

Oregon Camellia Society
January/February Newsletter 2025



President's Message

Greetings and Salutations

The astute observer of our flower shows will have noticed that we have awarded a best seedling or mutant trophy four of the last five years. These four trophies have all gone to the cultivar Moon Garland originated by Jim Moon.

As those of you who have been reading my email messages know, I successfully registered this seedling that Jim Moon created by crossing his *C. saluenensis* Apple Blossom with his *C. saluenensis* wild form plant. He created two such crosses giving

one to Grace and one to me. The one he gave me has distinguished itself as I have seen it bloom in November and still have blooms in May. This unique characteristic warrants recognition. Therefore, I registered Moon Garland with the American Camellia Society (ACS). The registration was accepted and published on the ACS website at <https://www.americancamellias.com/education-and-camellia-care/camellia-cultivars-registered-by-the-acs/camellia-cultivars-registered-in-2024>. Scroll to the bottom of the page to see the registration as the last thing listed on the webpage. In the middle of the page brought up by the above link, there are also chances to link to the entries at the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (ACCS) website that must have been created from the registration information stored on the ACS website. This links to <http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/Camelliae%20Floris%20Bibliotheca/CFB-search%20-%20ACS.php?country=United%20States&sort=Cultivar%20Name&iyear=2024>. You will need to scroll through the alphabetical entries to reach the entry for Moon Garland. Although, Jim specifically crossed his two viable saluenensis plants that are listed in the ACS entry to create this variety, the ACCS has listed it as a "chance" seedling, and they have misspelled my name. At some point since I notified OCS by email that the registration had succeeded, it was also registered with the International Camellia Society (ICS) through the International Camellia Register (ICR). That registration can be found at <https://camellia.iflora.cn/Cutivars/Detail?latin=Moon%20Garland>. Celeste Richard did the registration presumably from the ACCS entry, because it also lists it as a chance seedling, and further claims that Jim Moon registered it. Since the ICR gives her email address, I have emailed her to make the corrections. I will try to figure out how to correct ACCS.

Going through the process of registering a cultivar brings to light some shortcomings of bloom registration. Specifically, ACS only requests a single measurement for each of the width and the depth of the bloom being registered. This fails to considered that different blooms of the same plant at the same time can vary significantly in size. The ICS rules correct this by asking for the width and depth of each of small blooms, average blooms, and large blooms. Still this has shortcomings, because it does not take into account the culture or care the plant receives. For example, C. japonica Black Magic is listed in the nomenclature book as medium in size. Other than in a bad weather year such as 2022, seldom will you see a Black Magic bloom that meets the size limitations of medium. In 2023, there were three Black Magic blooms in our show. The smallest was entered in the small to medium class, and the two larger ones were entered in the large to very large class. The judges had disagreements as to whether they should all be in the same class, or were properly entered by their respective sizes. The judges sent a bloom from each class to the head table. Besides just yearly variations in weather, the environment that exists for the bloom being registered can vary greatly as well. Is the plant grown outdoors in bad soil or excellent soil? Is it grown solitary or with competition from other plants? Is the plant grown in nutrient rare potting soil or highly fertilized potting soil? Is it grown indoors? How mature is the plant?

In the case of Moon Garland, the bloom used for registration comes from a very mature plant grown outdoors in a competitive environment in soil that Denis refers to as Garland's cement. Chances are that blooms grown in better environments will be larger than the registration characteristics!

Farewells and valedictions,

Garland

A Note On the Passing of a Great Lady

I just wanted to say a few things about Florence Crowder, who passed away at 88 on Christmas Eve. By time I got to know her, she had "retired" twice. First as a teacher and then from running a nursery with her husband Charles. They were still running a small antique shop until he passed away a few years ago. For me, she was one of the more influential people in the Camellia world outside of the Oregon Camellia Society. When I signed up for a certain social media site, I quickly found her due to that interest antiques that carried over into heritage camellia varieties. A few years later in 2011, I was put on her team as a novice judge at the Metairie, LA, show when Chris and I went down to New Orleáns and Mobile for a week of vacation. I would later serve with her on the Preservation Committee on the ACS Board. She traveled the world, especially France, looking for old camellia varieties to bring back to her home and to the Burden Center at LSU. It was a pleasure to know her and she leaves big hole to fill in both the ACS and the ICS.

Best Regards,

Denis M. Dooley,

2025 schedule Condensed Version

Jan 18 Kathy Lintault - travels to Australia, some camellias seen
Feb 15 Companion plants for camellias discussion
Mar 15 First Annual Camellia Test; Show Bloom Prep
Apr 12 Camellia Festival and Show in Newberg
Apr 19 Camellia Culture Classes in Newberg
May 17 Srijana Shrestha - Camellia Sinensis in PNW
Jul 12 Possible OCS Picnic Date
Jul 19 The Open Championship at Royal Portrush
Jul 26 Possible OCS Picnic Date

January 18th Meeting

Amazing Australia: Fascinating Gardens, Striking Landscapes, and Iconic Animals

Let's venture down under to discover stunning gardens and landscapes where you can be startled by kangaroos, wallabies, wombats and more. Kathy Lintault will describe her travels from beautiful Sydney with its epic harbor to colorful Melbourne with cafés galore to the tantalizing island almost at the end of the world, Tasmania.

Community Room 1A at the Holgate library is reserved for Jan 18, 2025. Hours: 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

February Meeting

For February, we will hold a group discussion of companion plants for camellias. Garland has camellias growing amongst ferns and amongst mahonia. He can show pictures of these and pictures of other plants he is thinking of adding to plantings. If you have some ideas on companion plants, we would like to hear them. If you have pictures of your camellias with companion plants, please send them to bokuhan_hagaromo@yahoo.com so that Garland can add them to the slide show he will put together for the meeting. Please send them by February 8th. When your picture comes up in the show, we would love to hear from you why you like the companion planting and its benefits. We know Kathy has camellias with azaleas and rhodies and perhaps she will send some pictures to show even though she may not be able to attend. Also, Collier and Martha could provide a picture or pictures of camellias and pines, or for that matter Collier's opinion may very well be that the best companions for camellias are other camellias. Probably his best support for that idea would be the Bellingrath Garden he visited when he attended the American Camellia Society Convention in Mobile, AL.

Since the library system only allows reservations 30 days ahead of time, we will wait until then to fully schedule the meeting. And, the time and location for the February meeting will be sent out by email after scheduling has been completed.

Location still to be determined

October Minutes

There were no minutes from the May lunch and the July picnic.

The treasure reported we have \$4900, that cuttings at Van Veen will cost about \$3000, and that we have no plants for sale, thereby resulting in no September sale at the Hardy Plants Society.

Brady has about 40 plants mostly from his former property in Tiller and Kathy has an unspecified number of plants to pot up in April. Also, Kathy has 20 to 25 mature plants for sale at the show.

Brady moved that we put up to 200 cuttings at Van Veen this year. Chris Dooley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There was a suggestion that we get plants from Coos Bay nursery for our sale.

Brady announced that ACS is selling commemorative bricks for \$250 and that the sale will be going on for some time. He wondered if we should buy one to commemorate Jim Moon. However, our finances are a little iffy right now.

Business meeting was ended for refreshments before Garland's presentation on Higo camellias.

Editors Note

I'm holding my breath for what weather January brings. Right now, our camellias are absolutely loaded with blooms. Enough I will probably thin some in early spring on plants I think might be show worthy. After a LOT of pruning and mulching last summer, I have high hopes for the upcoming year for both camellias and the rest of our yard. Fingers crossed against high winds and plant-crushing snowstorms. On my agenda for next summer is to try and expand our camellia planting area down into one of our smaller, unused pastures. It gets the most afternoon shade and is closer to watering sources, so it is our best prospect. It is also the one area I might be able to deer fence. For this spring and summer, I plan to clear berry vines and mow the weeds, which will require obtaining a mower capable of heavy brush clearing on a steep slope. If all goes well, we will be planting out lots of camellias in the fall.