THE Camellia REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

'TERRELL WEAVER'
Courtesy of Nuccio's Nurseries

Vol. 37 *February 1976* *No. 4*

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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: $9.00.

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CONTENTS

VOL. 37 FEBRUARY 1976 NO. 4

THE COVER FLOWER

C. RETICULATA, 'TERRELL WEAVER'

Terrell Weaver is a C. reticulata hybrid being a cross of 'Crimson Robe' × 'Villa De Nantes'. It was originated by Dr. Walter F. Homeyer Jr. of Macon, Georgia and was propagated and released by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1975. The flower is a semi-double with ruffled, dark red petals.

THOUGHTS *from the editor*

It's enough to make a grown man cry! I can just picture my friend, Paul McClelland, coming up to me and shaking his head and exclaiming: "Say it ain't so, Bill, Just say it ain't so!"

Move over, Sergio Bracci; make way, Doug Batt; Stand back, Bill Goertz! The Old high-collar, Hoover Republican; the rock-ribbed conservative has joined up! NO! NO! Not the Symbionese Liberation Army; not the K.K.K.; nor the Commies; nor the National Socialists; nor the Transcendental Meditationists. Donnan has joined the Gib Groupies! After all those years of down-grading, second-guessing, deriding and villifying the gibberellic acid people, I have now joined up.

My only excuse is that "The Devil made me do it." Yep, Julius Nuccio is the guy who led me down the primrose path. I was up at the nursery last August looking for an early blooming plant for my Camellia Route and he said: "If you want early blooms you gotta quit being such a purest." "You've paid your dues." "Everyone knows you do crossword puzzles in ink." "Put on your $200 Gucci shoes and go out there and gib!" And with that he handed me a gib tablet and a syringe needle and I was in business.

I mixed up the solution and sneaked out into the back yard where no one could see me. I sez to myself. "Now, Donnan, the only reason you mixed up this solution is so that you can Gib your 'Waterhouse' and your 'Purity'. (These two never bloom until after the shows are over.) Well, there weren't any buds on my 'Purity' so I gibbed a few 'Waterhouse'. Then next to it was a 'Lalla Rook'; then a 'Debutante'; then 'Highhat' etc. I was like Peter Pan and his magic wand. I hit everything in sight!

By October 1st I had 12 blooms for my route with more and more coming and now I am hooked. The early blooms run to pale pinks and piquent mixtures but believe me they are preternatural. To have a camellia bloom on September 16th is worth becoming a modern-day Dr. Frankenstein!

And so, when they write the name: "Bill Donnan"—put down beside it—"Gibberellic Acid Freak."

Bill Donnan

CAMELLIAS IN AMERICA— THE BICENTENNIAL

by BARBARA B. REHDER

(Editor's Note: This interesting article was included in the Brochure of the Fall Meeting of the American Camellia Society, Wilmington, N.C., Nov. 13-15, 1975)

As our country's Bicentennial approaches, armchair historians are reflecting on the American spirit and the quality of life in the colonies, and how these compare with our times. Camellia lovers, perhaps not being able to imagine life without them, ask: In spite of what recorded history tells us, when did camellias really come to America? And in those difficult times, when seed and plant must be brought by arduous ocean or riverboat voyage, were there collectors?

Men staking out their existence in a wilderness have little time for making records. If the early settlers had listed any of the seeds they brought with them, they probably would not have recorded the perennials which already had made English gardens famous, much less anything so mysterious as the camellia seed. These would have seemed almost frivolous among the much-needed vegetable seeds. And yet you and I, being as we are, know that they did bring them, and from the very first.

The first camellia was taken to England before 1739. It was very likely brought to America before 1776. The first recorded plant, however, went to John Stevens of Hoboken, N.J. He imported "the old single red" in 1797. By the early 1800's, Michael Floy had brought the Alba plena from England to New York and had begun a career as a nurseryman which included raising forty-two named seedlings. The Alba plena exemplifies the high quality of the earliest introductions, which included also Donckelari and Lady Hume's Blush.

In the New England area, Marshall P. Wilder of Dorchester, Mass., had a collection of 150 varieties in 1837. These included Chandleri and Wilder's seedlings, Wilderi and Mrs. Abby Wilder. No writer contributed more to early American camellia literature than Wilder. In the first issue of *Hovey's Magazine*, published in 1835, Wilder furnished an article on camellia varieties and culture. C. M. Hovey, the publisher, exercised a wide influence on the development of early American horticulture through his magazine and his nursery business. He was a camellia enthusiast, and the variety named for himself is still being propagated.

One can trace the development of camellia culture in the nation's early years almost simultaneously in the greenhouses of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, and Baltimore, and outdoors in the South. In Charleston in 1820, David Landreth, Jr. was managing a branch of his father's Philadelphia seed business. Landreth published the first American horticultural magazine at Charleston in 1832 called *The Floral Magazine and Botanical Repository*. Its first issue contained two colored plates of camellias, one of Alba plena and Variegata, the other of Landrethi, together with seven pages of camellia text. These share with the plate of Fimbriata in *The American Flower Garden Directory* the distinction of being the first American illustrations of camellias.

The camellias of the South, those flowers long associated with wrought iron lace, soft-spoken girls, gallant men, and gracious plantation life—where did they come from? There is a legend that the French botanist, Andre Michaux, brought the first camellias to Middleton Place in 1786, among plants of several Asian trees whose seeds he had secured from an old sea captain who traded in China. The legend lends to Middleton a special air of romance that

no one wants to dispel. Both China and Japan lure the imagination to strange ships and seas, as all camellias trace back to eastern Asia and its tea-like plant, called, in Japan, Tsubakki.

That some of the old camellias of the South were imported from Europe is a matter of record, but most of them came out of greenhouses from Washington, D.C., northward. Into the seaports and river towns—Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, Jacksonville, and others, they came, and from these they spread inland. Once having reached a climate suitable for growing them outdoors, camellias flourished widely. This is attested by the old plants found in gardens, cemeteries, and town parks, many with stories dating far back, if they could be told.

Certainly camellias were abundant in Charleston in the 1830's. For the largest and best collection, one Col. Lucas was awarded a silver medal by the Horticultural Society of Charleston in 1839. He had eighty plants representing forty varieties. And even those early growers exhibited a high degree of emotional attachment to their captivating blooms. Monsieur Philippe Noisette, having his fine collection destroyed in Charleston's severe freeze of 1835, fell ill from grief and succumbed to an early demise.

Fruitlands Nursery at Augusta, Ga., is a good example of a commercial enterprise which became a public institution of great value. Purchased by P. J. Berkmans in 1858, Fruitlands was for many years following the Civil War practically the only source for camellias in the South. Of Berkman's influence Dr. Hume wrote: "His interest, his knowledge, and the lengthened shadow of his work have fallen across the South's horticulture through these many years as definite factors in its advancement."

The Gulf ports were active early in our history. When camellias found their way to Mobile we do not know how, but Gilbert R. Rotton reported in 1839 that he had a collection of fifty varieties, many of which had been imported from England. Many early specimens went into the Gulf Coast country from the Mobile area by way of Langdon Nurseries, which was established near there in 1853.

Some of the finest old plants in the South are to be found in the river-boat ports along the Mississippi, where introductions came up the river from New Orleans. Rosedown at St. Francisville, La., a garden that dates back to 1835, has a collection of such specimens.

If records of early camellias along the Atlantic Seaboard are sparse, they are even more so on the West Coast, dating as they do to a time when the region was pioneer country. The records show that they were being planted and propagated in San Francisco and Sacramento in the 1850's. The oldest plant with an authentic history seems to be one planted by Mrs. Sol Runyon at Courtland in 1860, but James L. F. Warren was advertising camellias for sale in 1852 at Sacramento. It was Warren who purchased the stock of Wilderi and Mrs. Abby Wilder from Marshall P. Wilder. He later moved from Boston to Sacramento, and the plants he advertised had made the trip by boat to Panama, overland across the isthmus, and again by boat to San Francisco, the first to come to California.

So goes the history of camellias in America, and a remarkable one it is, considering the blocks of time when people were engaged in just trying to hold their own against wilderness and war. Two hundred years, as flowers go, are not a very long time. American camellias, if they were ever tiny watched seedlings in the dooryards of 1776, still form a short arc on the life-span of the ancient Oriental beauty, Tsubakki. It had reached a venerable

age long before Linnaeus re-named it for Kamel. But American camellias bear the mark of the American spirit. They show the American genius for the kind of excited discovery that isues in patient husbandry and adaptation. They exhibit the vitality and strength that are the result of endless mix and hybridization. And from those pioneers, the "old single red" and all its cousins, they have brought varieties of such elegant and dazzzling beauty as to make our Bicentennial celebration two hundred years worth talking about. (The information for this article is taken from *Camellias in America* by H. Harold Hume (McFarland, 1955.)

"GIB", OR WINTER SHOW

by ARTHUR KRUMM, CHAIRMAN

The Southern California Camellia Council presented its 11th Annual ("Gib") Winter Camellia Show on Saturday and Sunday, December 13-14, 1975, at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, in Arcadia, California.

Despite rain in the area on Friday and a cold and cloudy Saturday morning, many outstanding blooms appeared on the tables. (Thank heaven for a place to hold a show indoors.)

What kind of effort is needed to create and put on a Camellia Show? A time study was made this year and it was found that it took 346 man hours of volunteer time from camellia people to present this show.

Herewith is a list of the various committee chairmen and their assistants who did the work:

Court of Honor	Milton Schmidt
	Robert Eastman
	Willard Goertz
Judges	Ernest Pieri
Clerks	Francis Butler
Trophies	Marie Perigan
	Elsie Bracci
Placement	Robert Jaacks
	Elizabeth Board
	Frank Davis
Staging	Arthur Krumm
Receiving	Harry Reich
Educational	Franklin Moore
	Lee Gaeta
	Sergio Bracci
	Meyer Piet
Membership	Wenonah Wadsworth
	Marian Schmidt
Trophy Award Records	Helen Foss
	Ruth Goertz
	Katherine Novak
Registration	Ernest Pieri
Ribbons	Mr. & Mrs. Judy Simmons
Trophy Card Preparation	Arthur Krumm
Official Photographer	Grady Perigan
Schedules	Arthur Krumm

The educational exhibit on culture drew many interested visitors, fulfilling our need to bring our story to the public.

Additional thanks go to Mr. Ching, Director, Department of Arboreta, and to the staff at the Arboretum for their help and cooperation.

Following are some of the Show Statistics:

Exhibitors	51
Blooms—Non-Treated	187
Blooms—Treated	339
Blooms—Open (treated or non-treated)	256
Blooms—Seedlings	8
Total Blooms	790

20 different people won 37 Best or Runner-Up Trophies.

14 different people won 22 Court of Honor Awards.

27 Gold Ribbons were given for blooms that were in contention.

The "Award of Merit" (most trophies) was a horse race with Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta nosing our Mr. & Mrs. Bill Goertz, 19 points to 18 points.

There is one distressing note to report. At the end of the first day of the show the Exhibit Hall was securely locked for the night with all the blooms intact and the trophy table laden with about $400 worth of silver and cut-glass trophies. When the Hall was opened on Sunday morning for the second day of the Show it was found that thieves had broken into the Show Hall and stolen 18 of the top trophies! There is a move on now to have the stolen trophies replaced by the Southern California Camellia Council. Fortunately the Los Angeles County Arboretum has insurance to cover these types of theft.

SHOW RESULTS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM
DECEMBER 13-14, 1975

Best Treated Large Japonica
"Tiffany", Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan, Arcadia

Runner-Up Treated Large Japonica
"Fashionata", Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan, Arcadia

Best Treated Medium Japonica
"Eleanor K", Rudy Moore, West Covina

Runner-Up Treated Medium Japonica
"Mary Alice Cox", Mr. & Mrs. Charles Petersen, Van Nuys

Best Treated Small Japonica
"Ava Maria", Rudy Moore, West Covina

Runner-Up Treated Small Japonica
"Tom Thumb", Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan, Arcadia

Best Treated Miniature Japonica
"Fir Cone Var.", Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland

Runner-Up Treated Miniature Japonica
"Tootsie", Mr. & Mrs. Willard Goertz, San Marino

Best Non-Treated Large Japonica
"Lulu Bell", Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta, El Monte

Runner-Up Non-Treated Large Japonica
"Charles Henty", Mr. & Mrs. Willard Goertz, San Marino

Best Non-Treated Medium Japonica
"Flame Var.", Harry Putnam, Long Beach

Runner-Up Non-Treated Medium Japonica
"Royal Trumpeter", Mr. & Mrs. Carey Bliss, San Gabriel
Best Non-Treated Small Japonica
"Ava Maria", Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta, El Monte
Runner-Up Non-Treated Small Japonica
"Thumbellina", Lester Dehmel, Pasadena
Best Non-Treated Miniature Japonica
"Pink Smoke", Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon
Runner-Up Non-Treated Miniature Japonica
"Little Slam", Mel Gum, San Gabriel
Best Reticulata Hybrid
"Valentine Day Var.", Caryll Pitkin, San Marino
Runner-Up Reticulata Hybrid
"Pharoah Var.", Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta, El Monte
Best Non-Reticulata Hybrid
"Elsie Jury", Mr. & Mrs. Charles Petersen, Van Nuys
Runner-up Non-Reticulata Hybrid
"E. G. Waterhouse", John Movich, La Verne
Best Hiemalis, Sasanqua or Vernalis
"Star Above Star", Sunny & Bob Eastman, Costa Mesa
Runner-Up Hiemalis, Sasanqua or Vernalis
"Bonanza", Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
Best 3 Large or Medium Treated Japonicas
"Sweetheart", Mr. & Mrs. Harry Reich, South Pasadena
Runner-Up 3 Large or Medium Treated Japonicas
"Flame", Mr. & Mrs. Willard Goertz, San Marino
Best 3 Large or Medium Non-Treated Japonicas
"R. L. Wheeler", Harry Putnam, Long Beach
Runner-Up 3 Large or Medium Non-Treated Japonicas
"Wildfire", Mel Gum, San Gabriel
Best 3 Boutonniere Japonicas
"Kiki Toji", Ernest Pier, San Gabriel
Runner-Up 3 Boutonniere Japonicas
"Ava Maria", Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
Best 3 Reticulata Hybrids
"Valentine Day Var.", Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jaacks, San Gabriel
Best 3 Non-Reticulata Hybrids
"Rose Parade", Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best 3 Hiemalis, Sasanqua or Vernalis
"Shishi Gashira", Rudy Moore, West Covina
Runner-Up 3 Hiemalis, Sasanqua or Vernalis
"Bonanza", John Movich, La Verne
Best Collector's Tray
Mr. & Mrs. Willard Goertz, San Marino
Runner-Up Collector's Tray
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Bracci, Arcadia
Best Treated Seedling
"Buddha x M. Rowell", Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta, El Monte
Best Non-Treated Seedling
"Japonica Seedling", Mr. & Mrs. Harry Novick, Woodland Hills
Award Of Merit (most trophies)
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta, El Monte

Court Of Honor

"South Seas", Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
"Nodami-Ushiro", W. V. Lytle, Glendale
"Dryade", Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan, Arcadia
"Reeves Sweetheart", Mel Gum, San Gabriel
"Angel", Mr. & Mrs. A. Summerson, Glendale
"Grand Prix", Mel Gum, San Gabriel
"Clark Hubbs", Mr. & Mrs. Willard Goertz, San Marino
"Miss Charleston Var.", Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gaeta, El Monte
"Mrs. D. W. Davis", Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Foss, San Marino
"Spring Sonnet", Mr. & Mrs. Willard Goertz, San Marino
"Ella Ward Parsons", Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan, Arcadia
"Ragland Supreme", Mr. & Mrs. Charles Petersen, Van Nuys
"China Doll", Frank Davis, Pasadena
"Commander Mulroy", Mr. & Mrs. Harold Dryden, San Marino
"Cornelian", Mr. & Mrs. Charles Petersen, Van Nuys
"Arch Of Triumph", Mr. & Mrs. Charles Petersen, Van Nuys
"K. O. Hester", Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Abramson, Tulare
"Donckelarii", Bill Donnan, Pasadena
"Sunset Glory", Mrs. William Schmitt, Chula Vista
"Alba Plena", John Movich, La Verne
"Eleanor Martin Supreme", Mr. & Mrs. Wilard Goertz, San Marino
"Margaret Davis", Mr. & Mrs. Willard Goertz, San Marino

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY CHANGED SHOW LOCATION

The Delta Camellia Society announces that there has been a change in the location for their annual Show. This year's Show will be held on February 28-29, 1976 at the Campolindo High School, Multipurpose Room, 300 Moraga Road, Moraga, California. Mark your calendars.

Camellia Rusticana, the snow camellia (and from the literary standpoint, the oldest Japanese camellia), can live under eight feet of snow in bitterly cold weather, and still survive and bloom.

SPECIES CRAPNELLIANA OR WHO'S GOING TO ACCEPT THE VARIETAL NAME (WITH APOLOGIES TO THE SPECIES)

MEYER PIET

Normally I'm an easy going individual who has received a lot of fun and friendships from this camellia hobby of ours, but the time has come to roll up our shirt sleeves and "get with it."

I received a letter dated October 9, 1975 from Tom Savige, requesting my comments on his proposed "Classification of Camellia Hybrids by Collective Epithets." In my opinion it's a five page recitation on camellia classification using a sub-system name for Species crosses, i.e., C. fraterna x C. japonica = C. x Sawada Hybrids.

I wrote to Mr. Savige and in essence stated that "I do realize that a considerable amount of your time has gone into preparing it, but must tell you that I feel it could not possibly be of any use in my hybridizing program, as a matter of fact it would be detrimental to it."

To my surprise the November issue of The Camellia Journal, American Camellia Society, "Hybrids: Camellias of Tomorrow," contained the following paragraph in T. J. Savige's article "Selection of Seed Parent": "Where marked with an asterisk (*) the cross has produced hybrids of sufficient merit to receive a varietal name as listed in Camellia Nomenclature 1974."

As Interim Editor for the Southern California Camellia Society's CAMELLIA REVIEW for one year I realize it takes at least a month, or more to send an issue through publication.

In keeping with Tom Savige's letter and article, which denotes this is an effort that can be of future use in classification of camellia hybrids, these are my comments:

There is no question that new flowers will come forth with a multitude of various species. It is not unusual to have a new seedling with saluenensis as its mother and a retic-japonica combination as its pollen parent. Perhaps the retic is already a cross, such as 'Buddha', which is retic x pitardii, we then have a seedling which is a saluenensis - retic - pitardii - japonica combination, this could be abbreviated "sal-retic-pit-jap" or as T. Savige suggests: C. pitardii x C. retic = C. x tourjeii, now since we have C. japonica we will have C. japonica x C. x tourjeii, which has been assigned the C. x Dryden Hybrids. Since we still have the saluenensis to cope with we will look up the saluenensis group and we have two choices: C. retic x C. saluenensis = C. x Borde Hill Hybrids or the C. japonicas x C. saluenensis = C. x williamsii. Perhaps we should use both and therefore our new seedling is a C. x Dryden x C. Borde Hill x C. williamsii, knowing of course there is only one part saluenensis even though we used two saluenensis classifications.

Now let's see what we really have with our great new seedling (assuming its new name doesn't suffocate it).

It's a saluenensis x retic x japonica. The saluenensis is 'Sunnybrook' (named by Les Jury as his 'Elsie Jury' seed parent) we could look it up in the Nomenclature book and assume it's 'Macrophylla', dainty pale rose, medium size, single of bell form, late. Or 'Cyclamen', deep pink flushed and veined toward the base with warmer color approaching scarlet, medium single. There's a huge bush or tree at Descanso Gardens and I obtained scions from the Peer's Parkhill Gardens. The retic-japonica is 'Kohinor', the retic is 'Buddha' which is a retic-pitardii cross. 'Buddha' is rose pink, very large, semi-double with many petals. 'Kohinor' is orchid

pink, large to very large irregular upright petals with iridescent petals that probably come from its 'Buddha' or in reality its pitardii species background.

In the first case of C. x Dryden x C. x Borde Hill x C. williamsii, Tom Savige uses C. x Dryden as the first hybrid named 'Elsie Dryden', according to the Nomenclature book 'Elsie Dryden' is a cross between 'Confucius' x japonica, and we can look up 'Confucius' and see that it is a reticulata x pitardii.

Well, I guess if I knew what the C. x Borde Hill Hybrids—C. reticulata x C. saluenensis or the williamsii, C. japonica x C. saluenensis, really were perhaps it would be useful to me as a hybridizer but really what was I after when I made my cross of saluenensis and 'Kohinor'? I know that 'Elsie Jury' is a beautiful flower (I can look up its color, size, etc., in the Nomenclature book). I know 'Kohinor' is a very large retic, probably japonica hybrid with 'Buddha' as the seed parent, which tells me that because of the pitardii blood I stand to transmit some of the iridescent petal shading. I know 'Kohinor' is a large or very large beautiful flower and I think I have a good combination because I can and did look up the characteristics in the Nomenclature book.

The Tom Savige method of "Collective Epithets" does absolutely nothing for me as far as useful information on whether or not I should use a particular flower for crossing. What is its size, color, plant characteristics (bushy, stringy), what has past combinations of these two types of species done for others? How can you tell with the Tom Savige method? I certainly don't want another useless name to carry around in my hybridizing, all I need is the two plants as defined in the Nomenclature book and if I call myself a hybridizer I know or can look up the plant characteristics that are important to me in my various crosses.

I could give you some more examples—try our 'Francie L' x 'Kohinor' cross, or a really good one is 'Pink Sparkle' x 'China Lady'; 'Pink Sparkle'retic-pitardii-japonica into 'China Lady', 'Buddha' x granthamiana or some retic with saluenensis-japonica blood.

The flower names as they exist now in the Camellia Nomenclature is the best reference for giving the hybridizer what he wants and needs for his selection of parents. The Tom Savige method tells us absolutely nothing about color, size, characteristics, etc., if it is only a sub-title, of what use is it?

Going further why call the C. x japonica x C. granthamiana 'Autumn Glory'? Why use the release date as one of importance since others have made many, many of this combinations much earlier than 1967. Some of the crosses made earlier might have been much better. Are we encouraging more releases of various combinations just to get credit? What about the flower? That's what we should really be interested in. Regardless of how many various species are in it, one or two or ten, it's the flower that counts. The flower (and plant) will be judged on its own merits without much emphasis placed on how many species it contains. As time evolves we should become more reserved about making new releases —only new flowers of merit should be released. Flowers that need additional crossing or that are only of interest to hybridizers should *not* be released to the public. But should be made available to serious pollen dabbers. This system has worked on those crossing for fragrance. In fact, in this facet of the game, we have very few releases for approximately 15 or 20 years of Dr. Cutter's work and others. This is the correct attitude to have. We will have few new introductions

for many years, on the hundreds of crosses that have been made. Good, unusual flowers do not come easy.

Well now to conclude:

1. There should *not* be an avalanche of new releases.
2. Because of mixed species blood line, no special advantage should be given a flower or plant unless it is indeed unusual and worthy of introduction.
3. No one should try to group crosses and name them after people when *no* evidence really exists as to prior art or origin much less the superfluous reason for using that individual's name.
4. Unless there is a clear reason such as simplicity, etc., we should not try to make our naming system more complex by adding useless sub-group titles.
5. What about the chance seedlings? If my memory serves me well about 60 to 75% of retic hybrids and non-retic hybrids are chance seedlings. How do we classify them in the Savige system when only one parent is known?
6. If you are out to give new flower hybridizers "credit," since the seedling "game" is a tough, time consuming one, you had better start with Howard Asper and include Vern McCaskill, the Nuccio's, Harvey Short, the entire program (thousands of crosses) of the L. A. Aboretum, under Reg Ragland. Dr. Ackerman may have been the originator on many of the specie crosses, why limit his name to only one sub-title, etc., etc.
7. What will happen to this complex sub-title system of Tom savige's when more of the species are introduced and crossed? I assume we will have more useless names to contend with.
8. Most of the Show competitions are built around the Nomenclature classification of retic and hybrids with retic parentage, and hybrids with other than retic parentage. Imagine the confusion that would arise if these two simple, straight forward classifications were replaced by 15 or 20 "Collective Epithets." Keep in mind as time goes on many, many more "Collective Epithets" could exist.
9. The Nomenclature book as it exists now, under the guidance of Bill Woodroof, is an excellent reference manual, hybridizers want and need. If Bill had the foresight to devote thousands upon thousands of his precious hours in straightening out the multitude of "names mess" in camellia flowers, I am certain he can easily cope with any minor changes that may be necessary in future years for new introductions of various species, without setting us back 30 or 40 years, which is what the Tom Savige methhod of "Classification of Camellia Hybrids by Collective Epithets" would do in my opinion — set us back 30 or 40 years and re-instate the "name" confusion that existed during the 1940's.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Herewith is Tom Savige's letter to Meyer Piet after reading Piet's article*

P.O. Box 68,
LAVINGTON, NSW 2641
Australia
8th December, 1975

Mr. Meyer Piet
757 Anoakia Lane
Arcadia, California 91006

Dear Meyer,

I do appreciate your courtesy in allowing me a chance to respond to your article. I was a little startled by the vehemence of your reaction too the hybrid classification system I advanced, and think that we may be a little at cross purposes, particu-

larly as this system, which appealed to me because of its simplicity, has cause as you write "so much confusion." I am sure that this can only be because it is not fully understood.

I would like to make the following points:

1. The system of "Collective Epithets" is not "Tom Savige's method" as stated in your article. It is a botanical convention over 70 years old and has had considerable use in the description of horticultural and agricultural hybrids, particularly from Genera with a large number of interfertile species such as Rhododendrons, Lillies and orchids.
2. Examples of it have been used in part amongst the camellia interspecific hybrids from the earliest crosses, e.g. *C* x *williamsii*, and many other epithets relating to specific hybrid combinations are already in common use in writings from various countries, e.g. *C. tourjeii*, Borde Hill Hybrids, *C. lammertsii*, etc. All these have been validly published according to the International Nomenclature Code and, as such, are established whatever one's personal opinions on the matter may be.
3. The system of hybrid grouping by collective epithets is a convention designed purely to assemble hybrids under common species combination headings. It has no effect whatsoever on the system of varietal naming or even the present systems of convenience as used in *Camellia Nomenclature*. In other words, it has no effect at all on the present systems and methods used as far as the camellia hobbyist is concerned, unless it is wished to use it. It is merely an overlay to bring together hybrids of common species origin, and purely as an interchange for brevity with the more complicated presently used "formula" method and as such could not set back the development of camellias by 5 minutes, let alone 40 years.
4. The actual proposition is not whether we will accept the system of "Collective Epithets" as it is already a fact of life, but whether it would be worthwhile to logically extend it to cover other hybrid combinations from time to time as may seen desirable. At the present time 'Collective Epithets" leak into the system occasionally as various individuals nominate them and publish them as required by the Nomenclature Code.
5. The "Collective Epithets" listed in my article are proposals only, and do not establish any validity or priority whatsoever. It is entirely up to the National Societies to take up the idea and endeavour to regulate the application of "Collective Epithets," or ignore them, as they see fit.

You are welcome to use this letter as my response to your article written for "Camellia Review."

With best regards,
Yours sincerely,
Tom Savige

THE "COVINA" CAMELLIAS, REVISITED

by MARGARET MACDONALD

In 1949, Roy Thompson, editor of "Camellia Notes" listed seven historical camellias and their locations in Covina, California. One of these, the parent plant of Camellia Japonica "Covina", named for the town, was planted there in 1888. ("Covina" continues to be widely grown in Southern California as a sun tolerant hedge.) The other six camellias were listed as follows: "Pink Perfection", 1900; "Kumasaka", 1904; "Wakemoura", "Finlandia", "Lotus", 1910; and "Flame", 1918.

This summer I went to Covina to see if any of these early camellias had survived in that fast growing community.

The Chamber of Commerce marked a map for me and referred me to Mrs. Milliken, sister of the deceased Mrs. Viney who was well known in Camellia circles as a former director of the Southern California Camellia Society.

I found Mrs. Milliken, a handsome and energetic octogenarian, still active in the Viney-Milliken lumber business. I left her office with good directions and high hope.

From that point my search was disappointing. Some of the historic camellias had fallen to "progress" and had been uprooted or moved to make way for subdivisions.

I located two plants at the former home of Merton Griswold, uncle of Mrs. Viney and Mrs. Milliken. The house is now a nursery school. The young woman at the gate said she wouldn't know a camellia if she saw one. And I admit I had trouble locating the "Pink Perfection" that was almost buried under a rampant wistaria vine. The other camellia there, designated only as a "pink one" appeared to be fairly neglected.

All the other early camellias that I was able to see without climbing over fences, were equally unimpressive.

I couldn't help wondering how many of the beautiful camellias that our members tenderly cultivate today will still be growing 75 to 100 years from now. Not many, if the historic "Covina Camellias" are an example.

HOW NOT TO CURE PETAL BLIGHT

by BILL DONNAN

The main fungus causing petal blight is SCLEROTINA. It invades the flower as soon as the tips of the petals are visible. The first signs of infestation are small, irregular, brownish specks on the expanding blooms. If the climate is warm and humid, the specks enlarge until the entire flower becomes dull brown and falls from the plant.

The fungus continues to develop in the fallen flower petal and eventually forms hard, irregularly shaped, dark brown to black bodies called sclerotia. These sclerotia endure in the soil until the following blooming period when spores from them infect new blooms.

To control this disease, gather and destroy all fallen flowers for at least two seasons. Drench the soil with ferbam or captan (8 teaspoons per gallon of water) to reduce the number of sclerotia surviving in the soil.

New flower infections can also be prevented by placing a 3-inch mulch of wood chips around the base of the plant. This provides a barrier that prevents spores from the sclerotia from blowing onto the leaves or flowers.

The above information is paraphrased from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Home and Garden Bulletin No. 86—"Growing Camellias."

It is good advice. Yet, we who grow camellias here in California know that petal blight seems to flourish no matter what one does to combat the pest. Harking back to my own experience, I have gone through the routine of carefully picking up each petal as it falls and even spraying to try to eliminate the spores. All this work was to no avail since I continued to have bad infestations of petal blight each year.

Then, I read some literature on the propagation of camellias in Australia. I found out that the Australians do not have petal blight! Further more, they don't pick up their blooms nor their fallen leaves. The petals, blooms and leaves of the camellia plant are used as a mulch. This gave me the idea to try out the Australia methods of culture here in California. Besides, I think that this idea came to me because I am inherently lazy. (In a scale of 0 to 10, to classify laziness, I'm afraid that I would rate about 9.75!)

Consequently, for the last three years, I have not picked up one petal from the area around my camellias. I now have a nice three inch mulch. The mulch was augmented in the beginning by the application of a one-inch thick layer of medium redwood bark. This year I had almost no petal blight! In fact, I think that the only blight I had came from my neighbors! The mulch also provides a considerable reservoir of fertility. The three-inch layer provides an ideal habitat for pill bugs, sow bugs and other fauna which attack the leaves and petals. At first the mulch seemed a little untidy but now I think it becomes my flower beds and I am convinced that I am on the right track as far as combating the petal blight problem.

There may be another angle to this remedial measure. I am not a fungus expert, but maybe, just maybe, the reason the Australians do not have petal blight is that something grows in the mulch which counteracts the chain of growth of the petal blight fungus. Perhaps the mulch becomes a habitat for some organism which will attack the sclerotia in the soil and prevent it from releasing the spores.

In any event, I am as happy as any lazy man can be. I don't have to pick up my fallen blooms or leaves; I don't fertilize as much as I use to; I have a good mulch around my camellia bushes; and I don't have very much petal blight!

CAMELLIA ODE

by JOHN HOLTZMAN

Beloved flower
light of our lives.
Demanding damsel
oft bane of some wives.
Demanding devotion
rewarding beauty.
Turgid bud
flaring to glory.
Perhaps to see
the site of sight.
The show supreme
is it real or dream?
Perhaps to fruit
with great anticipation wait
the blooming.
Lovely little seedling
striving for longevity.
With one cruel cut beheaded
still living for another.

We the willing
Led by the unknowing
Are doing the impossible

We have done so much
with so little
For so long.

We are now qualified
To do anything
With nothing!

JUDGING GUIDELINES

by BILL WOODROOF

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Excerpts from a talk given in Fresno.*

When the Committee for the Camellia Rama requested that I present my opinions relating to the Judging of Camellias I stated that I did not believe it would be advisable since many of you would not like to hear what I had to say. This talk will no-doubt result in considerable controversy, which I have made every effort to avoid in my hobby since 1960. However, I was overruled so here are my ideas.

JUDGING POLICY

It must first be decided whether the Judging of a show is to be a social event of a serious function. I, of course, believe it should be a serious function and my opinion is based on the following principles:

1. Judges have an obligation to both the exhibitor and the public to render a fair verdict.
2. They should be competent with extensive experience in growing many varieties of camellias.
3. They should be flexible with fellow judges but not to the extent of giving in to less expertese.
4. They should use good judgment.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

In listing guidelines for judges it is easier to note items which a good judge should not do. Herewith is my list:

1. Do not make the judging procedure into a social event. You owe it to those who took the trouble to bring flowers to a show to tend to the business of judging.
2. Do not pass up the best flower of a variety just because it has a "fly speck" on it.
3. Do not give top award in a variety to a flower of unusual form which is not normal and particularly if it will not hold on propagation.
4. Do not judge in a variety or class in which you have an entry.
5. Do not judge a variety you have not observed but attempt to find another judge who has had an opportunity to observe this variety. If none are available consult the Nomenclature Book.
6. Do not be provincial. Judge the bloom according to the normal size in the area of the show.
7. Do not argue with the Chairman of Judges. He has the final authority of any given show.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

In judging a show where treated and non-treated blooms are exhibited one often finds that gibbed flowers are placed in the non-gibbed class. This, in all cases, should be assumed to be an honest mistake and the bloom would not be judged. However, in my opinion, whether a flower is gibbed or not gibbed is not the important point. The judging of the flowers should be such that only a normal bloom, having normal conformation, color, and size would be given the award.

In judging the best bloom and runner-up on the Court of Honor it should be assumed that all flowers presented are top A-No. 1 blooms of that species. Therefore, personal preference will prevail. However, it is very important to keep in mind that there should be no preference because a variety is new.

In judging seedlings one should be very selective. No seedling should be granted an award unless it adds something unusually new or different in form or color. Don't make an award just because there happens to be a prize offered! Reserve a seedling award for something distinctive and new.

The same precaution should be observed with respect to judging mutants. Furthermore, the judge should be sure, in his own mind, that a mutant has held on propagation before an award should be given.

In assembling teams of judges each team should be headed by a top judge in the area where the show is held. Then for the final judging, to pick out the best flower in each class, it is my opinion that a limited number of top judges should be chosen to screen the selections.

In conclusion I must re-emphasize my original premise as follows:

Judging is a serious function and it should be regarded as an honor to be chosen to act as a judge. As such, the sponsors of the show, have conferred a mantel of authority on those chosen. When someone accepts that authority, he also accepts the burden of responsibility.

JUDGING SHOULD BE FUN

by DR. J. HOLTZMAN

Milo Rowell says exhibitors are honest. Mistakes are honest mistakes. Amen.

I hear there are people who put gibbed flowers in the wrong section. I have even heard of people slipping their entry card under another person's flower. I have never met any of these people. Should there be people like this, it's their problem.

I am not a psychiatrist. I am a simple government official working away in a maze of rules and regulations and manure—and I would not relish the same situation in Judging Camellias.

When a cow kicks you it hurts. If you are wise you don't kick her back. You'll only hurt your foot. Most times they are just scared. You say, "There now, pussy cat" and get out of the way so you don't get kicked again. Analogously, should there be any nasty people doing bad things let's not hurt ourselves kicking them. They are just scared—scared to lose.

We have plenty of rules and regulations now—too many restrictions. Good old judges are made to feel guilty because they don't have all the latest varieties. This is cruel and unwarranted. Nobody can have and know all the latest varieties. New varieties come and go but a good judge is always a good judge.

Let me modify that. I have seen the best teams make mistakes:—fail to judge a flower, fail to send up an obvious head table contender, give the blue ribbon to the wrong flower. So what, we all make mistakes. In an unscientific job like judging flowers attitude is more important than accuracy.

"We owe it to the public," I'm told. The public don't know from beans about a Camellia show. They get their money's worth. We owe it to ourselves to enjoy each other and our flowers—in other words, to socialize.

Now "social" is a bad word when applied to Camellia judging. I maintain that "social" is the name of the game. I'll admit that 60 judges is more than we need to do the job at Modesto but it's great socially. If I could get away with it I would have 100 judges. We have more judges than jobs so we turn them loose out there not to oversee but to expedite. We call them kibitzers and we hope they do kibitz because judging is fun. Let's keep it that way.

Be careful of the words you say
Keep them soft and sweet
You'll never know from day to day
Which ones you'll have to eat!

PLAYING AROUND WITH COLCHICINE

by JIM McCLUNG

The title of this article is definitely a misnomer. One does not "play around" with colchicine. It is an extremely toxic alkaloid that is extracted from the seeds and corns of Colchicum autumnale, the fall blooming crocus. Used in minute doses it is prescribed for the treatment of gout. In larger concentrations, up to one percent, its effect on plants causes polyploidism, the doubling of the number of chromosomes in each cell. It does this by preventing the initial division of the plant's cells after they have been treated with colchicine and after the chromosomes have divided.

Colchicine is most familiar in its use in producing the very popular tetraploid snapdragons and daylilies. It can be used on any plant that is in the first stages of rapid growth or on seeds that germinate quickly.

The growing tip of a camellia, or any other plant, is composed of three layers of cells. The outermost layer forms the epidermis of the plant and leaves. The second layer forms the interior tissues of the leaves and the germ cells. The third layer forms the inner tissues of the stem. The penetration of colchicine into any of these three layers will cause definite permanent changes in the twig that has been treated.

My fourteen-year-old, Eddie, and I have devised our own method of treating both camellias and daylilies and most plants are showing definite signs of penetration, although it is sometimes extremely difficult to determine if the colchicine has penetrated properly.

Perhaps first things should come first. We make a one percent solution of colchicine in water, adding a few drops of liquid detergent as a spreader and penetrant. We then submerge the growing end of a camellia twig in the solution for 12 to 96 hours. The differences in time is a test to see how long it takes the chemical to penetrate all three layers. We discovered that there are definite signs of penetration on some plants after 12 hours while only minimal penetration shows on other plants after 96 hours.

Why use colchicine on camellias? There are three good reasons.

Firstly, many of the most promising hybrids that we would like to use in our hybridizing program are sterile. This is because they have an uneven number of chromosomes. Since each germ cell gets half of its chromosomes from each parent, a plant with an uneven number of chromosomes cannot divide in half to form germ cells. Any germ cells produced on such plants have the same number of chromosomes as the general plant cells. A good example is the Granthamiana-Retic hybrid 'China Lady'. It contains 75 chromosomes and is, theoretically, sterile. Colchicine gives it 150 chromosomes, an even number that can be reduced to haploid germ cells of 75 chromosomes each. Dr. Ackerman, of the National Arboretum, demonstrated this with the sterile hybrid, 'Fragrant Pink'.

Secondly, in doubling the chromosomes, one also doubles the genes for fragrance. It should intensify such fragrant show flowers as 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Carter's Sunburst', and its offspring. Also, other japonicas carry the recessive gene for fragrance. 'Princess Baciocchi' throws many fragrant offspring. By treating show quality flowers we hope to increase the chances of producing fragrant flowers of quality.

Thirdly, a colchicine treated twig often produces a new and superior flower. 'Queen of Tomorrow' is a colchicine-induced sport.

A warning is in order. Since all chromosomes are doubled the good and the bad alike will show up. Sometimes fertile varieties are made sterile or other undesireable aberrations will appear. If so, it is a simple matter to cut off the unwanted growth. If the results are happy, the growth can be grafted, leaving two or three growth buds in case the graft fails.

When we immerse a camellia tip in the chemical solutuion we also submerge rapidly growing daylily seedlings with good root systems. The majority of these are showing signs of complete penetration.

How does one tell if the colchicine has penetrated? If only the first layer of cells is affected a high-powered hand lens can be used to examine the stomata (pores) on the lower side of the leaf. When compared with the normal stomata those treated with colchicine should appear larger. If penetration has reached the second layer the first new leaves will be distorted and all following leaves will have a heavier texture than the normal leaf. They are also frequently larger in size. If all three layers have been penetrated the new growth will be slower and thicker than normal new growth.

Once again, I would like to give the warning that one does not really "play around" with colchicine. When we use it one would have to go back to the time of Pontius Pilate to see a greater display of the washing of hands.

THE 1976 HUNTINGTON GARDENS SHOW

The Fourth Annual Huntington Gardens Show, sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society was held on the weekend of January 10th and 11th, 1976. By all accounts this show turned out to be one of the best in the series of "pre-season" shows which have been a January fixture since 1973. Hal Dryden stepped in to Chair the show and he was ably assisted by Sergio Bracci and his crew in the staging; Bill Woodroof, in charge of the judges; and Bill Goertz and his group who handled the awards.

The Ladies Flower Arrangement Committee provided some beautiful center-piece displays and Rudy Moore created another excellent landscape exhibit. There were demonstrations of planting, grafting, fertilizing and gibbing, and also a booth demonstrating the art of waxing camellia blooms. It seems remarkable that, each year, the old stand-by work group of the society closes ranks and presents what amounts to a "labor of love" exhibition of camellia blooms! Please remember that the Huntington Show is an "open" show with only five classifications and only ten very modest trophies. Yet, each year, it manages to present one of the most elite and prestigous collections of blooms to be found anywhere! There were only 502 blooms in the show. However, each one was a winner and the judges were hard-put to select the Best and the Runner-up in each class. It is almost as though the exhibitors brought only their extra, extra, special best blooms! It seems safe to declare that there wasn't even one "dog" on display!

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe of Upland, California swept the show since they were awarded: Best Small Japonica, Best Medium Japonica, and Best Reticulata. In addition, they won Runner-up Medium Japonica, Runner-up Large Japonica, and Runner-up Reticulata, plus several Court-of-Honor blooms! Attendance at the two-day show surpassed anything previously witnessed. The balmy 70 degree weather brought out over 8,700 people, yet this isn't too surprising. Where else can you feast your eyes on the paintings "Pinky", "Blue Boy" and other masterworks of art and then step out onto a patio graced by over 500 masterworks of nature—a Camellia flower show!

SHOW RESULTS
HUNTINGTON GARDENS SHOW
JANUARY 10-11, 1976

SMALL JAPONICAS

Best Bloom	Ava Maria	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
Runner-up	Firecone Var.	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
Court of Honor	Pink Smoke	Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
	Splash O White	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
	Kewpie Doll	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe

MEDIUM JAPONICAS

Best Bloom	Midnight	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
Runner-up	Silver Chalice	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
Court of Honor	Blood Of China	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
	Pink Frost	Mr. Mel Gum
	Eleanor K.	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Dryden
	Diddy Mealing	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe

LARGE JAPONICAS

Best Bloom	Grand Prix	Mr. Caryll Pitkin
Runner-up	Kramer's Supreme	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
Court of Honor	Mathotiana	Mr. Robert Jaack
	White Nun	Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
	Guilio Nuccio	Mr. Caryll Pitkin
	Bob Hope	Mr. A. Wilkins Garner

NON-RETICULATA HYBRIDS

Best Bloom	Elsie Jury	Mr. Robert Jaack
Runner-up	Anticipation	Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
Court of Honor	E. G. Waterhouse	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
	Julia Hamiter	Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Summerson
	Water Lily	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Dryden

RETICULATA HYBRIDS

Best Bloom	Valentine Day Var.	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
Runner-up	Valentine Day	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rowe
Court of Honor	Arch Of Triumph	Mr. Robert Jaack
	Valley Knudsen	Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz
	Crimson Robe	Mr. & Mrs. Wilkins Garner
	Dream Castle	Mr. Caryll Pitkin

CAMELLIA CLIPPINGS

BERNICE GUNN

I love to stand upon my head,
And think of things sublime.
Until Bill Donnan interrupts,
And says it's REVIEW deadline.

A few years ago Prof. E. G. Waterhouse wrote an article for the A.C.R.S. Camellia News in which he included the following poem on Camellias composed by Teng Chih-chih:

"It is beautiful, but not strange;
It will last three or four hundred years and still look newly planted.
The trunk can be forty or fifty feet high with girth equal to a man's embrace.
The colour of its bark is dark green as an ancient vase;
Its curved branches are in the shape of a deer's tail and a dragon's form.
Its roots are twisted and in strange shape which could be used as a stand or as a pillow to sleep on;
Its thick foliage is like a tent, dark and abundant,
It stands well against frost and snow and is always green throughout the four seasons;
The flowers bloom in succession lasting two or three months;
When picked and put in a vase with water, they can last more than ten days without their colour fading."

Upon receiving a letter from the Hackneys inquiring if I had married, my reply was: "I have a dog that growls, a parrot that swears, a fireplace that smokes, and a cat that stays out all night. Why should I want a husband?"

CAMELLIA ALPHABET (Cont.)

P is for PRUNING

Training plants, like training children, is easier if you start early. Double or forked trunks can be eliminated with a cut or two in the early stages. Pinch back unruly branches. Later on, prune as you cut blooms. Open up center to increase air and light. Remove dead, weak, low crossing-over branches at any time. Don't cut back leader until plant has reached desired height. Some people go easier on Reticulatas.

Q is for QUANDRY

What you're in when you can't decide whether those yellowish leaves mean too little nitrogen or too little iron; or whether "Howard Asper" is better than "Gillio Nuccio" for that spot near the front door.

R is for RESEARCH

Since the "break-through" produced the williamsii hybrids about 1940, camellia research has virtually exploded in the number of devoted experimenters engaged and the variety of their problems. In addition to the never ending search for interesting new cultivars, three problems may be said to occupy the minds and planting beds of today's researchers: (1) increased cold hardiness; (2) extended color range, especially yellow; (3) fragrance.

S is for SOIL

Fortunate indeed is the hobbyist whose backyard soil even approaches the description of conditions in the camellia's native habitat. Failing this, he concocts his own prescription from such exotic materials as peat, leafmold, fir-bark, rotted sawdust, rice hulls, manure, compost, sand, etc.

Yes, N. Haydon, in New Zealand there will be an X and Z.

The Japonica cultivar Elegans (Chandler) formerly known as Chandleri Elegans, rightly honors Alfred Chandler who was co-author with Edward Buckingham of the notable work "Camellia Brittannica" (London 1825).

Laos, the Asian country known as the land of one million elephants, has only one elevator.

If you want the world to beat a path to your door, just lay down and take a nap!

Camellias are not very popular along the Mediterranean shores because of the alkaline soil, but yet Southern California is actually worse in this respect.

TALK ON DESCANSO GARDENS

by DON GRAF

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Excerpts from the program of the Southern California Camellia Society program December 9, 1975.*

This will be one of the most difficult programs that I will ever have given. It is like getting up in front of the family and telling them about the family, what can you say? and then in addition when you are up here in front of your boss and ex-boss there isn't much new that you can present. So I'm just going to show you some slides of Descanso Gardens. It is very difficult to talk about Descanso Gardens because I'm sure that most of you have been there, many, many times. It is difficult because of all the beauty, serenity, and loveliness of nature that you're trying to express in words. I don't really feel that I am capable of choosing the words to express this kind of beauty adequately. If you have been to Descanso on a beautiful day with the sun filtering through the trees and the spots of color around, you will know what I mean. It is a feeling more than anything else. The slides that I will show will maybe make you a little more interested in the gardens if that is possible.

Two things that I do differently than other people who take and show slides: The first is that most people show a beautiful sunset at the end of the program and most everyone is asleep and never see the sunset. I will show my sunset first so that you will get to see it. The second is that I hardly ever take people in my pictures. The people always seem to be in front of the flowers that you came to see in the first place.

You don't need expensive camera equipment to take good slides. Most of my pictures are taken with a little Kodak Instamatic. It is much like the problems with automobiles, it is the nut that holds the steering wheel that determines a good driver, not the car. You have to have an eye and a feeling for your surroundings to capture what is interesting. Don't ever feel that if you don't have a really expensive camera you have to forget about ever getting anything into competition. I have seen some very good pictures taken with an old simple box camera. Double exposures are kind of fun. Back lighting is very important to consider. Watch where the sun is and how it is filtering through the trees and bushes. Light and shadows must be considered.

One very frustrating question we get from people is "When is the best time to come to the gardens?" There is no best time. It is like visiting any lovely outdoor spot, there is not one time. Each week and each season the garden is in constant change and it is all beautiful.

A virgin forest is a forest in which the hand of man has never set foot.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL MEETING

The Southern California Camellia Council held its third meeting of the season on Monday night, January 5, 1976. The meeting was held in the Hospitality House of the Descanso Gardens and was chaired by Mel Gum, President. The meeting featured a discussion led by Frank Simerly of the Los Angeles County Arboretum outlining some of the long-range needs of the Descanso Gardens.

George Lewis, Superintendent of the Descacnso Gardens confirmed the expenditure of about $750 of funds provided by the Council to build and landscape a series of patio terraces in the Gardens.

There was considerable discussion, led by Bill Woodroof, covering the plans to upgrade and modernize the camellia plantings at Descanso. The Descanso Gardens has one of the largest camellia plantings in the world with over 40,000 specimens in the forest. However, the bulk of these plantings were made before 1950 and oakroot fungus has taken its toll. At present, very few of the newer cultivars are growing in the Gardens.

At its last meeting, the Council voted the expenditure of "up to $1,000 for the introduction of new camellia plants." To this end a committee has been appointed by Mel Gum consisting of Bill Woodroof, Bill Goertz, Hal Dryden, Julius Nuccio, Frank Simerly and George Lewis to develop the new camellia plantings. To date, a site has been chosen, near the picnic grounds, and 120 plants consisting of two each of some 60, top, proven, new cultivars have been selected for the initial planting.

It was decided that the site now chosen should be limited to the planting of C. japonica and C. reticulata species only. However, two additional sites will be chosen for the planting of (1) Miniatures and Higos, and (2) Hybrids. Mel Gum appointed the following sub-committees to develop these two additional sites. For the Miniatures and Higos the committee will consist of Grady Perigan, John Movich and Ernie Pieri. For the Hybrids the committee will be Meyer Piet, Rudy Moore and Jim Tuliano.

The Council also voted that after the initial plantings had been accomplished a fund of $50 per year should be provided for the purchase of the new introductions. The Council invites all camellia hobby people to donate cultivars or species to augment these plantings. These donations are tax deductible. However, the screening committee admonishes everyone that they will only accept healthy, vigorous specimens for this endeavor. To quote one of the committee members: "This is not to become a dumping ground for un-wanted plants!"

CHROMOSOMES COUNT

by JIM McCLUNG

An article in a back issue of THE CAMELLIA REVIEW suggested that the hybridizer ignore the chromosome count in prospective crosses. If he does this he might spend a lifetime trying to set seed on a sterile hybrid.

The majority of species used in hybridizing have 30 or 90 chromosomes. Both japonica and saluenensis have 30. This makes for easier crossing. Sasanquas and reticulatas (with the exception of 'Captain Rawes') have 90 chromosomes. The main exception is the beautiful granthamiana. It is a tetraploid, having 60 chromosomes.

A sterile camellia is one that has an uneven number of chromosomes. Since the number is uneven it cannot develop viable germ cells. Pollen grains and ovules contain half the number of chromosomes as the parent plant. A successful cross gets half of its chromosomes from the seed parent and half from the pollen parent. When a plant with 30 chromosomes is crossed with a plant with 30 chromosomes its offspring will have the same number. In the common retic-japonica and retic-saluenensis crosses the resulting offspring have 60 chromosomes.

Now, let's take the granthamiana and its 60 chromosomes. If it is crossed with a japonica or other camellia having 30 chromosomes the result is a sterile triploid. Forty five chromosomes cannot be divided evenly. If granthamiana is crossed with a camellia with 90 chromosomes we have a sterile pentaploid (75 chromosomes). That is the end of the line unless the hybridizer successfully treats a rapidly growing shoot with colchicine to double the number of chromosomes and make that part of the plant fertile. (It should be grafted onto new rootstock if the treatment is successful.)

If the hybridizer is planning to introduce granthamiana into his breeding program it is best done at the second step in breeding in the case of retic hybrids. Since most of them are tetraploid they will have fertile offspring which are also tetraploid. From that point one can carry on with granthamiana or any of the retic hybrids that have japonica or saluenensis blood. It is a much safer route to take, and a much surer one, than trying to use colchicine with its unpredictable results.

This plan of hybridizing only works with tetraploid plants. Most non-retic hybrids are not tetraploid. The few exceptions are those that are sasanqua crosses. It will also work with the beautiful 'Captain Rawes'. Our first reticulata is uniquely composed of haploid cells, having only fifteen chromosomes. Oddly enough, it is fertile, giving the full fifteen chromosomes to its germ cells. When crossed with another retic one gets a tetraploid that can be further crossed with tetraploids in order to keep a fertile series going.

Theoretically, retic hybrids should cross in only one more generation with anything but a tetraploid plant. The rule is quite frequently violated by Mother Nature and we come up with fourth and fifth generations because the plants sometimes produce unreduced germ cells.

None-the-less, chromosomes count. Best results in hybridizing are obtained if one follows the rules.

1976 CAMELLIA SHOW SEASON

February is the peak of the Camellie Show season here in Southern California and everyone should be making preparations to exhibit their prize blooms.

The San Diego Show, sponsored by the San Diego Camellia Society, kicks off the regular season on February 6th and 7th. The show will be held at the Conference Building in Balboa Park and all Southern California Camellia Society members and friends have a special invitation to attend.

The Temple City Camellia Society will hold its show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum on the following weekend, February 14th and 15th. Show Chairman, Art Krum hopes to have from 1,500 to 2,000 blooms on display for this popular mid-season show.

The Pomona Camellia Society will hold its annual show at the Pomona First Federal Savings and Loan Association Building at 399 N. Gary Ave. in Pomona. The show dates are

February 21st and 22nd. As per former years, Pomona will again offer an award for the Best Australian Introduction, in addition to the usual division and class awards.

The Descanso Gardens Show, sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Council, will be held on the weekend of February 28th and 29th. President, Mel Gum and Show Chairman, Tom Hughes promise to stage an outstanding exhibit. If the weather holds upwards of 25,000 visitors are expected for this show. Special motel rates can be obtained for out-of-town exhibitors and camellia members at the Holiday Inn, Glendale for the show weekend (address—600 N. Pacific, Glendale, Calif. 91203). Be sure to indicate on your reservation that you are attending the camellia show to obtain a discount on your room. There will be a Show Awards Banquet on Saturday Night, February 28th at the Holiday Inn, Glendale. This dinner is open to all camellia hobby people and their friends.

On March 6th and 7th the Camellia Society of Kern County will hold its Anual Show at the Mall Valley Plaza Shopping Center at the intersection of Ming and Wible Road, Bakersfield.

This Show will be followed on Sunday, March 7th with the Annual Show of the Central California Camellia Society, to be held at Fresno City College, 1100 East Weldon Ave., Fresno.

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

Date	Sponsor	Location
Feb. 7-8, 1976	San Diego Camellia Society	Conference Building Balboa Park, San Diego
Feb. 14-15, 1976	Peninsula Camellia Society	Veteran's Memorial Bldg. 1455 Mission Ave., Redwood City
Feb. 14-15, 1976	Temple City Camellia Society	L.A. County Arboretum Lecture Hall, Arcadia
Feb. 21-22, 1976	Santa Clara County Camellia Society	McCabe Hall, San Jose (as part) of Bicentennial Celebration
Feb. 21-22, 1976	Pomona Valley Camellia Society	Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn., 399 N. Gary, Pomona
Feb. 28-29, 1976	Delta Camellia Society	Campo Lindo High School Moraga Rd., Moraga
Feb. 28-29, 1976	Southern California Camellia Council	Descanso Gardens La Canada
Mar. 6-7, 1976	Camellia Society of Sacramento	Memorial Auditorium 15th & J Sts., Sacramento
Mar. 6-7, 1976	Camellia Society of Kern County	Mall Valley Plaza Shop. Ctr. Ming & Wible Rd., Bakersfield
Mar. 7, 1976	Central California Camellia Society	Fresno City College 1100 E. Weldon, Fresno
Mar. 13-14, 1976	Northern California Camellia Society	Sun Valley Shopping Center Concord
Mar. 20-21, 1976	Camellia Society of Modesto	Palm Court of E. & J. Gallo Adm. Bldg., Modesto
Mar. 27-28, 1976	Sonoma County Camellia Society	Doyle Student Center Santa Rosa Jr. College, Santa Rosa

Directory of California Camellia Societies

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

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY
President: Lemuel Freeman; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr., 733 Del Mar Drive, Bakersfield 93307
Meetings: 2nd Monday, October through April (except 3rd Monday in November), at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY
President: Robert Eastman; Sec., Mrs. George T. Butler, 1831 Windsor Ln, Santa Ana 92705
Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, at Great Western Savings & Loan Bldg., 1418 No. Main St., Santa Ana

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO
President: James M. Randall; Secretary, Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G St., Sacramento 95816
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October through April in Shepard Garden & Art Center, 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Bill Harris; Secretary, Mary Anne Ray, 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February, in All-purpose Room, Del Mar School, 4122 N. Del Mar, Fresno

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Jack Lewis; Secretary, Mrs. James E. Scott, 4285 Inverness Dr., Pittsburg 94565
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through March at various society member's homes, Oct. 25 3rd Annual BBQ Dinner 5:00 p.m. immediately following the Fall Meeting of the Northern California Camellia Council.

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Donald W. Hurst; Secretary, Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 N. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October through May, United Methodist Church, Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: James Tuliano; Secretary, Mrs. Haidee Steward, 130 S. Citrus, Los Angeles 90036
Meetings: 1st Tuesday, December through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Ronald Kellogg; Secretary, Mrs. Helen Caputi, 1605 Victoria Dr., Modesto 95351
Meetings: Second Tuesday October through May, at Guarantee Savings Bldg., 2929 McHenry Ave., Modesto

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Bill E. Lockwood; Secretary, Peter W. Eberle, 133 Moraga Way, Orinda 944563
Meetings: 1st Monday, November through May, Claremont JHS, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Judy Simmons; Secretary, Leone Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr., Glen. 91208
Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Central Bank of Glendale, 411 N. Central Ave., Glendale 91203

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Ralph E. Bernhardt; Sec., Andrew R. Johnson, Jr., 28 Lloyden Dr., Atherton 94025
Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, Municipal Services Center. 1400 Broadway, Redwood City.

*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Ronald D. Braid; Secretary, Mrs. Janice Hawes, 12625 Kellogg Ave., Chino 91710
Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. Bldg., 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Benjamin H. Berry; Secretary, Harry Humphrey, 4659 Winona Ave., San Diego 92115
Meetings: 3rd Wed., November-April, Rm. 101, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Pk., San Diego, 7:30 p.m.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: John M. Augis; Secretary, Mrs. Helen Augis, 2254 Fair Valley Court, San Jose 95125
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday September through April, at Great Western Savings Bldg., 2100 El Camino Real, Santa Clara

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Marylin Batt; Secretary, C. O. McCorkle, 340 Belhaven Pl., Santa Rosa 95405
Meetings: Nov. 13, Dec. 11, 1975, January through May 1976 on the 4th Thursday of the month, 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: Franklin R. Moore; Secretary, Mrs. Elsie Bracci, 5567 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776
Meetings: Friday, Nov. 14; Friday, Dec. 19; Thursday, Jan. 22; Thursday, Feb. 26; Thursday, March 25; and Thursday, April 22 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum Lecture Hall in Arcadia

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