

FEBRUARY



Camellia Society of Modesto
2015-16

www.camelliasocietyofmodesto.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Camellia Enthusiasts,

Since our last talk there have been some interesting things happening.

The first thing, and most important, is that Claire Bardsley, one of our newest members, has offered to be the editor of our news letter. We appreciate her willingness and genuine interest.

Our meeting in January with Don and Joan Lesmeister was very helpful and extremely interesting. Don explained how to allow blooms to reach their full potential by several adjustments to the plant with the use of clothes pins and string or yarn. Joan spoke about how to prepare blooms to enter a show.

Everything considered, the Lesmeister's visit was very helpful as well as entertaining.

Our general meeting in February will feature our own Royce Rhoads, a Master Gardner with Merced county. He will be sharing with us about grafting. This meeting will be educational as well as interesting. You do not want to miss this one. February 14, 2016 @ 1:30 pm on the corner of 16th and G Streets.



"Ace of Hearts"

At this point in time all eyes are on our March show. Many things must be accomplished at specific times for the event to be successful. Tables and chairs have been ordered and will be delivered one day before the show, plants for sale have been ordered for delivery mid-February, we have had meetings with our host to confirm dates and other information, the proper amount of insurance is in place, and other local, non-camellia groups have been contacted for assistance during the show.

We need your help. During the coming weeks you will hear about many things that need people. Please be willing to help in any way you can.

Looking forward to a great show,

Marvin Bort YCM

*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.

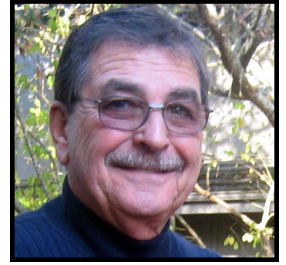
*Board Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at the Bort's home, 2316 Glasgow, Ceres (unless otherwise announced.)

CAMELLIA CULTURE

With Royce Rhoads

The 3 P's for gardening is planning, preparation, and planting. Last month we discussed planning and right on cue El Nino arrived just in time for planting our camellias, if you haven't done so already. If you haven't, this month we will prepare for planting.

Camellias can be planted in any month, although spring and fall is the most common. When planting in the spring, plant after the fear of frost is over. When planting in the fall, you take advantage of the great growing conditions with the rain and the cool environment.



Preparation: SOIL

To check your soil type pick up a handful of moist soil, form it into a ball and drop it. If the ball of soil falls apart when it hits the ground, it's sandy. If the soil ball feels like modeling clay and hold together after it hits the ground, it's clay. Continuing, if the soil ball breaks into a few crumbly chunks when it hits the ground, it's loam.



DRAINAGE:

A simple test can tell you how well your soil drains. Dig an 18 inch- deep hole and fill it with water during dry weather. Let it drain. Then fill the hole again. If the hole does not drain within 2 hours of this second filling, you have a drainage problem. To help the drainage problem you should loosen the soil at the bottom with a garden claw or hoe. You can improve all soil types by adding compost, peat moss or humus to the soil before planting. This provides additional nutrients to the soil as they break down, feeding the camellia's root system. If the pH of the soil is a concern (camellias like 5.5-6.0 range) you can test the pH of your soil with an inexpensive pH meter available from your local garden centers.

Planting:

After you have corrected the soil and drainage problems you are now ready to plant.

- Dig a hole that is 1 to 2 inches shorter than the length of the root ball and twice the diameter of the container. The center of the hole should be higher than the sides that are slightly sloping.
- Place the camellia bush in the center of the hole; the top of the root ball should slightly protrude out of the rim of the hole. Fill in the hole with your enriched soil until the root ball is completely covered. Mound the soil over the top of the root ball and press down gently but firmly to stabilize the plant.
- Create a circular berm of dirt 2 to 3 feet away from the bush; press down firmly so the dirt will not wash away easily; the ridge helps contain water.
- Water the soil thoroughly but do not leave the camellia plant standing in water. Keep it watered regularly until roots are established and the plant shows signs of growth. After that soak the plant once a week to encourage deeper root growth, as camellia roots tend to stay toward the surface.
- Mulch around the camellia plant to retain moisture and even out the soil temperature. Mulch also suppresses weeds.

Fertilize:

Fertilize about 3 times per year with a balanced acid loving plant fertilizer. It has been recommended to use Cottonseed Meal to fertilize the camellia plants in early stages to avoid damage to the plant.



"YULETIDE"

Recipe Corner



Pineapple Angel Food Cake

Courtesy of Experienced Baker Patricia Warner

I missed my Weight Watchers meeting this morning. That makes 5 years in a row.

Those of you who attended our January Club Meeting were served a delicate pineapple-angel food cake at refreshment time. You might be surprised to learn that it was an old Weight Watcher's recipe, one that I have served to guests for many years because it makes me look like a culinary genius.

For extra pizzazz, I serve it with a dollop of whipped cream and fresh berries. Voila! A pretty dessert without much work. (Now for those of you who are counting: 4 points per serving.)



Ingredients: Angel food cake mix and 20 oz. can crushed pineapple w/juice

Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 13x9 pan with non-stick spray (Pam)

Using a large bowl mix package of angel food cake mix and can of crushed pineapple together using a rubber spatula. That's it. Pour the foamy batter into the 13x9 and bake 30-35 minutes until golden brown.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2016

Get out your cameras and start capturing the beauty of your camellia blossoms! Enter Modesto Camellia Society's Photo Contest 2016!

Categories:

- Single Camellia
- Camellias used in landscaping
- Camellia(s) with a pet
- Camellia(s) with a child/children
- Humorous



PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

Members of any camellia society are welcome to enter.

Four entries per family, one entry per category.

All entries must be 8 x 10" and black 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 photo(s) for promotion of future events.



In 2015, Cindy Cook won "Best Single Camellia" with her photo of C. Firedance.

**Start Snapping
those Photos!**



Who's Who on Your Board of Directors

President: Marvin Bort

209-537-9945

Vice President: David Ellis

209-557-0736

Secretary: Shirley Ellis

209-557-0736

Treasurer: Barbara Bort

209-537-9945

Historian: Maxine Lozano

209-522-4682

Northern California Camellia Council

Camellia Show Calendar



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. An-
drews 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



**Plan on showing your blooms
at all the shows! You may be a
WINNER!**



TIPS FROM THE TOP

Provided By: Don and Joan Leismeister



1. Don't judge your blooms in the back yard.. .take them to the show.

2. GET READY

- A. Start your bloom entry plan the week before the show.
- B. Pin back leaves with clothes pins, disbud and prune if necessary.
- C. Move container plants to protected area.
- D. Read show schedule.
- E. Clean boxes and get tools (brushes, tweezers, cotton etc.) ready.

3. CUTTING/HANDLING BLOOMS

- A. Remove leaves next to bloom from plant.
- B. Get cup/perlite/sand and preservative ready-use correct cup size.
- C. Put bloom in preservative within 8 seconds of cutting.
- D. Put bloom in container surrounded by cotton, etc.-no newspaper or Easter grass.
- E. Do not clean bloom until you get to the show.
- F. Clean leaves with milk/cream/mayonnaise (don't leave TOO shiny). Put leaves in separate bag.

4. EXHIBITING TIPS

- A. Walk the show---See what the competition is. Decide to enter single, tray, etc.
- B. Gather up necessary trays.
- C. Clean off bloom.
- D. Put out entry card-place bloom & cup on so only bloom name shows.
- E. Slide leaf under damaged petal IF flower is red--white/pink nope.
- F. Put damaged blooms in rear of class.
- G. If your bloom is BEST, put next to next best bloom.
- H. If your bloom is next best, put far away from best bloom.
- I. Tilt the bloom slightly so it smiles at the judges.
- J. If bloom not fully open, push with cotton, Q-tip, blow on to fully open.
- K. Use cotton, tissue, etc. to stage bloom.
- L. Place bloom in middle of the table if few entries.
- M. Stage every bloom as if it is the ONLY one you have.
- N. When finished, go over show again to review competition/single or tray entry... also collections.

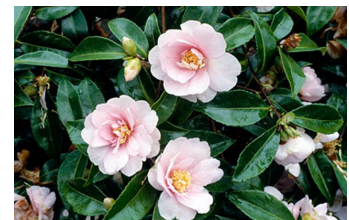
5. OUT OF TOWN TRIPS

- A. Gas/oil/clean windows, etc. a couple of days before show.
- B. Don't drive in the slow, bumpy, truck lane.
- C. Bring heavy coat in winter.....DO NOT TURN ON THE HEATER.

GOOD LUCK!



Don and Joan



"Jean May"