

THE *Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Hall's Pride'

Vol. 54

September-October 1992

No. 1

# ***Southern California Camellia Society Inc.***

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

All are welcome to attend Society meetings held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, on October 29—Lecture Hall, November 19—Ayres Hall, January 28, February 25, March 25,—Lecture Hall, and April 26, Ayres Hall. A camellia culture demonstration/lecture and cut blossom exhibit at 7:30 p.m. precedes the program which begins at 8:00 p.m. Bloom placement at 7:00 p.m. for the exhibit.

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## Cover Photo 'Hall's Pride'

Very large, radiant salmon pink reticulata hybrid of 'Cornelian'. Semi-double, 7"x4". 'Hall's Pride' recently won the prestigious Aubrey Harris Award from the American Camellia Society. Photography and color separations courtesy of Houghton Hall

### AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Southern California Camellia Society will welcome you as a member.

For your convenience an application blank is printed below.

#### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP — \$20.00

Includes Subscription to The Camellia Review — Four issues per year.

In a three year period, a membership includes one revised edition of "Camellia Nomenclature"— over 150 pages with descriptions of over 4,000 camellias at a cost of \$5.00 (\$7.00 Foreign).

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# THOUGHTS

*from the editor*

Watch the sparks fly in our Society this year! President Marilee Gray has focused her considerable energies on bringing camellias to a wider audience and interesting more people in joining the Society. Program Chairman Ann Richardson, in her position as Huntington Gardens camellia curator, has access to many horticulture speakers who have made—and will continue to make—our meetings exciting and worthwhile.

The biggest news bubbling is changing the Huntington Show date to mid-season to coincide with the Huntington Gardens Camellia Festival and plant sale, tantalizing visitors with an enlarged show, the gardens in full bloom and the opportunity to buy some of the beautiful camellias they will see there! Nuccio's Nurseries has promised some huge, boxed camellias for display and/or sale!

Circle February 13, 1993 on your calendar for the show of a lifetime!

—Pat Greutert

## Look For the Envelope — Last Issue?

An envelope is enclosed in the fold of this magazine to use for your dues. In the past, we have let dues procrastinators slide, eventually sending them a post card reminder. We cannot afford this luxury any longer. Please send in your dues **NOW** so that we can continue sending you *The Review*. Otherwise, this is your last issue.

If you send your dues in late, we must send the *Reviews* you missed first class, rather than bulk rate postage. Please help us cut expenses!

## Look On the Inside Front Cover—

You'll find all the Southern California Camellia Society meeting dates, times and locations listed.

## New Members

Southern California Camellia Society welcomes:

Mary V. Desmond  
2311 East First St.  
Long Beach 90810

Lorna T. Kugler  
2951 Canal Ave.  
Long Beach 90803

Mary Ann Paullin  
10029 Beach St.  
Bellflower, CA 90706  
(310)920-3300

# Virusing of Camellia (I)

Dr. Takayuki Tanaka

*Dr. Tanaka is a professor on the Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu Tokai University, Aso-gun Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan*

"Look at this! This variegated flower of camellia is the bud mutation from my garden. How do you like it? Is it worth naming?" Your author is sometimes asked to evaluate the "cultivar." At that time, if I reply with a cutting remark from a scientific point of view that it is a kind of disease, namely the symptom of virus, he must be disappointed. Instead, I usually just praise him for breeding attractive flowers. In fact, the speckled flower is more attractive or showy than the original flower, indeed, and the damage of the tree by disease is not so severe. He thinks that the camellia virus can be a useful tool for breeding variegated cultivars. However, depending on the cultivar, infection of virus looks like reducing the survival rate of the cutting and the viability of the plants without improving the value of the flowers. Some old stocks of camellia are affected (weakened) by the disease, and occasionally the newly introduced species of genus *Camellia* from foreign countries are infected with virus from the first grafting. As plants do not have the protection system against virus by the mechanism of antigen-antibody reaction, once they have been infected with the virus, the reliable technique to eliminate the virus from the plants will not be available for the time being.

Prudent readers of this magazine would find a number of symptoms of camellia which would seem to be caused by virus. Only a few diseases of the genus *Camellia* by virus are known.

## **Tea phloem necrosis virus (Bond, 1944, 1947)**

Symptom: The full expression of the disease is unusually complex and accurate diagnosis is difficult. The earliest definite symptom to be recognized was the occurrence of necrosis [small black spots of decayed tis-

sue] affecting the phloem of the roots, from which the disease received its name. Later, the phloem necrosis was found in the aerial parts of the plant as well. Then it was gradually realized that many necrotic bushes could be recognized by the occurrence of one or more externally visible symptoms of which a tendency for leaves to curl and for the stems to develop in a zig-zag fashion were the most important.

Transmission: The virus has been transmitted only by grafting, including seedling grafts and root grafts. No insect vector is known.

## **Camellia yellow mottle virus (Milbrath and McWhorter, 1946)**

Symptom: The symptoms consist of a number of different forms, the chlorosis is sometimes marginal, sometimes irregularly blotched or speckled on leaf and flower and the relation of variegation of foliage to flower break in the camellia has not yet been established. Very little is known about the virus causing this disease.

Transmission: It is graft transmissible but its natural mode of spread is not known.

The expression of the symptoms is so equivocal that only the camellia yellow mottle virus can cover all types of the variegated leaves and flowers except striped flowers caused by chimera [genetic mutation]. Depending on camellia cultivars, the symptoms of the virus are so different that they look like the different race or species; they are (1) seen only on the leaves, not on the flowers, (2) seen mainly on the leaves of spring shoots, (3) mostly masked, seldom appeared even in a big tree, (4) seen on both the leaves and flowers, and (5) displayed mainly on the petals. However, it is not yet certain whether the differences of the symptoms are in-

duced by the difference of the race (species) of the virus or by the different responses of the genotypes (camellia cultivars) of the host plants.

There are no drugs which work on virus disease directly. When you catch a cold, it is not medicine but your own body which can repel the influenza virus. Plants, however, do not have antibodies like animals which react against the foreign proteins (antigen), when they have been infected with virus, they can never eliminate the virus. Therefore, every shoot and clone of them by the traditional vegetative propagation carry the virus, even when you cannot find any symptoms.

Two technologies have emerged as a practical means of establishing the virus-free plants of camellia; *in vitro* culture and high temperature treatment.

In plant tissue, growing point (meristem) was elucidated to be virus-free and mericlone *in vitro* has been practically applied to make virus-free herbaceous plants. Your author has been working on the *in vitro* culture of camellia for more than ten years. Finally, I found it quite difficult to culture the meristem of adult camellia.

*This article was written at the request of Julius Nuccio and Pat Greutert.*

aseptically [germ-free], though plantlets of camellia can be available by the shoot tip culture of the young seedling, embryo culture and micrografting. There is no need to state that the seedling cannot keep the characteristics of the parent cultivar. As scion, the shoot tip with more than two leaf primordia must be excised for successful micrografting *in vitro*, and this size looks too big to make virus-free plants compared with that of herbaceous plants (0.1vs0.2mm). High temperature treatment (40°C) during the sprouting of shoots eliminates virus from citrus plants and this technique may be effective to camellia. However, the diagnosis of virus in camellia is so difficult that it is doubtful whether the plantlets obtained are virus-free or not. Thus, once useless virus entered the important scions, we do not have the reliable technique to eliminate the virus from the plants for the time being. And even when such technologies have proven effective at controlling virus disease, it still takes time to eliminate the virus from the plants. Therefore, we cannot be careful enough in choosing stocks for grafting.

## Letter

July 8, 1992

Dear Pat,

I enjoy your writings in *The Review*. You just seem to hit a sensitive spot—a good sensation, and a shared belief in your ideas. Such a spot was the article on “Virus—Deadly or Delightful.” The name alone has an ominous sound. I do not prefer flowers splotched with white—a novelty, but not a favorite by any means.

In particular, when one of my plants

was grafted with a ‘Miss Tulare’ scion, I’m so glad it was not the variegated variety and I hope it remains pure red.

My ‘Silver Chalice’ is sporting virused leaves and many of them are pure yellow. It looks sick to me (the color, not the plant). I hope to cure it by applying an iron fertilizer. [June sent along an almost white, pressed leaf from her plant.]

I prefer glossy green leaves.

June DeWitt  
(Los Angeles)

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND

Men’s Camellia Club of Charlotte, North Carolina  
Send contributions for the Nomenclature Fund to:  
Bobbie Belcher, 7457 Brydon Rd., LaVerne, CA 91750

# Pro-Virus

C.C.Bush

Today it seems, all persons are PRO something or other—Pro-Democrat, Pro-Republican, Pro-choice, etc. I am Pro-virus. You can register me as such.

When I started growing camellias as a hobby, my preference was formal doubles and solids. I preferred the dark reds, whites and dark pinks. Then one day on a visit to R.L. Brent Nursery, I saw a 'Dixie Knight Supreme' which was exceptional. It increased my appreciation of camellias many times. I inquired as to how the variegation occurred. As Mr. Brent was in the process of grafting, he grafted a 'Miss Charleston' for me. In the cleft on the sasanqua opposite the 'Miss Charleston', he inserted a scion of a highly-variegated 'King Size'. My first bloom on this plant of 'Miss Charleston Variegated' was judged Best in Show at Brookhaven, Mississippi. This incentive led to a greater appreciation for variegated blooms.

All attempts to explain the reasons for the occurrence of variegation failed. As far as I could ascertain, it was the result of viral infection. The virus was not visible to the electron microscope, but it was obvious that the presence of the virus was responsible for the variegation.

To variegated a bloom of a certain variety, a scion of the desired variety can be grafted on a virus-infected sasanqua such as 'Mine-No-Yuki'. If a virus-free sasanqua is the understock, a virus-infected scion can be grafted on one side of the cleft and a desired variety grafted on the opposite side of the cleft. After each is callused and both scions are growing, the virus-infected scion can be cut off leaving only the desired variety, hopefully with the variegation of the virus-infected scion. In many instances, however, the virus is not transmitted in the grafting procedure.

The virus can be eliminated to a great extent by treating the soil with

basic slag. If chlorosis of the leaves is excessive, it can be greened by weekly treatments with chelated iron. It has been my experience, if you successfully remove all the chlorosis from the leaves, the plant will bloom with reduced variegation.

My friends who graft camellias have used different means to induce the virus into new grafts: Hody Wilson of Hammond, Louisiana, used a sasanqua, 'Mine-No-Yuki', as understock. He advised me that it would variegated a fence post if planted within eight feet. He was just joking, but he made his point. Bagby Hall used a variegated 'King Size' grafted with the variety he wanted to variegated. Clyde Copeland used a variegated 'Mike Whitman'. This resulted in a beautiful moired variegation with little or no chlorosis in the leaves. John Edwards used a cross graft of 'Finlandia' and obtained a highly-variegated bloom with large white markings. Occasionally one complete petal was white. A.P. Fatheree of Jackson has a 'Howard Asper' variegated with 'King Lear' which consistently blooms with 50 to 60 percent white due to viral infection.

Clyde Copeland was the most knowledgeable grower of virus variegation with whom I have had the pleasure to associate. He first revealed to me the types of variegation which he described as the Davis strain, the Rogers strain, the Ward strain, etc. The Davis strain was in a 'Guilio Nuccio Variegated' shown by Jack Davis of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The Rogers strain was evident in a 'Ville de Nantes' shown by John Rogers of Laurel, Mississippi. The Ward strain was from Dick Ward of Birmingham, Alabama, who had a variegated 'Tomorrow' which was exceptional. He had other strains, but those are the ones I recall. The ideal strain was the one which variegated the flower but not the leaves.

When plants are infected by variegating virus, it is evidenced by white or light yellow spots on the leaves. Usually these plants produce blooms that are slightly smaller. When they are treated with basic slag or chelated iron and the chlorosis in the leaves disappears, there is no decrease in the size of the blooms. Plants in which the chlorosis cannot be eliminated by treatment with basic slag or chelated iron will never produce "show" flowers and will soon die.

For a grafter of camellias, one of the greatest problems is obtaining viable, healthy understock. When a source of supply dried up, I approached Hody Wilson in Hammond, Louisiana, with my problem. He obtained 15 to 20 pieces of understock of 'Day Dream' and 'Maiden's Blush'. When I went down to get them, he gave me two plants of 'Mine-No-Yuki' to use for variegating. When I unloaded the plants at my greenhouse, I got the 'Mine-No-Yuki' mixed with the solid understock. In error, I grafted a 'Nuccio's Ruby' (to have a second plant) on a 'Mine-No-Yuki'. The result was a 'Nuccio's Ruby Variegated' with beautiful moire variegation. I was greatly rewarded by this mistake. Blooms from this plant have been awarded Best Reticulata Hybrid on several occasions.

All virus does not induce chlorosis in the leaves. Certain strains only transmit white to the petals. The observance of a new strain of viral variegation is as exciting as the sight of new varieties. Some varieties into which I have successfully induced variegation into japonicas and retic hybrids with little or no chlorosis in the leaves are: 'Mike Whitman Variegated', 'King Size Variegated', 'Eleanor Martin Supreme', 'Ville de Nantes', 'Magic City' and 'Donckelarii'.

It must not be construed that I advocate inducing virus into all camellias and retic hybrids. All cannot be improved by variegation. The light pinks and pastel shades I prefer with-

out variegation. 'Fashionata' is probably the lightest shade that I feel is enhanced by variegation. The dark reds and deep rose shades are made more beautiful by the addition of variegation. A few japonicas that are improved by variegation are: 'Helen Bower', 'Cherries Jubilee', 'Clark Hubbs', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Granada', 'Miss Charleston', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Little Babe', 'Pirate's Gold', 'Veiled Beauty' and 'Carter's Sunburst Pink'. No doubt there are others that could be included.

The reticulata hybrids which are made more beautiful when variegated are: 'Nuccio's Ruby', 'Terrell Weaver', 'Royalty', 'Dr. Clifford Parks', 'Emma Gaeta', 'Howard Asper', 'Harold Paige', 'Valentine Day', 'Valley Knudsen', 'Bill Goertz' and 'Frank Houser'. There are others that can be listed.

The only non-reticulata hybrids that I've seen which are improved by variegation are 'Julie' ('Julia'—variegated 'Julie') and 'Mona Jury'. As a rule, the non-retic hybrids do not exhibit dark enough shades to produce attractive variegated blooms.

Growing variegated blooms is full of surprises. Not all buds will produce variegated blooms. A plant that has been virused is a veritable treasury of surprises. The only consistency is variation in degree of variegation. All camellias are beautiful to me. By the addition of variegating virus, beauty is made more beautiful.

Most of the amateur growers with whom I am acquainted cultivate camellias for the joy and satisfaction derived from producing a beautiful bloom. The rules presently in effect on showing and exhibiting camellias as defined by the American Camellia Society are adequate. The fewer rules and regulations that are necessary, the greater the enjoyment for the camellia fancier.

In conclusion, I would say that I have a deep appreciation for variegated bloom in japonicas and reticulata hybrids and will object vig-



ously to any regulations or laws prohibiting their existence. The gentleman advocating destruction of all virus-infected plants is no doubt

highly educated, however, making such a statement does not demonstrate much wisdom.

## CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA-RAMA XVIII

**November 6-7-8, 1992**

**PORT: Fresno, California**

**PIER: Sheraton-Smuggler's Inn  
3737 North Blackstone**

### **Schedule**

- Friday:** Central California Camellia Society personalized munchies and soothing liquids—Rooms 221-223
- Saturday:** Camellia Show—Rooms 101-103  
Bloom entries 7:30-8:30 a.m.  
Registration—Banquet Room 7:30-8:30 a.m.  
Morning Camellia Symposium—Banquet Room 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
Buffet Lunch—Noon-1:00 p.m.  
Camellia Show Viewing—Rooms 101-103 1:00-1:30 p.m.  
Afternoon Camellia Symposium—Banquet Room 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
Hospitality—Rooms 221-223 CCCS Champagne and costume time 4:00-7:00 p.m.  
Costume Parade—Banquet Room 7:00-7:30 p.m.  
Prime Rib Dinner 7:45-9:00 p.m.  
Dancing with Johnny Salatino and Son 9:00-10:00 p.m.  
Awesome Raffle and Special Drawing 10:00-11:00 p.m.
- Sunday:** Bon Voyage Breakfast—Banquet Room 9:00 a.m.  
**Great speakers! Timely topics! Fun! Prizes!**

### **Islands Theme**

There are millions of islands! Fictional islands, mythological islands, REAL islands with history and mythology, artifacts, animals and many treasures. Get your imagination in high gear and have FUN.

As always, there will be costume awards and show trophies.

### **OPEN SHOW**

Categories include: Large Japonica, Medium Japonica, Retic, Non-Retic Hybrid, Boutonierre (any species) and Species other than Japonica, Retic and Non-Retic Hybrid. If you are registered, you may vote for Best of Show.

### **Reservations-Motel AND Camellia-Rama**

Chris Gonos  
5643 No. College  
Fresno, CA 93704  
(209) 439-2228

### **Further Information**

Bob Kellas  
101 Sylmar #215  
Clovis, CA 93512  
(209) 298-5424

We look forward to greeting you!  
Mary Anne Ray  
Cam-Ram Chamber of Commerce

*Camellia-Rama registration form on Page 24*

## Straight from Sergio Bracci

Your editor found this information recorded on the back of an envelope at one of Sergio's frequent, informative talks.

Sergio begins 2-10-10 fertilizer applications in September and applies iron on Valentine Day.

He refrigerates early show blooms in a (not frost-free) refrigerator at 40-50°.

Other tips: Don't pick wet flowers. Don't spray show flowers in the boxes you use to transport them.

Early flowers to gib:

'Clark Hubbs'  
'Eleanor Martin Supreme'  
'Elsie Jury'  
'Katie'  
'Katie Var.'  
'Francie L'  
'Miss Charleston Var.'  
'Miss Tulare'  
'Showtime'

Later flowers to gib:

'Nuccio's Ruby'  
'Pharoah'  
'Silver Cloud'

Sergio begins gibbing in September, then once a week thereafter as long as practical.

### A Letter from Former Review Editor Glenn Smith Dana Point, California

May 14, 1992

When I first planted camellias here close to the sea in April of '91, I used 1/2 existing soil and 1/2 peat. I had dreadful leafburn and lost six to eight plants.

I found that our soil is rocky shale and very alkaline.

I have replanted with a mixture of 1/2 coarse Canadian sphagnum peat and 1/2 a product called Top Soil and sold by Home Base (used to be

Poor for gib:

'Bill Goertz'  
'Mrs. D.W. Davis'  
'Nuccio's Gem'  
'Prima Ballerina'

Keep well:

'Arcadia'  
'Cornelian'  
'Dixie Knight Supreme'  
'Elsie Jury'  
'Harold Paige'  
'Margaret Davis'  
'Melinda Hackett'  
'Nuccio's Jewel'  
'Valentine Day'

Poor keepers:

'Arch of Triumph'  
'Fire Chief Var.'  
'Katie'  
'Nuccio's Gem'  
'Nuccio's Pearl'  
'Harold Paige'  
'Margaret Davis'

Home Club). It is packaged by Fertilita Corp., Marysville, Ohio and it consists, per their description, of "Top soils and/or partially decayed organic material."

A small sample, which looks like organic material, is enclosed. I also add a bit of perlite.

The new growth is vigorous even on badly burned plants, and the burned leaves are dropping off.

*Editor's note:* The Top Soil product is as dark as black tea, the kind of soil you can't resist running your fingers through.

---

## Straight from Juge Nuccio

The most frequently asked question at Nuccio's Nurseries: How much water do I give my plants and when do I give it? Juge's reply: "When the plant is on the dry side give it a very

deep watering. Fill a pot to the brim once or twice. In the ground, let the water run 15-20 minutes in sandy soil; in adobe soil, let it run less because the water will sit longer."

## Southern Cal 1992-93

President Marilee Gray

As another camellia season commences, we are brimming with optimism! Your Board has put in some long hours and late meeting nights to try to make this year even better than last. In the March-April *Review*, I promised to try to make this year even better than last. So, here goes!

The most pressing issue to be resolved was the matter of dues. A survey of the list of new and increased expenses revealed that the existing membership dues were insufficient to cover the cost of printing and mailing the four issues of *The Review* alone! A dues increase was mandatory, but the Board opted to keep dues at an absolute minimum—\$20/family/year. In addition, once every three years, a membership is entitled to purchase one copy of the soon-to-be-released *Camellia Nomenclature 1993* at a below-cost price of \$5. This means that all of the regular membership dues go directly back to the member in publications, and that the other expenses—facility usage fees, insurance, arboreta membership, postage, show and miscellaneous expenses—are deficits that are not covered by regular membership dues. We are counting on all who are able and willing to consider seriously sponsoring, sustaining, or patron memberships to cover these other necessary operational expenses. A sincere thanks to all who contribute beyond the basic membership fee.

You will notice some of our efforts to balance the budget in your membership envelopes. The envelope enclosed in this *Review* is not quite as stylish as in previous years, but it is just as effective and is a fraction of the cost of the printed ones. Please use it to respond, as **this is the only *Review* that will be sent until we receive your dues.**

Our new secretary-treasurer, Bobbie Belcher, has placed all of our records on computer discs. This has

enabled us to replace our mailing service with our own mailing committee and has resulted in significant savings. If you could be a part of this committee, please volunteer.

One of our new expenditures is for the printing of promotional material for prospective members. Recruiting new members cannot be done effectively without suitable printed material, so we consider this a necessary and essential expenditure.

Since the Temple City Camellia Society merged with Southern Cal last season, the balance of the Temple City Society treasury, \$2,138.48, was given to Southern Cal at the August board meeting. These funds will be used to purchase show awards. We are very appreciative of this financial assistance, as our show expenses will be even greater this season with two full-schedule shows.

We now consider fortuitous a scheduling conflict that forced the rescheduling of Southern Cal's shows because this season's schedule should present camellias and our societies more productively to the public. The mid-February Huntington show will have the full schedule of singles and trays of three, treated and non-treated. Those of you who gib, consider this late January show in your gibbing program.

The meeting nights for Southern Cal this season will always be on a Thursday, but they vary from the third to the fifth Thursday because of holidays and room availability. Check the front inside cover of *The Review* for dates and location. Note: there is no meeting scheduled for December, but we will try to have a holiday event early that month. Also, check the front inside cover for the names of your Board of Directors. If you have some suggestion or concern, please make it known to one of them. They are your representatives, and they will present your ideas if only they are

aware of them. With the support and most optimistic expectations!  
input of all of you, we can reach our

**CAMELLIA REVIEW FUND**

**In memory of Natalie Costamagna:**  
Pomona Valley Camellia Society

**In memory of Dorothy Davis:**  
Sergio and Elsie Bracci  
Chuck and Rosamond Gerlach  
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# Thoughts on the Registration of Camellia Varieties

Bill Donnan, Julius Nuccio and Bill Woodroof

*Reprinted from Camellia Journal, February 1992*

The purpose of registration is to register new varieties of camellia under the following rules and procedures:

1. To prevent old varieties from being renamed.
2. To prevent old names from being reused.
3. To record the names, descriptions and sources for posterity and to prevent confusion in the future, particularly as to names, which should be in accordance with horticultural nomenclature rules and particularly the International Code of Nomenclature.

The American Camellia Society (ACS) established and commenced registration of new varieties of camellia in 1948. In an article entitled "Registration of New Varieties" by R.J. Wilmot, commencing on page 254 of the 1949 Yearbook, the purpose of ACS registration is set forth, which purpose is substantially the same as the purpose set forth above. Thus, we categorically state that evaluation of a variety cannot be considered in the registration process.

In our opinion, under the above set forth purpose, no application to register should be refused unless:

1. The name is not in accordance with nomenclature rules.
2. The new variety has an identical name of a previously named and published sport.
3. The new sport is substantially identical to a previously named and published sport.

It is our understanding that the present ACS registration committee is basing its approval of registration of new varieties substantially on an evaluation from a review of color slides or prints. As above set forth, we do not believe that evaluation can be any part of the registration process and, if so, cannot be done from a color slide, print or flower exhibited

in a show.

Color slides, even if taken by an experienced photographer, in most cases, do not correctly represent the flower, and prints can be doctored.

The ACS registration committee makes it mandatory that two color slides, with two different views, face, and side view showing height, must be submitted with the application for registration. The purpose of this requirement would appear to be for an evaluation of the bloom and for building a slide library.

In most varieties, the side view is of no value. Many amateur growers do not desire or have the facilities to produce color slides or prints. Commercial growers usually will not permit photographs or slides of their new varieties to be shown until the new variety is offered for sale.

ACS has published another new requirement governing registration which is here-in-after set forth with our comments:

**"A new variety must be exhibited in at least three ACS-cooperative shows, naming the shows and dates."**

Many amateur growers are not able to exhibit in ACS-cooperative shows and some of them do not exhibit in any camellia show, but would rather expend their efforts in hybridizing or other facets of the camellia hobby.

Most commercial growers will not compete in shows, in fact, most camellia shows have rules banning commercial growers from the show competition. Most commercial growers will not publish or exhibit their new varieties until just prior to distribution, and thus cannot comply with these requirements.

We wish to restate our position that: **Evaluation of a variety cannot be considered in the registration process.**

The evaluation of a new variety is the province of the originator. Proper

evaluation takes a period of time in personal observation of the parent plant and plants propagated therefrom. Proper evaluation involves not only the flower, but also the plant, the bud set, the time of bloom and the consistency of performance.

Most, if not all, commercial growers do these evaluations before they present a new variety for sale. This evaluation should also be done by the amateur grower before he offers his new variety for registration.

The new requirements and proce-

dures set forth by ACS for its registration of new varieties are undoubtedly intended to limit and restrict registration, which is contrary to its purpose. Refusal to register because of noncompliance with its rules will not limit or prevent distribution of a new variety.

Registration is important and should be encouraged. However, if requirements and procedures which are not in accordance with its purpose are imposed, it can be detrimental to the hobby.

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## Letters

**Bill Woodroof received the following communication from William L. Ackerman, Ashton Maryland on May 10, 1992:**

Dear Bill,

I am writing to ask whether there has been much response to the article "Thoughts on the Registration of Camellia Varieties" which appeared in the February issue of the ACS Journal.

I agree completely with the philosophy of the article. The progressive addition of stumbling blocks to the normal process of registering new camellias has been a sore point with me for a number of years. I'm glad to hear that others also object. The question is: What can we plant breeders do about it?

In my own case, I have grudgingly agreed to submit the required colored slides with my applications. However, I have refused to go along with the requirement of entering the seedling in three ACS-accredited shows on the grounds that we have no local shows at the time of bloom (usually having only one spring show in our area.)

The fall-flowering, cold-hardy series of *Camellia oleifera* hybrids I've been involved with for the past 15 years are basically landscape plants—not show flowers. Frankly, I would have introduced these into the nursery trade here in the mid-Atlantic region whether they were registered or not. We rarely have a fall show in our region. Fortunately, all my fall-flowering applications have been accepted.

Concurrent with the fall-flowering, cold-hardy series, I've been involved with a series of spring-blooming, cold-hardy crosses (*C. oleifera* crossed with *C. japonica* and *C. x williamsii*). I sent applications in on the first four in this series last month for registration. Here I have had limited success in getting the blooms of some of them seen at the local show. It will be interesting to see if the applications are approved.

This indicates where I stand on the registration situation. Thus, I come back to my original question: What is, or can be, done individually and/or collectively, to improve the decisions that have been coming out of the Varietal Registration Committee in recent years? Let me know if I can be of help.

William L. Ackerman

*Bill Woodroof's response:*

Dear Bill:

At the outset I want to say that this letter is the concurrence of Julius Nuccio, Bill Donnan and myself. We want to thank you for your letter of May 10, 1992. We appreciate your comments regarding our article "Thoughts on Registration of Camellia Varieties" which appeared in the February 1992 issue of the ACS Journal.

The only direct response to our article has been your letter. There has been some comment made by Marion Edwards in his "President's Message" which was published in the *Atlantic Coast Camellias* magazine. Also, Bill Donnan has had a letter from Art Gonos, editor of the book *Camellia Nomenclature*. Gonos was critical of our article and he feels that ACS is justified in evaluating new varieties.

Be that as it may, we believe that a large majority of dedicated and knowledgeable camellia growers will agree with our position and that most of those who do not are neophytes. We also believe that the majority of growers will not comply with the rules. Commercial growers cannot comply with most of the registration rules, especially the rules on evaluation procedures, which have no place in registration.

I served for about 10 years as chairman of the varietal registration committee of ACS, and Bill Donnan has

served for about five years. During that period we never evaluated a variety or refused registration except when the name conflicted with an existing name in the Book or the name was offensive to good taste.

You have asked: "What can be done to improve the decisions that have been coming out of the Variety Registration Committee?" The *Camellia*

*Review* magazine is planning to reprint our article in its September-October issue. We hope that you might consider giving permission to print your May 10 letter and we hope that Marion Edwards will give permission to reprint his President's Message. Perhaps then ACS will take another look at its rules and procedures and make some changes.

William E. Woodroof

## From Marion Edwards

*An excerpt from "The President's Message" by president of Atlantic Coast Camellias Marion Edwards in Atlantic Coast Camellias, Page 1, Vol. XXXIX, Summer 1992*

...The February issue of the ACS Journal has an article on Page 20 titled "Thoughts on the Registration of New Varieties" written by Bill Woodroof, Julius Nuccio and Bill Donnan. This article is very critical of portions of the new rules for registration.

The new rules were discussed by your officers and directors at the Board Meeting in Columbia, SC last May. I was instructed by the board to write a letter to the president of ACS stating the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society was opposed to two of the rules. The first rule was the increase in the registration fee from \$10.00 to \$30.00. I have been told the actual cost of processing a registration form is about \$15.00. The original plan was for the additional \$15.00 to be sent to the Southern California Camellia Society to pay for the cost of including the seedling in the Nomenclature Book. The Southern California Camellia Society declined this offer and the governing board of ACS voted at the Baltimore convention to retain the fee of \$30.00 with

the additional \$15.00 to help pay for the cost of the color pictures in the Yearbook.

The second is a new rule. A seedling must be shown in the seedling class in a minimum of three ACS-sponsored shows to be eligible for registration. This may be fine for Northern California where the rule originated as their shows are within a short distance of each other and are held during the peak blooming period. This is not true in the South where almost all of the shows are primarily "Gib" shows held before the peak blooming season and the shows are spread over a very large territory.

This rule makes it virtually impossible for a grower who does not attend a lot of shows to be able to register a seedling.

I personally feel that ACS should print an article in the Journal, preferably written by the Chairman of the Registration Committee, listing the new rules and giving an explanation for the changes.

## Straight from Marilee Gray

This good advice appears on a culture sheet Marilee passes out to interested parties at shows: Fertilizing—Fertilizing should start with the first signs of growth, even though the plant

is still blooming. Never overfeed; camellias that have been injured with over-fertilizing may take several seasons of special care to recuperate.



## Nomenclature at the SCCS Board Meeting

At the SCCS Board Meeting of August 4, 1992, Art Gonos requested board consideration and approval (or modification) of the following rules for *Camellia Nomenclature* (the Book) commencing with the 1993 edition:

- I. The formation, priority use of, and change of names found in the introduction (pp 1-2) of the 1990 edition.
  - A. In addition—that once a variety (cultivar) is listed in the Book, that it may be deleted only if:
    1. There is an error or duplication (of a previous name).
    2. The SCCS Board of Directors at some future date needs to reduce the size of the Book as was the case with the 1984 edition. This was accomplished when the 1981 edition was declared to be the Historical Edition.
  - II. There are three different ways that a new camellia variety may be considered for inclusion in future editions of Nomenclature Book:
    - A. Varieties registered with an authorized international or national registration authority will automatically be included in the next edition of the Book. National registration authorities include (but are not limited to) the American, Australian and New Zealand national camellia societies.
    - B. Varieties with name and description that have been published in horticultural books or magazines; nursery and trade catalogues; and publications of horticultural societies which are distributed to the public will be considered by the Nomenclature Research Committee (NRC) for possible inclusion in the Book.
    - C. Originators may make a formal written request of the editor and NRC to list a new variety. The originator must include the following items:
      1. a description of the bloom, including size, form, color, bloom period and growth characteristics of the plant.
        - (a) its species or parentage if available.
      2. a declaration that the seedling has bloomed for at least four years and the date of the initial bloom event.
      3. a declaration that the plant has been distributed and is being grown by at least three other camellia hobbyists. (This is intended to promote the distribution of new varieties).
  - III. The editor and the NRC will continue to recommend and encourage (but not require) registration with the American Camellia Society for all new American introductions.
  - IV. Acceptance of the official American Camellia Society position for *Camellia Nomenclature* to be the "official nomenclature book of the ACS."

*Note: Nomenclature editor Art Gonos requested this position statement in May of 1992. The following was submitted by Ann Brown, ACS Executive Director, on June 2, 1992:*

- A. "The American Camellia society is the official registrar for camellias registered in the United States. All duly registered camellias are forwarded to the Southern California *Camellia Nomenclature* editor for inclusion in the nomenclature book.
- B. "Camellias not registered with the American Camellia Society and included in the Southern California *Camellia Nomenclature* are at the discretion of the Nomenclature Committee. The American Camellia Society has no involvement whatsoever concerning the inclusion of camellias other than those registered with the ACS."

## Ah! Competition

You pick your best 'Debutante', take it to the Show, search for its category and then get a sinking feeling. There among the other 'Debutantes' sits a sure winner, larger and pinker than yours. Chances are good that it belongs to one of the "big" winners, an elite class of perfectionists who tend their flowers with unremitting attention and pick up the majority of show prizes.

If camellia competition didn't have "big" winners, the shows would be far less exciting to those of us who only occasionally find our names and flowers listed in the show results; winning is doubly sweet when the competitors are top notch.

*The Los Angeles Times* (May 15, 1992) carried an article by Gordon Monson, "The Will to Win," that quotes several competitors in various fields who would rather "drive a nail through their lower lips than lose to you." In a spirit of fun, here are three of them:

From golfer Duane Zobrist: "There were six kids in our family, and we competed in everything. I competed

the most in activities where I could beat my brothers."

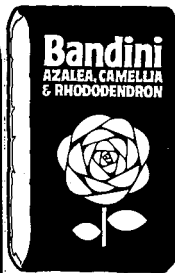
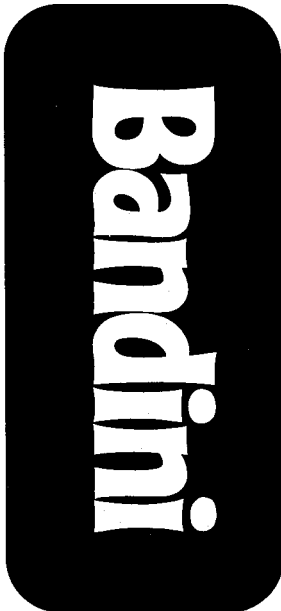
From computer company manager, golfer, basketball player and salesman Lance Pierce: "Sports and sales—they are the same—If I don't 'win' by making sales, I start to wonder if my boss and my peers think I can't pull it off. I'm afraid of that. Maybe it's a basic insecurity. I have to prove to them that I'm a decent individual. That's a real driving force. I love to compete. But losing hurts a lot more than winning makes me feel good."

Last, from tournament bridge player Anne Schreick: "Winning is all about self-gratification. It's the best feeling there is. It gives you a real high....Losing is the worst. It makes you feel terrible, depressed and angry. I hate to lose."

There you have it. Get out there with that 2-10-10 fertilizer, disbud those plants, and get ready to do battle. Show season approaches and those "big" winners are waiting for you.

P. G.

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# Camellia Nomenclature

1993 Edition

Art Gonos, Editor

The 1993 triennial revision of the Southern California Society *Camellia Nomenclature* will be distributed this fall. I would like to share some nomenclature happenings and also acknowledge a good number of folks who need to be recognized for their efforts.

First of all, after nearly a half century, the "Book" has a new editor. Bill Woodroof was 34 years old when he started compiling nomenclature materials—that was just over 50 years ago. I am convinced, after having worked on the Book for the last three years, that Bill came along at the right time! If Bill had not started researching when he did, we probably would have a chaotic nomenclature situation today. Now, the editor has changed, but the purpose of the Book remains the same—namely, to present a short and concise nomenclature list of camellia cultivars which have been introduced into the English-speaking world, particularly the United States. The Book is intended primarily for use by amateur camellia growers and hobbyists.

Bill Woodroof and I are both avid growers of camellias and share a mutual love for the queen of God's plant world. We differ only from the standpoint that camellia nomenclature itself became Bill's hobby. My avocation is that of exhibiting and competing with camellias and, I should add, sharing their beauty with those who do not participate in this wonderful hobby. Bill resigned as editor and explained that it was becoming increasingly difficult to read small print. A lot of us can identify with that! However, at my request, Bill remains as an advisor to me, and I am most appreciative of this courtesy.

There are a few changes that hobbyists should look for in the 1993 edition. First, the word "medium" is

used only to denote flower size. In previous editions, it has also been used to define: (1) color, e.g. medium pink or medium red and (2) plant growth rate, such as medium growth. Medium is no longer used as a color descriptive. Medium pink or medium red are now simply pink or red. As to plant growth rate, the word medium has been changed to "average."

A second change involves the sizing of the various species. In the past they were sized within the specific species class itself. Sasanquas, for example, were compared to other sasanquas so that the largest sasanquas were listed as "large" in size, regardless of their actual measurement. Now, every cultivar in the Book is sized according to the rules for size that are found on Page 5 of the Book. Julius Nuccio and Bill Donnan, who have both been extremely helpful in a number of areas, performed a great portion of the work involved in bringing uniformity to the sizing of the various species. Bill Donnan, I should add, has remained as associate editor and business manager of the Book.

I have received inquiries concerning two items that I feel should also be discussed in this article. First, the flower sizes in the Book are based on "normal outdoor growing without the use of special treatment." As a general rule of thumb, gibbed and/or protected blooms will normally be one size larger than than the size shown in the Book. Secondly, as you know, the 1981 edition was designated as the "Historical Edition." A number of pre-1950 cultivars that are no longer in "substantial commercial distribution" were removed from the Book starting with the 1984 edition. When you use the 1981 edition as a cross reference, you only need to look up *Camellia japonica* and *C. sasanqua*. No other species

have been removed (except for errors) in any of the 1984 through 1993 editions.

The 1993 edition includes 196 new introductions: 101 japonicas, 42 reticulata hybrids, 41 non-reticulata hybrids and 12 sasanquas. Approximately one-half of the total is new American introductions, while the other half is about evenly divided between Australia and New Zealand. Both New Zealand registrar Vonnice Cave and Australian registrar Ray Garnett have been extremely cooperative in sending me their new registrations and in answering my inquiries. It has been a pleasure to work with both of them. Jack Mandarich and the ACS Registration Committee have done a wonderful job in evaluation and sending information to me on new ACS registrations. In fact, at my request the ACS registration form was changed in order to promote uniformity in certain terminology such as "vigorous," "average," or "slow" growth rate, etc. Also, I cannot say enough about ACS executive director Ann Brown and the folks at Masee Lane. The Book is also the official nomenclature book of the ACS. Assistance from the ACS has simply been outstanding.

All of the Nomenclature Research Committee members have contributed to the Book. The following will give you examples of the type of cooperation I have been receiving:

1. Grady Perigan (San Marino, Calif.)—front cover photography
2. Jim Randall (Sacramento, Calif.)—extensive research on camellias with fragrance
3. Walter Homeyer (Macon, Ga.)—corrections to 1990 edition which have been implemented in the 1993 edition
4. Carter Bays (computer science department professor, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.)—Using the Book as a data base, Carter's

senior computer science class has been developing a software program for camellia nomenclature. When completed, we hope to be able to print, for example, alphabetical lists of large, red, formal double japonicas that bloom mid-season, and many other similar combinations.

5. Alton LeFebvre (president of the Gulfport, Mississippi Camellia Society)—proofreading nomenclature materials for the past three years. He even proofread the entire 1993 edition that I mailed to him last July. So, the new Book has been proofread both in California and the South. I need to add that I firmly believe that Al has the uncanny ability to spot a typographical error the moment it is printed!

6. Bill Donnan (Fullerton, Calif.)—always on call and always helpful as my associate editor.

I probably would not have made it without his guidance. I also need to acknowledge President of the Southern California Camellia Society Marilee Gray for all her support and encouragement, along with the entire SCCS Board of Directors who pay all the bills and assist in the distribution of the Book.

There are four world-class camellia growers and world-class friends who live in San Gabriel, California, that have earned a very special thank you. I am referring to assistant editors Elsie and Sergio Bracci and computer analysts Alice and Bob Jaacks who have spent countless hours sharing the editing responsibilities with me.

It should be clear by now that the Book requires the efforts of a small army of individuals. We camellia lovers feel the effort is well worth it if the Book adds to the enjoyment of growing camellias throughout the world!

*Art has also sent this article to the ACS Journal for publication.*

**Letter?** Do you have some thoughts about camellias you'd like to express? Send them to the editor. Letters need not be typed.

# The *williamsii* Epithet

Bill Donnan

I have written something on this subject previously, but I cannot seem to locate the reference. Maybe this is a sign that I have written too many articles on too many subjects that I know too little about! Nevertheless, I propose to write again about the use of the word *williamsii* in connection with the interspecific hybridization of the *Camellia saluenensis* x *C. japonica* species of camellia.

When I first heard of the *williamsii* camellias, I thought that people were talking and or writing about a new or different species of camellia. (Frequently, the word *williamsii* is written in italics like other species often are.) Then I was told that the epithet *williamsii* was used to denote an interspecific cross of *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica*. I was told that the epithet derived from the fact that one of the early hybridizers of camellias, namely Mr. J.C. Williams, was the first to successfully cross these two species. Thus, all subsequent crosses of *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica* have been designated as *williamsii* camellias.

I have always taken issue with this cognomen. I can't for the life of me see why the designation *williamsii* should be used in connection with a description of these interspecific crosses. I have several points to make in defense of my contention and I will offer them one at a time as follows:

1. Was Mr. J.C. Williams the first individual to cross the *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica*? The honey bees, of course, beat him to the punch! However, there is little doubt in my mind that the Japanese were probably making these crosses to produce such individualistic new cultivars as the Higos, the Egao types and others back in the Edo Period. But what about Dr. Otto Staph or some other boatman at Kew Gardens in London? Someone at Kew developed and released a *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica* hybrid in 1935 and

named it 'C.F.Coates'. This was over 10 years before J.C. Williams came out with his first hybrid in 1948.

2. If we are going to honor Mr. J.C. Williams for his success in making these *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica* crosses, why not honor Mr. Howard Asper who made the first crosses of *C. japonica* x *C. reticulata*? We could call all such crosses *C. asperii*. Why not honor the first Chinese botanist who successfully crossed *C. chrysantha* x *C. japonica*? There must be a thousand such crosses!

3. Strictly speaking, we have been told that only the *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica* crosses can be designated as true *williamsii* hybrids. Yet there are quite a few good hybrids where the *C. japonica* is the seed parent and the *C. saluenensis* is the pollen parent. Will this set up confusion in the mind of the amateur camellia hobbyist as to whether these cultivars should or should not be designated as the *williamsii* hybrids?

4. In order to confuse the issue further, there are some hybrids which are second and back cross generation hybrids involving *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica* species. Several of these, such as: 'Black Knight', 'Rose Parade' and 'Waltz Time', are great favorites among hobbyists. Should these be called *williamsii* hybrids?

5. Lastly, there are a number of publications which have begun to refer to the *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica* hybrids as *C. x williamsii* cultivars. What does this mean to the amateur camellia hobbyist? Suppose he or she was to read: "This cultivar, namely 'Donation', is a *C. x williamsii* hybrid." Chances are that the hobbyist would think that 'Donation' was a cross between *C.* and (presumably *Camellia*) and a new species named *williamsii*.

Let us give Mr. J.C. Williams credit where credit is due. He was a wealthy landowner who lived in Wales. He

used some of his money to finance plant explorers and naturalists. He financed several of the expeditions of the legendary George Forrest. He financed almost all of the cost of the famous 1912-15 expedition of Forrest which resulted in the gathering of seeds of many new camellia species. But at the risk of being a first class

iconoclast, I have and will continue to shun the use of the epithet *williamsii* when discussing *C. sabinensis* x *C. japonica* crosses. I feel that it only adds to the confusion which is faced by many of our new amateur camellia hobbyists when they attempt to sort out their favorite cultivars.

## Central California Camellia Show

Fresno Fashion Mall, March 13-14, 1992

Award of Excellence		Art and Chris Gonos
Best of Show	'S.P. Dunn'	Jim and Jackie Randall
Best Large Japonica	'Grand Prix'	Jack and Ann Woo
Runner-up	'Katie'	Jocelyn Vervalle
Best Medium Japonica	'Mrs. George Bell'	Jim and Jackie Randall
Runner-up	'Nuccio's Jewel'	Jim and Jackie Randall
Best Small Japonica	'Spring Daze'	Marvin Belcher
Runner-up	'Dalohnega'	Harlan Smith
Best Miniature	'Spring Festival'	Jack and Ann Woo
Runner-up	'Something Beautiful'	Mary Jo Pinhero
Best Retic	'S.P. Dunn'	Jim and Jackie Randall
Runner-up	'Miss Tulare'	Al Taylor
Best Hybrid	'Mona Jury'	Jack and Ann Woo
Runner-up	'Anticipation Var.'	Harlan Smith
Best 3 L/VL Japonicas	'Tomorrow Park Hill'	Chris and Art Gonos
Runner-up	'Katie Var.'	Harlan Smith
Best 3 Medium	'Firedance'	Lee Chow
Runner-up	'Betty Foy Sanders'	Chris and Art Gonos
Best 3 Small	'Irene'	Chris and Art Gonos
Runner-up	'Demi-Tasse'	Chris and Art Gonos
Best 3 Miniatures	'Pink Perfection'	Jocelyn Vervalle
Runner-up	'Man Size'	Jack and Ann Woo
Best 3 Retics	'Howard Asper'	Chris and Art Gonos
Runner-up	'Black Lace'	Virginia Rankin
Best 3 Hybrids	'Coral Delight'	Bob and Betty Kellas
Runner-up	'Sylvia May Wells'	Jim and Jackie Randall
Best 5 L/VL Japonicas	'Royal Velvet'	Chris and Art Gonos
Runner-up	'Grand Slam'	Harlan Smith
Best 5 Medium Japonicas	'Magnoliaeflora'	Virginia Rankin
Runner-up	'Margaret Davis'	Harlan Smith
Best 5 Boutonnieres	'Pink Perfection'	Jocelyn Vervalle
Runner-up	'Alison Leigh Woodroof'	Richard Stiern
Best 3 Different Camellias		Harlan Smith
Best 5 Different Medium Camellias		Chris and Art Gonos
Best 9 Different Camellias		Chris and Art Gonos
Best Variegated	'Miss Tulare'	Harlan Smith
Best White Camellia	'Silver Cloud'	Chris and Art Gonos
Best Higo	'Kumagai'	Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray
Best Fragrant	'Scentuous'	Dona and Dolores Martin
Best Yellow	'Dalohnega'	Jack and Ann Woo
Best Species	'Star Above Star'	Chris and Art Gonos
Best C.C.C.S. Novice Member	'Taylor's Perfection'	Kristina Steele
Best Non-Member	'Betty Sheffield Supreme'	Helen Brown
Best Seedling		Jack and Ann Woo
Best Spray	'Tidbit'	Jack and Ann Woo
Show Chairman—Art Gonos		

## The Art of Acquisition

by Val Bielecki

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There is a crucial moment in time when a hobby turns into an obsession. Usually it can be pinpointed: a casual observation, an indifferent glance at the hobby object, and suddenly one is galvanised into wild enthusiasm.

The nicest people I know have obsessions. My husband, for instance, is obsessed with orchids, but is forgiven for this lapse in character because he will come and inspect camellias when I regard it as a matter of urgent necessity—once even tolerantly following me out into a thunderstorm and holding a torch to inspect my first bloom of 'Kathryn Funari' (and how glorious it looked by torchlight in pouring rain!).

Once one has an obsession, the acquisition of plants becomes an absorbing subject. Obsessions are not usually satisfied by looking complacently at one's garden with its "sprinkling of camellias planted a few years ago and now doing rather nicely"—one must always need more, and the variety of ways in which one can acquire camellias has not been given sufficient publicity. The subject of camellia culture, pruning, fertilizing, disbudding (and so forth) is completely covered by many authoritative articles, but apart from stern reminders to go only to reliable nurseries, the subject of acquisition is not adequately covered. How much more fun there lies in wait for those who would rather be a connoisseur of the many and devious ways one can satisfy the obsession for acquiring camellias.

My initial outburst of enthusiasm was one day in the early '60s when as a young newly-married knowing nothing of gardening, I became enthralled at the sight of a large flowering bush of 'Flame'. I bought four plants of it immediately, now down to two be-

cause I later discovered the joys of grafting. My neighbour, a camellia lover for many years, gave me a grafting lesson one day; and once she had craftily pointed out the advantage of the process, how many more varieties could be acquired by this method, I became a very willing pupil.

Sometimes, it must be admitted, the more dubious side of one's character comes to the fore in pursuit of the perfect camellia. In my case I attribute it to acquisitive Scottish ancestry, but I feel that in their stern, judgmental Presbyterian way they would not care for this excuse for what is, after all, a sort of theft. Yes, I do feel guilt at the number of times I have been handed a bloom to admire, and even as I gaze in rapt admiration, my fingers (extra sensitive with that Scottish ancestry) are carefully feeling around the stalk for a growing tip.

And why is it that these little stolen bits of plant always grow so well, when others rather boringly acquired in a more honest transaction stay pale and weedy for months—there is bound to be a moral in it, but I'm sure it's in my favour!

However, the same Scottish ancestry insists on scrupulous attention to correct labelling. I am at cross purposes with great grandfather here, unfortunately, as his methodical habits led me to a scene of great embarrassment. I have a neighbour, John L., who grows many camellias. One day he arrived here to inspect my camellias, and while complimenting me on some splendid grafts, he happened to glance at the label 'Stolen John L. June '82.' These moments are difficult to get through with dignity, but consider the memories you are storing up! Plants are like recipes as far as memories go. You remember Aunt Agatha every time you make up

her fruitcake recipe, and every time you are reminded of the giver—even if they were unaware of the gift.

Then of course there are the legal ways of acquiring camellias—the plant catalogues, the nurseries, etc. What greater bliss is there than the arrival of a plant catalogue in the mail; what better excuse for a coffee break, a seat in the sun and an hour's happy browsing. Plant catalogues feed obsessions—I am convinced that they are written by Professors of Human Psychology who know down to the last dotted "i" exactly the sort of wording that will send the obsessed buyer rushing to the nursery at the crack of dawn on opening day. Who can resist such phrases as "arresting shade of crimson," "pink with silver cast," "milky white" or my own particular weakness, "a new warm pink"—I can see it immediately, glowing superbly in my garden—irresistible.

It is a purely personal matter of course, but some descriptions also leave me with a feeling of distaste: "Slow growth habit" does not sound as if it will cater for the urgency of my need to be surrounded by a thick jungle of 20 foot high camellias within two years. "Red blotched white"—how awful to be described as "blotched." The dictionary tells me that "blotched" means 'with discoloured pustules on the skin, boils, etc.' I cannot bear the thought of a camellia with boils. Imagine hov-

ering nervously over the opening bloom of 'Reg Ragland Variegated' with acne lotion ready at hand! I think I have been put off variegated camellias forever.

As for plant nurseries, one always knows when they are in the vicinity—there is a nervous twitch to the foot on the brake pedal as you drive past these dens of enticement. Who organised it so that the plants flower at the same times as they go on sale in nurseries? Rows on rows of demure greenbushes can easily become boring, but the glowing whites, reds and, yes, even blotched are just an irresistible sight. You realize immediately that it wouldn't hurt to take just one more home—there is the sudden surge of interest at the sight of a label with a name previously unheard of, again using those descriptive words that are so strangely compelling—before you know it, yet another "New warm pink" is sitting smugly in your car for the drive home, and there you are behind the steering wheel frantically wondering where you are going to find room to plant it. Will your husband say yet again "Oh God! Not another one!"

Perhaps life is easier if camellia ownership remains at the hobby level, but how dull it could be without the enthusiasm of an obsession where the acquisition of the beloved object becomes all-important. Perhaps, after all, it's like falling in love.

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## New Zealand Garden Tour

Plans are underway for a tour of New Zealand camellia gardens to take place in August 1993. The itinerary will focus on the New Zealand Camellia Show and Convention to be held in Wanganui August 21-23, 1993 and will include visits to top gardens throughout the country. The spectacular scenic highlights will include the thermal area of Rotorua where

Maori culture can be observed first hand, the Fjords of Milford Sound and the lakes and mountains of the Southern Alps.

For information and a brochure please call Australia/New Zealand Down Under Travel. 1-800-886-2153.

*This announcement is carried as an item of interest. The tour is not endorsed by the Southern California Camellia Society.*



# Camellia Society of Modesto

Gallo Winery, Modesto, California  
March 21-22, 1992

Award of Excellence		Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pitts
Best of Show	'Bravo'	Mr. and Mrs. James Randall
Sweepstakes		Robert Ehrhardt
Runner-up		Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini
Best Very Large Japonica	'Royal Velvet'	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up	'White Nun'	Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pitts
Best Large Japonica	'Helen Bower'	Edith Mazzei
Runner-up	'Mary Fischer'	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Medium Japonica	'Dahlohnega'	Harlan Smith
Best Small Japonica	'Grace Albritton'	Robert Ehrhardt
Runner-up	'Something Beautiful'	Mary Jo Pinheiro
Best 3 VL Japonicas	'Royal Velvet'	Mr. and Mrs. James Randall
Best 3 Large Japonicas	'Helen Bower'	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo
Best 3 Medium Japonicas	'Dahlohnega'	James Toland
Best 3 Small Blooms	'Grace Albritton'	Robert Ehrhardt
Best 5 Large/VL Blooms	'Royal Velvet'	Harlan Smith
Best 5 Medium Blooms	'Yours Truly'	Julie Vierra
Best 5 Miniature Blooms	'Grace Albritton'	Harlan Smith
Best Retic or Retic Hybrid	'Bravo'	Mr. and Mrs. James Randall
Runner-up	'Emma Gaeta'	Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pitts
Best Non-Retic Hybrid	'Pink Dahlia'	R. M. Stegle
Runner-up	'Elsie Jury'	Al Taylor
Best 3 Retics or Retic Hybrids	'Lasca Beauty'	Mr. and Mrs. James Randall
Best 3 Non-Retic Hybrids'	'Kramer's Fluted Coral'	Mr. and Mrs. James Randall
Best Miniature Seedling		Don Kendall
Best White Bloom	'Snowman'	Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Achterberg
Best Higo	'Kumagai'	Tom Lee
Best Yellow Bloom	'Dahlohnega'	Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Achterberg
Best Collection of 9		Robert Ehrhardt
Best 3 Different Blooms		Harlan Smith

# Camellia Society of Kern County

45th Annual Show  
March 7-8, 1992

Best Large Japonica	'Julia France'	Lee and Arlene Chow
Runner-up	'Chow's Han Ling'	Lee and Arlene Chow
Best 3 Large Japonicas	'Elegans Champagne'	Sergio and Elsie Bracci
Runner-up	'Silver Cloud'	Sergio and Elsie Bracci
Best Medium Japonica	'Magnoliaeflora Var.'	Lee and Arlene Chow
Runner-up	'Margaret's Joy'	Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Harmsen
Best 3 Medium Japonicas	'Jennie Mills'	Dr. and Mrs. Richard Stiern
Runner-up	'Magnoliaeflora'	Lee and Arlene Chow
Best Small Japonica	'Alison Leigh Woodroof'	Dr. and Mrs. Richard Stiern
Runner-up	'Baby Pearl'	Sergio and Elsie Bracci
Best 3 Small Japonicas	'Hishi Karaito'	Lee and Arlene Chow
Runner-up	'Alison Leigh Woodroof'	Dr. and Mrs. Richard Stiern
Best Miniature Japonica	'Lemon Drop'	Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Belcher
Best 3 Miniature Japonicas	'Lemon Drop'	Sergio and Elsie Bracci
Runner-up	'Little Slam'	Beverly and Fred Dukes
Best Retic/Retic Hybrid	'Harold Paige'	Dean Alltizer
Runner-up	'Dr. Clifford Parks'	Dean Alltizer
Best 3 Retic/ Retic Hybrids	'Harold Paige'	Sergio and Elsie BRacci
Runner-up	'Emma Gaeta Var.'	Dr. and Mrs. Richard Stiern
Best Non-Retic Hybrid	'Julie Var.'	Dr. and Mrs. Richard Stien
Runner-up	'Pink Dahlia Var.'	Bob and Alice Jaacks

Best 3 Non-Retic Hybrids  
 Runner-up  
 Best Treated Bloom  
 Runner-up  
 Best Species  
 Runner-up  
 Best Seedling  
 Best Collector's Tray  
 Runner-up  
 Best Arrangement  
 Best Child's Arrangement

'Elsie Jury'  
 'Waltz Time Var.'  
 'Royal Velvet'  
 'Curtain Call'  
 'Itsukamachi'  
 'Yuki-Geshiki'

Bob and Alice Jaacks  
 Dr. and Mrs. Richard Stiern  
 Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Ray  
 Sergio and Elsie Bracci  
 Dean Alltizer  
 Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Belcher  
 Ben and Marie Mackall  
 D.T. Gray Family  
 Lee and Arlene Chow  
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An envelope is enclosed in the fold of this magazine to use for your dues. In the past, we have let dues procrastinators slide, eventually sending them a post card reminder. We cannot afford this luxury any longer. Please send in your dues **NOW** so that we can continue sending you *The Review*. Otherwise, this is your last issue.

If you send your dues in late, we must send the *Reviews* you missed first class, rather than bulk rate postage. Please help us cut expenses!

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## *Directory of Other California Camellia Societies*

**ATWATER GARDEN CLUB AND CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Ward Dabney; Secretary, Connie Freitas, P.O. Box 918, Atwater 95301. Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Bloss House, Cedar & First Street, Atwater.

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Mary Anne Ray; Secretary, Christine Gonos, 5643 North College Ave., Fresno 93704. Meetings: Kickoff breakfast October 3rd, remaining meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February, 7:30 p.m., Sheraton Smuggler's Inn, 3737 No. Blackstone, Fresno.

**DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, Evelyn Kilsby, 11 Tiffin Ct., Clayton 94517. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, October through March, 7:30 p.m., City of Pittsburg Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor St., Pittsburg.

**KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF**—President, Glenn Burroughs; Secretary, Fred Dukes, 733 Del Mar Drive, Bakersfield 93307-3843. For meetings dates, times and location call Fred Dukes, (805) 831-4383.

**MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF**—President: Ronald Jackson; Secretary, Betty Grover, 1108 Ulrich Ave., Modesto 95350. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, September through April, 7:30 p.m., Centenary Methodist Church, Room 6, Norwegian & McHenry Ave., Modesto.

**NAPA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Don Fretz; Secretary, Susan Bogar, 2414 Trower Ct., Napa 94558. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, September through May, 7:00 p.m., Villa Del Ray, 3255 Villa Lane, Napa.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, C. Adair Roberts; Secretary, Jim Toland, 1897 Andrews Drive, Concord 94521. Meetings: 1st Monday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Road, Concord. Final meeting in May is a dinner meeting.

**PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Russell Monroe; Secretary, Mary Simmons, 5616 Freeman Ave., La Crescenta 91214. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through March, 7:30 p.m., Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada.

**PENNINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Bob Logan; Secretary, Mickie Farmer, 360 Santa Margarita Ave., Menlo Park 94025. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October through March, Veteran's Building, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City.

**POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Julius Christinson; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 2nd Monday, November through April, 7:30 p.m. Church Fellowship Hall, White & 6th St., La Verne.

**SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF**—President, Ron Morrison; Corresponding Secretary, Evalena M. Smith, 601—34th St., Sacramento 95816-3819. Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October through April, 7:30 p.m., Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento.

**SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, CDR. Lindsey Edward Kalal, USN, Ret.; Secretary, Edna Baskerville, 4871 Lucille Pl. San Diego 92115. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through May, 7:00 p.m., Room 10, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY INC., CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF**—President, John Mendoza; Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Marcy, 1898 Kirkmont Ave., San Jose 95124. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, 7:00 p.m., 515 No. 1st Street, San Jose.

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

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