

# MARCH *Camellia Society of Modesto*

March 2019 Newsletter

## *President's Greeting*



It's finally time! The 58th Annual Modesto Camellia Show is March 16th and 17th! Our show is at the Gallo Administration Building in Modesto, and if you haven't yet seen the grounds, come see what you are missing! You'll get to see all the beautiful blooms that are in the show and you'll want to make sure to schedule some time to enjoy the 1 mile walk around the grounds that have over 1,000 camellias. This is the only time during the year that the public is invited to view the Gallo camellias for free! It's a great time to view different camellia varieties in bloom and learn the names of some new ones thanks to the wonderful Gallo staff. They are dedicated to the preservation of the pathway and the successful identification of old camellias that may have lost their markers over the years.

I would like to personally thank everyone who has had a hand (even a tiny one!) in planning this year's show. It takes a lot of time and effort to get it off the ground and successful. Our show chairs Cindy Cook, Barbara Bort, and Tony Miranda are once again working tirelessly to bring a wonderful show to fruition. Thank you!

On Sunday, March 10th, is our last meeting before our show. We will once again have our mini show! Bring your blooms and learn how to show them. This is a great opportunity to bring family or friends who are interested in showing their camellias. Prizes will be awarded!

I hope to see you all soon!

*Kim Bardsley*

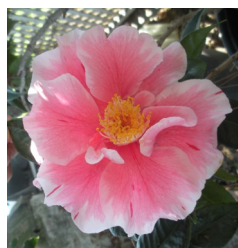


## **THANK YOU**

for sharing photos of your blooms! You can send your camellia photos to [camelliasocietyofmodesto@gmail.com](mailto:camelliasocietyofmodesto@gmail.com) to have them featured in the monthly newsletter!

# 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 with 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 attach-

ment to the hose filled only with soap to accomplish this task).

Happy Gardening,

Royce



# ***Apple Walnut Slaw***

## Ingredients

- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 4 to 5 tablespoons sugar
- 4-1/2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 6 cups shredded cabbage (about 1 small head)
- 1-1/2 cups shredded carrots (2-3 medium carrots)
- 1/3 cup finely chopped red onion
- 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts, toasted
- 3/4 cup raisins
- 2 medium apples, chopped

Prep/Total Time: 15 min.

Yield: 12 servings (3/4 cup each).



## Directions

1. Whisk together first six ingredients. In a large bowl, combine vegetables, walnuts and raisins; toss with dressing. Fold in apples.
2. Refrigerate, covered, until serving.

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## **Meeting Reminder!**

### **When:**

March 10, 2019 at 1:30 pm

### **Where:**

Modesto Central Fellowship Hall, at the corner of 16th and G Street downtown  
Modesto

Join the Camellia Society of Modesto this month as they put on their annual mini camellia show! Bring your camellia blooms to learn tips and tricks from seasoned professionals on how to show a winning camellia.

Prizes will be awarded!



# 2019 Camellia Show Season Schedule

March 2-3, 2019

*Camellia Society of Sacramento Show*

March 9-10, 2019

*Northern California Camellia Society Show*

March 16-17, 2019

*Camellia Society of Modesto Show*



*Submit photos of your camellias to be featured in  
the monthly newsletter!*

*Please send to*

*[camelliasocietyofmodesto@gmail.com](mailto:camelliasocietyofmodesto@gmail.com)*

## *58th Annual Modesto Camellia Show*

*When:*

March 16, 2019 & March 17, 2019

*Where:*

E&J Gallo Admin Building  
600 Yosemite Blvd. Modesto, CA 95354

Questions?

[camelliasocietyofmodesto@gmail.com](mailto:camelliasocietyofmodesto@gmail.com)