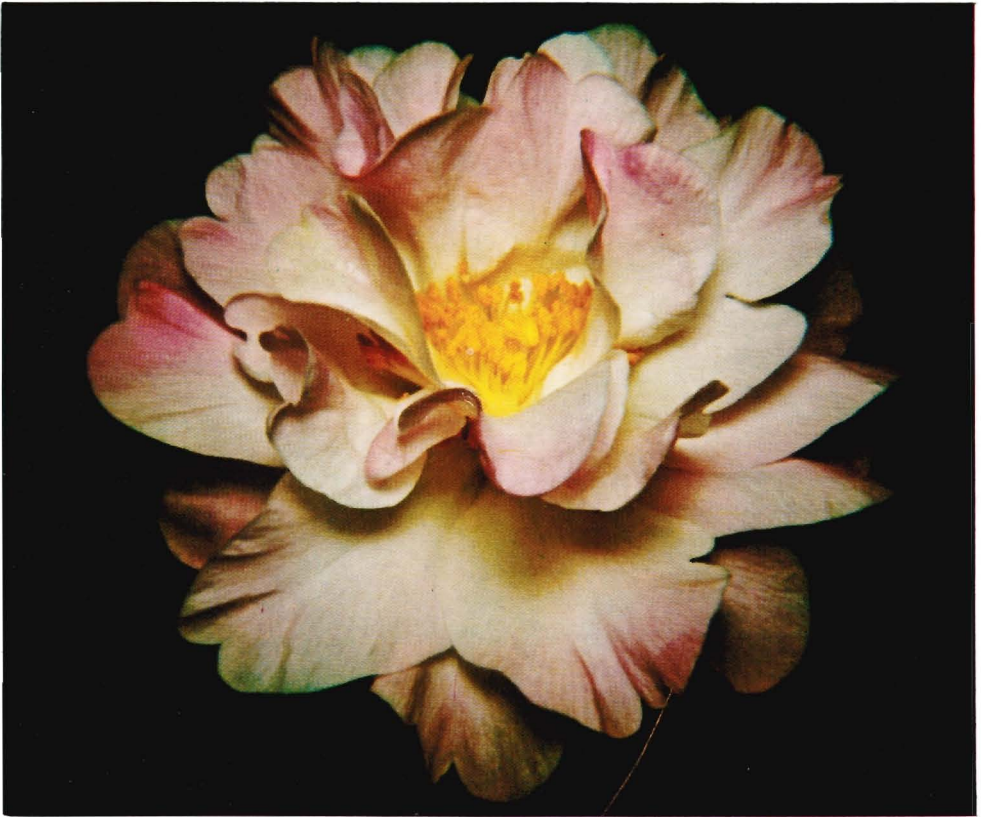


THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Dr. Polizzi'

*Courtesy Tammy Nursery and
American Camellia Society*

Vol. 32

November 1970

No. 2

One Dollar

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 to the Secretary. Annual dues: \$6.50.

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. Hybrid 'Dr. Polizzi'

This new hybrid has not bloomed on the West Coast but according to Joe Pyron in the 1970 Yearbook "has attracted considerable attention wherever shown". It was originated and propagated by Tammia Nursery of Slidell, Louisiana, the originator of C. Reticulata 'Lila Naff'. This hybrid is a cross between C. saluenensis and C. reticulata 'Captain Rawes'. The semi-double to peony form, 5 inch flower is white to flesh, borders a deeper shade of rose.

NOTICE

The **Huntington Botanical Garden** is seeking a camellia enthusiast to be in charge of their **Camellia Garden**. He will be expected to carry out the more exacting horticultural tasks and to supervise two helpers.

Contact

Myron Kinnach, Superintendent
1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, Calif. 91108

or

Phone 792-6141 (Area code 213)



THOUGHTS

from the editor

I have written in former issues of CAMELLIA REVIEW that the answer to the future of this publication is in participation by the Society's membership in its preparation. I am now in my eleventh year as Editor, and believe me, the well does run low at times in thinking of subjects of interest to readers and of names of people to write on these subjects.

We have examples in this issue of membership participation in providing material and I recite them as illustrations of how all members can, in effect, make themselves parts of the editorial staff.

We are running the second in a series of six articles that will have been written on flower arranging by Mary Bernis Taylor, who is active in providing the flower arrangements in the Japanese house in the Huntington Botanical Gardens. This series is the brain child of our member Mrs. Evelyn Johnson, who after discussing the idea with me, asked Mrs. Taylor to do the series. Mrs. Taylor was pleased to write them, on a subject in which she is so vitally interested.

The article by Barbara Butler about the Hammer Method of hybridization and propagation of camellias is credited to Ernie Pieri, long-time Society member who has written for CAMELLIA REVIEW. Ernie visited Mrs. Butler's garden in Modesto at the time of the Modesto camellia show last March and Mrs. Butler explained her propagating methods. He asked her to get the story together for CAMELLIA REVIEW.

Janet Meyer has written on the subject "Beginners Luck". She is among the active young people in Southern California camellia societies, is Secretary of her own Pomona Valley Camellia Society. She told me at the April 1970 meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society that she would like to participate in CAMELLIA REVIEW. She has three small children, the youngest in kindergarten, and a husband who owns and operates a pharmacy. I pondered these facts before I asked her to write from the point of view of the newer camellia grower. I am not sure that her husband Bill is happy about her affirmative answer to my request.

The important considerations here are that Evelyn Johnson felt a need in CAMELLIA REVIEW for coverage of flower arrangements and arranged for such coverage, that Ernie Pieri sensed the "news worthiness" of Mrs. Butler's propagating methods, and that Janet Meyer, young beside so many of us in the camellia hobby, wanted and expressed the desire to participate. There are so many experiences and experiments going on that would be of interest to others. The biggest job of the Editor is to collect these items and the only way to do it is through the Society's membership.

Harold E. Oyler

A. C. S. ANNUAL MEETING AT PASADENA

FEBRUARY 25, 26, 27, 1971

Caryll W. Pitkin
Convention Chairman

An invitation to attend the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena on February 25, 26 and 27, 1971 is extended to you by the Los Angeles Camellia Council.

It is a red letter day indeed when this great organization meets on the West Coast. It seems appropriate that at the same time we will greet our newly elected President, Judge Sherill Halbert of Sacramento, a native Californian. We are sure the plans we are making for your entertainment will please you. Californians are noted for their modesty so we will avoid saying that this convention will be the greatest ever.

Registration starts Thursday, the 25th, at 9:00 A.M. at the Huntington. Mrs. Pat Novak of 6516 Murietta Ave., Van Nuys 91401 is Registration Chairman. Pre-registration will greatly facilitate the handling of the events that evening. All out of town guests who have registered by 3:00 P.M. will be invited to be dinner guests in the homes of local people Thursday evening.

Friday busses with tour guides will take a short trip to places of interest in Pasadena such as the famous Rose Bowl, then to San Marino for a visit to the world renowned Huntington Gardens. The Gardens are normally closed at this time of day but will be opened especially for the guests of the Convention. About noon we will go to the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia. Lunch will be served there. The early afternoon will be spent touring the Arboretum by bus or by foot. Many things of interest including plants from around the world will be seen.

That evening at 6:00 P.M. we will honor our new A.C.S. President with

a champagne reception. Dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M. in the Huntington's beautiful Viennese Room. After dinner Milo Rowell of Fresno will give a short talk about judging camellias, a subject which we know will be of interest to everyone whether a judge or an exhibitor. Following this Dave Feathers of Lafayette will talk about new trends in seedlings and will show slides of some of the newest and best.

Saturday is the day for the big show in Descanso Gardens. Over 100,000 camellia bushes bloom there under the native California oaks. Show blooms will be displayed out of doors in this beautiful natural setting. Guests will be bussed to and from the hotel. Judges will be entertained at breakfast at the Hospitality House at

(Continued on next page)



Judge Sherill Halbert

the Gardens. Others may visit local nurseries or gardens. Ladies will, if they like, be taken to Pasadena's famous Lake Street for shopping.

Saturday night the Southern California Camellia Society will host the cocktail hour at the Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Neville McMinn of Australia have made a generous contribution to this party. Again the lovely Viennese Room will be the setting for the traditional banquet. We promise entertainment, a minimum of announcements and no long speeches.

Very special rates of \$19.50 double occupancy rooms have been obtained at the Huntington. Set in acres of beautiful gardens this is one of the truly great hotels of the world. We encourage you to register there and enjoy the fun of room parties, visiting

back and forth and being together. The San Marino room with coffee and cookies at all hours will serve as our headquarters. The Hotel serves tea each afternoon at 4 o'clock in the spacious lobby. We urge your early reservations since the number of rooms set aside for our use is limited.

Sunday many local gardens will be open for those who can stay over another day.

We are particularly pleased that we are able to offer all this for a registration fee of \$25.00. While we originally announced a fee of \$30.00 important donations have made the reduction possible and we feel that this is indeed a bargain. You will note that transportation, three dinners, two cocktail parties and one lunch are all

(Continued on page 13)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 1970-71 Camellia season is here! We are looking forward to our biggest and best year and this is entirely possible.

Within our society are many dedicated and interesting people. Many have had years of experience behind them in growing beautiful prize winning blooms. This same group has produced many fine introductions from seeds to champion flowers.

We also have a number of energetic new members who have lots of enthusiasm and are learning fast from the more seasoned camellia hobbyists and who are growing and competing with the old "pros". It is to this group that we are looking to give our society the vigor and strength in the future as we join forces and move ahead into our Convention year.

The A.C.S. Convention only meets in California every five years and each society and the Los Angeles Camellia Council always look forward with great anticipation to this time. It affords us the wonderful opportunity of meeting and sharing the love of camellias with others from many parts of the world. We have word that the convention will be attended by camellia hobbyists from New Zealand, Australia, England, Japan and many from our own deep south, the location of the A.C.S. headquarters.

As each of us get into the swing of the season, I am sure our enthusiasm will grow and each and everyone will give his support to the success of the convention. It is at the convention that we have the wonderful opportunity to meet friends and enjoy good fellowship.

My best wishes go to each of you for an enjoyable Camellia Season.



WILBER W. FOSS, *President*
Southern California Camellia Society

ROUNDUP OF CAMELLIA BLOOMS EAST OF DODGE & THE PECOS

Frank F. Reed
Pasadena, California

As a part of the Los Angeles Camellia Council Show (February 27-28, 1971 at Descanso Gardens), there will be 5 added classes of Camellias that must come from EAST of DODGE and the PECOS. This show is concurrent with the Annual ACS Meeting in Pasadena.

For this competition, all points outside of California are deemed to be EAST of DODGE and THE PECOS.

There will be a trophy for the best bloom in each class. Each contestant will receive a flashy "Horse" ribbon showing that they are "Charter Cowboys" who participated in this historic and momentous event. Each contestant will be limited to a total of 12 blooms.

Class X:

Japonicas, Large, Very Large, and Large to Very Large

Class XI:

Japonicas, Medium and Medium to Large

Class XII:

Japonicas, Small and Miniature

Class XIII:

Reticulatas and Reticulata Hybrids

Class XIV:

Non-Reticulata Hybrids

Special Rules

Within your total of 12, you may enter more than one bloom of a variety, but a card must be made for each bloom. If you hope to enter blooms, please apply for entry cards and registration blank to:

Frank F. Reed
1161 E. Howard St.
Pasadena, Ca 91104

Blooms may have been grown under glass. Gibbed flowers are allowed in all classes. You may wire the stems of blooms.

If appropriate, the entry card will

be marked "Gibbed" or "Under Glass" to the right of your registration number. These notations will not be visible during the judging, but can be seen later on that part of the card left on the table.

A special committee will stage all of the DODGE/PECOS blooms at the show; pick up the blooms shipped to LAX (Los Angeles International Airport); collect all those brought by ACS meeting attendees to the Huntington Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena; and will provide adequate storage (40° Fahr.) for blooms starting with the 24th of February 1971. Anyone desiring may stage their own blooms. Attendees may get temporary storage upon arrival at the Huntington by applying to Mrs. Wanda Overstreet or Mr. John Le Grand.

Suggestions

It is hoped that all air freight shipments will arrive at LAX between 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Pacific Time on 26 February on one of those direct flights shown on accompanying list. (There will be changes in departure and arrival times between now and February.)

After the blooms are arranged in their shipping container, make a map or layout of them. Wrap the entry cards in this sheet or put both items in an envelope. Attach this envelope so that it will not damage the blooms in transit.

Seal your container with masking tape. In addition wrap it with twine so that there is an obvious handle in the center of the top of the container.

Put a "HOLD AT AIRPORT" sticker on the top of the container. On this sticker write "LAX" (for L.A. International) and in the telephone blank "213-794-1425". If your

(Continued on next page)

container is not transparent, put a big red "UP" sign on each side. If the container is transparent, one or two "UP" signs will suffice.

Address the containers to Frank F. Reed care your Airline's freight Office, LAX. Several contestants can pool their shipments and still come within minimum 50 pounds for air freight. The cost for 50 pounds from Washington, Columbia, Greensboro, etc. is 17 or 18 dollars with tax. In making advance reservations, ask for

space in the rear belly compartment whose temperature is usually in the low 40's Fahr.

The usual transparent "lingerie" (or sweater) box is about 15x13x5 inches and weighs about 3 pounds when prepared for shipment of camellias. An ideal way to ship camellias is to put two of these in a stack. (Picture in April 1968 ACS Journal.) In this setup, the entry cards and layout of the blooms can be put between

(Continued on page 17)

OCTOBER 1970 THROUGH FLIGHTS TO LAX (L.A. International)

| From | Flight | Depart | LAX |
|--------------------|------------------|----------|----------|
| Atlanta | Delta 105 | 10:20 am | 11:35 am |
| " | Eastern 83 | 10:00 am | 11:16 am |
| " | Delta 35 | 12:15 pm | 2:33 pm |
| Austin | Continental 129 | 7:30 am | 10:00 am |
| Baltimore | United 51 | 9:00 am | 11:10 am |
| Birmingham | United 887 | 11:20 am | 1:30 pm |
| Norfolk | " " | 10:10 am | 1:30 pm |
| Charlotte | Eastern 83 | 8:00 am | 11:16 am |
| Dallas-Ft. Worth | American 591 | 10:20 am | 11:06 am |
| " | Delta 829 | 10:40 am | 11:28 am |
| " | Delta 169 | 1:45 pm | 2:33 pm |
| " | Delta 811 | 12:45 pm | 1:33 pm |
| " | American 33 | 2:00 pm | 2:49 pm |
| Greensboro | Eastern 81 | 12:20 pm | 3:29 pm |
| Houston | Continental 57 | 10:05 am | 11:08 am |
| " | National 47 | 10:15 am | 11:10 am |
| Huntsville-Decatur | United 805 | 9:00 am | 11:00 am |
| Jacksonville | National 47 | 8:00 am | 11:10 am |
| Knoxville | United 805 | 8:50 am | 11:05 am |
| Little Rock | American 591 | 8:55 am | 11:06 am |
| Louisville | American 247 | 10:15 am | 1:14 pm |
| Memphis | United 815 | 9:30 am | 11:15 am |
| " | American 247 | 10:40 am | 1:15 pm |
| Miami | National 41 | 10:00 am | 11:55 am |
| " | Northeastern 401 | 9:45 am | 11:45 am |
| Nashville | American 33 | 11:45 am | 2:44 pm |
| New Orleans | National 47 | 8:45 am | 11:10 am |
| " | Delta 811 | 11:00 am | 1:33 pm |
| " | National 39 | 12:30 pm | 2:03 pm |
| " | Delta 859 | 12:35 pm | 2:09 pm |
| Norfolk | United 887 | 10:10 am | 1:30 pm |
| Oklahoma City | American 125 | 12:35 pm | 1:08 pm |
| " | TWA 467 | 12:35 pm | 1:10 pm |
| Orlando | National 33 | 7:45 am | 10:20 am |
| Portland, Ore. | United 369 | 11:45 am | 1:42 pm |
| " | Western 629 | Noon | 1:54 pm |
| Raleigh-Durham | United 815 | 8:20 am | 11:15 am |
| Richmond | United 59 | 11:00 am | 2:10 pm |
| San Antonio | Continental 65 | 8:40 am | 9:20 am |
| Seattle | Continental 303 | 10:00 am | 12:10 pm |
| " | Western 603 | Noon | 2:09 pm |
| Tampa | National 39 | 11:40 am | 2:03 pm |
| Washington, DC | TWA 59 | 9:10 am | 11:15 am |
| " | American 77 | 9:15 am | 11:18 am |
| " | TWA 99 | 11:40 am | 1:50 pm |
| " | United 59 | Noon | 2:10 pm |

HYBRIDIZATION AND PROPAGATION OF CAMELLIAS (The Hammer Method)

Barbara Butler
Modesto, California

In hybridizing Camellias I select the parent plants that I wish to use for a given season. Near blooming time certain large buds are carefully bagged and watched. These buds should be at or near the terminal end of a vigorous branch midway and toward the top of the plant. As soon as the seed parent bloom opens wide enough the anthers are removed from the stamens while still immature. Care is taken not to damage in any way the petals or pistil. The flower is rebagged and allowed to fully open. When the flower is fully open it is ready for pollination when the appearance of honeydew forms on the top of the stigma, at which time the bag is opened and the pollen from the chosen cross is gently applied by touching the pollen bearing anther to the stigma. Pollen from the male flower is of extreme importance. It should be from a perfect flower with the pollen at its peak of freshness and not contaminated. The genetic characteristics of the pollen determines the quality of the cross, the color factor, and the vigor of the new plant. The seed parent contains those qualities which one hopes to improve upon or to maintain.

A cloth label is then attached to the flower stem and the bloom is rebagged. I keep a notebook in which is recorded the cross of the parent X pollen — date of cross, number of seeds, date of harvest, number of the pot, number of seed germinated, cutting of taproot, date of transplanting into 4 inch pots, date of outdoor planting, and first bloom.

It has been my observation that one can note that a particular cross has taken within 3 days time as the bloom seems to gain, grow, and to develop extra substance that has a vital look about it. The flowers will

remain on the plant for a longer length of time before dropping than nonpollinated blooms.* If the danger of cold spring nights is not present the bags can be removed from the blooms at that time. Any spent blooms can be removed from the bags to prevent fungus growth.

As a label to mark the cross, I like to use torn strips of white percale sheeting $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide. A length of from 4 to 5 inches is used. At one end a slit is made in the center of the strip with a scissors, paralleled with the length of the material. With a laundry marking pen, data is then recorded on the cloth label — Parent X Pollen — date of cross. The long end of the label is passed around the stem and through the slit and pulled up tight. The soft cloth does not girdle the stem and will last all through the 8 or 9 months of use without fading and is easy to locate at time of harvest. The Blue Jays cannot remove them. The cloth labels fit into a handy pocket or under a sweater cuff, then both hands are free to work. I make up as many of these labels as I need for a given cross on a given day before I go out to select the flower from which I take the stamens with its anther and ripe pollen.

Plants with seed pods are given extra care as the plants will need more nourishment and water to produce healthy seeds. Too many seeds on a given plant will result in that plant not producing blooms the following season as all its strength goes into seed production.

* To hold a bloom for a certain show date I hand pollinate that bloom to keep it fresh. A fertile flower tends to maintain its good condition over a longer period of time.

(Continued on next page)

The passage of 8 to 9 months brings us to the exciting time when the seeds ripen and open. I do not believe in collecting seeds until the pod cracks open. One tends to become impatient to see what has occurred inside that pod, but tie a bag around it after the first crack shows and wait till it is fully opened. All crosses are not made at the same time nor is maturity a fixed item. There is a lot to do while waiting. Small, very clean jars (honey or jelly 5-8 ounce size) are to be gathered. Rod McLellan Super Soil Mix and sterilized firbark to be dampened and stored in plastic bags ready for use. Also paper labels, scotch tape and marking pen, but most important is a small tack hammer. This tack hammer becomes the HAMMER METHOD in assuring rapid results with the germination of Camellia seeds.

Take a small very clean jar with you as you go out to carefully gather seed from the open pod. Deposit the seeds into the jar and remove the cloth label from the stem and place it into the jar. Allow seed to dry 24 hours in the open jar. The next day at your work bench gather all your materials together.

Place a seed on the wooden block and on its side edge (so you are not driving the root end of the seed into the board and therefore splitting the seed in half). Carefully and gently tap the seed with the hammer until the seedcoat cracks. It takes a clean stroke, but not a hard force. Generally one blow will do it. With a fingernail pry up the cracked seedcoat shell and break off a section of the shell. A sharp pointed pruning shears can be used to slowly clip away the shell to save a broken fingernail. The shell will fall away leaving a perfect seed now covered with its inner seedcoat. I have found the seeds that are of Japonica X Reticulata Hybrids to have a much thicker seed shell than those from a straight Japonica X Japonica cross.

Now you can record the number of seed from that cross into your data record book.

Some splendid looking pods will be empty of seed and some seed will be empty. Thus you will save more time, space and energy by using the HAMMER METHOD instead of planting infertile unhulled empty seed.

Now that all the seed of that jar are hulled, we are ready for the next step. Place a dampened mix consisting of $\frac{1}{3}$ Rod McClellan Super Soil to $\frac{2}{3}$ firbark into the already labeled jar. Fill the jar a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ full with soil mix, shake slightly to settle. Make a small indentation with your forefinger so that the seed when placed root end down will be less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of its depth in the mix. Cover mouth of jar with a lid or a piece of Saran Wrap, or plastic baggie; secure the plastic with a rubber band. Place jar in a warm sunlit room at 70 degrees temperature. Within 5 to 7 days the growing root tip will have protruded. Seed should be checked to note root length. As the seed is resting almost on the surface of the soil mix this can be done without harm. At 14 days the tap root should be at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, at which time carefully remove the seed from the jar, and with your fingernails remove $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of the tap root, just enough to insure the branching of roots. The section of stem close to the seed base will have enlarged, turned green and split. At that point the green shoot will enlarge and unfold upwards. The cutting of the tap root forces more of the seed's food energy into the growth of the shoot and leaf development.

By the end of 3 to 4 weeks the roots will be to the bottom of the jar, and the shoot will be touching the lid. Now it is time to transplant the seedling into 4 inch pots; again use the dampened Supersoil mix. Water mix several times thoroughly and let pot drain. Transfer data of cross to a white plastic label, place in pot.

Using the pointed wooden end of a small watercolor brush, carefully transplant the young seedling from jar to pot. The (cotyledon) seed is left above ground a good $\frac{1}{2}$ inch so that it does not touch the dampen soil. The sunlight will turn the seed green and speed the manufacture of food energy. There is less chance of dampoff, rot and fungus growth. The seedling will put out 2 cycles of growth and be 6 inches tall in eight weeks. At which time weekly feedings begin with a weak liquid solution of blood meal to force more growth, while still indoors on the ledge of the south window of my back porch. I add iron sulfate to the blood meal solution when the seed cotyledon has shriveled and been absorbed by the seedling.

Plants are moved outdoors and planted into a seed bed or gallon cans when the danger of frost is past (c. April 21). It is important not to stop the growth cycle. Plants may continue to grow roots when growth is stopped, but the shoots will remain at about the 6 inch height indefinitely. I have some seedlings ranging in age from 3 to 15 years that are still the same height as when transplanted from indoors to outdoors using the older methods of culture.

When I first started growing seedlings around 1954 in Modesto, I



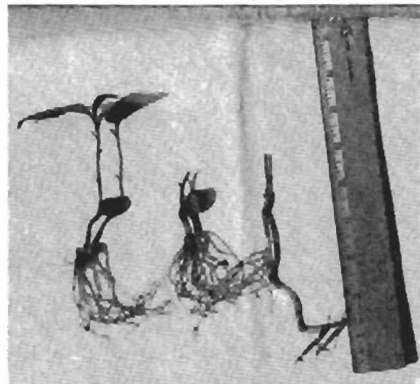
Author's tools: seed, hulls, pods, germinating jar, collecting jar, cloth label tags, tack hammer, shears, bloom showing label attached.

followed the experts' advice. The unhulled seeds were placed in a large jar of U.C. Mix — Layer of soil, layer of seed, etc. A good many rotted, some never sprouted, the rest were slow to germinate. The sprouted unhulled seeds were planted in an outdoor nursery bed of U.C. Mix, tap root uncut, regular feeding schedule followed, and nothing happened. These plants just set there with a nice green color but no growth. I finally threw the whole bed out, except one or two plants that had interesting shaped foliage. That course of events prompted me to experiment to find out why.

I started first to check the viability of the seed — second, the conditions for ideal germination (for the homeowners lack of scientific glasshouse conditions), and thirdly, the continuous growth cycle. My conclusions led to the following:

1. The Hammer Method of hulling seeds.
2. The use of small jars and sterilized soil mix; a creation of a miniature hothouse.
3. Cutting taproot to encourage a mass of feeder roots.

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Left to right: SEEDLING A ready to be transplanted into 4" pot. SEEDLING B. Note shoot, cotyledon. Taproot cut, vigorous feeder roots at time of removal from germination jar. SEEDLING C. Note developing taproot. Note: all plants are 'Princess Baciocchi' seedlings and received the same culture methods and care, except that Seedling C taproot was not cut.

MORIBANA, A STAGE FOR THE HIGO

Mary Bernis Taylor
San Marino, California

The single-petaled Higo Camellia with its long stamens opened at the center smiles up at the sun, serene and cheerful. Here is a camellia flower which deserves a simple staging to star the beauty of its stamens. It has been said that this single-petaled camellia is the preference of the Japanese people especially in Kumamoto City, Kyushu, Japan.

There were only three short stemmed Higo camellias available to arrange at this time so the pattern for arranging them had to be the low moribana form using the "mountain of needles" or kenzan (as the Japanese call the invention to hold the stems of the flowers in place) in an open shallow container. The kenzan is heavy metal. The kenzan's weight balances the weight of the material very well. You should have several sizes of these flower holders with brass needles (they are the strongest). If you place a folded paper towel small enough so it does not show under the pin holder or kenzan, the flower holder will not slip.

The round low plate which was chosen as a container for the soft pink and white camellias was a tan earth color. This plain container was chosen to show off the delicacy of the flowers. Since every good composition is three dimensional, the light brown, hairy, new fronds of the woodwardia fern were selected to give height; also to repeat the color of the container. The coils of the growing tips of the fern repeated the round shape of the flowers without dominating them. The carrot fern was placed very close and back of the fern fronds; the tip arching back into space giving width and depth to the arrangement. The placement of the three flowers and their leaves in a thrusting forward movement gave the arrangement more depth. There was no flatness;

there was height and width and depth.

Each piece of material had its own space. The carrot fern does not touch the fern frond as it seems to in the picture. Only the stems went into the water. The water looked clear and clean as a mountain stream should look. No leaf or petal touched the water. All the stems were placed closely together to give the composition the vital feeling of a growing unit.

The most important technique to develop in arranging camellias is the placing of each bloom, especially when you are using several in a design. The camellia blossom is such an important actor when the flowers are all fully opened. Each one demands attention. Each bloom should be placed differently. In this arrangement one bloom is placed to give more of a side view to show the length of the stamens thrusting upward, surrounded by the camellia's petals like a delicate fragile saucer holding its cup of stamens. Another flower is placed to allow the viewer to peek a little more into the open center of the circle of stamens. The lowest bloom is placed to show the ruffled edges of the petals.

You should start a collection of pebbles to be used to cover your mechanics if you are going to be a flower arranger. In the low container, the pin holder should be covered cleverly with stones or pebbles. Try to use stones which look water washed and are close to the color of your container. Small smooth brown pebbles were used to finish this design; to hide the kenzan, and to add a contrast of texture to the arrangement. When you go to the beach or where there is a mountain stream, start looking for green or grey or brown pebbles (you can buy black ones).

Then separate them and keep them washed and clean and dry in glass jars ready to be used as that last touch to your moribana arrangement.

The moribana form became a part of Japanese Ikebana in 1800. This

was early western influence. It is a quick delightful pattern to use in our homes today. It takes very few flowers and can easily be made into an arrangement that is pleasant from

(Continued on page 17)



Photographed by Mr. Frank Thomas, Pasadena

Camellia: Higo
2 variegated Shin-Tsukasa-Nishiki **1 white Azuma-Nishiki**
Style of arrangement: Moribana
Branch or leaf material: New fern fronds and Carrot fern.
Container: Earth-color ceramic on Chinese rosewood stand.
Height of arrangement and container: 25" high, 13" wide.

BEGINNERS LUCK

Janet Meyer

Glendora, California

If there are a few camellia enthusiasts out there who are planting their first camellia this year, you must be warned! You are heading down the camellia trail. When the trip begins you cannot turn back. Before you know it you will be digging up all kinds of things to make room for more and more camellias. Some little children have even been known to lose their play yard to the construction of a lath house. When this happens and the rose bed is also gone, you may find yourself eyeing your neighbor's yard, wishing he would move so you could expand your lath house. By this time you are half way down that trail of no return. You newcomers may laugh now but ask one of those oldtimers what happened to his rose garden.

Once you have that first plant in the lath house or ground you may think there is nothing to do about camellias. Well, as in any hobby, there are many things that must be done. For the answers on what to do you may pull up a chair and start to read. There are numerous periodicals and magazines that will explain the secrets of camellia culture. First however, you must get *involved* in your local society. These friendly people are the greatest help of all. Many society members know the answers to questions you may have, if not they will steer you to the proper person or publication. Next you will receive the *CAMELLIA REVIEW* as part of your membership in the society. This magazine has many helpful hints concerning camellia culture. It also lists the Camellia Societies of California, including their meeting dates, location and time. There are exciting programs during the camellia season at all the societies. As a novice you can pick up valuable information at these meetings as well as lasting friend-

ships. When visiting groups other than your own you will find people are happy to see you and anxious to have you bring your blooms to share.

Now that you are attending each and every meeting possible you might want a few academic sources of information. The publications listed below have helped many a beginner to at least know what questions to ask of his fellow camellians.

THE CAMELLIA JOURNAL

A publication of the American Camellia Society

THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA YEARBOOK

Sent to members of the A.C.S. annually

CAMELLIA CULTURE

A publication of Southern California Camellia Society, Inc.

HOW TO GROW AND USE CAMELLIAS

Sunset Books and Magazines, Inc.

CAMELLIA NEWS

The Australian Camellia Research Society publication sent to members

NEW ZEALAND CAMELLIA BULLETIN

New Zealand Camellia Society publication sent to members

THE CAMELLIAN

by Frank Griffin

With a few dollars invested, you will have enough reading material to keep you sitting on your chair most of the winter.

The following information consists of timely points the above source material covers.

H₂O is a major concern at this time. The soil surrounding the camellia must be kept moist at all times. November and December are critical water months in Southern California. Our weather at this time often changes from cool, overcast days to hot "Santana" windy days. Our camellias

cannot be watered on a regular schedule now. Be sure to check individual container grown plants for individual needs at least once a week. Lack of water or drying out of the root ball will often cause leaf and bud drop. Without continued moisture to the roots your blooms cannot develop properly. Remember your blossoms are over 90% water.

After thoroughly watering plants, some growers apply a low nitrogen, high phosphate and potassium fertilizer, before buds show color, to stimulate bud growth.

Continue to maintain humidity during dry hot periods. Spraying of the foliage and surroundings is beneficial, but should be avoided at times when the foliage is in direct sunlight. Camellias will sunburn just like people. Hot sun on wet leaves can cause sun scalding that shows as brown blotches with yellow or tan edges. At times the leaves will burn from extreme sun even without water.

Aphids are another thing to watch for. Green or brown aphids multiply rapidly on young foliage, particularly during warm and humid weather. You may, by sprinkling your plants, produce ideal conditions for these little bugs. If you do not check the growth of these pests they will rapidly produce disfigured buds and leaves. Some varieties of camellia seem to be more susceptible to attack. Keep your eyes open for these pests and attack them with a strong

spray from the hose.

Disbudding is a must now and is really a form of pruning your plants. Even though you hate to remove even one bud you must twist them off for better flowers at blooming time. You may thin buds by holding the stem of the plant directly below the buds. Gently twist away the unwanted buds with the thumb and forefinger of the other hand. Be very careful when removing Reticulata buds. Both buds will fall as well as the leaf next to them if you hurry.

Some varieties of camellias (japonicas) set more buds than they can mature properly, and will sometimes drop a high percentage of them of their own accord. This is perfectly natural and your flowers will be better for it. Remember that four or five buds on one stem cannot possibly develop into quality blooms; more important they weaken the plant and restrict a natural, healthy growth rate. Remember, if nature does not prune your buds you will have to do it.

A C S MEETING (Continued)

included in your registration fee.

But no money value can be placed on the efforts our local people will expend to make your visit a pleasant and memorable experience. Hospitality and the resulting friendships are what a convention is all about. We invite you to come early and stay late to avail yourselves of the many attractions of Southern California.

RELEASING

NUCCIO'S GEM

'Red Emperor'

'Otto Hopfer'

'Marc Eleven'

'Water Lily'

'Rob Roy'

'Valentine Day'

**NUCCIO'S
NURSERIES**

3555 CHANEY TRAIL
ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA 91002
Phone - - - - - 794-3383

CAMELLIA ROOTING STUDIES AT THE LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM

George P. Hanson, Robert L. Gonderman, and Carlos D. Jativa
Senior Biologist, Biologist, and Plant Research Aid, respectively

Camellias present a great deal of variation in their capacity to root from stem cuttings. Tremendous differences in rooting are found between *Camellia japonica* cultivars. These differences are even greater when camellias are compared at the interspecific level. Although most of the older japonica cultivars are propagated by stem cuttings in the nursery trade, reticulatas are propagated, almost entirely, by grafts. One of the authors (Gonderman) has recently developed a technique which has enabled him to root stem cuttings from species which are commonly considered difficult to root. The authors have recently employed this technique in a comparison test of the rooting capacity of several camellia hybrids with four well known camellia cultivars. It is the purpose of this article to present some of the preliminary conclusions from this experiment.

From the thousands of camellia crosses made by Dr. Clifford Parks and his associates during the time he was at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum we have thus far selected approximately 200 seedlings which seem to offer some horticultural potential for the home gardener, or for the camellia fancier interested in unusual interspecific crosses or in show flowers. These seedlings were planted near the Queen Anne Cottage at the Arboretum in the Spring of 1970 and are readily accessible to the public for observation and enjoyment during the camellia flowering season. All plants bear Dr. Parks' code on their label and their parentage can readily be determined by reference to his articles in the 1968 Camellia Yearbook. Only the best of these crosses will be saved for more than a few years; so we would be happy

to hear from visitors telling us about the seedlings of their choice.

In mid-July of 1970, six soft-wood cuttings were taken from each test seedling. For the most part, these cuttings were firm but much greener than is normally recommended. The cuttings were 4-5 inches long and had their leaves removed from the lower $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the stem. A fresh cut was made just beneath a node (leaf bud) and the basal end of the cutting was then dipped into the treatment solution to a depth of at least one inch. Six treatments were employed consisting of 2 concentrations of IBA (3-Indole Butyric Acid), 2 concentrations of DMSO (Dimethyl Sulfoxide), a solution containing both chemicals and a control consisting of the solvent solution alone (1 part ethanol; 1 part deionized water). The DMSO was used for its capacity as a penetrant-carrier to transport the hormone to the site of potential root primordia. The cuttings were then inserted into a rooting medium consisting of a 1:1 mixture of medium grade perlite and Canadian sphagnum peat moss in red-wood flats. The flats were placed in an outdoor rooting bed in full sunlight exposed to intermittent mist (a 3-second spray every minute during the daylight hours) and bottom heat (85°F.).

To serve as a basis for comparison and to obtain a range with respect to ease of rooting we also used cuttings of 'Alba Plena', 'Berenice Boddy', 'Debutante', and Wild Reticulata.

After two and one-half months the experiment was terminated. All things were carefully removed from the rooting medium and notes were taken of the number and length of roots present as well as of the degree of callus formation. Since callus is usually con-

(Continued on page 17)

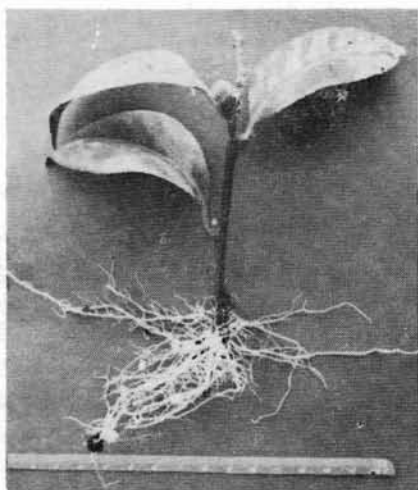
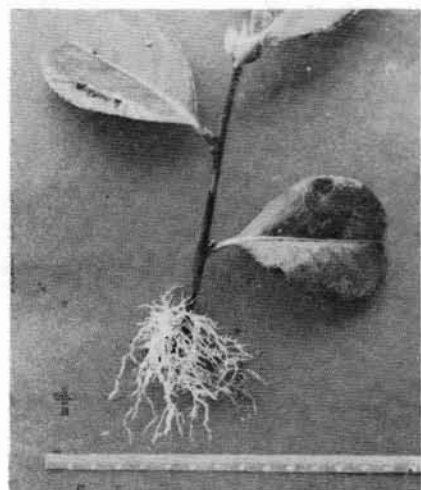
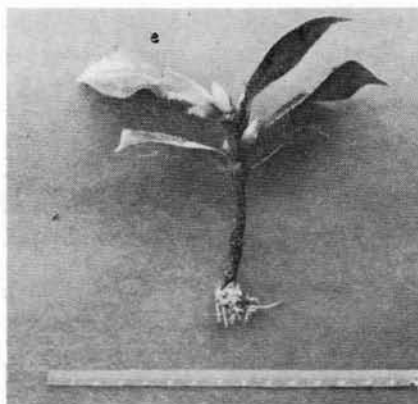
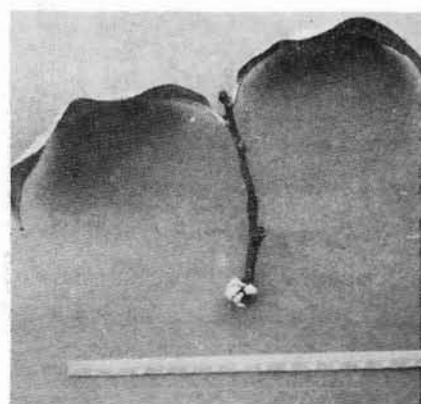
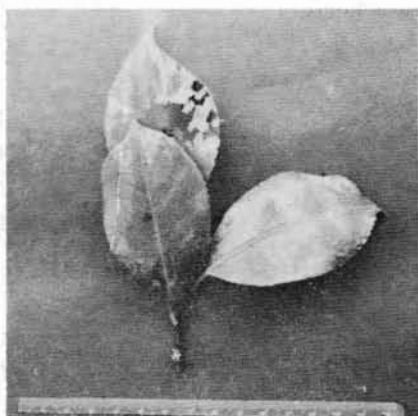
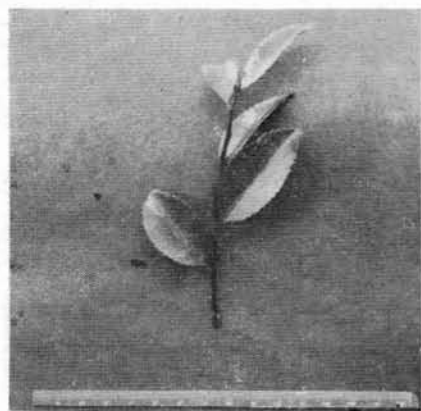


Figure 1. From callus to full root system

Table 1. Effect of IBA and DMSO on some representative camellia cuttings.

| Measurement | Control Solution | | Treatment | | | | 1000 ppm DMSO | | 5000 ppm IBA plus 1000 ppm DMSO | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| | Debutante | Berenice Boddy | Alba Plena | Wild Reticulata | Debutante | Berenice Boddy | Alba Plena | Wild Reticulata | Debutante | Berenice Boddy | Alba Plena | Wild Reticulata |
| Number of cuttings rooted out of 6 attempts | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| Average root length per cutting (inches) | 28 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 37 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 50 | 43 | 11 |
| Callus formation on non-rooted cuttings* | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

*Callus formation is scored as 0=none; 1=slight; 2=medium; 3=large; 4=very large with root primordia.

CAMELLIA ROOTING (Cont'd)

sidered to be a precursor of root initiation, the extent of callus formation may be considered as a measure of the cutting's potential to root if it had been left in the rooting medium for a longer period of time. Fig. 1 shows the range of variation which was observed.

Of the comparison-plants employed, 'Debutante' rooted the most easily whereas Wild Reticulata was the most difficult. 'Berenice Boddy' rooted less well than 'Debutante' while 'Alba Plena' was intermediate between 'Berenice Boddy' and Wild Reticulata.

In all treatments Wild Reticulata rooted less well than all other cultivars or hybrids tested. 'Debutante' averaged 4th, in ease of rooting, out of the 25 cultivars and hybrids tested in each treatment. IBA at 5,000 ppm (parts per million) improved rooting in all cultivars whereas the addition of 1,000 ppm DMSO provided a further stimulus and resulted in cuttings with longer roots, with a higher percentage of cuttings which had rooted, and with larger callus formation on non-rooted cuttings. DMSO alone produced a small beneficial effect on rooting. See Table 1 for an example of the data obtained.

Since most of the seedlings tested were interspecific hybrids, an analysis of our data also provided some information on the influence of parentage upon hybrid rooting capacity. *C. japonica* as represented by the contribution of 'Donckelarii' or 'Ville de Nantes' was used as a basis of comparison. *C. saluenensis* passed a slight reduction in rooting ability to its progeny. *C. rosae-flora* contributed similar influence to that of 'Donckelarii'. *C. lutchuensis* hybrids were slightly more difficult to root than were the hybrids with *C. saluenensis* parentage. *C. granthamiana* parentage resulted in a decreased propensity to root. *C. pitardii* parentage resulted in hybrids that were nearly as difficult to root as the most difficult *C. reticu-*

lata. Insufficient data were obtained from the numerous other species to note any significant trend in rooting behavior but further experiments have been designed to provide additional information.

ROUNDUP (Continued)

the boxes.

The treatment of flowers is given in "Humidity and Hormones", "Pony Express Rides Again", "Increasing Life of Blooms", etc. (See CAMELLIA REVIEW, Oct. 1970.)

If there be a last minute change in your flights, you can phone Reed after 11:00 p.m., Eastern Time, 25 February. This is early evening in L.A. and the "Low-Low" cost of the call is the only thing left that you can use your nickles for.

Advise Reed if you wish to have your containers returned by Air Freight, Express or Parcel Post. (Collect)

While the Airline Guide shows that connections at Atlanta, New Orleans, Ft. Worth-Dallas and other places are made in 45 to 75 minutes and these will generally be made by passengers and their baggage, the airlines figure that they must have approximately 3 hours or more for making connections with *air freight* shipments.

While Delta 818 is a through flight from LAX to Columbia, S.C., there is not a through flight to LAX. We hope for one by next February.

Blake, Novak, and Reed, local cowhands, will handle your flowers.

MORIBANA (Continued)

all sides. Only one flower bud and two more carrot ferns placed on the other side or back of the new fern fronds would do the trick here.

For this moribana design the eye of the camera was placed a little above the center of the arrangement looking down into the glowing hearts of the cherished Higos to emphasize the drama of their beauty — the crowns of stamens.

"CAMELLIA IS OUR BABY - - WHAT'S THE BEST FORMULA?"

Howard E. Burnette
Castro Valley, California

Just as the news media will engage in sensational headlines to create interest in the sale of newspapers, we have tried to select a title for this article that would interest more than those who comprise our "target area" — the advanced beginner. You are an advanced beginner when you are not afraid to put some of the propagation methods you have heard of or read about to work. It doesn't matter whether the information which you have gathered is fact, propaganda or whatever, you learn by doing and you can't drift too far off base without realizing the error of your ways. This should be of interest to all camellia buffs.

Much of our pleasure has been derived from extensive experimentation with camellia seedlings, grafts, rooted cuttings, etc., through various soil media and types of plant food. Our only regret has been that this experience has been limited as to the number of plants in the ground since most of our plants have been cultivated in pots and tubs.

Container culture offers more of a challenge because the grower must give more attention to the plants' needs. With these thoughts in mind we hope that this treatise on the basic fundamentals of plant growth will be of general interest. It is our intention to touch on enough of the essentials of camellia nutrition so that you may find the bare necessities that these plants require, thereby helping you to raise healthy, beautiful evergreen plants which will reward you with a profusion of bloom.

Minerals . . . air . . . water . . .

Camellias depend upon many nutritional essentials which appear in our soils. The soils are somewhat complex substances being composed

of *minerals* which are derived from, (1) the *inorganic* matter in the weathering of rock, (2) *organic* matter, (3) micro-organisms (one square inch of soil probably contains as many micro-organisms as there are people on this earth), (4) air, (5) water.

Typically your soil, in the dry state, contains approximately one-half solid particles and one-half air space. Since water must occupy the same voids as air, a soil saturated with water contains no air. For this reason you should provide a soil mixture which is somewhat porous to afford good drainage and allow for aeration. Also, since water travels and is controlled by surface tension, you should avoid soil stratification, which prevents water penetration through the plant root ball.

Functions of good soil . . .

Soil must be adequate to provide anchorage for the plant, aeration for its roots, store needed water and be custodian of the nutrients essential to healthy plant growth.

Plant nutrients . . .

Many elements are all found in good soil and in the presence of moisture can be absorbed by the plant roots . . . providing the pH of the soil is correct! These elements are: carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, sulphur, calcium, iron, manganese, magnesium, zinc, boron, copper and molybdenum.

What is pH? . . .

The symbol "pH" is used to express hydrogen-ion concentration. The pH range is from zero (0) to fourteen (14) with seven (7) being natural. Any number below seven (7) is acid, while numbers above seven (7) are alkaline. The ideal pH range for camellia is five (5) to six and one-

half (6.5). When the pH drops below 5, plants become deficient in magnesium and phosphorous and carry the toxicity of manganese and aluminum. Conversely, when the pH is above 7, plants become deficient in manganese and iron and may develop excesses of other elements. As the pH gets lower or higher than the optimum values, most essential elements are rendered insoluble.

These pH values are logarithmic in character and each whole number represents ten (10). This means that pH of 6 is ten times more acid than alkaline . . . and a pH of 5 is 100 times more acid than alkaline. A soil which is too acid keeps many essential elements locked up — unavailable for use by the plants' roots.

Values of certain nutrients . . .

Nitrogen is essential for the formation of proteins which the plant needs for cell growth. A deficiency of nitrogen causes poor growth and a yellowing of the leaves. An excess of nitrogen causes over-abundant growth, poor bud set and resultant poor flower development.

Phosphorous is needed for plant cell division (plant growth); particularly flower, seed and root growth which depend upon this element. A deficiency of phosphorous results in dark, irregularly necrotic leaves and a tendency to lose young leaves. The pH of the soil strongly affects the availability of phosphorous. Below a pH of 5 it combines with iron and other chemicals to form insoluble compounds. When the pH goes above 7.3 it combines with calcium to form insoluble tri-calcium-phosphate.

Potassium — the greatest value of this element is as an neutralizer of oxalic acid which is a by-product of the photosynthesis of carbon dioxide and water into glucose. An accumulation of oxalic acid is very toxic to the plant. The presence of potassium prevents a build up of oxalic acid in the leaves by reacting with the acid to form potassium oxalate which is a

soluble, harmless substance which readily moves from the leaf cells to the plant stems where it combines with calcium to form calcium oxalate. This reaction frees the potassium to repeat the cycle. Plants which have a build up of oxalic acid are susceptible to fungus diseases.

The above three elements are those usually specified in the commercial fertilizers which we purchase. The percentages are generally required to be so specified on the label.

Magnesium is the essential element in chlorophyll which is the green coloring matter in foliage. The presence of chlorophyll is necessary in the process of photosynthesis; therefore, a lack of magnesium causes malnutrition.

Calcium — the outer wall of the plant cells contains calcium which gives them strength. A deficiency of calcium may cause stunted growth. It is worthy to note here that a deficiency of sulphur may also cause stunted growth.

Trace elements — the remainder of the necessary elements which we previously listed are known as "trace elements" since the plants require them only in minute amounts. These elements probably act as catalysts in the various processes of oxidation within the plant. For example: unless iron is present the transfer of potassium to calcium oxalate cannot take place; thus, iron acts as a catalyst in the reaction. A catalyst is a substance which helps to promote a reaction without itself entering into the chemical reaction.

Remember — your camellias need a well-balanced diet and we are fortunate in having the necessary compounds formulated and commercially available.

So far this discussion has encompassed soil and the necessary elements but these provide only a portion of the plants' nutrition. The remainder is provided by the sun, the atmos-

(Continued on next page)

CAMELLIA SEEDS

1970

JAPONICA SEEDS

Mixed seeds, including a small percentage of seeds from seedling trees in the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

\$3.75 per 100 (minimum order)

Note: In former years, seeds of the white camellia 'Snow Bell' have been kept separately. They are now included with the mixed group.

SASANQUA SEEDS

Sasanquas are excellent for grafting understock. They grow faster and have good roots.

\$1.50 per 100 (minimum order)

RETICULATA, OTHER SPECIES & HYBRID SEEDS

Sorry! Early orders have exceeded our very small supply.

Address all orders and
make payments to:

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

12022 GERTRUDE DRIVE
LYNWOOD, CALIF. 90263

phere and the plants' green leaves in the presence of an adequate supply of water.

Numerous reactions take place in the green leaves of a plant. These photobiological and photochemical processes are called photosynthesis which means "putting together in the presence of light." Photosynthesis takes place anytime that the sun shines.

Chlorophyll is the most important pigment in the leaves and is present in the form of chloroplasts. In the process of photosynthesis, water and carbon dioxide are combined in the presence of light and chlorophyll to produce glucose. One can readily see the value this reaction is to man — consuming CO₂ and giving off oxygen. The reaction is more complex than the simple diagrams which are usually used to describe this reaction.

Oxygen is given off by the leaves through the same pores which take in carbon dioxide. The availability of water and carbon dioxide determines the rate of photosynthesis, as does temperature and the quantity and nature of light. Another factor is the physiological state of chlorophyll and the cell protoplasm.

Glucose (a 6-carbon sugar) is an excellent source of food and energy and is easily transported from one part of a plant to another where the cells break it down for energy needed to perform the various processes. When glucose builds up excessively in the plant circulation, it is converted to an insoluble starch and is stored until the plant needs quick energy again. This process is termed the digestive cycle.

Now that we have given a brief outline of soil, needed elements and plant nutrition, you have probably begun to wonder about the vital organs of a camellia plant.

Root system — these extend into fresh soil regions in search of food and water.

Vascular system — as the mineral

salts and water are absorbed through the plasma membrane of the root hair cells they are carried to the plant tissues and the leaves through the xylem tubes which constitute the upward part of plant circulation. Glucose and other products of photosynthesis are carried from the leaves downward to the plant tissues through the phloem tubes, the counter-part of plant circulation.

Leaves — ten percent of the water that reaches the leaves by the normal process of osmosis is utilized in the process of photosynthesis, while 90% is given off by the leaves in a process called transpiration. When the concentration of the soil solution (organic substances in the plant sap) builds up in excess of .2% water freely leaves the plant tissues by reverse osmosis — the plant becomes dehydrated and usually dies. This is one explanation of how over-fertilization of container grown plants can kill them.

Camellias are classed as evergreen, flowering shrubs or trees yet they do have a dormant cycle which is during the blooming season. Reference to a camellia being dormant concerns its growth cycle because photosynthesis takes place every day the sun shines—except when the ambient temperature is extremely low. Camellia plants usually go through a complete change of foliage over a three year period so it is not as noticeable as on some of our deciduous shrubs.

During the course of moving or transplanting a camellia plant, many feeder roots are cut. Since the remaining roots may not be able to absorb as much water as that which the leaves lose through photosynthesis, evaporation and transpiration, the leaves become rubbery and tend to wilt; therefore, the plant should be pruned to preserve the proper balance between the top and root structure. The use of one of the available transplant compounds is highly recommended to off-set the shock of trans-

planting.

More camellias are probably killed from too much care than from the lack of care. Once you find the bare essentials that a camellia plant needs, give it just a “wee bit” more and couple this with adequate care and you will be surprised to find that your plants will survive with a lot of leaving alone. They will have the ability to be healthy, beautiful evergreen plants once properly given the needed care.

Hey! what about that “formula” mentioned at the beginning of the article? Well, you see, camellias seem almost human — I didn’t intend to cover that part as my topic, I only intended to give you enough of the basics to create more interest on your part to find out just what the formula should be! Dirty pool? Now you know — dirty old men do raise camellias!

We hope that this will lead you on to good growing, successful showing and many happy hours in pursuit of your camellia hobby.

Temple City Camellia Society

W. F. (Bill) Goertz will be the speaker at the Temple City Camellia Society’s first meeting of the new season, which will be held Thursday, November 19th in the Lecture Room at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. The meeting will start at 8:00 P.M., with flowers on display at 7:30 P.M.

Goertz is one of the best known and most successful users of gibberellic acid in Southern California and his talk will be on that subject. He has given close attention to the techniques of gibbing, has studied the use of different concentrations of gibberellic acid, and has maintained records of time lapse between dates of gibbing and blooming for the different varieties. His talk should be both instructive and interesting.

SOME NOTES AND COMMENTS ON MY 1970 CAMELLIA TOUR OF THE U.S.A.

Neville McMinn, Camellia Lodge Nursery
Noble Park, Melbourne, Australia

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I have taken the liberty of omitting from Mr. McMinn's article his references to the many people whom he met in his travels. I have also edited some parts in the interest of brevity, always retaining the essential parts of his very descriptive recital of his 11 weeks in the United States.

Here in Noble Park, Melbourne, nearly five months after my return from the U.S.A. and England, surrounded by hundreds of beautiful plants now in full bloom at the nursery (mid August is our peak flowering period here), my mind flashes back as if it was only yesterday when I was in similar surroundings ever so far away on my travels visiting shows, nurseries, gardens and meeting hundreds of wonderful people, who like myself are all drawn together by this truly wonderful and beautiful genus.

My object was to tour as much of the camellia area as possible both in the South and West Coast, visiting some of the major shows, nurseries, private and public gardens, etc., to appraise, evaluate and photograph as many of the newer varieties as possible for selection and subsequent importation into our own nursery. This we have been doing for some years but I felt that the time had come to go and have a "looksee" at them first hand and also meet up with many of the wonderful friends that we had been corresponding with for many years and others we had met on various visits to Camellia Lodge while they were touring "down under". The basic idea was to enter the U.S.A. direct from Honolulu at Houston, Texas, then change planes for New Orleans and thus start my tour through the South and South East and then travel west to California, entering at Los Angeles.

Finally, on one hot summer after-

noon (Jan 11th) I boarded a plane at Melbourne and took off for Sydney, where later that evening I was finally winging my way with QANTAS across the long leg of ocean to Honolulu with a short stopover at Nadi, Fiji, for refueling. I enjoyed a glorious 4 days stopover at Hawaii, touring the main islands and shooting film madly — a never ending photographers paradise. On the following Tuesday morning I boarded the Braniff International Jet for the long flight south-east direct to Houston, Texas, where I arrived early that evening and changed planes for the final shorter flight into New Orleans, where I was met by my main hosts for the Southern tour, Ferol and Sam Zerkowsky. Their warm and friendly welcome made up for the almost freezing night air I had stepped into after leaving Honolulu that morning at 84°F. Ferol and I had been corresponding for almost 12 years and during this period both Rick* and I had come to deeply respect and admire this amazing "lady of the camellias" who has done so much for them in the South over the last 25 years. Through our correspondence I had been kept up to date on many of the newer varieties — including many of her own raised at Tammia.

I felt very honored and privileged in staying at Tammia and using its location as a "base" for my extended touring throughout most of the South. After our late arrival at the nursery at Slidell, a pleasant semi-rural commuter township some 25 miles out of New Orleans, and despite my numbed tiredness after the long flight, I could not resist my first actual "looksee" at the large greenhouses while Sam made his final rounds, before retiring

* Neville's wife Erica. —Ed.

for the night. Here these gigantic buildings 14' - 15' high, over 30' wide and over 100' long, house the main stock trees which are actually planted directly in the ground, with a good protective mulch of pine needles, and they looked magnificent with the lights shining on them and loaded down with buds and flowers opening in all stages of development. I was more than thrilled to see two beautiful plants of "Erica McMinn" almost ready to burst into bloom. Here also were thousands of beautiful grafted one and two year plants, all neatly rowed out and correctly labelled, with not one poor plant showing up amongst them and many thousands of prime healthy azalea plants all on their own roots, so clean and free from weeds and trash in their containers.

The heating used in the green houses was of great interest, simple in application and very efficient in its result. Just a series of gas ring burners, feeding off a bulk tank of L.P. gas outside, rowed along and between plants, heating large pans of water sitting on top. The resultant warmth and humidity given off by evaporation being quite sufficient to maintain temperatures above freezing, so necessary here in greenhouses and to keep blooms from freezing up before they are picked for the show displays which the nursery folk depend on so much during the flowering season.

Tammia Nursery, for the benefit of those who have not had the pleasure of a visit, is a beautiful 40 acre estate which had a long history in the St. Tammany Parish at Slidell. Ferol purchased it some 25 years ago, while a very active and well known business woman in New Orleans. It was then just an old tired, run down farm and with terrific determination and "know how" she developed it into the lovely nursery - combined garden estate of today, famed for its beautiful setting of lovely old pines, oaks and pecan

trees. These make a perfect backdrop for the thousands of glorious camellias, azaleas, etc., which have been lovingly and lavishly landscaped throughout the whole frontage and approach to the beautiful home, once the old farmhouse, and now completely restored and extended to blend in with its setting. This beauty is also enhanced by a large lake of many acres which is crossed by a delightful bridge, beautifully proportioned, as one drives along a curving tree lined drive. Ferol herself formed this lake with a bulldozer many years ago, when it was nothing more than a swampy tract and water easement flooding across the land.

I cannot go into a long and detailed account of all my journey as it would fill a book, but I was fortunate in attending the Camellia Shows at Mobile, New Orleans, Tuscaloosa and Birmingham during the following weeks. I was at first completely overawed by the incredible spectacle of these shows. I had the honor and privilege of being invited to help judge at most of these shows and it gave me great pleasure, although I often had to work overtime getting colour shots by the hundred as I could not resist photographing them. It is the dedicated and willing band of workers, made up of the various Show Chairmen, Judges, Panel Chairmen, Committeemen (and women), stewards, etc. that keep the wheels moving and with the terrific zeal and activity of the competitors that makes these shows the success and spectacular thing they are.

Here at your shows with the greater number of varieties available, entries are according to variety and this makes a magnificent spectacle, especially when several hundred varieties are entered in one section only, particularly the larger sized blooms which seem to predominate most of the Southern Shows. I personally think they are a little over empha-

(Continued on next page)

sized, particularly when gibbed they tend to become rather "blowsy". However, I do not wish to subtract from the kind and loving care that goes into these "whopper" productions, but as a humble nurseryman and camellia lover of all kinds of camellias, many of the medium down to small and miniature sized varieties can be just as beautiful but are often looked upon as "dogs" by far too many so called camellia lovers. However every man or woman to his taste. Subsequently it was often the "blownup" whopper bloom that won the Champion Ribbon. Still, as I have mentioned it was a very enjoyable experience to observe and note them all.

In Melbourne, Victoria, which is the "South" of our large continent, we enjoy beautiful blooms, many of our bigger sized varieties will reach 5½" to 6½" without gibbing. We also enjoy a much milder winter which ranges between the lower 40's right up to mid 50's and only sometimes drops down to 36°-38° when we really feel that it is very cold. The camellias here are strictly garden plants and greenhouses, etc. are more the exception than the rule for successful culture. I sometimes wondered could some of your shows be held a little later when perhaps more garden grown blooms could be exhibited to display them in a natural light to the public.

While mingling with many hundreds of people, taking my color shots, I was to often hear the comment that a great many just could not afford the expense of a greenhouse and its necessary equipment of heaters, ventilators, foggers, etc., even apart from the gibbing of blooms. I felt that perhaps a great boost to the camellia cult is being lost by not doing sufficient research into more cold resistant cultivars. For many years I have closely followed the valuable findings in the A.C.S. yearbooks of a Mr. Levi from N.C. who apparently has a fine garden and a large enough collection

of varieties to warrant tabulating their behavior under these colder but normal garden conditions. It brings to my mind, with the almost flooding of the market each year of new registrations, that perhaps the A.C.S. could undertake a fairly simple programme of field testing for some of these varieties. To me, pleasant viewing as it was, trying to appraise these lovely blooms after the benefit of greenhouse protection and gibbing and then comparing with a garden grown performance, it was only a stab in the dark. Although we are now importing a great many we will just have to let them develop under their own "steam" and see what they come up to "a la naturale". Perhaps if they could be distributed on initial release by the trade to a few selected private growers in various climatic zones through the South and given a couple of seasons trial, say one or two in the garden and one or two under glass, then these simple tests could be recorded and compared without too much top level organization. I stress private growers who have had experience and the few test plants that each could grow would not be too much trouble or a glory seeking "award" gimmick, just a simple and honest evaluation of these newer varieties which could guide and encourage a lot more people into growing better and more suitable camellias for their area. This would save the need for a lot of work, organization and cost of trying to run various test gardens all over the country, usually with good intentions but lack of co-operation causing failure, as has happened previously in "trade" awards.

I enjoyed the happy social activities of the Shows, the Judges Luncheons, Cocktail Parties and Banquets, all providing a warm, friendly and relaxing atmosphere. In fact it was sometimes obvious that the social side was just as important as the Show, with news of "what's new" — "how I almost took the prize" and "I never thought

I could win", etc., etc. It gave me great pleasure to have the chance to mix in and meet all these fine folks whose interest and enthusiasm to get up in the middle of a cold freezing night, pick blooms, and drive hundreds of miles in mid-winter conditions without heat in the car, to enter their beloved camellias not only at one show but several. I hope this enthusiasm will continue to ensure lots more successful shows.

Thanks also to my co-hosts, Payne and Charlotte Midyette of Tallahassee, Fla., I enjoyed a motor tour from Tuscaloosa right down through the rolling countryside to Tallahassee, Fla. for a week-end stopover and quick look at the beautiful Maclay Gardens, where I was to admire their beautiful mature plants and to have a look around at some lovely gardens and estates that make this city and surroundings so lovely. Payne's camellias are set out under groves of tall straight slash pines with banks of azaleas, etc. and also a great many container grown plants are housed in a very large, almost a professional type designed and built greenhouse. All of the plants are in beautiful condition with patiently tied back branches and twigs to allow the blooms to open up and flower properly without too much damage to them.

After the all too short break at Maclay Gardens we motored off again, up through Georgia where we briefly stopped at Thomasville to meet a grand old man of camellias in Sam Hjort whom I had corresponded with for many years and whose Thomasville Nurseries are so well known for their long association with the best in camellias and roses alike. Onwards again to Moultrie with another quick "look see" at Josh Wilkes Nursery, another fine specialized camellia nursery, where again I had the pleasure of viewing hundreds of grafted one and two year old plants neatly rowed out and lab-

elled. This time they were housed in neat, snug plastic greenhouses which I was to see more of during my travels. Those "quonset" shaped houses with their polythene covering are widely used in the U.S. nursery trade and are quite different to our own clear spun steel and glass or fibre-glass type of construction. These plastic houses seem very snug inside when constructed carefully and even contain much mechanical equipment such as heaters, foggers, etc. and work very well even though the plastic would need to be replaced fairly regularly.

Off again for a brief visit to Dr. John Mathis, whose wife, Fran has had a beautiful camellia named for her. Here again was a lovely garden with pines providing a beautiful background and shelter for many lovely large plants growing in the ground and mulched well with the needles. Many plants are also housed in two neat green houses and the blooms greatly admired. From here into the town to meet up with Joe Pyron who drove all the way from Masee Lane to meet me for lunch and then take me back there for the next stage of my journey. We again set off for Masee Lane via Albany and Perry. Joe was great company and I enjoyed the vastness of the Georgia countryside while the miles quickly sped by.

After dinner and a good night's sleep at Perry (down to 12°F that night), we arrived at Masee Lane in the still early morning, with temperatures almost at freezing point and no blooms showing on the trees. Despite this disappointment, Masee Lane is a beautifully laid out garden and I was unfortunate not to meet Mr. Dave Strother as this wonderful old gentleman of camellias had passed away only two weeks before I visited there, but I could almost feel his presence still in the lovely gardens and the library inside. The A.C.S. is

(Continued on next page)

truly richly endowed with his wonderful gesture and kindness in not only presenting the garden to the society but also providing a financial endowment to help run it. I was able to get many beautiful shots of the gardens, the lovely pecan orchard and large greenhouses still being constructed nearby to provide a protected display of container camellias in bloom for the many thousands of people who visit these headquarters during the season. Joe Pyron does a wonderful job of secretary here, backed up by a small staff of lovely girls dedicated to their work. I hope this work is appreciated by all the members out there in camellia land.

Again more farewells to the staff and we drove off for lunch at the Fort Valley Country Club and then on to Macon where I was scheduled to catch a bus for Atlanta for the night. More visits in the short time available to some really beautiful gardens in the Macon area, with the lovely pines always in the background protecting and framing plantings of camellias, azaleas, magnolias, redbuds, dogwoods, etc. What a beautiful sight the Southland must be in the Spring. I will come again to enjoy it all, but it is not hard to imagine how beautiful it must look. We had a good look over Dr. Walter Homeyer's extensive garden and well equipped greenhouses containing some of the most perfect examples of container culture I have ever seen in my entire tour. Practically every bloom was of blue ribbon quality and many interesting hybrids and crosses are being developed also. Here I reluctantly bid farewell to Joe — "a bonzer bloke" — and a great asset to the society.

From an overnight stop at Atlanta I flew east again to Charleston, S.C. for a brief visit to Magnolia Gardens and had the privilege of meeting both Norwood Hastie and his charming wife Charlotte. Norwood gave me a full day here, showing me over this glorious and historically steeped gar-

den and large 40 acre nursery which he runs with it. The vistas and glorious views as we wandered around the never ending pathways along the Ashley River and lakes and lagoons on the estate fringed and banked with azaleas, camellias, oaks, magnolias, pines and cypress, all beautifully draped with the traditional "Spanish Moss" was a sight of never ending beauty to me.

I was lucky enough to have Norwood take me along to the "Middleton Gardens" only 4-5 miles further down the road by car, and here too, I was enraptured by this old historical spot. These gardens were originally laid out in the more formal English style of that era. Here too, we enjoyed the beautiful vistas of camellias, azaleas, etc., all so very large and planted along the banks of the lakes and river by the thousand. Many of the more formal walks were completely arched over in a beautiful green canopy of camellia foliage. Many of these plants are well over 100 years old. Here too the beautiful pines, magnolias and oaks presented a never ending picture of beauty as they were draped over by the hanging moss which thrives in the moist air, without any apparent damage to the lovely old trees. The family descendants of Henry Middleton are working hard to restore much of this estate back to its past glory and beauty.

I was able to motor back to Columbia, S.C. with the Hasties later that afternoon and here again I was to enjoy the vast rolling southlands with their hills, woods, rivers and lakes so typical of many parts of Victoria if the pines were substituted for our "gums" or eucalyptus.

Even though I am used to vast areas of country here in Australia, it still does not register how vast also is the South and South Eastern U.S.A. I enjoyed my travels by car, bus and plane, travelling and staying at large cities, large towns and smaller towns

(Continued on page 28)

CAMELLIAS ON DISPLAY

Janet Meyer

Secretary, Pomona Valley Camellia Society

September in the Pomona Valley of Southern California is not the best time for beautiful camellia blooms, in fact it is almost the worst time . . . The only things on our camellia plants are a few buds and seed pods. This small problem did not daunt the spirit of the Pomona Camellia Society. Publicizing camellias, any where, any time, is one of our six senses. Keeping this fact in mind, we entered the Flower and Garden display competition at the Los Angeles County Fair.

Knowing the talents hidden in our society, we began to plan. Clark Thomas was our landscape artist. He had to approve all ideas and plants suggested for our assigned 250 sq. ft. With a final authority like Clark, we had no problems with all the varied ideas suggested. Everything down to the last placement of plants, rocks, dichondra, and bark was approved by Mr. Thomas. His artistic eye and diplomatic manner proved to be a big plus in the success of our venture.

Walter Harmsen was another enthusiastic member of this display team. As many know, Walt is very talented with a hammer and nails. He constructed a beautiful redwood gazebo for the focal point in our display. Without Mr. Harmsen's talents in the wood working dept. we would have been without gazebo and educational display table as well. Lighting was also Walt's department and the indirect lighting behind the gazebo and under specimen plants added the finishing touch to our display.

Nelson Gatov, another artist in our society, supplied us with a complete set of signs for labeling our plants. Clear, correct labeling was one of the requirements of the fair committee. Each plant had to have the proper botanical or common name visible to the public.

There were many other society members who were interested and added their suggestions as well as talents. Not only did we display our favorite plants to over one million visitors and potential camellia society members, but we feel a closer friendship developed among the members of our society.

Our educational display showed camellia seedlings of hybrids, sasanquas, japonicas, and reticulatas, plus the seeds and pods of these various species. Much of the visiting crowd had never seen a camellia seed and were very interested. Grafts were also displayed with instructions on grafting. Questions on this process were astounding.

With a few azaleas, a few ferns, a large pine tree, dichondra, fir bark, and a lot of camellias, a first place winner in the shade garden division emerged. A big blue ribbon and \$250.00 cash was our visual reward. We still think the fun of planning and executing our plan was second only to the joy of introducing prospective members to camellias.

CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

A GOOD CHRISTMAS GIFT
TO CAMELLIA FRIENDS

\$2.50 per copy

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

12022 GERTRUDE DRIVE
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California Camellia

Show Dates

- Dec. 5-6 —Early Show,
Feb. 6-7 —San Diego
Feb. 13-14—Temple City Society at
L. A. Co. Arboretum
Feb. 13-14—Peninsula Society at
Redwood City
Feb. 20-21—Pomona
Feb. 20-21—Santa Clara Society at
San Jose
Feb. 27-28—Descanso Gardens
Feb. 27-28—Delta Society at
Pittsburg
Mar. 6-7 —Sacramento
Mar. 6-7 —Bakersfield
Mar. 7 —Fresno
Mar. 13-14—Northern Calif. Society
at Concord
Mar. 20-21—Modesto
Mar. 27-28—Sonoma County Society
at Santa Rosa

Note: An error in the October 1970 issue of CAMELLA REVIEW involving the Temple City, Pomona, and Delta shows has been corrected.

HYBRIDIZATION (Continued)

4. Leaving hulled seeds in jar until both root system and leaf shoot were well developed—a balanced 1½ inches of roots and shoot.
5. Planting seedlings with the Cotyledon well above soil surface. Seeds respond better to sunlight and air. Using ceramic pots; plastic pots do not breathe, water mold occurs.
6. Soil Mix — ⅓ Rod McClellan Super Soil Mix to ⅔ firbark.
7. Starting a continuous mild weekly liquid feeding of blood meal and iron sulphate.
8. Transplanting seedlings into gallon cans or nursery bed when outside ground temperature reaches 70 degrees.
9. A year round bi-monthly feeding of blood meal and iron sulphate for the first 3 years until plants are removed to 2 gallon size con-

tainers when 0-10-10 is included in the feeding program (to encourage blooming) during the winter months. (Our water source contains a high salt content, therefore the amount of iron used is greater to help release the nutriments in a form that the plants can use.)

10. Give plastic shelter during winter months.

SOME NOTES (Continued)

and was able to see just how grand and beautiful your southland really is. I would like to see it in the early Spring when the azaleas, magnolias, dogwoods and redbuds, etc. are coming into their beautiful flowering.

After a few days back at Tammia and busily catching up on more flower shots of many varieties still opening out and a short break in New Orleans photographing the beautiful old French Quarter and visiting the many lovely parks and gardens, colleges and universities so richly endowed in this fascinating city, the time came to make my final farewells to so many folks who had made my stay so enjoyable. I still have not mentioned my interesting tour up through Louisiana and Mississippi to Natchez, to see and visit the beautiful Ante Bellum Homes and many old original camellia plantings still thriving after all these years around this historical old city on the "River", so mighty and busy in its present day role of freighting goods from the very heart of the nation upstream and downstream.

After my final reluctant but fond goodbyes, it was back again to New Orleans for a night's stopover before catching a big 707 Jet the following morning for a non-stop flight direct to Los Angeles, which was to be the initial stepping stone for my California tour.

To be concluded in January issue.

Directory of California Camellia Societies

Societies with asterisk () are Affiliates of Southern California Camellia Society*

***CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY**

President: John J. Fortenberry; Secretary: Lemuel Freeman, 209 S. Garnsey Ave., Bakersfield 93309
Meetings: 2nd Monday Oct. through Apr. at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield

***CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY**

President: Ronald Cowan; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705
Meetings: 1st Thursday Oct. through April at Altadena Savings & Loan, 2400 E. 17th St., Santa Ana

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

President: Richard Ray; Secretary: Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G. St., Sacramento 95816
Meetings: 4th Wednesday Oct. through May in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento

***CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Richard Pozdol; Secretary: Mrs. Jack Evans, P.O. Box 108, Ivanhoe 93235
Meetings: Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17 at Mayfair School, Mar. 24 at Fresno State College

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Douglas R. Abernethy; Secretary: Mrs. Anita Abernethy, 2962 Boies Dr., Pleasant Hill 94523

Meetings: Second Thursday, October through April, in Room B, Sun Valley Mall, Concord

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Joseph H. Baker; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 W. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240
Meetings: 1st Tuesday November through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: George K. Bulk; Secretary: Mrs. Floyd O'Connor, 7518 Etiwanda Ave., Reseda 91335
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Mrs. Virginia Rankin; Secretary: Dr. J. Holtzman, 2987 Marshall Rd., Crow's Landing 95313

Meetings: 2nd Monday October through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Dr. Fred Fisher; Secretary: Jules Wilson, 18248 Lamson Rd., Castro Valley 94546
Meetings: 1st Mon. Nov. through May in Claremont Jr. High School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: A. Wilkins Garner; Secretary: Mrs. A. L. Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 91208

Meetings: 1st Thursday November through April in Tuesday Afternoon Club House, 400 N. Central Ave., Glendale

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Jack Mandarin; Secretary: Mrs. Charles F. O'Malley, 65 Robles Drive, Woodside 94062
Meetings: 4th Tuesday September through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 700 El Camino Real, Redwood City, Calif. 94061

***POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: John I. Tami; Secretary: Mrs. Janet Meyer, 744 E. Dover, Glendora
Meetings: 2nd Thursday October through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

***SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: William L. Gibson; Secretary: Miss Edna Francis, 615 W. Pennsylvania, San Diego 92103
Meetings: 2nd Friday (except February which is 1st Friday) November through May in Floral Assn. Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Abe D'Innocenti; Secretary: Miss Pat McIntyre, 1810 Olive Ave., Apt. 4, San Jose 95128
Meetings: 2nd Thursday at Willow Glen Branch, American S/L, San Jose

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: C. O. McCorkle; Secretary: Miss Joy Monteleone, 505 Olive St., Santa Rosa 95401
Meetings: 4th Thurs. Nov. through April, except Nov. (3rd Thur.) and Dec. (to be decided) in Multipurpose room, Steel Lane School, Santa Rosa

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

***TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

President: Grady L. Perigan; Secretary: Mrs. Elsie Bracci, 5567 N. Burton, San Gabriel 91776
Meetings: Nov. 19 (Thur.), Dec. 17 (Thur.), Jan. 28 (Thur.), Feb. 24 (Wed.), Mar. 25 (Thur.), Apr. 22 (Thur.) in Lecture Hall of Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

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