

# DECEMBER

## Camellia Society of Modesto 2015-16

[www.camelliasocietyofmodesto.org](http://www.camelliasocietyofmodesto.org)

### President's Message



Dear Camellia Friends,

It is true what you have heard! The holidays are here and the weather has really turned cold. The beautiful autumn leaves have started to fall onto our dry and brown lawns, and the shorter days have made us turn up the heaters even more. Enjoy and give thanks for the rain when it does come – we need it so badly. Be sure to take care of you camellia plants and keep checking them for water and disbudding. And watch for those surprise blooms that come when you least expect it. We picked a gorgeous Grape Soda on

Thanksgiving Day. (Hope you all had a wonderful feast day!)

By the way, we made the cheesecake recipe that was in the November newsletter for Thanksgiving dinner, which was also our daughter's birthday, and it was delicious!! Also very easy to make. We topped it with whipped cream and chopped, toasted pecans. Wow!! We hope you are enjoying the new recipe feature each month.

Be sure to get your reservations in for the Christmas Dinner on the 13th of December. We will have a buffet for only \$10 per person at Bel Piatto restaurant, located at 1000 Kansas Avenue in Modesto. 5:00PM Send an email or call Barbara to let us know you will be coming. 209-537-9945. Reservations are due by the 6th. There will also be an optional gift exchange (maximum \$15). Also on your calendar should be the Judges Symposium on January 16, 2016 in Sacramento. Here is your chance to learn more about camellias and also to start the process of becoming a camellia show judge. Please see our website for more information, or call one of the board members.

I would like personally to wish you all a wonderful holiday season. May you and your family enjoy health and happiness, blessings and bounties all through the new year.

YCF

Marvin Bort



**"La Peppermint"**

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# Camellia Society of Modesto Christmas Party!

**Date: 12/13/15**

**Time: 5:00 p.m.**

**Cost is \$10 per person**

normally \$16.41

**WHAT A DEAL!**



**1000 Kansas Avenue**

**Modesto**



**BRING A WRAPPED GIFT TO EXCHANGE**

**\$15 LIMIT**

**R.S.V.P. 12/6/14**

**Barbara Bort 209-537-9945**

**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 pasta and seasonal vegetables sautéed in a light creamy tomato sauce.

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



Most of the flowers that you have seen in camellia shows have had the finest kind of cultural care, the kind that you would expect a camellia hobbyist to give their plants. They have been planted, properly, in a soil that is suitable for camellias, whether in the ground or in containers. The ground has not been permitted to dry out, the plants were properly pruned at the end of the blooming season and fertilized during the summer growing season. A large percentage of the buds were pinched off on the principle of “fewer and better flowers are superior to more but inferior flowers on the plant.” Finally, care was taken as the flowers opened to prevent blemishes on the flowers, which would cause the judges to mentally cast them aside during the judging

process. While these steps are necessary for a person who plans to enter their flowers in camellia show competition, they are not necessary when the purpose of growing camellias is largely garden enjoyment. Camellias are beautiful assets in a garden, even for the foliage alone and can be grown satisfactorily and with much pleasure to the gardener. A few basic rules of camellia culture, as follows:

1. They must be planted properly; the roots should be only slightly below the soil level: also, allowance should be made for the possibility that the plant will sink down as the soil settles, otherwise, they will not thrive. They should be planted, whether in the ground or in a container, in a soil that will drain well. If the natural soil is heavy, it should be replaced with a mixture of sandy soil and ground fir bark.

2. The soil should not be permitted to get dry, nor should it be kept too damp. The optimum would be to water a plant as it is drying out.

3. Camellia fertilizer will help both the plant and the flowers. First fertilizing should be done about April 1st, no fooling, with the application of a camellia fertilizer, for acid loving plants, that can be purchased at any garden supply store. Two additional applications can be made at two-month intervals. Follow these three rules, and you will have good camellias. If you want better flowers, do two-more things:

- Prune out the small inside branches after blooming has stopped. You may also shape the plant at this time. You cannot harm a camellia plant by pruning.
- Pinch off some of the buds when they get big enough so that you can identify them from the growth buds, you will have fewer flowers but, those that bloom will be far superior to what you otherwise would have had. Observance of these five rules of camellia culture will give your garden, camellia flowers that will be a pleasure to see, enjoy and share.



Camellia 'Shanghai Lady'



## Who's Who on Your Board of Directors

Marvin Bort-President	209-537-9945
David Ellis-Vice President	209-557-0736
Shirley Ellis-Secretary	209-557-0736
Barbara Bort-Treasurer	209-537-9945
Maxine Lozano-Historian	209-522-4682



### Auxiliary Positions

Cindy Cook-Show chair  
Peter Warner-Judges Chair  
Royce Rhodes, Master Gardener  
Sylvia Ahrens-Publicity  
Sharon Adams-Club Liaison

Barbara Bort-Trophies  
Pat Warner-Newsletter  
Nick Clark-Show Computer  
Shelly Bort-Webmaster

## Photography Contest 2016

**Get out your cameras and start capturing the beauty of your camellia blossoms. Enter Modesto Camellia Societies Photo Contest 2016.**

**Categories are:**

- **Single Camellia**
- **Camellias used in Landscaping**
- **Camellia with a pet**
- **Camellia with a child**
- **Humorous**



### PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

Members of any camellia society are welcome to enter.

Four entries per family, one from each category.

All entries must be 8 x 10" and matted.

Each entry must have an entry card completed and attached to the back of the photo. (cards available at the show).

To qualify for judging, all entries must be submitted March 21st before 10 a.m.

The Camellia Society of Modesto retains the right to use your winning Photos for promotion of future events. Congratulations!

## RECIPE CORNER

Recipe courtesy of Barbara Bort

**With cold weather in mind, What could be better than a steaming bowl of delicious soup? I make soup at least once a week Fall and Winter and can't wait to give this recipe a try.**

### WHITE BEAN AND KALE SOUP

Makes 5 cups/servings

- 1 ½ teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ cup diced onion
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3 cups water
- 1 cup ¼-inch carrot pieces
- 6 tablespoons ¼-inch celery pieces
- 1 cup chopped fresh kale (3 large leaves)
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons seasoned salt
- 1/8 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- ¼ teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1 cup low-sodium canned white beans, drained may also add corn or peas

Heat olive oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and sauté until tender, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the water, carrot, celery, kale, and seasonings. Simmer, covered, until the vegetables are tender, about 15 minutes. Stir in the tomatoes, parsley, and beans, and simmer for 10 minutes more. Remove the bay leaf before serving.



**If you have a favorite recipe to share, please email to me at [patriciawarner3@gmail.com](mailto:patriciawarner3@gmail.com)**

*General Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the SDA Church Fellowship Hall 16th and G Street, Modesto*

*Board Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at the Bort's home, 2316 Glasgow, Ceres (unless otherwise announced.)*

*Wishing you a blessed and*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



## Northern California Camellia Council Camellia Show Calendar

Plan on Attending

Plan on Showing your blooms at all the Shows

Congratulations! You may be a Winner

**2/06/16 NCCC Spring Meeting and Mini Show**  
**John's Pizza, 2225 Plaza Pkwy, Modesto, Contact: Barbara Bort 209-537-9945**

**2/13/16 San Francisco Peninsula Camellia Society Show,**  
**CAB Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City.**  
**Contact: Linda Kancev, 650-574-1220**

**2/20/16 Camellia Society of Santa Clara County Show,**  
**Community Recreation Center, 969 Kiely Blvd., Santa Clara.**  
**Contact: John Mendoza, 408-249-5606**

**3/05-06/16 Camellia Society of Sacramento Show,**  
**Memorial Auditorium, 1515 J Street, Sacramento.**  
**Contact: Carol Schanz, 916-447-1969 or Don Lesmeister, 916-967-8420**

**3/12/16 Northern California Camellia Society Show,**  
**St. Andrews Celebration Center, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill.**  
**Contact: Don Bergamini, 925-229-0775 or Bob Ehrhart, 925-937-0188**

**3/19-20/16 Camellia Society of Modesto Show**  
**Ernest & Julio Gallo Administration Building 600 Yosemite Blvd., Modesto.**  
**Contact: Pete Warner, 209-576-0831 or Marvin Bort 209-537-9945**

### 2016 Judges Symposium to be held in West Sacramento.

This is your opportunity to renew your certification or for those who might be interested in becoming Novice Judge.

**Note: Those wishing to become Novice Judges  
must be a current member of the American Camellia Society.**

**Join at: <https://www.americancamellias.com/american-camellia-society/become-a-member>**

The symposium will be held at The Club Pheasant 2525 Jefferson Blvd, West Sacramento  
**January 16, 2016 10:00 a.m. to 3:00**

A buffet lunch will be available for purchase. **You must R.S.V.P. if you plan on attending.**

**Please contact: Don Bergamini [camelliadon@comcast.net](mailto:camelliadon@comcast.net)**  
**or Don Lesmeister [jonanddon@comcast.net](mailto:jonanddon@comcast.net) to reserve your place.**