AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

NEWS-LETTER



April 1946

Vol. 1 No. 1

American Camellia Society News-letter
Volume 1 - Number 1, April 1946

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AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY
APRIL 1, 1946

NEWS-LETTER NUMBER ONE

From: The Office of the Secretary

At the first Annual Meeting of the Directors of the American Camellia Society held in Savannah, Georgia, February 9, 1946, a News-letter was authorized to be sent quarterly to all members that they might be kept in touch with the work of the Society. This is the first of these letters.

Many would like to know the reason for the organization of the Society and how it came into existence. For a long time dissatisfaction had been developing among camellia growers, particularly those having collections of some size, over the condition of camellia nomenclature. During the Camellia Show at Savannah, a number of growers met at a dinner given by Judge Arthur W. Solomon at the Oglethorpe Hotel on the night of February 10, 1945

. After the dinner, Judge Solomon presided at a meeting of the group. It was the consensus of opinion among those present that a camellia society should be formed to bring together in a nation-wide organization those interested in camellias, to work out problems of nomenclature and to advance knowledge of camellia culture in all its phases. An organizational committee consisting of D. C. Strother, Chairman, Roy A. Bowden,]. P. IIlges,]. G. Bailie, T. J Smith, G. G. Gerbing, and R J Wilmot was appointed to formulate plans and report at a meeting to be held at a later date.

Accordingly a call was issued in September for an organizational meeting. This was held at the Dempsey Hotel, Macon, Georgia, September 29, 1945. The following were present:

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Barnes, jr., Macon, Robert C. Berckmans, Macon, Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Bowden, Athens, Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Coleman, Fort Gaines, John L. Cope, Savannah, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Dennis, Macon, Frank M. Exley, Savannah, T. E. Fletcher, Cordele, Dr. James A. Fountain, Macon, J. E. Fraser, Macclenny, Florida, Glen F. Harris, Mobile, Alabama, Dr. H. Harold Hume, Gainesville, Florida, J. P. IIlges, Columbus, Karl M. Johnson, Bloomingdale, Hoyt W. Lee, Mobile, Alabama, Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Lee, Macon, J. H. Meadows, Macon, Dr. and Mrs. H. G. Mealing, Augusta, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Minnix, Columbus, M. R. Murray, Fort Valley, Ira S. Nelson, Lafayette, Louisiana, James H. Porter, Macon, Dr. King Rand, Alexandria, Louisiana, Mrs. F. C. Reese, Jacksonville, Florida, T. J. Smith, McRae, Elwood C. Stephens, Semmes, Alabama, D. C. Strother, Fort Valley, Dr. O. R. Thompson, Macon, Lt. and Mrs. I. J. Tinga, Wilmington, North Carolina, R. 1. Wheeler, Macon, R.]. Wilmot, Gainesville, Florida, W. A. Wilson, Augusta, Mr. and Mrs. M. J Witman, Macon, and Wm. T. Wood, Macon.

Dr. H. Harold Hume and others discussed the problems confronting camellia growers and pointed out what in their opinions should be done. A Charter and By-Laws for the American Camellia Society was presented by the Committee and with certain changes adopted. The following officers were elected, to hold office until the Annual Meeting of 1947:

Dr. H. Harold Hume, President; A. W. Solomon, Vice President for the Atlantic Coast; Ira S. Nelson, Vice President for the Gulf Coast; A. E. Morrison, Vice President for the Pacific Coast; R. J. Wilmot, Secretary; T.]. Smith, Treasurer; A. W. Solomon, A. E. Morrison, D.C. Strother, S. J. Katz; J. P. Illges, R. E. Lee, Directors at Large; State Directors: H. W. Lee, Alabama; Dr. David Mclean, California; Mrs. J. H. Churchwell, Florida; J. H. Porter, Georgia; Dr. King Rand, Louisiana; Kenneth G. Price, Mississippi; James Ferger, North Carolina; Paul E. Doty, Oregon; Mrs. Sheffield Phelps, South Carolina; R. A. Merritt, Texas; Miss Mary Bell Glennan, Virginia.

The Secretary was instructed to take necessary steps to incorporate the Society as a non-profit organization under the laws of Florida.

Following the meeting the sum of $2000 was pledged for Patron and life Memberships. On October 24, 1945, the Charter and By-Laws of the Society were submitted to Circuit Court judge john A. H. Murphree, Gainesville, Florida, and the Society was incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of Florida. The Society has been assured that dues and donations to the Society will be income tax deductible, but the Income Tax Commissioner will not make a final ruling until the Society has been operating for at least one year so an examination of its financial statement may be made.

At the De Soto Hotel, Savannah, Georgia, February 9, 1946, Judge Arthur W. Solomon, Vice President of the Society for the Atlantic Coast area was host at an enjoyable dinner, after which the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was held, the President of the Society, Dr. H. Harold Hume, presiding.

The Secretary's report showed that up to February 8, 1946, the membership was 683, receipts $6884.60, and that approximately $400 had been spent for printing, postage, and secretarial help in the membership campaign. The Directors instructed the Treasurer to purchase U. S. Government bonds in an amount of $4000, since bank accounts are not insured beyond $5000. This instruction has been carried out. At the request of the Treasurer, T. J. Smith, the Directors authorized placing the Treasurer under surety bond. This has been done.

A Committee on Exhibitions and Awards, consisting of Dr. W. G. Lee, Chairman, D. C. Strother, and W. T. Wood,
to outline procedures to be followed at camellia shows sponsored by the Society was appointed by the President. The report of this Committee will be published in the Yearbook of the Society, October, 1946. Dr. Lee will be glad to receive suggestions from members who have given thought to or have had experience in staging and judging camellia shows. His address is Shirley Hills, Macon, Georgia.

An invitation to hold the next Annual Meeting of the Directors at Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, Louisiana, at the time of their Annual Camellia Pageant was received too late for the Directors to consider. However, this matter will receive attention in due time.

It was hoped that a Director from the Pacific Coast would be in attendance but this was not possible. Several Directors were represented by proxies.

The Yearbook to be published annually by the Society was discussed, and it was decided that a Yearbook similar to the American Rose Annual would be satisfactory and present plans call for a volume of approximately 160 pages. Advertising will be accepted to help defray expenses of the volume, and nurseries and fertilizer companies who would like to place advertisements should contact the Secretary. It is proposed to make the Yearbook a compendium on camellias. One of the features contemplated in the first volume is a symposium on culture by successful growers as practiced in different regions. There will be articles on insects and diseases by specialists. A start will also be made toward standardizing varietal nomenclature. It is hoped that in future years the Yearbook will he used to describe new varieties but that will not be possible in the first volume. The Secretary will welcome suggestions from the Membership as to possible subjects for the first Yearbook, as well as subsequent editions. Suggestions for the content of the Newsletter will also be appreciated.

Following the business meeting, a general meeting was held at which the President spoke briefly on the aims and values of the Society. Dr. Hume used a gavel hand turned from camellia wood by Dr. King Rand, past president of the Louisiana Camellia Society and presented by him to the Society. The camellia wood was furnished by Dr. E. J. Petitjean of Opelousas, Louisiana.

An agreement has been entered into between the Society and the University of Florida Agricultural Experiment Stations under which the Society agrees to pay an amount sufficient to cover secretarial assistance and the Experiment Station agrees to furnish office space, land for the test garden, and a stenographer-clerk. In this connection it may be pointed out that a camellia collection, started in 1939 by the Experiment Station, now numbers nearly 1500 specimens. Since plants from many sources and under different names are being grown side by side, the great value of this collection in straightening out nomenclature tangles is apparent. To date, sixty-five cooperators, located from Portland, Oregon to Fall River, Massachusetts are participating in this undertaking. An effort is being made to grow enough stocks for grafting so scions can be handled in lieu of rooted plants. If new varieties are to be tested in this trial garden, as they should be, the need for a large number of stocks for grafting is apparent and assistance in securing them will be greatly appreciated. Already the synonymy of about seventy varieties has been worked out. A recent finding in this garden is that Col. Firey and William S. Hastie are C. M. Hovey and the false C. M. Hovey is a color variant of Mathotiana.

The list of members and $400 of the funds remaining in the treasury of the

Camellia Society of America have been turned over by Secretary, Mr. H. T. Conner of Macon. This consummates the merger of the Camellia Society of America with the American Camellia Society.

The Savannah Men's Garden Club has made application to be considered an affiliated organization because they were under the impression that a majority of their members had joined the Society. This was the first organization to do so.

It has since been established that the Sand Hills Garden Club of Augusta is affiliated since 100% of their members have joined the Society.

The Virginia Chapter of the American Camellia Society was organized at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club at a dinner meeting Saturday night, March 16. Only members of the Society were invited to be present and numbered about sixty-five. M. A. Hartigan was elected President, Mrs. C. R. Grandy, 1st Vice President, Major Paul Kear, 2nd Vice President, Alan J. Hofhcimcr, Secretary, Mrs. 1. 1. Knight, Treasurer, Mrs. M. C. Williams, Legh R. Powell, Jr.. Henry McR. Pinner, Directors, and Miss Mary Bell Glennan, ex-officio Director.

The membership now has reached 1010 5 and $9106.40 has been paid in. This is very satisfactory for such a young organization hut it is felt that a membership of 1500 should be our goal for the first year. Surely every member can think of some friend or acquaintance who would be interested in becoming a member. Many have sent in lists of names to be invited to membership and invitations were immediately mailed out with good results. If each one would bring in one more member the 1500 soon would be reached.

The membership by States is as follows: Georgia - 215, Florida -157, Louisiana10H, California - 84, South Carolina - 80, Virginia - 76, Alabama - 70, Mississippi - 57, Texas - 49, North Carolina - 31, Oregon 29, Washington - 14, Arkansas - 6, Massachusetts - 6, Illinois - 4, New Jersey 4, New York - 3, Tennessee - 3, Michigan 2 and 1 each from the following: Wisconsin, Nebraska, Connecticut, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Delaware. Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Indiana, Washington, D. C., Canada, and Australia.

R]. Wilmot,
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April I, 1946.