

PRESENTATION

2014 Pontevedra International Camellia Congress

The city of Pontevedra, an important camellia producer, will host this world-renowned event organized by the Deputación de Pontevedra (Provincial Government of Pontevedra) through the Rías Baixas Tourist Board and the Estación Fitopatológica de Areeiro. The Congress is also supported by the Xunta de Galicia (Regional Government of Galicia), the University of Santiago de Compostela, the National Research Council and the Juana de Vega Foundation.

The Congress will be an important forum for the discussion and presentation of works on the different fields related to the camellia plant; touristic, artistic, plastic and botanic, and its uses and applications, combining scientific sessions and visits to the historic gardens in Pontevedra province.

The aim of this congress will be to exchange and transfer the results of the camellia research and its products among the participating countries so as to develop and enjoy our natural resources. This event will be pioneer since it is the first time that a camellia congress is held in Spain.

The Rías Baixas in the Pontevedra province are a camellia garden that brings colour and light to our autumns, winters and springs in streets, squares, gardens, castles and monasteries. In this region, the camellias are magnificent trees of amazing beauty.

Every public or private garden in the Pontevedra towns and cities has a camellia specimen. In some manor houses and historical gardens the camellias thrive since the 17th century.

Pontevedra and its surroundings constitute an incomparable setting for this congress, and moreover this province is an important camellia producer and has some of the most beautiful historical gardens in Spain, with plenty of *Camellia* specimens included in the Galician Monumental Tree Catalogue.

The heritage that Galicia and Portugal have in many of the camellias growing in their gardens will be transmitted by the congress attendants to any camellia enthusiast, nurserymen, or anybody interested in the genus in their countries of origin.

Rafael Louzán Abal

President

The Deputación de Pontevedra

ICS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA CONGRESS, PONTEVEDRA, SPAIN, 2014

After nearly a decade during which dreams turned into reality, the 2014 Congress in Pontevedra is now beginning. There is a huge amount of work involved in organising and planning such a Congress. Organisers must address a diverse range of topics including:

- * The choicest gardens to be visited
- * An appealing array of cultural and scenic offerings
- * An appetising menu of the location's finest foods, in comfortable hotels

Doing all that for one person, a couple, or perhaps a small group is fairly easily done. Doing it for 200 people is another order of magnitude.

On top of that, Congress organisers must ensure they offer to camellia enthusiasts, researchers, and historians the opportunity to present the latest news and developments from the world of camellias.

This book of proceedings encompasses nearly 30 presentations, in five different sessions: camellia history; gardens and tourism; identification and characterisation techniques; pests and diseases; and the uses of camellias. In the last session, researchers explore in some depth the uses we already know and appreciate, from *Camellia sinensis* – our morning or afternoon tea – to camellia oils, which are suitable for a variety of consumer applications.

In addition to the presentations, there are another 26 posters that cover these subjects. There is a special section of posters showcasing the many fine camellia parks and estate gardens featuring camellias – one of which, Castelo de Soutomaior, is an ICS Garden of Excellence, and another of which, Pazo de Rubianes, is a candidate for this recognition.

Congratulations to all our organisers and presenters on this program, which I am sure will be a notable success!

Patricia L. Short

President

The International Camellia Society