

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



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 Hall of Environmental Education, Arboretum, Arcadia. 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, \$15.00

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PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SOCIETY, INC.

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Four issues per volume—September, December, February, 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.

Printed by Wood & Jones, Pasadena

Vol. 49

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COVER PHOTO

STANDING OVATION. Reticulata seedling (U.S. 1984 — Nuccio). Color deep red, very large, semi-double with upright growth. M. Photo by Grady Perigan. Color separation courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries, 3555 Chaney Trail, Altadena 91001.



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THOUGHTS from the editor

Thoughts from the Editor

Hobbyists or societies can now see their special bloom immortalized on the cover of *The Camellia Review* at a very nominal cost. Due to the new laser method, color separations from your transparency will only cost \$85.00. If extra copies are desired, arrangements could be made with the printer to run extra copies of the cover only.

For more details, write or call the editor.

Bill Donnan, Pat Greutert and recently Marilee Gray have graced our pages. Now we are anxious to hear from any of you talented or not so talented writers.

Margaret's Joy — Scions Available

Margaret's Joy was not propagated in the usual manner. The plant appeared in the dry wash which allows the water to drain from a large part of the Harmsen's lot to the street. They had planned to remove it, plant it in a container and in time they would graft a popular variety to it. Its first bloom was very attractive and quite early. The plant was not disturbed and is now flourishing in the bed of rocks.

This is a white formal seedling. Its form, 5" size and keeping quality are complemented by its growth habit and need of little care. Margaret's Joy does not shatter and will finally fall in one piece after several weeks of winter

weather. The bloom period is October to February.

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Fool's Gold by Bill Donnan

Reprint from New Zealand Bulletin — January 1987

First let me preface this article by a little bit of history about the advent of C. chrysantha here in the United States of America and the consequent activity to produce a yellow flowered hybrid. Many of you may remember what a lift it was to the "dyed-in-thewool" camellia hobbyist when he was told: "Yes, Virginia, there really is a yellow camellia"! At first we could hardly believe the news that a yellow flowered species, namely C. chrysantha, had been found in China. It was just like finding out that there was, in fact, a Santa Claus or an Easter Bunny! Everyone's heart beat a little faster when he saw the color picture of the yellow species in the A.C.S. Journal in 1979 (Vol. 34, No. 4). From then on, there was a mad scramble here in the United States to obtain seeds, scions and/or pollen of this exotic species. Due to the demand, C. chrysantha seeds were worth their weight in gold. Grafted scions in four-inch pots were advertised for \$75 to \$100 each!

The situation here in the United States was a little like the 1849 California gold rush. Everyone wanted to own the plant. There was a rush to become the first to purchase a grafted plant and the first to bloom the species. Rumor and counter rumor flashed across the country and even overseas when it was reported that C. chrysantha had bloomed pink! The pink bloom was finally traced to a bloom from a sucker on the understock of the grafted plant. When the first C. chrysantha seedling did bloom here in the U.S.A. on February 1, 1984, the news was flashed across the country not unlike the announcement of the birth of a newborn prince or the discovery of a cure for cancer! That same year other blooms came forth and the scramble for pollen would have put a Macy's Department Store bargain basement sale to shame. To the credit of most of the hobbyists, the meager supply of pollen that first year was shared widely.

Now, everyone with an ounce of sporting blood became a hybridizer of sorts. The names of late blooming cream and white colored C. japonica "mother" plants which were emasculated and dabbed with the precious C. chrysantha pollen would fill a nomenclature book. Alas! The forthcoming crop of seed capsules that first year did not exceed an estimated 20 over the entire United States. Furthermore, the viability of the harvested seeds ranged from an estimated 10 to 20 percent! At this time articles began to apper about the progress of hybridizing in China and Japan, both of which had had several years' lead time over the U.S.A. plant breeders. These articles gave forth similar disappointing results. C. chrysantha just wasn't a very good sire and the germination rate of seeds harvested was likewise very poor.

Soon the F-1 interspecific crosses put forth their first blooms and they were all white or shades of white and pink. The F-2 crosses which have been reported from China and Japan have also proved to bloom white or shades of pink and red. This circumstance has prompted plant breeders and botanists to go back into the laboratory to find out why the seed production of C. chrysantha hybrids is so meager, why seed germination is so weak, and why the yellow pigmentation of the C. chrysantha flowers is not being transferred into the new hybrids. The 1985 American Camellia Society Yearbook contains an article by Ryo Nagao of Japan. In it she detailed some studies which point out the incompatibility of C. chrysantha species when crossed into C. japonica, C. reticulata, and C. saluenensis species. These three species have high concentrations of anthocyanin which prevent the cross germination of the two species. Another article in the 1985 Yearbook entitled "Yellow pigment of camellia chrysantha flowers," which is a reprint from Japan, points out some very interesting factors about the yellow pigmentation in the petals of C. chrysantha. Laboratory analysis of C. chrysantha petals has revealed that the dominant flavonoid which produces the yellow color we observe with the human eye is Quercetin 7-0 Glucoside, or Ou-7-G.

Even more recent laboratory experiments by Ron Scogin of the Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont, California, have confirmed that the Qu-7-G flavonoid is the dominant color pigment in the C. chrysantha flower. Scogin obtained flower petals from the Huntington Botanical Gardens for his analysis. His manuscript, a personal communication, is entitled "Floral Pigments of the Yellow Camellia, C. Chrysantha." Scogin points out that the transfer of yellow coloration from C. chrysantha to other camellia species in interspecific crosses may be hampered by several considerations, namely (and I quote): (1) The presence of high anthocyanin concentrations in many camellia cultivars. (2) Genetic incompatibility barriers between C. chrysantha and the most popular camellia cultivars. (3) Genetic regulatory systems which control the combinations and relative amounts of floral pigments produced.

Scogin points out that even if seed were to be produced by using C. chrysantha pollen there may, indeed, be genetic regulatory systems which control the combinations and relative amounts of floral pigments produced in an interspecific hybrid cross. The flavonoid Qu-7-G which is responsible for the yellow coloration in C. chrysantha is unique to that species of camellia. In all other camellia species examined to date the dominant flavonoid found in the leaf and petal specimens has been Quercetin 3-0 Glucoside, or Qu-3-G. Furthermore, Scogin cites instances where plant breeders have worked with other floral plant families, namely Gossypium and Baptisia. Attempts have been made to introduce yellow pigmentation into those plant families by crossing yellow flower species with

white and other kindred colors. No yellow pigmentation has been able to be introduced into hybrids of Gossypium and Baptisia due to the dominance of the Qu-3-G flavonoid over the Qu-7-G flavonoid. Scogin concludes, and I quote:

"The transfer of flavonoid 7-glycosylating ability (Qu-7-G) from C. chrysantha to an inter-subgeneric hybrid may be thwarted by the absence of a suitable substrate in the hybrid (i.e., by the occurrence of only 3-glycosides (Qu-3-G) in the hybrid; by the depression of flavonol 7-glucosyltransferase activity (as in Gossypium); or by disruption of finely tuned genetic regulatory controls which result in low or absent production of the 7-glysolyating enzyme. Many attempts with different hybridization combinations may be required before a serendipitous combination permits circumvention of these barriers to yield the full expression of Quercetin 7-glucoside production in the petals of the hybrid plant."

In other words, Dear Reader, "There ain't no Santy Claus!" More to the point, the high hope we have all held that C. chrysantha interspecific crosses are going to produce hybrids with yellow, orange or apricot colors may be a myth. Instead of C. chrysantha being the "golden" species it looks like it may turn out to be the "iron pyrite" species — FOOL'S GOLD! The fact remains that plant breeders are going to continue to strive for a yellow flowered camellia. But the odds of getting a yellow hybrid by using the present methods of crossing C. chrysantha into C. japonica, C. reticulata, or C. saluenensis appear to be slim. There are two other alternatives to consider and both of these are undoubtedly under active pursuit at the present time.

First of all, there needs to be more hybridization between C. chrysantha and the many so-called "bridge" plants — hybrid crosses using C. granthamiana; C. irriwadiensis; C. pitardii; and C. taliensis, to name a few. Perhaps it may be found that some of

these less popular species will be more compatible with C. chrysantha. For example, C. granthamiana has a leaf structure similar to C. chrysantha. While C. granthamiana has been dif ficult to cross with the more common species, some hybrids have been developed. Possibly some of these "Granny" crosses could be used in the C. chrysantha hybrid program. Did you know that the Yunnan Botanical Gardens in China did not have the C. granthamiana species until just recently? The bulk of their some 20,000 hand pollinated, paper-bagged crosses have all been made using C. japonica and C. reticulata cultivars. No wonder even their F-3 blooms are proving to be non-yellow.

Some of the hybridizers here in California have used C. chrysantha pollen on hybrid "mother" plants with considerably more success than with C. japonica or C. reticulata "mother" plants. One hybridizer obtained five times more seed pods using hybrids in the cross and the seed germination on these seeds ran as high as 88 percent successful. Nuccio's Nurseries, here in Southern California, has some 'Milo Rowell' x C. irriwadiensis hybrids. This is a mix of C. japonica and C. reticulata x C. irriwadiensis. The flower buds on this hybrid look like C. chrysantha buds with a marked pedicel. The flowers are a creamy pink and the leaves look a little like C. chrysantha leaves. This nursery also has some 10 to 15 other hybrids using C. granthamiana in the mix. Why wouldn't these cultivars be good candidates for a cross with C. chrysantha pollen? Why not "hunt ducks where the ducks are" or where they are more likely to be roosting? Why not give Lady Luck a little helping hand? You know the old saying — "Luck is the residue of good planning." Let's give the Three Princes of Serendip, who made fortunate discoveries by accident, the back of our hand and show them how to find the secret of the yellow bloom.

Secondly, we are all waiting anxiously for C. euphlebia to bloom. This

species has yellow flowers and it could be that the pollen from this species might be more compatible with the popular camellia species which we all admire. We are looking for C. euphlebia to bloom during the coming camellia year (1986-87). If so, we may have another gold rush on our hands.

Lastly, the long hoped for yellow camellia bloom may come from a hybridsource which does not use C. chrysantha pollen in the mix. At the time that the C. chrysantha species was being distributed to the Western World, several camellia hobbyists here in the United States were deep into a longterm program of plant breeding to produce yellow flowers from existing camellia species. Using hindsight, it is unfortunate that much of the effort previously directed toward the production of a yellow camellia was deferred in favor of the pursuit of C. chrysantha hybrids. Nuccio's Nurseries has crossed C. granthamiana and 'Hana Fuki' and they have obtained a creamy petaled camellia with pinkish cast. Grafted plants were sent to Dr. Bill Ackerman at Glen Dale, Maryland. He subsequently named this cultivar 'Joseph's Coat,' because it blooms in many colors, including creamy yellow. However, nothing has been done to back cross this cultivar because of the advent of C. chrysantha.

Since about 1970, Dr. W. F. Homeyer of Macon, Georgia, has been working with different camellia species in an attempt to produce a yellow flower. He has made many crosses using C. granthamiana and other species. Several years ago he crossed 'Witman Yellow,' a white tinged yellow C. japonica developed by M. J. Witman in 1963, with a seedling of a cross of 'Elizabeth Boardman' x 'Colonial Dame.' The resulting cross produced a canary yellow formal double named 'Dahlohnega.' The name is an Indian name for gold. This may be the foreunner of other future yellow culti-

vars. Let's wait and see.



A Tribute to Frances Butler by Elsie Bracci

As president of the Southern California Camellia Council, I have the great honor of making a presentation long overdue. The person we are honoring tonight has worked with camellias for over forty years, quietly, but firmly. Always ready to help, she has done many jobs throughout the years. She has worked on as many as five shows in one season. After a show, one usually receives a nice thank you note from her for a job well done that you did. Maybe in this note there is some new idea she has to improve the next show. Most of us remember her as Chairman of Clerks, a very important position. She must coordinate the clerks with the judges and arrange for runners, for without these people, a show would not happen. She has "retired," yet she has helped us out again all this season and has even given us hints for the next season. We sure could use more people like this wonderful lady. Frances Butler, we thank you.

Frances collects angels, so the council presented her with a beautiful Capo di Monte angel.













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Margaret Hertrich Award Best Japonica Seedling Showtime Nuccio's William Hertrich Award Best Japonica Mutant Betty's Beauty Rudy Moore William Wylam Award Best Miniature Bob's Tinsie Nuccio's Dr. John Taylor Award Kramer's Fluted Coral Best Hybrid Kramer Bros. Frank Storment Award Best Reticulata Fire Chief Var. Howard Asper Recognition Award to Sergio Bracci for two years of outstanding service as president of Southern



Tom Nuccio accepting Margaret Hertrick and William Wylam Awards on behalf of Nuccio's.



Geri and Michael Moore accepting William Hertrick Award on behalf of Rudy Moore.



Ben Mackall accepting Dr. John Taylor Award on behalf of Kramer Bros. Nurseries.



Howard Asper accepting Frank Storment Award.



Sergio, Elsie & Chuck Gerlach



Winners of the Monthly Flower Competition: Mel Belcher, first, Herman Belcher, second.

California Camellia-Rama XIII

sponsored by Central California Camellia Society November 6, 7, 8, 1987

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Tick-Tock the Yellow Clock by Meyer Piet

I would like to thank the Northern California Camellia Society for asking Lee and me to present the program tonight. In the past I have sent programs and slides to various camellia societies in the United States, but this is the first time Lee and I are closing the season and giving our progress report to your society. Tonight's program will bring you up to date on our quest for yellow. We will show slides of our introductions and there should be time for a Question and Answer Period.

A few things to remember:

1. Lee and I were the first ones in the United States to bloom a seedling of Chrysantha.

2. Date: February 1, 1984.

3. Contrary to what you may have been led to believe, the second seed of Chrysantha to bloom, about a month later, was also a graft of our seedling.

4. We call our seedling Olympic Gold because of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and use the initials "O.G."

The introduction of the original twenty Reticulata hybrids from China in 1948 certainly stirred up a great deal of excitement in camellia circles. This was forty years ago, and it will be interesting to look back and evaluate our position then, and compare our position with camellia species Chrysantha today.

I believe, and think you will agree, that the first twenty Retic hybrids were all cross, perhaps F_1 , F_2 or even F_3 hybrids. We had the advantage of using the work that the Chinese camellia enthusiasts had done many, many years before. This could have been as little as twenty years, but easily could be a hundred or a thousand years. It was reasonably straightforward to start crossing the large Reticulata hybrids with some of our large Japonicas and also continue to back-cross the various original Retic hybrids with each other, since they already had a mixed bloodline, Retic x Japonica, Retic x Saluenensis, Retic X Pitardii, etc. Over the 40 years, I believe, we developed flowers that were as good or better than the original twenty Retic hybrids. Our societies grew, and interest and competition was keen because of the new large, beautiful flowers that were available for competition on the show table.

Enter the era of yellow, Camellia Crysantha, and anyone can see the basic potential for new camellia colors. We would be foolish if we simply dismissed the work that the Chinese camellia people have done in the past twenty-five years, even though the offspring they have developed have turned out to be pink and white flowers. Setting aside the small species such as Fraterna, Lutchuensis, Rosaeflora, etc. This is perhaps the first time we have a new species and have to start from scratch (home plate), and do all of the original work. We may even have a strike against us, if you assume (as I do), that the Chrysantha in our possession were all germinated from seed and may be diluted by being F₁ crossed with some other species, perhaps a white flower relative.

It is difficult to explain the difference in color of the Chrysantha flowers in Japan and in the United States, and the rich dark yellow flowers shown on the first pictures of Chrysantha to come out of China. You may say that it is soil conditions (minerals), or ideal growth climate, etc. An answer is really not important because we only have this one unique, true yellow flower to work with and it probably has the deeper yellow color in its basic gene structure.

I believe the idea of hundreds of hybridizers rushing to do the "yellow thing" is not a correct projection. About ten or so years ago a form was sent out to find out how many people were interested in hybridizing and it is almost embarrassing to disclose that only a dozen or so people had replied.

If you think hybridizing with large

Retics and Japonicas, etc., was difficult, I believe you will have quite a surprise in store for you when you enter the Chrysantha era.

With the Retics and Japonicas, both parent known crosses, you had a small chance, perhaps one out of four hundred, of obtaining a "worthwhile seedling." It only took approximately three years to see that seedling bloom. The figures are infinitely worse for chance seedlings, or one-parent-known seedlings. In Colonel Durant's book on Reticulatas, he mentions the number of perhaps twenty thousand known named Japonica camellias. It's easy to see that to obtain something different, color, flower type, etc., is going to be very, very difficult.

I believe if the average hybridizer sees one or two good new flowers, you are very lucky. Lee and I have been at it for fifteen years or so, and only have about twenty-one flowers that we believe worthy enough to name.

Lee and I made our first crosses for yellow about eleven years ago (1976). Both parent-known seeds were picked, germinated, grafted and now represent large potted specimens, five or six feet tall. It takes a lot of patience to work with yellow. A case in point is our cross of Granthamiana and Brushfield yellow. It may be more than coincidence that we used Granthamiana with its similar leaf structure to Chrysantha over eleven years ago. Twelve large plants, an abundance of flowers, most always hand-pollinated, etc., but almost never a seed set. The Granthamiana x Brushfield Yellow has had just about every type of pollen imaginable dabbed on it without success. This year, however, it seems as though we have finally set seed using Olympic Gold pollen. Only time will tell if they are viable and can be germinated properly.

All of the offspring flowers using the pollen from Olympic Gold that have bloomed to this date, and that represents about twenty to twenty-five different flowers, have produced pink

and white flowers. The only sign of yellow is a slight streak of yellow in one of the flower's back petals, not enough real yellow color to talk about.

How do we know we are getting real cross, etc.? The first indication is the rich red-black color of the new leaf growth that show Olympic Gold characteristics. The second is the seed pod splits into four or five sections (cotyledons). Another is the ash gray color of the Olympic Gold bark, etc. The new "OG" hybrid flower itself tells a great deal. It can be a beautiful hybrid of show quality size and appearance or it can be a simple 1½ to 2 inch single flower, very much like a simple species flower. I will point out some of the similarities when I show the seedling flower slides.

The original Chrysantha parent flowers we bloomed about three years ago came from Chrysantha pollen from China. Lee and I pollinated about twenty different plant combinations and did obtain three unique plants. These, of course, all bloomed pink and white color flowers, but all three flowers are quite pretty in a different way.

With the exception of two or three good flowers, the twenty to twenty-five "OG" seedling flowers are simple, species, single flowers that a normal person would cut down for understock. After seeing the first three offspring and reading about the pink and white flower results in offspring in China, then Japan, Lee and I decided to concentrate our effort on setting seed on the mother plant. The first season, February 1, 1984, we had twelve flowers to work with, the second and third season about seventy-five flowers each, and this year we had about one hundred twenty-five. The second season (November 1985) produced one seed pod that managed to survive. Actually there were four pods that looked good, but one by one they dried and dropped from the plant. The surviving seed pod contained a single, rather large seed. Its parentage is Olympic Gold x White

Retic (White Saluenensis x Crimson Robe) — Chinese Chrysantha pollen. This is a back-cross of Chinese Chrysantha pollen plus "white" Retic into our Olympic Gold seedling. It is the best combination we could have hoped for. It is a true F_2 (or F_3) plant. Because the Chrysantha seeds ripen late (pick in November) the entire germinationgraft sequence gets thrown out of kilter. Normally we pick Japonica or Retic seed in September, Granthamiana seed in October. Waiting until November means that you are going to miss the opportunity to graft (end of March) and lose an entire year in the seedling's propagation cycle.

Lee and I decided not to lose the year and in March 1986 grafted the entire seedling, including its peat pod, etc., on to a healthy Irrawadiensis, three gallon understock. The seedling graft healed and started to grow. At the present time, 1 year after picking the seed, we have a healthy plant 18 inches

in height.

The plant has a great deal of the characteristics of the mother plant. Dark red-black leaf color when the new growth opens. The leaf structure is definitely different; it appears the leaf is wider. The trunk of the plant is a brown color rather than the ash gray color of its mother. The plant puts on new growth twice a year and, if this continues, we hope it will bloom next season, 1988 or perhaps the year after, 1989.

If this seedling does not show yellow, it will be difficult to decide on the next step, other than additional back-

crossing.

In November of 1986, our seed pods on our Olympic Gold plant numbered eight or nine. If you think it's frustrating to see the pollinated flowers dry up and drop off, I will tell you that it can happen any time during the eight or nine month development cycle. It's a small disaster when you have expectations of an excellent cross and it holds for five or six months, then without any apparent reason dries up and falls

off. We picked the eight or nine seed pods and obtained fifteen seeds. We started germination and almost immediately lost half the seeds due to infection or being hollow. At the present time we have grafted the following:

Olympic Gold X Botanuki.

2. As above #2.

 Olympic Gold x White Retic — Chinese Chrysantha.

4. Olympic Gold x Granthamiana

– Kramer Supreme.

5. Olympic Gold x Fragrant Frill — Kramer Supreme — Crimson Rose.

6. Same as above #2.

7. Olympic Gold x Silver Chalice — Irradiated Granthamiana #3 (White Wish).

What it totals is this: three seasons, 162 flowers hybridized and only 8 potential plants or a 5% chance of success assuming the mother plant is the correct direction to place our efforts.

At this particular time frame our hybrid seedlings using "OG" pollen for the 1985-1986 season consists of about 110 new plants, an example of the par-

ents:

A. 26 different seedlings of White Retic, Saluenensis x C. Robe x "OG."

B. 18 different seedlings of Willow

Wand-Silver Mist x "OG."

C. 10 different seedlings of Silver Chalice x "OG."

D. Other mother plant parents are Kohinor-Elsie Jury, Applause, Charley Bettes, Granthamiana, Angel Wings, Narumegata, etc., etc.

Lee and I are not doing much work with "O.G." pollen this season (1987) other than back-crossing. The work we do is usually using stored pollen on very early blooms, mostly Granthamiana hybrids, that flower before fresh "O.G." pollen is available. Back-crossing is another thing. At the present time, this is our first good season for back-crossing. It appears we have the following seed set:

1. Applause-Chinese Chrysantha x "OG."

2. Applause-Chinese Chrysantha x

White Retic-Chinese Chrysantha.

- 3. Applause-Chinese Chrysantha x Royalty-Gaytime-Chinese Chrysantha.
- 4. White Retic "OG" #14 x "OG."
- .5. White Retic "OG" #9 x "OG."
- 6. White Retic "OG" #18 x "OG."
- 7. Willow Wand-Silver Mist-"OG" #12 x "OG."
- 8. Pittardii-Large Japonica-"OG" #15 x "OG."
- 9. Irradiated Brushfield Yellow x "OG" (3 big pods).
- 10. Mother Plant "OG" #2 6 pods forming
 - A. 3 "OG" x Silver Chalice Peony (seedling)
 - Peony (seedling)
 B. 2 "OG" x Pittardii-Large
 Japonica-"OG" #15
 - C. 1 "OG" x Lee's yellow.

This is only a partial list.

The total different plants now available to work with including fifty 1987 grafts, when they finally bloom, is a staggering 163.

Since we have bloomed 20 or 25 of these hybrids, all pink and white flowers, it is interesting to try to imagine what the various problems are going to be when we back-cross both the seedlings with each other, with additional "OG" pollen, and then of course the most important is back-crossing with the mother plant ("OG") as the seed setter.

Now let's talk about the "Tick-Tock Yellow Clock," meaning your yellow hybridizing program. I am not going to encourage you or discourage you. Every year Lee and I give a talk and keep everyone that reads the Southern California Camellia Review up to date on where we are in a concentrated effort to obtain a commercial yellow flower as soon as possible. You are at least three years behind us if you started this season. It takes an average of three years to see a new flower bloom and then you will be faced with the problem of getting a good strong mature plant with "OG" bloodlines to set seed for you. This could take another year or so, but then you must wait another two

or three years to see the new flower bloom. Your time troubles are not over yet. How are you going to propagate a multitude of plants so a commercial nursery can sell to the general public? If you wait to see your "Yellow Pride and Joy" bloom, and then cut scions, etc., you could add three or four years to the release time cycle. We now may be talking about a ten year time frame. If you are thinking about cell culture, etc., I think you should know that camellias do not cell culture very well for mass producing plants. There are some inherent problems in using this method. While corresponding with two very large cell culture institutes, I was informed a year or so ago that not much effort was being put forth to resolve these problems due in part to the lack of interest or small demand.

Lee and I have grafted three scions of our back-cross "Olympic Gold White Retic-Chinese Chrysantha" seedling, even though it's only 18" tall, and we have not seen it bloom, onto very large understock to shoot up big plants for scion material and future propagation on the surmise that we will be successful. I don't believe we have any choice if we are going to run a race with the clock.

Let's take an additional thought: When we get our new seedlings picked in 1986 (seven new plants "OG" mother), do we do the same thing? I believe we have no choice but to proceed in a like manner in order to cut the time loss to an absolute minimum. Please remember, if you do not make that specific cross or graft soon enough, you waste a year that simply adds to your basic time frame.

If any of you have been holding your breath, waiting for that big beautiful yellow flower to appear, you can exhale now. While we are on the subject of yellow flowers, it is Lee's and my opinion that Brushfield Yellow, Botanuki, Jury's Yellow, etc., are not yellow flowers at all. We have quite a number of flowers we could call yellow, but they are usually white or pink flowers

of various shades, picking up the yellow color (?) from the petaloids or anthers. I really don't care if people try to talk themselves into a cream color flower being yellow. I am only concerned with what Lee and I do. When we say yellow we mean exactly that. If you want to spend your money for cream color, washed-out white, etc., flowers or plants with yellow in the name, that's your money and your decision.

You may say that, "if" our new #1 and perhaps the only seedling purposely set on "OG" mother plant blooms yellow next year, it has only been a five year time frame. This is true, but we had a big advantage in being able to work with the Chinese pollen and shorten the entire time cycle.

In order to be successful in hybridizing you must see favorable results in a short period of time, two or three years. The entire attempt is difficult and if we go into a six or ten year time frame, it may be impossible. Why do it? I guess some people, those that are doing the actual hard work, get so involved that they simply enjoy the challenge.

Would we start over again, knowing

what we know now? Let me tell you, it's a disease. We have started to collect material on purple color camellias and expect to be working on this in the future. There is no end in sight, even with disappointments.

If you decided to get on the bandwagon and join the competition, please remember, time is of the essence. We don't have the twenty years it took the rose people to successfully cross the Chinese Yellow Rose into other hybrids to obtain commercial yellow color roses of today. Whether you like it or not, you won't be able to forget — "Tick-Tock The Yellow Clock."

OLYMPIC GOLD AS A MOTHER PLANT

- Feb. 1, 1984 12 Flowers No seed set.
- Feb. 1, 1985 75 Flowers One seed set.
 - A. Picked seed Nov. 1985 Germinated.
 - B. Grafted seed March 1986.
 - C. Feb. 1987 Plant 18 inches high — Cut and grafted 3 scions.
- Feb. 1, 1986 7 seed grafted.
- 4. Feb. 1, 1987 At least 5 pods plus, holding.

* * * * *

Pacific Camellia Society Awards Dinner

The Peppermill Restaurant in Pasadena was the setting for the Pacific Camellia Society's Annual Awards Dinner held on April 9, 1987.

The Award of Excellence trophy, given to the exhibitor having the most points for all of the eight Southern California Camellia Shows (San Diego to Fresno) went to Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci. Runners up were Dr. and Mrs. Dick Stiern and Mel Belcher.

Other Awards:

Monthly Cut Flower Display First — Chuck Gerlach Second — Dean and Marcie Alltizer Third — Jerry Biewend

Flower of the Month

November—Best Pink December—Best Red February—Best White March—Best Variegated Tiffany Wild Fire Silver Cloud Katie Var. Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan Dean and Marcie Alltizer Chuck Gerlach Al and Frances Gamper

The "Good Guy" Award was presented to newly elected president, Marcie Alltizer.

Central California Camellia Society March 7 and 8, 1987

Award of Excellence	D CUM I D I II	Jack and Anne Woo		
Best of Show	Dr. Clifford Parks Var.	Sergio and Elsie Bracci		
Best Large/Very Large	Helen Bower	Art Gonos Family		
Runner-Up	Elegans Splendor	Art Gonos Family		
Best Medium Japonica	Betty Sheffield Supreme	Jack and Anne Woo		
Runner-Up	Dream	Don and Mary Bergamini		
Best Small	Maroon & Gold	Fred Rankin		
Runner-Up	Freedom Bell	Dick and Pat Pozdol		
Best Miniature	Spring Festival	Jack and Anne Woo		
Runner-Up	Bob's Tinsie	Don and Mary Bergamini		
Best Retic	Dr. Clifford Parks Var.	Sergio and Elsie Bracci		
Runner-Up	Francie L. Var.	Sergio and Elsie Bracci		
Best Hybrid	Waltz Time Var.	Art Gonos Family		
Runner-Up	Julie Var.	Don and Mary Bergamini		
Best 3 Large/Very Large Japonicas	Grand Prix	Darren and Harlan Smith		
Runner-Up	Lady Laura	Jack and Anne Woo		
Best 3 Medium Japonicas	Magnoli a eflor a	Jack and Anne Woo		
Runner-Up	Alta Gavin	Jack and Anne Woo		
Best 3 Smalls	Black Tie	Art Gonos Family		
Runner-Up	Kitty	Tony and Natalie Miranda		
Best 3 Miniatures	Lemon Drop	Jack and Anne Woo		
Runner-Up	Little Michael	Darren and Harlan Smith		
Best 3 Retics	Temple Mist	Darren and Harlan Smith		
Runner-Up	Dr. Clifford Parks	Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray		
Best 3 Hybrids	Pink Dahlia Var.	Marvin Belcher		
Runner-Up	Pink Dahlia	Ben MacKall		
Best 5 Japonicas Large	Grand Slam	Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray		
Best 5 Japonicas Medium	In the Pink	Art Gonos Family		
Best 5 Boutonniers	Kitty	Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray		
Best 3 Different	Emma Gaeta	Art Gonos Family		
	Dixie Knight Supreme	,		
	Man Size			
Best 9 Different	Temple Mist	Darren and Harlan Smith		
	gans Champagne, Grand Prix,			
In the Pink, Midnight Var., Alta Gavin,				
	Michael, Man Size, Little Slam			
Best "Miss Tulare" or Var.	Miss Tulare Var.	Jack and Anne Woo		
Maurie Abramson Memorial Aware	d	3		
Best White Camellia	Snowman	Jack and Anne Woo		
Best Fragrant	Eleanor Holtzman	Jake and Eleanor Holtzman		
Best Higo	Aikatsuki-No-Koori	Ed Streit		
Best Yellow	Chrysantha	Sergio and Elsie Bracci		
Best C.C.C.S. Novice Member	Dixie Knight Supreme	Andy and Carroll Rippey		
Best Non-Member	Nishi Kirk	Patricia Melton		
Best Seedling	- 100100 22010			
Ken Thompsen Memorial Award	· Ben Mackall	Kramer Bros. Nurseries		
Best Spray or Stem	Dr. Louis Polizzi	Jack and Anne Woo		
Junior Division Awards:	2 2000 1 00000	Jack and I mile 1100		
Best Japonica	Carter's Sunburst Pink	Demitri Gonos		
Best other than Japonica	Waltz Time Var.	Demitri Gonos		
Best Boutonniere	Confetti Blush	David McClain		
Dest Doutommere	Torgent Dittill	David McClaill		











Modesto Camellia Cavalcade Show **Trophy Winners**

Grand Prix

Little Susie

Shuchuka

Grand Prix

Milinda

Man Size

Grand Prix

Fire Dance

Lemon Drop

Ellen Daniel

Chrysantha

Man Size

KS4

Julie

Ole

Tonuha

Chrysantha

Swan Lake

Mathodiana

Best of Show Julia Hamiter Sweepstakes Runner-Up Best Japonica Large or Very Large Miss Charleston Runner-Up Best Japonica Medium Sweet Dreams Runner-Up Dixie Knight Sup, Best Small Bloom Runner-Up Best 3 Japonicas Large or Very Large Best 3 Japonicas Medium Best 3 Small Blooms Best 5 Japonicas Large or Very Large Best 5 Japonicas Medium Best 5 Small Blooms Black Tie Var. Dr. Clifford Parks Best Retic or Retic Hybrid Runner-Up Harold Paige Best 3 Retics or Retic Hybrid Valley Knudsen Best Hybrid Non-Retic Julia Hamiter Runner-Up Kramer's Fluted Coral Julia Hamiter Best 3 Hybrids Non-Retic Best Miniature Runner-Up Best 3 Miniatures Best 5 Miniatures Best Seedling Medium or Large Best Sedling Mini. or Small Best Japonica - Youth Tomorrow Park Hill Best Retic - Youth Lasca Beauty Best Hybrid - Youth Best Miniature - Youth Best Fragrant Bloom Best Higo Bloom Hi-No-Maru Best Yellow Bloom Best White Japonica Bloom Best Coll. 9 Different Japonica Blooms Best Japonica Bloom Society Members Runner-Up Moonlight Bay Award of Excellence Most Outstanding Arrangements: Open Division Society Member Woman Society Member Junior, ages 7-10 Dr. Phillip Soderstrom Memorial Trophy, Juniors, ages 11-14 Novice Division Intermediate Division Advanced Division Men's Division

Mr. and Mrs. Art Gonos Robert Erhardt Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini Mrs. William Breuner Mrs. William Breuner Marie and John Balzadini Mr. and Mrs. Art Gonos Steven Campbell Mr. and Mrs. Gary Schanz Mrs. William Breuner Darren and Harlan Smith Bet and Bob Kellas Mrs. William Breuner Julie Vierra Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lesmeister Mr. and Mrs. Art Gonos Mrs. Edith Mazzei Al and Lois Taylor Mr. and Mrs. Art Gonos Mr. and Mrs. Art Gonos Darren and Harlan Smith Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pinheiro Mr. and Mrs. Art Gonos Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Mr. and Mrs. Art Gonos David Feathers Jack Osegueda Vanessa Yonan Jason Yonan Justin Bergamini Jason Yonan Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Hallstone Dr. J. Holtzman Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Achterberg Mrs. William Breuner Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dorn Virginia Rankin Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lesmeister

> Harlan Smith Jane Dorn Judy Smith Brian Terpstra

Pam Terpstra Gladys Tomkins Janet Terpstra Karen Weatherly Harlan Smith









Camellia Society of Sacramento

Outstanding Flower of Show Best Miniature Japonica Runner-Up Best Small Japonica Runner-Up Best Medium Japonica Runner-Up Best Large Japonica Runner-Up Best Very Large Japonica Runner-Up Best 3 Miniature Japonicas Best 3 Small Japonicas Best 3 Medium Japonicas Best 3 Large Japonicas Best 3 Very Large Japonicas Best 5 Miniature to Medium Japonicas Best 5 Large to Very Large Japonicas Best 11 Japonicas Best Medium to Large Retic Hybrid Runner-Up Best Very Large Retic Hybrid Runner-Up Best 3 Retic Hybrids Best 5 Retic Hybrids Best Non-Retic Hybrid Runner-Up Best 3 Non-Retic Hybrids Best Collection of 9 Best Collection of 3 Best Seedling First Runner-up Second Runner-up Best Treated Japonica Best Treated Hybrid Best Spray or Stem Exhibit Best Fragrant Bloom Best Yellow or Cream Bloom Best Sacramento Members Bloom Best Novice Bloom Runner-Up Best "Old Timers" Bloom Best White Bloom Sweepstakes Award Runner-up Junior Class: Best Miniature Runner-Up Best Japonica 21/2" to 41/2" Runner-Up Best Japonica over 41/2" Best Hybrid

Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso Tootsie Ellen Daniels Grace Albritton Tom Thumb Mrs. George Bell Nuccio's Jewel Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso Ivory Tower Elegans Champagne Elegans Supreme Kitty Mrs. Tingley Raspberry Ice Nuccio's Gem Tomorrow Park Hill Lady Laura Lady in Red Black Tie Lasca Beauty Edith Mazzei Howard Asper Terrell Weaver Variegated Valentine's Day Var. Harold Paige Julie Var. Pink Dahlia Var. Kramer's Fluted Coral Japonica Japonica Reticulata Hybrid Reticulata Hybrid Reticulata Carter's Sunburst Pink Pharoah Var. Nuccio's Pearl Yunnanensis Gwenneth Morey Lasca Beauty Spring Sonnet Spring Sonnet Ville de Nantes Nuccio's Gem

> Demi Tasse Pearls Pet Raspberry Ice E. G. Waterhouse Elegans Champagne Eleanor Hagood

Larry and Nancy Pitts Mr. and Mrs. Don Lesmeister Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pinheiro Robert E. Ehrhart Mr. and Mrs. James Randall Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Achterberg Larry and Nancy Pitts Larry and Nancy Pitts Larry and Nancy Pitts Larry and Nancy Pitts Mr. and Mrs. Don Lesmeister Larry and Nancy Pitts The Griffings The Vervalles Mr. and Mrs. James S. Randall Mr. and Mrs. Don Lesmeister Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Achterberg Larry and Nancy Pitts Larry and Nancy Pitts Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Hallstone Mrs. Edith Mazzei Mr. and Mrs. Gary Shanz Mrs. Edith Mazzei Robert E. Ehrhart Mrs. and Mrs. E. F. Achterberg Mr. and Mrs. Don Lesmeister The Vervalles Mr. and Mrs. Don Lesmeiseter Mrs. William R. Breuner Larry and Nancy Pitts David L. Feathers David L. Feathers David L. Feathers Mrs. William R. Breuner Tom Lee Raymond F. Hertel C. A. and L. R. Roberts Robert E. Ehrhart Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Hallstone Lilly Lee Carolyn Ong Mr. and Mrs. James Toland Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Achterberg Robert E. Ehrhart

> Miriam Yonan Jason Yonan Jason Yonan Courtney Robinson Terry Shanz Scott Saunders

Mr. and Mrs. Don Lesmeister











Continuing Saga of C. japonica 'Breschini's Pride'

by Helen Simon, National Editor, Australian Camellia Research Society

Perhaps this particular saga is a modern story of achievement and adventure, rather a medieval one. It is very real to me and I am happy to share further correspondence and developments with the Southern California Camellia Society whose help is very much appreciated.

A copy of the letter to editor Glenn Smith from June (Breschini) and David Stewart, printed in the Camellia Review November-December 1986, was sent to me. An extract of my reply to Mr. and Mrs. Stewart follows:

18th May 1986. "I am thrilled with your very personal interest and would be happy to receive some scions. 'Camellias were his (Caesar Breschini's) joy and sharing was his nature' could also be said of Professor E. G. Waterhouse."

4th July 1986: Five (5) scions arrive safely and in good order.

5th July 1986: All scions were grafted during the forenoon by our young expert, Craig Carroll. Three on the old stump, two on sasanqua stock in separate pots.

January 1987: All grafts except one

are going well. One in separate pot is exceptionally good. 40cm (16") tall.

8th March 1987: Photos taken by Helen Simon.

12th April 1987: Astounded to see more growth in axils of leaves. Flower buds? I wonder!



Show Schedule for 1987-1988

Pacific Camellia Society December 5-6, 1987 Southern California Camellia Society January 9-10, 1988 South Coast Camellia Society January 23-24, 1988 San Diego Camellia Society February 6-7, 1988 Peninsula Camellia Society February 13, 1988 Temple City Camellia Society February 13-14, 1988 Delta Camellia Society February 20, 1988 Pomona Valley Camellia Society February 20-21, 1988 February 20, 1988 Santa Clara Camellia Society Descanso February 27-28, 1988 Northern California Camellia Society March 5, 1988 Kern County Camellia Society March 5-6, 1988 Central California Camellia Society (Fresno) March 12-13, 1988 Modesto Camellia Society March 19-20, 1988 Atwater Garden Club and Camellia Society March 26, 1988

Qualifications of a Good Show Judge by Marilee Gray

The Southern California Camellia Council sponsored a judges' symposium on November 15, 1986, at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia. Sergio Bracci organized and chaired the meeting.

My notes from a presentation on judges' qualifications are the basis for this article. Included also are the opinions and conclusions drawn from the comment and question period that followed. The contents of this article express my opinions and do not have the sanction of the Council.

I have broken down the qualifications of a good show judge into two general categories - technical and aesthetic. To discuss them takes but a few minutes; to actually achieve them will require several years. There is no short-cut route to learning all one needs to know, but the pleasure a hobbyist derives from growing and showing camellias makes this schooling very

enjoyable indeed.

The first and the technical qualification for judging is to possess an accumulation of descriptive information on varieties of camellias and know how to utilize that knowledge within our judging guidelines. First of all, one should strive to be able to identify as many varieties as possible. This includes not only identifying a bloom as to variety, but also knowing its size designation as given in the *Nomenclature* and its genetic classification (japonica, retic or retic hybrid, non-retic hybrid, or other species).

On size, for example, the team judging medium japonicas must know that every bloom they judge, especially those they send to the head table, is really a medium japonica. A large japonica variety misplaced on the medium tables might look outstanding among the medium japonicas, but might actually be inferior for its variety. Since most all Southern California shows now have small, medium and large japonicas placed separately,

knowing the correct size designation is extremely important. An awareness of the genetic classifications of varieties is equally important as exhibitors do, either in ignorance or in the rush of placement, occasionally place blooms in the wrong classes. Improperly entered blooms have, in the past, gone all the way into final head table judging before someone detected the error. One can always say that the responsibility for verifying correct size and classification lies wholly with the judging team; they should be cognizant of such errors and not pass them on to the head table staff.

Secondly, one needs to know what to expect of a variety, i.e., the highest standard of that variety. Without knowing what a variety is capable of producing, one cannot know which, if any, of the blooms he is judging have achieved outstanding qualities. In conjunction with this, a judge should know the form and color changes that result from the different growing areas and allow for those variations in what we expect the standard of a variety to be. All other things being equal, the nod would go to that bloom whose form or color presents a more beautiful bloom.

Thirdly, all judges need to keep abreast of new varieties. This presents as great a challenge to the well-established judge as to the beginning novice judge. It is in this area that some accredited judges have received criticism. Accreditation, like tenure, should not relieve one of continually updating and improving his knowl-

edge and abilities.

How does one accumulate all of the above information? Identification and the performance standard of a variety are best learned by growing that variety. Most judges grow as many varieties as they can logically manage, but no one can grow all the varieties shown. Judges, therefore, need resources beyond their own gardens. They should visit and study suitable growers and nurseries, especially prominent developer/growers, which in our area are Nuccio's Nurseries and Kramer's Nurseries. In addition, the bloom displays at all society meetings provide frequent and invaluable opportunities for learning identification, standards, and new varieties. Quality meeting displays are essential learning forums for newcomers and judges alike. Anyone who thinks that meeting displays are there so that someone will win an end-of-the-year award simply doesn't recognize the real purpose and value of these displays.

The very best opportunities for extended study occur at our shows. In the normal course of a show, there are two times before a show is open to the public when judges can study the display tables without interfering with the show operation: after the judging teams have completed their assigned classes and are waiting for final head table judging; and after the head table judging while the awards table is being readied for the public. If these times are utilized, each judge can better prepare himself for his next assignment without spending any additional time at a show.

The application of the varietal information must be within the accepted guidelines for judging*. These guidelines place equal value on each of five categories — color, size, form, condition and substance and texture. The comprehension of these judging criteria is imperative for all judges. To use them is to analyze each bloom in each of the five categories. Constraints of time allow this analytical process to be used fully only when necessitated by close competition. Working negatively, i.e., totaling fault points, is a quicker and, therefore, a more practical process than adding positive points.

The second general category concerns judging processes other than the analytical — something I shall call aesthetic perception. To a large extent, much of our judging actually is the result of our aesthetic perception. Through it we view combined the feature of color, form, and condition and

rate the relative beauty of each bloom. Note that size is omitted in the features considered in an aesthetic rating; size has nothing, absolutely nothing, to do with beauty. As such, size is one feature which must always be dealt with in an analytical fashion. Does each bloom satisfy its size designation?

Judges need to develop a keen sense of aesthetics. Whether it is a delicate pink that whispers softly or a bold red that shouts its superiority, the recognition of outstanding blooms comes via aesthetic perception. So important is this ability to perceive beauty that if one doesn't have it and can't develop it, that person should not be judging.

As I have said, a good deal of our initial varietal judging employs aesthetic perception. It is also essential for judging the merits of variegated blooms, mixed trays, and head table blooms. Often head table blooms are so perfect or near-perfect that they cannot be adequately separated analytically by points. What remains is one's aesthetic perception. Some say that head table judging really comes down to personal preference. If by that they mean what each perceives as the flower having the greatest beauty, then nothing is wrong with personal preference that is the only judging recourse left. But, if personal preference is so prejudiced that it means only whites to one judge and only formals to another, then it is not acceptable. A good judge will have so developed his appreciation of beauty, regardless of color or form, that he can override any personal prejudices he may have. Personal preference is functional; personal prejudice is not. If we conscientiously pick our winners on aesthetic merit, then we will systematically be developing a listing of preferred varieties. This is as it should be, for one prime purpose of our shows is to define for the public those varieties that are naturally superior.

Otherwise qualified and knowledgeable judges can still fail to perform effectively. The following are some performance pitfalls I have heard and observed:

- (1) Failing to have one's own opinion. If you haven't reached an opinion, question others in your judging team or discuss the class until you do. Never, but never, agree for the sake of agreeing. Never asume someone in your team is so knowledgeable that you support his decision unequivocally. If anyone of the team does this, the purpose of the team is defeated; the time and effort of two judges have been wasted, for the team functions totally as if it were a one-man team. And, most importantly, this team of judges has failed the exhibitors.
- (2) Failing to recognize and award older varieties. An oft-heard criticism of judges is that they do not know older varieties and will leave these blooms on the table - blooms they would have sent up to the head table were they newer varieties. If we truly judge on aesthetic qualities, then the age of a variety — whether it be 2, 20, or 200 years — is irrelevant. An older variety should not be penalized even if none of the judges knows the variety. After the description is verified by the Nomenclature, it is up to the judges to recognize the aesthetic merit of a bloom and deal with it accordingly.

To give credit to older varieties, some shows have had special classes, e.g., pre-1950 varieties. Since this did nothing to educate the judges, this was the wrong solution to the problem. On the one hand, an older variety was still penalized since only singles of all sizes and types were judged together. On the other hand, dating limited the competition for a variety — a definite form of handicapping, something I'll address later on. Good varieties, even if they are old ones, need no crutches if they are judged properly.

(3) Giving undue credit to newer varieites. The same judges who commit the prior error are also likely to send blooms to the head table solely because the variety is a new, 'hot' one. "They'll be expecting this variety at the head table. We better send one up," is the kind of comment that jeopardizes the integrity of shows. Such

judges will, in their rush to send up the newest varieties, leave better, but older, blooms on the table. That is an injustice to the public and the exhibitors.

(4) Handicapping inferior varieties. The objective of shows to define superior varieties is sabotaged whenever judges overlook faults that are typical of a variety. Because certain faults are characteristic of a variety does not relieve the judges of measuring those blooms against what would be the desired standard for that variety. Scarlike tissue or lopsidedness, for example, are never desirable. "They always come that way," does not suffice for a lack of aesthetic qualities. Some judges overrate a bloom because, "It is so difficult to get that variety that good." Some varieties simply are inferior to others, and our judging should reflect this fact.

(5) Downgrading a bloom on form or color because, "It doesn't come that way for me." Our guidelines for judges specify that variations in form and color not be counted against a bloom unless it is so different that it appears to be a sport of that variety. In conjunction with this is the failure to allow for form and color changes that occur naturally because of the growing area.

(6) Overlooking varieties if size is true, but small. At most shows, non-retic hybrids and retic hybrids are judged as a group, regardless of size. In japonica classes, varieties are classified medium if the bloom generally is from 3 - 4 inches in diameter, large if from 4 - 5 inches, and very large if over 5 inches. Thus, even in japonica classes, the size of blooms can vary significantly within medium classes and excessively in classes where large and very large are grouped together. In any case, each bloom should be judged on size by how fully each achieved its potential. That is, a medium bloom that has reached its expected size at 3 inches deserves equal points on size with another medium or medium-large variety that has met its expectation at 4 inches in

diameter.

Some judges erroneously downgrade a bloom on size although it has met its normal size expectations because, after the early shows with the predominance of treated blooms, they have become accustomed to oversized blooms. This occurs particularly on varieties that respond well to gib.

(7) Failure to use the point system properly. Size, in particular, is the feature judges have difficulty in weighting properly. According to our judging guidelines, size is to be pointed equally with color, with form, with condition, and with substance and texture. The excessive weight judges tend to give size was evidenced at a recent show where an oversized 'Easter Morn' that was devoid of any center petals (i.e., lacking in form) went to the head table ahead of blooms that should have pointed higher.

(8) Failure to point trays properly. Not all of the blame for judging errors on trays should be heaped upon the heads of judges. Lack of specific points and guidelines have given nebulous directives. We stress uniformity in trays, but how much do we weight uniformity? Perhaps it would, in judging trays, be equitable to assign half of the 20 points for each of the five judging criteria for uniformity. For example, of the 20 points on form, one tray might get its full 10 points on acceptable forms, but lose points on uniformity; another tray might receive its full 10 points on uniformity, but lose points on the quality of that form.

Tray judges need to have working axioms. "A tray is no stronger that its weakest bloom." "One flamboyant bloom does not a tray make." "Bright, showy, or large varieties do not automatically point higher than the less colorful or smaller varieties."

I have judged trays with those who could overlook any uniformity faults if the variety was large and showy and the tray exhibited at least one outstanding example of that variety. I vividly recall one show where the most

perfect tray in the show was a tray of 'Twilight' that never even made the head table; the eyes of the judges were too dazzled by the size and color of more showy varieties to recognize the quality in the quiet, but elegant, 'Twilight' tray.

(9) Failure to refer to the *Nomenclature*. No judge should ever appear for his judging assignment without a *Nomenclature* in hand. Reference to the *Nomenclature* should be made whenever there is a question on size or qualities or whenever the team is judging a variety with which they are unfamiliar.

(10) Failure to heed instructions of the chairman of judges. Concessions to the weather, if needed, will always be part of the chairman's instructions. Regardless of adverse weather before a show, some flawless blooms always appear. For those majority of blooms, however, that may be less than perfect, judges need to abide by the chairman's instructions and temper their demerits accordingly. Wind, for example, will cause bloom damage that will be evidenced in diminished condition, while undue heat and dryness will be reflected in smaller blooms.

11) Failure of a team to discuss and reach a consensus. To a large extent, the integrity of a show is dependent upon the performance of the chairman of judges. He not only needs to assign people to areas where they can function knowingly, but he needs to know his judges well enough to pair compatible personalities. Whenever a domination/intimidation situation exists within a team, that combination fails to function as a team. All members of a team need to be alert to the possibility that one of the team may attempt to speak for the entire team. Whenever this happens, the other team members need to be assertive enough to require that the team discuss and reach a consensus.

12) Failure to recognize that a judge is performing a service. Judging should not become an ego trip. Judging is performing a service for the public, the ex-

public gardens, the gardens of other hibitors, and the hosts of the show. All the judging teams are to function in such a way that the entire show appears to have been judged by one team. In this respect and in combined abilities, some teams will fail to perform as effectively as others. Any judge who assumes he is above oversight or error has not the proper perspective for a judge. Since there are more qualified judges available than can logically be

used at any one show, the practice of having judges rotate and clerk periodically would help fill the depleting ranks of clerks. In addition, an occational stint at clerking would help judges maintain a proper perspective.

Judging shows is one very interesting and challenging aspect of this wonderful hobby of growing camellias. Good judges, however, recognize that to judge is to enroll in a school from which there is no graduation.

The Enigma of 'Egao' by Bill Donnan

Reprint from Camellia Journal, May 1987

You have all heard that TV jingle that goes: "It's a bird; it's a plane; it's Superman!" Well, I am going to tell you about a super camellia cultivar, namely 'Egao.' One could easily paraphrase that jingle and exclaim: "It's a vernalis; it's a sasanqua; it's a higo!" and be partly right on all three counts. However, if recent scientific analysis is correct, the camellia cultivar 'Egao' is probably a non-retic hybrid. But I am getting way ahead of my story. First I want to tell you how 'Egao' came to California and how it is sweeping all of the trophy awards in the species classification at our California shows.

When Julius and Bonnie Nuccio made their first trip to Japan in 1977 they were looking for satsuki azaleas. Naturally, if they saw any good camellia cultivars they would try to get them also. When their good friend Terada found out that we did not have 'Egao' here in the United States he insisted that they import it. Thus the cultivars 'Egao' and its variegated form 'Shibori Egao' along with 'Tama-no-ura,' 'Nan-ban-ko' and a few others were shipped home to California. Scions were grafted and propagation began. The bloom is a medium to large, deep pink, semi-double. The cultivar was introduced as a sasanqua in the Fall of 1981 and it was not long before it began to sweep the Best Species trophy from many of our California Camellia Shows. 'Egao' or its variegated form won Best Species at the 1982, 1983,

1985, 1986, and 1987 Huntington Gardens Camellia Shows. It was Best Species at the 1984 "Gib" Show; the 1985 Temple City Show; the 1985 Descanso Show; and the 1986 South Coast Show. In the 1984 and 1985 Pacific Shows it won both Best and Runner-up tray of three bloom awards and Best and Runner-up single bloom awards ('Egao' and 'Shibori Egao' traded off being Best or Runner-up at those shows.) So you can see that this camellia has really caught on with the judges.

This brings up the question — just what species is 'Egao'? Tom Savige, who is the International Registration Authority for the genus camellia and who has compiled a listing of about 30,000 camellia cultivars, indicates that "There is a higo 'Egao' and an 'Egao Tsubaki'; an 'Egao' vernalis and an 'Egao' sasanqua." The CA-MELLIA NOMENCLATURE 1981 Edition and subsequent revised edition list 'Egao' as a C. vernalis. Be that as it may, this book goes on to qualify C. vernalis as probably not being a separate species, but rather a non-retic hybrid cross of C. sasanqua x C. japonica.

As has been indicated above, Nuccio's Nurseries has always listed and sold 'Egao' as a sasanqua even though they realized that it probably is not strictly a sasanqua. What's that old saying: "If it walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck and looks like a duck, it's probably a duck"! The plant

'Egao' blooms like a sasanqua, it looks like a sasanqua, and it seeds like a sasanqua, so that's why they sell it as a

sasanqua.

All of this conjecture about the true category of species in which to place the cultivar 'Egao' would not have surfaced except for the fact that the American Camellia Society has been looking for new and outstanding camellia cultivars to consider for their Ralph Peer Sasanqua Seedling Award. 'Misty Moon' was suggested as an outstanding candidate for the Peer Award but, although it is sold as a sasangua, there is little doubt that it must be about half C. kissi. ('Misty Moon' is fragrant and its seeds resemble C. kissi seeds.) Next 'Egao' was nominated as a cultivar to consider for the award but it was discovered that it had never been registered with the American Camellia Society and thus could not qualify unless its ancestry could be traced back to a date prior to 1945. The question was: when was 'Egao' developed and released and by whom? Tom Savige lists 'Egao' as having been released in 1912 by Taniguchi. Whether this is the same cultivar now being propagated and sold here in California is open to question.

Meanwhile, we have just recently acquired a reprint from the Journal of the Japanese Society of Horticultural Science. The paper is entitled: "Cytogenetic Studies On The Origin Of Camellia Vernalis; II Grouping Of C. Vernalis Cultivars By Chromosome Numbers And Relationships Between Them," Vol. 55, No. 2, pgs. 207-214, September

1986, by Takayuki Tanaka, Naotoshi Hakoda, and Shunpei Uemoto. This paper quite conclusively proved that *C. vernalis* is a hybrid species derived from crossing *C. sasanqua* x *C. japonica*. If such a cross can be determined to be a separate species, then 'Egao,' which is a cultivar obtained by this same cross, is a species of *C. vernalis*. The laboratory analysis made by these scientists counting the chromosomes reveals the following introgressive hybridization between *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica* to produce 'Egao.'

In closing, it occurs to me that we gain very little ground for the camellia hobbyist by trying to convert 'Egao' into a non-retic hybrid. Even such experts as Sealy in his "Revision of The Genus Camellia" and Chang Hung Ta in his monumental book "Camellias" (translated by Bartholomew) fail to definitely rule out C. vernalis as a true species. I suggest that we consider C. vernalis to be, in fact, a separate species, albeit one which is still open to question and to further analysis by botanical scientists. Meanwhile, we can categorize 'Egao' as a C. vernalis; list it in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE as a C. vernalis species; and exhibit it inthe Species classification at our California Camellia Shows.

The camellia cultivar 'Egao' will continue to be an enigma and it seems appropriate to contend that, as you pick one of its blooms and examine it closely, it stares up at you with a superior smirk. After all, the name 'Egao' means — "Smiling Face"!

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SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCİETY—President, Wally Jones; Secretary, Pauline Johnson, 1251 Tenth St., San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, October through May, 7:30 p.m., South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palo Verdes Peninsula 90274.

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