

THE
Camellia
REVIEW





INSIDE COVER: 'NUCCIO'S GEM' Photo by Bradford King

FRONT COVER: 'YULETIDE' Photo by Bradford King

Published by the Southern California Camellia Society
socialcamelliasociety.org

Bradford King, Editor • bdk@usc.edu

Karen Harrison, Associate Editor

Michelle Glush, Graphic Design • mglush@mac.com

Barbara Council, Membership

Southern California Camellia Society,

PO Box 1312, La Canada CA 91012

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

THE NEW NORMAL

BY BRADFORD KING

“The New Normal” in Southern California requires us to deal with the multi-year drought and the ongoing Covid pandemic. This means providing moisture to all plants, especially camellias, not overlooking cactus and succulents. The Southern California Camellia Society (SCCS) plans to have in person society meetings and camellia shows this camellia season. This means following the state and county safety measures—social distancing and face masks for in person gatherings.



The SCCS holds its meetings the third Thursday of the month at 7 PM in Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum from October through April. This November meeting was held on Tuesday evening, November 16,

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Susan Stull • susan.stull@icloud.com

due to a “Light Show” held at the Arboretum. Jim Nuccio brought a variety of *Camellia sasanqua* from the nursery which he discussed. An outstanding documentary video of Nuccio’s Nurseries was also shown.

There is no meeting in December due to the holidays. Tom Nuccio is the featured presenter at the January 20th meeting. He will discuss and show a variety of interesting and beautiful camellias.

The camellia show season begins with a Camellia Judge’s Symposium which will be held at Descanso Gardens on January 8, 2022, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Please bring your own beverages and lunch, as due to Covid, no refreshments will be served. You are invited to this free camellia symposium even if you are not a camellia judge, because it is an excellent way to learn more about camellias. In addition, it is an opportunity to meet other camellia folk after a full year of no in person meetings. Renewing friendships and making new friends is a significant benefit of being in a camellia society.

This issue of the *Camellia Review* highlights “Nuccio’s Sun Camellias,” “Tom and Jim Nuccio’s Favorite Camellias,” and camellias with a long blooming season entitled “Going Long.” Typically, the *Camellia Review* has three feature articles and brief reports of a Higo camellia and a camellia species. Articles are illustrated by beautiful camellia photos. Each issue ends with the “Parting Shot” article which features ‘Kaleidoscope’ in this fall issue.

The Camellia Review is designed and laid out by Michelle Glush, a creative graphic designer. Karen Harrison and Lynn King ably handle proofreading.





'NUCCIO'S GEM'

TOM AND JIM NUCCIO'S CAMELLIA PICKS

BY BRADFORD KING

When pressed to choose the best ten camellias the nursery grows, Tom replied, “My choices tend to change during the season and over the years. However, when I think about white flowers, it is definitely ‘Nuccio’s Gem.’ I also favor ‘Silver Waves’ because of the beautiful golden stamens surrounding the wavy petals.”

Jim agrees with ‘Nuccio’s Gem’ for its tight formal double form and added ‘Ferris Wheel’ because it is the largest white flower with beautiful red streaks. They unanimously agreed that the large red flower named for their father, Julius Nuccio, would definitely make the list.

‘Nuccio’s Pearl’ was also a unanimous choice. This surprised me until I noticed that the flowers on the nursery plants are gorgeous and significantly better than in my home garden. This is not an uncommon experience for many of us visiting the nursery—a testament to Nuccio’s propagation and expert camellia care.



SILVER WAVES'

Ok! If you can only take ten camellias from the nursery, what are your other choices? ‘Yuletide’ they both claimed as the best C. sasanqua.

Tom would definitely choose ‘Buttons ‘n Bows,’ the small formal double



'JULIUS NUCCIO'

pink, to add to his list. Jim agreed and would add 'E. G. Waterhouse' and 'Taylor's Perfection' giving them three strong choices from the many nonreticulata hybrids.

Which of the many wonderful *C. reticulata* hybrids make your list? They



'FERRIS WHEEL'



'NUCCIO'S PEARL'



'BUTTONS 'N BOWS'

both would choose 'Dr. Clifford Parks' for its classic red bloom. Jim would add 'Barbara Goff' and 'Linda Carol,' as they have beautiful large pink flowers.

Tom would pick 'Frank Houser' and 'Mouchang' for its large coral pink bloom with wonderful stamens. Tom added "I really like stamens."



'YULETIDE'



'E.G. WATERHOUSE'



'TAYLOR'S PERFECTION'



'DR. CLIFFORD PARKS'



'BARBARA GOFF'



'LINDA CAROL'



'FRANK HOUSER'



'MOUCHANG'



TOM NUCCIO

Photo by Brandon Slavinsk



JIM NUCCIO

Photo by Brandon Slavinsk

What a great list! I was also impressed how two brothers could agree and add a divergent choice in a manner that reflected mutual respect. As an older brother, it is my experience that this occurs when adolescent competitiveness diminishes and adult males mature.



NUCCIO'S NURSERIES



'SUNNYVALE CIRCUS'



Going Long

BY BRADFORD KING

“Going long” is a football expression for a long pass. It is a high-risk, high reward play because when successful it results in a first down, gaining multiple yards and at times a touchdown. Going long is a high reward low risk for camellia growers when seeking a long camellia blooming season. Like a touchdown, it scores points.

The camellia season begins with the fall blooming *Camellia sasanqua* noted for tolerating full sun and producing many colorful flowers. There are hundreds registered, but most camellia nurseries will offer a few dozen. Some favorites are the late blooming silvery pink ‘Bert Jones’; ‘Double Rainbow’ with the classic white flower and a rose border; ‘Hugh Evans,’ an early profuse bloomer with single twisted petals; ‘Setsugekka’ with a large ruffled white flower, and ‘White Doves’ (‘Mine-no-yuki’), a low growing shrub with a white flower.

My favorites are ‘Old Glory’ with its white ruffled petals and a deep rose border; ‘Showa-no-sakae,’ with its lovely soft clear pink peony flower, and the single red with golden anthers of ‘Yuletide.’



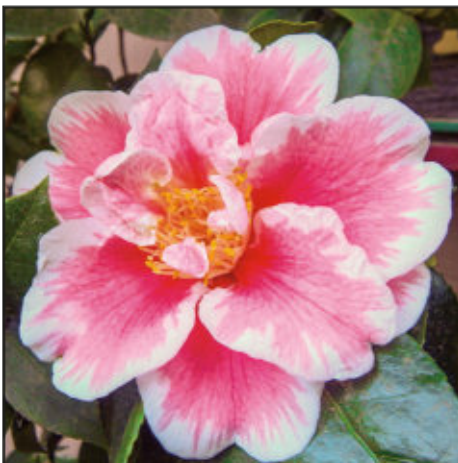
'KANJIRO'



'EGAO'

In addition, I am growing a few of Yuri Panchul's Sunnyvale Sasanquas. It is especially fun to grow a local breeder's seedlings. 'Sunnyvale Circus' has a very interesting white flower with rose stipes which is rare for a sasanqua thanks to Yuri's hybridizing.

C. hiemalis and *C. vernalis* cultivars bridge the fall blooming *C. sasanqua* and the winter blooming *C. japonica*. Two of the very best *C. hiemalis* are 'Kanjiro' and 'Shishi-Gashira.' 'Kanjiro' grows vigorously upright with brilliant rose red semidouble flowers. It is one of the most versatile camellias, as it can be used as a specimen, hedge, espalier, bonsai, or rootstock. 'Shishi-Gashira' forms a neat full bushy short shrub with lots of small colorful rose red flowers.



'OO-LA-LA'



'AY-AY-AY!'



'SHISHI-GASHIRA'



'CARTER'S SUNBURST BLUSH'

The iconic *C. vernalis* is 'Egao.' The medium to large semidouble pink flower looks like a classic japonica and grows like a classic sasanqua. It transitions between these two species blooming periods. It grows vigorously upright and in a somewhat open manner.

Camellia cultivars with an early to late blooming season are like a football receiver who can catch short passes for first downs, take a hit on a medium pass across the middle, and can burn the opponent by catching a bomb. If you prefer a different comparison, how about an actress who can do Saturday Night Live comedy, a family sitcom on TV, and star on Broadway. This is what camellias that bloom early to late season mean to the camellia world. They are versatile stars!

'Oo-La-La' has a very showy flower and long blooming season. The medium pink flower is single to semidouble with red stripes and edges in white. There are occasional white markings on the petals. It grows upright and blooms from early to late season and was introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1991. In 1995, it sported a seedling that the Nuccio's named 'Ay-Ay-Ay!' It too has a

single to semidouble flower that is borne on an upright plant that blooms from early to late season. However, this mutation has a deep pink veined flower, red stripes, and some petals with white edges. They make good garden plants.

When 'Carter's Sunburst Pink' sported, Hulyn Smith named this color mutation 'Carter's Sunburst Blush.' Like the original 'Carter's Sunburst,' it has a long blooming season but is a deeper shade of pink striped darker pink with a white border. It is a beautiful flower well worth growing along with 'Carter's Sunburst.'

The pale orchid pink very large semidouble 'Moonlight Bay' grows robustly in an upright and full manner. It is reminiscent of a full moon reflecting on the calm waters of a bay.

'Nuccio's Cameo' has a medium to large pink formal double flower that occasionally opens as a rose form double. My plant has reliably bloomed for over 30 years from early to late season on an upright compact bushy plant which makes it an excellent landscape camellia. A cameo is a method of carving an object such as an engraved gem, item of jewelry, or vessel featuring a raised relief image. 'Nuccio's Cameo' is like a beautiful engraved gem with its spiraled petals.

A popular camellia in California is 'Nuccio's Carousel.' The medium to large semidouble flower has a soft pink tone in its center that flows into a deeper pink as it approaches the petal edges. When color tones deepen on a flower, it makes an especially beautiful and showy flower. It is unclear why this camellia is not widely grown in the southeast especially as it takes gib very well and has a long blooming season.



'MOONLIGHT BAY'



'NUCCIO'S CAMEO'



'NUCCIO'S CAROUSEL'



'PINK PERFECTION'

'Usu-Otomi,' better known as 'Pink Perfection,' is an outstanding small pink formal double that has a long blooming season. I find it tends to bloom readily late season but sparsely in early winter picking up steam as winter progress into spring. It grows vigorously in an upright manner and is cold tolerant. In Descanso Gardens I see 20 to 30-foot trees full of blooms in late winter which makes a beautiful sight.

Two white camellias with a long blooming season are 'Silver Cloud' and 'Silver Lace.' When a large white camellia is well formed and blemish free, it is gorgeous. 'Silver Cloud' has a very large peony flower that reminds us of the big fluffy cumulous clouds floating in the sky. 'Silver Lace' is frillier with its irregular upright petals forming a large to very large semidouble bloom. When a flower is described as lacy, it means it is delicate and has the weblike pattern of lace.



'SILVER CLOUD'



'SILVER LACE'

HIGO TREASURES FROM JAPAN:

‘TANCHO’

BY BRADFORD KING

‘Tancho’ is a classic Higo registered in 1929. ‘Tancho’ (Manchurian Crane) has a pure white flower with random crimson stripes and 140 to 180 stamens. There are 7 or 8 petals. The stamens have white filaments, and the pistil has 3 to 5 parts that are taller than the stamens. The leaves are large and oval. The vivid red markings on the 7 white petals make a striking flower. It can be grown in the ground or in a pot. Its clear white petals and upright stamens help distinguish it from ‘Yamato-nishiki.’

The red crowned crane, also known as the Manchurian Crane, is a large East Asian crane which symbolizes luck, longevity, and fidelity.



‘TANCHO’



‘DAZZLER’

NUCCIO'S NURSERIES SUN CAMELLIAS

BY BRADFORD KING

Nuccio's Nurseries has introduced more than two hundred camellia cultivars. If you are reading this, you most likely grow some of their camellias. However, there are some of their sun camellias you may have overlooked. This article will highlight those sun camellias bred by Nuccio's. Sun camellias include those classified as *C. sasanquas*, *C. hiemalis*, and *C. vernalis* because they bloom in the fall and early winter as well as thriving in full sun.

EARLY BLOOMERS

There are two early varieties that will bloom before November in Southern California that may begin to have flowers in August.

'Autumn Dawn' has a medium loose peony white flower that shades to deep pink on the petal edges. Dawn is the presence of light just before sunrise. This tells us that 'Autumn Dawn' is an early blooming variety.



A brilliant semidouble rose red flower is dazzling, thus Nuccio's named it 'Dazzler.' It is a *C. hiemalis* cultivar that produces numerous flowers. *C. hiemalis* is thought to be a cross between *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica* that occurred at some unknown time. If you want a long camellia blooming season, these are two cultivars to start your season.

MIDSEASON BLOOMERS

One of the classic colors for a sasanqua flower is white with a beautiful red



'DOUBLE RAINBOW'



'PAINTED DESERT'



'OLD GLORY'

or pink border. 'Double Rainbow' has a white semidouble flower with a lovely rose border. Another cultivar that is similar is 'Painted Desert' which has a creamy pale pink flower with a wonderful rose border on each petal. The Painted Desert is in the Four Corners area of Arizona. This National Park is noted for its brilliant-colored rock formations

Old Glory is a nickname for the flag of the United States. The original Old Glory is in the National Museum of American History which is part of the Smithsonian. 'Old Glory' has a single to semidouble white flower with deep rose pink decorating the ruffled petals which reminds us of a flag rippling in the air.

There is another camellia that also refers to the flag of the United States with its stripes and stars. 'Stars 'n Stripes' has a single white flower with rose red stripes. This plant is a



'STARS' N STRIPES'



'SILVER DOLLAR'

nonreticulata hybrid that grows and blooms like a *C. sasanqua*. There are very few striped sun camellias so this is cultivar with an abundance of flowers. It makes a great addition to the garden.

There are several sun camellias with white flowers. 'Silver Dollar' has a



'FRENCH VANILLA'



'LIL' ROSE'



medium peony white flower that grows on a compact mounding plant. The term silver dollar is often used for any white metal coin with a face value of one dollar. Many camellia names begin with the word silver which always means they are white.

A large single creamy white flower camellia was named 'French Vanilla.' The name refers to the classic French method of making vanilla ice cream using an egg custard base. Regular vanilla ice cream is made without eggs. The caramelized egg yolk gives it the creamy hue and a fragrance.

Rose pink makes a pretty flower. Two sun camellias have this lovely colored flower. 'Lil' Rose' has a small brilliant rose form to formal double flower that blooms on a spreading plant. 'Rosy Pillar' has a medium single flower that blooms

on a plant with a columnar growth habit making it a good fit for a small space.

There is another sun camellia with a columnar growth habit that has potential as a landscape plant or used in a group to serve as a screen or hedge. 'Starry Pillar' has a small single white flower that may have an occasional pink tone on the petal and on the bud. It has small dark green leaves.

'Showa Supreme' has medium peony soft clear pink flower with twisting petals which makes a very pretty and interesting bloom. The low growing plant makes it a good choice under a window or in front of taller camellias.

LATE BLOOMERS

There are two varieties introduced by Nuccio's that will usually begin to bloom in December in Southern California. When 'Egao' produced a seedling with a large semidouble rose pink flower resembling an open rose, Nuccio's named it 'December Rose.' It has a larger fuller flower than its parent. I remember Jude Nuccio saying it is a good variety but not as good as 'Egao.' This is reason





‘ROSY PILLAR’



‘DECEMBER ROSE’

number one why we love the Nuccio’s-- they freely inform customers of the strengths and weakness of their camellias.

The most widely grown of Nuccio’s sun camellias is ‘Yuletide.’ The single bright red flower has bright yellow stamens. The sturdy compact plant grows upright and tends to bloom during the holiday season. A single flower is striking as can be seen on the cover of this issue, and a mass planting in full bloom is spectacular.

In conclusion, sun camellias are grown as versatile landscape plants that have beautiful abundant flowers which light up the fall garden. We have discussed and illustrated those introduced and propagated by the world famous Nuccio’s Nurseries in Altadena, California, where they all can be found. is spectacular.

In conclusion sun camellias are grown as versatile landscape plants that have beautiful abundant flowers that light up the fall garden. We have discussed and illustrate those introduced and propagated by the world famous Nuccio’s Nurseries in Altadena, California, where they all can be found.



‘YULETIDE’



HAGOROMO AND ITS SPORTS

BY BRADFORD KING

The camellia japonica ‘Hagoromo’ originated in Japan and was imported to Italy in 1885. It is better known in America as ‘Magnoliaeflora.’ It is unknown how it came to the US. It may have been imported from Europe by Magnolia Garden or by Japanese Americans in California directly from Japan. In the early 1900s, both Domoto and Star Nursery imported camellias from Japan to California. Who renamed it in America is unclear, but they appreciated the lovely light pink to blush semidouble magnolia shaped flower that blooms readily. ‘Hagoromo,’ the priority name, means “robe of feathers.”

Walter F. “Hody” Wilson was an internationally known camellia breeder who served as the superintendent at the LSU AgCenter at Hamond Station, Louisiana. Hody caught a mutation on ‘Magnoliaeflora’ with a pure white miniature to small anemone flower and registered it in 1961. This means he closely observed the original mutation to ensure it remained stable in color, size, and form for at least three years. He also propagated it by grafts and cuttings that bloomed consistently as a small, white, anemone flower. Since it

resembles a man's boutonniere, he named it 'Man Size.' He was awarded the John A. Tyler Miniature Award in 1979 for this flower. 'Man Size' has won points at camellia shows for over 30 years including 2019 when it earned 43 points as a small flower placing it third behind 'Les Marbury' and 'Tudor Baby.' It is one of my granddaughter's favorite camellia flowers and second favorite on my list of small japonicas just behind 'Tudor Baby Variegated.'

Rudy Moore was The Huntington Botanical Garden Camellia Curator for 20 years. In 1988, he registered 'Rudy's Magnoliaeflora.' The medium semidouble deep pink flower mutated from 'Magnoliaeflora.' The size, form, growth habit, and free blooming trait are consistent with 'Magnoliaeflora.' It is a color sport which is moderately consistent. It can be a pure dark pink bloom, have a few white lines, and on rare occasions a white petal or two. While I prefer the unmarked pink flower, a creative show entry with identical white lines makes a fine tray of like blooms. For example, three fresh pink flowers with one white line placed at 2 o'clock gets high points on uniformity which accounts for 50% in judging trays of like blooms.

In summary, we have two sports of 'Magnoliaeflora' that are popular. 'Man Size' is a size, form, and color mutation, and 'Rudy's Magnoliaeflora' represents a color mutation. Camellia mutations continue to provide us with wonderful surprises.



'MAN SIZE'



'RUDY'S MAGNOLIAEFLORA'



C. miyagii

SPECIES:

C. MIYAGII

BY BRADFORD KING

This species has a small single white flower with narrow petals and a mild scent. The leaves are small. The plant blooms early to midseason on a *sasanqua* like upright plant and is sun tolerant. It originates from Okinawa, Japan.

It was first described in 1931 and was classified in 1984 as a separate species by Chang and Bartholomew. In 2000, Ming classified it as a *C. sasanqua*. Gao, Parks and Du's *Collected Species of the Genus Camellia* list it as a species but in the text state that it could be a variety of *C. sasanqua*. It is one of only four camellia species originating in Japan. *The Camellias of Japan*, by the Japanese Camellia Society, doesn't list it as a species which indicates they believe it is a variety of *C. sasanqua*.

In conclusion it should be planted and cared for as if it were a *C. sasanqua*.



PARTING SHOT:

KALEIDOSCOPE

BY BRADFORD KING

A kaleidoscope is made of at least two mirrors positioned at an angle to each other forming a triangle with a collection of objects positioned at one end of the mirrors and an eyehole at the other end. What you see when you look through that eyehole is only the portion of the objects that fall within the space of the triangle that are reflected. No two “looks” are ever the same, because there are a large number of objects that don’t fall in the triangle space, and they change in each new view.

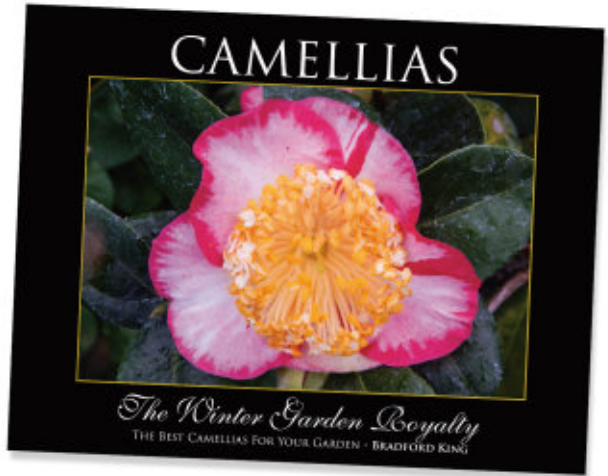
The name Kaleidoscope comes from Greek. ‘Kalos’ means beautiful, ‘eidos’ means shape, and ‘skopein’ means to look at, which when combined, means “A device for looking at beautiful forms.” It was invented by Sir David Brewster (1781-1868). This Scottish physicist is remembered for his experimental work in physical optics, especially the study of the polarization of light, including the discovery of the polarization angle which was named the Brewster Angle.

The *Camellia japonica* 'Kaleidoscope' was originated by Nuccio's Nurseries and introduced in 2019. The single flower is white with multiple stipes and dashes of red hues in various amounts. It is like a kaleidoscope in that each flower has different colored markings. One may be almost all white, another with a few markings, and a few almost all red. However, it is most striking with a mass of irregular-colored markings in varying amounts and color tones from light red to brilliant red covering much of each petal. This is also the expected color form which is indeed reminiscent of a kaleidoscope..



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