



# *Camellia Society of Sacramento*

**camelliasocietyofsacramento.org**

Meeting Date: To Be Announced

## Greetings fellow camellia lovers!

Summer is here which means warm weather, thirsty plants and missing gathering with friends and family. Hope all of you are wearing your masks and supporting social distancing. Gary and I are still a happily married couple of 51 years but there have been a couple of days in the past 4 months that are questionable. Fortunately, we are in the family “bubble” so we can get a few hugs from the grandkids, and share meals with our family from time to time. Life is good. I miss our camellia friends. I am still trying to keep the Camellia Grove alive. It looks pretty bad but trying to remove weeds and water the camellias.

Sad news: Please hold Irene Moore and her family in your prayers. Her dear husband Patrick has passed after a valiant fight with cancer.

What is going on in your lives? Hope all are well. This issue is intended to extend our best wishes and to let you know what is going on in the “Land of Camellias”. Our President Julie will fill you in on what we know. I have asked each of our board members to answer two questions:

1. How did you get interested in camellias?
2. What is your favorite camellia bloom?

Carol

## **Presidents Message**

Dear Camellia Friends,

Boy, do I ever miss all of you! I hope you are all well. The Board and I wanted to let all of you know what is going on right now. We are kind of sidelined, as the Elk’s is closed indefinitely, so no meetings in the near future, and likewise our show...



We were thinking of not doing the button contest for 2021. But after thinking about it, I thought maybe we should at least try and see if we have anyone interested. I have contacted a few people that were interested at our show last year...lets see what develops. If anyone is interested, please contact me and I will send you the guidelines.

We are going to send monthly newsletters to let you know what is going on and keeping you abreast of anything that changes. *We don't want you to forget us!* We are looking into putting some informational videos on our website, too. We aren't the most techie people, so if any of you know how to do that, let us know!

Our show squeaked it in before everything shut down. Everything stopped so abruptly, that I think all of us were taken aback by how quickly it happened. I believe the Modesto club still has some plant varieties still for sale. Look up the Modesto Camellia Society and check it out. We have some available also, since we won't be having meetings. We did well at the show, even though we didn't have as many people pass through as usual. Sold lots of plants, raffle tickets, and the camellia quilt raffle...I won it, and am so happy!! The Leidig's did a bang up job selling buttons and have organized them all. The trophy table was absolutely incredible, the plant raffle table had a line out the door, waxing table a big hit, as usual, and the Matsuyama table beautiful too. The arrangers had a beautiful room full of arrangements that had a steady line of people go through. Everyone worked so hard to put on our show. You are the best!

Also, the Club Pheasant is not taking reservations for groups yet. They have a patio on the back side, and only a few can eat out there. So our September 26<sup>th</sup> luncheon is not going to happen. Please take that date off your calendar. BUT, please go by there and order take out! We need them to stay in business! Their number is 916-371-9530. They are closed Monday and Tuesdays.

We want to extend our heartfelt condolences to Irene Moore, as her husband Patrick passed away in early July. He fought a valiant fight and he will be missed. I saw recently in the Bee that Dorothy Stewart passed, too. She and her husband Bill were members for many years.

Our recognition of the Nuccio's has been put off. Hopefully we have a reset and next year we start over and enjoy our camellia friendships once again.

If you have any suggestions to help us get through this year...things you might want to hear about, let us know! We are always open to suggestions. I know Don Lesmeister has a couple good ideas up his sleeve! Stay tuned!

Please take care, as we want everyone to stay healthy!

Your camellia buddy, Julie

#### **Question for the Board:**

- 1. How did you become interested in camellias?**
- 2. What is your favorite camellia bloom?**

**President:** Julie Vierra



1. My next door neighbor, Mary Nair, entered a tray of 3 Lallarooks and called me Saturday night to tell me I had won a blue ribbon! I was rearing 3 young girls and had no clue she entered my camellias! I went down to show Sunday afternoon, found my tray of 3 Lallarooks and was aghast. They had spots on them and knew the judges were blind!! I became Recording Secretary that fall...Peter Van Hoecke was president...198?? It's been so long that I can't remember the exact year...
2. Favorite camellia? ...tough... I think **Yours Truly**, because I think it was the first camellia that I purchased for our yard. Lallarook and Purity were already at the house when we bought it in 1973.

**First Vice President:** Don Lesmeister



1. I worked in Human Resources with Society members, Lyle Smith & Neely Downing, they got me interested. Got **Tomorrow Park Hill** on Honor table @ our first Camellia show. Got Hooked...
2. My favorite Camellia is the one I am currently looking at...

**Second Vice President:** Bill Kitagawa



1. I became a member to represent Matsuyama Sacramento Sister City Corp, since Hiroko Ninomiya was a member. I did not have any camellias at all. I did have one from my wife's parent's home and replanted at my prior home. My interest came upon winning plants from raffle.
2. My favorite camellia bloom is **Bravo**.

**Treasurer:** Rosemary Spasovich



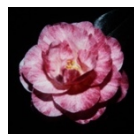
1. My Granny had Camellias and my Mom also. Lifelong gardener finally had time to really enjoy it after I retired.
2. Love most of them but I'll say **Debutante** as it's the one I remember my Mom always had outside the kitchen window.

**Recording Secretary:** Irene Moore



1. I didn't know the Camellia Society existed until the Will C. Wood Garden Club students helped set-up for the camellia show and I was asked to be a driver. When their advisor transferred to a different school, my club (Student's Making a Difference) took over. I fell in love with camellias year three and joined the society.
2. My favorite bloom is **Pink Perfection**.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Carol Schanz



1. My parents got me interested when I was a child and I have carried our family tradition and love of the camellia to the next generation.
2. Favorite camellia bloom: **Betsy**, my dad developed and named the camellia after his mother. My second favorite is Bella Rosa Var.

**Northern California Camellia Council Representative:** Joan Lesmeister

1. I'm a follower...followed Don, he does culture, growing, all that important stuff! I just go along for the ride!
2. I don't have a favorite...how could I?

**Membership:** LuAnn Lantsberger



1. My mom instilled a love of gardening in me. And a little over 20 years ago I met my best friend, Julie Vierra, at work and we realized we both had a love of the Giants and the love of gardening. She invited me a Camellia Society meeting and I've been hooked ever since.
2. My favorite camellia bloom is Red Devil. I love the deep red color.

**Trophy Table Chair, Joan Lesmeister:** Our 2020 show was wonderful, & so was our Trophy Table! Starting with many thanks to all you trophy contributors, you're all so generous & really make the show outstanding! Now I'm trying to remember all the folks who helped on the trophy table: Special thanks to Jackie Randall & Sharon Adams who really stepped up to get me and all of us going! You were amazing! Also, I want you to know, Tracy B., Alyssa, Darlene, Margot, Irene, Arlene, Lana, Tracie S., Cassie, Rosemary, Leone, (& if I've missed your name I'm so sorry), how much you all are so appreciated, you also were amazing! You unpacked, set up, monitored, took down, packed up, did everything we needed...You all saved the day(s)! I'm so proud of all of you and your kindness and helpfulness! And you're really a fun bunch to work with too! You're all in my heart, would love to hug you, and I look forward to another great year when we'll all be together again, soon, we hope!

PS, You are all very talented and very hard workers...let Julie know if you'd just love being Trophy Table Chair next year!

**Future Program:** The Winners of the 2020 Camellia Shows presented by Don Bergamini

**Meeting Dates:** To be announced.

## **SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2020. PARKING LOT SALE AT ELKS LODGE #6 6446 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, 95831**

With the abundance of time on our hands in the past few months, many treasured items have been found and are looking for new homes. Bring them to the parking lot sale October 3. We will have camellia plants for sale. If you want to help and if you will be bringing items to the sale, call Carol, 916 447-1969 or Julie, 916 371-2174. We will also be selling plants. More information to follow.

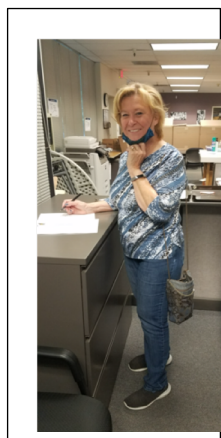
## **Northern California Camellia Show Schedule (To be announced)**

### **2020 Camellia Button**

Thank you, Joanne Tsukamoto for your beautiful designs over the past 8 years. We are working on having a button this year. Email Julie Vierra, [j4sjgiants@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j4sjgiants@sbcglobal.net) for more information if you are interested in submitting a design. Must include "Camellia Society of Sacramento and the year 2021".

### **Blast from the Past by Lana Paulhamus**

I am happy to report that the Camellia Society of Sacramento archival material that dates back to 1942 has been submitted to the Sacramento History Center. On June 19, 2020 Kim Hayden, main Archivist notified us that our collection was accepted. This means that our Society has finally established its "footprint" in Sacramento History!! After archival review of importance of the collection, it will become available for any future researchers to review. On August 6 at 10 a.m. Julie, Ernie and Lana met with Archivist William Villano and delivered the collection.



I had to sign some papers so that our history will be officially donated.  
William and other fellows helped us. They were so nice!  
I am so sorry we didn't get a picture of Lana ☹️ Lana, you did a wonderful job cataloging all our history and documenting everything. Thank you so much! Julie

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE!**

\$20 a year per household, electronic newsletter

\$25 a year per household, USPS newsletter

\$30 a year per household, Sustaining Membership

Contact: LuAnn Lantsberger, 2960 Brenda Way, West Sacramento, CA,  
95691

Questions: 916-729-9892

**Culture Corner**

Joan & I have been thinking about ALL of you and hoping all is well with you and yours.....As Senior Society Advisors, we suggest you follow the advice of the MEDICAL people about masks, distancing, etc. Please do not follow the advice of others who have non-medical agendas and motivation. We want to see you for the next meetings & shows.

I must commend every one of you that participated in our Camellia Society Show this year. It was a complete success. While the number of bloom entries was down a little, the same applied to all the other California Shows. AND...our show is still the largest show on the West Coast, & probably the United States. All of the Chair people deserve a huge round of applause.

The Lord only knows what this next year will bring to us. If there is a Vaccine available before the Camellia Shows begin, there shouldn't be any problems, and the Camellia world will be back to normal. But who knows. All the Camellia folks from the East Coast to the West Coast are in the same situation.

The main items for Camellia culture, are: 1 Apply 0-10-10 once or twice before blooming commences, 2. Do some MINOR pruning, particularly to help blooms to open without interference, and 3. Disbud. Many plants need to be disbudded several times during the year, particularly the Hybrids.

Stay alert to the virus and stay healthy.  
Oh, also, please distance yourself from the refrigerator...  
DON





Article from the Southern California Camellia Society  
Alexis Slafer

## What's What in the *Camellia World* this Summer as We Cope with Covid-19

We begin with the sad news that the prolific camellia hybridizer Dr. Clifford Parks died in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on July 18. He was 84 and died peacefully at home. Dr. Parks was a camellia mentor to many... through his camellia articles and lectures. He introduced 20 *Camellia japonica*, 15 *C. reticulata* hybrids, 19 non-*reticulata* hybrids, 2 *C. heimalis* and 3 *C. sasanqua*. He bred cold hardy, fragrant and yellow camellias with his most famous being the large red bloom of the *C. reticulata* he named for himself. He bred 'Dr. Clifford Parks' when he was a young botanist at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia. When he moved to Chapel Hill he bred cold hardy camellias -- 9 of which comprise the "April Series". The pale yellow formal double "Optical Illusion", introduced in 2015, was his last introduction. He is survived by his son David Parks, who owns "*Camellia Forest*" in North Carolina. We will miss our camellia friend and continue to remember him when we enjoy the camellias he introduced.



**Dr. Clifford Parks**  
**Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland, Oregon**



**Dr. Clifford Parks**



**Optical Illusion**

Thank you to Alexis Slafer of the Southern California Society for the article from the President's Message in their newsletter.

Don't forget to vote.



WEBSITE: [www.camelliasocietyofsacramento.org](http://www.camelliasocietyofsacramento.org)

*Stay Safe!*