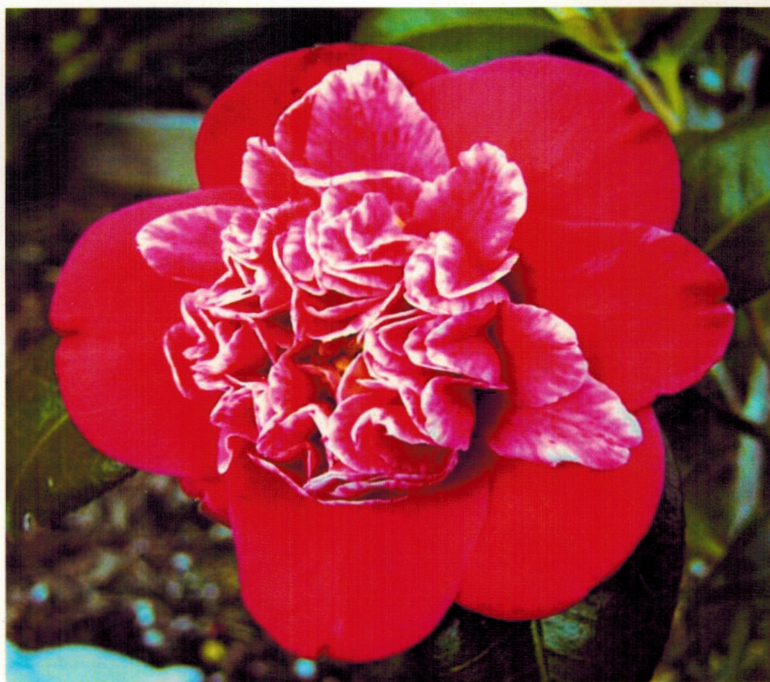


THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



C. japonica 'Shikibu'



Grace Albritton

'Alison Leigh Woodroof'

Small bloom.

Vigorous, compact,
upright growth.

McCaskill 1955



'Egao'

Medium to large bloom.



'Shibori Egao'

Variegated form of 'Egao'

Medium to large bloom.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vol. 69

September-December, 2007

No. 1

| | |
|---|----|
| Thanks to our Generous Members | 3 |
| The Judges Have Spoken in 2007, Don Bergamini | 4 |
| Southern California Show Schedule for 2008 | 6 |
| Pacific Camellia Society Mini Show Results | 7 |
| Yellow Camellia, Bradford King | 8 |
| <i>C. Tunghinensis</i> and <i>C. Yunnanensis</i> , Bradford King | 10 |
| When Someone You Love Leaves the Earth, Linda Tunner | 11 |
| About Light, E. C. Tourje | 15 |
| Camellia Cuttings, L. Marbury | 17 |
| Disbudding, Thomas Savige | 19 |
| Pruning the Camellia Plant, Harold L. Paige, C. Norwood Hastie, Jr. | 21 |
| Directory of California Camellia Societies | 23 |

COVER PHOTO

C. japonica 'Shikibu'

Rose red miniature anemone form with rose red
petaloids edged white. Upright growth.

M-L (Japan to U.S. 1981—Nuccio's)

This bloom is from Esther's Garden—see Linda Tunner's
article on page 11

Photo by Joe Tunner

Visit our new website—
www.socalcamellias.org

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Southern California Camellia Society will welcome you as a member.
Annual membership — \$25.00 Includes subscription to *The Camellia
Review* (three issues per year).

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| New Member | \$25.00 | Sponsoring Member | \$50.00 |
| Regular Member | \$25.00 | Sustaining Member | \$100.00 |
| | Patron Member | | \$150.00 |

Send payment for dues to the Treasurer/Membership Chairman.

2006 Camellia Nomenclature with over 150 pages describing
more than 4,00 varieties is available at a cost of \$12 per copy mailed to
United States address and \$14 per copy if mailed outside the US. Copies
can be ordered by sending a check payable to

Southern California Camellia Society
c/o Bobbie Belcher,
40641 Via Amapola, Murrieta, CA 92562.

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

You will notice that this issue of the Review has a format change with color pictures of some of the most popular varietal blooms on the inside front and back covers. These pictures reflect Don Bergamini's work of annually gleaming from the show results the most prominent winners. Our treasurer assures me that there was no "extra cost" for printing by using the cover for additional color.

I am sure you will enjoy Linda Tunner's centerfold article honoring her grandmother. Joe Tunner photographed the 'Shikibu' on the cover as well as the other pictures in Linda's article.

Thanks again to Brad King for his article covering the historical successes and failures with yellow camellias by many hybridizers .

We have selected for this issue some archival dandies that should have special significance for this time of year. One article is from Tom Savige of Australia on disbudding. The second is from Harold L. Paige on pruning. For today's exhibitor both these subjects are very important, so much so I want to highlight a couple of facts.

Mr. Savige recommends that we not start disbudding too early because it **will be a waste of time**. New buds will be set in the place of the ones **removed**. He also recommends pruning after buds have set thus alleviating **tedious bud-by-bud removal**. He also recommends summer pruning. I agree **but would also suggest** pruning in late summer or fall.

Mr. Paige zeros in on the necessity of pruning in order to have healthy plants. He particularly emphasizes the removal of all interior and low-growing limbs that could be subject to disease and pests. You will benefit from reading more about disbudding and pruning from these giants of the camellia world.

As we approach the '07- '08 camellia season, here's wishing you good pruning, good disbudding and good blooms for the shows. Perhaps we will even be surprised by varieties we've waited patiently for to show their real worth, even the "mongrels."

—Mel Belcher, Editor

CAMELLIA STATIONERY

Our beautiful camellia notecards 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.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS

Patron Members

James Fitzpatrick and Barbara Carroll
Bradford and Lynn King

Sustaining Members

Mel and Bobbie Belcher
Les and JoAnn Brewer
Julius and Dorothy Christinson
Tom and Dody Gilfoy
Don and Marilee Gray

Sponsoring Members

Bill and Bev Allman
Gregory and Rosamay Davis
Fran Neumann
Ralph Shafer
James and Elaine Smelley



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY PROGRAMS FOR 2007

The Southern California Camellia Society meets each month at
The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens
Located just south of I-210 at 301 North Baldwin Ave. in Arcadia

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ALL MEETINGS

Meetings begin at 7:15 PM with a culture session followed by the featured
program.

Refreshments and a camellia plant raffle conclude each meeting.

OCTOBER 25

David MacLaren, curator of the Asian Gardens at The Huntington Library, & Botanical Gardens will share status and plans for "The New Chinese Garden at the Huntington." The final design size will be 12 acres making it the largest classical Chinese gardens outside of China.

NOVEMBER 15

Descanso Gardens curator Wen Wang will fill us in on the details of a five-year field research project just begun in the Oak and Camellia forest. The purpose of the project is to determine the best course of action to maximize the health of both Descanso's world famous Camellia collection and the Coast Live Oaks.

DECEMBER---No meeting. HAPPY HOLIDAYS---SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!

The public is invited to these free meetings.

THE JUDGES HAVE SPOKEN IN 2007

Don Bergamini Martinez, California

The big winners this year were definitely 'Frank Houser' and 'Frank Houser Variegated' which dominated the singles and multiple classes. The combined total of wins for these varieties was 42 wins. Also having a good number of wins were 'Red Hots' with 17 wins and 'Firedance Variegated' with 16 wins.

Newcomers that have done well were 'Hot Stuff' and 'Island Sunset'. These varieties seem to be the cultivars to watch for a lot more wins in the future.

Some of the old timers which continually make the winners list are 'Grand Slam', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Guilio Nuccio Variegated', 'C.M.Hovey', 'Flame', 'Herme', 'Ave Maria', 'Pink Perfection', 'Elegans Chandlerii', 'Grand Prix', 'Mathotiana Supreme', 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Debutante', 'Glen 40 Variegated', 'Glen 40', 'Hishi-Karaito', 'Covina' and 'Wildfire'. It is really good to see that these older varieties are not being overlooked at the shows. Good luck to all the exhibitors in 2008 and I hope to see many varieties reach the winners circle that we haven't seen much of in the past. See you all along the camellia trail.

SINGLES

Japonica VLg/Lg

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 'Royal Velvet' | 7 |
| 'Carter's Sunburst' | 4 |
| 'Lady Laura' | 3 |
| 'Miss Charleston Var.' | 3 |
| 'Elegans Splendor' | 2 |
| 'Ivory Tower' | 2 |
| 'Junior Prom' | 2 |
| 'Katie' | 2 |
| 'Showtime' | 2 |
| 'Silver Cloud' | 2 |
| 'Swan Lake' | 2 |
| 22 others with 1 each | |

Japonica Medium

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 'Betty Foy Sanders' | 5 |
| 'Firedance Var.' | 5 |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 'Nuccio's Carousel' | 3 |
| 'Black Magic' | 2 |
| 'Cherries Jubilee' | 2 |
| 'In The Pink' | 2 |
| 'Margaret Davis' | 2 |
| 'Nuccio's Jewel' | 2 |
| 26 others with 1 each | |

Small (Any Species)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 'Red Hots' | 7 |
| 'Ave Maria' | 3 |
| 'Demi-Tasse' | 3 |
| 'Maroon and Gold' | 3 |
| 'Spring Daze' | 3 |
| 'Dahlohnega' | 2 |
| 'Little Babe Var.' | 2 |
| 'Splash O' White' | 2 |
| 'Tinker Bell' | 2 |
| 'TomThumb' | 2 |
| 13 others with 1 each | |

Miniature (Any Species)

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 'Lemon Drop' | 6 |
| 'Little Michael' | 6 |
| 'Ann Clayton' | 2 |
| 'BotanYuki' | 2 |
| 'Grace Albritton' | 2 |
| 'Kewpie Doll' | 2 |
| 'Little Red Ridinghood' | 2 |
| 'Something Beautiful' | 2 |
| 11 others with 1 each | |

Retic and Retic Hybrids

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 'Frank Houser' | 15 |
| 'Frank Houser Var.' | 12 |
| 'Valentine Day' | 4 |
| 'Miss Tulare' | 3 |
| 'Queen Bee' | 3 |
| 'Crinoline' | 2 |
| 'Dr Clifford Parks' | 2 |
| 'Larry Piet' | 2 |
| 19 others with 1 each | |

Non-Retic Hybrids

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 'Hot Stuff' | 4 |
| 'Island Sunset' | 4 |
| 'Lucky Star' | 4 |
| 'Coral Delight Var.' | 3 |
| 'Debbie' | 3 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|----|
| 'E G Waterhouse' | 3 | Miniature or Small (Any Species) | |
| 'Julie Var.' | 3 | 'Red Hots' | 10 |
| 'Nicky Crisp' | 3 | 'Freedom Bell' | 3 |
| 'Super Star' | 3 | 'Hishi-Karaito' | 3 |
| 'Buttons N' Bows' | 2 | 'Man Size' | 3 |
| 'First Blush' | 2 | 'Maroon and Gold' | 3 |
| 'High Fragrance' | 2 | 'Paper Dolls' | 3 |
| 'Joe Nuccio' | 2 | 'Black Tie' | 2 |
| 'Waltz Time Var.' | 2 | 'Cupcake' | 2 |
| 'Water Lily Var.' | 2 | 'Grace Albritton' | 2 |
| 6 others with 1 each | | 'Little Babe Var.' | 2 |
| | | 'Little Michael' | 2 |
| Species | | 'Night Rider' | 2 |
| 'Egao' | 3 | 'Pink Perfection' | 2 |
| 'Grady's Egao' | 3 | 'Tama Peacock' | 2 |
| 'Shibori Egao' | 2 | 'Spring Daze' | 2 |
| 'Yuletide' | 2 | 16 others with 1 each | |
| 4 others with 1 each | | | |

MULTIPLES

Japonicas

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 'Firedance Var.' | 11 |
| 'Nuccio's Carousel' | 6 |
| 'Royal Velvet' | 5 |
| 'Lady Laura' | 3 |
| 'Tata' | 3 |
| 'Elegans Chandlerii' | 2 |
| 'Elegans Splendor' | 2 |
| 'Grand Marshal' | 2 |
| 'Grand Prix' | 2 |
| 'Kramer's Supreme' | 2 |
| 'Margaret Davis' | 2 |
| 'Royal Velvet Var.' | 2 |
| 'Sawada's Dream' | 2 |
| 'Swan Lake' | 2 |
| 'Wildfire' | 2 |
| 35 others with 1 each | |

Retic and Retic Hybrids

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 'Frank Houser' | 8 |
| 'Frank Houser Var.' | 7 |
| 'Lauretta Feathers' | 3 |
| 'Emma Gaeta Var.' | 2 |
| 'Sean Armijo Var.' | 2 |
| 'Valley Knudsen' | 2 |
| 10 others with 1 each | |

Non-Retic Hybrid

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 'Lucky Star' | 5 |
| 'Buttons N' Bows' | 4 |
| 'Waltz Time Var.' | 3 |
| 'Hot Stuff' | 2 |
| 'Nicky Crisp' | 2 |
| 'Super Star' | 2 |
| 11 others with 1 each | |

Species

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 'Shibori Egao' | 2 |
| 4 others with 1 each | |



There are many tired gardeners but I've seldom met old gardeners. I know many elderly gardeners but the majority are young at heart. Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized. The one absolute of gardeners is faith. Regardless of how bad past gardens have been, every gardener believes that next year's will be better. It is easy to age when there is nothing to believe in, nothing to hope for; gardeners, however, simply refuse to grow up. Thomas Jefferson said once, "Though an old man, I am but a young gardener." —Allan Armitage

There are several ways to lay out a little garden;
the best way is to get a gardener.

—Karel Capek

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SHOW SCHEDULE FOR 2008

- January 5 Exhibitors and Judges Symposium Workshop
 Hosted by Southern California Camellia Council
 Descanso Gardens, La Canada
- January 12 and 13 Pacific Camellia Society
 Descanso Gardens, La Canada
- January 19 and 20 Orange County Camellia Society
 Roger's Gardens, Corona del Mar
- January 26 and 27 Southern California Camellia Society
 Descanso Gardens, La Canada
- February 2 and 3 San Diego Camellia Society
 Casa del Prado
 Balboa Park, San Diego
- February 9 and 10 Southern California Camellia Society
 Huntington Gardens, San Marino
- February 16 and 17 Pomona Valley Camellia Society
 Community Center, 3680 "D" Street, LaVerne
- February 23 and 24 Southern California Camellia Council
 Descanso Gardens, La Canada
- March 1 and 2 Kern County Camellia Society
 Location to be announced later
- March 16 and 17 "Late Bloomers" Show
 Descanso Gardens
 Hosted by Pacific Camellia Society

Join Australia and New Zealand Camellia Societies

Australia Society
\$22.00 Single
\$22.00 Family

New Zealand Society
\$22.00 Single
\$25.00 Family

These are U.S. dollars.

Send your check payable to Southern California Camellia Society
c/o Beth Stone
1997 Queensberry Road
Pasadena, California 91104-3351.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY
4th Annual Late Bloomers Show
March 17 and 18, 2007

Japonica—Large/Very Large

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Katie Var.' | Dale & Mary Kay Mittag |
| Runner-up Single | 'Showtime' | Nancy Kress |
| Court of Honor | 'Mathotiana' | Helen Maas |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Snow Chan' | Joe & Linda Tunner |
| Runner-up Tray | 'Royal Velvet Var.' | Tom & Dody Gilfof |
| Court of honor | 'Moonlight Bay' | Tom & Dody Gilfof |

Japonica—Medium

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Firedance Var.' | Don & Marilee Gray |
| Runner-up | 'Nuccio's Jewel' | Dale & Mary Kay Mittag |
| Court of Honor | 'Hawaii' | Dale & Mary Kay Mittag |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Cherries Jubilee' | Don & Marilee Gray |
| Runner-up | 'Midnight Magic' | Jim & Armida Wilkin |
| Court of Honor | 'Prince Eugene Napoleon' | Joe & Linda Tunner |

Japonica—Miniature or Small

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Hishi-Karaito' | Don & Marilee Gray |
| Runner-up | 'Red Devil' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Court of Honor | 'Tom Thumb' | Tom & Dody Gilfof |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Tama Peacock' | Brad & Lynn King |
| Runner-up | 'Hishi-Karaito' | Marvin & Virginia Belcher |
| Court of Honor | 'Maroon and Gold' | Tom & Dody Gilfof |

Non-Reticulata Hybrid

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Single | 'Taylor's Perfection' | George & Karen Harrison |
| Runner-up | 'Dream Boat' | Michael Mathos |
| Court of Honor | 'Lucky Star' | Tom & Dody Gilfof |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Lucky Star' | Dale & Mary Kay Mittag |
| Runner-up | 'Pink Dahlia' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
| Court of Honor | 'Dreamboat' | Michael Mathos |

Reticulata or Reticulata Hybrid

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Best Single | 'Frank Houser' | Don & Marilee Gray |
| Runner-up | 'Phillip Mandarich' | E. C. Snooks |
| Court of Honor | 'Frank Houser Var.' | Don & Marilee Gray |
| Best Tray of 3 | 'Harold L. Paige' | Nancy Kress |
| Runner-up | 'Queen Bee' | Don & Marilee Gray |
| Court of Honor | 'Frank Houser' | Don & Marilee Gray |

Collector's Tray of 3 Mixed Varieties

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------|
| Best | 'Fashionata', 'Nuccio's Jewel', 'Little Michael' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |
| Runner-up | 'Queen Bee', 'Prima Ballerina', 'Jackpot' | Don & Marilee Gray |
| Court of Honor | 'Tata', 'Mary Alice Cox', 'Man Size' | Les & JoAnn Brewer |

Novice

Best Single

Runner-up Single

'Carter's Sunburst Blush'

'Larry Piet'

Emma Fagundo

Sean Buckner

St. Patrick's Day

Best

Runner-up

'Irish Mist'

'Blarney'

E. C. Snooks

Beth Stone

. . .

YELLOW CAMELLIA**Bradford King
Arcadia, California**

Camellia lovers have been waiting for a large yellow camellia since *C. nitidissima* was discovered in China in the 1960's. This discovery created great excitement in the camellia world because the bloom can be a deep golden yellow. Unfortunately, the next 40 years did not bring the hoped for success.

A few early introductions offered promise. Two of the partial successes are seen at camellia shows today. They are 'Dahlohnega' and 'Brushfield's Yellow'. 'Dahlohnega' is a small to medium formal double creamy white to a pale yellow. It blooms midseason on a nice plant with lovely gray bark. 'Brushfield's Yellow' has antique white guard petals surrounding a double center of pale yellow petaloids. It is a medium anemone formed flower.

Julius Nuccio detailed the difficulties faced in hybridizing with *C. nitidissima* (formerly called *Chrysantha*) in the 1995 Vol. 56 *Camellia Review*. He reported a successful cross between a hybrid 'Guilio Nuccio' x *C. pitardi* with *C. nitidissima* that resulted in two seed pods which netted 5 seeds. Three seeds germinated from one pod. These were grafted on large root stock. They were labeled as 'Honeymoon', Golden Glow 'and nxo#8728. Yellow was

present when they bloomed which gave them great confidence that developing a yellow camellia would be easy. They reasoned that back crossing would add more yellow. These three hybrids had many different characteristics with the common denominator inheriting the undesirable split stigma typical of *C. nitidissima*. This makes hybridizing very difficult. Julius Nuccio reported some success with back crosses from 'Golden Glow'. They harvested three pods which netted seven seeds with four germinating. These were grafted on large root stock. The resulting blooms were a great disappointment. Julius wrote "Not one of the above F2s proved to be as good as our first crosses". He also reported that out of several hundred control crosses there were 88 pods that developed when *C. nitidissima* was used as the seed parent. They found it difficult to predict when buds should be emasculated and that emasculation was also difficult to accomplish. They determined that 45 of the 88 were the result of self pollination which left 43 controlled crosses. These results led them to abandon using *C. nitidissima* as a seed parent. He closed the article stating that the progress toward a major color break toward the yellow has not been forth coming.

This evaluation is echoed by other experts. According to Dr. Ackerman, the yellow genes are recessive to all other color genes, even white. In addition, he reports that the interspecific crosses are very difficult with F1 hybrids sterile. Gao, Parks and Du (2005, p.112) state, "It (*C. nitidissima*) has been widely used in breeding programs, but it is nearly incompatible with other camellia species."

While my experience is limited to using pollen from *C. nitidissima* variety micarpa to a good seed parent such as 'Betty Sheffield Coral', I had no "takes." This increased my respect for the few hybridizers who have been successful in their attempts.

Mr. Tadao Yamaguchi of Ishikawa, Japan is a pioneer in developing yellow Camellias and has developed 'Shoko', 'Kicho', 'Kiho', 'Ki-No-Gozan' and 'Senritsu-Ko'. In my opinion his best introduction is 'Ki-No-Senritsu' (Yellow Melody). This light yellow medium flower is loose to full peony in form. Nuccio's Nurseries expects to have all of these yellows for sale in 2008.

I have another of Yamaguchi's crosses with *C. nitidissima* 'Ki-No-Joman'. It has a lovely small salmon pink single flower. It bloomed profusely on a bushy, vigorous growing upright plant. I used it as a pollen parent this year. One of ten attempts took with *C. japonica* seed parents and all six tries failed to cross with *C. reticulata*. Currently, I have one seed germinating from these crosses off 'Tama-No-Ura'. 'Ki-No-Joman' has not set any seeds from controlled crosses or when flowers were left for the bees to pollinate. This leads me to believe it is sterile which again supports the difficulty with *C. nitidissima* crosses even when there is *japonica* in their genetic background.

Mr. Kazuo Yoshikawa of Osaka, Japan has pursued many avenues in his goal to produce yellow Camellias. He has used *C. saluenensis* hybrids, *C. reticulata* hybrids, *C. japonica* and *C.*

sasanqua. Nuccio's Nursery has four of his crosses: 'Ki-No-Moto #92', 'Ki-No-Moto #95', 'Kogane Nishiki', and 'Kogane-Yuri'. Currently I grow the later two and have enjoyed the first flowers on each. While I expect them to be sterile, I will experiment to see if this is true. Yoshikawa has also introduced 'Kagiroi' one of the deepest crosses to date. It is a formal double produced by crossing 'Silver Chalice' with *C. nitidissima*. I would agree with Dr. Clifford Parks when he states this is the best yellow camellia to date.

More than forty yellow flowered camellia species have been discovered in China and Vietnam. The booms are generally small (less than 2.5 inches). The color tones range from golden yellow to pale yellow. In my opinion *C. flava* is the best of these for the next round in developing yellow camellias. It is known to cross with *C. japonica*. It develops into a small shapely tree with small leaves. I have several *C. flava* grafts developing. The goal would be to make controlled crosses with medium and large white japonicas. In the mean time, I have been hybridizing with *C.*

tunghinensis. It produces a profusion of small butter cup shaped pale yellow blooms mid to late season. I have frozen pollen to use next year on *C. sasanqua* 'Narumigata' even though my past experience with frozen pollen was a total bust. This year I made 13 controlled crosses on 'Silver Waves' and 'Silver Triumph' using *C. tunghinensis* pollen. Four pods developed three aborted with one still holding on. I also have one pod on 'Tama No Ura' and one on 'Tama Peacock' out of *C. tunghinensis*. I also experimented using *C. tunghinensis* as a seed parent. The flower is small but the pistol is visible and not fused i.e. there are 3 styles which receive pollen. It is very important that during process of emasculation that the styles are not cut or damaged. Currently there are eight be sized green pods developing. However, only one is a controlled cross using pollen from

'Snowman' out of 18 attempts. The bees are more successful with their 7 takes.

In conclusion I have joined the search for the Holy Grail--the yellow

camellia following the lead of Nuccio, Homeyer, Brushfield, Yoshikawa, Yamaguchi, Jury and other hybridizers through out the Camellia world.

C. TUNGHINENSIS* and *C. YUNNANENSIS Bradford King

C. tunghinensis grows in ravines and stream beds in Guangxi China between Fangcheng City and Dongxing City. The flower is a small single pale yellow. The leaves are glossy and medium size. The plant is a medium upright with a dense growth habit. The bark is gray brown. It blooms abundantly mid to late season. Research has determined it is a diploid with 30 chromosomes.

Professor Chang places this camellia species in Section *chrysantha*. This section is characterized by yellow flowers with distinct bracts and sepals. The styles are not fused at the base. This species has potential for hybridizing as well as

an ornamental garden plant. It is available at Nuccio's nursery. They recommend growing it in heavy shade to induce an abundant bud set and to show off the yellow flower.

The plant I purchased is robust with many glossy green leaves. It was clearly healthy. However, some leaves looked as if they were coated with gray mildew. According to Jude Nuccio this is typical. They have sent leaves to be examined by a botanical laboratory and no mildew, pests or disease were found. There is no known reason for this anomaly but it was not present on the extensive new growth.



C. yunnanensis was discovered in the Yunnan province of China. The flowers are small, white shading to cream at the center. The 8 to 12 petals are wavy. The abundant flower buds are rusty brown. The seed pods are purplish red that hang like Christmas tree ornaments when mature. Leaves are small elliptic to oval and are serrated on the edge with veining. New growth is described as yellowish. The plant can grow into a small tree with smooth rust brown bark. Research has determined it to be a diploid with 30 chromosomes. Professor Chang places this camellia

species in Section *protocamellia*. This section contains only five species. The common characteristics are white flowers borne singly on the tips of shoots with 8 to 14 petals. The stamens and style are free, e.g. not fused at the base. The seed pods are large with a thick wall. While this species has been used infrequently in hybridizing it has great potential. The flower is fragrant and has been reported to have a very long flowering season which last from fall to spring. It is suitable for mild climates with low humidity.

Odd as it may appear, a gardener does not grow from seed, shoot, bulb, rhizome, or cutting, but from experience and natural conditions.

—Karel Capek

WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE LEAVES THE EARTH

... some thoughts on creating a Memorial Garden Linda Billington-Tunner Encinitas, California

Our home and gardens are located a long way from where I grew up and learned to garden in North Denver as a child. Let's face it, when you move from Sunset Climate Zone 1 or 2 in Denver, Colorado . to Zone 24 in Leucadia, California, you are going to have to learn a few new things about gardening. Thanks to a lovely woman in my family whose fingers and thumbs were all green, I was prepared to adjust.

Esther B. J. Malthou-Billington (we all called her Honey) spent her whole life in North Denver raising three children; the middle one and only son was my Dad. She was the type of woman who could go to the grocery store and bring home three or four sadly neglected and highly discounted plants, pot them up in her "porch" and produce a veritable jungle environment by the time Thanksgiving and Christmas rolled around. I remember seeing the rampant growth against a window icy with snow, where everything outdoors was dead. When you live in a northern climate, the smallest green thing in January is like a miracle.

When Honey died on September

21, 2005, just short of her 93rd birthday, I had already been thinking of expanding our camellia collection in our 1/3 acre garden. I was very much taken with the small and miniature camellia flowers exhibited

by people like Bob and Mary Sheriff and Don and Mary Bergamini, among others. I thought about my grandmother and how much she loved gardening and simple and beautiful things and children and animals. I wanted to create a space that she would have loved, even though she could never see it herself. My goal was to create a garden to make her

smile, wonder, and continually come back to. I also wanted to create a space where people could reflect on her life and the lives of other people they loved and re-membered who had already gone.

The space I chose was in a relatively quiet portion of the back yard, an old vegetable gardening box with good soil. It measures 10' by 20' and is bounded on the back by a clump of dwarf apple bananas. There is a wood fence on the north side with



"My feet may go, but my heart stays at home"—a sentiment with which Honey would agree.

a south facing exposure. I had already planted Kanjiro along this south facing fence, an Anna's Apple tree, and a beautiful Wurtz Avocado. In between the avocado and the apple, I added a

raised planter containing Little Michael, which was made with old pruned Myoporum tree branches from the trees at the back of our property. (I did a raised planter to ensure that no avocado roots were injured by digging and to prevent oak root fungus from invading the avocado tree.) Two other camellias, Pearl's Pet and Kewpie Doll, were planted on the other sides of the avocado and apple in the same style of planters

'E. G.

Waterhouse' had long ago come out of its 20 inch clay cylinder to go east of 'Kanjiro' along the fence. But I needed something in-between. I had long admired JoAnn and Les Brewer's 'Choji Guruma' blossoms at the shows and finally succeeded in getting a one gallon plant from Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, California. Further along the garden fence is a very vigorous San Diego Red Bouganvillea purchased by Mom and Dad on their visit to our home. This espalier provides a backdrop for the garden looking east.

In the main garden box, the following camellias are arranged around the edge of the boundary:

'Baby Peal', 'Sweet Jane', 'Tinker Bell' 'Lemon Drop', 'Lipstick' 'Shikibu', 'Something Beautiful' 'Hopkin's Pink', 'Jingle Bells' 'Tinsie', 'Confetti Blush', 'Sugar Babe' 'Shuchuka'.

A couple of unicorns, many small birds, frogs, and angel statues, and a new garden bench increased the charm of this garden along with a delightful white gated iron archway. Joe built a brick encircled garden shaded by a powder pink-flowered Dombeya. In it are planted seven Higo

camellias, regarded as the sacred Samurai flowers, including the symbol of the Japanese Higo Society, 'Osaraku' (Long Amusement). They guard the East entrance through the gated arch to what we were now calling 'Esther's Garden.'

I thought these plants would be all for a while. But sitting on the garden bench looking into her garden, you could see the other garden box next door which had much better soil for veggies. However, a vegetable garden, even in Southern California, goes through dormant and unattractive



South exposure of Esther's Garden looking east.

times. I realized I needed to screen off that garden box and use some of its good dirt. I thought that scented camellias from the small and miniature size would further delight

my grandmother and planted: 'Minato-no-Akebono', 'Scented Gem', 'Koto-no-Kaori', 'Scentuous', 'Baby Sergeant' (not scented, but a gift from the Bergamini garden), and 'Spring Mist'. I still have room, possibly, for 'Cinnamon Cindy', if one of these grafts takes, a gift from the garden of Howard and Mary Rhodes, Tallahassee Florida.

I love this new garden. Every day it helps me remember my Grandmother and I just know if she could see it, her eyes would light up and she would look just like a little girl. We had sent her pictures of our other camellias and

told her about the shows we went to and the people and gardens we met and visited. She was so excited by the pictures of our flowers.

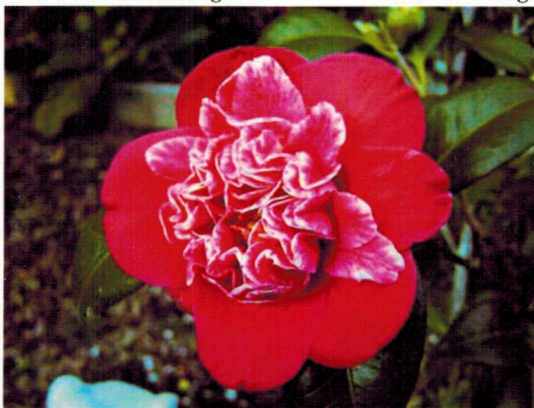
I am still working on "Esther's

Garden." 'Mini-mint', 'Tiny-Belle', 'Little-Bo-Peep' (Honey would have loved that one), and

'Maroon and Gold' are in raised brick planters by the back path to her garden.

'Man Size', 'Cardinal's Cap', 'Nishiki Kirin', and 'Itsu-kamachi' have new raised brick planters to complete the allee along this pathway. I am also thinking about turning the corner of the veggie garden to include more fragrant varieties like 'Fragrant Pink'...

There comes a time in everyone's life when they remember someone who is no longer there. I believe that the peace of a garden can take your grief and turn it into hope. I know that now



'Shikibu' grows in Esther's Garden and is special because it was the first "crystal winner" from Esther's Garden.



working on a special garden can give meaning to an entire family's life and

can help everyone cope with loss. No plant is so mysterious and beautiful,



Esther herself sits on the garden border at Carol and Robert Billington's house in Wheat Ridge, Colorado.



"With a garden there is **always** hope."

ABOUT LIGHT

E. C. Tourje
La Canada, California

It has been said that the most important thing in the world is light. This may be the subject of controversy between botanists, biologists, biochemists, theologians and others, but it is not difficult to accept as fact during the short and oftentimes dark and dreary days of the winter months. Yes, but what does all this have to do with camellias?

If light is essential to all plant life, the growth and growth habits of camellias will be effected by the intensity of light, and to its duration. The purpose of this article is to discuss those aspects.

The temptation is great to discuss also the effect of light on the time of blooming, and the quantity and quality of bud seed and resultant blossoms. An attempt to cover in one article both phases of the subject would confuse rather than clarify.

Moreover, no consideration is being given to the subject of continuous light nor intermittent light, except as incidental to the discussion herein. The effect of intermittent light on plant life leaves many conclusions still to be reached. The same may be said for continuous light, although the topic is thoroughly covered by Dr. Walter E. Lammerts in "The Effect of Continuous Light," etc., appearing in "Camellia Research" by the Southern California Camellia Society and published by them. Refer to that article.

We have read about the lush vegetative growth in Alaska. There, during the short summer, plants grow to almost unbelievable size and with incredible rapidity. The amazing part of it is that this growth occurs in a top soil of but two or three feet above eternal frost! Why is no longer a secret; we know it is due to the long days during the short summers; the answer is light.

Please note that light intensity during the summer in Alaska is

relatively low. Thus it is that the effect of light is due to the duration rather than the intensity.

Absence of light also has its effect. A plant reaching for the sunshine realizes that it must have life-giving light, or it will perish.

The statements above apply to camellias too. The term "shade loving" as applied to camellias should not be taken literally. We know that camellias crowded together in the darker areas of the yard or the lath houses invariably grow spindly and "leggy". On the other hand, plants properly spaced in well-lighted areas grow better branches, and have better color.

Some years ago, I placed a flat of recently germinated seedlings under a bench in the propagating house. There were something over two hundred of these seedlings in the flat, averaging about three inches above the growing medium. Those seedlings which were directly under the edge of the bench were the only ones which had the benefit of strong light, only two or three rows. The seedlings further under the bench had no direct light. The indirect light lessened toward the rear of the flat.

The first change noticed in the appearance of the seedlings was that plants with indirect light leaned toward stronger light in front of the bench. The lean increased as the distance to the direct light increased and the light intensity diminished. Due to lack of space this flat of seedlings was permitted to remain under the bench for a considerable period of time.

When the seedlings were removed from their location under the bench it was found that not only were those at the rear bent further toward the light than those nearest to the light, but that the seedlings in the rear were very definitely smaller and less developed than those in the front. And, from

front to rear the size of the plants became progressively smaller. Furthermore, although the seedlings at the front were of good color, rich green, the color lessened as the rows progressed toward the rear. These rear plants were pale and anaemic in appearance.

There are definite reasons for the difference in size, leaf development, color and behavior of those seedlings receiving strong light under the front edge of the bench and those furthest removed from that light.

During the germination of the camellia seed the first evidence that manifests itself after the cracking of the hard coating is the primary root, or radicle. Where the radicle protrudes from the shell is the growth point of the infant seedling, the pumule.

If you examine this growth point closely, two miniature leaves will be discovered. The pumule with its tiny leaves starts to grow and thrusts its point upward to the light, shortly after the development and growth of the radicle. There the pumule unfolds its tiny leaves, and in the performance of the miracle light is the chief and basic factor.

This small plant grows, fed by the rich cotyledons within the seed. These cotyledons are attached to the radicle and pumule until they have exhausted their vitality. But as it grows, this small plant draws moisture from the medium in which it is growing, up through the root and the stem of the plant to the leaves, where much of the moisture is evaporated through transpiration. But a portion of the moisture is utilized in the growth process.

There are many factors which enter into the processing of raw materials with which the camellia grows. One factor, however, stands out as undoubtedly the most important factor: light.

The light most beneficial to plant life is that derived from the sun. This solar light in its varying degrees of intensity has many influences on the

plants which it affects. We have seen how the diminishing light influenced the growth and development of the seedlings under the bench. There are other influences exercised on plants by the presence or absence of light; the most important of all influences is that light is indispensable to the process by which raw materials consisting of moisture and carbon dioxide are transformed into plant food: photosynthesis.

When light falls upon the green cells of the camellia leaf, chlorophyll which is the green pigment in the leaf traps and absorbs some portion of that light. This trapped light, together with the chlorophyll, water, and carbon dioxide are converted into glucose, the most soluble form of sugar.

Sugar is the basic food of plants like camellias. The sugar manufactured by the plant is not only a food in itself, but also it is utilized to convert starches and other carbohydrates, fats and proteins, nitrogen, phosphorous, potash and other mineral salts into the foods essential to the life of the plant. It is widely believed that the glucose itself is convertible into these other substances.

The point, however, is that light is the basic factor in whatever occurs in nature's processes.

It should be noted that the camellia makes its maximum growth and sets its flower buds at approximately the time when daylight is at its longest duration and at the height of its intensity. The camellia in its growth and development is undeniably a "long day" plant, and light plays a most important part in that growth and development.

Light is so important that young seedlings will live for many months in a growing medium consisting only of washed sand and a bit of peat without added nutrient, and without displaying detrimental effect if given the benefit of strong light for long periods. The reason is that seedlings with the aid of light manufacture their own food from the moisture in the

leaves and the carbon dioxide abstracted from the atmosphere.

Under normal conditions the same processes which occur in the young seedlings take place also in the more mature plants. The difference is that it is less noticeable. Realize the value of that light, and give your plants the benefit of the cheapest but most important single factor in the development of plant life.

(Ed. note: Camellias exposed to too much light may "sunburn" the leaves, due to rapid transpiration. Without water, the temperature in the leaf rises sharply, and the leaf actually chars. The reason is that camellias cannot draw water up the stem fast enough to replace water lost

by transpiration. Without the cooling effect generated by transpiration, the leaf becomes hot.

However, like all chemical activity, the higher the leaf temperature, the more-rapid the growth may happen, until the leaf temperature becomes too water-deprived for photosynthesis.

Each plant will have an individual tolerance, based on leaf and stem structure, and depending also on external moisture.)

From *Camellian* January 1953

.

CAMELLIA CUTTINGS

L. Marbury
Wilmington, North Carolina

There is a wide difference of opinion as to the best methods of rooting camellia cuttings; so much so in fact that it is hardly possible to find any two nurseries using exactly the same procedure.

Visiting various camellia nurseries and growers around the country, I found a wide difference of opinion regarding the best method to root cuttings. Some will use nothing but pure sand, some peat and sand in various proportions, others Vermiculite, saw dust, and on and on.

After trying most every method I could find, I got fair results, both under glass and in the open, with proper shade. However, on a trip to California, I saw at one nursery the finest rooted cuttings I had ever seen; not better rooted than others, but the percentage of losses was practically nil.

Being vitally interested in better results, I questioned this party as to what he attributed such remarkable success, and he was kind enough to

explain to me his entire method, which I will pass along to those interested.

First of all, he used a standard 3 x 6 cold frame placed in a sunny location in order to get an abundance of heat, but protected the frames from the sun's rays with a covering over the glass of either burlap or cotton cloth. He built a frame around the cold frame, with the top of this frame about six feet high. Then he applied cloth to the frame, around the sides and top but leaving the northern exposure entirely open for an abundance of light. This "height frame" leaves room to open and close the glass tops at will.

First, fill the bottom of the cold frame with three or four inches of common sand of any kind. It makes no difference as to the grade of sand used, since you will only use this for bottom moisture and no cuttings at all are planted into this sand.

Next, he used trays about 15 x 22" and about six or eight inches deep.

This size tray is used because the cold frames will hold six of these trays. However, they can vary in size to fit your own cold frame.

If wooden bottoms are used in the trays, several small holes should be made for drainage. On the other hand, screen wire or other material can be used for the bottoms. These trays should be filled to a depth of about four or five inches with a mixture of two-thirds coarse builder's sand and one-third peat moss. This is wet thoroughly and tightly packed by using a brick or wooden block.

You are now ready to insert your cuttings. Select good, strong cuttings, preferably four or five inches long, and leave three leaves at the top. Dip these cuttings in either Rootone or Hormodin and then insert them two or three inches deep in the sand and peat mixture. They can be placed about one and one-half inches apart.

After you have completely filled the tray, water it well and let it stand out in the open until all water has thoroughly dried off of the cuttings before placing them in the cold frame.

Up to this point this method is about the same as that used by many growers, and it is from this point on where I found the answer to almost perfect results.

Now, thoroughly wet the sand in the bottom of this cold frame, and instead of placing these trays directly on top of the sand in the cold frame, place them on a couple of bricks, placing one at each end of the frame. In this way you will leave a couple of inches of air space between the sand and the bottom of the tray.

From now on until your cuttings are thoroughly rooted, you will never

put any more water on the trays; all watering will be on the sand in the bottom of the cold frame. In other words, about every 10 days or two weeks run your hose around the outside of the trays and thoroughly wet the sand in the cold frame. In this way the trays will absorb all of the moisture they will require.

After you originally place your trays in the frame, close the glass top and leave it closed for about two weeks, both day and night. After two or three weeks, you can give some a little air by placing a brick or stick under the glass top and then close it at night.

You will judge the amount of water required in the bottom by carefully feeling the sand in the trays, and as long as the sand in the trays remains moist, no further watering of the bottom sand is required. You will really be amazed at the little attention these cuttings will require.

I have found July, August and September to be about the best months for starting cuttings. However, I have rooted them almost every month in the year, except when the wood was too green and tender, and with this method I have rooted with almost 100% success such hard to root varieties as Alba Plena and others, and I am sure that anyone having trouble in successful rooting will find this method the answer to their problems.

If you want to root just a few cuttings, instead of using the original cold frame, just use an old window sash for a top and build the four sides out of common 1 x 12 or similar material.

From *Camellian* September 1950

To boldly grow where no one has
groan before . . .
—David Hobson

There are no garden mistakes, only experiments.
—Janet Kilburn Phillips

DISBUDDING

Thomas Savige
Wirlinga, Australia

The practice of disbudding (removing surplus flower buds from plants) is as old as horticulture itself and based upon the simple mathematical principle that the fewer divisions made in any substance, the larger each will be. Theoretically, it presupposes that a plant can produce only a certain total quantity of blooms satisfactorily; consequently, if better blooms are desired, their number must be reduced. This applies not only to the size but to the quality of the flowers as well, for the available nutrients and water (the latter constituting over 90% of the substance of a camellia flower) are then spread over a fewer number of blooms.

The first thing that must be determined is to distinguish between flower buds and leaf buds, for their appearance is similar and they develop at approximately the same time. Camellia blooms that are of compound structure (double, rose form, peony form and anemone form flowers) have a large number of petals and the buds are therefore more round in shape than the semidouble and single forms, which tend to be slender and pointed—the shape of the growth buds. This makes the matter of distinguishing between the two somewhat more difficult. In such case, the best way to determine which to remove is to press sidewise against, or twist the bud slightly. If it is a flower bud, usually it will break off the stem readily, but if a leaf bud it will resist the pressure and show reluctance to rube off. It is also normally the case that the leaf buds appear singly, whereas the flower buds may set almost any number up to about a dozen in a cluster. Removal of the excess buds in such case is much more difficult and will probably require using both hands—one supporting the stem while the other twists off the unwanted buds.

Generally speaking in the care and

culture of camellias one can prescribe pretty broad rules. That is to say, with some minor deviations, as to such things as fertilizer (certain japonicas and reticulatas, for example, seem to prefer less) what is good for one is good for all. In the case of disbudding, however, we have something that requires more specific direction. That is because of two reasons: (1) the propensity for budsetting varies a great deal as between camellia varieties and species, and (2) whether or not to disbud will depend largely upon the usage to which the camellia's florescence is to be put.

Disbudding accomplishes two things, primarily: it concentrates the plant's energies on the development of few flowers; it regulates the position and spacing of the blooms on the branch so that each may open unhindered. It is also possible to so disbud as to reduce the danger of damage to the blossoms by the movement of nearby leaves and twigs or of the flower itself. Even where it is desired to leave on a substantial quantity of buds so as to have a good mass effect when the camellia is in bloom, there is an advantage to disbudding lightly in such a way that the flowers will be alternately on either side of the branch, which permits of closer spacing but without the interference of one flower with the next.

In the case of *C. sasanquas* and camellias whose principal purpose is to produce a mass blooming effect, without regard to the quality of the individual flower, there is, of course, little to be gained by disbudding. There is the further fact that because the buds are so numerous, the work becomes exceedingly tedious. Furthermore, where the life of the individual blossom is fleeting a very great many buds are necessary in order to provide a continuity of bloom. This same consideration

makes it desirable to leave on buds of various sizes (stages of development) so that blooms will be had over a longer period than would be the case if only the largest buds were left.

Some camellias, notably the *C. reticulatas*, have a tendency to concentrate their bud set on the terminals of the branches instead of distributing them fairly evenly. In some cases, this results in a veritable mass of buds at the end of the twig and necessitates drastic action. Some care is required to avoid breaking off the entire bud population.

It is a fairly universal rule that the number of buds will be in direction relation to the amount of sun the camellia received, broadly speaking. Thus there is the budding habit of the camellia to consider when choosing the environment in which the camellia is to live. One would be better off to place a heavy budder, such as 'Lotus' or 'C. M. Hovey' in fairly deep shade and a shy bloomer such as 'Guilio Nuccio' and most of the reticulatas, where the amount of sunlight will be quite substantial.

In the case of the heavier bud setters, it is a fairly common mistake to start disbudding too early in the season which simply results in another crop or crops of buds replacing those removed. There is nothing gained because the energy that would be saved with respect to the development of the first set is expended in growing another set or sets; and the effect is largely wasted.

In evaluating a camellia, it is quite important that the budsetting habit be taken into consideration. If it is at either one of the extremes, the value of the camellia is lessened, for a shy bloomer yields an insufficient reward while an excessively heavy budder causes an inordinate amount of work

assuming, of course, that its function is to furnish a source of cut flowers rather than a mass blooming effect in the garden.

In practice, some growers (particularly exhibitors) have gone so far as to treat a camellia like a chrysanthemum, actually removing all except a few branches from small plants, on each of which only a single bud is left, so as to throw all the vigor into just a few blooms. At the other extreme is the person who pays absolutely no attention to the quantity of buds, permitting the plant to attempt to open an unconscionable number of flowers, which then develop undersized and misshapen due to the lack of space and/or energy necessary by which to open properly. It is not the purpose of this discussion to take issue with either practice but rather to guide a course midway between such extremes.

There is more than one way of removing unwanted flower buds from a camellia—a much easier way than laboriously picking off surplus buds one by one. A very satisfactory method is to prune the camellia lightly in summer, after the buds have formed, thus eliminating a great number of them in one operation and, at the same time, performing a desirable operation that will produce a more beautiful plant, as well as a healthier one.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that, while disbudding is not an absolute necessity, it is certainly recommended as a practice calculated to give the best results.

From *The Camellia, Its History, Culture, Genetics and Look Into Its Future Development*, American Camellia Society 1978.

Out of gardens grow fleeting flowers but lasting friendships.
—Beverly Rose Hopper

Hope for the future is at the heart of all gardening.
—Unknown

PRUNING THE CAMELLIA PLANT

Harold L. Paige, Lafayette, California

C. Norwood Hastie, Jr., Charleston, South Carolina

Careful and scientific pruning of camellias has now become an accepted part of their culture and care, although proper pruning is perhaps the most neglected phase of camellia culture today. Perhaps the practice would be more freely employed if the grower gave more thought to the problems served by pruning and thereby developed greater confidence in his undertaking.

There are two primary reasons for pruning. Other reasons apply in specific instances, such as the growing of camellias for the cut-flower market where symmetry and form of plant contour is unimportant, but the two principal reasons for pruning are those which confront every camellia grower: one is to improve and maintain the health and physical well-being of the plant; the other is to improve the appearance of the plant.

The health and physical well-being of the camellia plant require that the pruner determine the difference between good wood and wood which should be removed for the benefit of the plant. One method suggested for the consideration of the novice is that he examine the twigs growing in the shady interior of the plant and compare them with the vigorous shoots on the outside of the plant. It will be noted that some are dead; others will be of small caliper. Still other twigs will have, at best, only one weak terminal bud and no lateral bud shoots in contrast with top shoots with two or more well-developed terminal leaf buds and lateral buds along the stem. It should be noted that frequently the annual growth at the top of the plant will equal that of several years on the interior twigs. Examination of any branch will readily disclose the number of growth buds; color and texture of the bark will show great

contrast. That of interior twigs is dull and brown and gray, rough and knotty; bark of vigorous apical shoots is light brown and smooth. Plants should be studied with these factors in mind until the pruner can detect at a glance which wood should be removed. Ability to detect the difference can be gained only by working with the plants.

The interior twigs which have been described should be removed. The ideally pruned, mature camellia plant is one with an interior completely free of twigs and foliage, with lower limbs pruned clear of the surrounding soil. The outer perimeter of the plant will then become more dense and symmetrical. The plant will be given greater health and vigor as well as improved appearance. It may not be possible to accomplish this in a single season.

Pest control, particularly the control of scale, is closely tied in with pruning. The observer will note how scale is favored on branches near the ground and seems to thrive on interior twigs. Removal of lower branches and interior growth, particularly on plants not in containers, eliminates materially scale-breeding areas and enables insecticides to perform their services more effectively. It is difficult, if not impossible, to eliminate scale by spraying if plant growth is so thick that the spray will not penetrate to all parts of the plant or if there are branches so close to the ground that the underleaf surface cannot be sprayed. A plant badly infested with scale must be drastically pruned or much of the spraying effort will be in vain. Watch for and remove deformed curled leaves; they harbor much scale.

Many growers hesitate to remove low branches in the belief that too many buds may be lost, but flowers

near the ground seldom amount to much because they are usually ruined by dirt and mud. Branches or foliage on field-grown plants less than 12 inches from the ground may be considered to be too low.

Restoration of old camellias to vigorous health cannot be accomplished without severe pruning. An old camellia through lack of proper care and feeding for years on end becomes a mass of long, stringy, knotty branches. Heavy feeding will serve little purpose unless this mass of poor wood is pruned out. A practical explanation seems to be that these branches have atrophied to such an extent that they are unable to put out new growth. Removal of those branches will force growth into new channels which will eventually dominate the plant. To prune an old camellia properly, each branch should be examined from the outer end and followed toward the main trunk. Usually somewhere between the tip and the trunk there will be a vigorous shoot, perhaps small, starting out. Remove the branch at this point, leave the shoot to break out and grow. If a plant is in such poor condition that good medial shoots cannot be found, the best course to pursue is to remove a large portion of the poor branches and wait to see what parts will put out new growth. Portions which fail to respond to this treatment should be

cut back further.

One excellent result of pruning is the rehabilitation of the root system. Sometimes roots are lost by being cut or injured in transplanting; occasionally the roots rot from excessive moisture in the soil or, as often happens, especially in container culture, a plant will dry out and lose much of its feeder roots. For any of these or other reasons in which the root system may sustain damage, such plants if not pruned may take years to return to normal if indeed they do not die meantime. The balance of top and root is upset; the remaining root system is inadequate to support the top. The balance must be restored by the only means possible, which is to cut back the top to the point where the root system can properly support it. Many cases require the removal of one-half to one-third of the top. This sounds drastic, but it may save the plant. The pruner should not worry about pruning too severely. If so much top is removed that the root overbalances the top, top growth will restore the balance. It is quite possible for such a plant to return to near normal if damage has not been too great, although more frequently two seasons will be required for full recovery.

From *Camellia Culture*, edited by
E. C. Tourje, 1958



If one were as good a gardener in practice as one is
in theory, what a garden
one would create!
—V. Sackville-West

And when your back stops aching and your
hands begin to harden . . . You will find yourself a partner
in the Glory of the Garden.
—Rudyard Kipling

An additction to gardening is not bad
when you consider the other
choices in life.
—Unknown

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.

KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Ben McMahan; Secretary—Betty Wachob, 3324 La Cresta Dr., 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.

NAPA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Jack Tognetti; Secretary—Fran Kane fkane@sonic.net. Meetings: 1st Monday, September-May, Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson Street, Napa

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—Steve Mefford; Secretary—Bob Sheriff, 27333 Paseo Laguna, San Juan Capistrano 92675. Meetings: 1st Monday, October-April, 7:00 p.m. Tustin Senior Center, 200 S. "C" Street, Tustin.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—George Harrison. Secretary—Dorothy McQuiston, 6212 Yucca St., Los Angeles 90028. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November-April, 7:00 p.m., Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Marilee Gray; Secretary—Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November-April, 7:00 p.m., La Verne Community Center, 3680 "D" Street, La Verne.

SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Joan Lesmeisterl; Secretary—Carol 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—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.

SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Denise Kupperman.; Secretary—Christina Isenberg, 240 Polhemus, Atherton, CA 94027 Meetings: 4th Monday, October-March, Veterans' Building Annex, 711 Nevada St., Rm. 20, Redwood City (formerly Peninsula Camellia Society)

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—Bobbie Belcher 40641 Via Amapola, Murrieta, CA 92562 Meetings: 7:00 p.m., Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Call Marilee Gray for meeting dates (909) 624-4107.

Southern California Camellia Society, Inc.

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

OFFICERS —2007-2008

BRADFORD KING, President
BOBBIE BELCHER Secretary/Treasurer, Membership Chairman
BETH STONE, Vice President
BETH STONE, Foreign Membership

DIRECTORS

MELVIN BELCHER
40641 Via Amapola, Murrieta 92562
(951) 304-2507

AL LATHAM
655 Prospect Crescent, Pasadena 91103
(626) 744-9445

SERGIO BRACCI
5567 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776
(626) 286-4338

DAVID MacLAREN
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108
(626) 405-3509

JOANN BREWER
4166 La Junta, Claremont 91711
(909) 593-3442

FRAN NEUMANN
150 W. Jaxine Drive, Altadena 91001, CA
(616) 797-4251

JULIUS CHRISTINSON
3751 Hoover St., Riverside 92504
(909) 688-1547

LUCIA MARINO PIERPOINT
2271 E. California Blvd., San Marino 91108
(626) 393-0869

JAMES FITZPATRICK
4849 Biloxi Ave., Toluca Woods 91601
(818) 508-5043

BETH STONE
1997 Queensberry Rd., Pasadena 91104
(626) 798-4993

MARILEE GRAY
868 Kent Dr., Claremont 91711
(909) 624-4107

LINDA TROYER
3930 Northampton, Claremont 91711
(909) 593-8407

BRADFORD KING
1530 Marendale Lane, Arcadia 91006
(626) 445-8730

WAYNE WALKER
1418 Descanso Drive, LaCanada 91011
(818) 790-7413

KRISTINA HOOPER
61-3 Castana Ave., Lakewood 90712
(562) 630-2276

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

MEL & BOBBIE BELCHER
COLONEL TOM DURRANT
JULIUS NUCCIO

SERGIO BRACCI
MARILEE GRAY
BERNICE GUNN THOMPSON

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES

DENISE DISALVIA
61 Twynam Street
Narrandera
NSW 2700 AUSTRALIA
bandenis@inet.au

BERNIE STEVENSON
15 Longmynd Drive
Shrewsbury Park
Katikati 306 NEW ZEALAND
bstevenson@farmside.co.nz

THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

Mel Belcher, Editor

Published by the Southern California Camellia Society, Inc. Copyright 2007

Three issues per volume

Send correspondence and manuscripts for publication directly to the Editor.

Republication is permitted if credit is given to *The Camellia Review* and the author.

HANGE OF ADDRESS— Notify the Secretary at once (**PLEASE!**).

'Lemon Drop'
Miniature
Average, dense, upright growth
Nuccio's 1981



'Lucky Star'
Medium, average, dense,
upright growth.
Saluenensis hybrid seedling
Nuccio's 1995



'Hishi-Karaito'
Small bloom.
Average, compact growth.
Japan—1934
Chuga



'Yuletide'
Small, single bloom.



'Red Hots'
Small to medium bloom.
Average, upright growth.
Nuccio's 1992



'Firedance Variegated'
Medium bloom
Vigorous, compact
upright growth.
Nuccio's 1993

