

Middle Georgia Camellia Society

Newsletter, Calendar and Comments

News Editor *Jo Creel*Photographer *David Williams*

American Camellia Society and MGCS members begin 2016 with the National Convention in Charleston, South Carolina

Sandra and I have enjoyed two ACS conventions: The first was last year in Tallahassee and the latest was in Charleston. The experience of the first excited a desire to participate in the second, and so, unsurprisingly, the next one has us looking to Portland, OR. It's what we did, what we saw, and who we did things with. We had experiences not commonly available. A year ago we had a banquet in a great hall within the FSU stadium, with almost direct access to the field where the war chant was playing and the lights were on. It was memorable even for a seasoned veteran like Warren. I took a picture. This year, our being part of the convention got us a visit to Oak Island, a private camellia garden so immense, I was for a short time lost. I took several pictures.

Sandra and I having been to Magnolia Plantation twice before, made visiting again, I think, all-the-more interesting. And interesting it was – on the Ashley River, adjacent to antebellum rice fields, camellias everywhere, water everywhere, history everywhere. The

marker on Ashley River road dates it to 1676. Some of the first camellias in the US were there. The gardens at Magnolia Plantation are described by Tom Johnson, Director of Gardens, as romantic gardens, i.e. they give one the feeling of being in nature untouched. For those of us who love gardens, visiting Magnolia Plantation is quite a treat. But love it as I did, it was equaled by our visit the next day to Middleton Place, where gardens are formal. I do enjoy marveling at human achievement. There was a lot to marvel at those two days.

Being in Charleston is alone exciting and so very interesting. The conference was held at the Francis Marion Hotel, sister hotel to the Poinsett in Greenville, SC, a place we treasured when visiting our son Matthew when he was in college at Clemson. The Francis Marion's a grand place, in a grand location. Just a block from the College of Charleston the setting of a scene of the movie *The Patriot*, an easy walk to the market, and a most enjoyable walk to the Battery, site of the opening salvos

of the Civil War. From our room we could see Charleston harbor and the church where George Washington worshiped when in Charleston.

The more we're around camellia folks, the more we like them- the diversity, the depth, the warmth.

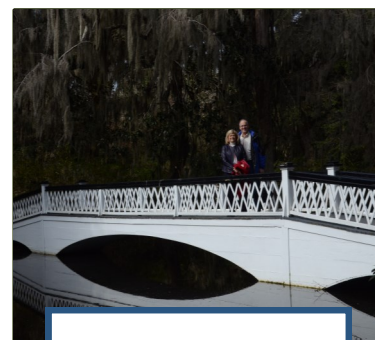
We like things done well. The folks in both Tallahassee and Charleston set a pretty high bar. We're better for the experiences, certainly fuller, certainly happier.

Submitted by David Williams

Brenda and Tommy Alden's head table bloom



David Williams, Sandra Williams, Warren Thompson, Celeste Richard, Camille Bielby, William Khoury, Brenda Alden, Tommy Alden, Sandee Khoury, and Ben O'Neal



Bridge at Magnolia Plantation

Welcome to New Members

Martha Brigmond & S. Jeffries

John & Griffin Fry

Eric & Cynthia Simpson

Mark & Judy Collier

George & Anne Nettles

Nancy D. Trawick

Jerri Davis

Grace Poole

Joe & Ann Wright

Tamlin Fortner

John & Janie Seglund

Beth Sperry

MGCS Annual Service Workday at Massee Lane Gardens

Scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2016 from
9:00 am until Noon



MGCS members at 2015 workday

Our annual opportunity to give back to the American Camellia Society and support our friends at Massee Lane Gardens.

Meet at the Barn at 9:00 am for coffee & donuts.

Work on pruning, mulching Sun Trial Gardens.

Choose one of two work options:

Maintenance of Massee Lane Gardens

Clean up the Fetterman building.

Bring gloves, cleaning supplies, gardening tools.

For details call Tommy Alden at 478-825-1337 or Jo Creel at 229-815-5620

Message from the President

The Middle Georgia Camellia Society plans and hosts three camellia shows each season. Many of our members are well aware of this and have been working at our shows for years, but we have many new members who do not yet know the full scope of these major commitments, so if you are a seasoned member, just know that this message is for you, but most especially it's for our newer members.

The first show, actually the first anywhere in the US each season, is held at the Georgia National Fair in October – an especially early date for camellia blooms. Shortly after the fair show, we have a fall show, held in Byron in November. The third show is at Massee Lane Gardens during the Festival of Camellias in February. Three shows is more than any other camellia society holds, is a huge amount of work, and would not be possible without our loyal, dedicated members – both experienced and really new members.

You support the shows in so many ways: from gifting to have blooms for the early shows, to preparing food, decorating, and setting up for the judges' receptions, you offer your homes for the receptions, set up for the show, arrive at 7:00 a.m. (or earlier) to assist our guests who bring blooms, place blooms, clerk, record and report results, clean up, and haul tables and show supplies back to the barn for storage, and you make donations that finance the shows.

As president, it is my great pleasure to say thank you to each and every member. From spending a few minutes to write a check that makes a big impact, to spending many hours working before, during, and after the shows – all efforts are so very important and so very appreciated by me and by the many out-of-town exhibitors we host. Our receptions and shows are some of the very best. Many exhibitors make it very clear they really enjoy coming to our shows.

New members, you will quickly learn that shows are a big part of our mission, but we're not just about shows, we have outstanding educational and social events as well.

Many Thanks to each of you!

Sandra Williams

January Workshop Highlights

The Middle Georgia Camellia Society hosted its second annual camellia workshop on Saturday, January 30th, at Massee Lane Gardens. Guests arrived for registration at 9 a.m. and received packets of information about camellia culture and care from the American Camellia Society website as well as an agenda for the day. While enjoying coffee and donuts prepared by the MGCS Hospitality Committee, attendees enjoyed viewing the Boehm porcelain collection and listening to instructions on how to prepare and enter blooms in a camellia show. They also viewed the items available in our box auction and purchased "chances" to win these treasures. Most of these raffle items were donated by MGCS members.

Following the opening hour, everyone moved to the Fetterman Auditorium where they were welcomed by MGCS president, Sandra Williams. Executive Director, Celeste Richard, brought greetings from the American Camellia Society. The opening program, "Camellias, A

Southern Treasure", was presented by Tommy Alden.

The workshop then moved outside where Jim Pruckler, of the North Georgia Camellia Society, demonstrated how to properly plant a camellia. Lunch was served at noon and attendees had a last-minute opportunity to get chances for our box auction items, which was held right after lunch. Workshop attendees then divided into groups and participated in air layering and grafting, alternately.

The day was fun-filled, with lots of learning, camellias and conversations. The success was driven by all the MGCS members who helped during the day, and to everyone who provided support for the grafting and air layering demonstrations, the raffle, the presentations and all who attended.

Volume 5, Issue 1 Spring/April 2016

Picnic and Auction

Saturday, May 21, 2016

5:00 pm at the home of Frank and Connie Freshwater

Members please bring a covered dish, prospective new members, and items for the auction.



Grafting Teams during Workshop breakout Sessions

Potluck Favorites...

Submitted by: Brenda Campbell

N'awlins Bread Pudding

- 1 16oz loaf French bread
- 3 cups sugar, divided
- 5 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 cups half and half
- 3 teaspoons vanilla, divided
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 3/4 cup butter, softened and divided

1 1/2 cups chopped pecans

1/3 cup Rum (or bourbon)

Preheat oven to 350. Tear bread into small pieces and arrange in bottom of 9x13 buttered baking dish. Cover loosely and let stand at room temp for several hours until bread is stale and dry.

Combine 2 cups sugar, eggs, half and half, and 2 teaspoons vanilla. Mix well and pour over bread in baking dish. Sprinkle raisins over top; press top of mixture with back of spoon to make sure all bread is covered with egg mixture. Let stand 20 minutes.

Combine brown sugar, 1/4 cup butter, and pecans; sprinkle over top of bread mixture. Bake for 35 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean.

Whisk remaining 1 cup of sugar and remaining 1/2 cup butter over medium heat and cool... 3 minutes. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Add remaining 1 teaspoon vanilla and rum, stirring until smooth. Pour over warm bread pudding...

Rum sauce

3/4 cup brown sugar

1/3 cup water

1/2 cup butter

1/4 cup rum

Boil about 10 minutes, stirring constantly

Serve warm with bread pudding.

In Memory Dr. Frank Wilson III

A Country Doctor from Leslie

by Tommy Alden

Dr. Wilson would tell you he is just a "country doctor" which he is, living in rural Leslie, Georgia, half way between Americus and Cordele. But he's no ordinary doctor. For over twenty plus years, Dr. Wilson volunteered his service as the team doctor for the Americus High School football team, riding the team bus to and from all their games. He stuck with his team during the lean years and the championships, serving not only as a doctor, but also as a mentor to those young boys. There are many young men today that are successful citizens only because Dr. Wilson took time with them, encouraged them, kept them from

dropping out of school and in some cases, helped pay their way through college.

Dr. Wilson is a well-respected community leader. He was appointed to serve on a committee that oversaw the design and erection of a monument to the military servicemen of the State of Georgia that was erected at the National Cemetery at Andersonville. He was involved, early on in his medical career, in assisting the state health officials in studying infectious diseases.

Dr. Wilson loves plants and is particularly fond of camellias which he has planted all around his rural property in Leslie. Many are blocks of seedlings and he has selected three which he has registered. The first, 'Adalyn', was named for his wife. 'Springhead Gem' was named for where it was discovered, and 'Whoopee', which reflects his enthusiasm for his camellias. All three of these are

frequently seen on the head table at local camellia shows. His most recent introduction, in 2008, was 'Drama Girl Tison' which is a sport of 'Drama Girl'. He discovered it growing at a neighbor's house and the camellia bush had grown so tall it extended over the roof of the house where it had burst into full bloom. Dr. Wilson, needing a bloom for the registration, got a ladder, climbed on the roof and cut blooms for pictures. He was 87 years old.

Dr. Wilson was a member of the Middle Georgia Camellia Society and actively attended meetings and shows into his early 90s. In March, 2015, Dr. Wilson celebrated his 94th birthday while in rehabilitation at Magnolia Manor. He lost a leg to diabetes, but his spirit is good and his mind is still sharp.

NOTE: Dr. Wilson passed away on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

Featured Bloom ... 'Whoopee'



'Whoopee' cup shaped semi-double small to medium bloom First bloomed in 1990, Registered in 2000. Registered by Dr. Frank Wilson III; propagated by the late Manson Markette of Americus, Georgia.



Judge team Sandra Jones, James Campbell (*President of the American Camellia Society*) and Camille Bielby judge blooms. Jean Feitshans and Mary Gramling serve as clerks.

MGCS Flint Energies Judges Reception and Camellia Show at Masee Lane held February 26th, 27th, & 28th

The Flint Energies show was a huge success with 1280 bloom entries and 400 attendees. Thank you to all of the members, judges, and volunteers that contributed to the success of the reception and show. Show results can be viewed on the American Camellia Society Website:

<https://www.americancamellias.com/about-american-camellia-society/camellia-shows>



Debbie Liipfert Novice Winner Camellia Reticulata 'Frank Houser'

North GA Camellia Society Vice President Jim Pruckler assisting at MGCS Flint Energies Show



Camellia Culture and Care, an excerpt from American Camellia Society Yearbook, 1983, 'Why We

THE PURPOSES OF PRUNING are various: to keep plants healthy, to restrict or promote growth, to encourage blooms or to repair damage. With camellias we prune to rejuvenate old overgrown bushes to get bigger and show-quality blooms.

Varied as our reasons are, in every case the camellia grower prunes to get better results from his plant. A perfect example of good pruning is the garden of Dr. Daniel and Muriel Nathan of Fort Valley, GA. They have some of the best looking plants that I know of. Their blooms are outstanding. At shows "Dr. Dan" is in serious competition for top awards and wins his share of them. The credit for this goes to Muriel who very severely prunes the plants every year.

I have heard people state they do not know how to prune. But these people are pruning their plants year after year. Whenever you pinch back a petunia stem or cut a branch from your forsythia for a vase you are pruning. Pinching back the petunia stalk results in branching and then more flowers. Cutting forsythia branches causes side shoots to break out below the cut and these will bloom next year. Almost all gardeners do some pruning even if they just remove spent blooms. A good camellia grower, however, develops a conscientious pruning routine for maintaining his plants to keep them healthy and productive.

One of the most important goals in pruning is to have some knowledge of the growth habits of your plants. Always prune to complement your plant. For example, a weeping willow could not be trained as a Bradford pear form if you pruned it every day. This is true of camellias. We cannot make them change their plant forms.

Limbs and trunks get thicker as the layer of cells just under the bark, the cambium, makes new wood and a little new bark every growing season. Important to the pruning is the cambium response when a branch is cut off. New tissue grows from all around the cut eventually to seal off the exposed wood. This is why it is essential to make a clean, smooth cut and why the cut must be sealed to keep out decay and infection. Properly made and cared

for, cuts heal over quickly, and in a few years no traces remain.

Pruning is only one aspect of plant culture. Too often pruning is looked upon as a mysterious technique to be undertaken by an expert. Nothing is further from the truth. Pruning is just as much a part of looking after your garden as mulching or fertilizing. The purpose of pruning is to get more out of your camellia plant.

For the purpose of this article we will discuss four kinds of pruning: maintenance, reconditioning, rejuvenation, and corrective pruning. The goal of **maintenance pruning** is to enhance its ornamental value and better fulfill the purpose for which you selected it - in the camellia, bigger and better blooms. Maintenance pruning involves removing flowers, dead wood, weak and spindly growth inside the plant, cutting back new shoots so plant will branch low to keep its graceful shape and periodically removing some basal shoots to encourage the development of an open well-aerated healthy crown. Here are some of the examples of the need for maintenance pruning:

1. A camellia plant planted near a sidewalk or other restricted area that has outgrown the area allotted to it and in a few years gets so big it will have to be removed or cut back so severely that the shape and grace of the plant is lost.

2. A camellia thrives for a number of years untouched then after a few years, it draws attention to itself because it looks straggly, flowers are small and it has a severe case of scale and dieback with a host of weak unbranched limbs.

Regular pruning could have kept both these plants in top condition and kept within bounds so they could have survived in these allotted areas for many years. **Reconditioning pruning** can present some formidable problems. The first one is where to begin. My advice on this is to remove old and diseased wood; second, cutback promising healthy wood to encourage branching; and third, thin the sucker growth, retaining a few shoots to keep

young wood coming on. Don't cut blindly. Look at the plant and get a picture firmly in your mind as to what the plant will look like when you get through with it.

A reconditioned camellia plant can look sad indeed in some cases. It may be necessary to cut it back to a stubble, but do not let this deter you. The stubble will in almost every case put out vigorous new growth. If you cannot bring yourself to cut a camellia plant back all the way at one time consider leaving one branch and cut all others back the first year after new growth has started the second year, take out the remaining old wood.

Rejuvenation pruning to bring back a good looking plant from an old scraggly diseased plant- this is the most severe and prolonged pruning of all. Take the plant back to an 18 inch to 2 foot stubble. Mulch, water and fertilize and you will soon have strong new growth. Keep these pruned throughout the year and you will soon have a good looking healthy plant.

Corrective pruning normally means repairing damage. A plant may be damaged by nature, machinery or many other ways. Corrective pruning is a hurry-up technique aimed at saving a plant and ideally should be done immediately after the damage is done. Cut injured branches back to crotch. Split large trunks are drilled and bolted together and damaged limbs are lightened by removal of part of their terminal growth to allow injured wood to repair its strength.

Corrective pruning is an emergency you can't pay much attention to aesthetically. Better to save the plant battered and broken than to lose it altogether.

Pruning offers you a chance to practice foresight. Try to visualize the plant with the excess wood removed. Fix firmly in your mind's eye how the scaffold of your plant should look. Have a clear goal when you begin to prune and work toward it to work from all sides so the pruned plant will be symmetrical. Always remember, when pruning a camellia, we are after three things: bigger and better flowers, a plant that will look good in the garden and hold

them at the proper size in your garden.

A word of warning, keep your fingers out of the way of your pruning tools. Good pruning tools should be sharp and often have powerful leverage action. Don't get so involved and interested in making a cut that you forget to keep yourself out of it.

TOOLS

A curved pruning saw with medium coarse teeth is essential for limbs and canes of more than 1 1/2-inch thickness. A word of caution, don't buy the larger saw made for large limbs because it will not fit in most places where you will want to prune a camellia.

A lopper is needed for limbs from 1 inch to 1 1/2 inches. Buy a lopper with a long steel shank. All-metal handles are better. A shock absorber is not essential but it protects your wrist and hands if you have a lot of cutting to do.

Choose a hand pruner that fits comfortably in your hand. A cheap hand pruner is no bargain no matter what the price. You will use this tool more than any, so get a good one.

In addition to your tools, you will need some pruning paint. I prefer the large can of paste with a brush in it. To thin I add 2 tablespoons of Benlate and 2 tablespoons of Captan and mix thoroughly. This may not be necessary, but I think it helps in healing so I plan to continue to use it.

We can prune camellias at any time; however, severe pruning should be done right after blooming is over.

SOME DOS AND DON'TS

- Keep pruning tools sharpened and well oiled. Use the right tool for the job.
- Prune with definite reason and purpose.

- Prune weak or failing plants hard; strong growers lightly if space permits.
- Cut off diseased, dead or broken branches at any time.
- Prune top branches to produce a low spreading shrub; prune lateral branches to make plants grow upright.
- Cover cuts with pruning paint.
- Don't try to prune with dull tools.
- Don't use wrong tools.
- Don't leave stubs, ragged cuts or torn bark.
- Use sharp tools.

Excerpt from American Camellia Society Yearbook, 1983, Why We Prune by Middle Georgia Grower and hybridizer, Marvin Jernigan, pages 13-16

Don't let your status as an American Camellia Society Judge Expire!

Check your status on the ACS Active Judges Listing. Check the judging symposium calendar on the ACS website to find an upcoming class.

Re-accreditation Only, Tallahassee, Florida, Saturday May 14, 2016, Time: 10 a.m., **Location:** 7476 Skipper Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32317, **Instructor:** Randolph Maphis, **Registration:** Call Randolph Maphis at (850) 528-4795.

Each Accredited Judge is required to attend an ACS Judging School/Judges' Symposium every 5 years.

Call or email Lorie Huff with any questions about judging and membership at (877) 422-6355, lhuff@americancamellias.org.

Save the Date ...

Saturday, April 09	9:00 am to Noon	Service Project	Massee Lane Gardens
Saturday, May 21	5:00 pm	Picnic/Auction	Home of Connie and Frank Freshwater, Fort Valley, GA
Sunday, June 05	2:00 pm	Board of Directors	Fetterman Gallery, Massee Lane, Fort Valley
June 15		Newsletter	Deadline for Submission for July's edition submit to mgcsnews@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President:

Sandra Williams

Vice-President:

Tommy Alden

Secretary:

Brenda Alden

Treasurer:

John Gamble

Class of 2015

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Debbie Liipfert

Tommy Martin

Warren Thompson

Class of 2016

Tommy Couch

Connie Rainey-Freshwater

David Williams

Preston Phillips

Grady Stokes

Bonnie Wirsing

The Middle Georgia Camellia Society (MGCS):

The MGCS is a non-profit, education organization, chartered on January 10, 1948, primarily to stimulate and promote interest in the camellia.

Its purpose is to:

- Stimulate and extend the appreciation of camellias and to promote the science of camellia culture in Middle Georgia and to encourage private and public planting of camellias.
- Bring together in friendship and fellowship camellia growers and those interested in camellias in Middle Georgia.
- Assist local growers through discussions and dissemination of information on the general culture of camellias.



Camellia Japonica, 'Middle Georgia'

Middle Georgia Camellia Society Calendar and Comments

Volume 4 Issue 3

Winter 2015/Jan 2016

Celebrating the close of 2015

Middle Georgia Camellia Society members ended 2015 on a celebratory note with the annual holiday dinner Thursday, December 3, 2015, at the Annabelle Fetterman Building for a holiday meal catered by Michelle Allen. The hospitality committee created beautiful table centerpieces. Members enjoyed musical entertainment provided Tony Barrett, Preston Phillips and Etta Goodson (daughter of Preston and Miriam Phillips). Members joined in and sang along to several Christmas carols.



Save the Dates....
**Please Review, as the information has been updated since
our last newsletter!**

Jan 19-23		ACS Convention	Charleston, SC
Saturday January 30	9:00 am	Camellia Workshop	Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley
<i>Sunday February 07</i>	<i>2:00 pm</i>	<i>Board of Directors</i>	<i>Fetterman Gallery, Massee Lane, Fort Valley</i>
<i>February 15</i>		<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Deadline for Submission</i>
Friday, February 26	6:00 pm	Judges Reception	Home of Jimbo and Debbie Liipfert 500 West Main Street, Marshallville, GA
Saturday, February 27	7:00 am 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Flint Show, Entry Begins Show opens to Public	Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley
Sunday, February 28	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Show open to Public	Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley
Saturday, March 12	TBA	Field Trip	Columbus Botanical Gardens
Thursday, March 24	6:00 pm	Meeting with Program	Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley
Saturday, April	TBA	Service Project	To be Determined
Saturday, May 21	5:00 pm	Picnic/Auction	Home of Connie and Frank Freshwater, Fort Valley, GA
<i>Sunday, June 05</i>	<i>2:00 pm</i>	<i>Board of Directors</i>	<i>Fetterman Gallery, Massee lane, Fort Valley</i>
<i>June 15</i>		<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Deadline for Submission</i>



Volunteers are needed for the upcoming flower show, Saturday, February 27, 2016.

Contact **Tommy Martin**, Show chairman, to sign up to volunteer.

Phone: 404/561-3880

Email: [massee.lane.camellia.show@gmail](mailto:massee.lane.camellia.show@gmail.com)

Show schedules are available at americancamellias.org or atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org

Field Trip to Columbus Botanical Gardens



Middle Georgia Camellia Society field trip to Columbus Botanical Gardens is scheduled for Saturday morning, March 12, 2016. A guided tour of the "Sam Wellborn Camellia Gardens" led by Sam Wellborn. See hundreds of camellias in a park-like setting. Following the tour, lunch will be served at the Gardens, courtesy of the Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society. Reservations will be required; details on time and transportation will be announced soon.

Middle Georgia Camellia Society to Host Second Annual Camellia Workshop January 30, 2016 at Masee Lane Gardens Fetterman Building



9 am to 10 am	Registration & Coffee Visit bloom prep station View porcelains Visit Gift Shop Self-guided tour of Gardens	Fetterman Gallery
10 am	Welcome Festival of Camellias Promotion Presentation: "Camellias: A Southern Treasure"	Auditorium
11:30 am	How to Properly Plant a Camellia	Gardens
12 to 1 pm	Lunch Visit bloom prep station View porcelains Visit Gift Shop Self-guided tour of Gardens	Fetterman Gallery
1 pm to 2 pm	Grafting (Group A) Air Layering (Group B)	Courtyard Gardens
2 pm to 3 pm	Grafting (Group B) Air Layering (Group A)	Courtyard Gardens
3pm to 4 pm	Hybridizing	Smith Greenhouse

To Register: Contact: Sandra Williams - dscm@pstel.net, (478) 836-4249. **Provide:** Name, e-mail address, phone number, and city **Fee:** \$10.00 to be paid day of event. Make checks payable to Middle Georgia Camellia Society. **Lunch:** provided by MGCS. **Register by:** January 25, 2016

Free admission to Gardens



Welcome to Our Newest Members

- **Matthew
Dempsey**
- **Stewart &
Terri
Johnson**
- **Ben O'Neal**
- **Pete & Anne
Rittenberry**
- **Ed Wasson
& Leigh
Giles**

Message from the President...

It was a wonderful year for the Middle Georgia Camellia Society, thanks to you, dedicated, talented, hardworking, and generous members. Your many efforts have been enjoyed and appreciated by those who visit our camellia shows, came to judge our shows, attended our events as guests, and still others who received one-on-one help from members who so generously shared their camellia expertise with those who are just starting.

As we enter 2016, let's provide new and better opportunities, events, and experiences. Just know that you make MGCS a great organization, you are needed, and appreciated for all you do.

Many Thanks!

Sandra Williams

Camellia Culture and Care

Fall and winter is an excellent time to replenish your existing mulch in the camellia garden. The frequency of replenishing the mulch will depend on the material selected and the actual environmental conditions of the garden. For example, pine straw may provide sufficient mulch for the garden for several years in a shady location, but the same material may need to be replenished every year if it is in a sunny location that has lots of moisture.

Mulching should be applied in a sufficient layer to achieve the utility functions of the mulch, but care should also be given to not install "too much" mulch. Generally a three to four inch layer of most organic mulches would be considered appropriate in our area. Mulch that is too thick can reduce the oxygen level to the roots, keep the root system from drying out in some instances, and prevent adequate moisture from reaching the roots in other instances. As valuable as mulch is to our camellia gardens, it is equally important not to overdo the mulch installation to ensure healthy plants that will continually reward us with beautiful floral displays in the future years.

American Camellia

Society National Convention

January 19-23 2016

Charleston , South Carolina

For more information contact: Miles Beach

milesbeach@comcast.net

843-345-3453

Visit

americancamellias.org for registration information.

Potluck Favorites.....

Broccoli & Cauliflower salad

Preparation time 45 minutes Serves 14-19

Ingredients:

5 cups broccoli

5 cups cauliflower

2/3 cup onion (green or red)

2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese

6 pieces bacon

Dressing:

1/2 cup sugar

1 cup mayonnaise

1 Tablespoon Cider Vinegar

1 Tablespoon Red Wine Vinegar

Cut Ingredients into bite size pieces & mix veggies. Add Dressing and Toss. Add Cheese and Bacon. Mix all Together.

Before Serving you can top with chopped pecans or sunflower seeds or pine nuts. Some people add raisins.

This is Debbie Liipfert's recipe. It was a HUGE hit when served at the 2015 annual Chicken Que in September!

A Look back at 2015 Georgia National Fair Show and the Fall Show in Byron and Receptions



Preston Phillips placing blooms

The show season went into high gear with the annual low country boil and judges reception held at Malatchie Farms in Marshallville, Georgia, Friday, October 16, 2016. The show began on the 17th at the Georgia National Fair Grounds in Perry, Georgia. Growers arrived at the Georgia National Fair grounds at 6:30 am to begin preparing entries for the show.

This show was followed up by the annual Fall show in Byron, Georgia. The judges reception was Friday, November 13th at the home of Linda Shingler in Fort Valley Georgia. The show started off early the next morning with growers unloading at the Byron Municipal Complex at 6:45 am.

Both receptions and shows were tremendous successes because of the help and support from our members and volunteers! For detailed show results visit americancamellias.org or atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org.



Arriving at Malatchie Farms



Volunteers cooking low country boil



Pictured left to right 'Edna Bass' 'Variegated' grown by Iris Shealy Unprotected Edna Bass grown by Steve and Gayle Lawrence Protected Best in Show Georgia National Fair



Membership table in Perry



Judges and members enjoy great food and fellow ship at both Judges' receptions.



A judging team in Byron



Pictured from left to right Best Blooms from Byron show Protected and Unprotected Categories 'Mona Jury' Variegated grown by Howard and Mary Rhodes and Geary and Bonnie Serpas



Best Novice Bloom in two size categories grown by Brenda Campbell

Executive Committee***President:******Sandra Williams******Vice-President:******Tommy Alden******Secretary:******Brenda Alden******Treasurer:******John Gamble*****Board of Directors****Class of 2016*****William Khoury******Debbie Liipfert******Tommy Martin******Warren Thompson*****Board of Directors****Class of 2017*****Tommy Couch******Connie Rainey-Freshwater******David Williams******Preston Phillips******Grady Stokes******Bonnie Wirsing*****The Middle Georgia Camellia Society (MGCS):**

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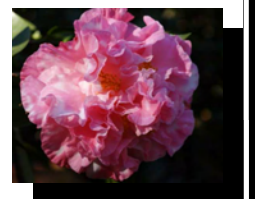
Assist local growers through discussions and dissemination of information on the general culture of camellias.



**Camellia Japonica
'Middle Georgia'**

Featured Bloom

Mona Jury Variegated won the best bloom in show in both protected and unprotected categories in the Byron show. This bloom is a camellia hybrid, an apricot pink variegated white sport of 'Mona Jury'. It has vigorous, spreading growth, peony form and blooms midseason. It was propagated in 1976 by L.E. Jury.



Middle Georgia Camellia Society

Calendar & Comments

Editor, Brenda Alden

Volume 4 Issue 2/Fall, 2015

MGCS Opens Season with Annual Chicken-Que

"What a wonderful turnout!" That was my first thought as I entered the Fetterman Gallery on September 10, 2015, where approximately 80 Middle Georgia Camellia Society members and guests gathered to kick off our 2015-2016 camellia season. This event has been a September tradition for MGCS for as long as many can remember. It is an occasion when our memberships are renewed and prospective members are invited to introduce them to our organization. During the social hour, a learning station was available to instruct those interested in how to treat camellia buds with gibberellic acid for earlier and larger blooms and another to instruct on the preparation of those blooms to give them that extra "oomph" to push them on up to the head table.

Regarding the food, I can say that the grilled chicken was really good, because, although I helped cook it, my brother Billy Martin was the chef... I was just the gopher. Side dishes and desserts supplied by the members had the serving tables over flowing with delicious fare; and with John Gamble at his regular position as bartender, I think a good time was had by all.

This event made me to think about how successful our club has been. An acquaintance of mine from the Valdosta Camellia Society recently commented to me about the strength of our club. Now I certainly haven't visited more than a few events sponsored by other camellia clubs, but I think our ability to stage three separate camellia shows along with the logistics and the social events that go along with them speaks to

the strength of our club. I believe that strength comes from the variety of individuals represented in our membership. We have some who are, or who are becoming, serious about producing award winning camellia blooms; some who just want to learn how to grow good blooms for their own enjoyment and the enjoyment of their friends and family; some who enjoy the camaraderie of successful camellia judges and visitors who attend our shows and share their knowledge of growing camellias; and some who just enjoy the social events and putting on a good party!

A while back, another acquaintance from Valdosta wrote an article for their newsletter about why he joined their club; even though he really never thought he would do so and had just attended an event to get some information about how to care for the old camellia plants in his yard. He said that it all came down to personal friendly relationships. A member of that club was kind to him, followed through with an offer to help him with his camellias, and became his friend. That's the way our club will continue to grow: by sharing our friendships with others interested in camellias. Organizations like ours are successful because congenial people enjoy working together to achieve mutual goals, and then celebrate their successes. I look forward to many more successful years in the Middle Georgia Camellia Society with each of you friends and new friends yet to join us!

---Tommy Martin



Tommy Alden demonstrates proper "Gibbing" technique for Brenda Campbell



Jo Creel gives instruction on the proper way to prepare blooms for show.



Ginny Martin contributes delicious Strawberry Shortcakes to the dessert table.



Cheryl & Warren seem happy with the offerings on the food table!

Save the Dates

Please review, as information has been updated since our last newsletter!

Friday, Oct. 16	6:00 PM	Low Country Boil	Home of Wilbur & Mary Rumph in Marshallville
Saturday, Oct. 17	7:00 AM	Fair Show, entry begins	GA National Fair, Perry
	1:00 PM	Open to Public	
Sunday, Oct. 18	1:00 PM	Open to Public	
Friday, Nov. 13	6:00 PM	Judges' Reception	Home of Linda Shingler, 159 Landings Dr., Fort Valley
Saturday, Nov. 14	7:00 AM	Fall Show, entry begins	Byron Municipal Complex
	1—5 PM	Open to Public	
Sunday, Nov. 15	1—4 PM	Open to Public	
Thursday, Dec. 3	6:00 PM	Christmas Party	Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley
December 15		Newsletter	Deadline for submission
Jan. 19-23		ACS Convention	Charleston, SC
Saturday, Jan. 30	TBA	Camellia Workshop	Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley
Sunday, Feb. 7	2:00 PM	Board of Directors	Fetterman Gallery, Massee Lane, Fort Valley
February 15		Newsletter	Deadline for submission
Friday, Feb. 26	6:00 PM	Judges' Reception	Home of Jimbo & Debbie Liipfert in Marshallville
Saturday, Feb. 27	7:00 AM	Flint Show, entry begins	Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley
	1—4 PM	Open to Public	
Sunday, Feb. 28	1—4 PM	Open to Public	
Saturday, Mar. 12	TBA	Field Trip	Columbus Botanical Gardens
Thursday, Mar. 24	6:00 PM	Meeting w/Program	Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley
Saturday, April	TBA	Service Project	To Be Determined
Saturday, May 21	5:00 PM	Picnic/Auction	Home of Connie & Frank Freshwater, Ft. Valley
Sunday, June 5	2:00 PM	Board of Directors	Fetterman Gallery, Massee Lane, Fort Valley
June 15		Newsletter	Deadline for submission

TRIP TO COLUMBUS BOTANICAL GARDENS

MARCH 12, 2016

Save the Date and Watch for Details!

Welcome New Members

Lynn Cone
Ashley Davis
Matthew Dennis
Mike & Emily Griffin
Philip & Julie Groce
Quincy Hammond
Gloria Lacy
Keith & Donna Lee
Yvonne Sutherland

American Camellia Society

National Convention

January 19-23, 2016

Charleston, SC

For information contact: Miles Beach
milesbeach@comcast.net
843-345-3453

See you There!

(Visit americancamellias.org for registration information)

**CAMELLIA WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR
JANUARY 30.....STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS.....**



Low Country Boil & Judges Reception

Friday, October 16, 2015

6:00 p.m.

At Wilbur & Mary Rumph's Home

213 McCaskill Street

Marshallville, GA

COST: \$25 PER PERSON

RSVP 478/825-1406 by October 7th

Members, bring desserts

Wear Your Name Badge

(SHOW SCHEDULE AVAILABLE AT americancamellias.org)



JUDGES RECEPTION & FALL FLOWER SHOW

Friday, November 7th

6:00 p.m.

Judges Reception at the home of

Linda Shingler,

159 Landings Dr. Fort Valley

Remember!

**All members are to bring heavy
hors d'oeuvres & desserts.**

Wear your Name Badge!



(SHOW SCHEDULE AVAILABLE AT americancamellias.org)

Members Attend Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Convention



During September this delegation of Middle Georgia Camellians attended the Atlantic Coast Convention at Litchfield Beach Resort in SC. We visited with Camellia friends from throughout the southeast, attended workshops, ate, drank, took in local sights, bought auction items and had lots of fun!

Potluck Favorites.....

Lane Tyson's Pimento Cheese Spread

2 cups (8 oz.) sharp cheddar cheese, grated

½ cup Duke's mayonnaise

½ cup pimento peppers, drained and chopped

¼ cup green onions (use both white & green parts)

1 tsp. black pepper

½ tsp. salt

¼ tsp. cayenne pepper

Dash of tabasco

Combine ingredients and ENJOY as a spread or dip!

Care and Culture Corner.....

Fall is the best time to spray for tea scale. The preferred method is with ornamental oil, direct spray to the underside of the leaves using a high pressure sprayer to blast through the foliage canopy.

Now is the time to GIBB, GIBB, GIBB.

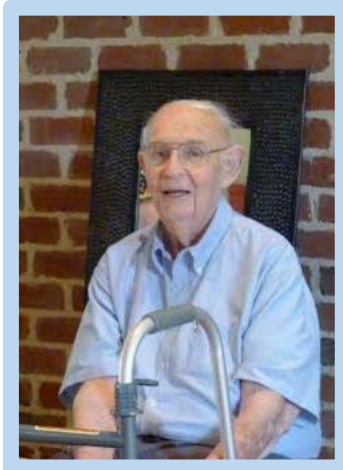
SPECIAL THANK YOU to Jimbo Liipfert for donating "Pro-Gibb" to the Middle Georgia Camellia Society.

BUY A TABLECLOTH

\$10 EACH

Black tablecloths are needed to replace the plastic we use to cover tables at camellia shows. Please make a donation to help cover this cost!

We Will Remember W.C.



This photo was taken in May of 2015 at the home of Jimbo & Debbie Lipfert

William C. Wyatt, Jr., age 83, died Tuesday, September 2, 2015. Services were held on Saturday, September 5, 2015, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 309 Central Avenue in Fort Valley.

Mr. Wyatt graduated from Georgia Southern University and the University of Georgia. He proudly served in the United States Army in Germany during post WWII and taught at Dodge County High School (1955-61). For more than 40 years, he was a college instructor and professor at Middle Georgia College (1961-84), Wesleyan College (1986-96), UGA-Warner Robins Center, and Georgia College and State University.

He was a devoted member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort Valley where he was the volunteer organist for over 30 years, a Vestry member, and Senior Warden. He served on the Executive Board and the Executive Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

Throughout his life, he was an active member, director and officer of many organizations including the American Camellia Society, the ACS Development Fund, the ACS Trust, the Middle Georgia Camellia Society and other regional societies; the Atlanta Opera Guild; Advisory Boards of Georgia State University School of Music; Macon Little Theatre; Kay Community Training Center; and Appleton Episcopal Ministries.

A devoted friend who knew Mr. Wyatt all his life offered this: "The loss of our good friend, mentor, advisor, and knowledgeable friend, W. C. Wyatt, leaves a void in our lives. He was a loving, caring, generous man, totally moral, and without a modicum of greed. He was a humble man who knew that deeds speak louder than words. His faith and church always remained foremost in his mind and heart. He touched and influenced many people. His deeds and his efforts will always live in the hearts of those privileged to know him. He meant so much to so many."



Reminder:

Membership dues should be paid
by October 15th

In order to continue receiving MGCS
communications

(See back page for renewal form)

**DID YOU
KNOW ... ?**

It costs in excess of \$2500 to host a camellia show. Middle Georgia Camellia Society is the only society to host three shows per year. Our fair show in October is sponsored by the Georgia National Fair and they provide all prizes for the show. Other costs associated with that show are the responsibility of our club. Your attendance at the Low Country Boil and the meal fee you pay, help cover the costs of meals for our judges. Our show in February is sponsored by Flint Energies and all of the costs associated with that show are covered by Flint.

But, we have a show in November that is sponsored by the Middle Georgia Camellia Society. All costs associated with this show are the responsibility of our club. We depend on contributions from our club members and friends to cover these costs.

Each year, when you renew your membership, you are given the opportunity to make an additional donation to our club to help defray these costs. If you haven't already done so, please consider making a \$25 donation for the Fall Show. Larger donations, in increments of \$50 or more, can be made in honor of or in memory of a loved one. These special people will be honored on a memory board at the show. All donations for show sponsorship can be mailed to John Gamble, Treasurer, PO Box 1592, Fort Valley, GA 31030. *(Please indicate show sponsorship on check.)*



IT TAKES LOTS OF FOLKS TO MAKE A CAMELLIA SHOW A SUCCESS! YOUR PARTICIPATION AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP ARE NEEDED! Contact each show chair to see how you can help.
(Oct-Sandra Williams; Nov-Tommy Alden; Feb-Tommy Martin)



Featured Bloom.....

c. hybrid 'W.C. Wyatt'

Non-retic hybrid. Pink, sometimes variegated. Large, semidouble. E-M.
(Jap. 'Muriel Nathan' x Hyb. 'Robbie')

Message from the President.....

The Middle Georgia Camellia Society welcomes our new members and encourages you to get involved in all of our activities.

The first opportunities for club participation happen at our October and November camellia shows. In just a couple of weeks (October 17) the Georgia National Fair will host the first show of the camellia season. Following closely behind will be the fall show in Byron (November 14). I hope you'll bring blooms to enter in each of these shows. Attached to this newsletter are show schedules (programs) for each of these shows. If you have questions please contact the show chairman listed on each schedule.

Our final show will be held at Massee Lane during the Festival of Camellias (February 27). That show schedule will be available later in the season.

In addition to these three shows, we invite you to join us for membership meetings and other special events that involve service projects, educational workshops, and a fun, fund raising event to end the camellia season next May. Keep watch for newsletters and event announcements that will provide details throughout the coming months.

Your involvement is appreciated, needed, and very welcome!

Sandra Williams

Executive Committee

President: Sandra Williams
Vice-President: Tommy Alden
Secretary: Brenda Alden
Treasurer: John Gamble

Board of Directors

Class of 2016

William Khoury
Debbie Liipfert
Tommy Martin
Warren Thompson

Liane Trieman

Class of 2017

Tommy Couch
Connie Rainey-Freshwater
David Williams
Preston Phillips
Grady Stokes
Bonnie Wirsing

Middle Georgia Camellia Society (MGCS):

The MGCS is a non-profit, education organization, chartered on January 10, 1948, primarily to stimulate and promote interest in the camellia.

Its purpose is to:

- Stimulate and extend the appreciation of camellias and to promote the science of camellia culture in Middle Georgia and to encourage private and public planting of camellias.
- Bring together in friendship and fellowship camellia growers and those interested in camellias in Middle Georgia.
- Organize and conduct camellia shows within the area.
- Assist local growers through discussions and dissemination of information on the general culture of camellias.



Middle Georgia Camellia Society

Membership Renewal

2015-2016

Please return this form with your payment.

Check one: ☐ Individual ☐ Couple

Name(s): 1. _____
2. _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone; Home: _____

Cell 1: _____

Cell 2: _____

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

Dues and Donations

Dues:

Annual Membership Dues (September through August)..... \$10

Life Membership Dues \$100

Check if you are already a life member. ☐ \$0

Donations (Optional):

Fall Show: Sponsor, increments of \$25; In Memory/Honor, increments of \$50..... \$_____

Other \$_____

Total (dues and donations) \$_____

Make check payable to Middle Georgia Camellia Society, and mail to:

Sandra Williams, P.O. Box 67, Roberta, GA 31078

Committees

If you would like to serve on a standing committee, please check the one(s) in which you are interested:

☐ Membership ☐ Hospitality ☐ Fund-Raising.