

THE  
*Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Junior Prom'

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Vol. 58

September—October, 1996

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## COVER PHOTO

'Junior Prom'

Large Japonica. White to faint blush.

Rose form, occasionally irregular loose peony.

Photo by Grady Perigan.

Color separation courtesy of Nuccio's Nurseries.

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN

### THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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

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* with over 150 pages describing more than 4,000 camellias at a cost of \$5.00 (\$7.00 foreign).

Please send name, address and check payable to:

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New Member	\$20.00	Sponsoring Member	\$25.00
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## THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



I had hoped that during our stay in Malaysia members would aggressively compete for the editorship of the *Review* but, since we've not had an overwhelming response, I think I again will get to enjoy all the accolades of the position.

Since our leadership includes old veterans of camellia growing and showing as well as new and sometimes young enthusiastic camellia hobbyists, I sincerely hope our publication will have a broad appeal.

Possible topics to expect in future issues are classified as follows:

- Plant culture
- Research (shade tree and semi-technical)
- My Garden—highlighting a particular garden
- Show Results when appropriate
- Reports from “Down Under”
- Show Integrity—judging, set-up, etc.
- Varieties—past, present and future
- General information/announcements
- Twelve steps to the head table—one step per issue

Please let me know if there are other topics that you want to see printed.

Another reminder: this publication will only be as good as the articles presented and these articles are primarily from you our members and readers. I would be delighted to have so many articles submitted that I'll have to appoint a screening committee to select the winners.

I trust we are looking forward with anticipation to a good and exciting camellia year.

Mel Belcher

### Join Australia and New Zealand Camellia Societies

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# CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA-RAMA XXII

Mary Anne Ray

It's CAMELLIA FUN AND CULTURE time hosted by the Central California Camellia Society (CCCS), November 1, 2, 3, 1996, at the Sheraton Four Points Inn (same place—new name) 3737 N. Blackstone, Fresno, California.

## Friday, November 1.

Camellia Hospitality Rooms (221-223) CCCS members will be waiting to welcome you with an abundance of goodies both solid and liquid. Meet old friends and make new friends.

## Saturday, November 2.

From 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. enter your early (gibbed or ungibbed) camellia blooms in Show Rooms 101-103. Seven trophies, courtesy of the Inn and CCCS members will be awarded to the best Reticulata, Hybrid, Large Japonica, Medium Japonica, Boutonniere (any species) and other Species.

**LOCATION:** Meet in the Banquet Room for the interesting program that Chairman Art Gonos has prepared for your entertainment. Speakers include Don Bergamini (Martinez), Ann Brown (Fort Valley, Georgia), Don Fretz (Napa), Nadine Lockwood (Walnut Creek), Wilbur Ray (Fresno), Jim Toland (Concord) and David Trujillo (Etiwanda). There'll be lots of door prizes, time for special announcements and camellia friendship where you can tell a fellow sympathizer about your 20" perfect bloom and nobody had a "TUESDAY" show. Of course, there'll be a bountiful buffet luncheon.

**COSTUME PARADE:** 6:30 p.m. Hospitality Room—Champagne Time with those wonderful (often zany)

costumes. Then to the Banquet Room for THE COSTUME PARADE, Awards, Traditional Prime Rib Dinner, Music by Johnny Salatino, Dancing, Super Raffle and the Awesome Winner-need-not-be-present-to-win Drawing.

## The THEME is

"HISTORY!" Hop in your "time machine," set the dial, hold your breath, punch the "GO" button and come up with a costume of anything or anybody from the "ERA" of your choice. I'm not going to even suggest one. It's too easy.

## FAREWELL BREAKFAST:

## Sunday, November 3.

At Host Hotel.

"Farewell Breakfast." An elegant Champagne Breakfast with a multitude of dishes for your choice—some made as you watch.

Come help us open the 96-97 camellia season—and bring a friend

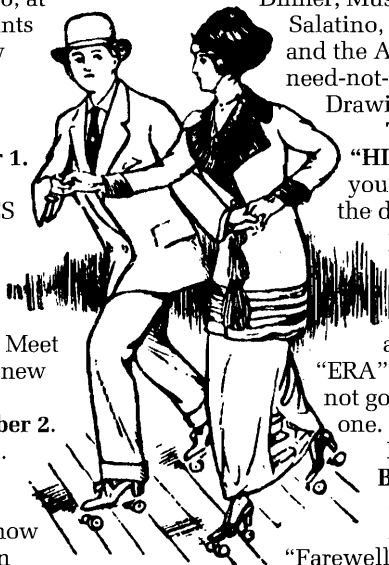
## Here's what it will cost:

Registration	\$6.00 each
Saturday	
Buffet luncheon	\$12.00 each
Prime Rib Dinner	\$28.00 each
Sunday	
Breakfast	\$10.00 each
Entire package	\$56.00 each.

Make checks payable to California Camellia-Rama and mail to Chris Gonos, 5643 N. College, Fresno, CA 93704.

**Motel Reservations:** Reservations are \$67 per night (single or double)

Please do not call the motel for reservations. Reservations are held WITHOUT DEPOSIT and MUST BE MADE through Chris Gonos. Call Chris for any questions or cancellations (209) 439-2228.



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# HOW TO GROW CAMELLIAS FROM "SCRATCH"

Marilee Gray

*(Editor's note: This article is an excerpt from a letter written in response to Mr. Bailey Chin's request to know more about growing camellias from seeds.)*

Camellias, as you probably know, can be readily grown from seeds. A camellia grown from seed is genetically unique, for each parent provides half of its genes. Each seedling is as our children are to us; they carry our characteristics through our genes, but they are not clones. Each seedling, therefore, can be considered a new variety. Whether or not one actually is propagated and introduced as a new variety is determined by a consideration of its positive characteristics AND its uniqueness as compared to those varieties that have been previously introduced. With the proliferation of new varieties in recent years, it is not sufficient that a seedling have merely an excellent bloom and plant; it must also be different in some significant way from every other introduction. An obvious 'significant' characteristic could be in the bloom size, color, or form, but it could also be in the growth habit or the blooming period. Exclusive of mutations that produce sports of a variety or virusing that can produce variegation in a bloom, the growing and evaluating of seedlings is the primary avenue for the development of new varieties.

Each variety varies in its tendency to set seeds; for no apparent reason, some varieties set seed readily, while others do not. Furthermore, those flower forms without stamens (formal doubles) are incapable of producing seeds since half of the reproductive system is missing. For those that do set seed, however, the germination of the seeds is very near perfect, provided the seed is fresh and the conditions are right.

This is mid-August, so we are approaching the seed ripening time

here in Southern California. The picking time varies considerably with the species and the influence of the weather conditions and the season. Most of my japonicas, the first to mature, are picked in September. In recent years, some of my japonicas are maturing in August. Reticulatas and sasanquas generally mature about a month later. So, at this time, I am being attentive as to what is happening. At the first indication of the pod splitting, I pick the entire crop of seeds of that plant to collect them before the pods open fully and lose the seeds. Left entirely to nature, relatively few seeds will successfully germinate and grow here in Southern California because the conditions are generally not consistently favorable enough. Fully mature seeds are a dark brown in color, but slightly immature seeds that are still partially ivory have proven to be viable.

In the Sept.-Oct. 1995 *Review* that I am sending you, you will note the ad for seed sales on page 22. Southern Cal annually collects and sells camellia seeds that are collected primarily at Huntington Gardens and the Park Hill Estate in Los Angeles. The contact for purchasing seeds will be the same this year as last. I would not delay in placing your order, particularly if you want retic seeds.

The fresher the seeds, the better the germination. Germination of thoroughly dry seeds can be improved by soaking them a few hours in water before planting. I germinate my camellia seeds in zip-lock baggies containing some very loose, slightly moist acidic planting mix; others prefer to use peat moss or a covered planting pot with the seeds buried about an inch. In either case, the amount of moisture is the most critical consideration. If using peat moss, it must be thoroughly wrung out so that it is barely moist. Too much moisture will cause the seeds to rot before they

germinate. I recall that once I received some seeds sealed in zip-lock baggies sent by slow boat from Australia. By the time they arrived (several weeks), the baggies were a mass of roots with nothing more than the moisture from the seeds available. Too much moisture, however, brings certain failure. Store the baggie in a warm, dark place.

Germination may be apparent in as little as 2-3 weeks, but it usually requires considerably more time. The root of the seed extends first. When it is about 2 inches long, I pinch off the tip of the root growth to convert it from a tap-rooted plant to one with cluster roots that favors pot culture. After that I return it to the baggie for development of a root system and a stem before it is planted separately; some prefer to plant the seedlings at this time. If that is the case, the pot needs to be greenhoused or covered with a plastic bag or jar to maintain the needed moist conditions while the stem develops; in any case, the newly planted seedling should be protected at first and then slowly hardened off and exposed. Regardless of when the seedlings are planted, it is important to note that the seedling should be planted no deeper than will allow its adjoined seed pod to rest on the *surface* of the soil, as the seedling is still vulnerable to rot. Choose 3 or 4 inch pots initially for the seedlings. Water them just often enough to keep them moist, not soggy wet. Do not fertilize until growth is substantial, and then only in the growth period (April to September) and with a dilution of a suitable camellia fertilizer or one of the dormant fertilizers (something of a 2-10-10 formulation).

Seedlings generally begin blooming in their fourth to sixth year. The blooms of the seedlings are reasons for excitement and optimism because we are always looking for that special bloom to appear. Many camellias, however, revert back to a simple, five-petaled red flower that was one of their ancestors. If the bloom is

uninteresting, however, nothing is lost; the seedling can be cut off and used productively as rootstock in grafting.

Propagation of a variety is most commonly done by rooting cuttings. As with all plants, the best wood to use for rooting camellias is that which is the newest and still is sufficiently hard enough. Prime wood for cuttings can be found as early as June when the new growth has hardened and turned brown in the stem. Each cutting requires 2-3 leaves. Trim off each leaf to about 1/2 of its area to reduce moisture loss; plant in a very loose acidic mix up to the first leaf; place the pot or flat in a greenhouse or cover it with plastic or glass and place in a light, but shaded, cool area. In cooler months, bottom heating will increase the root development. When root and top growth are apparent, slowly expose to harden the foliage and plant each cutting in a 4 inch pot.

Grafting is the propagation method of choice for several reasons. There are different grafting techniques that are used depending upon the season and the size of the understock. I will not go into these now. Should you want more information on grafting, we can provide information on programs in which grafting will be demonstrated.

## NEW MEMBERS

Aviva Nurseries  
Moshau Rishpon, 44 Haprachim Street  
Rishpon, Hof Hasharon  
Israel 46915

Marshall Brewer  
P.O. Box 301  
Putney, VT 05346

New York Public Library  
Grand Central Station  
PO Box 2240  
New York, NY 10163-2240

Jeanne Shoemaker  
5455 N. Marty #154  
Fresno, CA 93711  
209/276-8053

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# CAMELLIAS AS A LIVING COMMEMORATIVE

Lynn and Brad King

The death of a loved one is a tragic personal loss that cannot be resolved by the direct actions of others. However, as friends we may need and want to extend our sympathies to those in grief by something more than words. One tradition is to send flowers to the family on such an occasion. While we value the tradition and the thoughts behind it, we lament the transient nature of cut flowers.

Five years ago our close friends tragically lost their 25 year-old daughter and her fiancé in an automobile accident caused by a drunk driver. We attended the funeral and supported them emotionally. However, we continued to feel their pain and found we had a need to try in some small way to commemorate the beauty of lives ended. Lynn suggested we find a camellia that held their daughter's name to give them as a living tribute. Using Nuccio's catalog, we found a match.

More recently our next door neighbor died soon after major surgery. Our feelings of loss and inadequacy as to how to comfort his wife lead us to decide to again commemorate his rich life as a husband, father and dedicated physician. An avid golfer, he followed the Bob Hope Classic in Palm Springs where they also owned a home. When lack of time didn't permit him to play, he was often seen practicing his putting or chip shots on his front lawn. It seemed appropriate to choose the

camellia 'Bob Hope', a handsome red japonica.

Later that year we encouraged our friends from Northern California to visit and join us in fulfilling their wish to attend a New Year's tradition—the Tournament of Roses Parade. As expected, we had a wonderful time together. They loved all the festivities surrounding the parade and even volunteered time decorating the nearby Sierra Madre float. Imagine their surprise when they met the float driver and discovered that he was actually from their own hometown, Grass Valley.

Sadly, before the year was over, we learned that our dear friend had died suddenly while vacationing out of the country. In reliving memories of our friendship, his wife shared with us how glad she was that he had managed within this year to do several things he had always wanted to do. We decided it would be appropriate to honor his memory with the camellia 'Rose Parade', a saluenensis hybrid.

The loss of family and friends is, unfortunately, a fact of life. We have shared with you one way we have found to help us cope with and our loss and extend our sympathies to those surviving. By commemorating the loss in giving a living camellia as a symbolic tribute to life, our friends share with us not only our love for them but our love of camellias as well.

## MEMORIALS

*In memory of John Movich*  
Sergio and Elsie Bracci  
Lee and Arlene Chow  
Dick and Jackie Stiern

*In memory of Eleanor Berry*  
Les and Edna Baskerville

*In memory of Pete Grosso*  
Tony and Natalie Miranda

*In memory of Bob Van Zandt*  
Tom and Elsie Hughes



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## IN SEARCH OF CAMELLIAS IN MALAYSIA

Mel Belcher



*Mel demonstrates the cleft graft to Mr. Tan.*

Bobbie and I have just returned from Malaysia (June 95 - June 96). Prior to going we vowed that we would look for camellias and azaleas in that Southeast Asia country. First a few comments about the location and climate of Malaysia.

The country is located just north of the Equator. Our home in Kluang and the Institute of Technology in Parit Raja that I reported to daily was 2 degrees north latitude. If you are familiar at all with those latitudes you know that it is hot and humid the year round. Also, those of you who raise camellias know that they don't like cold freezing weather nor do they like hot humid weather. They are a hearty plant but a little finicky about weather.

Malaysia is well endowed with plants, both the cultivated domestic variety and the jungle variety. There are many plant nurseries through Malaysia and, going from our home in Kluang to the Institute of Technology, a distance of 38 kilometers, there were no less than six nurseries. I have stopped at all of these nurseries and asked if they had camellia plants. The answer was

always the same, "What is a camellia?"

We traveled over most of peninsular Malaysia and to Sarawak on the island of Borneo and continued to asked if anyone knew of camellias. Their facial expression always answered in puzzlement, "What is a camellia?"

Meanwhile, we had talked to people who were familiar with the Cameron Highlands and were told of the daily shipment of fruits, vegetables and flowers to the markets in Kuala Lumpur and further south to Singapore.

We were determined to get to the Highlands which is at an elevation of approximately 5000 feet to enjoy the beauty of the "farms" and enjoy a cooler climate. Unfortunately, our vacation schedule and travel arrangements did not appropriately mesh with the rainy season and mud slides ("landslips") until the last week of our stay in Malaysia.

We made arrangements to stay in Kuala Lumpur the last week and fly home from this capital city. We also made reservations to stay for three days at the posh Strawberry Park



*Above: Mr. Tan takes great pride in his E.G. Waterhouse Variegated*

*Right: Porcelain pots rather than black plastic pots*

Resort in the Cameron Highlands. The resort was beautifully landscaped with a broad array of plants. After we checked in, I made plans to meet with the chief groundskeeper and, after complimenting him on his impressive variety of plant materials, including many beautiful azaleas, I asked him if he had planted any camellias. He said he hadn't but that he planned to. At last I had found someone who knew that such a plant existed. In fact, he said that there was a camellia garden about 10 km back down the road that we had just come up. Surprisingly, Bobbie and I both missed the large "Tan's Camellia Garden" sign on the road up, but we have a good excuse. The ride up the mountain in a taxi that the driver called a limousine was a white knuckle experience and the garden sign was on a sharp blind curve. At that moment we were more interested



in survival than camellias.

Through the hotel management we negotiated for a taxi driver to take us to the garden and stay while we

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looked around and then return us to the hotel. At this time we had a stroke of good luck because the taxi driver was a school mate and good friend of the camellia garden owner, Mr. Tan Chin Pa, and helped serve as host for the next hour or so.

It was a thrill to visit with Mr. Tan and tour his garden and nursery. When I stated that I had 300 varieties of camellias in my garden in La Verne, California, he said that is exactly what he had. Mr. Tan's nursery appeared to have a dual purpose. In addition to having plants in pots for sale he had a multitude of varieties planted around the nursery and on the adjacent slopes. He had walking paths throughout the garden and on the hillsides. Viewing the plants on the slopes I was reminded of the impressive garden at Ralph Peer's Park Hill in Hollywood.

One of the most surprising things I learned in this Malaysian garden was that, since Malaysia does not have climactic seasons, camellias do not bloom seasonally but year round. We were at the garden June 27, 1996, and many varieties were in bloom—perhaps not as profusely as we experience during our blooming season, but they were of good quality. We saw blooms on *reticulatas*, on

*japonicas*, large and small, and on non-retic hybrids.

Since the growing season and blooming season (dormant season) is one and the same, grafting becomes a problem. Mr. Tan had been using the bark method of grafting but complained his success rate was low. I demonstrated for him the method I use which is the cleft graft method. It is my understanding that the cleft graft should be used primarily during the dormant season, so it may not be even as successful as bark grafting in the hot humid climate of Malaysia. It is my opinion that grafting becomes a challenge in these areas where plant dormancy periods are ill-defined. We noticed that plants including "for sale" camellias were in decorated clay/porcelain pots with no black plastic pots available. Bobbie and I agree that this 1 1/2 hours with Mr. Tan in his camellia garden put the "finishing touch" on our stay in Malaysia.

After our day with Mr. Tan, we visited a Buddhist temple in the Highlands and saw large camellia plants there, too. So, yes, there are camellias in Malaysia—but you must look in the right places because the climate inhibits their growth at the lower elevations.

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## FRESNO'S FAVORITES

Joe Roup

At our November, 1995, meeting, the members were asked to list their choice of ten favorite camellias and the results are interesting.

In the past, the *Review* Editor has asked top camellia growers to list their favorite ten or twelve best camellias. In addition to that method of selection, how about each individual camellia society becoming involved in the selection process.

Members of the Central California Camellia Society have already picked their ten favorites and we now submit these choices as our

"TEN FAVORITE CAMELLIAS."

'Miss Tulare', 'Dr. Clifford Parks'  
'Emma Gaeta Variegated'  
'Moonlight Bay'  
'Nuccio's Gem', 'Harold Paige'  
'Miss Charleston Variegated'  
'Eastern Morn', 'Magnoliaeflora'  
'Fircone Variegated'

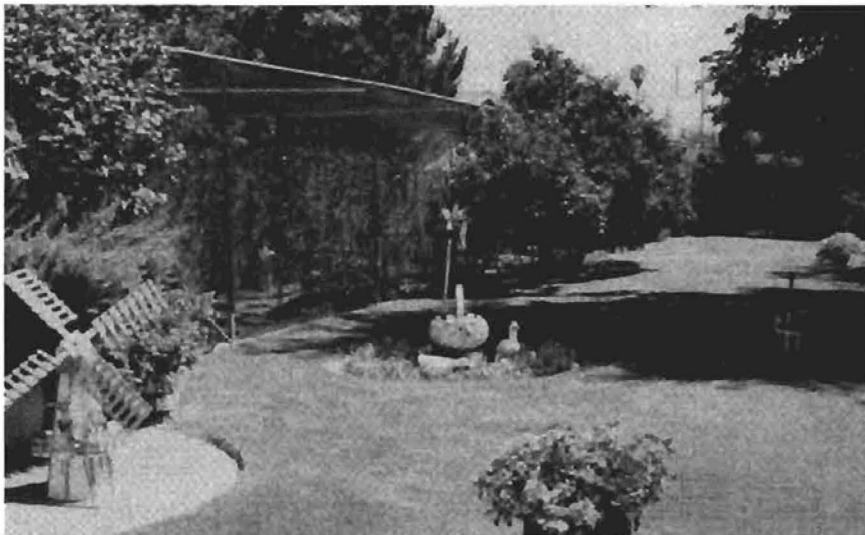
Every member who voted picked at least one of these camellias and most members voted for four or more of the final choices. (We can't understand what happened to 'Royal Velvet'. We know it's a great camellia.)

## OUR GARDEN

Bob and Alice Jaacks

We moved into our present home in 1947 and our original garden consisted of roses, tulips and other miscellaneous flowering plants and a rather large vegetable garden. Then came the gophers! Out came the vegetable and rose gardens. The gophers were getting too fat at our expense!

planted in pots and used for understock. One of the faster growing seedlings was planted in the ground and grew to 7 1/2" in diameter. On this Rudy Moore grafted nine scions of 'Fire Chief Variegated' which were donated by Rudy, Grady Perigan and Sergio Bracci. Today only four of these nine grafts remain as each of



Meanwhile, my mother was able to obtain 20 camellias in four inch pots for us. Among them were 'Jordan's Pride', 'Debutante', 'Alba Plena', 'Blood of China', 'Grandiflora Rosea', 'Adolphe Audusson', 'Professor Charles S. Sargent', 'General George Patton', 'Chandleri Elegans', 'Purity', etc. We were advised to transplant them to one gallon cans and heel them in for one year. When the year was up they were planted around the house and garden. Of these original 20, all have been grafted with newer varieties except 'Grandiflora Rosea', 'Adolphe Audusson' and 'Professor Charles S. Sargent'.

As the plants grew and produced seeds, the seeds were sprouted,



the grafts grew so large some had to be removed.

My collection has now grown to about 250 plants, 98% of which are planted in the ground except for new grafts and seedlings.

I use 63% Tildenet, a knitted black high density polyethylene netting over a pipe frame for shade. I prune very heavily as soon as the flowers are through blooming with lighter pruning after new growth has developed.

My fertilizing program starts in March with one feeding of liquid fish—one tablespoon per gallon of water. This is followed by three feedings of five parts cotton seed, one part iron and one part blood meal at six-week intervals. This is followed by feedings of five parts 2-10-10 and one part iron for the balance of the blooming season at 30-day intervals. This program has worked well for me.



*Above: The last of the original plants are used for shade only.  
Left, above: Backyard showing pipe construction holding 63% shade cloth over camellias  
Left, below: Cornelian (lg. Retic) grafted on large understock.*

## INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1996-97

'Grady's Egao' (Sasanqua)

'Lemon Twist' (non-reticulata hybrid)

'Junior Prom' (Japonica)

'Moonstruck' (non-reticulata hybrid)

and these Species:

'Camellia Chrysanthoides'

'Camellia Glabripetala'

'Camellia Trichoclade'

'Camellia Cordifolia'

'Camellia Rhytidocarpa'

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# THE JUDGES HAVE SELECTED - 1996

Don Bergamini

The judges looked at a few new camellias this year and some of them were really hot. They were: 'Black Magic', 'Red Hots', 'First Blush', 'W. P. Gilley Variegated' and 'Queen Bee'. They not only won in the single category but in the multiples as well. The big winner as usual was 'Royal Velvet' which took seventeen wins in the single and multiple classes. This was followed by 'Red Hots' with eleven combined wins and 'Emma Gaeta Variegated' with ten. I think you are going to see a lot more of these varieties in the future.

A note to the exhibitor who has limited space and wants a winning collection in both the single and multiple classes. This may be just the collection you want: 'Royal Velvet', 'Nuccio's Carousel', 'Elegans Champagne', 'Nuccio's Jewel', 'Betty Foy Sanders', 'Spring Daze', 'Dahlohnega', 'Man Size', 'Grace Albritton', 'Emma Gaeta Variegated', 'Harold Paige', 'Dr. Clifford Parks', 'Pink Dahlia', 'Waltz Time Variegated' and 'Elsie Jury'. These fifteen varieties are not the only excellent varieties that are competitors, but these are the varieties that have been the most consistent winners over the past several years. Please note that not all varieties do well in every area of California, so check with people in your area to see if these will do well in your area. Good luck—and have a winning 1997 season.

## SINGLES

### Large-Very Large Japonicas

'Katie Variegated'	7
'Lady Laura'	6
'Royal Velvet'	6
'Carter's Sunburst'	3
'Moonlight Bay'	3
'Mrs. D. W. Davis Special'	3
'Adolphe Audusson'	2
'Elegans Champagne'	2
'Elegans Supreme'	2

'Elizabeth Weaver'	2
'Holly Bright'	2
'Miss Charleston Variegated'	2
'Royal Velvet Variegated'	2
'Tomorrow Park Hill'	2
21 others with 1 each	

### Medium Japonicas

'Black Magic'	6
'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	5
'Cherries Jubilee'	4
<del>'Fire Dance Variegated'</del>	3
'Nuccio's Jewel'	3
'Betty Sheffield Supreme'	2
'Chie Tarumoto'	2
'Feathery Touch'	2
'In The Pink'	2
'Magnoliaeflora'	2
'Margaret Davis'	2
'Ragland Supreme'	2
23 others with 1 each	

### Smalls (any species)

<del>'Red Hots'</del>	6
<del>'Spring Daze'</del>	5
'Allison Leigh Woodroof'	4
'First Blush'	4
'Ave Maria'	3
'Little Babe Variegated'	3
'Tom Thumb'	3
'Demi-Tasse'	2
'Maroon and Gold'	2
'Wilamina'	2
9 others with 1 each	

### Miniatures (any species)

'Something Beautiful'	8
'Botan-Yuki'	4
'Fircone Variegated'	4
'Ellen Daniels'	3
'Grace Albritton'	3
'Ann Clayton'	2
'Lemon Drop'	2
'Little Michael'	2
'Man Size'	2
7 others with 1 each	

### Reticulata and Reticulata Hybrids

'Dr. Clifford Parks'	7
<del>'Emma Gaeta Variegated'</del>	5
'Queen Bee'	5
'Harold Paige'	4

'Larry Piet'	4	'Black Magic'	3
'Valley Knudsen'	4	'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	2
'Cornelian'	3	'Miss Charleston Variegated'	2
'Bravo'	2	'Sawada's Dream'	2
'Curtain Call'	2	'Tiffany'	2
'Hulyn Smith'	2	34 others with 1 each	
'Margaret Bernhardt'	2		
'Margaret Hilford'	2		
'Miss Tulare'	2		
'Pharaoh'	2		
'Valentine Day'	2		
'W. P. Gilley Variegated'	2		
19 others with 1 each			

**Non-Reticulata Hybrids**

'Julia Variegated'	5
'Pink Dahlia'	5
'Waltz Time Variegated'	5
'Elsie Jury'	4
'Buttons N' Bows'	3
'Debbie'	3
'Kramer's Fluted Coral'	3
'Angel Wings'	2
'Anticipation'	2
'Coral Delight Variegated'	2
'Hot Pink'	2
'Freedom Bell'	2
'Mona Jury'	2
11 others with 1 each	

**Species**

'Egao'	7
'Shibori Egao'	5
'Star Above Star'	3
'Shishi-Gashira'	2

**MULTIPLES**

**Japonicas**

'Royal Velvet'	11
'Nuccio's Carousel'	8
'Magnoliaeflora'	5
'Wildfire'	5
'Grand Prix'	4
'Elegans Champagne'	3
'Elegans Splendor'	3
'Fire Dance Variegated'	3
'Jennie Mills'	3
'Nuccio's Pearl'	3

**Boutonnieres**

'Allison Leigh Woodroof'	6
'Man Size'	6
'Pink Perfection'	5
'Red Hots'	5
'Fircone Variegated'	4
'Grace Albritton'	4
'Hishi-Karaito'	4
'Kewpie Doll'	4
'Spring Daze'	3
'Ave Maria'	2
'Buddy'	2
'Dahlohnega'	2
'Little Susie'	2
8 others with 1 each	

**Reticulata and Reticulata Hybrids**

'Pharaoh'	6	check
'Cornelian'	5	"
'Emma Gaeta Variegated'	5	
'Francie L.'	5	
'Emma Gaeta'	3	
'Queen Bee'	3	
'Buddha'	2	
'Fire Chief Variegated'	2	
10 others with 1 each		

**Non-Reticulata Hybrids**

'Freedom Bell'	5
'Waltz Time Variegated'	5
'Buttons N' Bows'	4
'Kramer's Fluted Coral'	3
'Nicky Crisp'	3
'South Seas'	3
'Coral Delight'	2
'Coral Delight Variegated'	2
'Honeymoon'	2
'Julie Variegated'	2
'Pink Dahlia'	2
8 others with 1 each	

*Correction Notice: The last issue of the REVIEW described incorrectly the rules used in judging for the Sacramento Show. An excerpt from Jim Randall's letter will correct those facts. Thanks, Jim.*

*"Fresno now is the only Society using the Nomenclature up here. The Northern California Camellia Council recommended using the 'ruler' a few years ago and most all Societies have now adapted this practice."*

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## KEEPING FOCUSED

Marilee Gray

Coverage of the recent Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, was our television fare from the opening to the closing ceremonies. From all of the interviews with the winning and potentially winning athletes that were interspersed among the competition events, I learned the importance of being *focused*. Triumphant athletes credited their winning with their ability to stay *focused*. Those competitors who lost their *focus* fouled up and did not make the winners' circle.

With this emphasis on competition and winning being foremost in my thoughts, I toured my camellia garden and looked for those potential show winners. What I saw was disastrous! Pathetic! Utter chaos! "Where are my winners?" I demanded. No one answered. *They had all lost their focus!*

In truth, I could not remember that my camellia garden ever looked so poorly. Even a few good-sized plants had already expired; the rest looked like neglected children. The blame, of course, lay squarely on the one responsible for their care. *I had lost my focus*, but I vowed to find it again.

Les Baskerville wrote an article several years ago in which he prudently warned against getting more camellias than one can adequately tend. I believe he said that 125 plants was his maximum; more than that produced a work overload that resulted in "diminished returns." I saw his garden in late March, and it was meticulously tended! Immaculate! Every plant was judiciously pruned and poised for a resurgence of growth. His was a garden of *really focused* camellias.

Mine, on the other hand, were surviving as best they could. In mid-April I had hurriedly applied a half-strength feeding of *Miracid* just before leaving on extended travel. Everyone said it turned unduly hot as soon as

we left, and our son lamented that he had struggled to keep things watered and merely alive. The survival rate of fertilized camellias gone dry is something worse than heart attacks in humans, but Alan did remarkably well in spite of the heat.

It was mid-June before my camellias received any more attention. First came a treatment with *Subdue*, the soil drench fungicide that stimulates root growth. Next came another taste of *Miracid* (weeks late since it is fast-acting and quickly dissipated) and a mite spraying. A second mite spraying followed in two weeks. More on the importance of mite control later.

It is nearly time for the leaves to begin turning fall colors, but I am still playing catch-up and trying to complete the spring cleaning ritual in the camellia garden. Ideally, at the conclusion of blooming, preparation for the next season begins with a three-pronged effort: prune, clean, and spray. Most growers do their heaviest pruning following the blooming period and before the first flush of growth. This is immediately followed with a garden clean-up that removes any pruning debris, old leaves, and fallen blooms—very important in the control of petal blight. Then, when the leaves are the fewest and the plants are their sparsest, is the ideal time to spray for mites. If the spraying is merely preventative, a single spraying would be sufficient. If a mite infestation is apparent, a second spraying should follow in about 10-14 days; this will eradicate the newly-hatched mites before they can reproduce.

Even though camellias survive better on neglect than over-indulgences, the neglect of my camellias has not been so excessive that it can explain their condition—with one exception: unchecked mite infestation in the summer of '95.



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When the EPA removed our effective miticidal sprays from the market a few years ago, the mite population soared in Southern California. The malathion products that were approved a couple years later seemed to be less effective than before. More recently, a new product has emerged as the miticidal spray of choice by environmentalists, nurseries, and home gardeners—a pesticidal oil that kills, not by toxicity, but by suffocation.

The brand I use is SunSpray's *Ultra-Fine Year-Round Pesticidal Oil*. When combating an active infestation, I use it at the dilution rate of 3T/gallon; a dilution of 1T/gallon would be effective if the spraying was merely a preventative measure. The oil is easily applied with a Gilmore hose-end sprayer that uses the undiluted product and has a tip deflector to facilitate spraying the underside of the leaves. A year ago the oil was difficult to find in Southern California nurseries, but I was able to mail order it from the East. Unfortunately, I had the oil on hand, but (here was my worst discretion) *I did not take the time to spray for mites any time during 1995*. Judging from the condition of my camellia leaves by late summer in '95, the mite population in my garden must have been astronomical! All of my varieties showed damage, but some that the mites must have judged to have the sweetest juices were nearly sucked dry! By the end of summer, hardly a respectable leaf could be found.

A few years ago, the presence of mites was evidenced by a rusty color on the underside of the leaf while the topside remained relatively handsome. The rusty appearance was the result of scar tissue that formed when the mites pierced the leaf; if the mites were sprayed and killed, the rusty colored scars remained on the underside as long as the leaf survived. I question whether or not today's mite, however, is a different animal that is much more destructive than those before; perhaps the increased damage

is merely an indication of the mite population. In any event, the first evidence of mites is a slightly less lustrous leaf with a somewhat mottled effect that appears and intensifies as the mites become active with the summer's heat and humidity. If left unchecked, by late summer the leaf will have lost much of its color and most all of its luster; the topside will appear unhealthy, dry, and dusty.

The sad state of my camellias in '96, therefore, is mainly the result of a serious omission in combating mites in '95. My plants are slight on foliage because all of the foliage from previous years was so damaged and weakened that it did not survive into the summer; only the growth of the current season remains. I intend to do a repeat of the double schedule of mite spraying as soon as the temperature moderates. This has been an unusually hot and uncomfortable summer thus far, and the pesticidal oil should not be used if the temperature reaches 90 degrees F. Additionally, its use should be avoided if buds are showing color; this presents no real problem, however, because the majority of the damage has been done by then. Mites are fairly inactive in the cool months when camellias are blooming.

Nuccio's Nurseries has used the Ultra-Fine Oil at the nursery for the past three years. Their checks with the Agriculture Department show this oil to be at least as effective as the best of the toxic miticides used in the past. In addition, this oil has been used effectively against other pests, such as the white fly. Tom Nuccio reports that some occasional unexplained defoliation has occurred following its use; varietal sensitivity to the oil, maturity of the leaves, or prior mite damage may have been responsible. In Tom's estimation, this oil is one of the best miticidal sprays available; meanwhile, he continues to experiment and test other promising products.

Only time will tell if my remedial

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efforts will be effective enough to produce any winning camellia blooms this next season. I tour the garden and check the buds and leaves daily for

any positive signs. "It's like this," I explain, "a winner is one who *gets focused* and *stays focused*... Hey! Is anyone listening?"

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## A NEW EDITOR FOR NEW ZEALAND

In Val Bieleski's letter, dated July 9, 1996, she wrote: "I'm writing to notify you that the July Bulletin is my last issue as Editor; I'm looking forward to growing camellias in the garden now, and not worrying so much about how to spell them. My excuse for their poor condition has always been "Well, I'm very busy with editing the 'Bulletin,' but now I have to think of a new excuse."

Our new Editor will be Mrs. Vonnie Cave, who I think you may have already met. She has excellent qualifications for being Editor and is very knowledgeable on camellias, I

think she will make a great job of editing the Bulletin, and she is looking forward to the challenge...

I have enjoyed my contact over the years with the Southern California Society. Having lived in L.A. (two years, 1961 and 1969) and Davis (6 months 1979) I have always felt very much at home in California, and enjoyed my subsequent visits there when members of your Society always made me feel very welcome. I look forward to continuing this contact through subscribing to the *Camellia Review*.

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## S.C.C.S. AWARDS DINNER - APRIL 18, 1996

Chuck Gerlach

Although the attendance was down somewhat from last year those who were there enjoyed a better than usual potluck dinner. Assorted main dishes and salads were most tasty as well as plentiful.

Elsie Bracci, who was in charge of the potluck, did an outstanding job of organizing this affair. Multicolor table cloths with an azalea centerpiece greeted the guests upon arrival. Lots of wine, soft drinks and various hors d'oeuvres were available.

After dinner the following awards were made: The William E. Wylam award for an outstanding boutonniere was presented to Nuccio's Nurseries for their introduction of 'Red Hots'. The Margerete Hertrich Award for 'Lady Laura' was sent to Dr. T. E. Lundy of Pensacola, Florida.

The monthly cut flower display winners were as follows: First place went to Bob and Alice Jaacks; The

runner-up place went to Sergio and Elsie Bracci. The Colonel Reid Trophy for most "gib" points was also won by the Jaacks.

The William E. Woodroof Camellia Hall of Fame Awards for 1996 were 'Arcadia' by Meyer Piet and 'Firedance Variegated' by Nuccio's Nurseries. The "Nice Guy Award" for all of her many efforts went to a "nice gal," Dorothy Christinson.

Grady Perigan presented an outstanding slide show which included pictures of winners of shows over the years as well as camellia activities from the 1940's to the present.

The drawing for the 'Eleanor Martin Supreme' oil painting was won by former *Camellia Review* Editor, Glenn Smith, and his wife La Verne.

A plant raffle concluded a most enjoyable evening.

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## SUMMER CAMELLIA PARTIES FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO OREGON

Elsie Bracci

The first party of the summer was "Christmas in July" at Edith Mazzei's home. On Saturday morning early, we left for our great adventure—we being Alice and Bob Jaacks and Sergio and I. We headed north for Clayton, California, for a Christmas in July party at the lovely home of Edith Mazzei. There were about 50 camellia friends attending. Jerry Miller arrived



in top coat and wool scarf and many layers of clothing. Remember, this was July and the temperature was only about 101, or so. Later, Jerry

shed to shorts and tee shirt.

Edith's home was decorated for Christmas including a beautiful Christmas tree. The hors d'oeuvres were so good. Then the most sumptuous Christmas dinner you've ever seen included turkey, dressing, candied yams, cranberry sauce, several salads, jello, etc., etc., etc. Dessert? Oh, my—ten or twelve marvels to choose from. No calories in the lot, I'm sure.

After all this unbelievable food Santa Claus, looking a lot like Jim Toland, came to distribute the Christmas presents to each one present. A wonderful time was had by all.

Back to Southern California for the Pacific Camellia Society Annual Picnic hosted by Sergio and Elsie Bracci. This year we decided to have a fund raiser. The board members got busy gathering articles to be donated for the dinner, the raffle or the silent auction. The latter proved to be the most fun. Everyone got into it; bidding was very competitive. Many took home their treasures and many took their money home because they had been out-bid.

We started with hors d'oeuvres provided by the ladies. There was a



wide variety and they were delicious. After a picnic dinner of hamburgers, hot dogs and fixings, the main raffle was long and very interesting. The Bergaminis from Martinez, California, won the beautiful fountain. I understand it is installed and working. Many of our camellia societies were represented: Southern California, Pacific, South Coast, Pomona, Kern County, Delta, Sacramento, and Northern California—about 100 of us. Those of us in the Pacific Society would like to thank all of you for joining us on such a hot day.

The last of these summer parties for us was at the beautiful home of Jack and Nancy Mandarich in Grants Pass, Oregon. The Jaacks and I flew up to Oregon and rented a car. Sergio met us on Friday night as he returned from a fishing trip in Alaska. I mentioned the car because it was a fun vehicle. I like to move along quickly and this car did just that. *(Editor's note: I'd like to know more about that car!)*

The festivities started on Thursday and ended Saturday night. There were about 50 or so of us and the theme was "have a good time." We all did just that! Eat, drink and talk camellias.

Jackie Randall had a Bocce tournament which held a lot of

interest and was fun. Each person thought he or she had won. Eleanor Biggs had two interesting guessing games and one evening the group took a dinner cruise on the Rogue River.



*The Revelers on the Rogue River*

It was wonderful being with such good friends at each of these events. There will be one more picnic on September 22. This is the Northern California picnic in Modesto. If you can go, do it—these gatherings are so much fun.

Thank you all for attending these parties and thank you for all the work that went into making each a success. Without the workers, there would be no great parties!

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## THANKS!

### SPONSORING MEMBERS

Elaine Abramson  
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Jack and Hilda Thompson

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## CAMELLIA STATIONERY

The back cover of the previous issue of *The Camellia Review* showed the collection of eight of Paul Jones beautiful camellia paintings. These cards were described on page 10 of that issue as "beautiful, exquisite, enthralling, exceptional . . ." and they truly are! They are available in sets of eight for \$6.00 including tax and shipping. We have shown the cards again on the cover of this issue and encourage you to order some for yourself and/or for a friend. Printed on quality stock with matching envelopes,

they make wonderful stationery for sending your greetings to your camellia friends. They also make wonderful gifts for your fellow camellia lovers or for those you are trying to get involved in this wonderful hobby!

The cards may be ordered through Dorothy Grier, 13229 Pipeline Avenue, Chino, CA 91710 (909)628-1380 or through the Southern California Camellia Society, 7475 Brydon Road, La Verne, CA 91750. Send your check payable to "SCCS" to either of these addresses.

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# I'VE BEEN THINKING

Scottie Illes

We recently spent three weeks in Wisconsin arriving amid the tattered remnants of Winter. The weather was cool, damp and breezy and any tree other than pine looked like a tall stick trying to poke holes in passing clouds. The fields that had been plowed before winter really set in were beautifully black and weed-free. The nurseries that had been closed all winter were beginning to sprout flats, baskets, tub and pots of glorious color as though they were going to drag spring in by the roots. The one hot day ended with extremely heavy rain and the tag end of a tornado that uprooted some very old, very large trees, but fortunately it did no serious damage. When we left the tall sticks were beautiful green trees and there were bright patches of color here and there in many yards—but it was still cool, damp and breezy. We arrived back in Southern California to warm weather, tons of color everywhere and nurseries that stay open all year round. But there are still some who wonder why we would rather live here. Really? Just take a look around for your answer.



A new camellia season is quickly coming upon us. Let's all take a deep breath, let it out very slowly and quietly make a wish that this will be a normal year, whatever that may be. You have got to admit that the past two seasons have been a little strange—at least here in Southern California. Blossoms too soon, too late, too small and some that never were. Good grief! What else can happen? So, here we go again with feeding, pruning, watering and dreaming. What will the new season bring? No one really knows, but I guarantee it will not be dull! I'll be at the shows. Won't you?

## 1996—1997 CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

From San Diego to Fresno

*Mark your calendars with these dates and locations.*

- December 7 & 8, 1996**      **L. A. Co. Arboretum, Arcadia**  
Hosted by the Pacific Camellia Society (Gib show)
- January 18 & 19, 1997**      **Descanso Gardens, La Cañada-Flintridge**  
Hosted by the Southern California Camellia Society
- January 25 & 26, 1997**      **South Coast Arboretum, Palos Verdes**  
Hosted by the South Coast Camellia Society
- February 1 & 2, 1997**      **Casa Del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Park, San Diego**  
Hosted by San Diego Camellia Society
- February 8 & 9, 1997**      **Huntington Gardens, San Marino**  
Hosted by the Southern California Camellia Society
- February 25 & 26, 1997**      **Church of the Brethren, Bonita & "E," La Verne**  
Hosted by Pomona Valley Camellia Society
- February 22 & 23, 1997**      **Descanso Gardens, La Cañada-Flintridge**  
Hosted by the Southern California Camellia Council
- March 1 & 2, 1997**      **First Christian Church, Bakersfield**  
Hosted by Camellia Society of Kern County
- March 8 & 9, 1997**      **Fresno Fair Mall, Fresno**  
Hosted by Central California Camellia Society

*The show season will soon be here, so make your plans to attend. See you there!*

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## DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Don Martin; Secretary—Christine Gonos, 5643 North College Avenue, Fresno 93704. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November-February, 7:30 p.m. Sheraton Smuggler's Inn, 3737 N. Blackstone, Fresno.

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

KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Helen Maas; Secretary—Susan Coyle, 7401-24 Hilton Head Way, Bakersfield 93309. For meeting dates and times, call Helen Maas (805)872-2188.

MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Don Kendall; Secretary—Sue Kendall, 1505 Gary Lane, Modesto 95355. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday September-May, 7:00 p.m., Enslin School, 515 Coldwell Avenue, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Larry Pitts; Secretary—Eric Hansen. Meetings: 1st Monday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Road, Concord. Final meeting in May is a dinner meeting.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Sergio Bracci; Secretary—Kathryn Korin, 1241 East Calveras St., Altadena 91001. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November-March, 7:30 p.m., Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Ed Tooker; Secretary—Nicky Farmer, 360 Santa Margarita Avenue, Menlo Park 94025. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October-March, Veterans' Building Annex, 771 Nevada Street, upstairs, Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—David Trujillo; Secretary—Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 2nd Monday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Church Fellowship Hall, White and Sixth Streets, La Verne.

SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Gary Schanz; Secretary—Mary Louise Jones, 4454 Marley Drive, Sacramento 95521. Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October-April, 7:30 p.m., Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Boulevard, Sacramento.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Gene Snooks; Secretary—Catherine Marlar, 4734 Cather Circle, San Diego 92122. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC., CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Bev Allman; Secretary-Treasurer—Helen Augis, 2254 Fairvalley Court, San Jose, CA 95125. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October-April, 7:00 p.m., Lick Mill Park, 4750 Lick Mill Boulevard, Santa Clara.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Helen Gates; Secretary—Pauline Jones, 1251 Tenth Street, San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September-July, 7:30 p.m., South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Peninsula.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Marilee Gray; Secretary—Bobbie Belcher, 7475 Brydon Road, La Verne 91750. Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, on October 30, November 21, January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24 (potluck). Note: No December meeting.



*Your friends will enjoy receiving your greetings on these new camellia note cards. They also make great gifts for your fellow camellia lovers or for those you are trying to get involved in this wonderful hobby! Cards and matching envelopes are packaged in sets of 8.*

*Order Today!  
Details on page 19*

