

Camellia Society of Modesto

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2016



Greetings Fellow Camellia Lovers,

I hope this letter finds you in good health with your spirits high. At our last general meeting we happily welcomed three new members to our club. Two ladies from Fresno and one lady from Atwater. They all knew about our club through the website. They contacted us for directions and programming for our next meeting. We hope they all plan to be at the Christmas dinner where we all can get to know them better.

As I said before, the reason our guests came is they wanted to find out more about camellias. Our special feature for November was a presentation by Cindy Cook showing pictures of various camellias with their names. This kind of presentation is very helpful when trying to identify a specific variety of camellia. She has already placed our order for the camellias we will be selling at the show, which includes several varieties of sasanquas.

This meeting was well attended. Our excellent refreshments were provided by Sylvia Ahrens. The next board meeting will be at 10:30, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016 in the Bort's home. All are welcome to attend.

If you have not yet paid your dues for this year, please send them in right away, as the number of dues paying members influences the cost of our insurance and also the membership in the California Garden Clubs association. Please take special note of the flier that is included in this newsletter, and respond to Pat if you plan to attend the Christmas luncheon. Also notice the venue for the luncheon and the fact that you are asked to bring one or two dishes. Call Pat or myself if you have any question.

Even with the frequent rain showers, you still need to check your camellia plants regularly to be sure they are getting enough water, especially if they are under a covering. If you didn't fertilize them yet this month, it is not too late, but you should do it soon.

Your Camellia Friend,

Marvin



*Wishing you and your
family a safe and joy-
ous holiday season!*

*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.)

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY IS ON INSTAGRAM!

Follow Modesto Camellia Society on Instagram! @camelliasocietyofmodesto



WATCH FOR MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK!



Camellia Society Of Modesto is having a page created on Facebook! Keep your eyes open, it will be up soon! Be sure to like the page and share it with your friends!



PUMPKIN CHOCOLATE CHIP PANCAKES

Time : 30 minutes makes: 20 med. pancakes

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

4 teaspoons baking powder

2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 cup sugar

1/2 cup pumpkin puree

1/2 cup ricotta cheese

2 large eggs

1 1/3 cups milk

1/2 cup chocolate chips, plus more for serving

maple syrup for serving

cooking spray



-Combine the flour, baking powder, pumpkin pie spice, salt, and sugar in a medium bowl.

-In a large bowl, whisk the pumpkin puree, ricotta, eggs, and milk until smooth.

-Add the flour mixture to the pumpkin mixture, and stir until combined. Then stir in the chocolate chips.

-Lightly coat a large skillet with cooking spray, and heat over medium low heat. For each pancake, pour 1/4 cup batter onto the skillet.

-Cook until bubbles form in top, about 3 minutes. Flip and continue cooking until golden brown on the other side, about 2 minutes more. Serve with maple

-Syrup and extra chocolate chips sprinkled on top.

Thank you Barbara Bort for the recipe!

Camellia Culture

With Royce Rhoads



The History of The Camellia

The first Modesto Camellia Society meeting I attended the speaker, member Pete Warner, gave a presentation about the History of the Camellia. It was very thorough and interesting. When I returned home I started to research Camellias trying to find one I wanted to add to my landscape. Finally, since it was the holiday season, I chose the Yule Tide camellia and I have not been disappointed.

This is why I would like to start this years series of articles and we can all “GROW” from there.

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

It came from the Far East about two centuries ago and with its fascinating colors and sensual forms it has literally conquered the whole of Europe. Its original name is “Tsubaki”, playing a key role in some religious rituals (in fact it identifies the divine element), is also recognized in Japan as the flower that announces spring.

We are talking of the Camellia, a woody plant, originating from Japan and China, which has oval leaves, pointed, glossy and dark green color and soft petals, gently rounded, whose colors vary from white to pink or to red. This flower is considered the symbol of the utmost refinement of beauty and excellence of eternal love.

It was a Jesuit missionary, Father Georg Joseph Kamel (to whom we owe the name of the plant), to bring the first camellias in the old continent, around 1740. It was love at first sight for this beautiful and elegant plant that soon became the protagonist of the gardens of all Europe.

Camellias arrived around 1786 in Italy, when the first plant was located in the English Garden of the Royal Palace (Reggia di Caserta) at the behest of the Queen of Naples, Maria Carolina Hapsburg.

This beautiful flower, spread rapidly in many areas of the country until it arrived in our Velletri.

It is not known who introduced Camellia in Velletri, or the period it arrived. The only certain fact is that here the camellias, have found their natural habitat: the volcanic soil, rich in minerals, that allows this plant to grow and flourish in rich and varied forms.

From 800 onwards there is no garden or vineyard of Velletri, where the colors of the “Japanese rose” do not dominate on the rest of the vegetation.

Feast of the Camellias in Velletri

We have to wait until 1994 to find the first evidence of initiatives dedicated specifically to Velletri camellias. Until then, the cultivation of camellias was absolutely common in the countryside of Velletri; the Japanese flower, mostly used for decoration funeral, was not taken into account until the early nineties when, by accident, the camellia became a symbol of Velletri and has meant that the city was known worldwide for its production. All this happened thanks to an article published in the magazine of the “Italian Society Friends of Flowers” in which, for the first time, was made a

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Camellia Culture Continued...

reference to the beautiful and long-lived camellia trees in the area. Furthermore this article has prompted the leaders of the Garden Club of Perugia to contact with the author of the script, a resident of Velletri, and visit some public gardens in the month of March. At the same time a well-known local nurseryman had shown to groups of fans from Rome, the camellias of one of the most beautiful gardens in the city. This initiative “go to the Camellias”, which began in 1993, has seen the fundamental contribution of an unforgettable character in the history of this feast: Piero Caneti, an expert in botany resident in Velletri with the family, which began visiting the gardens of the area to learn and see with the eyes of a great admirer of varieties of camellias hidden in the vineyards of Velletri. From these early itineraries, to the discovery of the Camellia of Velletri and the passion of great admirers of the Japanese plant, the first above all Piero Caneti, were laid the foundations of what would become a real annual event: “The feast of the Camellias”. The year after the intervention of the Garden Club of Perugia began the first collaboration between the creators of the festival and the Company’s Board of Tourist of Velletri and Lariano led by Joseph Masella. Since the beginning, there were identified the gardens among the most beautiful and rich varieties of camellias and other plants and local typical products. To visit these gardens, mostly private, it was decided to use public transport, small bus carrying visitors from a garden to another. This idea still remains today, and this year will see the exceptional opening of what was the garden of Piero Caneti sold, after his death, to other owners, who conserve and treat it with great commitment and dedication. Velletri has thus become, in effect, “City of the Camellias” being written by the city council also to the Italian Society of the Camellias, a group that brings together enthusiasts, nurserymen and Italian scholars in the field.

The Feast of the Camellias, now in its 19th edition, is held every third Sunday in March and has become an important event for the city, with culture and art.

The historic center and the municipal gardens are transformed into a veritable open-air flower market where you can see and buy wonderful varieties of camellias and more.

Photographic and painting exhibitions dedicated to the Japanese plant are held in the most important parts of the city.

Over the years this event has become an important moment of cultural exchange with Japanese and Thai people who come to visit our city out of curiosity to see how the flower of their native land has been adapted to our area.

Just to reinforce this special and unique bond between Velletri and Japan, for this 19th edition of the Festival of Camellias, it was decided to recreate the Japanese in the historic center. Production Designer inspired architecture, culture and daily life Asian, made by Sergio Gotti will be placed in the main squares. An encounter between two cultures, then, is the leitmotif of the event, which, although very different, is linked by a flower that for centuries has been a symbol of elegance and beauty.



Holiday Potluck

- ◇ *Date: Sunday December 11, 2016*
- ◇ *Place: SDA Church Fellowship Hall 16th and G Street, Modesto*
- ◇ *Time: 1:30*



Contact person: Pat Warner
patriciawarner3@gmail.com
(209) 576-0831

Main dishes will be catered (baked chicken, pasta primavera).

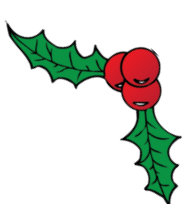
Those attending should bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.

The caterer needs numbers by the 8th and how many dishes of each.

If attending let me know what you choose and what dish you will be bringing. That way if get enough of one dish we can ask that you change to another. Thanks for your quick RSVP.

There will a gift exchange (\$15 Max) and will be lots of fun!

*No charge for the catered main dish, but we will pass the hat for donations.



Northern California Camellia Council

Camellia Show Calendar

- NCCC mini show and annual meeting. February 4, 2017. At John's Incredible Pizza, Modesto
- San Francisco Peninsula Camellia Society. February 11-12, 2017
- Santa Clara Camellia Society. February 25-26, 2017
- Sacramento Camellia Society. March 4-5, 2017
- Northern California Camellia Society. March 11-12, 2017 (subject to change).
- Modesto Camellia Society. March 18-19, 2017



Debutante



Apple Blossom