

THE  
*Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



**Reticulata hybrid 'Pleasant Memories'**





Shibori Egao Corksrew

More smiling faces



Egao Corksrew

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## COVER PHOTO

**Reticulata hybrid 'Pleasant Memories'**  
Pink, very large semidouble with irregular  
petals. Reticulata seedling.  
M. Gum, 1983

Photo by Stephanie Grimm

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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## THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

"Something new. Something old." As I remember, the bride in preparing for her wedding must have or wants to have as part of her bridal "costume" something old along with the new. In a similar fashion in selecting articles for the *Camellia Review*, by preference or of necessity, the Editor chooses articles from the archives along with new ones. Even our camellia shows have one class of blooms restricted to "old" varieties. Some of our most beautiful and revered camellias have withstood the ravages of time and the competition of the "must have" new and popular varieties.

You may be asking "What in the world is Belcher getting to?" Let me try to increase the breadth of that question as I lead you further into a rhetorical swamp.

Last week during one of those warm days I was sitting on the deck and reminiscing how it used to be. The Southern California Camellia Society membership list was several pages long and consisted of many names of revered giants of the camellia world. Most of those popular and contributing giants have, as time dictates, moved on. Fortunately we have new members who will become today's giants. I mention today's giants as if I knew what they look like and how they become such a specie, but I suspect it has something to do with hybridizing. We have noticed a renewed interest in that arena. Take a look at page 22 of this issue to get an up-to-date view of what that Editor was thinking sixty years ago.

To further support the concept of the importance of both "old" and "new" we have included articles in this issue on those subjects. You will enjoy reading relevant input from Dr. Bradford King, Dr. Clifford Parks, John Grimm and Bobbie Belcher.

To me there is a ring of continuity when we bring together the old and the new.

—Mel Belcher, Editor

Have you visited our new website  
[www.socalcamellias.org](http://www.socalcamellias.org)  
Kristina Hooper has done a great  
job!

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A garden is a thing of beauty and  
a job forever.  
—Richard Briers

## THE SEARCH FOR NEW CAMELLIA HYBRIDS

Bradford King  
Arcadia, California

The search for new hybrid camellias has begun in China, Japan and America. The rediscovery of *C. azalea* in China by Gao and the finding of *C. amplexicaulis* and *C. flava* in Vietnam in 1994 offer exciting opportunities for new camellia hybrids. *C. amplexicaulis* has two important characteristics sought by hybridizer—the potential to re-bloom and its cold hardiness. *C. azalea* is also sought for hybridizing for its ability to re-bloom and to thrive in hot weather. *C. flava* is important because it is a yellow camellia that crosses with *C. japonica*.

In Japan hybridizing *C. japonica* with *C. amplexicaulis* and *C. flava* has resulted in numerous crosses some which have successfully bloomed. Shuko Kirno has published a paper which reported that hybrids with *C. amplexicaulis* have flowers similar in size and shape to *C. amplexicaulis*. In addition they tend to be resistant to cold. Hybrids with *C. flava* have not had time to bloom. However one that bloomed in 2002 was a double light yellow measuring 3 1/4 inches. Mr. Kirno recommends using *C. japonica* as the seed parents because they set seed. The species *C. flava* and *C. amplexicaulis* are used as pollen parents.

In China Professor Gao reported a small population of 1118 *C. azalea* plants in Southern China near the Honghuatan river. This is the only known "wild" population of this species in existence. They flower nine to ten months of the year in this location. Chinese hybridizers have made a number of *C. japonica* and *C. azalea* crosses. However, no one has reported if these hybrids are able to re-bloom.

In the USA a number of growers have grafts of *C. amplexicaulis*, *C. azalea* and *C. flava*. Nuccio's Nurseries have a number of *C. amplexicaulis* that are setting seeds.

They have two types—short and long leaves. Dan Charvet in Northern California has begun to use *C. amplexicaulis* in his hybridizing program. I have been able to cross *C. amplexicaulis* successfully with *C. japonica* 'Tama-no-Ura', 'Tama Peacock', 'Magnolieafloria' and 'Betty Foy Sanders'. My most successful crosses are from 'Tama Peacock' as the seed parent. They show a leaf that is midway between the parent's leaves: My seedlings have not yet bloomed, thus it unknown what flower characteristics will be inherited or if the plant is capable of re-blooming. I like the notion of increasing the white line on *C. amplexicaulis* with the genetic white border on 'Tama-No-Ura', 'Tama Peacock' and 'Tama Americana' with a flower that opens up more than *C. amplexicaulis*.

A number of people in the United States have grafts of *C. azalea* and a few have reported successful flowering from June until October. Longwood Gardens grows *C. azalea* in a green house and has had blooms at different times of the year. They have a different clone from the more widespread *C. azalea* sometimes called the "ACS clone." Professor Gao from China provided cuttings to the American Camellia Society Research Committee chaired by Hulyn Smith. Gene Phillips has been successful in grafting *C. azalea* and has had flowers for several years. Mark Crawford, a Valdosta nursery owner, has a flowering hybrid called 'Windy' as a result of his successful crosses. He informed me that his flowering *C. azalea* died this year for no reason that he could determine. *C. azalea* is not easy to maintain. In addition this variety is very difficult to grow from cuttings, but *C. azalea* grafts are more successful. I have one doing well that was grafted in March 2007, but it has not bloomed. I made two successful grafts with a total of five scions in the

middle of April 2008. One had four scions placed on a large 'Narumigata'. Three scions survived and each has one bud. I believe this is a result of having large understock and being placed in a warm spot in the garden. The two other grafts are in a cooler area on the north side under shade cloth. The large graft first flowered in late September 2008 and the second and third in October. The new plant had a good callus but only minor new growth until significant new growth of 4 to 6 inches on each scion occurred when we were having fall heat. *C. azalea* is capable of new growth under the right conditions any time of the year. It is clear from other reports as well as my experience that *C. azalea* likes hot weather of 90° degrees, but it still needs shade and adequate moisture. I mist the new plants and seedlings most days mornings and afternoons especially when the day is hot and dry.

The past three years I have used pollen sent from Longwood gardens, but very few seed pods developed. The use of pollen from one fresh flower of *C. azalea* crossed with 'Tama-No-Ura' resulted in several seed pods and four seedlings. One seedling died; the remaining three are alive but show only minimal new growth. All are several years away from flowering. They do show leaf characteristics of *C. azalea*. The significance of this is the strong indicator that the cross was successful because of leaf form. The opportunity to make further progress is in having a flowering plant, but there are additional challenges. *C. azalea* blooms in summer and early fall when *C. japonica* buds are not ready to be used in hybridizing. Therefore, the pollen needs to be harvested and stored in the refrigerator or freezer until buds are mature. I expect to continue to use 'Tama-No-Ura' because it blooms early and is a strong seed setter. Gibbing for earlier blooms is a good strategy. Dr. Ackerman reported that pollen is viable up to three months in the

refrigerator and several years if frozen. The key is in harvesting and keeping the pollen dry. Anthers are placed on a paper towel and then dried and stored in a zip lock bag. I collect the moisture cotton "cubes" from pill bottles and put one in the bag to prevent moisture build-up which leads to fungus and nonviable pollen.

I am a proponent of hybridizing with *C. flava* to get yellow camellias because it crosses successfully with *C. japonica*. The more well-known yellow *C. nitidissima* crosses with *C. reticulata* but doesn't produce a yellow flower and, when crossed with *C. japonica*, rarely takes. When it does, most of the F1 hybrids are sterile. I have had seed pods but the seeds are hollow. I have not hybridized with *C. flava* as my two grafts are very small and have not bloomed. However, more experienced hybridizers are reporting success. In the 2007 American Camellia Yearbook, page 16, Dr. Clifford Parks writes "They are the most important species yet discovered in the effort to breed yellow hybrids. *C. flava* hybridizes readily with *C. japonica* to produce vigorous well-shaped hybrids. Flower color ranges from cream to pale yellow."

In conclusion, hybridizing is well underway in Japan and China with *C. azalea*, *C. amplexicaulis* and *C. flava*. It has just begun in the United States as growers receive scions from China and Vietnam. There are great opportunities in breeding new camellia hybrids from these three species. The goal of producing a re-blooming camellia for the landscape is of particular interest. The use of *C. amplexicaulis* to get a cold hardy re-blooming camellia would be a significant achievement. *C. azalea* offers the most promise for a re-blooming camellia and may also extend the range of camellias to climates that are hot and unfriendly to most camellias. The search for a large yellow camellia has been the hybridizers' vision since *C.*



*nitidissima* was introduced in the 1980's. The discovery of *C. flava* is the most exciting development in the last few years for furthering the camellia world's desire for a beautiful yellow varietal that will bloom in the landscape and win at shows. There

are too few of us persistent, patient dreamers seeking to make a break through in hybridizing. We are looking for others to join the quest.



## CAMELLIA GREETINGS FROM NORWAY

*(Editor's note: At the ICS Camellia Congress in Australia in 2006, Eli Margret S. Stolsvik told her listeners about falling in love with camellias and her desire to start a camellia society in Norway. Her report was reprinted in Camellia Review, Vol. 68, No. 1. You will enjoy reading her update which arrived via e-mail January 15, 2009.)*

"Happy New Year! I have been slow in writing because I've made myself far too busy moving houses. The cold-hardy camellias are growing quite well here, as is the Norwegian Camellia Society (Den norske Camellia Forening). I am still the president for the Society and we have published two volumes of the news letter "Kamelia" in 2008.

The Society has now more than 50 members, most of us from the southern part around Bergen and Stavanger. In addition we have some members from the mid-part and most southern part of the country. The Ringve Botanical Garden in Trondheim is now eagerly testing out some of the seedlings they have grown from the seeds that Bill Ackerman sent in 2007. It's exciting to learn how they adjust to the dark days in wintertime and 24 hours of daylight in summertime.

In my own garden I have a BEAUTIFUL 'Freedom Bell' soon ready to open her delightful coral-red semidouble bells. They are the ones I love the most. I also have a 'Hagoromo', a Higo camellia, that is doing very well. Another six plants in my small garden in Stavanger have survived this winter very well so far. Last winter and this winter have been quite mild.

Our camellia garden in the Stavanger Botanical Garden has done quite well over the last two years, only one of the total 16 plants did not survive. Here we see that the two Leonard Mezzel plants are the ones that are most willing to bloom for us. The Stavanger Botanical Garden has now decided that they continue testing camellia species, rather than hybrids. Our Society is now in contact with another public garden in the area, and I do hope that we will be able to plant approximately 20 plants there this spring.

For myself: I have sold my business in Stavanger and am moving to my new location in Fana, a 20-minute drive from Bergen. There I have quite a nice 2000 m<sup>2</sup>\* area of nature to start developing my own camellia garden. I am setting up a new business in Bergen but have decided to spend more time closer to nature than in an office. My life as "the single Norwegian Camellia Lady" will come to an end on March 7th this year when I will marry my handsome nice man, Knut Arne Nygaard.

Hope all of you are doing well and I still hope to visit the US within a year or so.

Smiles and love from Eli"

\*Approximately 21,000 square feet or a smidgen less than half an acre.

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## A GRIMM "CAMELLIA FAIRY TALE" From 'Pink Perfection' to Camellia Heaven John Grimm Metairie, Louisiana

Another hurricane is on the way. The coastal areas of the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida and the southern parts of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas prepare for floods. Winds that rip up huge trees are expected as far north as Tennessee, and bulldozers everywhere clear anything and everything in their path. Will another camellia variety be lost today? Forever?

The home of Stephanie and John Grimm, in Metairie, LA flooded for the third time in 1995. They moved into a friend's house temporarily and saw a 20 foot tree blooming with the most beautiful pink blooms they had ever seen. It was 'Pink Perfection' and was the first camellia John, a New Yorker, had ever seen. Shortly thereafter they attended a New Orleans Camellia Society show and were forever "hooked on camellias."

The Grimms visited nurseries and added more camellias to their collection but, in searching for the Tammia Nursery, they learned the nursery had become a subdivision. Over the next few years they learned that many other nurseries, gardens, and personal collections had fallen to developers. Today, despite the efforts of many, camellias continue to be lost. The Grimms decided camellias needed to be saved somehow either as plants or at least in pictures. Stephanie embarked on a book on camellias that would include thousands of pictures she had taken in public, private and hidden gardens across the South.

In late 2004, they met Webb Hart, a one-man nursery operator who had a nursery in Bush, LA, about an hour from Metairie. Webb had no family who wanted to take over his nursery. He did, however, have an opportunity to sell to developers. Stephanie and John couldn't stand the idea of another "garden" being bulldozed and

lost so two weeks later they acquired the nursery with its 4,000 camellias — about 600 varieties — and it became their "Camellia Heaven." After Hurricane Katrina, Tom Johnson, who at the time was the horticulturist for the American Camellia Society at Masee Lane, crawled through the downed trees to assess the damage at Camellia Heaven. Over 200 downed pines, oaks, and gums lay across the road, the paths and the camellias. But amid the devastation, Tom saw the beauty beneath the rubble.

When he joined Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Tom Johnson and Miles Beach, director of Magnolia's camellia collection, discovered that many varieties of the older azaleas and camellias had been lost. Many of the plants lost at Magnolia due to Hurricane Hugo were original introductions at Magnolia. In replacing plants there, Miles and Tom knew they didn't want to lose the special character of the gardens and wanted to restore the gardens with the older varieties. They both also realized that, if hurricanes could damage the Magnolia Gardens' collection, they could wipe the grand collections along coastal Carolina to Texas. The old varieties could be lost and possibly this time, forever. The "seed" of an alliance of gardens, collectors, communities and growers was conceived, planted and, in early 2008, took firm root. The founding meeting of 25 people established "The Great American Gardens Preservation Alliance" which would find, identify, propagate, and distribute to members ancient (pre-1900) and historic (pre-1950) varieties of azaleas and camellias. No variety would fade; the endangered azalea and camellia varieties would endure through the work of Alliance members and their organizations. Ultimately, the Alliance would also catalog all ancient varieties

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with GPS locations and establish a protocol for their preservation.

Tom Johnson became the first President of the Alliance. He knew the Grimms were dedicated to finding and preserving camellias and that they were traveling the South looking for older endangered varieties and plants and varieties they did not already have.

He invited them to become founding members of The Great American Gardens Preservation Alliance. At the latest meeting, John Grimm was elected Treasurer of the organization. Miles Beach was elected President, Bart Brechter, Curator of Gardens at Bayou Bend, was elected Vice President, and Florence Crowder was elected Representative of the LSU-Ag Center's Burden Center. As of today, the organization has located over 300 of the ancient camellia varieties and keeps working to find others of the approximately 450 varieties known to have reached America. Florence Crowder recently returned from a trip to Europe where she obtained a large number of cuttings of ancient varieties that have been lost in America as well as some that never reached North America.

Camellia Heaven is now a garden/park with over 1,800 varieties of camellias in the garden, over 500 being grown off-site and more planned for each year. Eventually it will have a complete collection of the "ancient ones." With encouragement from many camellia friends to open Camellia Heaven to the public, the Grimms invited camellia club members, master gardeners, garden clubs, friends and family to visit their "work in progress" this year. Camellias on the property blooming from August to late May. The addition

of a July-blooming 'Arajishi' and C. azalea next year will extend the season. Camellia Heaven does not sell plants at this time, but Stephanie and John Grimm try to help people find varieties. They helped the Pensacola Camellia Club find two elusive varieties created by local growers, and will spread ancient varieties as they become more readily available through propagation. In addition to working on their own property, Stephanie and John Grimm are currently Tangipahoa Master Gardeners and help preserve the camellias at the Hody Wilson Garden in Hammond and are members of numerous camellia clubs and societies across America. Stephanie was just elected to serve a third term as secretary of that organization.

The Grimms would like to thank the many who understand the value of this preservation effort and have offered scions and cuttings of varieties they do not currently have, especially the ancient varieties. John Grimm commented recently, "Let's preserve all the past. There are numerous varieties that individual growers have registered that are now lost because they were not shared or preserved. All varieties should be shared with those who can maintain the legacy the originator had hoped to commemorate." More information about The Great American Gardens Preservation Alliance is available at the organization's website - [www.greatamericangardensalliance.org](http://www.greatamericangardensalliance.org). If you know of ancient camellias that we can catalog, preserve or propagate or, if you would like to support the Alliance's efforts financially, please contact John Grimm or any officer of the organization.



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## THE BIRTH OF A CAMELLIA “OBSESSION”

**Bobbie Belcher  
Murrieta, California**

What happens when a gal with a degree in biology gathers a handful of camellia seeds —

and when that gal's dad has had a passionate love of camellias during most of her adult life —

and when that gal now owns the property where that dad lovingly planted about 160 of his favorite camellias in La Verne?

It will not come as a great surprise that what happened was probably inevitable.

First, the kitchen counter and nearby flat surfaces became crowded with bags of camellia seeds and plastic boxes containing camellia seeds in

various stages of sprouting. Then came the acquisition of two very small greenhouses which quickly became overcrowded. Then came the acquisition of an assemble-it-yourself 10' x 12' Wal-Mart greenhouse. After the construction of shelving for the new greenhouse, seedlings and the sprouting seeds had a new, more comfortable home.

When asked what was next, the answer was “a lath shade structure for the adolescent plants when they get large enough to be moved out of the greenhouse to make room for more seedlings.”

Stay tuned.



PVC pipe and closet shelving worked well together to give those seedlings a secure place in the greenhouse.

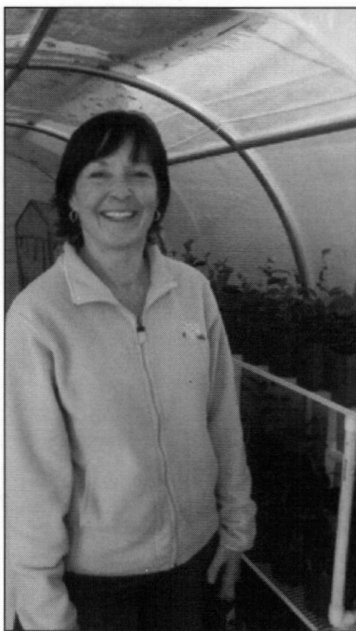
The new greenhouse provided space for the new seedlings.





Now there was room for those seedlings!

Of course, the biology major needed to experiment a bit with hybridizing.



Mel and I are proud of our daughter Carol Stickley and are eager to see what develops from her new adventures in the camellia world.

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## SMILING FACES

Bradford King  
Arcadia, California

The beautiful deep pink shading to darker pink in the center of the flower 'Egao' is one of the loveliest heralds of the camellia season. 'Egao' is classified as *C. vernalis*. However, evidence suggests it is not a separate specie but a non-reticulata hybrid with *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica* lineage. Regardless of its parentage, 'Egao' looks more japonica than sasanqua with its medium pink bloom of 16 to 20 petals and clear yellow anthers. Its Chinese name 'Xiaoyan' translates to "smiling face." It was brought from Japan to the USA in 1972 by Nuccio's Nurseries. Its medium leaves and vigorous upright spreading growth habit make this camellia a good specimen plant as well as a camellia show winner. Depending on local conditions, it blooms in Southern California from November until February which makes it a great bloom for the early camellia shows.

When 'Egao' is infused with virus variegation it is called 'Shibori-Egao' or, in other words, "Variegated Smiling Face." This exquisite pink bloom with white blotches is a show winner. It was originated at Kurume in Japan and imported to the USA by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1974. The leaves are oval and green with yellow splotches due to the virus. It is less

vigorous than 'Egao'. It prefers less sun and is more spreading in growth habit. Overall, it is a very showy camellia plant and flower.

Grady Perigan of San Marino discovered a sport of 'Egao'. Smaller than 'Egao', it is lighter pink and veined with a fine white edge. The plant has a more compact growth habit, smaller foliage and sets buds at an early age. Its name 'Grady's Egao' means "Grady's Smiling Face" and it is propagated at Nuccio's Nurseries.

The Nuccios caught a very interesting flower and growth habit sport from 'Egao'. It has ruffled pink petals in a semidouble to loose peony form and distinctive zig-zag branches which look like a corkscrew. Thus it is named 'Egao Corkscrew'. A variegated form, 'Shibori-Egao Corkscrew', is also available. Each of these varieties make wonderful bonsai. But what is a "Smiling Face Corkscrew?" Perhaps when the cork remains firmly in the bottle we first see a grimace. Then perhaps we see a smile when the cork is liberated and the wine is poured.

Cheers and "smiling faces" all around.

*Editor's note: Check out Brad's pictures on the inside covers.*



A smile is the one medium of exchange which is accepted by city folks and country folks alike.

With plants, persuasion is better than force.  
—Elsa Bakatar

Nature soon takes over if the gardener is absent.  
—Penelope Hobhouse

No matter how your garden grows,  
you will need some tools to keep it going.  
—Jack Kramer



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## COMMENTS ON CAMELLIA BREEDING

Dr. Clifford Parks  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

No professional in horticulture or plant breeding, particularly where woody ornamentals are concerned, underestimates the contribution of the amateur breeder to varietal development; and none underestimates the volume of labor these hobbyist breeders contribute to their work. In many cases, however, shortcuts could be taken without hampering the quality of the product.

It is my belief that much too much time is often spent in making controlled pollinations. A controlled pollination is one in which both the female (seed) and the male (pollen) parents are known because the pollination is carried out by man. This is contrasted with an open pollination (OP), where the female or seed parent is known but the male (pollen) parent is unknown. Open pollination is carried out by insects, other agents or even such things as gardeners accidentally brushing from a flower to another.

Why make controlled pollinations at all? For some purposes OP's are quite useful and even adequate. For instance, if we are looking for a variety resistant to a particular characteristic, and we have very few clues as to what a "good cross" would be, it is most efficient to screen a large population of open-pollinated seedlings through selecting for the characteristic under consideration. The point is that when one is breeding for a particular objective, it might be more efficient to start from open-pollinated seeds instead of cross-pollinated seeds. It may not be "unscientific" to base phases of a program on open-pollinated progenies. In fact, OP's were often used in the breeding program in LASCA.

On the other hand we often have some data on the characteristics of the seedling progeny of a given variety. In

the cases where we have these data, we will make more progress by selecting our parent varieties and pollinating them. Often this information comes from open-pollinated progenies which have been grown to flowering for other purposes. We may deliberately grow out OP progenies before proceeding to develop a pollination program.

The first problem to be considered regarding controlled pollinations is the choice of parents. Two factors must be considered in this choice - horticultural desirability and fertility. Many varieties which make good pollen parents are unacceptable as seed parents. Any variety which produces any amount of pollen is usable as a male parent.

We found that if a plant will not set open-pollinated seed, it will not set seed from cross-pollination. It is not enough to choose a variety known to be a good seed setter; it is also advisable to pick individual plants which set seed well. Often plants of the same variety set seed in quantity in one location, but set none nearby. For example, considerable shade and increased humidity seem to enhance seed production.

In addition to climatic factors which affect seed set, varieties with single or semi-double flowers can be expected to serve as satisfactory seed parents.

Good seed setters possessing the characteristics we desire are at a premium. Often times one has to accept a seed parent that is horticulturally second best, since the superior plant is too female-sterile. There are cases where the potential cross is so interesting that it is extensively tried, even though success is low.

We need to also consider which part of the blooming season is optimum for seed set. Based on data

collected from crosses made in February, March and early April at Descanso Gardens in the Los Angeles area in 1963, it appears that seed set was equal throughout this period. Many different types of crosses made up the basis for this generalization, but this conclusion may not hold for different climates.

Now to the actual process of pollination. This consists of three steps: (1) removing the pollen-bearing parts from the flower to be used (emasculation), (2) applying the desired pollen to the stigma and (3) protecting the pollinated bud from pollen contamination by bees and the like.

The basic rule in emasculating is to keep damage to the bud to a minimum. While efficiency must be considered, it is important not to loosen the bud. I find that the bud can be kept in place with the thumb and index finger of one hand, while the castration is carried out with a sharp instrument manipulated by the other hand. I prefer a sharp-pointed surgical scissors. Dr. A. E. Longley used a single-edge razor blade. The upper one-third to one-half of the flower bud is removed (sepals, petals and ALL anthers), while the pistil is left untouched. This latter point is most important. With a little practice, an emasculating can be done in a few snips and should only take a fraction of a minute.

The actual process of pollination is simpler. Except for the case of stored pollen (which can be done most easily from a small gelatin capsule), I select a fresh-opening flower just shedding pollen for the pollen source. The pollen can be rubbed directly from the anther onto the stigmas of the receptive flower. It is important to use male flowers that have not been long open and thus are free of bee contamination. One male flower, depending on the amount of pollen it has, can be used to pollinate from a few to hundreds of stigmas.

There is a great volume of lore about proper pollination technique. There is much talk about camels-hair brushes, vials for pollen and the like. Some people have pollination kits. One cactus breeder developed a technique which required a cat's tail (attached to the cat) to transfer the pollen. This is mostly nonsense, since carrying the desired pollen in the "male" flower is faster and probably offers less chance of contamination. It is a good habit to label the cross at the time of pollination. Plastic twist-lock labels are quite dependable.

Cover the bud to prevent pollen contamination by bees and other insects. It is likely that once the stigmas are heavily covered with pollen, more pollen added later by an insect will not contaminate the cross. Where the pollination is with a species different from the species of the seed parent, pollen from the seed-parent species could contaminate the cross.

Since bee activity in our camellia gardens is quite apparent and since bees have been observed to visit emasculated buds, it is a good practice to cover all crosses after pollination. Covering pollinations does not seriously hinder seed set, and in some instances, covering the pollinated buds may increase the chance of seed set.

Brown-paper grocery sacks (6"x3") are easy to use and surprisingly resistant to wind and rain. These sacks can be easily held in place by 1 5/16 inch long paper clips. I think that the paper sacks should be left over the cross until the flower would normally wither, which indicates a period of from ten days to two weeks. In one test we found that camellia stigmas are receptive over a long period; thus contamination could occur over a long period. A test was carried out to determine whether plastic, brown-paper or wax-paper sacks were superior covering materials.

It should be possible to complete all the steps in making a pollination in five minutes, and with practice one should be able to make a cross in two minutes.

The choice of the buds for pollination presents some selective decisions. I found that the size of the bud is not too critical, since tight buds showing considerable color were as effective in crosses as loose buds one day away from opening; however, large buds are easier to work with. The placement of the bud on the plant is not too critical, but it appears that neither little buds buried at the bottom of the bush nor large buds on vigorous shoots are likely to set seed.

How many crosses should be made for a certain objective? There is no formula for answering this question. If the cross is difficult, then one must make more pollinations. For example, in the effort to cross *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica*, in one season over 1000 pollinations were made; but in an effort to recombine

the cold-hardy characteristics of the two *C. japonica* varieties 'Berenice Boddy' and 'Donckelarii' I expect to average one or more seeds per pollination; thus far fewer pollinations of this latter cross were made.

Most actual crosses desired fall between these two examples in terms of difficulty of obtaining seed. To determine how many seeds of a given cross the breeder wants, the number for which growing facilities are available must be balanced against the number required to show reasonable recombination of inheritable traits.

There are obviously many technique variations which the breeder can apply. One method is as good as another if it is fast, contamination does not occur and SEED DOES SET. Good luck and remember, camel hair brushes are for painters!

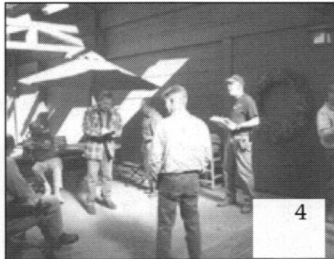
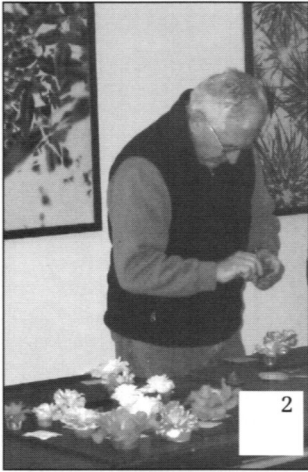
From *The Camellia Bulletin*,  
August, 1964

## Let The Shows Begin!



The Fagundo Family gets ready for the show. You will see daughter Carly's winning entries on page 19. Dad Jac has some winners, too.

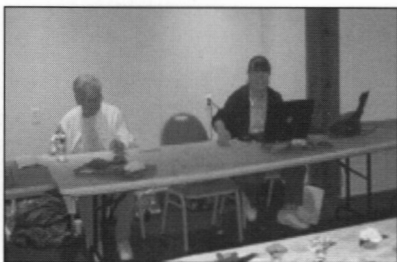




1. Kristina, Gene, Gene and Don get ready
2. Brad gets ready
3. Linda instructs Clerks
4. Wayne instructs Judges
5. Judging is serious business



Final judging at the Head Tables



Dorothy and Karen at the Recorder's Table



The ooh's and aah's begin



**PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY**  
**Descanso Gardens, January 17, 2009**

**Japonica—Large/Very Large**

Best Single	'Carter's Sunburst'	Beth Stone
Runner-up Single	'Royal Velvet'	Jac Fagundo
Court of Honor Single	'Sundowner'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Best Tray of 3	'Han-ling Snow'	Les & JoAnn Brewer
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Grand Slam'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Rebel Yell'	Dean Turney

**Special Culture**

Best Single	'Tomorrow Park Hill'	Carol Stickley
Runner-up Single	'Showtime'	James Fitzpatrick
Court of Honor Single	'Royal Velvet'	Don & Marilee Gray
Best Tray of 3	'Showtime'	James Fitzpatrick
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Royal Velvet'	Nancy Kress
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Miss Charleston Var.'	Don & Marilee Gray

**Japonica—Medium**

Best Single	'Margaret's Joy'	Don & Marilee Gray
Runner-up Single	'Grand Marshal'	James Fitzpatrick
Court of Honor Single	'Grand Marshal Var.'	Nancy Kress
Best Tray of 3	'Firedance Var.'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Silver Tower'	Don & Marilee Gray
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Grand Marshal Var.'	Nancy Kress

**Special Culture**

Best Single	'In The Pink'	Don & Marilee Gray
Runner-up Single	'Spring Formal'	Carol Stickley
Court of Honor Single	'Doris Ellis'	Carol Stickley
Best Tray of 3	'Prima Ballerina'	James Fitzpatrick
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Wildfire'	Carol Stickley
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'In The Pink'	Don & Marilee Gray

**Japonica—Small/Miniature**

Best Single	'Ave Maria'	Carol Stickley
Runner-up Single	'Red Hots'	Carol Stickley
Court of Honor Single	'Takanini'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Best Tray of 3	'Pink Perfection'	Jac Fagundo
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Red Hots'	Les & JoAnn Brewer
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Maroon and Gold'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy

**Special Culture**

Best Single	'Demi-Tasse'	Carol Stickley
Runner-up Single	'Man Size'	Carol Stickley
Court of Honor Single	'Black Tie'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Best Tray of 3	'Takanini'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Runner-up- Tray of 3	'Confetti Blush'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Maroon and Gold'	Brad & Lynn King

**Reticulata or Reticulata Hybrid**

Best Single	'Frank Houser Var.'	Jac Fagundo
Runner-up Single	'Frank Houser'	Steve & Anne Dashiell
Court of Honor Single	'Dr. Clifford Parks'	Dean Turney
Best Tray of 3	'Emma Gaeta Var.'	Gene Snooks
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Frank Houser Var.'	Victor & Linda Rodriguez

Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Frank Houser'	Les & JoAnn Brewer
<b>Special Culture</b>		
Best Single	'Hulyn Smith'	Carol Stickley
Runner-up Single	'Harold L. Paige'	Carol Stickley
Court of Honor Single	'Queen Bee'	Don & Marilee Gray
Best Tray of 3	'Miss Tulare'	Jac Fagundo
<b>Non-Reticulata Hybrid</b>		
Best Single	'Autumn Jewel'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Runner-up Single	'Waltz Time'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Court of Honor Single	'Anticipation Var.'	Brad & Lynn King
Best Tray of 3	'Freedom Bell'	Jim & Armida Wilkin
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Waltz Time Var.'	Dale & Mary Kay Mittag
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Paper Dolls'	Don & Mary Bergamini
<b>Special Culture</b>		
Best Single	'Waltz Time Var.'	Carol Stickley
Runner-up Single	'First Blush'	Don & Mary Bergamini
Court of Honor Single	'Freedom Bell'	Carol Stickley
Best Tray of 3	'Freedom Bell'	Carol Stickley
Runner-up Tray of 3	'High Fragrance'	Don & Marilee Gray
Court of Honor	'Coral Delight Var.'	Brad & Lynn King
<b>Species (Open)</b>		
Best Single	'Egao'	Les & JoAnn Brewer
Runner-up Single	'Shishi Gashira'	Carol Stickley
Court of Honor Single	'Showa-No-Sakae'	Carol Stickley
Best Tray of 3	'Grady's Egao'	Don & Marilee Gray
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Shishi Gashira'	Carol Stickley
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Egao'	Carol Stickley
<b>Collectors Tray of 3 Mixed Varieties</b>		
Best Tray	'Elegans Supreme', 'Margaret Davis', 'Little Michael'	Carol Stickley
Runner-up Tray	'Grand Slam', 'Iwane', 'Fircone Var.'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Court of Honor Tray	'Queen Bee', 'Nuccio's Carousel', 'Buttons 'n Bows'	Don & Marilee Gray
<b>Collector's Tray of 6 Blooms</b>		
Best Tray		Carol Stickley
Runner-up Tray		Carol Stickley
Court of Honor Tray		Don & Marilee Gray
<b>Old Timer's Bloom</b>		
Best	'Herme'	Jim & Armida Wilkin
Runner-up	'Magnoliaeflora'	Beth Stone
Court of Honor	'Purity'	Beth Stone
<b>Seedlings</b>		
Best		Jim Wilkin
Runner-up		Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Court of Honor		Tom & Dody Gilfoy



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## Novice

Best Single 4" and up	'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Var.'	Carly Fagundo
Runner-up Single 4"	'Snow Chan'	M. Moore
Court of Honor	'Ramona'	Lisa & Brad King, Jr.
Best Single under 4"	'Haru-No-Utena'	Carly Fagundo
Runner-up Single under 4"	'Debutante'	Eriz & Suzanne Goldsberg
Court of Honor Single under 4"	'Kanjiro'	M. Moore

## Intermediate

Best Single under 4"	'Kanjiro'	Melanie Little
Best Tray of 3	'Nuccio's Cameo'	M. Moore
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Debutante'	Eric & Suzanne Golfberg



## OPTIMISM

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.  
Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.  
—Helen Keller

Great hopes make great men.  
—Thomas Fuller

In the long run, the pessimist may be proved  
to be right, but the optimist has a better time on the trip.  
—Daniel L. Reardon

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

One of the most delightful things about a garden  
is the anticipation it provides.  
—W. E. Johns

## CAMELLIA STATIONERY

The increasing cost of postage has forced us to raise the price on our beautiful Paul Jones camellia note cards. Sets of 8 cards are now \$8.00 per set in the US and \$10.00 per set outside the US. If any camellia society would like to use these cards as fund raisers, orders for 25 or more sets are priced at \$7.00 each in the US and \$9.00 each outside the U.S.

Cards can be ordered through Susan Streeter, 1947 Midwick Drive, Altadena, CA 91001 (626/797-1-59). Make your check payable to SCCS. Prices include tax and shipping. Cards can also be ordered on line at [socialcamellias.org](http://socialcamellias.org).

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**  
**Descanso Gardens, January 31-February 1, 2009**

**Japonica—Large/Very Large**

Best Single	'Han-Ling Snow'	Les & JoAnn Brewer
Runner-up Single	'Moonlight Bay'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Court of Honor Single	'Carter's Sunburst'	Dale & Mary Kay Mittag
Best Tray of 3	'Elegans' (Chandler)	Dale & Mary Kay Mittag
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Mathotiana'	Marvin & Virginia Belcher
Court of Honor Single	'Tiffany'	Brad & Lynn King

**Special Culture**

Best Single	'Miss Charleston Var.'	Don & Marilee Gray
Runner-up Single	'Show Time'	James Fitzpatrick
Court of Honor Single	'Lady Laura'	Brad & Lynn King
Best Tray of 3	'Miss Charleston Var.'	Don & Marilee Gray
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Kramer's Supreme'	Don & Marilee Gray
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Grand Prix'	Brad & Lynn King

**Japonica—Medium**

Best Single	'Nuccio's Cameo'	Marvin & Virginia Belcher
Runner-up Single	'Grand Marshal'	James Fitzpatrick
Court of Honor Single	'Firedance'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Best Tray of 3	'Firedance Var.'	Dale & Mary Kay Mittag
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Grand Marshal'	James Fitzpatrick
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Silver Tower'	Don & Marilee Gray

**Special Culture**

Best Single	'Prima Ballerina'	James Fitzpatrick
Runner-up Single	'Nuccio's Pearl'	James Fitzpatrick
Court of Honor Single	'In the Pink'	Don & Marilee Gray
Best Tray of 3	'Nuccio's Pearl'	Don & Marilee Gray
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Glen 40'	Nancy Kress

**Japonica—Small**

Best Single	'Pink Perfection'	Jac Fagundo
Runner-up Single	'Tama Peacock'	Brad & Lynn King
Court of Honor Single	'Red Devil'	Steve & Anne Dashiell

**Special Culture**

Best Single	'Maroon and Gold'	Brad & Lynn King
Runner-up Single	'Hishi-Karaito'	Don & Marilee Gray
Court of Honor Single	'Demi-Tasse'	Carol Stickley

**Japonica—Miniature**

Best Single	'Lemon Drop'	Carol Stickley
Runner-up Single	'Trinket'	Don & Marilee Gray
Court of Honor Single	'Something Beautiful'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy

**Special Culture**

Best Single	'Little Michael'	Don & Marilee Gray
Runner-up Single	'Little Slam'	Carol Stickley
Court of Honor Single	'Man Size'	Don & Marilee Gray

**Japonica—Small/Miniature**

Best Tray of 3	'Pink Perfection'	Jac Fagundo
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Hishi-Karaito'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy

Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Little Slam Var.'	Carol Stickley
<b>Special Culture</b>		
Best Tray of 3	'Maroon and Gold'	Brad & Lynn King
<b>Reticulata or Reticulata Hybrid</b>		
Best Single	'Frank Houser'	Nancy Kress
Runner-up Single	'W. P. Gilley'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Court of Honor Single	'Ruta Hagmann'	Carol Stickley
Best Tray of 3	'Frank Houser'	Jac Fagundo
Runner-up Tray of 3	'W. P. Gilley'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Frank Houser Var.'	Jac Fagundo
<b>Special Culture</b>		
Best Single	'Frank Houser'	Don & Marilee Gray
Runner-up Single	'Larry Piet'	Carol Stickley
Court of Honor Single	'Hall's Pride Var.'	Jac Fagundo
Best Tray of 3	'Frank Houser'	Brad & Lynn King
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Terrell Weaver'	James Fitzpatrick
<b>Non-Reticulata Hybrid</b>		
Best Single	'Coral Delight Var.'	Jac Fagundo
Runner-up Single	'Spring Daze'	Dale & Mary Kay Mittag
Court of Honor Single	'Joe Nuccio'	Steve & Anne Dashiell
Best Tray of 3	'Julie'	Dale & Mary Kay Mittag
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Super Star'	Tom & Dody Gilfoy
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Freedom Bell'	Brad & Lynn King
<b>Special Culture</b>		
Best Single	'Joe Nuccio'	Jac Fagundo
Runner-up Single	'Nicky Crisp'	Don & Marilee Gray
Court of Honor Single	'Buttons ' N Bows'	Don & Marilee Gray
<b>Species</b>		
Best Single	'Shibori Egao'	Don & Marilee Gray
Runner-up Single	'Grady's Egao'	Don & Marilee Gray
Court of Honor Single	'Egao'	Carol Stickley
Best Tray of 3	'Shibori Egao'	Don & Marilee Gray
Runner-up Tray of 3	'Grady's Egao'	Don & Marilee Gray
Court of Honor Tray of 3	'Shishi-Gashira'	Carol Stickley
<b>Collector's Tray of 3 Mixed Sizes</b>		
Best Tray	'Guilio Nuccio', 'Cloisonne'	Carol Stickley
	'Shishi-Gashira'	
Runner-up Tray	'Carter's Sunburst',	Dale & Mary Kay Mittag
	'Mrs. George Bell', 'Spring Daze'	
Court of Honor Tray	'Snowman', 'Glen 40 Var.',	Carol Stickley
	'Little Slam'	
<b>Best Seedling</b>		
		Jim Wilkin

. . . . .

Flowers are restful to look at.  
They have neither emotions nor conflicts.  
—Sigmund Freud

There was never a person who did anything worth doing  
that did not receive more than he gave.  
—Henry Ward Beecher

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## ***From the Archives . . .***

Back in 1949 when Claude Chidamian was the Editor of Southern California Camellia Society Bulletin (later to become *The Camellia Review*), he wrote an interesting editorial. We wonder what Mr. Chidamian and his friend K. Sawada would think of all the new introductions of the last sixty years. Mr. Chidamian wrote:

He didn't know anything about camellia names, so someone pinned a show ribbon on him reading NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE and before he could catch his breath that woman rushed up to him and held the little single no 'count red camellia under his nose.

"Can you tell me the name of this—it has been in our family for over fifty years and we've always called it Mother Finley's Red—but I'm sure it must have some other name." Just like that—in one breath.

He took the flower and examined it carefully. Yes, it was a camellia; he was quite sure of that. After all, this was a camellia show. He counted the petals and stamens, measured the leaves and calyx. He held the bloom off and squinted at it with one eye closed, and his thick glasses made him seem twice as wise as he really was. After mumbling professionally to himself for a long time, he looked at the breathless lady and said, "Mam, this here camellia is a Biji Komo."

The lady was so delighted that she even forgot to thank him, but rushed off in three directions with her new-found treasure.

A few minutes later another lady came up with a miserable little variegated flower. It too had "been in the family" for generations, planted by an old Nigerian king (so the story goes) who was a yard man on her pappy's plantation.

Our nomenclature expert went into his act and, after a decent interval, announced to the awe-struck lady that her camellia was without a doubt the variety known as Biji Komo.

Witnesses say that some time later the two ladies met. When the second lady proudly displayed her variegated Biji Komo, the first was somewhat surprised. Then she saw the light, "But why of course, my dear," she said, "yours is just a sport from my plant. I have *the original* Biji Komo."

Heaven only knows how many camellias were christened Biji Komo that day. Our Southern visitors tell me that all through the South now whenever they've got a no 'count camellia they can't identify, someone is bound to say—Why sure, I know what that is, it's a genuine Biji Komo.

We were talking about new camellias, K. Sawada and I, as we went through the Test Garden. And we both agreed that there were certainly enough Biji Komos on the market today. "The growers must realize," said Mr. Sawada, "that they are only hurting themselves when they continue to introduce and propagate camellias that are inferior to or duplicates of the best established varieties. In a survey made last year within a 40-mile radius of Mobile, it was found that 3 1/2 million camellia cuttings had been started. Such overproduction, particularly of inferior material, is bound to catch up with us in a few years. Then it will be just as it was a hundred years ago. People will tire of camellias because they have become common, so alike."

By the time we had passed through the Test Garden we both agreed that new blood must come into camellia breeding, that we had virtually exhausted the common possibilities of the Japonicas. The early bloom of the Sasanquas, the iridescent beauty and size of *Reticulata*, the fragrance of *Saluenensis*, and the unique qualities of all the other species must be fused and refined to make the camellia of tomorrow. Of course there are many difficulties; every beginning is difficult. But those who lead the way won't ask—Where to? What next?

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## DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB & CAMELLIA SOCIETY; President—Kathleen Hill, 2419 Koehn Court, Atwater, CA 95301, (209) 357-0782. 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, 93305. For meeting dates and times, call Helen Maas (661)872-2188.

MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Bob Dorn; Secretary—Julie Entwia, 22005 Dayton Ave., Modesto, 95356. Meetings: 1st Sunday, October-April, 1:00 p.m., 220-A Standiford Avenue, Modesto.

NAPA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Nancy McGowen Russell; Secretary—Fran Kane [fkane@sonic.net](mailto:fkane@sonic.net). Meetings: 2nd Monday, September-May. Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson Street, Napa.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Mary Bergamini; Secretary—Don Bergamini, 2023 Huntridge Court, Martinez 94553 Meetings: 1st Monday, November-April, 7:00 p.m., 1st Baptist Church, 2336 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. December and May are dinner meetings.

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—Carol Schanz; Secretary—Joan Lesmeister, 4512 Marble Way, Carmichael, CA 95608. 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—Mike Ekberg; 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—John Mendoza, 1025 Harrison Street, Santa Clara 95050. 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 4th Thursday October to April 7:00 p.m., Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Meeting is 3rd Thursday in November. No meeting in December.



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## Southern California Camellia Society, Inc.

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

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### THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

Mel Belcher, Editor

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### **A Fun meeting in February 2009**

Left - Carol Stickley demonstrated seed grafting

Right - Dorothy Christinson demonstrated bloom waxing.

Below - Dan Charvet (left), our speaker, told about his hybridizing program in Fort Bragg and then chatted with Tom Nuccio and David MacLaren during the break.





“Smiling Faces”

Photos by Bradford King  
See text on page 11

