considerable growth. However, the seedling roots have remained nearly dormant and have not been severed as yet. Last year, being pretty puffed up over this apparent success I made seven more such grafts and five have been successful, for it is quite possible that there may have been trouble with the understock since the only ones used had been for some reason or other, unsuccessful the previous spring. It remains to be seen whether or not this method cuts off many months or years of waiting time for the plants to bloom, but it has been really fun doing this bit or experimenting.

*Revised in part from Mrs. Johnson's article in the January, 1959 bulletin of the Oregon Camellia Society.*

## THE SCCS MEETS MARCH 10th

March 10th is the date to remember for the meeting of the SCCS and, like its forerunners of this fine season promises to be of great interest.

The speaker of the evening will be Dr. Robert E. Atkinson, author and lecturer whose horticultural background is well known. Since 1950 a consultant in Southern California, Dr. Atkinson holds a doctorate in Plant Pathology from the University of Minnesota. His articles are widely read in Southern California newspapers as he is Garden Consultant to the Editor of the Los Angeles Times Magazine and Garden Editor of the Los Angeles Mirror-News. In 1958, Trend Books published his "Landscaping for Outdoor Living."

This March meeting honors our affiliate, the Pomona Valley Society which has been very close to SCCS. Having grown steadily since its inception, it recently produced its 12th annual successful show and participated in the Big Show at Descanso. One of its most outstanding projects has been its sponsorship of the Camellia Garden on the campus of California Polytechnic College at near by San Dimas. It is expected that a large representation of the Society will be present at this meeting.

Of course there will be a report of the Big Show and other matters of membership interest. And the monthly exhibition of blooms should be truly a show to see. Don't forget to bring your best—perhaps you will be receiving those awards this night that you thought you ought to have had at the Big Show.

In any event the meeting is sure to be full of information and interest. Mark that date—March 10th.

## A SHORT SKETCH OF A CAMELLIA FAMILY

Les Marshall says that camellia people are more critical of camellias now than they used to be and Les should know for he has been dealing with camellias and people for way over twenty years. "Amateurs used to buy any variety that was new on the market," he said, "but now they want to see how that variety has performed before they pay to add it to their collection."

Originally Les worked for other nurserymen but somehow or other he and Mrs. Marshall amassed so many camellia plants in their own back yard that the plants inveigled them into a camellia business of their own. It is about twenty years ago that the Marshall Camellia Nursery sign was hung out on Rosemead Boulevard in San Gabriel, California. "It was like a wilderness down here then" laughed Mrs. Marshall and her laugh was a comment on the change of conditions. What was "wilderness" twenty years ago is now an integral part of a built-up Southern California and the once lazy boulevard is now a stream of traffic that flows day and night.

"My business has changed character too," went on Les. "Years ago people were not much concerned nor knew much about the different camellia varieties. Business boomed during war years when people flooded into Southern California to work and were making lots of money. There were no new cars or large appliances available so they would come in the nursery and point to all the camellias they thought were pretty without worrying about the price. Then in the depression no one had money and business dropped. Now with the inflationary trend, more people buy five-dollar plants. Five dollars doesn't mean much today."

Les plants a lot of his seeds every year and from among hundreds of seedlings he has propagated at least three which have become very popular in the trade for their beauty and adaptability. 'Fiesta' is one and

---

'Alene Marshall' another. The latter he believes will keep on increasing in appeal. He mentioned seeing a bloom of it awarded a ribbon recently and he knew that in his garden there were at least two much larger and finer that he had not even bothered to pick. Perhaps the peak of Les's camellia achievements is the 'Royal Trumpeteer' a beautiful semi-double flower that opens from a blush pink bud. The flower's three center petals form a trumpet from which Les derived the name. The parent plant is large and lordly, blooming handsomely now and nodding towards its various offspring in the gardens in truly regal fashion.

There in the gardens customers, half retail and half wholesale, never ending work and the traffic noise, combine to make a busy Nursery but beyond the neat rows of contented camellias and dozens of beds of seedlings, lies the spacious, shady patio where many of the famed Temple City Camellia Society breakfasts have been held. Just across the patio, serene and pleasant, is the Marshall home.

The Marshalls are long time members of the SCCS and Les is one of its directors and staunch supporters. He is often called on for talks on various phases of camellia culture and donates time and camellias to civic projects. With the happy home where children have played, grown up, married and departed, a successful nursery and the several successful introductions, one might think that to the Marshalls the camellia business would have been reduced to a com-

*(Continued on Page 21)*

## Camellia MAIL BAG

**From Mary Johnson  
Beaverton, Oregon**

I wish it might be possible to take you out to the greenhouse today. Almost never before have we had such a magnificent show of flowers this early in the season, and every one just a jewel in its own way. The huge plant of 'Sweet Bonair' near the door scents the whole greenhouse and individual blooms are very large this spring; nearly as large as the 'Bertha A. Harms' and these are normally so very late but this year are putting on a show all their own. 'Monte Carlo Supreme' is just beginning to bloom and the dainty moired markings make it even lovelier than 'Monte Carlo'. We are seeing several seedlings for the first time and this is always such a thrill!!! One lovely pink is quite similar to 'Debutante' in form and shade but bloomed much later last year, its first blooming. Now we are hoping that this will be late, for 'Debutante' is so early here that it is nearly always damaged by cold weather. Of the seedlings that are still tiny plants, the most interesting is the *williamsii* 'Mary Christian', *cuspidata* series. There are three species involved in this group: *japonica* and *saluenensis* from the seed parent 'Mary Christian' plus *cuspidata* which was the pollen parent. About half of these resemble *japonica* in foliage and one-fourth are similar to 'Mary Christian' and the other fourth have foliage quite like the pollen parent *C. cuspidata*. These have not bloomed yet. I can hardly wait to see what the flowers will be.

*Ed note: We could wish for a flying Camellia carpet and land in your greenhouse. Especially to sniff that 'Bon Air'. We tried to smell one at the*

*Orange Show but to no avail. Perhaps that blossom had worked so hard spreading its odor over all the other flowers that it had none left.*

**From Tom W. Taylor  
Anderson, South Carolina**

Thanks for helping arrange for our use of slides from your Kodachrome Library. I have been advised by Mrs. Gulita Cooper that the slides will be available for our Club for the March meeting. We held our regular February meeting yesterday and I informed the Club as to the March meeting with information about securing the slides from SCCS. Our club voted 100% yesterday to join your society.

*We are very pleased to have you all as new members and hope to know more about your activities. Our slides are really ambassadors of good will and we know you will enjoy them.*

### **Membership List to Appear in April**

A complete and as-correct-as-possible Membership list of the Southern California Camellia Society will appear in the April Camellia Review.

If you want to be included in this list your new subscription or renewal must be received by the SCCS Secretary immediately. Also please send any correction or change of address.

Don't be disappointed at being left out. See your name in print as belonging to a widespread group united in the inspiring and colorful hobby of the Camellia.

See Page 24 for a Subscription Form for your convenience.

## **“CAMELLIA CULTURE” IS PRAISED EVERYWHERE**

Enthusiastic reviews of “Camellia Culture” in newspapers and other periodicals to say nothing of letters on the same subject have poured in since the book’s release. The following are a few excerpts from these many commendations:

“This book is a great service to all interested in camellias.”

R. K. Womack, M.D., Director ACS  
Shreveport, Louisiana

“I am sure ‘Camellia Culture’ will prove to be a force which will bring Camellia growing to a new level in the U.S.A. during the immediate years ahead.”

Hubert B. Owens, Head, Landscape  
Architecture Department,  
University of Georgia

“Camellia Culture is a compendium of the latest scientific practices described from their own experience by 55 leading research workers and camellia growers.”

San Francisco Chronicle

“There has long been a need for this book.”

The Morning Advocate  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

“Every camellia-minded person will eventually buy ‘Camellia Culture’! This book is timeless.”

Dr. James Bonner, Acting Chairman  
Div. of Biology, Cal. Inst. of Tech.  
Pasadena, California

“A significant contribution to Camellia literature.”

Dr. Francis de Vos, Asst. Director  
U.S. National Arboretum  
Washington, D.C.

“I recommend it as the finest book on Camellias I have yet seen.”

David I. Gilfillan  
Garden Editor  
Pasadena Independent Star-News

“Truly a wonderful work, complete on camellia culture.”

Sallie Mayes  
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“‘Camellia Culture’ is not only informative but interesting to read.”

Frances Butler  
Sec’y Orange County Camellia Society  
Orange, California



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# To The Ladies!

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

The members of the Organic Gardening Circle made a special study of Camellias and Camellia planting this past season and would like to share what we did, with our camellia friends. We are not laying down the law to anybody. We are honestly out to prove what we are advising our members to do.

First, we had our soils analyzed by Lloyd Cosper of Burkhard and Cole who is fully qualified to make these analyses with his fine equipment.

The following are two made in different sections of South Pasadena. The samples were taken six inches below the surface of the soil.

## Sample No. 1

pH 7.36	Slightly alkaline
Nitrogen	Trace
Phosphorus	50 ppm Med. High
Potassium	80 ppm Med.
Iron	Trace

## Sample No. 2

pH 7.58	Slightly Alkaline
Nitrogen	3 ppm Very low
Phosphorus	35 ppm Med.
Potassium	110 ppm Med. High
Iron	Trace

The soil structure in both samples is poor. Lack of organic matter causes a compacting of the soil that seriously inhibits a free penetration and drainage of water and also interferes with proper aeration. Organic matter is most essential in maintaining optimum population of the beneficial soil micro-organisms whose functions are to convert soil nutrients into forms more easily assimilated by plant roots. Because of the mild winters and warm springs and summers, in this area, organic matter breaks down more rapidly than in colder areas; for this reason organic matter should be worked into the soil or applied as a mulch each spring. Another benefit of the addition of organic matter to the soil is, that as it breaks down it gives an acid reaction which aids in combating the alkaline conditions of most soils and water in this area.

To build up the organic content of the above soils, it is suggested that a 2-inch mulch of Compost, Leaf Mold or Peat, or a combination of them, be worked into the soil to a depth of 6 inches.

We made plenty of good compost

following the direction in the Humisite folders. We need to know how to make compost properly in this semiarid climate. Few home gardeners compost properly. They follow directions of eastern authorities.

In all our analyses for this area the soil was found lacking both in iron and nitrogen so we proceeded to supply the necessary elements. We used Nuccio's Stabilized Iron according to directions. To increase the nitrate nitrogen we added the Sonfosco Soft Phosphate with Colloidal Clay which is prepared by the Soncalla Phosphate Company, High Springs Florida. We bought it by the 80# sack. From it we derive the Calcium Phosphate. This superphosphate is untreated by any chemical.

We made a special mix for the holes in which we planted our camellias, of four parts of good garden soil and one part of Blue Whale Peat. To each barrowful we added a quart of the Calcium Phosphate and one pint of Humisite. This we packed in the bottom of the generous planting holes. If we used ordinary Holland or German Peat we use one part snowline leaf mold, one part com-

post and one part good garden soil. We watched our drainage to be sure it was good and set our camellias high and mulched them with White Gold—a sterile mulch which is made of the desiccated bark of Douglas Fir. The orchid growers are reporting great success with this. We use no ground covers but prefer planting in the ground instead of in containers. Get better results in partial shade and rule out all shrubs and vines which have invading roots like the wax-leaf privet and the Algerian Ivy. Baby's Tears, (*Helxine Soleirolii*) are religiously weeded out as disease harborers. All dead camellia blooms are burned and never put in the compost. Bud blight is our greatest enemy.

We are careful in our selections of Camellias. We are advising the wider use of the *sasanquas*. The new hybrid 'Donation' is a beauty. Some of the early *Camellia japonicas* are not so prone to bud blight. Some of the old time favorites are fine. We advise grafting over those which ball. 'Joshua Youtz' is one of these. 'Ville de Nantes' 'High Hat' and 'Debutante' are well established in favor and never fail you no matter what the weather.

We have read the revised edition of "Camellias in America" by H. Harold Hume and the new Camellia Bible ("Camellia Culture") which has been recently reviewed.

If you grow Camellias in this semi-arid climate you have a life sized job which will keep you on the alert every month in the year. Some have commenced to ask, "Is it worth it?" It can be done probably better in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valley.

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## THE EDITOR GOES TO ORANGE

With Valentine's Day but twenty-four hours off, Valentines and Sweethearts were the chosen theme of the Orange County Camellia Show. Decorations of fancy camellia hearts and a half dozen local glamour girls in Valentinish formals lent a lightsome and liltng air to one of the prettiest camellias shows we have ever attended.

A large Hall on the campus of the Santa Ana Junior College made an attractive setting for the tables of cut blooms over which the Judges mulled seriously. The adjoining comfortable recreation room was used for the display of Arrangements in the center while the Show's Winning Blooms and trophies were displayed at one end. Outdoors the *reticulatas* and miniatures were displayed on the tables recently built for use at Descanso. The initiation of the tables was dramatically successful as the camellias showed their true colors inside the polyethylene protective curtains in the darkish cloudy daylight, and later as the rain started, the visitors were protected also.

At and after the judging, familiar camellia friends who had come from a many-mile radius milled congenially, discussing camellias from their own individual viewpoints. Visitors from farthest away were Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Rollinson of Savannah, Georgia, guests of the Ralph Peers. Mrs. Rollinson in her soft Southern accent declared it was all "wonderful." Proving that you can't begin too young to start loving Camellias were Kendall and Lisa Wedell of Santa Ana, ten-week old twins. We must admit they did not show too much interest in the show but were so pink and white they were in danger of being mistaken for some of the camellias their Mother (Mrs. G. D. Wedell) and Grandmother stopped to admire.

High spirits were noted especially by the Show Chairman, K. W. Newerf, Reg Ragland and F. E. Kahen who realized the success of their efforts; by Al Dekker whose 'Elizabeth LeBey' was declared Best of Show and by Dr. E. C. Hubbs who won Sweepstakes; and by other fortunate winners who were to take home something better than bacon, i.e. beautiful silver dishes and ribbons.

Other top award winners were:

Sweepstakes Winner—Dr. E. Clark Hubbs; Sweepstakes Runner Up—Merle S. Gish; Best Arrangement—Composition with shells or coral for the dining room—Mrs. R. B. Willis; Arrangement Runner Up—Camellia composition of fans suitable for an entry—Mrs. Perry Grout; Best *reticulata*—'Moutancha'—Dr. E. Clark Hubbs; Best *japonica*—'Elizabeth Le Bey'—Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dekker; Best seedling—Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Ragland; Best mutant—Sport of Hybrid 203—McCaskill's Gardens; Best miniature—"Landrethiii"—Alfred Krueger; Best multi-flower display of *reticulatas*—'Chang's Temple'—K. W. Newerf; Best multi-flower display of *japonicas*—'Jessie Katz'—Mr. and Mrs. Alton Parker; Best grafted camellia—'Guilio Nuccio'—Lynn Crawford.

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**SCCS MEETING** from Page 7  
took 4th with an 'Adolphe Audusson Var', and the 'Glen 40' of Louis Brodvica took 5th.

The above were all *japonicas*. Of the *reticulatas*, Mrs. Milliken carried off a 1st with a 'Crimson Robe', Martin Johnson's 'Prof. Tsai' was in 2nd

place and Frank Ramsey's 'Buddha' won 3rd.

The March meeting promises different but equal points of interest as the Pomona Society will be honored and the guest speaker will be Dr. Robert E. Atkinson.

## THE ORIGIN OF NEW VARIETIES

New camellia varieties are developed in several ways. Perhaps the simplest method biologically is the "sport," in which a growth bud on the tip of one twig in an established plant undergoes an unexpected change and produces a flower generally resembling the other flowers on the bush but differing in some characteristic such as color.

The living plant is composed of cells, differing in structure and function, but all exactly identical with respect to certain particles called chromosomes which each cell contains and which determine the characteristics of the plant. For example, the particular chromosome which determines the flower color pattern may undergo a change because of some unusual environmental condition; this change is perpetuated in the continuing growth of the twig, and the flowers which appear later on this branch are identical in form but different in color from those on the remainder of the bush. 'Thelma Dale', for example, is a mutant of 'Mrs. Baldwin Wood', and 'High Hat' a sport (or mutant) of 'Daikagura'. The chromosome which determines flower form also may mutate, producing a sport such as 'Mathotiana Supreme' from 'Mathotiana'.

Some varieties do not produce stamens, which with the pistil, represent

the reproductive or seed-forming organs of the plant. The formal double, such as 'Alba Plena', very rarely produces seed and therefore any new variety from such plants would have to come from mutation.

Flowers which produce stamens may fertilize themselves, in which case the resulting seeds rarely produce attractive new flower forms. Such flowers also may be cross-fertilized by pollen from other flowers, either accidentally (bees, insects, floating pollen, etc.) or by carefully controlled hand-pollination. In such cases, the seeds produce a wide variety of new forms, occasionally one of great beauty. Interestingly, the several seeds from a single pod, derived from a single fertilized bloom, will produce plants which differ widely. One seed from a pod resulting from a cross between 'Lotus' and 'Lady Clare' produced the outstanding variety 'Mrs. Bertha K. Harms'; the other seeds from the same pod produced plants of no value. Very rarely, two beautiful varieties may originate from separate seeds from a single pod, differing markedly in color and in form, as for example 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' and 'Podmate'.

These are examples of new flower forms developed by cross-fertilization

*(Continued on Page 22)*

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# ON THE SUBJECT OF CHROMOSOMES

Feb. 18, 1959

Mrs. Elizabeth Beebe  
Editor, The Camellia Review  
706 S. Fair Oaks  
Pasadena, California  
Dear Mrs. Beebe

I have a letter from one of our members concerning Chromosomes. In view of the fact that this is a subject now receiving considerable attention the thought occurs to me that portions of my response may be of sufficient general interest to warrant publication. Excerpts from my reply are appended.

Sincerely yours,  
E. C. Tourje

“ . . . One phase of your letter interests me very much, viz., that in which you quote Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ as saying *sasanquas* and *japonicas* will not cross because of difference in chromosome counts. I have no thought of questioning your statement. I cannot escape the belief, however, that some misinterpretation is involved.

“I know of no rule that hexaploids and diploids are without affinity, one for the other, although it is true that difference in chromosome numbers might be taken as one of the possible reasons for lack of affinity in any given case.

“The *sasanqua* group (this is the one you were referring to) presents quite a problem due to the seeming lack of affinity with everything except its own kind regardless of chromosome count. The many and continued unsuccessful efforts to cross the *sasanqua* into the other popular species and sub-species give occasion to question the reputed instances in which this is said to have been done.

“We are hearing much about chromosomes of late. Without in any way minimizing the importance of the relationship of chromosomes to plant breeding, I am wondering if perhaps their importance is not being over emphasized. We sometimes lose sight of the fact that the identity, or difference, as the case may be in chromosome numbers should not be

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accepted as the infallible factor in determining compatibility or lack of compatibility, but merely evidence thereof; evidence which may be outweighed by other and stronger evidence. For example: I am not aware of any authenticated instance in which any member of the *sasanqua* group has been united sexually with any member of the *reticulata* group either as seed or pollen parent. This is true in spite of the fact they are both hexaploids and as such have identical chromosome counts of 90 (2N).

“On the other hand there are a number of seemingly authentic reports of hybrid camellias involving diploid and hexaploid species, and I know of at least one cross in which a *reticulata* ‘Capt. Rawes’ having a chromosome count of 45/2 was successfully pollinated with material taken from *C. pitardii* having a chromosome count of 90 (2N). This cross was carefully and critically made by an experienced horticulturist with training in genetics. This cross has resulted in a healthy, vigorous young seedling.

“Ten years ago Patterson, et al, in ‘Camellia Research’ reported *japonicas* ‘Lady Clare’ ‘Mathotiana’ and ‘Nagasaki’ to be triploid 45/2. If I recall correctly ‘Gigantea’ has been added to this list, yet all of  
(Continued on Page 21)

these 'set seed,' albeit not freely.

"So far as I know the progeny have all been chance seedlings and all may have 'selfed.' The mere circumstance, however that selfing seems repugnant to nature might indicate that the pollen parents of these seeds could be diploids. This on the other hand is mere conjecture and I know of no effort to pollinate these triploids with diploid or other polyploid pollen."

**CAMELLIA FAMILY** *from Page 12*  
monplace routine. If it were roses or orchids now, that might be the case but there is always a future in camellias to lure one on.

Mrs. Marshall led us out to a rather secluded spot where a good sized plant was blooming as enthusiastically as if it were the only camellia in existence. Mrs. Marshall looked at it with the glint in her eye that only a camellia can bring. She tenderly lifted one of the blooms. It was brightly pink and white striped. "It's a new seedling," she said in a quietly proud tone, "Maybe——"

## FERTILIZING TIME

In order that your Camellia blooms may reach their peak of perfection during their blooming season, don't impede this process by treating them to any fertilizer until after they have stopped blooming. Too early fertilizing

## IS COMING

will start the sap rising and induce foliage growth too soon. Follow this hint and you may attain camellias like those at the Huntington Camellia Gardens for this is their rule.

**A  
Hobby  
Has  
Become  
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Several hundred five to ten year old camellias in 20" boxes, 14" pots and 5-gallon cans are taking more of my time than I am disposed to give, so I want to sell them. If you want one, a dozen, or a hundred, see these plants, popular varieties in healthy condition. No reasonable offers will be refused, so see what we have at

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## FOR SALE

The Secretary of the Society has the following books for sale:

Our own book "**Nomenclature**," 1958 edition. Free to SCCS members. \$1.50 post paid on order or \$.90 each in lots of not less than twelve. Some copies of the 1954 edition of "**The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature**" still available. \$.50. The **Sasanqua** issue of the *Camellia Review*, \$.50. **Rare Species and Hybrids** issue of the *Review*, \$.50.

"**Camellias in the Huntington Gardens**," by William Hertrich. Vol. I, II and III, \$10.00 each. Set of 3 Vol., \$25.00.

"**Flower Arrangements of the O'Hara School**," the 1952 edition. Printed in English in Japan in folder form this book has six pages of descriptive matter and twenty-four colored prints in the Japanese manner. \$4.60.

"**Camellias, Kinds and Culture**," by H. Harold Hume. \$6.00.

"**Camellias in America, 1955**," by H. Harold Hume. \$25.50.

"**Sasanquas in Japan**," \$.50.

"**The Mastery of Japanese Flower Arrangement**," a 307 page book, profusely illustrated. Many prints in color. Printed in Japan. \$8.50.

"**The Hybrid Camellia**," Vol. 12, No. 1 of the Northern California Camellia Society, Inc. Edited by David L. Feathers and Roy T. Thompson. Postpaid \$1.00 or 75¢ each in quantities of 25 or more.

"**Camellia Culture**," publication of the SCCS edited by Carl Tourje. \$11.50 postpaid.

"**The Old and New in Flower Arranging**," by Marie Stevens Wood. \$2.00.

"**A Revision of the Genus Camellia**" by J. Robert Sealy, \$10.00.

## NEW VARIETIES from Page 19

of different varieties of *Camellia japonica*, a single species. New varieties also are being developed by artificial cross-fertilization between two different species, to produce hybrids. 'Donation', 'E. G. Waterhouse', and 'J. C. Williams', for example, are hybrid offspring of *Camellia japonica* and *Camellia saluenensis*. In this way, controlled cross-breeding is employed to develop plants and flowers which combine the best qualities of both unrelated species, such as beauty of flower, unusual tolerance to cold, and good growth habit. Completely new color shades are being produced, such as the lavender tint of 'Donation', donated by its parent, *Camellia saluenensis*. While this type of experimentation is restricted to those who have the time and the greenhouse facilities to pursue it, all of us will eventually benefit by the commercial release of these most interesting flower forms. In the meantime, we can all try our hands at growing seedlings and watching for sports on our own bushes.

*Ed. note: The above is reprinted from the October Newsletter of the Men's Camellia Club of Shreveport, Louisiana.*

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# NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

## San Diego Society

Camellias conquered the rain and other adverse weather conditions as enthusiasts turned out to the Twelfth Annual San Diego Camellia Show held February 7th and 8th. And although San Diegans grow beautiful camellias, it seemed that the more distant growers were predominant in winning top awards.

Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Taylor of Flintridge entered a 'Jessie Katz' which was the outstanding bloom of the show, and also were sweepstakes winners of the Amateur Division. This carried with it the Gold Certificate of the ACS. C. W. Lattin of San Francisco was the Super Sweepstakes Division winner (with Gold ACS Certificate) with Reg Ragland of Orange as Super Sweepstakes winner runnerup, Amateur Division, also winning the Silver ACS Certificate.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Dekker of Glendale won Runnerup Sweepstakes in the Amateur Division, also receiving the ACS Silver Certificate. In the Super Sweepstakes Division, a 'Reg Ragland' was judged the best *japonica* entered by Dr. Cecil Eshelman of Sherman Oaks and his entry 'Noble Pearl' was judged best *reticulata*. For a complete list of award winners, contact the Secretary of the San Diego Camellia Society, Mrs. Ferris Jones.

## Central Calif Show

The Central California Camellia Society is holding its 11th Annual Show on Sunday, March 8th from 2 to 6 P.M. at the Fairgrounds Cafeteria Building in Fresno, California, under the auspices of ACS and SCCS.

Ray Merino is Show Chairman and the theme of the show is "The Romance of Camellias in the American Home." Registration opens March 8 at 7:00 A.M. and closes at 10:30. It is not necessary to be a member of any camellia society to enter blooms or arrangements.

We are planning our Annual Barbecue at the Ornamental Gardens of the Fresno State College March 25th as the climax to our season.

There is a lovely heated building with tables where we have our supper and barbecue our steaks. It is potluck. As a rule we have donations of fertilizer, peat moss (Vita Peet), Camellias, Redwood Tubs, etc. which are distributed through our Plant Sale.

We elect our officers for the next season, have our Show report, and tour the Fresno State College Camellia Gardens which, although the College is new, is turning into a very nice garden.

We are also planning a Garden Tour of three or four private gardens for Sunday afternoon, March 15th. Usually they are in full bloom at that time, depending of course on the weather. We anticipate quite a bit of interest as we haven't had a garden tour for about three years. We intend to wind up our tour with coffee at the last place.

We feel the interest in Camellias generally is increasing and practically every new home, of which we have many, utilizes Camellias in the landscaping. We have had some fine speakers and programs and our Society meetings are well attended.

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## REVIEWER from Page 2

reads the Review assiduously and enjoys it very much. She makes a notation on the front cover of each magazine of some article she feels she may wish to refer to later, so when she looks over back issues she is able to find what she wants quickly.

### Connecticut Camellias

Two Camelliaphiles from Greenwich, Connecticut were callers at the Pitkin home last month. They were Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Whitman, members of the SCCS whose week in Southern California was spent for the most part seeing Camellias. With an enthusiasm for Camellias that their locality can not diminish, the Whitmans have nine camellia plants in pots which flourish in their sun room in the winter and out doors beneath oak trees during the summer. Varieties which respond to this treatment are 'C. M. Wilson', 'Duchess of Sutherland', two 'Debutantes', 'Herme', 'Mathotiana' (always with bud centers), 'Pink Perfection' (Which usually drops some buds), 'Catherine Allan', 'Donckelarii' and an 'Elegans'. The sun room is going to soon be crowded as the Whitmans bought ten more plants here. The Whitmans were quite interested in seeing grafts for the first time. They reported that the blooming time of their nine plants corresponded with

### Our Cover Flower

*C. japonica* 'Margaret Short' is a glowing, medium pink flower of commanding beauty and interest, displaying a well-styled semi-peony blossom with unusual folded petals or "rabbit ears" clustered about the light or blonde-colored stamens.

The flowers are of standard size, attaining about 4½ to 5 inches, and have excellent substance. They remain in good condition for many days and also have the good habit of opening fully.

The plant is bushy and compact, of medium growth. Parentage is unknown. The styling of the flower is much in keeping with some of the *reticulata* group. The overall picture is one that will surely please the most discriminating.

that of the Southern California camellias and Mr. Whitman said the plants almost did better in the sun room during the winter (where they were sprayed frequently to offset the effect of dry heat) than during their outdoor summer period when the weather was so hot and humid. Apparently these Camellias are quite grateful for

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all the care given them against tremendous odds (who is ever supposed to be able to grow Camellias in Connecticut?) and we only hope they will manage the top appreciation to their owners—Blue Ribbons at a Show.

### Coming!

A new variety to watch for is the 'Alice Wood'. A very promising seedling now being propagated by Julius Nuccio bids fair to become as popular as the member of the Temple City Camellia Society for whom it is named.

Julius says it is "a very early big red formal"—blooming as early as November. This characteristic will undoubtedly endear it to growers who await their blooms so impatiently come fall.

### There Are Orchids, Too

Lest we be criticized as too one-sided (can we help it if we lean toward Camellias?) we should like to report that the first annual Southland Orchid Show will be staged at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia on Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22. It will be free and open to the public.

Outstanding orchids of all types and from throughout the world will be displayed as cut flowers and as plants. Nine orchid groups have united to produce this show with displays from both amateurs and professionals. There will be more than 60 classes of exhibits—with orchids sent from England, France, Hawaii and other parts of the United States.

We think you all should see this show if for nothing more than to prove that Camelliaphiles are broad-minded. Of course—like travelers to distant climes, it will be fun to go, and then fun to come home—to Camellias.

### Want to Sketch?

Visiting the Big Show at Descanso everyone will be thrilled all over

again at its beauty and if you are at all inclined to try to preserve it for yourself artistically, you are invited to join in the Botanical Sketching Class taught there free by Gerry Patten of the Arboretum staff. For specific details contact Descanso Gardens, SYLvan 0-5571.

### How About Award For Camellia 'Wife'

If you have read Mr. C. W. Lattin's articles on how to prepare blooms for a show, and then noted that, although he lives in Oakland, he carried off the award of Super Sweepstakes Division winner at the San Diego Show, it will be self evident that he puts into practice all the advice he gave to our readers. But come closer and listen to a little background gossip on just how he did it this time. Once before he had carefully arranged all his flowers show-ready and was transporting them by air. Some miserable and mischievous air currents tossed the plane just enough to disarrange some of the blossoms who did not care for that treatment and showed it. So, this year, with the great number of blooms carefully packed he drove down all the way, *very carefully*. There was only one hitch to this arrangement. There were so many flowers in the car there was no room for Mrs. Lattin. What to do? You guessed it—she was the one who flew. Same old thing—a wife is hardier than a camellia. *She* can recover from a bruised knee or a nonchalant toss by plane. We've discovered that *all* camellia wives are pretty tough. They have to be.

### Rain, Rain, Go Away

So, with the rain beating on the window pane and the camellias bravely trying to withstand it, we'll sign off, hoping that wherever you are the sun is shining. It just has to be shining somewhere

says

Liz

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