THE Camellia REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

Non-reticulata ''Island Sunset'

Vol. 65 September-December, 2003

Southern California Camellia Society, Inc.

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

THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

Mel Belcher, Editor
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vol. 65 September-December, 2003 No. 1

What's up for 2003. Don Bergamini 3

The Use of Multiple Grafts and "Nurse" Branches for Rapid Plant Development, Robert G. Petersen 5

Scab Grafts, a New Idea? Joe Roup 10

Wood Cut Depicting Cleft Grafting 12

When Camellias Aren't "In Season," Bradford King 13

2004 Camellia Show Schedule 15

How to Fly With Camellias, Art and Chris Gonos 16

Memories of Camellia-Rama 2003 18

Fall Pruning at Southern California Camellia Society Meeting 22

San Diego Chater Certificate 24

COVER PHOTO

Non-reticulata 'Island Sunset' (N#9007 T)
Medium, semi-double, rich coral pink, lighter at center. Medium, upright, bushy growth. M-L.
One of Nuccio's new introduction.

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

It is a certainty that, as a person matures and ages, he has more to remember and to forget. Relative to *The Camellia Review,* many articles have been published and this associated information resides in its archives. Much of this information, however, predates the memory of most of its readers. Likewise, the Southern California Camellia Society as an entity has a dynamic past and a responsible present.

Let's take a brief excursion into Southern California Camellia Society's past just to refresh our memories. The Society was formed in the late 1930's and assumed responsibility for publishing *The Camellia Review* as well as the *Camellia Nomenclature.* Another function performed by the Society was the spawning of new societies. A copy of the San Diego Camellia Society charter, the first of such new societies, is found on page 24 of this issue.

At least four societies (Orange Coast, South Coast, Los Angeles and Temple City) no longer exist. However, five societies (San Diego, Pomona Valley, Orange County, Pacific and Kern County) plus the mother Southern California Camellia Society continue as the back bone of Southern California camellia interests. We must hasten to add Nuccio's Nurseries, Descanso Gardens and Huntington Gardens as having not only a local interest but national and international interests.

I would like to challenge the Boards of the remaining societies to search their records to find their charters. We will place them, one at a time in the Review. Also, in additional to searching for their charter, their members are challenged to become members of Southern California Camellia Society and thereby support its publications, *The Camellia Review* and *Camellia Nomenclature.*

I think a cohesive and cooperative attitude is essential for the prologue of the past to result in a rewarding hobby in the future.

—Mel Belcher, Editor

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Flowers are the beautiful hieroglyphics of nature
with which she indicates how much she loves us.
—Goethe

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.

WHAT'S UP FOR 2003

Don Bergamini. Martinez, California

'The judges have spoken once again and they have given trophies to 158 different varieties in the single categories many of which are being recognized more than once. Some of the big winners were 'Royal Velvet', 'Nuccio's Jewel', 'Red Hots', 'Frank Houser', 'Larry Piet', 'Julie Variegated' and 'Something Beautiful'.

Some of the new varieties that made the head table and won and should be watched in the future were 'Island Sunset', 'Lavender Swirl', 'Egao Corkscrew', 'Lady Pamela', 'Chris Bergamini', 'Dr Dan Nathan Supreme', 'Moonrise' and 'Phyllis Hunt'. I think these cultivars may give the competition a run for the silver as they had a good start this past year. As more exhibitors acquire these varieties they will be more visible on the tables

The judges also gave the nod to 116 different varieties in the multiple categories. The big winners in these categories were 'Royal Velvet', 'Nuccio's Carousel', 'Man Size', 'Pink Perfection' and 'Frank Houser'. 'Royal Velvet' and 'Frank Houser' seem be preferred in both the single and multiple categories. Therefore I suggest that, if you want to win. go out and get 10 or 15 plants of these two cultivars and increase your chances of winning silver.

SINGLE ENTRIES

Large / Very Large Japonicas

'Royal Velvet'	9
'Junior Prom'	6
'Miss Charleston Variegated'	4
'Elegans Supreme'	3
'Katie Variegated'	3
'Royal Velvet Variegated'	3
'Tata'	3
'Carter's Sunburst '	2
'Dusty'	2
'Elegans Champagne'	2
'Grand Prix'	2
'Helen Bower'	2
'Kramer's Supreme'	2
'Tomorrow Park Hill'	2
14 others with 1 each	

Medium Japonicas

'Nuccio's Jewel'	9
'Margaret Davis'	6
'Rachel Tarpy'	4
'Elaine's Betty'	3
'Chie Tarumoto'	2
'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	2
'Feathery Touch'	2
'Fire Dance Variegated'	2
'In the Pink'	2
'Jennie Mills'	2
'Jerry Donnan'	2
'Mrs. George Bell'	2
'Nuccio's Gem'	2
16 others with 1 each	

Small—any species

'Red Hots'	8
'Demi-Tasse'	4
'Dahlohnega'	3
'Paper Dolls'	3
'Pink Perfection'	3
'Spring Daze'	3
'Black Tie Variegated'	2
11 others with 1 each	

Miniature—any species

'Something Beautiful'	7
'Grace Albritton'	6
'Ellen Daniel'	3
'Kitty'	3
'Fircone Variegated'	2
'Lemon Drop'	2
'Little Man'	2
'Little Slam'	2
'Little Slam Variegated'	2
11 others with 1 each	

Reticulata / Reticulata Hybrids

'Frank Houser'	8
'Larry Piet'	8
'Frank Houser Variegated'	5
'Linda Carol'	5
'Dr. Clifford Parks'	4
'Black Lace'	3
'Valentine Day Variegated'	3
'Valley Knudsen'	3

'Betty Ridley Variegated' 2
'Harold L. Paige' 2
'Lauretta Feathers' 2
'Miss Tulare' 2
'Ruta Hagmann' 2
21 others with 1 each

Non-Reticulata Hybrids
'Julie Variegated' 9
'Lucky Star' 6
'Pink Dahlia' 6
'Buttons 'N Bows' 4
'Elsie Jury' 4
'First Blush' 3
'Joe Nuccio' 3
'Angel Wings' 2
'Debbie' 2
'Island Sunset' 2
'Lavender Swirl' 2
'Tom Perkins' 2
'Waltz Time Variegated' 2
10 others with 1 each

Species
'Botan Yuki' 4
'Egao' 4
'Egao's Corkscrew' 2
'Grady's Egao' 2
'Shibori Egao' 2
'Shishi-Gashira' 1

MULTIPLES ENTRIES
Medium /Large / V. Large Japonicas
'Nuccio's Carousel' 8
'Royal Velvet' 8
'Elegans Splendor' 5
'Fire Dance Variegated' 4
'Jennie Mills' 4
'Kramer's Supreme' 4
'Rudy's Magnoliaeflora' 4
'Grand Prix' 3
'Junior Prom' 3
'Katie Variegated' 3
'Elegans Champagne' 2
'Haru-No-Utena' 2
'Betty Foy Sanders' 2
'Eleanor Martin Supreme' 2
'Grand Marshal' 2
'Magnoliaeflora' 2
'Margaret Davis' 2
'Miss Charleston Variegated' 2
'Moonlight Bay' 2
'Nuccio's Jewel' 2
'Ragland Supreme' 2
20 others with 1 each

Miniature / Small any species
'Man Size' 8
'Pink Perfection' 8
'Red Hots' 4
'Spring Daze' 4
'Ellen Daniel' 3
'Hishi-Karaito' 3
'Something Beautiful' 3
'Kitty' 2
'Lemon Drop' 2
'Little Slam' 2
'Paper Dolls' 2
'Tinsie' 2
21 others with 1 each

Reticulata / Reticulata Hybrids
'Frank Houser' 8
'Larry Piet' 5
'Frank Houser Variegated' 4
'LASCA Beauty' 3
'Cornelian' 2
'Emma Gaeta Variegated' 2
'Queen Bee' 2
15 others with 1 each

Non-Reticulata Hybrids
'Lucky Star' 5
'Nicky Crisp' 5
'Julie Variegated' 4
'Kramer's Fluted Coral' 3
'Coral Delight Variegated' 2
'Jackpot' 2
'Waltz Time Variegated' 2
11 others with 1 each

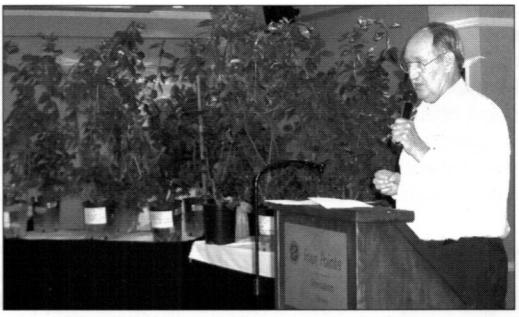
Species
'Shibori Egao' 3
'Grady's Egao' 2

To my mind, there is nothing to beat personal observations and visits to gardens.
—Rosemary Verey

THE USE OF MULTIPLE GRAFS AND "NURSE" BRANCHES FOR RAPID PLANT DEVELOPMENT

Robert G. Petersen. Fresno, California
ACS Research Committee

Camellia enthusiasts often read or hear discussions regarding the essential cultural practices of nutrients, drainage, water, sunlight, diseases, pests, restricted roots, the balance of leaf area to root system, etc. If all these cultural practices are annually performed properly the result is a healthy, vigorous plant that rewards the owner with lovely blooms. However, if any one of these practices is drastically lacking it can be the limiting factor and a very unthrifty plant will be the result.



With all the information available on essential cultural practices, seldom is attention drawn to the importance of the balance between the leaf area and root system of newly grafted camellias. The emphasis of this study will be to demonstrate how this often overlooked cultural practice affects the health and vigor of grafted camellias.

The plant physiology of this study is very basic. In one word—balance! If a 4-year-old plant grown in a five gallon container has good color, is vigorous and not root bound, then the leaf area is perfectly balanced with the root system. The conformation of the rather compact root system compared to the conformation of the taller, open appearance of the top may appear different but nevertheless they are equally balanced. The function of the root system is vital to the health and vigor of the top and conversely the top is equally vital to the health and vigor of the root system. If the size or health of either one is substantially diminished, it will adversely affect the other. That is why a reasonable balance between the two should be maintained for the first 3 years following grafting.

The traditional way most large camellias in the 3/4 – 1" diameter range in five gallon containers are grafted is to cut off the top 2 to 3" above the soil mix and insert one or two cleft grafts. Where the balance ratio of the leaf area to the root system prior to cutting as 1:1, after cutting it is 0:1. Now with no leaf area the plant is completely dependent on stored reserves in the root system to force grafts and produce leaves that can, through photosynthesis, return energy back to the root system.

If the graft is slow to emerge or the new graft shoots stop prematurely and there are not sufficient new leaves to support the root system, a certain percent of the roots will die. This situation defeats the purpose of using large 5-gallon plants and one might just as well have purchased a 1-gallon plant with a small root in the first place. Once the root stock and graft have been stunted, slow meager growth can be expected. However, if the graft shoots emerge early, have large leaves and grow rapidly enough the leaf area is replaced during the transition and the total plant remains healthy. Vigorous growing cultivars with large leaves would have the advantage over non-vigorous cultivars with small leaves. The study I am presenting should eliminate stunting

and a large plant could be grown in three years. The steps and discussion for using multiple grafts and "nurse" branches for rapid plant development are as follows:

After many years of not being involved with camellias, I wanted to grow a new collection using up-to-date show cultivars. The study was composed of 32 grafted plants each a different cultivar. Approximately two-thirds were *C. reticulata* and one-third C. japonica. Many years ago I successfully grafted camellias for a personal collection using the same techniques as in this study. The only difference was *C. japonica* rootstock grown in the ground was used instead of *C. heimalis* 'Kanjiro' grown in containers.

C. heimalis 'Kanjiro" was selected because it has a good reputation with nurserymen. It is vigorous, compatible and has above average resistance to phytophora root diseases. Most nurseries label 'Kanjiro' as *C. sasanqua.*

Because I wanted to develop large, grafted plants as soon as possible, I elected to purchase 30" high, 18" wide, 4 year old 'Kanjiro' camellias grown in 5-gallon containers. The conformation of this cultivar is ideal for using multiple grafts and still have adequate low branches to use as "nurse" material. They usually have 2 or 3 trunks which makes it easy to use 3 to 5 grafts. The larger diameter roots and trunks store a lot of energy to push the grafts compared to rootstock grown in 1-gallon containers. Also, virused full grafts can be used to infect non-virused cultivars to attempt to enhance the beauty of virused cultivars.

The 5-gallon 'Kanjiro' plants were purchased in September 1999 and grafted in February 2000. Each 'Kanjiro' was grafted with 3-5 scions at a height of approximately 9-16". I used the vertical trunks and their lateral branches for graft placements. In this manner the most ideal diameter sizes can be found for the unions. Below the grafts, 25-35% of the original 'Kanjiro' leaf area was left as "nurse" material by selecting fairly horizontal growing branches. Use as many small diameter branches as possible to make up the 25-25% as they will leave smaller cuts to heal over when removed two to four years later.

A happy medium has to be met when growing grafts and "nurse" branches together. The rootstock needs to be cut bac severely enough to force the graft buds to emerge, but sufficient rootstock leaf area must be retained to support the roots through the transition. The first year is the most important for "nurse" branches because it is the period when the grafts have the least leaf area. Retaining 25-35% the original rootstock leaf area will both force the grafts and keep the root system healthy. "Nurse" material is not a new concept and is routinely used with June budding almonds and stone fruit. Leaving 25% of the leaf area of orchard budded pistachio seedlings is essential for a high bud take and rapid bud growth. Even though these tree examples are deciduous, the same principle applies to the evergreen camellia.

Some camellia enthusiasts frown on multiple, permanent trunks developed fro individual grafts in favor of one. The rationale is apparently that ,if all the energ in the rootstock goes into only one graft, th plant will grow larger than with multiples. This theory appears to be just the opposite of what occurs. If a camellia has three graft trunks plus rootstock "nurse" branches, it should overall be larger than a camellia with one trunk and no "nurse" branches in the first three years. This is because one plant has greater leaf area than the other to produce energy. Multiple grafts give added insurance for success. If enough scion woo is available I prefer to make four grafts. If it is a matter of having four grafts with one bud each or two grafts with two buds each, I will select the four grafts. Should two of the four grafts fail there will be a take of 50% but the remaining two would still be adequate to develop an outstanding plant. In the case of only one graft with two buds surviving a trunk can be developed from each bud and also produce an outstanding plant. An example of this is a 3-year-old 'Hall's Pride' 2 1/2' wide and 5 1/2' high above the soil mix.

Harden off grafts in the same manner as with jars or plastic bags over small framed used on one and two gallon containers. Individual grafts are trained as permanent

trunks. As they grow the grafts should be tied to bamboo stakes taped to containers. If there is an extra graft tie it down horizontally and use it as a "nurse" branch or as a source of scion wood. As the 'Kanjiro' "nurse" branches become active in the spring new lateral and terminal shoots will emerge. Before they exceed 1/2 to 3/4" in length they must be broken off. Do not just pinch the tips out, the shoots should be totally removed. If this practice is not done on a timely basis it can defeat the purpose of the program. This practice must continue as long as the branches remain. It is undesirable to let these branches ever increase more than their original size as the new shoots would take energy needed for the grafts. When the growth of the "nurse" branches is controlled, these branches are turned into slaves. If the "nurse branch" is unable to put on new growth, its energy made by photosynthesis goes to the grafts and roots. If the combination of the leaf area of the "nurse" branches plus that of the new graft shoots by the end of the growing season is equal to 50% or more of that of the original rootstock the roots and grafts will remain healthy and not become stunted.

In two and three year old grafts occasionally there will be an undesirable void in the lower portion of the plant. This is usually the result of the higher placement of the grafts when using multiple grafts on larger rootstock. Higher graft placement may also be due to the necessity of accommodating 25-35% of the total leaf area of the rootstock as "nurse" branches below the grafts. Voids can often be corrected by tying a lateral graft branch down and directing it into the void giving the plant a fuller appearance. If there is a bud on the trunk in the vicinity of the void it can often be stimulated to sprout by created a partial girdle by cutting with a serrated knife using a sawing action. About a month before spring activity, cut into the trunk 1/2" above the bud, approximately 10%$ of the trunk's diameter. The thin cut will heal over by the end of summer.

The 5-gallon plants plus the "nurse" branches will require a larger framework for the plastic cover than those grafted in the more conventional way. A cylinder 16 to 18" wide and 3' high made of chicken wire makes a good framework. It can be covered with white commercial janitorial garbage liners available at home improvements stores. Duct tape two bags together and leave them open at both ends. Place them over the frame work and anchor the bottom with soil or stones, etc. Twist the top to take up the slack and hold it together with clothes pins. The cylinders can be made out of almost any material that is waterproof such as roofing paper, air conditioning insulation or metal grease barrels. Cut a 6 x 10" light opening that is down about 12" from the top and cover this light opening with white plastic. Place white plastic or a window pane over the opening at the top. Good light is necessary, but there should be no direct sunlight!

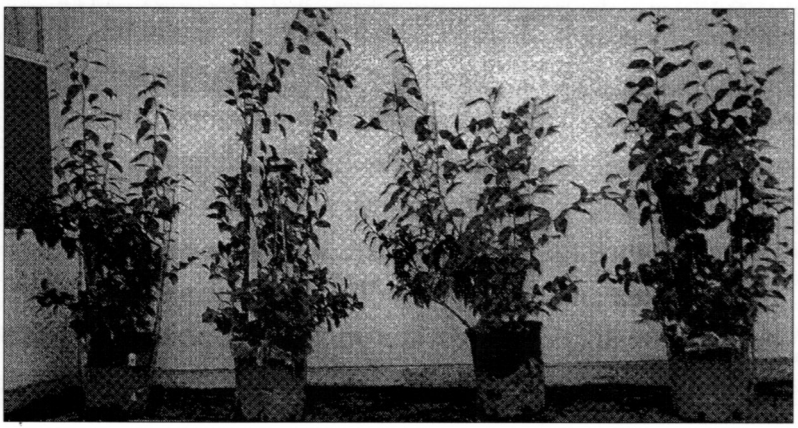
With proper care, by the end of the third growing season, the grafts should be approaching the range of the optimum height for container plants grown in close quarters. The reticulatas in the study ranged in height from 3 3/4' to 5 1/2' above the soil mix and the japonicas ranged from 3 1/2' to 5 1/2'. By the end of the second season approximately 60% of the grafted plants produced blooms and by the end of the third season approximately 90%.

The hypothesis of this 32-plant study is to show that an abundance of foliage was essential for rapid graft development during the first three year growing seasons. In order not to have a tainted study several cultural practices were excluded The soil was exactly as it came from the nursery almost 3 1/2 years ago. No amendments, mulches, sprays, fungi or any form of fertilizer have been applied. Also there was no gibbing or

potting up. The only practices used were sunlight control, pest baiting, training grafts, controlling new growth on "nurse" branches and watering with tap water.

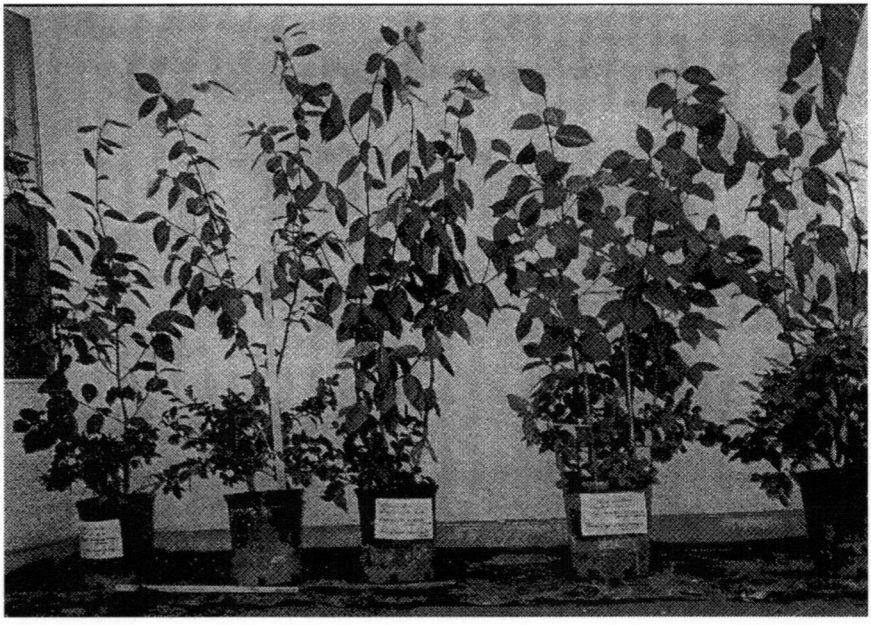
After about 3 1/2 years the grafts are still vigorous and have good color and leaf size. The ungibbed blooms on several of the reticulatas reached 7" in diameter last season which was a good indicator of plant health and vigor. If, during the period of the study, such practices as gibbing, potting up, fertilizing, etc., were used, I would not have know which practice or combination of practices was responsible for the rapid three-year graft development. There is only 3 1/2 – 4 gallons of soil mix in the containers and surely after nearly 3 1/3 years of no fertilizer the nutrient level in the soil mix is low. Perhaps the camellia industry has been placing too much emphasis on soil, fertilizer, etc., and not enough on leaf area and the power of photosynthesis. I feel the conclusion can be reached that the abundance of foliage present each of the three years, a result of multiple grafts and "nurse" branches, was the main reason for the development of large plants in this study.

Above—Three grafts on side branches of five-gallon 'Kanjiro' rootstock. "Nurse" branches remain below grafts.
Below—Three-year-old *C. japonica* developed from multiple grafts. "Nurse" branches at base are from five-gallon 'Kanjiro' stock.



Abpve—Two year old *C. japonica* and *C. reticulata* developed from multiple grafts, "Nurse" branches at base are 'Kanjiro' rootstock.

Below—Three-year-old *C. reticulata* developed from multiple grafts. "Nurse" branches at base are from five-gallon 'Kanjiro' rootstock.



"SCAB GRAFTS"—A NEW IDEA?

Joe Roup, Fresno, California

I've been grafting with a cleft graft for almost 25 years with good results. The "nurse" material that Bob Petersen has shown us is a great idea and I suggest with Bob that you leave it on your understock regardless of which grafting procedure you use.

Using my grandson's text book I drew these sketches. If you were to use a powerful microscope, this is what a section of the cambian layer would look like on the edge. (Fig. 1) Beginning at the center, the cambian cells are very tiny and the ones that get shoved toward the outer edge become long and tubular. On the inside, as the cells move toward the outer layers, they become rather oblong. As they mature and die, they leave little perforations which explains how, on those 150 feet redwood trees, nutrients get from the roots to the very tiptop where new needles grow. I've tried to draw what the mature adult cell on either side of the cambian might look like if you had access to a micron microscope.

As Bob Petersen has said, for the graft to be successful. there has to be some contact between the cambian of the scion and the cambian on the understock. For some of you, this is not a problem. But, for some of the rest of us, especially if we happen to be a little past middle-aged, our eyesight is not as good as it used to be and our hands are a little bit shaky, grafting is a problem. That is why I have concentrated on just being able to match the two cambian layers. I was having a hard time making nice flat cuts on the cambian and on the scion with the single-edge razor blade I was using. If you are going to do much grafting, I would suggest that you invest in a high quality grafting knife. I began just cutting through the bark and making as wide a cut as possible and cutting into the cambian just enough that the white pulp wood almost showed through. While this kind of cut is quite a bit larger than the scion, it does give me a nice big space of solid cambian available. The entire perimeter of the cut on the scion touched the cambian layer on the understock. I didn't have to match it exactly or make the width of the cut on the understock the same as the width of the scion. The scion can be placed anywhere on the cut on the understock. I then tape the scion to the understock so that it will stay in place so that it can be wrapped with the grafting rubber. Because I don't have any specialty grafting tape, I use Johnson & Johnson half-inch first aid tape. I split the tape in half and that works fine for me. After taping it, you use tree seal stuff—that black stuff that gets all over your fingers and clothes. It doesn't hurt the plant and works just fine. I call this kind of graft a "scab graft." If you're one of those grafters who hasn't been having the greatest of luck, you might try this procedure. Good luck!

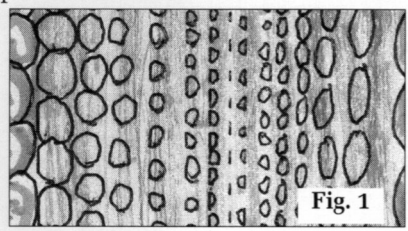


Fig. 1

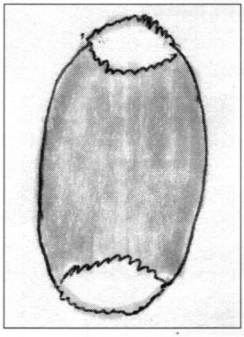


Fig. 2

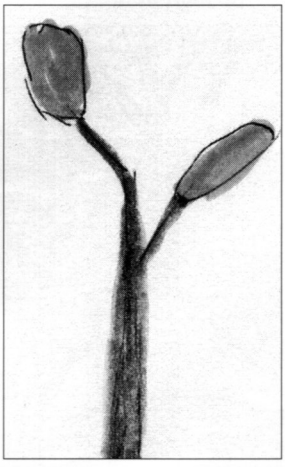


Fig. 4

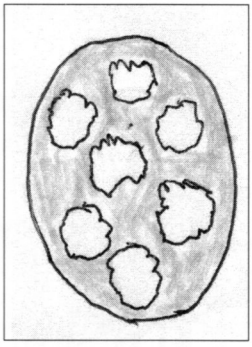


Fig. 3

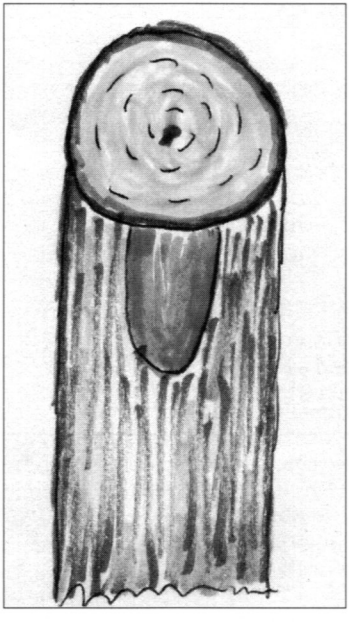


Fig. 5

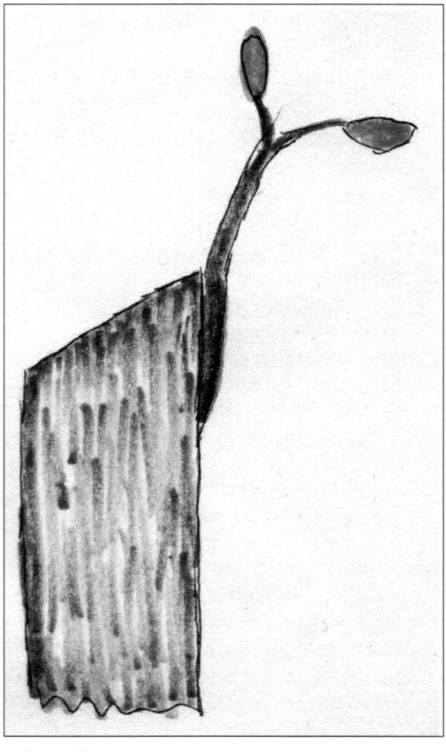


Fig. 6

Solomon said it best—there really isn't anything "new under the sun." Thanks to Gene Snooks for sending this copy of an very old woodcut. Notice the man doing the cleft grafting!

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Gardeners, I think, dream bigger
dreams than emperors.
—Mary Cantwell

At the heart of gardening there is a
belief in the miraculous.
—Mirabel Osler

WHEN CAMELLIAS AREN'T "IN SEASON"

Bradford King, Arcadia, California

There are numerous annuals and sun-loving perennials like roses and daylilies that are excellent spring and summer flowers that gardeners can enjoy when our favorite camellias have long finished blooming. This article will discuss three perennial plants that can complement your camellia collection by providing colorful blooms in spring and summer as well as taking advantage of the shade provided by your camellia plants.

EPIPHYLLUM

Epiphyllums are true shade-loving cacti that require abundant moisture. In nature, "epips" are epiphytes found in the rain and cloud forests of Central and South America. The original species were all night blooming. The hybrids available today bloom during the day. The blossoms last 2-4 days, but they come in a wide range of beautiful flowers from yellow to orange to red. They can be spectacular with their blended color tones or vibrant bi-color combinations.

Generally "epips" are grown as terrestrial plants in containers. The roots sit directly in a thick, moist mix of five parts potting soil and one part orchid bark or sponge rock. Most of us prefer using plastic pots. I generally grow these plants in hanging pots among my camellia collection. They can be hung from the trees that provide shade for your camellias or hung on hooks from posts that support shade cloth or from the lath house. Since they are in pots, they can be moved easily if they interfere with your camellia collection. Most of the year "epips" are fed with a balanced 10-10-10 fertilizer; however, beginning in January. 2-10-10 fertilizer is used to boost blooms. This is exactly what we do to produce show quality camellias. Therefore, as I feed the camellias, I sprinkle a small handful on the epiphyllums.

While the plants are relatively unattractive and grow every-which-way, the blooms they produce are spectacular. In this way they are like the camellia 'Emma Gaeta Variegated'. Since the flowering season for "epips" is May and June in Southern California, we are rewarded by their colorful blooms just when most camellias have bloomed out. I pick their flowers in the early morning just as I do camellias. I display them in the same cups, bowls or vases that I use to display my camellia blossoms.

My current favorite is 'Beyond Perfection', an extra large deep red edged with fuchsia and a purple throat. George French hybridized this variety. In June 1997 I paid $5.00 each for 3 cuttings bought from Rainbow Gardens.

While large yellow camellias aren't available, you can get great yellow epiphyllums. I grow two varieties. 'Vista Sun' is a large yellow with a white center. It is a vigorous grower with profuse blooms. I also grow 'Sonoma Sunshine' which is a wide-open large butter yellow with darker yellow sepals that are pointed and recurved.

If you miss fragrance when growing camellias, you can remedy that with numerous "epip"s that will satisfy the need for aroma. 'Fragrant Cloud' is just one possibility. It is a medium orange-red with a sweet perfume.

I purchased my collection of nine varieties as cuttings from Rainbow Garden's catalogue and received the shipment by mail. Unfortunately this nursery located in Vista, California is now out of business except for the bookstore. Cuttings can still be found through local Epiphyllum Societies or the Cactus/ Succulent Shows." Epips" are very easy to propagate from cuttings. A six-inch piece should be allowed to callus. Then sprinkle rooting compound on the cut end and put into potting mix. Do not water for a week. This method works successfully almost every time! I have more then tripled my collection using this method and could add even more except for the space limitations!

CLIVIA (Kaffir Lily)

This evergreen perennial is a striking member of the amaryllis family. The original lily has clusters of brilliant orange tubular shaped flowers. The plant is a dense clump of dark green flat strap-shaped leaves about 18" long. While it is listed as blooming from December through April, most plants bloom in the spring months of March and April.

I first saw this plant in New England as a houseplant at my grandparents' farmhouse. In frost-free areas like Southern California, clivia are grown outside with azaleas and camellias. It makes a handsome border for a camellia garden.

The plant needs light but not direct sun. Clumps left undisturbed will last for years yet they will expand and are easy to dig up and divide. I have two brick planters flanking the garage in which I have been unsuccessful growing azaleas or camellias However, the clivia plants, a Tom Nuccio suggestion, have bloomed reliably for the past few years. In fact, clivia bloom best when the roots are crowded. Fertilize clivia with cottonseed meal or the balanced fertilizer used on the Epiphyllums. Clivia are very forgiving and dependable plants even when neglected for years.

I have just grown the traditional orange clivia, but hybridizers are developing new colors. 'Flame' is an outstanding hot orange red and the 'Solomone' hybrids have yellow flowers. This year at a camellia show a visitor told me that he is hybridizing clivia at home in his garage to develop new colors. We have much to look forward to from this old and reliable shade plant. I think it is great used as a container planting, even better used as a border plant and outstanding when grown in clumps under the shade of trees. (See Descancso Gardens Camellia Forest on the way to the Boddy House.) In addition, it is truly a low maintenance plant well worth the initial investment that will provide years of enjoyment.

FUCHSIA

Hybrid fuchsia bloom from early summer to first frost. In Southern California the season is much longer. My specimen plant 'Firecracker' blooms 12 months of the year. I only prune it lightly. There are over 500 varieties of fuchsias grown in the western region of the United States. There is a wide array of color combinations as well. While fuchsias are like camellias in that they have no fragrance, hummingbirds visit both plants. This is one of the many reasons to have camellias and fuchsias in your landscape. The most common year-round hummingbird is the Anna's. However, the last several years I have also hosted the Black-chinned and Allen's' hummingbirds. The Huntington Botanical Gardens and Descanso Gardens, two local and internationally-recognized camellia gardens, also host these species of hummingbirds.

Fuchsias range in size from fingernail-sized blooms to blooms as large as a child's hand. There are single and double blossom varieties that can be grown as shrubs from 3' to 12' tall. Trailing varieties are best suited for hanging containers. Fuchsias can be trained as basket plants or espaliered. Fuchsias grow best in low light and cool summers.

As a native New Englander. I was awe-struck when I first visited Southern California and saw these plants grown as shrubs for year-round bloom. Roger's Gardens in Corona del Mar has a very wide range of outstanding hanging fuchsia's for sale. Fuchsias can be grown as companion shrubs to camellias or in hanging baskets from your lath house or from nearby trees. I have used them as such for a number of years in the area near my camellias. Care is needed when fertilizing them under such condition; however. I found that liquid fertilizer used on the fuchsias flowed onto the camellias below and caused fertilizer

burn on the leaves. In this event, fertilizing should be done away from the camellias or a dry fertilizer such as Osemcote can be used.

When camellias are no longer in bloom, colorful flowers abound even in the shaded parts of my garden. I know I am not alone in enjoying color in the landscape after the camellias are past blooming. Marilee Gray grows and raises clematis, one of my favorite evergreen vines. Presently I have seven varieties which bloom along a decorative fence in an area that is exclusively daylilies. Clematis roots are provided shade by the daylilies yet they share equally the full-sun location. Another gardener, Sergio Bracci is intrigued with plants of yet another shape and form. He grows cycads, evergreen plants with firm, large palm or fern-like leaves. His extensive collection includes some rare cycads that he grows under shade cloth.

We all are passionate about our individual collections of camellias but as true gardeners we also enjoy and treasure other examples of blooming plants in our landscape that provide pleasure throughout the gardening year.

❧ ❧ ❧

2004 CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

January 17-18 Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Hosted by Pacific Camellia Society

January 24-25 Roger's Gardens, Corona del Mar
Hosted by Orange County Camellia Society
Mini-show on Sunday, January 25, 2:00 p.m.

January 31-February 1 Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Society

February 7-8 Balboa Park, San Diego
Hosted by San Diego Camellia Society

February14-15 Huntington Gardens, San Marino
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Society

February 21-22 La Verne Community Center, 3680 "D" Street
Hosted by Pomona Valley Camellia Society
Mini-Show Sunday, February 22

February 28-29 Descanso Gardens
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Council

March 6-7 Church, 17th & S Streets, Bakersfield
Hosted by Kern County Camellia Society

HOW TO FLY WITH CAMELLIAS

Art and Chris Gonos, Fresno, California

During the past few years we have had the pleasure of traveling from California to attend the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society held each year in the spring. As the majority of these meetings are held in the southeastern part of the United States, we have had to fly from California. The annual ACS meeting normally includes a camellia bloom show competition We thought it would be enjoyable to compete at these shows, but we also needed to develop a plan to safely transport our blooms. Our first experience in flying cross country from Fresno to Atlanta took place in 1997. We were fortunate to win "Best Retic" with an 'Emma Gaeta Variegated' in open competition We followed up with meetings and shows in Gulfport in 1998, Massee Lane in 2000 and in Norfolk 2002 and in Savannah in 2003. We continued to be very successful at these shows with our favorites being "Best Bloom of Show "at Norfolk with 'Lucky Star' and "Best Unprotected Retic" at Savannah with 'Queen Bee'. As a result of this, numerous individuals began to ask us how we could fly some 3,000 miles with a dozen or so blooms and keep them in competitive condition? At Savannah, Ann Walton, Executive Director of ACS, asked us to answer this question.

We will begin by discussing what we do to preserve our camellias when we first cut them. We recommend the following steps:

1. In preparing for a Saturday show, depending upon local climate, you can start cutting as early as the previous Sunday evening. Preferably, blooms should be cut after sundown and/or very early in the morning while it is still cool.

2. Immediately after cutting the bloom it should be sprayed with a "sealer" that will lock moisture into the petals by sealing or closing the pores of the petals. Using an aerosol can, gently spray the underside of the bloom holding the spray can approximately 12-14 inches away from the bloom. Turn the bloom over and very gently spray the front side of the bloom using the same technique. This will "seal" the moisture that is already in the bloom and reduce or stop the moisture from escaping. This escaping is referred to as "transferrence" of the moisture.

Our favorite sealer is "Foliage Sealer" and is manufactured by Design Master of Boulder, Colorado. It is referred to as a Clear Anti-desiccant #661. Another suitable product that is more readily available is "Clear Set" made by Floralife.

3. The freshly-cut and sprayed blooms should be placed in very warm (not hot) water. Warm water will run up into the stem much more quickly than cool water. We put a preserving agent into our very warm water prior to placing the bloom into the water. The preserving agent formerly called Chrysal is now called Spring and can be ordered from the John Henry Company in Michigan. (800 748-0517) They will ship the product to you in various quantities.

4. Depending on the size of the blooms, we place them into one to

four ounce plastic soufflé cups. Prior to putting the treated "Spring"warm water into the cups, the cups have been loosely filled with perlite which performs two functions. It keeps water from spilling out of the cups while traveling and it supports the blooms by keeping the calyx from separating from the rest of the blooms.

5. We carefully pack six to eight blooms into each of our containers. It should be noted that the bottom of each container is lined with about a one inch layer of fiberfill. The container is then placed in the refrigerator at a recommended 40°. Our refrigerator is set at a range of one-half degree above and below 40°. The containers are not taken out of the refrigerator until we are ready to leave home for the airport.

Chris is packed and ready to go!

6. We also place small 3 inch square packets designed to remove ethylene from the air into our containers—one on each of the four sides of the container. Ethylene gases are helpful in causing items such as fruit to ripen, but they also make camellias and other flowers reach "old age" before we want them to do so. A product called Ethylene Control draws ethylene out of the air and allows camellia and other blooms to remain fresh longer. The packets may be ordered by calling 559 896-1909. The packets are reusable and cost $.14 each. The minimum number that the company will ship is 2,000 packets. We recommend that you order the packets with a few of your friends.

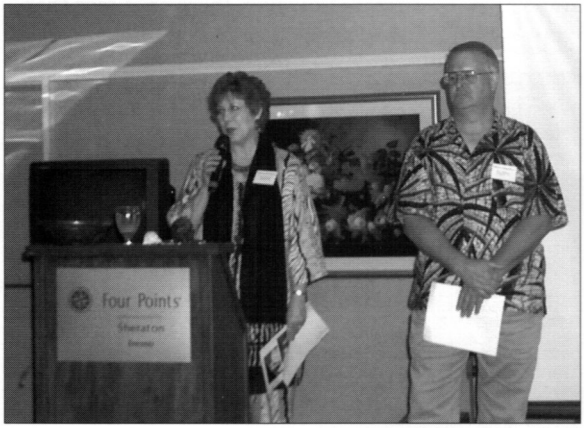
The containers we use to travel cross country are one piece plastic sweater boxes. The top of the containers snaps shut. The ideal size is 17 1/2 x 14 x 6 1/2 inches. This size fits conveniently under the airline seat in front of you where you normally place you feet. This will work on most aircraft; however, there are times that the space for your feet will not accommodate the container. At this point you have to be innovative as to where and how you place the container. We should note that the blooms in the containers can safely pass through airport screening devices. However, you need to be careful that the container does not roll too rapidly down the conveyor belt. Someone has to be ready to "stop" the container as soon as it clears the screening device.

Most ACS meetings take place a day or two prior to the flower show. Once again, refrigeration is required. Immediately when registering at the hotel where the ACS meetings will take place, request that your container(s) of blooms be placed in the walk-in refrigerator where they store their lettuce and produce. The lettuce thermostat is usually set at about 40°. Do not open the container to check the condition of the blooms until you are ready to stage and place them in the show. Do not be concerned if one or more blooms did not travel well. This is normal as some blooms have more substance than others.

One of the joys of exhibiting camellias is to be able to successfully travel with them. If you have not flown with them in the past and the opportunity presents itself, try it. The effort expended is well worth it.

Good Luck!!

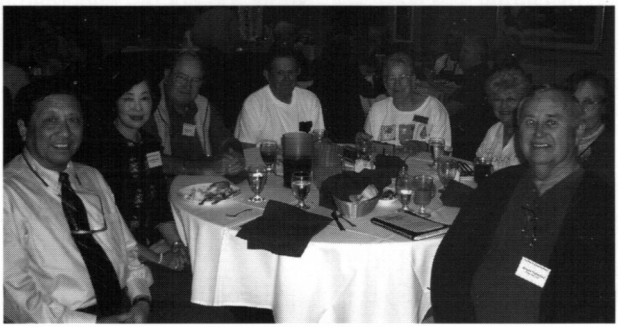
MEMORIES OF CAMELLIA-RAMA 2003



Gary and Carol Schanz shared about their trip to South Africa with slides and artifacts. They didn't find many camellias, but it seemed they had a wonderful time!

Sergio & Elsie Bracci shared with the attendees some of the things they have learned about growing prize-winning camellias.

Dinner time brings LOTS of smiles



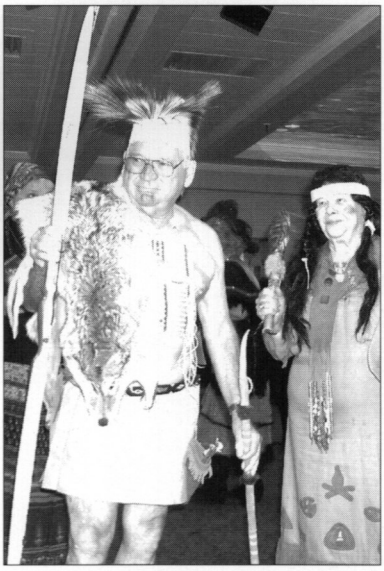
Some of the Winning Costumes

Hal and Deane Burch -- Black and white doesn't do justice to Hal's long headdress with all its beautiful red fethers.

Granny Betty

Above -- Elsie Wyatt Earp Bracci and Miss Kitty

Right–Chief Jim Toland and Jean



"Shady Ladies" Virginia Rankin and Miss Kitty Bracci

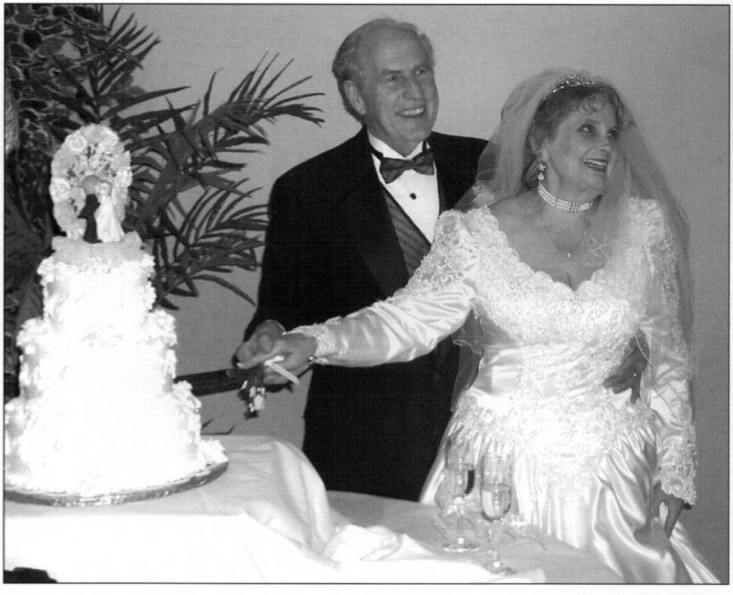
Below—

Sherrif Don Brgamini and his Mary

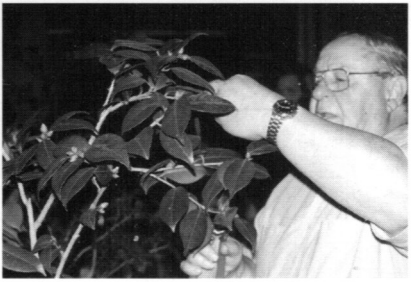
"Parson" Don Fretz and his Lady Fran. Don shed this robe for his Judge's robe for the pictures on the following page and surprised us all!

. . . and the BIG surprise at Camellia-Rama

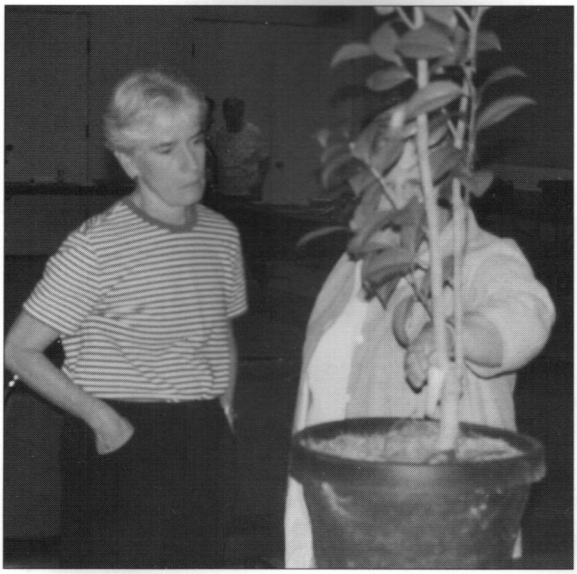
Meet the newlyweds—
Bob and Linda Ehrhart



Elsie and Sergio Bracci demonstrtate their pruning techniques.



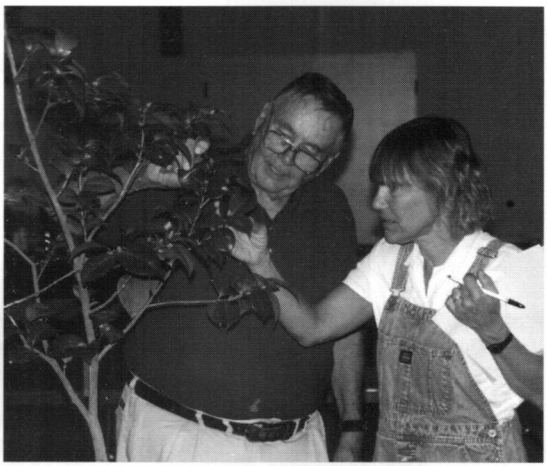
Daveid Trujillo shows how he does it to
Julius Christinson, Brad King and
Sergio Bracci



That's JoAnn Brewer hiding behing her pruning project as she shows Linda Troyer how pruning is to be done.

Mel Belcher shows an interested newcomer how he would approach pruning this plant.

Photos
by Les Brewer



Below—To cut or not to cut??? Marilee Gray Jeanne Trefzger and Libby Lent make a "group" decision about how to prune this plant.

Gene Snooks submitted a copy of the original charter dated November 10, 1945 certifying that the San Diego Camellia Society was a component of the Southern California Camellia Society and was the first of the camellia societies to come.

The charter was signed by David W. McLean, President, and Thor Petersen, Secretary. There were 26 Charter Members.

Southern California Camellia Society

NUMBER ONE

Pasadena, California

THIS CHARTER

certifies that the

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

is a component of the

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

to operate under and in harmony with the Constitution and Administrative By-Laws of the Southern California Camellia Society whose Board of Directors has authorized the issuance of this Charter.

Given under our hand and seal this tenth day of November, 1945.

Thor Petersen, Secretary — David W. McLean, President

CHARTER MEMBERS

W. T. Alderson
Mrs. W. T. Alderson
Lucien C. Atherton
E. D. Brooks
Mrs. E. D. Brooks
Durwin H. Brownell
Austin P. Carlton
Mrs. Austin P. Carlton
Dr. C. E. Collins
Mrs. C. E. Collins
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Dr. L. H. Murdock
Richard L. Pinnell
Dr. L. H. Redelings
Mrs. L. H. Redelings
Joseph W. Sefton
Harvey F. Short
H. F. Stoner

DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB & CAMELLIA SOCIETY; President—Sherry Miller; Secretary—Pam Jambor, PO Box 918, Atwater, CA 95301, Meetings 3rd Tuesday, September-June, 6:30 p.m. St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, 1635 Shaffer Road, Atwater.

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—Dick Rutherford; Secretary—Helen Maas, 4616 Pico Avenua, Bakersfield, CA 93305. For meeting dates and times, call Helen Maas (661)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—Mary Bergamini; Secretary—Don Bergamini. 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—Doug Nowlin; Secretary—Bob Sheriff. Meetings: lst Monday, October-April, 7:00 p.m. Dept. of Education Building, 200 Kalmus, Costa Mesa

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Elsie Bracci. Meetings: lst Thursday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Barbara Coates Tuffli; Secretary—Christina Isenberg, 240 Polhemus Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027 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 Thursday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., La Verne Community Center, "D" Street, La Verne.

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

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Gene Snooks; 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—Kathleen Hall.. 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—Beth Stone, 1997 Queensberry Road, Pasadena, CA 91104-3351. 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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