

Camellia Times

camelliasocietyofsacramento.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Hello My Camellia Friends!

This is it . . . we are on the home stretch towards our 102nd camellia show! Thanks to everyone who showed up at last month's meeting and signed up to help at the show. We need everyone to come to the February 22nd meeting so we can finish signing up folks to help out at the show - whether it is Friday morning set-up, or Saturday or Sunday. Lots of things to do to make this the best show ever!

This month's presenter, Justin Bergamini, will be showing us how to graft camellias. For those who want to try your grafting skills, please call me by February 16th to sign up for this. We have 12 understock available, so signing up as soon as possible is important. The understock is \$11 a plant, cash to Julie when you arrive at the meeting. Please bring your garden gloves, sharpened garden pruners (cleaned). We will supply Band-Aids (which hopefully will NOT be needed), root tone, grafting knives, zip ties, etc. Justin will do the presentation on grafting and Don Lesmeister will also be available for questions in addition to his helpful hints on the blooms entered in our monthly mini show. If there is a special camellia scion you want, please let us know. We will do our best to find any special requests. Otherwise, cut a scion off one of your camellias. (Go to the American Camellia Society website and look up grafting as they have information on how to graft.)

We have lots to go over at this meeting as it is the last one before our show so we hope everyone can attend. Thanking you in advance for your participation and willingness to help out to make our show successful.

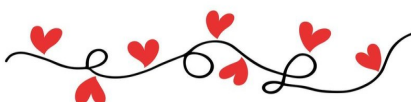
All hands on deck!

Julie



CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO 2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Julie Vierra	916-371-2174
1st Vice President	LuAnn Lantsberger	916-729-9892
2nd Vice President	Bill Kitagawa	916-591-5654
Recording Secretary	Carol Schanz	916-296-2993
Corresponding Secretary	LuAnn Lantsberger	916-729-9892
Treasurer	Rosemary Cooper	559-779-1197
Historian	Joan Lesmeister	916-206-9104
NCCC Representative	Barbara Smith	916-642-2957



2025-2026 ADVISORY BOARD

Show Chairpersons	Julie Vierra (also Chair of Judges), Don Lesmeister & LuAnn Lantsberger
ACS/ICS Representative	Justin Bergamini/Carol Schanz
ACS Pacific Regional Vice President	Carol Schanz
Education, Research & Science	Don Lesmeister
Greeter	Darlene Fong
Hospitality	Linda Grant & Sydney Donnell Morris
Meeting Bloom Display	Julie Vierra
Membership	LuAnn Lantsberger
New Member Liaison	Tanis Toland
Nominating Committee Chair	Rosemary Cooper
Past President	Carol Schanz
Community Outreach/Culture Liaisons	Julie Vierra & LuAnn Lantsberger
Sunshine	Jackie Randall
Ways & Means	Julie Vierra, Rosemary Cooper, LuAnn Lantsberger, Joan Lesmeister, Carol Schanz
Website	Rosemary Cooper, LuAnn Lantsberger and Julie Vierra

General Meeting Dates for 2025/26

All meetings are on the following Sundays at 2 p.m.



October 26th, 2025
November 16th, 2025*
December 14th, 2025*
January 25th, 2026

February 22nd, 2026

March 22nd, 2026

*(a week earlier because of holidays)

**MEETING LOCATION: Eskaton Land Park
3225 Freeport Blvd, Sacramento**

LUNCHEON: Sunday, April 26th (Sierra 2 - Curtis Hall)

THIS MONTH'S PLANT RAFFLE - Bill Kitagawa

- *Kitty* - Japonica. White with pink border, miniature
- *Lucky Star Variegated* - Hybrid. Pink with white variegation
- *Virginia Robinson* - Japonica. Large orchid pink, semi-double pink.



SPECIAL RAFFLE - 5-Gallon High Fragrance - Hybrid. Medium sized, fragrant.

SPECIAL RAFFLE!! - only 40 tickets will be sold, hurry before they run out . . .

We are excited to share a special raffle with our society. Bill Kitagawa has graciously donated a bottle of 2018 E. Guigal Cote Rotie La Mouline wine (valued at \$400) for a special raffle. This boutique and collectible French wine is 90% Syrah and 10% Viognier and one review states "the 2018 is a blockbuster of a wine, offering full-bodied aromas and flavors of black raspberries, cassis, spring flowers, espresso and violets. Coming from a steep, terraced warmer terrain, and fermented with 10% viognier, it is exotic, seamless as well as approachable".

Raffle tickets for this wine will be available again at our February meeting. Tickets are \$10 each, with a limit of 40 tickets sold.

As with our regular plant raffle and silent auctions, funds from this raffle will be used to defer the cost of the room rental for our show.



February Presentation - Grafting Camellias

Justin Bergamini is our guest presenter this month and we are so excited that he will be showing us how to graft! With Nuccio's Nursery closing in just a couple of months, we need to find ways to keep our supply of unique camellia plants strong. If you are interested in grafting, please call Julie Vierra at (916-812-3202) by February 16th to add your name to the list and you will also need to bring the following with you to the meeting:

- \$11 cash for the understock plant (pay Julie)
- Garden gloves
- Sharp, cleaned garden pruners
- Scions for grafting (see page 1 of newsletter for more info on this)



UPCOMING EVENTS



DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER
October 26, 2025	Winning Blooms of the 2025 Camellia Season	Justin Bergamini
November 16, 2025	Garden Myths and Q&A	Marlene Simon
December 14, 2025	Gift Exchange & Desserts!	Start show prep & Jackie will review Photo Contest rules
January 25, 2026	Preparing the for Show w/Q&A. From how to prepare blooms while still on the plant to transporting them to the show (and everything in between!!)	Julie Vierra, LuAnn Lantsberger & Don Lesmeister
February 22, 2026	Grafting	Justin Bergamini
March 22, 2026	End of year ice cream social and fancy desserts	Review of show
April 26, 2026	Luncheon, Installation of Officers, Silent Auction, Plant Raffle, Great Friends, Laughs	Fun for all!

2026 Photography Contest - March 7th, 2026

Just a reminder to take pictures of those blooming camellias for this year's photography contest. The categories are:

- 3 Camellias of the same kind
- Camellia(s) with children
- Camellia(s) with pets
- Camellia(s) in a patriotic setting
- Camellia(s) with food



Additional information and instructions are included in your email



We will have new merchandise for this year's show and we are hoping to have it available to members at our February meeting!!



- Baseball caps - in new colors!!
- Men's and women's t-shirts - with multiple designs
- Long sleeved shirts - in multiple colors
- Tote bags - black with multiple designs
- Coffee mugs - so cute! Courtesy of Camellia Coffee Roasters
- Camellia lapel pins (3 Nuccio Blooms from this year button)
- Pillows
-

In addition, we are hard at work obtaining awesome items for this year's raffle. If you would like to donate a nice raffle basket let us know. We've added a few additional crafters who will be in the lobby at the Scottish Rite both days of our show, and the Camellia Coffee Roasters will again be at our show on Sunday morning selling their amazing coffee, hot chocolate and pastries.

**UPCOMING SHOW DATES—
2026 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SHOW SCHEDULE**

February 21st	Mini-Show Desco Plaza III 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette Contact: Justin Bergamini, 707-637-7051
March 7th & 8th	Camellia Society of Sacramento Show Scottish Rite Temple 6151 H Street, Sacramento Contact: Don Lesmeister, 916-742-3443 or Julie Vierra, 916-371-2174, 916-812-3202
March 14th & 15th	Northern California Camellia Society Show St. Andrews Celebration Center, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill Contact: Justin Bergamini, 707-637-7051
March 21st	Camellia Society of Modesto Show Location Modesto Junior College Contact: Cindy Cook, 209-484-1369

Just a reminder that membership dues for 2025/26 are now past due. If you have not yet paid your 25/26 dues, please send your check to: LuAnn Lantsberger, 2960 Brenda Way, West Sacramento, CA 95691 or see her at the January meeting.

- \$25 - Regular Membership
- \$30 - Sustaining Membership
- An additional \$5 will be required if you request the newsletter be sent via U.S. mail to cover the cost of printing and postage.



Thank you for supporting our society!

CAMELLIA HISTORY - Joan Lesmeister

Remember when . . . Our Society started using Nuccio's camellia introductions for our plant raffles? Before that, our members were doing large numbers of grafts to use for raffles, a source of income to keep our Society thriving! We've come full circle, once again we need to be grafting as our favorite camellia resource as Tom & Jim of Nuccio's Nurseries are retiring.

Did you know, Nuccio's has introduced over 200 new varieties since the 1930's? We may not be planting seeds in large numbers, waiting for a beautiful new introduction (5 years?), but we can be grafting our already named beautiful varieties. Our older members have lots of camellia varieties not available in local nurseries, ask them for a scion!



This year our show will have two (2) new trophy sections - one is a single variety introduced by Nuccio's (maybe one of Tom's favorites -Silver Waves (photo to the right)?? The other new section will be a Nuccio's introduction in a tray of 3 - maybe Nuccio's Pearl (photo below)??



Check your nomenclature, you may have several you can enter!

CAMELLIA CULTURE - Don Lesmeister

As our camellia plants begin to bloom, we are getting rewarded for all the hard work we have accomplished through the year. If you desire to improve your plants and flowers, this is also the best time of year to learn from others. The best thing you can do is attend our monthly Camellia Society meetings. Please bring your blooms with you and enter them in our monthly "mini show". Those of us who have been growing camellias for years are always available to provide you with advice and be glad to answer any questions you may have.

See you at our meetings.



Camellia Society of Sacramento
C/O LuAnn Lantsberger
2960 Brenda Way
West Sacramento, CA 95691