

The *Camellia*
R E V I E W

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Southern California Camellia Society

An organization devoted to the advancement of the camellia for the benefit of
mankind — physically, mentally and inspirationally.

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THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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Table of Contents

Thanks to our Generous Members	3
Welcome New Members	3
Southern California Camellia Show Schedule 2014	4
Southern California Camellia Council Presidents.....	5
Camellia Nomenclature 2014	5
2013 Show Winners in California, Don Bergamini.....	6
William Ackerman, Gentleman and Scholar, Bradford King.....	8
Wonderful Camellias from Japan, Bradford King.....	10
To Gib, That is the Answer, Sergio Bracci.....	16
A New Beetle Problem, Bradford King.....	18
Thoughts About Camellia Seeds.....	19
Rapid Compost, Report by Gene Snooks	20
Rooting Cuttings, Richard M. Klein.....	21
Just Wondering.....	22
Supplement to the 2014 Camellia Nomenclature.....	23

Cover Photo

Non-reticulata hybrid 'Fragrant Pink'
Miniature, peony form. (*C. Rusticana* x *C. Lutchenensis*)
Ackerman, 1968.
Photo by Gene Phillips

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

In Southern California we think of the “new” camellia season beginning in October when we have “welcome back” brunches, Board meetings and membership meetings. Of course, “real” camellia hobbyists have been busy all year lovingly tending their plants and envisioning winning blooms.

It was a busy summer. We have a new *Camellia Nomenclature* and a new website. In preparation for the first *Camellia Review* for the 2013-2014 season, I was looking through some previous *Reviews* for “new” material and found some interesting information in Vol. 42. Bill Donnan was just beginning his fifth year as Editor and wondering if other Editors had gone through similar periods about whether the right mix of articles was being included. He began to research the “track record” for Editors of *Camellia Review*. Here are some quotes from Bill’s findings: “The forerunner of *Camellia Review* was a postcard announcing the society meetings. Then, in 1945 a *Camellia Bulletin* of 8 pages was inaugurated. . . In 1946 he (Dr. David McLean) rotated off of the presidency and became the Editor of the *Bulletin*... In June 1948, the Editor’s job reverted to a Committee of Publications of the Society. There was no formally designated Editor until June 1950 when M. R. Mayfield took on the job of Editorship for just one issue!

. . . It was in 1950 that the name of the *Camellia Bulletin* was changed to

Camellia Review and that was also the advent of the color pictures on the cover. . . in 1960 Harold Dryden took on the Editor’s job . . . and served for 14 years . . .” Bill started his Editorship in 1975.

Since Bill Donnan’s Editorship, memory says Glenn Smith, Pat Greutert, Mel Belcher and then Yours Truly have served in that position. During the 17 years that Mel served, I was very much involved in the typing, finding articles, etc., so that, when he retired, it made some sense for me to continue as Editor. Now I am beginning my fourth year and it seems to me, and perhaps to others, that a 21-year Editorship by someone named Belcher is long enough. This will be my last year, and I trust that someone will step forward by May, 2014 who will want to continue this adventure.

I hope that this issue will have a mix of information of interest to you. Earlier Editors and I have pled, and I continue to plead, for research articles such as our regular contributor Brad King does so helpfully – or suggestions for new ways of doing things, or articles of general interest to fellow hobbyists, or photos of successful gardens or suggestions for what you would like to have included in my last two issues.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

– Bobbie Belcher, Editor

New things in 2013

The 2014 *Camellia Nomenclature* is available. It’s \$20 a copy including postage and sales tax in the U.S. You can send a check to SCCS or pay on line using PayPal or a credit card. Buy 5 or more copies and get a 20% discount. International members, please inquire about price.

You can also pay membership dues on line.

We have a new website socalcamelliasociety.org – check it out!

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS

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Welcome New Members

Carol Cutright
Santa Paula, California

Stanley and Mary Jane Lamperski
Marvin, North Carolina

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES
2014 Show Schedules

January 11	Southern California Camellia Council Symposium 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Descanso Gardens La Canada
January 18 and 19	Pacific Camellia Society Bloom placement 7:00 - 10:30 a.m. Tom Gilfoy, Show Chairperson George Harrison, Chairperson of Judges	Descanso Gardens
January 25 and 26	Southern California Camellia Society Bloom placement 7:00 - 10:30 a.m. Brad King, Show Chairperson Beth Stone, Chairperson of Judges	Descanso Gardens
February 1 and 2	San Diego Camellia Society Bloom placement 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Gene Snooks, Show Chairperson Dean Turney, Chairperson of Judges	Casa del Prado Balboa Park San Diego
February 8 and 9	Southern California Camellia Society Bloom placement 7:00 - 10:30 a.m. Brad King, Show Chairperson Beth Stone, Chairperson of Judges	Huntington Gardens San Marino
February 15 and 16	Pomona Valley Camellia Society Bloom placement 6:00 - 10:30 a.m. Carol Sticklely, Show Chairperson Lindsey Brewer, Chairperson of Judges	Community Center 3680 "D" Street La Verne
February 22 and 23	Southern California Camellia Council Bloom placement 7:00 - 10:30 a.m. Wayne Walker, Show Chairperson George Harrison, Chairperson of Judges	Descanso Gardens
March 1 and 2	Camellia Society of Kern County Bloom placement 6:00 - 10:30 Libbie Stull, Show Chairperson Susan Stull, Chairperson of Judges	Racquet Club 1660 Pine Street Bakersfield
March 8 and 9	Pacific Camellia Society Bloom placement 8:00 - 10:30 a.m. Wayne Walker, Chairperson George Harrison, Chairperson of Judges	Descanso Gardens



These are the Presidents of the five camellia societies that make up the Southern California Camellia Council. Representatives of each Society, as well as these Presidents, attend two meetings annually. The Council sets dates for the camellia shows during the season each year. The Council also provides an annual Symposium to update camellia judges, clerks and others workers at the shows so that the show of each society member of the Council is judged by the same rules. Attendance at Council Symposiums is necessary to be accredited as a Council judge.

From left to right: George Harrison, Pacific Camellia Society.
Dean Turney says he's the Dictator of San Diego Camellia Society.
Brad King, Southern California Camellia Society
Susan Stull, Camellia Society of Kern County
Mel Belcher, Pomona Valley Camellia Society

CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

This is the year for a new Nomenclature, and it is now available. It has been interesting to read about Nomenclature and how it came about through some old Reviews. In June 1980 the Board discussed a new edition for 1981, the 17th edition. The 1981 edition later became known as the "Historical Edition" because subsequent editions deleted portions of the listings of japonicas and sasanquas to reduce space and cost. When requests for a printed list of those deleted cultivars began to be received, a small *Camellia Nomenclature Supplement* was printed in 1996. This Supplement is longer available for sale, but a downloadable, printable copy is

being prepared to be included on the Southern California Camellia Society website in the near future.

Human imperfections were recognized after the 2014 Nomenclature was printed and distributed; a number of needed corrections and additions came to light. Those corrections and additions are printed on page 23 of this Review with our apologies. Because the Review and the Nomenclature are the same size, perhaps you can remove page 23 in this Review and insert it in your Nomenclature.

We apologize to those hybridizers who looked forward to seeing their introductions in the new book.

2013 SHOW WINNERS IN CALIFORNIA

Don Bergamini

This was a great year for the camellia. The shows were fantastic and the judges made their decisions. Newer cultivars made the head table as either "bests" or "runner-ups" in their respective categories. They were 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa Crinkled', 'Bryanna Nichole', 'Chris Bergamini' 'Betsy', 'Kwan Yuen', 'John Hunt', 'Over Navarro' 'Senritsu Ko', 'Darleen Stoner' and 'Showboat'. Look for these to hit the head table again in the years to come.

Some of the past winners were still doing well this year. They were "Lady Laura", 'Junior Prom' 'Nuccio's Jewel', 'Demi-Tasse', 'Spring Daze', 'Frank Houser', 'Frank Houser Var.' and 'Waltz Time Var.'. In the multiple classes there were some cultivars that dominated the head table, such as 'Happy Harlequin', 'Nuccio's Caorusel', 'Freedom Bell', 'Tama Peacock', 'Red Hots', 'Frank Houser', 'Darleen Stoner' and 'Waltz Time Var.'

Make your list for next year and see if you can get these fine cultivars to the head table. It is always fun to see the year in review — what has won and what has failed to live up to its past popularity. Have fun and enjoy our hobby. Have a great 2014 season. It will be here before you know it

SINGLES

Japonica — Large/Very Large

'Lady Laura'	8
'Junior Prom'	5
'Miss Charleston Var.'	4
'Dusty'	3
'Elegans Champagne'	3
'Carter's Sunburst'	2
'Flowerwood'	2
'Katie Var.'	2
'Kramer's Supreme'	2
Nuccio's Bella Rossa Var.'	2
'Richard Nixon'	2
'Veiled Beauty'	2
14 others with 2 each	

Japonica — Medium

'Happy Harlequin'	5
'Nuccio's Jewel'	4
'Elaine's Betty'	3
'Margaret Davis'	3
'Betty Foy Sanders'	2
'Cherries Jubilee'	2
'Marie'	2
'Nuccio's Carousel'	2
'Wildfire'	2
19 others with 1 each	

Small (Any Species)

'Demi-Tasse'	5
'Spring Daze'	4
'Freedom Bell'	3
'Hishi-Karaito'	3
'Maroon and Gold'	3
'Tama Peacock'	3
'Ellen Daniel'	2
'Red Hots'	2
15 others with 1 each	

Miniature (Any Species)

'Betsy'	3
'Little Slam Var.'	3
'Ann Clayton'	2
'Chris Bergamini'	2
'Grace Albritton'	2
'Lemon Drop'	2
'Little Michael'	2
'Man Size'	2
'Shikibu'	2
'Sweet Jane'	2
7 others with 1 each	

Reticulata and its Hybrids

'Frank Houser'	7
'John Hunt'	6
'Frank Houser Var.'	3
'Crimoline'	2
'Ida Cossom'	2
'Kwan Yuen'	2
'Larry Piet'	2
'Linda Carol'	2
'Miss Tulare'	2
'Sarah Jane'	2

'Sir Robert Muldoon' 2
 'Valentine Day' 2
 19 others with 1 each

Non-Reticulata Hybrid

'Senritsu Ko' 6
 'Waltz Time Var.' 4
 'Angel Wings' 3
 'Buttons 'N Bows' 3
 'Hot Stuff' 3
 'Island Sunset' 3
 'First Blush' 3
 'Lucky Star' 2
 'Nicky Crisp' 2
 'Pink Dahlia' 2
 10 others with 1 each

Species

'Egao' 2
 'Grady's Egao' 2
 'Grandiflora' 2
 'Kanjiro' 2
 3 others with 1 each

MULTIPLES

Japonica

'Happy Harlequin' 6
 'Nuccio's Carousel' 5
 'Ragland Supreme' 4
 'Junior Prom' 3
 'Kramer's Supreme' 3
 'Firedance Var.' 2
 'Haru-No-Utena' 2
 'High Wide 'N Handsome' 2
 'Nuccio's Cameo' 2
 'Rudy' Magnoliaeflora' 2
 'Satsuma' 2
 36 others with 1 each

Miniature/Small

'Freedom Bell' 7
 'Tama Peacock' 6
 'Red Hots' 5
 'Maroon and Gold' 4
 'Hishi-Karaito' 3
 'Lemon Drop' 3
 'Man Size' 2
 'Night Rider' 2
 'Shikibu' 2
 'Tama Electra' 2

'Tama No Ura' 2
 15 others with 1 each

Reticulatas and Its Hybrids

'Frank Houser' 10
 'Cornelian' 3
 'Frank Houser Var.' 2
 'Linda Carol' 2
 'Sir Robert Muldoon' 2
 'Valley Knudsen' 2
 9 others with 1 each

Non-Reticulata Hybrids

'Darleen Stoner' 5
 'Waltz Time Var.' 5
 'Buttons 'N Bows' 2
 'Demure' 2
 'Ki-No-Joman' 2
 'Showboat' 2
 4 others with 1 each

Species

5 with 1 each



Above: 'Freedom Bell'
 Below: 'Maroon and Gold'



WILLIAM ACKERMAN, GENTLEMAN AND SCHOLAR

Article by Bradford King

Photos by Gene Phillips

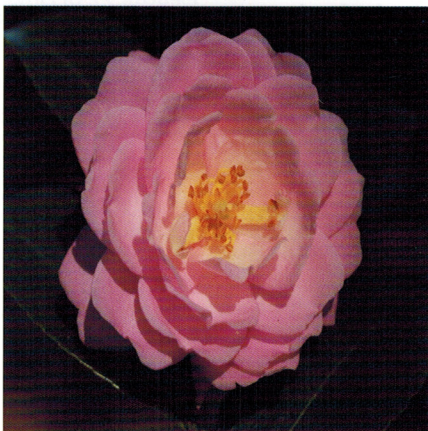
Dr. William Ackerman, a pioneer hybridizer of fragrant and cold hardy camellias, passed away July 6, 2013. It was my pleasure to get to know Bill. His knowledge, skill and enthusiasm inspired me and many others to propagate and breed camellias. I remember a letter he wrote me that he had given up on breeding yellow camellias to concentrate on breeding cold hardy camellias. He gently informed me of the many pitfalls in seeking to breed yellow camellias and ended by saying "I wish you luck, you will need it". He was, of course, correct. He was both a hero and mentor who will be long remembered. His classic camellia book, *Beyond the Camellia Belt*, articulates the breeding, propagating and growing of cold hardy camellias. It is a treasure to have a signed copy.

Bill grew up on a dairy farm in New Jersey. He met his wife Kitty while attending Rutgers University. They were married 64 years. He studied plant genetics at the University of Maryland and received his PhD after writing his thesis on camellias. Camellias were fascinating to him during his long career as an administrator and researcher. He



became one of the pioneers in breeding fragrant camellias. Some of these are 'Fragrant Pink', 'Cinnamon Cindy', 'Fragrant Joy' and 'Cinnamon Scentation' among others.

When Bill was at the U. S. National Arboretum, part of his duties included overseeing the camellia collection. Two



severe cold winters in the late 1970's decimated the 950 camellia collection—only 15 survived. This motivated him to shift gears from breeding fragrance to developing cold hardiness in camellias. In 1962 he purchased a seven and half acre farm in Ashton, Maryland, which proved to be excellent climatically for testing cold hardiness. He continued his breeding program vigorously after retiring in the early 1980's.

He discovered that *C. oleifera* 'Plain Jane' and 'Lu Shan Snow' were cold hardy but of little ornamental value. Therefore, he used these cultivars in making thousands of controlled crosses with many other species and varieties. These seedlings were tested for cold hardiness and ornamental value. This extensive breeding program led him to introduce 51 cold hardy camellias. One of Bill's favorites was 'Ashton Ballet'

(*C. japonica* 'Shikishima' x *C. oleifera* 'Plain Jane'). This two-toned pink, rose formal double bloom, hardy to -10° F is also a beautiful garden camellia. 'Ashton Ballet' is one of his fall and winter blooming cultivars.

The seven 'Ashton' cultivars he introduced all used *C. oleifera* 'Plain Jane' as one of the parents. He also introduced 15 cold hard cultivars with 'Winter' as the first name. This is a very nice way to tell us they are cold hardy.



Bill discovered the existence of an abnormally long chromosome in 'Kurotsubaki' (the black camellia) which is



responsible for the very dark red color of the flowers and the red toned roots. These characteristics were inherited by 'Kuro Delight', one of the most cold hardy of his spring-flowering hybrids.

William Ackerman, Ph.D. will long be remembered as a scholar and gentlemen.

Thank you, Bill.

Opposite page:

Left: 'Cinnamon Scentsation'

Right: 'Ashton's Ballet'

Left: 'Winter's Hope'

Above right: 'Winter's Interlude'

Below: 'Kuro Delight'



WONDERFUL CAMELLIAS FROM JAPAN

Bradford King

There has been a steady flow of wonderful camellias from Japan to America beginning in the eighteen hundreds and continuing to the present. Let's us look at some of the camellias that have found their way to America.

BEGINNINGS

The oldest camellia growing in California is a large, light rose red semi-double flower with broad thick petals that grows on an average spreading *C. japonica* tree. The original plant was purchased by Harlem Cate at Redondo Pier, Los Angeles California in 1888 from a sailor on a Japanese tramp steamer. It was planted on property at Durfee Road, Pico California where it was known as 'Durfee Road'. Ralph Peer bought the plant to add to his camellia collection. Mrs. Peer reported that her husband was planning to purchase her a fine necklace but, when they learned that the 'California' camellia was about to be destroyed, they decided to spend the funds to move the plant to a place of honor at their "Park Hill" home in North Hollywood, California. When Park Hill was sold, 'California' was moved to the Huntington Botanical Garden where it currently resides. It was first introduced to the public under the name 'California' by E. H. Carter, Monterey Park California. (photo below)



One of the earliest and most successful camellia importers was Mr. F. M. Uyematsu, owner and founder of Star Nurseries. The twenty-three year old came to the States in 1904. He imported thousands of camellias from his native Japan to California, his adopted home. He began this importation in 1908 to Figueroa Nursery in Los Angeles and marketed the plants around the city with a horse and buggy. In 1912 he moved to a five-acre lot in Montebello, California, and established a wholesale business he named Star Nursery. He sold thousands of 'Pink Perfection'. Its small pink, perfectly formed formal double blossom made it one of the most popular landscape camellias; we continue to see it in home gardens and camellia shows. This cultivar has been grown since 1875 in California.

Over the years Star Nursery imported hundreds of thousands of camellias. Mr. Uyematsu paid \$.03 for camellias in Japan an addition \$.05 to import them to the United States and sold them for \$.25 by the cart loads. After Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Mr. Uyematsu, along with other Japanese Americans, was faced with internment which meant the loss of his property and business. At that time he had 60 new seedlings worthy of propagation and about 250 cultivars from his 1930 imports. On February 22, 1942, he was visited by two avid camellia collectors, Manchester Boddy, newspaper publisher of Los Angeles, and Charles S. Jones, President of the Richfield Oil Company. Each man wished to buy camellias for their estates in the Los Angeles area of California. Mr. Boddy bought most of the named camellias from the 1930 importation. Mr. Jones got a number of the unnamed seedlings, some of which were in bloom. Mr. Jones numbered this new collection of seedlings some of which were later obtained by Boddy's

Descanso Nursery (now Descanso Gardens). The result is that many of these Star Nursery cultivars were never identified or named. Some were named and distributed by Descanso with Jones' numbers. For example, number S101 is 'Berenice Boddy'; S103 is 'Pride of Descanso'; S194 is 'Mrs. Howard Asper' and S218 is 'Lauren Bacall'. 'Gibson Girl' was never numbered by Mr. Jones, but was released by Descanso in 1947.

Mr. Uyematsu was a major importer, propagator and distributor of camellias in America. This successful and enterprising businessman whose camellia legacy can be found in genes of old and new camellias. This is illustrated by the camellia 'Berenice Boddy' whose genetic background is Japanese. Propagated and introduced by Descanso and Jones from plant material purchased from Star Nursery, this cultivar has been used in many breeding programs including cold hardy camellias bred by Dr. Clifford Parks' 'April' series. Nuccio's Nurseries grew hundreds of 'Berenice Boddy' seedlings and introduced 'Berenice Beauty' and 'Berenice Perfection' in 1965.

Toichi Domoto was another Japanese American who imported camellias from Japan. In 1917 he received a deep red medium to large semidouble flower which he fittingly named 'Flame'. 'Flame Variegated' has white splashes on the red petals which makes the bloom resemble smoke and fire. This



C. japonica 'Flame Variegated'

cultivar is no longer seen in local camellia shows, but it is still one of the best red japonica camellias. It can be seen in older gardens, Descanso Gardens and The Huntington collections.

NUCCIO'S NURSERIES

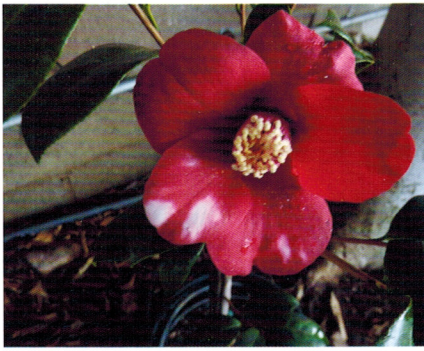
In 1935 Joe and Julius Nuccio founded Nuccio's Nurseries and developed camellia friends and business contacts in Japan. They visited Japan looking for camellias and azaleas to bring back to America. The most famous japonica camellia of these importations was 'Tama No Ura' which was discovered in a remote area of Japan and brought to the United States in 1978.

The Nuccio family propagated and distributed it widely. This perky small bright red bloom with a genetic white border grows vigorously, flowers freely and sets seeds readily making it a great landscape plant and a favorite of camellia breeders. It is the seed parent of nine picote-bordered cultivars introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries. The most popular of these is 'Tama Peacock', a small maroon-toned red flower with a white border.



C. japonica 'Tama Peacock'

The most recent Japanese camellias to be distributed by Nuccio's are 'Fukutsuzumi', 'Koshi No Yoso'oi' and 'Princess Masako'. New foliage on 'Fukutsuzumi', a striking small, very dark red flower with white mottling on the petals, is a lovely amber maroon while the variegated leaves are a rich pumpkin tone. 'Koshi No Yoso'oi' is an



C. japonica 'Fukutsuzumi'



C. japonica 'Koshi-no-Yoshi oi'



C. japonica 'Princess Masako'

elegant small to medium clear pink formal double flower. 'Princess Masako' is an outstanding cultivar with a medium rose form to semidouble white flowers with red stripes and fluted petals and may at times have a fine red edge. Because it resembles a beautiful lotus flower, the Japanese describe this bloom

as semidouble lotus form.

In addition to bringing camellias to America, Nuccio's Nurseries have imported Japanese azaleas. A major achievement is their introduction of Satsuki azaleas to America. "Satsuki", which means "May" in Japanese, describes the blooming period for these beauties. These beautiful late bloomers are treasured in Japan as they make wonderful bonsai. Nuccio's Nurseries offers hundreds of these cultivars. In their azalea breeding program they used 'Koromo Shikibu', a Japanese native azalea with a single lavender flower and narrow well separated spaced petals. This petal trait has provided a few unusual, cluster blooming spider chrysanthemum-like azalea flowers. They are eye catching unique flowers. In 1999 they introduced 'Nuccio's Purple Dragon' which inspired them to call these seedlings "Dragon Azaleas". Currently there are five "Dragon Azalea's." The two newest are 'Nuccio's Bewitched', a large single with a soft orchid pink toned lighter flower with full broad petals that taper to a very narrow base and 'Nuccio's Wicked Witch' which has a large single dark reddish purple flower with narrow well spaced petals.



'Nuccio's Wicked Witch'

COLORS AND FORMS

The black camellia 'Kuro Tsubaki' was introduced in 1896 in Japan and has found adopted homes in America

and New Zealand. Dr. Ackerman used it in his cold hardy breeding program to develop dark red cold hardy camellias like "Kuro Delight". This maroon red medium to large flowering camellia



C. japonica 'Kuro Tsubaki'

can accept temperatures as low as -10°F. In New Zealand, Oz Blumhardt used 'Kuro Tsubaki' to breed the non-reticulata hybrid 'Night Rider' which has become one of the most popular small dark red camellias throughout the camellia world.

A number of new yellow cultivars from Japan are grown in United States, thanks to Kazuo Yoshikawa, a major contributor of Osaka, Japan. He has relentlessly pursued the goal of developing yellow camellias using camellia species *saluenensis*, *reticulata*, *japonica* and *sasanqua* crosses with *C. nitidissima* variety *nitidissima* in numerous combinations. In the United States four of his yellow hybrids are available through Nuccio's Nurseries. They are 'Ki-no-moto #92' (basic yellow #92) a light yellow medium single, 'Ki-no-moto #95' (basic Yellow #95) a light yellow semi double; 'Kogane Nishiki' ("Metallic Gold Fabric") a pale yellow with slender stripes of red inherited from its parent 'Betty Foy Sanders' and 'Kogane Yuri' ("Golden Lily") a creamy white single that blooms profusely up

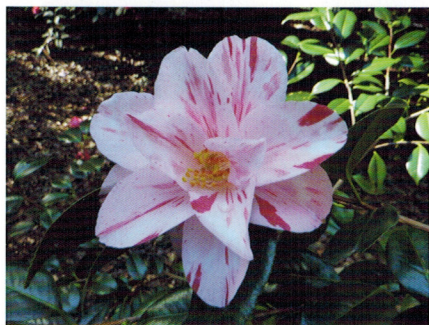
and down its slender stems. While "kogane" means gold in Japanese, these cultivars are more like the color of heavy cream or pale yellow.



C. japonica 'Senritsu-Ko'

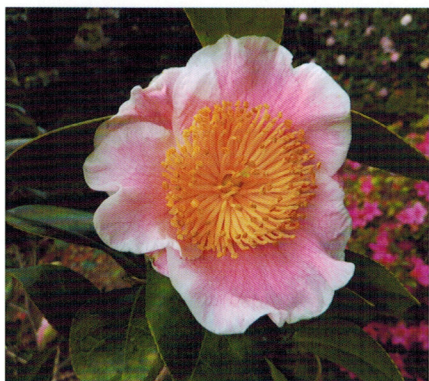
Tadao Yamaguchi of Ishikawa, Japan, is a pioneer hybridizer of yellow camellias and in 1989 introduced 'Shoko' which means "First Yellow." This light yellow, small single flower was followed by three other pale yellow hybrids. 'Kicho' ("Sweet Yellow Tune"), a small tubular single, 'Kiho' ("Yellow Phoenix"), a small to medium single tubular with wavy petals, and 'Ki-No-Gozan' (The Presence of Yellow"), a cup-shaped small to medium single bloom. Two of his best yellow hybrids were introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries in 2007. 'Ki-No-Senritsu' ("Yellow Melody"), a lovely peony to loose peony flower, thrives in deep shade where it grows moderately fast but is a shy bloomer. 'Senritsu-Ko' ("Pinkish Melody") has beautiful small to medium formal to rose form flowers which have light yellow petals with peach pink edges. It grows moderately fast in an upright, open growth pattern and sets multiple buds and flowers in mid-season. In Southern California 'Senritsu-Ko' produces many more rose form flowers than formal double. It, too, prefers more shade than a typical japonica.

There are dozens of other japonica cultivars originating in Japan that have found homes in America. Two cultivars that continue to be popular show flowers that arrived from Japan many years ago are 'Hishi Karito', a small semi-double soft pink flower with a fountain of white petaloids in the center, and 'Haru No Utena', a medium white or pink-toned tubular single flower with pink and red stripes on the petals that stand up making it a very perky flower.



C. japonica 'Haru-N-Utena'

HIGO CAMELLIAS

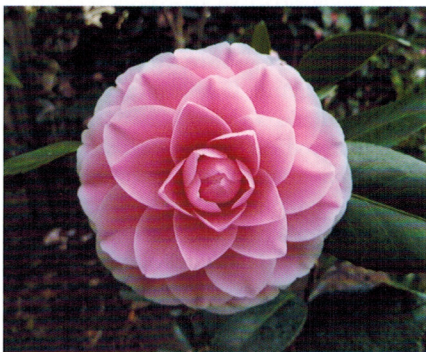


C. japonica 'Mikuni No Homare'

One very important style of japonica that has its roots in Japan is the "Higo" camellia. This class of camellias originated in the Province of Higo, now called Kumamoto. Generally they have

single irregular almost triangle-shaped flowers with thick, round, broad petals with a center full of stamens formed like the spokes of a wheel. The flower may be irregular and flat, but a quality Higo bloom has a perfectly round central mass of upright stamens. They have a range of beautiful bright colored flowers some of which bear white markings which are indicative of viral variegation which usually is not uniform. This lack of uniformity is not seen as a problem in Japan where the focus is on the stamens and the five, round, broad bright colored petals. Although there are approximately 150 different Higo cultivars in Japan, only a few dozen are grown in America.

THE FUTURE

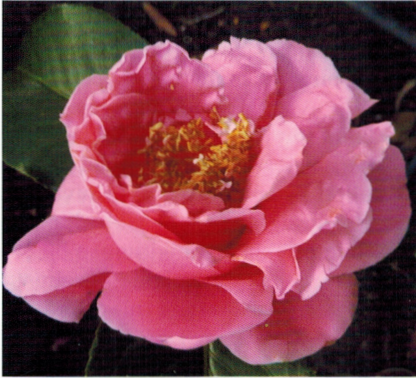


C. japonica 'Mahoroba'

What can we expect in the future from Japan? Many beautiful camellias are being hybridized, but which ones will make it to America? Recently I was fortunate to see a flowering japonica "Mahoroba" ("Excellent Country"). It has a beautiful delicate pink formal double flower with white edges on its petals. It was developed in Saitama, Japan in 2007 by Sosinn Hirai. This one looks like a winner, but only time will tell.

In America we have only just begun to have access to some of the camellia

species from South East Asia such as *C. azalea* from China and *C. amplexicaulis* from Vietnam. These two species are now propagated and available at Nucio's Nurseries. However, growers in Asian countries have had opportunities to use these species in their breeding programs for a number of years. There-



fore, we can expect to see new hybrid seedlings from Asia. A good example is 'Etsu-botan', (above) a 2005 hybrid of *C. amplexicaulis* and 'Tama Americana' bred by Satie Hisatomu from Kurum Hukuoka, Japan. The bud resembles *C. amplexicaulis* except it is pretty and pink and takes a long time to open just like *C. amplexicaulis*. The large lovely pink loose peony flower is beautiful. It is interesting that the genetic white border of 'Tama Americana' and the very thin line of white that edges the petals of *C. amplexicaulis* are missing, but there is some shading to lighter pink on the petal edges with some central light pink to white petaloids. The petals are



thicker than most japonica flowers but not as thick and waxy as *C. amplexicaulis*. (Above) It is a heavy flower with petals numbering around 30. The foliage, however clearly shows the cross is valid. The leaves are larger than a japonica but smaller than *C. amplexicaulis* yet similar in texture and shape to *C. amplexicaulis*.

CONCLUSION

In the past exchange of plant material between Japan and the USA was inhibited by lack of information, language and transportation problems. Today we are mostly inhibited by strict agricultural regulations to protect food crops. However, with more cultural exchanges and people traveling between Japan and America, we are optimistic that we will see more beautiful Japanese "original" in local gardens and shows.

Take time

Take time to think, it is the source of power.

Take time to play, it is the secret of youth.

Take time to read, it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to pray, it is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to love and be loved, it is a God-given privilege.

Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul.

Take time to work, it is the price of success.

— Author unknown

To Gib, That is the Answer

Sergio Bracci

Camellia Review, Vol. 35, no. 4 Feb. 1974

Let me begin by telling you something about myself. I am married, with three children, have a good job, and good friends.

I believe in law and order, women's rights, and the sanctity of the home. Sounds pretty average, doesn't it? Well, I have a deep, dark secret to tell you about myself. I gib. Not only do I gib, but my wife also gibs. Now wipe that look of horror off your face, and I will explain how I slipped into this deplorable state

First of all, when I attended my first camellia show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum I did not have the foggiest notion that gibberellic acid even existed. As my wife and I wandered up and down the aisles, we came upon this table containing the most magnificent blooms we had ever seen in our lives. As I gazed spellbound at those exotic flowers, my eyes fell upon a sign saying that these blooms had been treated. Treated with what? I had to know and, seeking out the show personnel, I came upon one Grady Perigan, President of the Temple City Camellia Society, who started me down the road of degeneration. He invited us to attend the next meeting of the Temple City Camellia Society and we were hooked.

Now enters one of the most sinister persons in this tale of woe. I was introduced to a charming gentleman by the name of Mel Gum, who lived a few short blocks from my home. He was very informative and I was quite taken by his kindness. Alas, my friends, do not be misled as I was by this air of benevolence, for behind that cherubic face and gallant façade lies the soul of a Fagin. For it was Mel Gum who introduced us to the sweet delights of the needle. But is this all a horrendous plot or just a bit of kindness by some

very good camellia people who wanted to see us enjoy our newfound hobby to the fullest? Let us examine the facts.

Question: Does gibbing harm camellia plants.

No, according to Mel Gum, who has been gibbing for more than a decade. He was quite frank with me when I asked him this question and told me of an experiment he had performed on a five gallon size plant of 'Miss Universe'. For three straight years he gibbed every bud on this plant without a bit of damage and today the plant is a robust eight footer. Next, I asked this question of Grady Perigan, Lee Gaeta and Bill Goertz of the Southern California Camellia Society. None of these excellent growers had ever experienced any damage to their plants. Clearly there was no proof here in Southern California. So, Son Hackney of Charlotte, North Carolina, was contacted, and the question was put to him. He also reported that he experienced no harm to his plants, and he has an extensive collection . . . San Leandro Nursery had been growing camellias for many years in Monrovia, California, and selling flowers and foliage to the flower markets in the East. They have thousands of full size plants of 'Debutante', 'Alba Pena', 'Professor Sergeant' and 'Glen 40' of which they gib 40 to 50 buds per plant for the flower trade. These plants show no harm at all after ten years of gibbing.

Question: Does gibbing distort flowers?

Well, I read in a recent article in the "Review" a statement to the effect that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. That is quite true and to me, nothing is more beautiful than a magnificent gibbed 'Clark Hubbs', which without

gib is not worth yard space. I feel gib deepens the color of 'Elsie Jury' and makes 'Tom Knudsen' and 'Judge Ragland' into highly desirable plants. As the late Al Gunn, who many considered to be one of the finest camellia judges, remarked at a recent judges' symposium, 'Valley Knudsen' becomes truly a show flower when gibbed.

Question: Are we misleading the public at our shows?

In my opinion, any organization or society that specializes in the growing of a particular flower will grow that flower better than the general public can. I purchased a 'Mr. Lincoln' rose bush after seeing one in a Pacific Rose Society Show and the blooms I grew were not even remotely close in appearance to the ones in the show.

Treated flowers in our shows are clearly marked as such and, when someone asks for information on gibbing, you have your "foot in the door," so to speak, and you can try to get a new member. As climate and location are big factors in growing camellia flower forms, are we deceiving the public when they see a 'Guilio Nuccio' which, in the moist atmosphere of the Coast, produces four large rabbit ears, or the 'R. L. Wheeler' which has a different form coming from the North? These varieties grown in the hot interior valleys of Southern California have about as much style as a stove lid.

In summation, I would like to add that the use of gib has been a real shot in the arm to our hobby. In the Southern part of the United States it has been the salvation of the hobby which, due to the cold weather they experience in the early spring, was in dire straits. It has extended the blooming period of our plants and made our season longer. Far from discouraging new members, it has put these new hobbyists who have few plants on a par with older growers. Anyone can gib a bud and produce a winner. I speak from experience. In our

hobby, competition adds spice to our meetings and shows and early blooms are assured by gibbing. Respect my right to gib and I will respect yours not to.



Editor's note: Sergio and his wife Elsie have world-wide camellia friends. Southern California hobbyists know them as "fierce" but extremely friendly competitors. I'm sure that every camellia hobbyist in California, in several other states and other countries have been wined and dined in their beautiful garden. Two of Sergio's favorite blooms are 'Linda Carol' and 'Elegans Champagne' and, when gibbed, are breathtaking!

A NEW BEETLE PROBLEM

Bradford King

This new threat to trees is the *Polyphagous* Shot Hole Borer. It was first observed in a trap at Whittier Narrows in 2013. It has spread to Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange counties. The name "Polyphagous" means many plants because it attacks a wide range of trees (200 species). The beetle is smaller than a grain of rice so it is very unlikely that we will see it even when it is present. The entrance hole is minute but overtime usually shows an oily dark stain around it. In avocados a white sugar like substance is usually present around the entrance hole. The Shot Hole Borer infects trees with a fungus when it drills into wood. The beetle itself can't digest wood so it feeds on the fungus. The beetle and fungus have a symbiotic relationship. When the beetle burrows into the tree, it inoculates the host plant with the fungus. The fungus attacks the vascular tissue of the tree which brings water and nutrients from the roots to the rest of the tree eventually causing branch dieback and over time death to the tree. The beetle larvae live in galleries within the tree and feed on the fungus.

When this beetle drills into a tree there are three possible outcomes. One, is the beetle is repelled with no infection. Studies have found 20 species of tree that don't become infected. Scientists are seeking to find out what features of these trees help them repel the beetle. Two, the beetle drills into the tree transmits the fungus but the

beetle doesn't reproduce. This happens in more than 50 % of species attacked. This may cause dieback of branches or make the tree prone to other insect damage. Three, the beetle drills into the tree, fungus infects the tree and the beetle reproduces. These trees are conceded the true hosts which to date has been observed in about 8 % of the species of trees. This includes Avocado, Coastal Live Oak, Box Elder, California Sycamore and plants like Castor Bean and Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven). Some trees seem to suffer mild symptoms like branch die-back, while others are killed outright. The beetle has been observed in Camellias but it is not believed to be a favorite host.

This beetle and its fungus are a substantial threat to forests and the avocado industry. In Israel avocado trees have been greatly impacted so the beetle has been under investigation for three years. Research has just begun in California with the La County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, and The Huntington assisting Cal State Riverside scientists. To date there are no known ways to control the beetle or damage to infected trees. It is known that transporting infected trees as fire wood can spread the beetles.

Editor's note: Check out the website <http://www.wrightwoodcalif.com/forum/> for more information.

* * *

In 1977 an anonymous person wrote "Nowadays you probably feel people talk more than they listen. But if you really want to get someone's attention, just mention one of 12 little words: SAVE, MONEY, YOU, NEW, HEALTH, RESULTS, EASY, SAFETY, LOVE, DISCOVERY, PROVEN and GUARANTEE."

What are today's 12 words?

THOUGHTS ABOUT CAMELLIA SEEDS

In October 1973 Harold Dryden, in his role as Editor of *Camellia Review*, had some interesting comments to make about growing seeds. Here are his thoughts:

"In the months ahead, many of us will be faced with decisions of what to do with seedlings that are good and pleasant to look at but not good enough to give a name and register. I have one that first bloomed in 1955. It is a reticulate with good red color but so far has not been large enough to complete with such as 'William Hertrick'. ...

The question of what to do with seedlings that are "not good enough" was put to me recently by a friend who has several of them. It had been suggested to him that he donate them to a plant sale for the benefit of a worthy cause. This suggestion has merit at first blush, as has the suggestions that they be given to people with small gardens who are interested only in garden flowers. The flowers that I am writing about including mine, would all add quality to most small gardens.

I believe that people who are deep in the camellia hobby should forget their innermost feelings in such cases and should base their decisions on the possibility that the pretty flowers will find their way into the camellia market not necessarily through nurseries but through the gifts of slips that is so common among gardeners. The biggest problems in camellias among the hard-core amateurs is in flooding ourselves with more named varieties, most of which are almost indistinguishable from others in circulation. I believe that we who are most closely related to the situation should recognize and accept it, and that we should be particularly selective with regard to the seedlings that we develop, whether by chance or by planned hybridizing.

This sounds hard-boiled and maybe it is. A few seedling growers have room in their own gardens for these flowers particularly if the foliage is good and the color will add beauty to a spot in the garden. Most of us however do not have such space. In my own case, I shall cut it off if this year's flowers do not attain 5 inches. If they reach 5 inches I shall study them carefully to see if they are sufficiently different from existing varieties that they will add something to what we now have. In this latter contingency I shall consult others who are at least as knowledgeable in camellias as I am. If it is the consensus that it adds nothing, off goes its head. If it adds something, we shall have a good new red variety of reticulate hybrid.

I believe that in this way I shall be making my contribution to the pleasure that others will derive from this hobby of camellias. To me, this is more than important than adding to the pleasure that some person would receive if I should give him a "not good enough" seedling for his garden.

Editor's note from 2013: But what about the small pinks or whites or medium pinks, reds and white? Even though husband Mel's favorites have been those reticulatas that are bigger and redder than the others, my favorites have been the sweetness of some of those small pinks. Good thing we all have different favorites! See page 20 for the Belcher favorites!

Father to teen-agers: "You should run for Congress. You're terrific at introducing all types of new bills into the house."



'Harold L. Paige'



'Hishi-Karaito'

RAPID COMPOST

Gene Snooks

Editor's note: This is a resume of a talk given by Dr. Robert Raabe at the 1979 Camellia-Rama and printed in the San Diego Camellia Society Bulletin by Gene and reprinted here.

... Dr. Robert Raabe, U.C. Davis, reported on a rapid method of making compost which should be of interest to all of us living in the adobe soils area. By this technique, it is possible to produce fully useful compost in as little as two weeks though most of us will require a bit more time than that.

Several criteria must be met if the method is to be successful but they are easy and, even if the ideal conditions are not met, it simply means that the time required before use is lengthened. The first requirement is that the carbon/nitrogen ratio should be 30:1. Simply stated this means that you must apply 1# of nitrogen of most any source for every 30# of composting material. The material used for composting should be about half dry material such as dropped leaves, old dry grass, straw or even sawdust. The other half is composed of green material. This does not mean freshly cut grass or the

like for, if these are used, they should be slightly dried before being incorporated. The term "green" means that the material has been recently alive. Some truly live material such as kitchen scraps or gleans from the garden can be included. All material should be chopped fine — the finer, the better.

The dry and green materials are blended with the nitrogen fertilizer and about 50% of the weight of water is added. For best results, the composting should be carried out in a bin of some sort rather than by open stacking. The minimum size of such a bin is 32" and a cubic yard of material is considered to be a minimum also. These conditions should provide the high temperatures, 150°-160°F required for rapid microbial action.

The compost must be turned often for best results. Daily turning will result in composting in two weeks . . . weekly turning in 6-8 weeks. The turnings help to avoid very high temperatures which kill the bacteria, aid in the incorporation of oxygen and help to release the ammonia which builds up and would tend to make the compost alkaline.

ROOTING CUTTINGS

Richard M. Klein

Camellia Review Vol. 43, No. 5

Correct conditions of heat, light and moisture encourage a plant cell to express its entire potential and become a whole new plant.

Gardeners have been rooting cutting for centuries, but the theoretical basis was established only in 1911 by Gottlieb Haberlandt, a German botanist, who concluded that all living plants cells were totipotent, capable – as are fertilized eggs – of growing into an entire plant. In contrast to animals, whose totipotency is soon lost, cells from even a 3,000 year old redwood can develop into new trees. Rooting is vegetative propagation – cloning – and establishment of cuttings is important in maintaining genetic uniformity in plant populations.

The trick is to have cells in an environment where totipotency can express itself. In stems, the most responsive cells are those of the cambium, that cell layer from which wood and bast cells are derived.

When freed from the restraints imposed by other cells, cambium will divide rapidly to form a mass of almost uniform cells called a callus, or rooting pad. Within this mass, some cells begin to change, differentiating into a whorl or nest of cells, which organized into a root tip and, by dividing and elongating, initiate a root.

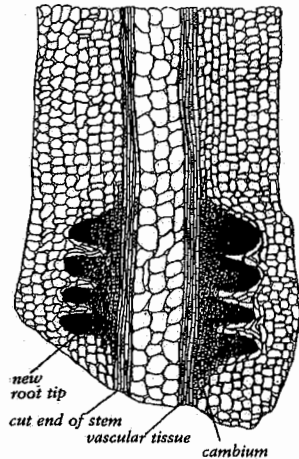
When you think about it, instructions for rooting cuttings are obvious. Because cuttings lack a root system, almost no water uptake occurs and provisions must be made to prevent cells from drying out. This is accomplished by enclosing the cuttings in an envelope of water-saturated air as in a misting chamber, or by placing a plastic bag over the cuttings in their container. Because the leaves and green herbaceous stems carry on photosynthesis and supply the sugar needed for cell activities, light is required. Heat, however increases water

loss and light should be diffuse most cuttings root poorly in direct sunlight. Mild heat to the cut ends speeds up callus pad formation and this is the reason for heat cables in rooting beds.

Plant cell divisions, elongations and differentiations are regulated by plant hormones. These hormones, normally derived from young leaves and stem tips, flow down the stems and regulate cambial cell activity. Higher-than-normal hormone concentrations shift cambial activity from wood cells formation to the rapid proliferation that results in a callus pad.

Elevated hormone levels can be provided by the gardener. The commercial rooting powders that are available contain hormones, fungicides and talcum powder as a carrier and sticker. Because woody plant stems require higher concentrations of hormones than do herbaceous cutting, rooting powders come in several strengths.

The plant's stage of development is an important influence on rooting



ability. Plants that are in flower or bearing fruit usually root poorly because hormones from these organs tend to repress callus cell formation. Plants

entering dormancy have already shut down their cell division processes and also root sporadically.

Many hardwood stems require a chill before the cambium can be reactivated. Such stems are usually gathered in late autumn and stored

at temperatures close to freezing for several months, after which they can be rooted fairly easily. Alternatively, they can be taken in late winter when dormancy and chill requirements have been fulfilled.

JUST WONDERING . . .

In the *Camellia Review*, Vol. 43, No. 6, August, 1982, there was this bit of information:

“Speaking of budgets and billions . . .

Ever have trouble envisioning how much a billion of anything really is? Well, perhaps the following will help put it in perspective:

- a billion seconds ago, Harry Truman was President of the United States.
- a billion minutes ago was just after the time of Christ
- a billion hours ago, man had not yet walked upon the earth
- a billion dollars ago was late yesterday at the U. S. Treasury.”

In 2013 we are hearing about debt in the trillions. Is there someone out there who would like to make comments about trillions these 30+ years later? How many zeros in a trillion??



Are your hiemalis blooming? Do you have this beauty?

‘Showa-Supreme’

Photo by Yuri Panchul

Do you have the “Sun Camellias” book?

Supplement to the 2014 Camellia Nomenclature

Species Japonica – New & Corrected

GORDY'S PRETTY LADY – Clear Pink. Large to very large, semidouble to loose peony form with soft Yellow stamens. Average, open and upright growth. E-L. (Previously invalidly named Japonica 'Pretty Lady'). (U.S. 2005 – Gordy).

SUE KENDALL – Medium Pink. Miniature, formal double. Vigorous, open, upright growth. E-L. (U.S. 1998 – D. Kendall, Modesto, CA).

Species Japonica – Inadvertently Omitted

WISHING STAR – Light Pink. Medium to large, semidouble to anemone form with star-shaped outer petals. Vigorous, compact, upright growth. M. (U.S. 1958 – McCaskill).

WITCH DOCTOR – Rose Red. Large, semidouble to rose form double. Average, compact growth. E-M. (U.S. 1960 – G. Demetropolis, Mobile, AL).

WITMAN YELLOW – White tinged Yellow. Medium, semidouble. Average, upright growth. M. (U.S. 1963 – Witman).

WOBBY BOY – White, flecked and blotched light Pink, shading to darker Pink. Medium, semidouble. Average, compact, upright growth. M-L. (U.S. 1983 – W. Herbert, Ruston, LA).

WONDER CHILD – See 'Betty Sheffield Blush'.

WONDERLAND – Brilliant, deep Rose. Large, semidouble to peony form. Vigorous, open growth. M-L. (U.S. 1960 – Short).

WONDER OF WHITE – White. Medium formal double. Vigorous, upright growth. E-M. (U.S. 2002 – Gordon E. Eade, Pensacola, FL).

WOOD SPRITE – Blush Pink. Small, semidouble. Vigorous, bushy, upright growth. M. (U.S. 1959 – McCaskill).

Species Sasanqua – New & Corrected

LAURA CLAIRE – Incorrectly classified as a Sasanqua and Japonica in the 2006, 2009 and 2014 Camellia Nomenclatures. It is a Japonica only.

Notes

DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB & CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Kathleen Hill, 2419 Koehn Court, Atwater 95301 (209) 357-0782. Meetings 3rd Tuesday, September - June, 6:30 p.m. St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, 1635 Shaffer Road, Atwater

KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President – Susan Stull; Secretary – Libbie Stull, 406 Vista Verde Way, Bakersfield 93309. For meeting dates and times call Helen Maas (661) 872-2188.

MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President – Sharon Adams; Secretary – Marvin Bort. Meetings: 2nd Sunday, October - April. 1:30-4:40, 7th Day Adventist Church, G & 16th Street, Modesto.

NAPA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Nancy McGowen Russell; Secretary – Fran Kane, fkane@sonicnet. Meetings: 2nd Monday, September - May, Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Robert Ehrhart; Secretary – Mary Bergamini, 2023 Huntridge Ct., Martinez 94553. Meetings: 1st Monday, November - April, 7:00 pm. 1st Baptist Church, 2336 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. December and May are dinner meetings.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – George Harrison. Meetings: 1st Thursday November - April, 7:00 p.m., Descanso Gardens, La Canada

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Mel Belcher; Secretary – Don Gray, d.mgray@verizon.net. Meetings 2nd Thursday, November - April, 7:00 p.m. La Verne Community Center, 3680 "D" Street, La Verne.

SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President – Carol Schanz; Secretary – Joan Lesmeister 4512 Marble Way, Carmichael 95608. Meetings: 4th Monday, October – March, 7:00 p.m. Lutheran Church of the Master, 1900 Potrero Way, Sacramento.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Dean Turney, buydean@juno.com Meetings: 3rd Wednesday November – April 7:30 p.m. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: PRESIDENT – Caroline Beverstock; Secretary – Linda Kancev, 1514 S. Delaware, San Mateo. Meetings: 4th Monday, October – March, Veterans' Memorial Bldg Annex, Madison Street, Redwood City.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC., CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President – John Mendoza; Secretary – Philliopa Alvis, pandjalvis@verizon.net. Meetings 3rd Wednesday, October – April, 7:30 p.m., Jameson Brown House, at Triton Museum Grounds, 1507 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President – Bradford King; Secretary – Bobbie Belcher, 2531 2nd Street, La Verne 91750, bobbiebelcher@gmail.com. Meetings: 4th Thursday October – April, 7:00 pm., Palm Room, LA County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Meeting is 3rd Thursday in November. No meeting in December.

