

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



Japonica 'Bobbie Fain Variegated'

Southern California Camellia Society, Inc.

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

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THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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COVER PHOTO

Japonica 'Bobbie Fain Variegated'. Clear bright red with red radial veining and white form of 'Bobbie Fain'. Large, semi-double to anemone form. Average, upright growth.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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

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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 \$10.00.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



As you read through this issue of the Camellia Review you will come across a lengthy article from the archives by R. W. Ragland. The subject is "Camellia Container Culture." Let me tell you why I find this so interesting. It is glaringly obvious as we review the proceedings of the Southern California Camellia Society meetings, activities and records of the 1940-1960's that "things" were radically different then than in the 1990's. Why? First and foremost, membership—particularly locally—was several-fold larger and consisted of numerous committees. Second, records of activities indicate that members were committed to the success of their organization.

There may have been far fewer distractions such as favorite TV programs, youth sports and new technological gadgets. I think one major difference is that we are two or three generations removed from an agrarian society. For some of us, the old adage that "You can take the boy out of the farm but you can't take the farm out of the boy" is still valid. For many, the "farm" has now faded from the boy. Consistent with this position is the fact that many "used-to-be-farmers" now live in apartments, condos or houses with small lots. This leads me back across the bridge to R. W. Ragland's relevant and still timely article. Container culture could, if emphasized, excite and light the dormant flame on the "farm" boys who now live in condos. We could even have a special category in our shows for "Condo Farmers."

You will appreciate Tim Thibault's updates on the Camellia Forest at Descanso Gardens and his report on some of the findings of the Research Committee. Tim is the Camellia Curator at Descanso and we reprint these articles with his permission and that of Descanso News.

Watch for news about the 2001 ICS Congress in our next Review.

—Mel Belcher, Editor

THANKS!

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In Memory of Lee Chow

Sergio & Elsie Bracci

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS FRIENDS,

Pomona Valley Camellia Society, for their gift of \$1,000 to help with publication costs

WHAT WOULD I DO NOW?

Bradford King

In a recent meeting Mel Belcher, editor of this Review, raised a very interesting question. "What would you do differently if you were beginning a camellia collection?" For me, there are two corollary questions. What have I learned the last 15 years and how have my attitudes changed?

Fifteen years ago I moved from Massachusetts to Southern California. I fell in love with the winter blooming camellias. I was very impressed with their usefulness as landscape plants. The first five years landscaping around our home was my only interest in camellias. I had never heard of the Southern California Camellia Society but a friend had recommended Nuccio's Nurseries. Nuccio's identified those camellias already established in our yard. I purchased new varieties usually those found in the Sunset Book list of recommended camellias. These tend to be older, tried and true varieties, e.g. 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Yuletide' and 'Adolphe Audusson'.

I still believe camellias are fantastic landscape plants that, if chosen carefully, can bring blooms from September through March. However, my horizons were expanded when I joined the Southern California Camellia Society. Lessons were learned. Ergo:

Lesson Number 1—join a society for information on varieties, culture and fellowship of other camellia enthusiasts. The Camellia Review and Camellia Nomenclature book are well worth the membership dues in the Southern California Camellia Society. No price, however, can be placed on the new relationships and friendly competition in showing your blooms.

Lesson Number 2—define your goals, objects and plans for keeping camellias. My plans have shifted from landscaping to growing, showing and, hopefully, winning in the camellia shows. This goal has led me to graft on older landscape varieties or to remove plants that have no opportunity to make it to the Head Table, e.g., 'Purity' and 'Alba Supra'. Therefore, in place of the five 'Pope Pius' I have chosen 'Miss Charleston Variegated', 'Anticipation Variegated', 'Tomorrow Park Hill', 'Harold L. Paige' and 'Frank Houser'. 'Purity' is now 'Margaret Davis' and one of my two 'Hermes' is 'Guilio Nuccio Variegated'. I kept one 'Herme' because it gibs nicely and is an old time favorite.

Lesson Number 3—learn from your mistakes. One of my first purchases was 'Adolphe Audubon'. It's red, it's big and it's a lovely landscape plant. It is rarely shown and rarely wins. I removed it and planted 'Firedance Variegated' which is just as good a plant and frequently makes it to the Head Table. My grafting is not as successful as it could be. The scions for 'W. P. Gilley' and 'Waltz Time Variegated' didn't take. Therefore, I am looking forward to the grafting party being held this winter by the Southern California Camellia Society to learn from other members about grafting techniques.

Lesson Number 4—be flexible and expand your point of view and refine your plans. Think ahead!

How much room do you have?

Where are the best locations for camellias?

Will you build lath or other shade space for camellias?

Will you plant them in the garden

or keep the camellias in pots?

It is my experience that I never have as much space for all the camellias I want. My desire is to keep 100 in the garden and 20 or less in pots. I can live with 100 different varieties as a maximum. If I add a new plant it will require the removal of something else. These are my limits for the millennium.

In order to keep this number of plants, I also must choose plants with a single trunk generally columnar if genetically possible. In the past, especially for landscaping, I chose dual trunks, bushy plants with many branches. I listened and leaned from other camellia people to select the healthiest single trunk plant possible. I learned that you can prune your plants to the desired shape.

Lesson Number 5—learn from others by listening and learn from your camellias by careful observation. Let me illustrate—As you know, camellias are wonderful container plants. I learned that for best results they require repotting or potting up every two years. I also learned the hard way about over watering especially the camellias in pots. Root rot caused by over watering is the single largest cause of camellia failure in my garden.

My solution to the root rot in pots was to decrease the automatic watering. I carefully observed the plants' needs by looking and touching the soil. This problem motivated me to put most of my collection in the ground because they should produce better blooms and will be less susceptible to root rot. I also took remedial actions by repotting in looser soil mix (40% sand and 60% Perlite). I also used a liquid root stimulation (Greenlight 5-20-10) three times in two-week intervals. How did this work out as a

cure? I had good overall improvement in plants and root formation but no complete success. How did I know this?

Lesson Number 6—I have been keeping garden notes for 12 years. At this time I have a 4-year book which has space for entry notes each week. In a glance at say the first week in February I see what I wrote in 1997, 1998, 1999 and there is room for 2000. I note weather conditions, when I prune, fertilize and anything of note that week. In the case of root rot problems, I rated the condition of the roots taken out of pots on a 5-point scale. This entry was made the second week in February 1999. These pots were pulled in October 1999 and the roots judged again on a 5-point scale. Three were still poor and were destroyed as the root rot was too pervasive. Two showed minimal improvements but 15 were rated 1 or 2 grades higher. These were put in the ground. At home, while not a formal study, using the 20 plants as their own controls and seeing with my own eyes root improvement was scientific enough for me. I find keeping notes and records fun and helpful. When did I last fertilize the camellias? If I don't write a note to myself I don't remember. Picking winners on the stock market and picking winners to the Head Table is in part due to expert advice and research.

Lesson Number 7—Expert advice on growing camellias comes from attending society meetings and camellia shows and reading. For example, the Camellia Nomenclature lists Southern California Camellia Society awards in the back and the Camellia Review lists winners by show. The September-October 1999 Camellia Review has two good articles by Don Bergamini that can

help in selecting winning varieties. I watch the performance of stock funds for their movement up or down. Don's article comparing the 80's and 90's is an excellent source of information as to which varieties are moving up or down. I used this as a guide to choose new plants or to have multiple numbers of one variety. Therefore, I added another 'Harold L. Paige' and another 'Dr. Clifford Parks' which were ranked 1 and 2 in the 80's and 4 and 3 respectively in the 90's. On the other hand, several new varieties with no rankings in the 80's have been showing well and are worth adding to a collection, e.g., 'Larry Piet', 'Queen Bee', 'Ruta Haggmann' and 'Frank Houser' to name a few. Where will you put them?

Lesson Number 8—remove any plant in the garden that doesn't do well, fails to thrive, blooms poorly or is too much effort for the rewards you get. I really enjoy cymbidium orchids. For six years I have fertilized as instructed, repotted and move them to locate enough sunlight. I either have too much sun, too little sun, or it's too dry in Arcadia during hot summers or else I have a "cymbidium brown thumb." Regardless, those that are not in bloom in May are gone!

Lesson Number 9—create a "hit list" or use the Bergamini ratings to "cut your losses." You can graft on your "hit list" or remove them. Using the Bergamini ratings of camellias I have a few species on my personal "hit list"—'Dazzler' and 'Bonanza'. They won't win and in my garden their locations would be fine for a new reticulata like 'W. P. Gilley Variegated'. However, don't forget to keep the camellias you love or which have merit in your landscape even if they aren't likely to win in a show. I have a 'Hugh Evans' and a 'Jean May' who have been faithful for over 15 years. They stay—regardless!

Lesson Number 10—look to the future but retain your roots. Will the new 'Tama Peacock' a friend purchased at Nuccio's for my 60th birthday make it to the Head Table? I hope so. Yet, it doesn't matter because it's located next to a year-old Tama on one side in an area that has 'Tama-no-Ura' (5 years old) and a 'Shisha Gashira' (20+ years old) in a landscape arrangement that will take me into the millennium.

Finally, whatever you do—have fun!

Editor's note: Dr. King is President of Southern California Camellia Society and co-chairs the 2001 International Camellia Congress Steering Committee.

CAMELLIA STATIONERY

Our beautiful camellia notecards (*back cover*) are still available in sets of eight for \$6.00 including tax and shipping. Folks who use them (and re-order) tell us how truly lovely they are. They make wonderful gifts for your fellow camellia lovers or those you are trying to get interested in this great hobby! You can even order them for your own use. They also look beautiful in frames.

Cards can be ordered through Dorothy Grier, 13229 Pipeline Ave., Chino, CA 91710, (909)628-1380, or through Southern California Camellia Society, 7475 Brydon Road, La Verne, CA 91750, (909)593-4894. In either case, make your check payable to SCCS.

If any camellia society would like to use these cards as "fund raisers," orders for 25 or more sets are priced at \$5.00 each, including tax and shipping.

CAMELLIA-RAMA XXV

November 5-7, 1999 Fresno, California
Mary Anne Ray

Good fellowship with new friends as well as ones we've known for a while. Good fun, Good food and really beautiful camellia blooms! Mary Anne Ray submitted the following information even though she was unable to attend the gala event.

Winning blooms and exhibitors:

Best of Show	'Mary Fisher'	Jack & Anne Woo
Best Large Japonica	'Mary Fisher'	Jack & Anne Woo
Best Medium Japonica	'Betty Foy Sanders'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Best Boutonniere	'Little Babe Variegated'	Jack & Anne Woo
Best Retic or Retic Hybrid	'Frank Houser'	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Best Hybrid	'Buttons 'N Bows'	Art & Chris Gonos
Best Species	'Yuletide'	Don & Dolores Martin

Costume Parade Winners—The Theme "Mardi Gras!"

Best Theme Couple	"Jesters"	Hal & Deane Burch
Runner-up Theme	"Jesters"	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Most colorful	"Cards"	Don & Mary Bergamini
Funniest	"Did I Have a Good Time Drunk?"	Tom Nuccio
Best Headdress	"Genie"	Anthony Taccheria
Best Mask	"Potato Head"	Jim Toland
Best Authentic Couple	"King & Queen"	Bob Ehrhart & Linda Williams
Originality	"Tiger & Tigress"	Don Fretz & Fran Kane

Awesome "Need not be present to win" Drawing

	Donated by	Won By
Crocheted afghan	Elsie Bracci	Pat Pozdol
Safari Romance Basket	Jeanne Shoemaker	Carolyn Evans
Etched Glass	Ruth Ann Lewis	Cay Novak
Hand-painted candlesticks	Vicki Shoemaker	Bea Soehren
Birdbath fountain	Sergio Bracci	Ed Streit
Garden Gnome Statue	Sergio Bracci	Bobbie Belcher
Garden Cherub Statue	Sergio Bracci	Charlotte Johnson
Garden Raccoon Statue	Sergio Bracci	Dorothy Christinson
Camellia pin/tie tack	Jim & Jackie Randall	Virginia Rankin
Yard Bunnies	Bill & Bev Allman	W. C. Wyatt
Camellia Clock	Virginia Rankin	Demitri Gonos
Wine Bottle Holder	Jim & Janet Seay	Bea Soehren
Necklace & Earrings, camellia		
Pin and matching earrings	Jean Toland	Virginia Belcher
Camellia register/address book	Edith Mazzei	Don Fretz
Stained glass camellia	Al Biggs	Gary & Carol Schanz

Mary Anne's note: "I surely missed being there and seeing you all." And the rest of us missed our friend who was recovering from recent surgery.

MEMORIES OF CAMELLIA-RAMA 1999 "MARDI GRAS"



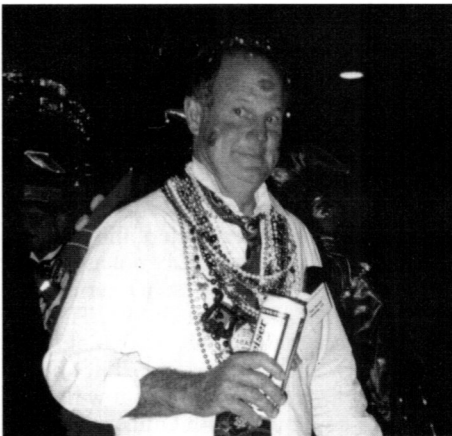
The Jesters Hal & Deane



King Bob & Queen Linda



Hardworking Art & Chris



Tom "Did I have a Good Time" Nuccio
Does this look like Judge Don Fretz?



CAMELLIA FLOWER BLIGHT IN THE UK

Jennifer Trehane

Well, it couldn't last could it? We thought with our "island" mentality that we were safe, just as the New Zealanders did. Surrounded by sea and with a relatively cold climate we hoped that we would not see Camellia Flower Blight, (*Ciborinia camelliae*) here in Britain. I have to admit, though that we did start to get worried in March 1998 when some of us on an ICS tour saw infected blooms in Portugal and heard that it was also in Brittany, France. The wind sometimes brings red sand from the Sahara desert in North Africa to our shores, covering our cars with red dust, so it seemed possible that *Ciborinia* spores might travel here in the same way, on the same wind currents, since Portugal is en route. We are also in the European Union and there is now much more freedom of movement of plants between member countries.

We reported what we had found in Portugal to the UK Plant Health Authorities since we knew that *Ciborinia camelliae* was a "quarantine disease" and we were legally obliged to notify Plant Health if we suspected its presence within the EU. Our findings were duly raised at a meeting of EU Plant Health Ministers in Strasbourg shortly afterwards. Meanwhile our MAFF Head of Plant Health phoned and we discussed the problem and possible actions for at least half an hour—he was taking it seriously. Plant Health Inspectors were immediately sent out to take samples of possibly infected blooms from a variety of "camellia" sites in southern England. All proved clean; just *Botrytis cinerea*. A poster and a leaflet were produced to inform all Plant Health Inspectors, camellia nurseries, gardens which feature camellias, and other possibly interested bodies. We linked our Central Science laboratory up with Dr Peter Long and Christine Taylor of Massey University who are currently researching the disease and its spread

in New Zealand. They were extremely helpful and a good working relationship has developed between the two teams with excellent photos and research results being kindly sent from Massey.

Awareness of the disease soon increased and in March 1999 our Plant Health Inspectors began visiting more camellia nurseries and commercial gardens to take samples for analysis at the Central Science lab. The problem was that none of them had ever seen Camellia Flower Blight, and you know how easy it is to confuse it with *Botrytis*!

I spent a few days in Cornwall taking pictures and visiting "camellia" friends at this time. The weather had been cold at night with some frost the previous week, but we were frost free and having bright warm days with temperatures rising to 19°C or 20°C for several days running while I was there.

Having seen Camellia Flower Blight in California and in New Zealand I was also on the look out for it in Cornwall—just in case. Horror of horrors, I found it! Several bushes had masses of blooms browned by frost, which was to be expected, but there were others which had that characteristic look about the brown markings which just said "petal blight." You just know, don't you? Removal of a few blooms and a look at the bottom of them revealed the characteristic white ring of mycelium. I took some photos and then went in search of the manager. It was probably not as bad as telling someone they have a serious disease but somewhat similar. The reaction was disbelief and denial which was understandable, but I had to tell him that he should show the expected Plant Health Officer the infected plants. I marked a few flowers which were showing just brown speckling and one or two with no symptoms and returned a few days

later to check their condition. There had been no further development of the speckling and no fresh symptoms. Many new blooms were emerging clean and un-damaged. The weather in that time had turned very wet indeed and quite cool, 9-12 degrees centigrade day and night. Central Science were able to identify the disease in the lab by cultures from blooms which had rings of white mycelium. Those that produced *micro conidia* (the a-sexual stage of the fungus) within about three weeks, which could be identified as *Ciborinia camelliae*, were deemed infected and the owners notified. There were four confirmed outbreaks in the south of England, including the garden where I found it.

I returned to Cornwall after three weeks of wet and cool but not cold weather and found no sign of the disease anywhere in that garden, but it was identified in two other gardens a few miles away in this period.

I believe that *Ciborinia camelliae* has probably been present here for a number of years unidentified because of its low incidence and also lack of knowledge. One or two overseas visitors have certainly had their suspicions! Could it be that our wet, cool climate is not ideal for the development of the spore bearing *apothecia* and that the spores are not

easily spread because of heavy and prolonged precipitation? This could be the reason why the disease has not become a major problem here yet. Goodness knows what the prospects are if global warming gets going.

One of our research stations is keen to trace the spread of the disease and to investigate the effects of climate on the development of the fungus.

Funding is currently being sought. Meanwhile our camellia nurserymen are producing a code of practice to try to reduce the spread of the disease to their customers. Now that *Ciborinia camelliae* has "come out of the European closet" other countries have come forward to say that they, too, have forward to say that they, too, have it. Germany, Italy and even Switzerland have apparently identified it now and it is likely to be removed from the "quarantine" list next year.

That leaves just Australia as the only major camellia growing country to be free of the dreaded Camellia Flower Blight—another island, but with an extremely strict Plant Health Service. The rest of us are just going to have to learn to live with it, just as you in Southern California do, controlling it by practising good hygiene and hoping that the scientists do eventually come up with a remedy.

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW

1999 crop of camellia seeds from Huntington Gardens,
Descanso Gardens and Park Hill Estate

Japonica seeds - \$10/100 Reticulata seeds - \$.25 each
Sasanqua seeds - \$7.50 per 100
Minimum order - \$5.00

Southern California Camellia Society
c/o David Trujillo

13265 Catalpa, Etiwanda, CA 91739 (909)899-1650

LEE CHOW'S CAMELLIAS LIVE ON

Marvin Belcher

Dr. Leland Chow of Bakersfield died in early July, 1999. Before his death he had announced that he wanted his camellia collection, except for landscape plants, to go to the Camellia Society of Kern County. The Executive Committee of the Camellia Society of Kern County, under the leadership of President Helen Maas, decided that the collection would be sold at auction, with proceeds of the sale to go to the Society's Arlene Chow Memorial Scholarship Fund.

A committee was formed to inventory the camellia plant collection, determine a minimum bid for each plant, set up procedures for a silent auction, and publicize the sale to members of the Society. A silent bid sale was set for August 28, 1999, at the Chow residence. Society Treasurer, Doris Dermody, worked diligently to ensure the success of the sale and also to see that the camellia

plants were kept in good condition until the sale.

The sale occurred on August 28, and, because of good planning, everything went very smoothly. All plants were sold. Society members were able to buy choice plants at very reasonable prices. Approximately \$2,000 went into the Scholarship Fund as a result of the sale.

The Camellia Society of Kern County is grateful that the Chow family desired that Lee's camellias would continue to be cared for by persons who had an appreciation for the beauty of camellias, and that members of the Society would be the beneficiaries of Lee's wishes. Lee's daughter, Janine Chow, was very gracious and extremely helpful in the entire process. Appreciation is expressed to Janine, Sterling and Bradley Chow for the gift of Lee's camellias, which will live on as we cherish the memory of Lee Chow.

ANNOUNCING BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA CAMELLIA EXHIBITION

February 12 and 13, 2000

The Birmingham Camellia Society is proud to announce that during the afternoons of February 12 and 13, 2000, it will host Birmingham's 50th Annual Camellia Show. The show will be held in the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and will be open to the public from 2 to 5 on Saturday afternoon and from 1 to 4:30 on Sunday.

Over the past 50 years Birmingham's Camellia Show has been recognized for its outstanding display of the finest examples of camellias under one roof. Over 1,000 blooms—large, medium, small and miniature—will fill the tables of the Botanical Garden's Auditorium. Reds, whites, pinks, blush and the elusive yellow will provide a kaleidoscope of petals.

The public is invited to come and see, but not touch, the beauty that growers from all over the Southeast will assemble for Birmingham's looking pleasure. The greenhouse will be open for viewing the growing plants. The blooms and the bushes should be at their peak.

The Birmingham Camellia Society took the lead in transforming Alabama from the Goldenrod State to the Camellia State. Each year the Society invites growers from around the South to bring their finest examples of the Alabama State Flower to share with Alabamians. We can take pride in that which we profess to call our own.

Editor's note: Thanks to William and Louise Hairston for providing this information.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: CONTAINER CULTURE

R.W. Ragland

There are many advantages to be derived from growing camellias in containers. They have been well summarized as follows:

1. Camellias, unlike many large-flowering shrubs, are exceptionally handsome, decorative, long-lived and well suited to pot culture.

2. They will thrive indefinitely in relatively small containers and do not mind being root-bound, provided they are fed and watered regularly.

3. The composition, fertility, acidity, moisture and drainage of camellia soils can be more easily controlled in containers.

4. Potted camellias can be enjoyed in gardens where natural conditions (soil, drainage, etc.) are unsuitable.

5. Container-grown plants have a tendency to bloom earlier in the season, at an earlier age and more profusely than plants of the same variety in the ground.

6. Potted camellias take less space in the garden and are thus particularly desirable for collectors whose growing space is restricted to a single city lot.

7. Camellias in containers can be moved into the greenhouse, patio, or sun porch during the blooming season to protect the blossoms from rain or frost. In summer the plants can be moved to protected locations to avoid hot sun and drying winds.

8. Container-grown plants can be arranged and rearranged in the garden to create any desired effect. Varieties blooming simultaneously may be massed for special displays, the bloomed-out plants being constantly replaced by later blooming varieties.

9. Potted camellias may be used freely to accentuate the general

landscape design at steps and entrances, on walls and terraces and in patios and porches.

10. The potted camellias may even be used as house plants if the room temperature can be kept between 35° and 50° F. during the blooming season and the humidity held reasonably high. Successful amateur collections housed in ordinary sun porches in Iowa and Illinois have fully demonstrated the adaptability of the camellia as a house plant.

11. Camellias in containers are as easily moved across the country as across your garden. (Provided the movement is in compliance with plant quarantine regulations.) Wherever you go, your camellias can go with you.

12. A camellia collection is an important investment that increases in beauty and value with the years. Plants in the ground are an investment that can seldom be recovered, but potted camellias are always a valuable piece of portable property easily and profitably disposed of at any time.

The amateur grows camellias because they are beautiful and the outstanding reason for growing camellias in containers is that, in the opinion of many growers, more beautiful flowers can be produced from plants in containers than from those in the ground because the grower can have better control over the plant.

All camellia varieties cannot be given exactly the same treatment. They differ in their likes and dislikes—not to any great degree, perhaps, but to some degree. It is that small degree which makes the difference between the average

flower and the extraordinary flower.

Likewise, camellia plants of the same variety are individuals. Like human beings, some are stronger, healthier and more vigorous than others. Some require more food than others do, at least for temporary periods. Some even require more water than others for short period of time. All that a plant with a full, vigorous root system needs is plenty of nutrients, water, light and air, while the weaker plant needs those same things in varying amounts. The weak plant needs primarily to have its root system built to full vigor and this requires individual treatment.

Thus, the one great advantage of container culture is that it gives more precision and flexibility of control

SOIL

The key to container culture—the most important thing that makes possible the flexibility and precision of control referred to above—is the soil used. Camellias like a cool, moist soil. The soil must never be allowed to dry out. Yet, they also abhor heavy, soggy soil. Therefore, they must have good drainage. Even in containers, drainage is a problem if the wrong kind of soil is used. The container mix should be light, crumbly and open. Soils that are compact and gummy, such as those containing adobe or a large percentage of clay, should be avoided. The growing medium should be on the acid side, having a pH of 4.5 to 7, preferably 5 to 6.5. It should be basically organic in composition, but it is preferable that the original mix not be rich in nutrients. Better control can be exercised if the nutrients are added through fertilization.

This author has found that the most satisfactory mixture is one that

contains one part by volume of light sandy soil and one part by volume of peat moss. This mix can be further improved by adding one-half part by volume of wood shavings (opinion persists that redwood shavings seem to contain an acid not good for camellias). The primary purpose of adding the shavings is to afford better aeration for the root system, but shavings, of course, also add organic material. If sandy soil is not available, there can be substituted for it silty or other light soil and coarse sand in equal parts. Avoid clay or adobe. Peat moss rather than other organic matter is preferred for several reasons:

1. Sterility
2. Slow decomposition
3. Acid reaction
4. Availability
5. Ease of handling.

The organic matter serves four purposes:

1. Retention of moisture
2. Retention of nutrients
3. Improvement of physical characteristics of the soil
4. Maintenance of proper pH or reaction.

FERTILIZATION

The light soil mix described above not only insures adequate drainage but also makes possible better control over availability of nutrients and a more exact fertilization program. Starting with almost no nutrients in the soil mix, the grower knows what the plant is getting in the way of nutriment. However, since the drainage is so good, the nutrients furnished will leach out quicker than in a heavier soil mix and this requires relatively heavy feeding. Also, it makes desirable the use of solid nutrients rather than liquids because the liquids are perhaps leached out more quickly than the solids.

Moreover, from my experience and observation, liquid fertilizers should not be used by the amateur for a large-scale feeding program unless he has a liquid fertilizer machine which provides ample control. Of course, this observation does not apply to the use of liquid fertilizers for a small collection where control is not difficult and the work involved is not great. In any event, for container culture, it would be safer to use only half the amount prescribed in the directions contained on the package containing solid fertilizers or on the bottle containing liquid fertilizers.

For use in a light, lean soil mix, such as that above described, a fertilizer which will prove satisfactory would analyze as follows:

Nitrogen—organic (from blood meal and cottonseed meal)	4%
Nitrogen—ammoniac	None
Total nitrogen	4%
Phosphoric acid, available (from superphosphate)	8%
Potash, water soluble (sulphate of potash)	4%

For the first feeding of the year, a fertilizer somewhat richer in organic nitrogen might be used, but excellent results have been obtained from the formula described above. In addition to nitrogen, phosphate and potash, camellias require traces of iron, sulphur, zinc, manganese and copper, analyzed in percent about as follows:

Iron (expressed as metallic)	5%
Sulphur (combined)	5%
Zinc (expressed as metallic)	0.40%
Manganese (expressed as metallic)	0.20%
Copper (expressed as metallic)	0.20%

Most soils suitable for growing camellias contain these trace elements in adequate quantities.

Again, assuming the above-described soil mix and a fertilizer consisting of the ingredients just discussed, camellias in containers should be fed four times—first about the middle of March, second about May 1, third about the middle of June and last about August 1.

One of the important things about fertilization, of course, is the amount of fertilizer given each time. This will depend not only on the size of the containers but on the size of the plant and its general condition. The basic amounts can be determined with reference to the amount of soil in the containers as follows:

- For containers having 1 quart of soil—1/4 teaspoon
- For containers having 1 gallon—1 level teaspoon
- For containers having 2 gallons—2 teaspoons
- For containers having 3 1/2 gallons—1 tablespoon
- For a 17 inch tub or box (about 9 gallons)—2/3 cup
- For a 21 inch container (about 15 gallons)—1 full cup
- For a 24 inch container (about 20 gallons)—1 1/2 cups.

The size of the plant, however, should be taken into account. Sometimes a plant has been left in a container too long and is rather large for the size of container. In such event, give it a little more fertilizer than the quantities prescribed above. For example, if a plant contained in a 3 1/2 gallon container is large and healthy, it can be given a heaping tablespoon of food rather than the level tablespoonful mentioned above. Again, if a plant in a gallon can is large and healthy, it can be given a heaping teaspoonful rather than a level teaspoonful. The condition of the plant should also be taken into account. A plant that seems to lack vigor or appears unhealthy should

not be fed at all but should have its root system examined and be put in another container. If the plant does not seem unhealthy but is slightly subnormal in size cut down on the feedings a little. For example, if the plant in the gallon can is relatively small give it a scant teaspoonful of food rather than a full teaspoon. In case of doubt, feed too little rather than too much because camellia plants can be permanently damaged or even killed through indigestion.

ACIDIFICATION

Water in most areas in the southwestern section of the United States is alkaline and continued watering necessary for containers may neutralize the acidity of the soil mix. A well-balanced fertilizer, such as has been described above, should prevent this. However, if yellowing of foliage occurs, it probably means that the soil mix has become too alkaline by watering. This should be corrected by use of soil sulphur sprinkled around the plant and soaked in thoroughly or by use of a commercial liquid soil conditioner as directed on the package or by thoroughly soaking the plant with iron sulphate dissolved in water (1 ounce to 2 gallons) at one to two-month intervals until the condition is corrected.

MULCHING

The soil around camellia plants should always be moist and cool. Inasmuch as feeder roots are not far from the surface, danger of their drying out can best be avoided by good mulching. One to two inches of mulch is advisable depending on the texture or density of the soil. Since the soil mix recommended above is sandy, 2 inches of mulch should be used. If for any reason a mulch needs to be changed or renewed, replacement should be made promptly so that surface feeder roots

are not allowed to dry out. The writer recommends the use of peat moss as a mulch. It decomposes very slowly and is probably the easiest of all mulches to handle. For any grower troubled with flower blight (*Sclerotinia camelliae* Hara) it is recommended that a 2-inch mulch of wood shavings be used during the flowering season, particularly in the months of February and March. This heavy mulch seems to prevent the fungus from spreading.

An amateur with a large collection can replace the peat moss mulch each year, using the old mulch for soil mix and replacing with fresh peat moss. Whether or not the mulch of peat moss is replaced, as a supplement to the fertilizing program and in order to add a good soil conditioner it is well to put on top of the mulch about December 1st of each year, some humus material in quantities about equivalent to a fertilizer feeding. The humus material can be of a kind procurable at nurseries or could consist of well-decayed stable manure, composted bean, pine or alfalfa straw, or a combination of any or all of these in a mixture.

WATERING

The watering of camellia plants is a very important part of the cultural procedure but, if grown in containers in light soil and mulched as recommended above, a simple watering program can be determined and followed. The first principle to be followed is to water thoroughly and deeply. Frequent shallow waterings should be avoided. How often to water camellias in containers depends on weather conditions. In most parts of Southern California one thorough watering per week is enough except under conditions of abnormally high temperatures. In the San Fernando Valley and other areas

in which high temperatures and low humidity prevail, it is probably desirable to water at last once every four days from July 1st until the middle of October. During the cooler months of the winter and particularly during the rainy season, it is not necessary to water even once a week under normal conditions. Here again, container culture allows for flexibility. In proper kinds of containers there is not much danger of over-watering. The thing to watch is in the reverse directions. Camellia plants must simply never be allowed to get dry.

Camellias love humidity and overhead watering is desirable. Overhead watering devices are usually not practicable for the amateur but, if he is willing to do the work involved, any grower may use the hose and spray the foliage of his plants. This is most desirable during the months of July, August and September and into October if the weather remains hot and dry. Watering the foliage not only provides humidity, but it also keeps the foliage clean and health and, therefore, freer from pests. Plants should not be syringed, however, during the hot midday hours because the foliage is more likely to sunburn.

LIGHT AND AIR

There may be some semitropical camellias, but most varieties are not. They like light and fresh air. They do not like complete shade and conditions of poor air circulation. Here is another great advantage of container culture. Some camellias, like those of the Elegans (Chandler) family, do best in cool spots, so one can find the coolest part of the garden or lath house for them. Others such as 'Pink Perfection' like sunny spots. It is believed that most camellias like the early morning sun but, whether or not they like sun, all of them like

plenty of light and air. Therefore, camellias in containers should not be placed too closely together and they should be turned around occasionally so that each side of the plant gets a maximum amount of light for the same length of time that each other side enjoyed. This will make for symmetrical, well-balanced plants.

POTTING AND REPOTTING

There is no problem about the repotting of camellias if the plant has received proper treatment from the seed or cutting bed because the root system will be well bunched and comparatively shallow so that it can be handled safely. If the end of the taproot has not been pinched off early in the life of the seedling, a long root system often develops. Therefore, the grower who works with seedlings should be sure to pinch off the end of the taproot before putting it in a quart can. The next thing to remember in getting the young plant off to a good start is not to plant it too deeply. This is a fundamental rule that must always be followed when potting or repotting. Nothing will kill a camellia quicker than having its main stem or trunk above the crown of the root system covered with soil. Also, pack the soil mix firmly in the container not only to avoid air pockets but also to prevent "subsidence." When the young plant, whether it is grown from a seed or a cutting, appears to have outgrown its container it should be repotted. Sometimes this will appear from the fact that the roots are growing out of the drainage holes but usually it will appear just from the size of the plant itself. The move should be to a 1-gallon container. A container larger than that for this move should be avoided because the young plant is apt to have too great a concentration of food and even of water. Better control can be

exercised if "overpotting" is avoided. On the other hand, the fact that camellias can be grown and maintained in small pots does not mean that the roots of large plants should be squeezed into containers too small for them. It is better to have the container a little too large rather than too small.

In moving the plant from the quart to the gallon container the grower will have the best chance to control the future of the plant's root system. He should trim off any roots that have become damaged and should also correct any error he might have made the first time in adjusting the length of the taproot. Also, this is the last good chance to give the young plant a good start in life by seeing that it is planted just below the crown of its root system. The soil should be carefully packed so that the soil in the container will not have the opportunity to envelop the trunk or main stem.

Plants can stay in a gallon container for a surprisingly long time but they should not be allowed to get root-bound in the one-gallon container. Usually they should be moved not longer than three years after being put into the gallon container. The next move should be either to a 3 1/2-gallon container, a 10-inch clay pot or a similar sized tub.

Most camellias are purchased when they are of a size contained in 1-gallon containers. Far too often the soil in the 1-gallon container is too heavy and even more often the soil has grown up around the trunk or main stem of the plant. This presents an exception to the rule that it is better not to disturb the soil around a plant when it is being replanted or repotted. Whenever the soil in the container from which the

plant is being moved is heavy (indicating too much clay or adobe), wash it out of the roots, cut off all decayed roots and as gently as possible disengage matted or twisted roots. Then replant in such a way as to distribute the root system in a fairly even manner through the new container. Here again, pack firmly and, even though you have packed firmly, allow for some "subsidence" in the container to prevent soil enveloping the trunk of the plant. In other words, plant the crown of the root system high with relation to the grade of the soil in the container. Where the root system has been severely pruned, not only keep the plant well watered but also syringe the foliage frequently until the plant gets well established in its new container.

The next move for a camellia either from a 10-inch pot is to a 17 or 18-inch pot or tub. This time it is desirable to disturb the root system as little as possible. If you have grown the plant and observed the rules already discuss, you won't have to disturb the root system at all in the new move. Even if it is a plant that you have obtained from some other source, if the soil around the root system is light and crumbly, it is better not to disturb it. But, if the soil is heavy and soggy, go through the same procedure that has been discussed above in reference to the moving of a plant from a 1-gallon container to a larger one. The plant will be temporarily set back by the operation, but it has a better opportunity for good health in the future if it can be given an environment enabling the grower to take better care of it.

Camellias can be moved from one container to another at any time except when the plants are shoving

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out new growth. This is true of all sizes and transfers into containers about the 10-inch pot or tub size. Above that size, it is better to move the plants only during the dormant season, preferably in November or December just before they flower. Of course, plants of any size should not be transferred on hot, dry days.

To keep soil in containers from being washed out and at the same time to insure proper drainage, small-size gravel should be placed in the bottom of containers. In a clay pot a piece of broken pottery in arching position should be placed over the hole in the bottom of the pot.

Small plants, which are to be moved from quart containers, can usually be soaked and tapped out. However, this should never be attempted if the move is from larger containers. One of the advantages of clay pots is that the plant can always be tapped out without disturbance to the root system.

Wooden containers should always be placed on bricks so that drainage will not be obstructed. At the same time, rotting of the bottoms of the tubs will be reduced to a minimum. Clay pots should also be placed on bricks so that drainage cannot be obstructed in any way. Weeds looking for food and water will not enter the containers through the drainage holes as they do when the containers are placed on the ground.

DISADVANTAGES OF CONTAINER CULTURE

This article started with an enumeration of the benefits of container culture. By this time the reader knows its disadvantages. All the things, which have been described as giving more control over the plant, have added up to one thing, namely, work. However, if control through container culture means added beauty, the added work is well justified.

CONCLUSION

A camellia plant produces more beautiful flowers when it does not produce so many flowers. This does not apply merely to size of flowers but also to form whatever the size. So long as the plant is relatively young, and that means so long as it does well in containers, it can be appropriately disbudded and kept free from many diseases by proper pruning and other pest-resisting practices. These things, of course, result in more beautiful flowers. There comes a time, however, when most varieties of camellias simply become too large for any practical size of container. By that time the plant has become a tree and it is no longer practical to disbud and to work in the interest of the individual blossom. By that time the camellia has become more beautiful as a flowering tree and, like other trees, it should be where nature intended a tree to be—in the earth.

Join Australia and New Zealand Camellia Societies

Australia Society

\$15.00 Single

\$17.00 Family/U.S. Dollars

New Zealand Society

\$16.00 Single

\$19.00 Family/U. S. dollars

Send your check payable to

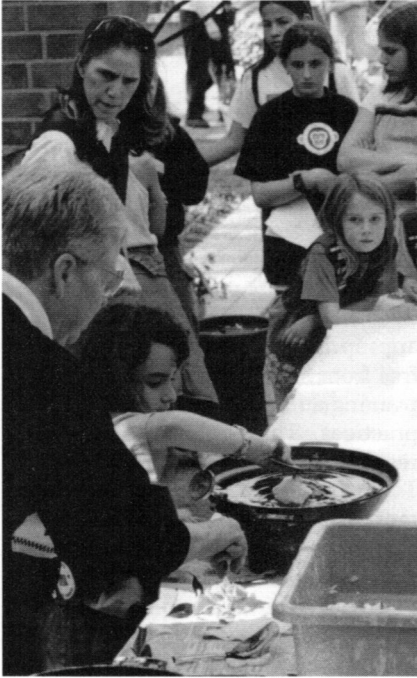
Southern California Camellia Society

7475 Brydon Road, La Verne, CA 91750-1159

CAMELLIA FESTIVAL 2000

at Descanso Gardens

There is something for everyone to experience at the Camellia Festival 2000 February 24 through 27. Serious camellia fanciers can improve their cultivation techniques and learn the best varieties to add to their collections. People who enjoy these colorful winter blooms can



Waxing Camellias

stroll through the famous 35-acre Camellia Forest. Children can explore this forest as part of a camellia treasure hunt. You can also try your hand at making waxed camellias, sample tea in the Japanese Garden and enjoy the delicate flavor of green tea ice cream.

Festival events free with Garden admission are:

February 24 — Joint meeting of the Pacific Camellia Society and the Southern California Camellia Society

featuring a presentation by Robert Ehrhart "Award Winning Camellias for Your Garden." Past president of the American Camellia Society, Mr. Ehrhart grows 3,000 camellias at his home in Walnut Creek, California, and has won numerous awards and introduced five camellia varieties into commerce. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

February 25 — "Anyone Can Show" workshop 1:00 p.m. in The Minka. Learn how to select and prepare camellia blossoms for exhibition

February 26 and 27

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. — Tea sampling in the Japanese Tea House of Descanso's own blend

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. — Camellia plant sale—Courtyard

1 p.m. - 4:30 — Camellia Show — Van de Kamp Hall
Kids Camellia Award — Children can vote for their favorite camellia blossom and enter to win a free camellia plant. Drawing will be at 4

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 — Camellia waxing. Children and adults can create waxed camellias to take home—Courtyard

2 p.m. — Walking tour of the Camellia Forest led by a camellia expert. Meet at Center Circle

February 26

2 p.m. — How to Grow Camellias—Classroom B

3 p.m. — Pruning and grafting demonstration—Classroom B

WILDERNESS GARDENS, SAN DIEGO

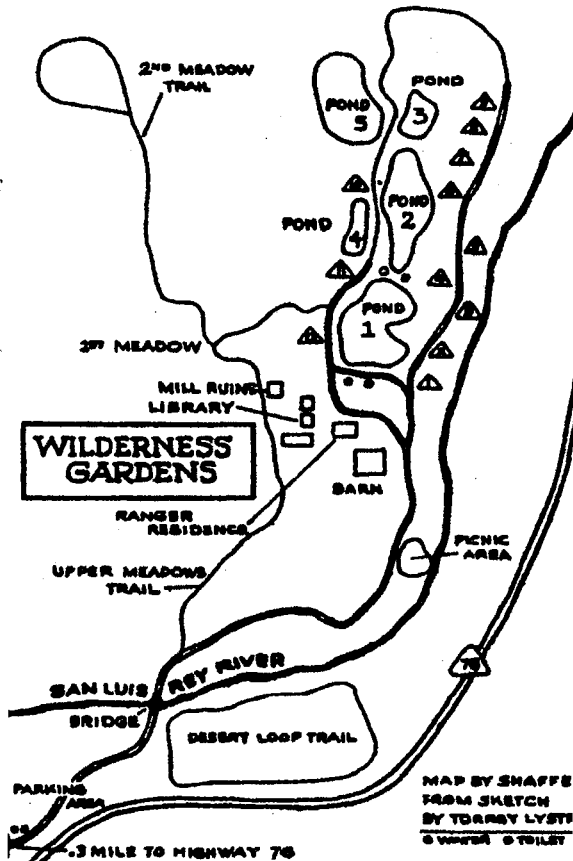
Wilderness Gardens is located 45 miles north of San Diego. From Interstate 15 it is 10 miles east of S76 to the park entrance. Open 11 months of the year daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Preserve is closed in August. There is a small parking fee for this gem of a walk-in wilderness. For further information write to Friends of Wilderness Gardens c/o The San Diego County Park Society, P. O. Box 957, Bonita, CA 92002-0830.

The camellias Mr. Boddy planted 30 years ago that have survived without care for the last fifteen years are listed below in the order they are growing along the tour trail:

- 'Jenny Jones'
- 'Kumasaka'
- 'Lotus'
- 'Ragland'
- 'Eureka Red' ('Sensation')
- 'Prince Eugene Napoleon'
- 'Alba Plena'
- 'Herme'
- 'Marcella Hovey'
- 'Mrs. Charles Cobb'
- 'Berenice Boddy'
- 'Magnoliaeflora'
- Chandleri Elegans'
- 'Francine'
- 'Mercury'
- 'Purity'
- 'Eureka Variegated'
- 'Cheerful'
- 'Mathotiana Alba'

- Camellia sasanqua (unknown)
- Camellia pitardii (unknown)
- 'Jean May'
- 'C. M. Hovey' ('Colonel Firey')
- 'Shiro Chan'
- 'Covina'
- 'Pink Perfection'
- 'Debutante'
- 'Covina'

Thanks to Tim Thibault for sending this information.



CAMELLIA SHOW JUDGING

Bradford King

As a relatively new Southern California Camellia Society Show Judge, I have generally been favorably impressed with the judging at the shows. When I look at one of my own blooms, picked at home as a winner and compare it to its sister bloom that made it to the Head Table, I have to agree with the judges.

I do occasionally find a third place bloom that doesn't look any better than a bloom rated as an "also ran." Since the best flower did go forward to the Head Table, I say "Live and let live." When my 'Adolphe Audusson Variegated' is as close to perfect as it can be grown makes it to the Head Table, I'm pleased. When the Head Table judges send it back I feel disappointed. However, when I scan the remaining Head Table entries of large and very large Japonicas, I must admit they belong ahead of my 'Adolphe Audusson Variegated'. This variety just isn't "large enough," "complicated enough," or "good enough" to stand up to its competitors in this class. The Head Table crew is doing its job.

Can we now rest on our laurels and stop improving judging techniques? Of course not! We seek

the unobtainable—perfection in judging. How do we keep improving? There is one tried and true method. It is taught in every graduate school to social scientists in various fields who use raters and judges of all kinds of scientific variables. The answer is to improve raters through training and education and, specifically, to increase our judges' knowledge of camellias by practicing their judging techniques and comparing the judges' ratings with one another in order to increase reliability. This is how we seek to make judges consistent with one another over a time and subject matter.

When do we do this? January 8, 2000 (Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Descanso Gardens is the Southern California Judges' Symposium. This symposium is chaired by Marilee Gray, who is herself an outstanding camellia grower and a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic teacher. Other expert camellia judges will join her in presenting this program. This symposium is a MUST for maintaining and improving judging for the novice as well as the expert. PLEASE JOIN US!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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("in honor of Jim McQuiston")

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Edith Puckett
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Clovis, CA 93612-4302
(559)348-9128

Roula Vitakis
2336 Elden Avenue, Unit E
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE – 2000

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| January 15 and 16 | Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Hosted by Pacific Camellia Society |
| January 22 and 23 | South Coast Botanical Gardens, Palos Verdes
Hosted by South Coast Camellia Society |
| January 22 and 23 | Mini- Show, Orange County Location
Hosted by Orange County Camellia Society |
| January 29 and 30 | Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Society |
| February 5 and 6 | The Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
Hosted by San Diego Camellia Society |
| February 12 and 13 | Huntington Gardens, San Marino
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Society |
| February 19 and 20 | Church, Bonita & E Streets, La Verne
Hosted by Pomona Valley Camellia Society |
| February 26 and 27 | Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Council |
| February 27 | Mini Show, Church, Bonita & E Streets, La Verne
Hosted by Pomona Valley Camellia Society |
| March 4 and 5 | First Christian Church, Bakersfield
Hosted by Kern County Camellia Society |
| March 11 and 12 | First Armenian Congregational Church
5673 N. First St., Fresno
Hosted by Central California Camellia Society |

CAMELLIA FOREST UPDATE

Tim Thibault

The last two plus years have seen tremendous growth in the Descanso Camellia Forest. The number of taxa in the camellia collection has grown by 60% in that time. Significant additions have also been made in camellia relatives, rhododendrons and azaleas, magnolias, and the all-important "stuff the curator finds interesting" category.

A few easy-to-spot areas have received overhauls. The first is the area around the stream and train track at the west end of the promenade. A drop down the stairs off the promenade will show a developing collection of camellias with fragrance and/or interesting texture. Take a moment to enjoy the downy trunk of *Camellia crapnelliana* and fragrance of 'Fragrant Pink' and 'Koto-No-Kaori.' Across the stream the azalea collection has received an update of 15 taxa including 'Coral Wings', the softly bordered 'Lucille K.', and the rich purple 'Invervana Royal.' Two different redbuds, *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' and *C. canadensis* 'Alba', were also added along with the azaleas.

On the way to the Boddy House many *reticulatas* have been added to the "sunny retics" just up from Fern Canyon. 'Bill Woodroof', 'Hulyn Smith', 'Howard Asper', and 'Harold L. Paige' celebrate some of our great camellia hobbyists. Joining these plants are several others including 'Arcadia', 'LASCA Beauty' and the nearly white 'Chrissie's Retic.' Another redbud, *Cercis chinensis* 'Avondale', stands in the back of the bed. Take a moment as well to peek over the other side of the bridge at the magnolia relative *Michellia X foggii* 'Jack Fogg' and the groundcover *Epimedium grandiflorum* 'Rose Queen.'

On the way back down from Boddy House take the stairs. As that path meets the lower road there is a collection of five species of the camellia relative *Polyspora*. All show potential as urban trees for Southern California, but pay particular attention to the foliage of *Polyspora hainanensis*. The *polysporas* were underplanted with the *sasanquas* 'Rosette', 'Bert Jones', 'Double Rainbow', and 'Shinonome.'



Tim Thibault in Descanso's Camellia Forest

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CAMELLIAS IN BLOOM

Tim Thibault

One of the most frequently asked questions about the Camellia Forest at Descanso Gardens is "When is it in full bloom?" That question is incredibly tough to answer for a collection that started last bloom season on September 14 and continued until August 2. A general answer would be a broad range of mid-February through March, depending on how the weather cooperates that particular year. A better answer would be to look for pockets of plants that bloom at relatively the same time.

Of course the mass plantings of camellias in the eastern part of the garden are a natural for high bloom density. Try the road from the Japanese Garden to the Boddy House from Christmas through January. There are large blocks of 'Alba Plena' on the left and 'Elegans' to the right. Look for a few early blooming new additions dotted along the route, including 'Egao', 'Happy Holidays', 'Lulu Belle', and 'Nuccio's Gem.'

A camellia cultivar famous for its abundant flowering is 'Rainy Sun.' We have a large block of 'Rainy Sun' at the end of the promenade between

the stream and railroad tracks. My crystal ball says to look for a good show there in February, as the abundantly flowered 'Rainy Sun' mixes with the neighboring, long season 'Daikagura.'

One of my favorite treats in the winter garden at Descanso is a magnolia relative, *Michelia doltsopa*. February is a good month to catch it in bloom. The easiest way to find the *Michelia* is to head into the western forest from the camellia information center, and then just follow your nose. The *Michelia* lives at an old patio structure surrounded by rhododendrons and azaleas. The floriferous *Michelia* is not only fragrant, but a mass planting of large, creamy magnolia like flowers all by itself.

Michelia doltsopa may be the epicenter of fragrance, but test out two newly planted fragrant camellia species while you are in the neighborhood. Along the main path through the western forest check out the large, peachy *Camellia yunnanensis* and the smaller, spicy *Camellia grijsii*. Happy hunting!

NUCCIO'S INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1999-2000

'TamaPeacock'—Japonica, medium, semidouble, "maroonish"
red to white border

'Slim and Trim'—Sasanqua, single, deep pink

'Stars and Stripes'—Sasanqua, white with red stripes

'Ay Ay Ay'—Japonica, medium, semi-double.

Sport of 'Oo-La-La', strawberry pink with red stripes

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RESEARCH REVEALS CAMELLIAS REALLY ARE EASY PLANTS

Tim Thibault

The tradition of camellia research at Descanso Gardens dates back to 1945, well before the garden opened to the public. Walter Lammerts was hired from UCLA then to head up the research division of Rancho del Descanso. Most members of Descanso Gardens Guild are aware of his accomplishments in hybridization with other genera out of that era. However, horticultural topics centering on camellias were explored as well, including published works on foliar fertilization, cold hardiness and the roles of nutrients, lights and temperature on camellia flowering.

Descanso Gardens has recently rekindled the research tradition by cooperating with the Southern California Camellia Society on research projects for nearly two years now. The first of the long-term experiments will be concluding soon. While data collection is not final and statistics have not been analyzed, one conclusion is unmistakable. We will have figures to prove what forgiving, easy-to-grow plants camellias really are.

Topics and methods for research have been selected specifically to be applicable to hobbyists and home gardeners. Research projects include planting media for container growing, fertilizer regimes, mycorrhizal inoculation, propagation techniques, kelp products and water relations.

A quick check of preliminary results shows that camellias will

grow in several different recipes of open, well-drained media. Certain ingredients may have some benefit in suppressing root rot, but that will have to be the subject of a differently designed study.

The fertigation studies have been the ones that have really shown what unbeatable plants camellias are. Through almost two full years, including two vegetative growth seasons, unfertilized plants have performed about as well as fertilized plants. Don't throw out your cottonseed meal just yet though. We will be testing our water supply and looking into other possible explanations as well.

Closely related to the fertilizer studies is our mycorrhizae experiment. Mycorrhizae are beneficial fungi that essentially trade nutrients to the plant for sugars. Mycorrhizal associations have never been identified for camellias. We have found some limited evidence of association, but more work will be required to characterize the relationship.

Other studies are too new to show reliable results. One hopeful sign out of the new batch of experiments is that certain camellias seem to thrive on very little water. If this trend holds true, Southern California homeowners will be able to thank their evergreen camellias for beautifying their landscapes while keeping their water bills down. We will keep you posted as results come in.

INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA CONGRESS

February 20-24, 2001

Watch for more information in the next *Camellia Review*

DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Don Martin; Secretary—Joan Hill, 37341 Ave 17 1/2, Madera, 93638. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November-February, 7:30 p.m. Sheraton Smuggler's Inn, 3737 N. Blackstone, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Larry Pitts; Secretary—Edith Mazzei, 1486 Yosemite Circle, 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—Charlene McAllister, 2018 Kingston Place, Bakersfield 93306. For meeting dates and times, call Helen Maas (805)872-2188.

MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Mary Jo Pinheiro; Secretary—Sue Kendall, 1505 Gary Lane, Modesto, 95355. Meetings: 1st Sunday, October-April, 1:00 p.m., 220-A Standiford Avenue, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Don Bergamini; 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.

ORANGE COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Linda Rodriguez; Secretary—Peggy Sheldon, 20151 Crown Reef Lane, Huntington Beach 92646. Meetings: 1st Monday, October-April, 7:00 p.m. Dept. of Education Building, 200 Kalmus, Costa Mesa

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Tom Gilfooy; Secretary—Kathryn Korin, 1241 E. Calaveras St., Altadena 91001. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November-April, 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 Monday, October-March, Veterans' Building Annex, 711 Nevada St., Rm. 20 (elevator available), 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 of the Brethren, Corner "E" & Bonita, La Verne.

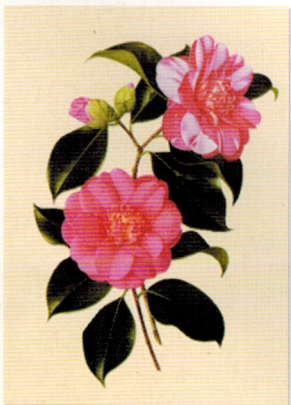
SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Jackie Randall; Secretary—Gary Schanz, 1177 Cavanaugh Way, Sacramento 95822. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October-April, 7:30 p.m., Studio Theater, 1028 "R" Street, Sacramento

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Jay Vermilya; Secretary—Lew Gary, 11419 Cabela Place, San Diego 92127. 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—Walt Dabel. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October-April, 7:30 p.m., Lick Mill Park, 4750 Lick Mill Boulevard, Santa Clara.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Helen Gates; Secretary—Melita Johnson, 1251 10th 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—Brad King; Secretary—Bobbie Belcher, 7475 Brydon Road, La Verne 91750. Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Call Marilee Gray (624)4107 for meeting dates.



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