

# ***Oregon Camellia Society***

**President: Collier Brown**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Kathy Lintault**

**2020-2023 Board of Directors**

**2019-2022 Board of Directors**

**2018-2021 Board of Directors**

**oregoncamelliasociety.org**

**Secretary: Garland Bayley**

**Brady Sheets**

**Greg Anderson**

**Grace Bayley**

**Treasurer: Martha Ragland**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Susan Haywood**

**Denis Dooley**

**Irene Lewis**

**Jewel Walters**

**May/July 2020**

## **May Meeting**

Our May meeting was to be at the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, but the garden has closed for COVID-19, so there will be no meeting.

## **President's Message**

While OCS was founded during the tumult of WWII, I have to believe this camellia season has been the most unprecedented since. On the troubling side, under corona-virus conditions we've had our public shows canceled, lost our biggest plant sale, have had to give up trips and been locked out of a meeting site. Recently, we've seen some of our members economically stressed, and the club is in wait-and-see mode regarding further spring and summer activities.

Pretty tough situation. It would be easy to say Woe is us! Fortunately, there is a "Rest of the Story" (as Paul Harvey used to say). Check out the following achievements:

- We moved hundreds of OCS potted plants last fall from an overly shady plot in Newberg to the Hillsboro home of Brady Sheets. The plants thrived and Brady is now working on completing a shade structure to protect them going forward.
- We have c. 150 cuttings growing nicely at the Van Veen Nursery. They'll stay there until at least the fall.
- We had several excellent meetings in 2019-2020, involving old and new members, and we've sold a number of plants as well.
- Robert Herald recently brought four lovely plants up from Nuccio's in Altadena, CA, and donated them to the OCS, where they'll become stock plants for future cuttings.
- Ironically, based on my yard & reports from others, this may have been the finest blooming season in my 30 years of club membership. March was, on average, 11 degrees cooler than last year. Blooms opened gradually, without a lot of rain or blight. I had blooms measuring 7" across that still looked nice.
- I can't say how proud I am of our online flower show! The first ever in our country (to my knowledge), it was envisioned by Garland and Denis and wonderfully executed by Kathy Lintault. The array of blooms drew around 240 voters nationwide & over 1,000 visitors to our website. To have shared something so inspiring during difficult times is something I'll never forget. Thank you so very much, all who participated.
- For me, the best news (again, to my knowledge) is that so far none of us have gotten the virus. We're fortunate indeed. I'd like to applaud Bud Bowen, who works as a nurse, and former member Tom Dietz, who is an emergency physician now living in far-off Nova Scotia. They—and any other medical workers among us—are our heroes.

So, our club's situation isn't as bad as it might be. We have challenges ahead, but we have time to work on them. I won't burden you with them here. I list instead a few items requiring more immediate attention:

- **Summer picnic/plant sale.** Only likely to take place if the outlook for social events looks a lot better than it does now. In any case, we've been considering moving the plant auction to a fall meeting, in the hope of improving attendance.
- **Election of officers.** With no volunteers stepping forward, the nominating committee proposes to keep existing officers and board members in place for another year, with one exception. Kathy Lintault has offered to serve as 1<sup>st</sup> VP/program director in place of Denis Dooley, who now works out of town. Since no meeting is scheduled, we'll assume officers are elected by approbation. If you wish to cast a 'no' vote, let me know what position you'll take on. All are open!
- **Camellias in Newberg.** Our camellia partner, Bryan Stewart, has no work crew at this point to help take care of 1,000 potted camellias at his Wilsonville Rd. greenhouse (100 of which belong to OCS; many of the rest were donated by us). The pots will need watering during the warm, dry months to come. I've been helping and am wondering whether any of you living close to Newberg would have time to team up with me—taking turns on weekly watering of perhaps a couple of hours so Bryan can attend to his many other duties. If you can help, my contact information is printed below.
- If you've made it this far, thanks for reading probably the longest president's message in history. I thank all of you as well for your good spirits and for your help and support throughout these difficult times.

Collier Brown, President, OCS

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## **Virtual People's Choice Flower Show**

Since our People's Choice Flowers Show at the Japanese Garden was canceled, we held a virtual online show on the website at <https://www.oregoncamelliasociety.org/show>

Along with the email version of this newsletter will be attached the virtual award certificates for the virtual show.