

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Bravo'

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Two dollars

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 through April at Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. November and February meetings to be held in the Lecture Hall. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 p.m. regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

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Cover Photo

'Bravo'

Large to very large reticulata hybrid. Scarlet, often toned lighter toward center. Irregular semi-double, crinkled petals. Vigorous, upright growth. Blooms early to midseason with profuse flowers. (U.S. 1990-Nuccio's Nurseries) Color separations courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries. Photo by Grady Perigan.

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THOUGHTS

from the editor

Our Society members have contributed thousands of hours developing one beautiful camellia after another, importing them from around the world, investigating every aspect of their culture and advertising them at our shows.

Many friendships have developed as we associated with one another to do this. We walk into an assemblage of camellia people and can't wait to greet all the friends we see.

Now, as a new season opens and we look forward to renewing friendships, think about the wonderful heritage we have to pass on to new members. When you go to a meeting, put on your name tag. You may know almost everyone, but new members don't. Look around the room for new faces, not just old friends. If guests are introduced, find time to greet them.

Dody and Tom Gilfoy had their names on this page last issue and you see Jean and George Vollmer there now. Watch for them.

Lastly, the Society owes a tremendous debt to all its members around the world who may not have the opportunity to attend our meetings or shows but sponsor our Society, Camellia Nomenclature and The Camellia Review through their membership. Two of those friends, Edward T. Hall and his wife, Juanita, are listed below. Edward met Sergio Bracci in the Napa Valley this last summer and asked Sergio how he could get camellia seeds. After he got the information, he and Juanita joined the Society. Edward is 90 years old!

We've got it. Let's share it!

New Members

Southern California Camellia Society welcomes:

Edward and Juanita Hall
2091 West F St.
Napa, CA 94558

Jean and George Vollmer
2343 Pinecrest Dr.
Altadena, CA 91001

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Tai, Tai-Yo and Mihoutao

by R. L. Bielecki

Reprinted from New Zealand Camellia Bulletin, Vol. XIV, No. 2, Winter 1989.

While on a business trip to China, I had an unexpected opportunity to visit the Zhang Jia Jie region of the Wulingyuan State Forest Park, a detour arranged for us as a rest break after a period of intensive meetings. The Park lies in the northwest corner of Hunan province, and is in process of being opened up for tourists, particularly to the Chinese, who with increasing money and leisure time are taking interest and pride in their own country and history. The Wulingyuan area has a particular appeal, as its lofty limestone spires, contorted pine trees, and valleys enshrouded in mist are a major theme in Chinese paintings. The valley floors are at about 300m asl, while peaks reach 1400m and more. The climate is mild, and the frequent mists support plant growth in what is a rather low rainfall area. The forest is classified as a subtropical broadleaf semi evergreen forest, floristically rich, dominated by genera such as *Magnolia*, *Platycarpa*, *Zanthophyllum*, *Rhododendron*, *Loropetalum* and *Pinus massoniana*.

The takeoff point for visiting Zhang Jia Jie was the provincial capital, Changsha. This is about 1000 kms from the sea but because it is only 100 metres asl, alongside large lakes at latitude 28N (similar to Brisbane), it has a subtropical climate and is a major centre for China's citrus industry. The 400 km drive northwest from Changsha to Zhan Jia Jie took nine hours, even in the hands of one of the world's top unknown rally drivers, which is what our van driver turned out to be (only one vehicle had the gall to pass us on the entire return trip, and even he landed up eating our dust — as we passengers ate our knuckles). The initial part of our journey was through flat land, much too precious for citrus, and intensive production of rice, rice, rice and Chinese cabbage, with a bit of cotton and jute thrown in. About two

hours out from Changsha, we had reached a region where the paddies were punctuated with dry hills of red clay. Many of these hills had a small brickmaking kiln near the base and, higher up, supported extensive plantings of dark green bushes about 2-3m tall.

I soon had doubts about my initial expectations that these were citrus trees. The time was mid-November, autumn: where were the bright orange fruits, and what were those small starry white flowers? Eventually we got close enough to be able to see, even from the hurtling van, that the bushes had a close similarity to some old garden friends; and a little to-and-fro with our local hosts soon told us that what they were writing as 茶 and, in western script, as "tai" was our "tea". I am not sure if "tai" represents a local pronunciation, as seemed likely, or if there was just a transliteration problem of the word we normally see given as "ch'a" (the Chinese character of course is the same). The form of growth and the local growing conditions rather surprised us. The bushes were spaced apart like small fruit trees, and sufficiently high that much of the picking would not have been possible from the ground. The soil looked a mean dry clay, lacking water and humus, and far better suited to the brick-making activity than for growing camellias. When we ultimately got close up to some bushes in a village garden, we found a much stalkier, harder-leaved plant than that seen in photographs of tea-growing in Sri Lanka and India, and now being grown in Motueka. Were the conditions that tough for tea, and were the plants under stress?

It needed a dip into the textbooks on our return to give us one or two answers. The taxonomists recognise two distinct varieties of tea plant. The one

we were looking at was *Camellia sinensis* var. *sinensis*, whilst the one we rely on for our daily cuppa is *Camellia sinensis* var. *assamica*. It is worth quoting Sealy (1958), since the book description fitted well what we saw: “(var. *sinensis*) is a hardier plant cultivated throughout China for tea and perhaps indigenous to . . . western Yunnan . . . the second variety (var. *assamica*) is of more southerly distribution and a tenderer plant . . . indigenous to the warmer parts of Assam, Burma, Indochina (etc.) . . . there is no absolutely hard and fast line between the two varieties but there is no doubt that . . . var. *assamica* . . . represents a distinct entity.” Of particular interest are the growing conditions he gives for var. *sinensis*. He notes its natural habitat as at margins of mixed forests, in thickets, and in open scrub, on rocky slopes and dry stony hillsides — not quite our picture of the ideal for our precious flowering shrubs, but not too different from the hard conditions we saw in Hunan. I will return to the subject of soil conditions later.

The first day of our trip we spent entirely in a van, frustrated at seeing fascinating scenes, people and plants whizzing by. But day two was a feet-and-eyes day, climbing through the mountains of Wulingyuan. The lure in front of us was that we would see the famous mihoutao, actually growing in the wild! After all we were only 200 kms in a straight line from Ichang, the starting point for what has now become a major world industry in the hands of New Zealanders. Mihoutao? Well, not surprisingly the Chinese figure they saw it first, and that they

have the right to use their own name — “monkey peach” — rather than our own bastardised animal name, “kiwifruit”. Our hopes were stirred by seeing wild kiwifruits being sold by the local peasants in the small market at the start of the trail. So we began the climb up the steep track, amongst the limestone spires, with our eyes peeled to see the first mihoutao vine. Slowly it penetrated my slow mind that some dark green shrubs crowding the track, rather like coprosmas in our own beech forest, had a familiar air to them: the suspicion became a certainty when the first flowers came into view — pure white, fragrant sasanqua-like camellia blooms with lightly-lobed petals about 2.5 cm long. And this plant was everywhere, as the major contributor to the scraggy undergrowth spread over most of the ground that we traversed, other than the exposed knolls. It was on the floor of the hollows, and pressing onto the track, and wedged in the crevices of the rising limestone rock faces; anywhere where the light intensity was from 20 to 70% of full daylight. Sometimes the plants were open shrubs; but more often they were small straggly trees from three to six metres tall. I was seeing my first camellia plants growing in the wild.

It was rather hard to return to earth (or at least the track) and remember that I had originally come to see kiwifruit, a plan not helped when the temperature started to drop and a few flakes of snow whirled in the stiffening breeze. Fortunately it was a brief front passing, and the temperature soon lifted a little as the sun struggled thinly through the mist, but we were thankful

Doctor Rod Bielecki, a plant physiologist and husband of New Zealand Camellia Bulletin Editor Val Bielecki, spent several months on a research grant at the University of California at Davis. His studies focused on senescence in flowers — the day lily in this instance. Why do flowers age? How can we make them stay fresh longer?

Rod zooms in on a project with great zeal. If he saw a plant specimen he wanted, even though it was surrounded by cactus, he would plunge in, pluck it, emerge triumphant and only then realize that he had become a pin cushion for cactus needles. Such determination gives us hope that one day he will come up with the key to longevity in show flowers.

for our standard Kiwi trumper's pessimism which had led us to throw a pull-over and parka into our small cloth bags supplied to carry our lunch. After the camellias in flower, it was something of an anticlimax to finally see our first wild kiwifruit vines. We had noted that the fruits on sale in the village were hairless, so we were not too surprised to find that the vines here had all the leaf and form characteristics of the related species, *Actinidia chinensis*, rather than the *Actinidia deliciosa* of Western commerce (incidentally, the Chinese are concentrating their effort into selecting and improving *A. chinensis* rather than our kiwifruit, principally because they regard the fruit as having a sweeter and better flavour and they prefer the smoother surface). Much as expected, the vines were growing where there were wide gaps in the canopy, allowing virtually full unobstructed daylight to reach the ground. The vines were scrambling over rocks, dead trees and small shrubs

(sometimes our camellias), and still had their leaves, but all fruit had been collected. Unlike the camellia, the mihoutao vines were quite rare, and we would not have seen more than 20 in the whole day.

We used the time during our journey back to Changsha on the third day to discuss what we had seen. Many of the people in the Wulingyuan area belong to racial minorities, and lead very much of a peasant life. Two important sources of food and income come from the forest: the fruits of the mihoutao, and the seeds collected from the camellia bushes and trees. These seeds provide oil for cooking and toiletries; our hosts know the plant as "tai-yo" or "tea-oil"; and we know it as *Camellia oleifera*. Although *C. oleifera* is planted quite widely as a cultivated crop, it was clear that in Wulingyuan we were seeing plants in the wild — those rock faces were not farmers' country. Again Sealy (1958) has something useful to say. "Handel-Mazzetti says (it is) wild



Val and Rod Bielecki examining a plant at U.C. Davis Environmental greenhouse. — Photo, June McCaskill

in luxuriant woods and thickets and also cultivated particularly below *Cunninghamia* and *Pinus massoniana* on limestone, sandstone and schists in the subtropical and warm temperate zones, 50-1300m. He definitely records the plant as wild in Hunan". These were exactly the conditions at Wulingyuan. As has recently been discussed by Durrant (1988), *C. sasanqua* is closely related to *C. oleifera*. To quote Sealy again: "there has been considerable confusion between the two species, and the name *C. sasanqua* was often used for *C. oleifera* . . . there is no doubt that . . . the two plants represented two different species . . . *C. sasanqua* is confined, in the wild state, to Japan and the Liu Kiu Islands, while *C. oleifera* is native in China . . ."

This leads me to what I hope is the sting in the tail. There are at least a couple of problems with our common camellia cultivars that come down to weakness in the genetic makeup of the roots — susceptibility to root disease, and inability to stand some common soil conditions, particularly non-acid soils. Now, in the work being done by Marshall and Cole (1987), Barkley (1988) and others, *C. sasanqua* varieties

are already showing up as being particularly resistant to *Phytophthora* rots; the closely-related *C. oleifera* has also shown resistance to root rots, along with cold tolerance, in USA studies (Baxter et al. 1985). But going a little further, the *C. oleifera* plants we saw (and as recorded by Sealy) were growing on what would be expected to be an alkaline soil — a raw, gritty soil with almost no humus, derived directly from limestone rock (what a pity we didn't have a pH meter with us to settle this absolutely). This suggests it might be worth exploring the use of *C. oleifera*, particularly of races like those growing in Wulingyuan, specifically to develop rootstocks having a wide tolerance to difficult soils and root disease. As both the tai and the tai-yo have shown us in Hunan, some members of the camellia family can grow in soil conditions very unlike those we normally envisage as ideal for our favourite genus. Wouldn't it be a logical step to collect genetic source material of this type as a first step on the way to developing speciality rootstocks, as has been done so successfully for many other perennial species, provided we have a clear objective in mind?

Baxter, L. W., Fagan, S. G. and Mitchell, P. A. (1985). The response of *Camellia oleifera* to *Glomerella cingulata*, the cause of 'dieback', canker and graft failure of certain camellia species. *Camellia Jour.* 40:14-15.

Barkley, P. (1988). *Phytophthora* root rot. *N.Z. Camellia Bull.* 15:24-27.

Durrant, T. (1988) *Sasanqua* or *hiemalis*? *Austr. Camellia News* No. 107, p.17.

Marshall, R. C. and Cole, A. L. J. (1987). Infection of *Camellia* species by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. *N.Z. Camellia Bull.* 15:6-11.

Sealy, J. R. (1958). *A Revision of the Genus Camellia*. RHS, London. 158 pp.

Omission

'Royal Velvet' won the Margerette Hertrich Award for Nuccio's Nurseries in 1990.

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Please send your forwarding address to our treasurer, Jeanne Trefzger, if you plan to move. The post office will not forward *The Camellia Review*. They will, however, charge us \$.30 to send us your forwarding address. Then we must put another *Review* in an envelope and mail it a second time at a charge of \$.65.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

The New Zealand National Camellia Show and Convention

by Bill Donnan

As some of you may know, I took a trip to New Zealand in August 1990. The reason for the trip was two-fold. I wanted to see the country and I wanted to attend their National Camellia Show and Convention. This was to be a special show staged as part of the New Zealand 150th Anniversary. They combined their show with the Annual New Zealand-Australia Camellia Seminar which is held each year alternating from one country to the other. This year it was New Zealand's turn to host the Seminar and it was held at the conclusion of the Conference. When several of the New Zealand people found out that I was planning to attend their National Show I was asked to give a paper at the Seminar. Thus I had plenty of incentive to make the trip.

I spent 16 days on a package bus tour and visited both of the Islands. I then returned to Auckland and spent two days there before flying to Palmerston North where the camellia events were to be held. The New Zealand Camellia Society is going strong with over 3,000 members and many young members. There were over 450 people registered for the convention and about 300 stayed on for the one-day Seminar. Among the registrants were: 1 from Japan; 3 from South Africa; 8 from the U.S.A.; and 20 from Australia. Among those from the U.S.A. were: Mr. & Mrs. Walter Krzymowski from Louisiana; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stroud from Slidel, Louisiana; Tom Perkins III from Brookhaven, Miss.; and Edith Mazzei and Jean Purcel from California. It was quite a nice group.

The Camellia Show was staged in the huge Manawatu Sports Stadium. There was ample room for over 150 regular size tables set in long rows like we do here in California. The tables were covered with black cloth sheeting and the place cards and cups for the

blooms were all in place before the exhibitors came to place their blooms. In New Zealand they have many more divisions and classes than we have. They have the japonica, retic and non-retic, and species divisions like we do; but they have categories for one, three, six and twelve blooms — plus competitions in whites, variegated, American, Australian, and New Zealand origin and scented blooms. They have competition in baskets, sprays, trees, and flower arrangement. They have competitions in trays of all one variety, all separate varieties, all different species on the same tray, namely japonica, retic, and non-retic hybrid. They had upwards of 4,500 blooms on display! They had one table — at least 70 feet long, filled with Novice blooms. (A novice is someone who has not exhibited at more than 2 National Shows.) An amusing incident occurred during the placement of the blooms. A Mr. and Mrs. John Donald (I think that was their name!) came up to me with a pasteboard box containing three blooms. One of them was a very large pink retic hybrid. They said, "Mr. Jim Hansen said that maybe you could identify this large pink bloom. He cannot and neither could Vonnie Cave or Jim Rolfe!" I looked at the bloom and said, "Gosh, I could be wrong, but it looks like 'Arcadia' to me. Let's look it up in the *Nomenclature*." We looked up the description in the *Nomenclature* and it seemed to fit the bloom. I said, "Why don't we go over to the retic table and see whether there are any 'Arcadia' blooms on the bench." We did, and sure enough, this unidentified bloom looked like the 'Arcadias' on the bench. So, they entered their bloom as 'Arcadia' and it took a Second Best place in the Novice Retic Class.

I had the privilege of judging in a new category for a new trophy given by the Bank of New Zealand — to be a perpetual trophy in honor of the Ses-

quicentennial of New Zealand. The competition was for the Best Three Blooms of New Zealand origin — of at least two different species. I was judging with some pretty “heavy” pros! Neville Haydon; John Pedler, Ray Garling, Tom Perkins and little old me! I was happy to be able to identify several of the blooms which some of the others — with the exception of Neville Haydon — could not recognize. We picked a group of three which included ‘Margaret Hilford’ and ‘Red Crystal’ both of which are in Nuccio’s Catalogue and I had seen them many times. There were only about 20 judges, so we were asked to judge a bench of whites; and still later — a bench of single retic hybrids.

Around the walls of the Stadium were 12 stalls and display booths. These were set up by various nurseries and garden clubs. Duncan & Davies had one entire end of the stadium filled with their display and with camellias for sale. I think the Camellia Haven Nursery must have sold several hundred one gallon camellias during the show. Some of the stalls sold other types of flower plants, seeds and cut flowers. There was one stall which sold nothing but plant and gardening books! There was another stall which Helen Perigan would have liked. They sold silver souvenir spoons and a big display of all kinds of painted dishes, cups, saucers, coffee mugs, etc. with camellia blooms painted thereon. The New Zealand Camellia Society sold memberships, *Nomenclatures*, camellia culture booklets, I.C.S. memberships, camellia note paper and cards, and ca-

mellia ties. The show opened at 1:30 p.m. and the place was jammed with spectators at \$3.00 per ticket! The Lion’s Club wives had a refreshment booth, and it became a popular spot. All in all it was a wonderful show and I saw many old camellia friends and acquaintances. The Best Flower of the Show was ‘Frank Purcel’ which we find hard to grow here in southern California. In fact, there in the New Zealand climate almost all of the “Purcel” hybrids do very well. The New Zealand Camellia Society has outlawed the use of giberellic acid — but, really, they don’t need it to get size. Their blooms are as big or bigger than our “gibbed” blooms and it seems as though there are a million blooms on every plant growing in the ground! In most of their gardens there is no shade, no irrigation, no pruning, and no fertilizing! Just one heck of a great land to grow camellias!

During the next two days there were garden visits — but these were marred somewhat by the rain. It rained a little bit for each day that I was in New Zealand! (No wonder they don’t need to irrigate!) On the fifth day, the New Zealand-Australia Camellia Seminar was held and it was well attended. There were talks on species and grafting etc. My talk was about the new Nuccio’s Nurseries Introductions and seedlings. I showed 72 slides and it was well received. As I have said, I had a great trip and have had some memorable experiences. But, alas! I have one regret! While I was in Queenstown I did not take a Bungee Jump! Who knows! Maybe I will do it next time!

Pruning Day

As a contribution to Descanso Gardens from all area camellia societies, volunteers will join together April 6, 1991 to prune a section of the garden.

PASSINGS

Jess George, San Diego
Evelyn W. Johnson, Pasadena
Walt Kovolski, Bakersfield

Taproots

by Julius Nuccio

It doesn't matter where you acquire your information pertaining to the propagation of camellias from seed. You will always find a slight difference of opinion as to the soil, temperature, light, fertilizer, etc., but never any dispute as to how you will handle the taproot. All agree that you must eliminate the taproot either by cutting or pinching shortly after germination starts (about 1 inch long) and rightfully so. This creates a faster root system instead of wasting all the plant's energy on a huge, unwanted and valueless taproot that will wind around the pot with no place to go. The purpose for the pinching or cutting of the taproot is necessary if one wishes to grow camellias as captives, that is: commercially in containers; field grown, to be balled and sold; or if one is a hybridizer who wishes to develop new varieties in containers, to be grafted if seedlings prove to be inferior; or to use as rootstock before blooming the seedlings.

Camellias do not always need captive culture. I am certain that many of you with camellia gardens have witnessed a volunteer seedling, one where the seed was missed or overlooked and fell to the ground, left to germinate in place on its own, taproot and all, straight down and happy. This is usually the best looking plant in your garden, one that you hate to remove even though it is growing in the wrong place next to large shrubs, large trees and with plenty of root competition, and often next to sidewalks or driveways. If you have such a seedling or seedlings and they bloom with inferior blossoms, don't hesitate to graft it with a variety of your choice and enjoy one of the best plants in your collection.

Let us go beyond our gardens into the native area of camellias, for example, the mountains of Kunming, China, where one can see thousands of camellia species such as *Camellia saluenensis*, *C. pitardi* and *C. reticulata* thriving in terrible conditions — full sun, steep hillsides, between rocks and in heavy soil.

In Japan on the camellia island of Oshiam, one can see thousands of *C. japonica* seedlings. These plants have survived and thrived for hundreds of years in spite of extreme droughts and freezing temperatures mainly because of the taproot and its deep penetration regardless of soil conditions.

The camellia taproot even contributes to the wonderful world of camellias as a byproduct. The finest camellia bonsai are grafted on large camellia taproots that are dug from the wild. These offer many unusual shapes and forms. Mr. Ota of Ota's Nursery in Kumamoto, Japan, has the largest collection of camellia bonsai in the world. He recently perfected a miniature camellia bonsai by disturbing the newly germinated seed that he keeps in peat moss in a plastic bag so as to cause many different twists and turns of the taproot. When the taproots are approximately 3 to 5 inches long, he grafts miniature type species such as *C. franterna*, *C. lutchuensis*, *C. transarisanensis* and *C. transnokoensis*.

This article is not intended to create a dispute between taproot and no taproot because both have merit. I wish only to call attention to the many camellia hobbyists in the western world that a taproot on a camellia plant in the right place adds greatly to its vigor and hardiness.

Objections?

Unless you object, we have decided to list those people who have been able to assist the Society by becoming Sponsoring, Sustaining, or Patron Members or give a little extra to help keep SCCS growing. If you prefer that your name not be published, please notify our secretary at once.

From Gulf Coast

Gulf Coast Camellias. Volume 19, No. 1, Fall, 1990

As part of his president's message to Gulf Coast Camellia Society members, President Pat Ryan mentions: . . . The camellia plants in this writer's yard have put on a healthy crop of buds.

The heavy bud crop on the camellias in the Mobile area can be attributed to the rainfall of mid and late spring and early summer. In my garden are a number of seedling varieties selected for further study, developed to the point of being interesting, but not worthy of naming. The one good point about a heavy flower set and opening

all at once is the show these seedling camellia plants can present.

In the past, heavy flowering was one of the big factors in the popularity of camellias in the home landscape, particularly the seedlings. Often in the old gardens around Mobile, and even to this day, you can find large plants that have produce flowers in abundance for years. Some of these are no doubt seedlings that sprouted and grew where the seed dropped and germinated.

Maybe this is one way to bring back popularity of camellias in the garden . . .

Camellia School

An ACS accredited camellia school, co-ordinated by the Temple City Camellia Society, will be held at the Arcadia Arboretum on January 5, 1991. All members are invited to attend.

Plant Sale

The Council will conduct a plant sale in coordination with Descanso Guild at Descanso Gardens on December 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR
1990 CROP FRAGRANT CAMELLIA SEEDS
PEDIGREE OF SEED PARENT PROVIDED WITH EACH SEED
\$1.00 PER SEED
KEN HALLSTONE, 996 VICTORIA CT., LAFAYETTE, CA 94549**

**PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW
1990 CROP HUNTINGTON GARDENS
CAMELLIA SEEDS**
Japonica Seeds — sold out
Sasanqua Seeds — \$5.00 per 100 (minimum order)
Reticulata Seeds — 25¢ each
**Southern California Camellia Society
P.O. Box 3690 Arcadia, CA 91066**

Camellia Seeds

by Dean Altizer

Ed. note: Dean coordinates the seed picking, stores the seeds and mails them for the Society.

Knowing when to pick camellia seeds isn't too hard for me. Huntington Garden volunteers Bill Donnan and Grady Perigan watch for the right time and call me. They watch for the seed pods to open up and shell out the seed. Usually when one pod is mature, they all are, especially on the same bush. However, we pick them all at the same time. Sasanquas are usually ripe at the same time as japonicas. Retics and retic hybrids are almost always a month later. Areas will vary from one to another: Descanso is later than Huntington, etc.

We recruit all the help we can get on picking day.

After the seeds are picked, I bring the seed pods home and spread them out on tables in the shade. As the pods break open, I gather the seeds and place them in the refrigerator. I always wait for the pods to break open on their own, I never cut the seed out.

To ship, I place the seeds in a brown paper bag so they won't mildew, and mail them in a post office mailing envelope.

Here is the Southern California Camellia Society recommendation on seed culture that I mail with each order.

Seed Culture

To assure maximum results — please follow the steps outlined below:

- (1) Start the germination process as soon as is feasible after the seeds ripen.
- (2) Place seeds in container of damp (not wet) peat, or other germinating medium.
- (3) Place in shade or moderate light.
- (4) If possible, maintain heat to 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit.
- (5) Examine contents in two weeks.
- (6) Remove germinated seeds which have a root of more than 1 inch.
- (7) Pinch off root end at about 1 inch length.
- (8) Return all remaining seeds and re-examine each week.
- (9) Place seeds, root end down, in a box of sand and peat. Leave seeds on the surface of the sand. Sprinkle lightly with sand to firm seeds. Keep moist. If possible, maintain heat at 70 to 80 degrees.
- (10) Place in strong light, preferably filtered or somewhat shaded sunlight.
- (11) When stem and leaves reach 3 to 6 inches high, remove and pot.
- (12) If seeds cannot be germinated immediately, keep in a cold moist place.

In addition to the above directions, before I place the seeds in peat moss, I find it helpful to soak them in water until they sink. I also find if I use a jar

rather than a plastic bag to start the seeds, the seed roots grow much straighter and are easier to plant.

Order early and try your luck.

Letter from Ken Hallstone

Lafayette, CA

Due to two ads in *The Review* this past season, I have sold a little over \$100 worth of seeds. As you recall, I promised the money would be split between our two Societies. I have enclosed a check for \$50 for the *Camellia Review Fund*. Maybe we should give it

one more try this coming season. (We will.)

It is interesting to note that nine people purchased seeds. Of these nine people, four were from California and the remaining five were one each from the following states: Alabama, Georgia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Oregon. Fragrance is spreading far and wide.

Thanks again for your help in promoting fragrance in camellias.

Central California Camellia Society Show

March 10-11, 1990

Award of Excellence		Chris and Art Gonos
Best of Show	<i>'Eleanor Martin Supreme'</i>	Jim and Jackie Randall
Best Large Japonica	<i>'Royal Velvet'</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Runner-up	<i>'Lady Laura'</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Eleanor Martin Supreme'</i>	Jim and Jackie Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Cherries Jubilee'</i>	Chris and Art Gonos
Best Small Japonica	<i>'Alison Leigh Woodroof'</i>	Jim and Jackie Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Black Tie'</i>	Chris and Art Gonos
Best Miniature Japonica	<i>'Fircone Var.'</i>	Virginia Rankin
Runner-up	<i>'Lemon Drop'</i>	Paul and La Verne Baker
Best Retic	<i>'Dr. Clifford Parks'</i>	Jim and Jackie Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Emma Gaeta Var.'</i>	Al Taylor
Best Hybrid	<i>'Anticipation Var.'</i>	Jim and Jackie Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Julie'</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Best 3 Large Japonicas	<i>'Moonlight Bay'</i>	Chris and Art Gonos
Runner-up	<i>'Fashionata'</i>	Jim and Jackie Randall
Best 3 Medium Japonicas	<i>'Wildfire'</i>	Ruth Anne Lewis
Runner-up	<i>'Mrs. George Bell'</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Best 3 Small	<i>'Freedom Bell'</i>	Chris and Art Gonos
Runner-up	<i>'Betsy'</i>	Terry Schanz
Best 3 Miniatures	<i>'Fircone Var.'</i>	Virginia Rankin
Runner-up	<i>'Lemon Drop'</i>	Virginia Rankin
Best 3 Retics	<i>'Royalty'</i>	Jim and Jackie Randall
Runner-up	<i>'Dr. Clifford Parks'</i>	Jim and Jackie Randall
Best 3 Hybrids	<i>'Waltz Time Var.'</i>	Chris and Art Gonos
Runner-up	<i>'Coral Delight Var.'</i>	Bob and Betty Kellas
Best 5 Large Japonicas	<i>'Grand Slam'</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Runner-up	<i>'Snowman'</i>	Chris and Art Gonos
Best 5 Medium Japonicas	<i>'Betty Sheffield Supreme'</i>	Jack and Ann Woo
Runner-up	<i>'Fire Dance'</i>	Jack and Ann Woo
Best 5 Boutonnieres	<i>'Little Michael'</i>	Chris and Art Gonos
Runner-up	<i>'Fircone Var.'</i>	Jim and Jackie Randall
Best 3 Different Camellias		Virginia Rankin
Best 5 Different Medium Camellias		Chris and Art Gonos
Best 9 Different Camellias		Jack and Ann Woo
Best 9 Different Boutonnieres		Sergio and Elsie Bracci
Best 'Miss Tulare'/'Miss Tulare Var.'		Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Best White Camellia		Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Best Higo	<i>'Snowman'</i>	Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray
Best Fragrant	<i>'Kumagai Negoya'</i>	Dr. Holtzman
Best Yellow	<i>'Jack Osegueda'</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Best Species	<i>'Jury's Yellow'</i>	Chris and Art Gonos
Best C.C.C.S. Novice Member Bloom	<i>'Star Above Star'</i>	Chris and Art Gonos
Best Non-Member Bloom	<i>'Elegance'</i>	Betty Gams
Best Seedling	<i>'Mathotiana'</i>	Juanita Sheldon
Best Spray or Stem		Elmer Achterberg
Show Chairman, Wilbur Ray	C. transhokoensis	Don and Dolores Martin
Chairman of Judges, Mary Anne Ray		

Council Meeting

At the Southern California Camellia Council meeting September 17, 1990, with Barbara and Frank Jamison in attendance on behalf of Descanso Guild, Elsie Bracci was re-elected president for the coming season. Marilee Gray will be vice-president, Alice Jaacks secretary and Herman Belcher treasurer.

Lee Chow

by Pat Greutert

Lee Chow bursts into a camellia show like a firecracker on Chinese New Year. He carries in trays of flamboyant flowers and carries out trophies. A master of meticulous flower preparation, his agile dentist's fingers and tools have carried flower preparation to new heights in his almost forty years in the Kern County Camellia Society.

The story of Lee's early life is as flamboyant as his flowers. Since few Society people know about those early years, they are detailed here from an interview in Bakersfield.

Lee's father, Emory Chow, came to American from Canton, China, when he was about 18, still wearing a long braided queue down his back. Fresno's Chinese First Baptist Church sponsored him before World War I. Lee's mother, Grace, was born in Fresno and her mother in San Jose.

Grace and Emory met when she was assigned to teach him English. They fell in love and were married. Emory cut off his queue.

Emory worked with his brothers and other relatives in Fresno's International Market. When he acquired enough money, he opened his own grocery and butcher shop in nearby Selma, California. Grace ran a dry goods store next door, taking a short time off for the birth of Lee and his sister.

The little business across the street from the railroad station began to flourish. However, this made Emory a target for the tong, a Chinese secret society which sought to extract protection money from successful Chinese businessmen under the guise of membership.

"I don't need to join the tong," protested Emory. "I am an American and the chief of police is my friend."

Nevertheless, the tong sought to force Emory to join by harassing him. Members made threatening phone calls threatening to kill a child or destroy his home.

Quietly, a frightened Emory began

to sell off as many of his possessions as he could. One of the things he sold was a set of encyclopedias he had bought for \$1.00 a week.

Then, one night during the depression in the fall of 1929, with the help of the police chief, Emory took Grace and his two children through the skylight of their store, which was under constant tong surveillance, left everything but what they could carry, and fled to his former village in Canton.

All Lee took was his tricycle and his goldfish in a little Kerr jar which was lost somewhere between Hong Kong and Canton. They journeyed by boat, clankety bus and finally hired a man with a wheelbarrow to get them to their destination.

In Canton, Emory supported his family by gathering work crews to build and improve roads.

Lee became an instant celebrity with his tricycle, a real rarity in China. In the mornings he watched enviously as local boys rode the water buffaloes, used as beasts of burden and for plowing, to the pastures. It wasn't long before Lee was trading tricycle rides for buffalo rides.

Life became idyllic for Lee. He didn't have to go to school and quickly picked up the Cantonese language as he played with his newfound friends. The boys caught fish in ditches and swam in nearby ponds.

From his friends, Lee learned to pick up the buffalo droppings and hurl them against a wall. When they dried, the boys picked off the buffalo chips to use for fertilizer and fuel.

Lee remembers his family throwing out empty cans when they finished some of the provisions they had brought with them. The villagers retrieved the cans and refused to give one back when Lee realized they were a valuable commodity for catching minnows. However, they gave him a glazed one pint crock which he treasured.

When Lee's mother became pregnant, she demanded that the family return to the United States so that her child could be born here. They boarded a ship and came steerage class to Seattle where Lee's second sister was born.

His father took a job in a fish canning factory but later quit and hired Chinese crews to go in three month shifts to work in Alaska salmon canneries. Lee began learning flower culture from his maternal grandmother, who enjoyed showing flowers at the County Fair.

During this time Lee loved to watch his uncles come back from hunting and line their game up along a fence. Finally, when Lee was about 12, they took him along on their trips and taught him to hunt and fish. His love for the sports has lasted to this day. A taxidermist has made a great part of his livelihood stuffing the animals and fish displayed in Lee's family room. His hunting dog enjoys favored status in the Chow home.

Lee was in his late teens when his father began a business selling fancy teas, preserves, candies and ginger to Chinese-American markets and specialty stores. Lee journeyed south along the Pacific Coast talking to store managers and delicatessen owners and writing up orders for his father's stock.

In Los Angeles, Lee took a job briefly with an osteopathic doctor as a Chinese houseboy. The doctor gave him elegant ties and socks to wear and let him drive his Rolls Royce. He encouraged Lee to learn to cook, which he did. The doctor liked to entertain the ladies, so Lee would cook their meals, after which the doctor would give him the keys to one of his cars and Lee would leave for a discreet amount of time.

Exposure to this lifestyle impressed Lee so much that he decided to return to Seattle and further his education. He finished high school and later, college at Linfield College in Oregon. After completing dental school at the University of Oregon, Lee joined the

Army, practicing his new profession for four years.

By this time his family had moved to Los Angeles and it was from here that Lee and his mother set off on an exciting adventure searching for a wife for young Doctor Chow. They traveled to Canton, Shanghai and Hong Kong with no luck. Lee left his mother with friends in Hong Kong and traveled back to Shanghai alone.

The Communists were slowly descending from the north and Lee knew that medicines were in short supply in Shanghai. In order to stay longer in the Orient he bought some antibiotics from a Cantonese friend and sold them for triple their price when he arrived in Shanghai. Nevertheless, his money ran low, so he gambled with dice in Chinese dormitories housing airplane pilots and won several hundred more dollars.

As the political situation was heating up, Lee heard from his mother that she had found "the girl" in Hong Kong. When Lee went to apply for a visa to get to Hong Kong, the American Embassy refused to let him return to Hong Kong, only to the United States on the next plane, perhaps the last to leave Shanghai for the U.S.

Lee panicked. He had to get to Grace in Hong Kong.

A friend took him to a photographer where he bought a fake Chinese passport. He disguised himself as a Chinese student, discarded his American clothes and bought Chinese clothes in a second hand store that even *smelled* Chinese. He bought old glasses to make himself look studious.

At the airport, Lee couldn't speak with a Shanghai dialect. He tried convincing the airport ticket agent that he was studying in Canton but was going to Hong Kong to get money from his father to further his education. Finally, the man got tired of trying to understand Lee, handed him a ticket that said Hong Kong and told him to board the plane.

For some reason, the plane landed in Canton. The Communists came aboard and checked the passengers'

I.D. cards. A guard wondered why Lee didn't get off the plane if he was going to school in Canton. Always fast with a reply, Lee said, "My father is a wealthy merchant in Hong Kong and I'm returning to get money for my education and to help out the Red cause in China." The guard let him stay aboard.

"When I got off that airplane in Hong Kong, I knelt to kiss that British ground," remembers Lee.

Grace introduced Lee to Rosalie, the girl she thought he would like. Rosalie, however, was a bit demanding. She wanted her mother to live with them after marriage. She also wanted a servant and a chauffeur to drive one car for her mother and another for herself. Lee and Grace boarded a plane and returned to Los Angeles.

Los Angeles was too crowded for Lee. He heard that Bakersfield had no Chinese dentist — but lots of hunting and fishing — so Lee decided to set up his practice there, which he did.

While Lee was getting established, Grace went to visit friends in New York. Happily, these friends were acquainted with an architect who had a lovely daughter named Arlene, a

young school teacher. Arlene had been born in Shanghai of a Chinese-American father and a Chinese mother.

Lee was soon on a plane bound for New York. He spent the next year courting the beautiful Arlene in an expensive cross country romance before the two married.

They lived over his dental office in Bakersfield for a few years. Arlene taught school for awhile before becoming a mother to Brad, Janine and Sterling, all grown now and gone from home. Arlene began selling real estate and found their present attractive home overlooking a golf course.

Camellia growing has absorbed Lee for many years. Long ago, Amos Kleinsasser encouraged Lee to take some of his lovely flowers and accompany him to a Temple City camellia show. Lee took some in a beer box and won Best of Show with 'Shot Silk'.

Hooked, he and Arlene joined the Kern County Camellia Society and have been valued members every since. Besides serving as a show judge, show chairman and Society president, Lee has come full circle in the camellia world by introducing four japonica camellias: 'Chow's Han Ling', 'Little



Lee and Arlene Chow

Brad', 'Dragon Eye' and 'Grace Chow'.

Oh, and remember that set of encyclopedias Lee's dad sold when they fled Selma? Ken and Doris Thompson from Selma and the Central California Camellia Society brought Lee a gift one day — a set of encyclopedias. Inside the first volume's front cover was a carefully written name — Emory

Chow. Come to find out, Lee had eaten Ken's mother's cookies as a boy, and Lee's father had sold her the encyclopedias when they left Selma.

Now you know a little more about the jaunty gentleman who arranges those delightful Chinese dinners in Bakersfield if you take your flowers to the Kern County Camellia Show.

PREPARING CAMELLIA BLOOMS FOR SHOWS

By Dr. Leland E. Chow

Reprinted from Camellia Review January-February 1982, Vol. 43, No. 3.

Instrumentarium:

Q-Sticks
Tweezers
Rose Cutting Shears
Hemostats
Camel Hair Brushes
Clothes Pins

After reading the above list, it sounds like an instrument tray being prepared for a major surgery operation! In a small way, preparing camellias for a show is an "operation"! It takes infinite care, an immeasurable amount of time and unwavering patience to carry out this sort of "operation."

Like all hobbies, many "tricks of the trade" are learned through the observation of other experts. My listing of instruments is a combination of borrowed knowledge from my good camellia friends, and an assortment of things from my dental shelves. I'm sure that each one of you has your favorite implements.

Show time is the time when we truly display the results of an entire Camellia Year. Therefore, we must prepare the blossoms to reveal their excellence for a show. A combined effort of work in the garden and the proper use of effective instruments can help show off your winners. Here are some of the things I do.

Four days before display time, I suggest that you walk through your garden and check possible buds, size of buds and color. Then pin back the leaves of promising buds. Use *clothes*

pins for pinning leaves. This gives the bud a better chance to open without interference. When buds start to bloom, if at all possible pick out only two blooms of the best plant for single entries. Then, of those two blooms, pick out only one for display. Use rose shears for cutting. Eliminate or pass up extremely mud-splattered flowers. White blossoms with very "dirty faces" should be rejected. It takes too much time and energy to clean these. Sometimes the results are not rewarding.

Grooming camellias before packing is essential. Use a *camel hair brush* to dust off dirt. If dirt is stained in the bloom or mottled, use a wet *Q-Stick* to gently "wash off" petals. Then use a dry *Q-Stick* to dry off moisture. Brush off disturbed pollen from petals with a *camel hair brush*. Larger particles of dirt and foreign matter can be removed with *tweezers*.

There has always been a question of whether refrigerated blooms should be displayed. I refrigerate a few of the blooms, but mostly not. Whether you bring refrigerated blooms or not, always groom each blossom!

A few days before a show, line your boxes with shredded paper (excelsior). When you are ready to travel some distance (like we do) place each flower gently on the damp excelsior. After you place a bloom on the shredded paper and decide to move it to another position in the box, try lifting it gently with

(continued on page 19)

A New Fertilizing Program for Southern California?

by Marilee Gray

From *The Camellia Journal*, Vol. 45, August, 1990.

This is a preliminary assessment of, what are for me, some vastly different fertilizing programs for the camellias.

Let me admit right at the start that I have killed more than my share of camellias with every kind of fertilizing mistake — too late, too hot, too dry, too much, etc. I have learned to tread carefully using the accepted program of initial fish emulsion, then cottonseed meal and iron followed by 2-10-10 during the dormant months. This program gives outstanding results and, as long as one is flexible enough to bend with what can be drastic temperature changes, is relatively safe and is used by most hobbyists in this area.

Why then experiment with other programs? Because novice growers from our immediate area (Claremont lies east of the low range that divides the coastal areas from the arid inland and is classified as semi-desert) brought camellias to our show and our mini-show for local novices that were *at least* as good as any I have ever seen for those varieties. Naturally I had to find out what they were doing to produce that quality of bloom in this combination of climate, soil, and water.

The one outstanding grower that I questioned had not too organized a program, but one product mentioned, Stern's Miracid, perked my interest. This is one of my favorite fertilizers, one I have used on most shade plants, but never on my camellias. It is a 30-10-10 water soluble soil acidifier and plant food. Bear in mind that a 5-7% nitrogen fertilizer is considered optimum for our growing season, given our heat and low humidity of the summer months. When I indicated that I was going to try this 30-10-10 product on my camellias, the area's most knowledgeable and respected growers cautioned that it was too hot, too dangerous to use here. Could I really believe the product literature claim that it "will not burn roots or foliage even in

hot, dry summer" on camellias in our area?

As is my custom on ornamentals, I used $\frac{1}{2}$ of the suggested strength, *i.e.*, 1/2T/gallon. And, so that I would not feed and possibly kill all my plants at once, I began on March 24th feeding only those plants already feathering and showing active growth. Every few days, more plants were added to the program as they initiated new growth. Each plant was tagged to indicate the fertilizer, the dilution, and the date of feeding. As recommended, the application was repeated every two weeks.

My initial intent was to try, weather permitting, to get in three Miracid feedings before switching to cottonseed meal for the hot summer. However, the plants' response was so encouraging that I continued on and have given most plants four or five Miracid feedings at this time. In some cases, I did not locate the fertilizing tags and unintentionally fertilized individual plants on successive days. There was no adverse effect. Other times I intentionally fertilized a plant that I deemed too dry to fertilize safely. Again, there was no adverse reaction. Gaining courage from the azaleas, ferns, rhododendrons, fuchsias, and all the shade plants as well as the camellias, I then used the 1/2T/gallon strength solution to feed all the seedlings, one-year grafts, rooted cuttings, and struggling camellias as well. At this time, the very end of May, my camellias have never fared so well. The new growth is lush. The seedlings and cuttings have never been so vigorous, and the sick bay may soon be no more.

On April 4th, the same day that I had fed at least a third of my plants, the weather took an unpredicted turn and there followed three days of 100+ heat. Considering my excessive exposure and the vulnerability of the tender, new growth, I expected to sustain excessive foliage burn and loss. How-

ever, my foliage damage was slight to none and appreciably less than other growers with more adequate protection. Unlike other years, this heat did not cause a rampant loss of new foliage. In a few days the temperature did a sharp reversal to subnormal temperatures, so I resumed the Miracid feedings. As long as the temperature remains cool enough, my intention, at this time, is to continue with the Miracid and switch to compressed cottonseed meal cakes when summer temperatures arrive. Cottonseed, even though it is only 5% nitrogen, may prove excessive to my Miracid-fed camellias when summer heat accelerates the feeding rate, so I am counting on the compressed cakes to help restrict the amount of additional nitrogen being fed.

Our area was blessed with an unseasonal, soaking rain yesterday, so, conditions being optimum, I did a general feeding of a 3-0-0 14% iron product to supplement the iron in the Miracid. If the weather permits, I will follow with a general Miracid feeding in another week. If the foliage indicates that another iron feeding may be needed, I will probably exclude from further iron feedings any variegated varieties in which the iron will tend to suppress the variegation.

A second program I investigated on a smaller scale was one given by a local gardening instructor. This program called for 1/2 cup blood meal (13% nitrogen) in April; 1/2 cup superphosphate and a liquid feeding of something with about 10% nitrogen in June; and 1/2 cup cottonseed meal in September or October. These amounts were prescribed for a 3-5 foot camellia *in the ground*. On April 4th I began this program on about 20 likely camellias and have not progressed to the second phase.

Already, however, there is adequate basis for a comparison of the two programs and a preference. Whereas the Miracid was beneficial to stressed camellias, the blood meal rather promptly killed one hybrid retic. Another *saluenensis*/retic hybrid that

should have fared well in the heat, suffered considerable foliage damage and some die-back. Furthermore, none of the plants fed the blood meal had foliage of the vigor, color, and size as did the plants fed with Miracid. To help compensate, I have recently begun giving light, judicious Miracid feedings to the camellias under the blood meal program and will switch them over as well to the Miracid program. Two further comments on the blood meal program are that hybrids would be less tolerant of the "heavy" blood fertilizer than most japonicas, and the September or October cottonseed feeding would be too late for most varieties in this area.

Some thoughts and conclusions that can be drawn at this time are as follows:

1. Miracid appears to be an outstanding product to remedy our conditions of alkaline soil and water and make the nutrients available to the plant.

2. The 1/2 strength (1/2T/gallon of water) Miracid feeding every two weeks is tolerable to all the japonicas, retics, and hybrids tested under the generally cool weather conditions that have existed thus far. (I consider 85 degrees the point at which my camellias start panting, and I withhold all fertilizers during heat.) Indications are that most or all of my camellias would have survived well if I had used the full recommended dosage. However, we rather frequently experience sudden and unseasonal variations of temperature and humidity—two important variables that prompt me to go with the safer, more dilute feedings for now. If any fertilizer damage should start to occur, the liquid-fed Miracid would be more easily leached from the soil than the solid organic products.

3. The Miracid program has, under these test conditions, produced plants with more vigorous growth and more heat tolerance than the fish emulsion/cottonseed meal program I have used in the past.

The final verdict on the value of this Miracid program will not be known

until the 1990-91 show results are in. How many times will my blooms make the head table? Wait and see!

ED. NOTE: *Marilee Gray has a degree in chemistry which may explain her constant search for new and better fertilizers.*



(continued from page 16)

a *hemostat*. Your fingers and coat sleeves are never slim enough to lift a flower without bruising another one. Let the *hemostat* replace your fingers.

Now that your blooms are packed for traveling, extra care should be taken to keep the temperature down. I place 3 or 4 ice cubes in between flowers in each box. I then use "liquid ice" (canned ice which can be re-frozen) and place it on top of all the boxes. With an old blanket I cover boxes for insulation. Now your cool blossoms will be fresh for display.

Grand finale to all your efforts is placing your flowers for the judges. Before placing flowers on the table, give them the "once-over inspection." You'll find that your *brush* will come in handy for cleaning a speck of dust

which may have been overlooked. Another last minute grooming suggestion is the leaves. They deserve your consideration too. Leaves are an accessory which enhance the beauty of any flower, so clean them and shine them with margarine on your thumb and finger.

All these processes are mechanical techniques in picking, packing and traveling. Aside from these tangible instructions, the most important "instrument" is *Your Attitude!* We are all lovers of the beautiful camellia. Accompanying this love should be great enthusiasm of showing off these winning beauties. Take lots of time to pick and groom your flowers. Don't count the hours you are taking for this job. Chalk it all up to work in presenting the fragile debutantes of the floral world for the eyes of Lovers of Nature.

Camellia Show Schedule 1990-91 Season

1990

Dec. 1,2 Pacific Society Gib Show
Los Angeles County
Arboretum
Arcadia

1991

Jan. 12,13 Southern California Camellia
Society
Huntington Gardens
San Marino

Jan. 26,27 South Coast Camellia Society
South Coast Botanical
Gardens
Palos Verdes

Feb. 2,3 San Diego Camellia Society
Casa Del Prado — Balboa Park
San Diego

Feb. 9,10 Pomona Valley Camellia Society
Pomona First Federal
Claremont

Feb. 16,17 Temple City Camellia Society
Los Angeles County
Arboretum
Arcadia

Feb. 23,24 Southern California Camellia
Council Show in connection
with ACS Convention
Descanso Gardens
La Cañada Flintridge

Mar. 2,3 Kern County Camellia Society
First Christian Church
Bakersfield

Mar. 9,10 Central California Camellia
Society
Fresno

Mar. 16,17 Camellia Society of Modesto
Modesto

Camellia Society of Kern County 42nd Annual Show

March 3-4, 1990

- Best Large Japonica
Runner-up
- Best Medium Japonica
Runner-up
- Best Miniature Japonica
Runner-up
- Best 3 Large Japonicas
Runner-up
- Best 3 Medium Japonicas
Runner-up
- Best 3 Miniature Japonicas
Runner-up
- Best Hybrid Retic
Runner-up
- Best 3 Hybrid Retics
Runner-up
- Best Non-Retic Hybrid
Runner-up
- Best 3 Non-Retic Hybrids
Runner-up
- Best Treated Flower
Runner-up
- Best Seedling
- Best Sport
- Best Species
- Best Collector's Tray
Runner-up

- 'Carol Humphrey Var.'
- 'Royal Velvet'
- 'Fire Dance'
- 'Margaret Davis'
- 'Baby Pearl'
- 'Alison Leigh Woodroof'
- 'Nuccio's Carousel'
- 'Royal Velvet'
- 'Fire Dance'
- 'Fire Dance Var.'
- 'Tom Thumb'
- 'Covina'
- 'Emma Gaeta Var.'
- 'Curtain Call'
- 'Harold Paige'
- 'Nuccio's Ruby'
- 'Pink Dahlia'
- 'Waltz Time Var.'
- 'Kramer's Fluted Coral'
- 'Debbie'
- 'Valley Knudsen'
- 'Emma Gaeta Var.'

- Melvin and Polly Canfield
- Marvin and Virginia Belcher
- Leland and Arlene Chow
- D. T. Gray Family
- Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray
- Marvin and Virginia Belcher
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- Marvin and Virginia Belcher
- Leland and Arlene Chow
- Richard and Jackie Stiern
- Al and Louise Taylor
- Vanessa Wiseman
- Matt Wilkin
- Elsie and Sergio Bracci
- Elsie and Sergio Bracci
- Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Jaacks
- The Art Gonos Family
- Marvin and Virginia Belcher
- Richard and Jackie Stiern
- The Art Gonos Family
- Al and Lois Taylor
- The Art Gonos Family
- Glenn Burroughs
- Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray
- Sergio and Elsie Bracci
- Sergio and Elsie Bracci
- D. T. Gray Family

- Best Large Japonica
Runner-up
- Best Medium Japonica
Runner-up
- Best 3 Japonicas
Runner-up
- Best of Novice Show
Runner-up

NOVICE CLASS

- 'Mathotiana'
- 'Kramer's Supreme'
- 'Magnoliaeflora'
- 'Mrs. Tingley'
- 'Drama Girl'
- 'Kramer's Supreme'
- 'Mathotiana'
- 'Magnoliaeflora'

- Lil Doty
- Larry and Ruth Adams
- Gael Grisvold
- Stacy Heisey
- Marie Bermele
- Ruth and Larry Adams
- Lil Doty
- Gael Grisvold

NOVICE COURT OF HONOR

- 'San Dimas'
- 'Chandlerii Elegans'
- 'Mrs. Tingley'

- Gael Grisvold
- Lil Doty
- Gael Grisvold

Show Chairman — Mel Canfield Chairman of Judges — Lee Chow

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Guidelines for Southern California Camellia Council Camellia Shows

Purpose: The Southern California Camellia Council has prepared these guidelines contained herein to be used at camellia shows under its auspices. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a uniformity and a format of operation that will both facilitate exhibiting and will best achieve the primary objectives of these shows. These goals are 1) to present a judged show in which each exhibit receives its due and fair consideration and recognition and 2) to present a show of merit and horticultural interest for the public.

I. Requirements of the show host

A. The show committee shall prepare a show schedule and make it available to exhibitors in advance of the show, have copies available at the show, and provide copies for the judging teams.

B. The show committee, in cooperation with the Southern California Camellia Council, shall make exhibitor cards available to exhibitors both at the show and prior to the show. The standard exhibitor card for a show should be made available to exhibitors from outside the Southern California area also.

C. The show committee shall declare the times for placement and judging in the show schedule. Placement of blooms should begin as early as feasible, usually 7:30 a.m., and close at 10:30 a.m. Judging should begin at 11 a.m., and the show should open to the public at 1 p.m.

D. The show committee shall clearly distinguish 'Special Culture' classes in the public interest. 'Special Culture' includes blooms that have been treated with gib or have been grown under glass.

E. The show committee has the responsibility of determining that blooms are placed, judged, and awarded in their proper classes. Especially for treated blooms, the show committee must predetermine its directives for verifying bloom placement. (See Supplement A)

F. The show schedule shall specify the criteria to be used to designate size, *i.e.*, actual size or the *Camellia Nomenclature*. (See Supplement B)

G. The show committee shall provide appropriate containers for all exhibits.

H. All exhibits are the property of and are under the direction of the show committee.

I. The show committee shall provide all reasonable protection to the exhibits, but it will not be responsible for loss or damage to any exhibit.

II. Exhibitors

A. An exhibitor need not be a member of a camellia society.

B. If there are special classes for novice exhibitors, they are limited to those exhibitors who have not had a bloom on the awards table at any previous show.

C. Amateurs may compete in all classes except those designated for commercial exhibitors. An amateur is one who does not engage in the sale of camellia plants, scions, or blooms for a part of his livelihood. Questions of eligibility shall be decided by the show committee.

III. Placement

A. Each exhibit shall be accompanied by an exhibitor's card, preferably the standard card for the show.

B. Exhibitors will place their blooms on the display tables under the direction of the placement committee.

C. The exhibit area is open only to exhibitors and members of the placement committee during the placement of blooms.

D. Exhibitors *must* leave the exhibit area upon completion of bloom placement.

E. Blooms must be correctly placed according to the presiding show schedule. It is the responsibility of show management to assure that blooms are correctly placed by classification, size, and culture. (See Supplement A & B)

F. Any named variety may be entered in its proper class according to the show schedule, but only published varieties may be sent to the awards or the head table, with the exception of seedling and sport classes. (See Judging: IV, K.)

G. Blooms must be entered in the name of the owner/grower. Blooms must be from plants in the exhibitor's possession for at least 30 days prior to the show.

H. Collars or any artificial means of support for the blooms are not allowed.

I. The latest edition of the Southern California Camellia Society's *Camellia Nomenclature* or the annual supplement will be the reference used to enter blooms according to name, description, classification, and size, unless actual size is specified in the show schedule.

J. Blooms may be entered with stems up to one inch in length. As many as two leaves are permitted, but foliage will not be considered in judging. (See Judging: IV, B)

K. More than one exhibit of a variety may be entered in a class if it is so indicated in the show schedule or allowed by the show chairman.

L. During placement, blooms may only be touched by the entering exhibitor or be moved by members of the placement committee.

IV. Judging

A. During the judging, the exhibit area is closed to all but those who are judging, clerking, or working the head table.

B. Single bloom entries will be judged against the highest standard of that variety according to the following schedule: 20 points will be awarded for each of the considerations of color, form, size, substance and texture, and condition. (Note that the chairman of judges may ask that the judging of conditions be made with consideration of adverse weather conditions). Multiple entries of a single variety have the added consideration of uniformity. Collector's trays are judged for the composition of complementary blooms as well as quality. Seedlings and sports are judged on the desirable characteristics of the bloom and its uniqueness. Special classes, such as yellow or fragrance, should be judged with equal weight given to the flower form and to the yellow or fragrant characteristics of the bloom.

C. Judges need not award blooms that do not meet varietal standards.

D. The placement decision of the judges is final.

E. Judges should step back and refrain from judging and awarding blooms in a variety in which they either have an entry or have knowledge of the ownership of an entry. A judge should not indicate his entry to a fellow judge.

F. Blooms showing petal blight are disqualified.

G. Blooms visually off the calyx are disqualified.

H. Blooms groomed by trimming are not disqualified, but they would be rated on condition.

I. Judges may not touch blooms unless they question whether or not a bloom has been treated and the chairman of judges has given judges permission to check suspect blooms.

J. Judges may not move blooms in their cups unless it is necessary to do so for adequate viewing for judging.

K. Only those varieties listed in the 1981 Historical Edition or the latest edition of the *Camellia Nomenclature*, in the latest *ACS Journal*, in the new varieties supplement, or published in the *Camellia Review* may be sent to the head table or to the awards table. Variegated forms of listed varieties are recognized and accepted.

L. Special Culture blooms placed in the non-treated classes will not be judged.

M. Blooms misnamed or misplaced should be corrected, moved, and judged, if possible.

N. Sweep teams are neither mandated nor disallowed. (See Supplement C)

O. Judging teams should be composed of three members, two of which must be experienced and active judges. An 'active' classification requires that one attend a judges' symposium at least one every three years, whether or not that person is ACS accredited. Attendance rosters at judges' symposiums are to be available to show committees, specifically the chairman of judges, to determine who have 'active' status and who are new novice judges.

V. Head Table

A. Only registered or published bloom varieties may be retained at the head table. (See Judging: IV, K)

B. The exhibitors' cards shall be covered with another card that shows only varietal name and its assigned ballot number.

C. All judges are eligible to vote on all classes at the head table, including those classes in which they have blooms.

D. All judges and head table personnel are eligible to vote at the head table.

E. All judges should vote on all entries. If time restraints make it necessary, the judging could be split so that half of the judges and half of the head table personnel vote at each head table. In this case, those teams that initially judged singles would judge multiples at the head table and vice versa.

F. Head table personnel shall screen out all

blooms that exhibit petal blight or are loose from the calyx.

G. If head table personnel are duly qualified, they may serve as screening team members.

H. Head table personnel shall perform as directed to check blooms either prior to judging and/or to awarding to verify the winners in untreated classes.

VI. Awards

A. Awards will be made for 'Best' or 'Runner-Up' in all classes unless the show com-

mittee designates only a 'Best' award. One or more Courts of Honor may be awarded per class, as designated.

B. An award need not be given if the entries in a class are deemed unworthy.

C. Awards may not be released until after the show closes and then only under the direction of the awards chairman.

Supplement to Camellia Show Guidelines

This supplement contains excerpts from the original committee report on show management. Their inclusion here serves to define more clearly the problem, the options, or the committee's intent.

Supplement A: The validity of classes concerns the distinction between treated and non-treated blooms — an important consideration inasmuch as none of the shows in Southern California are open shows. Some of the early shows, however, do have a few open classes. It is imperative in maintaining the integrity of a show — both for the exhibitors and the public — that classes defined as non-treated classes contain only non-treated blooms. Each show committee needs to have a preconceived method for screening out treated blooms, determined in part by past problems, by exhibitors, and by the season. Grant that, under the pressure of time, even the blooms of the most experienced and conscientious exhibitor may be incorrectly placed. A show committee is obligated to try and ferret out the treated blooms.

The most extreme method would have every bloom checked for gib that is sent to the head table from the non-treated classes. But this exposes all the entries to possible damage and elimination and is all but prohibitive from a time standpoint, especially in trays. What probably would be an effective and a practical screening would be some combination of the following checks:

1. When a member of a judging team suspects a bloom has been treated, it would be checked and verified or eliminated immediately. This seems fair to the rest of the class, for a treated bloom screened out at the head table has effectively removed the second place winner from further consideration unless the effort is made to reassess

the varietal class. The show committee may choose to designate someone (chairman of judges, roving judges, etc.) to be called to check the blooms. Verification should be noted on the exhibitor's card.

2. Head table personnel should check all suspect blooms. Verification should be noted on the exhibitor's card.

3. After final judging but before awards are granted, those blooms destined for the awards table would be checked and verified if they had not already been checked. If a violation is discovered, that bloom would be eliminated and the next blooms moved up. This has the distinct advantage of assuring a 'clean' awards table without endangering the entire class before final judging. Also, a tray of three or five could still show adequately on the awards table even if one of the group were damaged in checking.

Whatever the show committee's decision on misplaced blooms, it should be clearly defined in the chairman of judges' instructions to the judges.

Opinions varied from no allowance to no penalty on dealing with non-treated blooms without a growth bud, but which might be ruled 'treated' if checked. One show allows for an exhibitor to clear such a bloom prior to judging with the chairman of judges who so notes it on the exhibitor's card. This permits the legitimately untreated bloom to be in the show and be judged with its proper class, but the burden of verification must be borne by some individual.

Supplement B: Each show committee needs to specifically define the criteria used for size in the show schedule. The more accepted method is to use the size designation given in the *Nomenclature* or the *Nomenclature*

ture Supplement and to place a bloom in the smaller size class if two size ranges are given, *i.e.*, bloom of a medium to large variety would be placed in the medium class. This method requires that the *Nomenclature* be continually updated. An updated supplement of new and revised varieties will be annually issued. Supplements will have priority over previous publications.

Should a show committee opt to use actual bloom size on the day of the show, be aware that this creates the likelihood of a single variety being shown in two classes and a lesser bloom winning in the smaller-sized class. Furthermore, the public and exhibitors will be confused by the split classes and the different size designation of a variety from week to week.

The greatest concern over size exists in the miniature and small classes. The general consensus is that blooms noticeably oversized in these classes will be demerited. In this regard, the intent of the show committee should be included in the judges' oral instructions.

Supplement C: A sweep team offers a simple, but effective, means of improving the judging procedure. It better assures that the representatives of a class that are held for final judging are really the best representatives of that class by bringing up those outstanding, but overlooked blooms that are left on the varietal tables by the judging

teams. The sweep, or review, team quickly and discreetly surveys the show following the initial judging and sends to the head table any first place blooms that are outstanding enough to deserve further consideration. The sweep team, being different from the first judges, would be less likely to make the same oversights. The sweep team must be selected for its impartial objectivity. It is important to note that a bloom does not win solely because it was sent to the head table, but no bloom, no matter how outstanding, ever won if it never made the head table.

The sweep team results in more consistent head table quality and makes the show appear as if it were judged by one team — a desirable attribute. Additionally, the sweep team should eliminate the current practice of permitting any judge to send any first place bloom to the head table. This practice gives unfair advantage to exhibitors who are on the floor during judging and who see to it that their overlooked blooms do make it to the head table.

Initially, judging teams should consciously and vocally weigh whether or not the winning bloom of each variety is going to the head table. Roving judges also need to be reminded that their obligation is not completed until the head table consideration has been fulfilled.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA REVIEW FUND

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Back Inside Cover Information

San Diego Camellia Society — President, Beth Kalal; Secretary, Edna Baskerville, 4871 Lucille Pl., San Diego 92115.

All *Camellia Review* covers are printed during the summer before the season starts. Unfortunately the above information will be incorrect in all remaining issues this year.

The deadline for this information is July 1. In spring I send a questionnaire to each society secretary. Please fill it out and return it so that our listing for your society will be accurate.

— The Editor

Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB AND CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Bill Lee; Secretary, Ruby Eason, P.O. Box 918, Atwater 95301. Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room, Bloss House, 1020 Cedar Ave., Atwater.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Chris Gonos; Secretary, Dolores Martin, 2405 E. Pontiac Way, Fresno 93726. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February, Sheraton Smugglers Inn, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, JoAnn Weeks, 2337 Westbrook Ct., Walnut Creek 94598. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through March, Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Rd., Concord.

KERN COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Beverly Dukes; Secretary, Shirley Jenkins, 4824 Hasti-Bob Ct., Bakersfield 93309. Meetings: Call Beverly or Fred Dukes for meeting dates, time and location (805) 831-4383.

MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Robert Dorn; Secretary, Betty Grover, 1108 Ulrich Ave., Modesto 95350. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, September through April, Centenary Methodist Church, Room 6, Norwegian & McHenry Avenues, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Jack Lewis; Secretary, Jim Toland, 1897 Andrews Dr., Concord 94521. Meetings: 1st Monday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., San Francisco Federal Savings, 1660 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek. Final meeting in Spring is first Monday in May.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Russel Monroe; Secretary, Mary Simmons, 5616 Freeman Ave., La Crescenta 91214. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, 8:00 p.m., Descanso Gardens.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Howard Oliver; Secretary, Betty Semich, 11891 Magdalena, Ave., Los Altos 94024. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October through March, Ampex Cafeteria, 411 Broadway, Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Andrews; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 1st Tuesday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., Pomona First Federal Savings and Loan, 1933 Foothill Blvd., La Verne.

SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Donald Lesmeister; Secretary, Evalena Smith, 601 - 34th St., Sacramento 95816. Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October through April, 7:30 p.m., Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Dean Turney; Secretary, Edalee Harwell, 2165 Leon Ave., San Diego 92154. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, 7:30 p.m., Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY INC., CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, John Mendoza III; Secretary, Mrs. Roy Williams, 1159 Park Ave., San Jose, 95126. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, September through April, except Wednesday, November and December, 7:30 p.m., Sumitomo Bank Community Room, 515 No. First St., San Jose.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Glenn Burroughs; Secretary, Pauline Johnson, 1251-10th St., San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, October through May, 7:30 p.m., South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula.

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Elsie Bracci; Secretary, Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776. Meetings: November 15, January 25, February 21, March 28, April 25, 8:00 p.m., Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. February and April meetings transferred to Arboretum Ayres Hall.

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