

THE

Camellia Review



C. japonica "Serenade"
Courtesy "Camellias Illustrated"

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

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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.

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$5.00.

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 Meetings held 1st Monday of month, October through April, alternating between
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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

We Can't Help It

Time is running the wrong way for us this month — the BIG SHOW at Descanso will be going on as you all read this so a report will have to wait for the April Review. And by that time camellias will be thinking that they won't have to worry their little petals so much about blooming. They must thank Fate that they grow in Southern California this year where no blizzards or dropping temperatures with ice and snow interrupt their processes. In fact the blooming season here has been exceptionally early this year. Roy Thompson remarks in the January Camellia Bulletin, quote: "There may be some connection between this early blooming season and the temperature of the Pacific Ocean; at any rate it is worth mentioning. The Scripps Institute of Oceanography at La Jolla recently announced that the temperature of the Pacific from Panama to Alaska has been from 2 to 5½ degrees warmer during 1957 and that subtropical fish have been taken for the first time near Seattle. This, the Institute says, may have profound influence on our climate, especially if the trend continues. Hence, the camellias may have been triggered this season into an earlier blooming period by the warmer temperatures."

Congratulations to Northwest

All this and fragrance too in our cover flower this month. It was very gratifying to have a cover of a north-western camellia and we were happy to learn its originators were Mary and Al Johnson, active in the Oregon Camellia Society. In fact the former has been the group's Secretary and the latter a President. Mary we are

told has been actively interested in hybridizing for some years and is just recently beginning to see some of the better results of her labor. She now has several seedlings that show real promise and several species crosses. We hope to be able to report on these more specifically at a later date.

On the Light Side

Although we must admit that Arrangements at flower shows must conform to some types of classification and although we do sincerely admire Oh-an-Ah over Camellia-compote-arrangements or Camellia-with-candle-arrangements we perhaps look too much for the unusually imaginative which most certainly doesn't get any prizes. We were quite intrigued therefore to hear Bill Woodroof's description of the arrangements "From Across the Tracks" which he said as far as he was concerned stole the ACS Show arrangements in New Orleans. Exhibitors were men who "knew nothing about arranging" and the whole was judged by the same standard. Following this, first prize was awarded to a discarded sort of camellia sitting with bare roots on a stump—one small camellia tucked in a crevice of a graft which did not take. He spoke of another "prize winner" which was a camellia stem stuck in a can—bearing a cardboard disk on which several camellia blooms were pinned. All this was pure fun—having nothing to do with the serious arrangements. We were quite amused by an entry at the San Diego Show. Mounted on a piece of blue styrofoam which was set at an angle were big blobs of what seemed to be spun glass or could have been cotton candy. On each rested a pink camellia. The question was—were these hats? Were they clouds (with top knots) or were they abstractions of

(Continued on Page 24)

CAMELLIAS GRACE A COLLEGE CAMPUS

By CLARK THOMAS

On the Mount San Antonio College campus near Pomona, California, the growth of the college has been paralleled by the growing of camellias. There were no camellias on the grounds when the college was founded in 1946, although the site had been in use as a federal facility for several years. The first camellias appeared as part of the first college landscaping plans.

Dr. George Bell, founding president, and Mrs. Bell are camellia enthusiasts and gave a vigorous start to the present collection. Many fine plants were given to the college by Hubert Reeves of Pomona, and C. D. Cothran of San Dimas, who later grafted some choice varieties.

As each new building appeared, so increased the planting of camellias, until there are now over 400 plants in about 150 varieties. 'Finlandias' are a favorite, from white ones and

variegated specimens to several beautiful plants of 'King Lear'.

There are ten large plants of 'Margarete Hertrich' and several mature specimens each of 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Mathotiana', 'Lallarook', 'Debutante', 'High Hat', 'Daikagura' (both red and variegated), 'C. M. Hovey', 'Elegans', 'Professor Charles S. Sargent',

(Continued on Page 19)



College, camellias and a beautiful coed belong together in happy fashion as shown by Leonora Doll (it's her real name, too) who is a student at Mt. San Antonio College. Incidentally, the photograph shows also a small part of the fine camellia plantings on the campus which come under the expert jurisdiction of Clark Thomas, now Head Gardener of the College grounds.

Photo courtesy of Jack Kelly of the Public Information Department.

FLOWERS TAKE OVER THE FEB. SCCS MEETING

It was unfortunate that the out-of-the-camellia world individuals we run into once in a while who ask, "Why all the fuss about camellias?" could not each and every one have attended the February meeting of the SCCS. Positive vocal answers were evident in the enthusiastic camellia talk of members and the many visitors, and mute but most definite answers were the hundreds of specimen blooms on display.

The large tables were crowded together and crowded with flowers. Enormous and 99 99/100 perfect were the huge retics and the judges had a difficult time choosing between the loveliness of the many fine varieties of *japonicas*. 'Drama Girl' was well named. The cluster of 'Magnoliaeflora' blossoms in almost irresistible appeal. And in the commercial display of Don and Blanche Miller the flowers of their 'Coral Pink Lotus' almost too beautiful for everyday existence.

The meeting itself bowed to the influence of the blossoms as President Caryll Pitkin conducted little business. As chairman of the Nominating Committee, Harold Dryden announced the following: For two year tenure, Al Dekker, Wilbur Foss, Eleanor Hayward and Ralph Peer. For one year, Les Marshall, Bill Goertz and Col. Frank Reed and R. F. Dickson.

A short report of the recent ACS meeting in New Orleans was given by William Woodroof. In numbers, he said, this was the largest camellia meeting which had ever been held. There were over 600 at the final wind-up banquet. Ralph Peer remains President and the western officers retain their duties.

Mr. Woodroof spoke of his surprise that there were so many wonderful flowers on exhibit because of the freezing, unfavorable weather which had been prevalent all over the east and south. "Tomorrow" took the show," he said and added that he was awfully pleased to see so many fine examples of western introductions.

Bill Wylan, Harvey Short and John

Brown gave some suggestions on treatment of blooms to be entered in the shows. Although most of the latter will be over when this is read, it is pertinent to note that Mr. Wylan's central point was that blooms chosen for competition should be truly representative of the variety to which they belong. For instance, a very large flower of a cultivar whose best examples are smaller would rack up points against it even though in its own right it might be quite lovely. Harvey Short spoke of the importance of choosing and protecting the blooms on the bushes before cutting. John Brown exhibited a useful type of shallow boxes that stack together to provide a convenient transportation medium for specimen flowers.

The evening's winners were: In the Over 4" category, an 'Adolphe Audusson' took first for Dolores Taylor. Dr. E. C. Hubbs carried off 2nd with his 'Guilio Nuccio', while A. E. Krumm's 'White Empress' took 3rd. A 'Blood of China' entered by Mrs. C. E. Osborn was judged 4th and Frank Reed's 'Royal Trumpeteer' was 5th.

In the Under 4" class, Harold Dryden's 'Dr. Tinsley' took 1st, Morgan Chapman's 'Col. Firey' was 2nd, Martin Johnson's 'Mrs. Howard Asper' (Hana Fuki) won 3rd and a 'Pink Shell' of Mrs. Tom Logan's was the 4th place winner. Mrs. C. E. Osborn won again with her 'Feasti' in 5th place.

Of the gorgeous *reticulatas*, a huge 'Crimson Robe' of Gertrude Milliken won 1st, a 'Confucius' of Wilbur Foss took 2nd and Frank Storment's 'Noble Pearl' won 3rd.

NEW PHILOSOPHY FOR DESCANSO GARDENS

By DR. WILLIAM S. STEWART

The Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens was requested on January 28, 1958 by the County Supervisors to operate Descanso Gardens effective July 1, 1958. In making the request the Supervisors accepted a tentative program for the Gardens. The emphasis and philosophy of this program is based on an educational function for Descanso Gardens.

The quest for knowledge is not what leads through to a recreational area but it is precisely that which will bring visitors and students alike to the Gardens. The new approach will emphasize an educational program in gardening and horticulture and will be based on mass display gardens in which the various plant societies of Los Angeles County will be given the opportunity to participate. Each month a different plant group will be featured for the general public with the outstanding *Camellia* display continuing to be one of the main features. The schedule for monthly displays is now being prepared. Suggestions have been: April—California Wildflowers and Bulbs; May—Iris; June—(?); July—*Begonias* and *Fuchsias*; August—Ferns; September—Forest plants and Conservation; October—Roses; November—House plants, and December—Christmas greens, berries and *Poinsettias*. On each of the four Saturdays every month the educational activities may be programmed as follows, using the month of October as an example:

October—Rose month

1st Saturday. Horticultural show: Outstanding examples of roses grown by Los Angeles County amateurs.

2nd Saturday. Flower arrangers show: Using roses.

3rd Saturday. Demonstration of culture: Techniques in rose gardening.

4th Saturday. Show of Commercial Growers of Los Angeles County featuring recent award winners.

Months featuring other plants

would follow a similar pattern for the Saturday programs.

In addition to these general educational activities, classes in gardening and horticulture will be held. Within the next three years it is planned to establish a school for professional gardeners by using the apprentice or trainee system supplemented with classes.

In cooperation with public schools, a gardening and nature study program for children will be initiated to utilize fully the gardens.

The gardens also will be available for other educational and cultural events of the County.

In keeping with the long established policy of governmental educational institutions, there will be no admission charge and the gardens will be of greater use to more people than heretofore.

A group of public spirited private citizens who are particularly interested in the development of Descanso Gardens are now organizing as a supporting unit. It is anticipated they will be affiliated with the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., which sponsors the Arboretum at Arcadia.

This brief outline of the proposed new program is in the early stages of planning. Suggestions and comments will be welcomed at any time. It is expected that about three years of actual experience will be needed to determine fully the role Descanso Gardens can play in our County. It is believed that if the philosophy of this program is successfully presented the results will be valuable and re-

warding to the County as a whole. Certainly there must be just about as many of our people interested in gardening as there are in baseball. After all, home and civic beautification has nothing on the debit side and everything to gain for all of us.

* * *

ED NOTE: Dr. William S. Stewart, the Director of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, will assume the superintendency of the Department of Descanso Gardens and the Arboretum on July 1st, 1958. John Threlkeld will remain as Superintendent of Descanso.

The new program will mean a great horticultural extension of interest for Southern Californians and its influence will spread world wide through the educational program un-

der development. Wisely avoiding duplication of effort, the Arboretum will continue to be the site of research and example of trees and woody shrubs while research projects in flowers will be carried on at Descanso. Here the camellia world will be enriched not only through technical study but through the untold thousands of blooms which will continue to delight both the serious camelliaphile and the casual visitor.

And in the busy commercial setting of Southern California it is well worth noting that the only payment required to become a part of the above is the energy expended to get to either the Arboretum in Arcadia or Descanso Gardens in La Canada.

The whole project might well be named "Horticultural Horizons Unlimited."

INARCHING IS SIMPLE AND REWARDING

By DR. HERBERT SHIRLEY

Ninety-five percent of camellia grafting is done by the cleft graft method. Inarching grafting is easier, and can be done at any time of the year.

If you want a *reticulata* to appear to have good foliage, inarch one to a *japonica*. Leave one branch for foliage. Thus the *reticulata's* beautiful flowers will have a finer background than the *reticulata* plant itself could furnish.

The method is simple. Take a camellia in a gallon can, bury it as near the trunk of a camellia shrub as possible without disturbing the roots of the plant. Then select a branch of the container plant that will reach the trunk of the shrub.

Cut or scrape the bark of the branch down to the wood for about $\frac{3}{4}$ " , leaving four to five leaves or more on the branch. Lay the branch where the scraped area is, across or parallel to the trunk; just where the scraped part touches the trunk, cut or scrape the bark there, the same distance as on the branch. Tie the two together tightly with heavy string.

Next, take a small handful of sphagnum moss, wet well with water and place it on top of the graft. Cut an inch-wide strip from a plastic bag

and wrap around the sphagnum to hold in the moisture.

Leave this for three or four months or until the joining is well healed over. Remove the string. Now cut off the branch below the graft and the trunk above the graft and you have a new camellia plant on an old rootstock.

The growth from the older plant will reproduce its original size in two years and you still have the plant in the gallon can.

I have grafted four *reticulatas* in this manner, leaving a branch for foliage and the rest for bloom. A plant of this type is certainly an improvement on nature though it might confuse the experts.

NOTES ON OUTDOOR CAMELLIA PHOTOGRAPHY

By MARTHA D. BEEBE

Photographing your favorite camellia blossoms with their delicate petal etchings can be done with the simplest camera equipment you have, but will require at least one additional attachment and some careful planning beforehand.

Most cameras blessing your hall cupboard are set with an average shutter speed of between $1/30$ and $1/50$ of a second, a lens opening of $f/11$ to give a depth of field (everything in focus) between five and seven feet, and a focal distance without distortion of *no less* than five feet. With this knowledge we realize that should you photograph a blossom without a closeup lens, your enlargement bill will run high and you will not get the detail you desire. Consult your camera dealer and tell him what you wish to do and the type of camera you have.

While by simple cameras we mean those which are not adjustable in F settings, speed and focus, it is still important to remember that even though you own an adjustable camera, the safest close distance without

distortion is about three and one-half feet — still not quite near enough for flowers. A closeup lens will bring your blossom from within two feet to 10 inches, depending upon the type you purchase.

The next important factor to remember is lighting. Closeup photography, particularly out-of-doors, tends to bathe subjects in light, so take precautions that your flower isn't submerged in sunlight, or it will print without detail. It will be simply a white blurb. One way to achieve lighting for the blossom is to photograph it in some shade with the sunlight behind you, and reflected light from a piece of cardboard covered with aluminum foil placed to one side of the flower.

Since speed is of least concern in the garden, use a slow-speed film
(Continued on Next Page)



+3 Close up lens at 10" at F-16 at $1/15$ sec. Bright sunlight, Minalta Autocord.



Close up +3 lens at $f-11$, $1/15$ sec. Bright overcast. Minalta Autocord.

OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY

(Continued)

with a fine grain for a good print. Kodak's Panatomic-X with an ASA rating of 25 is excellent for this.

If you have never attempted close-up photography before, another imperative point to remember is steadiness. Should you own a tripod, fine. If not, balance your camera on the edge of a stool, box or chair, secure it firmly with one hand as you trip the shutter, and squeeze that shutter slowly and gently.

Cameras have an embarrassing way of picking up after us, reminding us that we are, as usual, in a hurry. We aim, snap, wait anxiously for the results of our photo of Uncle John and his faithful dog Sam watching a lively western. But the camera picked up not only sweet old Uncle and pooch but a child's shoe lying nearby and a wad of paper. Make sure all things except what you want in your picture are behind you—purse, cigarettes, gloves, empty film box. And—watch your own shadow, and be positive it does not smother your picture.

Background will play an important part in all your work. If your camellia bush grows with others in a row in the garden in front of a fairly light-colored wall, your problems are not too great. But if it is surrounded by other shrubbery, better blot that out, perhaps with light gray art paper

REMEMBER MARCH 11th

This last monthly meeting of the season will be highlighted by glimpses of some of the projects being carried on by the SCCS Garden Committee. The Chairman of the Committee, E. C. Tourje, will be the moderator for the presentations given by members of his committee.

Election of new directors will be held at this meeting.

or some soft gray material. White material reflects too much light and the leaves appear too black. If white blossoms have no darker contrast they will blend into the white color, leaving you without detail in the photograph. Remember too that reds and greens print black.

Camera fever is sometimes like buck fever, but unlike the latter when we freeze at the trigger with a camera we tend to shoot from only one position. Be sure to try at least three angles with your camellias; full face, from above and from a side. Sometimes the camera "sees" a picture better than our own eyes.

Work slowly—experiment and keep a record of how and what you did, and the best of luck. May each photo be worthy of a salon exhibit.

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Camellia MAIL BAG

From Shreveport, La.

A fresh freeze from the Bayou blew in the following from Aubrey Harris, quote: We do things the hard way in this area. For instance, yesterday (February 9th) was the date of our annual Garden Tour. It was bitter cold. It sleeted three times and within 70 miles there was lots of snow but the tour went right on. Although we had some 26 degree weather Friday night and it froze again Saturday night we did have blooms to show. It was amazing to watch women with new hats on, beautiful coats and furs walking slowly around the yard, sleeted and near freezing but not a person with sense enough to go home.

I sho would like to figure out what attraction these dern flowers have for "nuts" because many hundreds drove 80 to 100 miles to be able to slosh around; doctors leaving the hospital to see a new variety; men and women trying to write down the names of those blooms they liked with heavy gloves interfering with the holding of the pen.

O well, it's a great life. Perhaps you can answer one question for me. I have heard of some 100 Camellia

Clubs, most of which are Men's Clubs, the rest men and women, mixed groups calling themselves Societies, and lots of Garden Clubs with varied interests. But how come I've never heard of a Women's Camellia Club? End quote.

Ed note: Just goes to show you how smart Camellia women are. Let the men start the clubs and name them in masculine fashion. We know they won't be able to ignore us very long. As for a Women's Camellia Club—what fun would that be?

From Langlois, Oregon

Don Stryker writes, quote: My Camellia breeding program here has me completely baffled. Seedlings from *C. saluenensis* x *C. reticulata* being definitely reticulatish. The reverse cross being definitely saluenensisish! *C. reticulata* x *C. japonica* looking like *C. saluenensis* and yet foliage is definitely *japonica*. Same with *reticulata* X *japonica*. Big flowers where they should be small and vice versa. Plants flowering in two years from seed. It is all screwy.

Ed note: The question seems to be, who is having a good time with who(m)? They're just runnin' wild up at Stryker's. How dull it must be to raise daisies.

C. japonica 'Coral Pink Lotus' and 'Coral Pink Lotus, Var.'

Marjorie Magnificent
Guest of Honor
Shiro-Chan

Guilio Nuccio
Rosemary Kinzer
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Billie McCaskill
White High Hat
Seventh Heaven

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CAMELLIA GARDEN COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

(Continued from February Issue)

By E. C. TOURJE, Chairman

Advisory Council: One of the factors which has contributed greatly to the efforts of the Camellia Garden Committee is the technical advice and assistance which it has had from scientists residing in this area. We in Southern California are fortunate indeed by being surrounded, so to speak, by institutions of higher learning. We are doubly fortunate because important members of the faculties of those institutions are top-rated horticulturists enthusiastically interested in camellias and camellia culture. Three of the most important such men are Doctors James Bonner, noted author and lecturer on plant physiology, and professor of biology at the California Institute of Technology; Albert E. Longley, Cyto-Geneticist with the U.S.D.A., located at and cooperating with the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Longley is an authority on the effects of high energy radiation on chromosomes; V. T. Stoutemyer, one time official of American

Horticulture Society and now chairman of the Division of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture at University of California. Dr. Stoutemyer is a recognized authority on hormones. These gentlemen have all given generously of their advice and counsel and have been of great help to this committee. We feel gratified and honored that these gentlemen have accepted our invitation to join this committee as members of its Advisory Council.



Photo by Frank Reinhart

Horace Ketteringham (left) and William Wylam of the Huntington Botanical Gardens collecting pollen to be irradiated by x-ray according to Garden Committee's plant breeding program. Bag above encloses flower bud while opening to protect desired pollen from contamination by other pollen until collected.

Plant Breeding Program: Superintendent J. H. Asper, of Huntington Botanical Gardens, is very conscious of the increasing emphasis being placed on the development of new camellia hybrids through the crossing of various species. He is alert to the importance of the role which scientific research plays in the promotion of a successful breeding program. In this respect members of the staff of the Huntington Botanical Gardens and this committee are collaborating to supply the Garden with the technical data essential to the success of such a program. Particular emphasis has been placed on irradiated pollen used in the breeding of camellias. A discussion of this interesting breeding program will be one of the important features of the meeting of the Society members scheduled for March 11, 1958.

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CAMELLIA GARDEN (Continued)

Gibberellic Acid Treatment:

Reports of the remarkable effects of gibberellic acid on plant life has swept through the horticultural fields like prairie fire. The interest aroused has even exceeded that generated by the introduction of B1 some years ago. The committee concluded, therefore, to formulate a program involving the use of gibberellin on camellias. The purpose is to determine whether the effect on camellias will parallel the effect manifested in other plant life. Accordingly the committee purchased some 300 plants now in the lath house of Huntington Botanical Gardens which have been treated at different times with varying dosages of gibberellic acid. Other experiments have been conducted using camellia seeds and other plant life. Mr. Harvey Short will discuss this program in detail at the March 11 meeting.

Flower Blight Control: One of the most ambitious and significant programs undertaken by the Camellia Garden Committee is the control of flower blight. As result of negotiations extending over a period of time the committee obtained the collaboration of one of the great chemical corporations whose research department had developed a product which tests have demonstrated will effectively control the development of the flower blight spore. After much consideration the entire section of the Camellia Garden Unit located near the library building and known as the North Vista has been placed under



Photo by Frank Reinhart

Harvey Short, member of the Camellia Garden Committee and Horticulturist of Huntington Botanical Garden, displays camellia seedlings grown from seed treated with 1,000 ppm gibberellic acid solution. Comparison on 2/17/58 of seedlings treated on 10/9/57 revealed that the gibberellic treated seedlings are twice as large as the untreated.

treatment. Interim results are most interesting and will be discussed by Mr. R. W. Ragland, the committee member who has this particular project in hand, at the March 11 meeting.

It has been the aim and purpose of the committee at all times to serve Huntington Botanical Gardens and the members of Southern California Camellia Society in a practical manner with activities designated to obtain tangible results which can affect not only the largest and most important gardens but also the smallest. How this is being done will be discussed at the March 11 meeting.

SCION OF THE TIMES

By MERLE GISH

Aaron's Ruby

This flower was found among a group of young seedlings purchased by Mrs. B. A. Ragusa of Lake Charles, Louisiana. The flower's name was transposed from Mrs. Ragusa's maiden name which was Ruby Aaron. A little human interest story in regards to the name being transposed is told for as Miss Aaron with the double "aa" in her maiden name she was always first in line or first on the list as she went through school and she had a hidden desire to be way back in the alphabet and be in back with the rest of the kids.

One of her sons said, "Mom, here is your chance to switch the name Ruby Aaron to Aaron's Ruby and be where you have always wanted to be."

How right he was, for she is where she always wanted to be—A No. 1 show flower. It created such a sensation in the Lake Charles Louisiana, area that Mr. Powell of Powell's Nursery in Thomasville, Georgia, purchased the original seedling and all stock plants and is now the propagator of this new fine red camellia.

It is an irregular semi-double flower with thick petals that are intermixed with petaloids, flags and large trumpet cupped petals along the stamens making it a full deep flower.

Dear Mrs. Aaron

Ed. note: Re Merle Gish's remarks, in his Scion column: We found ourselves in your same boat during school years. Bearing the maiden name of "Abbott" we also were either right up under the professor's nose or way back in a corner according to the type of alphabetical seating used, meaning that we either got too much attention from the Prof or had a hard time getting it when we wanted to.

Pink Ice

This seedling developed by Mr. Harvey Short who believes this flower to be a 'Lotus' and 'Amabilis' cross.

Although a small medium flower from 3 to 4 inches in size it has inherited the texture of 'Lotus' and 'Amabilis' the mother plant giving the flower its form and styling. A wide burst of golden yellow stamens surrounded by a double row of semi-flat but rippled petals. Its color of lavender, peach pink makes it an eye catcher in the garden.

Plant growth is most vigorous and it flowers profusely with buds forming on top of the leaves.

'Pink Ice' being a light and airy flower is perfect in size and color which makes it easy to work with in flower arranging. My favorite flower arranger says, "It holds its head up like it was asking to be picked and put in an arrangement." Even I enjoy the flower in the garden for it most certainly is a contrast to many of our giant show flowers and it makes up in size with its flowering habit and beauty.

Willie Hite

We remember seeing two blooms that were entered as 'Willie Hite' in camellia shows as we travelled about the country. The flower that I liked held more color and the others were nearer the shading of 'Berenice Boddy' and very closely resembled this camellia in many ways.

Although 'Willie Hite' is listed as a chance seedling I might venture to guess it has inherited the cold resistance of the above mentioned camellia for in Jackson, Mississippi, where it was so "cotton pickin'" cold I like to froze to death we saw beautiful

(Continued on Next Page)

SCIIONS from Page 12

flowers of 'Berenice Boddy' standing out in all her glory where others were iced and fading from frost and cold wintry weather. 'Willie Hite' is listed as a semi-double, about 3" to 3¾" in size and having 18 to 26 petals with 1 to 3 petaloids. It reportedly holds well on the plant and with the long blooming season from late October to mid March this one sounds good to me.

For certain I have much added respect for this type of camellia and 'Berenice Boddy' for the way it has reportedly held up and survived the past extreme winter and I intend to plant all my 'Berenice Boddy' seeds with the hope of coming up with something to equal the 'Willie Hite' flower.

Ed note: It will be remembered that Mr. Wendell Levi of Sumter, South Carolina, in his remarks to the SCCS audience at their January meeting also testified to the hardiness and cold resistance of 'Berenice Boddy.'

Gish Extra

As a passing thought I would like to comment on a flower that surprised me no end while traveling about the South.

'Mathotiana Supreme' was a colossal, large show flower. With the cold weather the South and Southeast has been experiencing the color in many areas has been a deep blood red. What amazes me more, the parent failed to open with this unusual season in many areas but the sport 'Mathotiana Supreme' outdid itself in form and bloom.

I do not know whether this flower will perform on the West Coast as well as the bloom we saw around the Lake Charles area but I can dream can't I, for that beautiful full flower sport of the 'Mathotiana' family.

Our Cover Flower

C. japonica 'Serenade'

'Serenade' is a seedling of 'Finlandia', with other parentage unknown, although the seed was hand pollinated. It was originated by Mary and Al Johnson of Beaverton, Oregon.

'Serenade' is a large, to very large cream-white *japonica*, with blossoms that average 5 inches or more in diameter and 2½ inches or over in depth. There are 12 very broad petals and 84 to over one hundred large petaloids intermixed with 100 or more golden stamens. This tends to give the entire center of the flowers a yellow tone. The petal substance is excellent, and the flowers have superior lasting quality. Almost as to these attributes were not enough, the flowers are strongly fragrant. Blooming season in the Northwest is March and April.

The plant growth is upright and dense, and quite rapid in the rate of growth. The foliage is large and the glossy dark green leaves are deeply veined.

'Serenade' is being propagated but probably will not be available commercially for another season.

YOU'LL DO WELL

TO PATRONIZE

OUR ADVERTISERS

"DESCANSO GARDENS — 1958 CAPITAL OF CAMELLIALAND"

By JOHN B. THRELKELD

The home garden or public building landscape in Southern California that does not have Camellias flourishing is becoming rare indeed, and the 1958 camellia season in Southern California is one of the greatest since camellias have been growing in the west. This pleasing situation was brought about by early Fall rains. Autumn is the most critical time of the year for camellias because the buds are in the formative stages and can be severely damaged if allowed to reach the point of drying out at any time. To be blessed with an inch or two of rain at this critical stage is almost automatic assurance of a good season. The season is early this year because of an extremely mild winter.

People who grow beautiful Camellias seem to feel a certain kinship — hence the necessity of "getting together" through the medium of a Camellia Society. The efforts of the many organized Camellia enthusiasts have been so rewarding as to bring this most nearly perfect of all plants into the hearts and gardens of virtually every plant-lover in the Southland.

Of course, the great bulk of Camellia Growers in Southern California do not belong to any Camellia Society and may not necessarily even belong to a Garden Club. I am referring, of course, to Mr. John Q. Public, who owns a home in any residential area and who takes pride in maintaining a front yard in keeping with standards of his neighborhood and a backyard garden where he spends much of his leisure time.

To acquaint "Mr. and Mrs. John Q." with the proper care and culture of growing Camellias is one of the privileges of Camellia Society Members and the public gardens featuring the beautiful plants. "Mr. John Q." depends a great deal upon his local nurserymen and upon what he reads in Gardening Magazines and Garden Sections of local newspapers for information to assist him in his gardening efforts. Much of the information supplied through these mediums comes from the membership of Camellia Societies.

These dedicated people have caused Southern California to become truly a "Camellialand." So, what and where is Camellialand? Camellialand is an area where citizens have a common interest in growing beautiful Camellias. Camellialand is wherever citizens gather to discuss their common interest in Camellias. The Capital of Camellialand is the site where the greatest concentration of efforts in behalf of Camellias is to be found. There can be no question that the Capital of Camellia is Descanso Gardens during March, 1958, when the combined Camellia Societies of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, through the medium of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, Ltd., put on the exposition of the largest concentration of Camellias in the world.

It was only fitting and proper that such a gathering of dedicated people should be reigned over by feminine beauty. After a countrywide search was made for a "Queen of Camellialand" Judy Biggle of Altadena, a Junior of John Muir High School of Pasadena, was selected. On February 9th Dr. Cecil Eshelman, President of the Los Angeles Council, placed a crown of camellias on Queen Judy's blond hair.

In a vein of seriousness, much is to be gained by a united effort of all

(Continued on Next Page)

SAN DIEGO PUTS ON A FINE SHOW

This year for the first time the San Diego Society staged its annual Show in the Conference Building in Balboa Park, the largest quarters they have ever used. And although there was room for more blooms, the many hundreds of fine flowers that were entered were shown off to better advantage than when crowded onto too small surfaces.

Immediately opposite the front entrance were the award winners displayed on a large horse-shoe shaped structure slanted to give visitors a better view. The golden covering of the horse-shoe made an exciting background for the lovely pieces of silver beside which were placed the winning flowers.

To this observer it was evident that there was a noble representation of fine camellias and an exceptionally interesting exhibition of arrangements. Here is where imagination and rebellion clash with accepted techniques so it was noteworthy that by popular vote the viewers agreed wholeheartedly with the decisions of the judges. Major results of the show were as follows:

BEST FLOWER OF THE ENTIRE SHOW—J. O. Henry, Ramona; "Frizzle White".

SUPER SWEEPSTAKES DIVISION

Super Sweepstakes—Reg Ragland.

Runner Up Sweepstakes—C. W. Lattin.

Best *Reticulata*—Reg. Ragland; "Butterfly Wings".

Best *Japonica*—C. E. Hubbs; "Guest of Honor".

Best *Japonicas*, 3 or more—C. H. Eshelman; "Reg Ragland".

Best *Reticulatas*, 3 or more—Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller; "Pagoda".

Best Seedling Flower—Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller; "Tall, Dark, Handsome".

REGULAR — AMATEUR SWEEPSTAKES DIVISION

Sweepstakes—J. O. Henry.

Runner Up Sweepstakes—Mr. and Mrs. Byron Lindsley.

Best *Reticulata*—Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Andres; "Tali Queen".

Best *Japonica*—J. O. Henry; "Frizzle White".

Best *Reticulatas*, 3 or more—Lester Goodall; "Buddha".

Best *Japonicas*, 3 or more—D. H. Roberts; "Ville de Nantes".

Best New Introduction—John Robinson; "Betty Robinson".

Best Graft—Mr. and Mrs. Byron Lindsley; "Guest of Honor".

ARRANGEMENT DIVISION

Sweepstakes—Ray Greer.

Best of Show—Stanley Miller.

CAMELLIALAND from Page 14

Camellia interests in this vast and growing Metropolis. The greatest achievements in furthering Camellia interests and culture can come from a united effort where all individuals pool their resources and information to create a oneness of mind and purpose on behalf of the Queen of the Plant Kingdom—the beautiful Camellia.

GRAFTING CHATTER

By W. L. STOECKLE

Now is the time of year to check that rusty trusty grafting blade and get it in shape for the grafting season. There is a good chance that your friends' Kunming Reticulata plants have put on enough growth in the past year to afford you a few scions.

For the right time of year to graft, the old grafting rule still stands—when you friends give you the scions. This time may not be convenient for you, but be sure to accept the scions; they can be stored for as long as three weeks and you will still have good results grafting them. Place a moist paper napkin in a jar, then the scions, and seal the jar with a screw cap. Keep under refrigeration. If you are given a scion that has a dormant eye, do not fail to use it. My experience with this type of scion has been very good. The scion will callus before the eye starts to grow; this makes the removal of the jar a very easy step. This type of scion is the best if the grafter has no source of heat or does his grafting outside. It is also the best type of scion for late season grafting. I have had just as much luck with grafting a recently transplanted plant as with one that has not been disturbed, if the plant is a healthy one.

When grafting stock is at a premium we often use a sick, weak plant that we are not proud of and do not want in our garden. If you use this kind of plant, do not be surprised if the graft does not get off the ground. You will be far ahead if you repot this plant, prune, fertilize and care for it until the next grafting season. If I have several scions of one variety I sometimes try one on a sick plant but if I have only one scion I try to choose the healthiest understock in the garden.

Everyone who has done grafting has had the sad experience of finding out that the red-hot variety he grafted is a stinker. If this happens to you, and if your graft was made three or four inches above the soil level, you can cut off the plant below the first graft and put on another red-hot variety.

It is fun to graft. The anticipation of seeing new varieties come into bloom keeps up our interest.

In the late grafting season — April — when the bark is apt to separate from the understock try cutting the understock at a 45° angle from two sides and split the understock along the ridge to receive your scion. The after-care of grafts, to me, is the most important part of the grafting operation. At frequent intervals, check for mold. During the first two weeks after a graft is made a check every day is not too often. If you find mold, wipe clean and leave the jar off long enough for the scion and understock to dry. Air seems to be the best way to stop mold.

I have been warned many times not to fertilize grafts for a period of at least one year. I have found, though, that I can fertilize as soon as the scion and understock are united. I have used liquid fertilizer at half-strength once a month and found that it promotes growth and had no ill effect on the grafted plant.

When you are doing grafts this year, try Gibberellic Acid on a few; you will be surprised. I was. (*Reprinted from the Camellia Bulletin, Jan. '58.*)

To The Ladies!

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

I am eager to pass on to those who are anxious to progress in camellia culture a message to deliver to those obsessed by 'Drama Girl'. Turn to a dainty maiden which you will take to your heart and cherish in your garden.

If you will look in the 1958 Nomenclature Book you will find listed some hybrids which are on trial. Among them is 'Donation', one of the heralds of the future, a forerunner, a Morning Star as it were, of the camellia of promise.

From a facetious remark I made, I came into possession of this new crown jewel. I had been growing 'J. C. Williams', so beside the place where J. C. was growing, I dug a hole and when my camellia friends asked what the hole was for, I replied that it was for 'Donation'.

Soon word came from Donald Stryker of Langlois, Oregon, with the following message, "Keep that hole open for the real 'Donation'."

'Donation' finally came to me, but it was so tiny that I dared not risk it in that empty hole. I selected a pot and filled it with my choicest camellia mix and planted the tiny 'Donation' out. All summer it grew amazingly. It literally stretched up like some of the teenagers do. It set buds early in the fall. I removed some of them. I waited expectantly for a miracle. The first bud that opened I watched with suspense. It unfolded gradually and spread out a semi-double camellia not large, but of wonderful substance and texture and of the most exquisite pink imaginable. Your Nomenclature rating says, "orchid pink". I beg to differ with the authorities. The clear, radiant pink is not on the orchid side of the spectrum. Much as we love the ephemeral *sasanquas* I watched this new bloom tremblingly to see how long the petals would hold without dropping. Without exaggeration I can honestly say seven days, so you can

add to texture and color, duration.

The length of the blooming period, you ask. My plant commenced blooming in December and the picture of it in bloom was taken the first week in February. A wonderful successor to the *sasanquas*.

Where did this hybrid come from? Turn to your list of hybrids again where it is stated. "DONATION, deep orchid pink (?), Large semi-double, M. (*Saluenensis* x *japonica*)."

Having only one plant in my possession, I was loathe to bestow too extravagant praises on it; so I called up my good mentor Julius Nuccio to

(Continued on Page 18)



Close up lens F-11 at 1/15 sec. Bright and overcast at 10' Minalto Autocord.

OREGON MARKS 100th YEAR IN '59

Coming gradually but surely into the limelight is news of the Oregon Centennial Exposition and International Trade Fair which is to be held at Portland the summer of 1959 on the 100th anniversary of Oregon's statehood.

An outstanding feature of this is the "Garden of Tomorrow" which is planned to be a permanent garden and without doubt will attract most tourists in general and all garden lovers in particular. As outlined by Morrie Sharp, member of the Governor's Commission for the Fair, the assistance of arboretums, botanical gardens, colleges, governmental agencies, horticultural societies, garden clubs and commercial growers from all parts of the world, is being solicited to make this garden a most unusual and interesting planting. Mr. Sharp also states that the latest and best hybrids, rare species and "yet to

be released" hybrids of all types of flowers and shrubs will be displayed properly labeled. Of course examples of the best and rarest in the camellia genus will be emphasized. Money for this Garden of Tomorrow was not included in the funds for the Exposition so Mr. Sharp is having to rely on donations for its success and will be very grateful for fine plant life submitted for display. He promises that all donors will be suitably recognized. Anyone wishing for more information about the project can contact him in care of the Oregon Journal, Portland 7, Oregon.

This "International Garden of Tomorrow" will surely be a most unusual and worthwhile accomplishment giving visitors glimpses of foreign vegetation they might never have otherwise seen. The whole Exposition as planned is tremendous and is expected to attract 40,000,000 viewers.

TO THE LADIES *from Page 17*

get his opinion and he confirmed what I have said. He definitely considers it one of the new camellia hybrids of promise. Moreover he told me to keep watch of the new New Zealand and Australian hybrids which are coming in. I see where some of the prize winning ones which have not earned their spurs get out. I am not going to bother with new grafts. Temperament either floral or human is a treacherous thing to deal with.

By the way, I have before me two lovely little camellias, neither of which are listed in the '58 Nomenclature Book. Bill Woodroof would scorn them. They are 'Fascination' and 'Fantasy' which I bought of the Evergreen Nursery many years ago. In the past trying seasons the buds have not dropped and the clean green foliage has never burned, believe it or

not. I am not a winner of ribbons blue, red or white, simply find real contentment in enjoying these reliable smaller camellias in old fashioned silver dishes or real genuine Chinese pottery.

Our Camellia authors

Martha D. Beebe is a newspaper and free lance writer in the Los Angeles area.

W. L. Stoeckle, according to David Feathers, has long been a top camellia competitor and sweepstakes winner. He lives in Concord, Calif.

What is life without the new "Nomenclature — 1958"? Pay your dues and a copy will speed on to you. Or consult SCCS "For Sale" on p. 21.

COLLEGE CAMELLIAS from P. 3

'General Dwight D. Eisenhower', 'Admiral Halsey', and 'Sweet Delight'. None of the latest varieties has appeared yet on the campus, but many of the older varieties have proven to be excellent for landscaping.

Special climate and soil considerations on the campus affect the husbandry of camellias. The MSAC campus has a very heavy soil that must be altered before planting and drainage must be provided for in most cases as the soil seems to silt full and seal shut. Although the winter clim-

ate is warm (as witnessed by abundant hibiscus and poinsettia blooms throughout the season, temperatures vary with the many different elevations and proper selection of variety for each site has to be considered. Most of the plants do well along the north side of classroom buildings. One group of about 100 plants grows under large trees.

As the college's current redevelopment program brings about the construction of new buildings, some planting groups will have to be moved. Each new building will provide an opportunity for the artistic use of camellias in landscaping.

DON'T MISS 'WILLIE HITE'

NEW COLD WEATHER CAMELLIA

Nearest like 'Berenice Boddy' and 'Magnoliaeflora.' Buds won't freeze, flower drops clean, blooms on long stems, foliage dark green, exceptionally fast grower, upright and columnar, light pink shading to deeper pink at edges of heart-shaped petals. Long blooming season.

Full description page 66 in 1956 ACS yearbook

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FREE CLASSES OFFER WIDE GARDEN SUBJECT MATTER

For garden-minded persons living in the San Gabriel Valley area of Southern California, the following will no doubt be of real interest. It comes from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum (if you have never been there, run, run, run right now), 301 N. Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia. The Director is Dr. William S. Stewart, telephone Hillcrest 6-4247.

Arboretum Offers Five Early 1958 Classes in Botanical, Horticultural Subjects

Five free weekly classes on botanical and horticultural subjects are now open to public registration for the early months of 1958 at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia.

Dr. L. B. Martin, Arboretum Plant Physiologist, announced there will be a newly inaugurated class in Home Gardening. This class, to be conducted Monday evenings from 7 to 9 P.M., in the Administration Building, will cover the fundamentals of planting and maintaining a home yard and garden.

Instructors in this new Home Gardening class will be George Spalding, Donald Woolley, and James Cauffield of the Arboretum staff. Registration forms for all Arboretum classes may be obtained by writing "Education, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California." Other available

courses for adult and high school students include:

Beginning Botanical Sketching. Instructor Gerry Patten will meet his class Tuesday mornings at 9 A.M. at the Gatehouse, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., for a two hour outdoor session in drawing techniques. Pencil sketches will be made of living plant materials.

Advanced Botanical Sketching. Mr. Patten will hold classes on Thursdays from 9 to 11 A.M. for students with some art training, or for those who have had previous Arboretum sketching.

Beginning Plant Identification. Dr. Leonid Enari, Arboretum Taxonomist, will instruct interested gardeners in the techniques of identifying plant materials. Hours will be 7 to 9 P.M. in the Lecture room of the Administration Building.

Practical Orchid Culture. This class will be held Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. in the Lecture room. Instructor Glenn Hiatt will reveal secrets of orchid identification and will disclose the practical techniques of growing orchids.

Introducing 'ANGEL'

American Camellia Society Award of Merit, 1956 (Florence, So. Carolina)
A large white semi-double japonica, similar in size and form to 'Crimson Robe.'

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FOR SALE

The Secretary of the Society has the following books for sale:

New! New! Our own book "Nomenclature," 1958 edition. Free to SCCS members. \$1.50 post paid on order or \$.90 each in lots of not less than twelve. Some copies of "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature," 1954 edition still available. \$1.25 post paid or \$.75 each in lots of not less than twelve.

"Camellias in the Huntington Gardens," by William Hertrich, Vol. I and II, \$10.00 each.

"Old Camellia Varieties," a list with brief descriptions compiled at the request of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society of the R.H.S. and the British Museum, by A. I. Ellis. A 374 page, 9x11 book, reprinted by permission by Mr. Ralph Peer. \$5.00.

"Flower Arrangements of the Ohara School" the 1952 edition. Printed in English in Japan in folder form this book has six pages of descriptive matter and twenty-four colored prints in the Japanese manner. \$4.60, from \$10.00 to \$12.00 in bookstores.

"Camellias, Kinds and Culture," by H. Harold Hume. \$6.00.

"Camellias in America, 1955," by H. Harold Hume. \$25.50.

Rare Species and Hybrids issue of the Camellia Review. 75¢ postpaid.

Sasanqua issue of the Camellia Review, 75c postpaid. 57c in orders of 25 or more.

"Two Cats and Forty Camellias," a 136 page story form about the growing of Camellias mixed up with cats and cooking by our own member Elizabeth Councilman of Councilman Acres. \$3.00.

"Camellia Varieties in Japan," edited by Eikichi Satomi, 40¢.

"How to Grow Camellias," including a 600-variety Encyclopedia by the editorial staffs of Sunset Books and Magazine. \$1.75.

"The Mastery of Japanese Flower Arrangement," a 307 page book, profusely illustrated. Many prints in color. Printed in Japan, \$8.50.

"Camellias Illustrated and How to Grow Them." Revised, enlarged edition by Morrie L. Sharp. \$5.00.

All prices mail and tax prepaid when payment is received with order, otherwise these charges will be added.

Now Is the Time

To remember that if you allow old faded camellia blooms or buds or foliage to accumulate under the plants you may be establishing fine nesting and breeding spots for pests such as snails, slugs and other bugs. Be sure to rake up all the old petals to eliminate the possibility of petal blight fungus. Remember, it is much easier to keep your garden clean than to eradicate disease once it has a start.

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NEWS NOTES AND NOTICES

Temple City

Joe Littlefield, well known radio and TV garden authority, will be the speaker for the March 24th meeting of the Temple City Camellia Society. The meeting will be held in the Temple City Women's Club auditorium at the corner of Kauffman and Woodruff Avenues. The new Board of Directors will also be elected at this meeting. Also hold open the third Monday evening in April for the Annual Dinner of the Society. A rare treat will be in store for all who attend.

The plants for the drawing for the meeting have been procured from Louis Strohmeier. In addition to *japonicas* there will be several *reticulata* plants, with the usual tub and shears.

From San Diego

The City and Park Board are refurbishing the large lath house at the north end of the lily pond in Balboa Park and on its completion, Ambrose Erlanson, Chairman will donate a number of large specimen camellia plants to be planted in the lath house as a gift from the San Diego Camellia Society.

Orange County

For their 6th Annual Show which took place in February the Orange County Camellia Society put out a most attractive little booklet which will remain in camellia libraries in its own right after the show is but a memory. With 'Frosty Morn' hap-

pily decorating the cover, the brochure contains not only all pertinent show schedules, regulations etc but much valuable information as to camellia culture, a subject never really exhausted. We do indeed congratulate the hard working camellia enthusiasts who are responsible for this worthy project.

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So. Calif. Camellia Society

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REVIEWER *from* Page 2

the third dimension? At any rate this entry (couldn't really call it an arrangement) stole the show from the bottle — driftwood or low-container arrangements. But of course it didn't get an award. Neither did the fat Buddha with the camellia in his mouth. But they did lighten up the somber seriousness of the technically planned arrangements. So now we presume the reader knows where we stand.

Let Us Know

Are roses more feminine than camellias? We note that of the 43 roses which have won the All America Rose Selections since 1940, only four roses have been named in honor of men. If you want something to do in the long winter evenings, you might go through the Nomenclature Book and compare the number of camellias named for men against those named for women. We are wondering what the result will be, not having had any of those long free winter evenings as yet ourselves.

P.S. Strangely enough we had no sooner written the above than a clip sheet from the Shreveport Times appeared in our mail with a big feature story in it headed, "A Man's Flower—the Camellia." The long and interesting article written by Patsi Farmer went on to prove the title, mentioning that Jack C. Ohrt, President of the Shreveport Men's Club, declared he had never heard of a women-only camellia club. He was convinced that the camellia is a man's flower and said that 95% of the local membership doesn't give a hoot about any other type of flower. "To a man," he is quoted as saying, "it's a form of relaxation, maybe even escapism. Like fishing, only better." Apparently lots of men in Shreveport at least need to "escape" for the article re-

lates the circumstances of the club's founding in 1949 and how at their very first show 40,000 persons came to view the 6,000 blooms on display. Yes, it may be a Man's Club like others so named but we are confident that you won't have to go very far to find the more delicate sex mixed up in it somewhere.

That Human Angle

We have seen several wonderful specimen flowers of 'Drama Girl' in recent displays but must confess that we think Dolores Taylor the best example of that name. The dramatic tiaras of camellias she wears so effectively displayed against her black hair simply put the 'Drama Girls' on the table out of the running.

As To All —

We record with sorrow and regret the passing of Sigmund Katz of Covington, Louisiana. The camellia world will long miss his active cooperation in camellia projects and his sprightly personality that added gaiety and charm to camellia groups. His influence in camellia life will long be felt.

They're Everywhere

With camellia shows yet to be visited and the memory of what we have already seen fresh in our thoughts—with camellia bushes dripping with everyday camellias along our everyday paths—with camellias in (so-called) arrangements under our nose at home—with camellias to discuss over the telephone and with those we meet—and camellias still to write about and see that they get into print for this magazine—we must indeed sign off right now for this month as

Camellia
Liz

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