

November 1999

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The
Camellia
Journal



No. 060213R *Shino*, 1999

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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to Georgia 49 S. through Byron and Fort Valley. Massee
Lane is approximately 5 miles south of Fort Valley.
Traveling North on I-75, take exit 42 at Perry. Travel
Georgia 127 to Marshallville then Georgia 49 N. to
Massee Lane on your right.
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The *Camellia* Journal

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NOVEMBER 1999

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About The Front Cover

Mr. Byoung Ha Ahn painted the lovely camellia on the
front cover from a photograph he took when he visited
Massee Lane last winter. We thought you would like to
see his work. He hopes to become a premier camellia
artist and would like to be associated with the
American Camellia Society.

We will stock prints of his paintings when we are
able to reproduce them.



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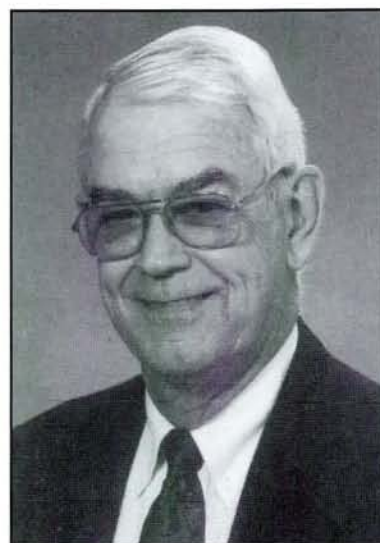
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Both the American Camellia Society and the American Camellia Society Development Fund solicit and welcome contributions. All contributions to either organization are tax deductible within the limits of the law and are used for the common goals of these organizations as outlined in their respective articles of incorporation which have been approved by the Internal Revenue Service. Donors wishing to support specific purposes or programs may so specify, and designations so made are honored.

From the Desk of

President Ed Powers



T. EDWARD POWERS

I have just returned from our Fall Convention in Mobile, Ala. where the ACS members were the guests of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society. The Gulf Coast put on a great convention and every one had a great time. Upon my return to Wilmington, I found no damage to my house and only minor damage to my yard from Hurricane Floyd. We were so much more fortunate than those in northeastern North Carolina whose homes were flooded.

At the business meetings of ACS, a number of important decisions were made. We hired a new Horticulturist to replace Betty Hotchkiss, who resigned last spring. His name is Tom Johnson, and he was formerly employed at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta and comes with the highest recommendations. By the time you receive this journal, Tom will be on board full time. We are so grateful to Marvin Jernigan who has filled in as the volunteer horticulturist while the search for Tom was on. Marvin has done an exceptional job for your Society and will continue to be a resource person for Tom until he is up to speed.

As I have said before, I believe the biggest challenge to ACS is to increase membership. Over the years, while Massee Lane has grown and prospered through the dedicated efforts of the Staff and some generous donations, the membership of ACS has fallen from the 10,000 range to the 3,000 range for a number of reasons, some avoidable, and some not. At the Mobile meeting two actions were

taken to help "turn around" this slow decrease. First, a contest was approved to encourage clubs to promote ACS membership, and second, a program was approved to encourage multiple year memberships. These programs will be a start toward increasing our membership by 2,000 by the end of the year 2000. In order for us to get our membership rolls back up to 10,000, the present membership will have to dedicate itself to making this a Society goal. I urge each individual and Club to contact Headquarters at Massee Lane by means of a letter to Bill Wilcox, our Membership Chairman, or Ann Walton, our Executive Director, with suggestions as to what works for you in recruiting new members for ACS. By disseminating this information, it will tell everyone what works. Let's get those cards and letters rolling.

The Ad-Hoc Committee submitted its report and the report was approved unanimously by both the ACS and ACS Development Fund boards. The major items in the report recommended that all funds given to ACS remain in ACS, but the management of all funds be a function of a joint Investment Committee. Likewise, a joint Finance Committee would be responsible for the preparation of budgets for both organizations with funds flowing from the appropriate fluid assets. The

continued on page 7

Welcome Home for 2000!

Celebrate 2000 at the ACS Convention at Masee Lane

The Middle Georgia Camellia Society and Masee Lane take great pleasure in inviting all the members of the American Camellia Society to celebrate the new Millennium and the Annual Convention in Fort Valley next March 1-4, 2000. Motel rooms are available at the Holiday Inn in Perry.

A Super Welcome Day is planned. Activities will start on Wednesday, March 1 with the ACS Board meeting and a Judging School at 8:15 a.m. The Welcome Day festivities will continue with a tour of Blue Bird, the World's Largest School Bus Company, and Wanderlodge, home of the superlative personal luxury motor homes.

You'll visit another century when you enter Anthoine's Machine Works in Fort Valley. This unique shop still uses equipment it started with in the 1880's - a piece of living history for you to experience.

At 4:00 p.m. Mayor John Stumbo will welcome you to Fort Valley's beautiful downtown park for some delicious peach cobbler. This is where the clock that ACS members Dan and Muriel Nathan gave to the city is located.

We'll be taking a page from Sacramento's 1999 Convention book on Wednesday evening when visitors have supper in MGCS members' homes. This proved to be such a popular event in Sacramento that it was decided to do the same here. It is a wonderful way to get to know each other.

Thursday - After the ACS Development Board meeting you'll visit the World's Largest Telephone Collection in the tiny hamlet of Leslie.

Afterwards "Dinner on the Ground" - full of delicious Southern delicacies - will be served by the ladies of the Garden Club. This will be a fund-raiser to restore the markers honoring the fallen soldiers of World War I on

Memory Mile on US Highway 341.

We'll stroll through Dr. Frank Wilson's 30-plus acres of seedling camellias before leaving for the newly expanded National Prisoner of War Memorial Park at Andersonville. This park is a worthy memorial to all prisoners of war. We hope to pay a brief visit to the village of Andersonville. Those of you who have visited the village before will remember all the quaint stores and memorabilia there.

Mini Prelude to Spring

A special evening is in store for you on Thursday at Masee Lane when a mini- "Prelude to Spring" will entertain you. For those of you so far away this is your chance to experience our annual extravaganza held each spring. Great entertainment is featured along with a catered cocktail buffet.

On Friday it will be time to enter your lovely blooms in the show at Houston Mall and then it is

on to lunch at Robins Air Force Base for a tour of the camellia garden on base. Marvin Jernigan helped to lay out this lovely garden. Camellias are grouped according to the state in which they were originated.

After visiting the camellia show we'll return to Masee Lane for a barbecue at the old barn.

Saturday will be an at-home day at Masee Lane and Marshallville. After the Bloody Mary party in the Pavilion at Masee Lane, brunch will be served at the lovely Wilbur and Mary Rumph home in Marshallville.

A special visit to the Richard E. Dodd home in Marshallville has been arranged to walk through the several acres of exclusive camellia seedlings.

Educational Programs will start in the afternoon at Masee Lane.

The closing banquet will be at the Holiday Inn. We are honored to have Dr. William Ackerman as our featured speaker.



The town clock donated for Fincher Park in Fort Valley by Muriel and Dan Nathan is shown at the right of this picture. The clock has added to the other delightful features of the downtown park.

"Every Day is History" at Anthoine Machine Works

- one of the highlights of the 2000 Convention tour -

When people come to work every day at Anthoine Machine Works in Fort Valley, they are adding yet another page to a living history book. A first-time visitor feels this immediately.

"We work with this equipment every day, but we don't think of it as antiques," said one employee. It's a fact that most of the equipment in every day use at Anthoines was purchased between 1880 and 1890. "There's not a lot we can't make with our equipment," said Helen Shaw, receptionist, public relations savant, and parts salesman.

It's everything you want in a machine shop, but with a flavor and a flair. From the moment you walk into the building and see the overhead pulleys and belts pulling the fans, you know you are experiencing a part of the history of the great agricultural economy that made Peach County famous.

As you walk through the shop, you also notice more overhead belts and pulleys that drive the lathes, milling machines and drills. Upstairs, tucked away in a corner, is the 26-foot wood lathe that was part of the equipment listed in the bill of sale dated January 4, 1888 when Mr. J. W. Anthoine bought the business from Mr. H. C. Harris.

The present owner of the business, Steve Lindsey, bought the firm from Bob Anthoine in 1985. Steve is a modern-day machinist, but one with an appreciation of the equipment he and his employees work with. From making a part for an out-of-manufacture spray machine for a local farmer to rebuilding high speed can seamers (1,750 cans per min.) for Anhaeuser Bush and Coca-Cola, Steve is at home in his environment.

The former owner, Bob Anthoine, still comes to the shop frequently to work on his own projects and to enjoy visiting with employees and long-time customers. It was Bob's grandfather who managed the business from 1885 until he bought it in 1888. It was Bob's father, Mr. Tom Anthoine, who built the present building and who was the most famous of all the Anthoines.

Mr. Tom lived and breathed his machine shop. He also dedicated much of his life to the City of Fort Valley which he served for many years as an elected member of the Utility Commission and as Fire Chief. Once during an election day, he made a mistake and wore a suit to the polls. No one recognized him. Realizing

this, he quickly went home and changed to his customary overalls and machinist's cap. Customers still love to come the shop to tell a "Mr. Tom" story.

Although it is a machine shop, the business has a strong history of making wood products. Among its journals are accounts of making coffins, caskets and burial robes. The company also made peach and strawberry baskets. Most of the wood-working equipment has been moved upstairs for storage. According to Bob Anthoine, there is still a lot of wood stored upstairs that was purchased in the 1800's.

Astute visitors love to browse through the old financial records. Most people will comment on the beautiful penmanship and the meticulous listing of each item to be billed. For the



Steve Lindsey enjoys being part of "Living History" but that doesn't deter the shop from doing modern-day projects.

mechanically inclined, it is a delight to look through equipment brochures printed more than 70 years ago.

But be warned ... Steve Lindsey and Bob Anthoine are perfect hosts, but they don't volunteer a lot of information. They see the equipment all the time and don't think it is so unusual. They will, however, graciously answer any and all questions. More important, they enjoy others who love and appreciate living history.

CWW

Blue Bird Body Company and Blue Bird Wanderlodge

Another slice of living history is the company that builds school buses, luxury over-the-road coaches, commercial buses, and luxury motor homes. From a humble beginning in Fort Valley in 1927, Blue Bird has grown to be the largest manufacturer of buses in the world. The biggest Blue Bird plant is in Fort Valley with 1,800 employees. Other manufacturing sites include LaFayette, Georgia, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Brantford, Ontario, Canada, and Monterrey, Mexico.

It is easy to overlook the importance of Blue Bird, because the casual visitor gets only a limited view as he sees it from the street. The main plant in Fort Valley encompasses 1,000,000 square feet. This is where parts are fabricated for the assembly lines in Fort Valley and for the assembly plants elsewhere. It also builds complete commercial and school buses.

Any interested visitor immediately notices that all employees, although very

busy, look directly at visitors and smile. You can follow the manufacturing process from the raw steel to the finished school bus waiting for delivery to locations all across North, Central and South America ... as well as the Middle East.

Across the street is the Blue Bird Wanderlodge, the *creme de la creme* of motor homes. Prices on these coaches approach \$1,000,000. Each visitor notices that the work is that of artisans. Since the noise level is less frantic, the visitor can appreciate the manufacturing process as the coaches are individually equipped according to the buyer's order. The list of options may include a "slide out" room that widens the coach once it is parked for the night.

The coaches have been built for pop stars, princes, kings and corporate giants. Many more have been built for individuals who just love to travel and enjoy a new adventure every day.

continued next page

A.C.S. Annual Convention in Fort Valley

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 1-4, 2000 • Massee Lane, Georgia

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Breakfast buffet • Holiday Inn
8:15 a.m. to 12 noon Judging School • Massee Lane
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon ACS Board Meeting • Holiday Inn
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration • Holiday Inn
Tours and meet Mayor John Stumbo
Enjoy peach cobbler downtown
6:30 p.m. Dinner in homes of MGCS members

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

8:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Breakfast buffet • Holiday Inn
11:30 p.m. Registration • Holiday Inn
Buses depart for lunch & tours
World's Largest Telephone Collection
Dr. Frank Wilson's Camellias
Andersonville National POW Museum
6:30 p.m. Buses depart for Massee Lane from
Holiday Inn
7:00 p.m. Catered cocktail buffet at Massee Lane
Mini "Prelude to Spring"
Return to Holiday Inn

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Breakfast buffet at Holiday Inn
9:00 a.m. Enter blooms • Houston Mall
Buses depart from Holiday Inn

10:15 a.m.
11:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m.
5:45 p.m.
6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 (continued)

Tour Air Force Museum at RAFB
Catered lunch at RAFB Officers' Club
& stroll the Memorial Camellia Garden
Depart for Camellia Show
Buses depart for Holiday Inn
Buses depart for Massee Lane
Barbecue, hospitality and
entertainment at barn
Buses depart for Holiday Inn

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

9:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m.

12 noon

1:30 p.m.

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

4:45 p.m.
6:45 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Breakfast buffet • Holiday Inn
Buses depart for Massee Lane
Tour Gardens, Galleries & Gift Shop
and enjoy a Bloody Mary in the
Educational Pavilion
Brunch at Wilbur and Mary Rumph's
home in Marshallville
Visit acres of seedling camellias at the
Richard E. Dodd home
Educational programs • Fetterman
Building
Buses depart for motel
Hospitality • Holiday Inn
Banquet & cash bar • Holiday Inn

REGISTRATION FORM

A.C.S. CONVENTION • FORT VALLEY, GA • MARCH 1-4, 2000

Full Convention	\$ 180	_____	**+\$15	After 2/1/00	\$ 200	_____	
Wed. March 1	\$ 20	_____		Fri. March 5	\$ 50	_____	
Judging School**	\$ 15	_____					
Thurs. March 2	\$ 65	_____		Sat. March 4	\$ 65	_____	Total \$ _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ email: _____

Name Tag(s) to Read: _____

Mail this form and check to:

Middle Georgia Camellia Society, c/o W. C. Wyatt, 515 S. Camellia Blvd., Fort Valley, GA 31030

Please make motel reservations directly with:

The Holiday Inn, Perry, GA 31069 912-987-3313

Reservations should be made by 2/2/2000 - Ask for ACS group rate of \$49

The Blue Bird Story

continued from page 5

The company's founder was Mr. A. L. Luce, who with his wife, Helen, started the business with only a few dollars and a strong faith. The company's roots are deep in Christian ethics. That heritage is still observed today.

The Luce family sold the company in 1992; it has recently been sold to an English firm.

While Blue Bird is an American success story, it is still an intrinsic part of the Fort Valley story. It is a world-class manufacturer with a small-town, friendly flavor.

Don't Forget!

Celebrate 2000

at Massee Lane

March 1-4

From the Desk of President Ed. Powers

continued from page 3

President of the Development Fund would become the Chief Financial Officer of both organizations. The Executive Director would be in charge of all employees, and would report to the Executive Committee, which is composed of members of both boards. The Executive Committee would discharge the duties of the Development Fund in regard to the Gardens. A Massee Lane Garden/Facilities committee would be established composed of the Executive Director, the Horticulturist, and mostly local members to provide assistance in caring for Massee Lane. In addition, the President of ACS would also serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors. It was pointed out that we need to do a better job of communicating with the membership, particularly in regards to the history of ACS, the function of Officers and

Committees, and the financial health of the Society. A target date of July 1, 2000 was set for completion of the items in the report which will necessitate a change in the Bylaws.

The fun time of the Camellia year is fast approaching. In the East, the first show is only two weeks off and already blooms are popping out. Due to the windy friends who keep dropping in, our area is way behind in gibbing and disbudding but every one is looking forward to a successful flowering season.

With the upcoming shows we have a wonderful opportunity to recruit new members. Who can resist being a part of an organization that promotes the growing of such beautiful flowers? All you have to do is ask! Good luck and I hope you have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season".

Ed Powers

The Middle Georgia Camellia Society

welcomes you to the

American Camellia Society's Annual Convention

at Massee Lane on March 1-4, 2000

For information contact Marvin Jernigan 912-922-2300

*We have a fun schedule arranged for you plus
our board meetings and educational programs.*

Come early and celebrate 2000 with us in Georgia.

And a Good Time was had by all at Myrtle Beach



A host of beautiful plants fell under Buck Mizzell's hammer to good avail at the auction. The fundraiser was very successful. Tripp Comptom, left, gets inside information about a plant from Buck.

Below Bill Shepherd, left, Dave Cannon and Lew Fetterman enjoy the Saturday night



Myrtle Beach was the setting for the 1999 ACCS Annual Meeting and you can see that everyone had big smiles for the occasion.

The Society donated generously to the Massee Lane Equipment Fund and in addition gave money to



All these pictures are thanks to Jim Darden, pictured above on the right with Annabelle Fetterman and Ed Powers. Jim gave a very interesting program on Saturday night about his recent trip to England.

Below Debbie Odom, Gene Phillips, Ron Wolfe and Hulyn Smith enjoy a Boody Mary.



Above a surprised (and appreciative) Dave Scheibert receives the attention of Gail Reese and Brenda Beach.

the fund in honor of Esther and Jim Smith.

Miles Beach reported that ACCS's web pages were ready for viewing.



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Tom Johnson is ACS Horticulturist

Horticulturist Search Committee Chairman W. C. Wyatt is pleased to announce that Tom Johnson has accepted the horticulturist position at Massee Lane. "The Search Committee unanimously agreed that Tom was the ideal person for this position because he would bring the expertise and enthusiasm that is needed to develop and expand the gardens", he added.

Tom started working for the Society early in October. During the first two weeks he had made a big difference in the gardens. His knowledge and diligence are causing forgotten corners to shine once again.

Executive Director Ann Walton says "Tom assures me that the gardens will be ready for the National ACS Convention in early March and from what I have seen, it will be ready! It is exciting to find out each day where Tom and the gardeners have been working. We all go out and admire the progress", she added.

Tom brings with him a great deal of experience in public gardens. He started working at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta as Landscape Manager when it was a just kudzu patch. Now a visitor finds a serenely beautiful area in downtown Atlanta, with landscaped rolling hills, a Japanese Garden hosting a vigorous waterfall, lakes and flower plantings. Even a grey heron flies in and out of the trees, adding to the tranquility.

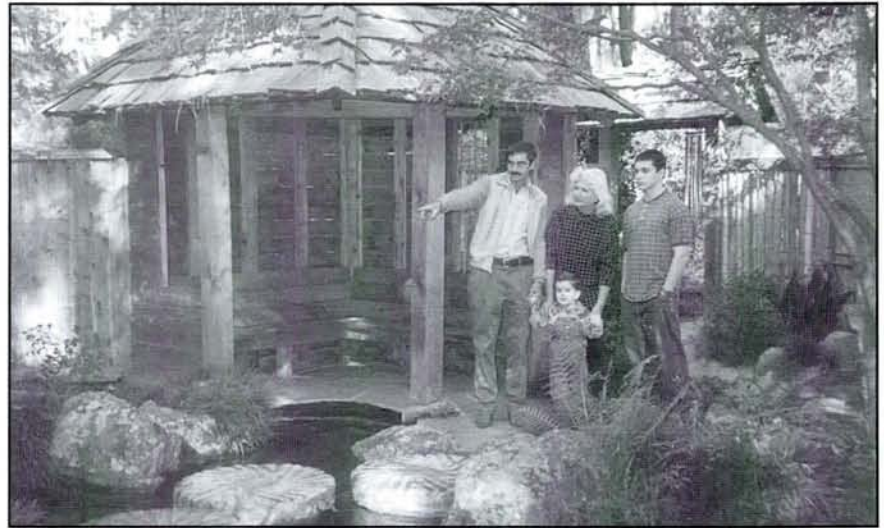
President Carter and Rosalyn have remained close to the development of the gardens. They both speak very highly of Tom's involvement and of his skills. When their plans called for a Japanese Garden to be built, Tom took training to ensure it was done correctly. This skill has already been put to use in the Japanese Garden at Massee Lane.

Tom was active in fund-raising and volunteer coordination at the Center in addition to the landscaping aspect. He was successful in securing grants and in increasing volunteer participation at the Center.

Lee Strickland says, "Tom and I work together well. We're getting things done and I thoroughly enjoy working with him."

Marvin Jernigan, acting horticulturist, feels that Tom's input in the Society will be very important and that the gardens will improve greatly under

his guidance. Tom and his wife, Mary Anne have attended Judging School and look forward to the upcoming flower shows. *afw*



Tom Johnson, left, shows Mary Anne, little Logan and Joey where he brought moss into the Japanese Garden at Massee Lane. The moss fills in naturally between the rocks for a delightful effect.

We're looking forward to meeting you all!

Let me introduce myself; I am Tom Johnson. My wife's name is Mary Anne, and we have 4 children, Jimmy West, age 21, Joey West, age 16, Amber Johnson, age 12, and Logan Johnson, age 3. Joey and Logan moved to Massee Lane with us.

I had finished my job helping design the landscape and gardens at the Carter Presidential Center and had received a really nice letter from President Carter thanking me for helping design the gardens. I was at the computer ready to decide what I wanted to do next when I ran across the ad for a horticulturist at Massee Lane. I really think it was divine intervention because I had been promising Mary Anne that we would move to the country. I grew up in Perry and actually interned at Massee Lane in the 1970's.

When we came back to interview for the horticulturist position, it was like coming back home. I fell in love with the garden all over again. Mary Anne and I decided that we not only wanted the job here, but we wanted

to buy into the entire life-style.

We are looking forward to joining the "Camellia Family". I can bring to the table my experience in garden design and maintenance; public garden administration and aquatic knowledge. Mary Anne is an award winning designer and florist. In return we get to study camellias in depth and learn from the wealth of knowledge the A.C.S. membership has to offer.

An old proverb states that to become the master, one must first become the student, and the amount we have learned our first few weeks is exciting. I met Marvin Jernigan when I first came to the gardens over 20 years ago when he taught me how to graft camellias. Now I've come back for him to train me once again.

Life is funny. It seems I've traveled all around the state working, learning, and studying, just so I can earn the right to come back home where it all began. My family and I are looking forward to a long and enjoyable life here at the garden I fell in love with as a child.

Tom

Surrogate Grafting

'An Alternative to Cleft Grafting'

by Gene Phillips & Debbie Odom of Gene's Nursery

For many years, cleft grafting has been the primary means of propagating camellias through the art of grafting. With cleft grafting, the top of a rootstock is completely severed and the scion is inserted in a split at the top of the remaining stump. After aligning the cambium layers for the ideal match, a cover such as a gallon jar is placed over the graft to keep the scion from dehydrating until the graft has taken. Most cleft grafting is done during the winter months, usually between January and March. If this procedure is successful, the small scion will have an already established root system attached to it, and the result is excessive growth during the first few years.

At Gene's Nursery, we have been successfully doing cleft grafts for a number of years. However, we ran across an interesting type of grafting a few years back while visiting some Hibiscus growers, and we decided to attempt to adapt the procedure to Camellias. We call the procedure 'Surrogate Grafting'. With this procedure, we are doing a type of side graft where the top of the rootstock is not severed until after the graft has taken. If the scion does not take, we have not lost a valuable plant by having to wait several years for it to grow back. Another advantage of this type of grafting is that we can do the graft during the late spring, summer and fall outside the greenhouse.

This surrogate grafting is similar to the bench grafting that Hulyn Smith is experimenting with in Valdosta, Georgia. It combines the technologies of grafting and rooting into a very simple procedure that just about anyone can do. Most of the Camellias that we propagate at Gene's nursery are from rooted cuttings, but for hard-to-root Camellias, or ones that do not perform well on their own root systems, this is an excellent way to propagate them. This type of grafting is

also a simple and easy way to variegate your camellias. The virus that causes the variegation in one camellia can easily be spread to another through a graft. This planned virus transfer is one of the primary uses that we have for surrogate grafting at Gene's Nursery.

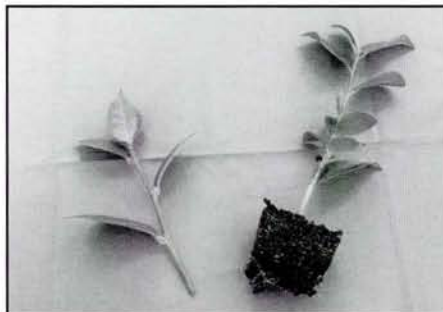
The following is a step by step pictorial account of our procedure of surrogate grafting.

Materials Needed

Assemble a sharp knife, scissors, Hormone #3, cup of water, number 33 rubber bands, labels, permanent marker, timed release fertilizer such as Osmocote, perlite, misting sprinkler, the scion and suitable root-stock you want to graft.

Step 1: Selecting the scion & rootstock

The first step is to select the scion that you want to graft and then secure the plant that you are going to use for your rootstock. In the illustration below, we



have a scion of 'Lois Shinault' to be grafted on a rootstock of 'Miss Charleston'. Notice that the scion is much larger than

you would normally use when attempting a cleft graft. Our scion in this illustration has 4-5 growth buds and is approximately 7" long. The rootstock is a 7-8 month old rooted cutting that was pre-grown in Spinout grow trays. You may notice that because of the Spinout in the container, we have a much larger root system because the roots are growing outward away from the plant instead of wrapping around the container. Any camellia that is disease resistant, roots well, and produces a vigorous root system can be used for your root stock.

Step 2: Preparation of the scion

In preparing the scion, we make the tapering cut very similar to preparations for cleft grafting. Have the inside of the cut thinner than the outside. In the illustration on the right, the scion is cut properly and ready to be grafted.



Step 3: Preparing the root stock

In the illustration below, the primary

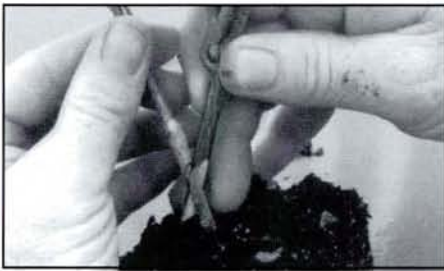


difference between surrogate grafting and cleft grafting can clearly be seen. Notice that we are making a slant cut on the side of the root stock. The cut is done slightly above the top of the root system. Our cut goes approximately 1/3 of the width of the root stock. A sharp knife and a steady hand is all that is needed.

Step 4: Insertion of Scion

In this step we insert the scion into the split on the side of the root stock. Notice in the next illustration that the scion is angled so as that the bottom end of the scion is sticking completely out of the split. When the scion is secured, there

continued on next page



will be cambium layer contact on both sides of the scion.

Step 5: Securing the scion

In step 4 we had the cambium layer ideally matched for this procedure. Notice in the illustration below that we must secure that matching by wrapping a #3 rubber band tightly around the graft. Cut the rubber band open, dip it in a cup of water to make it stretch and tighten more. When wrapping the graft, leave the top and bottom of the scion showing. Later,



we can examine these areas to see when the callusing begins. After tightening the rubber band around the graft, tie the ends together. Use scissors to cut off any excess on the ends of the rubber band.

Step 6: Applying rooting hormone

After the graft has been secured, we apply rooting hormone 3 to the cut surfaces. Other powder or liquid hormones would probably work just as well. We want to get as much callus formed on both the scion and the rootstock as quickly as possible.

Step 7: Up potting the graft



After the grafting procedure has been completed, we up pot the graft into a one gallon spinout treated pot. Notice in the illustration in step 7 that the union has been completely covered. We use a special soil that is approximately 40% perlite, 40% ground bark and 20% coarse sand. We have found perlite to be the key ingredient here. The graft will soon be placed in a misting area where conditions will be moist for a number of weeks. The perlite around the cut surfaces seem to expedite the callusing. After potting up the graft, we label it with the name of the scion, rootstock, date of graft and any other relevant information. We put approximately one tablespoon of timed release fertilizer around the outer perimeter of the pot to complete this procedure.

Step 8: After care of the graft

At Gene's Nursery we have a holding area where a misting environment has been created to keep the scion from dehydrating until it has callused and the graft has taken. We use an intermittent mist which comes on for a few seconds every five minutes during daylight hours. A constant mist would work just as well. To create the mist system shown above we have used a sprinkler stand attached to a hose with a piece of threaded 1/2" pipe screwed into the sprinkler stand. At the top of the threaded pipe we have an adapter screwed on the pipe with a fogger nozzle screwed into the adapter. All of these materials should be available at most home improvement centers in the irrigation department. When using this type of mist sprinkler we would turn it on in early morning and off in late afternoon. Remember, the idea is to keep the scion from drying out until the union is complete.



2 Months Later

As you can see in illustration 9, we have an excessive amount of callus on both scion and understock. Also there are roots forming from the callused tissues of both the scion and the understock. By treating the graft the same way that we treat a

cutting, it is possible that some roots will form from the scion itself and the others will come from the root stock. In any event, the root stock serves as a surrogate for the scion and enables the graft to grow off quickly. At this point, we leave the top of the root stock



attached until around six months after the graft was completed. At 2 months when callusing is at a level shown in illustration 9, we remove the mist environment and begin slowly cutting back on the top of the root stock.

14 Months Later

In the illustration below we have shown a graft of 'Lois Shinault' done with the same procedure approximately 14 months earlier. This plant is over 22 inches in height and looks very healthy. Certain varieties of Camellias such as 'Lois Shinault' have been difficult for us to root at Gene's Nursery. By applying this simple technique of 'surrogate grafting'



we are able to propagate camellias that we would otherwise simply not grow. Surrogate grafting will never replace cleft grafting, but it is an alternative means of propagating camellias for both the commercial grower and the hobbyist. Most importantly, it is fun, and isn't that what camellias are all about?

Ann Dodson took beauty to the White House

Camellia lovers are saddened to hear that Ann Dodson lost her battle with cancer on September 4, 1999. She had been ill for the past few months at her home in Plains, Georgia. Her plans for the 2000 ACS Convention attendees to enjoy a picnic in her garden and stroll her camellia seedlings were deeply appreciated. She mentioned this a few days before she died.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that when Jimmy Carter was sworn in as President, Mrs. Dodson made all the arrangements for seven public rooms at the White House to be bedecked with flowers and greenery from Plains, the President's home town.

First lady Rosalyn Carter said later that the arrangements were "the freshest, most beautiful" she had ever seen. "The flowers complemented each room. Jimmy and I thought they looked perfect", she added. Mrs. Dodson was a member of ACS and the Society supplied thousands of blooms for the White House arrangements.

Virginia Camellia Society

Sally Sirmon reports that several of their Virginia members have died recently.

Rear Admiral Lester O. Wood died last December; he was a past president of the Virginia Camellia Society. He propagated 'Lovely Linda', the beautiful double pink sasanqua. Wesley "Red" Sutherland died in March and Ira Eugene Hefner in May.

Sally writes "Our Society has lost so many of our much loved, pioneer camellia growers, mentors and teachers in less than one year."



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Thoughts for the Day

LUTHER W. BAXTER, JR.

"Let not thy thoughts run on what thou lackest, as much as on what thou already hast."

Marcus Aurelius, 2nd Century

"Count your blessings - Name them one by one; Count your many blessings and see what God hath done." - Hymn, Count Your Blessings, Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1851-1922

- Look for the bad in others only after you've looked for the bad in self.
- Compared to the people of the world at large we're rich, rich, rich!
- We trail along behind our thoughts.
- Let us not confuse spiritual wealth with wealth that the world measures.
- Aside from God, family, friends, and country (freedom), what do we have?
- Those who prepare themselves for heaven lose nothing while on earth.
- Let the trash of grudges, bias and criticism be sifted out from among the precious qualities of faith, hope, love and especially forgiveness.
- No church has a monopoly on truth and understanding.
- Always make room for smiles and kind words yoked with truth.
- Love God, family, friends and freedom without equivocation.
- Let one of our prayers be to recognize opportunities.

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Call or write for a price list and a map.

Membership Contest is Announced

✓ 2000 NEW MEMBERS BY 2000 ✓

The need to increase membership in the ACS has prompted Membership Chairman Bill Wilcox to launch a campaign to increase the number of members we presently have by 2000. He feels that this goal is reachable and it is possible we could go even more!

All clubs are invited to participate. Each is given a quota of 50% of present membership. Please use the form below to enroll your club and to list your membership numbers. Fax it to us at 912-967-2083 or mail it to ACS, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030. We need to know your present membership so that your quota is correct. Any **new** memberships you sell between 11/1/1999 through 12/31/

2000 will count for your club. Be sure that each new membership has your club's name written on it for crediting your club's account. Massee Lane will keep score and publish the results quarterly in *The Camellia Journal*. Most clubs have members who are not ACS members. *Set your club goal to have 100% of your members as ACS members!*

Each **new** member will receive a prize for joining and the club who sells it will receive 10% of the proceeds. Massee Lane will reimburse the clubs as the sales are turned in.

Hurry! Let's get the first 2000 now so we can start on the next! ACS must grow - WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

EVERYONE WINS!

TWO FIRST PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED:

- \$300 is for the club that exceeds its quota by the biggest percentage.
- \$300 is for the club that sells the most new memberships.

Prices are as follows:

1 year \$25 = 12 months • Joint = \$27.50
2 years \$50 = 27 months • Joint = \$55.00
3 years \$75 = 42 months • Joint = \$82.50

• Renewals win as well, by getting extra months with multiple-year renewals!

• Only new memberships sold at the above rates are eligible for the contest.

Membership Contest Club Enrollment Form

Club Name: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
President's name: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
Present Membership _____ as of 11/1/99.

PLEASE SEND THIS IN NOW. WE WILL NEED TIME TO GET OUR RECORDS SET UP. THANK YOU!

2000 New Membership Sign-up

Name: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
Please send gift memberships to: (you can make copies for additional members)
Name: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
Credit Card # _____ Amount: _____ Name on card: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Check payable to ACS in the amount of: \$ _____ If credit card, your signature: _____
Club to receive recognition for new members _____ City _____ St. _____
** VISA, MC ONLY **

Please write above the name of club to receive recognition for new members

Robert Ehrhart is Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee.

The Chairman's name was omitted for the Long-Range Planning Committee in the August issue. The correct committee members are printed below. We apologize for the omission.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE Joint ACS and ACS Development

Robert Ehrhart, Chairman
2081 Norris Rd.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(510) 643-7156

Lewis Fetterman
P.O. Box 306
Clinton, NC 28328
(910) 592-3735

Arthur P. Landry
10522 Ferncliff Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
(504) 275-2119

Daniel E. Nathan
P.O. Box 1179
Fort Valley, GA 31030
(912) 815-8505

Thomas E. Hughes
4628 El Camino Corto
La Canada, CA 91011
(818) 790-1130

Ann Walton
100 Massee Lane
Fort Valley, GA 31030
(912) 825-8520

Another correction:

Doug Simon's address and phone number were incorrect in the committee listings and should be as follows:

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Douglas Simon, Chairman
508 Fairfax Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23507
(757) 625-0374

Notice for Clubs

In October we mailed a "Care" package to local societies. Some were returned to us due to incorrect addresses. If your group did not receive this mailing, please contact us so we can correct our information.

Your Help is Needed

Research & Advisory seeks to analyse mortality rate in container grafts

The Camellia Research and Advisory Committee is trying to pinpoint several factors concerning the mortality rate of new container grafts.

We would like for any members who are having grafting problems to give us a short report and answer the following questions:

1. What year did you first notice that you were losing too many grafts? _____
2. Are you getting up to 15-20 inches and dying? _____
3. Are the understocks also dying? _____
4. What kind of understock are you using? _____
5. Which month do you do your grafting? _____
6. Tell us about your grafting process. Do you use sand? Do you use perlite? Do you use hormones? or nothing? _____
7. Do you water your grafts or keep them dry? _____
8. Do you have bottom heat? _____
9. In conclusion, if you have an opinion of what is causing this graft decline, please share it with us. _____

Keep in mind that research is every grower's project. Six appointed committee members need your input.

Please send any report you care to make to Ann Walton at Massee Lane and she will forward it to our committee.

Hulyn Smith, Chairman, Research Advisory Committee



DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE THREE WERE PLANNING when the photographer caught up with them but it must have been good. Earl Beatty, Lee Strickland and Frank Jamison were getting ready to enjoy the BBQ which marked the first Middle Georgia Camellia Society meeting for the year. A large crowd attended the meeting.

How we build membership in our camellia club

The life line of all successful camellia clubs is its membership, without good, active, contributing members there is no club.

The Camellia Club of New Orleans is starting its 1999 season with 39 new members, bringing our membership to a total of 185. As a club, we are constantly seeking new ways to promote interest in the cultivation of camellias.

• Use Talks, Radio and TV

Max Mizell, our president and his wife Marie, frequently give talks at various garden clubs on camellia culture, and naturally they invite all interested parties to attend our meeting and join our club. Additionally, Max and Marie do radio and TV interviews publicizing our show and tutorial.

• Our Camellia Show

At our show we have a registration desk and as our visitors enter they are asked to sign our guest register. This lets us know the approximate attendance - and in return all who sign the register (name and address) will be sent an invitation to next year's show. The invitation is basically a show flier but is addressed and mailed to all those who registered. Believe me, our regular attendees depend on this reminder not to miss the show.

While our 1500-1800 visitors are signing the register we make sure we welcome them and strike up a conversation inquiring about their interest in camellias. This lets them know we care and want to help them if they are having problems.

Often we give them some printed material on the subject/problem in question and invite them to our next meeting to learn more. A camellia plant is given to each new membership at the first meeting they attend.

• Have Plant Sales

At the show we have a large plant sale (200+ plants), and often, after viewing the magnificent blooms on display, our visitors are interested in purchasing plants of these varieties - so the sale is quite a success and helps defray the cost of the show. Complete care instructions are given with each purchase. Our hospitality committee

serves refreshments, donated by our members, while most of our "Senior Members" offer conversation and advice on plants and/or blooms.

• Provide a Tutorial

Notices are passed out at the show informing everyone of our tutorial which is held on a Sunday afternoon in February at Longue Vue Gardens. Here we offer demonstrations on various methods of propagation. Grafting is by far the most popular demonstration. Scions are provided free of charge and understock is sold at a nominal cost. We

*Remember, enthusiasm and
friendliness are contagious
and attract attention.
Attention attracts members.*

will do the grafting for anyone requesting this service, which is just about all of the visitors, and a brochure on caring for the grafts is then provided.

Demonstrations and brochures are also provided on air-layering and propagation by cuttings. Two educational talk sessions are conducted by Bob Stroud covering all basics of camellia culture. These are always very popular and very well attended. A demonstration on waxing camellias goes on throughout the afternoon, with instructions on waxing, and waxed camellias given to those who request them - this is always popular and draws a crowd.

• Participate in Garden Show

One weekend in April and in October, City Parks Botanical Gardens holds a garden show. Many of the garden clubs and many of the commercial garden centers/nurseries in the New Orleans area participate in it with educational displays and information on just about everything pertaining to garden care and design.

• Educational Displays

The New Orleans Camellia Club has a very large educational display with information covering everything from propagation to diseases and general care, etc. All of this, along with displays of camellia pictures and any blooms we

may have, make our booth very popular. Our booth is staffed by 8-10 members throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday.

This enables us to speak to visitors at our booth on a one-to-one basis thus assuring them our undivided attention. We will answer their camellia questions and address their individual camellia problems and give them whatever printed material necessary to help them - and, of course, we invite them to join our club.

• Teach novices at meetings

At our monthly club meetings we don't just cover club business because, while this is important and must be addressed, novice growers need to know what they should be doing for their camellias on a monthly basis. Therefore we always set time aside for an educational session, guest speakers, slide shows, and question and answer sessions - whatever is necessary to keep our members informed.

Every meeting ends with refreshments donated by the members. This allows for casual informal chit-chat and time to exchange ideas and information. It is most important that all members be fully involved in the functions of the club - from the senior member to the newest novice member - ALL must be included.

• Use Committee Interaction

Everyone should be encouraged, even urged, to participate on one or more committees. This lets every member know they are important and needed. By working together on everything from the Welcoming Committee at each meeting and event, to Show set-up and tear-down, to Garden Show participation - all necessary for the success of the club - we build relationships and membership.

Perhaps everything we do in New Orleans would not be possible for every club but the ideas can certainly be tailored to suit various needs in generating interest and increasing club membership and participation.

*Remember, enthusiasm and
friendliness are contagious and attract
attention. Attention attracts members.*

Commercial Growers Hold Key to Society Growth

Editor:

This letter is directed to long term goals for the ACS. As you know I am a commercial grower of camellias. In Savannah and other places where camellia societies exist, that term "commercial grower" has been looked at as a dirty word for too many years. We have been made to feel as if we are somehow doing something wrong in selling camellias. Granted, this is not the feeling of the entire camellia community, but it is an opinion shared by too many camellia people.

In recent years, the ACS has been on a steady decline in membership, and this has been caused by a multitude of reasons. There are a lot of holes in the ship that have to be plugged in order to turn this direction around. For one thing, the ACS leadership has to look beyond the perennial target market for new members of the "retirees". There is absolutely nothing wrong with getting retired persons interested in camellias, but if that is the only area where new members are being looked for, the society will be dying a slow but certain death.

Countless camellia growers have told me that efforts will be futile in trying to recruit new members from younger segments of the population. I have heard all the sound logical reasons why this should be true, but I believe that they have missed the entire runway. Yes, it is correct that the "baby boomers" are beginning to retire and we have a better opportunity in recruiting retired persons than ever before, but we have an even better opportunity in today's group of younger people where there is a more affluent group at an earlier age than ever before. These groups of younger people are willing and financially able to bear the cost of growing camellias, but they have not been realistically looked at as a viable option of supplying the members needed to turn both

the ACS and many local and regional societies around.

There must be a greater involvement of commercial growers throughout the entire spectrum of the camellia world in order for any turnaround in society memberships. When a person becomes interested in camellias, whether it is from a visit to Massee Lane or from viewing a spectacular display of blooms at one of our shows, the first thing they want to do is purchase some of the varieties that excite them.

After a thrilling tour of the gardens at Massee Lane, a potential member may have been overwhelmed by the spectacular 'Fragrant Pink' blooming throughout the gardens. They anxiously go into the sales area only to find that 'Fragrant Pink' is not one of the varieties that is available. They go home disappointed and call their local nurserymen to locate these plants only to find that not only do the local growers not have it, but also they never even heard of it.

The potential new member becomes even more disheartened, and the seed that was planted in the Massee Lane Gardens becomes less likely to flourish.

The scenario that I have just described is unfortunately not an isolated incidence. It will be repeated numerous times in the future and countless opportunities to recruit new ACS members will be wasted unless we can get greater involvement of commercial growers.

Ed. Note: Gene is responding to a request for thoughts on long-term goals for the Society. He brings out some ideas for us to discuss. At Massee Lane we are endeavoring to handle the supply side by propagation and by the generosity of growers who contribute plants for us to sell. We agree strongly with Gene that our visitors must find the camellias they need.

We'd like to hear your thoughts, too. Please send us a line or two, or a phone call.

afw

- It is the commercial growers who will fill the demand that is not being met.

- It is the commercial growers who can provide the camellias for landscape usage, which will stimulate further interest.

- It is the commercial growers who can finance a garden center at Massee Lane that will prevent excited potential members from going home empty handed and disappointed.

- It is the commercial growers who can provide the advertising dollars to help improve the quality and content of ACS publications.

In the back of the first ACS yearbook in 1946 there were 17 nurseries advertising camellias. One year later in the 1947 yearbook, there were 28 commercial growers advertising. Today we only have a handful of nurseries involved with the ACS. I believe that for the ACS to begin to grow and for camellia interest to reach its potential, there has to be a greater involvement and appreciation of commercial growers.

Sincerely,
Gene Phillips

Gene's Nursery, Landscape & Irrigation
Savannah, GA 31416 912-355-6176

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ACS Cooperative Shows • SHOW DATES

• VIRGINIA •

The Virginia Camellia Society will hold their show on November 6, 1999 at Chesapeake Square Mall in Chesapeake, VA. *Doug Simon & Jean Irby, Show Chairs, 757-622-6510.*

• FORT VALLEY, GA •

The Middle Georgia Camellia Society will hold its fall show on Nov. 13-14 at Masee Lane in Fort Valley. *Warren Thompson 825-2559.*

• FORT WALTON BEACH •

Show Date is Nov. 13-14, 1999, for the Greater Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society at Sunpointe (formerly Westwood) Retirement Village. *Cindy Warriner.*

• WAYCROSS, GA •

Federated Garden Clubs of Waycross will hold their show at the Sun Trust Bank of SE Georgia on Nov. 17-18, 1999.

• VALDOSTA, GA •

The Valdosta Camellia Society's show will be held on Nov. 20-21 in the Crescent Garden Center.

• MISSISSIPPI •

Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society's show date is Nov. 20-21, 1999, in the Orange Grove Community Center on Highway 49 in Gulfport Mississippi. *Doris LeFebvre 601-832-2405*

• HOUSTON, TEXAS •

The 42nd Annual Houston Camellia Show has changed from its historic December date to Nov. 20-21, 1999. *Greg Davis.*

• BROOKHAVEN, MS •

The Brookhaven Camellia Society will hold its show Nov. 27, 1999, on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. *Thomas Perkins III 601-833-2718.*

• SLIDELL, LA •

The Ozone Camellia Club will hold its show on Dec. 4, 1999 at the Slidell Municipal Auditorium in Slidell. *Jenny Faircloth.*

• JACKSONVILLE BEACH •

Island of Beaches Camellia Society's show date is Dec. 4-5, 1999, at the Jacksonville Beach Womens's Club in Jacksonville, Florida. *O. L. Jacobson 904-249-5021.*

• JACKSONVILLE, FL •

The Mandarin Garden Club Camellia Society of North Florida will hold its show on Dec. 4, 1999. *Bob Reese.*

• ALBANY, GA •

The Albany Men's Garden club Show is scheduled for Dec. 4, 1999 and will be held at the Albany Mall, Albany, Georgia. *Walter Albritton.*

• APOPKA •

Apopka Recreation Department will hold its show on Dec. 11, 2000, at the Fran Carlton Center in Apopka. *Marck Miller 407-703-1744.*

• TAMPA BAY, FL •

The Tampa Bay Area Camellia Society will sponsor its annual show on Jan. 8, 2000 at the Tampa Woman's Club, 2901 Bayshore Blvd. *Dick Coryell, 941-688-0916.*

• TALLAHASSEE •

The Camellia & Garden Club of Tallahassee, Florida will hold its show on Jan. 8-9, 2000, at the Tallahassee Mall. *Mary Maude Sharpe 850-878-9625.*

• GAINESVILLE, FL •

The Gainesville Camellia Society's show date is Jan. 8-9, 2000. *Jerry Hogsette.*

• AIKEN, SC •

The Aiken Camellia Club's annual show will be on Jan. 15-16, 2000 at the Aiken Mall. *Paul Dahlen.*

• CENTRAL FLORIDA •

The Camellia Society of Central Florida's show dates are Jan. 15-16, 2000 at Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando, Florida. *Jerry K. Conrad 407-886-7917.*

• DALLAS, TX •

Dallas Camellia Society will hold its show on Jan. 15-16, 2000 at the Dallas Arboretum in Dallas. *Clair S. Gothard, Show Chairman.*

• CHARLESTON, S.C. •

The Coastal Carolina Camellia Society will hold its 50th Spring Show Anniversary at Citadel Mall on Jan. 22, 2000, sponsored by the Citadel Mall Merchants' Assoc. of Charleston, S.C. *Donna Shepherd.*

• OCALA •

Ocala will have its show on Jan. 22-23, 2000 at the Pioneer Garden Club on East Silver Spring Blvd. in Ocala. *Lucky Secklinger, 352-528-4024.*

• CAIRO, GA •

Thomasville Garden Club will have its show on Jan. 22, 2000 at Woodland Manor Garden Club in Cairo.

• LAKE LAND, FL •

The Lakeland Camellia Society's 18th Camellia promenade, will be at the Charles Thrift Student Center, F.S.C., on Jan. 22-23, 2000. *Dick Coryell 941-688-0916*

• BATON ROUGE, LA •

The Baton Rouge Camellia society will hold its show on Jan. 22, 2000, at BankOne, 451 Florida St. *Art Landry.*

• SAVANNAH, GA •

The Camellia Society of Southeast Georgia will hold its first annual camellia show at the Hyatt Regency in the Harborside Center on River Street on Jan. 29 & 30, 2000. *Debbie Odom, 912-355-7361.*

• SAVANNAH, GA •

The 2nd Annual Camellia Show sponsored by the Savannah Camellia Club will be held on Feb. 5, 2000 at the Oglethorpe Mall. Show Chairman is Marguerite Wiseman. *Patti King, 912-356-3591.*

• CHARLOTTE, NC •

The 2000 Annual Camellia Show of the Charlotte Camellia Society will be held on Feb. 5-6, 2000 at Carolina Place Mall in Pineville, NC. *Gloria B. McClintock.*

• FORT WORTH, TX •

The Fort Worth Camellia Society will hold its 42nd Annual Camellia Show on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2000 at the Fort Worth Garden Center located in the Botanic Gardens on University Drive in Fort Worth. *William B. Todd, 817-738-8886.*

• FLORIDA STATE FAIR •

The Florida State Fair Authority and Tampa Bay Area Camellia Society will present a camellia show on Feb. 12, 2000 in the horticulture building. *Richard Coryell 941-688-0916.*

• BIRMINGHAM, AL •

Birmingham's Camellia Society will hold its 50th Camellia Show on Feb. 12, 13, 2000 in the afternoons in the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

• MIDDLE TENNESSEE •

The Middle Tennessee Camellia Society will hold its 27th annual camellia show at Cheekwood Feb. 26-27, 2000. *Jane Griffin, Show Chairman.*

• VIRGINIA •

Virginia Camellia Society Spring Show and Plant Sale will be held on March 25, 2000 10:00-5:00 at Norfolk Botanical Garden. *Sally Simon 757-625-0374.*

Gulf Coast hosts ACS Convention during Annual Meeting in Mobile

Both Boards of the American Camellia Society met in Mobile, Alabama on September 17 and 18 at the Gulf Coast Camellia Society's annual meeting.

The Gulf Coast extended wonderful hospitality to everyone under the leadership of President Marie Mizell and her committees.

A highlight was cocktails on the fantail of USS Alabama, an event that was enjoyed by the many members attending. Later the spirited auction led by Bill Robertson and Hulyn Smith raised funds for the club and provided great entertainment for the audience.

Many of the attendees appreciated the opportunity to visit local camellia growers. Glen Read, Jim and Elaine Smelley, and Beth Dean have their greenhouses close by and they received many visitors.



Left: Bob Ehrhart and Linda Williams, share a moment with Beth Dean, on left, in Lucedale. Beth is continuing the nursery her late husband, Roscoe, started. She still has some of their camellias.



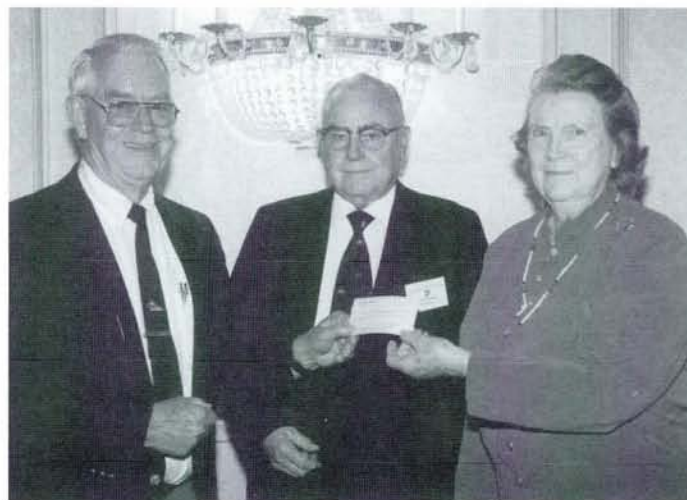
Part of a large group who visited Jim and Elaine Smelley's greenhouses.



The USS Alabama provided an exciting backdrop for cocktails. Right: Fred Hahn, Jim Smelley, David Nihart and Bill Robertson enjoy the moment under the ship's big guns.



Elsie Bracci (left) enjoys a good laugh with Elaine. The Smelleys were gracious hosts to many visitors during the afternoon.



ACS President Ed Powers and Marvin Jernigan happily accept a check for the equipment fund from GCCS President Marie Mizell. (photo thanks to David Nihart)

ACS & GCCS board members donate for "Marvin's" equipment needs

During the ACS Board meetings in Mobile, Lew Fetterman responded to Marvin Jernigan's horticulturist report, which included a request for needed equipment, with a challenge to all members to provide the equipment for Massee Lane.

"If Marvin says he needs this equipment, then I say we should do it", Lew said. He pledged his and Annabelle's support if others would follow. Members of both boards responded and raised several thousand dollars in pledges for the equipment. Later the Gulf Coast Camellia Society Board presented a check to add to the fund. In this way all the board members expressed their appreciation for Marvin's hard work on behalf of the Society.

Marvin Jernigan has been acting horticulturist for the Society since Betty Hotchkiss resigned in February of this year. He has done so on a full-time volunteer basis, giving hands-on guidance and supervision to all the garden activities. In addition he has secured many plant donations for the gardens.

Ann Walton expressed her appreciation for Marvin's constant support and guidance during the beginning of her role as Executive Director. "His knowledge of camellias and the Society has been a mainstay for me. His willingness to work at the gardens on a daily basis for so long a period has kept the operation functioning in a superlative manner" she said.

Camellia Seedlings Registered with the American Camellia Society

NAME AND DESCRIPTION	REGISTRATION NUMBER	ORIGINATOR
<i>'Haywood Curlee'</i> Chance japonica seedling with double peony to occasional rose form 4" blooms. Rose red with bright yellow anthers, white filaments, 38 petals, and no petaloids	2503	Miles A. Beach
<i>'Ann Walton'</i> White 5" japonica of Homeyer #013 and 'Charlie Bettes'. blooms mid-to-late, profuse bloomer, long lasting. Bloom is 2" deep with 52 petals and no petaloids	2504	Marvin Jernigan
<i>'Ann English'</i> Hybrid retic, semi-double with high rabbit ears. Unique deep pink 6" bloom with 20 petals. Falls in one piece	2505	Marvin Jernigan
<i>'Kuro Delight'</i> Semi-double 4" hybrid seedling with japonica parentage. Maroon with yellow anthers and white filaments. Long blooming season, cold hardy to -15 deg. F. Unique foliage	2506	William L. Ackerman
<i>'Spring Cardinal'</i> Retic. seedling with 1" formal double blooms. Crimson red with 36 petals and no petaloids. Cold hardy to -10°F.	2507	William L. Ackerman
<i>'Chris Bergamini'</i> Medium to shell pink jap. with 2½" blooms, yellow anthers, creamy white filaments. Cold hardy, long blooming season.	2508	Don Bergamini
<i>'Claudia Vanis'</i> Hot pink 4½" rose form double japonica seedling. Yellow anthers, bright yellow filaments. Mid-season, profuse bloomer	2509	Ray Bond
<i>'Satin Doll'</i> White japonica seedling, 4" heart-shaped petals, some tinged pink. Yellow anthers & filaments, semidbl formal	2510	Ray Bond
<i>'Christine Dodd'</i> Deep pink folded outer to white inner petals. Semidbl 5" blossoms, profuse midseason bloomer.	2511	Ray Bond
<i>'Strawberry Cream'</i> Light blush pink 5" semidbl rose form japonica seedling. Heavy petal texture, some may crinkle, yellow anthers	2512	Ray Bond
<i>'Elizabeth Ann'</i> White formal dbl peony form 5" japonica seedling. Petals, 60, edged in pink, no petaloids, mid season-late	2513	Ray Bond
<i>'Josie Bond'</i> Pink-cream blossom, 3½" medium formal dbl. Plant is upright, profuse bloomer, mid to late	2514	Ray Bond
<i>'Big Jack'</i> Pink to deep red japonica seedling. Peony flowers, 2" with 96 petals, no petaloids. Plant is upright, mid-season to late.	2515	Ray Bond

Why Are Your Camellias Not Doing Well?

by Ray Bond

Many camellia growers have problems with their camellias not doing well after they have bumped them up into larger containers. Bit by bit and sometimes faster than that, some or all of them begin to go downhill.

Why is this happening? Ray Bond tells everybody that camellias are easy to grow, but others have said that growing them is tough. Who is right? Are they big sweat or no sweat? I continue to say that the answer is "no sweat."

With anything you plant, that "no sweat" means that you may have to abandon some old habits that may have worked for other crops. Let's look at some of these problems and what we can do about them. Many of these camellia problems may be obvious and are no problem to you, but read my mail or answer my telephone for a week and you will know they have been problems for others.

1. Sun.

The sun is bright and hot, hotter in the summer than in the winter. Camellias cannot stand full sun. I suggest at least 63% shade in the summer and at least 40% in the winter. This may be increased in warmer climates and areas of more direct sun. If shade cloth is not available, a grove of trees (pine are best) will suffice, many nurseries use pine trees for shade.

2. Planting too deeply.

I cannot preach this one enough, it seems. Camellia roots need air. They need a few roots on the surface of the soil to help them get it. Many nurserymen take pains to cover these top surface roots. This will drown camellias, if it doesn't cause root rot.

3. Soil Mix.

Camellias need air down in the root area. A tight soil mix with no air spaces can cause drowning or root rot. My recommended soil mix is 20% sharp sand and 80% 2 or 3 year-aged pine bark mulch. Some nurserymen throw in about 10% pine bark "nuggets" and that is fine. Pine bark nuggets contain trapped air. Look into a root ball that

contains them and you will see roots hanging on to these nuggets very tightly. Add enough dolomitic limestone to this mixture to raise the pH to 6.0. Peat moss should never be used; it fills the pores and air spaces in the soil mix, depriving the roots of needed air. Pine bark contains an agent that retards fungal root rot.

4. Root Rot.

We have covered the reasons for root rot, now for the remedies. There are two kinds of root rot that affect camellias. The first, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, affects *C. japonica* and *C. reticulata*. It doesn't affect *C. sasanqua* and *C. oleifera*. Prevent it with a drench with Subdue once every six months. For mushroom root rot, be sure your soil is clean. Mushroom root rot (*Cylindrocladium crotalariae*) is caused by using creek sand or silt which is contaminated with the fungus. A clean soil mix will fix this problem. This fungus rarely attacks mature and established plants. If your *C. sasanqua* and/or *C. oleifera* appear to have root rot, they are too wet and drowning. See 3 and 7.

5. Mixing fertilizer with the soil mix, or too much fertilizer.

This applies to polyon coated fertilizers, such as Osmacote, which are released by warm temperatures. When temperatures get hot, these fertilizers can "dump" on the roots and burn them. Camellias should be fertilized from the top, allowing the roots to "eat" as the nutrients are flushed by them from above. Overfed camellias may exhibit severe leaf burn, leaf browning on the older leaves and the younger ones wilt and turn black. If your camellias appear to wilt, looking like they need water and they seem to be plenty moist, they could be overfed. If possible, repot in soil with no fertilizer in it and flush the plant with fresh water. In any event, try to flush out the fertilizer salts.

6. Tight Roots.

When plants are bumped from one size container to another, growth problems can appear.

Many people, when bumping from one-gallon containers to three-gallon or larger containers wait until the plant in the one-gallon container is almost root bound before they bump it up. This can retard plant growth. A plant can sit for a year or longer in its original root ball with very few roots reaching out into the soil in the larger container. Those outside roots on the plant should be pulled out or cut (about 1/4" deep) into the root ball, vertically down the root ball in several places around the diameter of the ball.

Trapped roots look awful to your customer. He starts to put the three-gallon plant into the ground and the soil falls away from the smaller root ball. The customer feels cheated. He paid for a three-gallon plant but received a one-gallon plant, disguised as a larger one.

7. Camellia Dieback

Dieback is a disease caused by the fungus, *Glomerella cingulata*. Sometimes it is confused with root rot. A twig of new growth suddenly wilts. Or, a canker appears on the trunk or on a limb. Cut off infected areas down to clean wood. Sterilize your pruning shears with Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) from your local drug store between cuts. (I carry a spray bottle of IPA on my belt when I inspect my plants.)

Infected wood is brown with an orange cast. Die back is spread when contaminated water splashes on new growth or a plant wound, such as a leaf drop wound or a cut in the bark. *C. sasanqua* is generically more susceptible to dieback than *C. japonica*. Some cultivars are easily infected; some are not. It is more prevalent in humid areas. A prophylactic spray of Captan mixed with Cleary 3336 (both WP) at a rate of two pounds per 100 gallons is recommended in the spring. Add a little dishwasher detergent as spreader-sticker. Spray every two or three weeks, beginning in early April, continuing through May or early June.

Continued on next page



The Awards table at the Sacramento Camellia show this March received all kinds of accolades. The lights sparkled on the beautiful crystal pieces and the painted branches added to the lovely effect. The winning blossoms complemented the beauty of the setting.

Photo courtesy of Jim Randall.

Why Are Your Camellias Not Doing Well?

Continued from previous page

8. Cold.

Plants in containers will give up one hardiness zone as compared to plants established in the landscape. That is, if the camellia you have in the container is rated to zone 7, store it under zone 8 conditions.

9. Rodents.

Use the usual rodent poisons and get a cat or two. If you get a cat, give it a warm and friendly place to live and feed it enough to keep it around. A cat gathers varmints for you and will shut them down.

10. Scale.

Camellias are susceptible to scale attacks, usually tea scale. Use the usual scale eradication remedies and keep preferred hosts for scale away.

11. You tell me.

I'll do my best to answer your questions.

I know a lot of this is redundant to what you already know. But, others are having these problems and questions. Sometimes we better understand what we observe when it is put into context. I hope this gives you some sort of context.

Brand and trade names and treatment portions are given for reference only. Consult your State Agricultural and Pesticide agencies for recommended chemicals registered by the State. Always follow instructions on the label.

Ray Bond
6420 Del Norte Ln, Dallas, TX 75225

Laughing With Ed

The phone rang in the sanitation office. A woman on the phone said "I called to see if you could come by my house and pick up a dead dog. Someone ran over him a couple of weeks ago and he ain't smelling so good."

"Where do you live?" the officer asked. "I live at 3434 Mesi Potonis Drive" she replied. "Could you spell the name of your street?" A long pause and the woman replied "Let me call you back".

Ten minutes later she called back and said "It's spelled OAK, Oak Street. I just drug him up a block."

In a small Southern church one Sunday the preacher said to his people, "Dear Friends, I have found we have a little extra money in the bank. I would like to spend it on a chandelier".

One of the deacons rose to his feet and said "I'm against it. First we don't have anyone who can spell chandelier and we don't have anyone who can play it either. I think we should spend it on new lights."

When camellia fans become addicted, they might do just about anything. One such person, having had such good luck with rooted cuttings, air layers etc., decided to try his luck with chickens. He ordered baby chicks and planted them. When they didn't come up he ordered some more and planted them feet up. The next batch he planted heads up. Not knowing what else to do he wrote to the local state office of agriculture for information about the problem. Soon came a reply, "Send soil samples".

Three bimbos died and arrived at the Pearly Gates together. St. Peter decided he had better ask them a question or two. "How many T's in a week?" he asked the first. "Two - Today and Tomorrow" was the reply. He asked the second "How many seconds in a year?" "Twelve" was the reply. "January second, Feb. 2nd and so on". He asked the third "What is Jesus first name?" "Andy" was the reply. "Why Andy?" "And he walks with me, And he talks with me, And he tells me I am his own" he explained.

Thanks to Col. Ed Atkins of Pensacola for these smiles.

Publications Deadlines for The Camellia Journal

February issue...December 1	August issue.....June 15
May issue March 15	November issue September 15
YEARBOOK COPY DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15	

Carolina's Spring picnic

by Jay Ellis

On May 29, 1999 the annual spring picnic of the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society was hosted by Parker Connor at his lovely historic plantation home and gardens at Edisto Island in South Carolina. Close to 75 camellia enthusiasts were there from the Carolinas, Florida and Georgia.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious dishes and then the auction led by Buck Mizzell and Bill Robertson. Let me tell you, these guys are good! They could talk you into buying your own plant back for triple or more of its worth. It took a while to figure out what I was going to do with all those cucumbers I bought with more than I could use in the garden back home!

T. Neal Cox

We received a note from Dr. Herb Racoff that T. Neal Cox died on September 19, 1999. Mr. Cox was the widower of Mary Alice Cox who died April 25, 1998.

Mr. Cox was a life member of the American Camellia Society and had been superintendent of Arcadia Plantation near Georgetown since 1929.

It's Showtime!

Camellia Days are here and it's time for our annual shows all over the country. We always want to publish your show results as fast as possible after receiving them, but we are having difficulty in doing so. Please help us with your show reports by sending them to us on a disk in the correct format for printing. If at all possible please send your results to us on the Internet. This should simplify the typing a great deal at this end.

ACS-accredited shows follow a similar schedule and the form we use standardizes the results so that each show conforms to the next. Some shows offer different classifications making comparison of results difficult. However, by all of us using the same form for reports, we can compare more readily.

Thank you for your cooperation. We want to do a timely, good report on your show and with your help we will be able to do so.

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Happy Birthday
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan

Mildred and Frank Cross
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan

**Honoring
Mr. and Mrs. Hansel Young**
on their 50th Wedding
Anniversary
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan

**Honoring
Jimbo and Debby Lipfert**
on their 30th Wedding
Anniversary
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan

**Lunch for
Finance Committee**
W. C. Wyatt, Jr.

ACS Yearbooks
Mrs. Austin J. Barnett, Jr.

**Happy Birthday
Mrs. Ed Mathews**
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan

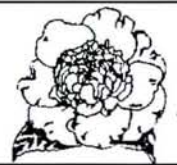
**Honoring
Esther and Jim Smith**
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**To the
American Camellia Society**
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Earl and Nita Beatty
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SIDNEY P. MARSHALL
J. Emer. • Exp. 12/31/2003

MRS. DEANNA YOUNG
Judge • Exp. 12/31/2004

LOUISIANA

W. GRANT BLACK JR.
Judge • Exp. 12/31/2001

SANDERS CAZEDESSUS
Novice • Exp. 12/31/2004

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DICKSON**
Novice • Exp. 12/31/2004

MARYLAND

CARROLL CLATTERBUCK
Judge • Exp. 12/31/2004

MRS. PAULINE CLATTERBUCK
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ALFRED A. BREELAND
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ALTON LEFEBRVE
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MRS. DORIS LEFEBRVE
Judge • Exp. 12/31/2008

TEXAS

W. B. KNOX
Novice • Exp. 12/31/2004

MRS. RUBY D. KNOX
Novice • Exp. 12/31/2004

VIRGINIA

MS. BETSY MILLER
Novice • Exp. 12/31/2004

Help Is Needed

Please help Novice Judges reach Judge's status by giving them the opportunity to judge in your show. If you need some novice names in your area, call the ACS in Fort Valley, 912-967-2722 or email: acs@alltel.net, and we'll be happy to help.

CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE!

- Don't forget to look at the expiration date on your judge's card. Several Judging Schools are being held this winter. Apply now for reaccreditation if needed.
- The Tampa Bay Area Camellia Society will conduct a Judges' School on Sat. Nov. 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch is included. John Shirah, Jr. will be the instructor. Call Tetula Coryell 941-688-0916.
- Pensacola Camellia Club will hold a Judging School on Nov. 29-30. Contact Captain George Anderson 850-484-7034.

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BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF ACS was THE PENSACOLA CAMELLIA CLUB

by: Gordon E. Eade

November 1937

The Men's Camellia Club of Escambia County, was organized. Roland E. Lee was elected President, C. H. Turner, Vice-President and F. W. Sherrill, Secretary-Treasurer. Membership fee was set at \$3.00. "The objects of the Club are to encourage growing of Camellias and to spread information regarding their culture."

December 1937

Two individuals, John K. Edwards and Charles W. Merritt, Jr., joined the Club and have remained active members ever since.

January 1938

First Camellia Show held in Pensacola, Florida.

1945

American Camellia Society was organized.

February 1948

Pensacola Camellia Show consisted of exhibit of local seedlings because of freeze.

February 1949

G. H. Wilkinson received the ASC Illges Medal Award and the Award of Merit at the Savannah, GA Annual Camellia Show.

January 1950

First time a fee was charged for attending the Camellia Club Show. No contest exhibit was held because of freeze. Only seedlings were shown.

July 1950

By-Laws of the Pensacola Men's Club of Pensacola, Florida were written and filed. (Certificate of Incorporation #596 filed for record on July 12, 1950 at 2:27 p.m. shows change of club name.)

January 1951

There are no records showing that a Camellia Show was held. A number of the 1999 members report that there was one year when the scheduled show was not held because of weather.

January 1955

Camellia Show was postponed until February 1955 because of weather.

January 1956

Admission fee to the Annual Camellia Show was eliminated.

1965-66

Membership fee was raised to \$5.00.

May 1965

William F. Bray won the National Sewell Mutant Award from the ACS in Sacramento, GA.

January 1970

Pensacola Camellia Club hosted the 8th Annual Show of the Gulf Coast Camellia Show and camellia growers from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Florida exhibited.

Eight years before the beginning of the American Camellia Society in 1945, the Pensacola Men's Camellia Club was organized. The 1950 Annual Show brochure of the Club records that on November 23, 1937 a group of men interested in camellias met at the home of J. H. Sherrill in Pensacola, Florida, and organized the first all-male camellia club in the United States. The first show sponsored by the Club was held in January, 1938. Although the historical records are limited during the World War II years, "old timers" in the club report that a show has been held annually since that time with the exception of the year 1940, when it was necessary to cancel the show because of severe weather.

The Club has evolved over the years and is now known as the Pensacola Camellia Club with membership open to men and women. The membership dues, which were \$3.00 at the beginning of the Club, became \$10.00 by an amendment of the Articles of Incorporation in 1998. The purposes of the Pensacola Camellia Club, as stated in the May 1999 issue of the *Camellia Notes*, are:

- to foster and maintain an interest in camellias and their culture
- to promote the study of camellias
- to provide an opportunity for their exhibition and appreciation
- to aid and assist in the standardization of the camellia nomenclature, and
- to recognize those individuals who have promoted the camellia in our society.

The interest in camellias by Pensacolians even before the establishment of the Camellia Club is evidenced through the testimony of two long-time members, John Edwards and T. E. Lundy. John Edwards tells us that "he rooted his first camellia in 1924 when he was 9 years old." He said that he first tried it in clay from Alabama but quickly shifted to Florida sand. (He confesses that he has been hooked on camellias ever since.) T. E. Lundy relates that he planted 2 camellia seedlings at his home in Shell Horn, Pike County, Alabama. He remembers getting the seedlings from a preacher's yard, with permission of course, and replanting them on Christmas Day. Dr. Lundy plans to go back to Pike County and find that now 70-year-old seedling that lived and get a scion for a new plant.

Charles Merritt, another current member who joined the Club in 1937, has invested lengthy and dedicated service to the camellia and its development. In fact, there are presently 13 men who have been members of the Pensacola Camellia Club for twenty years or more, and who have been interested in the advancement of the camellia for more years than that. These members are pictured when they gathered at the 1998 Pensacola Show. In an effort to gain information about the Club which would not be shown in the historical documents, personal interviews with these members were conducted, in the spring of 1999 by present Board members Martin Harwood, Vickie Parker, Thekla Morris, Dick Hooton, Dante Kahn, Jr., Tim Turek and Gordon Wesley.

The Club's annual show is now financed primarily from the wise and careful investments of surplus funds over the years. These investments are managed by the Trust Fund and Auditing Committee consisting of George Anderson, John Edwards and Gordon Wesley, all of whom are "long timers". George Anderson and Bob Bothfeld are also ACS Judges emeriti. Mr. Anderson will be conducting a Judge's School for Club members in the fall of 1999. William Bennett is a Show Judge as well, and served as Show Judge Chairman for the Club for over 10 years.

There has been an evolution in the manner and means with which the Club's annual show has been financed. John Edwards reports that in the early years, the public was charged an admission fee. Attendance at the shows record as many as 10,000 persons in some years but "I would cringe every time I had to ask people for the 50 cents," recounted Mr.

January 1971

Curtis Hutton, Club president, declared the Pensacola Men's Club of Pensacola, Florida as "the oldest men's camellia club on record and the oldest continuously operating men's camellia club in the United States."

January 1972

Calluset, a product to start and aid growth of callus on exposed cambium was developed by Reid H. Leonard, a Men's Camellia Club of Escambia County, Florida member.

February 1973

Club president, S. A. Thomas, said that the club was 'distressed' at the diseased camellias around Pensacola which prompted getting together with the city to plan a series of educational workshops open to the public without charge. The first of these workshops was held at the Bayview Recreation Center in Pensacola.

November 1973

The Pensacola Club presented its 2nd Early Gib Fall Camellia Show at Cordova Mall in Pensacola.

January 1975

The Pensacola Club hosted their 33rd Annual International Show in conjunction with the national ACS Convention which was held at Pensacola with George Anderson as Chairman. A. C. Thomas was the local show chairman and Jessie Barfield was President of the local club. This international meeting and show attracted participants from coast to coast. Forty-four came from Australia and New Zealand. The official show reports show a total of 250 growers exhibited 4000 blooms with 10,000 visitors viewing the exhibits. Mr. Anderson joined the club in 1955 and is still an active member.

1982-83

Membership dues were raised to \$7.00.

November 1986

The Trust Fund and Auditing Committee was established with George Anderson, John Edwards and Gordon Wesley named as members.

1989-90

Membership dues were lowered to \$5.00.

December 1989

The "Arrangement Category" was first added to the Pensacola Camellia Show competition.

August 1990

Frank Blasco, a Pensacola Club member, reported in The Sentinel that the "really good news about the Camellia Club is that it has reduced its membership fee from \$7.00 a year to \$5.00 a year." He wondered if that was due to the influence of the women.

December 1990

The Person-of-the-Year table was added for the first time to the exhibits at the annual show.

Edwards. (Actually admission fees were assessed only during the 1950's.) The Club has also asked local business people to help sponsor the cost of putting on a show. The January 1993 Show brochure cites 60 businesses and individuals sponsoring the annual event. The individual sponsoring has come to be, for the most part, special show recognitions/awards made possible by individual club members. The 1998 show brochure listed those as the "Ella Ruth Sansing Memorial Award", the "Best Five Flagger Award", the "Best Bloom of Something Beautiful", the "Best Outside Bloom", "The "Best Pink Perfection Unprotected", the "Winnie Merritt Award", the "John R. Comber Award", and the "Donatta Jean Anderson Award".

Monies for the treasury have also been accrued through the sale of plants at the Annual Camellia Show and the spring workshops of the Club which are open to the public, plant auctions within the Club, and membership fees. However, it is the wise investment of the surplus funds which has made it possible to have earnings to cover the cost of the Club's Annual Camellia Show. According to a letter to the 1983 Show Chairman, Ed Albrecht, from the Director of Publicity, Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, "The annual camellia show continues to be one of our area's most popular events. It has proven to be a strong drawing card for visitors from across the Southeast, Southwest and Midwest."

Club members individually and collectively have been engaged in many activities envisioned to propagate the camellia within the community. John Edwards is typical as an individual member when he says that "I have rooted hundreds and hundreds of cuttings over the years and given them away. I gave a friend of mine over in East Pensacola Heights enough to fill up two yards on his property. Goats ran wild in East Pensacola at that time and he forgot to close his gate. So when he got up one morning the goats had eaten all his plants down to a nub. He called me all excited and said, 'I just don't understand how I forgot to close the gate and they ruined my plants.' So I said that I had 'just as many now as when you got those, so come and get some more'. He didn't come by and in about three months he called me and said, 'You ought to see my plants, they are the prettiest things you ever saw.' So if you want to prune your plants, go get some goats." Now, I ask you, who among us who loves camellias hasn't given a plant, a seedling, a graft or a seed to his neighbor and/or friend.

A selection of membership meeting program presentations from 1991 and 1992 illustrate the commitment of the members to learning more and sharing with each other their knowledge of the camellia. These programs have such titles as "Plant Selecting and Planting", "Ten Principles of Success in Growing Camellias", "Plant Maintenance/Fertilizing", and "Preparing Camellias for Show". Other more specific topics included "Bloom Identification and Scion Swaps", "Early Gibbing & Benlate", "Grafting and Flower Blight", "Floral Designs and Camellias", "Fall Maintenance: Winterizing and Spraying", and "Camellia Trivia".

Collectively, the Club members have been involved over the years in planting camellias for the beautification of the community. Historical records show that camellias were planted on the Parkway downtown, from Wright Street to Garden Street. The Club was involved in planting camellias in 1964 at the Baptist Hospital in Pensacola. More recently the grounds of the Pensacola Garden Center, the Escambia School District's Environment Study Center, and the College of Education complex at the University of West Florida have been adorned with the camellia, the most beloved flower of the Pensacola Camellia Club members. The planting at the College of Education complex resulted from a gift of 21 plants which have produced prize winning blooms from the garden of Ed and Barbara Alsip, Club members.

Not only have the Club members been active in the growth and development of the Camellia in the Pensacola area, they have also been active in the region and the American Camellia Societies of the nation. Various members have made presentations at other Camellia Club meetings. Club members serve as Show Judges throughout the region. Individuals have served as State Officers of the American Camellia Society. In 1997, William Bennett made a presentation to the International Camellia Society Meeting in New Orleans, LA. Individuals have also made contributions to the International Society's publications through articles and reports.

One sign of the importance of membership in the Pensacola Camellia Club, and furtherance of the Camellia flower and its culture, is the development

December 1992

Beginning in 1992 the Florida Federation of Garden Club members have provided the Floral Designs and the Gulf Coast Bonai Society exhibited Bonsai Displays at the Annual Camellia Shows.

1993

Mrs. A. E. Wilson received the Sewell Award from the American Camellia Society for a C. M. Wilson bloom.

1993

T. E. Lundy's 'Lady Laura' bloom was awarded the Illges Medal by the American Camellia Society.

March 1993

The George Stone Vocational Center of the Escambia County School District reported the creation of a new greenhouse devoted to camellias. The goal is to provide the Camellia Club with plants obviating the need to buy plants for resale.

December 1993

Special Recognition Awards were introduced for the first time at the Annual Camellia Show. Recognition was given to Jean Comber, a current member, who is a Pensacola resident since 1955. She has served as Secretary and Publications Chairman for the Gulf Coast Camellia Society and is involved with the publications of the ACS Journal. She is editor of the International Camellia Society Journal. This member and her spouse developed a friendship with a man in China and exchanged scions with him. Also, they helped other U.S. camellia growers make contacts that have enabled the exchange of information between growers in China and the United States.

January 1994

Daniel Lee Gordon joined the Pensacola Camellia Club as the youngest member ever. He was 10 years old and his interest in camellias started with his mother, Rachel Gordon, who is also a member. In December 1994, Daniel entered the annual show and went to the head table for Best Small Camellia with 'Man Size' which was given to him at the March 15 meeting of the membership. He also won Best Medium and Best Small awards in Division VI, Students 6-18 class, at the 1995 show.

January 1995

Letter to Jean Comber from Helen Simon, Wairoonga, NSW, Australia. "I have happy memories of my visit in Pensacola when in 1975 I was a judge at the Show staged by the Men's Camellia Club. Maybe this is an opportunity to return the Judge's Badge of Office given me at the time. Better in your archives than mine."

1996

T. E. Lundy was awarded the Margerette Hertrich Award by the California Camellia Society for his 'Lady Laura' Bloom.

1998-99

Membership fee was raised to \$10.00. Articles of Incorporation were also amended changing the Club's name to Pensacola Camellia Club.

and registration of new camellia varieties. There have been 101 different varieties of the camellia that are known as the "Pensacola Varieties". The 'Best Bloom' exhibited from this group at the Annual Camellia Shows is recognized with the "Best Five Flagger Award". (A listing of the "Pensacola Varieties" is shown at the end of this article.)

Involvement in the Pensacola Camellia Club has proven to be a lifelong experience once one has been bitten by the camellia "bug". It also seems "that once an individual joins the Club and understands the Club's Statement of Purpose, the ground becomes level, physically, socially and intellectually," states member Jim Newell. As Bob Bothfeld, a member for over twenty years, has put it, "enjoyment of Pensacola, and the surrounding areas, to a large part, has been the involvement with camellia enthusiasts. They are, without doubt, some of the best people you would ever meet." John Covington, Club Historian, thinks "the Club newsletter, the *Camellia Notes*, is the best of what we do, and is essential in holding the club together."

"A person will get more joy raising camellias than anything I know," says John Edwards, "You can be down, you can be ill, but just go out there and see what God has created. It's marvelous! I'd say this is the best therapy that ever was in my opinion."



Back row L-R: Don Applegate, John Davy, Jim Newell, Bill Stout, Bob Bothfeld, John Covington. 2nd row: William Bennett, Ted Lundy, George Anderson, Gordon Wesley, John Adams. Front row: Charlie Merritt and John Edwards. Charlie Merritt and John Edwards have been active members of PCC since 1937.

Camellia Varieties Propagated by Pensacola Growers

An-Flo-Lee	E. M. Hyer	James Leonard	Most Precious
Augusta Mom	Edwin S. Northop	Janet K.	Nancy K.
B. C. Goodman	Elegans Supreme	Joshua Durr	Norwalk-Turkey
Babe Harrison	Elmira Lee-White	Judge Stout	O.K. Bowman
Beau Harp	Elinore Lee-White	Lady Estelle Peel	Peggy's Blush
Bessie Bowman	Elizabeth Herrin	Lady Laura Laura	Pensacola Belle
Bill Stout	Elizabeth Le Bey	Cooper Little Babe	Pensacola Red
Bob Sansing	Elizabeth Le Bey Blush	Little Babe, Var.	Princess Lavender
Bowman Red	Elizabeth Le Bey, Var.	Lolita	Rhoda Gonzales
Bowman White	Filo Junior	Lucy Rooney	Richard Turner
C.M. Wilson	Filo Turner	Lucy Turner	Rose Ann
C.M. Wilson Var	Flora Cooper	Luscious Lady	Rox Cowley
Campari White	Flora Stout	Margaret Noonan	Sally Kennedy
Charles Kahn	Frances Leonard	Marguerite Turner	Sam Simpson
Charles Turner	Francis Rooney	Marjorie Magnificent	Sarah Dean
Chief Slack	Gaynell	Mary Merritt	Seville Square
Cindy B.	Genolden Blush	Marian Faircloth	Shannon Nelson
Dante's Inferno	Governor Kennon	Marion Harrison	Shivel Duncan
Dawson Pink	Hazel E. Herrin	Meme	Terry Clayton Newell
Dixie Beggs	Hazel E. Herrin, Var.	Mini Alba	Tom Herrin
Don Mae	Helen K.	Miss Fort Walton Beach	Tom Herrin, Red
Don Mac, Var.	Irene Coker	Miss Jennie	Turner's Camp
Dr. Bill Harrison	Irene Coker Pink	Miss Lucy	William Forest Bray
Dr. John Bell	Jack Frost	Monta Horton	William Forest Bray, Var.

The 'Barbara Morgan' Camellia

By James Aichele

This is an unusual tale and trail of a camellia and the story is true. My father, Fritz Aichele, grew camellias at his wholesale nursery, Carolina Floral Nursery, in Berkeley County just north of Charleston, South Carolina.

In the 1930's, my father landscaped many yards in the lowcountry of South Carolina. He also helped many plantation owners select beautiful plants, especially camellias, and saw that they were properly planted and cared for.

Many wealthy northerners bought these plantations and used them as winter retreats from the cold northern winters. One such place was Mulberry Plantation in Berkeley County, which was owned by Mr. Chapman. The wealthy northerner realized that seeing camellia flowers bloom on a plant in the middle of the winter was wonderful.

While my father was landscaping Mulberry Plantation, one of the workmen gave my father a shoebox containing one of the prettiest red camellias that he had ever seen. Mr. Chapman also greatly admired the flower so my father offered the man \$20 for the plant. This was a pretty fair price as the country was in the midst of a depression. The plant was transplanted to a very prominent location on the front of the terrace of Mr. Chapman's historic home.

The first year the camellia bloomed, nothing but inferior pink flowers about the size of a half-dollar appeared. Naturally Mr. Chapman wanted this sorry plant removed and ordered it chopped down. As the workman started using a bushaxe to chop the camellia down, my father noticed a slightly different leaf at the very top of this 8-foot plant. Using his pruning shears, he carefully clipped all of the branches away leaving only one corkscrew shaped

leader. Being an experienced grower of greenhouse roses, my father immediately recognized this as a grafted plant even though he had never heard of a grafted camellia in the United States.

It was decided to leave the plant there for a while and the next year it produced the once seen beautiful semi-double red flower. As often happens, the understock from the graft had completely engulfed the graft and developed into a worthless specimen.

Now this left a mystery of how a grafted camellia like this could have been found behind an out-house in rural Berkeley County. To help put the pieces together, my father decided to enlist the help of two friends - Dr. George Grice, a College of Charleston professor, and Mr. Milby Burton, director of the Charleston Museum. Together they researched shipping records to the port of Charleston from Europe, as they knew that grafting was done in Europe.

It seemed that in the year 1889, a shipment of nursery stock from Belgium was bound for Fruitland Nursery, now known as the Augusta National Golf Course. It was documented that the plants in this shipment had been damaged by either having their tags lost or by receiving salt water on the trip from Belgium. Naturally Fruitland Nursery rejected the plants and the insurance company was forced to sell this material as salvage. A tea farm in Summerville, South Carolina bought them since camellias are a member of the tea family. The tea farm



was experimenting with growing tea in the lowcountry and thought that they might be of some use to them.

My father and his friends judged the distance from the dock in Charleston to Summerville to be an overnight trip by mule and wagon. Possibly the mule driver spent the night at a home in Berkeley County and continued his journey the next day. The deep red camellia plant, being only two feet tall, was mysteriously removed from the wagon and planted in a hidden location behind the out-house.

After the beautiful red flower bloomed from the original grafted portion of the plant, Mr. Chapman offered my father the privilege of naming this variety of camellia. The first name given to the plant by the workers was not a suitable one. Immediately, my father named it 'Barbara Morgan' after his first grandchild who had been recently born.

My father, who was a commercial charter member of the American Camellia Society, died in 1952. I continued as a nurseryman, growing camellias and other nursery stock until I retired and sold the nursery in 1978. Recently, I have added a greenhouse at my U-Pick fruit farm near Walterboro, S.C. and have grafted about 75 camellias. One of the camellias even looks promising enough to name after my daughter. Guess it's in my blood!

Mrs. Mary Aichele of South Carolina writes:

Executive Director
American Camellia Society

After having read about your wanting stories about camellias, I thought this one may be of interest to you. I finally got my husband to sit still long enough for me to get this on paper.

Thank you both for sharing this charming, and historical, account of 'Barbara Morgan'. I know our readers will enjoy it as much as I have. afw.



Letters to the Editor



Last week I was talking to your office about sending me some gib for our camellias, and shared the fact that I have owned a Bonsai Camellia for 18 years. It has bloomed like crazy every year.

You asked for pictures and information regarding the same. I am sending you these shots which aren't very good but maybe you can use them in the Journal.

It is a 'Grace Albritton' air layer given to me by a camellia judge when we first joined the local club. Years passed, in fact 14 years passed. I loved the small flowers and thought it would make a good bonsai. However, my wife, Sue, didn't share my feelings.

With the promise of a 'Dr. Geehee' to put in its place, I dug her up, pruned the roots to fit into two-gallon can, and reduced the top from 8

feet to 24 inches. There were no leaves and one small limb left on the trunk. It was sad-looking but it made it.

The only problem now is that it sets too many buds and about half of them have to be removed as the root system cannot carry the load.

Enjoyed our phone visit and thank you for your interest in my camellia bonsai.

Coy Ham
Tyler, Texas

Thank you for telling us about your bonsai. I hope one day to have one of my own, but I know they require a great deal of expert care. Yours is a true success story.

*Please send us your letters and pictures to:
Editor, The Camellia Journal
100 Massee Lane
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030*



When this picture was taken in 1998 Coy's 'Grace Albritton' bonsai had 6 buds and 2 blooms.

Massee Lane Notes

• We've have had our first camellias blooming in the garden. 'September Morn' bloomed right on time in September and this week we were treated to a spectacular 'Touchdown' that Marvin had gibbed earlier. 'Lady Clare' is giving us a good show, too. We hope to increase these and other early bloomers so that more blooms will be on display for our visitors who are already arriving.

• We are looking forward to the Camellia Show at Massee Lane on November 13 and 14. Middle Georgia has had one show this year and it was a good one, even though it was early. The gardens should be in full color by their next show in November. The budset is heavy here and shows great promise. The sasanquas are especially beautiful now. Their colors and form are adding a lot to the gardens during this time.

• We are planning to have a Festi-

val of Trees during Christmas again this year. It will be a little different than previous years in that the gardens will be open during the weekends as well as during the week. This will give visitors more time to enjoy the trees.

• The Camellia Festival will be held during February from the fourth through the 12th. Some of the events are filling up fast!

• Prelude to Spring is planned for March after the 2000 Convention here. Prelude is a very special occasion in this area. Jane Bickley of Marshallville and the members of her talent finding committee, present a surfeit of performers who always delight their audience here. This, along with delicious food, makes for an elegant evening. We hope you can join us.

• Charles Bryan told me that he was feeling good these days and Helen agrees that he looks and acts like he

does. We are pleased to get such a good report.

• Betty and Mike Hotchkiss have bought a house on Main Street in Marshallville. We are happy that they are close to us.

• Our white lady peacock hasn't shown up since her disappearance last month. All hopes of her nesting somewhere are abandoned now.

afw

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Welcome to Tom Johnson

We are so pleased to welcome Tom Johnson as our new horticulturist at Massee Lane. He and his charming wife, Mary Anne, and their children Joey and Logan, are living in the horticulturist's residence across from the Dave Strother Building on Massee Lane. It is good to have them here.

Tom's knowledge and expertise have already been put to the tasks at hand, and the results are nothing short of spectacular.

He has literally unearthed what he calls "horticultural gold" at the former

daylily garden behind the greenhouse. Tom kept digging through grass and dirt until he exposed all the original bricks of the abandoned area. Looking out over the lake in the environmental garden, this is now a premier place in the gardens.

Tom's expertise in Japanese Gardens has also come to the fore. He has manicured the garden, Japanese style, bringing it into compliance with the culture it represents. He has imported moss to enhance the rocks around the pool and removed excess vegetation.

He plans more color for seasonal changes.

Already the gardens are responding to his touch and we look forward with great anticipation as he brings new life to each area.



Ann Walton

A Special Request

We have been talking with some of you about the possibility of having another camellia named for Massee Lane. 'Massee Lane' is a beautiful flower but it does not grow well in a lot of areas.

How does 'Pride of Massee Lane' sound to you? It would be such a joy to take a beautiful camellia, with this name, as a gift when we travel around the country on ACS business.

If you have a seedling that you

would be willing to share in this way, please give us a call at headquarters and we will refer it to the special committee for this purpose.

It's a great way to start 2000 - with a new Massee Lane namesake!

Thank You, Pensacola, Mobile and Myrtle Beach

Elsewhere in this issue you will read about the long history of the Pensacola Camellia Club. The club's past mirrors the history of our camellia world, even predating ACS.

My husband, Wilton, and I were the guests of the club last August for their first meeting after their summer break. We felt welcome immediately in the warm response of President Martin Harwood and his wife Sandra. We enjoyed being with them and getting to know them.

All the members were so gracious to us. We were chauffeured everywhere we needed to go, and were guests at delightful meals in lovely settings.

Then it was off to Mobile for the Gulf Coast's Annual Meeting. It certainly was a grand time. President Marie Mizell presided over the two-day meeting and everyone enjoyed it and learned a lot.

The events on board the USS Alabama were special - GCCS even had the weather arranged too. It

couldn't have been better!

The Atlantic Coast Annual Meeting was great meeting too. Much work was accomplished in good order, leaving plenty of time to enjoy Buck Mizzell and Bill Roberts as they auctioned camellias and more. The auction was a good fund-raiser for the organization and a fun-raiser for the audience! The club pledged two checks to Marvin's equipment fund.

Hats off to all three organizations for being such wonderful hosts.

It's Your Journal - Part Three

Thank you for your comments on the Journal. We need to hear from you about how we can improve it as we continue.

The wonderful contributions in the form of letters, articles, pictures and ideas are so welcome. Please keep them coming!

Ed Atkins of Florida tells me that the type is too hard to read. We have darkened it for this issue and we hope this helps. Thanks for your comments, Ed. Also a big thank you to Ed for his

contributions elsewhere in this issue. We all hope he continues sending us these gems.

Thirty-two pages is an economical starting point for the Journal when we have process color pictures throughout. The next economical "stop" is at 48 pages. For this number of pages we will need more advertising. We are very appreciative of our advertisers and thank you for your ads in this issue. Debbie Odom of Gene's Nursery in Savannah tells

me that she is getting many calls in response to their advertising in the Journal. That's the kind of news we love to hear! We hope other advertisers will follow their lead and help us print 48 pages each time!

The increased membership/readers resulting from the membership contest will give even better returns for advertising dollars.

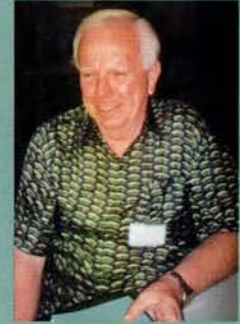
LET'S MAKE SURE THE MEMBERSHIP CONTEST GOES OVER WELL!



MARY ELLEN AND JOHNNY EDWARDS



PENSACOLA CAMELLIA CLUB PRESIDENTS



PRES. MARTIN HARWOOD

The Journal visits Pensacola



GORDON AND NONA EADE

The Pensacola Camellia Club is justifiably proud of its long history - dating back to 1937 - which is carefully archived at the University of West Florida under the care of Dean Tebalt. The Journal's visit was very special due to the outstanding hospitality of the Club.



UWF DEAN WESLEY LITTLE ACCEPTS
CAMELLIA FROM ANN WALTON



Many of the Pensacola Camellia Club's past presidents and Martin Harwood, current president, enjoy a good laugh with A.C.S. Executive Director Ann Walton at a luncheon held at the Executive Club in Pensacola recently. Back row L-R: John Covington, Don Applegate, John Adams, Martin Harwood, George Anderson, Ole Olson, Bill Bennett and Jack Wetherell. Front row L-R: John Edwards, Ann Walton and Charlie Merritt. Charlie Merritt and John Edwards have been active members of PCC since 1937.

RECEIVED A COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF THE CAMELLIA JOURNAL? JOIN AGAIN & GET FREE GIFT! (PAGE 13)

AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY
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