



THE FINAL MEETING

of the current season will be held on

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 11, 1946

in Odd Fellows Temple, 175 North Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, Calif.

7:30 P.M.—INFORMAL FLOWER SHOW. The last show of the season.

Let's make it one to remember through the long summer months.

Have blooms on the tables, marked with name of variety and exhibitor, by 7:30 at the latest. The exhibitor's prize will be as usual.

8:00 P.M. (Precisely)—BUSINESS SESSION. Shall the society incorporate?

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The official ballot:

President	Dr. Lloyd J. Taylor, Flintridge
Vice-President	Dr. J. Walter Reeves, Pasadena
Secretary	C. Elmer Peak, Van Nuys
Treasurer	James C. Wright, San Marino
Directors	Mrs. J. W. Miller, Glendale
	Mrs. William Viney, Covina
	Dr. Weston W. Shay, Los Angeles
Editor	Dr. David W. McLean
Business Manager	Roy M. Bauer, San Marino

There have been no other nominations by petition, so the election should be short and painless.

8:15 P.M.—DR. JAMES BONNER. Associate Professor of Plant Physiology at the California Institute of Technology, will give a progress report on his investigation of some problems of camellia culture. These investigations, using a large number of camellia plants, have extended over a year and a half and have dealt with: experiments with various rooting media and nutrients. The effect of light and temperature on the setting of buds, the dropping of buds, and bloom formation.

9:00 P.M.—A SHORT TALK BY LESLIE MARSHALL: "Do's and Don'ts for the Transplanting of Camellias."

9:15 P.M.—PRIZES. The members door prize will be as usual. This will be Amateur Prize Night. Several of our members have donated prizes, all of which will be awarded on one ticket sale. Tickets on sale in the lobby; obtain them on your way in, before the meeting. The publications fund prize, test garden fund prize and whatever others there may be, will be awarded by drawings from the one box of tickets.

9:30 P.M.—INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS. Taps.

DON'T FORGET . . . WEAR YOUR LAPEL TAG!

CAMELLIA PROPAGATION*

by
BILL WOODROOF

PROPAGATION BY CUTTINGS

Every step is important to success. Cuttings should be made in a cold frame, which the amateur can make at home. It consists of an air-tight box, covered with an old window sash on hinges, sloped to shed water. In the box place two inches of gravel, topped with sand. On top of this, 1"x1" garden stakes are laid in criss-crossed layers so the flat sets above the sand for better drainage. To further guard against fungus, the flats should be thoroughly washed before using. Any holes should be filled with sphagnum moss to prevent excessive drainage and loss of sand during watering. Fill flats with plaster sand which has been thoroughly washed, and pack with a piece of 4"x4" wood.

Use tip cuttings, as far as possible, from the last cycle of growth, with two or three eyes. Strip them of all but the top pair of leaves, with pruners, lest you tear the eyes; cut the top leaves in half. It is better to use full leaf cuttings, though the number per flat will be reduced. Just before planting, point the cutting with a **sharp** knife, preferably just below a node from which a leaf was cut.

A narrow trench is cut in the sand, cross-ways of the flat, with a tool made of a steel blade set between two pieces of wood, so shaped that the sand is levelled along the edges of the cut as it is made. Cuttings, depending on the variety (size of leaf), are placed 10 or 12 to the row and 10 or 12 rows to the flat. Push them in and press lightly on both sides; pack in each completed row with the edge of a piece of 1"x3" wood. Finally, **label them immediately!**

Handle the flats as you would eggs. Place them on the criss-crossed stakes in the cold frame, with air spaces between flats. Water **carefully** with a **fine** spray until the sand is smooth. Thereafter, the sand in the bottom of the flat should always be wet, both to avoid burning the cuttings and to provide humidity. To tell when additional water is needed, touch your finger to the sand. If it doesn't stick to your finger, water is needed. Air the frames twice a week to avoid fungus—arch enemy of cuttings; open them twice a week in the early morning for one or two hours, depending on weather conditions.

In summer, cuttings stay in the frames two to four months; in winter, four to six months; some varieties, difficult to root, such as Alba Plena, 12 to 18 months. Testing for roots, loosen an occasional cutting throughout the flat with a pot label and lift it out. If the average of

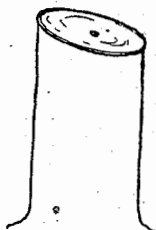
root formation is good, running from a "ker" to thick roots, transfer the cuttings to inch pots with a mixture of 3/4 peat moss 1/4 sand and top soil. If the test shows callus but no roots on the cuttings, "retake" them, put them back in flats in the cold frame, the tip is black and uncalloused, throw out. Keep the 2-inch pots shaded until "harden out," then expose to sun under

PROPAGATION BY GRAFTING

The diagrams on the board were made by Dave Cook, who is more of an artist than a propagator. You can graft successfully in both winter and summer. We generally start after the first of the year, through March, and in the summer, in June and early July. In summer grafting, try to catch a cycle of growth. By winter time you will have a good callous and no worry about wet weather.

In spite of what Mr. Gerbing says about grafting tools you need, I find a knife, some straight light pruning saw and a pair of pruners sufficient. For understock, use vigorous wood. Cuttings are fine. My favorite is Sarah Fromme, three reasons: it is vigorous, has soft wood, and has a wide cambium layer. The cambium layer is the light green line right under the bark, and it saves your eyes to have a line instead of one you can't find. Don't use understock that has been transplanted or fertilized within six months to a year. If you use that a transplant won't take, but you can catch a cycle of growth which is not as good as a new one would otherwise be.

Preparation of the understock I am going to discuss in two sections—one for winter and one for summer. **Figure 1** shows the way to cut the understock. Slant the cut so that



PRELIMINARY PREPARATION
OF UNDER STOCK... MAKE
A CLEAN, SMOOTH, SLOPING
CUT..

Dave Cook

FIGURE 1

water accumulating on the understock drain away from the scion. We use what is known as a modified cleft. Do not use understock in the center, but near one edge as close as is practicable, without slicing the whole side off.

*Digest of the talk given by Bill Woodroof at the February 14, 1946, meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society. Both Bill Woodroof and Dave Cook should be addressed c/o Valley Garden Supply Co., 11239 Ventura Boulevard, North Hollywood, Calif.

This cut is used for several reasons: First, the cambium layer is the only part through which the sap flows to form the callous; the rest of the understock is of no value in this. Second, you can pull the split understock together when tying. The camellia will heal up that side without leaving a gash in the understock. Third, there is not such great pressure on the tender scion.

Note the portion at "A" (Figure 2). That is

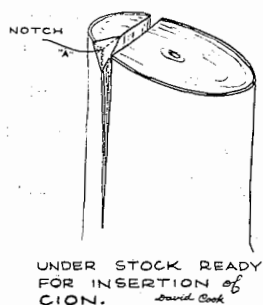


FIGURE 2

We notch the outer side where the scion goes, just a tiny bit, for two reasons: it is easier to match the cambium layers; and, a heavy callous forms in the notch, holding the scion to the understock.

In winter, we give the scion a double bevel which comes to a knife edge and bevels to a point at the bottom. Figure 3 shows the bevel.

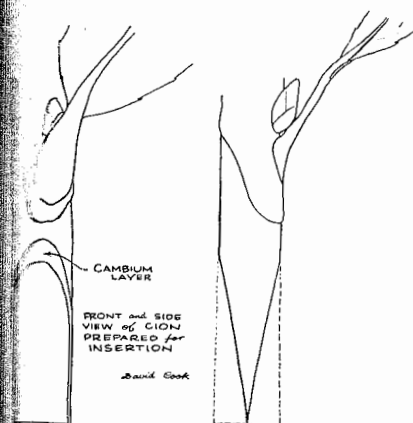


FIGURE 3

One reason for the double bevel is that, in pulling the understock together, it makes it easier for the string to pull the right side (the away from the scion) tightly together, and not leave a gap in the side where the scion and understock are matched.

After the preparation of the scion, put its pointed tip into the notch cut on the high side of the understock and slide it down the cambium layer into place. Until real rubber comes

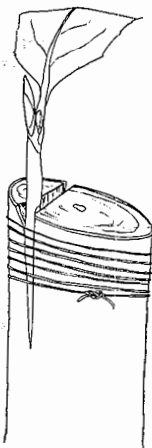


FIGURE 4

back, use string to bind the scion to the understock (Figure 4).

In summer, a bark graft rather than the above modified cleft graft is used. When a plant is growing, the bark is loose, and, as you tie it, you might pull the bark right off the plant. On the high side of the understock, slit the bark vertically with a sharp knife. The scion is bevelled on one side only; its bottom edge is cut to a sharp wedge shape. Loosen up the bark so you won't tear it, and slide the scion, bevel side in, just inside the bark. It's easier to graft that way—it's faster, and makes a solid match of the cambium layers. Some say a summer graft is not so strong. This is true only at first—after several years it gets strong.

If grafted plants can be placed in cold frames or glass houses, the time it takes to form a callous is shortened. Most of us use bottles in lieu of the cold frame; coffee jars are good to use. To get the plant through a narrow bottle neck, bend the leaves straight with your fingers and slide the jar down over them—that way you won't break the scion. The bottle is not pushed into the ground, just firmly seated.

As to the care of the graft—"hanging them on" is just the beginning. After crawling around, looking under bottles for a while, you begin to wonder if it's all worth while. Your one bugaboo is fungus. We have found the one solution is air. If you get fungus, take the bottle off on a cold day or cool evening and air it out. Repeat the process if necessary, but generally one airing will do the trick. How-

ever, if you don't get fungus within ten days, you're safe—that is the "praying time."

Keep your grafts on the dry side. You have taken off the plant's top and there is nothing left to utilize water. Don't water until the soil shows dryness—not dry and hard, but signs of dryness; only a little water, at that. The graft remains under glass in winter from two to three months; in summer, from five to six weeks. This depends on weather conditions.

Uncover the graft when a callous is formed both on the scion and on the understock. Be sure the scion is tied tightly to the stock before you uncover. If the eyes have "broken" and begun to grow before the callous comes, prop the bottles up when the callous forms, using 1/2 inch garden stakes and giving two to three additional raises before removing the bottle entirely; then take it off some cool night. And that's a new "praying time"—pray the callous forms before the growing time. These are a few reasons why grafts are expensive.

When uncovering, seal the top of the understock with a good tar compound without much oil in it. The callous, on uncovering, has not generally covered the top of the understock; we seal the top to keep the wood alive; the callous will form on new wood but not dead wood.

Remove the tie string when it begins to cut into the scion and understock. Never remove it until this is the case, as we like to keep the scion tight as long as possible. When the string breaks or when the camellia is endangered by tight string, cut it and pull it off on the opposite side from the graft.

That, briefly, is our method of grafting. You will ask what "take" we expect. We expect an 85% take in the winter, and are very unhappy if we don't get a 95% take in summer. I might say we are very unhappy lots of times.

PROPAGATION FROM SEED

I know you have a lot of questions regarding seedlings. Seeds are made by any variety showing a stamen. I don't know of seeds being formed by any varieties without stamens. The seed pods form under the old flower. The pod splits open, and you should never take the seed until the pod breaks. Mr. Gerbing says you should soak the seed over night in a glass of water, but, as far as I can see, it works just as well without water. I have even left them lying around for six weeks and had good results. The seed comes in different amounts—some pods have five, others one, two, three or four. Most of them have around three. Plant the seed in a mixture of one-third loam, one-third leaf mold, and one-third peat moss and a little sand. You can put the common varieties in boxes, but the better varieties should be placed in pots and the pots labeled as to the source.

It doesn't make any difference whether the seed is planted eye up or eye down. Plant one-half inch deep in the soil, and keep fairly well watered. If you do this, the seed will generally come up. They are very strange animals in that you expect to see a nice root system, but sometimes there is only a tap root. Most seedlings take five to seven years to bloom. The only care for seedlings is just to keep them watered until they come up, which takes four to six months. You always have the hope you will have a great new variety.

I have often wondered how Overlook and Magnolia Gardens get so many good seedlings. I haven't worked much with hybridization and cross-pollinization. You can't tell whether the seeds are pollinated or not when you depend upon bees or other insects.

(The portion of Mr. Woodroof's talk dealing with choice varieties will appear in a future issue.)



NEW MEMBERS—The following applicants were voted to membership:

Mr. and Mrs. H. Allison	Covina
Mrs. B. M. Aschenbrenner	Covina
Lewis L. Berti	Los Angeles
Dr. Burt L. Davis	Palo Alto
Mr. and Mrs. Tino Firemara	South Pasadena
Hugh P. Ford	Eugene, Oregon
Harold C. Hill	Alhambra
Bendix Holst	Los Angeles
Mrs. Wm. Lofthouse	Los Angeles
Mrs. Lloyd F. Martin	San Bernardino
Dr. H. G. Mealing	Augusta, Georgia
Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Newcomb	San Bernardino
Mrs. Will Payne	San Bernardino
Hazel Potter	Covina
W. P. Riddlesbarger	Eugene, Oregon
William T. Wood	Macon, Georgia
Vivian W. Zinglemann	Semmes, Alabama

REPORT FROM OUR SAN DIEGO COMPONENT SOCIETY—After such a soul-satisfying experience as our members and friends had on the tenth of March in the patio of the Harvey Shorts, it will be excusable if I sort of float off in day-dreams while relating it. However, I shall try to be as realistic as possible. Even so, it was "stuff dreams are made of."

The day was beautiful; the displays by the artistic Harvey Short were exceptionally lovely; the blossoms lived up to the "Ramona Legend"; and refreshments served by Mrs. Short, assisted by Mrs. Tellam, were delicious.

One table featured *Grandiflora Rosea* blossoms, placed on a mirror with a lovely background of red flowering peach sprays. A haughty Blue Bird stood guard there. Another table was delicate, with many varieties of white camellias placed on the deep, silvery green of Arizona cypress boughs backed by sprays of white peach blossoms. Another table of variegated blossoms had variegated peach sprays for the background. Along the low wall had been placed chartreuse-colored moss that Dr. Tellam had gathered in the Redwoods, which made a perfect foil for the many-colored blossoms placed along it.

Dr. Tellam had a table which displayed an assortment of exceptionally fine blossoms from his garden, and Mr. and Mrs. William Hanigan graciously brought a handsome assortment of potted specimens of very rare daffodils. And, with the azaleas in full bloom, there was indeed presented a flower show that merited all the praise it received.

Down in the lath houses, Mrs. Charles Cobb flagrantly displayed her voluptuous charms close to the entrance and; I am forced to admit, was quite the center of attraction!

Clarisse M. Carlton, Secretary

HISTORICAL

THE SECOND MEETING of the Southern California Camellia Society was called to order by the acting chairman, Harry Davis, on the evening of January 21, 1940, in the Pasadena Public Library.

The Committee on Constitution and By-laws reported. Additions to the proposed by-laws providing for special meetings and for future amendments were discussed and the constitution and by-laws were duly adopted. It was then voted that the document should be known as the Constitution of the society.

It was moved by Mr. E. H. Carter that the Executive Committee should consist of the five officers and two others to be elected from the membership. Mr. Lodge proposed that these two members should be the corresponding secretary and program chairman; motion carried.

Mr. Long suggested that meetings be held every two weeks, and it was agreed that the next two meetings be held on February 4 and 18.

A suggestion that a camellia show be held early in February received favorable comment but no action.

Temporary Treasurer Elvin Carter announced that \$17.00 had been contributed at the first meeting. Motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Harry Davis, that Mr. Long be reimbursed for the expense he had incurred in calling the first meeting was carried over Mr. Long's objection.

After a 20-minute recess during which everyone enjoyed the flowers, the following officers were elected:

President, Lovell Swisher; first vice-president, George Hill; second vice-president, John Lodge; secretary, Mark Anthony; treasurer, Elvin H. Carter.

"The meeting closed with a further look at the flowers."

THE THIRD MEETING of the Southern California Camellia Society was called to order by Vice-President George Hill on February 4, 1940, in the Pasadena Public Library.

Mrs. Carlo E. Galli was elected corresponding secretary and J. A. Armstrong was elected program chairman.

A flower show was suggested, and after considerable discussion it was decided that the society should exhibit in the Pasadena Spring Flower Show. Upon motion, the presiding officer appointed the following committee to stage this exhibit: Mark Anthony, Mr. Barber, E. H. Carter, Mr. Chambers, Verne McCaskill, Herbert Swim, Mr. Tormey.

Mr. Tormey suggested that all send post cards to their friends, inviting them to the next meeting.

The chairman appointed three members to the membership committee: Mr. L. Boyle, chairman; Mrs. McCaskill and Mr. Long.

"The meeting closed with a discussion of the camellia blossoms."

Thus the third meeting of our society closed with a completed organization, officers duly elected, committees functioning, all bills paid and money in the treasury. Quick work and nice going! All honor to our charter members. We here and now suggest that a nice feature for next year would be a Charter Members Night.

Roster of Officers

Southern California Camellia Society

President:

DR. DAVID W. McLEAN
2508 South Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia
ATwater 7-2703

Vice President:

DR. LLOYD J. TAYLOR
810 Highland Drive, Flintridge
SYlan 0-2088

Secretary:

THOR PETERSEN
1670 Las Flores Avenue, San Marino
SYcamore 9-3748

Treasurer:

ROBERT A. WARD
4947 Hartwick, Eagle Rock
ALbany 5721

Directors:

ROY M. BAUER — ATLantic 1-2183
MRS. CARLO GALLI — SYcamore 9-2108
J. HOWARD ASPER — SYlvan 0-1998

Committee Chairmen:

Membership—
C. E. PEAK — STate 4-0426

Program—
ETHEL CAMPBELL — SYcamore 9-5256

Prizes—
MRS. VERN O. McCASKILL — SYcamore 3-4677

Reception—
JOHN A. HUDLOW — SYcamore 9-3504

Exhibit—
MRS. FLORENCE DOUGLASS — CHarleston 6-1

Nomenclature Research—
MRS. CARLO E. GALLI — SYcamore 9-2108
314 Arroyo Drive, South Pasadena

Horticultural Research—
ROBERT CASAMAJOR — SYcamore 2-7641

Camellia Book Distribution—
E. C. TOURJE — SYlvan 0-1630

Librarian—
MRS. ROY M. BAUER — ATLantic 1-2183
2035 Sherwood Road, San Marino

HONORARY MEMBERS

William Hertrick, Huntington Botanical Gardens
Dr. H. Harold Hume, University of Florida

