

THE  
*Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



The Nuccios—Jim, Julius, Jude and Tom  
Cutting the 75th Anniversary Cake!



*C. japonica*  
'Alba Superba'



*C. japonica*  
'Melissa Ann'



Photos by Brad King

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## Cover Photo

"Cutting the Anniversary Cake"

Photo by Stephen Dashiell

## 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 |

**New Members joining this season will have a choice of a gift packet of note cards or a 2009 *Camellia Nomenclature*.**

Send your check payable to Southern California Camellia Society  
40641 Via Amapola, Murrieta, CA 92562  
or pay online on our website at  
[socialcamellias.org](http://socialcamellias.org)

## 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 United States and \$10.00 per set outside the United States. 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 United States and \$9.00 each outside the United States.

Cards can be ordered through Susan Streeter,  
1947 Midwick Drive, Altadena, CA 91001 (626/797-1059).

Make your check payable to SCCS.

Prices include tax and shipping.

Cards can also be ordered online at [socialcamellias.org](http://socialcamellias.org).

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## Thoughts from the Editor

As the previous issue of *The Camellia Review* went to print, Mel Belcher stepped down as Editor after serving in that position for seventeen years. He asked for a replacement, but no one stepped up. Because I've been involved with the *Review* during those seventeen years, it was an easy transition for me to step into Mel's shoes even though I have never been the camellia grower in the family, and those were big shoes, too.

In this issue we are continuing to celebrate a terrific 75th Anniversary Party at Nuccio's Nurseries in May. You can read Pam Waterman's write up about that. Hiromi Sato, Steve Dashiell, Peggy Neiman, Carol Stickley and I were there with cameras, and you'll see the results of some of those pictures. Not every one who was there got into a picture, however. We asked the partygoers to write congratulatory notes and those notes, together with pictures, were put into a scrapbook for the Nuccio Family. Perhaps they will let you see it when you visit the nursery.

I hope that you will enjoy reading what our Directors have written about how they got "hooked" on camellias. Their experiences are varied but it is evident that it was almost always a person who began the "hooking" process. In a separate article Director Anne Dashiell tells about how she and husband Steve got involved with camellias and how their camellia garden grew and continues to grow. Incidentally, are you "hooking" any camellia enthusiasts?

Tom Gilfoy lives next door to Descanso Gardens and shares how his garden expanded outside his yard and into Descanso Gardens. Beth Stone reports on the pruners at Descanso Gardens in May. You may remember seeing pictures of some of those pruners in the last issue of the *Review*. Faithful contributor Brad King tells us why white camellias are to be treasured. I remember when Mel and I first got into camellias years ago I met Leone Summerson. She told me she only grew white camellias because she could see them in the dark. Do you agree?

If you have some ideas about future articles, please don't hesitate to let me know. What is happening in your garden? Are you trying something different this year? Has something truly amazing bloomed for the first time this year? This camellia hobby is also a people hobby—we all learn from one another, so I'm hoping that you will share. E-mail works really well. Snail mail works well, too. And there is always the telephone. I do want to hear from you. And, if there is someone "out there" who would like to help in an editorial way, that help would be welcomed, too.

—Bobbie Belcher, Editor

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### 2009 Camellia Nomenclature

Copies of the 2009 Camellia Nomenclature are still available.

Special sections were added listing cold hardy and fragrant cultivars.

Price is \$20.00 including tax and shipping.

Orders can be placed by sending a check to:

Southern California Camellia Society  
40641 Via Amapola, Murrieta, CA 92562.  
or visit our website at [socalcamellias.org](http://socalcamellias.org)  
and order on line.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Don and Mary Chapton  
25404 Hancock Ave. Ste. 213  
Murrieta, CA 92562

Joey and Carolee Goldfarb  
8118 Hollywood Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90069  
310/420-8558  
joeyfhc@aol.com

Martin and Darleen Stoner  
1546 Hacienda Place  
Pomona, CA 91768  
mfstoner@gmail.com

## THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS

### Patron Memberships

Jim Fitzpatrick and Barbara Carroll  
Tom and Dody Gilfoy  
Joey and Carolee Goldfarb  
Brad King  
Dean and Susan Turney

### Sustaining Membership

Dudley and Lois Boudreaux  
Les and JoAnn Brewer  
Julius and Dorothy Christinson  
Steve and Anne Dashiell  
Don and Marilee Gray  
Travis and Mary James  
Frank and Barbara Jameson  
Ruth Lavine  
Jim and Peggy Neiman  
Fran Neumann  
Bob and Mary Sheriff  
Milton Surles  
Bill and Gayle Taylor

### Sponsoring Memberships

Gregory and Rosamay Davis  
Lew and Annabelle Fetterman  
Shin'ichro Kishikawa  
Christy Walters Kolva  
Bill and Jane Lynn

## NUCCIO'S CELEBRATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Pam Waterman

What better way to celebrate 75 years in business than throw a party with your most faithful customers? That was the thinking this month when Nuccio's and the Southern California Camellia Society joined forces in Altadena on the grounds of the venerable nursery.

More than 100 members of camellia societies arrived at the six acre nursery grounds to honor two generations of nurserymen who have made Nuccio's one of the best known camellia and azalea growers in the world.

The business began in 1935 when Joe and Julius Nuccio began propagating camellias and azaleas in the backyard of their parents' home in Alhambra. World War II put a halt to their operation while Julius served in the U.S. Army. Toward the end of the war, Guilio Nuccio, the boys' father, bought a piece of property in Altadena knowing that the fledgling nursery would need more space.

By 1947 the camellias were happy in their new Altadena home. Guilio helped the boys grade the hilly property and soon moved into a cabin on the property. A setback hit the business when a foot of snow covered the plants in 1949. Raised in Southern California, Joe and Julius didn't know what to do with all the white stuff so they tried spraying it with water. All they did was make icicles, break branches and lath. The plants left alone under snow did fine.

The brothers began a seedling program and brought their first new camellias, 'Katherine Nuccio', 'Primavera', and 'Warrior' to market

in 1950. Since those first offerings, Nuccio's has introduced more than 100 new camellia cultivars including 'Nuccio's Gem', 'Nuccio's Pearl', and 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa'.

Joe's son, Julius, worked at the nursery during high school and in 1957, decided to work there full-time. Tom Nuccio came to the nursery in

1972 several years after college.

Tom's younger brother Jim took even longer before joining his brother and cousin in 1980.

While camellias and azaleas were the major crops of the nursery, in the 1970's Nuccio's began growing a dogwood cultivar that could thrive in Southern

California. Several seedlings and named cultivars of dogwood are now sold at the nursery.

In 1977 another type of azalea was added to the list of plants carried by Nuccio's when Julius traveled to Japan to acquire Satsuki azaleas. These are the beautiful late-blooming azaleas many of which produce multi-colored blossoms on the same plant and are treasured for bonsai culture by the Japanese. Suzuki means "fifth month" since plants bloom from mid-April through June.

Currently Nuccio's grows camellias, azaleas, dogwoods, gardenias, some rhododendrons including the sub-tropical vireya types, and a camellia relative, *Cleyera japonica*, with tiny fragrant blossoms.

The Sunday party celebrating 75 years in business paid homage to the hard work and dedication to high standards of horticulture of the Nuccio family. Camellia enthusiasts



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from Bakersfield, Sacramento, San Francisco, Riverside and local communities enjoyed the food and festivities at one of their favorite nurseries.

The three second-generation nurserymen assured their audience of camellia lovers they were committed to continuing their seventy five year tradition of offering well-tended, unusual plants grown in an environmentally healthy manner.

Editor's note: Pam says she borrowed a little "historical" help from Tom Nuccio's article in the April-June 2009 *Camellia Review* for her article "Celebrating a Nursery" which was printed in the *Pasadena Star News* on June 26, 2010 and reprinted here with Pam's permission.



### Congratulations from Society Presidents

On behalf of the Southern California Camellia Society, as well as all the camellia societies in California, we congratulate and say "thank you" to Julius, Tom, Jim and all the staff of Nuccio's Nurseries on their 75th Anniversary of continued service to the camellia hobbyists in California, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, China, Vietnam and Japan.

James Fitzpatrick, President Southern California Camellia Society

The Orange County Camellia Society would like to say "thank you" from the bottom of our hearts for time and patience you three have shown us in the recent years. Thank you for driving out to Orange County to speak, for the personal tours of your nursery and for answering all our questions. We look forward to new varieties and the family feeling we get from the three of you everytime one of us shows up (with our checkbook). Thanks again

Steve Mefford, Friend and

President of The Orange County Camellia Society

We who live and garden in Southern California appreciate how fortunate we are just to live here. But camellia hobbyists in Southern California will tell you that, beyond the benefits afforded to all, we here enjoy a singular blessing that is found nowhere else in the world—Nuccio's Nurseries. The benefits we enjoy today began 75 years ago when two brothers named Julius and Joe Nuccio began the nursery that is continued today by their descendants—Julius (Jude), Tom, and Jim. The camellia introductions they have produced along the way are numerous but, more important than sheer numbers, each variety has met the highest standards of excellence. Gems, pearls, and jewels—these are appropriately descriptive words of their contributions to the camellia world.

Camellia and azalea plants from Nuccio's Nurseries are shipped all over the nation and the world. Catalogs are fine, but here is where the advantage of living in Southern California becomes so valued. Society meetings with one of the Nuccios as the speaker are always the best attended, and frequent visits to the nursery are also educational and enjoyable. Information, camaraderie, and humor are always in good supply, so much so that we rate a trip to Nuccio's Nursery top among the pleasures offered in Southern California.

Congratulations! Many thanks to you! Best wishes for many, many more good years

Marilee Gray, President  
Pomona Valley Camellia Society



Carol Schanz, President of Sacramento Camellia Society presented a Certificate recognizing 75 years of excellence to Tom, Jim and Jude.



Those in attendance enjoyed an absolutely sumptuous buffet!



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**PEOPLE CAME TO CELEBRATE NUCCIO'S  
ANNIVERSARY**



Bob Ehrhart  
Sergio Bracci  
Julius Nuccio  
Tom Nuccio



Dorothy  
Christinson

Jeri  
Christinson  
Thompson

Julius  
"Chris"  
Christinson



Marvin and Virginia Belcher



Carol Belcher Stickley, Bobbie Belcher  
Mel Belcher



Alexis and Loren Slafer



Rick and Barbara Tuffli



Helen Richards and Kathy Dupre



Carolee and Joey Goldfarb



Jim & Dorothy McQuiston



Jeanne Trefzger



Al Latham, Rick Tuffli, Sergio Bracci



John O'Neill



Kathryn Korin



Bill and Gayle Taylor



Marilee Gray writes congratulations!



Akiko and Harvey Horiuchi



Jim and Peggy Neiman



Jim and Armida Wilkin



Joe and Linda Tunner



Linda Troyer, George Harrison  
and Karen Harrison



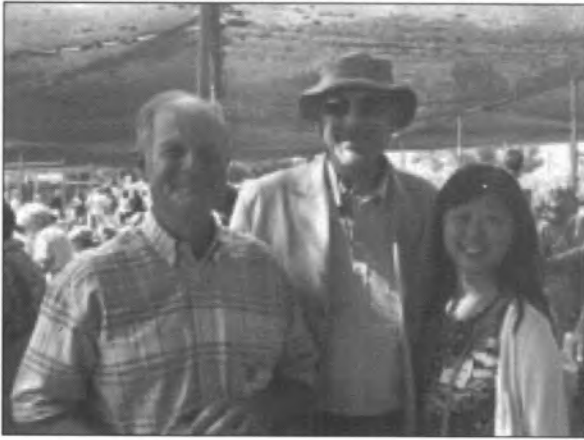
Steve and Nancy Mefford



Some of the Nuccio  
Family

Les and JoAnn Brewer





Tom Nuccio  
Rick Alpers  
Hiromi Sato



Helen Maas



Wayne and Joy Steffner



Beth Stone and Chris



Wen Wang & Mike Hynes

## HOW DID OUR DIRECTORS GET HOOKED ON CAMELLIAS?

### Our new Secretary, Peggy Rahn said:

I have Fran Neumann to thank for getting me turned on to camellias. She took me to Nuccios and introduced me around. We selected several specimens to add to my collection. Fran gave me care and feeding advice, encouraged me to come to meetings, invited me to the



January judges' seminar, and held my hand the first time I entered a show. I learned to wear jeans so I could shine the leaves and developed my own "camellia kit" to help with grooming. All this was quite new to me, and I was certainly intimidated. Beyond Fran's coddling, I must say many of you were most helpful and I thank you for that.

As an aside, camellias aren't new to my life. I've always loved camellias. My mother had many in her garden and I, like so many people, took them for granted. As long as they were in bloom, we always had a few around the house in pretty glass bowls.

For 30 years I have been and am a writer. Basically I write about food, travel and, whenever I can, gardens. In my first life I was a dental hygienist. I also run the cooking classes at the Los Angeles Arboretum.

I'm a convert. Thank you, Fran, and all of you who helped me appreciate camellias anew and in depth!

### Brad King said:

In March 1949 when I was ten years old my parents took me to the Boston Spring Flower Show. At the entrance to Horticultural Hall we were greeted by a small evergreen tree covered with a mass of pink flowers. I was struck by its beauty and wanted to know what it was called. The label read *Camellia Japonica* 'Pink Perfection'. I was already an avid Boston Red Sox fan who rooted for the New York Dodgers over the hated Yankees during the World Series. I never dreamed that the Dodgers and I would move to the Los Angeles area of California. I arrived in Southern California in 1985 to work at the University of Southern California as a psychologist and Director of the Student Counseling Service. My wife Lynn, our youngest son Andrew who was a freshman at USC and I moved into our house in Arcadia. During that winter I was amazed at the winter-flowering evergreen landscape plants around our new home.



Absolutely nothing in New England blooms in the winter. Therefore I was impressed by the row of mixed colored blooms on the north side of the house, the five small trees with red flowers in the backyard and the three planted under a bedroom window. I was struck by their beauty

and wanted to know the names. Garden books helped to determine they were *Camellia japonica*, but what varieties were they? Friends and neighbors when asked would say “a red winter flower or a pink camellia”. YES, BUT WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES. Fortunately, my boss at USC told me about Nuccio’s Nurseries in Altadena that specialized in azaleas and camellias. Lynn and I made our first trip to the Nursery and were told to bring leaves and flowers for identification. The next year I took flowers and leaves to Nuccio’s Nurseries. Jude Nuccio easily identified the medium red bloom as ‘Pope Pious IX’, the pink as ‘Debutante’, the blush pink as ‘Magnoliaeflora’, the large red as ‘Mathotiana’ and the white bloom with pink petals with deep pink stripes as ‘Herme’. He was stuck in identifying the semidouble white flower so he called over cousins Tom and Jim. They didn’t know the name, either, but I got to meet both of them. Next Jude called Uncle Julius over, introduced us and asked him to identify the bloom. In the flash he said it was ‘Alba Superba’. The hook was set to develop a passion for camellias, but this King fish was not landed until he joined the Southern Camellia Society. The culture sessions by Sergio Bracci, the Judges’ Symposium led by Marilee Gray, the *Camellia Review* edited by Mel Belcher, and talking to experienced growers at meetings and shows hooked me for life. I’m retired from USC and clinical work as a psychologist but not retired from camellias. My future like yours cannot be known, but my camellia goal has a future which is to hybridize a new and beautiful everlasting (repeat blooming) camellia!

**Fran Neumann said:**

I’ve liked plants since I was a little girl helping my dad in our backyard Victory Garden but I

thrilled at the vast array of roses and irises at “The Ranch” in Azusa, now known as Monrovia Nursery Company. In town my grandmother had camellias growing against a north wall on her house on South San Raphael. I picked them, but didn’t “understand” them. I lived in an apartment and liked to have flowers inside but chose roses because they lasted longer.

Getting hooked took a fairly nice ‘Silver Waves’ and a ‘Nuccio’s Gem’, which I’d inherited, which were growing on the west side the house we’d bought. What do you do with your camellias Saturday mornings January through March? You show them. So up to Descanso Gardens I go with a few blooms, put them down on the novice table—notice I did not say “display”—and when I came back to see the winners later that day my blooms were gone. I was distraught! Bobbie Belcher pointed me to the winners’ table. HOOKED !! Everyone who is still showing knows that experience.

My other prime camellia immersion is being neighbors with the



Nuccios: I bother Jude, I follow Tom around and I listen to Jim’s jokes. I love them all.

Back when I was gainfully employed, my first job in the 60’s was in Special Education in the classroom, then at Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles. After that I started the Program for Disabled Students at



Pasadena City College which was one of only eleven in California at the time. Then I co-founded a coalition to prevent alcohol and drug problems in the greater Pasadena area called Day One – Take Charge of your Life Take Care of Your Community. It is still going today. From there I became Director of Social Justice at the Neighborhood Unitarian Church in Pasadena. I study the art of bonsai and have about 20 trees and belong to two bonsai clubs.

**Mel Belcher said:**

How can anyone not become interested in camellias as a hobby? I can point to at least three reasons



why for me it was a “natural.” I grew up on a farm and spent years working with a great variety of plants including almonds, peaches and apricots. Obviously, these fruit trees required pruning, fertilizing, watering and pest control. A knowledge of these cultural requirements transferred directly to growing prize-winning camellias.

Secondly, there is an old saying that you can take the boy out of the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the boy. I will confess that I must have been highly “treated” by that old adage because there are few endeavors as satisfying to me as working with wooded plants, and camellias satisfy that need.

The third reason answers the

question as to “How?” or “Why?” I have a twin brother who was competing in camellia shows. He would come by our house after a show and boast (as I interpreted it) about “striking silver today.” We had about a dozen large camellias in the garden of the house we had purchased in La Verne and Marv would say, “Mel, you ought to enter these blooms in the shows.” Being competitive by nature, I took his invitation to enter as a challenge.

Thanks, Marv, for thirty years of great joy competing with you in one of God's great and beautiful creation—THE CAMELLIA!

**Marilee Gray said:**

How did I get hooked on camellias? Recalling those early years is akin to a study of ancient history. The dates are approximate, but it goes something like this: In 1963 we moved into a house that begged for some landscaping, but we delayed plant purchases until we could become acquainted with the new kind of plant material that thrived here in Southern California.

In 1966 my mother was visiting from eastern Nebraska, so we took her to Descanso Gardens to see the variety of plant material growing there. As it happened, we were there on a Saturday of a camellia show. That was the first time I recall seeing a camellia blossom, and I was enthralled! At that time the blooms were displayed outside on tables that



stretched through the camellia forest. The torrential rain of that day drove everyone under shelter and delayed the judging process for several hours. One particularly sociable and vivacious person whom I enjoyed observing that day under the shelter I later came to know was the chairman of the clerks, Frances Butler.

As a consequence of that day, I began shopping for camellias. My first purchase (a two for the price of one sale) was a 'Herme' and a 'Mathotiana Supreme'. By 1969 they were large enough to produce a few blooms, so I hesitantly entered them in Pomona Valley's annual show. I was so elated that one of the blooms actually won a second place red sticker! Walt Harmson's enthusiasm convinced me that that was a remarkable feat for a newcomer in competition with all the experienced exhibitors! Yes, that day he convinced me that I should join the Society. And the rest is history . . .

**Beth Stone said:**

I moved to California from Massachusetts in March of 1998 and promptly bought a house in a Pasadena neighborhood built in the 1920's. On my street, every house on the south side has camellia foundation plantings in the front.



Presumably every house on the north side, like mine, has camellias planted out back. Right outside my back door, an 8 ft tall plant was in glorious full

bloom with red blossoms. Next to it was a white followed by coral and then pink. Coming from a cold climate I was delighted to be surrounded with beautiful, mature "hot house" plants. Didn't that just prove how clever I was to move west? Previously I had only seen camellias in a greenhouse at Smith College in Northampton, MA. My parents told me how Dad used to bring Mom a corsage made with a single 'Alba Plena' bloom. How elegant is that?

I went to my first camellia show on Valentine's Day, Sunday 2/14/99, at the Huntington Library and was stunned by the impact of hundreds of blooms, all in the many shades of white, pink and red the holiday embraces. I spoke to a couple of Society members and my questions were soon referred to resident expert Marilee Gray! She guided me to my first camellia meeting and encouraged me to enter a show as a novice. I now know that my 'Covina' is no longer particularly popular, but I still remember Marilee saying that the one I exhibited was the biggest 'Covina' she'd ever seen. I knew that must be good and sure enough I marched away with my first crystal! Soon after I learned the names of my other "old Timers" —'Elena Nobile', 'Purity' and 'Pink Perfection'. Now I am the proud grower of 29 varieties of camellias, each one still more beautiful than the last.

**Jim Fitzpatrick said:**

In 1985, my wife and I purchased a small North Hollywood home on a small lot. The property had six camellia plants approximately 25-30 years old at that time—a 'Pink Ball' in the front yard and a 'Mathotiana', a 'Lallarook', two 'C.M. Hovey' and an 'E.G. Waterhouse' in the rear yard. They all had severe "petal blight" but at that time I did not know what it was. Because I was working freelance I really had no time to get interested in showing camellias until early in 1996 when I entered some of very

ordinary blooms and won a novice award with a 'Mathotiana'.

I became a member of SCCS, attended meetings when I was able, and starting clerking at a few shows. Marilee Gray became my mentor and I began taking "infant steps" in camellia culture.

In the fall of 1998, my job



required less travel and I entered some blooms in the local shows. My mentor Marilee suggested that I try to graft onto some of my old plants and Tom Nuccio arranged for Mike Hynes to help me. Mike brought scions from Nuccio's and together we grafted onto the five "stumps" that were left after severe pruning. Some of the grafts did not survive, but the camellia gods smiled on our attempts and resulted in a healthy 'Showtime', 'Margaret Davis', 'Nuccio's Pearl', 'Nuccio's Carousel', 'Red Hots', 'Silver Wings', 'Kumagai' and 'Carter's Sunburst Variegated'. I also invested in headlamps so that I could work on my plants at night after work but I don't recommend trying to graft by

lamplight.

Currently I am in my fourth year as the Governor's appointed Deputy Director, California Film Commission (CFC). My office is in Hollywood where I oversee a staff of eight that administers film, television, commercial and still photography permits; monitors insurance compliance, and collects and processes required fees on behalf of the CHP, Caltrans and State Parks/Beaches for filming on state property.

My camellia experience has been mostly "two steps forward, one step backward," but I am into this enterprise for the long haul so patience and perseverance are really their own rewards.

**Carol Stickley said:**

My addiction to growing camellias is partly inherited and partly environmental. Many of you know that my dad, Mel Belcher, has always been a farmer at heart - even throughout his career at Cal Poly as professor of Electrical Engineering. The other half of my green DNA



comes from my mother, Bobbie Belcher, who enjoys gardening, too. Together they have won many camellia trophies for many years.

I intentionally kept the camellia hobby at arm's length. I enjoyed clerking at the local shows, and I enjoyed hearing the trophy report on

Sunday afternoons. I even helped prepare *The Camellia Review* for printing for many years, but I took care not to learn the names of camellias - or the difference between Japonica and Reticulata. Working full time and raising four children was my priority. I couldn't get involved. I work in the Information Technology department of a Fortune 500 company which is headquartered in Pasadena.

About 8 years ago, I purchased the little house in Old Town La Verne where Dad had planted nearly 200 camellias—his farm. At the same time, my parents sold their big house on the hill, and moved to Murrieta. This is when I started getting more involved with the care and feeding of the plants and it's when I started learning about cross pollination. (After show season of course!) A few years later, my parents announced that the camellias were mine, and THEY would help ME at the shows. I wasn't sure I was ready, but by this time, I had just two children still at home. I purchased laser printable name tags for the camellias so I could see their names while I was weeding and pruning and watering. Once I started learning their names and was able to greet them by name, we bonded. But I think I became hooked when I started learning the names of the other camellia growers. Once I could greet them by name and exchange hugs and war stories, I became totally hooked on this camellia hobby.

**Don Gray said:**

I got involved in the camellia hobby to be with my best friend. We dig holes together, carry pots, mix soil, and water. I get to chauffeur. I do not prune, fertilize, disbud, gib, pick, or arrange. I am in the hobby to be with my best friend.



**Nancy Kress said:**

Christmas 2001, was just around the corner and the owners of a beautiful, historic home in La Verne invited us as prospective buyers to look at their home. I sat under the old oak tree amid a sea of camellias and I knew, "This is the place. This is where I want to live." Little did I know, at that point, that camellias had hooked me into a world of new friends and experiences. I was nervous. I had more than 100 camellias challenging, no, daring me to keep them alive. Thankfully, our new home came with my very own



personal tutor and mentor, Mel Belcher. I had always enjoyed being in nature knew a little bit about camellias because my mother-in-law grew some in her yard. Now, it was

“do or die”—not for me but for my new plant buddies. It took me seven years to completely understand their care and feeding. Fortunately, they are forgiving and patient beings. I wanted to make sure they had enough to eat—thinking that, if a little food is good, a lot would be better. Poor ‘Miss Tulare’. She nearly succumbed the second year. However, I am proud to say that I nurtured her back to health, and she thanked me by winning a prize this year.

While camellias may have hooked me, the people in the camellia world reeled me in. Early on I made my first trek to Nuccio’s to buy my mother-in-law’s favorite camellia, ‘Blood of China’ to plant in her honor. At checkout, I pulled out my credit card. Oops. I fished through my purse for my checkbook. Oops. I dug deeper in my purse for cash. Oops. “That’s okay,” said the Nuccio employee, “Just send us a check.” That did it. Hook, line and sinker. I was caught.

I had no background in growing things and even thought I had a brown thumb. In 1978, I graduated from U.C.L.A. with a B.A. in Anthropology/Archaeology, including extensive coursework in foreign languages and became a caseworker in a Congressional office. After earning a law degree I worked in my husband’s law firm in Santa Monica. Now I’m retired and am enjoying spending time in my gardens, in my home, with friends, and traveling.

With the help of friends in the camellia societies, I have successfully nurtured my brown thumb back to green.

**JoAnn Brewer said:**

You might say awareness and interest in camellias came with our wedding rings in 1953. Our ceremony and reception in late January had cascading boughs of blooming camellias from old trees and the bride’s maids carried parasols adorned with camellias.

Both of our parents had wonderful camellia gardens but didn’t ever seem obsessed as we may seem to have become. At some time I became aware of the mini shows at the bank in Claremont, and I soon discovered my competitiveness and crystal! Awakened from his nap, Leslie was called on to photograph



the winners at those first mini-shows. Guess what! ‘Han-Ling Snow’, ‘Grace Albritton’ and ‘Spring Daze’ brought in the first crystal and the rest of the story you know.

The dividend in all this has been the many friends we’ve found who undoubtedly would have been missed otherwise. It’s been fun! One of our favorite places is still our own back yard.

**Kristina Hooper said:**

When I was a young child, my grandmother would come to visit regularly at the holidays. She had about a dozen roof high camellia plants, and the Debutante camellias were always in bloom in December. She would bring cookie sheets full of camellias in her trunk. I always thought that a camellia was a ‘Debutante’. Later, on some trips to her house in January and February, I had the chance to see some others like ‘Herme’ and ‘Pink Perfection’. I think she would have enjoyed the more recent introductions. I am also sure that her ‘Debutante’ would have won prizes with its hundreds of huge,



perfectly colored puffy pink flowers each season.

**David MacLaren said:**

From an early age I enjoyed being outdoors, and gardening was a family hobby. One of my grandfathers was a gardener on some of the large estates in Pasadena when you mowed a one acre lawn with a push mower. My father was especially influential in my life. He loved plants, enjoyed making cuttings, amateur bonsai, etc. As long



as I can remember we had camellias at our home, 'Alba Plena' and 'Debutante' to name a few. I grew to appreciate those gorgeous winter and early spring blooms, along with the beautiful dark green foliage when the

plant was not in bloom.

When I owned my own landscape business, I frequently used camellias in residential and commercial projects. In 2000, I went to work at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino. My title is Curator of The Asian Gardens, which means I am responsible for our Japanese garden, built in late 1912, our new Chinese Garden, and our collection of approximately 1,400 camellias. I feel very blessed to be able to spend time with and work with so many beautiful camellias.

**Director Wayne Walker** at work in the camellia gardens at Descanso.



Editor's note: Anne Dashiell is also one of our Directors. Read her story on the following pages.

## HOW I BECAME A CAMELLIA LOVER/HOBBYIST

Anne Dashiell  
Pasadena, California

Is there a gene for camellia lovers? It is unlikely that the researchers of the human genome will ever identify one, but there is no denying that it is a love passed down from one generation to another. My grandmother highly valued her camellias. When she and my parents bought the house where Mother still lives Nana was delighted to find four mature camellias marching along the north side of the house. We had 'Pink Perfection', 'Purity', 'Covina' and an unidentified pink with red flecks which usually dropped its blooms before they fully opened. These four were at least 30 years old in 1952 and stood taller than our two story house.

In those days you could buy camellias in two inch paper pots in the five and dime for only a few cents, so the camellia collection on the shady side of the house grew and began to take over the rose garden. Friends who visited in winter and early spring

went home with shopping bags full of camellias for their own homes. Friends from "Back East" ooh-ed and ahh-ed at the beautiful flowers in mid-winter.

Fast forward to the 1970's. As newlyweds Steve and I purchased our first home. It was obvious to me that the bare patch of earth on the north side of the house was crying out for camellias. Our first goal was to find a replacement for the large, deep red formal double which we had enjoyed while renting. Unfortunately, we did not know its name; nursery

men listened to our description and sold us what they called 'Col. Firey', otherwise known as 'C.M. Hovey'. We still have it though every year as I collect thousands of tiny petals from the ground around it I threaten to tear it out. Other camellias followed, 'Betty's Beauty', a naturally variegated bloom and perennial favorite 'Debutante' were early choices. We discovered McCaskill's garden on the Pasadena-Arcadia border and purchased the scented camellia 'Spring Sonnet', one of his introductions. It never wins anything in shows but it makes a beautiful display in the garden and I love it. At Nuccio's in Altadena we purchased



Joe Nuccio with its spoon-shaped petals and 'Nuccio's Gem', a white formal double. We also acquired additional Nuccio's introductions 'Buttons 'N Bows' and 'Shiro Chan'. This filled the available area

and we settled down to the project of raising a family and getting on with our lives.

With our children grown we entered the most recent phase of our camellia experience, mostly by accident. We were at the Huntington Library one winter Sunday and noticed that there was a camellia show in progress. On a whim we went in to see what there was to see. As we looked at the tags I commented to Steve that the Mittags had so many blooms on display that they must be professional growers. The woman

standing next to me started a bit and said, "No, I'm not." She then introduced herself to us as Mary Kay Mittag and explained the rules for exhibiting camellias. We went home saying to ourselves that our camellias look as good as many of the ones on display. After that we skulked in the background, attending shows at Descanso Gardens and talking with Ralph Shaffer about rules and techniques for shows. Finally, we entered a few blooms in the novice class in the late show and, lo and behold, WE WON! It was a great feeling, somewhat tempered by the knowledge that the competition was a bit thin. In fact, ours were the only blooms competing in the novice category that day. In any case we were hooked. We have entered at least a few blooms in most of the Descanso and Huntington shows since. Once you've taken crystal in novice, Southern Cal rules allow you three chances to compete as an intermediate before throwing you in with the seasoned competitors. During the next year we swept intermediate three times. That put us in the class with the big guys. In this new class we went a whole year during which we did not win anything. We persevered however and soon found that our relatively temperate location in Pasadena gave us a slight advantage in the earliest shows making early blooming varieties a priority for us.

Clearly, if we were going to compete successfully we needed more blooms which meant we needed more plants. Raffles at camellia society meetings netted us some new varieties and some old-timers. Trips to Nuccio's opened our eyes to the huge variety available. We

began selecting one wonderful bloom after another. The obvious growing space was full so we put shade cloth along the south fence in the back yard to make that area suitable for camellias. A few others live happily in the shade of a neighbor's deodar. Still more acquisitions followed. We removed the grass under the oak tree to increase the camellia growing area. Others, still in pots, sit gathered together in a shady corner. The family jokes that one day we may have to cover the whole back yard with shade cloth to deal with the camellia collection. It could happen—we'll have to see.

Looking back I realize that many of our purchases were not likely to ever win an award in a camellia show. Blooms with natural variegation are favorites of mine, but they are less dependable in form and coloration than most solid colored blooms. Furthermore, I am easily tempted by an unusual bloom only to find that it does not display well in a standard cup. 'Tulip Time', for example, has an interesting shape but sinks limply into even the smallest cup. Our *C. amplexicaulis* has not bloomed yet but I suspect it will have a similar problem. 'Spring Mist' has a pleasant scent and makes a fine show on the bush, but its petals are too irregular in size and placement to meet the judges' stringent requirements. Of course we love to win, but in many ways the fun of a show is in collecting the best blooms from our plants and taking them to a place where they will be enjoyed and admired by an appreciative audience. If we take crystal once in a while that is a bonus, but most of our joy is in the doing.

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### Statement of Mind

Conscience: faults alarm  
Worry: stewing without doing  
Enthusiasm: get-up and glow

Comeuppance: crowing pains  
Apathy: never mind over don't matter



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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA HOBBYISTS PRUNE CAMELLIAS IN THE DESCANSO CAMELLIA FOREST

Beth Stone

On a beautiful Saturday morning in May 2010, a collection of eleven volunteers representing four different Southern California Camellia Societies were supervised by Wayne Walker. The team worked from 8:00-12:00 a.m. collectively logging over 40 hours of skilled and enthusiastic labor.

The eleven included:

James Fitzpatrick – President of Southern California Camellia Society  
Don & Marilee Gray – Marilee is President of Pomona Valley Camellia Society

George Harrison – President of Pacific Camellia Society

Brad King – President of Southern California Camellia Council

Jim & Dorothy McQuiston

Steve Mefford – President of Orange County Camellia Society

Hiromi Sato, Carol Stickley and Beth Stone.

The area targeted was the southwest corner of the West Camellia Forest near the California Garden. The mission was to bring down the height of the camellias nearest the roadway, to remove any growth overhanging the road and to generally

thin and shape the camellias to bring out the beauty and improve the health of each plant

Some of the camellias that we pruned and their year of introduction are listed below. All of the following are *C. japonica*:

'Arrabella' 1949

'Aspasia MacArthur' 1850

'China Doll' 1958

'Comte de Nesselrode' 1937 - deep pink striped and splotched with red, medium semidouble to loose peony

'Covina' 1888

'Dr. Tinsley' 1949

'Elegans Miniata' 1831 (?)

'Eureka Red 1930' (?)

'Eureka Variegated' 1930

'Look-Away' (sport of 'Herme') 1948 - deep rose pink center with wide white border

'Mona Hahn' (not found in Nomenclature nor Supplement)

'Pink Perfection' 1875

'Uncle Sam' 1921

Editor's note: You saw pictures of some of these pruners in the last issue of *The Camellia Review*.

• • •

## Garden Therapy

When nerves are taut and heart is sore  
And you can stand no one thing more  
Go mow the grass or pull some weeds,  
Go spade a patch and plant some seeds.  
Go trim the hedge or dig a hole  
And you'll find peace within your soul.

—Author unknown

Gardening—It soothes the soul but makes your back  
and muscles ache!

—Crafty Gardener

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## A GARDEN WITHIN A GARDEN, Tom Gilfoy

Through the years I've been asked many times how I happen to have "my own" special separate camellia garden within the confines of La Canada Flintridge's Descanso Gardens. Here's the story that answers that question.

Around fifteen years ago I hit on an idea as to how I might expand my camellia collection into my neighbor's yard. In my case that meant expanding into a public botanic garden as my rear-fence neighbor is Descanso Gardens. The area I had in mind was immediately

behind my home in a relatively undeveloped and completely overgrown part of the gardens.

There were many tree-size privets in this area and other volunteer weed-plants with a few camellia seedlings and cultivars mixed in. Some of the old camellias were flat on the ground and in a few cases had produced roots along their trunks. I suggested to Descanso that I could expand its collection by cleaning up the area and planting or grafting some of the newer and more exotic camellias at my expense.

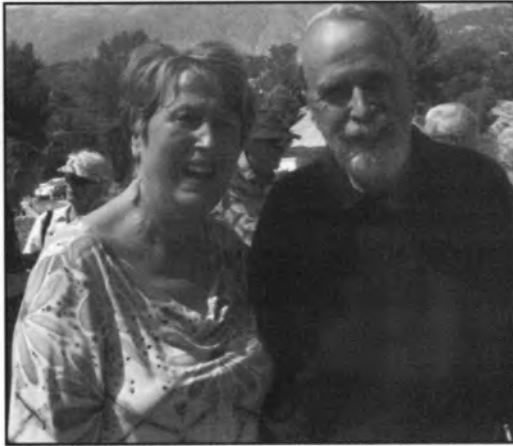
Descanso liked the idea and I was soon at work chopping down the privets and digging out the stumps. The flattened camellias were propped up by using old pipe as stakes and were ear marked for use as under stock for grafting at a later time. (Eventually the flattened camellias were able to sustain themselves in an upright position and all the stakes

were removed except one. It remains only because I can't pull it out.) In all events the arrangement gave me what I wanted and was a pretty darn good deal for both parties, reclaiming as it did, an area not being used by Descanso for any other purpose. It was, in fact, a good symbiotic relationship that continues to this day.

When I had the area ready for the first planting, Descanso's then Executive Director, Richard Shulhof and I went up to Nuccio's Camellia Nursery to select eight camellia cultivars not already included in Descanso's collection. All were planted in a straight line along, and parallel to, the fence separating Descanso's property from mine. All but one of these original plantings survive to this day, with most of the seven survivors now

exceeding the height of the adjoining eight foot fence. A gopher or mole killed the eighth one about a year and a half ago.

The planting and grafting continued and eventually Descanso put up a small protective fence, partly to close the area to public entry until the grafts could get a good start, but mostly to keep deer away from the new growth, particularly the fresh growth on the new grafts. (Don't ever let anyone tell you deer don't eat camellias. While it is true deer won't chomp away on old growth, they love to eat the new spring growth on young plants and very much prefer new *Reticulata* growth to *Japonica*, an interesting phenomena I observed



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quite often through the years.) Since the area was partly without irrigation I was able to adjust the overhead sprinklers in my yard to provide water to those new cultivars Descanso's rainbirds couldn't reach. (Some are still watered this way today.)

After a few years this initial area became filled to capacity. I then expanded into a similar area in Descanso behind my next door neighbor's home, pretty much repeating the same process all over again. I put up a new protective fence around this new area and Descanso took down the old one to release the original area to public entry as the camellias there had matured sufficiently to be no longer in need of protection.

The new area presented challenging new irrigation problems as it too was mostly without water, and this time I couldn't reach it with water from my own overhead sprinkling system. For the first two or three years the problem was solved by pushing a hose through the chain-link fence and watering by hand from one of the faucets in my yard. Eventually though, I solved the problem by tapping into one of Descanso's main lines through the area and by installing several hundred feet of pipe and three new rainbirds.

Between the two areas and between the grafting and the new plants, "My Garden within a Garden"

now contains about 133 new camellia plants which, allowing for duplication, is probably somewhere around 15 percent of Descanso's total varietal collection.

One of life's pleasures is to work in my back yard on a busy Sunday afternoon during camellia season and listen to the many comments from Descanso visitors that come drifting over the fence. Included have been such exclamations as, "Oh my gosh, I've never seen one this big before in my life." or "I had no idea there are so many different kinds of camellias."

My favorite though, is a conversation I overheard between two visitors right after I'd spent most of the preceding week cutting down some of Descanso's original 'Pink Perfection' to use their stumps as under stock. (I had some scions from some particularly beautiful new varieties given to me by Sergio Bracci that I was grafting to these stumps.) Once again it was a Sunday and I heard a woman yelling at her companion, "Come over here quick. You've just got to see this, it's the most beautiful flower I've ever seen." Well, curiosity got the best of me so I edged over closer to the fence so I could see which one of my beautiful new varieties was causing all the commotion. I couldn't believe it, there she was, pointing to a blossom on one of the few remaining old 'Pink Perfection' I'd been cutting down all week. *C'est la vie.*

~ ~ ~

### Take Time

Take time to think, it is the source of power.

Take time to play, it is the secret of youth.

Take time to read, it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to pray, it is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to love and be loved, it is a god-given privilege.

Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul.

Take time to work, it is the price of success.

—author unknown

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## WHY WE TREASURE WHITE CAMELLIAS

Bradford King

There is something special about a perfect white camellia. Its pure bright white color reminds me of a bride's gown or freshly fallen snow or a tall glass of milk—memories of the sacred union of man and women, childhood days when school is closed due to snow and we played outside making snow angels and cold milk for dunking a cookie or washing down chocolate cake. Now as a camellia grower I am always in awe when I see one in the garden or in a show with no weather marks or petal plight. It is a major achievement to get an unblemished white bloom to a show. I think that is why there are camellia shows where a "Best White" camellia is awarded. Do you have a favorite? I have pondered and struggled with the notion of which is the best white camellia.

Historically, the first white camellia to come from China to the western world was 'Alba Plena'. Captain Conner brought this cultivar to England in 1792. The first *C. japonica* to arrive in the United States was a single red, imported from England to Hoboken, New Jersey by John Stevens. No one remembers this single red today; however, in 1800 John Stevens imported 'Alba Plena' from England and this white cultivar is still known throughout the camellia world. Stevens had nurseries in Manhattan and Harlem and was instrumental in New York become the center for greenhouse-grown camellias. Interest spread to the wealthy in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Boston. Only those well off financially could afford the necessary greenhouse facilities to grow camellias in the northeastern states. 'Alba Plena' was in these early collections and was distributed throughout the camellia-growing states.

In 1784 David Landreth founded the first seed company in

Philadelphia. He also sold camellias. In 1818 he opened a branch of his company in Charleston, South Carolina and introduced camellias to the southern states. From 1830 to 1860 thousands of camellias were sold to plantation owners for landscape purposes. Fruitland Nursery, established in Augusta Georgia in 1858, sold camellias until the property became the Augusta National Golf Club. As the cotton industry grew throughout the South so did the distribution of camellias. A good example is 'Alba Superba' which was introduced in 1840 by Magnolia Plantation in Charleston. This white medium semidouble traveled to the West and specimen can be found near the ornamental bell at the entrance to the Huntington Japanese Garden.

'Purity' early became a popular landscape white camellia. This rose form to formal double came from Japan in 1887. Descanso Gardens has a small forest of them because Manchester Boddy planned to use them for ladies' corsages. In 2009 the Southern California Camellia Society and the Pomona Valley Camellia Society established a new camellia show category of six Nuccio's introductions. It is an open class—treated and non-treated. I think an all white entry would be striking. We can chose from these Nuccio's introductions: 'Elegans Champagne', 'Junior Prom', 'Nuccio's Gem', 'Silver Anniversary', 'Silver Chalice', 'Silver Cloud', 'Silver Lace'. 'Silver Tower', 'Silver Triumph', 'Silver Waves', 'Tata', 'Thomas D. Pitts' and 'White Bouquet'. Can't you see six large perfect white blooms winning?

On the national scene in 2009 the white *japonica* to win the most points in camellia shows was 'Man Size' with 130. 'Sea Foam' won 68, 'Melissa Ann' won 20 and 'Nuccio's

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Gem' won 14. 'Man Size', a miniature anemone flower is a favorite in Southern California; however, we rarely 'Sea Foam' or 'Melissa Ann' in Southern California shows. 'Sea Foam', a medium to large formal double, blooms mid to late season so it doesn't do well in Southern California when it often gets very hot in March and April. Although this eliminates it as a candidate for best white camellia in Southern California, it does well in northern California. 'Melissa Ann', a large to very large loose to full peony with clusters of yellow interspersed stamens, is very popular in the South where it was introduced in 1995. It is a great bloom, but is hard to find in Southern California nurseries.

So, which white camellia is best in Southern California? My nomination would be the creamy white miniature anemone 'Man Size' for best white miniature/small category. It wins often as a single and in trays of 3's and 5's. My candidate for the best medium white camellia is 'Nuccio's Gem'. This medium to large formal double with beautiful petals has been available for over 40 years. It is popular and available throughout the camellia world. The noted camellia artist, Paul Jones in the foreword to *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Camellias* by Macoby said, "Having examined countless camellias at their best, I feel well qualified to nominate the perfect bloom and, in my opinion, perfection is exemplified in 'Nuccio's Gem'. Has a new white camellia come along since Paul Jones said this in 1997 that would dethrone 'Nuccio's Gem'?"

In my opinion 'Elegans Champagne' is the best large or very large white japonica. A sport of 'Elegans Splendor' it is a beautiful white anemone flower with creamy center petaloids and fimbriated outer petals. It blooms early to mid season on a bushy spreading plant. It is a complex flower that at times may show stamens especially when gibbed, but most of the time the stamens are not visible. It has heavily serrated leaves that are distinctive.

How do we determine which is the best white camellia? What do you think? I think familiarity, popularity and personal preferences are part of the choice of "best."

The golfer, Tiger Woods, was voted the best athlete of the decade by the Associated Press in December 2009 two weeks after his marital infidelities became public which resulted in his loss of face, endorsements and public flogging by the media. He won over the popular cyclist and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong, frequently accused but never convicted of using performance enhancing drugs, and the tennis great Roger Federer, who was almost perfect in center court wins until losing to his his nemesis Nadal. *Sports Illustrated* choose Roger Federer as the best athlete of 2009 followed by Tiger Woods, Lance Armstrong, Michael Phelps and Kobe Bryant. It seems we enjoy the discussion and debate of whom and what is "best." However, in the final tally among the greats, isn't it in the eye of the beholder as to who is the best athlete or, as in this discussion, the best white camellia?

### Notable Quotes

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.  
—Will Rogers

In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on.  
—Robert Frost

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## Southern California Camellia Society, Inc.

A non-profit 501(c)3 corporation

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

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### THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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## 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—Robert Ehrhart; Secretary—Mary 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—Caroline Beverstock; Secretary—Linda Kancev, 1514 S. Delaware St., San Mateo, CA 94402 Meetings: 4th Monday, October-March, Veterans' Memorial Senior Center. 1455 Madison Ave., 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—James Fitzpatrick; 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.



*C. japonica*  
'Princess Masako'  
Nuccio's new  
introduction in 2010



*C. japonica*  
'Nuccio's Gem'



*C. japonica*  
'White Bouquet'