

November Newsletter



Camellia Society of Modesto 2014-15

President's Message



Hello Camellia Friends,

If you did not come to the Ice Cream social at our last meeting, you missed a great deal of fun. There were about 15 to 20 people and we all had our fill of every kind of ice cream dish anyone could want. The ice cream was great and the fellowship was even better.

On Sunday, November 9, 2014 1:30 p.m. we will have our meeting at the Bethel campus of One Church, 2361 Scenic Dr. Modesto. Our speaker will be Pete Warner. He will talk about camellias in general—origin, differences, similarities, and many other interesting facts. You will want to attend for the benefit of increasing your knowledge about camellias.

Sunday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m. we will be meeting at the Bel Piata (corner of Kansas and Emerald) for our Christmas Dinner. Watch for more information to follow.

I hope this letter finds you all in good health and good spirits. Keep taking good care of your camellias as well as yourselves.

Marvin Bort YCF



Camellia season officially started with the NCCC Meeting, October 5th, at Micke Grove. President, Barbara Bort conducted a great meeting, Bob Ehrhart was the auctioneer and a delicious potluck followed.

At our October meeting we welcomed two new members, Butch and Sandy Edwards of Modesto and two visitors, Dan and Kathy Hendrix of Oakdale. Decked out in a soda jerk paper hat, president Marvin Bort conducted a short meeting. Afterwards we created gooey ice cream treats, banana splits being the most popular. A rousing game of domino's made our kick-off meeting a sweet success.

If you missed this meeting you have another chance of enjoying a ice cream treat as Root-beer floats will be available at the November meeting. Bring your sweet tooth and be prepared for an informative afternoon.



Membership Renewal Time

Dues are \$10 per year, per family (with an email address for Society correspondence). Or \$15 per year for USPS delivery.

Join in on the fun. Society membership includes:

- Monthly afternoon meetings with excellent speakers.
- A monthly newsletter with events and information.
- Discounted prices on sales of hard to find camellia plants.
- Access to expert camellia growers for answers to your questions.
- An enjoyable group of people who love to grow and show camellias.



Camellia Culture Corner

Don Lesmeister



November is one of the busiest months of the year for Camellia growers. The flower buds are appearing, so if you have plants which have set a few or no buds, move them to a sunnier location if possible, and make another application of a low nitrogen winter fertilizer such as 0-10-10 or 2-10-10. Also make another review of your plants for disbudding. You probably will need to remove some new buds from Hybrids and many miniatures. They like to reset buds during the winter months.

Any seeds your plants may have, need to be harvested. Peel the seeds from their pods and place them in an airtight jar with slightly damp peat or sphagnum moss. Place the jar in a window or on a hot water tank until they sprout, which will be 30 to 60 days.

Ants are placing aphid on the plant leaves and buds for their winter food. This damages both the leaves and flower buds, so fill a hand sprayer with any critter spray and keep available to kill these critters.

If you are going to do any "Gibbing", Turkey Day until Christmas is the best time. Gibberellic Acid is available on EBay in various quantities at several locations. One gram (less than \$10) will be enough for up to 500 buds. Plenty for most Camellia growers.

November and December are the excellent months to transplant camellias in the ground to new locations. Be careful not to disturb the feeder roots (those nearest the service of the ground). The lower roots can be disturbed, and the use of Vitamin B-1 will reduce most shock. Also it is a good time to transplant container plants that need some severe root cleansing. Transplanting container plants which require little or no root disturbing can wait until after the flowers bloom.

Within the next couple of years, all of us will be on watering meters, so experiment with a soil mix that will require less watering, and therefore reduce cost. Several commercial growers have been using a shredded bark entirely. It meets most of the camellia requirements. I am experimenting with this bark by adding a considerable amount to my current mix. This product is available at one of the "Big Box" hardware stores for about \$4 for 2 cubic feet. Remember! When experimenting with anything new, try it on only a few plants first. If it works, you can then try it on all of your plants.

Don and Joan Lesmeister started growing camellias in the mid 1970s'.

They are members of the Sacramento Camellia Society and participate in NCCS shows with beautiful winning camellia blossoms.

We are fortunate to feature Don's byline "Camellia Culture Corner" from Sacramento's Newsletters in our Modesto Newsletter. Thank you Don and thank you Sacramento Camellia Society.

November's Plant Raffle Camellias



Ruta Hagmann



Buttons and Bows



Frank Hauzer

Sasanqua-the Camellia for Fall



Hey camellia folks---have you seen the Fall cams blooming? They are called Sansaques and their call to

interest, for any gardener, is that they start blossoming in September. Combined with Japonicas, your garden can have lasting color throughout the fall and winter months and into spring with these hardy shrubs.

Sansaques tend to be a sun loving, low spreading variety, that if properly pruned, can grow into fifteen foot tall trees of surprising beauty.

A favorite, called Yuletide, is a bright red color with yellow sta-

mens. Jean May is a lovely soft pink. Another favorite is Old Glory, a bi-color white with dark pink edges.

Yuri Panchul is a Northern California Sasanqua lover with hundreds of plants in his yard. His website is sazanka.org and it is full of pictures and information.

Check out Nuccio's picture catalog for available plants of all species at nucciosnurseries.com Pete Warner is putting in our club's order to Nuccio's **now** for delivery in early 2015, so give him a call by November 10th at 209-576-0831. It will be the best deal you can get for quality camellias. Enjoy the Fall color opportunities! Cindy

Cindy Cook



Yule Tide



Old Glory



Christmas Luncheon

Please join us for our annual Christmas luncheon, gift and cookie exchange.

Bel Piatto is located at 1000 Kansas Avenue, Modesto.

Reservations must be received by December 1st.

Cost is \$10 per person
(normally \$16.41).

RSVP to either Barbara Bort 209-537-9945 or Pat Warner 209-576-0831.



Bring a wrapped gift to exchange (\$15 limit)



2 dozen cookies for the cookie exchange.

The Buffet includes salad, bread, drinks and the three following pastas :

Penne Piatto: Italian sausage w/ garlic, basil, and diced tomatoes. Marinara sauce finished with cream and fresh spinach.



Fettuccini Primavera: Fettucini past and seasonal vegetables sautéed in a light creamy tomato sauce.

Farfalle Gratin: Butterfly pasta with cream, porcini mushrooms, prosciutto, chicken and cheese crust.

Wine may be purchased separately.

RSVP TODAY!



Meeting Dates For 2014 - 2015

Unless otherwise noted, Club meetings for the 2014-15 camellia season will be held at a new address: One Church (Bethel Campus) 2361 Scenic Dr, Modesto, CA Bethel Meeting Room (park in back parking lot, main church) Look for Camellia Club signs in parking lot. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month (third Sunday in May)

- **The November 9th meeting** will feature Pete Warner giving a power point presentation titled “Camellias, Helping Them Thrive.” His introduction to camellia culture will be accompanied by handouts and followed by questions and answers.
- December 14 Christmas Lunch
- January 11 Speaker to be announced
- February 8 Speaker: Cindy Cook, “Square Foot Gardening”
- March 8 Modesto Mini-Show
- March 21-22 Camellia Show, Gallo Administration Building
- April 12 Speaker to be announced
- May 17 Annual Club Barbecue, location to be announced

Camellia Society of Modesto Executive Board 2014-15

Marvin Bort-President	209-537-9945
Cindy Cook-VP	209-484-1369
Sharon Adams-2nd VP	209-526-6627
Shirley Ellis-Secretary	209-557-0736
Barbara Bort-Treasurer	209-537-9945
Maxine Lozano-Historian	209-522-4682

Auxiliary Positions

Pete Warner-Show chair	Barbara Bort-Trophies
Cindy Cook-Show Chair Assistant	Pat Warner-Newsletter
Marvin Bort-Show Chair Assistant	Nick Clark-Webmaster
Sharon Adams-Judges Chair	Tony Miranda-Camellia Education
Sylvia Ahrens-Publicity	Harlan Smith-Gallo Camellia Gardens
Hospitality-Your name here?	

November's Door prize and Plant Raffle:

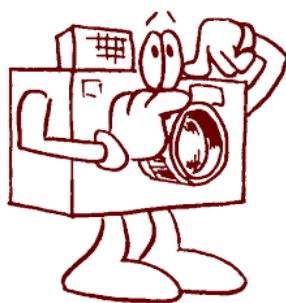
This Month's Door Prize: Shot Silk: Reticulata; Brilliant spinel pink. Large, semi-double with loose, wavy petals.



Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. Good luck! See photos pg. 3.

Buttons & Bows: Japonica; formal double pink shading to white. **Frank Hauser**: Hybrid; deep pink, very large bloom. **Ruta Hagmann**: Reticulata; coral pink, very large bloom





Camellia Show Photo Contest 2015

Our camellias will soon start to bloom. As they do, grab your cameras and click away. Enter your work in Modesto's Camellia Photography Contest. If your photo is a winner you not only will receive a trophy, but your photograph will be featured in the publications for the **2016 Camellia Show**.

Photography Categories:

Single Camellia

Camellias Used in Landscaping

Camellias with Child or Pet

Camellia Society of Modesto

Marvin Bort, President

2316 Glasgow Drive

Ceres, CA 95307

