



March

Camellia Society of Modesto
2015-16



www.camelliasocietyofmodesto.org

President's Message

Greetings Camellia Lovers,

Our show on the 19th and 20th of March is getting closer. It appears that everything is under control. There is one exception, WE NEED YOU. We need your special abilities. We need your willingness. We need your presence during the show, as well as before and after. Many hands make light work. We will try to let you know when your help is needed via emails. If we have your help the show will be a great success.



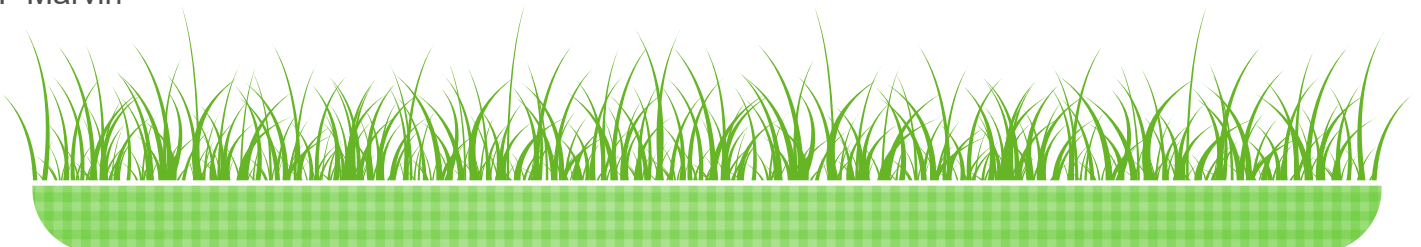
The March meeting, 03.13.16, will be a mini show to help get a little more experience with setting up blooms for display. There will be several people who will be able to assist with the setting up of blooms. Also there will be explanations of what judges are looking for when they judge. And finally a general, over-all view of how a camellia show works with the several stages of judging leading up to Best in Show.

At our camellia show, March 19, 20, 2016, we will be featuring a tribute to Doc Wait, one of our founding members and first president (1961 - 1965) and Virginia Rankin, a long time member who held several different offices, who just recently passed away. The presentations will be held at the first part of the lunch for the judges.

On Wednesday, 2.24.16, the plants arrived from Nuccio's Nursery. Club members can buy plants at a 25% discount prior to the show on Friday morning, March 18. We could use your help unloading the plants, starting around 9:00 am that day. During and after the show the plants will be regular price.

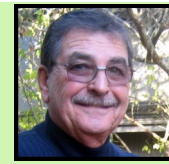
We are looking forward to an excellent show this year (with your help). I hope to see everyone at the March 13th meeting for the mini show.

YCF Marvin



Camellia Culture

With Royce Rhoads



In past newsletters we have been discussing camellias used for planting in the ground. This month we want to include those who mainly use containers or pots for their gardening enjoyment. Camellias (*C. japonica*) when planted in the ground can grow up to 20 feet tall. These same plants can be kept to heights of 6 to 8 feet when planted in containers. These plants grow well in U.S. Hardiness zones 9 when placed in a partially shaded area to get the best balance of leaf, color and bloom quantity. Here are the ways you can ensure success in growing your camellias in containers.

- Chose a container that is twice the size of the root ball, make sure it has plenty of drainage holes.
- Fill the bottom one-third of the container with potting mix. Use a well draining acidic soil mix formulated for camellias or azaleas or you can make your own mix.
- Use at least 50% organic matter and potting soil. If possible check the pH of the soil. The pH should be around 5.5-6.5. If higher lower the pH with peat moss or sulfur.
- Set the camellia in the center of the pot. Fill with the potting mix until the roots are mostly covered. Leave the top one-inch of the root ball, near the main stem of the plant, exposed.
- Water when the top 2 to 4 inches of the soil dries out. This maybe daily in the summer. Let the water run until it flows out the drainage holes. Allow the water drain, but DO NOT let the pot set in water. (DO NOT USE A WATER TRAY LET THE POT DRAIN FREELY)
- Fertilize the plant once or twice a year with low-phosphorus fertilizer. Add fertilizer in the spring after the bloom period. The second application may be made in the summer if the camellia is not growing well. Follow the directions on the label of the package. Water the shrub before fertilizing. (Note: there are 3 numbers on a fertilizer bag, the first is Nitrogen (N), the second is Phosphorus (P). and the third is Potassium (K) always.
- Prune the camellia in the spring after the flowers drop. Remove any dead branches before pruning with “bypass” pruners. Shorten lower branches to encourage vertical growth. Shorten the top of the shrub to create a bushier shrub. Make the cuts away from the trunk of a bud or a leaf node.



- Re-pot the plant every 2 to 3 years or as needed, if it outgrows the container. Move up to the next container size, OR trim 2 to 3 inches from the roots with pruning scissors to replace the plant into the same container with new potting soil. This will be when the container size for the camellia reaches 2 feet deep and 2 feet wide.

- Watch for pests such as aphids, mites and scale in the spring and summer. A spray of water over the leaves with soapy water will help control these pests. (You can use a fertilizer attachment to the hose filled only with soap to accomplish this task).

Happy Gardening -Royce

Northern California Camellia Council Spring Meeting and Mini Show



San Francisco Peninsula Camellia Society Show



Camellia Society of Santa Clara County Show



Recipe Corner



Marilyn's Marvelous Brownie Surprise

Ingredients:

- 1 box double chocolate brownie mix
- 1 jar marshmallow crème
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 2 cup chocolate chips
- 3 cups of Rice Krispie cereal



Directions:

Mix and bake the brownie mix according to the directions on the box. Let the brownies completely cool. Next, spread one jar of marshmallow crème on top of the brownies. Then, in a separate bowl, mix one cup of peanut butter and two cups of chocolate chips together and heat until the chocolate melts. Then, stir in three cups of Rice Krispie to the chocolate-peanut butter mixture. Next, spread the chocolate-peanut butter mixture on top of the layer of marshmallow crème on the brownies. Refrigerate until firm. Cut into squares. Enjoy!

If you would like to share your favorite recipe please email it to Claire Bardsley! cbard73@gmail.com



Northern California Camellia Council

Camellia Show Calendar



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: Cindy Cook 209-484-1369 or Marvin Bort 209-537-9945

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF MODESTO

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



At the February Modesto Camellia Society Meeting, Royce Rhoads gave a wonderful presentation on grafting. To see what we discussed or to learn more go to:

<http://www.mg.ucanr.edu>

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 19th before 10 a.m.

The Camellia Society of Modesto retains the right to use your winning photo(s) for promotion of future events.



2015 Winners: Cindy Cook won "Best Single Camellia" with her photo of C.Fire Dance Variegated growing in her garden and Barbara Bort's "Best Camellia With Pet" featuring her dog Olive with C.Mrs. Nelly Eastman. Cindy's photo will be featured on the cover of the 2016 Modesto Camellia Show Program and posters. Barbara's winning photo will be featured on the 2016 Show Schedule. Start snapping those photos! Be creative!

Your photo could be featured in 2017!