

November Newsletter

Camellia Society of Modesto
2015-16

www.camelliasocietyofmodesto.org

President's Message



Hello Camellia Friends,

At our last meeting (October) we enjoyed an expert on drought tolerant plants from Morris Nursery. You will find a nice review of his presentation in this newsletter.

I feel certain that this coming meeting is going to be just as excellent. I'm sure you will enjoy our speaker, Les Ridge, he is an expert on garden pests from Modesto Junior College. Please notice the attached flyer. Feel free to invite all your friends and relatives who are interested in gardening, and would like to know more about having pest free plants.

As we look forward to the rest of the camellia year, we can start to prepare for many exciting events. I'm thinking of the Judge's symposium on the 16th of January in Sacramento and the very first mini Camellia show to be held right here in Modesto at John's Incredible Pizza on February 6th. The mini show will be held in conjunction with the Northern California Camellia Council's meeting. This meeting and mini show will be something everyone will want to attend. You will enjoy good company, beautiful blooms, and excellent information about northern California's camellia network.

Hope to see you November 8 for our meeting. Please remember that an informed membership is a membership that keeps the club alive and running.

Marvin Bort, President



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.)



It is with great enthusiasm that I'm introducing our member Royce Rhodes who has agreed to become a regular contributor to our Newsletter. Royce is a Graduate of California State University, Stanislaus with a major in Biology and Plant Science. He enhanced his botanical knowledge by becoming a Master Gardener. Furthermore, he attended additional classes at Merritt College on Aesthetic Pruning. "My background in science allows me to understand the plant and soil needs and to create a healthy living condition for tree or plant." Welcome Royce, we look forward to your future articles.

Disease: Camellia petal blight (*Ciborinia camelliae*)

There's nothing quite like Camellia blooms in a winter landscape, but these beautiful flowers can be marred by Camellia petal blight (CPB), which causes petals to brown from the center outward, followed by premature dropping. Frost or wind damage and botrytis blight cause similar symptoms, but CPB is distinguished by browning around the petal veins. CPB is caused by fungal spores that survive in dead foliage and other plant debris. The fungus is promoted by wet, humid conditions, especially when temperatures hover between 59° to 70°F during bloom, and spreads when rain droplets drip down through the plant. The best way to manage CPB is to prevent it from entering your garden, since eradication. CPB is typically spread to new sites in the soil of infected nursery stock, particularly Camellia japonicus, the most frequently planted species. Inspect new plants when they are in bloom, if possible, for signs of the fungus. Plant shrubs in a well-ventilated area to discourage the stagnant air that fungus likes. For existing infections, remove plant debris from around the Camellia and throw into the garbage (do not compost). Avoid disturbing the soil to keep fungal spores from getting stirred up. Apply a 4" layer of organic mulch to the soil surface when blooms are not present, leaving several inches around the trunk clear; avoid overhead irrigation. Remove plant debris and add a new mulch layer each year to keep fungal spores in check.



OCTOBER Recap: “Guidelines on managing Lawn and Plant Health During a Drought.”

Ron Hoffmann, owner of Morris Nursery, 1837 Patterson Rd., Riverbank, gave a very an outstanding and informative presentation. Ron came loaded with plants of many varieties that are both drought tolerant and beautiful.



“we are seeing redwood trees and many other trees dying all over town due to water systems being turned off...”

One of the highlights was his advice on lawns. “We do not believe in nor do we support the browning of Modesto lawns as a water saving measure at this stage.” Lawns can be maintained with reasonable health following a few important steps:

1. Set your mower height at the highest possible setting. The taller grass blades will shade the soil, protecting it from drying out too fast.
2. Never mow more than 30% off the top of your lawn at one time. Mowing more will damage and stress the lawn requiring more water to recover.
3. Consider mowing once every 2 weeks at this higher setting.
4. Feed your lawn with a good organic lawn food such as Dr. Earth Lawn Fertilizer. It will naturally release the nutrients more slowly to the lawn and contains beneficial microbes that help maintain good lawn health. This feeding should last for 3 months.
5. Water your lawn for about 20 minutes total. Allow about 1 hour between each cycle so water can soak in.
6. Do all your watering between 3am and 8am for the best lawn health...try to avoid watering between 7pm and midnight. The high evening temperatures, combined with the addition of moisture creates the perfect condition for lawn fungus to grow.

If you opt to take your lawn out to save water, resist the urge to replace it with artificial turf or rock. One of the benefits of lawns is they keep the area around your house much cooler. You will be more comfortable outside and your air conditioner will not have to work as hard. Artificial turf or rocks cause air temperatures to rise significantly....A common side effect of letting your lawn go brown is that you will also shut off the water to your lawn trees. Trees do not have deep enough roots to reach the aquifer and must be watered deeply if infrequently to stay healthy. In many cases, lawns and shrubs are being watered at the same time and on the same station. Simply turning off the sprinklers can put great stress on both trees and shrubs and you risk losing them as well.

Ron Hoffmann, Morris Nursery

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

Membership Renewal Time

As another season of camellia meetings begins, it is time to remind all of us that our annual dues of only \$10 per family (\$15 if we mail you the newsletter and other notices) are needed from all of our members. As far as I can tell, this is the lowest amount any of the Northern California Camellia Societies asks for in membership dues. You may think that your dues are too small to matter, but they are not. When we all contribute our share, there is enough to plan interesting meetings for everyone. I hope you will renew your membership again this year and invite some of your family and friends to join us. The more help we have, the easier it is on all of us. Plus we all like to meet new friends. You may mail you check to me, or you may give it to me personally at our first regular meeting October 11.

NOTE: The club is currently in the process of obtaining liability insurance to cover our activities. The cost is determined by the number of members on our roster. Please renew your membership by December 1st. to insure your coverage. We must receive your dues no later than December 1, 2015 in order to keep you on our roster.

Thank you.

Barbara Bort, treasurer
2316 Glasgow Dr.
Ceres, CA 95307





RECIPE CORNER

Recipe courtesy of Paula Deen, 2007

With the Thanksgiving holidays in mind, I thought that this recipe sounded delicious. I haven't tried it yet, so if you try it before me, let me know how it turned out. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

CRUST:

1 3/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
3 tablespoons light brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 stick melted salted butter

FILLING:

3 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, at room temperature
1 (15-ounce) can pureed pumpkin
3 eggs plus 1 egg yolk
1/4 cup sour cream
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon fresh ground nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
2 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

For crust:

In medium bowl, combine crumbs, sugar and cinnamon. Add melted butter. Press down flat into a 9-inch spring form pan. Set aside.

For filling:

Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add pumpkin puree, eggs, egg yolk, sour cream, sugar and the spices. Add flour and vanilla. Beat together until well combined.

Pour into crust. Spread out evenly and place in oven for 1 hour. Remove from the oven and let sit for 15 minutes. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 4 hours.

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!

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

Barbara Bort 209-537-9945



**BEL
PIATTO**

**1000 Kansas Avenue
Modesto**

Bring a wrapped
gift to exchange,
\$15 limit.

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 Gratin: Butterfly pasta with cream, porcini mushrooms, prosciutto, chicken and cheese crust.



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
or Don Lesmeister jonanddon@comcast.net to reserve your place.

Topic: Bugs
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

BAD BUGS (Garden Pests)



Aphid



Spider Mites



Thrip



Fungus Gnat



Whitefly



Mealybug



Caterpillars



Leaf Miners

Be sure to attend the Camellia Club meeting Sunday, November 8th. 1:30 p.m. SDA Church Fellowship Hall 16th and G Street, Modesto

Special guest, Les Ridge (MJC lab assistant) will talk about pests and bugs in the garden, the good and bad.

See you there!