AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

NEWS-LETTER



April 1948

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American Camellia Society News-letter
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VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2 **APRIL, 1948**

From
The Office of the Secretary

Here-to-fore it has been the policy of this office to remove all delinquent members from the mailing list before the April News-letter is sent out. This year, however, since the failure of our printer to have the Yearbook ready in time has caused so many to withhold their dues on that account, we are sending this issue to all, enclosing a statement with the News-letter to those who have not paid their 1948 dues.

The 1947 Yearbook is being mailed out as this is sent out and many of you may have received their copy before this arrives. We hope that you like it. Show it to your friends who are `interested in camellias and are not members so they can see what they are missing.

We are trying to make arrangements to make sure that the 1948 Yearbook will come out on time. A rigid schedule will be worked out to be followed and a definite date set.

* * *

Our membership campaign at the shows this season was a disappointment in that more new members were not gained. Usually the shows were so crowded that it was impossible for solicitation to be satisfactory. Actually the best kind of a membership campaign is for each member to try to enlist one of his friends chain-letter style. This does not impose a hardship on anyone.

As an incentive for the general membership to bring in members Mr. J. S. Bradford of Bradford's Wayside Nurseries, Ocean Springs, Miss. has offered a plant of his introduction, Morning Glow, express prepaid anywhere in the United States to the member turning in the largest number of new members this year. This variety is a sought-after collector's item.

* * *

After the announcement of the Arrangement Contest most of the shows held in the country were held in cooperation with the Society in order that arrangement exhibitors might be eligible. Photographs of the winning arrangements will be judged by nationally known judges and the winning photographs will appear in the 1948 Yearbook.

* * *

Printing our News-letter is a forward step, and we hope that we can make them bigger and better. We plan to include a question and answer column so if you have questions that you would like to have answered they will be published with the request that other members answer these for you. We also intend to have reports from the-Directors on conditions and items of interest from each of their states.

This issue was planned to be eight pages instead of four as it is. When copy was taken to the printer we found that 16 pages of double spaced typewritten material would have been necessary to fill that much space. With other duties to attend to it was impossible to provide this. Therefore if the membership wants a larger News-letter they are going to have to submit material to be used each quarter.

Information that would be valuable for the News-letter would be earliest and latest dates for varieties in the various sections of the country. As your early varieties come into bloom keep a record of the date, send it in and we will publish it in the News-letter. As soon as a considerable amount of this material is sent in, it can be written up as an article in the Yearbook.

* * *

The membership in Unit One consisting of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas elected their Directors for their three year terms. Directors at Large were D. C. Strother and A. W. Solomon. State Directors were, Alabama, H. W. Lee; Georgia, Dr. W. G. Lee; North Carolina, Mrs. R. L. McMillan; and Texas, C. L. Babcock. C. N. Hastie, Jr. was elected to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Sheffield Phelps of South Carolina. Unit Two consisting of California, Louisiana, Oregon and Virginia will vote next December to elect their Directors for three years.

* * *

The Annual Meeting was held at the Sheraton Bon Air Hotel, Augusta, Ga. February 7 at the time of the Sand Hills Garden Club Camellia Show. The Directors, Officers and their guests were entertained at dinner by the members of the Sand Hills Garden Club.

The open meeting consisted of a Camellia Clinic and was attended by several hundred members and friends. Dr. Hume acted as Master of Ceremonies at the Clinic and the panel consisted of Mrs. Sigmund Katz, Mrs. Karl Johnson, Erdman West, R. J. Wilmot, John L. Cope, C. N. Hastie, Jr., Gregory L. Smith and A. W. Solomon. Many questions of interest of camellia growers were asked and answered to the best of the panel's ability.

The officers were elected by the Directors as follows: Dr. H. Harold Hume, President; John P. Illges, Vice President for the Atlantic Coast; Sigmund J. Katz, Vice President for the Gulf, Coast; Harold L. Paige, Vice President for the Pacific Coast; T. J. Smith, Treasurer; R. J. Wilmot, Secretary.

Harold L. Paige is President of the Northern California Camellia Society.

Outstanding decisions of the Director's meeting were the establishing of a registration system for new camellia varieties and the announcement of the John P. Illges Medal to be awarded yearly to outstanding new seedling varieties. Registration of new varieties will start as soon as forms can be printed and the committee appointed.

The Medallic Art Company of New York is working on the design for the Illges Medal and we hope to be able to publish a photograph of it in the 1948 Yearbook along with detailed provisions to be fulfilled to be eligible for it. Only proven seedlings will be eligible.

* * *

Advertising has helped considerably toward publishing the 'Yearbook and the fact that the Yearbook was delayed this year has worked a hardship on our advertisers. It would be a fine gesture if our membership would drop each one of our advertisers a postal card assuring them of our continued support and of our appreciation.

It might be well to bring up a possible change in our advertising policy. Would the advertisers and the membership prefer to have the advertising in the News-letter instead of the Yearbook? There are some arguments in favor of this change. It would certainly keep the advertisers in front of the membership more to have the ads in the News-letter.

* * *

The Secretary made a flying trip to California and had the pleasure of meeting many members of the Southern California Camellia Society and Northern California Camellia Society.

The Camellia Show at Pasadena is held in one of the finest settings for flower shows in the country- and in that respect far surpasses anything that the writer has seen. They are to be congratulated on the beautiful show which they held

The hospitality of Southern California met all advance notices.

Many of the shows have been reported to this office but there are still several from which we have not had reports as to winners, attendance, etc.

* * *

Those who live in areas where scale is prevalent should be ready to apply their

oil emulsion if they have not done so. Florida Volck is the recommended emulsion at the rate of 2 %. This, in simple terms, is 6 tablespoonfuls to the gallon of water. Remember the only scales killed are those that are touched by the spray material. If you do not have a suitable sprayer, and a "flit-gun" type sprayer is not suitable, you will, find it more satisfactory to take the time to go over each plant with a rag wet in the emulsion. Using this system l quart of material will treat many plants.

* * *

Vermiculite has been recommended as one of the materials in the mixture for rooting cuttings and is very satisfactory. It has another use that has been given very little consideration and that is as a soil amendment. One of the measures of soil fertility is its exchange capacity or its ability to hold fertilizer materials and give them up as needed by the plant. The addition of vermiculite to light soil will increase its exchange capacity considerably. It will also give up about four times as much potash, 50 times as much calcium, and 25 times as much magnesium as a light sandy soil. The statement is usually made that it is inert chemically but this is not true of all vermiculites. The cost of vermiculite has been quite high but now it is beginning to reach a reasonable level and will compare with peat favorably. It can be bought locally at $1.50 for a bag containing 4 cubic feet. This amount will cover 18 square feet of ground surface 3 inches deep. It will also lighten heavy soil.

VARIETY FLORENCE HOLLIS

Mrs. J. L. Hand of Pelham, Ga. submitted a new seedling to this office for recognition. The seed was gathered in her yard but a record of the parentage was not kept. It was planted nine years ago and the plant has flowered three seasons. The plant is upright in growth, vigorous, and has bright green leaves which average 3 1/2 inches long by 1 1/2 inches wide.

The plant was in bloom at the time of the January freeze and flowers opened immediately thereafter without signs of cold damage indicating that it is cold resistant. It is a midseason bloomer and opens over a long period.

The flower which was examined was reduced in size by the cold but was still 3 5/8 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches in depth. It was a pure china white. In form it was an incomplete double with large center petals. The inner petals were upright in habit like an open pine cone.

The calyx was pubescent and light green with 9 sepals, 3 of which were petaloid.

The outer petals were 8 in number, strap shaped a little over half as wide as they were long. The apices of the petals were rounded and each had a slight notch.

The inner petals were similar in shape to the outer and were 20 in number. They were all about the same length but varied in width. They were erect with fascicles of stamens over and under them.

There were many stamens. They had filaments varying in length from 1 1/2 to 1 1/4 inches long and that were white in color. The anthers were golden yellow.

The variety is to be named Florence Hollis .for Mrs. Hand's mother who is 99 years old.

Florence Hollis has been seen by many of the camellia fanciers of the southeast and judged by them to be an outstanding new variety.

The Secretary wishes to apologize to the Louisiana Camellia Society for -omitting the Lafayette date from the list of Shows in the January News-letter. It was purely an oversight.

* * *

We are very much interested in collecting all species of camellias for our test, garden. At present we have, **Camellia japonica, C. Sasanqua, C. saluenensis, C. reticulata, C. Pitardii, C. maliflora, C. cuspidata, C. hong-kongensis, C.** sp. (from Korea), C. sp. (source unknown). If any of our members - know of other species in this country we would like to know where they are

located.. We were fortunate in receiving scions this winter of J. C. Williams and Mary Christian, hybrids between **C. japonica** and **C. saluenensis**, and Cornish Snow, a hybrid between **C. saluenensis** and **C. cuspidata** from Dr. Maurice Amsler, our corresponding member in England. These were grafted and seem to be successful. Through the courtesy of Semmes Nurseries and Overlook Nurseries we sent Dr. Amsler a collection of our better sasanquas and he reports that although they were not received for five weeks they were still in fair condition. They were sent parcel post, bare rooted, packed in damp sphagnum, wrapped in a piece of pliofilm` and heavy wrapping paper. Upon receipt, Dr. Amsler potted these plants, covered each with a bell jar and
placed them in a warm greenhouse. At last report not a leaf had been dropped.

* * *

The following is a report on last fall's hurricane damage received from Mrs. Eugene Mogabgab of Bay St, Louis, Miss.

We have about 35 camellias planted along the side and back of :our home. These were covered for about 4 hours' with' from 2 to 6 feet of water. After several days they began losing their leaves and some are absolutely bare. They have been treated several times with vitamin B and should have had aluminum sulphate. and fresh mulch at once. Aluminum sulphate was not available locally and help was not available either so they were sadly neglected. Two Herme plants about 7 feet high seemed to• have fared better than any of the other varieties, which was very surprising. Three Pink Perfections are dead and 10 or 12 other plants, while bare, may bud out in the spring because the wood near the ground is green. Delicate. azaleas seem to hold up better than the camellias. They lost all their leaves but all the branches are' green, even after the three freezes we have had.

Since the cold weather those bushes with leaves look greener and healthier and we had some nice flowers until the freeze.

I believe, that if the plants could have been thoroughly hosed several times immediately after the storm, given a change of top soil and .a good dose of aluminum sulphate there would have been no loss.'

A deposit of sand about 6 inches deep was left over the roots of the camellias and 7 to 10 days elapsed before we were able to have it removed. Camellias in my yard have really taken it and those that survive I shall love dearly.

* * *

Corsage kits can be purchased from Craftways, Lambertville, N. J.

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We have 250 copies of the 1947 frontpiece with wide margins that we can furnish to the membership at $1.00 as long as they last.

R. J. Wilmot, Secretary
Box 2398, University Station Gainesville, Florida