

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Angel Wings'
Courtesy Kramer Bros. Nursery

Vol. 35

January 1974

No. 3

One Dollar twenty-five cents

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 to the Secretary. Annual dues: \$7.50.

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PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

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Six issues per volume — October, November, January, February, March and May.

All manuscript for publication and correspondence should be sent directly to the Editor.

Republication permitted, if due credit is given the Camellia Review and the author.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notify the Secretary at once. Magazines are not forwarded by the Post Office.

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. HYBRID 'ANGEL WINGS'

Kramer Bros. Nursery of Upland, California first won honors with their non-reticulata hybrid 'Angel Wings' in the March 1969 show of the Camellia Society of Kern County in Bakersfield, California, when it was runner-up to Best Seedling in the show. They followed in the February 1970 show of the Pomona Valley Camellia Society with the award of Best Seedling, and since then it has been a favorite among the hybrids with other than reticulata parentage. It won the Dr. John Taylor Award of The Southern California Camellia Society in 1973 for outstanding hybrid with other than reticulata parentage. This hybrid is a cross of japonica 'Dr. Tinsley' X saluenensis. It is a medium sized, high semi-double with narrow, upright petals. The color is white, washed and shaded orchid pink.

CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

1 to 11 copies..... \$3.00 per copy
12 and more copies \$2.25 per copy

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Southern California Camellia Society

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Whittier, California 90605



I belong to the school of philosophy that believes there are few questions that are completely one-sided. We are influenced in choosing one side or the other by many factors, not the least of which is how far we are involved in the particular subject. I wrote in October about what to do with seedlings that are good and pleasant to look at but not good enough to give a name and register. I suggested that growers who have such seedlings and do not have places for them in their own gardens should cut them off, to avoid their getting into the stream of an already over-crowded group of camellia varieties.

I have received a letter from my friend Kenneth O. (K. O.) Hester in which he makes a strong point for the other side; namely, give them to friends who are not camellia hobbyists but who admire the camellia as a flower and as a shrub. Here is what he wrote.

“A camellia grower who is also an exhibitor is very likely to evaluate all seedling blooms by how he or she feels they will rate in competition. Unless they are of show quality they are likely to be of little interest to the grower (except as root stock for grafts).

“During my 15 years in the Stockton area I raised several thousand seedlings and sold many as grafting stock. But I set aside others which had pretty flowers even though they were not of show quality.

“I gave several hundred such plants to folks who were not the least interested in exhibiting the blooms at shows, but wanted evergreen shrubs that have pretty and colorful flowers. And these people became loud in their praises of camellias; how pretty they were, how little trouble to care for.

“I’m glad I did this for it introduced camellias to many people who would not have been willing to put out the cash to buy the plants.

“During my “growing” career I germinated and raised about three thousand seedlings and from these found only two, ‘Lucy Hester’ and ‘K. O. Hester,’ that I thought were worthy of being named.”

That is a pretty convincing statement, and I thought it might be good support for those who said “I don’t agree” when they read my editorial in the October issue.

Harold E. Dyer

BASIC CAMELLIA CULTURE

Resume of panel discussion at November 1973 meeting of Pacific Camellia Society

The Board of Directors of Pacific Camellia Society decided that more help should be given to the newer members of the Society in the meeting programs, and started the new season on that theme with a panel discussion on basic camellia culture. Caryll Pitkin served as moderator, Bill Goertz and Wilkins Garner were the panel. Participation by the audience was general. This article summarizes the discussion.

GROWING IN GROUND VS. CONTAINERS

Camellias do better in the ground than they do in containers and most growers will grow them in the ground when they have room. The usual situation in Southern California is limited room, and many growers plant some camellias in the ground, then use containers to fit into the space that is left. The varieties that are usually in the ground are the better ones, those that will produce good show flowers for the people who are show conscious. Containers are the answer for people whose desire for camellias exceeds the space they would need to plant them all in the ground.

SHADE REQUIREMENTS

As a general rule, shade is important for camellias in Southern California with the sun's intense rays.

Japonicas will take the early morning sun, say before ten o'clock, and the late afternoon sun. Even in these two periods, however, there may be leaf burn on the hot days and particularly during the hot Santa Ana winds.

Sasanquas take sun quite well and can be planted freely in the garden, although even here a hot Santa Ana wind may burn leaves.

There are indications that reticulatas take sun better than the japonicas do.

"Doing well" as used above refers to the plant rather than the flowers. Flowers will deteriorate in full sun even though the plant may take the sun well. People who are interested in the condition of the flowers should avoid full sun if possible. Lath has proved to be satisfactory for this purpose. Seran cloth has been used but some have gone back to lath for ease of maintenance.

Both Mr. Pitkin and Mr. Goertz, who have recently returned from Australia, and New Zealand, stated that camellias are planted in full sun freely in both of these countries and both the plants and flowers thrive in the sun. It would appear, therefore, that the problem in Southern California is in the semi-arid atmosphere that removes the humidity from the air and gives the sun's rays full force in their effect on camellias.

WATER

Watering is critical for container grown camellias because they can be both underwatered and overwatered. It is important to know if they need a full watering or if only the top is dry and a light watering will suffice. The only sure way to know is to explore with the finger. It is said that some women object to this method because it destroys the manicure, and for them a device can be obtained that will measure the moisture content of the soil. The roots of camellias are at the top and they should not be permitted to dry out. A soggy bottom will impede root growth and ultimately destroy the plant. Light soil drains easily and therefore requires more frequent watering than does a heavier soil.

Container grown plants dry out unevenly because of different soil composition and differences in the fullness of the roots in the containers.

(Continued on Next Page)

The former can be alleviated by use of a uniform soil mix, including re-potting all newly acquired plants to one's own mix. With regard to full roots in the container, some people use plants that dry out before others do as an indication of need for re-potting. They set such plants aside so that they can be watched carefully, then repotted to larger containers at a convenient time.

There can be no firm rule or formula for watering container grown camellias. Don't let them dry out, don't overwater.

Camellias in the ground do not require the same attention, although they cannot be permitted to dry out, particularly the top soil where the roots are.

Mr. Goertz believes that newly potted plants should have close attention to avoid overwatering. He puts a marker on such plants so that he will not make a mistake.

Mr. Garner pointed out that an overhead watering system is good for camellias in the ground but not for containers, because the plants keep water from getting into the containers.

Mr. Pitkin closed the discussion by stating that watering is probably the most important thing we do in camellia culture.

WHEN TO PRUNE

When the Moderator raised the question, a voice in the audience said "continuously." Mr. Goertz agreed, saying he prunes drastically at the end of the blooming season, around April 1st, and continuously thereafter as new growth starts. He makes a project of summer pruning after the first cycle of new growth. When dis-budding starts, he carries pruning shears with him so that he can cut out branches that will interfere with bud opening.

Pruning is important in the small gardens of Southern California to contain the plants within the avail-

able area. The alternative is to have fewer plants.

FERTILIZING

Discussion of this subject brought out that there are about as many programs for fertilizing camellias as there are camellia growers. Mr. Garner started the discussion by stating that camellia fertilizers range from high nitrogen to low or no nitrogen, and that they should be selected according to what the grower desires to accomplish. Nitrogen brings out plant growth and foliage, and he therefore uses a high nitrogen fertilizer in the first feeding in April. It was pointed out that Julius Nuccio has recommended against the use of a dry high nitrogen fertilizer, such as blood meal, before warm weather because blood meal needs warm weather to cause it to disintegrate and it will stand on the plant and a sudden burst of warm weather might cause fertilizer burn.

Some people use a low nitrogen fertilizer in the fall such as one with 2% or even 0% nitrogen on the basis that this will improve flower color. Mel Gum stated that use of 2-10-10 fertilizer (2% nitrogen, 10% phosphoric acid and 10% potash) has improved color for him. Chelate of iron used in the Fall will also induce stronger color in flowers.

Cotton seed meal is the basic fertilizer that is most used by the larger growers. In addition to containing the desired ingredients (6-3-3), it is also less expensive than the "store" camellia fertilizers. Some people add blood meal (13% nitrogen) or hoof and horn (16% nitrogen) in the summer feeding. Care must be taken here not to cause fertilizer burn by heavy doses of nitrogen. A ratio of one part blood meal to four parts cotton seed meal has been found to be satisfactory. Some people who grow good camellias use only cotton seed meal. Frequency of feed-

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HYBRIDIZING STAGGERS FORWARD

Meyer Piet*

Another season and what next? Can we do something different this year? What happened to our effort last year?

We are now busy germinating and setting up our seedlings from last year's effort. We were successful and have some excellent, both parents known, crosses. The 'Flowergirl' (Sasanqua 'Narumi-Gata' and Reticulata 'Cornelian') seeds were the most interesting. The seed pods contained anywhere from one to as many as 4 to 5 seeds. The pods were not symmetrical, usually all warted and twisted in a very irregular manner. The male parent were such outstanding varieties as: 'Mouchang,' 'Red China,' Goertz's Dark Red, 'Ragland,' etc. The 'Berenice Boddy' cross resulted in 2 small seeds approximately 1/8" diameter and although one started to germinate they both eventually succumbed. I plan to attempt this combination again. When the Society was picking seed at the Huntington Gardens I noticed the wild seeds on 'Flowergirl' were almost exactly like the numerous sasanqua seeds we picked. This tends to confirm the thought that the tendency for the plant is to be "bee" pollinated by sasanquas and may be the reason that the basic flower combination has not advanced. Of the approximately 20 germinated and growing seeds at least 6 have extremely dark red leaves as the new growth starts. This should be an indication of a very dark red flower, so we will be very careful in our watering, etc., and hopefully not lose any and look forward to seeing our offspring flower in 1½ to 2 years.

Using 'Flowergirl' pollen, from Lee Gaeta's cross, we crossed into some

*See Mr. Piet's articles in the February and March 1973 issues of CAMELLIA REVIEW.—Ed.

of the retics and have about a dozen seeds going of this combination. Several years from now when like parents but recipicals bloom it will be interesting to cross combinations such as 'Flowergirl'-Mouchang' and 'Mouchang'-'Flowergirl', to see if the inherited characteristics change.

With the help of Mel Gum in gibbing for early pollen, and his garden for setting seed, we have many combinations of the Maitland flowers crossed back into retics. This should give us fifth or sixth generation plants. Since the Maitland plants are usually much nicer (bushier) than the early retics, we should see some good combinations in 'Pink Sparkle' and 'Mouchang,' 'Firechief,' 'Cornelian,' etc.

Regardless of your planning you must be alert for a mutant or a new flower of outstanding color and characteristics. We were very fortunate to have a good friend, who has a new seedling which is a supper dark red retic hybrid, make available pollen, about half way through last year's season. This pollen was crossed into many outstanding camellias, such as 'Firechief,' 'Lady in Red,' 'Maitland,' etc. We are now using the stored pollen for crossing into about 6 different varieties of sasanquas and some granthamiana crosses. The results should be interesting.

One of the things you hear today is the comment that many of the new introductions are look-alikes, too many retics with the same color and form. This may be due to the fact that the majority of these new introductions (about 80%) are chance seedlings and pre-anticipating, I'm not going to mention chromosomes and I believe the sooner you forget about them the better off you will be. Use 'Mrs. D. W. Davis,' 'Ragland,'

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TO BAG OR NOT TO BAG?

Elmer Mueller*

Etiwanda, California

Whether or not to protect our manually pollinated camellia blooms from stray pollen is the big question. It has been told that the first pollen to reach the stigma will prevail. But?

It was over four decades ago that I made my first hand pollination. I began planting any seeds that were produced on our few plants. After a slow start this developed into a hobby. Although I had only the barest knowledge of what it was all about I did learn a little as I went along.

The first seedling plant that I used as a seed parent would set seed for two thirds of the flowers hand pollinated but the remaining flowers would set nary a seed although this seedling produced plenty of pollen. I am satisfied that all of this progeny was true to the crosses made. Later when other plants grew and produced more flowers, this plant produced plenty of seed from natural cross pollination. This plant was single flowered and I used it because of its good parentage, but mostly because single flowers are easier for a novice to handle and they set seed more prolifically. The seedlings from natural pollinations bore evidence that camellias strongly tend to out-cross.

However, when I acquired other species to cross with the japonicas it was quite another story. Some of the crosses made failed to set seed while others set well only to produce obviously pure japonica seedlings. Other crosses would show more or less successful attempts. So I went about to learn the reasons why.

Compatibility of the pollen and seed varieties is an elemental factor in the successful crossing of diverse varieties and species. Incompatible

*The author is a member of the Pomona Valley Camellia Society.

pollen placed on the stigma, finding itself in an unfamiliar environment, will be hesitant to germinate and enter the ovary. Compatible stray pollen subsequently reaching the stigma will then reach the ovary first and unite with the seed ovules.

If the parent varieties are too different in natural characteristics or if the order of the genes in their genetic chains is different causing a poor fit, many seeds will fail to mature or to germinate under ordinary cultural practices. Some others which grow into healthy plants will produce more or less sterile varieties difficult to use for further breeding.

Throughout a wide area of the plant world nature uses a device known as "genetic self incompatibility" to discourage inbreeding. The variety carries a heritable pair of genes which will retard any pollen grain carrying an identical gene from germinating and developing a pollen tube down the style. This allows pollen of other varieties to enter the ovary first to effect cross pollination.

There are some notable examples where self incompatibility is nearly absolute allowing even interspecific crosses to occur naturally. The Washington navel orange is seedless but when pollen of the trifoliolate orange is present seeding will occur. The resulting hybrid is known as the citrange. Some varieties of camellia saluenensis are self sterile but readily accept pollen of reticulata and japonica varieties as is reported in the origin of the Williamsii and Doak hybrids.

Honey bees are the chief transport of camellia pollen from flower to flower. Bee men winter their apiaries in this neighborhood, moving them to the Rocky Mountain plateau for summer pasture. Since camellias flower

in winter when there are few other flowers, they are subject to an over abundance of bee activity. Bees will quickly harvest all of the pollen as soon as the flower opens, often fouling the flower for exhibition or trampling the style so that it will not function. When the anthers have been removed and the flower has been hand pollinated, a honey bee, her hairy hind legs laden with pollen, will hover over to investigate such a flower before moving on to the next. The amount of pollen she puts into the flower will be small compared to that deposited by hand. The nectar flow will come later to attract more bees.

The practical application of these principles can save the neohybridist time and effort in efficiently pursuing his program:

The bulk of the seedlings grown from seed harvested from gardens having several improved varieties will be crosses. These varieties are quite heterozygous so there will be diverse forms, some of which will be esthetically desirable. However the odds of producing a variety of commercial value are very slender. After all, the whole idea behind manual pollination is that we can select both parents of our seedlings to bring the best virtues of the genus together into a new variety thus improving these odds.

If hand crosses are made between varieties of the same species, contamination will be within their tolerable limits without bagging unless absolute control is desired.

With interspecific crosses, if the pollen parent has dominant characteristics which can easily be distinguished it will be easy to sort out the hybrid seedlings after they have grown a while. Still it would be helpful to bag the pollinated flowers lest we end up with a big surplus of root stock. Where the differences of the parent species are not distinct we

would be burdened with doubt as to the validity of our crosses unless we do guard against stray pollen. Where incompatibility is strong or a larger part of the pollen is inviable or of low vitality because of long storage, protection is essential.

When self pollination is needed in order to segregate the desirable traits from the undersirable, simply bagging the flower might not be sufficient. Opening the flower bud and applying ripe pollen from a previous flower might just give the head start that is needed. In any case of incompatibility, pollinations should be made as soon as practical.

Flowers can be protected from stray pollen by covering with paper or cloth bags for a while. Waxed paper or plastic bags should not be used because the flowers transpire moisture. Tissue paper or light muslin squares can be used by folding the corners back and tying them to the stem. When many pollinations are needed to get only a few viable seeds bagging can be a tedious chore. Container grown plants can be moved into a screened in area away from the garden and all of the flowers pollinated as they become ready. The flowers not used and clipped anthers should be removed from the area before they release pollen.

Cross compatibility of different crosses is difficult to evaluate since other factors like weather or the availability of unwanted pollen are involved. Different varieties vary in their ability to accept different pollens and to mature the seed. This is especially true if hybrids are used either as pollen or seed parents. Most of my experience has been without benefit of bagging.

Japonica x reticulata: Seed set is generally poor to good and seed development generally poor depending on the varieties used.

Japonica x reticulata-japonica hy-

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Show Results

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA COUNCIL

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM — December 8-9, 1973

- Award of Honor—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz, San Marino
Runner-up—Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
- Best Large Japonica Treated—'Miss Charleston Var', Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Abramson, Tulare
Runner-up—'Clark Hubbs Var'—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz
- Best Large Japonica Untreated—'Ecclefield', H. S. Putnam, Long Beach
Runner-up—'Tomorrow's Dawn', Caryll Pitkin, San Marino
- Best Medium Japonica Treated—'Margaret Davis', Caryll Pitkin
Runner-up—'Nuccio's Gem', Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz
- Best Medium Japonica Untreated—'Alba Plena', Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson, Glendale
Runner-up—'Dr. Burnside', R. Jaacks, San Gabriel
- Best Small Japonica Treated—'Kitty', Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria
Runner-up—'Maroon & Gold', Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan, Arcadia
- Best Small Japonica Untreated—'Kitty', Paul McClelland, Orange
Runner-up 'Tom Thumb', Alfred Krueger, Rosemead
- Best Miniature Japonica Treated—'Cardinal's Cap', Mr. and Mrs. R. C. McNeil, San Deigo
Runner-up—'Fircone Var', Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson
- Best Miniature Japonica Untreated—'Little Slam', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe
Runner-up—'Pink Smoke', Walter F. Harmsen, Claremont
- Best Hybrid With Reticulata Parentage (open)—'Howard Asper', Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gaeta, El Monte
Runner-up—'Valentine Day', Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Peterson, Van Nuys
- Best Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage (Open)—'Elsie Jury', Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gaeta
Runner-up—'Julia Hamiter', Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson
- Best Hiemalis, Sasanqua and Vernalis (Open)'Star Above Star', Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci, San Gabriel
Runner-up—'Bill Wylam', Ernie Pieri, San Gabriel
- Best 3 Large and Medium Japonicas Treated—'Elegans Splendor', Franklin R. Moore, West Covina
Runner-up—'Flame', Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz
- Best 3 Large and Medium Japonicas Untreated—'Silver Anniversary', Mr. and Mrs. Carey Bliss, San Gabriel
Runner-up—'Debutante', John Movich, La Verne
- Best 3 Miniature and Small Japonicas (Open)—'Tom Thumb', Alfred Krueger
- Best 3 Hybrids with Reticula Parentage (Open)—'Valentine Day', R. Jaacks
- Best 3 Hybrids With Other Than Reticulata Parentage (Open)—'Angel Wings', Fred Hamilton
Runner-up—'Elsie Jury', Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci
- Best 3 Hiemalis, Sasanqua and Vernalis (Open)—'Dawn', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe
Runner-up—'Sukiya', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe
- Best Japonica Seedling Treated—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Novick, Woodland Hills
- Best Hybrid Seedling with Reticulata Parentage Treated— Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz

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MAKING THE CAMELLIA SHOW SCENE

You wake in the morning with a start
There's competition in the air
And panic in your heart.
This is the year you vow you'll do your best
And now the time has come for the test.
Today's the first Camellia Show
And after that there's eight to go!

You stagger out in the dawn's early light
Picking camellias with all of your might.
The boxes you fill with blooms galore
Then load up the car and close the door.
"Are the entry cards ready?" you yell at your mate
"Hurry up! Hurry up! or we will be late!"

Down the highway you go full speed ahead
Already your legs feel like two hunks of lead.
You arrive at the Show, your head's in a spin,
You grab your boxes and rush right in.
You fly through the aisles your mind in a flutter
"I'll show those guys," you are heard to mutter.

From A to Z your blooms are placed
The time has now come to see who wins a silver pot or a vase.
The Judges are ready to determine your fate
No bribes, no money taken
This isn't Watergate!

The hours seem long as the Judges decide
So you take the family out for a ride.
At last! at last! the time has come
To see whatever you might have won.
With eager steps to the trophies you run
And there you see, the winning one.

A bloom so bedraggled, a heck of a mess.
"What happened here is anyone's guess."
"Are the Judges blind? Can't they see
"That mine was a better bloom, oh, gee!"
But in that moment you get a flash,
Why worry now and start a clash,
When next week there's another Show
And maybe then you'll be the one to GLOW.

—Helen Augis

SHOW RESULTS (Cont.)

- Best Japonica Seedling Untreated—Alfter and Freeman, Bakersfield
- Best Hybrid Seedling With Reticulata Parentage Untreated—L. H. Shinault, Northridge
- Best Species Seedling—Granthamiana Seedling 70-1—Alfter and Freeman
- Best Mutant—Sport of 'Julia Hamiter', Kramer Bros. Nursery, Upland
- Best Collector's Entry—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz
- Runner-up—Dan Bracci, San Gabriel

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

A DISTINCTIVE CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Harold E. Dryden

Not long ago, I sat in my comfortable chair at home listening to background music that is conducive to thinking and did some planning for future issues of CAMELLIA REVIEW. My mind wandered from planning for the future to thinking of the past, particularly of my 26 years membership in Southern California Camellia Society, some at the tiller, some as Secretary-Treasurer, and 13 plus as Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW. The following tells why I concluded that the Southern California Society is distinctive among camellia societies. I thought that the story might be of interest to the newer members of the Society.

I would say that over the years the meetings of the Southern California Camellia Society have been on a par with those of many other societies—generally interesting and informative to the members in attendance. The things that make the Society distinctive have been and are the activities outside the scope of the meetings — activities that unfortunately have been within the participation of only a few of the Society members. I believe that credit for this must go first to the organizing members of the Society. Their aims were beyond a mere “chit-chat” group of people with the common interest in camellias, and they set about early to put these aims into operation. Following are the activities of the Society, many started by this early group, that cause me to designate the Society as distinctive.

CAMELLIA REVIEW

I hope that I shall be pardoned for listing this first. It was decided early that the Society should have a publication. It started as a penny post card then went to leaflet form. The first formal BULLETIN in booklet

form was in January 1945 and it has been issued regularly since that date. The name CAMELLIA REVIEW was adopted in October 1950. This must have been a factor in creating a Society membership where less than a third of the people are within the range of attending the Society's meetings and which embraces all camellia growing countries and the states of the United States in significant numbers. That in itself makes the Society distinctive.

CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

All camellia people recognized in the 1940's that camellia nomenclature was in a mess but the people of “Southern Cal” did something about it. They started CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE and have issued this authoritative book regularly since the 1940's. Credit for this goes jointly to Bill Woodroof, the Editor who has spearheaded the project since its start, and to the successive Board of Directors that have financed it.

HUNTINGTON CAMELLIA GARDEN

It was not difficult in the early 1940's to persuade William Hertrich, then Curator of the Huntington Botanical Gardens and a member of the Southern California Camellia Society, that the Gardens should include a camellia garden. The first step was the establishment in the Gardens of a test garden in which varieties of camellias, particularly new varieties, would be tested for their suitability in the Southern California climate. The Society appointed a Garden Committee that worked with the Huntington people and supplied the plants and scions for grafting. This test garden grew into the present camellia garden of the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

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AN EXPERIMENTAL SHOW

John Augis

President, Santa Clara County Camellia Society and Northern California Camellia Council

In sports and in many other competitive events the amateurs are not expected to beat the pros every time out. It can be done and everyone has heard of a first time exhibitor in a camellit show who has won a trophy or even Best in the Show. There is no better way in the world to "hook" an exhibitor. This is one of the reasons for this article and for an experimental show given by the Santa Clara County Camellia Society Inc. of California.

It is difficult to pin down the start of the experimental show idea. However, the primary motive is to attract new members to our hobby and to convince non-active members to become an integral part of their Society. The basic plan is to divide the exhibitors into three classes. This three tier competition would put the most experienced, the getting experience and the starters into separate classes. This classification is "loose" because some of the exhibitors in the last class could have many years of experience. They have not won trophies because some of their collections are not very large or do not include the "new red hot" varieties.

In the beginning it was decided that trophies would be awarded on an equal basis. In this way the beginners would win silver trophies of the same value and beauty as in the other classes. There is no greater incentive to continue in competition than to win a trophy. With this interest the beginner would take a more active interest in Society affairs and in obtaining the newer varieties. This demand for new varieties would push the hybridizers into new developments and would encourage the general nurseryman to stock camellias for everyone.

In getting back to the scene of the experiment, we have to explain the

regional situation. Northern California has eight shows annually with the longest driving distances between member cities no greater than three hours. This creates an unique situation. A real gung-ho expert can win twelve to twenty-four trophies in a single year.

Increasingly, Show Management has favored the experts in trophy distribution. One of the worst offenders is Sweepstakes. Over a period of five years no more than five exhibitors have won the thirty to forty trophies for this category. This problem has been compounded by Sweepstakes Runner-up Awards and lately by something called "the Award of Excellence," given to the exhibitor with the most entries on the Honor Table. There are many other awards similarly aimed at the expert such as Novice Sweepstakes and the Challenge Trophy. For Northern California Societies this means forty to fifty trophies which could be used to promote membership. The argument that Sweepstakes Trophies fill the show tables is weak when you consider that most Show tables are overcrowded. The spaces left because the Sweepstakes hounds haven't brought in their substandard, real oldies and odd ball varieties could be filled with novice grower's entries.

With the "whys" explained we can go on with the actual experiment. The entire matter was discussed at a regular meeting of the Northern California Camellia Council. It was agreed that changes had to be made but many Societies did not feel that they could change at the present time. The Santa Clara County Camellia Society volunteered to try the first show on February 17th and 18th, 1973. The Show Management decided to separate the exhibitors into three

(Continued on Next Page)

classes: Championship, Expert and Regular. The Championship class consisted of those exhibitors who had won two or more trophies during the 1972 show season; the Expert class, those who had won one trophy; and the Regular class those who had not won any trophies during the 1971-72 season. There was no separation of entries on the main floor and there were no distinctive markings on entry cards. The judges were instructed to be liberal in selection of blooms for the Honor Table with a special look at distinctive older varieties. One hundred and thirty-three camellia blooms were selected for further judging. Separation into classes was made in a separate room by a team headed by Bill Johnston, our West Coast ACS Vice President. The members of this team did not vote. The separation and voting went very smoothly. The experiment was a success. Not only did numerous novice exhibitors win trophies for the first time but in addition a greater distribution of trophies was made among the more experienced growers.

In retrospect, other means of class separations may have to be used to insure complete coverage of all show divisions. Will this type of show benefit your Society? How many of your old time members have never won a trophy? Is it their lack of knowledge or improper distribution of trophies? Are there any difficulties in managing this type of show? Yes, the trophy chairman has to find the means of providing more trophies. The Santa Clara County Camellia Society solved part of this problem by eliminating Sweepstakes, the Challenge Award and all other specialty awards. The rest of the solution was in interesting the local City government in aiding in financing the Show. Will Santa Clara Society do it again? Definitely! With some minor changes only.

TO BAG (Cont.)

brids: About the same except that the pollen is of lower viability.

Japonica x the Doak hybrids: These hybrids are a cross between *saluenensis* and the supposedly sterile *reticulata* triploid 'Captain Rawes.' The varieties I have used are 'Brian' and 'Phyl Doak.' Surprisingly these crosses take well and produce vigorous plants.

Japonica x *Granthamiana*: 61 out of 100 pollinations set producing 135 seeds. Only 63 seeds germinated and of these only 28 were the desired hybrids. It is presumed that the inviable seeds were hybrid. Another lot produced 8 plants from 21 pollinations all of which showed *Granthamiana* character.

Granthamiana x japonica 'Daikagura': A few flowers were pollinated successfully.

Japonica x the hybrid 'Lammertsii': The set is good and the seeds are viable.

Japonica x the hybrid 'Brigadoon': The seed set is low but the seedlings are healthy.

Japonica x *cuspidata*: Seeds set easily but the vigor of the seedling varies widely with the varieties used as seed parents.

Japonica x *rosaeflora*: My plant of *rosaeflora* produces flowers with mostly barren anthers. I have not been able to make more than a dozen pollinations from which I have two valid hybrids.

Sasanqua and *hiemalis*: I have made reciprocal crosses between 'Naruma Gata' and 'Mirandy' to produce three hybrid seedlings.

Japonica x *vernalis*: The variety 'Hiryu' has not been successful but a seedling of 'Hiryu' which I have named 'Seventy-five' is very compatible as a pollen parent.

Other hybrid crosses attempted have either failed or the results are not yet clear.

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE — 1974

Date	Sponsor	Location
Jan. 12-13	Southern California Camellia Society	Huntington Library San Marino
Feb. 2-3	San Diego Camellia Society	Conference Bldg. Balboa Park, San Diego
Feb. 9-10	Peninsula Camellia Society	Veterans Memorial Bldg. 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City
Feb. 9-10	Temple City Camellia Society	L.A. County Arboretum Lecture Hall, Arcadia
Feb. 16-17	Santa Clara County Camellia Society	Student Union Bldg., San Jose City College, San Jose
Feb. 16-17	Pomona Valley Camellia Society	Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona
Feb. 23-24	Delta Camellia Society	Pittsburg High School Pittsburg
Feb. 23-24	Southern California Camellia Council	Descanso Gardens La Canada
March 2-3*	Camellia Society of Sacramento	Memorial Auditorium 15th & J Sts., Sacramento
March 9-10	Camellia Society of Kern County	Mall of Valley Plaza Shopping Center Ming and Wible Road, Bakersfield
March 9-10	Northern California Camellia Society	Sun Valley Shopping Center Concord
March 10	Central California Camellia Society	Fresno City College 1100 E. Weldon, Fresno
March 16-17	Camellia Society of Modesto	Palm Court of E. & J. Gallo Administration Bldg., Modesto
March 23-24	Sonoma County Camellia Society	Doyle Student Center Santa Rosa Junior College Santa Rosa

* This show will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in Sacramento of The American Camellia Society.

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BUD SPORTS OF CAMELLIAS

THE WATERHOUSE LECTURE 1973

Tom J. Savage

Wirlinga, N. S. W. Australia

(Reprinted from the Australia Camellia Society's CAMELLIA NEWS)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom Savage is a former President of the Australian Camellia Research Society and for several years was Editor of the Society's Publication CAMELLIA NEWS. He is a student of the camellia and writes with authority. As the title suggests, the following article was presented as the Waterhouse Lecture, a lecture that was established by the Australian Society in tribute to Professor E. G. Waterhouse, "the Grand Old Man of camellias" in Australia. Because of its length, it has been presented to the readers of CAMELLIA REVIEW in installments.

(Continued from November 1973 issue)

Various patterns of white markings can be induced on the flowers of self coloured varieties by infecting with different strains of virus. Yellow or white mottling may occur also on the leaves. The variegated pattern on leaves and flowers due to virus infection is irregular and random, usually varying with the growth vigour and environment of the plant. Genetic variegation is of a more generally regular character and not influenced by plant health or environment. Virus variegation is graft transmittable, while genetic variegation is not. If virus variegation is divided from, and not regarded as, mutational variegations, many of the varieties now listed as sports should be separated out under another heading. Camellia Nomenclature, for example, wisely lists such variegated varieties as "forms of" the original cultivar.

A particular example of this occurs in the "Donckelarii" Group. 'Donckelarii' was brought from Japan to Europe by Siebold about 1834 as a variegated variety. That the variegation was virus induced was shown by it being graft transmittable.

A solid red form was established by Bolen in the U.S.A. and named 'Eugene Bolen' in 1945. The variety 'Ville de Nantes,' sported from 'Donckelarii' in France about 1910, and coming from a virus affected clone, was itself virus affected. A solid red form of 'Ville de Nantes,' known as 'Ville de Nantes Red,' was produced in the U.S.A. In 1949, 'Ville de Nantes' then sported the peony form 'Lady Kay' which was variegated. Again a solid red form known as 'Lady Kay Red' was produced. It is not unusual for a virus infected cultivar, when well grown, to produce growths temporarily free of virus. By propagating from these the solid colour form may be re-established.

Up to the present 'Eugene Bolen' has been listed as a sport of 'Ville de Nantes,' but obviously is more likely to be identical to the original form before becoming virus infected.

It is proposed that in tabulations of varieties vegetatively stemming from a particular clone, the designation "v.v." (virus variegated) be added after those cultivars to which it applies.

Thus tabulating the 'Donckelarii' group we have:

'DONCKELARII' v.v.	— 'Eugene Bolen'
'VILLE DE NANTES' v.v.	— 'Ville de Nantes Red'
'LADY KAY' v.v.	— 'Lady Kay Red'

Probably the most famous sporting complex of all is that headed by the old Chandler Seedling 'Elegans.' This variety was first reported in the Trans-

actions of the Horticultural Society of London, Part VII, Feb. 1831, Page 343.

“‘Elegans’—Raised by Chandler from the ‘Waratah.’ Free growth. The flowers are a delicate Rose, 3½ in. to 4 in. in diameter.”

It is next listed in the Horticultural Register, Vol. I, 1831-32, Page 688.

“‘Elegans’—Another seedling raised by Chandler, at the same time as ‘Woodsii’ (1826). This is a handsome plant with flowers large and well made, and a different red to that of the ‘Woodsii,’ nor do they appear to sport so much.”

Famous last words; there is hardly another camellia which has produced the range of sports, both in colour and form as have stemmed from this, still popular, old variety. In America this variety is known as ‘Elegans (Chandler).’ In other countries, including Australia, it is known simply as ‘Elegans,’ which is its priority name. Following is a list of varieties arising by mutations, starting from the original clone.

‘ELEGANS’

Pink Anemone. Synonyms: Chandleri Elegans, Francine, Rosea Chandleri, Red Elegans, Chandleri Rubra.

Sports

‘ELEGANS MINIATA’

Light, lavender pink. medium size, anemone form.

‘ELEGANS SUPREME’

Rose pink with deep petal serration

‘C. M. WILSON’

Light Pink Edged White

‘HAWAII’

Pale Pink fimbriated peony

‘KONA’

Greenish white fimbriated peony

‘SHIRO CHAN’

White with light basal pink

‘SNOW CHAN’

White anemone

‘ELEGANS SPLENDOUR’

Light pink, edge white. Deep petal serration.

‘ELEGANS VAR.’ v.v.

Pink Variegated White anemone. Synonyms: Pride of the Emperor’s Garden, Chandleri Elegans Pink var.

Sports

‘BARBARA WOODROOF’

Light Orchid pink outer, Cream White center petaloids.

‘ELEGANS SUPREME VAR.’ v.v.

Variegated form

‘C. M. WILSON VAR.’ v.v.

Variegated form.

The most famous Australian sporting camellia is ‘Aspasia.’

(Continued on Next Page)

The original Japanese names 'Hikaru-Genji' and 'Beni-Botan' have been selected here as correct nomenclature as against the names of "Herme" and "Herme Pink." "Herme" is a name that apparently arose in Europe along with "Souvenir de Henri Guichard." The variety is reported to have been brought from Japan to California in 1875, where it is believed to have been originally named "Jordan's Pride," although now known as 'Herme' in that country.

The most famous group of sports from the U.S.A. stems from 'Betty Sheffield.'

'BETTY SHEFFIELD'

White striped and blotched pink, loose peony. 'BETTY SHEFFIELD BLUSH'
Light pink marked deep pink. 'BETTY SHEFFIELD SILVER'
Blush pink bordered white, silver sheen. 'BETTY SHEFFIELD PINK HEART'
Blush Pink with deep pink centre, white edge. 'BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME'
White with deep pink border. 'BETTY SHEFFIELD BLUSH SUPREME'
Blush pink with wide edge of deep pink. 'BETTY SHEFFIELD CORAL'
Coral Pink. 'BETTY SHEFFIELD DAWN'
Soft Dawn Pink. 'BETTY SHEFFIELD DREAM'
Pale Pink. 'BETTY SHEFFIELD PINK' — BETTY SHEFFIELD PINK VAR.
Deep Pink. vv. Deep pink, spotted white. 'BETTY SHEFFIELD PINK CHIFFON'
Light pink with orchid tones. 'BLOND BETTY'
Peach Pink. 'FUNNY FACE BETTY'
Pale pink merging into deep pink. 'LUCKY SEVEN'
Red.

All the variants of 'Betty Sheffield' in the above list are of colour only, many of them proving most unstable with the tendency to sport on to the solid pink and red. It is even difficult to maintain a good form of the most desired variant, 'Betty Sheffield Supreme'; invasion of the 'Betty Sheffield Pink' sport in particular must be ruthlessly cut out.

The writer, however, has successfully established a sport of 'Betty Sheffield Dream.' This sport has genetically variegated leaves similar in form and markings to the leaves on the old Japanese variety 'Benten.' The variegation is not graft transmittable on the stock, although the scion material remains variegated. This sport has not yet flowered, but it is anticipated

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that it will be a slightly smaller edition of 'Betty Sheffield Pink,' as plants with variegated foliage are usually less vigorous than those with wholly green leaves.

Other sporting camellias of interest include the old Japanese variety 'Ezo-Nishiki,' which under its Western name of "Tricolor," produced the fimbriate mutants 'Fred Sander,' 'Cinderella' and 'Dainty.' Another old Japanese variety 'Shibori-otome' produced the varieties 'Sweetheart,' 'Mother of Pearl,' 'Huntington Pink' and 'Shiro-otome.'

The American variety 'Tomorrow' has produced some beautiful sports, one of particular interest being 'Queen of Tomorrow' which has produced thick-textured foliage and modified petals. This is reported to be the result of a colchicine induced mutation, and its heavier texture a result of polyploidy.

'Mathotiana' (United States) also has produced a whole group of sports including the fimbriated 'Flowerwood,' the scarlet semi-double 'Sultana' and the red peony 'Mathotiana Supreme.'

This camellia has introduced a nomenclature problem in that it is a different clone from the original European 'Mathotiana' which is still grown and has priority as far as the name is concerned. It is proposed that the American variety should be distinguished by calling it 'Mathotiana (United States).'

If a sport is located on a camellia it should first be checked as to whether this is identical or not to any existing sport. If not, and it is desired to propagate it, prune back the growth of the branch to force development of the sporting point. Always endeavour to leave one or more growth buds on the parent plant in case the first graft fails.

There is a suggestion that the various sports occur at certain time intervals after the production of the original seedling. We often find the same sport first occurring everywhere at about the same point in time. For example, we have 'Aspasia' first grown about 1853, then the 'Lady Loch' sport occurring about 1890, 'Otahuhu Beauty' about 1911, 'Strawberry Blond' 1949, 'Can Can' 1961, 'Margaret Davis' 1962, 'Jean Clere' 1969 and, finally, 'Just Sue' 1971.

Many of these sports were also located in areas other than the place of origin, about the same time or shortly after. All plants of one variety are but vegetative extensions of, and hence part of, the original seedling, so something like this might be expected.

However, seedlings have been observed which produced both the light pink and deep pink sports, together with the basic white variety on first time of flowering.

So keep an eye open for flowers that are different on your Camellias. Who knows when another sport to match 'Elegans Splendour' or 'Tomorrow Park Hill' will appear.

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THE CAMELLI AND I

Ernie Pieri

Joining the Temple City Camellia Society in 1949 was the turning point in my camellia education. Instead of getting the information from a nursery gardener, I was now in the presence of some of the greats of camellia growing in Southern California. Not only was Mr. Keller one of my tutors, but I also had as tutors Verne and Billie McCaskill, pioneer camellia growers in Southern California, and another pioneer the late Les Marshall. I must add Betty Councilman of Councilman's Camellia Acres in El Monte; Harvey Short, the master of finding names for his camellias; Louis Strohmeier, one of the top grafters of Camellias and the winner of the Sweepstakes trophy for the first two Camellia Shows that were sponsored by the Temple City Society; and Mr. Vincent of Vincent's Camellias in Temple City. I was in a tizzy trying to fathom what all this camellia culture was about. (Perhaps I am still in a fog with all of the new culture information that is being written and talked about.)

Right off the bat, at the start of our fall meetings which were held in the Live Oak Elementary School Auditorium in Temple City, the speakers of the programs got into a discussion of camellia culture and how it worked for each of them. Of course they had a different speaker every meeting night, but there was always time for a question and answer period. Wow! were my eyes opened. After each meeting, during refreshments, I would try to get with a couple of the growers and ask their candid opinions regarding the proper culture for camellias. At that time, 1949-50, they were all in agreement that it was easier to start your camellia education with container grown plants before you got too brave and put them in the ground. They all

recommended that the best potting mixture was one part sand, one part loamy soil and one part peat moss.

Well I tried my own idea and used some garden top soil, peat moss and some sand, adding some soil that was dug up below the loamy soil level. Was it heavy! After watering, the water just stood at the top of the container, with very little seepage or flow of water through the container. Mr. Keller and Les Marshall soon put me straight on the type of sandy soil that I should use. I went down to the Whittier Narrows Dam and got some sand, which I washed several times before using. I used to watch Mr. Vincent and Mr. Keller fumigate their loads of Devils Gate sand. They put several bottles of the fumigating material around the pile of sand and then covered the stand with a heavy tarp and let it set for several days. When they felt that all of the fumigant had been used, they uncovered the pile of sand and it was ready for use in their mix. They also told me that adding some well dried manure to the mix, about two shovel-fulls of manure and one cup of cottonseed meal to each mixture of four or five shovel-fulls of manure and one cup of cotton seed meal to each mixture of four or five shovel-fulls of soil, sand and peat moss. After a few tries I became real expert in mixing the camellia mix either in a barrel or on a cement slab.

Feeding was another lecture that was given along with the culture of camellias. Oh Boy! There were as many ways of fertilizing camellias as there were growers. One of the most avid of these lecturers was Alton Parker, our perpetual ambassador to all American Camellia Society Conventions, no matter where held. He was one who felt that camellias should be

(Continued on Next Page)

fed only three times a year and that a mixture of cotton seed meal and blood meal should be fed in varying proportions. The first feeding, two parts blood meal and one part cotton seed meal just after the blooming season, usually about the first of March. The second feeding, one part cotton seed meal and one part blood meal six or seven weeks later, and the third feeding, two parts cottonseed meal and one part blood meal six or seven weeks later. There were those who felt that the size of the container and the height of the plant should determine the amount of food that should be given each plant, either by the teaspoon, the table spoon or the cup. However there were those who felt that this was too slow a method and they measured the amount of food by a couple of pinches, or a half handfull, or a full handfull. The reasoning for this feeding approach was that the first feeding, high in nitrogen, would develop and send out new growth, the second feeding would retard the plant growth and start the growth of the flower buds, and the last feeding, sometimes only cottonseed meal, would bring about the finest of blooms.

Others felt that they should take samples of their potting soil to the State or County Agricultural Office for a soil analysis, and then add whatever was needed in the soil by using a water soluble fertilizer.

Well I finally got quite a number of my plants repotted in the above mentioned mixture, but the plants were still too small to produce many blooms. I bought a few of the common varieties of camellias from Mr. Keller's Nursery, plants that were loaded with buds, (and I hoped with blooms later on), and then waited for the shows to come along. Of course at each of the regular Camellia Society meetings there were bloom displays and ribbons awarded the best blooms. At that time the blooms were

not segregated by variety, but were displayed by color — reds, whites, pinks and variegated. Without Mr. and Mrs. Keller, I don't know how I would have been able to properly prepare blooms for regular meetings as well as for the shows.

Lou Strohmeier, that Sweepstakes Trophy winner, also spoke on the preparation and cutting of blooms and showed us some of his fine blooms and the boxes which he used for transporting the blooms to the meetings and shows. The late Al Dekker was also on hand and told how he prepared his blooms for the shows. Lou, who lived in Temple City, felt that the blooms should be picked early in the morning, with the dew on the flower petals then placed in a box that had the bottom covered with dampened peat moss, the flowers resting on the peat moss. Al Dekker disagreed with this idea, mainly because he had to pick his blooms the day before the show. His method was to cover the bottom of a box with shredded paper, which he had dampened before picking the blooms, then cutting and placing the blooms on top of the dampened shredded paper, then spraying or misting the blooms and placing a piece of kleenex on top of the blooms, which he also sprayed very lightly. Then the lid was placed on top of the box and the covered boxes placed in a cool area over night. This was also the method used by the late Flynn Dickson when he used to pick blooms on Friday to show at the San Diego Camellia Show on Saturday.

Of course Harvey Short had his own method for preparing and cutting his blooms. When they were about the right size to cut for a show, he would pin a piece of kleenex above the bloom so that it wouldn't get damaged before it was cut. If you had been able to visit Harvey's Nursery in Ramona, or his home in Pasadena

(Continued on Page 24)

BEST HYBRIDIZING (Cont.)

'Berenice Boddy,' the new 'Bob Hope' 'Silver Triumph,' etc. in your work. Bill Woodroof's list of all time "greats" is a natural for making good combinations. Get into second generation Granthamiana quickly by using 'China Lady,' etc., use someone else's work as your stepping stone—save time.

Save pollen for next year's work and start collecting it NOW. This will allow you to have some fun by pollinating the early varieties, or species with something unusual, this does not normally happen with "bee" pollination and therefore you can expect different results.

Keep your eyes open for an unusual seedling, either color or form, and start hybridizing with it immediately, let's not wait forever to see some real action. If it looks good, take a chance, graft a few plants, save several years in its introduction if it turns out to be a winner. If it's a dud you can always use the understock over again. Even though I have not seen my 'Can-Can' sport flower again I do have 4 grafts going that should bloom next year, they are on healthy grafted 2 gallon understock. After the first season growth on the original sport scion I cut and grafted 3 additional plants, the worse that can happen is having 4 nice 'Can-Can' plants.

Forget some of the old superstitions, such as February and March being the best months to pollinate. Do it now, you may not have the right combination later. As far as early afternoon being the best time, I usually do my pollinating in the evenings when I have time, as I am still confined to work during the day. This is on my greenhouse plants only. Outdoor plants are pollinated on Saturday and Sundays. When you are working with the species or complex crosses do not expect instant success; your "take" will probably be

from 2 to 10 percent, so work a little harder and make more crosses to enhance your chance for more takes.

You need help—a friend who will offer advice, pollen, plants, etc. Many people have helped me in this important regard and I thank them for their kindness. It has allowed us to cut years off of the normal time-result cycle.

Remember, be optimistic, have confidence, it's your seedling, and it's going to be new and different. It is just what you've been waiting for, so get busy with it so everyone may enjoy the efforts of your hobby. Best of luck—the season's well on its way and you won't have another chance at it until next year.

BASIC (Cont.)

ing with basic fertilizers varies between two (April and July) and three (April, June and August or September).

John Movich, who lives in the Pomona area where temperatures are higher than in areas closer to the coast, suggested that frequency of fertilizing might depend upon temperatures and therefore frequency of watering.

Discussion of fertilizing closed with some admonitions:

1. Be careful not to overfertilize.
2. Never fertilize a camellia that has not been watered recently.
3. Don't fertilize a sick plant.
4. Don't fertilize a camellia that has been transplanted into new soil.

Mr. Goertz, for example, waits for the second feeding to fertilize a plant he has transplanted in the Spring.

Few persons have sufficient wisdom to prefer censure, which is useful, to praise which deceives them.

S.C.C.S. DISTINCTIVE (Cont.)

CAMELLIA SEEDS

Years before a camellia test garden at the Huntington Gardens was thought of, William Hertrich had planted camellias in the Gardens. Some of them produced seeds and Southern Cal's Garden Committee conceived the idea of selling these seeds and using the money for the benefit of the gardens. Since this start, the Society has been, to my knowledge, the only "camellia seed merchant" in the world. We have sent seeds to every camellia growing state in the United States and to several non-camellia growing states, as well as to foreign countries.

CAMELLIA SHOWS

Southern Cal does not lay claim to having originated camellia shows. The Society was, however, at least among the pioneers in staging the "grand camellia show." The shows at Brookside Park in Pasadena in 1946 and 1947 attracted people by the thousands, all of whom paid one dollar to see the displays of camellias. These early shows, incidentally, provided the financial nest egg that has made it possible for the Society to do some of the things that have made it distinctive.

CAMELLIA CULTURE

The publication of the authoritative

book *CAMELLIA CULTURE* in 1958 was probably the high point in the Society's "extra-curricular" activities. Carl Tourje, who had been Chairman of the Garden Committee that worked with the Huntington Gardens people in the development of the camellia test garden, accepted the job of editing this book. It is unfortunate that the subject of the book was not broad enough to create a market that would keep the book in print. It filled a need at the time.

These, then, are the activities of the Southern California Camellia Society since it was formed in 1940 that, to me at least have set it apart from the other good societies of the country. I am probably prejudiced because I have been in the midst of several of these activities since I became a member of the Society in 1947.

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Burnell Yarick

Professor of Botany, Glendale College

Plastic pots frequently do not drain well because there is no pathway. Free water will not drain into the air. If you are concerned, try a pigtail. It can be a 10-inch length of nylon cord. Poke it into the soil mass from the bottom or side and allow 5" or 6" to dangle. This becomes a pathway and an extension of the soil moisture conditions. If good contact is made with the soil, the cohesive properties of water will allow the film on the cord to actually draw the free water from the pore spaces in the pot.

If you have doubts, try it on a plant or two. Elevate the pot on a couple of bricks to allow the pigtail to dangle. You will find it convenient to put the arrangement on a stand because you will be feeling the cord every time you walk by. It is a clue to the water within, an extension of the soil mix. When it stops dripping after an irrigation, the pore spaces have drained to allow proper aeration. The plants should be able to survive for several days on the film that remains. The soil technologists refer to this film as the field capacity, the absolute requirement for a normal root activity.

Warning: Two limitations should be considered: If the pot is porous and on a porous surface, a pigtail should be of no help. But most of us try to avoid soil contact because of rooting through. Second, and most serious, if the bottom of the pot has been maintained too wet for some time, the up-seepage from the water surplus may have been supporting a thin layer of roots near the top. A plant may survive this way for quite a time but very poorly. The addition of a pigtail should drain this sour reservoir, stop the upseepage,

and hurt the plant. Watch the plant and the pigtail closely. More frequent irrigations, and lighter, may be in order until the roots are able to penetrate the lower levels and thus enjoy the larger volume of soil with the proper water film. But more frequent irrigations will lead to loss of nutrients from leaching. Do not hesitate to use adequate amounts of the slow-release fertilizers such as cottonseed meal and hoof and horn.

Another thought: catch the drippings in a glass. This leachate may be checked for salinity, a clue to over- or under-watering. Cotton cord works beautifully, but it will rot within two weeks. Nylon cord, 3/16" or 1/4" may be purchased in any hardware store. If the cut ends fray too badly, they may be singed with a match.

AN INVITATION TO A.C.S. VISITORS

The Southern California Camellia Society invites A.C.S. visitors to the A.C.S. Annual Meeting in Sacramento in February 1974 to plan their trips with a stop-over in Southern California on their way to the Meeting. The Southern California Camellia Council will hold its annual outdoor show in Descanso Gardens on the week-end of February 24-25. There will be plenty of time between this show and the time of departure for Sacramento to visit camellia people and camellia gardens in the Los Angeles area. People interested in such stop-over may write Ernie Pieri, 601 E. Elm St., San Gabriel, Calif. 91775. His telephone number is 287-5977, area code 213. He will be glad to make hotel or motel reservations.

HAWAIIAN LUAU, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STYLE

Helen Augis

As the sun sinks slowly in the West, the Tiki torches flare, the melodic sounds of guitars and native drums fill the ginger laden air . . . there is a peace on the Island. The natives are not restless; they are reminiscing of the luau on the Island of O'Malley in Northern California . . .

On August 4th the Kanes and Wahines in Northern California gathered at the Island of O'Malley for their annual summer frolic. Island residents Princess PuPule Kamaaina (Marge) and Aikani (Charles) O'Malley converted their spacious home and gardens into a beautiful Hawaiian setting. As the calabash (kissing cousins) glided their outriggers into their berths they were met on the lanai by Princess PuPule Kamaaina and Princess Okole Maulani Augis with a descriptive Hawaiian name tag and a true Hawaiian aloha kiss.

Dressed in Island splendor the Haoles were eager to participate in the Welakahoe (whoopee and fun). What a sight as the Islanders met under swaying palm trees and shared a cup of that old devil rum and Pupus (appetizers). The traditional luau

feast consisted of poi, shrimp and an abundance of fresh fruit just to mention a small portion of the 12 courses. Hula contests were scheduled after the luau feast but who could shake a hip after eating all that food? So as usual when camellia folks get together, talk drifted to what else . . . but camellias.

Judges selected to award prizes to the best dressed Kane and Wahine had a difficult time as everyone looked like "the real thing." Pete Grosso was awarded the Best dressed Kane and the reason for this you can plainly see in the picture. Lauretta Feathers was selected for the Nani Wahine award (beautiful female).

As the full moon rose over Diamond Head (California has its own) the Kanes and Wahines bade each other aloha and Mahalo Nui (many thanks) to our wonderful hosts, climbed into their outriggers and set sail for their own little grass shacks. There to rest and prepare for another camellia season.

CAMELLIA AN I (Cont.)

before bloom cutting time, it would look like a lot of pieces of kleenex pinned to leaves or branches.

Then of course we had a Mr. Sullivan who really was the expert, (BR—before Reed), regarding the sizing and cutting of blooms. He had most of his plants in tubs and on rollers, and when the blooms were about ready to cut he would roll the tub under his patio for shading the plant and bloom and also tie paper bags over the blooms so that they wouldn't get too much heat to open the blooms. He had a pretty good idea because he had won the Sweepstakes Award two years in a row when the Southern California Camellia Society held their annual Camellia Show in the San Marino Women's Club House.



PETE GROSSO, *Best Dressed*

Directory of California Camellia Societies

Societies with asterisk () are Affiliates of Southern California Camellia Society*

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY

President: John Fortenberry; Secretary: Mrs. Marcia Krause, 1160 Weyard Way, Shafter 93263
Meetings: 2nd Monday Oct. through Apr. at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

President: Paul Nielsen; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705
Meetings: 3rd Thursday Nov. through April at Great Western S/L cor. 15th St. and N. Main, Santa Ana

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

President: Herbert Martin; Secretary: Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G. St., Sacramento 95816
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, Oct. through April in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Arthur Gonos; Secretary: Mrs. Wilbur V. Ray, 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727
Meetings: Nov. 14, Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20 at Mayfair School, Mar. 20 at Fresno State College

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Arthur Gonos; Secretary: Mrs. Wilbur V. Ray, 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, Nov. through March at Sumitomo Bank, 620 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Charles Boynton; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 N. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240
Meetings: 1st Tuesday October through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Thomas Hughes; Secretary, Mrs. Haidee Steward, 130 S. Citrus, L.A. 90036
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Harlan Smith; Secretary: Helen Caputi, 1605 Victoria Dr., Modesto 95351
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Edward A. Hays; Secretary: Wm. Lockwood, 3226 Primrose Ln., Walnut Creek 94598
Meetings: 1st Mon. Nov. through May in Claremont Jr. High School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Melvin Gum; Secretary: Mrs. A. L. Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale
Meetings: 1st Thursday November through April in Tuesday Afternoon Club House, 400 N. Central Ave., Glendale

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Mrs. Charles F. O'Malley; Secretary: Mrs. Rex W. Peterson, 27 Walnut Ave., Atherton 94025
Meetings: 4th Tuesday September through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 700 El Camino Real, Redwood City, Calif. 94061

*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Walter Harmsen; Secretary: Frank Burris, 3016 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont 91711
Meetings: 2nd Thursday November through April in Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. Bldg., 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Harry Humphrey; Secretary: Mrs. Mabel Higgins, 2152 Clematis St., San Diego 92105
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday November through April Rm. 101, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, 7:30 P.M.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: John M. Augis; Secretary: Mrs. Helen Augis, 2254 Fairvalley Court, San Jose 95215
Meetings: 2nd Thursday Sept. through April.

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Mrs. Nadine Greene; Secretary: Mrs. Marilyn Batt, 10047 Old Redwood Hwy., Windsor 95492
Meetings: 4th Thurs. Nov. through April, except Nov. and Dec. in Multipurpose room, Steel Lane School, Santa Rosa

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Sergio Bracci; Secretary: Mrs. Elsie Bracci, 5567 N. Burton, San Gabriel 91776
Meetings: Nov. 16 (Fri.), Dec. 21 (Fri.), Jan. 25 (Thurs.), Feb. 22 (Fri.), Mar. 28 (Thurs.), Apr. 25 (Thurs.)

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