

The *Camellia* Journal



AN 'ELEGANS' GREETINGS

This elegant plant of 'Elegans' is frequently the first camellia that visitors see when they visit your headquarters at historic Massee Lane. It seems fitting that we greet you with this picture as we enter our fortieth anniversary year.

VOL. 40, NO. 1

PRICE \$2.00

FEBRUARY, 1985



Our Fortieth Year

The year 1985 will mark our 40th birthday. The ACS was founded and incorporated in October 1945. The anniversary year got off to a start in Mobile and will reach a crescendo, Texas style, when we meet in Houston November 14-17.

The Governing Board approved the recommendation of the Publications

Committee that the November issue be an Anniversary Issue with Ann Blair Brown being the Guest Editor. If you have any anecdotes, photographs or information concerning the beginnings or early years of our Society, please send them to her so that she can organize the issue.

In that issue there will be pages of classified ads which give people the chance to congratulate ACS or to honor ACS or whatever. There will be twenty-one blocks to a page and a contribution of \$25.00 or more will reserve a block.

Should someone wish to take two or more blocks, it will be \$25.00 for each block, although it could show as one larger block without any intermediate lines. These will be contributions to the Society and, presumably, also count as tax-exempt contributions. Let's help her put out another exciting and meaningful Special Issue.

The logo for our 40th anniversary year was graciously done by Captain James Conway of Mount Dora, Florida, at the urging of Dr. W. W. Mockett of that city.

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The Camellia Journal

WORLD'S LARGEST PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO THE GENUS CAMELLIA

Volume 40

Number 1

February, 1985

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE
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ACS offices are located at Massee Lane 5 miles south of Fort Valley, Georgia, on State Hwy. 49 or 12 miles west of Interstate 75 from Perry, Georgia, then North on State 49 at Marshallville. Offices and Boehm Gallery open Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., and on most Sunday afternoons during blooming season — November to mid-March. Gardens open every day.

(USPS 555-900) (ISSN 0008-204X)

Issued February, May, August and November from the office of the Secretary of the American Camellia Society.

A subscription of \$12.50 brings you the four issues of *The Camellia Journal* and the *American Camellia Yearbook*, published in December.

Entered as second class matter September 1, 1960, at the Post Office at Fort Valley, Georgia, and additional office of entry, under Acts of August 24, 1912. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Camellia Journal, P. O. Box 1217, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

Annual Members — \$12.50; Joint Husband-Wife \$15.00; Sustaining Member \$25.00; Joint Sustaining Member \$30.00; Corporate Member \$50.00; Life Membership \$200.00; Joint Husband-Wife Life Membership \$300.00; Patron Member \$250.00. Make payment to American Camellia Society, Box 1217, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

A membership in or subscription to American Camellia Society will bring you a *Yearbook* and four issues of *The Camellia Journal*.

Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society and the National Council of State Garden Clubs also The Royal Horticultural Society and The International Camellia Society.

Members in Overseas Countries may pay their dues through one of our representatives:

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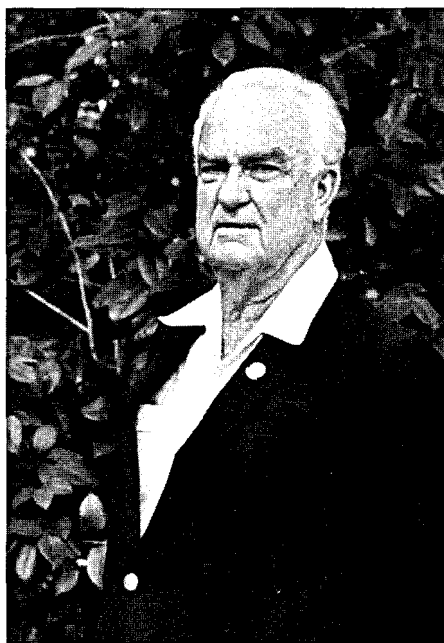
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President's Message



G. F. ("AB") ABENDROTH

After the Governing Board selected me to be the President-Elect of A.C.S. in Orlando last year, I began to think and plan what I should do to be a good President. It became apparent that no one could do the job alone and that I would need the help of as many people as possible. In order to accomplish this I decided that I had to do the following:

1. Select competent chairmen for each of the existing committees and with his or her help appoint responsible active members for these committees.
2. Have the confidence and cooperation of the entire staff at Massee Lane.

COMMITTEES

The appointment of all Committee Chairmen and members has been completed and they are listed elsewhere in this *Journal*. I know all A.C.S. members will agree with me that this is a fine group of people and that they will get the job done.

It took considerable time and thought to accomplish this, but I want to say that it has been a pleasure. Everyone I con-

tacted readily agreed to serve and assured me that they would help in any way.

MASSEE LANE

I have had to call on everyone at Massee Lane to assist me in one way or another. No other group of people could have been more helpful. They have worlds of information on file there which is available on a moments notice. A.C.S. is thankful that we have such an efficient and pleasant organization.

I had heard rumors that Brownie was considering retiring as the Executive Director of A.C.S. As a result I told him that I would not consent to be the President of A.C.S. if he and Ann were going to leave. Brownie assured me that he would stay on until my term ended.

Brownie made an announcement at the November A.C.S. meeting that his retirement would be effective July 1987 (after my term expires). Thank goodness Brownie is a man of his word.

We will miss Ann and Brownie when they leave. A.C.S. will have to recruit someone to fill this position, but I am sure everyone agrees that they can never be replaced. A.C.S. wishes them well.

Evelyn and I are excited about the next two years and are looking forward to the pleasant times we will be spending with many of you.

—ACS—

(continued from page 3)

and Milton Brown and all former and future Executive Secretaries.

One of our Trustees was kind enough to underwrite what will be a lovely rose garden just to the south of the Boehm Porcelain Gallery. It will have an attractive gazebo in the center and many roses planted in the garden around the gazebo. It is hoped to have this ready by late spring.

We have had rave reviews on the special issue — Basic Culture — of *The Camellia Journal*. Several clubs have purchased between ten and fifty of them to give to prospective members or new members of their local societies. They are available from headquarters at \$2.00 each postpaid. You might want to give serious consideration to giving these to increase your local membership and, hopefully, ACS membership as well.

From The Desk Of The Executive Director/Editor

We have, once again, had two excellent meetings — the 40th Annual Meeting at Mobile in January and the 35th Annual Fall Meeting at Perry/Massee Lane. We congratulate all of those who had a part in bringing about these conventions and all of those who took the time to attend them.

Life Members/Patron Members

The holiday spirit seems to have warmed up many of our good friends who have become Life Members or a Patron Member since our last issue of *The Camellia Journal*. Our goal is still a total of 500, which might seem ridiculous, but the goal of 200 six years ago was criticized as being "ridiculous;" we have far surpassed the 200 mark! The new ones are:

Life Members

Mrs. G. A. Wilkinson, Conroe, Texas
Mrs. W. B. Wisdom, New Orleans, Louisiana
Mrs. C. W. Thornhill, Houston, Texas
Mrs. James B. Gahan, Gainesville, Florida
Lefebvre Gianellani, II, Iberville, Louisiana
William D. Stewart, Sacramento, California
Mr. and Mrs. John I. Movich, Laverne, California
Dr. and Mrs. James M. Habel, Jr. Suffolk, Virginia
Dr. and Mrs. Freeman K. Hill, Fulton, Maryland

Patrons

Nuccio's Nurseries, Inc., Altadena, California

Executive Director to Retire

At the meetings of the Governing Board and the Board of Trustees, the Executive Director served notice that he was retiring from the American Camellia Society and its Endowment Fund effective no later than June 30, 1987. He asked the President-Elect to appoint a search committee to begin now to locate a successor. He also pointed out the need to increase rather dramatically the financial holdings of the Society in that a new Executive Director would have to be paid considerably more than the present incumbent receives.

The people who came to Massee Lane in November were thrilled to see the lovely new Florentine Craftsmen Fountain in the center of the formal garden in front of the colonial-style headquarters building. This lovely addition to the beauty of our gardens is due to the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. William F. Mann of Shreveport, Louisiana. They gave the fountain to honor Joseph H. Pyron, Ann

(continued on page 2)

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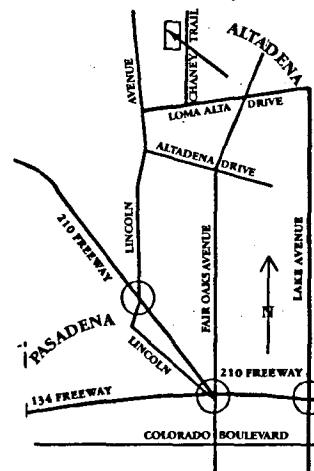
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'Happy Holidays'	'Red Crystal'
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Observation on an Unusual Occurrence on Camellias¹

LUTHER W. BAXTER, JR., SUSAN G. FAGAN, AND
PEGGY A. MITCHELL²

In the fall of 1984 a fishtail leaf was found on an unknown cultivar of *Camellia japonica* which was growing well in full sun. In the past several of these have been seen, and recently (October, 1984) a second fishtail leaf was found on a *C. sasanqua* seedling which is growing in the garden of the senior author.

On closer inspection it was observed that both fishtail leaves had two vegetative buds in their axils which, by October, were quite conspicuous (Figure 1). Several unsuccessful attempts were made to reveal the two axillary buds (typically there is only one) by photography; so Janice R. Grover, an artist for the Clemson University Communications Center, was asked to sketch the observation as designated Figure 1. The arrow in Figure 1 points to the two vegetative buds that occur in the axis of the fishtail leaf. The single leaf on the other side has one vegetative bud, which is the usual case. The stem (Figure 1, center) has been figuratively cut off so that the three vegetative buds could be adequately shown. Note also that the fishtail leaf has two main center veins, each of which leads to a point of attachment to the stem immediately below a vegetative bud. The fishtail *C. sasanqua* leaf also was so constructed.

A count of 300 mature, lateral, vegetative buds in the axis of non fishtail *C. japonica* leaves (the bud associated with the terminal leaf was not included) revealed that all lateral leaves had a single vegetative bud in their axis, none having two vegetative buds as in the case of the two fishtail leaves.

Two leaf traces were formed in the fishtail leaves instead of the one leaf trace in normal camellia leaves. A leaf trace is one or more vascular bundles supplying a leaf or twig, the twigs herein represented as vegetative buds.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are extended to Janice R. Grover for the drawing and to Drs. O. J. Dickerson and W. M. Epps for editing the manuscript.

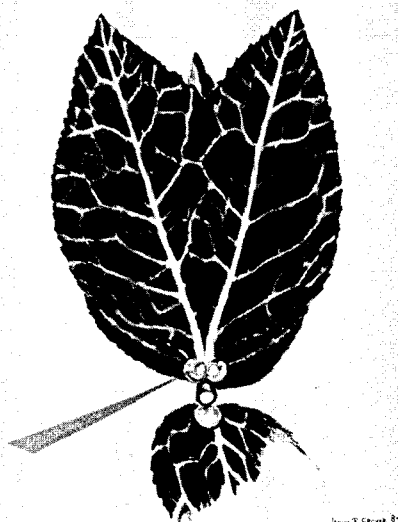


FIGURE 1. A fishtail leaf of a *Camellia japonica* plant. Note the two vegetative buds in the axis of the fishtail leaf (upper side) compared with a single vegetative bud in the axis of the normal leaf (lower side).

Mrs. Oliver Honored

Mrs. Sara Norman Oliver of Valdosta, Georgia, was awarded the Certificate of Commendation of the American Camellia Society. She was unable to attend the ACS Convention and so State Director E. Hulyn Smith asked the Executive Director to present the award to "Miss Sara" at the time of the Valdosta Camellia Show on November 17, 1984.

Mrs. Oliver, an octogenarian, has done much to increase the interest in growing camellias in the Valdosta area and, indeed, in the South Georgia area. She shares her considerable knowledge of camellias and camellia culture with various people who are becoming interested in growing camellias. She still does her own grafting of the newest varieties and boasts a large garden containing many of the older varieties as well. Her warm personality and keen sense of humor are well-loved by all those whose lives she has touched.



DOUGLAS DEANE HALL

Hall Honored

Douglas Deane Hall was awarded the coveted Bronze Plaque Award of the American Camellia Society at the banquet of the ACS Convention on November 10, 1984.

In presenting the award and the plaque, Ann Brown mentioned many of the attributes of Mr. Hall. He has served as a founding member, a Director, a Vice President, and President of the very active Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley. He has served as an ACS State Director for two terms and continues as a Trustee of the ACS Endowment Fund. He has also been active in the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society and is active in experimenting with cold hardy camellias at his home in Chevy Chase, Maryland and heat hardy camellias at his home in Delray Beach, Florida.

Doug and his wife Martha attend all of the ACS meetings and the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society meetings where his advice is frequently sought. Ann said that Douglas Deane Hall gives unstintingly of his time, his talents and other contributions to the good of camellias and the American Camellia Society.

**GET A NEW
MEMBER**

¹ Contributions No. 2365 of the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station.

² Professor and Ag. Sci. Associates, respectively.

Election of Directors And Directors-At-Large For Gulf Coast Territory

This fall is the time to elect or reelection State Directors and Directors-at-Large for the Gulf Coast Territory. In accordance with the Bylaws the Vice President for the Gulf Coast Territory, Alfus O. Johnson, is in charge of the Nominating Committee for each State Director and for the Directors-at-Large. It is important for you to know that you as an ACS member or your local camellia clubs or societies have a right to send in a name or names for nomination for your State Director and Director-at-Large. The names should be sent in promptly so that the Chairman of the Nominating Committee can send in the names and a one-paragraph description of the candidates for publication in the August issue of *The Camellia Journal*. This means that Chairman Johnson will have to have the names in to ACS headquarters by 1 June 1985.

This is the opportunity, in accordance with the Bylaws, where everybody in the Society has the right to participate actively in the nomination as well as in the election of their Directors-at-Large. Send in your proposed names for nomination to Alfus O. Johnson, 5707 Jackwood Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77096.

There follows a breakdown of the State Directors and Directors-at-Large and a statement by each as to whether that person can be reelected or is completing a second term and is, therefore, not eligible for reelection.

STATE DIRECTORS

Arkansas: Dr. Hilary E. Hanna, El Dorado, just elected to fill the unexpired term of E. N. Kimes, is eligible for reelection.
Alabama: Col. (Ret.) R. D. Hicks, Ozark, is eligible for reelection.
Florida: Henry Lunsford, Sr., Gainesville, is completing a second term and is not eligible for reelection.
Louisiana: William F. Mann, Shreveport, is completing his first term and is eligible for reelection.
Mississippi: Thomas Perkins, III,

Brookhaven, is completing his first term and is eligible for reelection.
Tennessee: Dr. Harry T. Moore, Nashville, is completing his second term and is not eligible for reelection.

Texas: Judge Paul Harkey, Dallas, is completing his second term and is, therefore, not eligible for reelection.

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Mrs. Henry S. Stone, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is completing her second term and is not eligible for reelection.

Dr. Alvin E. Johnson, New Orleans, Louisiana, is completing his second term and is not eligible for reelection.

President-Elect G. F. Abendroth and the State Directors have selected the following people for the Gulf Coast States Nominating Committee for 1985:

Arkansas: K. H. Kemp, 1123 Hickory St., Texarkana, AR 75501; Dr. L. H. Horton, P. O. Box 925, Crossett, AR 71635

Alabama: Mrs. Neal (Bea) Rogers, Rt. 3, Box 546, Theodore, AL 36582; C. C. Crutcher, 3600 Bebee Point Dr., Theodore, AL 36582

Florida: Mrs. W. J. (Alda) Boll, 4242 Hillwood Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32223; Mrs. John R. (Jean) Comber, 105 Shasta Road, Pensacola, FL 32507
Louisiana: Walter Dunn, 2215 Beechwood Drive, Monroe, LA 71201; John Geiser, P. O. Box 58, Slidell, LA 70459

Mississippi: Dabney W. Townsend, 1032 S. Church St. Ext., Brookhaven, MS 39601; C. C. Torres, 3300 Catherine Avenue, Moss Point, MS 39563

Tennessee: Mrs. A. B. (Elizabeth) Cooper, 4708 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN 37220; Dr. C. David Scheibert, 6120 Hickory Valley Road, Nashville, TN 37205

Texas: Charles O. Zagst, 5 Pine Tree Lane, Houston, TX 77024; Gregory E. Davis, 7815 Burgoyne, Houston, TX 77063

Efforts should be made by the Nominating Committee, in accordance with the Bylaws, where possible to obtain at least two candidates for each office.

Let's have active participation by members of our Society who will elect the people who will be representing the states and the territories of the Gulf Coast Territory.

—ACS—

Atlantic Coast Directors Elected

Actually, no ballots were sent out for election of Atlantic Coast State Directors or Directors-at-Large. The slate presented by the Committee Chairman had each candidate unopposed. The Directors reelected or elected are as follows:

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Carl M. Allen, Jr., Wilmington, North Carolina

Mrs. C. C. Mason, Norfolk, Virginia

STATE DIRECTORS

Northeastern United States: Everitt L. Miller, Mendenhall, PA

MD/D. C./No. VA: Philip Ireland, Bethesda, MD

Virginia: Robert O. Matthews, Norfolk
North Carolina: Fred B. Mayo, Fayetteville

South Carolina: William T. Shepherd, N. Charleston

Georgia: W. F. Freshwater, Fort Valley

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VIP's at Massee Lane

The camellia show, sponsored by the Middle Georgia Camellia Society in conjunction with the ACS Annual Fall Meeting, brought forth many interesting people. Seen here from left to right are: Jennifer Patterson, Kelly Kennedy, Mrs. Audrey Heap, Mrs. Columba Tang, Natalie Jones, Anthony Heap of England, Professor Pei-sung Tang of Peking, China, Wendy Bryan, ACS President-Elect G. F. ("Ab") Abendroth, Allison Sparks (partially hidden) and Stacy Sheffield.

In the background is the old plantation bell, forged in Birmingham in 1849, which now serves to open the annual camellia show or other noteworthy events. In the background right is the former commissary shed of these farms. From such buildings were dispensed such staples as corn meal, flour, salt, lard and sugar. The bell was functionally used in the old plantation days to alert the people working in the fields to come in for meals or call for help from other nearby farms during a tragedy such as fire. This bell can be heard for miles on a still day or night. (Photo by Editor)

—ACS—

We Went Home Again

JAMES H. McCOY

Thomas Wolfe said, "You can't go home again." I beg to differ with him. You can go home again. That's what we did in November of this year, when we went to Massee Lane for the ACS convention. Or at least, that's the way it seemed to me. I had the same anticipation, the same excitement, the same joy that I remember when I used to go home to South Carolina from North Carolina when I was a child.

Except for Georgia, California had the largest group of delegates. Texas was well

represented, as was Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. There were delegates from Mississippi, Tennessee, Maryland, Arkansas, and, can you believe it, England and China.

Our delegates from England were Tony and Audrey Heap from Lancaster-shire. Audrey says that she tried grits every way she could think of, and really did not like them. She first tried grits by itself, then with milk, then with milk and sugar and finally, with a little apricot jam. Too bad we didn't have some red-eye gravy to offer.

Our Chinese delegates were Professor Pei-sung Tang and his wife Columba Tang from Beijing, China. They must surely have believed for a while that we're a cold-hardy bunch of people. I understand that they stayed with Brownie and Ann, and instead of turning the thermostat *down* the first night, Ann accidentally turned the furnace *off*.

The first activity was the educational meeting Thursday evening. Professor Tang spoke to us on the People's Republic of China and related to us some of his experiences and observations. Of course we enjoyed this, as everything about China is interesting to camellia people, as camellias are native to China. Dr. Fred G. Galle presented a beautiful slide program on Callaway Gardens. This gave us a good account of the gardens; their beginning, their development, their beauty. It also gave us a preview of what we would be seeing the next day.

Friday we left by bus for Pine Mountain and Callaway Gardens. The two hour bus trip seemed much shorter. We passed through several small Georgia towns and through acres and acres of pecan groves. I thought that surely pecans would be cheap in this area. How wrong I was! I stopped next day at a market advertizing pecans for sale and found that I could buy all I wanted for \$1.25 per pound. I remembered that I thought, a few days earlier back in North Carolina, that .85 per pound was a little too high!

Callaway Gardens was not disappointing. The chrysanthemums were in bloom, and what a spectacular sight! They know how to do it, but I had no idea how magnificent the lowly chrysanthemum can be, cascading down a wall like a waterfall, or seemingly growing ten feet tall with millions of blooms. These were actually something like totem poles, wire columns filled with some type of growing medium and chrysanthemums set into the sides, from top to bottom.

Friday evening we had dinner at the Holiday Inn. It was almost like a Saturday night banquet. We had a speaker, and *what* a speaker! He was Doug Fullington, a retired preacher I believe. He presented the most hilarious program that I have experienced in many a moon. He reminded us a lot of Jerry Clower when Jerry was just beginning. He told a

story about Brownie trying to impress Ann, before they were married, by getting her a pair of alligator shoes. Ann had told him that she surely would like to have a pair. Doug said that after Brownie had wrestled that alligator out of the water and had got him up on the bank, he found that the alligator didn't have any shoes on! He picked on president-elect Ab Abendroth, too.

While the show was being set up Saturday morning and judged, we who were not involved in that, spent the time doing other things. Jim and June Grant decided to see Perry, as they heard that the heart of the town was only about 1½ miles from the motel. They thought that this would just be a nice walk. The only trouble was, somebody started them off in the wrong direction. They walked a couple of miles before turning around and walking back. Jim said that they were pretty far out into the country, and I can believe it. Two miles from that motel in the wrong direction would definitely put you *way out in the country!*

After lunch, we went by bus to Massee Lane. The show soon opened and we enjoyed that. There were some very interesting blooms. For example, there was a pink *granthamiana*. It was wilted and did not impress anyone, but this was a revelation to me. I did not know that there was such a thing. Another bloom which stopped a lot of people in their tracks was Hulyn Smith's 'Miss Rebecca.' It was a purplish red flower, very large, with incurved petals. Hulyn says that it may not be a typical bloom. In the greenhouse were a number of open blooms, the most beautiful by far were the blooms on the old japonica 'Florence Stratton.' There were several open on the plant.

Other attractions at Massee Lane were the beautiful Boehm birds. There were several new pieces since I last was there. One which attracted much attention was the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

And of course the gardens. The plants still showed evidence of the freeze damage received last December, but they are recovering. Someone, Betty Hotchkiss and the Massee Lane staff, I would guess, had gibbed buds throughout the garden, and many were open. There was one pretty little flower which beckoned to everyone who passed. I had to walk over and look at the tag. It was 'Lee Baby,' one



Dignitaries open the camellia show at historic Massee Lane on November 10, 1984. From left to right: Anthony Heap and his wife, Audrey, from Lancastershire, England; President Elect G. F. Abendroth; Miss Georgia Holiday, Diane Clements; and Mr. & Mrs. Pei-sung Tang of Beijing (Peking), China. (Photo by Editor)

of Dr. Mealing's introductions. When I got home and looked 'Lee Baby' up in the *Nomenclature* book, I reached the conclusion that fall gibbing had played a trick on this camellia. Instead of being medium, rose form double, this bloom was small, formal double with cupped petals. Ah, Lee Baby, what have they done to you!

ACS

Highlights of Minutes of the ACS Governing Board and Board of Trustees — Perry, Georgia

The American Camellia Society Governing Board met on 8 November 1984 in Perry, Georgia and the Board of Trustees met on 10 November.

President Mandarich was unable to attend due to a business complication and the meeting of the Governing Board was chaired by President Elect G. F. Abendroth.

Ann Brown, Membership Chairman, reported that we were down 225 members for a loss of 4.7% for 1984 memberships over 1983. She recommended that all present, and others, try to obtain five new members and send them in as a Christmas gift to the staff in Fort Valley.

The Convention Chairman, Henry Lunsford, listed the firm dates for our future meetings — you can see these elsewhere in this issue.

Dr. Luther W. Baxter, Jr., Chairman of the Research Advisory Committee reported that Dr. Gordon Holcomb of LSU is moving ahead on his studies of camellia petal blight. He also reported that root

At the banquet that night, we received the unhappy news that Brownie is going to retire. He did say that he would stay on until 1987, giving us time to find a good replacement. I heard someone say that if we looked hard enough, we *might* find a replacement for Brownie, but that Ann is irreplaceable. I'll go along with that!

The banquet was a typical ACS banquet with an excellent speaker, Bill Hyatt. Ann Brown read the tribute that went along with the award to Douglas Deane Hall of the Bronze Plaque. This, as you probably know, is awarded for outstanding contributions to ACS. This recognition pleased all who know Doug, for truly he represents all that is good about ACS!

So you see, you *can* go home again. The trouble is, we wait for great occasions, like ACS conventions, to visit Massee Lane. Massee Lane, the *home* of all camellia lovers, is always there, and there is always beauty there, whether camellias are in bloom or not.

rot and dieback are being studied and worked on by him and others at Clemson University. He added that Dr. Clifford Parks of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has had some successful crosses of *C. chrysanth* pollen to various hybrids and he will be reporting more on this later. Dr. William Ackerman is continuing his research on cold hardiness even now that he has retired from the U. S. National Arboretum.

The Ways & Means Chairman reported a comfortable gain for the fiscal year June 30, 1984. It is expected that under the leadership of the new Ways & Means Committee Chairmen Lorena and Boyd McRee of Conroe, Texas, that the Ways & Means will play an even greater role in our Society.

Roy Stringfellow, the new Chairman of the Exhibition & Awards Committee, has formed the sub-committees who are to present ACS awards for various camellias at the Mobile meeting. Following on a letter from Wilbur Ray from Califor-

nia, there has been a change made concerning the display of leaves with camellias in a camellia show. *The Board made the following change in the exhibition regulations. "One or two leaves with color and vigor characteristics of the variety may be exhibited with each bloom but not necessarily attached."*

The Charter and Bylaws Chairman, G. Stuart Watson, reported that work had been completed in changing the Charter and Bylaws of both the American Camellia Society and American Camellia Society Endowment Fund. Both are now registered as corporations in the state of Georgia. There is still some work to do to get the final letter of determination from the IRS.

Dr. Earl Beatty, Jr., the Treasurer, gave a report noting a modest net increase for the fiscal year that ended on June 30th. He stressed, however, that we must obtain additional members and get additional advertising of *The Camellia Journal* in order to stay on a financially viable course and to be able to keep the dues from having to be increased.

The Executive Director made a report that he was able to obtain a grant of \$5,000.00 from the State of Georgia to assist in the cost of added work in the gardens due to the devastating freeze and ice storms of the past season.

The Trustees approved a grant of \$1,000.00 to Dr. Gordon Holcomb for the David Feathers Fight Blight Award for the work he accomplished during the past year in this field. The Board also approved a grant of \$500.00 to Dr. Clifford Parks and \$500.00 to Dr. William Ackerman to continue their work in the cold hardy field, something that seems more important because of the past very cold winter. The Board also approved a grant of \$1,000.00 twice a year to Dr. Luther W. Baxter at Clemson for continued work on root rot and dieback.

Lewis Fetterman discussed the Shares for a Horticulturist. He pointed out that "he likes what he sees" and urges everyone to support the Share in a Horticulturist, which is \$500.00 a year for five years.

There was a discussion concerning reviving the Fund Raising Committee in an effort to bring the corpus of the Endowment Fund to one million dollars

from its current approximate \$450,000.00. Everyone was asked to write down any and all ideas they might have concerning the proposed organization of such a committee and any ideas for specific projects that should be included in making requests, particularly to foundations or corporations.

In making her report to the Trustees, Betty Hotchkiss, the Research Horticulturist stressed her role in improving and expanding the current gardens. She reported on progress with Fort Valley State College in getting a laboratory to use and a grant for laboratory equipment to establish a tissue culture lab for camellias. Also, an update on her role of establishing an information bank on *C. chrysanth*. She made a point of the need for a riding lawnmower and for a pickup truck. It is hoped someone might be able to "do something" about these needs.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Board of the ACS and the

Board of Trustees of the ACS Endowment Fund will be available for anyone to read at the meeting in Mobile or at any time at Headquarters.

Trustees Elected

The Governing Board of the American Camellia Society, at its meeting in Perry on 8 November 1984, elected the Trustees for the Class of 1987 for the Board of Trustees of the ACS Endowment Fund. Those elected are: Thomas Hughes; Alfus Johnson; Dr. Luther W. Baxter, Jr.; Spencer C. Walden, Jr.; G. Stuart Watson; Jack Mandarich; Charles O. Zagst and William Kemp.

Also elected were E. Hulyn Smith and William T. Shepherd to fill vacancies in the Class of 1986.

The Horticulturist, Betty Hotchkiss, was elected an *ex officio* member of the Board of Trustees. President G. F. Abendroth is also an *ex officio* member of the Board of Trustees.

ACS

Open House at Massee Lane

Historic Massee Lane, our national headquarters, was the locale for an Open House on Sunday afternoon, December 2, 1984. Nearly 200 people from the Middle Georgia area and one from as far away as Ontario, Canada enjoyed the beauty of the gardens, the greenhouse garden and the Boehm porcelain Gallery on a warm, sunny afternoon.

The staff at Massee Lane did a beautiful job of decorating the buildings in true Williamsburg style, including lighted candles in the windows (electric). Mike Hotchkiss brought over a stereo system and Christmas music was played inside the headquarters building where delicious refreshments were served. These were made by the girls in the office plus some of the ladies in nearby Fort Valley and Marshallville. Serving punch to the visitors were two of our Southern Belles, Wendy Bryan and Natalie Jones.

A camellia Christmas tree graced the colonial card table in the reception room. This was made by Wally Freshwater, of Fort Valley. (For a color picture of one see page 15, *The American Camellia Yearbook-1983*.) He also did an arrangement of camellia blossoms and holly for

the Steven-Taylor Gallery of Boehm porcelains.

Outside the building under the tall pines swaying in a gentle breeze, a group from the Fort Valley Presbyterian Church and the Marshallville Methodist Church sang Christmas carols under the direction of Beth Cleveland. Also, drifting through the soft breezes was beautiful Christmas music played on the French horn by David Owens.

Many people whom we have never seen before came out to attend this well-publicized event — the second year in a row. Local and nearby newspapers gave us advanced publicity and also stories after the event, which was well received. The camellias, themselves, were putting on their best show with a 'Terrell Weaver' more than 8" in diameter and a 'Lois Shinault' also more than 8" in diameter. (This is not idle growers boasting as the measurements were actually made by Dr. Daniel E. Nathan.) Also blooming in the greenhouse was bougainvillea and a beautiful display of red and white poinsettias which were arranged by Betty Hotchkiss.

GCCS Annual Meeting

ELIZABETH COOPER

The first weekend in August saw a hundred plus camellia growers gathered in Mobile for the 23rd Annual Gulf Coast Camellia Society's annual meeting. On Friday evening, Aug. 3, the group enjoyed cocktails in the greenhouse of Bea and Neal Rogers, Belle Fontaine Nursery on Dauphin Island Parkway. Then they adjourned down the road for a seafood feast at Bayley's Ranch Club. There Ed Atkins conducted an auction of plants brought by members assisted by John Terry and Marion Lawless which raised a record \$813.

Saturday morning following a meeting of the board of directors and a coffee/goodies break, Alfus Johnson conducted the business meeting which included the election of officers. (See list at end). Greg Davis was in charge of the program on which appeared ACS horticulturist, Betty Hotchkiss, and Charlie Zagst speaking on effects of the disastrous

Christmas season '83 on camellias in their locale.

During the afternoon Bertha and Alfus Johnson hosted a reception in their suite before all prepared for the evening festivities. This was a banquet at the headquarters Ramada Inn where ACS president-elect G. F. "Ab" Abendroth spoke on his goals of membership growth combined with accelerated interest in camellia culture. Boyd McRee gave a memorial tribute to those who had gone on during the year.

A framed "Veiled Beauty" painted and donated by Ann Hackney, for which chances were sold, went to Dr. Alvin Johnson netting the society \$530. Dr. David Scheibert and Greg Davis showed slides made on the ACS trip to China. At the close Bea Rogers presented Elizabeth Cooper, retiring after 12 years as editor of the GCCS bulletin, an elegant string of pearls and matching earrings. She is being succeeded by Jean Comber, also current secretary.

Officers for 1984-85 are: President Alfus Johnson (Houston); vice president-at-large Dr. David Scheibert (Nashville); secretary Jean (Mrs. John) Comber (Pensacola); treasurer Lorena (Mrs. Boyd) McRee (Conroe).

State vice presidents are: ALABAMA, C. C. Crutcher, Theodore; ARKANSAS, Dr. Hilary Hanna, Eldorado; CALIFORNIA, Mrs. Bernice Gunn Thompson, Whittier; FLORIDA, R. B. Gramling, Tallahassee; GEORGIA, Marvin Jernigan, Warner Robins; LOUISIANA, W. F. Mann, Shreveport; MISSISSIPPI, Elaine (Mrs. James) Smelley, Moss Point.

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Standing are president Alfus O. Johnson, Houston; Florida VP Robert R. Gramling, Tallahassee; Texas VP Kermit Agee, Nacogdoches; Louisiana VP W. F. Mann, Shreveport; Tennessee VP A. B. Cooper, Nashville; VP at large Dr. C. David Scheibert, Nashville; Georgia VP Marvin Jernigan, Warner Robins; treasurer Lorena McRee, Conroe, Texas; Alabama VP C. C. Crutcher, Theodore. Seated are South Carolina VP Donna Shepherd, Mississippi VP Elaine Smelley, and secretary and new editor of Gulf Coast Camellias Jean Comber, Pensacola. (Photo by Kay Berridge, picture courtesy of *Playground Daily News*, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.)



Mr. and Mrs. William F. Mann standing by the lovely Florentine fountain which they generously contributed to the ACS to honor Joseph H. Pyron, Ann and Milton Brown and all former and future Executive Directors.

Mid-South Gathering*

ELIZABETH COOPER

Good friends, good food plus a cool spell in August combined to make the annual get-together of the Mid-South Camellia Society in Nashville on Saturday, Aug. 25, a memorable occasion. The program was a bit different from former years as the group went to Belmont College in late afternoon for a guided tour of the garden restoration at Belle Monte, the ante-bellum home of Adelia Acklen, who in the 1850's was the richest woman and largest female landowner in the country.

After Adelia's death in 1887, the mansion and adjoining grounds were bought by two Pennsylvania ladies who converted it into a school for girls, called Belmont. It later was combined with Ward's Seminary to become Ward-Belmont, both for boarding and day students, where until just a few years ago young ladies of prominent Southern families were educated. Around 1970 the buildings and grounds were purchased by the Tennessee Baptists who brought back Belmont College, a four-year institution offering many courses not found in Nashville's 13 other colleges.

Back in the winter the knowledgeable and enthusiastic young man, Jym Knight, who is in charge of garden restoration with only student help spoke on the restored gardens and showed slides of

same to our Middle Tennessee Camellia Society meeting. We were fascinated and knew our out-of-town guests would be likewise. So we secured this free guided tour for nearly two hours on a delightfully cool August afternoon.

Belle Monte was designed in the Italian style with such embellishments as an art gallery, zoo, conservatory with camellias, water tower, deer park, apiary, gazebos, etc., a veritable park the gates of which were never closed to visitors in a day when there were no city parks. European marble statuary, urns and fountains dotted the grounds planted in the favorite shrubs and flowers of the day. It is being brought back as nearly as possible to the original.

In the process of restoration a great deal of the statuary has been unearthed from under later constructed buildings and much that has been found in various parts of the country is being returned to Belmont. The campus is being made into a very beautiful spot not more than two miles from Downtown Nashville, though it was Adelia's country estate.

Following the delightful tour the 45 camellia-fanciers from Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and California went as usual to the Tennessee Botanical Gardens at Cheekwood for a picnic supper and to see Dr. David Scheibert's slides made on the ACS trips to China and Australia-New Zealand.



Bea Rogers, Convention Chairman of Gulf Coast Camellia Society's Annual Meeting in Mobile, AL presents a gift to Elizabeth Cooper on her retirement as Editor of "Gulf Coast Camellia Bulletin." She served for many years in an exemplary fashion. (Photo by Kay Berridge, picture courtesy of *Playground Daily News*, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.)

Other eating events during the long weekend were a patio supper Friday evening at the home of Jane and George Griffin; luncheon Saturday at the Brentwood home of Kitty and Dick Frank and a backyard picnic Sunday at the A. B. Coopers before the out-of-towners departed for home. It was a distinct pleasure to have with us several of the ACS top brass — Ann and Milton Brown and Hulyn Smith, who had come to Nashville with a protege who signed a contract with a recording studio.

DIME A DAY For Camellias

* From the Gulf Coast Camellia Society "Bulletin."

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GRAFTS

STA-GREEN FERTILIZER

He Blows Them Up Big!

It takes a man like President Elect Abendroth to get a 'Hishi-Karaito' (upper left) or a 'Carter's Sunburst' (lower right) 48" (4' in diameter). We wish we could say this is due to the new A.C.S. Gib, but it is due to the excellent photography and art work of Neil Johnson, a

professional photographer, and Flether Thorne-Thomsen, Chief Executive Officer of Fabsteel Corporation. These two men from Shreveport produced the art work which is on display on walls in the main lobby of the Louisiana Tower of the Louisiana Bank and Trust in Shreveport,



He Blows Them Up Big!

Louisiana.

The enlarged flower closeups were created by Mr. Johnson. There are three groupings of photographs which make a dramatic impact on the people entering the bank from Travis Street. There are two groupings of camellias and one grouping of roses. (After all, the American Rose Society is headquartered near Shreveport.) The camellias used in the photographs were grown by ACS's new President, G. F. Abendroth, with one from the garden of Roy C. Stringfellow, a President Emeritus of our Society.

This is another way that camellias can be brought to the attention of the general public. It does help in this case that Ab is a Director of the LBT. Perhaps, others can encourage such fine permanent displays in bank buildings or other public type buildings to "get across our message".

ACS

Thank You Mr. Jones

We are very appreciative of the Mr. Jones' letter to the Editor of *Horticulture* magazine of July 1984. We had spotted this same error in the article but felt it prudent not to send a letter to the Editor. The July 1984 issue of *Horticulture* printed Mr. Jones' letter.

THE NONFRAGILE CAMELLIA

DEAR EDITOR One statement in Oliver E. Allen's otherwise interesting article; "Mr. Coe's Camellia House" (*Horticulture*, January 1984), is incorrect, namely, "But there was no question about the need [to build a greenhouse], for camellias will not survive temperatures much below 40 degrees Fahrenheit."

Camellias (*Camellia japonica*) are root- and leaf-hardy to 0 degrees Fahrenheit, surviving on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, for instance; and bud-hardy certainly to 12 degrees. The open flowers, however, will be destroyed by only a degree or two of frost.

I want to make this point because the fragility of camellias continues to be a prevalent myth that may discourage the innovative use of these estimable plants in gardens.

James L. Jones

Lexington, Mass.

Grafting*

JACK OSEGUEDA
Oakland, California**

One of the biggest thrills a camellia fancier can have is to see a new prize graft "take off"! Starting from a tiny bud, growth is very fast, for in a few weeks a good graft will grow from a few inches to several feet, according to the size and vigor of the understock. Depending upon the amount of light and warmth, many grafts will set flower buds the first year (if your luck and the variety are exceptional), producing robust blooms as a result of the great energy the over-sized root system is providing.

Reason for Grafting: If you have a camellia that is strong and healthy but lacks attractive flowers or blooms sparse-

* From *The Camellia, Its History, Culture, Genetics, And a Look Into Its Future Development*, Feathers & Brown, pp. 168-174. This excellent book is still available from American Camellia Society, P. O. Box 1217, Ft. Valley, GA 31030 for only \$12.50 postpaid.

** Secretary, Camellia Research Committee and Past President, Northern California Camellia Society.

ly, rather than discard it and lose the established, vigorous root system, graft it with a desirable variety. Many camellias do not grow readily from cuttings, while *reticulatas* are almost impossible to root, and some new choice ones are simply not yet available except for scions. Grafted plants grow more rapidly and produce more and larger flowers for the first 3 to 5 years until the above-ground part of the plant balances with the root system, some may continue to do so indefinitely.

Selection of Understock: Use vigorous-growing plants having long terminal growth — they have a wide cambium layer and the ability to heal and callous rapidly. *C. japonica* varieties such as 'Prof. Sargent', 'Sarah Frost', 'Debutante', 'Barbara E', 'Pink Perfection' and *C. sasanquas* such as 'Cleopatra' and 'Daydream', are among the most popular for understock. Vigorous seedlings are good but may have varying cambium thickness — seedling *C. reticulatas* are ideal understock on which to graft *retics* as they eventually match up perfectly rather than leaving an unsightly bulge which often results from the use of other

species. The writer has grafted camellias on 6" understock but it is tricky and takes a little experience and time.

Tools Required: Good, heavy pruning shears, a very sharp knife, single razor blade, perhaps a fine-tooth small saw, rubber bands, plastic electrician's tape or string, a small screwdriver, and plastic bags or large ("pickle") jars for cloches are needed. A magnifying glass comes in as a helpful adjunct in the case of less than normal vision. Try Gibberellic Acid and Rooting Hormone on some — you might be surprised, as I was.

Time to graft: It is not completely facetious to say that the "time to graft" is when you have the good fortune to get the scions you want! Actually, success can be had in almost any month except during the period of active growth — in the spring and early summer. There is really no size limit on understock — anything from match-stick up to several inches in diameter can be grafted successfully. The experts and commercial growers, however, prefer pencil size up to about 3/4 inch, using the easy cleft graft, in the winter months, December through Feb-

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'Helen Sharpe' — ACS Cover November Journal 1984

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ruary. Scions may be kept several weeks in good condition by moistening them slightly, inserting in an airtight plastic bag and placing them in the refrigerator (NOT the freezer). Late grafting sometimes results in the scion sprouting before healing is complete. New growth will die if the jar is removed prematurely; therefore just let it grow and, if necessary, use a taller plastic bag or raise the jar by using a metal collar (a coffee can or gallon can with both ends removed). It will be necessary to let this new growth harden off before the cover can be removed safely.

KINDS OF GRAFTS

Cleft Grafting

As a result of surveys made throughout the country and years of experimenting with thousands of grafts, it has been found that the best result is had when only *one* side of the understock ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch dia.) is cut. First cut off the stock with sharp shears or a small saw about 5 to 6 inches above the soil level, making a laterally sloping cut which is then trimmed smooth with a sharp knife. A vertical incision is then made $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way across the top, extending about 2 inches down the side, being careful not to split the cambium (green) layer and bark on the opposite side of the stock. This is possible with a sloping cut (see Fig. 1). A hammer and chisel would make a damaging, rough split. Slightly notch each side of the slit in the stock about the width of the scion. Then, with a small screwdriver which has been filed to a point on one side, the slit is forced open and a 3-inch scion having two or three leaves is carefully inserted so that the cambium layers on scion and understock exactly match, or in any case cross each other by slanting the scion slightly so that part of it is inside and part outside the understock. It is important that the scion be carefully trimmed and shaped, so that the inside edge is thinner, thus allowing the outside edge to fit tightly. The writer prefers a single edge razor blade for this purpose (see Fig. 2). The vital part is that the green cambium layers (not the outside bark) of both scion and understock make contact firmly enough to insure knitting and the greater area of contact the better the graft. The scion is tapered both vertically and horizontally, so as to be a "wedge" both ways. Experience will

teach you to make the proper taper about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, even on both sides, and also tapered completely the width of the scion. Scions which are not quite round in shape should be tapered on the flat sides or it will be difficult to match the scion with the understock. Reticulata scions often are not uniformly round, which accounts for the difficulty some have in making successful grafts, due to the unevenness. Practice will develop the proper technique and always remember that $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of the cut portion of the scion must extend above the understock so that the callus will knit over the top (see Fig. 3). If the stock is not split down both sides, the scion may hold secure without tying but to be sure bind the graft with a heat-treated grafting rubberband, waterproof string, or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch electrician's plastic tape, which is tight-fitting and easy to apply.

Whip Grafting

This is a very interesting as well as practical method, usually being 100% successful. It is best accomplished when the scion is the same diameter as the understock. You can whip graft with a smaller scion than the understock, matching on one side only, but the result may not be as good. Sparse-growing *C. japonicas* and *C. reticulatas* in particular can be made into beautiful, bushy plants if whip-grafted, using a number of the "suckers" produced by the understock of grafts from the previous year or two that failed to take. The writer even deliberately cuts off ordinary reticulata seedlings about 6 inches from the base, allows a few branches to develop, then whip-grafts them the following season. Heavy scions from sturdy growth of new wood are the best sort for this technique. A sloping cut an inch or longer is made on the scion to exactly match the same type of sloping cut on the understock. It is then notched with a tongue to hold the scion firmly, so that there is little chance of failure as the cambium layers will match in several places (see Fig. 8). This type of graft must be completely wrapped with the usual grafting rubber, tape or whatever, being careful to so bend the scion as to match the stock evenly and make certain that none of the cut part is exposed. The same after-care procedure is followed as in cleft grafting except that the

binding medium is not removed. The entire section of the graft portion is covered with wax or tree-seal after healing. Months later, the binding will deteriorate and fall off, or it can be removed so as to avoid constriction. Fall and winter is the best time for whip-grafting — as with cleft grafting. As is the case with all grafts, mild fertilization may be given after a year has elapsed, to induce sturdy top growth.

Regrafting

Assuming that the original graft has been made on stock cut about 6 inches above ground level, if you are unhappy with the result and wish to put on something else, the original stock can be utilized by "working it over". Simply cut it off slightly below the first graft and do the cleft graft again at the lower level. This may not be possible when the original graft was made fairly low. In such case, you can cut off the old graft at a convenient level above the union and regraft, although this may leave a somewhat less desirable plant as there may be a lack of uniformity in the trunk.

Cutting Grafts

This is an unusual and fairly new technique in which the cutting roots at the same time the top graft takes. An easy-rooting japonica cutting is clefted down the top after having the tip removed, scion inserted and bound with a grafting band and buried in a rooting medium of sponge rock and sand. (Or a whip-graft can be used.) In this process, while the base of the cutting roots, the top (grafted section) readily calluses, knits and the graft grows. If a *C. reticulata* or vigorous *C. hybrid* is the objective, in a few years, with the graft union below ground it will send out roots of its own and eventually push off the understock and thus make a healthy plant on its own roots. This is a good way to eliminate the "bulge" from *retic* grafts, which occurs unless grafted on *retic* understock.

Bark Grafting in Summer

As stated, cleft grafting is difficult in summer unless you have arranged to keep understock dormant by withholding water to as great extent as possible (which can be done by keeping the stock indoors or in deep shade). The principal justification for this would be where

scions are obtained from an area where the seasons do not coincide. This can be avoided by bark grafting in summer. The bark is then loose and this fact, in conjunction with the bleeding that occurs after cutting the stock, makes it practically impossible to successfully graft by the cleft technique. But the conditions are then favorable for bark grafting because the bark is then loose — an ideal situation for bark grafting. A vertical cut is first made about 1½ inches long down the side of the understock, through the bark, which is then loosened on each side of the cut from top to bottom. (See Fig. 5) The scion is then cut so as to be beveled on one side, resulting in a smooth, slanting cut about 1 inch long (see Fig. 6), then slid bevel-side in, inside and along the vertical cut made in the understock. Leave ¼ inch of the bevel cut exposed above the understock, then securely wrap it in place with a grafting band or plastic tape, being careful not to damage the bark. (See Fig. 7.) The care from then on is the same as for the cleft graft, avoiding direct sun exposure that would burn the scion. A burlap bag over the sunny side of the jar or bag will afford the necessary protection. When water is needed, a light application is sufficient. However, if a plastic bag is used to cover the graft, water may not be required.

Successful Grafts

They are the result of the use of good, healthy understock — unhealthy plants will not prove satisfactory. If in containers, the stock should be kept on the dry side preferably, and the grafts given only as much water as is necessary to keep the plant alive. The roots of weak, soggy understock eventually die even though the graft may knit and grow a bit at first. Dieback and fungus can result from too much moisture or when bleeding is excessive — remember that a graft needs very little moisture because it has almost no foliage and leaf transpiration is practically nil. If mold forms on the cut, wipe it clean and air for a few hours, then dust with a dry fungicide, return the plastic bag or jar and repeat the treatment if necessary.

After Care

It is desirable to remove loose mulch or topsoil from the surface of the under-

stock before grafting and, after the graft is completed, replace it with an inch or two of sand or sponge rock, then dust everything with a fungicide. If a jar is used, then place it over the graft carefully and stabilize it with four small stakes, to avoid accidental tipping over. The jar should be pressed firmly on the sand, which tends to seal out the air and hold it. For small container plants, plastic bags are excellent as a cover. They may be held in place by short sticks inside of them and the bottom of the bag can be made tight by using a rubber band around the sides of the container. (Fig. 4). In a glasshouse, callusing should start within a few weeks and in about two months the scion will have knit firmly to the stock. In the colder outdoors it will take a bit longer but can be safer. When firmly callused, the jars can be raised very gradually and slightly, just a slit at first through the insertion of thin shims between the jar and the sand, then increasing the opening by doubling the shims, removing the jar entirely after a few days. If plastic bags are used as the cover, punch a small hole in the top at first, then in a day or two enlarge it and finally take it off entirely when no wilting is observed. If wilting appears at any stage, close up the aperture again until it ceases. This removal of the jar, etc. is perhaps the most critical phase of after-care and requires careful attention. A

good many grafts are lost simply because the jar or bag was taken off too early or too suddenly. The next step after successful removal of the jar is to cut off the binding material (rubber band, etc.), after which, and only then, the junction of the scion and stock should be thoroughly sealed with wax or tree seal.

Other Comments

It is recommended that you use only one scion on each stock when cleft grafting. A scion with 3 leaves is preferred, as a large understock usually develops two or three branches from a single scion. Some prefer to cut each leaf about in half, in order to reduce the drain upon the scion. Scions with but one leaf and eye, taken lower on the branch rather than the tip, give excellent results and produce a single stalk. Multiple grafts of different varieties or growth habits do not grow evenly, appear unmatched and finally result in your cutting off all but one variety. The effect is hodgepodge. However, multiple grafts of like kinds, particularly of one family such as 'Elegans', have the merit of looking like they belonged together and save valuable space in the small garden where there is room for only a limited number of camellias. Grafting plays an important part in camellia culture. It is an economical and effective way of keeping current with new camellia developments.

THE GRAFT WATCHER*

JAMES H. MCCOY,
Fayetteville, NC

Another camellia season has gone down the drain, or perhaps it would sound better if I said, "Another camellia season has become history." We're busy with summer things now, grafting, principally — and graft watching. I may not be the best camellia grower around, but I doubt that anyone is a better graft watcher than I.

When I retired from civil service about four years ago, I fully intended to go into construction work. I got my contractor's license, bought a pickup truck, and got

my company on the bidders list at Fort Bragg, thus assuring myself of invitations to bid on the various government jobs that would come up. At the same time, I began to get much more involved with my camellia hobby, doubling the size of my greenhouse, planting seeds by the thousands, even accepting the job of editor of "Carolina Camellias," the publication of South Carolina Camellia Society. Of course, I multiplied the number of grafts I make every year. It didn't take me long to realize that I could not do construction work and still have time for my camellias. I had to back away from one or the other. That decision wasn't hard to make. My pickup truck hasn't hauled a load of building materials in years!

* From *The Camellia Review*, Vol. 45, No. 2, Nov. Dec. 1983

I start grafting about the first of January and continue rather heavily through March. After that, I do only emergency grafting — when I luck up on a good scion or a graft fails and regrafting is called for. This year, I did 54 in January, 19 in February and 40 in March. I cover the junction of scion and stock with aluminum foil and try not to disturb it until I see some action on the part of the growth bud.

My graft watching doesn't start in earnest till around the middle of April. Up till then, I never look for any "takes." I give them the once over every day or two just in case one has dropped its' leaves — a pretty clear sign that I've lost the scion. This rarely happens to me, but when it does, I regraft immediately, unless the stock is dead and this too, very rarely happens.

All my grafts start out under a long table in the greenhouse. Starting about May 1, or a few days before, I begin checking them weekly. What do I look for? Well, not necessarily new growth, but rather a change in the growth bud of the scion, an elongation, a different green, a sparkle in its eye. When I see this, I move the graft, jar and all, to the top of the table. I remove the foil and examine the graft for callus. Almost always the callus is forming nicely. If it is, I make a check mark with a grease pencil on the tag and replace the foil. The following Monday morning, I move to an adjacent bench all those grafts which have the check mark on the tag and at least a little bit of growth on the part of the scion. I also remove the cloche at this time. For about a week, I make a point of

checking these grafts twice a day, morning and afternoon, and any other time I happen to be in the vicinity of the greenhouse. Any indication of stress, any wilting of new growth, any loss of sheen on the part of the bud will bring the cloche back immediately and transport that graft back to the table. If they are still doing well a week after I have removed the cloche, out of the greenhouse they go to join the other plants. I have chosen Monday as action day (remove the cloche and remove to the outside) because I often leave town for the weekend (Saturday and Sunday). This will give me five

days to observe the grafts without their cloches and after they have been removed to the outside. If they're still doing all right after 5 days, I consider that I have a new plant and don't worry about them any more.

One neighbor, also retired, told me that he sees me going down to my greenhouse so much even though all the plants have been moved outside, till he figured I must be making "moonshine" down there! Well, I don't know how to make "moonshine," but I'll bet it's not as much trouble as graft watching and not nearly as much fun!

Pruning

DR. T. E. PIERSON

(Reprinted with thanks from St. George & Sutherland Branch "Review")
(Australian Camellia Research Society)

One of the main jobs for this time of the year is pruning. All plants will benefit from pruning, even *reticulatas*. The trick lies in how you do it and why.

If you have *old, leggy, woody japonicas* you can afford to be rather ruthless and if you are prepared to sacrifice a blooming period then be heavy-handed. Cut hard but before you do cut out the water for at least a week before hand and do it before growth commences or you will get excessive bleeding from the cuts and probable infection of the wounds. In fact, if you are going to cut into wood thicker than your thumb then I would suggest that you seal the cuts with grafting mastic as you do them. In this case keep the water restricted until new

growth commences then, while the plant is growing vigorously, water and feed liberally. This type of pruning should be done before new growth commences, that is, as soon as flowering has finished; as should also the following:

Plants that really only need to be brought back within bounds and which don't warrant such excessive methods can well be reduced by up to a quarter of the plant in any one season, this way you won't reduce your flowering by much and by spreading the process over a four year period you will keep the plant bushy and well furbished so that it will not become unsightly. As well as reducing the overall height of the plant you should aim to remove all spindly and twiggy growths from the interior and centre of the bush as such growth as a general rule will not produce much in the way of worthwhile flowers. Also any blooms that are produced are much more liable to wind damage, etc.

The previous is mostly applicable to *japonicas* and even more so to *sasanqua*

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varieties, when it comes to the saluenensis hybrids and the reticulatas one needs to be a little more discreet.

Saluenensis hybrids ('Donation,' 'Angel Wings,' etc.) have a nasty habit of die-back even without provocation and heavy-handed pruning is indeed provocation, always use mastic on wood of more than pencil thickness, always cut so that sap flow continues onwards, that is, cut to a growth point either to an obvious shoot or cut back flush to a main branch. Remember also that such hybrids have as a rule a rather open growth habit and as such you must grow that plant in accord with its natural character, you cannot make a naturally open and rangy plant into a dense, little bush.

What we classify as *reticulatas* must be further subdivided if you are thinking of pruning them, into *reticulata* and *reticulata hybrids* where the other parent is frequently a *japonica*.

True *reticulatas*, particularly the so called *Yunnan varieties* like 'Shot Silk,' 'Willow Wand,' etc. are *trees*, not bushes — they grow from a leader shoot and if this point is removed or damaged then that branch will die unless there is somewhere else for the growth to proceed so

this class of plant must be pruned to an ongoing eye not just to where you hope there will be one in a leaf axil. Again, as die-back can a problem use mastic to seal the cuts and be a little circumspect.

With *reticulata hybrids* it is possible to be a mite more adventuresome. Depending on what the other parent is, some such as 'Flower Girl' can be treated like their *sasanqua* half, others like 'Lila Naff' can almost be treated as *japonicas* without any ill effects, but varieties such as 'Howard Asper,' which obviously tend back towards the *reticulata* side of their parentage, must be treated as if they were straight *retics* and these you will never get bushy.

So basically: Prune to reinforce the natural growth pattern of the plant, not in direct contradiction to it.

Prune when the plant is as near to dormant as it ever becomes, not when it is growing at its most vigorous. Most important, remember that a heavily pruned plant has a large rootstock and may be a small head so it will grow most rampantly when it starts off; you will get growth but probably no flowers for a season or two until it settles down again.

10. The dormant season is not necessarily the best season to prune. Pruning in late Spring and early Summer slows next year's growth. The best time to prune is just about the time growth stops and before it starts its storage of food to harden the wood.

11. Fertilize camellias in the fall with low nitrogen and high phosphorus and potash.

12. Consider root pruning for large plants. Go around the plant with a sharp, straight spade, digging down a spade's depth. No set rules for this distance. It differs with each plant. When the top of a plant is pruned severely, the roots should be pruned, too. This keeps the plant in balance and helps to dwarf or control growth. Hard pruning can delay or prevent bud formation, however.

13. Where to start pruning? It makes no difference, but one way is to 1st remove dead, diseased and damaged wood. 2nd, reduce size if necessary by drop-crotching. 3rd, start thinning. What is left of the plant is what is needed. Look at the structure.

14. Espaliering: All the above rules apply to espaliering. Use cuphooks in the wall for training branches. The cuphooks come in all sizes and eliminate tying. In espaliering, remove all undesired branches. Support the remaining branches in the desired place. The second year remove long side branches and shorten others to thicken the foliage. The third year, start pruning. Do not cut the ends of permanent branches while they are developing. Practice. Become familiar with plant growth. Pruning is not an exact science — therefore there are exceptions to all rules.

Pruning Time Will Soon Be Here

Most people prefer to prune at time of blooming or very soon thereafter. Whatever time you should select, here are some pointers by Jim Wagner, a horticulturist, at the Oregon Camellia Society's meeting in November 1982.

1. Opening up the plant to let in light and air will help to eliminate scale.

2. There are exceptions to all pruning practices. One should observe each individual plant for its needs.

3. Suggestions for the "right attitude" toward pruning seem important. *Think* you will be *successful* and you will be.

4. In pruning young camellias, watch for a second leader which would give competition to the main leader, and keep the second leader subdominant to the main leader.

5. Watch for branches lower down, growing parallel to the main trunk. Prune to structure your camellia the way you want it to go. Don't be timid in doing

this. They can take a lot of pruning.

6. Prune to open up things so you don't have a ball of leaves and stems.

7. Drop-crotching: cut tip of branch to a bud, branch or crotch. Terminal buds control the growth of the bud directly below them. Thinning and drop-crotching will force more buds.

8. Pruning is a dwarfing process. Frequent pruning is more dwarfing. Even three times a year it can be done. Removal of buds does no harm. It is what you *leave* that counts. Open spaces fill up. Any place you let light get in, will fill up as it forces new growth.

9. The blooming period tells what happened last summer. Camellias need a summer resting period in order to bloom well. They need to dry out between watering during the resting period. During the summer rest period the leaf buds turn to flower buds. Withhold water and fertilizer during the resting period.

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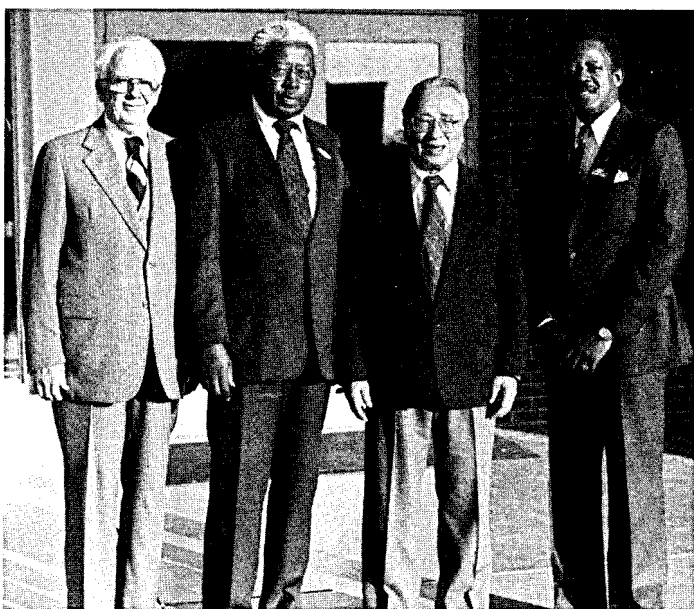
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Professor Tang Pei-sung honors Fort Valley State College which hosted his visit to Fort Valley. Seen here are: Milton H. Brown, Executive Director of The American Camellia Society; Dr. James L. Kirkwood, Director of International Programs, Fort Valley State College; and Dr. Luther Burse, President of Fort Valley State College. We owe a sincere debt of gratitude to Fort Valley State College for sponsoring Professor Tang's visit to Georgia. (Photo Courtesy of Fort Valley State College.)

Camellias—Pruning/Transplanting Relationship*

JAMES H. WAGNER

Procedures used to transplant and prune camellias vary little from those

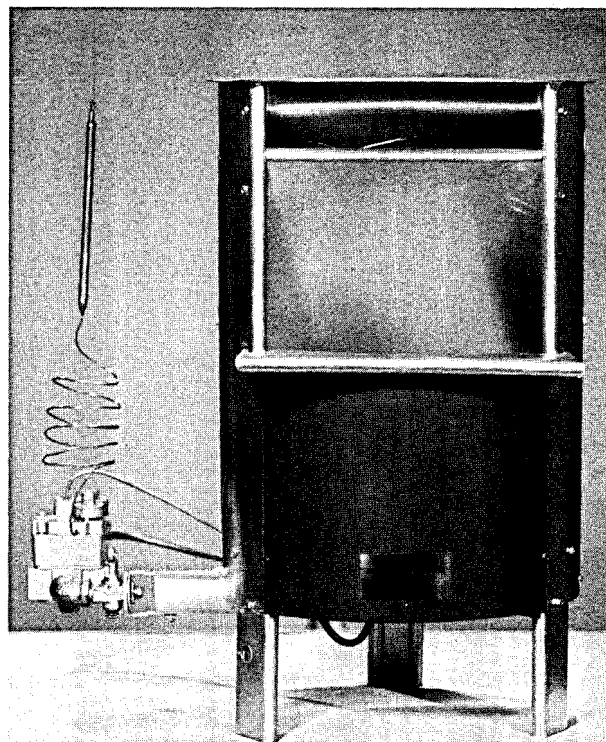
used on other ornamentals. Whether one is moving a plant in a bare root condition or balled and burlapped, up to one third of the top should be removed. This does not mean the overall size of a camellia must be reduced. Many camellias tend to develop structures that are too heavily

* From May 1976 issue of *The Camellia Journal*

branched and would welcome thinning. Compact camellias present an ideal home for scale and its resultant sooty mold. Of course, one does not have to move a camellia as an excuse to thin it out. Start with the dead wood and crossing branches. If reduction of size is not desired, try thinning out the lateral growth developing from each main branch.

Most of the attractiveness of *C. sasanqua* camellias stem from their open

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growth habits. Opening up *C. japonica* and *C. reticulata* tend to relieve their stiff compact form and can be used to show off growth structure. When pruning, remember that although total growth will be reduced, the reduction of woody tissue will cause diversion of plant food to the remaining plant parts. This can be advantageous. The reduction of terminal growth buds will also increase nitrogen and other nutrients to the balance of a plant. You can prune so this additional food can be utilized to increase the height, spread or particular parts of a camellia.

The carbohydrate/nitrogen theory of flowering assumes that a severely pruned plant draws on its carbohydrate food reserves to promote growth. This lowers the carbohydrate/nitrogen balance within the plant.

Root pruning reduces nitrogen accumulation and slows growth of the plant

as a result. This slowed growth conserves carbohydrates stored in the plant, an excess of which promotes flowering.

Transplanting a camellia, from a container or a landscaped garden bed, destroys or removes a portion of its root system. This tends to promote flowering of a plant already having difficulty providing nutrients for excessive top growth. Reduction of the top foliage by thinning will lower the increased demand for food in proportion to the nutrients supplied by the roots.

It is not necessary to wait until a camellia has completed its period of bloom before it can be pruned. It is not necessary to imply camellias must or should be pruned at a particular time of year. If you prune *properly* you will not have to synchronize the time of pruning camellias with any of their principal growth functions.

trically bogged. Feel free to choose your objective; the most popular ones appear to be:

1. A new colour, particularly yellow or blue;
2. Early to mid-season blooming;
3. More two-tone blooms — either sharp-edged (picotee) or graded margin;
4. Fragrance;
5. Climate hardiness — heat in the southern hemisphere, cold in the northern hemisphere.

Having settled on an objective, it is worthwhile searching the literature or enquiring from other hybridists whether someone has already started on that track because if an F1 hybrid is already available, some years are saved.

Next comes the choice of the female parent — a good seedsetter is essential. There are no hard and fast rules but the following suggestions, although tentative, are widely accepted. In general, singles and semi-doubles are preferable to more complex forms. If a polyploid camellia is being crossed with a diploid, there is better seed-set and a greater variety of seedlings if the polyploid camellias is the female parent. If the parents have common ploidity, other things being equal, it makes no difference to the characteristics of resulting plants which way the cross is made. Some of the more commonly successful crossings have been:

- C. reticulata* X *C. japonica*
- C. sasanqua* X *C. reticulata*
- C. reticulata* X *C. granthamiana*
- C. japonica* X *C. granthamiana*

Hybridising is to some extent an individual art so try any combination desired both ways (reciprocal crosses) and find which gives most success.

When to hybridise is important. This depends on temperature and receptivity of the stigma. Temperature is critical as seed-set does not occur if the ambient temperature is less than 16°C. This is confirmed in natural conditions by the setting of seed in sasanquas prior to the onset of cold weather and the absence of seed-set in japonicas and reticulatas until the return of warm weather — usually late August or September, in the southern hemisphere.

—ACS—

Camellia Hybridisation*

PERIPATETIC CAMELLIAN

On page 7 of the last issue of *Camellia News*, No. 88 — March 1984, two headings, viz: "Prize for Hybridising" (a bloom hybridised from *C. chrysantha*) and "Camellia Chrysantha" with sub-headings "sadly... buds drop" and "Pink Flowers...?" engendered the idea that some thoughts on the philosophy and fundamentals of hybridising might be appropriate.

Throughout the world, much hybridisation has been carried out and collectively there are many articles describing this work with the results achieved. It is very apparent that camellia hybridisers are most co-operative and ready to share with each other experiences and materials. A refreshing honesty appears in these articles so that the more definitive assertions are accompanied frequently by "speculative" or "tentative" ones. I shall try to continue this practice in what follows.

A hybrid is defined as an offspring from combination of:

1. Two different species;
2. Hybrid and any species;
3. Two hybrids.

Apart from true hybridisation, there is intra-specific cross-pollination where the technique is identical and the success rate quite high. Cross-pollination success becomes progressively more difficult as we proceed to the inter-specific (only about 10%) and in turn to the inter-genetic (about 1%).

To begin with it is worth noting that in recording crosses, the seed parent (female) is always placed first and the pollen parent (male) second. This first crossing is known as the F1 hybrid; it may not be at all outstanding but if backcrossed with one of the parents (F2) may be distinctly better than any of the parents.

It is quite likely that some day genetic engineering will speed up the hybridisation process but presently it is a long-time project — probably ten or more years from the time of conception to completion of evaluation so that it is imperative to have objectives and stick to them; frequent sidetracking can lead to marked prolongation or even becoming inex-

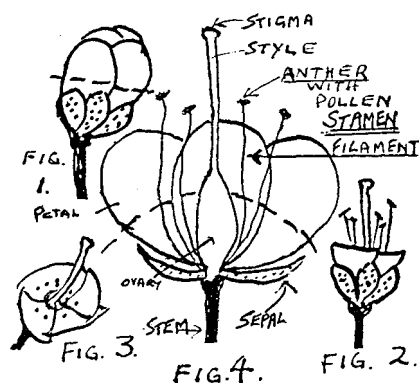
* From *Camellia News*, June, 1984, The Australian Camellia Research Society, pp. 9-11.

If hybridisation is to be carried out in the open, it has to be delayed until the warm sunny days of September but if a temperature-controlled greenhouse is available, it may be carried out as soon as buds are available — pollen having already been garnered, perhaps from the previous season.

With regard to breeding for early flowering, it is desirable this should be performed in a temperature-controlled greenhouse for it is more likely the seed parent as well as the pollen parent will be an early bloomer and so a greater likelihood of success, the stigma must be receptive, ie, moist and sticky so that pollen grains adhere readily.

As already mentioned, pollen can be collected when ripe and providing it is kept dry and stored in a refrigerator will remain viable for twelve months. It can be harvested into a small envelope or gelatin capsule placed within a screw-capped jar in which silica gel or calcium chloride acts as a desiccant. Allow pollen to warm before use.

The actual technique of cross-pollinating is not difficult and is described below. However, it must be stressed that it is vital not to allow contamination of the stigma with foreign pollen from any source — “a cuckoo in the nest” could spoil the whole programme.



Cross-Pollinating Technique

CROSS-POLLINATING TECHNIQUE:

1. Choose a suitable bud, it should be swollen and just ready to open with petals beginning to separate — Figure 1.
2. With sharp knife, razor blade or pointed scissors, cut through petals

only, right around bud just above the tips of the sepals — usually about one-third to one-half the length of the bud from the base — Figure 2.

3. With scissors or a pair of forceps, remove all pollen anthers and the adjacent filamentous part of the stamen — Figure 3 (bird's eye view). Be careful not to damage stigma, style or ovary.
4. Place selected pollen, either stored or directly from a flower, on the stigma — Figure 4. Use plenty of pollen as with some varieties less than 10% is viable. As the bud was unopened just prior to pollination, it is possible the stigma was not yet fully receptive so this pollination should be repeated the following day. The simplest and safest way of applying pollen is to use a “cotton bud” or improvise one by wrapping a small amount of cotton wool around the tail end of a match; discard after use.

5. Use a good quality brown paper bag and twist-tie to cover the pollinated bud and label with the names of the two parents and the date the cross was made.

6. Keep bud covered (except for re-pollination on following day) for two weeks when bag can be removed.

Finally, having achieved one of the 10% successful inter-specific hybrid seedlings, it must be grown on and in due course evaluated in relation to the initial objectives or, if they were not met, on its merits. If the new hybrid is to be worth registering and a lasting success, remember it has to compete with the strict criteria adopted by reputable commercial growers, viz: (1) All testing to be done under outside conditions; (2) at least ten plants of a variety; (3) at least three to five blooming seasons.

ACS

Concepts Of Camellia Culture*

J. CARROLL REINERS

LEAF COLOR

Dull light green or yellowish leaves means that something is wrong with the roots, as deficiency in minerals, or lack of nitrogen. What to do? First, check for root vigor. Poor roots mean possible root-rot due to overwatering, and/or poor drainage. If the roots are deteriorated, dispose of the plant. If the roots show reasonable vigor then treat for lack of nitrogen and/or minerals. Lack of nitrogen is the most common cause of dull yellowish leaves and is simply cured by fertilizing with a higher nitrogen fertilizer. Lack of minerals is rather uncommon but is a possibility in container culture. The best panacea, that we know of, is a product called “Pentrex,” it is an excellent scientifically formulated and balanced liquid fertilizer, high in nitrogen, with trace elements, chelating agent, root stimulant and soil penetrant. Use “Pentrex” with caution and use it one-half (½) the recommended strength.

* (Excerpted from various “Bulletins” of The Camellia Society of Sacramento, 1984)

It works. In warm weather, the treatment will green the leaves in two weeks.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Paleobotanists, in their study of and correlation of life forms of the past and present, learn of many generalities relative to adaptations. For instance, plant species are less able to tolerate changes in their environment from warm to cold than cold to warmer. The world climates have been changing to cooler conditions since 70 million years ago causing many extinctions of both plant and animal life. Evidence from fossil leaves and present leaves indicates that leaves with smooth margins are commonest in tropical conditions whereas leaves with toothed margins are dominant in cooler temperature climate zones. Garden enthusiasts have a better chance for plant experimentation when they grow plants from cooler climates and that plants with toothed margins may have a greater inherited hardness to cold.

Of camellias, those with reticulata parentage are the least hardy. During our winter cold weather move these cultivars, which are in containers, to the warmest places in the garden for their

flower buds will usually drop if subjected to freezing temperatures.

ORGANIC MATERIALS

Camellias like organic material in their soils. Some organics are better than others. It is preferable that they do not rapidly absorb nitrates from the soil as they decompose. The good organic is one which is nearly inert (does not decompose immediately) such as the redwood products, which contain tannic acid preservative. Pine and fir bark products are excellent but do avoid the pine and fir wood shavings for these rob the camellia of nitrates because they quickly decompose. The ideal product is a Pine-Fir bark product which has been nitrized (a 1% additive of nitrogen and then composted for one year). Our own composted garden refuse which we can nitrize, by adding a bit of ammonium sulphate, makes a perfect organic for camellia soils. Oak leaves are good but gathering them in the wild always has the risk of Oakroot Fungus contamination.

ACCELERATE SEED GERMINATION

The camellia seed is enclosed within a dark brown hard covering. This seedcoat is so protective of the embryo that it sometimes inhibits quick germination. We have experimented for years on how to circumvent delays in seed sprouting with some of the following tricks, before planting the seeds: a. File a small hole in the seedcoat, b. Crack the seedcoat, and/or c. Remove the seedcoat.

Another method is to soak the seed in water overnight and then plant. A variation, to soaking in water, is to pour boiling water into a can of seeds and let them soak for several hours before planting. Many species of plants with hard-coated seeds have adapted to and require heat to initiate germination (an evolutionary response to forest fires). Many California native plants, such as the Knotcone Pine, will not germinate its seeds until stimulated by the intense heat from a forest burn.

The quickest way to germinate camellia seeds, however, is as follows: Pick seed fruits from the camellia bush, in September, before the fleshy husks crack open to drop the brown seeds. These seeds within the fruits will be fresh, un-

hardened and ready to germinate if planted immediately in moist peat. Most of the seeds will expose the growing radi-

cle (rudimentary root) in a week to 10 days. Fresh seed planting is the BEST METHOD.

ACS

Renew Your Old Fiberglass Roof

CHARLES B. MALONE, JR.

I have found that to produce show blooms you must have a bright unshaded greenhouse for winter. On my fifth winter in one greenhouse and the first in a new greenhouse, I divided my plants between the two houses. The old house did not even have a Head Table bloom. The roof on the old house was dirty, caused by loose fibers and oak stain. Since I had a good quality fiberglass, I contacted the distributor. He described the condition as "bloom," which is loose fibers of glass that catch dirt. He suggested that I clean and refinish the roof to restore light transmission back to like-new.

The first step was to brace the roof and get a sheet of plywood so that I could walk out on the roof. After a few trials I found that with SPIC and SPAN (½ cup to ¾ pail of water) and a stiff plastic brush I could clean the roof satisfactorily.

The coating material is a polyester resin with a catalyst of methyl ethyl ketone peroxide. This material is available

at any company that sells supplies for fiberglass pools, boats, etc. The price in Dallas is \$16 per gal. for the base and \$1.50 for the catalyst to cover 320 sq. ft.

The secret of doing a good job is proper cleaning, and the mixing and handling of the material must be accurate. The work must be set up to use each mix in about 20 minutes at 70°. On a 100° Texas day, the work life is cut to about 3 minutes which makes the job impossible. To solve this problem, I set up four one pound coffee cans set in 4 quart plastic containers filled with ice cubes. I put 1 cup of base material in each can. I marked a medicine dropper at 1¼ ml to accurately measure the catalyst at ½% of 8 oz. I set up my plywood and wiped the section to be coated, then added the catalyst, stirring with the brush. I coated the planned area and put the brush into the next can of base material to keep it soft while I set up for the next section. I was not able to coat my complete greenhouse roof with one brush without it getting too hard. The coating is now ten years old and past due for my second time to treat it.

ACS

In and Around the Greenhouse*

JAMES H. MCCOY

Those of us who grow our own grafting stock maybe faced with a hard-to-know-which-is best decision to make. Should we pot up our grafting stock in the fall for use in the spring? Should we pot up grafting stock a year or longer in advance? Should we do our grafting in the seedling patch and pot up the successful grafts? I have tried all three plans and would not want to say which is best. Here are some of the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Potting up grafting stock has the advantage of permitting you to inspect the roots prior to grafting. Some experienced growers can look at a camellia plant growing in the seedling patch, and can tell whether it has an abundance of roots or not. Some cannot! I have had to throw many a nice, finger size camellia seedling over the back fence because I dug it up for grafting stock and found that it had no roots. There is also much less problem with the stock "bleeding" if you make grafts late in the season, I don't know why, but grafting stock which has been dug from the seedling patch and potted up within a year of grafting, just does not "bleed." The disadvantage is that grafts made on this stock do not grow much the first season.

* Excerpt from *Carolina Camellias and Atlantic Coast Camellias*, Vol. XXXVI, No. 3, Fall, 1984, pp 13-13.

If camellias are potted up a couple of years or longer prior to use as grafting stock, the plant would be well established and the roots should be copious. This is excellent grafting stock! The only disadvantage I can think of is the grafts on this sort of stock should be done early in the grafting season, or at least, not late in the season. If grafting is done late in the season, say March and April, the stocks would likely "bleed" badly.

Now, should we do our grafting in the seedling patch and pot the grafts up after

they have taken and have grown for a season? Well, they surely do "take" well and grow fast, at least those done early in the season do. Those done in mid season and late also take well, but I believe that the percentage of take would be lower. The reason being that there would probably be more bleeding and therefore more apt to be attacked by some killer fungus. Grafts done in the seedling patch later in the season do take quicker on account of the weather. Heat makes callus form, no doubt about that.

ACS

Container Growing Of Camellias

CHARLES B. MALONE, JR.

I was asked to make a short talk on what I know about container-grown camellias. After trying a few outlines I found that almost everything I knew 10 years ago had proven to be untrue, with the record setting weather that has hit North Texas in the last few years.

About 15 years ago I put my plants under deep shade of my oak trees and there was a very poor bud set. I planned to correct this condition and relocated my plants with about 2 to 3 hours of sun. We then had a summer with record setting 100°F days and I burned some of my plants badly. So one advantage of container plants is that you can adjust to unusual weather.

I use Lerio #2, #3, #4 and #7 metal cans for all my camellias. I have better growth with metal cans than plastic. I usually start with 1 gal. root stock, which I set up into #2 can one year before I graft. When a plant dries out much faster than my other plants, I set up to the next size container, adding 2" to 3" of soil in the bottom and add required soil around the root ball. All my plants have the root crown above ground level. If a plant has gotten 3" to 4" down from the top of a container, I raise the plant by adding 2" to 3" soil to the bottom of the container instead of setting up to the next size pot. The reason I limit myself to a #7 container is that of weight and handling. A #7 container will support a plant as tall as I can reach to gib and cut blooms. I have regrafted some of my old favorites to keep young vigorous plants.

Potting soil can vary with what you have locally. I have used 50% sandy loam from my yard, with 25% oak leaf mold and 25% pine bark mulch. Due to the weight I have changed to a 2-1-1-2 mixture of milled sphagnum peat, perlite, vermiculite and pine bark mulch. I add one cup of super phosphate, ½ cup of murate of potash and ½ cup of dolomite to 15 gallons of either mix.

There are also two commercial mixes, Ball and Metromix 300 that do a very good job.

My fertilizer plan calls for a light feeding every month. I have used 2-1-1 mix of Dixie Pixie, cotton seed meal and dried sea weed, applied 1 teaspoon for #2, 2 teaspoons for #3, 3 teaspoons for #4 or #7 can. When I started using the soilless mix I changed to a W. R. Grace fertilizer called Peat-Lite Special, mix ¼ cup to 5 gallons of water. I apply 1 pint to #2 can, 2 pints to #3 can, and 3 pints to #4 or #7 can. I have gotten good results from either system.

I prune my plants when I cut show blooms as I cut back at least four leaves on any bloom. I also remove any weak stems that I see as I am cutting blooms. I shape my plants as I move out of the greenhouse in the spring, and take off some limbs as I fit them back into the house in the fall. I always have my pruning shears with me and any sign of wilt or bad growth is removed on the spot.

I move my plants out of the greenhouse in the early spring before new growth gets too far along. This is when my oak trees are just breaking out new growth. (So far I have been lucky and had



Geary M. Serpas of Summerville, South Carolina is placing blooms in one of the *three* camellia shows sponsored by the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society each year.

no late freeze damage.) I have found the new growth that develops outside is sturdier.

When I move my plants outside I start my spray program with Benlate and Cygon 2E. I continue with Cygon during the summer as necessary with a final cleanup just before I move the plants back into the greenhouse. I check the pH of my plants in the spring and add dolomite as necessary to get back up to a pH of 6.5. Be careful when you add dolomite or prune heavy, you should then skip one fertilizer cycle.

Disbudding is an all summer job for me as I take buds off, getting rid of all double buds and laterals as soon as I see them.

Summer watering has to be on an as-needed basis. During the spring growth period the plants use a lot of water. During the hot dry period of summer the addition of a sprinkler system to wet down the foliage from one to three times a day is very beneficial for good summer health and bud set. Another period of critical water need is during the blooming season. The development of good blooms requires well watered plants and high humidity.

I like to leave plants outside until after our first cold spell to get the plants into a dormant condition. The roof of a greenhouse should be cleaned in the fall to

improve light conditions for the winter. Be sure that if there is a hot spell after plants are in the greenhouse that the house is open and plenty of air moving. A sudden rise of temperature can cause major bud drop.

During the blooming season I keep my greenhouse closed when the humidity is low and wet down the floor every day. I cut blooms late at night or early morning when blooms are at their best.

I graft from 10 to 15 plants a year to keep up with the "Best of Show trend." I graft only from blooms that I see at shows. I start my grafting in January and continue until mid-February. Grafting and growing new plants is one of my main pleasures in my hobby. I have gotten scions from all of my friends. The name of the donor and date is always on the back of the aluminum tag. It gives me great pleasure to see all of the growing monuments I have from my friends.

Source: (1) DIXIE-PIXIE Camellia and Azalea Food, Dixie Guano Company, Inc. Laurinburg, NC
(2) SEA-BORN, Inc., 2000 Rockford Road, Charles City, Iowa 50616

ACS

Second Annual Camellia Festival at Magnolia Gardens

BONNIE SERPAS

The gloomy skies over Charleston, South Carolina did not dampen the spirits of the thirty-six exhibitors who entered a total of 795 blooms in the Second Annual Camellia Festival held at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens on Sunday, November 4, 1984.

A 'Mathotiana' belonging to Mrs. H. C. Scott of Aiken, South Carolina won the special award for the Best Bloom originated by Magnolia Gardens and grown in the open.

Nine girls from area high schools strolled across the "Long Bridge" in the garden to compete for the title of Miss Camellia. Chosen was Miss Tuesday Alene Shealy, 16, a junior from Stratford High School.



Miss Camellia, Tuesday Alene Shealy is seen here receiving the silver bowl from Emcee Bill Fitzgerald of WCBF-TV. (Photo courtesy of *The News & Courier-The Evening Post*, Charleston, SC)

Emcee Bill Fitzgerald of WCBF-TV presented Miss Shealy with a silver bowl and Charles A. Bianchi, Jr., President of the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society, crowned her with a multi-colored garland of camellias.

Children of all ages were entertained in the petting zoo and with a special dog exhibition presented by the Charleston Kennel Club and an obedience show by the Charleston Training Club.

Jean Claude de Montfort's one man art show concluded the daylong activities with a display of his famous paintings of the Charleston area.

The Coastal Carolina Camellia Society is striving to encourage young camellia enthusiasts and the revival of the camellia in the home landscaping.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society as it hosts not only the Annual Camellia Festival at beautiful Magnolia Plantation and Gardens but also a fall and spring camellia show — yes! three camellia shows a year by one Society.)

Visit Tregrehan, Par, Cornwall

Garden lovers visiting Cornwall, England, should make a point of seeing this 300 year old garden, never previously open to the public. It has been created, developed and conserved throughout the years by generations of the same family.

Perhaps the finest collection of conifers in Britain, as well as some outstanding hardwood trees, notably oak and nothofagus. There are also the award winning Carlyon hybrid camellias, originated and bred at Tregrehan by the present owner.

The 19th Century Grapehouse now filled with red white and pale pink lapagerias, the Chilean bellflower now also houses the collection of Vireya rhododendrons, some lately imported from New Zealand. Fees from the garden visits go towards the cost of conservation of rare trees and plants at Tregrehan.

Special conducted tours for parties can be arranged from Spring 1985 by writing to or telephoning: The Estate Manager, Tregrehan, Par, Cornwall, England. Par (072681) 2438 or 3813.

Letter From Coastal Carolina*

"EDITOR'S NOTE: The following are excerpts from a letter I received on or about 15 April 1984. This is the first letter I had ever received from this camellia grower. It is so full of interesting information and comments till it reads like an article in a camellia publication. Thought you would enjoy it too. The writer is Parker E. Connor, Jr., Edisto Island, S. C.

"Where is there a camellia show? You can see that I am thinking and wishing there would be a show where I could display a beautiful miniature which I cut this morning. It is now in a small vase in the middle of the table. 'Shuchuka' — it is a winner! I guess the reason it just bloomed is that the plant was planted in February, bare rooted, from Nuccio's.

"After Christmas day with the 10 degree reading, I did not expect any flowers before October 1984! To my surprise, some of the recognized cold hardy types came through. 'Miss Aiken,' 'Miss Aiken, Var.,' 'Boutonniere,' 'Paulette Goddard,' 'Magnoliaeflora,' 'Grandiflora Rosea,' and 'Governor Mouton' produced many good quality blooms. 'Allison Leigh Woodruff,' 'Dr. Tinsley,' 'Wall Street Red,' and 'Jessie Burgess' also produced

blue ribbon flowers. I probably had another 40 plants produce flowers which were not up to normal quality. There are approximately 319 different camellias in my outdoor garden.

"I did not prune early so I could wait and see what would happen this spring. Some plants that lost all their leaves are now sending out new leaves. Some plants were lost. I am pleased that new leaves are out on many of the plants that I thought were dead — even some plants that lost all their leaves. Those that died were sick with dieback or were some that I had mistreated. For example I overdid the Di-Syston on some recently bare rooted plants which developed a corky scab on their leaves. The cold weather finished off some of these. Some of my larger plants were damaged by the cold. Those include 'Gulio Nuccio, Var.,' 'Vulcan,' 'Debutante,' 'Easter Morn,' and 'Daikagura.' All of these will lose some branches. The majority of my plants only suffered bud and leaf damage.

"Last year I had a problem with pine mice eating the roots of camellias. I lost eight plants and had others damaged. The mice were using mole runs to move underground. I could not find a good solution to this problem as poison might endanger my English Setters. The dogs

have free run of the garden and they catch a few moles. This year, I am using castor bean meal as my fertilizer in the hope that the smell will run the moles out of the garden. Will have to wait and see what the results are.

"Speaking of one camellia, I throw out a challenge to see if anybody can find a camellia tree as large as this one. I have one in my yard that measures 62 inches around the trunk about 15 inches above the ground. This tree was probably planted in the 1830s. The house was completed in 1828. Civil war photographs show the tree as quite large even then. The flowers are rather pitiful in that they are small single reds. The old tree has much evidence of die-back but does not have scale.

"EDITOR'S NOTE: If any reader has a camellia tree that is this size or larger, let us know."

—ACS—

Additional Judges Appointed

LOUISIANA

Slidell:

Nicholas Kooney (Nov.)

Mrs. Nicholas Kooney (Nov.)

Walter Krzymowski

Mrs. Walter Krzymowski

* From Spring 1984 *Carolina Camellias*.



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Parker E. Connor, Jr. of Edisto Island, South Carolina standing beside his camellia tree that was probably planted in the 1830's. Can you top this?

Show Dates

(ACS Cooperative Shows)

Place, Location, Sponsor

Date

Duarte, CA; City of Hope, 1500 E. Duarte Road; Pacific Camellia Society	January 5-6, 1985
Mobile, AL; Mobile Camellia Club (In conjunction with 40th Annual Meeting of ACS)	January 19, 1985
Palos Verdes, CA; South Coast Botanical Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.; South Coast Camellia Society	January 26-27, 1985
San Diego, CA; Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room No. 101; San Diego Camellia Society	February 2-3, 1985
Jackson, MS; Plaza, Walters Sillers Building; Jackson Camellia Society	February 2-3, 1985
Charlotte, NC; Eastland Mall; Charlotte Camellia Society	February 2-3, 1985
Lakeland, FL; First Federal of Florida, First Federal of Florida	February 2-3, 1985
Arcadia, CA; Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue; Temple City Camellia Society	February 9-10, 1985
Redwood City, CA; R. C. Community Activities Bldg. 1400 Roosevelt; Peninsula Camellia Society	February 9-10, 1985
Beaufort, SC; Lady's Island Jr. High, Hwy. 21; Council of Beaufort Garden Clubs	February 9-10, 1985
Birmingham, AL; Eastwood Mall; Birmingham Camellia Society	February 9-10, 1985
Columbia, SC; Columbia Mall; Columbia Merchants Association & Mid-Carolina Camellia Society	February 9-10, 1985
Tyler, TX; First City National Bank; Tyler Camellia Club	February 10, 1985
Claremont, CA; Pomona 1st Federal Savings & Loan, 393 West Foothill; Pomona Camellia Society	February 16-17, 1985
Atlanta, GA; Lenox Square, North Georgia and Atlanta Camellia Societies	February 16-17, 1985
Monroe, LA; Downtown Branch, Central Bank; Northeast Louisiana Camellia Club	February 16-17, 1985
Fort Worth, TX; Fort Worth Botanical Gardens Center, 3220 Botanic Drive, Fort Worth Camellia Society	February 17, 1985
Waycross, GA; First National Bank; Federated Garden Clubs of Waycross and First National Bank	February 20-21, 1985
Wilmington, NC; Independence Mall; Tidewater Camellia Club	February 23, 1985
LaCanada, CA; Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive; Southern California Camellia Council	February 23-24, 1985
Ocala, FL; Paddock Mall; Ocala Camellia Society	February 23-24, 1985
Chattanooga, TN; Chattanooga Camellia Club	February 23-24, 1985
Jamaica Plain, MA; Arnold Arboretum, Hunnewell Visitors' Center; Massachusetts Camellia Society	February 24-25, 1985
Bakersfield, CA; Aram Adams Gardens, Cunningham Art Gallery, 19th & "R" Streets, Kern County Camellia Society	March 2-3, 1985
Concord, CA; The Willows Shopping Mall; Northern California Camellia Society	March 2-3, 1985
Nashville, TN; Tenn. Botanical Garden at Cheekwood; Middle Tennessee Camellia Society	March 2-3, 1985
Fresno, CA; Fashion Fair Mall; Central California Camellia Society	March 9-10, 1985
Greensboro, NC; Forum VI, The Friendly Shopping Center; Men's Piedmont Camellia Club	March 9-10, 1985
Portland, OR; Jantzen Beach Mall; Oregon Camellia Society	March 23-24, 1985
Portland, OR; Thunderbird Motor Inn; Oregon Camellia Society (In conjunction with ACS 42nd Annual Meeting)	April 4-5, 1987

ACS

Camellias Registered with the ACS Since the November 1984 Journal

Name and Description	Registry Number	Originator
'Helen Sharpe,' very large, medium pink with white highlights, anemone to peony form <i>C. japonica</i> chance seedling, mid-season	1961	Ferol & Sam Serkowsky
'George Firth,' very large, dark red variegated, peony form <i>C. reticulata</i> hybrid chance seedling of 'Maude Sugg,' mid-season	1962	Paul Gilley
'Genolden Blush,' medium, bluish, peony form <i>C. japonica</i> chance seedling of 'Magnoliaeflora,' mid-season	1963	Raymond H. Enfinger
'Marion Edwards,' very large, bright red, semidouble <i>C. reticulata</i> ('Crimson Robe' x 'Arch of Triumph'), mid-season to late	1964	Ray Gentry

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FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE ACS

January 17-20, 1985	Hqrs., Ramada Inn I-65, Mobile, AL
November 14-17, 1985	Houston, TX
April 3-6, 1986	Hqrs., The Omni International, Norfolk, VA
Fall 1986 (Date not yet Determined)	Pensacola, FL
April 3-6, 1987	Hqrs., Thunderbird Motor Inn, Portland, OR

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(As of November 30, 1984)

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

Please cancel my subscription when it runs out. I have discontinued growing Camellias due to age and health. The American Camellia Society has provided

me with some fine reading for the last 25 or more years and I regret having to do this but it became necessary for me to do this. I also would like to thank you for this fine organization.

Yours Truly,
JESSE E. MILLER

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—ACS—

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(The name in boldface type indicates the person in whose memory the donation has been made as of November 30, 1984.)

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 Dr. Clyde X. Copeland, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. F. Dean Copeland
Dr. L. C. "Jack" Davis, Jr., Tuscaloosa, AL (Died June 27, 1984)
 Mr. & Mrs. George N. Griffin
 Mr. Joe Brinkerhoff, Jr.
 Mr. Jerry Hatch
 Mr. & Mrs. John K. Edwards, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Atlee W. Davis
 Mr. & Mrs. Herbert T. Brown
Mr. George W. Dehn, Shreveport, LA
 Mrs. Virginia D. Womack
 Mr. William F. Barbish
 Mr. Clair S. Gothard
Mr. Willard Everett, Jr., Albany, GA (Died May 1984)
 Albany Men's Garden Club
Mrs. William P. Kemp, Goldsboro, NC (Died May 20, 1984)
 Mr. & Mrs. A. Wilkins Garner
 Dr. & Mrs. H. L. Berridge
 Mrs. William B. Johnston
Mr. Dale Law, Warner Robins, GA
 Dr. & Mrs. Earl Beatty, Jr.
Mrs. Maynard Munger, Walnut Creek, CA
 Central California Camellia Society
Mrs. Ernest E. Pieri, San Gabriel, CA (Died August 9, 1984)
 Mr. & Mrs. Haig Ashuckian
 Judge & Mrs. Sherrill Halbert
Mr. Robert E. Philippi, Dallas, TX
 Dallas Camellia Society
Mr. W. Neal Rogers, Theodore, AL (Died November 15, 1984)
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank V. Pursel
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Evans
 Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Crutcher
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown
 Dr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan
 Mr. W. F. Freshwater
 Col. & Mrs. Edwin L. Atkins
 Mr. & Mrs. Ray Gentry
 Mr. & Mrs. John K. Edwards, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. John R. Comber
 Mr. & Mrs. Herbert F. Segner
 Mr. William P. Kemp
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer C. Walden, Jr.
 Mr. Joseph H. Pyron
 Dr. & Mrs. D. Lyle Robertson

Mr. F. F. Becker, II
 Miss Martha E. Jayroe
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfus O. Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. G. F. Abendroth
 Col. & Mrs. R. D. Hicks
 Mr. Thomas H. Perkins, III
 Judge & Mrs. Paul Harkey
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred B. Mayo
 Judge & Mrs. Sherrill Halbert
 Mrs. Stanley J. Eager
 Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Cooper
 Mr. & Mrs. I. John Movich
 Mr. Roy C. Stringfellow
 Dr. & Mrs. H. L. Berridge
 Mr. Ernest E. Pieri
 Dr. Fred Lee
Vivian Shen, Berkeley, CA (Died November 12, 1984) (Granddaughter of Prof. and Mrs. Tang Pei-sung)
 Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Freshwater
 Dr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown
 Mr. & Mrs. Wyman J. Priester
Mrs. Albert Smith, Fort Valley, GA (Died September 16, 1984)
 Mrs. L. V. Teeter
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown
Mr. Hoke Smith
 Dr. & Mrs. Earl Beatty, Jr.
Mrs. Roy C. Stringfellow, Shreveport, LA (Died November 28, 1983)
 Mr. & Mrs. Reet T. Lawhon
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene King
 Dr. & Mrs. Joe F. Abendroth
Mr. Charles Ryall Swain, Charlotte, NC
 Dr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown
Mr. G. R. Tyson, Bainbridge, GA
 Mr. & Mrs. John K. Edwards, Jr.
Miss Estelle Walton, Fort Valley, GA (Died November 15, 1984)
 Dr. & Mrs. Earl Beatty, Jr.
Mrs. George Wolfe, Aiken, SC (Mother of Mrs. Paul Dahlen)
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Evans

Special Gifts

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert F. Segner: Contribution wishing a Happy Birthday to Ray Gentry and in Honor of Nuccio's Nurseries' Golden Anniversary
 Mr. Fredrick Smallwood: Materials for a gazebo he constructed in the future rose garden at Masee Lane
 Dr. C. David Scheibert: Contribution for establishing formal rose garden at Masee Lane to provide blooms when camellias are not blooming
 Dr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan and Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown: Contributions wishing a speedy recovery to Louise Mayo, Vera Parker and G. F. Abendroth; honoring Thomas C. Evans on his birthday and I. John Movich on his 75th birthday
 Mr. Ken Cook: Contribution to ACS for sales of sprayer
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen K. Myers: Contribution honoring the birthday of Mrs. A. W. Solomon, Jr.
 Mr. Roy C. Stringfellow: Donation of a Boehm porcelain sculpture "Whooping Crane"

Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Hanckel: American Camellia Yearbooks and other camellia publications
 Dr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan: Contribution wishing a speedy recovery to Mrs. A. G. Hendrick
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown: Contributions honoring Alfus O. Johnson on his retirement, Dr. W. W. Mockett on his birthday and Dr. Luther Baxter on his 60th birthday
 Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Mann, Dr. W. W. Mockett and Mr. & Mrs. Wyman Priester: Contributions to ACS
 Rachel W. Day: American Camellia Yearbooks and Journals
 Dr. Louis W. Landau, Nuccio's Nurseries and Henry C. Lunsford: Plants for garden and greenhouse
 Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Allen, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Evans, Dr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan and Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown: Contributions wishing a happy birthday to Joe Pyron
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry C. Lunsford and Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown: Contributions wishing a speedy recovery to Ivan and Cile Mitchell
 Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Shepherd: Paper camellias to be sold for the benefit of ACS
 Mr. Joseph H. Pyron, Dr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan and Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown: Contributions honoring the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Spencer C. Walden, Jr.

Dime a Day for Camellias

Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Shepherd
 Dr. & Mrs. Emil Carroll
 Mr. Douglas Deane Hall
 Mrs. Douglas Deane Hall
 Mr. R. E. Streit
 Mr. William D. Hair
 Mr. Thomas C. Evans
 Mrs. Thomas C. Evans
 Mr. B. B. Ratliff
 Mrs. B. B. Ratliff
 Anonymous
 Dr. Daniel E. Nathan
 Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan
 Mrs. Clyde X. Copeland
 Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Griffith
 Dr. & Mrs. Hilary E. Hanna
 Mr. & Mrs. Alton B. Parker
 Mrs. Charles F. Urquhart, Jr.
 Mrs. C. C. Mason
 Dr. Luther W. Baxter, Jr.

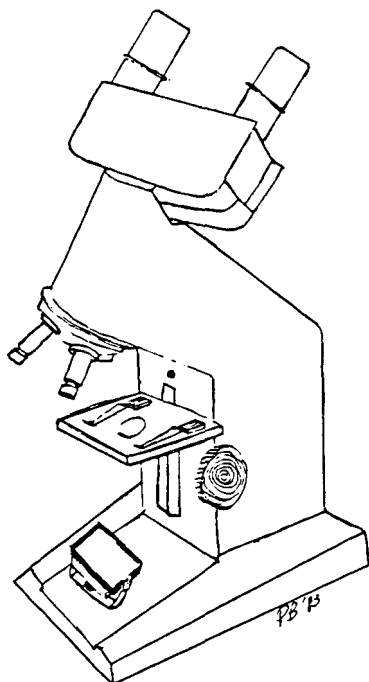
Corporate Members For 1985

(As of 28 November, 1984)

Mr. & Mrs. Richardson M. Hanckel, Johns Island, SC C
 Mr. Albert L. Luce, Jr., Fort Valley, GA C
 Magnolia Gardens/J. D. Hastie, Charleston, SC C
 Monrovia Nursery Company, Azusa, CA C
 Mrs. W. B. Pieper, Houston, TX C
 Southern Living/J. Floyd C
 Tom Dodd Nurseries, Semmes, AL C

Notes From The Research Horticulturist

BETTY HOTCHKISS



February is a pleasant time in the camellia calendar. It is a time when we have enjoyed many beautiful blooms and camellia activities, but it is also a good time to plan for next year. Planning takes so little effort. One can sit back, prop your feet up, and dream. Perhaps you need to disbud more or gib earlier, or perhaps now is the time to consider getting a greenhouse. Now, with the close of this camellia season approaching, is a good time to plan for next season.

Early spring before new growth occurs (March in our area) is a good time to apply your first application of fertilizer. We apply a second application in early June to encourage good bud formation. March is also the season for pruning. This is the time to reshape those unsightly plants and remove weak or dead branches.

I am very excited about the two newest additions to the gardens at Massee Lane. The lovely new, Florentine fountain in the formal garden adds so much to that

area. It fits in so well that it is hard to remember what it looked like before. The rose garden will be completed in the Spring. This will provide a wonderful addition of color as the camellias begin to fade.

In December, we held our second annual Christmas Open House. The Headquarters and greenhouse were beautiful for the occasion. In preparing for the occasion, those of us at headquarters came up with 18 names of camellias relating to Christmas. The camellia is one of the most popular Christmas flowers in the South. Did you think to share a little beauty with someone during this meaningful season.

In our effort to cooperate with the local college I delivered a lecture on tissue culture to a horticulture class. Also, the class came out to Massee Lane for a grafting demonstration. We are still awaiting final word on the grant of \$31,000.00 we applied for with the college to do tissue culture work with camellias.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at Massee Lane at the Fall Convention. I hope you will return often at many times of the year as we try to make Massee Lane truly a "garden for all seasons".

—ACS—

1985 Sustaining/Joint Sustaining Members

(As of 30 November 1984)

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred T. Airth, Live Oak, FL ... JS
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Allen, Jr., Wilmington, NC JS
Mr. Ronald Asbill, Sacramento, CA S
Dr. & Mrs. Asa Barnes, Fernandina Beach, FL JS
Dr. & Mrs. Earl Beatty, Jr., Fort Valley, GA .. JS
Mr. F. F. Becker, II, Brookhaven, MS S
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Mr. & Mrs. John A. Blanchard, Needham, MA JS
Mr. & Mrs. B. Lewis Brinson, Jr., Byromville, GA JS
Hon. Henry J. Broderick, Tiburon, CA S
Mr. & Mrs. Elliott P. Brogden, Columbia, SC JS
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Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Brown, Fort Valley, GA JS
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Mrs. Arnold B. Chace, Yemassee, SC S
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Mr. & Mrs. John R. Comber, Pensacola, FL .. JS
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Mrs. C. X. Copeland, Jackson, MS S
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory E. Davis, Houston, TX .. JS
Mrs. Bryant Reeve Dunn, Mercer Island, WA S
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Mr. & Mrs. Vance Fowler, Hilton Head Island, SC JS
Mrs. Verna D. Halbert, Sacramento, CA S
Judge Sherrill Halbert, Sacramento, CA S
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Deane Hall, Chevy Chase, MD JS
Mrs. Lucille Harkey, Dallas, TX S
Judge Paul Harkey, Dallas, TX S
Mr. Don V. Harris, Jr., Washington, DC S
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Mr. Ronald W. Kistler, Atherton, CA S
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Mrs. E. O. Lightsey, Hampton, SC S
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Mr. & Mrs. John L. Wylie, Tulsa, OK JS
Mr. R. B. York, High Point, NC S

HELP SUPPORT AN
HORTICULTURIST

In Memoriam

W. NEAL ROGERS

W. Neal Rogers, age 70, of Mobile, Alabama, died Thursday, November 15th, at Springhill Memorial Hospital in Mobile. Neal, as he was known to his host of friends, was born in Memphis and graduated from the University of Tennessee. He was active as a Mason and was a member of the York Rite. Neal, with his wife Bea, has run the excellent Belle Fontaine Nursery for many years. They have been a boon to camellia growers throughout the world as there are so few nurseries throughout the country that specialize in camellias along with other plants.

Neal was active in the Gulf Coast Camellia Society for many years. He and Bea at each year's meeting of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society hosted a party in their greenhouses. This is always a highlight of the camellia year for members of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society. He and Bea have also long been key people in the Mobile Camellia Society which has hosted the American Camellia Society a few times in the past 40 years. Bea has been an 8-year ACS Director for the state of Alabama and has served on various committees of the ACS.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Beatrice Rogers; a daughter, Mrs. Barbara Elder of Forest Park, Illinois; two stepsons, L. T. Wilson, Jr. of Memphis and Hal E. Wilson of Mobile; and eight grandchildren.

We extend our sincerest sympathies to the family of this devoted camellia man.

—ACS—

Hardback Yearbook for 1984?

Mrs. Clyde X. Copeland of Jackson, MS has once again made it possible for those of us who want to have a hardback *Yearbook*. She has talked to the binder who did such an excellent job last year and he will do them once again. If you wish to have your 1984 *American Camellia Yearbook* bound in green with gold lettering, as last year, send your *Yearbook* and a check or money order for \$10.00 to Mr. Ralph Elmore, 12 Orleans Street, Greenwood, MS 38930. That modest price will cover the binding of the book and the postage to send it back to you. We thank Dorothy for this service to the Society.

**GET A NEW
MEMBER**

Come to New Zealand Let's Go to New Zealand

Calling all camellia lovers.

Come to New Zealand and see how camellias grow in our gardens. I'm sure you will enjoy their wonderful display. We in Wanganui are hosting the National Convention and Show in 1985 and it will be a pleasure to welcome Hulyn Smith back again with some old and some new friends. Hulyn's last tour group left many happy memories.

The President of our NZ Camellia Society, Mrs. Pat Nelson is delighted that another American party is coming; and she will welcome you at Wanganui. Conventioneers will be waiting to meet you too. Some will be hosting you when you visit their home areas later in your tour. Our conventions are friendly and relaxing.

Vonnie and I will always remember our 1981 visit to USA and the tremendous hospitality we received. It will be our pleasure to play host in return.

Come and join us.

HARRY CAVE

—ACS—

Hi! It's great news that a large group of American Camellia enthusiasts are coming to New Zealand again. Harry and I have been working on the itinerary to let you see a cross section of our beautiful country with its gardens, farmlands and mountain areas and this you're going to get at a fantastically low price. You had better bring your cameras to record the scenery and of course the camellias in our gardens will be at their best at that time, so bring a lot of film.

The National Camellia Show will be held in Wanganui, our home town, and we expect that it will be a very big show with high quality blooms. Our show hall, dining hall, auditorium and accommodation are all top class and with a large section of the NZ Camellia Society membership present there will be lots of fun, socializing and garden visits. We're hoping also to have an afternoon Seminar for the serious growers to discuss topics of interest.

We look forward to seeing y'all,

VONNIE CAVE

There is no place on this planet quite like New Zealand. You will know from the moment the airplane lands in Auckland that you have arrived in "Heaven on Earth." The beauty of this country unfolds as you leave the airport and for the next 21 days, as you tour this land, you will sing its praises.

Our hosts, Vonnie and Harry Cave, have done a beautiful job of organizing our itinerary. I assure you, you will never again have an opportunity to make a tour of this magnitude at this price.

When I was in New Zealand in 1982, I was graciously welcomed by the New Zealand camellia people in each town we visited. Being from the South, I thought I knew something about hospitality, but these lovely people wrote the book on hospitality.

I also thought that, since I had won a few camellia shows, I knew something about camellias and gardening. Again, the camellias and gardens there were magnificent. I was amazed to see rhododendron of such vibrant color. Every garden is groomed and maintained in a unique fashion. Whatever your interest in gardening, you will find it in New Zealand — roses, cut flowers, conifers, camellias, rhododendron, vegetables. All are incorporated into beautifully landscaped gardens. The Kiwis don't have "yards," they have gardens.

On August 28, 1984, we will leave North Island and fly to Christ Church in South Island. You cannot comprehend the beauty of South Island until you have enjoyed the charm of old Christ Church, Mt. Cook and Queenstown.

Not only are the people and their country beautiful, but the food is superb. Their pavlova is as fine a dessert as you will ever eat. Their ice cream is incredible — each time our bus stops, you will be tempted to indulge in this ice cream.

Come with Janet and me. We will show you a great time on a well-planned and beautiful tour. I assure you, you will enjoy this visit to "Heaven."

Write me for a brochure. E. Hulyn Smith, 2436 Meadowbrook Drive, Valdosta, GA 31602. Telephone: 912-242-1390.

NEW ZEALAND CAMELLIA SOCIETY CONVENTION AND GARDEN TOUR

August 19 - Sept. 9, 1985

A fully escorted vacation with Hulyn and Janet Smith



Mount Egmont in the heart of lush camellia country.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP

- * Attend New Zealand Camellia Society 28th Annual Convention.
- * Visit public and private gardens.
- * Enjoy Pavlova, kiwifruit and other delicious delicacies.
- * Visit Waimangu Thermal Valley; see glaciers, snow and ice fields; visit Rainbow Trout Springs, see the rare kiwi in nocturnal aviary.
- * Visit New Zealand farmlands; see a sheep-shearing demonstration and sheepdogs working stock.
- * Experience food prepared in the Maori way and songs and dances by a Maori concert party.
- * Visit the following cities: Auckland; New Plymouth; Wanganui; Wellington; Christchurch; Rotorua; Tauranga.
- * Most importantly - experience the warm hospitality and genuine friendship of the people of this outstandingly beautiful country.

Mail To - NETWORK TRAVEL PLANNERS, 202 Main St., Venice, Calif. 90291
(213) 392-8425; (800) 421-9979 from U.S.; (800) 352-8234 from Calif.
OR E. Hulyn Smith, 2436 Meadowbrook Dr., Valdosta, Ga. 31601 (912) 242-1390

Names: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: () _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ for deposit or full payment for air tickets and tour. Major credit cards are acceptable for air transportation only. \$200 per person.

Name of Credit Card _____ Account No. _____

Name of Cardholder _____ Expiration Date _____

Number of persons traveling _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Please fill in Travel Details and Dates below. Dates are reserved Los Angeles to Auckland - Mon., Aug. 19, 1985; Auckland to Los Angeles - Mon., Sept. 9, 1985. Please complete for travel reservations to and from Los Angeles. Pre or Post Tour stopovers at Hawaii, Fiji or Tahiti are available at no extra air fare.* Extensions to Australia are available upon inquiry.

\$2,395 Per Person Sharing a Twin Room \$2,795 Single Room
Deposit of \$200.00 per person required for confirmed reservations. Balance due 7/1/85.

From _____ To _____ Date _____ Approx. Time _____

From _____ To _____ Date _____ Approx. Time _____

The *Camellia* Journal

WORLD'S LARGEST PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO THE GENUS CAMELLIA

Volume 40

Number 1

February, 1985



'CHERRIES JUBILEE'

ACS Reg. No. 1950

This lovely *C. japonica* chance seedling first bloomed in 1982. It is a luscious burgundy red with red and white petaloids intermingled with stamens. It is semidouble to loose peony to rose form double and blooms mid-season. You can almost taste the flaming brandied cherries over home-made vanilla ice cream. This new variety was originated by and is propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, CA. (Color separations courtesy of The Southern California Camellia Society.)