

# *Northern California Camellia Society, Inc.*

A Non-Profit Organization

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OFFICIAL BULLETIN

October, 1950



*Campbell Ashley*

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Courtesy JAMES RARE PLANT NURSERY, Hiway 17 at Union, Campbell, California.  
Photo by Herbert V. Mitchell, Walnut Creek.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.****ROSTER OF OFFICERS****PRESIDENT:**

Gordon W. Richmond, M.D. (Beacon 2-1576)  
475 Mount St., Richmond

**VICE-PRESIDENT-TREASURER:**

Barlow W. S. Hollingshead (Orinda 2054)  
12 La Cintilla Ave., Orinda 2

**SECRETARY:**

Bruce Harless (LA 5-8218)  
1301 Stannage Ave., Berkeley

**BULLETIN EDITOR:**

Mrs. Barlow Hollingshead (Orinda 2054)  
12 La Cintilla Ave., Orinda 2

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:****ARRANGEMENTS:**

Mrs. Carl B. Bowen (GL 1-0979)  
225 Montecito Ave., Oakland

**AWARDS:**

David L. Feathers (Orinda 2171)  
1 Camellia Lane, Lafayette 1

**BLOOM DISPLAY:**

Donald K. Staples (KE 4-4937)  
2811 Morcom Ave., Oakland 2

**BOOK SALES:**

Mrs. Barlow Hollingshead (Orinda 2054)  
12 La Cintilla Ave., Orinda 2

**CULTURAL EXPERIMENTATION:**

Walker M. Wells, M.D. (HU 3-0951)  
133 Hagar St., Piedmont

**GARDEN TOURS:**

P. J. Ferrarese  
49 Reservoir Road, San Rafael

**HOSTESS:**

Mrs. H. G. Sanders (KE 3-2211)  
4138 Eastlake Ave., Oakland 2

**LAKESIDE PARK CAMELLIA PLANTING:**

O. E. Hopfer (AN 1-5737)  
1872 Brentwood Road, Oakland

**DIRECTORS:**

John Paul Edwards (GL 1-1854)  
1347 Trestle Glen Road, Oakland  
P. J. Ferrarese  
49 Reservoir Rd., San Rafael  
David L. Feathers (Orinda 2171)  
1 Camellia Lane, Lafayette 1  
Mrs. H. G. Sanders (KE 3-2211)  
4138 Eastlake Ave., Oakland 2

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Fred E. Heitman, D.D.S. (HU 3-4577)  
5833 Patton St., Oakland 18

**NOMENCLATURE AND CLASSIFICATION:**

Barlow Hollingshead (Orinda 2054)  
12 La Cintilla Ave., Orinda 2

**PROGRAM:**

John Paul Edwards (GL 1-1854)  
1347 Trestle Glen Rd., Oakland

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

Jack Osegueda (PI 5-9555M)  
6819 Pinehaven Rd., Oakland

**RECEPTION:**

Will Crocket (OL 2-1391)  
40 Arbor Drive, Piedmont

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:**

Mrs. Will Crocket (OL 2-1391)  
40 Arbor Drive, Piedmont

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Gordon W. Richmond M.D. (Beacon 2-1576)  
John Paul Edwards (GL 1-1854)  
Barlow Hollingshead (Orinda 2054)  
Herbert V. Mitchell  
Harold L. Paige (OL 2-5040)

The Northern California Camellia Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization of camellia fanciers interested in the culture, propagation, and development of camellias. Meetings are held on the first Monday in each month from October to May inclusive, at 8 p.m., at the Chabot School Auditorium, Oakland. Membership is open to all those with a serious interest in the subject. Annual Dues \$5.00. Membership application blanks may be obtained from Bruce Harless, Secretary, 1301 Stannage Avenue, Berkeley.

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**COVER ILLUSTRATION**

**CAMPBELL ASHLEY.** Rich dark red, semi-double to loosely constructed incomplete double, with petals of crepe-like texture. Petaloids intermingled with stamens. Vigorous, upright growth. Origin: Middleton Place, Charleston, South Carolina. Magnolia Gardens consider this one of the finest reds to come on the market in recent years.

## BRITISH CAMELLIAS

By Ralph S. Peer, Los Angeles

England is again awakening to the charm of our favorite flower. This season most nurseries are, for the first time since 1938, offering full stocks of camellias and owners of new homes can now become addicts. Camellias thrive out-of-doors south and west of the Thames and along the west coast to North Wales.

During March and April, 1950, Mrs. Peer and I visited many important gardens in this part of England and became acquainted with British connoisseurs. The old estates filled with camellia trees, and the people who have maintained them in the face of great odds, are not duplicated elsewhere. It is from this solid core that any new wave of British camellia enthusiasm must start.

Soon after arriving we flew to the Channel Islands which lie close to the French coast not far from Le Havre. Guernsey, one of these islands, is world famous as the home of the Guernsey cattle, but few outsiders know that it also furnished *C. Lady Van Sittart* to our western world and *reticulatas* to the U. S. A. About 100 years ago, the Caledonia Nursery imported camellias direct from Japan. Unable to read the labels they gave local names to several new varieties, one of which became *Lady Van Sittart*.

In 1931, Mr. W. Coe purchased many plants from the Caledonia Nursery and grew them successfully in greenhouses on his Long Island, New York, estate. Amongst the lot was *reticulata*. Scions from this source were the parents of practically all *reticulatas* in this country.

Guernsey has an ideal camellia climate—constant moisture from the Atlantic and freedom from frosts cause the plants to develop rapidly with-

out special watering or other attention. Almost every front yard has several old camellia trees.

At the Caledonia Nursery (still operated by descendants of Mr. C. Smith, the founder) we saw the parent trees of *Lady Van Sittart* and pink *Lady Van Sittart*. Several little-known varieties interested us, particularly Professor Phillip and *Lady de Vere*. We also "discovered" a beautiful white variety—*C. Pendulus*—which has such strong "weeping" habits of growth that after 100 years it is only six feet in height. We remembered that this same variety grows, unnamed, in the Southern California Camellia Gardens (Huntington Gardens) at San Marino. An old *Pendulus* at the Caledonia Nursery growing on top of a standard about four feet high is very effective.

The ancient gardens of Cornwall (southwestern tip of England) were thrown open during the last week of March, to a party of fifty persons selected by the Royal Horticultural Society. We were the only non-resident Americans in this group. The Hotel Falmouth, facing directly on the ocean at Falmouth, was selected as headquarters, and large buses were provided to take us to the old estates in this region. So great was the interest of these horticulturists in viewing the fabulous camellias, magnolias and other Asiatic plants that an old British tradition was forsaken. We had a "tight" schedule and during the entire week never stopped once for "afternoon tea"!

The most interesting camellias in this section are at Caerhays Castle where, in 1927 and 1928, Mr. J. C. Williams planted many seeds sent from Yunnan, China, by the plant collector, Forrest. Amongst the lot were many then unknown species—*C. saluenensis*, *C. cuspidata*, *C. taliensis*, *C. reticulata* (wild form) and several

Mr. Ralph S. Peer, who is a member of the N.C.C.S., is President of the Los Angeles Camellia Society, whose membership comes mainly from Beverly Hills, Brentwood, and West Los Angeles.

theas. Mr. Williams crossed *saluenensis* and *japonica* (*Alba Simplex*) obtaining a series of hybrids now known as "Williamsii." The best of the lot was named C. J. C. Williams and the very large parent plant now grows near the Castle gate.

All *C. Williamsii* are quite hardy but their great virtue is that the many medium-size, single pink blossoms last for a long time without shattering and then fall quickly to the ground—there is no need to pick off dead flowers. The flowering season is three months.

Crossing *C. saluenensis* and *C. cuspidata*, Mr. Williams obtained *C. Cornish Snow* which is extremely floriferous. The blossoms are small, single and pure white. A flowering tree of *Cornish Snow* reminds one of a white cloud. Many of the seedling *reticulatas* bore large single flowers ranging in color from dark pink to a beautiful and unusual salmon pink.

At Trewithen, the estate of George Johnstone, Esq., we found *C. Donation*, a beautiful hybrid obtained by crossing *saluenensis* and *Donckelari*. *C. Donation* (originated at Borde Hill, near London) is a large double pink of unusually fine color.

*Japonicas* from 50 to 100 years old and fifteen to thirty feet high are common in *Cornish* gardens. An outstanding discovery was a *reticulata* tree twenty-six feet high and with a spread of thirty-five feet covered with hundreds of blossoms. On the estate of Viscount Falmouth large areas are covered by "forests" of *japonica* trees, with an occasional *reticulata*. Some trees have been cut down recently

because the lush growth had interfered with landscaping plans. The varieties are those popular one hundred years ago — *Alba Plena*, *Donckelari*, *Chandleri*, *Lady Clare* predominated.

Returning to London, we attended the meetings of the *Camellia and Magnolia Conference* of the *Royal Horticultural Society*. The most interesting paper was read by Dr. T. T. Yu, head of the Department of Botany of the University of Yunnan, Kunming, China. He gave full information about the garden varieties of *C. reticulata* which have only recently reached the Western World.

We visited Windsor Great Park where there are many old *camellia* trees. The Deputy Ranger of this royal preserve, E. H. Saville, Esq., presented us with a small plant of their "Pink and White No. 14"—a most attractive semi-double—which we were able to bring home as baggage.

At Wisley we were amazed by the fine gardens developed by the *Royal Horticultural Society* for the use of its membership. A school is maintained here to train young men as horticulturists. Amongst the many *camellia* specimens, we noted especially the hybrid *C. Inamorata* developed by the Curator, Mr. F. E. W. Hanger. It is thought to be a cross of *reticulata* and *saluenensis*.

One's reaction after seeing British *camellias* is that the U.S.A. is tops in the *camellia* world. Our debt to England, however, is very great—what a wonderful repayment could be made by sending quantities of scions of the best American varieties! A movement is now being organized to carry out this idea.

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#### BUTTERFIELD PUBLICATION

Circular #164, "Camellia Culture in California," by Prof. H. M. Butterfield, may be obtained from Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, Berkeley, California.

## QUEST FOR RETICULATAS

Camellia literature during the past hundred years has referred now and then to *reticulatas* which have never been seen in the Western world. In a search through literature for new species and varieties, begun in February 1945, Dr. Walter E. Lammerts of Descanso Distributors, Inc. of La Canada, California, found no less than 80 species described. By April, 1945, the descriptions of these species, including *reticulatas*, were assembled.

In the autumn of 1946, Dr. Lammerts began corresponding with Chinese botanists, and in July, 1947, had the thrill of receiving a letter from Dr. H. H. Hu of the Fan Memorial Institute of Biology, Peiping, as follows:

*"Your letter of April 16th duly received. Yunnan Province is famous for its numerous varieties of C. reticulata. These are obtainable in Kunming, capitol of that province. I suggest you write Prof. T. T. Yu for more information as he is in charge of the Yunnan Botanical Institute at Black Dragon Pool, Kunming. Only transportation is difficult in the interior of China at present time; it may be very expensive to procure cuttings or seeds of the Camellia. Camellia heterophylla is surely very interesting and beautiful species, but as it is found only in a temple in a distant district I think it may not be easy to procure it.*

*Sincerely,*

*H. H. Hu, Director."*

After writing Professor Yu, months elapsed and no reply. But finally, on January 6, 1948, Dr. Lammerts received a letter from Professor Yu's colleague, Prof. H. T. Tsai, as follows:

*"Your kind letter received. The cultivated camellias in Yunnan are all belonging to C. reticulata. It bears flower 5 to 8 inches in diameter. C. reticulata is in*

*tree form, really blooms to make magnificent and fiery scene from November to May. C. reticulata has more than 20 varieties. And all the varieties are to be propagated only by grafting on C. japonica stocks. Cutting method will not be successful. Seedling only produce single flower.*

*Very sincerely,  
H. T. Tsai."*

After much negotiation, Dr. Lammerts arranged for shipment of 20 varieties of *C. reticulata*, in original pots, by air express from Kunming to San Francisco, by Pan American Airlines, at a cost of \$1,067.34.

Dr. and Mrs. Lammerts drove up to San Francisco in panel delivery to receive the precious cargo. The plane was late, but finally arrived and landed Monday, March 13, 1948, at 9 p.m. Dr. Lammerts experienced something similar to stage fright when the two crates of camellias were unloaded on the receiving dock. Fearful that after all, the plants might be *C. japonica*.

The previous day, the Lammerts had obtained from the plant in Strawberry Canyon, University of California, Berkeley, leaves from *C. reticulata* Captain Rawes (the variety ordinarily referred to as *C. reticulata*). On Monday evening, Mrs. Lammerts compared these leaves with the foliage on the shipment of plants. "They are the real thing all right," she reported to Dr. Lammerts, who was greatly relieved to know that his confidence had not been misplaced.

There followed an unexpected difficulty with quarantine officials: quarantine regulations prohibit the entrance of plants in original Chinese soil. But Dr. Ross permitted Dr. Lammerts to bare-root the valuable plants himself.

Fifteen of the twenty varieties in the shipment survived; and Dr. Lammerts made continued efforts to obtain the five varieties which died,

The above discussion was included in Dr. Lammerts' lecture at the May 1, 1950 meeting of the N.C.C.S.

finally succeeding in replacing all but one variety. Several were obtained from Ralph S. Peer, Los Angeles, who had imported these varieties.

In the spring of 1949, there came the thrill of seeing the first flowers: immense blossoms with startlingly novel features in both form and color. Dr. Lammerts showed colored pictures of two varieties, during his illustrated talk at the May 1, 1950 meeting of the Northern California Camellia Society, Inc.

Announcement was made of the release of 15 varieties of *C. reticulata*, as a collection, to the trade in the spring of 1952. There follows a list, including brief description, of these fabulous flowers:

**PEONY FLOWERED.** Very large flower, 6 to 8 inches in diameter, petals wavy and crinkled, of lovely crepe-like texture, bright pink, semi-double. Medium growth habit.

**BUTTERFLY PEONY.** Petals loose and undulate; rose-pink semi-double of large size. Medium size elongated leaves.

**GREAT PEACH BLOOM.** Carmine-red flowers of very large size, each petal of exquisite crepe texture, wavy and crinkled. Very large leaves, vigorous spreading growth habit.

**GREAT SHOT SILK.** Flowers of brilliant pink with loose, wavy petals in delightful informal arrangement. Extremely vigorous plant, large dark-green leaves.

**PURPLE GOWN.** The flower first opens into a regular formal double, deep purple-red in color with pin stripes of white, then transforms into a greatly enlarged informal peony form 6 to 8 inch flower with lovely wavy petals of exquisite wine-red color. Large wide leaves on very vigorous plant of compact growth habit.

**SMALL OSMANTHUS LEAVED.** Medium-sized rose form double. Flowers of unusual orchid pink color.

The leaves are very small. Vigorous, slender, open-growth habit.

**PINE CONE.** Flowers similar in form and color to Purple Gown, but even more double, though somewhat smaller in diameter. Very compact plant.

**SHOT SILK — NARROW LEAVED.** Large flowers have wavy petals of a silky velvety texture in pale pink. Medium growth habit.

**QUEEN OF TALL.** Flowers 6 inches or more in diameter, rose-pink lightly variegated with white. Medium growth habit.

**NOBLE PEARL.** Large flowered with petals very crinkled, deep red in color. Large wide leaves. Compact growth.

**LARGE CORNELIAN.** The flowers are deep rose in color, heavily marbled with white. There are about 6 rows of petals each exquisitely waved and crinkled and a few small petaloids in the center. Large dark-green leaves; compact strong growth habit.

**CHIANG'S TEMPLE.** The semi-double flowers are quite large, 6 to 8 inches in diameter, of brilliant pale pink. A new variety recently discovered in an ancient ruin in Yunnan, China, known as Chiang's Temple. Large wide leaves. Vigorous compact habit of growth.

**LION HEAD.** The flowers are deep red in color, each petal unusually variegated with white, heavily crinkled near base. A large semi-double. Vigorous wide spreading growth habit.

**ROSE FLOWERED.** The flowers are about 4 inches in diameter, pink, fully double and imbricated. Medium-sized leaves, rather slender open growth habit.

**GREAT BUTTERFLY WINGS.** The rose-pink flowers are about 6 inches in diameter with many broad and

## AZALEA CULTURE

By Charles D. Phillips, Oakland

Any good gardener will tell you that essential elements necessary to plant life are both air-derived and soil-derived. Most of the air-derived elements are taken up by the plant foliage; and the soil-derived elements are utilized by the root system through the medium of soil water. A certain **environment** must be maintained at the roots in order to make this intake possible.

The extreme, opposed ends of the "soil compass" are **sour—sweet; acid—alkaline; humus—limestone**. Nature has so arranged the sequence and life cycle of every type of plant life so that the proper happy environment is automatically created. That is to say, the deciduous trees and shrubs shed all their leaves just before the winter rains and the evergreens drop their needles and leaves throughout the year. This defoliation creates a mulch upon the ground which gradually decomposes with the aid of molds, and leaches into the soil, adding certain elements to the soil water that creates a reaction suitable to **that certain plant**. We measure this reaction by our pH standard:

Superacid	3.1
Mediacid	4.1
Subacid	5.1
Minimacid	6.1
<b>Neutral</b>	7.0
Minmalkaline	7.1
Sub-alkaline	8.0
Medialkaline	9.0

Most garden subjects thrive in a circumneutral soil condition between 6.0 and 8.0, so that under ordinary conditions we need not worry too much about the pH. There is, however, a vast group of choice subjects that require an environment below neutral, some as low as 4.0. As prac-

tically no garden soil naturally tests this low, the soil mixture must be tailor-made if we are to enjoy in our gardens the plants that require this condition.

### Building An Acid Soil

Besides the acidity of the soil, there is another important factor contributing to good soil conditioning: the mechanical makeup, that is, the friability or porosity of the soil. This friability is most important to the well-being of plant-life, especially to the members of the fibrous-rooted Heath family, consisting of Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Pieris, Kalmia, Heather and others.

In order to maintain a low pH, without the aid of chemicals, it is absolutely necessary to keep the soil open and porous, with a high content of fibrous humus material mixed through it, together with a good heavy mulch. Not all types of decaying leaves and organic matter, however, produce an acid reaction. "To each his own" is an apt statement pertaining to this process, as foliage from plants requiring an acid soil condition as a rule produce acidity when decaying (at least at a certain stage of disintegration the reaction is acid). Other types of decaying foliage may produce an alkaline or neutral reaction.

Since I grow small azaleas in beds consisting of leaf mold, this fact was proven to me some time ago. A truckload of half-rotted leaf-mold from plane trees (sycamore) was brought in, and I built a bed of this luscious-looking material about 8 inches thick. In an adjacent bed, I used only pine needles, manure and peat. Small azaleas of the lining-out size were planted in both beds at the same time and both beds received identical treatment as to feeding and watering. At the end of one growing season, a comparison was made and the results were amazing. The plants grown in

At the 1950 California Spring Garden Show in Oakland last April, Mr. Phillips distinguished himself by winning the First Horticultural Award of Merit, the highest recognition given, for his exquisite collection of azaleas in a hillside planting beside a rushing waterfall. The above talk was given at the April 3, 1950 meeting of the N.C.C.S.

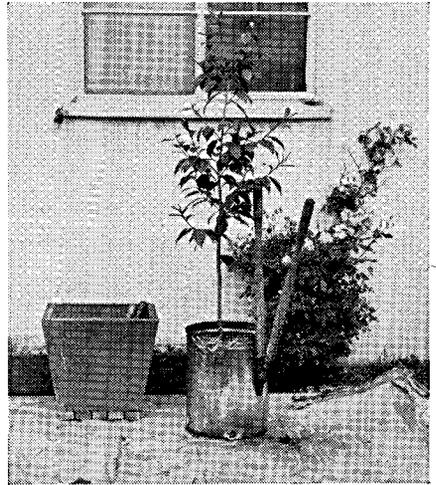
## REPOTTING CAMELLIAS

Courtesy SUNSET Magazine.

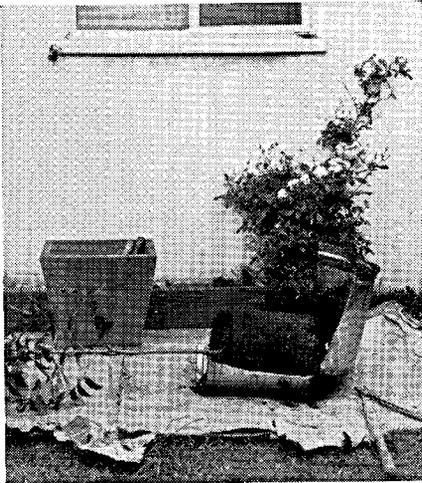
Photos by Herbert V. Mitchell.

**REPOTTING CAMELLIAS**, or any good-sized shrub for that matter, becomes a smooth operation when carried out as shown here. Because the Herbert V. Mitchells of Walnut Creek, grow their extensive camellia collection in containers, repotting is an almost constant problem.

Following is Mr. Mitchell's efficient repotting technique shown step-by-step:



1. Camellia ready to be transferred into tub. Heavy paper sack is opened, spread on ground for ease in cleaning up. Can cutters used to split can down each side.



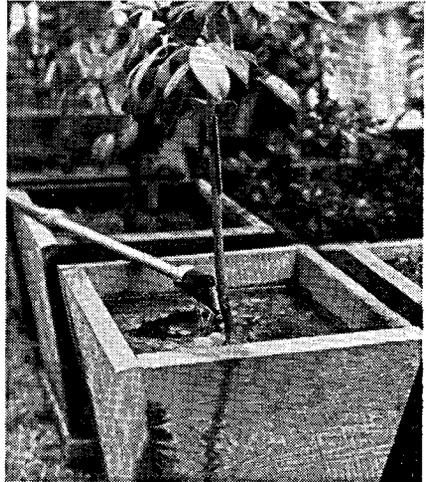
2. After cutting each side, lay can on its side and cut bead at bottom on both sides. Lift up one side. Now the plant is ready to be transplanted into the box.



3. Remove loose soil around root ball. Set 1½ inches of coarse stone in bottom of tub for drainage. Pour in some prepared soil mix before setting in root ball.



4. Once plant is in container, fill with soil up to 1½ inches from top. Mitchells use 1 part soil, 1 part peat, 1 part fine sand, and 2 parts leaf mold as mixture.



5. Water to wet new soil and settle plant in container. Add 1 inch of mulch, consisting of 1 part peat and 1 part leaf mold to keep surface roots cool and moist.

## CAMELLIA SASANQUA, THE EARLY BLOOMER

By Toichi Domoto, Hayward

Between 1931 and 1939 a number of *Camellia sasanqua* varieties were imported by us from Japan. Previous to that time, the only *sasanqua* available was the double white, Snow on the Mountains (Mine-No-Yuki, Fuji-No-Mine, White Doves). In the meantime, several single *sasanquas* were developed from seed by Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens in Southern California.

People have lacked interest in *sasanquas*, largely because they bloom early. The public does not seem to interest themselves in camellias until late autumn after a good heavy rain.

In the Deep South, *sasanquas* are used successfully as understock in grafting. We have tried it, but have found such grafts to be difficult to transplant.

Some new seedlings have recently been developed in Alabama by K. Sawada of Mobile.

The main difference in hybridizing, between *sasanquas* and *japonicas*, for the garden enthusiast would be in the blooming season.

*Sasanquas*, except for three or four varieties, do not bloom until the latter part of September, and even then are very limited. They are at their peak in November; by the middle of December they are through. By adding *sasanquas* to your collection, you can extend the blooming season.

The landscape value of *sasanquas* is different from that of *japonicas*; *sasanquas* are more graceful in their habit of growth. They can be trained to espalier. If allowed to grow, they are very willowy.

There is also a botanical difference between *sasanquas* and *japonicas*.

(Continued on page 15)

### RESOLUTION OF BOARD

The newly elected Board of Directors at their first meeting, held September 15, 1950, unanimously passed the following resolution as a means of formally expressing the gratitude of the Society to the three retiring Directors who, for personal reasons, requested that their names should not be placed in nomination this year:

*"RESOLVED that this Board of Directors, on behalf of the Northern California Camellia Society, expresses its deep appreciation for the invaluable service rendered the Society from its inception to date, to the following retiring Directors who have contributed so much to the growth and success of this organization.*

*Mr. Harold L. Paige*

*Mrs. W. L. Stoeckle*

*Dr. Walker M. Wells."*

### AZALEA CULTURE —

(Continued from page 7)

pine needles were about twice the size of those grown in plane leaf-mold. Moreover, the color and size of foliage was much superior in the former group. Furthermore, the root and top-growth of the former appeared to be a year older than the other.

Being a "garden heretic" of sorts, I like to experiment with different soil combinations and composts that are readily available in quantity and are low in price. I have found that even chip shavings or shingle tow from the lumber yard, when mixed with heavy soil, are valuable as a means to keep it open and porous:

Caution must be observed, however, when adding undecayed organic material of this sort to the soil. Since the disintegration of this material produces mold—and mold feeds upon nitrogen—it is necessary to feed with a high nitrogen-content fertilizer during the process of decay, otherwise the soil will be robbed of its native nitrogen and thus will not be able to provide this element to the hungry plant. I have found it a good practice to mix a suitable proportion of sheep manure or other organic

fertilizer to this raw humus material when it is used as a mulch or is combined with soil as a growing medium.

How many times have you heard it said, "Use only well-rotted leaf-mold"? The basis for that statement lies in the fact that leaves and other organic material in the process of disintegration produce molds which rob the soil of nitrogen fertility during this stage, which as I mentioned before can be corrected by adequate feeding.

If you are growing plants that require an acid-reacting soil, you will find that well-rotted leaf-mold does **not** produce this condition. It is best then to use partially-decomposed organic material and feed the mold as well as the plants—always being alerted to signs of starvation as evidenced by color and size of foliage.

Incidentally, the color and size of foliage is the only true method of judging the well-being of all your garden shrubs. If you can produce and maintain, by proper culture, large, healthy foliage, and your plants receive sufficient sunshine to their liking, top-size, brilliantly-colored blossoms **must** follow in abundance. This is as nature intended it to be.

## WILLIAMS KODACHROMES

At its October 2 meeting the Society enjoyed a showing of new and improved kodachrome slides by Frank Williams of Beverly Hills, a celebrated camellia collector (1954 varieties at the moment) and a photographic specialist who has originated techniques now used extensively by the motion-picture industry.

First, Mr. Williams showed pictures of newer introductions of camellias in the Deep South as well as on the West Coast. Some bloomed for the first time last spring and many are still restricted. Each flower was photographed against a 6-inch-square background to give some idea of blossom size. Most blooms took up the major portion of the screen, and Mr. Williams explained that he obtained enormous size by disbudding drastically, leaving only about four buds, even on large plants.

Next, Mr. Williams took the members on a colorful screen-tour through celebrated camellia gardens of the Deep South.

**BELLINGRATH GARDENS** are located about 18 miles southwest of Mobile, Alabama, on the Isle-Aux-Oies (Fowl) River, along U. S. Highway 90, and cover about 300 acres, featuring camellias and azaleas.

Some years ago, Mr. Walter D. Bellingrath, who was a hunting and fishing enthusiast, had a hunting lodge on this site. His wife, the late Bessie Morse Bellingrath, was a garden hobbyist. About sixteen years ago the Bellingraths started converting the property into a magnificent camellia and azalea garden. Sixty gardeners were put to work and some three million dollars went into the improvement. Huge specimen camellia plants were purchased in and about Mobile and moved on trucks to the gardens, at a cost of some five hundred to two thousand dollars each, to be planted among ancient live oaks, water oaks, bays, cedars, pines, dogwood and magnolias. There the camellia japonica starts blooming in

October and reaches its peak during January and February when the colorful azaleas begin to take over.

**MAGNOLIA GARDENS** are located on St. Johns Island, Charleston, South Carolina, and are measured in square miles rather than in acreages. There are broad expanses of well-kept lawns, huge live oaks and pine trees hanging with wisteria and with Spanish moss, and thousands of colorful azaleas and camellias, many 80 to 100 years old, which grow to heights of 18 to 25 feet.

Magnolia-on-the-Ashley river was acquired either by Thomas Drayton in 1672 or by Thomas Drayton, Jr., in 1700, and ever since the property has been in the hands of direct descendants. In 1891, at the death of Rev. John Grimke-Drayton, title passed to his daughter, Julia Drayton wife of William S. Hastie. Her son, C. Norwood Hastie, a member of this Society, inherited Magnolia Gardens at her death in 1920. Today the ninth generation lives there.

**MIDDLETON GARDENS** are but a short distance from Magnolia Gardens. Parent camellia plants were imported during the eighteenth century by Henry Middleton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and six generations have lived there since. The Middleton mansion was captured by the British during the Revolutionary War and by the Northerners, who burned it down, during the Civil War.

The many thousands of camellia plants have grown into an impenetrable thicket. A tunnel, however, has been hacked through the jungle-like growth for about three-quarters of a mile along one of the eighteenth-century garden paths, so that visitors may stroll through and look up into the huge camellia trees.

A man-made lake, a half-mile long and a block wide, reflects the colorful azaleas and camellias growing along

its shores. Two hundred negroes worked for ten years to build the lake.

Mr. C. N. Hastie, Jr., who accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Williams on their tour of the South Carolina gardens, estimated there were between eight and ten million camellia seedlings growing there. Another interesting feature is an ancient live oak, 14 feet in diameter, thought to be about 1200 years old.

List of varieties shown by Frank Williams:

Angels Blush  
 Anna Bruneau  
 Ann Miller  
 Barbara Morgan Vgt  
 Beau Harp  
 Beau Harp Vgt  
 Bessie Morse Bellingrath  
 Celestine  
 Cho-No-Hanagata  
 Claudia Phelps  
 Clover White  
 C. M. Wilson Vgt  
 Comte de Nesselrode  
 Conflagration  
 Coquette (Glen 40)  
 Coquette Vgt  
 Crusader  
 Eleanor Hagood Vgt  
 Eleanor McCrady  
 Ethel Weber  
 F. G. 2  
 Frank Gibson  
 Frank Williams Jr.  
 Frizzle White  
 Galilee F. N.  
 Glenn Allan Vgt  
 Haku Rakuten  
 Henry Middleton  
 Herme (rabbit-eared sport)  
 Iwani Shibori  
 James Allan  
 Jennie Jones  
 Jim Goldman  
 Jessica Vgt  
 Jo Vincent  
 Joseph Pfingstl  
 Josephine Duell  
 Joshua E. Youtz  
 Julia Dial

Catherine McCown  
 Kenny  
 Lawrence Walker  
 Letitia Schrader  
 Louise Maclay Vgt  
 Lucille Flanagan  
 Magnolia Queen  
 Magnolia No. 181  
 Magnolia XP3  
 Magnolia 44  
 Magnoliaflora (Southern)  
 Margaret Walker  
 Marquis de Montcalm  
 Mary Charlotte  
 Melinda Williams  
 Mme. Haas  
 Mme. Hahn  
 Mme. de Maintenon  
 Mount Shasta  
 Mrs. Baldwin Wood  
 Mrs. Chas. Simons  
 Mrs. Freeman Weiss  
 Mrs. Walter Allan  
 Nagasaki Special  
 Northern Light  
 Pearl Maxwell  
 Pink Glory  
 Pearl Harbor Vgt  
 Pride of Descanso  
 Prince of Orange  
 Princess Irene  
 Princess Murat  
 Prima Donna Vgt  
 Primavera  
 Rasen Zome  
 R. L. Wheeler  
 Rosea Mundi  
 Royal White  
 Shin Shioko  
 Sierra Spring  
 Sport of French Emperor  
 Sport of Virgins Blush  
 St. Andre (Southern)  
 Star No. 1  
 Star No. 41  
 Sweet Sixteen  
 Symphony F. N.  
 Teagarden 45  
 Thelma Dale  
 Tricolor Superba  
 Tylertown Pink  
 Troubadour  
 Virginia Davis  
 Virgins Blush  
 Warrior  
 White King  
 White Queen  
 Zachary Taylor

## RETICULATA —

(Continued from page 6)

beautifully waved petals. Rather slender open habit of growth.

Dr. Lammerts reports that all the above varieties are vigorous in

growth and many of them appear more compact than the variety Captain Rawes, which we now have. Those with slender growth habit branch readily and also make attractive garden plants.

## PROPAGATION OF CAMELLIAS

By John Edwards, Palo Alto

Wholesale propagation of camellias is our business; some 50,000 are propagated each year. We are therefore on the alert to find quicker and cheaper ways of propagating. However, if a method causes quick rooting but does not turn out a good plant, it is discarded. We have experimented with different hormones, different soil mixes, different types of cuttings, different temperatures, different times of year.

If some of you amateurs want to try to root some camellia cuttings just for the experience, that is a swell idea. Any of you can do it with a minimum amount of equipment; all that is necessary is a camellia plant and a pair of pruning shears — the snap-cut type or any other good shears.

Then there is the matter of what wood to take. Generally speaking, if you want to be successful, take cuttings in November or in July, for then the camellia wood is at the right ripeness.

How long a cutting shall you take? Cut just below the fifth node; then remove the two lower leaves. The ability of a stick to put out roots depends largely on leaf surface for photosynthesis; the sun's rays and heat are transformed into chemical action in the stem. **Such a five-node cutting will give optimum results.**

In regard to the medium for growing these cuttings, the commonest is good sharp sand; sand such as a plasterer uses. Wash it to eliminate any possibility of salt content; and bake it in the oven to kill any fungus that might be there.

For a single cutting, put sand in small pot. Wet it well, pound it hard with a brick; wet it again and pound it again.

If you are using a flat, cut a board, about 1½" wide by 1" thick, to the

inside length of the flat. Place that board at edge of flat on inside. Then take a putty knife and open up a trench along a straight edge, so that you can easily put cuttings down into sand.

Dip end of cutting into a rooting hormone: Hormodin #1, #2, or #3, or Rootone, may be used. Hormodin #2 is plenty strong. **Do not wet stem before dipping into hormone;** if you do, too much chemical will adhere to it and cause burning. Shake stem well to eliminate any excess hormone; the end of stem should be just barely coated.

Now put cutting into trench in sand until it will stay in upright position. Then place other cuttings in trench.

Firm with board until sand is hard around stems. Water the cuttings. Place flat in a secluded place in garden and cover with paper for at least ten days. In that ten-day period, the sap that has run out will have congealed and callousing will have started. From then on, be careful in watering. It is an old saying in a nursery that the most difficult thing to teach a new person is how to water. If we can teach a man to water properly in three years' time, he is considered a good man. The rooting medium should be neither too wet nor too dry.

If you take cuttings in July, place the flat on the ground. The ground acts like a heating unit because Mother Earth is warm. The warmth comes up through the plant. If you place the flat above the ground, the cutting will get a shock from cold at night. But if you keep the flat on the ground, the temperature will be about 65 degrees Fahrenheit, which is a good temperature for rooting.

In the fall you will have the pleasure of taking that rooted-cutting and transplanting it to a 2½" pot. That is a large enough container to use as a starter, for the plant won't do any-

thing until the following April, when it will start to grow to a height of 6" or 8". After two years, the plant will reach a height of 12" to 15".

The rooted-cutting I am showing you was rooted in American River sand. Some propagators use sand and peat moss: 3 parts sand to 1 part peat moss, by volume. Others use 3 parts peat moss to 1 part sponge rock, terralite, etc. You will also find people who use vermiculite. But let me give you a warning.

Suppose you use vermiculite. Fill the flat and wet the vermiculite. Take your cutting; put cutting in and firm it just enough, using a soft touch, as though you were handling eggs, for vermiculite is feather-weight. Then water well and put container away and forget it completely until cuttings are rooted.

By proper handling of your rooting medium, whether it be sand, terralite, vermiculite, or sponge rock, the cutting will grow roots. But do you want to wait ten years before you have a good-sized plant?

Recently, our worthy president, Dr. Gordon Richmond, who is connected with the Standard Oil Company in Richmond, noticed a waste-product that was not being utilized. In cracking crude oil, sand is used in the process and carbon becomes attached to the particles, forming a substance that looks like black sand. Could it be used as a rooting-medium, he wondered. Dr. Richmond tried it as a rooting-medium for camellia-cuttings and behold! It wasn't an ordinary rooting-medium; it was black magic! This product certainly is going to change some of our ideas, for it looks as though the rooting process can be quickened and, at the same time, bigger roots can be formed.

## GRAFTING CAMELLIAS

Realizing that you amateurs will not have at hand all the materials and facilities of a commercial nursery, I shall demonstrate grafting using only pruning shears and a sharp knife.

Considering the advantages of grafting—the mystery of it. Whether or not it is something that will make you a real hotshot camellia person, the main reason for grafting is this: You may have a variety in your garden that you don't particularly like. By grafting, you can take advantage of that old, established root and, in a matter of two or three years, have a good-sized plant of a variety you want.

In the nursery, we graft to produce scion wood for propagation purposes, in order to furnish a new variety to the public in a short space of time.

But there are a few warnings about grafting that should be brought to your attention.

First, don't use any old camellia for understock. If a nurseryman has a grafting failure, it is because the root stock is not in a healthy growing condition. Don't take a weak plant; **the root stock should be in excellent condition.**

If you have a greenhouse with heat control, you can start grafting from November on. If not, hold yourself in check until at least the first of February. In the bay area we have the coldest weather between the 15th and 20th of January. If you put a scion on root stock in November, there will not be any activity until the weather warms up. By then, the scion will have become too weak and you get no take. Whereas, if you graft scion about the 1st to 15th of February, you will have success. Place a wide-mouthed jar over graft, and cover with burlap to shield from hot sun (except late in afternoon when the sun's rays come in at an angle), then the graft will heal over and you will have a good plant in time.

Cut root stock off about four inches above ground in an inverted V. Use sharp knife and cut firmly. Then sharpen scion to a wedge. Inside the bark there is a greenish-white layer, called the cambium layer. Try to match the cambium layer on scion with the cambium layer on root stock.

Commercially, we use 31- to 35-day grafting bands about graft. But you may use ordinary string. Pull string good and tight, leaving plenty of space between windings so air can get in. Tie it well at the very top so that the cut you have made is completely closed on the side that does not contain the scion.

Put a mulch of wet sand on top of understock soil so that when you place a wide-mouthed jar over graft to protect it, the air in jar will be the air used by the plant for some time.

When scion is beginning to knit, at first sign of tip swelling and unfurling, start lifting jar very slowly. You might put a stick under one side of jar to let in a little air. Keep raising jar gradually to let in more and more air. If leaves start to wilt, put jar back on. Before jar is removed entirely, take string off. Take a week or more, if necessary, to remove jar entirely.

See that any plant you use for understock has been established for at least a year in the container or in the ground before you try to use it as root stock, because there is always a shock in transplanting. A three-year seedling should be an excellent size to graft.

If you are grafting a plant, say of 3" diameter, in your yard, you can make a cloche to protect graft. Take an egg can 10" in diameter, cut bottom out, and place can around graft, putting it down into ground so that air cannot get in. Then put hydroseal around top of can and place a pane of glass on can to form a big cloche. A cleft-graft is satisfactory for large-sized rootstock. Hire a professional grafter, say a grape-grafter, to do the job for you; grapes and camellias are grafted in just the same way.

In rooting Kumasaka, under unfavorable conditions, you may get a callous about the size of a small pea; six months later it will be the size of a lima bean. We want to avoid getting too much callous; the roots do not form through the callous, but

above it. Under a much higher temperature, 75 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit, there is very little callousing on Kumasaka.

## SASANQUA —

(Continued from page 9)

Sasanquas show some hairiness on the stem and on the seed pod. Sasanquas are definitely fragrant especially after a rain; but if you get too close to the flowers, you will not detect the fragrance.

Among sasanquas there are not many doubles; there are some of irregular type.

The following list gives variation in color, flower form and growth habit:

ASUMA BENI full single, deep carmine rose, 3½-4", upright growth.

GIN-NO-SAI anemone form, white guard petals, 2 to 2½", bushy growth.

HANA DAIGIN, single, light pink, 3½ to 4", tall.

HICHI FUKUJIN, flat petals, erect petaloids, deep pink, 3½", upright.

HIRYO, semi-double, deep cherry, 3 to 3½", strong upright grower.

MAIZURU, full single, white opening blush, 3½", compact.

MINE-NO-YUKI, double white. (Same as Fuji-No-Mine, White Doves).

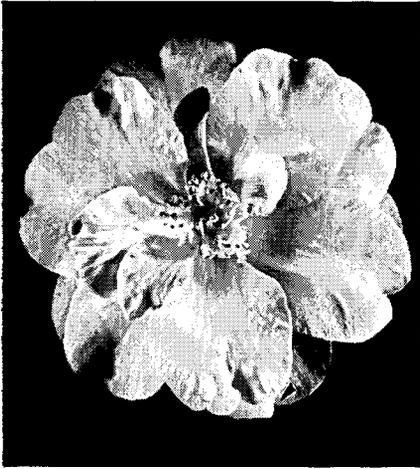
NARUMIGATA, single, white with touch of pink on outer petals, 3½ to 4", upright grower.

SANKO-NISHIKI, single, white with pink tinge, tip of petal indented, divided petal, 4", fragrant.

SHISHI-GASHIRA, double deep rose, 3½ to 4", dark foliage.

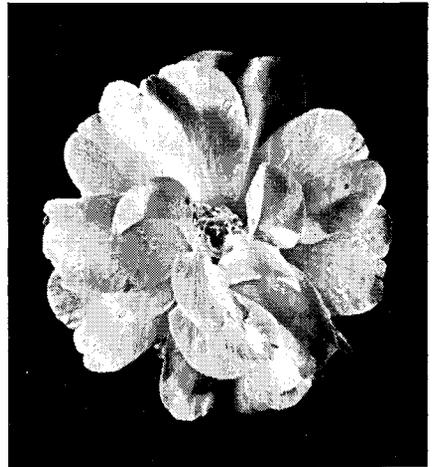
SHOWA-NO-SAKAE, double, rose, 3½ to 4", compact grower. (Same as Usubeni).

DAWN, semi-double, ivory white with flesh pink at margins of petals. Hardest of all sasanquas. Compact grower.



**LADY CHARLOTTE**

Large, clear pale-pink semi-double with prominent stamens and three rows of waved petals veined with white.



**ROSARY F.N. (Pink Glory)**

Light rosy-pink, large incomplete double with long, fluted, twisted petals. Seedling of Fruitland Nurseries, Augusta, Georgia, formerly called Finlandia F.N.



**DR. W. G. LEE**

Large, dark velvety red, cup-shaped semi-double with broad petals and golden stamens. Medium, spreading growth. Blooms profusely.