

October Newsletter



**Camellia Society of Modesto
2014-15**

President's Message



Greetings Everyone,

It is time to start thinking about our camellias again. Hopefully they have come through the summer in good shape. October is the traditional start of the camellia year as we prepare the plants with different treatment with fertilizer, disbudding (there are any), and some special TLC.

Our first meeting will be at the Warner's home at 1:00 for a meet and greet while enjoying an extraordinary, old fashioned "Ice Cream Social". A good time will be had while building your own sundaes, banana splits, and or milkshakes.

Among other things to be discussed will be the new location of our regular meetings. Starting with the November 9th meeting we will be at the Bethal Church on Scenic Dr. We will have signs directing you to the right room.

The November meeting will include a presentation by our own Pete Warner. His presentation will be very informative, interesting and about 30 minutes long. You don't want to miss it.

The December meeting will be a Christmas dinner. Other meetings will include an expert on insects, an experienced four square gardener, and a rose or general flower gardening expert.

The NCCC President, Barbara Bort would like to invite everyone to the October 5th meeting of the Northern California Camellia Council. It will be held at Micke Grove Park just south of Lodi on highway 99. The exit is Armstrong Rd. You will see a big sign for Micke Grove Park. Parking is \$6.00 per car (cash only). Bring a potluck dish and there will be Tri Tip and Chicken @ \$5.00 per person. Come enjoy a meeting of the Council at 11:30 and the lunch at 1:00. There will be several members from other clubs to talk with, get good camellia information, and simply enjoy each other. Families are welcome, as the park has a very nice zoo and playground area, making this a wonderful place for a family outing.

I hope to see all of you at the October 5th NCCC meeting in Micke Grove and then again at the Warner's on October 12th

Meeting Dates For 2014 - 2015



Sunday, Oct. 12, 2014
1:00 P.M.

Location:

*Pete and Pat Warner's
916 Scenic Court
Modesto*

Rsvp: 209-576-0831

patriciawarner3@gmail.com

Calling all members, both old and new. Celebrate the beginning of the Camellia Season. Become a "Soda Jerk". Operate a vintage milkshake maker from Woolworth's. Create Sundaes, Banana Splits, Floats and Ice Cream Sodas! Mark you Calendars today. See you there,
Marvin Bort, President



Unless otherwise noted, Club meetings for the 2014-15 camellia season will be held at a **new address: One Church (Bethel) 2361 Scenic Dr, Modesto, CA Bethel Meeting Room** (park in back parking lot, main church)

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month (third Sunday in May)

- October 12 Ice Cream Social
- November 9 Bethel Room
- December 14 Annual Christmas Luncheon, location to be announced
- January 11 Bethel Room
- February 8 Bethel Room
- March 8 Bethel Room
- March 21-22 Camellia Show, Gallo Administration Building
- April 12 Bethel Room
- May 17 Annual Club Barbecue, location to be announced

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 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?	

Camellia Culture Corner

Don Lesmeister

.There are a few things that should be accomplished at this time of the Camellia year in order to have top notch blooms, whether for exhibition or your own pleasure.

First is the application of either 0-10-10 or 2-10-10. Either one is fine. This product stimulates both budding/blooming and promotes vigorous plant roots for the upcoming winter months. A gallon bottle, which cost about \$10 will last for years. Liquid is preferred over solid because it is available to the plant in a matter of hours, where the solid will take a week or so to break down before it is available. Apply two or three times from October through January.

The next thing is pruning.

Several years of experimenting has led me to the conclusion that only the "tip" pruning needs to be done in the Spring. In the Winter months, when the plant is dormant, this is the time to thin. This process means more leaves remain with the plant to absorb the sun in the Summer and promotes healthier plants. So, do your thinning pruning now. Be sure to remove the branches which prevent flowers from fully opening.

Finally, the last step is disbudding. Theoretically, the more buds you remove, the bigger the flower. This is a good theory, but not exactly correct. Each species and variety I a little different. BUT generally, for most plants, leave one bud per ter-

minal, and remove all other buds on the stem. For miniatures, you can leave more terminal buds, including those several eyes down the stem. Reticulatas do not seem to need as heavy a bud removal, but still only leave one bud per terminal. In your first trip of disbudding, go a little light. Don't do it all at once. Many reticulates drop a lot of buds during cold months. Come back in a month or after the cold weather has passed and finish your disbudding. Hybrids constantly set buds. You may have to make several trips to get the job done. Good luck in your gardening .

Don Leismeister's article was first printed October 2012- Sacramento Camellia Club Newsletter

Camellia Society of Modesto
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