

Oregon Camellia Society

May/July Newsletter 2024



President's Message

Greetings and salutations,

The biggest news is that Collier hosted a judging school at his centrally located house in Portland attended by Chris Goldstein, Brady Sheets, and Greg Anderson. Collier's effort to bring this together in a short amount of time is highly appreciated. I dusted off an old PowerPoint from a judging school I gave many years ago, deleted the parts that were obsoleted by the new rules, modified some parts that had minor modifications, and marked up my new rule book about parts of the new rules I wanted to emphasize. The modifications are primarily to qualification and re-

accreditation of judges, and to handling of seedlings and mutant entries. Unfortunately, although I took my PowerPoint to the school, I forgot the marked up rule book at home. Since all the attendees were interested in becoming judges, I assumed they were becoming familiar with the judge development and accreditation rule on their own, and interjected commentary on the new rules for seedlings and mutants on my own.

Collier chimed in with his thoughts and expertise after most every statement that I made in my presentation, thereby enhancing the content significantly.

The satisfying result of the school is that we qualified two new novice judges for our show in Newberg allowing two teams of judges, thereby moving judging along more than twice as fast as it had been done in past years with only one team of judges. It is left as an exercise to the reader to conclude why judging went better than twice as fast!

Without Collier and Kathy winning nearly every trophy like usual this year and donating them back to the club for recycling to future show awards, Grace will have a considerable task replenishing our trophies for next year.

I gave my newly minted Higo talk at the Japanese Garden, and four of our members showed up to listen to my babble. I appreciate their support, and hope it was interesting enough that they will also deign to show up again at the September meeting when I give it again. Because of the "interesting" weather we had this late winter, and the more extreme habitat for some of our members gardens (Collier's too warm, mine too windy and densely forested, and Kathy's too elevated, and Denis's too cold) we were lacking in higo flowers before the talk so I let the garden know that we would not be providing example blooms. Little did I know that Alan had been watching the developments before the talk and let me know the night before the talk that he could provide Higo blooms for the attendees to peruse. Given that Alan is a fine gardener in his own right (even though he spent a lot of his gardening lifetime doing miniature gardening aka bonsai) we had some fine examples of blooms to share with the audience.

To give you all motivation to spend time reading your camellia books, the American Camellia Society Journal, newsletters provided to us by the New South Wales group in Australia, etc. I hereby announce that I plan to begin a tradition of giving a test each year at the March meeting. Hopefully it will be a fun event.

Farewells and valedictions,

Garland

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March meeting report

We had the program first as some members could not make it for the business meeting if it was early. Brady presented a short slide show about our Hillsboro propagation and grow out facility and answered questions. Garland presented the results of the ranked

choice voting for best meeting time. It turned out that starting the meeting a 11 am, 12 noon, or 1 pm all tied in the voting. Garland also demonstrated the spreadsheet for our first use of ranked choice voting at the contention table (head table) at the upcoming show.

We then broke for refreshments.

After sufficient time for refreshments plus and additional 20 minutes of trying to collar in the social animals that make up our membership, the President was able to start the business meeting.

Chris move that the minutes be approved as they appeared in the newsletter. Brady seconded the motion and it passed.

The treasurer reported on finances and recent camellia sales. She also discussed new membership which seems to wax after a camellias sale and wane after sufficient time has passed since the sale was attended.

No changes have been made to the officer nominations in the last newsletter with the vote to be during the April meeting.

Collier reported on judging. At the time of the meeting Chris Goldstein was highly interested in taking the school. We will try to have a judging school between this meeting and show in four weeks time. Additional candidates to attend the school and become novice judges are Brady and Greg.

It was suggested that Bryan Stewart coordinate with the Portland Timbers on scheduling the Camellia Festival in the future so that Greg will be available to attend our shows and not be attending Timbers games.

The Japanese Garden talk about Higos will be shy of Higo blooms this year due to weather. The events coordinator has every intention of hosting the Peoples' Choice Show beginning again next year and into the future. To attend the Higo talk requires garden admission. The talk will be repeated as the program for our September meeting this year.

Martha reported we now have a tablet and app to do credit card transactions at our sale at the upcoming show in Newberg.

Marvin moved we adjourn, Greg seconded, motion passed.

April meeting report

For April, we had the good fortune of visiting Kathy Lintault's beautiful garden. We held the meeting while having lunch in her beautiful Arts and Crafts (as I remember) home designed by her late husband Roger.

The bylaws state the election of officers is to be done at the April meeting. At the meeting, we had the nomination of Chris Goldstein to the board thereby replacing the nomination of Collier Brown to that board position. The slate of candidates was then adopted by a vote of the membership. We also notified Collier that he was not getting off scot free since being the past President makes him a member of the board ex-officio.

After lunch we had demonstrations of how to do grafting and air-layering. The acclaimed grafting expert of the group is Alan Taft who did the grafting demonstration. OCS had his demonstration once before, but our President was unable to attend having a conflicting engagement so it was an eye opener for him. After Alan, Collier and Kathy discussed air-layering and demonstrated techniques for doing it.

The graft that Alan did was to graft scions from Kathy's camellia azalea hybrid onto understock from a seedling that Collier had grow out to bloom as a common looking pink semi-double that would not add to the variety of camellia cultivars known to the world.

Personally, I could have stayed there all day exploring camellias in Kathy's garden, but had to return to Portland to meet my wife on her return at the airport. When I left, Denis was avidly trying to win future shows by air-layering Kathy's Atomic Red camellia.

May Meeting Announcement

May 18 11:30 AM

**Hometown Taste Restaurant 12890 NW Cornell Rd,
Portland, OR**

In the past, Grace Bayley has hosted once or twice Cantonese "drinking-tea", aka "touching of heart", small plates brunch get-togethers in a dim sum restaurant. They have push carts to move in front of diners and diners can easily point and order the dishes. Nowadays the new trend is eating Shanghai style brunch/light meals originated in Portland by Ding Tai Fung restaurant in Washington Square. Now there are 5 or 6 places in town which offer similar but less pricy selections. The signature dish is Xiao Long Bao (steamed soupy buns). We will try it on Sat. 5/18 11:30am at Hometown Taste. They have a couple of large round tables we will try to reserve. Please email bokuhan_hagaromo@yahoo.com or call/text Garland (503) 459-7419 the number of

people attending by noon Fri. 5/17 so we can alert the restaurant. Once you get on Cornell it is easy to find by NW 129th. They have plenty of parking behind the restaurant and a little in front of the restaurant street side. The restaurant is lower than the street behind a wall so you won't see it until you are in front of it. Best to just look for 129th and turn south on it.

July Picnic Info

Summer is for picnics, and the Oregon Camellia Society is hosting its traditional summer potluck picnic on **July 27th** this year. For our new members, it's important to say that it's a very special occasion in our calendar year because the event also doubles as a plant auction. After sharing a potluck lunch at noon, we switch gears and launch into auction mode in the afternoon.

A bit of background first. OCS, as the oldest camellia society in the country, with origins dating back to the 1940s, has always sought out camellias not available locally to plant in Oregon soil. Beautifying our gardens this way continues to the present, and several of us have a keen interest in propagation.

The club's annual summer picnic/auction is one of the best places for members to add unusual and collectible varieties of camellias to their own gardens. Most plants for sale will be rooted in one-gallon pots, ready for planting in the fall and accompanied by a picture of the bloom. Seasoned club members will be on hand to give advice about planting, watering, and all other aspects of growing healthy camellias.

The picnic location is still to be decided, but please put July 27 on your calendar now. We look forward to the event and will share location details later this month.

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Suggestions for Future meeting topics.

- 1. Companion planting with Camellias**
- 2. Pruning large camellias to manageable size**

- 3. Breeding your own new varieties**
- 4. Integrating camellias into existing landscaping**
- 5. Using camellia oil and how it is harvested**
- 6. More ideas?**