

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



Camellia Bonsai

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

Mel Belcher, Editor

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COVER PHOTO

Camellia bonsai from the private collection of Shigeo Matsumoto which he planted and trained himself. Photo by Shigeo Matsumoto.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



I see the word "paradigm" quite frequently in print, yet it is one that I don't use often, if ever. When I see it used, I think, "Yes, that states the case exactly"—particularly when it refers to a paradigm shift or change.

I want to suggest a paradigmatic change in how we recruit new members into our camellia societies. Most active camellia hobbyists know that year by year our membership rolls shrink. I think this trend can be partially explained by examining the size yards that are popular today. A new development has gone in across the street from where we live. The houses are big and luxurious. The yards are very small and thus prohibit the installation of shade structures for camellias. Furthermore, zero-yard condos and apartments are very common.

The migration of would-be camellia people from houses with large planting areas to condos with minimum space fittingly suggests a paradigm shift from large plantings of camellias to a few uniquely selective varieties. Rather than talk about how many varieties we have, perhaps we should stress what is best for patio plantings.

My interest was aroused for a "paradigm change" by a very interesting article titled "Camellia Bonsai" by Shigeo Matsumoto of Japan. This paper was presented at the International Camellia Congress last February and is included in this Review. As you read his article, see if you think we could/should consider camellia bonsai for those uniquely selective gardens which are restricted to patios.

You may not agree that a paradigmatic shift in programs and recruitment techniques is totally appropriate, but at least let Mr. Matsumoto's article tickle your fantasy about bonsai.

—Mel Belcher, Editor



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 Avenue, Chino, CA 91710 (909) 628-1380. 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.

PRETTY IN PINK

Bradford King, Arcadia, California

She may be small and petite or large and robust, but pink japonica camellias are always beautiful. Some friends moved to a new house that needed landscaping and wanted color all winter. The northeast side of their house was selected as an ideal location for camellias and we discussed a number of color schemes. My friends decided to use one color for continuity and flow and selected a favorite color—pink. "What would you recommend" she asked? I suggested ten varieties that would grow and bloom in Southern California. The use of varieties with different flowering periods and others with long blooming periods was stressed. For early to midseason flowers three species were recommended. 'Debutante', an old favorite that grows well in an upright form and has a light medium full peony form, was an easy choice.

The large formal double 'Elizabeth Weaver' made a fine number two pick. My friend also wanted a dramatic very large pink so 'Katie' seemed ideal. 'Katie' is also a vigorous, compact upright plant. Three midseason pinks that would do well in the landscape came to mind. 'Magnoliaeflora' with its profusion of blush pink medium semi-double flowers and compact growth made the list. We added 'Tiffany', a light orchid pink to deeper

pink, is a large to very large loose peony form flower and grows well in an upright pattern. The medium formal double 'Nuccio's Pearl' with its orchid pink whitewashed flowers and vigorous, compact upright growth also fit the bill.

We also discussed the length of blooming season. These new camellia enthusiasts clearly wanted species with the longest possible booming season and four more pinks that do well in our area came to mind.—'Nuccio's Cameo', 'Nuccio's Carousel', 'Carter's Sunburst' and 'Pink Perfection'. 'Nuccio's Cameo' is a medium to large formal double and 'Pink Perfection' is a small formal double. 'Nuccio's Carousel' is a soft pink toned, deeper pink toward the edges in a large semidouble tubular flower. The pale pink striped with darker pink of 'Carter's Sunburst' with its large to very large flower also appealed to them. With this list of ten in hand, my friends made plans to visit Nuccio's Nurseries where all of these varieties are available.

As I fell asleep that night, in my mind's eye I looked ahead three years when the glossy green foliage and lovely pink flowers of these plants were softening and enhancing my friends' new home. Yes! Camellias are so pretty in pink.

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CAMELLIA BONSAI

Shigeo Matsumoto, Japan

Higo Way of Camellia Bonsai Making

In Japan the technique of cultivating plants called bonsai has been used since ancient times. It is reasonable to imagine that the development of bonsai culture came about because people living in city areas were isolated from nature but still retained their love of nature. Dwarfed plants were developed to satisfy the desire to be close to nature and even today we want to keep those camellias near that create a feeling and an atmosphere that remind us of camellias growing in the wild.

The camellia bonsai became widely known when the bonsai of Higo camellias was introduced to the public after World War II. "Higo" is an old name used during the feudal age for Kumamoto Prefecture which at the present time is in Kyushu Island, the southernmost of Japan's four major islands. Higo camellias and the bonsai technique were developed among samurai and their descendants for about three hundred years. During the Tokugawa dynasty the lords of Higo Province were fond of six special varieties of flowers, including camellias, which they called "Higo's Six Flowers." It is said that their unusual love for Higo camellias caused this special variety to be kept in Higo Province exclusively for many years. Their way of making camellia bonsai is called "Higo-ryu" or "Higo way." One of the unique features of Higo-ryu is that Higo camellias are grafted on to old, heavily twisted rootstocks of wild camellias, *C. japonica*, in order that seemingly aged plants become established in a relatively short time.

Collecting Rootstocks

In early spring when wild camellias are still dormant, we get permission of the mountain owners and go in search of appropriate rootstocks of *C.*

japonica. Severely crooked, irregular and aged-looking rootstocks are greatly valued as bonsai material. Such stocks are usually found on steep mountainsides where landslides happen very often which make the camellias irregularly curved and expose the roots. Because the camellias in these locations keep bouncing back after each landslide, they become strangely curved; however, an ideal rootstock of artistic shape is rarely encountered even in a sea of camellia plants.

While heavily curved materials are highly appreciated, even straight rootstocks with good root visible at the ground surface are considered favorable for bonsai. There is also a method of making rootstocks by using seedlings, especially for mini-bonsai, and those not interested in collecting rootstocks in the mountains can purchase rootstock material at nurseries or plants markets in early spring.

Planting Rootstocks in Pots

The lower half of the rootstock is soaked in water for at least two days



Rootstocks of wild camellias are soaked in water for a few days after being collected.

before being planted into pots in order that they absorb water to the top of the rootstock. They can be left soaking in the water for a month or two if you have no time to treat them at the time. Taking into account the appearance of

the rootstock and the pot which will be used for planting, the rootstock is then cut into appropriate styles and lengths. You may think it strange, but no small or young roots are needed at all. New young, white roots, which are called "crystal roots" sprout from the cambium ring of the lower cross-section buried in the soil. For good germination, part of the rootstock should be that which was underground when it was growing in the wild. It is very hard to expect germination from the cross-section of trunk that was above the ground. The cross-sections of both ends are then flattened with a sharp, clean knife. Germ-free clay paste is smeared on the lower cross-section in order that



The rootstock is planted in a pot with mixed soil of clean pumice and granite.

enough water can be absorbed from the soil through the clay-paste strata. For cross-sections with diameters larger than 3 cm. this procedure seems to be indispensable because the clay stratum helps the rootstock absorb water from the lower cross-section by capillary action until the crystal roots emerge. The upper cross-sections are covered with black plastic film so that evaporation of water can be suppressed if grafting is not done simultaneously with the planting.

The potting soil must have good drainage, appropriate water retention capacity, slight acidity and be porous enough to allow the plant to breathe. When watering, any excess water should be rapidly drained and old air in the pot must be simultaneously exchanged with new air. We have

found that a mixture of crushed volcanic pumice and clean sand of weathered granite meets all these necessary conditions for good potting soil. Organic materials like leaf mould should never be used because camellias will suffer from serious root rotting and eventually wither and die. Primary fertilizing is not needed for planting rootstocks. It is considered that early fertilizing is rather harmful. The trunks above the soil are loosely covered with plastic bags or tape to prevent excessive water evaporation.

Two or three months after planting a rootstock, adventitious leaf buds will appear on the trunk and you will be able to feel the cambium ring heaping up on the top surface of the rootstock. By that time new crystal roots will have sprouted around the cambium ring at the lower end.

Grafting

Grafting scions on to the rootstocks can be done twice a year—once in early spring at the time of planting rootstocks and another in summer. Cell multiplication is active during these seasons and camellia scions become hardened also in these seasons.

Various methods of grafting are used for camellia bonsai. We usually employ "Triangle Grafting" in spring and summer, "Bottle Grafting" is used in summer only and "Approach Grafting" is used from spring to autumn. "Triangle Grafting" is a very



How to practice triangle grafting

effective method, but some practice may be needed to become skilled in fitting a shaved scion of triangular, pyramidal shape to a v-shaped notch in the stock. An ingenious solution to this rather troublesome task is "Simple Incision Grafting" recently devised by a Japanese enthusiast.

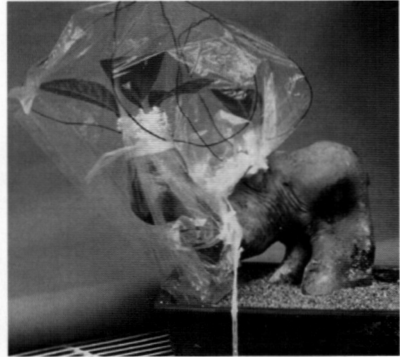


Grafted junctions are bound with grafting tape.

Bottle Grafting was the traditional way of grafting higo camellias in the early days of Kumamoto. The rate of success by this method is relatively high. Because two-year old scions can be employed in this method, plants can be expected to bloom one year earlier.

A new type of grafting tape is presently being used by professionals in Japan. We amateurs used to bind a stock and scion together with a plastic string and then cover the union with black-colored tape. Utilizing this new tape, however, we can accomplish these procedures all at once. The tape is appropriately elastic, self-adhesive, self-fusing and self-collapsing. We begin by binding the stock and scion three or four times stretching the tape about twice the original length to create appropriate tension. Then the grafted joint and the cross-section of the stock is covered again overlapping the tape. The grafted portion is then loosely covered with aluminum foil in order for the cambium to grow easily around the grafted joint. Because the tape is self-adhesive and self-fusing, there is no need to bind the ends. By the time the graft begins to grow, the

tape gradually disintegrates and there is no need to remove it.



Grafted parts are covered with a plastic bag sealed with water drops.

Care Taken after Grafting

Unlike other plants, the union of the xylem tissue in camellias is built very slowly. Two or three months are needed before a graft is proven to be successful. Even if both rootstock and scions are healthy, the key to success lies not always in the quality of grafting techniques but in the quality of care taken after grafting. Some important suggestions for successful grafting are—

- The grafted camellias should be covered with transparent plastic bags with a few drops of clean water sealed inside to maintain humidity
- Grafted plants are placed in half shade and grafted parts should be covered with newspaper bags for the first fortnight or so.
- Grafted plants must be watered enough.
- Begin to fertilize after one year when the new root system established
- Leave adventitious leaf buds for one or two years (not all but some of them) and pinch the tops appropriately to keep all parts of the rootstock alive and to stimulate root growth.

Shaping Bonsai

The ultimate goal of making bonsai is to represent the feeling of an aged

plant. It is said that the features of an old pine-tree in the wild are models for all bonsai. Thus, the base root of a bonsai should be rooted vigorously on the soil; the branches should be spreading out in all directions extending themselves, bending somewhat downward, yet going upward at their tips, and the trunk should be twisted to look as if it had been weathered for many years. Bonsai shaping is performed by training trunks and branches by wiring and pruning. It is recommended that the first bend at the grafted point should be made in as heavy a curve as possible. We start



Grafted pot before wiring

wiring one year after a successful grafting before the trunk and branches become too hard to be bent. Camellia branches, however, are relatively flexible and even those two or three year old can be curved somewhat. We usually wire bonsai in early summer when the new shoots become hardened. Two parallel aluminum wires one-half to one-third the diameter of the trunk are usually used. The wire is taken off in autumn so that ugly spiral scars will not remain for a long period.

Pruning is a very important and useful procedure to keep a bonsai compact. However, camellias usually flower at terminals so a compromise is needed. I believe that we should not expect to see flowers every year on our bonsai. I think it is good enough to see

flowers every other year. So, I prune my bonsai heavily every other year.

Because we wish the first bloom as early as possible, we never used to prune our bonsai in an early stage.



The same pot after wiring

However, some enthusiasts in Kumamoto recently have begun to prune even the first shoots, leaving two or three leaf buds in order to make their bonsai compact in an early stage.

Repotting and Transplanting

It usually takes about five years for a solid root ball to develop after a rootstock is planted in a pot. So the first repotting or transplanting is done



The same pot bloomed the next year.

after about five years. After the first time, repotting or transplanting is repeated every three years so that the plant does not become pot bound and lose its vigor. At that time a heavy pruning is needed and one third to one half of the root ball is removed. The same composition of soil material is used for repotting or transplanting.

Camellia Shows

Camellia shows are popular in Japan during the blooming season; however, the way of displaying camellias in Japan is somewhat different from that in the Western countries. In Japan, camellias are usually shown planted in pots or camellia twigs with flowers are displayed in vases. It is rare to float flowers in water-filled containers.

Our Kita-Kyushu Branch of the Japan Camellia Society holds an annual bonsai show for about five days including a weekend in early spring. During our show last spring about 600 pieces of bonsai and potted camellias were displayed. The seminar of grafting camellias was very popular with visitors and members gave demonstrations of making bonsai. Grafting materials such as rootstocks, young camellia plants and grafting goods were also sold.

Visiting camellia shows in other areas is a lot of fun, and we can learn a lot by observing camellias displayed. Last spring I visited a show in Kurume City where about 800,000 pots of camellias are produced annually. At

the show bonsai and potted camellias were displayed. There were also many twigs with flowers arranged in interesting sake bottles and classified according to varieties. Enthusiasm was high last spring about a new idea for making espaliers in pots using miniature fragrant hybrids. Professional nurserymen are beginning to sell many young camellias. Last spring I also visited the annual plant market in Kumamoto, the largest outdoor plant market in Japan. Among the many plant shops there were shops specializing in camellias—new and old varieties, bonsai, bonsai material such as rootstocks, etc. At the end of February a Higo Camellia bonsai show is sponsored by the Higo Camellia Society and the masterpieces displayed there are always the models of our bonsai making.



Shigeo Matsumoto and Bobbie Belcher at Santa Barbara Botanical Garden during the ICS Congress Post Tour



The Camellia Bonsai Show by the Higo Camellia Society in Kumamoto

Camellia twigs displayed in sake
bottles



An ideal camellia bonsai

Photos by author



SHOW SCHEDULE 2002

January 5 and 6	Judges' Symposium
January 12 and 13	Pacific Camellia Society
January 19 and 20	Orange County Camellia Society
January 26 and 27	Southern California Camellia Society, Descanso
February 2 and 3	San Diego Camellia Society
February 9 and 10	Southern California Camellia Society, Huntington
February 16 and 17	Pomona Valley Camellia Society
February 23 and 24	Southern California Camellia Council, Descanso
March 2 and 3	Kern County Camellia Society
March 9 and 20	Central California Camellia Society

SEVENTEEN "MOST WANTED" CAMELLIAS IN THE BAKERSFIELD AREA

Marvin Belcher
Bakersfield, California

Members of the Camellia Society of Kern County have recently given thoughtful consideration to the selection of camellias for Kern County. Camellias reflect the differences in the micro-climate in which they are grown. This is true even in the limited geographic area such as Greater Bakersfield. All members except for one who participated in this voting procedure live in the Greater Bakersfield area, so essentially we have a focus on the Southern San Joaquin Valley, excluding the deserts and the mountains. Participating members chose the following camellia varieties, in descending order of preference, as their collective choices for beautiful camellias which do well in this area:

'Waltz Time Variegated'
'Mathotiana'
'Harold L. Paige'
'Royal Velvet'
'Sawada's Dream'

'Spring Daze'
'Kramer's Supreme'
'Nuccio's Gem'
'Debutante'
'Firedance Variegated'
'Julia France'
'Red Hots'
'Swan Lake'
'Elegans Splendor'
'Jennie Mills'
'Cloisonne'
'Junior Prom'

The votes of members who are frequent exhibitors listed in their collective choice for top ten camellias only one variety, 'Emma Gaeta Variegated', which was not listed in the top seventeen above. Incidentally, seventeen varieties were listed in order to include two of my own preferences, 'Cloisonne' and 'Junior Prom'. The top two on the list, 'Waltz Time Variegated', and 'Mathotiana' were ahead by a wide margin over other varieties.



PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY CAMELLIA SHOW

Redwood City, California (Open Show)
February 10 and 11, 2001

Best Bloom in Show (Houghton Hall Perpetual Trophy)	'Junior Prom'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Sweepstakes Award	79 Blue Ribbons	Don & Mary Bergamini
Runner-up Sweepstakes	67 Blue Ribbons	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Japonica—Large/Very Large		
Best Single Very Large	'Junior Prom'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single Very Large	'Katie'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Single Large	'Junior Prom'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single Large	'Margaret Davis'	Gordon & Barbara Goff
Best Tray of 3 Large/Very Large	'Junior Prom'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 5 Large/Very Large	'Junior Prom'	Larry & Nancy Pitts

Japonica—Medium

Best Single	'Betty Sheffield Bluish Sup.'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Runner-up Single	'Nuccio's Jewel'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3	'Firedance Variegated'	Tony Miranda
Best Tray of 5	'Red Hots'	Jim & Jackie Randall

Miniature and Small Blooms

Best Single Small	'Spring Daze'	Art & Chris Gonos
Runner-up Single Small	'Tammia'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Single Miniature	'Paper Dolls'	Gary & Carol Schanz
Runner-up Single Miniature	'Kristy Piet'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Best Tray of 3 Small	'Black Tie'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 5 Small	'Pink Perfection'	Art & Chris Gonos

Reticulata or Reticulata Hybrid (Cullen W. Coates Memorial Trophy)

Best Single Very Large	'Ruta Hagmann'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single Very Large	'Frank Pursel'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Single Large	'Jack Mandarin'	Howard Oliver
Runner-up Single Large	'Miss Tulare'	Edith Mazzei
Best Tray of 3	'Miss Tulare'	Larry & Nancy Pitts

Non-Reticulata Hybrid

Best Single	'Jubilation Variegated'	Edith Mazzei
Runner-up Single	'Julie Variegated'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3	'Julie Variegated'	Edith Mazzei

Best 9 Blooms(3 columns of 3) Different Varieties

'Miss Tulare'	'Ecclefield'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
'Ivory Tower'	'Linda Carol'	'LASCA Beauty'
'Laura Walker'	'Patricia Haskee'	'Miss Tulare' (bud)
		'Mary Fischer'

Best Japonica Seedling

Don & Mary Bergamini

Best Hybrid Seedling

Bob Ehrhart

Best Fragrant

'High Fragrance'

Howard Oliver

Best White

'Swan Lake'

Larry & Nancy Pitts

Novice

Best Japonica	'Dr. John Bell Variegated'	George Bramlette
Best Reticulata Hybrid	'Nuccio's Ruby'	Rick Tuffli



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In memory of Polly Canfield
Marvin and Virginia Belcher
Sergio and Elsie Bracci

In memory of Dr. Richard "Dick" Stiern
Tom and Elsie Hughes

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pittsburg, California February 16 and 17, 2001

Best of Show	'Elaine's Betty'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Sweepstakes	80 Blue Ribbons	Don & Mary Bergamini
Runner-up Sweepstakes	64 Blue Ribbons	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Challenge Award		Don & Joan Lesmeister

Japonica—Very Large/Large

Best Single Very Large	'Elaine's Betty'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single Very Large	'Katie'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3 Very Large	'Elegans Champagne'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Single Large	'Carter's Sunburst'	Don & Sue Kendall
Runner-up Single Large	'Chie Tarumoto'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Best Tray of 3 Large	'Gee Homeyer'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 5	'Royal Velvet'	Larry & Nancy Pitts

Japonica—Medium

Best Single	'Dawn's Early Lights'	Bob & Joan Conlin
Runner-up Single	'Rudolph Variegated'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Best Tray of 3	'Red Hots'	Jim & Jackie Randall

Japonica—Small or Miniature

Best Single Small	'Tammia'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single Small	'Jackie D.'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3 Small	'Ave Maria'	Harlan Smith
Best Single Miniature	'Little Slam Variegated'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Runner-up Single Miniature	'Baby Sis White'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Best Tray of 3 Miniature	'Firecone Variegated'	Harlan Smith
Best Tray of 5	'Man Size'	Don & Sue Kendall

Reticulata or Reticulata Hybrid

Best Single over 5 1/2"	'Emma Gaeta'	Gayle Scott
Runner-up Single over 5 1/2"	'Frank Houser Var.'	Don & Sue Kendall
Best Single under 5 1/2"	'Miss Tulare Var.'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single under 5 1/2"	'Miss Tulare'	Harlan Smith
Best Tray of 3	'Valley Knudsen'	Skip & Carolyn Evans

Non-Reticulata Hybrid

Best Single	'First Blush'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Runner-up Single	'E. G. Waterhouse Var.'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3	'Julie Variegated'	Edith Mazzei

Best Japonica Seedling

Don & Mary Bergamini

Best Hybrid Seedling

G145

Gordon & Barbara Goff

Best 4 Different—White, Red, Pink, Multi-Colored

Larry & Nancy Pitts

'Elegans Splendor', 'Grand Prix', 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Silver Lace'

Best Collection of 3—Large, Medium, Small Jim & Jackie Randall
'Dr. Clifford Parks', 'Betty Foy Sanders',
'Lemon Drop'

Best Collection of 9 Miniature or Small Don & Mary Bergamini
'Black Tie', 'Joshua Fenska', 'Little Babe Variegated',
'Tada Meibi', 'Little Susie', 'Almorinda Carneiro',
'Little Ginger', 'Buddy Variegated', 'Hot Shot'

Best Youth Japonica 'Magnoliaeflora' Cody Hardman
Best Youth Hybrid 'Lauretta Feathers' Chris Bergamini
Best Youth Miniature/Small 'Little Babe Variegated' Chris Bergamini

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

March 17 and 18, 2001

Japonica—Very Large

Best Single 'Midnight Magic' Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single 'Miss Charleston Variegated' Tom & Marge Lee

Japonica—Large

Best Single 'Eleanor Martin Supreme' Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single 'Swan Lake' Ron & Arlene Morrison

Japonica—Medium

Best Single 'Nuccio's Jewel' Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single 'In The Red' Robert Ehrhart

Japonica—Small

Best Single 'Ellen Daniels' Don & Mary Bergamini
Runner-up Single 'Confetti Blush' Harlan Smith Family

Japonica—Miniature

Best Single 'Ann Clayton' Don & Joan Lesmeister
Runner-up Single 'Spring Festival Formal' Art & Chris Gonos

Reticulata or Reticulata Hybrid

Best Single 'Sir Robert Muldoon' Don & Sue Kendall
Runner-up Single 'Renee Land' Larry & Nancy Pitts

Non-Reticulata Hybrid

Best Single 'Hot Pink' Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single 'Lucky Star' Art & Chris Gonos

Best White Bloom 'Swan Lake' Ron & Arlene Morrison

Best Bloom by Novice Gabe Stoutamire

Best Tri-Color Arrangement Harlan Smith

SANTA CLARA CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW

Santa Clara Community Center

February 24 and 25, 2001

Best of Show 'Valentine Day Variegated' Bob Ehrhart
Sweepstakes 71 Blue Ribbons Don & Mary Bergamini
Runner-up Sweepstakes 30 Blue Ribbons Skip & Carolyn Evans

Japonica—Very Large/ Large

Best Single Very Large 'Elaine's Betty Pink' Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single 'Miss Charleston Var.' Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Single Large 'Nuccio's Jewel' Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single Large 'Veiled Beauty' Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3 'Royal Velvet' Bob Ehrhart
Best Tray of 5 'Royal Velvet Variegated' Bob Ehrhart

Japonica—Medium

Best Single 'Midnight Magic Var.' Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single 'Nuccio's Pearl' Gordon & Barbara Goff
Best Tray of 3 'Betty Foy Sanders' Harlan Smith
Best Tray of 5 'Philippa Ifould' Edith Mazzei

Japonica—Small

Best Single 'Alisha Carter' Don & Joan Lesmeister
Runner-up Single 'Tom Thumb' Harlan Smith
Best Tray of 3 'Buddy Var.' Don & Mary Bergamini

Small or Miniature Bloom

Best Single 'Paper Dolls' Gary & Carol Schanz
Runner-up Single 'Little Slam Var.' Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3 'Paper Dolls' Gary & Carol Schanz
Best Tray of 5 'Sue Kendall' Don & Sue Kendall

Reticulata or Reticulata Hybrid

Best Single Large/V. Large 'Valentine Day Var.' Bob Ehrhart
Runner-up Single 'Dr. Clifford Parks' Jim & Jackie Randall
Best Single Small/Medium 'Mary O'Donnel' Don & Mary Bergamini
Runner-up Single 'Molly O'Toole' Don & Mary Bergamini
Best Tray of 3 'Miss Tulare Var.' Larry & Nancy Pitts

Non-Reticulata Hybrid

Best Single Large/V. Large 'Jubilation Variegated' Edith Mazzei
Runner-up Single 'Mona Jury' H. W. Oliver
Best Single Medium 'Pink Dahlia' Don & Sue Kendall
Runner-up Medium 'Spring Daze' Frank Hattersley
Best Tray of 3 'First Blush' Jim & Jackie Randall

Best Assortment of 9 Blooms Larry & Nancy Pitts

Best Assortment of 3 Different Size Blooms Larry & Nancy Pitts

Best Japonica Seedling		Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Hybrid Seedling		Edith Mazzei
Best Fragrant Bloom	'High Fragrance'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Best Youth Bloom	'Elegans Chandler'	Jarod Bates
Best Santa Clara Youth Bloom	'Nicky Crisp'	Victoria Ricossa
SCCS Members		
Best Japonica	'Nuccio's Pearl'	Cynthia Chuang
Best Reticulata Hybrid	'Valentine's Day'	Bill & Bev Allman
Best Non-Reticulata	'Angel Wings'	George Avery
Novice		
Best Japonica	'Nuccio's Pearl'	Shirley Lin
Runner-up Japonica	'Walker's Pink'	Julie Hardman
Best Bloom Originated in Santa Clara County		
	'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	Skip & Carolyn Evans

SACRAMENTO CAMELLIA SHOW

March 3 and 4, 2001

Outstanding Flower of Show	'Crinoline'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Sweepstakes Award	86 Blue Ribbons	Don & Mary Bergamini
Runner-up Sweepstakes	29 Blue Ribbons	Don & Sue Kendall
Japonica—Very Large		
Best Single	'Elaine's Betty'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single	'Junior Prom'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3	'Katie Variegated'	Bob & Joan Conlin
Japonica—Large		
Best Single	'Betty Sheffield Supreme'	Bruce & Lynn Henz
Runner-up Single	'Black Magic'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3	'Wildfire'	Hal and Deane Burch
Japonica—Medium		
Best Single	'Desire'	Barbara Tuffli
Runner-up Single	'Tada Meibi'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Best Tray of 3	'Chie Tarumoto'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Small Blooms		
Best Single	'Mikey B'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single	'Ellen Daniel'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Best Tray of 3	'Ellen Daniel'	Don & Joan Lesmeister

Miniature Blooms		
Best Single	'Sue Kendall'	Gary & Carol Schanz
Runner-up Single	'Paper Dolls'	Bob Ehrhart
Best Tray of 3	'Paper Dolls'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Miniature or Small Blooms		
Best Tray of 5	'Pink Perfection'	Art & Chris Gonos
Best 5 Japonicas under 4 1/2"	'Magnoliaeflora'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Best 5 Japonicas over 4 1/2"	'Nuccio's Carousel'	Harlan Smith
Best 11 Japonicas	'Grand Slam'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Best Collection of 3 Different Japonicas		Jim & Jackie Randall
Best Collection of 9 Different Japonicas		Larry & Nancy Pitts
Reticulata or Reticulata Hybrid		
Best Single under 5 1/2"	'Lilette Whitman'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single	'Lauretta Feathers'	Anne McKee
Best Single over 5 1/2"	'Crinoline'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Single	'Linda Carol'	Tom & Marge Lee
Best Tray of 3	'Lauretta Feathers'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Best Tray of 5	'Larry Piet'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Non-Reticulata Hybrid		
Best Large Single	'Julie Variegated'	Don & Sue Kendall
Runner-up Single	'First Blush'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Best Medium Single	'Debbie'	Don & Sue Kendall
Runner-up Single	'Buttons 'N Bows'	Bob & Joanne Logan
Best Tray of 3	'Nicky Crisp'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Best Tray of 5	'Julie Variegated'	Edith Mazzei
Special Culture		
Best Single Japonica	'Elaine's Betty'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Single Reticulata	'Linda Carol'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Seedlings		
Best	Reticulata Hybrid	Gordon & Barbara Goff
1st Runner-up	Japonica	Bob Ehrhart
2nd Runner-up	Japonica	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Spray or Stem Exhibit	'Fircone Variegated'	Bob & Joan Conlin
Best Fragrant	'High Fragrance'	Virginia Rankin
Best Yellow or Cream Bloom	'Dahlohnega'	Bob Ehrhart
Best Sacramento Members' Bloom	'Magnoliaeflora'	Bob & Nancy Steele
Best "Old Timers" Bloom	'Mathotiana'	Bob & Joan Conlin
Best White Bloom	'Ecclefield'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Junior Class—Sacramento Area		

Best Japonica 2 1/2" to 4 1/2"	'Pearl Maxwell'	Lauren Lui
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Junior Class—Outside Sacramento Area

Best Japonica 2 1/2" to 4 1/2"	'Betty Foy Sanders'	Paul Orosco
Best Japonica over 4 1/2"	'Elegans Chandler Variegated'	Jarod Bates
Best Hybrid—any size	'Julie Variegated'	Jarod Bates

Flower Arrangement Division	Best of Show	Helen Pashima
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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pleasant Hill, California

March 10 and 11, 2001

Sweepstakes	85 Blue Ribbons	Robert Ehrhart
Runner-up Sweepstakes	64 Blue Ribbons	Don & Mary Bergamini
Third Place Sweepstakes	54 Blue Ribbons	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Novice Sweepstakes	6 Blue Ribbons	Don Fretz
Best of Show	'Patricia Haskee'	Don & Sue Kendall
Challenge Award	11 out of 12 Firsts	Bob & Nancy Steels
Award of Excellence	45 Head Table Entries	Larry & Nancy Pitts

Japonicas

Best Single Very Large	'Royal Velvet'	Gordon & Barbara Goff
Runner-up Single Very Large	'Rachel Tarpy'	Don & Sue Kendall
Best Tray of 3 Very Large	'Royal Velvet'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Best Single Large	'Royal Velvet Variegated'	Robert Ehrhart
Runner-up Single Large	'Miss Charleston Var.'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3 Large	'Elizabeth Weaver'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Best Single Medium	'Margaret Davis'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Runner-up Single Medium	'Elizabeth Weaver'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3 Medium	'Nuccio's Carousel'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Best Tray of 5	'Tomorrow Park Hill'	Larry & Nancy Pitts

Smalls and Miniatures

Best Single Small	'Dahlohnega'	Skip & Carolyn Evans
Runner-up Single Small	'Something Beautiful'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Best Tray of 3 Smalls	'Something Beautiful'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Best Tray of 5 Smalls	'Something Beautiful'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Best Single Miniature	'Chrysantha'	Skip & Carolyn Evans
Runner-up Single Miniature	'Fircone Variegated'	Robert Ehrhart
Best Tray of 3 Miniatures	'Chrysantha'	Skip & Carolyn Evans
Best Tray of 5 Miniatures	'Spring Festival'	Skip & Carolyn Evans

Reticulata and Reticulata Hybrid

Best Single over 5 1/2"	'Patricia Haskee'	Don & Sue Kendall
Runner-up Single over 5 1/2"	'Emma Gaeta Var.'	Don & Sue Kendall

Best Single under 5 1/2"	'Valentine Day Variegated'	Robert Ehrhart
Runner-up Single under 5 1/2"	'Purple Gown'	Howard Oliver
Best Tray of 3	'Nuccio's Ruby'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 5	'Larry Piet'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Non-Reticulata Hybrid		
Best Single	'Julie Variegated'	Don & Sue Kendall
Runner-up Single	'Mona Jury Variegated'	Howard Oliver
Best Tray of 3	'Coral Delight'	Robert Ehrhart
Best Tray of 5	'Nicky Crisp'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Seedlings		
Best Large		Robert Ehrhart
Best Medium		Robert Ehrhart
Best Miniature or Small		Robert Ehrhart
Best Fragrant		Gordon & Barbara Goff
Best Youth Japonica	'Lady Laura'	Jarod Bates
Best Youth Hybrid	'Julie Variegated'	Jarod Bates
Best Collection of 3	'Mary Fischer', 'Black Magic', 'Grace Albritton'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best 9 Miniature or Small	'Domoto's Petite', 'Spring Daze', 'Johnny's Folly', 'Hot Shot', 'Man Size', 'Bonbon Red', 'Bonbon Blush', 'Kristy Piet', 'Grace Albritton'	Robert Ehrhart
Best Collection of 9	'Julia France', 'Elegans Champagne', 'Katie', 'Miss Charleston Variegated', 'Carter's Sunburst Pink Variegated', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'Swan Lake', 'Howard Dumas', 'Grand Slam'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Bloom Named for a Member	'Dr. Fred Heitman'	Larry & Nancy Pitts

•••

A question . . .

Marion Crawford (1854-1909) writing in *Children of the King* said, "What is charm? It is what the violet has and the camellia has not."

What do you think? Do you think Marion Crawford would say the same thing about camellias today when so many more camellias have been discovered and hybridized? I think many camellias are quite charming—especially the small fragrant ones!

—bb

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Descanso Gardens, February 24 and 25, 2001

Japonica—Large/Very Large

Best Single	'Royal Velvet'	Les & JoAnn Brewer
Runner-up Single	'Han-Ling Snow'	Les & JoAnn Brewer
Court of Honor Single	'Carter's Sunburst'	Dale & Mary Kay Mittag
Best Tray of 3	'High Wide'N Handsome'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Kramer's Supreme'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher
Court of Honor Tray	'Henry Huntington'	David & Susan Trujillo
Special Culture		
Best Single	'Tomorrow Park Hill'	D. T. Gray Family
Runner-up Single	'Katie'	Bradford King
Court of Honor	'Elegans Champagne'	Marvin & Virginia Belcher
Best Tray of 3	'Mathotiana Supreme'	D. T. Gray Family

Japonica—Medium

Best Single	'Margaret Davis'	Dale & Mary Kay Mittag
Runner-up Single	'Firedance Variegated'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Court of Honor Single	'Betty's Beauty'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher
Best Tray of 3	'Firedance'	David & Susan Trujillo
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Margaret Davis'	Les & JoAnn Brewer
Court of Honor Tray	'Herme'	Jim & Armida Wilkin
Special Culture		
Best Single	'In The Red'	D. T. Gray Family
Runner-up Single	'Marilee Gray'	D. T. Gray Family
Court of Honor Single	'Cherries Jubilee'	D. T. Gray Family
Best Tray of 3	'Prima Ballerina'	D. T. Gray Family

Japonica—Small

Best Single	'Demi-Tasse'	D. T. Gray Family
Runner-up Single	'Alison Leigh Woodroof'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher
Court of Honor Single	'Irene'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher

Japonica—Miniature

Best Single	'Lemon Drop'	Julius & Dorothy Christinson
Runner-up Single	'Little Slam'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher
Court of Honor Single	'Little Michael'	Marvin & Virginia Belcher
Special Culture		
Best Single	'Man Size'	Marvin & Virginia Belcher
Runner-up Single	'Little Michael'	D. T. Gray Family

Japonica—Small or Miniature

Best Tray of 3	'Lemon Drop'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Red Hots'	David & Susan Trujillo
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Grape Soda'	Julius & Dorothy Christinson

Reticulata or Reticulata Hybrid

Best Single	'Frank Houser'	Les & JoAnn Brewer
Runner-up Single	'Dr. Clifford Parks'	Les & JoAnn Brewer
Court of Honor Single	'Emma Gaeta Variegated'	Rudy Blanco
Best Tray of 3	'Emma Gaeta Variegated'	Rudy Blanco
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Fiesta Grande'	Rudy Blanco
Court of Honor Tray	'Sean Armijo'	Rudy Blanco

Special Culture

Best Single	'Miss Tulare'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher
Runner-up Single	'Harold L. Paige'	D. T. Gray Family
Court of Honor Single	'Francie L. Var.'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher
Best Tray of 3	'Fire Chief'	D. T. Gray Family
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Harold L. Paige'	D. T. Gray Family

Non-Reticulata Hybrid

Best Single	'First Blush'	Dick & Jackie Stiern
Runner-up Single	'Garden Glory'	Dick & Jackie Stiern
Court of Honor Single	'Angel Wings'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher
Best Tray of 3	'Nicky Crisp'	Todd & Lindsey Brewer
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Paper Dolls'	David & Susan Trujillo
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Garden Glory'	Dick & Jackie Stiern

Special Culture

Best Tray of 3	'Waltz Time Var.'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher
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Species

Best Single	'Egao'	Mel & Bobbie Belcher
Runner-up Single	'Shibori-Egao'	David & Susan Trujillo
Court of Honor Single	'Kanjiro'	Boris & Kathryn Korin

Collector's Tray of 3 Mixed Varieties

Best Tray	Dick & Jackie Stiern
Runner-up Tray	Les & JoAnn Brewer
Court of Honor Tray	Dale & Mary Kay Mittag

Best Seedling

Rudy Blanco

Novice

Best Large/Very Large		Lucia Marino
Runner-up Large/Very Large	'Elegans Splendor'	Lori Levy
Best Medium	'Alba Plena'	Wayne Walker
Runner-up Medium	'Herme'	Mary Ann Paullin
Court of Honor Medium	'Pink Herme'	Mary Ann Paullin

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

John and Wendy Emory
PO Box 39, Berry NSW
AUSTRALIA
Phone and Fax—61 2 4448 6034

SOUTHERN CAL'S PRUNING PARTY

Marilee Gray, Claremont, California

The most asked questions at camellia culture seminars deal with watering and pruning. All that needs to be said about watering can be covered in just a few minutes; pruning, however, is quite a different story. Basic rules on pruning do not suffice, for words alone do not convey all that is needed—what the desired end result will look like and the courage to get there.

This past spring, Southern Cal matched the requests for pruning instruction from individuals with requests for pruning assistance from camellia owners and hosted a demonstration/hands-on pruning party. Owing to the late blooming this past season, most camellias were still in bloom by April 14th, but we deemed it time to prune in order to

activate the new growth buds as soon as possible and before too much new growth would be sacrificed.

The two gardens we visited both had relatively large, mature plants on which to work. Fortunately, our pruning guru, Mel Belcher, was on hand to demonstrate how the fearless, but judicious, use of a saw, loppers, and hand clippers can bring years of unabated growth back into line.

Bob Cox recorded our forenoon work at Donovan Main's home and our afternoon efforts at Beth Stone's home with 'before' and 'after' pictures. The transformations of one to the other provided ample instructional grist. Hopefully, each participant left with the visions of these transformations and an infusion of the needed courage.



Everyone prunes!

Never fear, Beth, the pruners are coming!



Photos by Bob Cox,
Westlake Village, CA.



Before



and after



Mel Belcher and Dale Mittag,
fearless pruners



The pruning party's LA Clippers

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DUES NOTICE

Your renewal subscription form is enclosed with this issue of *The Camellia Review*. If a form is not enclosed, our records indicate that your dues are already paid for the 2001-02 season. For your information our "camellia year" is from July 1 to June 30. Please notice the change of address where your dues payment is to be mailed. The prompt payment of your dues is always appreciated.
Thanks!

DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Jeane Shoemaker; 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.

KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Helen Maas; Secretary—Jane Brady, 7401-21 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: 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—Elsie Bracci. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Barbara Coates Tuffli; 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—Dean Turney; 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.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Brad King; Secretary—Sandra Ragusa, 10720 E. Freer St., Temple City, CA 91780. Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Call Marilee Gray for meeting dates (909) 624-4107.



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.

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