

Oregon Camellia News

oregoncamelliasociety.org

yahoo.com/groups/oregon_camellia_society

March/April 2018

March Meeting

March 10, 2018, 11 am to 12:30 pm

Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg, OR

Would you like to know how to enter blooms in our club's flower show held during the 2018 Newberg Camellia Festival? On Saturday March 10, 2018, OCS is offering a free workshop on preparing show blooms. The workshop will run from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the community room at the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg. All you need to bring are your blooms and clippers to cut plant material. OCS members will instruct you, step-by-step, as you learn more about your blooms, fill out entrance tags, and master the art of exhibiting flowers to maximum effect. The workshop is open to all ages, because even children can be enthusiastic learners, having fun pitting bloom-against-bloom. So please join us if you're new to showing blooms. It's easy to do, and you might walk away with one of the club's trophies!

Chinese Garden Exhibit

March 16, 2018, 8:00 am setup

Denis has arranged for us to exhibit blooms at the Chinese garden again this year beginning March 16th. Drop off camellia blooms around 8:00 am. There is no need to bring vases or bowls. The Chinese Garden has a supply. It would be helpful if some can stay and help arrange the camellias. Volunteers, questions, comments call Denis at 971/275-0078.

Camellia Festival April 7

77th Annual Camellia Show

Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg

Our 77th 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 7th. 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 21, 2018, 1– 3 p.m.

We'll be meeting at the Van Veen Nursery, 4201 SE Franklin St, Portland OR. The program will have the twin goals of camellia culture generally, and a chance to see some really unusual camellias (hopefully) in bloom along with countless gorgeous rhododendrons blooming as well.

This will be a time for new members and some of our relatively new members as well to question some of the "old hands" about planting, pruning, camellia sources, fertilizing, and so forth. While there will likely not be camellias for sale there, it's not impossible that there might be opportunities to acquire some lovely rhodies. We also hope to be able to try some air layers as well.

While the marvelous late proprietor, Kathy Van Veen, will be there in spirit only, the plants collected by three generations of Van Veens will be on display at that time, appealing, presumably, to everyone. The nursery has about 35 camellias, going back, in some cases, to the mid 1920s. Kathy and her father knew and acquired plants from both the Jurys in New Zealand and Dr. William Ackerman of Maryland and some of those plants are almost not to be found elsewhere in the northwest (or the country, in one or two cases).

Hoping to offer something of interest to many of you, I hope you will put this on your calendar and plan to attend this spring event. Dress for the weather (we'll be outside) and wear sturdy gardening shoes to fit the varied terrain. I will look forward to seeing you there.

Your fellow camellian, Collier Brown

February Meeting Report

February 17, 2018

Kathy announced that a bouquet was sent to Ann on behalf of the society. The group passed a motion to give Ann an medical exemption from paying dues this year.

The coming schedule was discussed. See the announcements in this newsletter for details of the scheduled events. Of note are the new spray category in the show, there will be a bloom entry help table with a sign from Bryan, and with a grant from the hospitality tax the Festival is producing a 21 page magazine insert for newspapers.

Brady moved and Martha seconded that we have a logo designed for the OCS. This could be put on Hoari or Happi coats for judges. Motion passed.

Kathy will arrange for a March 19th or 20th visit to the Girdleman Estate in Yachats, and the BLM property near Reedsport to attempt identifying camellias.

Kathy gave a beautiful program on New Zealand gardens featuring camellias, many of which we don't see in this part of the world.

January Meeting Report

January 20, 2018

If you were not at the OCS meeting on 1/20, you missed, I think, a very special presentation by our member, Robert Herald. With, as many of us know, a professional background in large public gardens, Robert is very specially qualified to discuss and pictorially show the famous Wisley Gardens near London, the largest garden operated by the Royal Horticultural Society. With 240 acres and a million visitors per year (second only to the Kew Gardens), Wisley is certainly a complex and wondrous place. While he showed us pictures of some of Wisley's more exotic features- tropical, desert, water gardens, testing facilities, laboratory, etc., his personal tastes run more toward hardy plants that do well in Surrey's natural climate, even if not native there. Fortunately, these include camellias of which Wisley has quite a selection. (Actually, I've seen Wisley's name quite a few times when looking camellias up on line in conjunction with the RHS's extensive plant info services.)

At this point, I should be able to repeat for you the dozens of wonderful plants that Robert showed

pictures of (besides camellias). Well . . . that's not going to happen (sigh). A few things I remember- the lovely perennial (in Britain) that becomes a noxious, invasive weed in Portland; a (presumably) overgrown camellia that gardeners "pruned" (with a chain saw) to within 2' of the ground; and a tree cut to the ground each year because it fits with its companions that way. Robert also showed us a really scraggly dawn redwood, Wisley's huge rock garden and quite a bit of Battleston Hill which features rhododendrons, azaleas and even camellias. Every time I hear Robert, I find myself wondering if he ever saw a plant he didn't like or even forgot the name of. Our group is awfully lucky to have someone able and willing to share such memorable programs with us.

Regards, Collier

In the business part of the meeting, we learned several things. There will be a bloom prep tutorial at the Chehalem Cultural Center on March 10th with at least Collier, Martha, and Kathy participating. Martha wrote an article for the Newberg Camellia Festival. The Festival will produce a program for an insert in the Oregonian. George Fox will advertise the Festival on their billboard out of town. We are considering a March trip to Yachats to identify camellias at the Girdlemann Botanic Preserve. And finally, sadly Ann Rasmussen has lung cancer and has had 2/3 of her lung removed.

2018 Meeting Schedule

March 10: Bloom Entry class Newberg.

March 16 on: Chinese Garden Display. Denis/Glin.

March 23: Set up Japanese Garden Show

March 24-25: People's Choice Show at the Japanese Garden

April 7: Oregon Camellia Society Show at Newberg Camellia Festival

April 21: Camellia Culture, e.g., pruning, air layers

May 19: Planning for 2018-2019 season

July: Picnic and Auction. TBD

