



April Newsletter

Camellia Society of Modesto 2014-15

www.camelliasocietyofmodesto.org

Marvin Bort, President

Hello Camellia Lovers,

The 2015 Camellia Show in Modesto is over and it was a total success. I hope many of you had the privilege of helping or attending. We had just under 1,000 blooms for judging and about 1,500 public attendees. The weather was perfect, and we had a wonderful weekend. All those who helped with set-up and/or take-down, selling plants, greeting visitors, hosting tours, judging, exhibiting their blooms, etc. are very much appreciated! We couldn't have had such a successful show without you.

Our April meeting will host one of our local nursery experts dealing with the subject of "Herbs", plus a revisit with Cindy and Square Foot Gardening for any questions you may still have. I think our April 12 meeting will be excellent. The meeting starts at 1:30 pm in the atrium of One Church Bethel Campus at 2316 Scenic Dr., Modesto, CA. In May we will be having our annual end-of-the-camellia year dinner. At this time we are not sure where it will be held, but we will keep you informed. If we decide to have a catered meal instead of a pot-luck, the cost to members will be \$10, with the club picking up the rest of the tab. Please try to attend our April meeting. We would love to see you there. You certainly will enjoy the presentations.

YCF Marvin Bort



Out of the many visitors who attended our 54th annual Camellia Show, Yuhanna Aboona's entry ticket was drawn!

Pictured with the proud winners of the 2015 Camellia Garden give away, are: Judges chair, Sharon Adams, Yuhanna and Kalida Aboona and Show Chair, Peter Warner.

Congratulations!



A Few Parting Words...



Barbara Bort, Club Treasurer

As your treasurer, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all those who arranged for sponsors this year. Without the final figures, I am only guessing that we have received at least the same if not more than last year from our efforts. The plant sales at our show made us a profit of almost \$800, which is wonderful. We would like to especially thank Cindy for labeling all of the different plants with beautiful pictures, and also thanks to Marilyn and Sylvia for tirelessly handling the sales of the plants all weekend. We couldn't have done it without you!!



Peter Warner, Show Chair

It takes many hands to put on a camellia show, and our Society put on a great one! It was a success due to all who pitched in and worked. The set up and take down and was a lot of work but went smoothly with the help of Valley Christian Youth. Not to mention, Jim and Dorothy McQuistan all the way from LA.

Plant sales were phenomenal due to the diligence of Sylvia, Marilyn, Cindy and the others who helped move the plants.

Special kudos to Barbara for purchasing and managing the trophies, what a time consuming job! As usual, Shirley and Michelle did a magnificent job welcoming the public to the show and Pat's work on the show program was more than anyone could expect!

After judging, Maria, Liz and Dave Balswick used their artistic talent to arrange the blossoms beautifully so they were very well displayed. Sharon did an excellent job of riding herd on our team of judges.

Maxine was outstanding in finding a great caterer for the judge's luncheon and feeding our volunteers. Special thanks to Joe Lozano and Dave Ellis for so much of the physical work and to Nick Clark, Lisa Threet and Sylvia Ahrens for managing the tabulation and computer work. **Great Show, Great Job, Well done!**

Final Meeting Dates For 2014 - 2015

As we say goodbye to another camellia season, we mustn't forget our last two club meetings. Club meetings for the 2014-15 camellia season are held at **One Church (Bethel Campus) 2361 Scenic Dr, Modesto, CA. We meet in the church Atrium at 1:30 p.m.** Look for Camellia Club signs in the front parking lot. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month (third Sunday in May)



- **April 12 Adria Afferino of The Greenery Nursery will be the featured speaker. She will be speaking on growing, harvesting, and preserving herbs.** Adria has been gardening since age 12, joining The Greenery staff in the winter of 2001 at the age of 19.

She holds a degree in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Horticulture Science.

- **May 19th, our final meeting until October. Watch for an emailed flyer giving time and location.**

Summer Time Care of Camellias



New Growth on camellia

After the blooms drop camellias start their growth season. You should be seeing new bright green stems and leaves. So what can you do to keep these precious plants healthy?

Summer Watering: Summertime in our central valley usually is hot, hot, hot! Every Fall I hear sad stories from club members about plants dying over the summer. Now believe me, Pete and I have lost a few ourselves.

We have drip systems to each of our 60+ camellias and about a third of them are in pots. I'm afraid that we aren't as vigilant as we should be about checking the drip systems to make sure that all is in good working order. As a result occasionally a plant will wilt badly. If a camellia has dried completely it is usually too late to save it. We water and pray, but usually in a few days it is sacrificed to the green waste barrel.

The most important thing that we novice camellia growers need to do is simply this: WATER!

That being said, it is also just as important not to overwater. Remember that camellias like moist soil not wet. If your camellia roots stand in soil that is too moist, the root system will rot and your camellia will die.

I'll bet that you are thinking that growing camellias is really difficult. Trust me, camellias are very easy to grow, it just takes a little knowledge about their requirements. Peter is a firm believer in using a water meter that he jabs into the soil to check for moisture at the roots. We are killing fewer camellias now, so it must work.

Summer Fertilizing: I recently read an article in the Sacramento's Newsletter by Don Lesmeister on Fertilizing Camellias During the Summer. Don is a champion grower of beautiful camellias and I think that his advice is sound and something that we here in Modesto can use. I will paraphrase his article: He believes that camellias require very little fertilizer. That the secret is not how much, but how often. He uses liquid fertilizers because they become available to the plant in a matter of hours. Solid fertilizers take a couple of weeks to break down. In the summer, if your dry fertilizer is still in the process of breaking down and we get one of those days when the thermometer hits 100+, the dry fertilizer could cause plant damage by burning the root system. You'll know if this has happened when you see your once healthy green leaves go all brown and crispy around the edges. So buy liquid. He also advised diluting the amount you use no matter what the label says. For example, the fertilizer instructions might read: "Monthly from May through August, apply one tablespoon of liquid per gallon of water." **Change this program to 1/2 tablespoon per gallon of water every 2 weeks.** Use a fertilizer like Fish Emulsion (it stinks but it is still my favorite all around fertilizer,) or purchase liquid 2-10-10 fertilizer. You probably will have to ask for it at your nursery as it's difficult to find at Home Depot, Lowes, etc. Other's in our club use various mediums to fertilize, i.e., "Worm Poop", rabbit pellets, cotton seed, etc. Future club meetings next fall will cover some of these and when to switch to a 0-10-10 fertilizer. For now, keep it simple and go buy Fish Emulsion, great stuff.

Good luck, see you in the Fall when we will share success stories about our thriving camellias.

- Remember to dilute your fertilizer by half and fertilize more often.
- Remember to water, but don't drown your plants.
- Give your plants a shower on those 100+ days

Pat Warner

April Camellias for Raffle: Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5



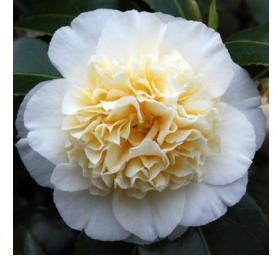
French Vanilla



Drama Girl



Demitasse



Brushfield's Yellow

Camellia Society of Modesto Executive Board 2014-15

Marvin Bort-President
Cindy Cook-VP
Sharon Adams-2nd VP

Shirley Ellis-Secretary
Barbara Bort-Treasurer
Maxine Lozano-Historian

Auxiliary Positions

Pete Warner-Show chair
Cindy Cook-Show Chair Assistant
Marvin Bort-Show Chair Assistant
Sharon Adams-Judges Chair
Sylvia Ahrens-Publicity

Shelly Bort - Webpage
Barbara Bort-Trophies
Pat Warner-Newsletter
Nick Clark-Computer
Tony Miranda-Camellia Education

For Information: www.camelliasocietyofmodesto.org or b.bort@yahoo.com

Pray for rain!

Water ON your assigned watering days,

While you wait for your shower water to

warm up, instead of letting the cold water run down the drain, put a bucket in your shower. You can capture a few gallons of cold water. Enough to water several of your plants,

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