

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



C. RETICULATA 'JOHN ANSON FORD'
Courtesy The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum

Vol. 40

November - December

No. 2

One Dollar twenty-five cents

Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

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

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

Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues, \$12.00

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. RETICULATA 'JOHN ANSON FORD'

Courtesy The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum

'John Anson Ford' is a C. reticulata cross between the hybrid 'William's Lavender' and the C. reticulata 'Purple Gown.' It was developed by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum and released in 1971. The flower is a deep rose pink, large semi-double with wavy crinkled petals. The plant has a slow, compact, upright growth and it blooms mid-season to late.

CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

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THOUGHTS

from the editor

Sociologists tell us that graffiti written on the walls of rest rooms often contains the essence of wit and wisdom of a culture. Some examples are as follows: "The Truth Is The Safest Lie;" "Machines Will Never Replace Human Stupidity;" "Silence Those Who Oppose Free Speech;" "I Can Resist Anything Except Temptation;" "Nostalgia Isn't What It Used To Be;" "Try To Avoid Cliches Like A Plague;" etc.

Recently I ran on to one which might fit the present state of the Camellia Hobby: "The Trouble With America Can Be Summed Up In One Word—Apathy" and under it someone had scrawled, "So What." Some of the decline in membership and interest in our Camellia Hobby can be laid to apathy.

This is the reason why everyone should take the time to read the two thought provoking articles in this issue. One is an open letter to Bill Johnston, President of the American Camellia Society, dated April 22, 1978 from Mr. and Mrs. Harold Page. (See pg. 11). We received a carbon copy of the letter and feel that it's contents should be read and discussed by all camellia hobbyists. This letter was printed in the August 1978 issue of the CAMELLIA JOURNAL.

The second article is entitled "New Members—Are We Going After The Right People?" by Harold E. Dryden. (See pg. 6). The article is the substance of a talk Dryden gave in May 1978 at the Annual Dinner of the San Diego Camellia Society. The underlying theme of both of the articles deals with concern for the dwindling interest and fall-off of membership within the Camellia Society.

If it is true that "The Trouble With The Camellia Hobby Can Be Summed Up In One Word—Apathy," then it behooves each of us to stir things up. Let's all of us get involved. Let's all of us take a friend or a neighbor to the next meeting of our society. Let's each of us go up to the President of our local society and say, "HOW CAN I HELP?" Let's make this the year that the Camellia Hobby is turned around into a growing, vibrant entity. One final bit of graffiti goes like this: "Due To A Lack Of Interest—Tomorrow Will Be Cancelled." None of us want that to happen to our Camellia Hobby!

BILL DONNAN

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TREATMENTS FOR INCREASING THE LIFE OF CUT CAMELLIA FLOWERS

By JAMES BONNER and SHIGERU HONDA

Ed. Note: Hobbyists who love to enter their blooms in shows might be interested in this article first published in 1950 in Camellia Research, a publication of the Horticultural Research Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society.

The preservation of the camellia flower after it has been removed from the plant is a matter of great interest and some importance to the camellia grower. In ordinary practice, camellia flowers are displayed at room temperature by floating them on water; alternately they may be placed on a moist surface. Under these conditions the symptoms of degeneration of the camellia flower include discolorization of the flower petals close to the floral axis. This is followed by wilting of the petals. Secondly the petals become discolored at the tips and edges. Camellia flowers which are not kept floating on water or on a moist surface wilt rapidly and show this particular symptom even earlier than flowers kept under moist conditions. A treatment for extension of the life of the cut camellia flower to be successful must then prevent discoloration of the petals, prevent loss of petals and prevent wilting or loss of turgor in the flower. It is well-known that life of the cut flower can be extended by low temperature treatments. Although low temperatures are used for the preservation of cut camellia flowers in storage by commercial growers, this method is not well-adapted to the individual camellia fancier and is not well-adapted to the display of camellia flowers.

Two general approaches have been used in the present work. In the first method, camellia flowers were floated on water at a temperature of 26° F. The water was then supplemented with various substances in an effort to find materials which might act effectively in prolonging the life of the flower. A second general approach consisted in placing flowers in an atmosphere saturated with water vapor. Other treatments were then superimposed upon this basic treatment. In both types of experiments the flowers were examined from time to time and evaluation of the results of treatment made in comparison with the standard treatment in which flowers were merely floated on water.

Results

The most significant results from the standpoint of extension of effective life of the cut flower were obtained when flowers were stored in a saturated water atmosphere. Under these conditions, flowers maintained a fresh appearance for as long as 28 days. Table I gives a summary of certain of the treatments in which a saturated water atmosphere was used. In the first two treatments of Table I, the freshly cut flowers were placed upon a support in a closed container in such a way that the flowers were not resting in liquid water, but were maintained in a saturated atmosphere. In the first treatment, the excised flower alone was used, while in the second treatment the flower was excised so as to include one leaf. This was done because it was thought possible that the leaf might contribute to the extension of the life of the flower. In both treatments the flowers maintained a wholly turgid and fresh appearance up to approximately two weeks, or approximately double the life of similar flowers floated on water in the standard way. If the flowers were floated on water and also enclosed in a saturated water atmosphere, life of the flowers was almost as long but after a period of two weeks, small amounts of discoloration appeared at the base of the petals about the floral axis. Still further increases in the life of the cut flower under saturated atmosphere

conditions were apparently obtained by treating the flowers with naphthaleneacetic acid, a substance known to prevent abscission or separation of petals and leaves from the floral axis. In these experiments naphthaleneacetic acid was dissolved in acetone and a small volume of acetone applied at the center of the flower. The application of 0.1 cc. of naphthaleneacetic acid, 10 mg./cc., appeared to increase the life of the cut flowers substantially.

TABLE I

Storage of Camellia Flowers in an Atmosphere Saturated with Water Vapor
All Trials Recorded in this Table Carried Out With Var. Pink Perfection
Flowers Flotted on Water in an Open Atmosphere (Not Saturated)
Lasted Less than 6 Days in All Instances.

Type of Material	Treatment	Number of Days of Fresh Healthy Appearance	Final Appearance Comments
Flower Alone	Saturated Atm., Flower not in Contact with Liquid Water	13	Fresh Turgid
Flower + 1 leaf	Saturated Atm., Flower Not in Contact with Liquid Water	13	Fresh Turgid
Flower Alone	Saturated Atm., Flower Floating on Water Surface	14	Turgid but Slightly Discolored
Flower Alone	Saturated Atm., 1 mg. NAA Applied to Center of Flower	28	Fresh Turgid
Flower + 1 Leaf	Saturated Atm., 1 mg NAA Applied to Center of Flower	28	Fresh Turgid

The addition of certain substances to the water on which camellia flowers were floated exerted measurable effects prolonging the life of such flowers. No treatment, however, resulted in prolonging the life as much as did a saturated water atmosphere. Increased life as a result of treatments in solution was at most only 1 to 2 days; an increase of roughly one fourth as compared with doubling or quadrupling storage life in the saturated atmosphere treatments. After 7 days of treatment the flowers were examined and the treatments evaluated as compared to the controls, flowers on water alone. At this time the control flowers were invariably wilted and discolored. Table II gives the results of these experiments.

Inorganic phosphate and naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA) give consistently increased life over the control flowers. The combinations of sodium fluoride, KH_2PO_4 , NAA, and succinate also seemed to give prolonged life. It was originally suspected that a part of the deterioration of the cut flower might be due to microorganisms attacking the petals close to the submerged floral axis. Sulfanilamide was used in an effort to decrease such bacterial growth but no encouraging results were obtained.

Summary

1. Camellia flowers when stored in a saturated water atmosphere, the flowers themselves not touching water, retained their freshness and turgidity up to 2 weeks. Application of naphthaleneacetic acid, NAA, dissolved in acetone, near the floral axis, increased the life span of these flowers up to 28 days.

2. Camellia flowers stored floating on water deteriorated within 7 days. Addition to the water of inorganic phosphate, NAA, and combinations of the same, increased the life span by not more than 2 days. Other treatments were even less successful.

TABLE II

Effect of Various Chemical Treatments on the Storage Life of Cut Camellia Flowers. All Flowers Floated on Water or on Water Solutions, Maintained in Dark at 25°C.

Treatment	Concentration	No. of Experiments	Appearance Relative to Control (Water Alone) After 7 Days ¹
KH ₂ PO ₄	30-10,000 mg/l	13	++
NAA	1-100 mg/l	28	++
Naphthalene acetamide	10-100 mg/l	3	+
NaF	10-1000 mg/l	17	—
Dinitrophenol	1-10 mg/l	7	—
Malonate	1-10 mg/l	2	0
Succinate	10-10,000 mg/l	8	0
2, 4D	10-10,00 mg/l	7	+
Adenylic Acid	10-100 mg/l	3	0
Adenylic Acid	100 mg/l	3	0
Sulfanilamide	10-1000 mg/l	3	+
Sulfanilamide	10-200 mg/l	8	0
Sucrose	1-4%	4	—
Arginine	100 mg/l	1	0
Glutamic Acid	100 mg/l	1	0

¹Symbols. ++ = much better than control. + = better than control. 0 = same as control. — = worse than control.

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

will host the

7th ANNUAL

HUNTINGTON GARDENS CAMELLIA SHOW

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 and 14, 1979

at the

HUNTINGTON GARDENS, SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA

Sunday admittance is by ticket only. Obtain your free tickets through your local society or contact the Southern California Camellia Society. (Exhibitors do not require entry tickets.)

NEW MEMBERS—ARE WE GOING AFTER THE RIGHT PEOPLE?

(Substance of a talk to members of the San Diego Camellia Society)

By HAROLD E. DRYDEN

The membership of most if not all camellia societies is declining. We read that the membership of the American Camellia Society is down. The Southern California Camellia Society has fewer members than it did when I was Secretary in the early 1960s and the attendance at the meetings is less than it was when I used to count the attendance for the record. I hear the same story from other societies. I have been bothered by this situation because I believe that the present interest in camellias is great enough to support active camellia societies if the societies meet the desires and interests of this large number of camellia growers. I live in San Marino where the Southern California Society holds its meetings. There are many gardens in San Marino that contain camellias, yet only a few San Marino people belong to the camellia society.

There must be some reason for this. True, this is a busy world and people must be choosy about joining groups. The challenge, of course, is to have a package that will be attractive to people who are interested and will allot time to that interest. As I have thought about the subject, my mind has revolved around my own introduction to the camellia hobby and why I became interested in camellia societies. I don't suggest that my own experience is necessarily indicative of public thinking and reaction. I have wondered, however, if in using myself as a guinea pig, I might come out with something that might be useful in attracting people to camellia society membership. It certainly can do no harm because present approaches to seeking new members are causing the membership curve to go in the wrong direction. So I am going to use this approach in presenting a program that might help although possibly not

go all the way.

I like to grow things. Elsie and I decided when we built our home that we would have a garden, and joined our garage to the front of the house so that we would have an unobstructed back yard for garden. In the early years I grew glads, chrysanthemums, what have you. The early planning contained an area for roses and cut flowers. My mother had rooted some camellias for us in anticipation of our having a home. I grew them in containers until I could plant them on the north side of the house, the only spot where I could give them any shade. I must say that I lost all of them because I did not know how to plant them. I slowly added camellias to the garden, tucking the containers here and there as we acquired shade.

In 1947 we attended the camellia show at Brookside Park in Pasadena. We were sitting with friends at a table at the show after having been awed by the flowers on display. The friend persuaded me that we should join the Southern California Camellia Society and we did so. My interest was solely that in joining the Society, some of the knowledge of the people who had grown the flowers we had seen might rub off on me. I had no thought that I might attain such proficiency in camellia growing that after a few years I might be able to become an exhibitor at camellia shows and "wow them" with my beautiful flowers. I was strictly and simply a gardener.

The first show in which I remember taking any part was at the Odd Fellows Hall in Pasadena. I took part not as an exhibitor but as a helper to set up the show, at the behest of a member of the Society. I have always remembered Dr. Reuben Tellem of Ramona in San Diego County, an avid

grower and exhibitor, how he had a camellia plant in his car that he wanted to show to people who seemed to me to be old timers in the art of camellia growing. I realized that I was a novice.

I sought new and good varieties of camellias as my interest grew. The friend who induced me to join the Society taught me to graft and that was really the beginning of what to me has been a good life in growing things. As so often happens my first graft took, and while I have lost many grafts since that time, the thrill of that first take has led me on. While I worked in early camellia shows. I did not enter flowers for several years after I had become what I thought was a part of the "camellia group." I was still essentially the gardener who had joined a camellia society for the benefits I thought I would receive and for the pleasure of associating with others who had interests that were kindred to mine.

Now, as I have stated, I don't suggest that I should think of myself or my experience as a pivot around which decisions involving camellia societies should be made. I do think, however, that they are representative of many people who are now candidates for membership in societies. If this assumption is sound, what then do we do about it?

First, gear our society meetings so that people who are interested primarily in improving their growing techniques will get from the meetings that which they are seeking. But, you say, the members who know all these things will lose interest in the meetings and will not attend. They are now the backbone of the societies. I say it is a matter of how this is done. The Southern California Camellia Society is covering cultural subjects and demonstrations, such as of pruning, during intermission. However it is done, it seems to me that the important thing ahead is to attract to the meetings and into society membership

those people who are seeking information that will help them, and to retain them as members. As a person who has been growing camellias for many years and as Editor of *Camellia Review* for many years pursued every aspect of camellia culture, I admit that some of these subjects might become repetitious to me. But as a member of the Society who has been somewhat more than average active during my thirty years of membership, I must be willing to accept some of this repetition and to accept fellowship as sufficient reason for attending meetings, if that seems to be important for obtaining and retaining new members.

Second, go all out to help visitors and new members obtain what they are seeking. It isn't enough just to have them sign the register and to introduce them. Have an organized plan to help them.

Third, give the new people some jobs if they show signs of interest in participating. But be sure they are interested in participating before you try to put them to work. I know one instance where a couple did not pursue their membership because a man was asked to do a job. This camellia society business is not so complicated that it takes several years to qualify for a job.

Fourth, have some garden visits and be sure that the newer people are invited to attend. I have advocated this for years, after I visited Australia and New Zealand and saw how important this is in their program. These two societies put us in America to shame in number of society members, many of which are pure gardeners, nothing else. I have met the response "garden visits must be held on weekends and that is when we hold our shows." There must be some way to reconcile this conflict, particularly if it might help in getting and holding new members.

Fifth, camellia shows. They are an important part of the camellia society program. But they are not the sole

reason for growing good camellias. I would guess that the figure of 100 would include the active Southern California participants in Southern California camellia shows; the shows would fall on their faces if as few as 25 selected people would stop showing their flowers. What I am saying is, don't say or give the impression that the end purpose of growing good camellias is to enter them in camellia shows. Continue the shows with all the attention they now receive, because people who do not want to enter flowers in the show enjoy the displays. In fact, it is a part of their camellia development. In the meetings, tell people how to prepare flowers for show entry as an intermission item, for those people who are show minded. People who join camellia societies to improve their growing techniques will enter flowers in camellia shows when it seems to them, individually, that the time is ripe.

This puts in one thimble my thoughts on one approach we might use to obtain new members in our societies. I thank the San Diego Camellia Society for inviting me to talk at their dinner meeting because it has caused me to crystallize my thinking on a subject that has been going round and round in my mind.

CAMELLIAS BY THE SEA

By G. R. MOUNT
East Preston, Sussex

Reprinted from The Garden, Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, U.K.

In spite of force 9 gales and two days of continuous frost our camellia 'November Pink' was prolific in blossom and as usual we managed to pick a bunch for Christmas. When it is remembered that this garden abuts the sea in Sussex, this is a clear confirmation of the hardness of camellias, provided they have correct conditions. When we came here there were some ilex trees which gave pro-

tection from high winds, so it was essential before we started on the camellias to fill up the draught and wind tunnels which came through under the tall trees. This we did with overplanting of euonymus, escallonia and elaeagnus, variegated and plain. By overplanting, I mean many, too close together, one foot apart, so each one then protects the other. This gave us not only protection but varying colors of green during the time there were no flowers.

To make the design of the garden flow we planted the shrubs, where possible, in circles with the additional object in mind of stopping winds going straight through the garden. The hedges then seemed to be leading to new, hidden pieces of the garden. Having established the groundwork, we had to be careful to plant the camellias so the flowers when wet from dew or frost did not get the early sun—in the main we planted them facing west or south. Some face east but they are protected from early sun. If it is possible to plant tamarisk on the sea edge of the garden, it is an added protection collecting the salt mists which appear from time to time. These mists do not harm camellias except for the young shoots and flowers as the shiny leaves seem to be hardened against action of the salt whereas roses, daphnes etc., suffer badly. Having provided the background we started planting camellias, remembering they do not like chalk, preferring acid soil. The soil here is heavy clay and loam with the Sussex Downs in the background. When we have continuous heavy rain we find the alkaline subwater seeps through the soil on its way to the sea. As soon as the leaves show any sign of yellowing we apply Sequestrene and this seems to control it satisfactorily.

The camellias are planted in a mixture of peat to hold the moisture and leaf mould for feeding. It is essential to see the roots are always kept damp. In the summer we always water with

a spray for three or four hours continuously, twice a week. Lawn mowings are applied from August on.

In the spring a good mulch of leaf mould, *not* peat, and every third year we collect seaweed and apply it straight on to the beds and let it rot down; when this is done we fork it in lightly.

It will be seen from the above once the wind and daughts have been broken up camellias are comparatively simple to grow and are most rewarding, flowering as they do in our garden from early December to May. They range in colors from dark red to palest pink and white, doubles and singles. In all we have some fifty, ranging in height from eighteen inches to ten feet.

It is interesting to note once the wind-breaks have been established many other shrubs will grow well. We have flowers out all year round starting with camellias. *Prunus subhirtella* in winter, lilac and mimosa in spring, Eucryphia in summer, then in autumn *Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis' and *Mahonia*. It is always possible to pick a bunch of flowers at all times of the year.

OH, WELL!

By JIM McCLUNG

Some years it just doesn't pay to get up. If it isn't one thing it's six or eleven others. The bromides and old saws could go on endlessly to describe this past year.

To begin with: A small group of us decided to start a camellia test garden in southwestern Oklahoma, an area that is under the influence of the Gulf of Mexico but has joint-binding cold fronts from Canada every winter. We wanted to find camellia cultivars that could survive outdoors with a minimum of pickiness. Proper hardening off and a good winter mulch were all that should be needed by the successful clone. Well, the first winter was a disaster. Our test gardener had not gotten the plants into

the ground and decided to move them into the house, thinking to protect them from near zero temperatures. A thoroughly desiccated batch of plants ended on the garbage heap.

We tried again. This time the plants received their proper treatment and were bedded down for the winter with a thick straw mulch. They did beautifully for the most part. And then disaster struck again—with this camellia nut as a witness.

While on a picture taking trip for a new book we stopped to see how the test garden fared during last summer's heat. Our arrival was timed with that of a horde of ravenous grasshoppers. In Biblical times they would have been called a plague of locusts. Before our eyes the leaves and growth buds on acre after acre of fruit trees disappeared. Did you ever see bare trees with nearly ripe fruit hanging like so many sunburned Christmas tree ornaments?

You guessed it. The camellias were among the tastiest morsels. Try to imagine a specimen size plant so solidly covered with huge gray grasshoppers that the plant itself was no longer visible—nor viable. We were happy that there were still many good cold hardy clones in our lath house back in Southern California.

But then we came home. After spending the month of July away one look at our yard showed that the temporary gardener had found more interesting things to do than to water more than 600 camellias, azaleas, and rhododendrons. The lawn was a disaster due to a particularly deadly Santa Ana wind that had passed through. The devil wind had also wrought a severe case of the deadlies on a sizeable number of plants. All of the rhododendrons and most of the azaleas shuffled off this mortal coil. One hundred twelve specimen size camellias also shuffled off to Buffalo or wherever it is they shuffle off. Sixty cold hardy clones departed, leaving only seven of Dr. Clifford Parks' crosses

to restart the test garden. Dried seed pods with immature seeds from strange and exotic crosses went the way of the wind.

Still slowly recovering from disobeying a round half dozen M.D.s about taking a trip in a car I suddenly discovered that our camellias had been invaded by brachyrhinus beetle larvae. Getting my wheelchair into high gear (by hand power) and finding a substitute for good old chlordane (Sevin and Diazinon) a day was spent in first giving each plant a liberal dusting of insecticide and then watering it thoroughly. Another crisis passed.

Today, at five a.m., it looks to be a clear day. Soon it will be light enough to go out to the lath house and see what wonders have been wrought throughout the night. Has some new and exotic plague stricken? Perhaps a new and early strain of blight has set up residence. I'll betcha my Saint Augustine has chinch bugs.

Shoot! Who's even going to look in the direction of lath house or lawn? Not me. I think I'll get dressed and go visit the Nuccio tribe and have my faith renewed while I'm tempted by dozens of plants I no longer have.

A NANY MUS

% CAMELLIA REVIEW

Bill Donnan, Editor:

Dear MUS,

You can't spell worth a hoot, but you sure can say a mouth full. As my mama used to say, "You can excuse a heap of things if a fellow's heart is in the right place." I speck your is. When you talk about how much work the nursery men do and how hard it is for old folks nowadays, you sound like you ain't got a selfish bone in your body. I like that.

BUT, how come you bellyaching about parties, Camellia Headquarters, Century Clubs and donations? Now

if your hobby was lemons instead of camellias, I'd say you had cause to go around with a sour disposition, a puckerin' and a frownin'. The Camellia People I know like to party and they like to eat good food. Why at our last Low Country Camellia Meeting—we always have a cover dish supper before the meeting—I brought a big pot of black-eyed peas and hog jowls. Not only did the men eat every pea and jowl they sopped up the last bit of pot licker with their biscuits. At the end of the Camellia Season they voted to have an extra meeting, pretending they had more camellia business to tend to.

Now I know it is hard for you folks out West to come to the South East to visit Camellia Headquarters. I live in the State next door and ain't been myself yet. My friend that knows all about camellias went. He says that the work going on there is worth every cent put into it. Not only that, while he was there the ladies of Middle Georgia helped out by fixing food for all the visitors. He had a big time just a eatin' and a talkin' about camellias.

If somebody has enough money to give to Headquarters and gets his name listed in the Century Club, it don't make sense to me for somebody else to drag his lower lip and give a bunch of sass about it.

I see that you folks out there are gona have a fancy party at Descanso Gardens. Why don't you and Mrs. MUS get all dolled up and go? Stop frettin' for a while about the nursery men not being paid for their work, high taxes and Century Clubs. Relax and have a good time sparkin' Mrs. MUS, shaking a foot on the dance floor, eatin' that barbequed roast beef and lookin' at them pretty camellias. Honey Chile, it would do my heart good just knowin' you all had a good fling. I want to hear all about it in the CAMELLIA REVIEW.

Your friend,

NELL

LETTER TO BILL JOHNSTON

Ed. Note: A copy of the following letter was sent to Camellia Review. The original was printed in the A.C.S. Journal.

1212 Monticello Road,
Lafayette, CA 94549,
April 22, 1978

American Camellia Society,
1715 N. Farris Ave.,
Fresno, CA 91704

Troubled by the recent reports of membership losses (660 in 1974; 600 in 1977), we began to feel guilty when we re-read your President's Message in the August 1977 ACS "Journal" regarding the 10 per cent membership loss:

"We do need help at the local level . . . It might be that by changing some of our programs or services we could make it more attractive for them to stay as members. We can always learn how to improve and if we can do so within reason, we should adjust and hopefully thereby return more of the members who have seen fit to drop out."

This sounds as though you are appointing every member of the ACS to a National Research Committee, on which each member should study gaining of new and regaining of old members as enthusiastically as other research committees search for new, yellow, perfumed and cold-hardy camellia varieties.

This report is our response.

The ACS Horticultural Committee ("Journal," 8-77) reminded us in its report that:

"Gibberallic acid has been a controversial subject since its first use on camellia buds, but this Committee believes it is here to stay."

We doubt any camellia society member would disagree that the subject is still controversial or that it is here to stay, after seeing how gib has revolutionized our camellia shows. The question is not whether-when-how to gib as we do not want to outlaw gibbing. Rather, the problem cre-

ated by the "open" shows is the question they raise: What are the shows doing that promotes more than a passing public interest in camellias or in camellia society membership? From the show reports indicating attendance in the approximately 100,000 to 150,000 figure, the answer would be "Not much." We remember too well the warnings given at least fifteen years ago of possible disaster both to shows and society membership. One jingle put it neatly:

"The gibbers will meet
And they'll have a real ball.
But they'll meet in their homes
For they won't need a hall."

Dipping into old issues of the ACS "Journal," the SCCS "Camellia Review" and our own NCCS "Bulletin"—of blessed memory—we found the following prophetic gems:

Harold E. Dryden, "Camellia Review" 11-63; "I think that gib-treated flowers should not compete in 'open' competition any more than greenhouse-grown flowers should compete with flowers grown in the open. It's just a matter of having proper classifications to equalize competition."

David L. Feathers, "Camellia Bulletin" 5-64: "We are talking about the camellia as a flowering plant . . . not simply about camellia blooms or shows which are really only a part of camellia culture as it should be practiced . . . Camellia societies and publications should devote more time and energy toward furthering the concept that the camellia is primarily the finest ornamental evergreen plant there is, rather than going overboard on the discovery of what is . . . designed wholly to benefit the flower without regard to its effect upon the plant."

"One wonders what the effect is going to be upon the general public, the society membership, the popularity of the camellia shows, and the camellia nurseryman. The attrition among our commercial friends the past few years has been alarming and appears to be continuing."

A. W. Campbell, New South Wales, "The Camellia Nurseryman and His Public," "Camellia Bulletin," 11-64. "Now take a look at our customers. . . relatively few are really knowledgeable—the discriminating collectors who, in many cases, know more than we do . . . The great majority are comparatively inexpert home-gardener customers who are buying a garden decoration . . . a supply of flowers of not too particular a type . . . Often they don't quite know what they want and would be just as happy to purchase a magnolia, a camellia or a cryptomeria . . . Camellias can be such excellent garden subjects for this great majority of nursery customers."

Douglas G. Thompson, "Camellia Review," 11-64: "Gibber-Wacky." "The gibberellin controversy bids fair to stretch friendship to the breaking point, reduce fellowship between hobbyists, cast show judges into despair and tempt competitors to barter for a bauble. It threatens a vast dis-service to the public, our commercial growers and camellias around the world . . . I would like to ask some questions about some effects . . . answers seem more important to our collective camellia interests than many of us realize as individuals." (Note: Only a few of the questions are included—those relating to gibbed blooms at shows.)

Effects on flower competition. "Is it fair to nurserymen or customer to display treated flowers either together or separately with like treated flowers in competition for the public eye?"

Effects on human relations. "(a) When societies finally divide into treaters and non-treaters, how long will they survive? (b) Will future exhibitors be forced to treat or take a back seat? (c) Will prospective new members be discouraged because accepted standards of good culture are deemed insufficient . . .? (d) If it becomes feasible to expose cheaters in competitions and this is made a practice, how many tender-hearted flower

lovers will quietly and forever steal away?"

New Zealand Society Report. "Camellia Review" 11-65: "After lengthy discussion Council decided that flowers produced by this method would not be accepted for exhibition or competition at shows sponsored or organized by the New Zealand Camellia Society . . . The principal object of our Society is to foster public interest in the growing of camellias as garden shrubs, rather than as a specialist hobby for a limited number of people who produce blooms for exhibition."

All of the foregoing warnings were written 13 to 15 years ago. It would be very interesting to know how Mr. Thompson would answer his own questions today. Here are quotations from current issues of the SCCS 'Camellia Review' which may serve as straws in the wind:

"So You Want New Members?" James Harper, Feb. 1978. "And the shows . . . That carefully nurtured 'Alba Plena' . . . carried lovingly to the show and placed in competition with all those gorgeous blooms entered by experts—another dropout!"

"Odds and Ends," Jim McClung; March-April 1978. (Following his report on talking to lapsed members) "Their reasons for dropping out may well apply to prospective members, particularly those who attend a meeting or two and then are seen no more." . . . "There is too much cheating in the shows. The cheating shows in both the judging and the flowers."

"Do you also want to win some hardware? Would you like to have those luscious big flowers . . . that fool most judges into thinking they haven't been gibbed? I enlisted the help of some fanciers of untarnished reputation . . . This method (described) is easier and no more dishonest than many of those whose flowers make the head table."

Thoughts From the Editor, Bill Donnan, Sept.-Oct. 1977. "The Camellia hobby is in dire need of some

critical review. In this age when millions of people are flocking to gardening, the hobby of camellias is dwindling. Our local societies find it hard to maintain membership. Our meetings see a dwindling attendance. We have fewer exhibitors at our shows. Our "Camellia Review" subscription is going down . . . If our hobby is to survive we are going to have to stop having 'civil wars' . . . Let's devise some way to structure and stage our shows so that the same 20 people don't garner 90 per cent of the awards."

All of the above refer to some extent to camellia shows and the controversy over so-called "open shows," in which gibbed and ungibbed blooms are judged together. We asked several of our commercial nurseries if they knew what an "open show" meant. One replied: "I know your show is in the open air court of a shopping center, so it must mean a show held in the open air." A well-known garden author, lecturer and TV demonstrator, who had recently been an honored guest at a camellia show, when asked the same question replied: "Why of course, it is a show that is open to the general public without charge." So much for how well the mass public is being educated by him.

Can this long-drawn-out, continuing controversy be at least *one* of the reasons for the "civil war" that Bill Donnan was brave enough to mention? We are sure there are plenty of other reasons to be explored, but a quote from our sorely missed authority on show rules and procedures — Milo Rowell — offers a suggestion that might put an end to this one aspect of the destructive controversies:

Milo E. Rowell. N.C.C.S. "Camellia Bulletin," August 1964. "All shows should be judged under uniform rules that are fair in application throughout the camellia growing area . . . Where the local society prefers to have open competition . . . this is likewise permitted. *In the course of time, if it appears that separate classes*

should be established in all shows, the local societies can readily take care of so doing."

Milo Rowell's prescient provision raises some interesting questions, the answers to which would provide interesting reporting in all camellia journals, if they can be found. A few samples follow:

1. How many local societies exist in the United States? Membership?

2. How many local societies provide their members with:

(a) SCCS "Review" and "Nomenclature Book?"

(b) ACS "Journal" and "Yearbook?"

3. How many ACS members have no connection with any local Society?

4. Has any camellia society ever used a secret ballot to learn its members feelings about "open" shows?

5. Before use of a poll or ballot is suggested, would it be possible for the ACS and SCCS to use the "Journal" and the "Review" for a joint, objective, educational symposium, giving both Pro and Con arguments for "open" shows, based on the actual experience of the past 15 years? (Those invited to take part should be highly respected and admired camellia enthusiasts, amateur and commercial, from all geographic areas. Pro and Con writers should be balanced in numbers.)

6. Should such a poll or ballot include both wholesalers, who grow camellias, and retail nurserymen, who distribute camellias, for both Pro and Con arguments?

Carroll Reiners, fighting something of a one-man battle to keep the Sacramento show from going "open," could present the "Con" side for California landscape architects. Dave Feathers is a "natural" for such a panel of discussants. Has Harold Drvden changed his mind since 1963? New Zealand? Would Bill Donnan's position be "Pro" or "Con"? Whichever, we think it should be heard.

Harold L. Paige Mary L. Paige

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**MEMORIES OF BEAUTIFUL FRIENDS
AND CAMELLIAS**

By **DOLORES TAYLOR**

The Southern California Camellia Society, Inc., was organized by 32 charter members on January 8, 1940 in Pasadena. Early in the recent war, meetings were discontinued, to be resumed again in March, 1942. The Society was incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of California in 1946 and at that time it had over 500 members. The roster included members from throughout the United States and a few in foreign countries. The basic objectives of the Society were: To stimulate and extend appreciation of camellias; to encourage and promote the science and art of camellia culture; to develop, acquire and disseminate information concerning the camellia and its origin, history and culture; and to promote uniformity of camellia nomenclature, and the clarification and standardiza-

tion of varietal classification of camellias. Another objective of the Society was the encouragement of camellia societies in other localities, and to provide all possible assistance to them through affiliation. Our Society has cooperated in all possible ways with the American Camellia Society, whose membership extends throughout the camellia growing sections of the United States.

Projects of the Southern California Camellia Society included the following: Research in camellia cultural problems, sponsored by the Horticultural Research Committee. Efforts to clarify the varietal nomenclature of camellia, many of which carry two or more names given by different persons in error, perhaps in different parts of the country. (In this connection we are all so fortunate to have

our friend, Bill Woodroof, who with years of time and effort has provided us with the very best and complete Nomenclature Book.) Participation in the establishment in the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, of the Camellia Test Garden in which, ultimately, will be found all varieties of camellias obtainable, or "growable" in the area.

Our first meetings were held in the Pasadena Public Library, and on the evening of January 21, 1940 the constitution and by-laws were adopted and the document should be known as the "Constitution Of The Society." The following officers were elected:

President, Lavell Swisher; 1st Vice President, George Hill; 2nd Vice President, John Lodge; Secretary, Mark Anthony; Treasurer, Elvin Carter.

Our next meeting was held on February 4, 1940 and at this meeting a Flower Show was suggested. It was decided that our Society should exhibit in the Pasadena Spring Flower Show, which was very lovely and was enjoyed by so many people from miles around.

Now we come to the presentation of our own first big undertaking of the "All Camellia Flower Show" held on February 8th and 9th, 1947. This Show was offered to all the people with the thought of stimulating a desire to make all our gardens more beautiful and thereby help Southern California to live up to its name of being the "Garden Spot of the World." We decided that the theme for our Show would be: "Winter Garden Romance" and we chose the Fannie Morrison Center in Pasadena for the site of the Show. With the wonderful help from the membership of the society and the cooperation of so many "Who's Who" exhibitors, the Show was a wonderful success. We feel that all "lovers of flowers" found in the Camellia Show an aid, and above all, an inspiration to greater use and enjoyment of that great shrub—the camellia. The following year it was de-

cidied to hold another camellia show at the Fannie Morrison Pavillion. The Show was held on February 21st and 22nd, 1948 with the theme: "Colonial Camellia Gardens." The greeting for this show stated that the success of our First All Camellia Show was an inspiration to present an even finer and more complete display for all to enjoy. The volunteer personnel and their unselfish work was most diligent to present a show of the highest standard and accomplishment for which our society might be proud. The camellia is one of the few plants in the flower world in which this result could be accomplished, due to the great versatility and beauty, both in the plant and the flower form. It was through the generosity of the volunteers in giving so much time and effort which made this show such a wonderful success. Also, the many commercial exhibitors contributed in no small way to help make both shows on a high plane for all to enjoy. Lastly, it was our hope that all who enjoyed seeing the shows derived more beauty and pleasure from their own gardens.

In closing, I must say that my most happy moments of the past years were meeting so many wonderful friends, some are not with us now, but my memories will always remember them with appreciation and love.

The farmer, upset at having a number of watermelons stolen, thought he had really hit upon something when he posted a sign in the patch, "Beware! One watermelon has been poisoned."

But a few days later as he walked by the patch he was startled to see these words scrawled on the sign: "Now it's two!"

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Informal: 'Margaret Davis,' Mr. and Mrs. S. Andrews
Anenomeform: 'Elegans Supreme,' John Taylor
Formal Double: 'Margarete Hertrich,' John Taylor
Champion Bloom of Show: 'Elegans Supreme,' John Taylor

BOWDEN BRAE SHOW

Champion Semi-Double: 'Lovelight,' John Taylor
Formal Double: 'Prince Frederick William,' John Cartwright
Anenomeform: 'Elegans Supreme,' John Taylor
Champion Bloom of Show: 'Prince Frederick William,' John Cartwright

ST. ALBAN'S EPPING

Champion Semi-Double: 'Magnoliaflora,' Mrs. M. Waddell
Formal Double: 'Commander Mulroy,' Mr. and Mrs. S. Andrews
Peony Form: 'Dr. Clifford Parks,' Mr. and Mrs. S. Andrews
Anenomeform: 'Elegans Splendour,' John Taylor
Best Australian Raised Cultivar: 'Brushfield's Yellow,' John Taylor
Champion Bloom of Show: 'Magnoliaflora,' Mrs. M. Waddell

HUNTER'S HILL

Champion Single: 'Pink Elegance,' Mr. and Mrs. P. Levick
Semi-Double: 'Polar Bear,' Mr. and Mrs. J. Alpen
Formal Double: 'Prince Frederick William,' John Cartwright
Informal Double: 'R. L. Wheeler Variegated,' Mr. and Mrs. P. Levick
Best Reticulata: 'Blossom Time,' Mr. and Mrs. S. Andrews
Champion Bloom of Show: 'Polar Bear,' Mr. and Mrs. J. Alpen

WOLLONGONG

Champion Bloom of Show: 'C. M. Wilson,' Mrs. M. Haigh

ROSEVILLE CHASE

Champion Bloom of Show: 'Mrs. D. W. Davis,' Frank Collins

ASQUITH

Champion Semi-Double: 'Spring Sonnet,' Mr. and Mrs. S. Andrews
Formal Double: 'Valentine Day,' John Cartwright
Anenomeform: 'Elegans Supreme,' J. Plummer
Informal Double: 'Carter's Sunburst,' Mr. and Mrs. S. Andrews
Champion Bloom of Show: 'Spring Sonnet,' Mr. and Mrs. S. Andrews

AZALEAS

By WILLIAM DIEHL

Ed. Note: Reprinted from Sky Magazine, March 1977.

You can't go very far south of the Mason-Dixon line without being accosted by a rampant blaze of color beside the roadway or on the crest of a knoll—or just about anywhere sun and soil meet. The party responsible for this riotous display is, of course, the azalea—which would have to be the national flower of Dixie, if there were to be one. Happily, it's also one of the South's more substantial industries and one of the reasons the sun belt is a net exporter of goods to the rest of the United States.

To be an azalea grower—or even an azalea viewer—is an increasingly

complicated task these days. Azaleas are the pied beauties of the world of botany, and new strains are being developed all the time. "They are wonderfully fickle," says a leading horticulturist. "The most consistent thing about azaleas is their inconsistency."

It is easy to understand why azaleas have hypnotized plant growers and botanists for centuries. Azaleas vary in size from dwarf plants suitable for bonsai gardens to trees more than twenty feet tall. Their colors cover the widest range of any known flowering plant: rose red, red orange, orange pink, scarlet, purple, violet, yellow, white. And the hues vary from pastels to the most vivid brights.

They "sport" so readily that it's not uncommon to find two or three different kinds of flowers on the same

bush. Some petals are the size of a fingernail, others are as big as a saucer. Most azaleas have five petals; some have ten. They are bell-shaped, funnel-shaped, and wheel-shaped. They are flecked, striped, spotted, seceded, variegated, and bordered.

Some such as the native azaleas known as wild honeysuckle are deciduous, losing their leaves in the winter. Others, the imports, are evergreens. They grow wild in the back reaches of the Everglades, the mountains of northern Georgia and the Carolinas. But they are also excellent force-blooming hothouse plants. They are possibly the most popular landscaping shrub in the world. But they also make excellent plants for hanging baskets.

The list goes on. Some gardeners consider them hard to grow, others consider them an ideal "brown thumb" plant. Their life span is seemingly endless. There are, in the spectacular Japanese gardens which were once the private confines of royalty, azalea shrubs dating back to the early seventeenth century. In America, some individual plants can be traced back to the period just after the Revolutionary War—and from there back to England, and from there back to the Orient.

The azalea, in fact, often outlives not only its planter, but his or her descendant as well. And the flower improves with age.

Numbers alone can be staggering. There are more than seventy known species of azaleas and more than four thousand eight hundred varieties of those species. Azalea specialists are constantly hybridizing them, and in all probability, someone, somewhere, as this is being written, is introducing a new strain. Just the names would fill a small dictionary. In the United States alone, there are forty-five species and more than three thousand varieties available to gardeners, landscapers, and florists.

The scope and size of the fragment-

ed azalea industry is a matter of conjecture. Most of the six hundred to one thousand nurserymen who specialize in growing azaleas are located in the southeastern states—from Florida north to Virginia and west to Louisiana and Texas. But climate and soil enable professional cultivators to reproduce almost every azalea strain known in this country. The most popular among amateur growers are hybrids. In the south, their parentage can be traced to the Southern Indian or Indicas. Farther north, the more popular varieties are the Kurumes, which originally came from the Japanese island of Kyushu and were first introduced in this country in California in 1915.

However, there is no concise record of the volume of azaleas sold each year. Ray Brush, an executive with the American Association of Nurserymen in Washington, D.C., admits that any estimate requires a good deal of educated interpolation. The annual wholesale revenue from all broadleaf plants is between one hundred and twenty-five and one hundred fifty million dollars a year, says Brush. This could result in retail sales of between four hundred and five hundred million dollars. He further estimates that 15 to 18 per cent of this figure can be attributed to the sale of azaleas to landscapers and gardeners.

"I would say that the retail azalea industry probably grosses somewhere between seventy-five and ninety million dollars a year," he concludes. The only flower that sells more is the camellia.

Most commercial azaleas were originally imported into the United States from the Orient. In the seventeenth century, the adventurous East Indian trading companies of England and Holland began bringing azaleas in from Japan, China, and the Japanese islands. In the beginning, these azaleas were not considered a particularly hardy plant, and so most of them were destined for hothouses in

the northeastern states. The Arnold Arboretum at Harvard has thriving plants more than one hundred years old, and in the greenhouses of John S. Ames of North Boston, there are azaleas planted three quarters of a century ago in the flowerpots in which they're still growing.

But in the southern United States, perhaps the most dazzling of all the azalea imports are the Indicas, with their wild colors ranging from scarlet and purple to soft pink and white. The Indica azalea was introduced to the South by the Reverend John S. Drayton. In 1742, Drayton brought them from chilly Philadelphia, where they did not do well, and transplanted them on his sprawling 2,000-acre plantation along the Ashley River in Charleston, South Carolina.

The stunning Indicas flourished in the dark, rich river soil of Magnolia-on-the-Ashley. Drayton and his descendants were so enamored of this beginning garden that through the years they transformed the plantation into one of the most breathtaking gardens in the world. In the early 1900s, author John Galsworthy, an avid gardener, was amazed to find a sign at Kew Gardens in London which advised travelers that the zenith of azaleas in their full beauty was at Magnolia-on-the-Ashley. Upon visiting the Drayton plantation, Galsworthy commented: "I specialize in gardens, and I fully assert that none in the world is as beautiful as this."

The great azalea bloom at Magnolia in April is now world-famous, attracting visitors from all the world to its explosion of color. Western author Owen Wister, upon witnessing the spring phenomenon, said, "It is beyond my ability as a writer to describe this wonder."

Drayton was so taken with his Indicas that he shared them with a neighbor, Henry Middleton, himself an avid gardener. Middleton's fifty-thousand acre plantation was South Carolina's most impressive landhold-

ing. Middleton planted his Indicas on a terrace overlooking the entrance to the gardens. Middleton Place fell into disuse after the Civil War and was restored in 1920. Today, more than thirty-five thousand azaleas burst into bloom in March and April, a display which rivals the neighboring Magnolia Gardens. Today, the two gardens are among the wonders of the botanical world.

But the world's most complete collection of both deciduous and evergreen azaleas is at Calloway Gardens, a spectacular man-made wonderland ninety miles south of Atlanta, in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Created in 1953, it has since become a major attraction for flower lovers throughout the world.

Its director, Dr. Fred Galle, has been in charge of Calloway since it was started. Carved out of a woodland in the mountains, one of the star attractions at Calloway is a one-and-a-half-mile azalea trail that includes some two hundred and fifty species of azaleas (including thirteen of the fifteen native species) and hundreds of varieties. An early April drive through this incredible collection is breathtaking.

Galle, who is one of the world's living experts on azaleas, has mapped and cataloged every flower on the trail and, through a computer print-out, can locate a single plant in the woods. Small aluminum tags list each species's identity, its origin, when it was acquired, and background details of each plant.

"Evergreen azaleas are basically shrubs," says Galle, "although they can achieve a height of six feet or more over a period of twenty years. The Kurumes, Indicas, Satsukis, and Kaempferis are known as "dwarfs," even though they can grow taller than a man. The nickname comes from the fact that they are very slow-growing compared to some of the wild native species that sometimes reach twenty feet in the same period of time."

Galle says azaleas offer few cultural mysteries and actually have few requirements. "They should be grown in good soil where there is proper drainage, preferably under tall, deciduous trees. They like scattered sunlight. They sunburn easily. They need some protection from the wind and will not survive in either clay or sand, although a little of either will not hurt them. Also, they do better in groups than singly. And they are a low maintenance plant compared to, say, magnolias. Once they get started they will live forever with just a little care."

Outstanding growers and breeders of azaleas are legion in the United States. Some have devoted their lives to hybridizing and developing new strains. In 1918, Ernest Wilson, a plant explorer for Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, visited Kyushu and brought back what is now known as Wilson's Fifty, a selection of the finest Kurume azaleas he saw there. Through the years, the tags of some of these plants were lost, and there are collectors today who are attempting to recreate the fifty.

In Stewartstown, Pennsylvania, Joseph Gable, a nurseryman, began hybridizing Korean and Kaempfer azaleas, introducing and naming more than sixty new strains, most of which have become staples in the northern azalea market. He continued the work until his death in the fifties. In Belows Falls, Vermont, Frank Abbott, discouraged with problems caused by limited summer daylight and winter temperatures that dropped to thirty-five below zero, spent twenty years developing what may be the hardiest of all azaleas, the Jane Abbott. In Fort Gaines, Georgia, nurseryman S. D. Coleman assembled a remarkable collection of the fifteen native azalea species, creating a special walkway where they are displayed for the public. And in Kingsville, Maryland, nurseryman Henry Hohman left pollination strictly to the bees and de-

veloped a field of thousands of azaleas that included more than seven hundred varieties.

But perhaps the most astounding azalea hybridizer was D. Y. Morrison. In 1935, Morrison set out to create a new hybrid category of azaleas that would rival the fabled Indicas. Using more than seventy thousand seedlings developed over more than a decade, Morrison by the fifties had introduced 456 new varieties of what are now known as the Glen Dales, possibly the most popular of all hybrid azaleas.

Morrison's feat is probably the most noteworthy in the history of azaleas. During his years of work, he not only developed hundreds of new hybrids, he segregated them into categories by size of plant, size of flower, and blossom time. His carefully detailed records are a part of the lore of the Department of Agriculture.

When he retired as director of the National Arboretum, Morrison went right on growing azaleas. At his home in Pass Christian, Mississippi, he began developing a new strain, which he called Back Acres. Before his death, Morrison had cultivated another fifty varieties of azaleas.

While azaleas are popular the world over, no place reveres and celebrates them more than the southeastern United States. Every year there are literally hundreds of azalea festivals, beginning in January in Florida and southern Texas and continuing until June in Virginia and the high country of the Carolinas. Hardly a week passes during this period when there is not an azalea celebration. Even small towns such as Saint Francisville, Louisiana, and Thomasville, Georgia, take time out to pay tribute to the flower.

For year-round viewing, Bellin-grath Gardens features what is probably the world's most spectacular azalea display. The seventy-five-acre show place is located south of Mobile in a semitropical jungle on the Isle-aux-Oies River. It was acquired as a

fishing site in 1917 by Walter Bellingrath. Inspired by the European gardens he saw as well as by the primeval beauty of the spot, Bellingrath in 1927 began transforming it into a personal garden. On May 3, 1932, the philanthropist decided to share its beauty with the public. The response was astounding. On opening day a traffic jam stretched for miles down the highway leading to the garden spot. People waited for hours to get in. Since that day the gardens have been a stellar attraction.

Bellingrath planted his gardens to

feature six different flowers, beginning in January with the camellia. But the azalea show which begins in late January and stretches into April is the highlight of the year.

In recent years, laws have been passed to protect native azaleas from indiscriminate transplanting and destruction, for the native azalea has become a victim of progress and avarice. Many native stands have succumbed to subdivisions, interstate highways, shopping centers, and industrial parks.

TRY ENTERING A CAMELLIA COLLECTION— YOU JUST MIGHT LIKE IT!

By ART GONOS

Camellia collections add a new dimension to camellia shows. They have an identity of their very own, and they offer a different kind of challenge to the exhibitor. I hope that this article will stimulate additional growers to enter this type of competition in the shows that offer collections.

Collections generally take one of three forms. The majority of the shows simply set the number of blooms to be entered, and then they allow the exhibitor to enter whatever size and combination of blooms the exhibitor chooses. These shows also allow complete freedom in mixing japonicas and hybrids. The number of camellias to be entered is usually set at nine to twelve different blooms. This article will generally refer to the above type of collection. Some shows have collections that are limited to all japonicas or all hybrids. Another version requires a pre-set number of smalls, mediums, and larges, e.g., three of each.

The most unique feature of the collection is that it requires a carefully planned staging or grouping. That is, the collection must be color coordinated. It needs a balance of whites, pinks, reds, variegated and striped

flowers. Everything else being equal, I firmly believe that a winning collection is the one that demonstrates the best blending of colors. There is little value in one row of reds, followed by one row of pinks, and then possibly a row of whites. The colors must be mixed or matched in such a way that each flower stands out, i.e., that each flower has its own identity. For example, if a deep red bloom is to stand out, a white or lighter colored camellia bloom should be placed on all sides of it.

Judges invariably look for individual as well as group flower quality. One or two poor flowers can ruin a collection. Do not enter your "seconds" in collections, for too many of your competitors use only their finest quality blooms, and it is very difficult to compete with "seconds." However, as stated before, if the collections are of relatively equal quality flowerwise, the one with the best color coordination will normally win. Along with color coordination, and good flower quality, collections that win generally have blooms that are fairly equal in size (unless different sizes are specified). In addition, I have yet to see a collection win with other than large

size blooms. It may be possible to win with medium sized blooms, but it is not very probable. By large size I mean blooms that are 5 to 5 and one-half inches and larger. In fact, most of the winning collections, especially in the open shows, are composed of flowers that average close to 6 inches.

I attempted to compile a list of flowers that are most often used in winning collections. However, different growers use different patterns of varieties in their collections, and as a result, I am not able to compile a meaningful list of collection flowers that win. But, I will list a few varieties that I personally feel will add to a collection. The 'Tomorrow' and 'Elegans' families always seem to do well. 'Grand Prix' and 'Clark Hubbs' are excellent reds to use along with just about and "clean" large white. My favorite collection japonica is 'Mrs. D. W. Davis.' I know of no other camellia that compliments all other colors of camellias as well as 'Mrs. D. W. Davis.'

All of the large retic hybrids can be used in collections. The most stunning retic that I have seen in a collection was a tight bud center 'Valentine Day' in San Jose in 1976. I am sorry that I do not remember who the exhibitor was. I should add, that other than 'Mrs. D. W. Davis,' the sharpest japonica that I have seen in a collection was 'Kona' entered by Barbara Breuner in Santa Rosa a few years back. I also feel that the best blooms in the collection should be entered in the center of the center row of the col-

lection. I contend that the judges eyes first look at the center of the group, and if they are not impressed by the center this gives them a negative impression of the entire collection or group of blooms. I realize, however, that all of my competitors do not agree with this last statement.

The real joy in collections stems from the fact that you plan the grouping for the entire week before the show. From Monday on I start making a list of what will be available by Saturday. This is followed by imaginary pictures in my mind of what the collection will look like. Then I start looking for the color or form that is missing. Perhaps, the collection needs a heavily striped bloom, and on Wednesday I realize that I won't have one. But, if it was easy, there would be no challenge, and the fun of collections is trying to come up with the right combination of blooms.

Another challenge is the determination of whether you use a quality bloom as a single entry, as part of a multiple of three or five blooms, or in the collection. You may have an outstanding bloom that you wish to enter as a single, but without it you know that the collection does not have a chance. So what do you do???? Therein lies both the frustration and the joy of collections. It seems that you always have to borrow from one of your other entries in order to finish your collection. I suggest that you try entering collections if you have not done so, and you may just find a whole new world of adventure

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INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA SOCIETY CONGRESS NEW ZEALAND, 1979

By DAVE HENDERSON

Arrangements are well in hand to make 1979 a memorable year for all camellia lovers who can manage to visit New Zealand when it is hosting the Congress of the International Camellia Society. The planning committee is making sure that, not only will there be a good programme for the Congress itself, but that there will be appealing tours to both tourist and camellia spots both before and afterwards.

The Congress itself is to be held at Rotorua in the North Island, assembling on Thursday, August 30, 1979, and will last for six days. The annual Convention and National Show of the New Zealand Camellia Society, which attracts a large number of its own members, will be held over part of the same period at the town of Whakatane in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, under 60 miles from Rotorua. These are linked by an excellent highway passing by some of the lakes in the Rotorua area and through very scenic country. Ample provision will be made for visits and for fraternisation.

Briefly, the Congress itinerary will include a) opportunity for visits to tourist spots around Rotorua, b) visit to the show at Whakatane, c) joining the New Zealand Camellia Society members at their official dinner at Whakatane, visits with New Zealand Camellia Society members to gardens around Whakatane and Rotorua, and a visit to the Tauranga-Te Puke area in the Western Bay of Plenty. (It was named Bay of Plenty by Captain James Cook when he re-discovered New Zealand in 1769, and the name is still appropriate.) Naturally there will be time for a formal Congress programme of papers, talks, etc. The holding of the Congress in Rotorua has the advantage of enabling most to be domiciled in the one hotel where

the formal functions will take place, and by being held in one of the main tourist centres there will be plenty of interest to fill up odd gaps of time, if any. (Bring your swimmers for the hot thermal pools.)

All internal tour and accommodation arrangements have been placed in the hands of Newmans Tours Ltd., who have wide experience in this field. This includes bookings for the period of the Congress, and the tour fee includes Congress expenses.

Newmans, by arrangements with the planning committee have arranged a number of tours of varying duration. The longest of these commences at Auckland on Friday, August 24, and includes a visit to the annual show of the Auckland Branch of the New Zealand Camellia Society at Eden Garden. This fine garden in central Auckland is under the control of a special society and has been developed in a converted quarry largely by voluntary labour and the initiative of Mr. Jack Clark, originator of such reticulatas as Lisa Gael, Tui Song and Janet Clark. It incorporates extensive camellia plantings. The tour also includes visits to other private camellia gardens in the Auckland area, and provides also for two or three days in North Auckland where there is a free day for sightseeing, fishing, golfing, etc. in the internationally renowned Bay of Islands. Afterwards the tour passes through Hamilton on the way to Rotorua. After the Congress the tour party, after calling in to see the Glow-worm Cave at Waitomo, travels south to Taranaki where the well known hybrids such as Elegant Beauty, Debbie, Anticipation and Elsie Jury were introduced by Mr. Les Jury, and Water Lily and Dream Boat were originated by Mr. Felix Jury. It will also include a visit to the interna-

nionally known Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust gardens in the Mt. Egmont ranges. Subsequently an overnight stop will be made at Wanganui where some fine private camellia gardens are situated before continuing on down to Wellington and the South Island. In the latter, in addition to camellia visits in Christchurch, provision has been made for the visitors to continue to some of the South Island tourist spots including Mt Cook and Queens-town.

The alternative tours coincide with the one described, but have been designed so that those not able to manage such a lengthy tour can join in at a later period or cut off at an earlier finishing point. The following by all tours of the same route will enable the members of the various Branches of the New Zealand Camellia Society to make a more worth while contribution to the enjoyment of the visitors.

Newmans Tours Ltd. have a representative in U.S.A. at World Touring Co., Bellevue, Seattle, and no doubt your local travel agent will be able to obtain tour itineraries from that source.

NEW ACS BOOK THE CAMELLIA

We have been waiting almost two years for the completion of the first comprehensive book on camellias since 1956 when the late Carl Ebon Tourje edited *Camellia Culture*. The Editor of *The Camellia* is the famous camelliaologist known worldwide for all he has done with, and written about, camellias for over three decades—David L. Feathers of Number One, Camellia Lane. Assisting Dave as Associate Editor has been Milton H. Brown, Executive Secretary of The American Camellia Society. The American Camellia Society is the publisher.

The book will be of some 450 pages to include twenty-four pages of color

pictures within the text and a different color picture on the dust jacket cover. Over 50 different varieties of camellias will be shown in the book as well as color pictures of diseases, flower arrangement, blooms of plants used in hybridizing. Dave has drawn on noted camellia enthusiasts, professional botanists and horticulturists, "dirt gardeners," entomologists and others both from the past and the present.

As to authors of chapters or sections they include: Feathers, Brown, Harrison, Osegueda, Nuccio, Parks, Ackerman, Savige, Presnell, Freshwater, Goertz, Hallstone, Mrs. Milton Bell, Home, Pyron, McClung, Baxter, Blumenthal, Moore, Self, Robertson, Smith, Strother, Owens and many others besides.

There are thirteen chapters dealing with the history, origin and environment, basic culture, flower types, acquisition of plants, flower and plant usage, propagation, species and camellia "relatives," diseases and pests, container and greenhouse culture, hybridizing and genetics, research and experimentation and mutation. The Appendix includes a list of ACS awards, a list of camellia societies "at home and abroad," a list of nurseries members of the ACS, a list of selected camellia writings and a glossary of terms. The book is being printed to coincide with the joint American Camellia Society/International Camellia Society meeting in Georgia during November 7-12, 1978. The book is available from "The Book," The American Camellia Society, P.O. Box 1217, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030. The cost is only \$12.50 postpaid in the USA. (Slight higher overseas). You can order now for prompt delivery. These will make excellent gifts for Christmas and other happy occasions and excellent awards at camellia shows for Honor Court Flowers.

It's not so much how long you live; it's how well you live that counts.

ABRAHAM FERDINAND FAVRE

By DR. JEAN CREZE

Abraham Ferdinand Favre, known as, Favre Petit Pierre, was born in Couvet, Switzerland (canton of Neufchâtel), in 1779. His family, originally from Bresse, settled in Switzerland in 1584. His father returned to France in 1789, and settled in Nantes.

Several famous people are found among his ancestors:

Humbert Favre, 1469 Chatelain of Perouges, opposed vicoriously the attacks of Jean d'Armagnac, governor of the Dauphine under Louis XI.

His son, *Antoine Favre*, 1547-1624, "juge-mage" of Bresse, governor of Savoie, was the friend of Saint Francois de Salles, who used to call him "his very sweet and very tender friend."

Claude Favre, known more by the name Vaugelas, Chamberlain of Gaston d'Orleans, brother of King Louis XIII, became a member of the French Academy, at the time of its founding.

Abraham Ferdinand Favre played an important role, during a part of the nineteenth century in public life in Nantes. He was involved in all the events of this troubled period. Barely fourteen years of age, he is found among the defenders of the city of Nantes, attacked by the vendean generals. In 1814, he was an officer of the National Guard. After the Revolution of July, he became mayor of Nantes (1832). He held this office until 1848. He became mayor once again in 1851 and remained so until 1866.

He was Deputy to the Constituent Assembly in 1848, then to the Legislative Assembly and to the *Corps Legislatif* and became senator June 9, 1857. (It is at this time that Daumier painted his portrait). He was officer of public instruction, commander in the Order of Isabella the Catholic, grand officer of the Legion of honor.

One would think that such political activity would suffice to keep a man busy. In reality, Favre actively con-

ducted his personal affaires which seem to have been prosperous. In official documents, he is sometimes called importer of coffee, sometimes merchant, sometimes ship owner. One would say now that he was in the "Import-Export" business. It seems that he travelled much, in England, in Holland, in Spain . . . He had some properties in Guane.

In spite of his excessive activity, this extraordinary man found the time to interest himself in flowers! And with what success! He lived on the "Cote St. Sebastien," on the southern bank of the Loire, which faces Nantes; he had as a neighbor General Cambronne, who acclimatized several exotique species in his park. Favre, himself, was interested in all kinds of flowers; he cultivated heather, phlox, milkweed, peonies, pansies, but he was especially interested in Camellias.

In France the first camellias appeared around 1800. Josephine de Beauharnais grew Camellias at Malmaison. In 1808, she seems to have received two types from Belgium, one white and one red, sent by Bast and Herdt, then in 1809, a considerably larger shipment from Norbert van Acken and from van Castel. *Abbe Berlese* grew camellias in a greenhouse, in Paris. About 1837 he had more than 800 varieties.

Ferdinand Favre must have been attracted by some camellias exposed at the floral expositions in Ghent. In 1806, he had sent from England, at great cost, some seeds of "roses of Japan." His conviction was that this plant from Japan was able to live in the West of France, by producing plants through successive sowings in open air, the successive generations acquiring little by little the necessary qualities to live in the open air. He sowed his camellia seeds at St. Sebastien-sur-Loire, in the open air. In

three successive generations, he obtained 7000 stocks. It was like an explosion of camellias in Nantes, and in all of Brittany. In 1857, one could count 250,000 stocks in Nantes, grouped in 60 species and 200 varieties. Soon, Lorient had 10,000 stocks. And, whereas Nantes sold 6000 plants to Spain, Lorient sold 2000 cuttings to the Belgians.

Father Berlese, in his monograph of 1837 expressed his surprise at having seen, in the West of France, camellias in uncovered ground and in the differences of climate between the West and the Center of France. He looks for an explanation for the phenomenon. It is known now that, if the camellia is particularly well adapted to the West of France, it can bear the climate of Paris.

Ferdinand Favre created a certain number of varieties which are still in the nomenclature: 'Henri Favre' 1841, which appears in the iconographe of Father Berlese.

'Mademoiselle Marie Barrat' 1862, which proves that if Ferdinand was a confirmed bachelor, he was not however insensitive to feminine charm.

It is recounted that on March 16, 1856, the brother of Abraham Ferdinand Favre, Henri Friedrich Favre, auditor at the State Council, presented a new bright red camellia. It was during the session that the cannon thundered to announce the birth of the Imperial Prince, son of Napoleon III and of Eugenie. The camellia was soon baptised 'Imperial Prince.' Ferdinand Favre, president of the Society, was invited, the following July, to dine at St. Cloud, by their Imperial Majesties, to thank, through him, the horticulturist from Nantes.

Abraham Ferdinand Favre until his death remained captivated by flowers. Two months before his death, at 88 years of age, he wanted to end his life in an apotheosis, and presented to his friends in Nantes, under a bright canvas tent, an admirable display of Dutch hyacinths sowed five years be-

fore. This thirty meter long flower bed, formed a bouquet of a thousand nuances, indigo blue, bright red, purple, buffy yellow, clear lilac, salmon carmine, and pure black.

Abraham Ferdinand Favre died in 1867, he is buried at St. Sebastien, in the Protest cemetery, all that remains of his property: "Le Singe Dore." It is to Abraham Ferdinand Favre that Nantes and Brittany owe their magnificent outdoor culture of camellias.

CAMELLIA CLIPPINGS

By BERNICE GUNN

WHAT KIND OF A BONE ARE YOU?

In the anatomy of every organization, there are four kinds of bones:

1. The Wishbones—who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work.

2. The Jawbones—who do all the talking, but little else.

3. The Knucklebones—who knock everything anyone tries to do.

4. The Backbones—who get under the load and do the work.

Kadan-komoku, the first floral-cultural book in Japan, was published in 1681. It was written by Mizuno Motokatsu, and contained descriptions of sixty-six varieties of camellia. Fourteen years later another book was written by Ihei Ito, a horticulturist of the Edo era, and it contained descriptions of 205 camellia varieties. The selection of plants with variegated foliage became very popular during the latter part of the Edo era. Many varieties characterized by leaf variations were introduced in those days. A book called Somoku-kihinka-chigo, by Kinta Aoyama in 1836 included twenty-six varieties with variegated foliage. In the year 1879, another book called Shunka-shu was written and it gave the name and a brief description of about two hundred varieties. The Sixteenth Revised Edition of Camellia Nomenclature was published in 1978 by Southern California Camellia Society, William E. Woodroof,

Editor. It contains a descriptive list of species, hybrids and varieties now being generally grown by amateurs in the Western world and especially in the United States. Thanks to the help of the bee and controlled hybridizing, many new and beautiful varieties have been registered and introduced to the Camellia world. It is a publication we are very proud of.

In order to exist in our densely populated world, man has had to improve on agriculture. Since agriculture probably began in the Tigris-Euphrates area about 8000 B.C., we have learned:

The capacity of land to feed people is several times greater in a vegetarian economy than in one based on animal products.

Naturally fertile soils contain many bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms and organic matter, some are injurious, but none is necessary.

Many pathogenic and non-pathogenic microorganisms grow more readily in the proximity of roots than elsewhere in the environment.

Chemicals are now the most efficient methods of control of weeds, insects and diseases, but are frequently injurious to man and the environment.

Cultivated plants have less fixed dormant periods than wild plants.

For those who like Mexican food, here is an easy to make recipe:

- 2 7 oz. can green chilis
- 3 eggs
- 3 tbs. flour
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 1 can tomato salsa
- 1 lb. jack cheese
- 1 lb. cheddar cheese

Grate cheese and make layers of grated cheese and green chilis in a 9 x 13 buttered dish.

Mix milk, eggs and flour — pour over cheese—bake 375° 25 min.

Mix tomato and salsa and pour over top and bake 10 min. longer.

The tragedy of the flea is that he knows all of his children will go to the dogs.

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

Nov. 3, 4, 1978—Camellia-Rama, Smuggler's Inn, Fresno

Dec. 9, 10, 1978—(Gib Show) So. Cal Camellia Council, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

Jan. 13, 14, 1979—Southern California Camellia Society, Huntington Gardens, San Marino

Jan. 27, 28, 1979—South Coast Camellia Society, South Coast Botanical Gardens, Palos Verdes.

Feb. 10, 11, 1979—Peninsula Camellia Society, Vet. Mem. Bldg., Redwood City

Feb. 10, 11, 1979—San Diego Camellia Society, Balboa Park, San Diego

Feb. 17, 18, 1979—Temple City Camellia Society, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

Feb. 17, 18, 1979—Santa Clara Camellia Society, McCabe Hall, San Jose

Feb. 24, 25, 1979—Delta Camellia Society, Campolindo High School, Moraga

Feb. 24, 25, 1979—Pomona Valley Camellia Society, Pomona First Fed. S. & L., 99 N. Gary, Pomona

Mar. 3, 4, 1979—Southern California Camellia Council, Descanso Gardens, La Canada

Mar. 3, 4, 1979—Camellia Society of Sacramento, Convention Center, Sacramento

Mar. 10, 11, 1979—Northern California Camellia Society, Willows Shopping Center, Concord

Mar. 10, 11, 1979—Camellia Society of Kern County, Aram Adams Memorial Gardens, Bakersfield

Mar. 11, 1979—Central California Camellia Society, Fresno City College, Fresno

Mar. 17, 18, 1979—Camellia Society of Modesto, Gallo Administration Bldg., Modesto

Mar. 24, 25, 1979—Sonoma County Camellia Society, Coddington Mall, Santa Rosa

CAMELLIA SASANQUA AT THE HUNTINGTON GARDENS

By RUDY MOORE

C. Sasanqua was found growing in to small trees in southern Japan and Liu Kiu Islands. They are a beautiful evergreen plant with small dark green glossy, leathery type foliage and mostly small flowers, red, white pink in color. Some of them are white with various shades of pink and red edging on each petal. C. Sasanqua are the earliest blooming of all the camellia species, starting in October through February. December and January are the best months to see them flowering here at the Gardens.

C. Hiemalis and C. Vernalis are closely related species of C. Sasanqua. The foliage and flowers resemble each other considerably and all of them will withstand full sun to filtered shade. If, however, they are placed in full sun, they should be planted in the fall of the year after it cools off or in early winter so as to be established before hot weather in the summer. I would protect the young tender growth with some type of shading from the early hot days in late spring and early summer. The planting method is the same for all camellia species. The planting hole should be about two to three feet across and two feet deep, using equal parts of peat moss and redwood bark or humus with equal parts of the soil removed from the hole. Make sure the crown is slightly above ground. C. Hiemalis and C. Vernalis are sold in our local nurseries as C. Sasanqua and among the varieties available, they offer a wide range of growth habits which make them a landscaper's delight. In Japan, they are used extensively throughout the cities as street plantings, espaliered against walls, hedges around buildings and walk-ways and ground covers in the parkways. It is said than on some of the islands in Japan, the seeds are used to make hair oil and a high quality face

cream. However, here in the United States, camellia hobbyists and some nurserymen use C. Sasanqua seed for growing root-stock for grafting newer varieties of C. Japonica and C. Reticulata. One of the reasons C. Sasanqua root-stock is preferred is because of its massive root system which tends to resist root rot.

Several specimens of C. Sasanqua here at the Huntington Gardens date back to the early 1900's. They now stand from 15 to 25 feet tall and the trunks are from 8 to 12 inches across. They are growing in the north vista camellia gardens along the right side of the Mausoleum Road which is west of the Library about 75 yards going north. You will recognize several of them by the name 'Mine-No-Yuki,' meaning Snow On Peak in Japan and that is precisely what they look like when in full bloom. The beautiful white peony formed flowers cover the entire tree and when the petals shatter and fall to the ground, it looks like it's snowing. Then, to the left side of the road is a small grouping of about 12 plants growing together providing a massive color effect with its different varieties. Some are C. Sasanqua 'Hugh Evans' with a beautiful medium pink single flower, C. Hiemalis 'Bill Wylam' with a deep rose large semi double flower with fluted petals, C. Hiemalis 'Showa-No-Sakae' featuring soft pink flowers occasionally marbled white, the form is semi double to rose form double. All of the colors in this group are different shades of pink that blend very well together. There is one thing you don't have to worry about when using C. Sasanqua in your landscape and that is that all of the colors seem to go together whereas in some of the other C. species, there are clashing colors.

Most varieties of C. Sasanqua seem to be very hardy and do very well in

Southern California. Some of the earlier blooming varieties are very satisfactory in the colder parts of the United States because the flowers open before the cold winter comes.

One of the most widely used varieties of all is *C. Hiemalis* 'Showa Supreme' because of its ability to grow just about any way you train it whether in hanging baskets, espaliered, cascading over rocks or out of planter boxes. We have it growing around a bird bath in a circular hedge down at the end of the north vista camellia garden on the east side of the Mausoleum Road where the service road crosses. It has a large peony type flower and the color is a pleasant soft pink.

There are several other *C. Sasanqua* interspersed among the other plantings in the north vista including

some of the latest additions. Among those are one of the most popular of the newer introductions, *C. Sasanqua* 'Bonanza.' It has a deep red large semi peony flower and the foliage is slightly larger than most. This one and others can be found at the south west path of the north vista just before you enter the Shakespeare Garden.

Our largest collection of *C. Sasanqua* are in the camellia canyon on the east bank of the road in front of the Japanese Garden going north into Deador Lane. There, we have approximately 126 varieties and about 300 specimens giving the Huntington Gardens one of the largest public collections in the United States.

So, mark your calendar for late fall and early winter to enjoy the beautiful array of color.

TOPSOIL—OUR DWINDLING HERITAGE

By MARY MARSHDALE

If all the topsoil on earth were spread equally over the land, it would be only 6" deep. Yet topsoil must grow all the food for man and animals plus the forests needed to build man's shelter.

Nature takes about 500 years to build an inch of topsoil. Man's careless ways can destroy this same inch in a few years. It has been estimated that in about 200 years of farming in the United States, over 60 per cent of its topsoil has been destroyed.

When our country was first settled, the rich virgin soil contained all the minerals and trace elements to nourish crops naturally. As man depleted the soil, he moved west, until at last there were no more lands to despoil. Researchers today have discovered a direct link between poor topsoil, malnutrition, poor mental health and violent crime.

Conservation and intelligent use of topsoil becomes the duty of all of us, whether we live in the city or country. From the housewife who recycles

her papers, buries her garbage and composts her leaves; to the farmer who grows a cover crop to enrich his soil and prevent erosion; to the city that reclaims its sewage and wastes; to the nation that protects its forests, parks and wildlife—all of us are in this movement together.

Our recent rains, which flooded our rivers and filled our streams with mud and debris, are a good example of what is happening to our topsoil. Land that is properly protected with grass or tree cover, does not melt away. An easy test can prove this: fill two nursery flats, one with bare soil, the other with sod. Tip them on an angle so they will drain uniformly, and pour a quart of water over each one. The water from the bare soil will run through quickly and be filled with mud. The water from the sod-covered soil will not only drain slowly, but the water flowing from it will be clear.

Topsoil conservation includes reforestation, grassed water ways and

watersheds, contour tillage, strip cropping, terracing, diversion ditches, mulches and windbreaks. We need to look at our gardens and farms to see which step is most needed.

One farmer in our area arranged for the city streetsweeper to dump its leaves on his land. Each year he has disked this in, and now his land is so spongy with humus that he can walk on it without muddying his feet. He uses no commercial fertilizer and few sprays, yet grows fine produce. He is a good guardian of our topsoil.

Galileo, who mapped the stars, was mindful of the importance of good soil. He said, "What greater folly can there be than to call gems, silver and gold precious, and the earth and dirt vile? Do not these persons consider that if there should be as great a scarcity of earth as there is of jewels and precious metals, there would be no prince but would gladly give a heap of diamonds and rubies and many wedges of gold, to purchase only so much earth as should suffice to plant a jasmine in a little pot."

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A RECIPE FOR CAMELLIA PLEASURE

By **GENE SNOOKS**

Take one plastic nose-cone from a B-29 bomber, fill with Mai Tais, add nearly one hundred camellia enthusiasts; next, add a super roast beef dinner and place all ingredients in a mini-botanical garden. What do you have? The annual San Diego Camellia Society Summer picnic, of course!

Once again, on the last Sunday of July, the San Diego Camellia Society played host to its members and friends at their annual Summer bash. As has been the custom for a number of years, the location was the home and gardens of Mildred Murray located in Encinitas. For those who have never been there, let me tell you a bit about this paradise garden.

The setting is in a portion of a

former avocado grove with the now very mature trees providing a dappled to dense shade over most of the garden. Under the trees you will find over 200 camellias in both containers and in the ground. These range from small plants of the latest introductions to second-story giants with tree-like trunks. Mixed in with the camellias are many tree ferns and other semi-tropical shrubs and plants. The garden is basically one of an endless variety of green plants of every shade and leaf pattern with surprise splashes of color here and there.

Besides camellias, Mildred is a fancier of ferns (nearly a thousand varieties), begonias, bromeliads and a host of rare tropical and semi-tropical

plants. Special growing houses are provided to meet the varied needs of the more delicate specimens, including a glass house, a fiber glass house, a "tube" house for the begonias and a 50' x 70' lath house. The latter is cleared of plants the day before the picnic and is transformed into a unique banquet room. A large island planter is alive with color with bromeliads leading the way. Ferns dance and sway in the ever present gentle breezes while nearby tall trees provide ever changing patterns of sun and shade.

The split-level patios are the center of activity during the cocktail period. The scene here is one of lush plants of an endless variety including camellias, specimen ferns, orchids, bromeliads and other tropical rarities. An old stephanotis vine clinging to a tree trunk cascades its rare beauty upon those below and lends a sweet perfume to the air while the dual gold fish ponds with a connecting water fall

gently splashing gives an aire of tranquility to an otherwise chaotic chorus of voices greeting old friends, establishing new acquaintances, swapping camellia tales and prognosticating the season ahead. At this time the gardens are filled with people attempting to take it "all" in . . . a nearly impossible task, at best. No matter how many tours one makes there is always a surprise awaiting you around the next corner; be it a new addition or just simply something you missed the last time around.

To those of you who attended the picnic we say "Thanks"—we enjoyed having you as our guests . . . please come again. If you did not make it this year, mark your calendar now for the last Sunday in July when once again the San Diego Camellia Society will host all camellia lovers to a day to remember. Our special thanks go to Mildred Murray for once again making this garden gem available to the society.

PRACTICAL CAMELLIA CULTURE

(In the 1880's)

By **ROBERT J. HALLIDAY**

Ed. Note: From time to time we will be reprinting excerpts from the book "Practical Camellia Culture," written by Robert J. Halliday and published in 1880.

PART I: PROPAGATION OF CUTTINGS.

Most nurseries have a glass house where they propagate cuttings. Be sure to place camellia cuttings in the coolest part of the house. They require a longer time to root than almost any other cutting, therefore put them on that portion of the bench where they will not be disturbed. For a propagation medium use a good sharp sand from either a bank or a river; white, brown or black. There is no virtue in the color of it. The success in propagation depends more on the person in charge than anything else. The sand is frequently blamed when it is not at fault. Use a sieve to screen out the

gravel and clay. It is not necessary to wash the sand, as is so often recommended for a cutting bed.

For the amateur in his propagation efforts, I recommend wooden boxes fourteen inches square and three inches deep, filled to the top with the sand. Place the boxes in a cool spot for one month to six weeks after the cuttings are planted there-in. After the cuttings have been rooted they can be moved to a warmer spot or bottom heat applied. I prefer to take cuttings in the month of November. The wood at this time is well ripened and we can tell which shoots will produce growth and which shoots will produce flowers. I recommend that only shoots which are not showing flower buds be used. Camellias generally form their buds during July and August. The buds are as large as peas by the time cuttings are taken. They seldom ever form

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buds after the end of August. It will not be difficult to distinguish a wood bud from a flower bud. While cuttings can be rooted at any time from June to January I recommend placing cuttings in the sand bed during November to avoid using wood which is going to produce flowers.

Cuttings of the young wood (taken in June) will root freely and in one-half the time of ripened wood, but double the amount of care and attention will be necessary for them. Sometimes I grow from young wood but ripened wood makes the most healthy and vigorous plants.

The boxes being ready to accommodate the cuttings, a question of great importance is to be considered. Which will be the best length of cutting to use? Having wood for cuttings in great abundance, I can, without sacrifice, cut shoots from four to five eyes long. By using this length of cutting, I have gained one year's growth at the time of placing the cutting in the sand. It will take a cutting of two eyes one year to make the extra three eyes. The cutting of five eyes long will not root any better than the two eye. Your gain will be made in the size of the plant at the time of potting. One great advantage to be derived from the five-eye cutting is that when the plant is rooted and ready for potting, it will, in all probability, have three shoots with each shoot being one inch

in length. The plant will be of very good size with a bushy aspect, while the two eye cutting will only make one shoot.

Many persons fail to root cuttings by neglecting the very important matter of having the sand bed solid and firm in the boxes. The sand must be pressed extra solid and firm, so much so, that it will be necessary to draw a line or opening across the bed, to provide an entrance for the cuttings. After placing the cuttings in the slit opening, press firmly with the fingers to be sure that the sand is packed firmly around the cuttings. The firmer and more solid the sand is made the earlier the wound will heal and cause the cutting to callus. From the callus the roots proceed.

Water the sand thoroughly after the cuttings have been inserted and the surrounding sand pressed firmly. When cuttings have just been stuck in the sand they will absorb a good quantity of water without any injury to the cutting. More ripened wood cuttings die for want of water than from any other cause. Camellia cuttings will not thrive if the sand is allowed to become dry.

The cuttings should now be in boxes having been inserted in the sand-bed at about one inch spacing. For the first six weeks keep the glass house and or the planted boxes cool. During this period they should not re-

quire watering oftener than twice a week. I cannot offer any stated rule for watering; watch the sand-bed and do not allow it to become in the least dry. In watering, have the sand-bed wet thoroughly to the bottom. A few pieces of broken pots, oyster shells, etc., would be advisable to use as drainage in the bottom of the benches

or boxes. After about 6 weeks to 2 months gentle bottom heat may be applied to the cuttings. In plain terms "keep the feet warm and the head cool." The cuttings should remain in the sand-bed from November until June at which time they will be ready to pot.

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COL. FRANK REED AWARD: The Southern California Camellia Society Board of Directors has voted to create the Col. Frank Reed Gibbed Bloom Award. Each month at the Society's meetings a cut bloom display is carried out with points given for the winning blooms in the various categories. Then, at the end of the year, the hobbyist with the most points earned receives an award. This year an additional contest for points has been established. Points will be given for the best gibbed blooms at each meeting. Then, at the end of the camellia season, an award will be given to the hobbyist winning the most points for gibbed blooms. Col. Reed was one of the first camellia hobbyists to use and test growth stimulants to promote better and earlier camellia blooms. The Award has been established in his memory and has been funded by the Reed family.

DECEMBER SOCIETY MEETING: The December meeting of SCCS will feature a talk by Mr. Julius Nuccio who will discuss the importation of camellia and azalea material from Japan. In fact, the December meeting, to be held at the San Marino Women's Club on Tuesday, December 12th has been designated as a Christmas party, with a special raffle, including: Poinsettias, Camellias, Cactus, Ferns, some bound camellia books and wine! Mark your calendars for December 12th.

JUDGES SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED: The Southern California Camellia Council has scheduled a Judges Symposium to be held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia on Saturday, December 2, 1978, beginning at 9 a.m.

Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

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

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY—President, Richard Stiern; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr., 733 Delmar Drive, Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: 2nd Monday, October through April, at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield.

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY—President, Roy Zembower; Secretary, Mrs. Frances L. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, Santa Ana Fed. S & L Bldg., 1802 N. Main, Santa Ana.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO—President, L. J. Vervalle; Secretary, Mrs. Robert C. Adrian, 7555 Baldwin Dam Rd., Folsom, 95630. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Wilbur Ray; Secretary, Mary Ann Ray 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February in All-Purpose Room, Delmar School, 4122 N. Del Mar, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mary Bergamini; Secretary, Al Maggiora, 2907 Euclid Ave., Concord, Ca 94520. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, November through March, Lafayette Fed. Savings & Loan, 1406 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek.

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Donald W. Hurst; Secretary, Mrs. Lewis Singer, 409 W. Pine St., Lodi 95240. Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October thru May, United Methodist Church, Lodi.

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ernie Pieri; Secretary, Mrs. Happy Stillman, 8159 Hollywood Blvd. 90069. Meetings: st Tuesday, December through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood.

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Pete Grosso; Secretary, Mrs. Walter Ragland, 709 Leytonstone Dr., Modesto, Ca 95355. Meetings: second Tuesday, October through May, Downey High School, Coffee Road, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Frank Percel; Secretary, Judith Toomajian 18 Diablo Circle, Lafayette Ca. 94549. Meetings: first Monday, November through May. Chabot School 6686, Chabot Rd., Oakland.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Bob Neely; Secretary, Alice Neely, 4637 Collins Ave., Los Angeles 94432. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Central Bank of Glendale, 411 N. Central Ave., Glendale.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, August Meier; Secretary, Margaret Tupitza, Municipal Service Building, Redwood City 94064. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, Municipal Services Center, 1400 Broadway, Redwood City.

*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mr. Lloyd Hawes; Secretary, Mrs. Janice Hawes, 12625 Kellogg Ave., Chino 91710. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, Pomona First Fed. S & L Bldg., 399 N. Gary, Pomona.

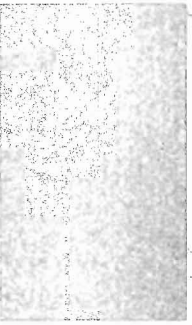
*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Les Baskerville; Secretary, Palmer Groenewald, 1131 Madison Ave., San Diego 92116. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Robt. Marcy; Secretary, Donna Hardy, 5854 Allen Ave., San Jose 95123. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through April, Great Western Savings Bldg., 2100 El Camino Real, Santa Clara.

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Joy Monteleone; Secretary, Ms. Vera Parker, 7949 Lynch Rd., Sebastopol, 95472. Meetings: 4th Thursday, October through May, Steele Lane School, Santa Rosa.

*SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ms. Maize Jeane George; Secretary, Mrs. Martha Ann Walter, 671 Calle Miramar, Redondo Beach 90277. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through May. South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes.

*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mrs. Marion Schmidt; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel, Ca 91776. Meetings: Friday, Nov. 17; Fri. Dec. 15; Thurs., Jan. 25; Thur., Feb. 22; Thur., Mar. 22; Thur., April 26. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.



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