

# Oregon Camellia Society

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oregoncamelliasociety.org

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September/October/November 2020

## President's Message



*Greetings, fellow camellians.*

It's been too long since we talked but it's been hard to do or even plan very much. Six months into the current plague, the future of social gatherings here still seem very uncertain. Getting together in the flesh seems very unwise for now. I hope all of you have been well and comfortably occupied.

Two days ago Christie Hubbard, our farm wife, started what I want us to do now—**write us a letter** telling us how you are and what you've been doing since we last met. I **invite you to include a photo** if you wish of whatever pleases you (we, for example, have the first bloom on our Garden Glory). In addition, please **include a list of the five camellia cultivars** you'd most like to have. The society has a great many plants at this point—at Brady's in Hillsboro, with Bryan in Newberg, some at the Van Veen Nursery, Kathy Lintault has a bunch and so do I. If you come up with a number of things we don't have, it could be fun to think about an order to Nuccio's, perhaps partly subsidized by OCS. (Alas, I talked to Jim Nuccio the other day and while they supposedly have been working on a new catalog since November, it isn't ready yet. We are first on Jim's list to get some eventually).

To avoid an endless confusing train of confusing emails, **please send your letters directly to Kathy at [lintault@onlinemac.com](mailto:lintault@onlinemac.com)**. She will collect them and send them back to us as a group which can then also be sent out by Garland in paper form to those not getting our electronic media.

Some of us have been discussing other club activities such as an online auction, monthly camellia-related videos on YouTube and other platforms, a virtual sasanqua show, very limited but quite special propagation this fall and some other ideas as well. This seems like a good place to start though. **Please respond to this by September 9** and, even if it's only a line or two, try to let us know how you're doing—I think this really is a time for us to greet one another. I'm concerned about all of you.

*Wishing you the very best and Happy Labor Day. Cheers - Collier*

## Farm Report



It's been so long since we all saw each other I thought I'd send out a Hello from the Land Of Dooleys. Like so many we have shifted to working from home rather than commuting to offices. Even Denis was home for about 4 months rather than his weekly commute to Eastern Washington. With all the time not spent commuting and nowhere else to go we've been doing a lot of yard work or in Denis case, hatching a ton of ducks and chickens. If anyone is interested in some ducks let me know, we'll give you a great deal.

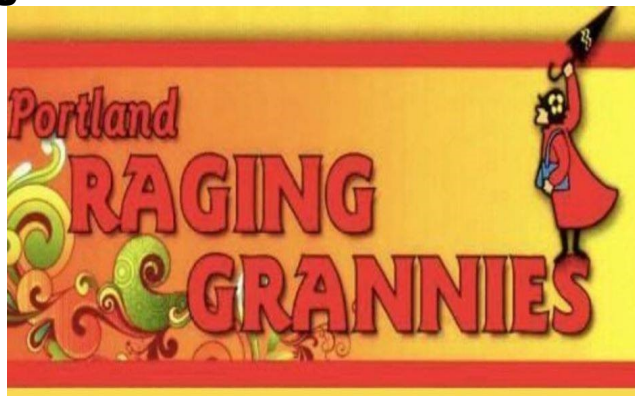
We've hauled in over 2 tons of rocks and wall block, 9 yds. of gravel and I lost track of how many truck loads of mulch. We have added 2 new water features and expanded our existing pond to include carnivorous bog gardens. Sanity prevailed and we hired someone to install a brick patio and a set of stone stairs.

Now that I'm done with the big rock work I'm hoping to start working on improving the camellia beds so in the fall we can put a lot more of them in the ground instead of watering all these potted ones through another summer. Thankfully the mulch place is about 10 minutes away so I can run there at lunch and fill our pick up.

Hopefully you've all been keeping busy, healthy and a little more sane than us.

Maybe next year if this COVID-19 crap gets under control we can start visiting members yards again to see everyone's improvements.

## Granny's Raging



Hello everyone,

I am glad to say that both Yume and Blushing Maiden have several seeds, and Pink Bertha and Sochi have singles. May they come to fruition.

What a year this has been for flowers and fruit! Most of the camellias from last year's auction are in the ground, unless I suspect there will be more construction coming to their niche, with mainly pinks in the backyard and reds and whites in front.

The house has a tall second story addition now, and the kitchen is finally finished. I am having a kiln installed in case anyone wants to come over and play with clay. Maybe I'll be ready for chickens by Spring?

First, I have to pass the final inspection, pack up, move, and build a coop. Just writing that was somewhat exhausting.

Your (Dooley's) carnivorous bog garden sounds like a must-see! I second the idea of visiting everyone's houses/gardens next year.

With COVID-19 we are all so lucky to have yards and gardens. Being a singleton, I am also thankful to have Stella, the madcap mini Aussie, and a phlegmatic tuxedo cat named Sir Albert Pinknose. Albert gave a local mouse a heart attack this summer, but he had no idea what to do next. He's more interested in hunting bugs.

And so it goes.  
Stay safe,

Susan

## Links Shot



Collier has suggested we pen a missive to the group about our camellia goings on in lieu of having meetings. So here is a bit of an update.

At the 2019 Newberg Festival, I was told that I was in the running for the Gold Sweepstakes award. This of course was a surprise to me since I had never threatened to win even the Silver Sweepstakes award before. What has happened is the beginnings of the maturation of our camellia collection. What I have observed is that planting a camellia from a one gallon pot into the forest to compete with the other vegetation there in our poor soil requires a 15 year wait for the plant to mature to the point where it will begin to produce flowers. One interesting observation is that when the one gallon pot is planted out in the fall, it has flower buds that will bloom the next spring. Then you seldom see another flower on the plant for 15 years or so. Having started planting in the fall of 2002, we began to see the benefits about spring of 2018.

This year I made a effort to take pictures of all the first blooms I found on the plants to help me know when I might expect blooms from the plant in the future since the camera records the date of the photo. I had 144

varieties bloom this year. Four of those were "Fall" blooming varieties (other fall blooming varieties started their bloom in 2019 so are not included). The take away from this is that I had the possibility of entering up to 140 varieties in our judged show. As we all know, COVID-19 forced cancellation of the show so I will have to mount my challenge in future years.

Since it is a good time to take cuttings and attempt to root them, I made a list of some of my more mature camellia trees that I do not have recollection of seeing other people enter blooms from in our shows. From that list, I took cuttings from Donnan's Dream, Spanked Baby, Pearl Maxwell, King Lear, and Baby Pearl and put them in my rooting box to propagate for eventual distribution at a society sale.

Collier also asked for five camellias that we would like to obtain. I haven't taken time to go through lists of camellias to nail down my five most desired camellias, but there are two that I can call Ann Rassmussen's garden envy that I can list; Tiffany, and Nuccio's Jewel that I definitely would like to obtain. Finally as a challenge to Collier's ability to obtain fairly rare new varieties, I challenge him to find a source of Dragon Fireball.

Regards, Garland

## President's Edict



Greetings Garland and thank you for such an interesting and informative document. I am much cheered at the success of your camellia plantation. Of course, in an area inhabited by bears, deer, elk, wolves, groundhogs, rabbits, cougars and other wildlife not to mention the icy blasts in the gorge, it's not surprising that your plants should take a while to mature. I am glad to have been able to support our shows with attractive varieties that hold up in our bad weather during the time when the Tinkles and eventually Jim Moon were fading from competition and Larry Landauer, having won everything for years, was showing fewer blooms. I welcome you, Kathy & Roger Lintault and the Dooleys (with your vast estates) to the sweepstakes titles. (I still might claim the title of having done the most with the least, real estate wise).

Your propagation efforts sound fine. OCS has Donnan's Dream under cultivation and I have avoided King Lear (a Finlandia variant) for virus issues but a limited number for members will be great. By the way, I did manage to root some cuttings of your Black Magic and Dark of Night that you generously provided in January.

Your plant choices are excellent. I think Kathy has Nuccio's Jewel and Bryan has Tiffany but they are certainly magnificent and not widespread in our group.

Lastly, I have not been able to locate plants of Dragon Fireball for sale . . . but after after searching the world over, and promising our firstborn, and mortgaging our house twice over (!), I've miraculously arranged for cuttings to be sent to me when the Van Veen nursery is sufficiently ready to propagate them. Does this satisfy your challenge?

Thanks again for such a nice letter. Cheers - Collier