

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Cover Girl' Courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries





No. 5

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: \$6.00.

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THE COVER FLOWER

Nuccio's Nurseries of Altadena, California, who introduced 'Cover Girl' in the Fall of 1964, thought that the ladies would like it and their expectations have been realized. It is a clear pink irregular formal flower that is medium to large in size. It blooms from early to late. The plant is compact and upright.



One Saturday morning recently Bill Woodroof, Cecil Eshelman and I were sitting in Bill's den, drinking coffee and discussing the this and that of camellias. I had driven the 25 miles to Bill's home to see his blooms, particularly the new ones he grows in what he calls his "test garden". As many people know, his hobby within his camellia hobby is to grow the new varieties from the scions that he receives in large numbers from the originators of many new varieties. Cecil Eshelman is a part time neighbor (he has an apartment nearby and grows his camellias 100 miles away in San Diego County) so goes to Bill's garden when he wants to see flowers.

The talk naturally got around to new varieties and their listings and descriptions in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. The descriptions given in the nomenclature book are those given by the originators at the time they register the new varieties, and sometimes the flowers on Bill's plants differ from the descriptions, particularly in regard to size. It is well known that the same variety will perform differently in different areas and this can explain some of the differences. Bill wonders, though, if some of the differences might be due to an increasing use of greenhouses and more recently to the use of gibberellic acid on seedlings. People become impatient to see "what the new seedling will do" and don't want to wait to see what it will do under its own steam.

The three of us agreed that in the interest of having the nomenclature book contain proper descriptions of new varieties, it is imporant that these descriptions be based on what the variety will do normally under its own power. There is no way in which the growers of new varieties can be restrained from enjoying the pleasure of seeing what gib will do for the blooms, any more than teen-agers can be restrained from eating a snack an hour before dinner time. It does seem reasonable, however, that a camellia grower with a true camellia hobby spirit would want to know for himself what his seedling will do on its own before he would seek knowledge of what it will do with gib. Furthermore, his interest in the integrity of the descriptions in the nomenclature book should be an incentive for him to seek this knowledge.

Let's gib them to our heart's content, but after, not before, we determine what kind of a flower we are gibbing. We have enough second rate varieties now listed in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. May we not add to this condition by deciding on the basis of greenhouse culture or the use of gib that a seedling is a winner when under normal growing conditions it would be one we would cut off for understock after seeing it bloom "on its own".

Haroh E Duyley

SOME RELATIVES OF THE CAMELLIA

John M. Fogg, Jr.1

Director Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Ternstroemiaceae (also known as the Theaceae) or Tea Family includes some 30 genera and approximately 500 species. Its members are deciduous or evergreen trees or shrubs distributed throughout the tropical and sub-tropical regions of both New and Old Worlds; a few are hardy in warm temperate areas.

Horticulturally the most important genus is *Camellia*, with more than 80 species native to the warmer portions of Asia including the Japanese Archipelago, the Philippines, and portions of Indonesia

Since the number of cultivars of Camellia is so enormous and since these are far better known to the members of this audience than to your speaker, only passing reference will be made to the genus this evening. I would like, however, to call attention to the fact that several cultivars of C. japonica have proved perfectly hardy in the Philadelphia area and that we can now grow C. sasangua if we are careful to place it in a position where it does not receive full sunlight in late winter or early spring.

Also, I would like to point out that at the Morris Arboretum we have been very successful with C. sinensis. the tea of commerce, which is even more important in the world's economy than the more showy members of its genus. Although tea has, by some authors, been placed in the genus Thea (as T. sinensis) I am in complete agreement with Dr. Sealy in believing that it can not be generically distinguished from *Camellia*.

Our largest tea plant is about 15 years old. It blooms profusely each

year from October to early December and has survived two recent very severe winters with no apparent injury .(Fig. 1). It can be easily propagated from softwood cuttings and we have several young plants growing in the section of our grounds which is reserved for members of the Ternstroemiaceae.





I should now like to discuss in greater detail certain relatives of the Camellia and in so doing intend to confine my observations primarily to those which are hardy in this area or perhaps, more generally, in the Middle Atlantic States.

Let us first consider *Eurya*, a genus of some 80 species represented primarily in southeastern Asia. While most of the members of the Tea Family have perfect, i.e., bisexual flowers, those of Eurya are unisexual and are developed on separate plants,

(Continued on next page)

¹Excerpts from an illustrated lecture given before a joint un meeting of the Norfolk Botanical Garden Society and the Vir-ginia Camellia Society in Norfolk, Vir-ginia, January 15, 1965.

a condition known as dioecious. Also, the corollas of *Eurya* are among the smallest and least showy of any member of the family, those of our species seldom exceeding half a centimeter in diameter.

E. japonica Thunb., a native of Korea, Taiwan and Japan, is an attractive shrub or small tree with evergreen foliage and tiny white flowers. The coriaceous leaves are distinctly crenate-serrulate and taper gradually toward both the base and the apex. Listed by Rehder as hardy in Zone VII, the species can nevertheless be grown in Norfolk and has even come through mild winters in the Philadelphia area.

E. emarginata (Thunb.) Makino, also a native of eastern Asia, differs from the preceding species in that the leaves are shallowly crenate and obtuse or rounded at the tip. It is apparently more tender than E. japonica, but can be cultivated as far north as Norfolk.

Closely related to, and occasionally confused with, *Eurya* is the genus *Cleyera*. However the flowers of the latter are usually perfect and the corollas are larger (usually 1 cm. or more in diameter). *C. japonica* Sieb. & Zucc. (*C. ochnacea* D.C.) is an evergreen shrub or small tree with coriaceous leaves and creamy white flowers, rendered even more conspicuous by their numerous golden stamens. I have seen it as far north as the Gulf Stream Nurseries at Wachapreague, Virginia, where it forms a shrub 12 feet tall.

Ternstroemia with upward of 100 species in Mexico, the West Indies, Central and South America and Asia, resembles Cleyera in its perfect or bisexual flowers but differs in having glabrous rather than pubescent anthers. The genus is poorly if at all represented in eastern American horticulture. From what I have seen of T. Pringlei in Mexico I feel that it might prove hardy in the Norfolk

area. It is certainly worthy of the attempt.

The story of the Franklin Tree (Franklinia alatamaha) is too well known to merit more than the briefest reference here. First discovered by John Bartram along the Alatamaha River near Fort Barrington, Georgia, on October 1, 1765, it was found again by his son William in April. 1773. Moses Marshall saw the tree again in 1790 and is usually credited with having been the last person to observe it growing in the wild. However, in the text of John Lyon's Journal, recently edited for publication by Joseph and Nesta Ewan, it is revealed that Lyon visited the locality and found 6 or 8 full-grown trees on June 1. 1803.

It is as remarkable as it is fortunate that a species known from only a single station in Georgia should have proved hardy as far north as Boston and should have been saved from extinction by the efforts of early explorers. A similar instance, which comes readily to mind, is that of the Ginkgo which was apparently preserved from extermination in China because of its interest and value as a cultivated tree.

The Franklin tree, which may attain a height of 10 m. (about 35 feet) has oblanceolate, deciduous leaves and large, white cup-shaped flowers with a central crown of golden-anthered stamens (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

From time to time notices appear in the public press that the "lost" Franklinia has been rediscovered. These reports have invariably been based upon a related species, the Loblolly Bay (Gordonia Lasianthus [L.] Ellis), a tree of the coastal swamps from Florida to Louisiana and north to North Carolina. While some botanists have assigned Franklinia to the genus Gordonia, the two are really quite distinct. In the former the leaves are deciduous, the flowers sessile or short-stalked, the filaments distinct and the capsule globose, whereas in Gordonia the leaves are thick and persistent, the flowers long-stalked, the filaments united and the capsule ovoid. These differences are well delineated in Sargent's Silva (Vol. 1. 1890). Moreover, as has recently been shown by Santamour, Franklinia (with a single species) has 36 chromosomes while in Gordonia (with about 30 species) the chromosome number is 30.1 The Loblolly Bay is a fine horticultural subject and should be more widely grown. Unfortunately, it is doubtfully hardy north of Virginia.

The genus Stewartia has been held until last chiefly because, of all members of the family except Camellia, it has the largest number of species in cultivation in the eastern United States. It is worthy of note that although Linnaeus dedicated this genus to John Stuart, Earl of Bute, he spelled the name Stewartia and according to the International Code there is no justification for modifying his spelling. Stewartia is generally regarded as including about a dozen species, of which eight are in cultivation in eastern temperate North America. Of these, two (S. ovata [Cav.] Weatherby and S. Malacodendron L.) are native to the southeastern United States; the remainder

¹ Santamour, F.S. Cytological Studies in Theaceae. Morris Arb. Bull. Vol. 14, 51-53. 1963. are indigenous to southeastern Asia. This kind of disjunct distribution is seen also in Gordonia, as well as in such unrelated genera as Magnolia, Liquidambar, Cladrastis, Gleditsia, Chionanthus and many more.

The two American species of Stewartia differ from their Asiatic congeners in being shrubs, rather than trees, and in having bark which is a uniform brown or gray rather than a flaky reddish-brown.

S. ovata (Cav.) Weatherby (S. pentagyna L'Hérit.), often called "Mountain Camellia", is a species of rich woodlands from Georgia to Alabama north to Virginia and Kentucky. It is unique among members of the genus in that its five styles are distinct (Fig. 3), whereas in all of the other species they are united all the way to the stigmatic tips (Fig. 4). S. ovata has a variant known as forma grandiflora in which the filaments of the stamens are purplish rather than white.

The "Silky Camellia", S. Malacodendron L. (S. virginiana Cav.) occurs chiefly along the Atlantic coastal plain from Florida to Louisiana and (Continued on next page)



Fig. 3

northward to Virginia and Tennessee. It is a shrub with large white flowers and bluish anthers (Fig. 5). The densely pubescent under leaf surfaces have led to the descriptive name "silky".

Of the five or six Asiatic species grown in our area, S. monadelpha Sieb. & Zucc., a native of Japan, is perhaps the most readily recognized because of its narrow, hairy leaves, very small flowers, and pair of prominent wing-like bracts. It possesses extremely attractive light brownish bark and is probably the hardiest of all of the exotic species.

S. Pseudo-camellia Maxim. (a native of Japan) and S. koreana Rehd. (which is indigenous to Korea) are so similar that the differences between them may be of a varietal rather than a specific order. Both are



Fig. 5

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tall trees, up to 15 or 20 m. (50 to 65 feet) with upright branches and reddish-brown bark which peels off in flaky patches (Fig. 6). According to most authorities the flowers of S. *Pseudo-camellia* are cup-shaped whereas those of S. *koreana* are flattish (Fig. 7). Also, in the autumn condition, the leaves of the former species are dark purple, while those of the Korean Stewartia are orange-reddish.

S. sinensis Rehd. & Wils., a native of China, is a shrub or tree up to (Continued on page 25)







Fig. 7

RETICULATAS — TO HAVE OR NOT TO HAVE?

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley W. Miller El Cajon, California*

Editor's Note: Before asking Stanley and Alice Miller to write this article I looked over the records of "Best Reticulata" awards for the 1963 and 1964 camellia show seasons. I learned that in 1963 the Millers won "Best Reticulata" or runner-up in two of the 4 shows they normally enter and in three of these shows in 1964. What better reasons for asking them to write? In the interest of maintaining good relations with them, however, I must add the note that Alice sent along for printing with the article: "If it seems presumptious of these people to write of their experience in growing reticulatas, please do not blame them. It is all due to the persuasive powers of the Editor."

Yes, we have tried reticulatas! And, we still enjoy them and continue to show them with some success. To share with you our experiences in basic culture and care, if we start at the beginning, predates any possession on our part. At the McCaskill's nursery we saw our first 'Captain Rawes'. It was grafted on a large japonica root, in the ground, and had attained a height as great as the lath house. It had literally shot up. Also in many parts of the world in our travels, we saw 'Captain Rawes' and other reticulatas being grown very successfully. In Portugal we saw a young woman carrying branches eighteen inches long as she walked along the road. These branches held beautiful 'Captain Rawes' flowers of generous size. Imagine cutting eighteen inch stems of reticulatas! Many places where we noticed them, they were planted out of doors, against a wall or fence - vivid splashes of

* The Stanley W. Millers live in an area about 20 miles inland from San Diego. Temperatures on their property range from summer time of 100 degrees maximum, on occasion, to a pleasant 50 degrees at night. In the winter it may drop to as low as 30 degrees at night and 60-72 during the day time. The average rainfall is under 10 inches. gorgeous color. We took some pictures. (Proof, you know!) Then too, we were awed by the beauty of the flowers shown by Ralph Peer and Frank Williams. So we were moved to collect.

As we collected, no matter how vigorous, healthy and perfect a plant seemed, we made our own grafts. As much as possible we used our own seedling for rootstock. We sought large japonica seedling rootstock. A few very successful grafts were made on old, well established varieties of japonicas which we were willing to eliminate because of being shatterers. If the grafts were made on seedlings in containers, as soon as considered wise we placed them in the ground, so spaced that they are not crowded. This allows for circulation of air. Exposure to light and sun was a consideration too. We believe maximum exposure is conducive to better health. However, this maximum applies to the plant and not the root area. For the roots we tried to furnish shade and coolness by using shade from other plants having roots at a distance but casting shade for at least part of the day. Then the entire root surface is mulched. This holds the moisture and helps to keep the ground, and thus the roots, cool. Water drainage is natural since there is a gradual slope to this area.

An adequate soil moisture program is facilitated with the use of overhead sprinklers. This being especially important when buds begin to form and up until flowers are ready for cutting. Maximum available water contributing to such great extent to the maximum perfection of flowers and foliage, but never allowed to be in excess. Good drainage is a must, to *(Continued on page 12)*

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HOWARD ASPER ON HYBRIDIZING

Excerpts from a talk given by Mr. Howard Asper at the February 9, 1964 meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society

We are living in an exciting era of camellia development. Never before have so many people been interested in camellia hybridizing and never before have so many people worked at camellia hybridizing, some part time, some full time but all with intensive interest and zeal. Added to this is the fact that we now have available so many camellia species to work with. Actually somewhere around thirty species are now growing right here in Southern California and can be obtained easily with a little effort or cash. The combinations of desirable characteristics of these species are practically limitless, and yet the task of making these combinations has hardly been started.

The work has begun, however, and we can point to practical results. Let me give a few illustrations. Julius Nuccio exhibited to you during his lecture in December some extremely large and beautiful leaves which he had obtained by crossing C. irrawadiensis X C. japonica. Now with any luck at all, he will be able by further crossing, perhaps with C. reticulata, to creat a plant with large flowers to match the large leaves.

We have another example not involving size. Our esteemed and highly respected Mr. K. Sawada of Mobile, Alabama crossed the lovely small flowered species C. fraterna with C. japonica and obtained one of the loveliest hybrids I have ever seen. Both leaves and flowers are small yet unbelievably beautiful. He named it 'Tiny Princess', and wisely so for it is truly a princess in every respect. I am sure that many of our small flowered species offer much that we have never imagined. Roseaflora is a species which captures my imagination. Yet I have never had time to work with it.

My own hybrid which I was lucky

enough to get by crossing reticulata 'Lion Head' X japonica 'Coronation' demonstrates the possibility of blooming large reticulata-like flowers on vigorous plants which have large dark leaves. This can and will be done many times with a great many combinations of reticulata and japonica.

Much as we admire the reticulata varieties that were imported from China in 1948, we must admit that they are difficult to grow. There are, of course, many theories as to why this is true, yet no one seems able to completely solve the problem. Since the size and beauty of the flowers seems possible to be transferred to more vigorous plants, it would seem that this is the logical course to take. Presently there are a number of hybridizers working with this as their goal and I am sure progress will be made.

However, may I point out that this isn't easy to accomplish as only a small percentage of such crosses will be successful. In the first place, the seed formation is always poor, and subsequent germination is always poor. This is no doubt due to the difference of the chromosome count of the two species - reticulata has 90 while japonica has 45. Furthermore, only a small percentage of these hybrids which do finally bloom will be worth looking at a second time. To illustrate, let us take a cross of 'Noble Pearl' X 'Tiffany'. At once we recognize that here we have two of the finest varieties under discussion, and yet the first cross to open for me was a 2-inch, four petaled rose colored flower. I point this out not to discourage amateur hybridizers but to encourage them to keep going even though the results do not appear to be rewarding at first. A hybridizer must have a great deal of faith and perseverance. And it is possible that prayers and pious living do help! The reticulata X japonica cross, I believe, offers the greatest possibility of creating large flowers. And while it is certainly true that size and beauty are not synonomous, camellia fanciers everywhere are demanding large show flowers. And how often at our shows do we see large flowers voted Best of Show! It is futile for me to suggest any combination of varieties which would give size, for anything can happen. I have had rather notable results from using 'Crimson Robe' X 'Tiffany'. The most outstanding flower to come from this cross is an exceptionally large formal pink. On the other hand a 'Butterfly Wings' X 'Indian Summer' cross produced a brilliant red full peony flower $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. It was exhibited at our San Diego show on February 6th and won first prize in hybrids, also an A. C. S. Highly Commended Seedling Certificate. May I point out that no matter what the flower on these hybrids turns out to be, the plant always seems to have unusual vigor.

Perhaps it would be interesting to make a few comments on reticulata seedlings grown from both hand pollinated and open pollinated seed. As I have grown and bloomed something over 2000 such seedlings I feel that I can pose as the voice of experience. Yet, as I suppose you might expect from any group of seedlings, the percentage of good ones is extremely low. Actually I have come up with only two that I feel are worthy of a name and introduction to the trade. The first is from an open pollinated 'Lion Head' seed and was named for a man we all know and admire — William Hertrich. This is indeed a fine large dark red flower which is increasing in popularity as it is shown and becomes known. The plant growth habit and leaf formation suggests that it has japonica parentage, and well it could for the seed parent plant was literally surrounded by japonica plants.

The second one came from a hand pollinated cross. The seed parent was 'Chang's Temple' and the pollen parent was the beautiful 'Moutancha'. By combining parts of each name I coined the word 'Mouchang', which will be its name. It is a large rather single flower of a beautiful pink color, and entirely different from any of the presently named reticulata varieties. It will be released for sale this coming fall and I hope to show it at all of our remaining Southern California shows.

Now I want to talk about my most interesting hybrids - the 'Narumagata' X reticulata crosses. These resulted from a great deal of work. I made around 250 hand pollinations and was able to harvest about 24 seeds. Of these only eleven germinated and grew to blooming size. Among these, three were outstanding from the first and have continued so that selection has been no problem. Number one has been named 'Show Girl'. It is a large rather loosely built flower of pale pink color that starts to bloom around November 1st. It is extremely free blooming and covers itself with flowers over a long period of time. Contrary to expectations it sets seed rather freely and I have crossed back to both parents.

Number two is 'Narumagata' X 'Buddha' and bears flowers exactly like the beautiful 'Buddha', only the color is a warm medium pink. Mrs. Asper named this one 'Dream Girl', and I had to agree that this is an appropriate name because the flower seems to originate in a pleasant dream. It is second of the three to bloom, beginning around November 15th. While it blooms freely it does not bloom as profusely as 'Show Girl'. Yet the sheer beauty of each individual flower more than compensates for any lack of profusion. To date it has not set seed and I am beginning to suspect sterility.

(Continued on next page)

The third one is 'Narumagata' X 'Lion Head' and is certainly the most spectacular camellia plant I have ever seen. When in bloom it opens buds all up and down its branches simultaneously and causes the arching branches to take on the appearance of garlands of flowers. The blooms are large, often six inches in diameter, and are of an unusual fuschia pink. It begins to bloom around December 1st and certainly will provide a spot of living color in your garden during the festive holiday season. Oh yes, this one is named 'Flower Girl'. Some wag suggested we name it some other kind of girl but being a country boy I didn't quite understand what call had to do with it. This one sets seed and also has been crossed back to both parents.

All three plants are fast growing and have the willowy open sasanqua type growth. I am sure that 'Flower Girl' will need some support while in full bloom. In fact, I believe that all three will lend themselves beautifully to espalier training, and I can't imagine a finer way to decorate a wall. We are sincerely proud of our girls and we will be happy when we can introduce them to you. This is planned for the fall of 1966.

In closing may I make a few comments on hybridizing. We are beginning to see a few worthwhile results. But this is only the beginning and we are bound to see a great many wonderful new camellias - new flower forms and colors on new and vigorous plants. I know of at least two dozen hybridizers who are working diligently to bring this about. But we must remember that saying a camellia is a hybrid is no cover for inferiority. Hybrids must be severly judged and only the very good ones should ever be introduced. Hybrids must meet performance standards or be discarded. Yet I am confident that enough work is being done so that we will have a wealth of good and beautiful hybrid flowers.

Fall Camellia Show On December 4-5, 1965

The Los Angeles Camellia Council will sponsor a two-day camellia show on December 4-5, 1965 in the Lecture Room of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, the location of the recent Temple City Camellia Society show. The primary purpose of the show will be to present a public display of early camellia blooms, particularly blooms whose early blooming has been induced by the use of gibberellic acid. While the details of the show have not yet been developed, consideration will be given also to Divisions for the normal early blooming japonicas and the sasanguas. Full particulars of the rules and classifications for the show and guides for a schedule for use of gib which will bring blooms on the date of the show will be given in the May 1965 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW.

Modesto Get-Together

Dr. J. Holtzman, President of the Camellia Society of Modesto, California, has sent in the following item. On February 1st the Modesto Society staged a no-host dinner and unofficial show at the Hotel Covell in Modesto. camelliaphiles representing all 80 Northern California camellia societies attended. A representative from every society told about the forthcoming show to be put on by his society. Dr. and Mrs. John Lawson of the new Delta Camellia Society (Antioch, Calif.) and Dr. Lynn Fawns and Bill Johnson of the Central California Camellia Society (Fresno) judged the flowers, giving comments into a roving microphone while everybody looked on. Best of Show was a 'Debutante' by the Lawsons, who were hesitant to vote for their own flower but were coerced by the crowd into doing so. Runner-up was a 'Shiro Chan' by Dick Ray of Sacramento.

What's Behind The Green Thumb

ALVIN L. GUNN

Mid-March means the end of most shows, so it is time to prune and fertilize. The newcomer in the camellia hobby usually reacts to pruning like disbudding. It seems that each year we learn to flick off more buds for better flowers, and pruning rates the same. If you want good flowers next year, sharpen up those shears, and dig in. Cut out all of the branches which cross through the plant, cut out any dead or knotty growth. Prune long spindly growth back to a growth bud closer to the main trunk of the plant. When you are through, the plant should have the same look as a half plucked chicken. This heavy pruning forces new, strong growth for the buds to form on, instead of weak growth on the end of dry or knotty branches. A heavy pruning is particularly desirable on container plants to keep the top in balance with the confined root area. A plant which is heavily foliaged will not allow air or light into the center parts of the plant, which makes it more susceptible to scale and aphids. The plant's root system has more branches and buds to share the nutrients necessary

to good growth and bud development. As a result the plant will have more flowers of a poorer quality.

If you have any scale on your plants this is an excellent time to spray with Malathion. Spray the top and undersides of the foliage, being sure that all of the branches have been thoroughly wet. Do not spray on a hot day, or if there is any wind. Take the usual sanitary precautions of washing thoroughly with soap and water after spraying, and do not eat or smoke while spraying.

Mid-March is time to start your fertilizing, as most of the fertilizer has been leached out after the winter months. I like to use a good liquid for the first feeding to have the nitrogen available immediately to the roots. Any good quality fish base should be alright, if you follow the directions on the bottle. Water your plants the day before using a liquid, and then do not water for a week other than wetting the foliage. The following week I start using cotton seed meal, one heaping teaspoon to one gallon container, spreading а (Continued on next page)



evenly over the root area. An egg can is about three and one half gallons, so I would apply three and one half teaspoons. When the fertilizer has broken down and disappeared, it is time to feed more cotton seed. It takes about a month to break down in the summer months. In the colder areas it is probably better to stop with the August feeding to give the plants a chance to harden before winter sets in.

Now instead of loading the trash cans with all of the prunings, why not graft a couple of your favorite varieties, and put a flat of cuttings for understock in the cold frame. If you are going to graft on large understock, it is better to bark graft so the understock will not crush the scion. The bark is usually loose from the cambrium layer once the plant starts to grow. Cut the understock off 4" to 5" from the ground, the same as a cleft graft. Cut any bruised areas off of the understock where the cut was made. Place a knife vertically against the bark and press hard enough to cut through the bark an inch to an inch and a quarter. With the knife still held in place move the handle of the knife to your left and right just enough to break the bark loose. The scion is cut on one side only and pushed between the bark and cambrium layer leaving a quarter inch of the scion cut above the top of the understock. It is then tied snuggly the same as a cleft graft, usually with grafting rubbers. There is no wondering if the cambium layers match, they have to.

A few lines to cover the flat of cuttings. Take the newest growth cycle leaving three to five eyes. Cut the end on an angle, and dip in a rooting compound. Strip off all of the leaves except the top two, and some of us cut the top two in half. Push the cuttings an inch or two into anything from plain washed sand to a half and half mixture of peat moss and sponge rock. Wet the flat down, and place in a cold frame or cover with plastic. You will find some varieties like 'Alba Plena' are difficult to root, others like 'Debutante' and 'Lady Macon' will give you about 100%. Be careful or you will need a larger lot to hold the plants.

RETICULATAS (Continued)

carry off any excess. We practice thorough soaking once or twice a week, rather than daily sprinkling. However, after a hot day, we turn on the overheads, running each set briefly, thus definitely increasing the humidity and decreasing the temperature.

We do disbud. We do prune and we do use iron chelates on occasion. And we do plant high.

When time permits, we mix our own fertilizer, using on an average of three applications a year. The recipe we use is:

1 large bag cotton seed meal

1 large bag bone meal

1 large bag humisite

1 large bag hoof and horn

These are mixed together and stored for use.

The mulch we use is shavings — a mixture of woods, which we expose to the weather for a time before using.

In review — we have attempted to give our reticulatas water available to needs, drainage of air and water, exposure to light and sun, use of mulch and slow acting fertilizer. Although it would have been possible, we have not yet cut blooms with eighteen inch stems!

P.S. Everyone knows that the real secret to winning awards in the Camellia World is *favorable weather*! Given a good healthy, young graft, a swelling bud, soft gentle rain, cool nights at just the right time before show date and — you've got it!

"WHAT CAMELLIAS MEAN TO ME"

Report of talk by Roy T. Thompson at meeting of Pacific Camellia Society

Roy T. Thompson of Glendale, with 37 years of growing-camellias-for-fun behind him, talked to the Pacific Camellia Society at its January 7th meeting on the subject "What Camellias Mean to Me." Mr. Thompson started his camellia growing experience with the purchase of a small plant of a four petaled single variety that is now a tall tree in his garden. At the peak of his camellia collecting he had about 400 varieties, most of which were in containers. As with all camellia collectors, he faced the dilemma of the growing plants requiring more room and his land, a residential lot with spreading oak trees, not expanding as the plants grew in size. He took two steps to meet the situation. First, he decided to put them in the ground "where they belong because camellias are trees, not plants." Then he set about ruthlessly to get rid of the number for which he did not have room. Now he has only eight container grown camellias in his collection. (He really has ten now because his number was drawn twice in the plant drawing that followed his talk.)

Mr. Thompson gave five reasons why camellias are his choice for his garden favorite.

Durability

This is his number one reason. Given suitable soil, shade and water, they take care of themselves. Planted in the ground, it is actually hard to kill them. Under oak trees they get mulch and thus can do without fertilizer. In Southern California they are relatively free from disease. They are hardy to cold; though the flowers may be lost in a season of low temperatures, the plants come through in good shape for the following blooming season. In his 37 years of growing camellias he has lost only ten plants, all of which were in containers and all lost as a result of his being away from home for extended trips. He now has only one serious growing problem — "deer trouble". As a result of last year's serious fires in the Glendale hills, the deer have lost their usual feeding areas and now roam at night into the populated areas. After feasting on the chrysanthemums and leaves of roses they go after the camellia foliage.

Beauty

For twelve months of the year, beautiful plants. For the blooming period an array of flowers. They always look fresh with their bright green leaves. They are neat in the garden — do not produce litter.

Bloom in Winter

They bloom in the winter when nearly everything else is out of bloom. It is an event every Fall when the buds start to open up.

Movability

In giving this reason, Mr. Thompson made it clear that he was talking about movability of camellias in the ground, not about container grown plants. Their movability makes it easy to alter one's garden plans. He cited in illustration the moving by the late Ralph Peer of the C. japonica tree of 'CALIFORNIA' from the spot where it was planted in the 19th century to the Peer garden at Park Hill. The tree was thirteen inches in diameter when it was moved and there is no sign now that it had ever been disturbed.

Wide Variety

He said he is tired of hearing people say "but there are no yellow or blue camellias." To get an idea of the great variety among camellias, multiply the number of forms by the number of pattern variations within

(Continued on page 19)

Show Results

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY San Diego, California --- February 6-7, 1965

SUPER SWEEPSTAKES DIVISION

(Open to former Sweepstakes winners of any camellia show)

Sweepstakes - Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria

Sweepstakes Runner-up - Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dekker, Glendale

Best Japonica - 'Clarise Carleton', Amos W. Kleinsasser, Bakersfield

Best Japonica Runner-up - 'Guilio Nuccio Var', Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Pitkin, San Marino

Best Reticulata — 'Buddha', Mr. and Mrs. Stanley D. Miller, El Cajon

- Best Reticulata Runner-up 'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon
- Best 3 or 5 Japonicas 'R. L. Wheeler', Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria

Best 3 or 5 Reticulatas — 'Buddha', Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon

AMATEUR DIVISION

(Non-winners of Sweepstakes Award)

Sweepstakes — Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland

Sweepstakes Runner-up --- Harold Dryden, San Marino

Best Japonica — 'Ballet Dancer', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland

- Best Japonica Runner-up 'Emmett Pfingstl', Mr. and Mrs. Jess George, La Mesa
- Best Reticulata 'Crimson Robe', Dallas Clark

Best Reticulata Runner-up - 'Purple Gown', Harold Dryden, San Marino

Best 3 or 5 Japonicas — 'Ville de Nantes', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland Best 3 or 5 Reticulatas — 'Crimson Robe', Dallas Clark

Best Miniature — 'Miss Muffet', Mrs. Byron Lindsley, San Diego

OPEN DIVISION

(Open to all amateur exhibitors)

Sweepstakes for Miniatures — Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino

Sweepstakes for Treated Blooms --- W. F. Goertz, San Marino

Best Miniature — 'Fircone', Peter Folino, Arcadia

Best Small Japonica — 'Tinker Bell', Mr. and Mrs. William Gibson, San Diego Best Hybrid - 'Howard Asper', Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria

Best Species — Roseaflora, Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Rowe, Upland

Best Treated Bloom - 'Clark Hubbs', W. F. Goertz, San Marino

Best Sport --- 'Carter's Sunburst Pink', Kramer Bros. Nursery, Upland

Best Seedling - 'Pink Pagoda', Robert D. Moore, Glendora

A. C. S. Provisional Highly Commended Seedling Awards -

'Butterfly Wings' X 'Indian Summer', Howard Asper, Escondido

'Pink Pagoda', Robert D. Moore, Glendora

'Elsie Ruth Marshall' (Seedling #266), M. Leslie Marshall, San Gabriel

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY Pomona, California — February 13-14, 1965

Sweepstakes - Frank Reed, Pasadena Sweepstakes Runner-up - Paul McClelland, Orange Best Japonica Over 4" - 'Angel', Frank B. Anderson, Bakersfield

- Best Japonica Over 4" Runner-up 'Guilio Nuccio Var', Mr. and Mrs. J. V. George, La Mesa
- Best Japonica Under 4" 'Ballet Dancer', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
- Best Japonica Under 4" Runner-up 'Sawada's Dream', Frank B. Anderson, Bakersfield
- Japonica Blooms on Court of Honor 'Glen 40', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Hawaii', 'Iwani', 'Lady in Red Var', 'Margarete Hertrich', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis Peony', 'Thelma Dale', 'Ville de Nantes'
- Best Reticulata 'Purple Gown', Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey, Temple City
- Best Reticulata Runner-up 'Buddha', Mr./and Mrs. A. E. Krumm, Altadena Best 3 Japonicas - 'R. L. Wheeler', Fred V. Hamilton, Santa Maria
- Best 3 Japonicas Runner-up 'Ville de Nantes', C. W. Pitkin, San Marino
- Best 3 Reticulatas 'Crimson Robe', Jack L. Mandarich, Menlo Park
- Best 3 Reticulatas Runner-up 'Shot Silk', Jack L. Mandarich, Menlo Park Best Boutonniere — 'Kitty', Fred V. Hamilton, Santa Maria
- Best Boutonniere Runner-up 'Fircone Var', Mr. and Mrs. Peter Folino,
 - Arcadia
- Boutonniere Blooms on Court of Honor 'Pearl's Pet', 'Sam Barranco Pink', 'Tinker Bell'
- Best 3 Boutonnieres 'Fircone', Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino
- Best 3 Boutonnieres Runner-up 'Cardinal's Cap', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
- Best Other Species Roseaflora, Mr. and Mrs. John Movich. Pomona
- Best Hybrid 'E. G. Waterhouse Var', Fred V. Hamilton, Santa Maria
- Best Treated Japonica 'Mercury Var', W. F. Goertz, San Marino
- Best Treated Japonica Runner-up 'Emmett Pfingstl', W. F. Goertz, San Marino
- Best Treated Reticulata 'Buddha', Mr. and Mrs. J. V. George, La Mesa Best Seedling — Entry of Frank W. Maitland, San Fernando

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY San Mateo, California — February 20-21, 1965

Sweepstakes — George A. Stewart, Sacramento

- Sweepstakes Runner-up Glen M. Stillens, Los Altos
- Best Japonica (Large) 'Kick Off', Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Davi, Pittsburg
 - (A. C. S. Certificate as Best in Show Japonica)
- Best Japonica (Medium) 'Fimbriata', Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ehrhart, Walnut Creek
- Best Japonica (Small) 'Kitty', Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria
- Best Special Culture 'Lady Kay', Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Valley
- Japonicas on Honor Table 'Extravaganza', 'Onetia Holland', 'Spring Sonnet', 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Lady Kay', 'Reg Ragland Var', 'Richard Nixon', 'Silver Chalice', 'Touchdown', 'C. M. Wilson'
- Best 3 Japonicas 'China Doll', Tom Sertich, Sacramento 3 Japonicas on Honor Table 'Shiro Chan', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Guilio Nuccio Var'

Best Reticulata — 'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnett, Castro Valley Reticulatas on Honor Table — 'Pagoda', 'Purple Gown', 'Buddha', 'Butterfly Wings'

Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Crimson Robe', Roy W. Tess, Orinda

(Continued on next page)

3 Reticulatas on Honor Table - 'Buddha', 'Noble Pearl'

Best Hybrid - 'Howard Asper', Mr. and Mrs. Fred V. Hamilton, Santa Maria Best Judges Bloom - 'Buddha', Harold L. Paige, Lafayette

Best Seedling — Japonica #6147, Harold L. Paige, Lafayette

Best Tray of 12 Blooms — Brian Burnette, Castro Valley

'Pink Clouds', 'Donckelarii', 'Lion Head', 'Coronation', 'Guilio Nuccio Var', 'Butterfly Wings', 'Crimson Robe', 'Lady Kay', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'Ecclefield'

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, California February 20-21, 1965

Sweepstakes - Berkeley M. Pace, Upland Sweepstakes Runner-up — John Movich, Pomona

Collector's Award - Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino

Best Flower in Show - 'Howard Asper', E. J. Alvarado, Ontario

Best Large Japonica — 'Reg Ragland Var', Thomas H. Stull, Bakersfield Best Small Japonica — 'Pink Poppy', Ernest Pieri, San Gabriel Best Boutonniere — 'Hopkins Pink', Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield

Best Tray of Japonicas - 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', J. V. George, La Mesa

Best Reticulata — 'Tali Queen', W. F. Goertz, San Marino

Best Tray of Reticulatas - 'Crimson Robe', Alvin L. Gunn, Lynwood

Best Hybrid - 'Howard Asper', E. J. Alvarado, Ontario

Best Special Culture Bloom - 'Lady in Red', M. W. Abramson, Tulare

Best Japonica Seedling - 'Elsie Ruth Marshall', Marshall's Nursery,

San Gabriel (Provisional A. C. S. Highly Commended Certificate)

Best Reticulata Seedling - Retic Seedling No. 6, Frank Maitland, San Fernando (Provisional A. C. S. Highly Commended Certificate)

Best Small Japonica Seedling - Miniature Seedling, Charles Mathis, San Diego

Best 'Kramer's Supreme' - John Movich, Pomona

Flowers in Court of Honor — 'Clarise Carleton', 'Pearl's Pet', 'Tomorrow's Dawn', 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Allison Leigh Woodroof', 'Cara Mia', 'Julia France', 'Coral Queen Var', 'Crimson Robe', 'E. G. Waterhouse'

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA COUNCIL Descanso Gardens, La Canada, California February 27-28, 1965

Sweepstakes — Silas A, Jones IV, Fresno

Sweepstakes Runner-up — Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Collier, Chowchilla

Sweepstakes for Miniatures - Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino

Best Japonica — 'Coronation', Dr. John H. Urabec, La Canada Best Japonica Runner-up — 'Ballet Dancer', Melvin G. Canfield, Bakersfield

Best 3 Japonicas — 'White Nun', Thomas H. Stull, Bakersfield Best 3 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', Fred V. Hamilton, Santa Maria

Best 5 Japonicas - 'Ballet Dancer', Berkeley M. Pace, Upland

Best 5 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Eleanor Haygood', Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Collier, Chowchilla

Japonicas on Court of Honor - 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Silver Anniversary', 'Reg Ragland Var', 'Red Wine', 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Tiffany', 'Guilio Nuccio Var', 'Vulcan', 'White Nun' Best Reticulata — 'Moutancha', Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino

- Best Reticulata Runner-up -- 'William Hertrich', Harold E. Dryden, San Marino
- Best 3 Reticulatas 'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. Alvin L. Gunn, Lynwood
- Best 3 Reticulatas Runner-up 'Tali Queen', Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz, San Marino
- Best 5 Reticulatas 'Butterfly Wings', Mr. and Mrs. John Movich, Pomona
- Best 5 Reticulatas Runner-up 'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. Alvin L. Gunn, Lynwood
- Best Miniature 'Fircone Var', Fred V. Hamilton, Santa Maria
- Best Miniature Runner-up 'Hopkins Pink', Dr. Leland E. Chow, Bakersfield

Best Hybrid — 'Howard Asper', Fred V. Hamilton, Santa Maria Best Hybrid Runner-up — 'Phyl Doak', Silas A. Jones IV, Fresno

Best Seedling Japonica — Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Collier, Chowchilla Best Seedling Reticulata — #51, Harold E. Dryden, San Marino

Best Boutonniere — 'Johnny's Folly', Al Gamper, La Canada

Best Special Culture Bloom - 'Tomorrow's Dawn', M. W. Abramson, Tulare Best Special Culture Bloom Runner-up — 'Carter's Sunburst',

M. W. Abramson, Tulare

Best Collector's Table - Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dekker, Glendale

ENTOMOLOGICAL REPORT ON COMMON PESTS IN CAMELLIA GARDENS

Mrs. Estelle Lindsley San Diego, California

"BARK CUTTING BEETLES"

Very sharp. Inflict much damage to small plants January through March if not properly controlled. Separate and carry away numerous small pieces of host plant. A plant can almost disappear under a severe infestation.

"BULL HEADED WEEVIL"

Very smart. Has digested all there is to know about camellias and regurgitates freely and loudly. Sometimes has a swollen head. "COTTON PICKING DIGITITUS"

Identified by numerous, busy finger like appendages that bop, lift and bruise blooms in rapid succession. Especially dangerous at show time. Occasionally form in colonies called "garden clubs". "CUTWORMS"

Interested in superior blooms at peak of their perfection. Manipulate mouth and tongue muscles gracefully and adroitly to separate bloom from plant. A similar related species is called "corsage wireworm".

"LEAF MINORS"

Tender young predators who rip and shred foliage and blooms. Very mobile, highly destructive and hard to control. Mother is frequently a "Coddling Moth", Unfortunately there are many 'related' species.

"MEALWORMS"

Mid-day migratory visitant who refuses to leave and stays for lunch.

"ORIENTAL FOLIAGE CUTTERS"

Dozens of these species are known under the class "Flower Arrangers". These predators rapidly defoliate plants if not firmly controlled.

"PEA GREEN MOTH

Turn beautiful shade of bright green as they flit amongst new varieties and exceptional blooms. Quite harmless and have salutory affect on gardener. "SHOT" BORERS

Can be observed in the garden between five and six P.M. Are frequently quite thirsty. Systemic treatment with an alcohol solution does not hasten their departure.

"WINGLESS HANDBAG FLAPPERS"

Especially harmful as they attack all parts of plants indiscriminately. Confined to the female species.

FIFTY YEAR HOBBY A LABOR OF LOVE DAVID AND TILLIE WORTH OF NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Many of the readers of CAMEL-LIA REVIEW know David and Tillie Wirth of New Orleans, La. Others who do not know them personally know the camellias 'David Wirth' and 'Tillie Wirth'. Recently THE TIMES-PICAYUNE of New Orleans carried a feature article about the Wirths in its garden section, written by Rachel Daniel, the paper's garden editor. With Mrs. Daniel's permission we are quoting from her article and are showing a picture taken by TIMES-PICAYUNE photographer G. Bennett of the Wirths among their camellias.

"Camellia growing is an exciting hobby for Mr. and Mrs. J. David Wirth, 212 Filmore Ave., in Lakeview. The couple, now in their eighties, started with two camellia scions about 50 years ago, and one of these still grows. But it has been in the last 25-30 years that they really began to collect camellia shrubs from the Gulf States and California.

"The Wirths still visit camellia shows with relish, and have won boxes of ribbons, including sweepstakes, at camellia shows. They belong to the American Camellia Society and have attended numerous of its conventions and flower shows. The Wirths also belong to six other camellia societies including the Men's Camellia Club of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Camellia Society." The

*The Southern California Camellia Society is also one of the six societies. —Ed.



Courtesy New Orleans THE TIMES-PICAYUNE David and Tillie Worth among their camellias.

latter dedicated its 1964 show to them. "Their collection is made up of approximately 550 shrubs in about 400 varieties, many of them new. These grow in a 50 X 120 foot area, partially shaded by pine trees, at the rear of the Wirth's home. The camellia shrubs are planted close together to utilize all the space available. When the couple buys a new camellia plant, they have to dig up an older one to make room. At the Wirth garden, camellia flowers are present from October to mid-February.

"They have tried "gibbing" or using gibberellic acid to increase the size of the blooms but are not too keen on it because they don't know what effect this may have on the plant in general. Mrs. Wirth thinks a novice who sees "gibbed" camellias at a show may get the idea that camellias just naturally get that big.

"Two of the Wirth-owned camellias are their namesakes. The 'David Wirth' is a red-flowering semi-double type camellia with prominent stamens. 'Tillie Wirth', a sport of 'Big Beauty', is a very large white flower with a pink stripe."

Jack Clark Writes From New Zealand

Many readers of CAMELLIA RE-VIEW will remember Jack Clark of Auckland, New Zealand, who has visited the United States three times during camellia seasons, the last visit in 1963, and made many friends during these visits. George Du Brul of Dallas, Texas has received a letter from Mr. Clark which Mr. Du Brul has sent to the Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW with the thought that many of Mr. Clark's friends will be interested in its contents. Excerpts from the letter follow.

"I have been so busy through the year 1964 that it just went by in a flash. This retirement is hard work. We motored from one end of New Zealand to the other and back collecting rocks by the ton for landscaping our garden, enjoying the sights on the way.

"The next venture was the development of a park. I am the honourary director, chairman, curator, labourer, etc. With a few voluntary workers the land was cleared, 4000 yards of filling was received free but 1000 yards of top soil had to be purchased. I donated 1000 trees and shrubs, planted most of them myself. Collections of Camellia, Magnolia, Rhododendron, Cherries, Conifers, Hibiscus and native trees have been introduced. We hope to provide funds for maintenance by making the park a garden of memory, the public endowing trees.

"Our National Camellia Show was the best one to date. We always wonder if the next show will supercede the previous one. I transplanted about 300 camellia blooms to the show for display only, at the last moment entered three blooms. Results, 2 first and champion japonica.

"Some of the camellia seed I collected in California during the 1961 season flowered last year and at least three are equal to existing reticulatas. But as I am out of the nursery business, they will never be marketed by me.

"At the moment I have no ambitions of traveling overseas. I like to remember all the good times and the meeting of people and making new friends on my three trips to America."

WHAT CAMELLIAS MEAN (Continued)

each form, which is infinite and endless, and one can see what variety there is. Camellias are especially fruitful in their tendency to vary patterns, to a degree that does not exist in other flowers. The fact that camellia seedlings do not come true to the seed parents makes seedling propagation such a fascinating game — a sort of year-end dividend to the pleasures derived throughout the year.

MISTAKES I HAVE MADE

Excerpts from talk by Edwards H. Metcalf to members of Pomona Valley Camellia Society

I am afraid that Mrs. Rowe got you out here on the wrong premise, because I looked at the program and it says that I shall confess mistakes I have made. I assure you I am not going to have a True Story session tonight. This talk will be limited to my mistakes in connection with growing camellias.

We'll start out with talking about planting. I have found even in recent years that the plants seem to just sink down. You dig your hole, prepare your soil and put the plant in the hole. Then the rains come, a couple of years pass, and the plants have sunk into the ground. Now I am planting about 3 or 4 inches above the surface of the ground so that eventually the crown and the base of the main stem will be an inch or so above ground level. This will give drainage. It will stop them from getting "wet feet". Quite a few years ago I didn't pay attention to the width of the hole, and not always to the depth --- then I'd pour in a lot of gravel. It has now been proven that the water will not drain properly in that heavy gravel, and your camellia does not have a chance. I have corrected my mistake and now dig rather large holes, 3 to 4 times the width of a gallon container from

which a plant is being removed. As to depth, I go down about twice the depth of the plant so that I can get about six inches of good mix below the bottom of the plant.

Then it comes to your mix. Now this is important whether you are planting in containers or in the ground. In the beginning I thought any soil with a little sand would be just fine. This was a mistake I made in the beginning because I have a heavy soil to start with. I have experimented with mixes to try to eliminate some of the early mistakes, and I now want a pliable soil, a loose soil with, for instance, peat, fir bark, some sand or loam, along with the dirt that I may have. This is all ground or mixed up.

Now when we get to canning, I've made quite a few mistakes here. First, by not inspecting the cans to be sure all the holes were open. Another mistake I have made, and I am starting to rectify it, is in placing the cans too close together. What comes from this is that the cans don't get a chance to drain properly and the holes have a tendency to rust up. Before you know it, when you're watering your camellias you have a little pond for the camellias to go swimming in and they drown. To overcome that, I have gone

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NUCCIO'S URSERIES 3555 CHANEY TRAIL ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA 91002 Phone - - - SYcamore 4-3383 to the plastic can. Even with these I have found it necessary to check that the hole is cleaned out of the plastic overflow.

I think there is something to overcanning. I have been making that mistake, particularly with seedlings. Until recently they did not have plastic cans of the proper size for new seedlings just out of the flat and I was moving direct from the flat to gallon cans. Now they have what they call a 41/8'' plastic can, about the size of the quart can. I move the seedlings from the flat to the 41/8'', then to the gallon size.

Another thing I have learned from experience is the importance of pruning. Initially I hated to prune a plant. I would think of all the flowers I would lose, but this you have to ignore. You should think of the shaping of the plant, cutting out the cross branches, and really prune them for the future. I have also made the remark that I thought it not good to prune reticulatas. I still have that feeling inside me, but I am changing my thinking because of my experience with my reticulata seedlings that have taken a beating from the sun or from lack of water. I have found that by practically cutting them to the ground they are coming out with new branches, which indicates to me that we can prune reticulatas as we can japonicas, paricularly when they are on their own roots.

I used to leave all the seed pods on the plants. That was a mistake for two reasons. One, I had a tendency to plant too many seeds, and I do not know what to do with all the seedlings today. Two, it is not beneficial to the plant to leave on all the seed pods. It takes a lot of energy from the plant that should go into growth or in the future flower.

I believed originally that seed would set only on some of the reticulatas. I was wrong. I find that even 'Capt. Rawes' will set seed pods, though not frequently. In the beginning I was curious because of a heavy seed set on reticulatas one year and a light seed set the next year. I have concluded that this is typical of the species.

Now as to growing seed, don't make the mistakes I have made in growing too many. I hate to throw anything away or to cut off a new seedling until I have seen it bloom. Growing too many seeds is just going to crowd you and it will be sure to raise your plants up in the air. Also be careful about getting your seed flats too wet. I have made this mistake. The soil should be moist but not wet.

Another mistake that has been made by many, including me, is in not taking the tip of a rare or interesting seedling and grafting it onto a good understock when it has reached about 4" in height. Howard Asper does this profitably. He gets an earlier look at the results of his hybridizing. There is the added value that in some cases the graft has survived and the new seedling has died.

I think it is a mistake, and I have made it, of propagating seedlings which are not an improvement on an existing variety or do not add new flower characteristics. Many people can hardly wait to get a seedling that they can name for their 'Aunt Jenny". Be sure it is good, that it has some characteristic of which you will be proud later before you name it. Let's speak of one example, the japonica 'John Ilges'. Mr. Ilges was one of the grandest camellia people in this country, but the seedling that was named for him, a variety that was imported from Europe in the 1840's, is a single flower of flat form. I know that he would have preferred in later years to have an outstanding bloom carry his name, as it should have. Be careful on naming a new seedling.

In hybridizing, look for the specific characteristics that you want to keep and cut off the rest of the seedlings

(Continued on next page)

so you will not be tempted. I will say that sometimes I have cut them off a little too soon because I've found that the characteristics may improve with 2, 3 or 4 years growth. We should probably have a 5-year plan for watching these blooms.

In building lath houses I've gone ahead like lots of people. I think my first lath house was 8 feet high. Later I found that with our heat in Southern California the height was too low, so now I have raised the height to 12 feet which is the limit under the laws of the city in which I live. I have also made the mistake of using a solid plastic top for my lath house. I first used what U. C. L. A. had found satisfactory, the snow or frost colored plastic. I have come to the conclusion that some of my plants were damaged due to the fact that the plastic has a tendency to take certain beneficial rays out of the sun, benefits that the plants need.

Don't make the mistake, as I have done, of selecting a new camellia on the basis of a picture or what someone who lives elsewhere has said about it, and expect that it will necessarily bloom that way for you. Frequently it does, but not always. To illustrate, my mother had a plant about 30 years old, a small single pink but with petaloids and a heavy fragrance. This was in San Francisco, I brought it down here to Southern California where it lost the fragrance, the pink cast and many of the petaloids. It turned out to be what we know as saluenensis 'Apple Blossom'.



Mrs. Catherine G. Fairley of Glen Iris, Victoria, Australia was a week-end guest of Mrs. Margaret Thompson during a stop-over of Mrs. Fairley's ship on an ocean cruise. Mrs. Thompson took Mrs. Fairley to see the Pomona camellia show and above they are looking at the winning blooms, Mrs. Fairley being on the right. Mrs. Fairley was one of the "camellia women" whom Mrs. Thompson wrote about in her series of articles "Camellias: Their Feminine Protagonists". (See November 1963 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW.)

International Camellia Society Meeting

Charles Puddle, Secretary of Interational Camellia Society, has anounced a week-end conference of the International Camellia Society to be eld April 9th to 11th, 1965 at the Frand Hotel, Brighton, England. merican members of the Society ho are planning to visit England in he Spring are invited to the Confernce. The total cost for the full conerence will be about \$25 (£8. 8. 0.) hich includes all accommodation. neals from afternoon tea on Friday he 9th to packed lunch on Sunday he 11th, service charge and confernce fee. Requests for or inquiries regarding reservations should be adressed to Mr. J. T. Gallagher, Graytead, Bovington, Herts., England.

The members will assemble for registration and afternoon tea starting t 4 P.M. on Friday. They will hear in illustrated lecture at 6 P.M. by Ir. Puddle who is Superintendent of Bodnant Gardens, one of the fine garens of Great Britain. Dinner will be erved at 6:45 followed by another Ilustrated lecture on "Camellia Culivation at Wisley" and a symposium or having questions presented to a roup of experts for answer. Saturday duding tours of Leonardales (Sir Giles Loder), Stonehurst (Mr. R. Strauss) and Wakehurst. The Con-

WINNING BLOOMS AT S. C. C. S. MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 9, 1965

Non-gib group

- Japonica large and very large White Nun', 'Silver Anniversary', 'Shiro Chan', 'Alice Wood',
 - 'Iessie Katz'
- Japonica small and medium Ballet Dancer', 'Jennie Mills', 'Cover Girl', 'Ted Kohl Var',
 - 'Spring Sonnet'
- Japonica miniature Red Buttons', 'Al Fresno', 'Tinsie', 'Fleurette', 'Baby Sargent'
- Hybrids
 - 'E. G. Waterhouse', 'Waltz Time', 'Falice Harris'

Gib group

- Japonica large and very large Ville de Nantes', 'Lady in Red', 'Frosty Morn', 'Rosea Superba', 'Kramer's Supreme'
- Japonica medium (size according to nomenclature book classification, not size of bloom)
 - 'Herme', 'Spring Sonnet',
 - 'Majorette', 'Finlandia Var',
 - 'Kumasaka

ference Banquet will be held on Saturday at 7:15 P.M., the dinner to be followed by a lecture and slide displays by members attending the conference. Sunday will be devoted to garden visits.

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CAMELLIA PERSONALITIES -- THE DEKKERS

Roy Thompson Glendale, California

When it comes to long-standing camellia enthusiasm and leadership in Southern California it would be difficult to find anyone more noteworthy than Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dekker, better known as Al and Rose-Marie Dekker. Their home in Glendale has become a rendezvous not only for local camellia people but for travellers from far places. They are known everywhere for their warmth and friendliness, and the Dekker smile has become proverbial. In them, camellias have a most effective sponsor.

The Dekkers came to California from Chicago in 1921. As a boy, Al had been fond of flowers, but associated them only with the warmer months in the year; to find them blooming all winter in California seemed like a miracle. Soon after their arrival the Dekkers attended a plant sale at Germains and Rose-Marie bought three gallon cans of camellias: 'Purity', 'Herme', and 'Covina', all three for one dollar. This purchase proved to be the beginning of a lifetime interest in camellias.

They moved to their present home in 1940 where a hillside of sandyloam shaded by native live-oaks proved to be an ideal location for camellias. The hillside — now their back yard — is shaped something like an amphitheater and is now, after twenty-five years, completely terraced and thickly covered with healthy camellias, many of which have become small trees. In the blooming season it is a memorable sight for camellia people.

But this isn't all. Between the hill and the house there is level ground, and here are several hundred 5-gallon cans with still more camellias. Caring for these plants through the years has



Rose Marie and Al Dekker

made the Dekkers authorities on ca mellia culture and, since they alway have the latest varieties, on the new ones. It is, perhaps, a measure of their interest in camellias that their entir garden space, except for house and lawn (which is small) is devoted to them.

Asked what he regarded as the chief value of camellias, Al replied without hesitation, "their winter blooming character." They have n competitors, he said, in this field Combined with this is their beaut as flowers and also the surprisin variety of forms and colors whice they have. Another outstanding feature is their hardiness; once they an planted in suitable ground they can just about take care of themselves in adequately watered. Another value is the lovely, fresh appearance of the plants twelve months in the year.

It so happened that the arrival of the Dekkers in their Glendale home **co**incided with a wave of camellia interest which was sweeping across he country. Nurserymen in the camellia parts of the country were stocking camellias, societies were being ormed, publications were multiplyng. The Southern California Camela Society was organized in Pasadena n 1940, the Pacific Camellia Society n Glendale in 1946. Soon after the rganization of the Pasadena group, dozen or so Glendale people formed group which met in the News-Press Building on Brand Avenue. They alled themselves Glendale Camellia Society. Mrs. Isabel Wiese was presient, and the Dekkers were in the roup. This group would probably ave continued to meet and would ormally have become the foundation or what is now the Pacific Camellia Society had it not been for World Var II. One side effect of the war as to darken their meeting place ecause of a power failure, and the roup disbanded. In 1946, however, he Dekkers took a leading part in he formation of the Pacific Society. In his long association with camela organizations Al Dekker has held many responsible positions. He served wo terms as President of the Southern California Camellia Society, and at he present time he has just entered his third term as Vice-president for he Pacific Coast of the American Camellia Society.

One of the memorable events of ecent years was a certain meeting of **h**e Southern California Camellia Society, called for the purpose of celebrating the fiftieth wedding anniersary of the Dekkers. The two had met as students at the University of Chicago and were married in 1913. The camellia society meeting to honor lhis anniversary was, perhaps, a unique event in camellia history. Anyway, the meeting drew together one of the largest groups of camellia people in the history of the Society and will be remembered for much more than the huge cake.

Perhaps the most valuable contribution the Dekkers have made to camellia history has been their capacity to share their enthusiasm with others, and this, after all, is what keeps such societies on the move. In this respect the Dekker contribution to camellias has been most valuable.

SOME RELATIVES (Continued)

10 m. (about 33 feet) with dark brown, flaky bark and medium-sized flowers, the petals of which are whitish throughout. The capsules and sepals of this species assume marvelous tones of reddish-brown to deep claret upon ripening in late summer.

S. serrata Maxim. This is a Japanese species which in many of its characters (habit, bark, foliage, etc.) resembles the preceding. Its petals, however, are slightly reddish at the base and the filaments are free throughout their length rather than united at the base, as is the case with S. sinensis.

A recently described Chinese species, S. gemmata Chien & Cheng, is slowly finding its way into our eastern horticulture. It is being grown at the National Arboretum in Washington and the Morris Arboretum has just received a small plant through the kindness of L. G. Tingle of Pittsville, Md. It is closely related on one hand to S. monadelpha (from which it differs in having orange-yellow anthers and larger capsules) and on the other to S. sinensis (from which it is separated, among other things, by possessing ovaries which are completely hairy instead of pubescent only at the base).

Taken as a whole the Tea Family, while relatively small, must be held in high esteem. Thanks to their handsome foliage, interesting bark and conspicuous flowers, many of its members are richly deserving of an honored place in American horticulture.

PLANT NUTRIENTS

NOTES FROM "SOIL", THE YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE, 1957, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(Continued from February issue)

The availability of the soil phosphorus depends primarily on its degree of water solubility, since the plant obtains its phosphorus from the soil solution. Repeated restoration of the water soluble phosphorus is necessary to meet the phosphorus requirements of the plant. Pg, 97, para. 3.

Maximum benefits from maintaining a high phosphate fertility level are not realized unless other nutrients are supplied at proper levels.

Many experiments show that only with adequate levels of nitrogen and potassium will the plant utilize high levels of available phosphorus.

A significant factor of plant behavior . . . is the relatively high need for phosphorus in the early stages of growth. Curves of growth and total phosphorus uptake usually show that 50% of the total plant phosphorus is absorbed when only 20% of the total growth has occurred. Pg. 99, para. 7.

Plant roots readily absorb soluble and exchangeable potassium, as must be obvious from the high potassium requirements of some annual crops. Potassium apparently enters the root cells in combination with the organic compounds produced in metabolic processes within the plant. Once inside the roots, the potassium evidently reverts to an ionic form and can move rapidly through the plant. Although it is retained moderately tightly by living cells, it does not become permanently combined in organic molecules or structural components and is easily removed at the death of the cell. Pg. 103, para. last.

During the time that seeds, fruits, and nuts develop, potassium moves to them from the leaves. . . This high mobility has hindered the determination of the essential functions of potassium in the growth of plants.

Potassium is necessary for several basic physiological functions — the formation of sugars and starch and their movement between different parts of the plant, the synthesis of proteins, normal cell division and growth, and the neutralization of organic acids.

You may not be able to notice any deficiency effects in plants that have moderately inadequate levels of potassium because the usual symptoms of this degree of deficiency is a general reduction in growth. That is not easy to detect unless you compare the size of the plants with that of others that are growing in a similar place and are getting enough potassium. Furthermore, this is a general deficiency symptom for many nutrients. Analysis and tests of the soil and plant may reveal a potassium deficiency.

The onset of characteristic visual symptoms, which signifies a more severe deficiency, means that production has already been seriously impaired. The application then of fertilizer potassium cannot overcome the damage already incurred, especially in annual quick-growing crops.

The general leaf pattern when potassium is low begins with a yellowing of the tips and edges. The yellow area then gets broader. The tissues at the edges and later the entire leaf die as the deficiency becomes more severe. These symptoms appear first in the older leaves and later in the younger leaves. Because in line with the general tendency of potassium to concentrate in the rapidly growing tisues it moves from the older leaves (at their expense) to the younger leaves. Pg. 104, para, 1-5, 7. The supply of potassium to plants often affects and is affected by the level of other nutrients.

The usual effects of nitrogen and phosphorus, the other two major fertlizer nutrients, are associated with nutrient balance in the plant. If the supply of nitrogen and phosphorus is high relative to that of potassium. growth may be rapid at first, but the potassium concentration in the plant may become reduced to a deficiency level. Thus, even though the total potassium uptake by the plant may be increased by the high nitrogen and phosphorus levels, additions of potassium to the soil would be necessary to maintain the nutrient balance required for rapid, continued groth. Pg. 105, para. 1,3,4.

Most soils contain an abundance of total iron, which all plants need, but many interacting factors affect and limit the iron that plants can use.

A deficiency of iron exists in almost every major fruit-growing area. It is difficult to supply iron in a form available to plants . . . Some new compounds, called iron chelates, have been found to correct many deficiencies of iron.

One of the functions of iron is to be a catalyst in the production of chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants.

You can recognize iron deficiency by looking at the new, growing leaves. The tissue between the veins becomes lighter in color than the veins. The areas between the veins become yellow as the deficiency advances. Only a branch of an entire tree may be affected, or perhaps only a few trees in an orchard are chlorotic. The entire tree in severe cases is affected, plants lose part of their leaves, and dieback results. If the condition is not corrected, the plant unproductive becomes dies. and Young peach trees in some places cannot be kept alive longer than 2 years

because of iron chlorosis. Pg. 111, para. 10,13,14-16.

Oftener than we think, Iron may be a limiting factor in the growing of plants that prefer an acid soil — . . . rhododendron, azalea, and many others. Many of the deficiencies can be corrected by increasing the acidity in the soil by using soil amendments, or by supplying a soluble iron chelate.

Iron chelates have been used successfully in the culture of blueberry, azalea, and some other acid-preferring plants on soils not acid enough to grow them well. Pg. 113, para. 2,3.

Because iron is not readily translocated in many plants, spraying with soluble iron salts is not always successful.

The selection of plants that are not susceptible to iron chlorosis and the use of iron chelates have been two of the most promising ways of dealing with chlorosis. Pg. 14, para. 5, 7.

Iron chelates are reagents, such as citric acid, which bind the iron ion through two or more positions within their structures. The iron ion is held in such a way that it cannot free itself to form another compound when treated with such common precipitating agents as phosphate or hydroxide. Some of the synthesized chelates that combine with iron are very soluble, yet the iron is retained in a soluble complex form available to plants as a nutrient.

The characteristics of a satisfactory chelating agent for soil applications are: The chelated metal ion is not easily replaced by other metals; the metal-ion complex is stable against hydrolysis in all kinds of soil; the chelating agent is not decomposed by soil micro-organisms; the chelate is water soluble and not easily fixed in the soil colloidal fraction; the metal

(Continued on next page)

ion is available to the plant at the root surface and after it enters the plant; the chelating agent is not toxic to plants; and the chelating agent is available to the grower. Pg. 114, para. last, and pg. 115, para. 1.

Plants For Flower Arranging

The Pacific Rose Society Bulletin of December 1964 carried an article by Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dickson that is of interest to camellia as well as rose growers who desire to enjoy the fruits of their labors in arrangements. To make good flower arrangements, they stated, one needs some of the following either as the dominating feature or to complete the arrangement. While there are a great many plants which can be used, they listed only the basic or most often used ones, as follows:

Coarse broad leaf —

All geraniums

Glossy broad leaf -

Vibernum, camellias, young calla lily

Small leaf —

Myrtus compacta, bushman's poison, smoke tree, leptospermum, privet (both golden and green)

Needle type leaf —

Asparagus fern, retrofractus, hakia, acacia verticilata, irish yew

Strap type leaf —

Small leaf bilbergia, morea, all iris, lariope, ophiophagon

Grasses —

Mondo grass, all alliums, penacetum (fountain grass), equisetum (horse tail reed), umbrella plant, papyrus

Greys -

Carokia, artemnesia, helichrysum, rhue, sage

Yellows —

Variegated oleander, variegated euonymus

Vines —

Physianthus

Plus many of the succulents, both grey and green.

Temple City Camellia Society

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday evening, March 25th at 8:00 P.M. in the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

Albert H. Dekker, a Vice President of the American Camellia Society, will discuss the recent annual meeting of the Society held at Tallahassee, Florida, in January of this year, as well as other meetings which he attended in former years. His talk should be of interest to all who have not been able to attend or participate in these all important meetings of the American Camellia Society.

Marshall Has New Seedling

Leslie Marshall of Marshall's Camellia Nursery has a new japonica seedling that he will introduce next camellia season. It is a light pink rose form to peony form flower that is measuring a good 41/2 inches in diameter and 21/2 inches in height. It first bloomed in 1962, when he thought enough of it to make several grafts for testing. This year he has decided that it is good for release, so much so that he has named it 'Elsie Ruth Marshall' for his wife and partner of many years in the nursery business. It won an A. C. S. Provisional Highly Commended Seedling certificate at the San Diego and Temple City shows.

Directory of Affiliated Societies

Camellia Society of Kern CountyBakersfield President: Melvin G. Canfield; Secretary: Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, 1902 Niles St., Bakersfield
Meetings held 2nd Monday of the month, October through April, in Police Build- ing, 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield.
Camellia Society of Orange CountySanta Ana President: Warren Woody; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1121 Orange, Santa
Meetings held first Thursday of month, October through April, in Orange County Farm Bureau Building, 1916 W. Chapman, Orange.
Central California Camellia SocietyFresno President: Mert Weymouth; Secretary: Mrs. Glen S. Wise, 5493 E. Liberty, Fresno. Meetings held at Heaton School, Del Mar Ave., Fresno on Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 27, Feb. 24, Mar. 24.
Huntington Camellia GardenSan Marino Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Road, San Marino.
Pomona Valley Camellia Society
Meetings held 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April, in the Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. Bldg., Garey Ave. & Center St., Pomona (1 block South of Holt).
San Diego Camellia SocietySan Diego President: Mrs. Althea T. Hebert; Secretary: Mrs. Carol Bradford, 5707 Jackson Dr., La Mesa
Meetings held 2nd Friday of the month, November through May, in Floral Associ- ation Building, Balboa Park, San Diego.
Southern California Camellia SocietySan Marino President: Robert F. Dickson; Secretary: Harold E. Dryden, 820 Winston Ave., San Marino.
Meetings held Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino.
Temple City Camellia Society
Meetings held on 3rd Friday of November and December and 4th Thursday January through March in Lecture Hall of Los Angeles County Arboretum.

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