

Oregon Camellia Society

oregoncamelliasociety.org

yahoo.com/groups/oregon_camellia_society

March/April 2019

President's Message

Over the Holidays, I went on a pilgrimage of sorts to the eastern suburbs of Los Angeles. As an Ohio State Alumnus, I was excited our football team received one of the invitations for the Rose Bowl game on this past New Year's Day in Pasadena California. Of course, as any enthusiast of Genus Camellia knows, Pasadena lies immediately to the west of Altadena, California and Altadena is home to what is probably the greatest Camellia nursery in the world (though some folks in North Carolina might disagree).

So, on New Years Eve, I talked my Brother Dan, a seven-year resident of Los Angeles and my host for my extended weekend in Southern California, into driving me out to Altadena. Well, it took some time to roust my brother and even more time to drive from the Koreatown Neighborhood of LA he calls home out to Altadena, with a stop in Pasadena for breakfast (which seemed to take forever). We arrived at the Nuccio's Nursery gates at 12:30 pm. I got out, finally glad to be there only to look down at a sign that stated "We will close at Noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve." I was crestfallen and, honestly, kind of ticked off at my Brother, who I'd been cajoling most of the morning to get out there. So, heck, I'll at least take some photos from the fence. As I was walking back to the car, I noticed a gentleman giving instructions to someone who appeared to be a field hand. So, I slipped through the ajar gate, approached the gentleman and introduced myself: "Hi, I'm Denis Dooley, President of the Oregon Camellia Society." I soon discovered I was shaking hands with none other than Tom Nuccio. I was soon introduced to Jim Nuccio, who (upon being told by Tom I was down from Oregon) let me know he was a proud alumnus of the University of Portland.

Despite being "closed" I was soon joined by a member of the Southern California Camellia Society and was then offered a tour of the entire nursery by Tom. Nearly three hours later, I left with two camellias that I'd purchased, two camellias that I was gifted by Tom and a bag full of cuttings from Camellia (Higo) Fuji and a Wabisuki I'd admired during the tour. It was quite the fantastic mini-vacation for me, where I got to scratch not one but two things off my "I always wanted to do that" list. For those of you that haven't been down there or missed Robert's wonderful talk that featured Nuccio's Nursery, I can't recommend seeing the place in person enough. Just meeting the wonderful Jim and the positively ebullient Tom Nuccio makes the trip worth it.

State Director's Message

Many Oregon Camellia Society members hold dual membership in the American Camellia Society. This newsletter notice is for you. In 2016, ACS changed its bylaws to eliminate six Regional Director posts and create nine new Club Director positions instead. The purpose was to give greater voice to local clubs in the running of the national organization. Here's how it works: Each region of the country (Pacific, Gulf, Atlantic) is represented by three Club Directors, whose three-year terms are staggered so that only one Club Director position (for that region) becomes vacant each year. Each spring, camellia clubs nominate a member to stand for election to their region's open Club Director position.

At the January 2019 OCS meeting, Denis Dooley was nominated by our club to run for the open Club Director seat representing the Pacific region. Required responsibilities associated with the position are listed on the ACS website. They include attendance at all ACS Board meetings, willingness to serve on ACS committees, and so on.

We would be proud to have Denis represent our region at future ACS events. Voting will be open from April 1 through April 30, 2019, giving ACS members a month to go online to the ACS website, read about each candidate running for the position, and cast a vote. Winning candidates will be announced in time to attend the annual ACS summer business meeting at Masee Lane Gardens.

So yay Denis! If each OCS member who is eligible votes, we may be able to send our local whiz-kid to Georgia this summer. This write-up is an early reminder to mark your calendar. I'll send personal emails to ACS members at the beginning of April, as a second reminder. Thank you.

Martha Ragland, ACS State Representative

March Meeting

March 16, 2019 1-3 pm

Identifying Camellias in Peninsula Park

700 N Rosa Parks Way, Portland. Meet at the Gazebo near the Rose Garden which is close to the Ainsworth Street end of the park. Parking is available on streets bordering the park. A map of the park can be viewed at <<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/256261>>. Peninsula Park was completed in 1913 with its French-style formal rose garden attracting more than 300,000 people that first year. Camellias also have been planted. Portland Parks and Recreation horticulturist Hillary Maurer has been involved with volunteer groups in restoring the park's beauty. She has asked for our help in identifying camellias there. It's very satisfying to put a name to an unknown camellia, so join us even if you feel you'd be a novice camellia detective. Bring your *Camellia Nomenclature* and camellia picture books for reference if the weather allows.

Lan Su Chinese Garden Camellia Exhibit March 22-24

Denis asks that OCS members provide camellias for a display at Lan Su Chinese Garden from March 22—24, 2019. Camellias can be dropped off at Lan Su, 239 NW Everett Street, Portland, on Friday, March 22, at 8:00 a.m.

Japanese Garden People's Choice Show March 30-31

Portland Japanese Garden, Washington Park, Portland

We will be presenting an informal "People's Choice" camellia show and camellia culture and history exhibit at the famous Portland Japanese Garden in Washington Park—the perfect locale for these lovely Asian flowers. This will take place the weekend of March 30th and 31st. Public garden hours are from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Greg Anderson is our OCS liaison with the Japanese Garden.

Our blooms will be displayed by flower form only (single, semidouble, formal double, etc.) using simplified entry tags requiring only the bloom's name, flower form and your name. Small trophies will be awarded for each of the six flower forms. The judging will be done by garden visitors on Saturday and Sunday under the expert guidance of our own Garland Bayley.

We'd very much like to see you at the show. Come as a [paid] visitor to the Japanese Garden, or current OCS members can gain free admission in two ways—either bring flowers to the show on Saturday morning between 8 and 10 a.m. (the earlier the better) or agree to help staff the show either day for a couple of hours. Regarding the first option, the Japanese Garden is now trying to limit cars driving to the top of their hill. Unless you have more blooms than you can reasonably transport in the visitor van, or your physical condition makes that difficult, please plan to park in the lower lot, or in nearby spaces (at city rates, alas), and hop in the van. If you do need to drive to the top of the hill, please call Greg at 503-245-0926 no later than 3/26 so he can make arrangements. If

you're current with dues, your name should be on a list at the ticket booth. Having your OCS membership card would be extra insurance.

The second free-admission option, helping staff the show (answering questions, talking to prospective club members, etc.)- please e-mail Greg at andersong@hevanet.com and specify what day you'd like to volunteer and whether you'd like to put in a couple of hours before 2 p.m. that day or after. Please let him know your plans before 3/26 and include a phone number. He will call or e-mail you if there's a problem. If all this seems a bit involved, be aware that in addition to the new facilities the Japanese Garden has enhanced security as well and we must comply with their guidelines as best we can.

Camellia Festival April 13 78th Annual Camellia Show

Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg

Our 78th Annual Camellia Show at the Chehalem Cultural Center, 415 E. Sheridan St., Newberg. Make this a fabulous show by bringing your blooms to the show from 8—11 am on April 13th. You need to have them there in time to get them entered before judging begins at 11. Also, OCS will be selling camellias that it has propagated—a bonus for any of us looking for that special camellia.

The show schedule is included for your information.

April Meeting

April 20, 2019 1-3 pm

We'll be meeting at Tom Dietz's home [REDACTED] This will be our only chance to tour his garden before he packs up and moves to the east coast of Canada. Originally we were to do air-layers on his collection of plants, but with his move eminent, it may not be practical to do so. In any case, plan to bring air-layering materials unless you get definite word that we won't be doing air-layers. What we definitely can do is have the air-layering guru Tom give a demonstration on doing them. Also, it will be best to try to do car-pooling to the meeting. Contact Collier about your willingness to join a car pool, or willingness to provide transportation.

January Meeting Report

The meeting was held at Ainsworth House and Gardens, Oregon City, Oregon. Thank you to Bud Bowen for hosting and providing such a comfortable meeting spot. After the business part of the meeting, Bud presented a really enjoyable talk on lovely gardens around Queniborough, England, about 100 miles northwest of London.

Nominations are needed for OCS positions for next year. Collier would like to pass the torch of First VP and Program Chair to another member who might have new program ideas.

Members then discussed suggestions for next year. Bud offered that he has slide shows of the before-and-after at Ainsworth House, four seasons at Kew, and the Chelsea flower Show. Den suggested that we delegate a member to handle the program for each meeting. Collier reminded that all could give their ideas at the planning meeting in May. Marvin Bame asked if there were slide shows offered by the American Camellia Society. Brady suggested emphasizing in the newsletter about our need for ideas for programs. Bud suggested that HPSO might have people who could give talks. Collier offered that in the past we had an interesting September meeting at an Apple Test Garden in Clackamas. Linda Rectanus offered that it was at the Home Orchard Society on the grounds of Clackamas Community College. Den suggested programs on properly pruning camellias and on small-flowered camellias. it would be good if we could offer some small-flowered camellias for purchase if giving this talk. Also find if any local nurseries might carry them. Marvin suggested a program on bonsai camellias. Others mentioned that Alan Taft was an expert and had given talks on this. It was mentioned that Joy Creek

Nursery and Xera Plants offer talks. Den suggested that if one spots a beautifully landscaped garden, take a quick photo that can be shown to members in the future.

Den went over meeting and event dates for the rest of this season. Kathy added that our March 16 meeting would be at Peninsula Park to help identify the camellias there.

Den was nominated to represent our club as one of nine club director representatives in the American Camellia Society. This will be a change from the six regional directors in the past.

Collier then talked about camellia care and culture, using a *Camellia sasanqua* 'Cleopatra' as an example. He discussed siting—sunny but not too windy to protect the more fragile *sasanqua* blooms; planting—dig a hole about half the height of the pot and rest the camellia on undisturbed soil; watering—water for at least three years after which it should be drought tolerant; and fertilizing—general, balanced fertilizer, not too high in nitrogen, not too expensive.

Collier emphasized adding a metal label with the camellia's name, using a heavier metal wire than is provided with the label. Make sure to put the label on a side branch, not the main trunk. The metal wire will girdle the trunk as the camellia grows. Collier has labels available for members.

Collier demonstrated a very convenient gadget—a long metal reacher grabber—to pick up fallen blooms and to grab out-of-reach blooms above.

All attending then toured the Ainsworth House Gardens with Bud—the plantings were very beautiful, even in January. There were lots of camellias ready to bloom with 'Apple Blossom' already leading the parade.

Tentative Schedule

March 16: Peninsula Park

March 22-24: Camellia Exhibit at Lan Su Garden

March 30-31: "People's Choice Award" Camellia Show, Portland Japanese Garden

April 13: Oregon Camellia Society Show at Newberg Camellia Festival

April 20: Dietz garden

May 18: Ice cream social

July: Picnic and Auction